RULES FOR CAYMAN ISLANDS PROTECTED AREAS

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 National Conservation Council.

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 fish pots, spear fishing, or net fishing within Designated Grouper Spawning Areas.

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 vessel.

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 fish food 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 National Conservation Council;
- Fish feeding is prohibited anywhere in Cayman waters outside of a designated WIZ unless licensed by the National Conservation Council;
- No wearing any footwear in water shallower than four feet;
- Special conditions apply to commercial boats who must have a licence issued by the National Conservation Council and clearly displayed on the boat to enter this area.

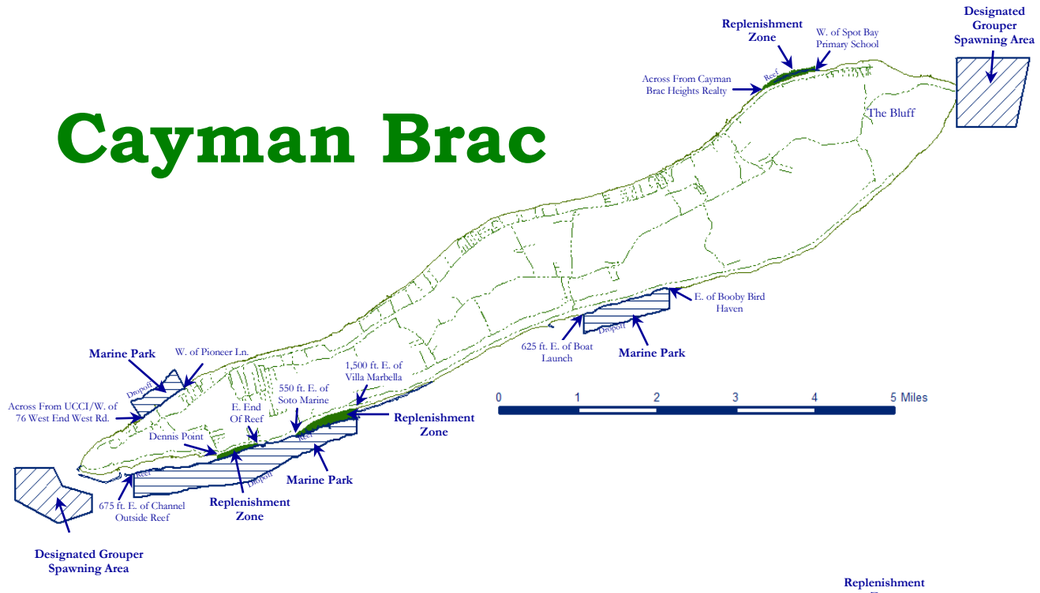
ANIMAL SANCTUARIES/ RAMSAR SITES

- No hunting or collecting of any species;
- No damage to property, natural or cultural features.
- No littering.

