

What you can do to protect the Coral Reef Ecosystem

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



DIVER DOWN FLAG

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 that can injure marine life.
- 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 vessel 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 that 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. 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:

- Ocean Reef Club, North Key Largo
- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo
- Key Largo Harbor Marina, Key Largo
- Blue Fin Rock Harbor Marina, Key Largo
- Mangrove Marina, Tavernier
- Islamorada Founders Park, Plantation Key
- Islamorada Founders Park, Plantation Key
- Treasure Harbor Marina, Plantation Key
- Snake Creek Boatworks, Plantation Key
- Holiday Isle Marina, Windley Key
- World Wide Sportsman, Upper Matecumbe Key
- Coral Bay Marina, Upper Matecumbe Key

- 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.

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 that 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.

Don't throw fish carcasses or wrung lobsters overboard or into canals as they decompose and degrade water quality.

Avoid wildlife disturbance; stay 100 yards or more offshore; keep speed, noise and wakes to a minimum near mangroves.



Photo: FKNMS

Lo que usted hace para proteger el ecosistema del arrecife coralino:

Lo que usted haga o deje de hacer es determinante

- Consejos para Conductores de Embarcaciones y Pescadores
- Antes de salir, consulte las condiciones meteorológicas. La poca visibilidad y los vientos y oleajes fuertes reducen la interacción segura en el arrecife.
- Es ilegal arrojar basura al mar: las bolsas plásticas y otros desperdicios pueden lesionar o causar la muerte de los animales marinos. Traiga la basura de regreso a la costa y recicle. Trate de retirar los aparejos y equipos de pesca, especialmente los cordeles.
- Utilice las instalaciones de bombeo para las aguas residuales y los limpiadores biodegradables para la sentina. Nunca descague las aguas de la sentina en los arrecifes.

Instalaciones de bombeo

Las aguas estatales dentro del Santuario Marino Nacional de los Cayos de la Florida (FKNMS), han sido designadas Zona libre de Descargas (NDZ) de las aguas residuales provenientes de todas las embarcaciones, a partir del 19 de junio de 2002. La descarga de aguas residuales (aguas negras), tratadas o sin tratar, está prohibida a todas las embarcaciones en NDZ. Descargar aguas grises, como por ejemplo, aguas de la cocina o la ducha, no está prohibido, excepto en las Áreas Preservadas del Santuario y Reservas Ecológicas, donde los reglamentos prohíben la descarga de cualquier sustancia con la excepción del agua para el enfriamiento o las emisiones del motor. Se exige a todas las embarcaciones que cuenten con inodoros o tanques de retención que puedan descargarse aguas tratadas o sin tratar directamente al agua, que mantengan la calidad adecuada en una posición que no permita descargas por encima de la borda. El Santuario planea proponer una Zona libre de Descarga en aguas residuales. Mientras tanto, se extiende la��abilidad de embarcaciones a que utilizan las instalaciones de bombeo, en vez de descartar aguas residuales tratadas o sin tratar en el ecosistema del arrecife coralino. Existen instalaciones permanentes a disposición del público para el bombeo de embarcaciones en las siguientes ubicaciones:

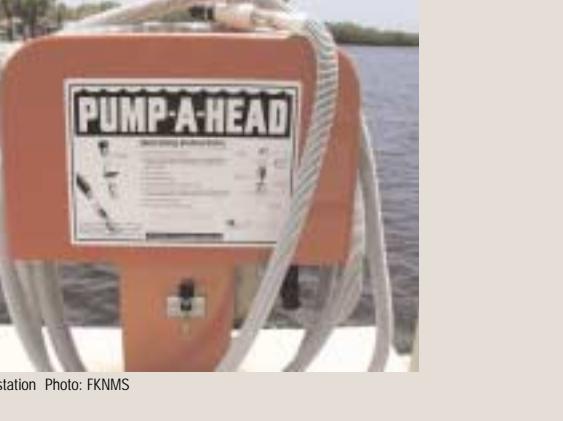
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- Utilice las boyas de amarre en el arrecife, o eche el ancla en fondos arenosos, lejos de los corales y las hierbas marinas, para evitar que el ancla, la cadena y los cables, coticanten o dañen el coral o las hierbas marinas.
- Los botes encallados accidentalmente danan las hierbas marinas. Consulte las cartas de mareas y navegación y visite las zonas poco profundas. Por estos datos se impone multa.
- Evite las áreas de color pardo. Las zonas poco profundas de arrecife y de hierbas marinas parecen parduscas.

• Los veleros no deben dejar izadas las velas grandes con el fin de estabilizarlos cuando están

- When in a dive area, slow down to idle speed.
- Fishermen, do not troll over or near reefs. Stay at least 100 feet from a red and white diver down flag and watch for bubbles.
- Florida law requires a fishing license.
- Sailboats should not leave up large sails as steadyng sails when on a buoy; this puts too much strain on the eyebolt.
- Inspect the buoy your boat is tied to; you are responsible for your vessel. Check that it is holding as intended and inspect the buoy. Report problems to any of the sanctuary offices, sanctuary patrol, or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on VHF Channel 16.
- If there are no buoys available, anchor only in sand, NEVER IN CORAL. Always check to be sure that your anchor is not dragging and your anchor chain is not contacting coral.
- The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary assumes no liability for use of the buoys.

