

# Rules for Cayman Islands Marine Parks

## MARINE PARK ZONE

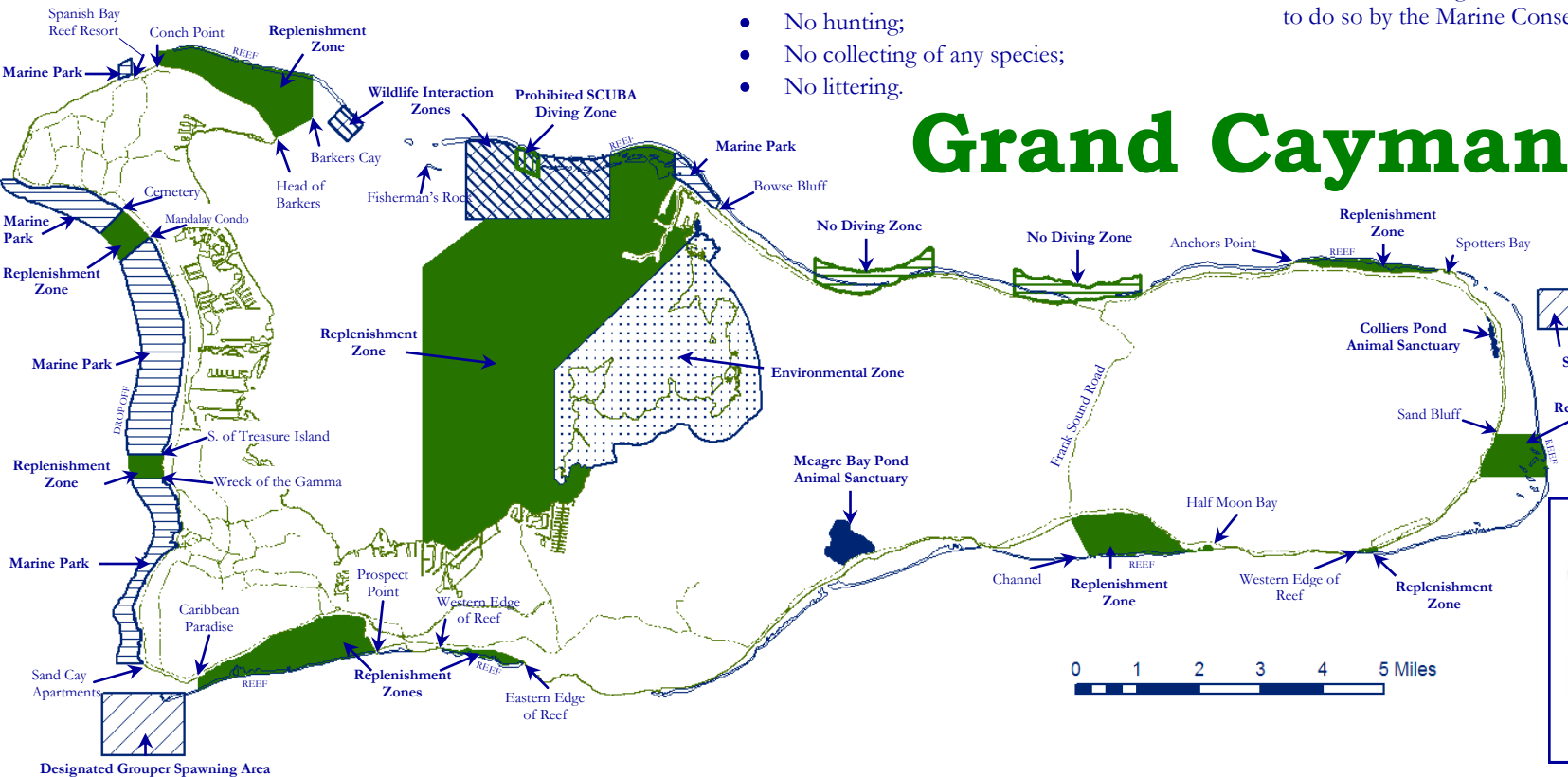
- No taking of any marine life alive or dead, except:
  - line fishing from shore is permitted;
  - line fishing at depths of 80 ft or greater is permitted;
  - taking fry and sprat with a fry or cast net is permitted. NOTE: fish traps, spear guns, pole spears and other nets are totally prohibited.
- No anchoring - use of fixed moorings only, except:
  - boats of 60 ft or less may anchor in sand, so long as no grappling hook is used, and neither the anchor nor the rope or chain will impact coral;
  - anchoring permitted in designated Port anchorage areas—contact Port Security VHF Channel 16;
  - anchoring prohibitions suspended during emergencies and by permission of Port Director.
- Bloody Bay, Little Cayman - Special restrictions have been placed on the use of the Bloody Bay Marine Park, no commercial operations may use the park without a licence from the Marine Conservation Board.

