

POPULAR SPORT FISH

Below is a very small list of the Sport Fish caught in the Upper Florida Keys... TARPON: Found mostly inshore near bridges, pilings, rock walls, harbors, around structures, and on grass flats. DOLPHIN (Mahi-Mahi): Found offshore in warm waters. BONEFISH: Found in shallows often less than a foot in depth. YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER: Juveniles: Found inshore around seagrass beds and back reefs. SAILFISH: Found offshore in the Gulf Stream.

ANGLER'S CATCH AND RELEASE GUIDE

Most anglers are careful to release many of the fish they catch. This helps maintain healthy fish populations and ensures that there will be plenty of fish for the future. How to Begin: Try to set the hook quickly to prevent the fish from swallowing the bait. Use hooks that are barbless and made from metals that rust quickly. Handling Your Catch: Try to keep the fish in the water while removing the hook. If the fish must be handled, use only wet hands. Removing the Hook: Back the hook out the opposite way it went in. The Release: Gently place the fish head first in the water, supporting its body until it swims away.

PRACTICE SAFE BOATING

- Observe and obey posted speed limits. Local regulations include an idle speed/no wake zone in all residential man-made canals, and within 100 yards of residential shorelines. Watch your wake. Remember, you are responsible for damage caused by your vessel's wake. Use nautical charts in unfamiliar waters. Know your navigational rules. Don't mix alcohol and boating. Plan your route in advance. Exercise caution when boating around ships or tugs involved in docking. Numerous island, bays, creeks, and tidal flats are regulated for the safety of wildlife and park visitors.

PROTECTING THE CORAL REEF

- Do not anchor on top of coral. When diving or snorkeling, NEVER touch, grasp, stand, or sit on coral. Don't dispose of trash, bilge washings, or other debris on or near reefs. All coral is protected by law. Use of personal watercraft (PWC), water-skiing, wakeboarding, and tubing are prohibited within the boundaries of Everglades National Park.

BOATING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND EVEGLADES NATIONAL PARK

- Use of personal watercraft (PWC), water-skiing, wakeboarding, and tubing are prohibited within the boundaries of Everglades National Park. Numerous island, bays, creeks, and tidal flats are regulated for the safety of wildlife and park visitors. Areas may be closed to visitor access or contain boating restriction zones (no wake/idle speed zones or no motor zones).

FKNMS SHIPWRECK TRAIL

The FKNMS Shipwreck Trail consists of nine shipwrecks stretching from Key Largo to the Marquesas Keys. Each of these sites was chosen because of its historic, biologic, and aesthetic value. Conditions on the Shipwreck Trail sites vary from easy dives in shallow water to deeper dives of 100 feet or more.

MANGROVES

Mangroves are tropical trees that thrive in salty environments along the water's edge. Like seagrasses, they provide food and cover for a vast array of small fish and animals. The submerged roots are a nursery and breeding ground for most of the marine life that migrates to the reef. Mangroves trap and produce nutrients for food and habitat, stabilize the shoreline by trapping debris and silt, and filter land-based pollutants.

MARINE ZONING

Marine zoning is a management tool being implemented in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to protect sensitive marine resources from overuse and to separate conflicting visitor uses. There are five zone types in the Sanctuary: Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPA), Existing Management Areas, Special-Use Areas (Research Only), Ecological Reserves, and Wildlife Management Areas.

Legend

Legend: Land, Seagrass, Mangroves, Coral Reef, Tidal Flat/Shallow Banks, Hardbottom, WATER DEPTH, Depth Contour, Exposed at Mean Lower Water, MANAGED AREAS, State Park, Aquatic Preserve, National Park, Existing Management Area, Marine Zone, Dredged Channel, Spoil Area, Mile Marker, Marinas, Pumpout Facility, Boat Ramps, Artificial Reefs, Mooring Buoys, Anchorage, FKIMS, Shipwreck Trail, Bridges, Fixed Bridge, Navigation Markers.

This guide is not intended for navigational use. For local navigation, see NOAA Charts 11462, 11463, and 11464.

FISHING THE SEAGRASS FLATS

- Do not operate your boat in areas that are too shallow for your equipment. Use nautical and tide charts to plan your course. Never cut through seagrass beds with a propeller. Pole or use a trolling motor when traveling across or fishing flats. If you run aground, turn off your engine, raise the motor, and push or pole your way to deeper water.



The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) is a statewide effort to educate the public on the problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment, to encourage recycling through a network of line-recycling bins and drop-off locations, and to conduct volunteer monofilament line cleanup events.

Outdoor recycling bins constructed of PVC are mounted at many piers, boat ramps, and marinas throughout the state. Indoor recycling bins are hosted by tackle shops and department stores.

Boat Ramps

Table with columns: No, FACILITY, ADDRESS, CITY, Ramp/Lane, Ramp/Ft, Ramp/Fee, Ramp/Day, Ramp/Reserve. Lists various boat ramps from Indian Key to Gilbert's Resort Marina.

