

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. Two sea turtles are visible: one in the upper left swimming towards the right, and another in the center-right swimming towards the left. The reef is composed of various types of coral, including branching and table corals. The water is clear and blue.

**COLUMBUS  
LANDFALL MARINE  
NATIONAL PARK  
GRAND TURK  
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS  
AN ULTIMATE GUIDE**

Photo courtesy of Lucy D. Wells  
Compilation by Jodi A. Johnson

## Introduction

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is the government agency charged with the conservation, protection and management of the Natural Resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The DECR is responsible for the maintenance of the marine and terrestrial park boundary markers, signs and regulatory buoys, as well as the many permanent moorings for recreational vessels that the Department has installed around the Turks and Caicos Islands. ([www.environment.tc](http://www.environment.tc))

This handy pocket guide is part of the Department's on-going effort to educate users of Protected Areas (specifically Columbus Landfall Marine National Park). It will provide information about the rules and regulations governing use of the Columbus Landfall Marine National Park for anyone who is visiting, working or living on the Islands.

Readers will have the knowledge needed at their finger tips to prevent the likelihood of being fined or imprisoned simply because "they did not know".

Every effort has been made to simplify legal terms to make reading and comprehension easier.

Remember, whether you are from a foreign land or this is your land of birth, we all have a role to play in keeping the Turks and Caicos Islands "**Beautiful by Nature**"



**Our National Parks are protected under the law in the Turks and Caicos Islands National Park Ordinance (1989). This ordinance establishes regulations for four different categories of Protected Area.**

**There are 11 National Parks, 11 Nature Reserves, 4 Sanctuaries and 7 Areas of Historical Interest.**

**National Park:** Ecosystem and biological conservation with recreation as a primary secondary goal.

National Parks are areas opened to the public for recreational use, such as camping, fishing and sailing. Additionally, the Governor may make a grant of development permission for the construction of roads, marinas and such other development as may be considered to be desirable to facilitate enjoyment of the public.

**Nature Reserve:** Ecosystem and biological conservation with recreation as a low-key secondary goal

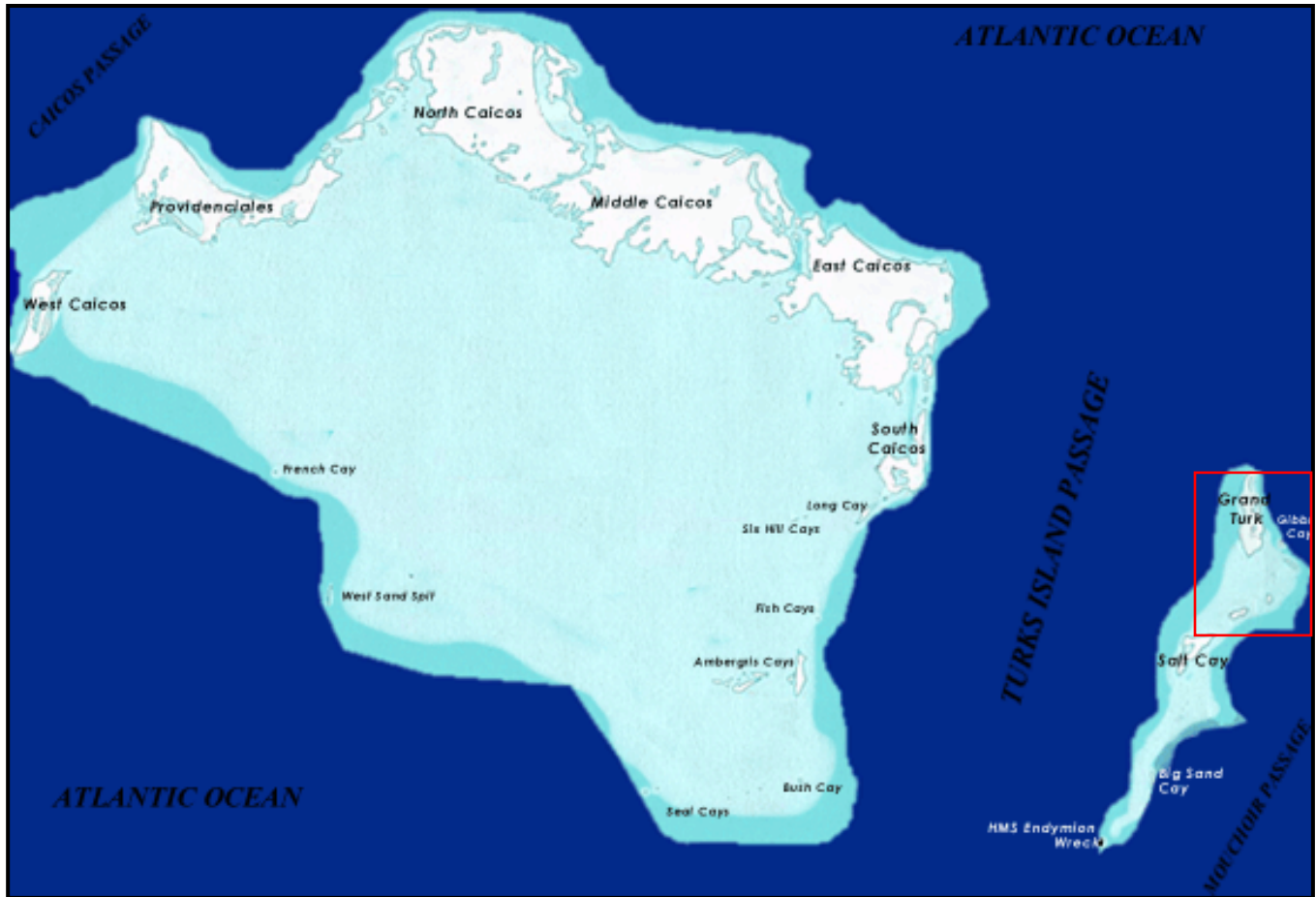
Nature Reserves are managed for ecosystem conservation and sustainable use. Activities such as traditional agriculture, arboriculture, sporting and recreational activities are permitted subject to appropriate regulations.

