RULES FOR CAYMAN ISLANDS PROTECTED AREAS

MARINE RESERVE
- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead, except:
  - Fry and sprat can be taken with a fry net or cast net from shore, dock, or wading (max. depth 4ft). No more than 2.5 gallons per person per day.
- No anchoring. Use of fixed moorings only, except:
  - Boats of 60 ft. or less may anchor in sand, as long as no grappling hook or kellick is used, and neither the anchor nor the rope or chain will impact coral.
- Bloody Bay, Little Cayman – no commercial operations without a permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE
- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead.
- No in-water activities.
- Public may access only at speeds of 5 m.p.h. or less.
- No anchoring of any vessel.

LINE FISHING ZONE
- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead, except:
  - Take of fish by hook and line only.
  - Fry and sprat can be taken with a fry net or cast net from shore, dock, or wading (max. depth 4ft). No more than 2.5 gallons per person per day.
- No anchoring. Use of fixed moorings only, except:
  - Boats of 60 ft. or less may anchor in sand, as long as no grappling hook or kellick is used, and neither the anchor nor the rope or chain will impact coral.

SHORE LINE FISHING ZONE
- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead, except:
  - Take of fish by hook and line only.
  - Fry and sprat can be taken with a fry net or cast net from shore, dock, or wading (max. depth 4ft). No more than 2.5 gallons per person per day.
- Line fishing from shore only.

NO-DIVING OVERLAY ZONE
- No SCUBA diving without permission;
- General Rules and rules of underlying zone, if any, apply.

SPAWNING AGGREGATION (SPAG) OVERLAY ZONE
- 1 December to 30 April: No fishing, anchoring, or in-water activities between the 50 foot and 200 foot depth contours.
- 1 May to 31 November: General Rules and rules of underlying zone, if any, apply.

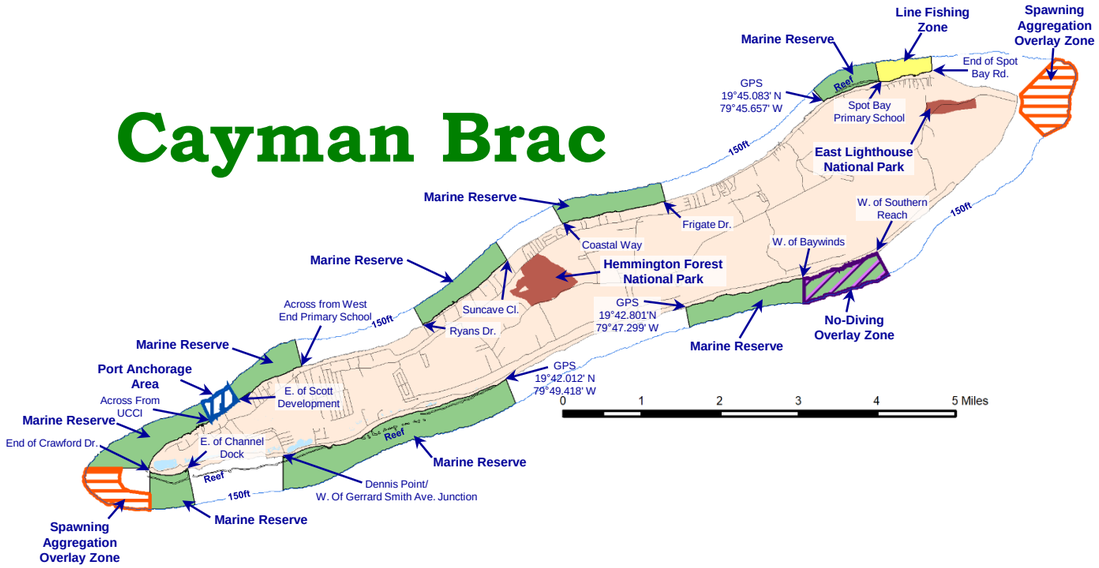
WILDLIFE INTERACTION ZONE (WIZ)
- No taking of any marine life, alive or dead.
- No wearing footwear in water shallower than 4ft depth.
- No anchoring in water shallower than 3ft depth, or within 20ft of reef.
- Commercial operators need a license to take people into the WIZ.
- Only feed stingrays approved food, like squid or ballyhoo.
- No selling fish food from boats.

TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREA
- No hunting or collecting of any species;
- No damage to property, natural, or cultural features;
- No littering;
- Site-specific rules may also apply.