Clean Marinas

Table with columns: No, Name, Address, City, Phone. Lists 19 marinas from Bayside Marina to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

DIVER DOWN FLAG

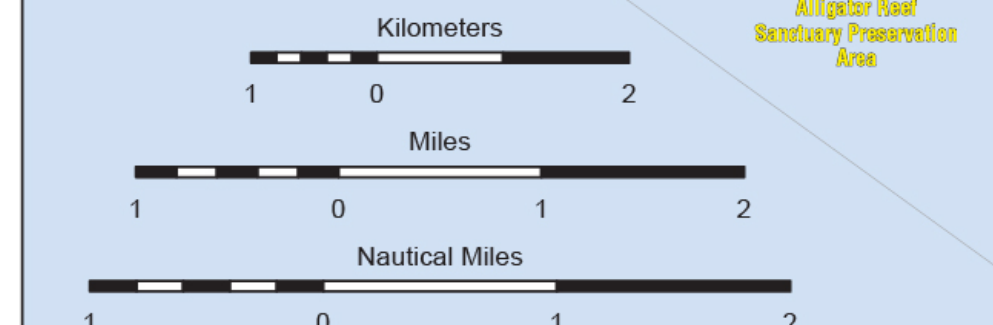
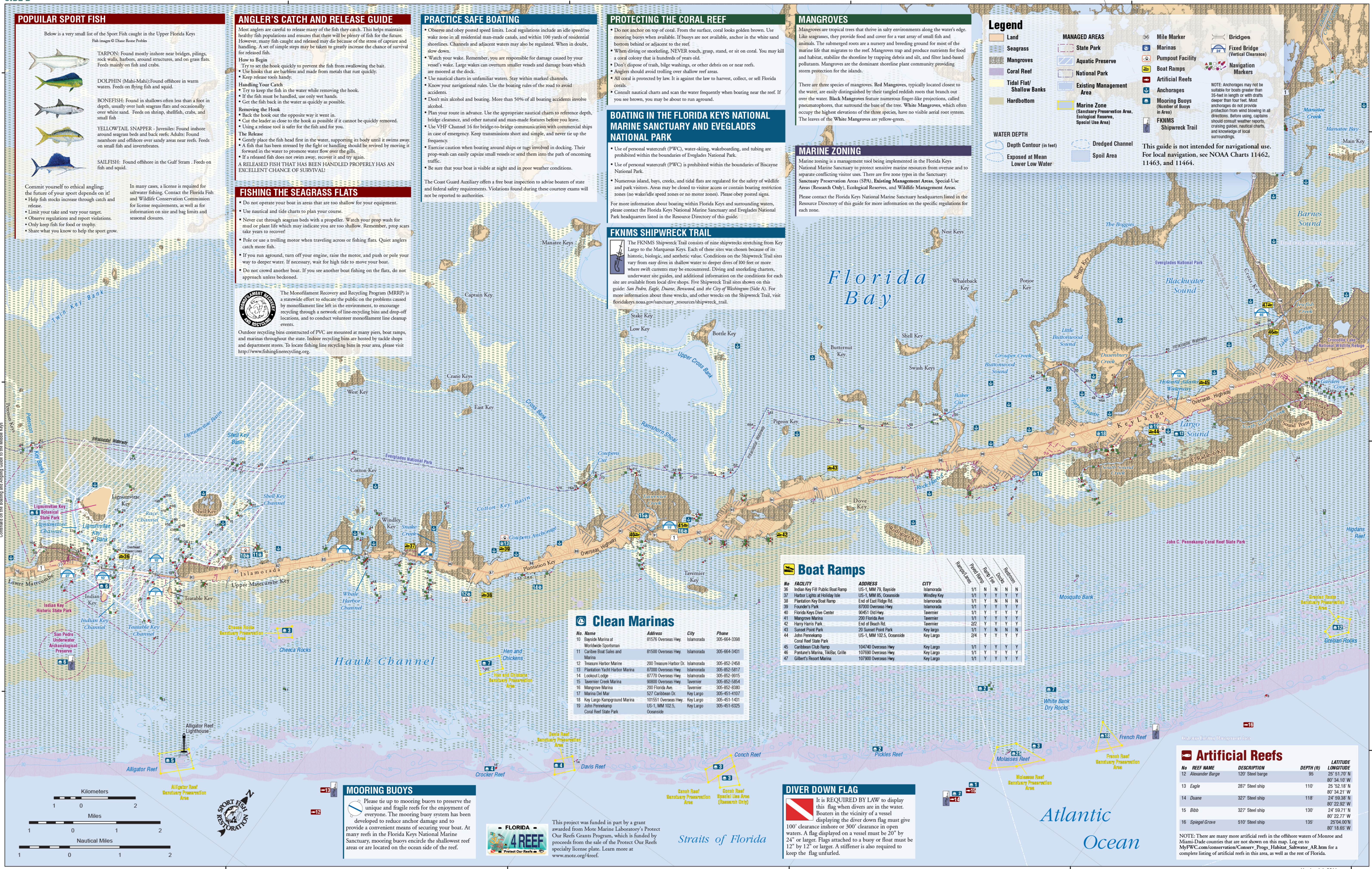
It is REQUIRED BY LAW to display this flag when divers are in the water. Boaters in the vicinity of a vessel displaying the diver down flag must give 100' clearance inshore or 300' clearance in open waters.

MOORING BUOYS

Please tie up to mooring buoys to preserve the unique and fragile reefs for the enjoyment of everyone. The mooring buoy system has been developed to reduce anchor damage and to provide a convenient means of securing your boat.



This project was funded in part by a grant awarded from Mote Marine Laboratory's Protect Our Reefs Grants Program, which is funded by proceeds from the sale of the Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate.



Artificial Reefs

Table with columns: No, REEF NAME, DESCRIPTION, DEPTH (ft), LATITUDE, LONGITUDE. Lists 12 artificial reefs from Alexander Barge to Spiegel Grove.

NOTE: There are many more artificial reefs in the offshore waters of Monroe and Miami-Dade counties that are not shown on this map. Log on to MyFWC.com/conservation/Conserv_Progs_Habitat_Saltwater_AR.htm for a complete listing of artificial reefs in this area, as well as the rest of Florida.