



Why Care About Biscayne National Park?

Right here in our own backyard is the largest marine national park in the US National Park system - **Biscayne National Park** (BNP). Not only does it hold ecological, cultural and economic importance, but it represents part of a global movement to protect marine species and spaces. Indeed, it is the most significant contribution of the US National Park System towards this goal. We wanted to draw your attention to some of our favorite reasons why Biscayne National Park is both amazing and important. There are numerous groups and organizations working in the area with wonderful resources about BNP and Biscayne Bay. We reference them at the end this document so you can take their knowledge and pass it on.

Did you know...

Biscayne National Park has Ecological Value

- Coral reefs & seagrass beds with over 500 species of tropical reef fish
- 20 Federally Threatened and Endangered species
- World class fishery resources - lobster, snappers & groupers, tarpon, bonefish
- Migratory habitat for neotropical water birds
- One of the largest continuous stretches of mangroves on Florida's east coast
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Biscayne National Park has Cultural Value

- Artifacts from the Tequesta people who settled over 10,000 year ago
- Maritime Heritage Trail - numerous shipwrecks that teach us about the past
- Stiltsville - a tribute to the popular trend from the 1930's - 1960's to build shacks on stilts in Biscayne Bay

Biscayne National Park has Economic Value

- International destination for boaters, divers and fishing enthusiasts
- More than 500,000 visitors each year & growing
- Contributes \$45 million to the local economy
- BNP Mangroves help stabilize shorelines & prevent erosion during storms & hurricanes
- BNP Mangroves help keep the waters of Biscayne Bay clear & clean



Resources

Biscayne National Park - www.nps.gov/bisc/index.htm

Biscayne Nature Center - www.biscaynenaturecenter.org

Debris Free Oceans - www.debrisfreeoceans.org

Key Biscayne Citizen Scientist Project - www.keyscience.org

Miami Science Barge - www.miamisciencebarge.org

Miami Waterkeeper – www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/about_out_water

Project Seahorse - Seahorses: Magical Creatures in Our Backyard - www.projectseahorse.org/bnp-seahorses

South Florida National Park - www.southfloridaparks.org/parks/biscayne/