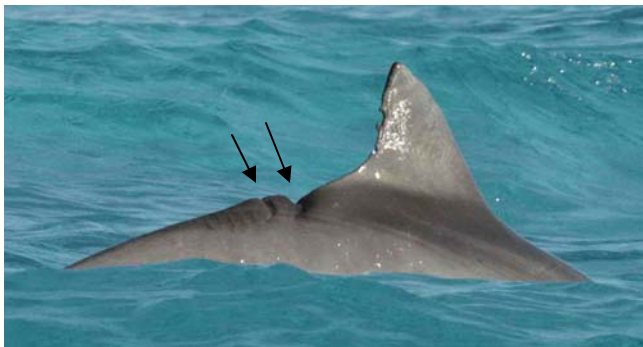


## Responsible Dolphin Watching

*It is illegal to capture 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 and whales*

Respect their space and try to stay at least 100 yards away

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

VHF channel 65  
"Dolphin Research"

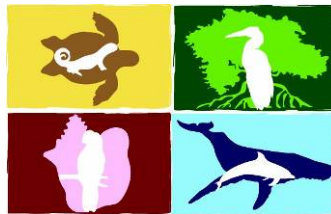


Please report stranded, injured, or dead marine mammals to:  
The Bahamas Marine Mammal Stranding Network  
1 (242) 544-5409

## Save Abaco's Marine Environment

S.A.M.E. is a new effort by FRIENDS and local businesses to raise funds specifically for marine conservation. Posters and donation containers can be found in dive shops and boat rental offices and dive tags are available for sale in select locations. All funds raised go directly to our Marine Conservation Fund and support activities such as mooring repair, reef monitoring and community education.

### Let's keep our seas the S.A.M.E.!



FRIENDS of the ENVIRONMENT  
ABACO, BAHAMAS

P.O. Box AB-20755

Marsh Harbour, Abaco

(242) 367-2721

[info@friendsoftheenvironment.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheenvironment.org)

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



Look out for Lionfish and report sightings online at [www.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs)

These fish are not native and they have poisonous spines. Don't touch!

## Friends of the Environment



*How to responsibly enjoy our natural marine heritage*

*Don't step on coral!*

*Take only pictures,  
leave only bubbles...*

*Anchor in the sand*

FRIENDS has placed moorings at North Guana, Fowl Cay, Mermaid and Sandy Cay Reefs.

- Only small boats (up to 25 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.



Nassau Grouper—*Epinephelus striatus*

You can help protect our reefs:

- Don't touch, stand or walk on the reefs. Touching stresses corals *and* the bacteria, oils and sunscreen on our hands 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. Ask local marinas about pump-out options.
- Don't take corals, shells, sea stars or sea fans.
- Don't buy out of season or under-size seafood.
- Support restaurants that don't serve crawfish and Nassau grouper out of season.
- Report dumping or other illegal activities to the police, and report poaching to the Bahamas National Trust Park Warden (367-6310).

## Bahamas Fishing Regulations (as of October 2007)

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 fishing regulations apply to visitors, residents and citizens of The Bahamas

#### WHEN FISHING:

- No spearfishing within 200 yards of any shoreline in the Family Islands (Abaco)
- It is illegal to fish or collect any marine resource while using SCUBA
- Spear Guns and air compressors are prohibited (permits required for residents to use compressors)

#### 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 three (3) pounds
- Nassau grouper closed season is December - February. Call FRIENDS for this year's exact dates

#### TURTLE

- Closed season is April 1st—July 31st
- It is prohibited to harvest Hawksbill Turtles, eggs from any species of turtle, or any turtle on a beach.
- Minimum harvest size: 24" shell length for Green Turtles and 30" shell length for Loggerheads

### The following regulations apply only to visitors

#### YOU MAY COLLECT NO MORE THAN:

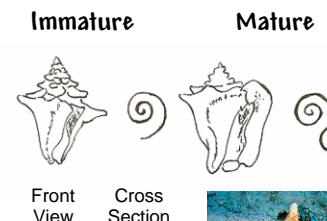
- ♦ Six (6) conch per vessel at any time
- ♦ Ten (10) crawfish per vessel at any time
- ♦ 60 pounds or 20 scale fish
- ♦ 18 migratory fish total: any combination of kingfish, dolphin, tuna or wahoo. Others should be released alive.
- ♦ Collection of turtle is not allowed

#### WHEN FISHING:

- ♦ Use Rod and Reel or "hand line"
- ♦ Permits are required for foreign vessels to sportfish. No more than 6 lines in the water, unless authorized.
- ♦ Permits required for use of spears, fish traps, or nets (other than landing nets)

#### 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.
- Possession of egg bearing females is prohibited, as is removing the eggs.

#### STONE CRAB

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

## Bahamas National Trust Parks

In Abaco, The Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, Black Sound Cay National Reserve, Walker's Cay National Park, Fowl Cay Preserve\*, Tilloo Cay Reserve and the Abaco National Park have been set aside for your enjoyment.

Nothing may be taken from the land or sea in The Bahamas National Trust Parks (including shells and coral fragments). No fishing, spearing, conching or shelling is allowed in these areas. You will be fined and/or your fishing equipment and vessel will be taken away.

\*Proposed National Park



Staghorn Coral