

## Responsible Dolphin Watching

*It is illegal to capture, harm, or harass any marine mammal in The Bahamas.*



*The deep scars on the back of this Abaco dolphin are from the blades of a boat propeller. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure that your dolphin-watching experience is fun and safe for everyone.*

## Help protect Abaco's dolphins, whales, and manatees

Respect their space and stay at least 100 yards away, especially on jet skis.

Drive boats and jet skis at slow speed near dolphins and whales—idle or turn off your engine if safely possible



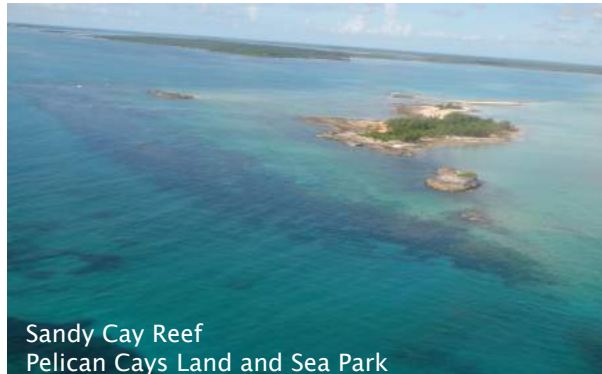
Please report sightings to The Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation  
[info@bahamaswhales.org](mailto:info@bahamaswhales.org),  
(242) 366-4155

**Please report stranded, injured, or dead marine mammals to:**  
The Bahamas Marine Mammal Stranding Network  
(242) 366-4155

## CONTACT US:

To help support FRIENDS or for more information about membership, our moorings system, fishing rules and regulations in The Bahamas, or volunteer opportunities for coastal clean-ups please contact FRIENDS or visit our website at [www.friendsoftheenvironment.org](http://www.friendsoftheenvironment.org).

Friends of the Environment  
P.O. Box AB-20755  
Marsh Harbour, Abaco  
(242) 367-2721  
[info@friendsoftheenvironment.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheenvironment.org)



Sandy Cay Reef  
Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park

## BE INFORMED:

Abaco currently has 11 marine protected areas. Be sure you know their boundaries and regulations when you visit them.

**Department of Marine Resources Marine Reserves:** Crab Cay and No Name Cay  
<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/marineresources/>

**Bahamas National Trust Parks (no take):**  
Walkers's Cay National Park, Black Sound Cay National Reserve, Fowl Cays National Park, Tilloo Cay Preserve, Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park

**Bahamas National Trust Parks (mixed use):**  
East Abaco Creeks National Park, The Marls National Park, South Abaco Blue Holes Conservation Area, & Cross Harbour National Park  
[www.bnt.bs](http://www.bnt.bs)



FRIENDS of the ENVIRONMENT  
ABACO, BAHAMAS

## ENJOY ABACO'S MARINE ENVIRONMENT RESPONSIBLY!



BEP FOUNDATION



HELP PROTECT  
OUR REEFS!

### USE MOORINGS WITH CARE:

Moorings have been placed at North Guana, Fowl Cay, Mermaid and Sandy Cay Reefs.

- Only small boats (up to 28 feet) should tie up to these moorings. There is a danger of the moorings breaking if larger boats tie up.
- If you can't attach to a buoy then anchor in sand or grass away from the reef.
- Tie your bow line to the pick-up line of the mooring buoy and let out enough rope to give a horizontal pulling on the mooring.
- Ultimately, you are responsible for your boat. It is always a good idea to dive the mooring and assess its condition.

### RESPECT THE REEFS:

- Don't touch, stand or walk on reefs. This is harmful to their health.
- Don't pollute, but **do** pick up litter
- Don't discharge holding tanks or bilge water within 3 miles of land. Instead, call Lou's Pumping Service, 577-6559.
- Don't take live corals, shells, sea stars, sand dollars, or sea fans.
- Support restaurants and fishermen selling seafood that is in season and up to measure.
- Report dumping or other illegal activities to the police (367-2560); report poaching to the Bahamas National Trust Park Warden (367-6310) or Department of Marine Resources (699-0202).

# BAHAMAS FISHING REGULATIONS

FISHING REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE LEGISLATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF REGULATIONS, CONTACT THE BAHAMAS DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES, OR GO TO [WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEENVIRONMENT.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEENVIRONMENT.ORG)

## THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS APPLY TO CITIZENS, RESIDENTS, AND VISITORS OF THE BAHAMAS:

### SCALE FISH

- The capture of bonefish by nets is prohibited
- Purchase or sale of bonefish is also prohibited
- No grouper or rockfish should be caught under 3lbs.
- Nassau grouper closed season is 1 December - 28 February.

### TURTLES AND SHARKS

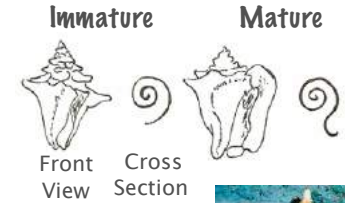
It is illegal to harass, harvest, purchase, or sell any species of turtle or shark or any by-product (e.g. eggs, shells, fins) found within the exclusive economic zone of The Bahamas. Report turtle nest activity to [bahamasseaturtlenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bahamasseaturtlenetwork@gmail.com)

### STONE CRAB

Closed season is June 1—October 15. Harvest of female crabs, or whole crabs is prohibited. Claw length must be 4 inches minimum to harvest.

### CONCH

- Any conch collected must be mature with a fully-formed flared lip.
- Queen Conch is endangered in most countries except The Bahamas. Help us protect our local population!



### CRAWFISH

- Closed Season is April 1—July 31
- Minimum size limit is 3 1/4 inches carapace length or 5 1/2 inches tail length. **Size Matters!**
- Possession of egg bearing females is prohibited, as is removing the eggs.



### WHEN FISHING IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT:

It is illegal to fish or collect any marine resource while using SCUBA  
Spear Guns and air compressors are prohibited (permits required for citizens to use compressors)  
Spearfishing within 200 yards of any shoreline in the Family Islands is illegal (e.g. Abaco)

## THESE ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS APPLY TO VISITORS:

### YOU MAY COLLECT NO MORE THAN:

- Six (6) conch per vessel at any time
- Ten (10) crawfish per vessel at any time
- 60 pounds or 20 scale fish
- 18 migratory fish total: any combination of kingfish, dolphin, tuna or wahoo. Others should be released alive.

### WHEN FISHING:

- Use rod and reel or "hand line". No more than 6 lines in the water unless authorized specifically by permit.
- A sport-fishing licence is required unless fishing from a Bahamian-owned boat. Bag limits apply either way.
- Permits required for use of spears, fish traps, or nets (other than landing nets).