## DESIGNATED GROUPER SPAWNING AREAS

- East and West End of: Cayman Brac, Little Cayman and Twelve Mile Bank. Coxswain Bank and South West Point Grand Cayman;
- No fishing for Nassau groupers 1 November through 31 March;
- No fish pots or spear fishing within one-mile radius of Designated Grouper Spawning Area from 1 November through 31 March.

## NO DIVING ZONE

- No SCUBA diving.



## ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE

- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead with no exceptions;
  - No in-water activities;
  - Public may access only at speeds of 5 m.p.h. or less;
  - No anchoring of any boat.
- NOTE: Line fishing, fish traps, nets, spear guns and strikers are totally prohibited.

## REPLENISHMENT ZONE

- No taking of conch or lobster by any means;
- Line fishing and anchoring permitted;
- Anchor, chain or line must not touch coral;
- Spear guns, pole spears, fish traps and nets prohibited, except that fry and sprat may be taken with a fry or cast net.

NOTE: These zones include the outside edge of the reef to a depth of 20 feet.

## WILDLIFE INTERACTION ZONES (WIZ)

- No taking any marine life by any means;
- No selling of fish from boats;
- No removing of any marine life from the water;
- No anchoring in water shallower than three feet or so that the anchor or boat is within 20 ft of any reef structure;
- No feeding any marine life with food of any kind or amount other than that approved by the Marine Conservation Board;
- Fish feeding is prohibited anywhere in Cayman waters outside of a designated WIZ unless licensed by the Marine Conservation Board;
- No wearing any footwear in water shallower than four feet;
- Special conditions apply to commercial boats who must have a licence issued by the Marine Conservation Board and clearly displayed on the boat to enter this area.

## ANIMAL SANCTUARIES/ RAMSAR SITES

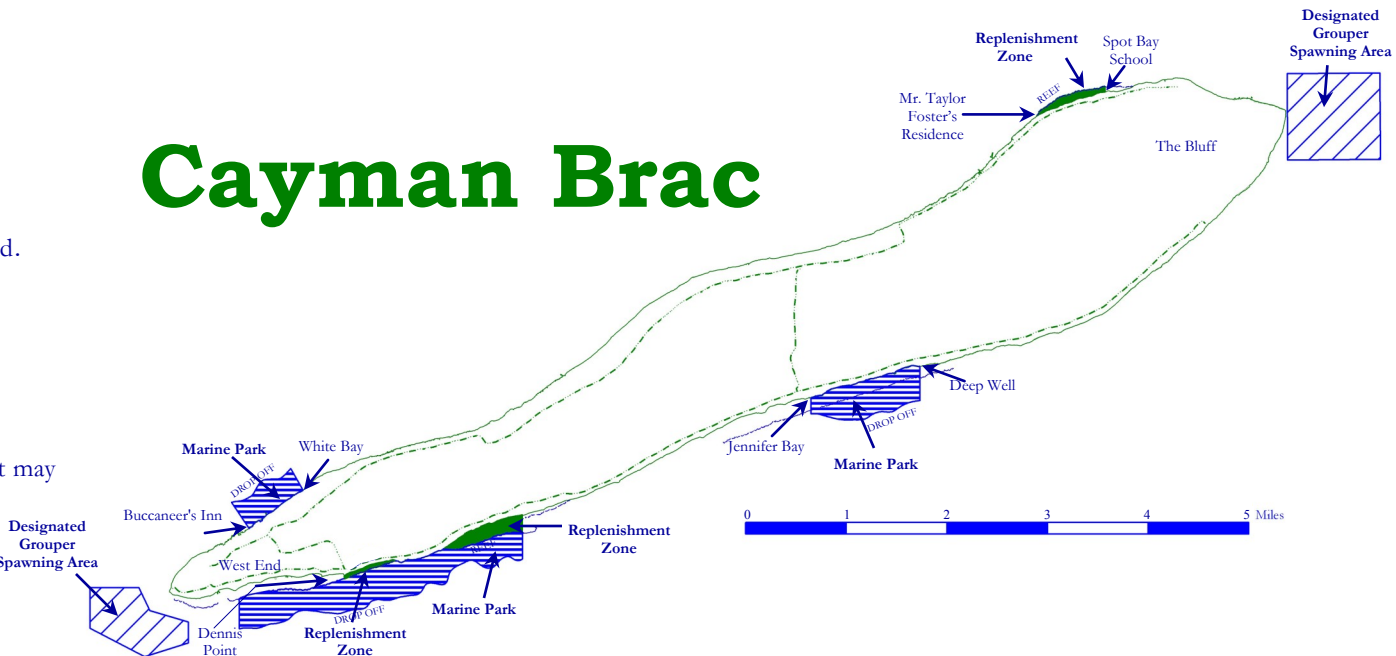
- No hunting;
- No collecting of any species;
- No littering.