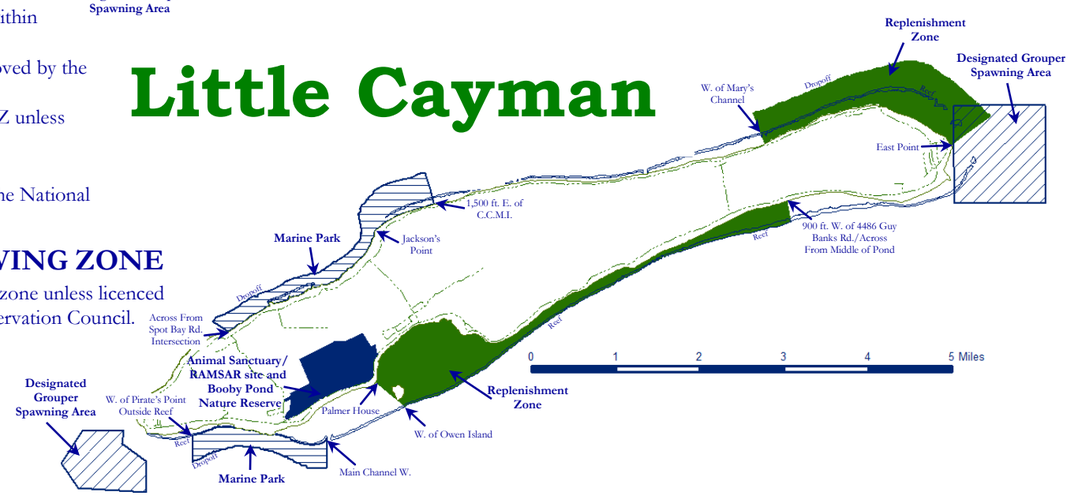
PROHIBITED DIVING ZONE

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

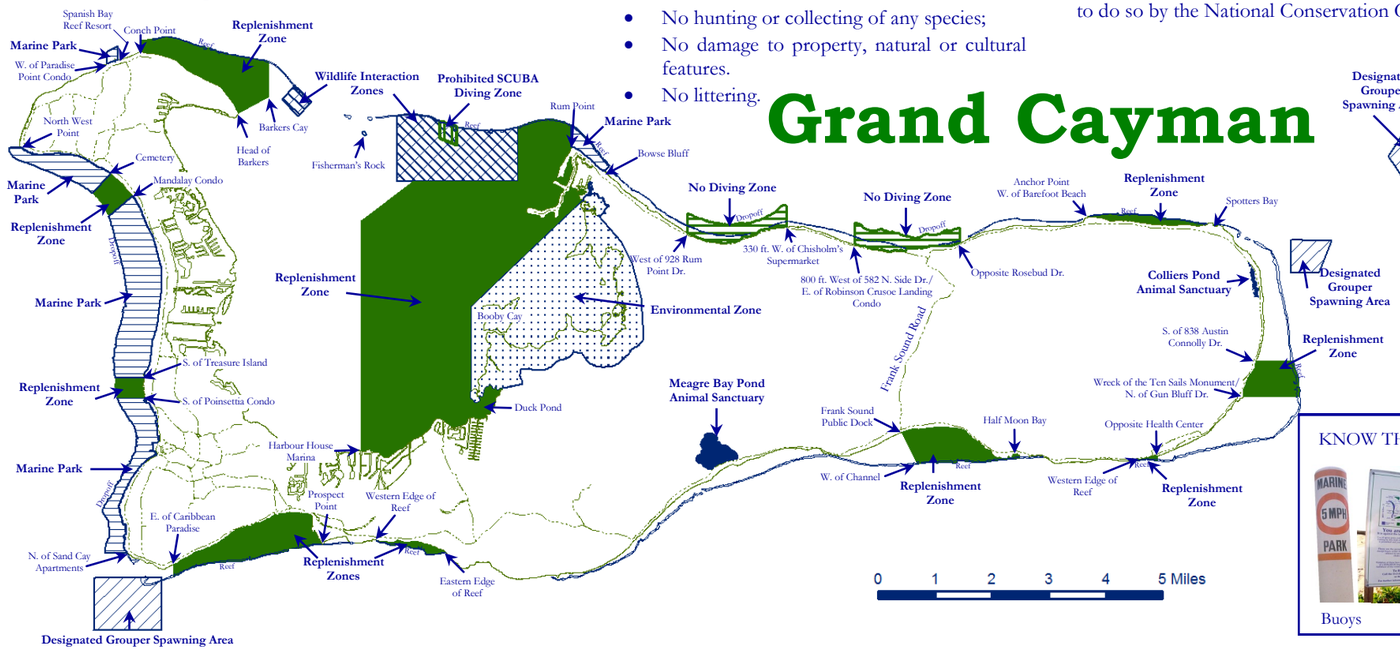
Cayman Brac



Little Cayman



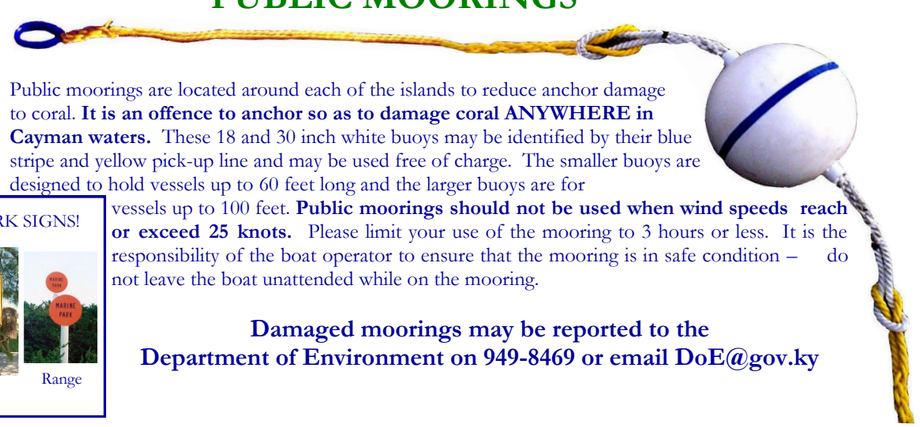
Grand Cayman



KNOW THE MARINE PARK SIGNS!

Buoys Signs Range

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

13 March 2018

SUMMARY OF CAYMAN ISLANDS CONSERVATION LAWS

LOBSTERS (*PANULIRUS ARGUS*)

- **Closed season:** 1 March through 30 November.
- **Open season catch limit:** Three per person or six per boat per day, whichever is less. (6/boat with 2+ ppl)
- **Size limit:** Six inch tail minimum size.
- Only spiny lobster (*P. argus)* may be taken.
- In any one day, no one person may take or permit another person to take, purchase, receive, offer for sale, exchange or donation, or possess more than three lobster from Cayman waters.