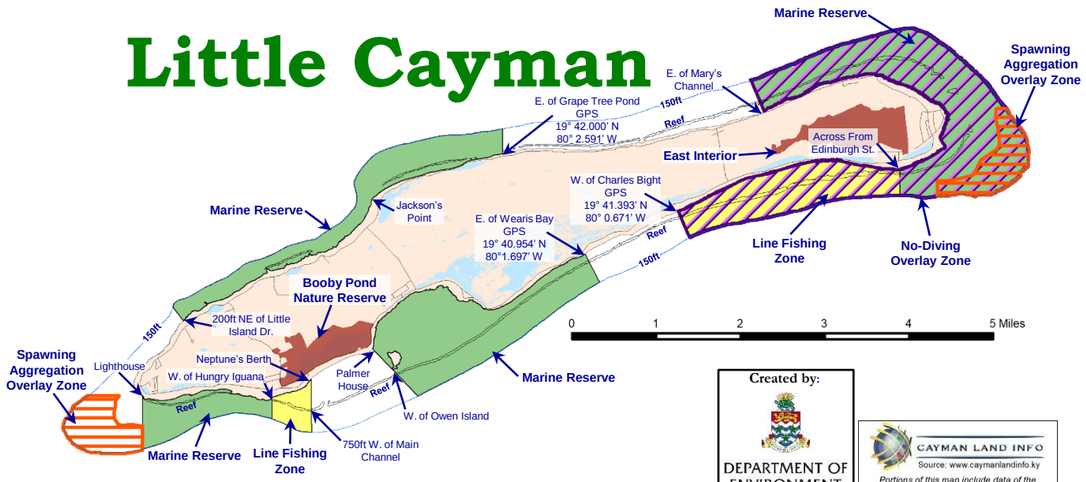
PORT ANCHORAGE AREA
- Port Authority Controlled. No fishing, damaging natural resources, or in-water activity, without Port permission.

GENERAL ZONE RULES
- All Marine Parks extend from the shoreline to the 150ft depth contour, unless otherwise indicated.
- No wildlife interaction, eg. fish feeding, outside of a WIZ;
- Lionfish culling in zones only if permitted.
- Anchoring allowed if declared an emergency by the Port Director.
- No one may feed, attempt to feed, provide, or use food to attract sharks in Cayman waters.