## PROHIBITED DIVING ZONE

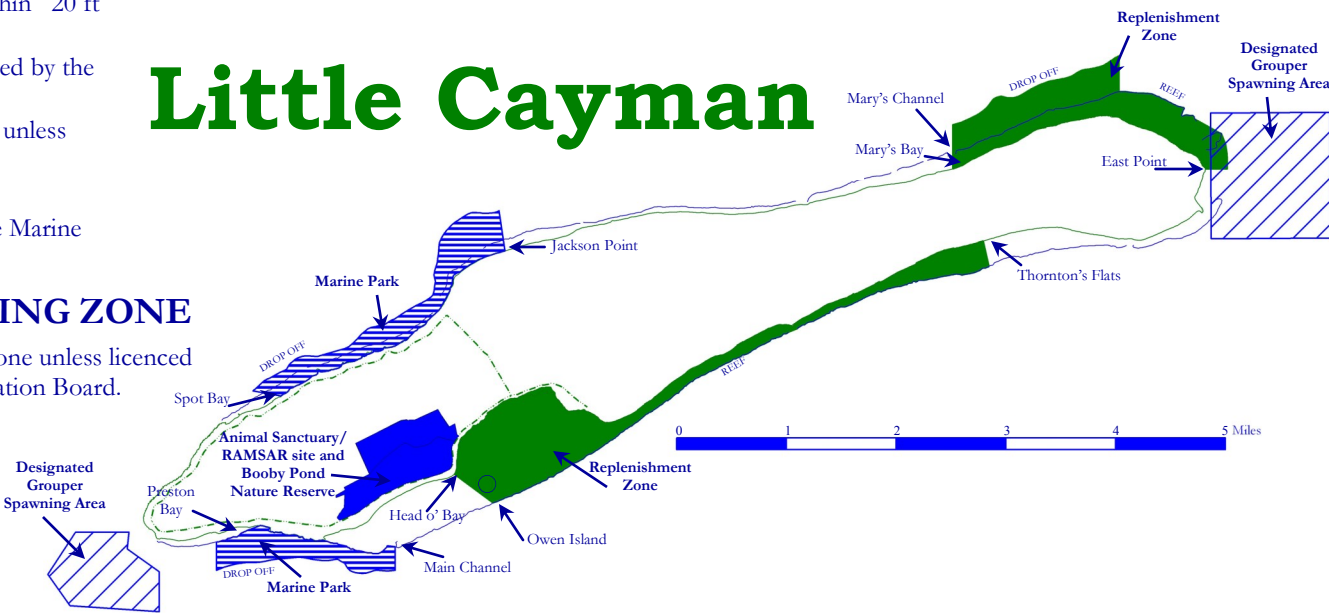
- No SCUBA diving within this zone unless licenced to do so by the Marine Conservation Board.

# Grand Cayman

# Cayman Brac



# Little Cayman



## PUBLIC MOORINGS

Public moorings are located around each of the islands to reduce anchor damage to coral. **It is an offence to anchor so as to damage coral ANYWHERE in Cayman waters.** These 18 and 30 inch white buoys may be identified by their blue stripe and yellow pick-up line and may be used free of charge. The smaller buoys are designed to hold vessels up to 60 feet long and the larger buoys are for vessels up to 100 feet. **Public moorings should not be used when wind speeds reach or exceed 25 knots.** Please limit your use of the mooring to 3 hours or less. It is the responsibility of the boat operator to ensure that the mooring is in safe condition – do not leave the boat unattended while on the mooring.

Damaged moorings may be reported to the Department of Environment on 949-8469 or email [DoE@gov.ky](mailto:DoE@gov.ky)

## KNOW THE MARINE PARK SIGNS!





SUMMARY OF CAYMAN ISLANDS MARINE CONSERVATION LAWS

LOBSTERS

- **Closed season:** 1 March through 30 November. No one may take lobster from Cayman waters during these months. No one may purchase, receive or possess lobster taken from Cayman waters during these months.
- **Open season catch limit:** Three per person or six per boat per day, whichever is less.
- **Size limit:** Six inch tail minimum size.
- Only spiny lobster (*P. argus*) may be taken.

CONCH

- **Closed season:** 1 May through 31 October. No one may take conch from Cayman waters during these months. No one may purchase, receive or possess conch taken from Cayman waters during these months.
- **Open season catch limit:** Five per person or ten per boat per day, whichever is less.
- No one may purchase or receive more than five conch from Cayman waters in any one day.

WHELKS

- **Closed season:** 1 May through 31 October. No one may take whelk from Cayman waters during these months. No one may purchase, receive or possess whelk taken from Cayman waters during these months.
- **Open season catch limit:** Two-and-a-half gallons in the shell or two-and-a-half pounds of processed whelks per person per day.
- No one may purchase or receive more than two-and-a-half gallons in the shell or two-and-a-half pounds processed whelks from Cayman waters in any one day.
- Chitons, periwinkles and bleeding teeth may not be taken from Cayman waters at any time.

