

GUIDE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS

Which Permit Do I Need?

- 1a. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) or staghorn (*A. cervicornis*) corals **within** the United States (including all States and Territories).....Go to 2
- 1b. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals **outside** of the United States.....Go to 3
- 2a. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals in one of the following areas:
 - Florida state waters (including Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary).....Go to 5
 - U.S. Virgin Islands territorial (state) waters.....Go to 6
 - Puerto Rico territorial (state) waters.....Go to 7
 - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.....Go to 8
 - Navassa National Wildlife Refuge.....Go to 9
- 2b. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals within the United States and in an area not listed in 2a.....Go to 10
- 3a. You intend to **import** larvae, gametes, tissue samples, fragments, colonies, and/or other collected portions of elkhorn or staghorn corals (dead or alive) **into** the United States.....Go to 4a
- 3b. You intend to conduct all scientific research and enhancement activities **outside of the United States** (i.e., you do not intend to bring samples, etc. of elkhorn or staghorn corals into the United States)Go to 4b
- 4a. Only a Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) export permit, issued by the country in which your scientific research activities are permitted, is required to import samples into the United States.
- 4b. No United States permit requirements for elkhorn and staghorn corals. Check with local authorities about applicable requirements.
- 5a. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside the boundaries of the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary** (including the **Tortugas Ecological Reserve**).....Go to 11
- 5b. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside the boundaries of **Biscayne National Park** or **Dry Tortugas National Park**.....Go to 12
- 5c. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals **inside Florida state waters**, but outside the boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Biscayne National Park, and Dry Tortugas National Park.....Go to 13
- 6a. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals located inside the boundaries of **Buck Island Reef National Monument** or (U.S.) **Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument**, or on submerged lands inside the boundaries of (U.S.) **Virgin Islands National Park**.....Go to 12
- 6b. You intend to conduct scientific research or enhancement activities on elkhorn or staghorn corals located inside the boundaries of **East End Marine Park**, or outside the boundaries of the designated areas identified in 6a.....Go to 14



7. For all scientific research or enhancement activities conducted on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside Puerto Rico territorial (state) waters (including marine parks and marine protected areas), only a scientific research permit issued by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources is required. For further information, please contact: Division of Natural Resources, (787) 999-2200, ext. 2615.
8. For all scientific research or enhancement activities conducted on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, only a scientific research permit issued by the Sanctuary is required. For further information, please contact: Emma Hickerson, Research & Permits Coordinator, (409) 621-5151, ext. 111.
9. For all scientific research or enhancement activities conducted on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside Navassa Island Wildlife Refuge, only a special use permit for research/monitoring issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is required. For further information, please contact: Susan Silander, Caribbean Islands Refuges Complex, (787) 851-7258 or (787) 255-6725.
10. A U.S. Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research and enhancement permit, issued by NOAA Fisheries Service, is required. For further information contact: Office of Protected Resources, (301) 713-2289.
11. For all scientific research or enhancement activities conducted on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, only a scientific research permit issued by the Sanctuary is required. For further information, please contact: Joanne Delaney, Permit Coordinator, Joanne.Delaney@noaa.gov.
12. For all scientific research or enhancement activities conducted on elkhorn or staghorn corals inside Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Buck Island Reef National Monument or (U.S.) Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument, or on submerged lands inside the boundaries of (U.S.) Virgin Islands National Park, only a scientific research permit issued by the U.S. National Park Service is required. For further information on permits for:
 - Biscayne National Park, please contact Richard Curry, (305) 230-1144, ext. 3006.
 - Dry Tortugas National Park, please contact P.J. Walker, (305) 242-7805.
 - Buck Island Reef National Monument, please contact Zandy Hillis-Starr, (340) 773-1460 ext. 235.
 - Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument and Virgin Islands National Park, please contact Rafe Boulon, (340) 693-8950, ext. 224.
13. Only a Special Activity License (SAL) for the scientific, educational, and exhibitional collection of marine species, issued by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission is required. For further information, please contact: Special Activity License Program, (850) 487-0554.
14. Only a scientific research permit issued by the (U.S.) Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife is required. For further information, please contact: William Coles, 340-772-1955.

NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Protected Resources Division is the lead in developing the rules and all subsequent management actions for threatened elkhorn and staghorn corals. For remaining questions and concerns, please contact either Jennifer Moore or Sarah Heberling, (727) 824-5312.

