

What you can do to protect the Coral Reef Ecosystem

What you do (or don't do) can make a difference

Tips for Boaters & Fishermen

- Before heading out, check weather conditions. Strong winds and rough seas can result in poor visibility and reduce safe interaction at the reef.
- Dumping trash at sea is illegal: plastic bags and other debris can injure or kill marine animals. Bring your trash back to shore and recycle it. Try to retrieve fishing gear and equipment, especially monofilament line.
- Use sewage pumpout facilities and biodegradable bilge cleaner and never discharge bilgewater at the reef.

Vessel Pump Out Facilities

The State waters within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) were designated a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for sewage from all vessels effective June 19, 2002. Discharge of sewage (black water), whether treated or not treated, is prohibited from all vessels in the NDZ. Discharge of gray water (such as water from the galley or shower) is not prohibited, except in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves, where rules prohibit discharge of any substance except for cooling water or engine exhaust. Any vessels that contain toilets or holding tanks which are capable of flushing treated or untreated sewage directly into the water are required, while in State waters, to have the valve locked into a position that would not allow overboard discharge. The Sanctuary plans to propose a No Discharge Zone in federal waters. In the meantime, boaters are encouraged to use pumpout facilities rather than discharging raw or treated sewage into the coral reef ecosystem. Permanent dockside vessel pump out facilities are available to the public at the following locations:

- Hawk's Cay Resort, Duck Key
- Marie's Yacht Club, Marathon
- Key Colony Beach Marina, Key Colony Beach
- City of Marathon Marina, Marathon
- Faro Blanco Resort & Marinas (Oceanside), Marathon
- Faro Blanco Resort & Marinas (Bayside), Marathon
- Burdines Marina, Marathon
- Marathon Yacht Club, Marathon
- Sunshine Key Resort and Marina, Ohio Key
- Bahia Honda State Park, Bahia Honda
- Key West Oceanside Marina, Stock Island
- Safe Harbor Marina, Stock Island
- Sunset Marina, Stock Island
- Garrison Bight Marina, Key West
- Galleon Marina, Key West
- Key West Bight Marina, Key West
- Key West Conch Harbor, Key West
- Key West Pump Out Mobile Service, Key West



• Use reef mooring buoys or anchor in sandy areas away from coral and seagrasses so that anchor, chain, and line do not contact or damage coral or seagrasses.

• Accidental boat groundings damage coral and seagrasses. Consult tide and navigational charts and steer clear of shallow areas. Fines are imposed for such damage.

• Avoid areas which appear brown in color. Shallow reef areas and seagrass beds will appear brown.

• If you run aground: immediately turn the engine off, and tilt it up if possible. **Do not try to motor off.** Wait until high tide to remove the vessel. Call for assistance when necessary.
• When in a dive area, slow down to an idle speed.

• Fishermen, do not troll over or near divers. Stay at least 100 feet from a

DIVER DOWN FLAG

Photo: FKNMS

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A National Marine Sanctuary

Florida Keys LOWER REGION