ECHINODERMS

- Echinoderms (includes starfish, sea eggs/urchins, sea cucumbers and sand dollars) may not be taken from Cayman waters at any time.

TURTLES

- No one may disturb, molest or take turtles in Cayman waters without a licence from the Marine Conservation Board.
- Possession of turtle eggs is prohibited.
- For licensed fishermen, closed season runs from 1 April through 30 November.

SHARKS

- No one may feed, attempt to feed or provide or use food to attract any shark in Cayman waters.

NASSAU GROUPERS

- **Size limit:** Twelve inch minimum size limit applies throughout Cayman waters year round **EXCEPT:**
- **Designated Grouper Spawning Areas are protected.**
- No one may take Nassau grouper from any of the Designated Grouper Spawning Areas from 1 November through 31 March.
- No one may spearfish or set a fish-pot within a one-mile radius of any Designated Grouper Spawning Area from 1 November through 31 March.
- No one may use a speargun to take Nassau Grouper.

OTHER FISH

- **Protected fish:** Jew fish (goliath grouper), tilefish (whities), filefish (pipers) and angelfish, including Grey, French and Queen angels (old monks), may not be taken from Cayman waters at any time.
- **Size limit:** Eight-inch minimum size on all other fish except goggle eyes, herrings (including sprats), anchovies and silversides (including loggerhead and fine fry).

FISH POTS

- Must be licensed by the Marine Conservation Board.
- Only Caymanians over 18 may be granted licences.
- Only two pots per family and pots must be identified with a DOE tag.
- No fish pot may be set within a one-mile radius of any Designated Grouper Spawning Area from 1 November through 31 March.

SPEAR GUNS & SEINE NETS

- No one may use a speargun (includes Hawaiian sling, polespear, harpoon, hookstick or any device with a pointed end which may be used to impale, stab or pierce any marine life but does not include a striker) or seine net without a licence from the Marine Conservation Board. **NOTE:** A striker is defined as a wooden pole, at least 10ft long, with a maximum of 2 barb-less prongs attached to one end.
- No one may possess a speargun without a licence.
- No one may import a speargun or any parts for a speargun.
- Only Caymanians over 18 may be granted licences.
- **Speargun catch limit:** Three fish per licensed person per day.
- No one may use a speargun in water less than 20ft deep.
- No one may possess more than six fish that have been caught by a speargun.
- No one may spearfish within a one-mile radius of any Designated Grouper Spawning Area from 1 November through 31 March.
- Licence holders must carry licence when using seine net or spear fishing and adhere to licence conditions.
- No one may use a speargun to take Nassau Grouper.

GENERAL RULES

- Damaging coral by anchor, chains or any other means **ANYWHERE** in Cayman waters is prohibited.
- No taking of **ANY** marine life alive or dead while on SCUBA.
- No taking of any coral, sponges, etc. from Cayman waters.
- Wearing gloves while diving or snorkelling in Cayman waters is prohibited.
- Export of live fish or other marine life is prohibited.
- Fishing with gill nets, poison or other noxious substances is prohibited.
- Dumping **ANYTHING** in Cayman waters is prohibited.
- The export of more than three conch shells and or any black coral requires a CITES permit, issued through the DOE.

PENALTIES

Violation of any of these laws is an offence carrying a maximum penalty of CI\$500,000 fine and one year in jail. Upon conviction, forfeiture of the vessel or other equipment may also be ordered.

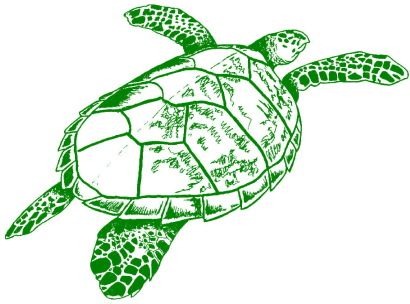
CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information contact the  
Department of Environment  
580 North Sound Road, Grand Cayman  
Phone: 949-8469 Fax: 949-4020  
EMAIL: [doe@gov.ky](mailto:doe@gov.ky)  
Web: [www.DoE.ky](http://www.DoE.ky)

If you see a marine turtle nest call the  
Turtle Hotline: 938-NEST / 938-6378

**Report Offences to:**  
Grand Cayman: 949-8469 or 916-4271  
Cayman Brac: 926-0136  
Little Cayman: 916-7021 or 926-2342  
VHF: Channel 10  
Or 911

**Report oil spills or other marine pollution  
to the DOE 949-8469 or 911**



Marine Park  
Regulations  
& Marine  
Conservation  
Laws  
Cayman Islands



Department  
of Environment