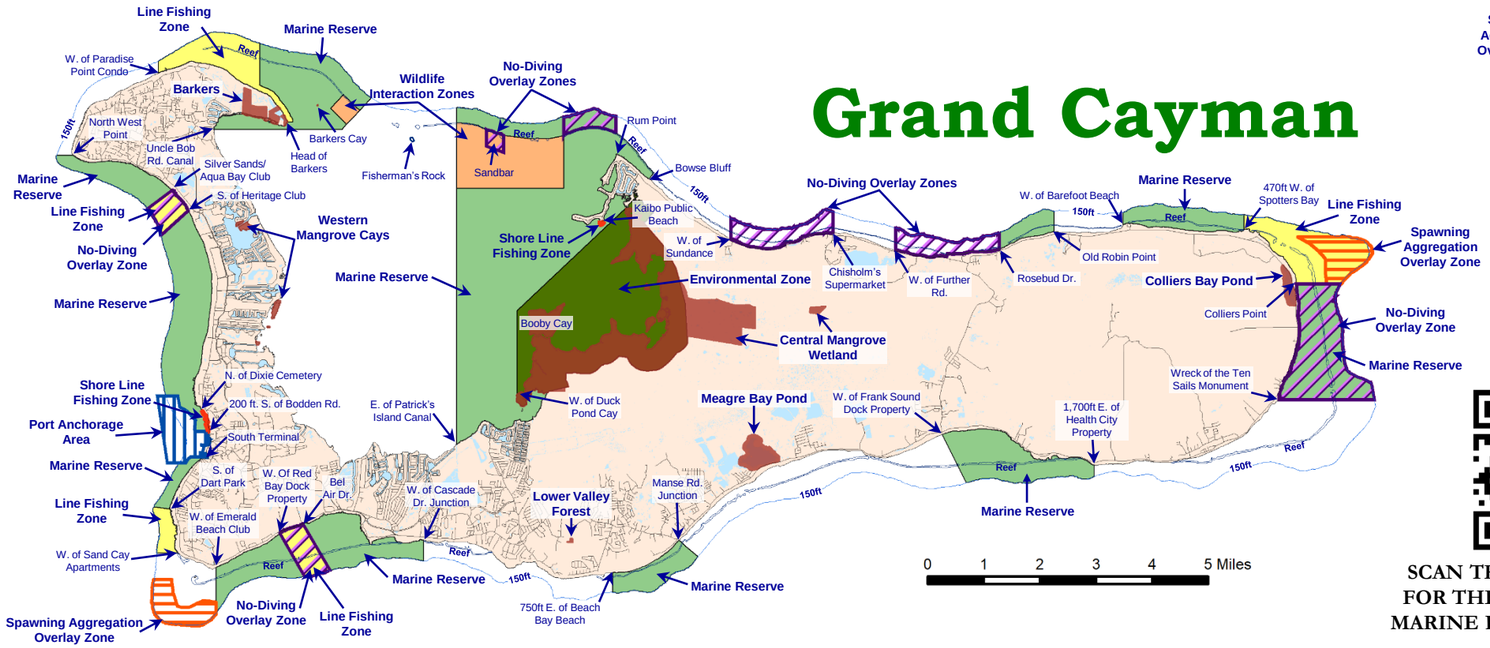
Cayman Brac



Little Cayman



Grand Cayman



SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MARINE PARKS INFORMATION

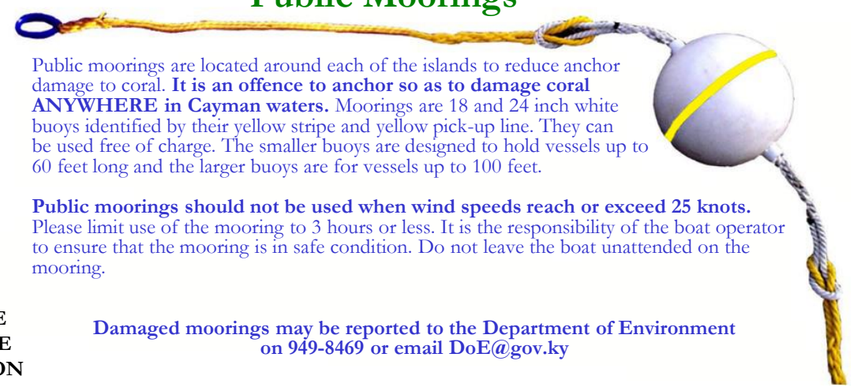
Created by:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

CAYMAN LAND INFO
Source: www.caymanlandinfo.ky

Portions of this map include data of the Cayman Islands Lands and Survey Department and are used herein by permission.

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.** Moorings are 18 and 24 inch white buoys identified by their yellow stripe and yellow pick-up line. They can 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 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 on the mooring.

Damaged moorings may be reported to the Department of Environment on 949-8469 or email DoE@gov.ky

Rev. 21 April 2021

SUMMARY OF CAYMAN ISLANDS CONSERVATION LAWS

LOBSTER (*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+ people)
- **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 2+ 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.
- **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 take, disturb, or kill turtles in Cayman waters or on Cayman's beaches without a licence.
- Possession of turtle eggs is prohibited.
- For licensed turtlers, 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. (5/boat with 2+ people)
- **Size limit:** Only between 16 inches and 24 inches (inclusive)
- In any one day, no one may take, purchase, receive, permit, or possess Nassau grouper from Cayman waters.

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

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.
- **Spear gun catch limit:** Three fish per licenced 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.
- Spear guns cannot be used 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.

PENALTIES

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

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 a 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

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

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

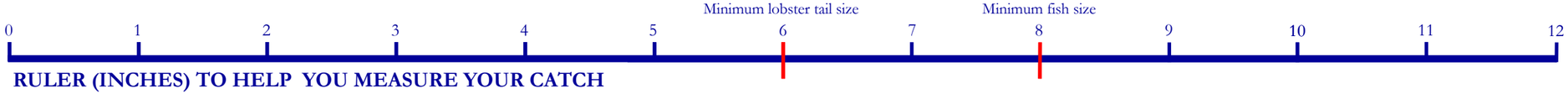
The National Conservation Act can be found at www.conservation.ky/the-national-conservation-law/

If you see a marine turtle nest call:
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: 925-3647
Little Cayman: 925-0185
Or Call 911

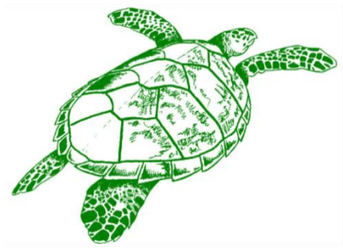
Report oil spills or other marine pollution to the DOE 949-8469 or 911



RULER (INCHES) TO HELP YOU MEASURE YOUR CATCH

Department of Environment

Cayman Islands Government



Marine Parks Brochure

Effective 12 March 2021

National Conservation Act & Regulations