CONCH (*STROMBUS GIGAS*)

- **Closed season:** 1 May through 31 October.
- **Open season catch limit:** Five per person or ten per boat per day, whichever is less. (10/boat with two or more people.)
- Only queen conch (*S. gigas*) may be taken.
- In any one day, no one person may take or permit another person to take, purchase, receive, offer for sale, exchange or donation, or possess more than five conch from Cayman waters.

WHELKS

- **Closed season:** 1 May through 31 October. No one may take whelks in Cayman during these months. No one may purchase, receive or possess whelk taken in Cayman 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 in any one day.
- Chitons, periwinkles and bleeding teeth may not be taken 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 or on Cayman's beaches without a licence.
- Possession of turtle eggs is prohibited.
- For licensed fishermen, closed season runs from 1 April through 30 November.

SHARKS & RAYS

- May not be taken from Cayman waters at any time.
- No one may feed, attempt to feed or provide or use food to attract any shark in Cayman waters.

NASSAU GROUPER (*EPINEPHELUS STRIATUS*)

- **Closed season:** 1 December through 30 April
- **Open season catch limit:** Five per person or five per boat per day, whichever is less.
- **Size limit:** Only Nassau grouper between 16 inches and 24 inches (inclusive) may be taken from Cayman waters.
- No one may take, purchase, receive, permit or possess Nassau grouper from Cayman waters taken in contravention of the above rules.

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, sprats (herrings, anchovies) and fries (including loggerhead and fine fry; silversides or anchovies). Or lionfish.

FISH POTS

- Must be licensed.
- Only Caymanians over 18 may be granted licences.
- Only two pots per family and pots must be tagged.
- May only be used to take fish.

SPEAR GUNS & SEINE NETS

- No one may use a spear gun (includes Hawaiian sling, pole spear, harpoon, hook stick 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. 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.
- Only Caymanians over 18 who had a spear gun licence may continue to renew their licences.
- **Spear gun catch limit:** Three fish per licensed person per day. (Excluding lionfish.)
- No one may use a spear gun in any lagoon, sound or a body of water which does not exceed twenty feet in depth.
- No one may use a spear gun or seine net within a designated Grouper Spawning Area.
- No one may use a spear gun to take Nassau grouper or parrotfish.
- Licence holders must carry licence when using fish pots, nets or spear fishing and adhere to licence conditions.
- No spear fishing within two hundred yards (meters) of any dive or snorkel vessel flying a dive flag indicating that there are divers or snorkelers in the water, excluding the vessel from which the licensee is snorkelling.

GENERAL RULES

- Damaging or taking coral or sponges by **any means** anywhere in Cayman waters is prohibited.
- No taking of **any** marine life alive or dead while on SCUBA. (Except with a lionfish licence.)
- Wearing gloves while diving or snorkelling in Cayman waters is prohibited. (Except with lionfish licence.)
- Export of live fish or other marine life is prohibited.
- Fishing with poison or other noxious substances is prohibited.
- Dumping **ANYTHING** in Cayman waters is prohibited.
- The export of more than three conch shells, and or the shipment of any black coral other than items worn or carried in personal luggage, requires a CITES permit.
- Use a dive flag when snorkelling. For your own safety.

LAND SPECIES

- All wild birds, bats, and native iguanas are completely protected at all times. As are some endemic plants. Except take of game birds allowed within seasons and limits.
- No more than 40 soldier crabs may be taken per day.

PENALTIES

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

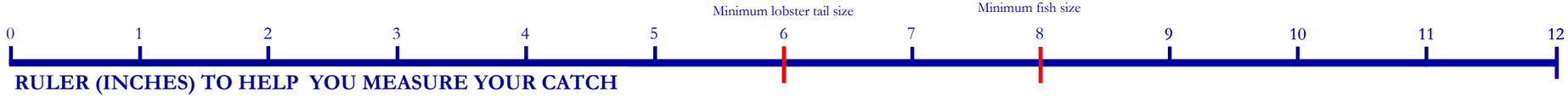
For additional information contact the Department of Environment
580 North Sound Road, Grand Cayman
Phone: 949-8469 Fax: 949-4020
EMAIL: doe@gov.ky
Web: www.DoE.ky

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

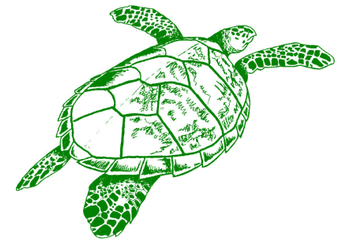
Report Green Iguana sightings:
Little Cayman: 925-7625
Cayman Brac: 917-7744

Report Offences to:
Grand Cayman: 949-8469 or 916-4271
Cayman Brac: 926-0136
Little Cayman: 925-0185
Or Call 911

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



RULER (INCHES) TO HELP YOU MEASURE YOUR CATCH



National Conservation Laws &

Regulations

Department of Environment