Tips for Divers and Snorkelers



Pump station Photo: FKNMS

How to Use Reef Mooring Buoys

Reef mooring buoys eliminate the need to drop anchor on fragile coral reefs by providing boaters with a convenient means of securing a boat. Buoys are available at frequently-used reefs within the sanctuary and usually encircle shallow coral reefs. We encourage you to use them instead of anchors.

- Buoys are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Smaller boats are encouraged to tie off to one another, thereby allowing larger vessels access to buoys. Remember, the larger the vessel, the more potential damage to the coral (if an anchor is used).
- Please maintain idle speed/no wake in the vicinity of the mooring buoys. Watch for swimmers, snorkelers, and diver bubbles.
- Approach slowly from downwind/current. Idle directly to the buoy without meandering among other dive boats. Reverse the procedure when leaving.

Buoys have been placed to provide clearance for most boats when tied up during normal conditions. To avoid grounding, use caution when approaching and while tied to a buoy. Larger than average vessels must check depths to prevent contact with the bottom.

To secure your boat to a mooring buoy, run your line through the loop of the floating pick-up line and cleat both ends to the bow of your boat. Add enough line to create a horizontal pull on the eyebolt, otherwise the eyebolt will be pulled out. A good rule to remember is: if the buoy is pulled underwater, you must let out extra line. On rough days, add extra scope to the pick-up line to improve the ride of your vessel in rough seas and reduce wear on the buoy system.



Sargassum swimming crab Photo: Larry Lipsky

Public Boat Ramps

There may be fees for launching boats at these sites.

- Card Sound Road, West Side of Card Sound Bridge
- Manatee Creek Roadsides, MM 112.8 Bayside (Everglades National Park - No Personal Watercraft)
- Little Blackwater Sound, MM 111 Bayside (Everglades National Park - No Personal Watercraft)
- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5 Oceanside
- Sunset Point, MM 95.2 Oceanside
- Harry Harris County Park, MM 92.5 Oceanside
- Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87 Bayside
- East Ridge Road, MM 87 Oceanside
- Indian Key Fill, MM 78.8 Bayside

it changes their natural behavior and diet.

- Remember, it's illegal to take coral in Florida and buying it at local shops only depletes reefs elsewhere in the world.
- Bring back any trash you find and recycle it, if possible.
- Snorkel aware, dive with care!



Diver at outer reef Photo: Larry Lipsky

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A National Marine Sanctuary

Florida Keys UPPER REGION



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Upper Region

Atlantic Ocean

Everglades National Park

Florida Bay

Lignumvitae Aquatic Preserve

Islamorada

Long Key

Lower Region

Tennessee Reef

Research Only

Marker Tower

Structures with navigation signs attached.

Lighthouse

Prominent structure marking shallow reef areas.

I-Beam

Solitary I-Beams with a diamond shaped sign attached.

These markers indicate very shallow areas. Maintain a safe distance and a careful lookout. Consult your chart if you are unsure of your location.

Do NOT Approach These Markers!

NOT TO SCALE. FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY, NOT A NAVIGATIONAL CHART.

CHANNEL MARKERS

When Both Are Seen, Drive Between

When Seen Apart, Slow Down - Check a Chart

Slow Down - Read the Sign

Follow the Instructions

REGULATORY MARKERS

Danger

Controlled Area

Boat Exclusion Area

Slow Down - Read the Sign

Follow the Instructions

SANCTUARY AREAS

Research Only

Sanctuary Preservation Area (SPAs)

Wildlife Management Area

Ecological Reserve

Existing Management Area

CHANNELED RUBBLE

SEA GRASS

SHALLOW

CORAL

VERY SHALLOW

WILDFISHING TRAIL

SHIPWRECK

ROCK

BUOY

WRECK

WELLWOOD RESTORATION

LEGGED MARKER

10

12 FRENCH REEF

14 MOLASSES REEF

17 USCG'S BIBB & DUANE

18 PICKLES REEF

20 HEN & CHICKENS

21 DAVIS REEF

22 CROCKER REEF

23 CHEECA ROCKS

24 ALLIGATOR REEF

13 SAND ISLAND

15 WHITE BANK DRY ROCKS

16 THREE SISTERS

19 CONCH REEF

10 GREECAN ROCKS

6 CARYSFORT TRENCH

11 DIXIE SHOAL

7 NORTH NORTH DRY ROCKS

12 HORSESHOE REEF

17 HORN NORTH DRY ROCKS

18 HORN SOUTH DRY ROCKS

19 HORN WEST DRY ROCKS

20 HORN EAST DRY ROCKS

21 HORN NORTH DRY ROCKS

22 HORN SOUTH DRY ROCKS

23 HORN WEST DRY ROCKS

24 HORN EAST DRY ROCKS

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