

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Regulations, Permitting and Socioeconomic Monitoring.



Sean Morton
August 22, 2013

Sanctuary Regulatory Authority and Prohibitions:



Authority to Regulate: The National Marine Sanctuaries Act
(Last Amended: Public Law 106-513, November 2000)

Section 308: Provides authority to issue regulations for each sanctuary and the system as a whole. These regulations can, among other things, specify the types of activities that can and cannot occur within the sanctuary.

Section 304(d): Requires federal agencies whose actions are “likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure a sanctuary resource,” to consult with the program before taking the action. The program is, in these cases, required to recommend reasonable and prudent alternatives to protect sanctuary resources.



FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES | NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Your Sanctuary

the Sanctuary

the Sanctuary

Involved

ment

ry Council

Zones

ary Science

e Heritage

New

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Regulations

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary visitors are invited to dive, swim, snorkel, or fish; however, rules and regulations are in place to make sure that these activities only happen in ways – and at places – that are not harmful to sanctuary resources.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary uses a strategy called "marine zoning" to protect special habitat types such as corals, to avoid conflict by user groups such as divers and anglers, and to balance commercial and recreational interests with the need for a healthy ecosystem.

The summary of regulations that follows is only intended as a general reference to sanctuary regulations. These regulations have been separated into those that apply throughout the sanctuary and those that apply to specific sanctuary zones. The full text of the sanctuary regulations can be found at [15 CFR 922 Subpart P](#) and should be referred to for more specific information. A copy of the regulations can also be obtained by calling any sanctuary office.



Search

- This Site
- All Sanctuaries
- All NOAA

[Sanctuary-wide Regulations](#)

[Zone-specific Regulations](#)

[Additional Information](#)

Sanctuary-wide Regulations

Regulations that apply throughout the entire area of the sanctuary, both in highly protected areas and general-use areas, have a focus on habitat protection, reducing threats to water quality, and minimizing human impact to delicate resources.

Note that the text below is intended as summary only; for the full text of sanctuary regulations, see [15 CFR 922 Subpart P](#).



Find us on Facebook

Summary of Sanctuary Regulations



See Code of Federal Regulations: 15 CFR 922 Subpart P

With certain exceptions, the following activities are prohibited :

- Moving, removing, taking, injuring, touching, breaking, cutting or possessing coral or live rock.
- Removing, injuring, or possessing coral or live rock.
- Dredging, drilling, prop dredging or otherwise altering the seabed, or placing or abandoning any structure on the seabed.
- Taking or possessing protected wildlife.
- Using or possessing explosives or electrical charges.

FKNMS Permitting

If an activity is prohibited, it cannot be conducted in the sanctuary...
unless a permit is issued.

To be *eligible* for a permit, the activity must be a certain type.

To be *issued* a permit, the project must meet specific review criteria.

What is permit-able?

15 CFR 922.166 (soon to be 15 CFR 922.30 and 922.31)

- Research / monitoring
- Education
- Further natural or historical resource value¹
- Further salvage or recovery operations²
- Assist in management
- Otherwise further purposes of FKNMS
- Maritime heritage

- Special Use: 7 specific categories of activities

¹ eliminated / included in maritime heritage

² included in management category

Additional consultations & authorities

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - State Parks and Aquatic Preserves
 - Submerged Lands
 - Coastal Zone Management Program
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- NOAA Fisheries
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - Essential Fish Habitat
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Historic Preservation Act & State Historic Preservation Officer
- US Coast Guard
- Monroe County & municipalities
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Others

Proposed Listing of Reef-building Coral Species in Atlantic / Caribbean



Endangered

- Boulder star coral (*Montastraea annularis*)
- Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) *
- Mountainous star coral (*Montastraea faveolata*)
- Pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*)
- Rough Cactus Coral (*Mycetophyllia ferox*)
- Staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) *
- Star coral (*Montastraea franksi*)

Threatened

- Lamarck's Sheet Coral (*Agaricia lamarcki*)
- Elliptical Star Coral (*Dichocoenia stokesii*)

Proposed Listing of Reef-building Coral Species in Atlantic / Caribbean



- The listing of a species as endangered makes it illegal to "take" (harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to do these things) that species.
- Federal agencies may be allowed limited take of species through interagency consultations with NOAA or USFWS.
- Effects to the listed species must be minimized and in some cases conservation efforts are required to offset the take.

FKNMS Socio-Economic Monitoring Program



- \$1 Billion in sewer/storm water infrastructure - 70% completed
- 739,000 people/yr diving & snorkeling - 2.8m days of diving
- 416,000 people/yr fishing – totaling 2.1m days fishing
- 620,000 people/yr viewing wildlife – 2.7m days nature viewing
- Marine outdoor activity generating \$2.36 billion in sales/output – 63% of Monroe County economy
- Over \$1 Billion income to residents – 33,000 full or part time jobs – 58% of all jobs in Florida Keys

FKNMS Socio-Economic Monitoring Program



- Shrimp, spiny lobster, stone crab and fin fish and marine life collection - \$100M income with 4,310 jobs
- \$56M/yr in commercial seafood landings in Key West
- Marinas, boat yards, boat sales & rentals, motors - \$225M with 2,995 jobs
- Monroe County has 27,000 registered boats 1 out of 3 residents own a boat - #1 destination in the state

For More Information:

Visit our websites at:

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/invertebrates/corals.htm>

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/floridakeys/>

Contact me at : sean.morton@noaa.gov