**Sanctuary:** For the protection of the natural ecology, or animal or plant, and the avoidance of disturbance of the area by people.

**Area of Historic Interest:** For the purpose of protecting an area or object of historical interest.

**National Park Classification** - Each park is given a number and each site plan is also labeled as to it's status; **NP** for National Park, **NR**-Nature Reserve, **S**-Sanctuary and **HA**- Area of Historic Interest. NP1, for example, is the site plan designation for Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park and S23 is the designation for the Big Sand Cay Sanctuary.

Where are the Protected Areas?



Map 1- The Turks and Caicos Islands

<b>CAICOS BANKS</b>	
S-24	French, Bush and Seal Cays Sanctuary
HA-31	Molasses Reef Wreck Area of Historical Interest
	Little Ambergris Cay Proposed Nature Reserve
<b>GRAND TURK</b>	
<b>NP-3</b>	<b>Columbus Landfall Marine National Park</b>
<b>NP-7</b>	<b>Grand Turk Cays Land and Sea National Park: (Gibbs, Penniston, Martin Alonzo Pinzon, Cays)</b>
<b>NP-10</b>	<b>South Creek National Park</b>
<b>S-25</b>	<b>Long Cay Sanctuary</b>
<b>MIDDLE CAICOS</b>	
NP-4	Conch Bar Caves National Park
NR-22	Vine Point (Man O' War Bush) and Ocean Hole Nature Reserve
<b>NORTH CAICOS</b>	
NP-5	East Bay Islands National Park
NP-6	Fort George Land and Sea National Park
NR-14	Cottage Pond Nature Reserve
NR-1h5	Dick Hill Creek and Bellefield Landing Pond Nature Reserve
NR-21	Pumpkin Bluff Pond Nature Reserve
S-26	Three Mary Cays Sanctuary
HA-29	Fort George Area of Historical Interest
	Wades Green Proposed Area of Historical Interest
<b>NORTH, MIDDLE AND EAST CAICOS</b>	
NR-17	North, Middle and East Caicos Nature Reserve (International Ramsar Site)
<b>PROVIDENCIALES</b>	
NP-2	Chalk Sound National Park
NP-8	North West Point Marine National Park
NP-9	Princess Alexandra Land and Sea National Park
NR-18	North West Point Pond Nature Reserve
NR-19	Pigeon Pond and Frenchman's Creek Nature Reserve
NR-20	Princess Alexandra Nature Reserve
HA-28	Cheshire Hall Area of Historical Interest
HA-33	Sapodilla Hill Area of Historical Interest
<b>SALT CAY</b>	
S-23	Big Sand Cay Sanctuary
HA-30	H.M.S. Endymion Wreck Area of Historical Interest
HA-32	Salt Cay Area of Historical Interest

<b>SOUTH CAICOS</b>	
NP-1	Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park
NR-12	Admiral Cockburn Nature Reserve (Long Cay, Six Hill Cays, Middleton Cay)
NR-13	Bell Sound Nature Reserve
HA-27	Boiling Hole Area of Historical Interest
	East Harbour Conch and Lobster Reserve
<b>WEST CAICOS</b>	
NP11	West Caicos Marine National Park
NR-16	Lake Catherine Nature Reserve
	FD- Fisheries Division PAD - Protected Areas Division TCNT - Turks and Caicos National Trust

As shown in the table, there are four Protected Areas in and around the island of Grand Turk, three National Parks and one Sanctuary.

The Columbus Landfall Marine National Park comprises 1280 acres of beachfront marine land and is located on the West coast of Grand Turk. On the Southeastern coast of Grand Turk lays the South Creek National Park, approximately 200 acres of wetland and mangroves. A group of cays, Gibbs, Penniston, Pear and Martin Alonzo Pinzon (formerly East Cay), forms the Grand Turk Cays Land and Sea National Park. Finally, the only Sanctuary, Long Cay Sanctuary is located South-East of Grand Turk.

### **NP 3 Columbus Landfall Marine National Park**

#### **General description:**

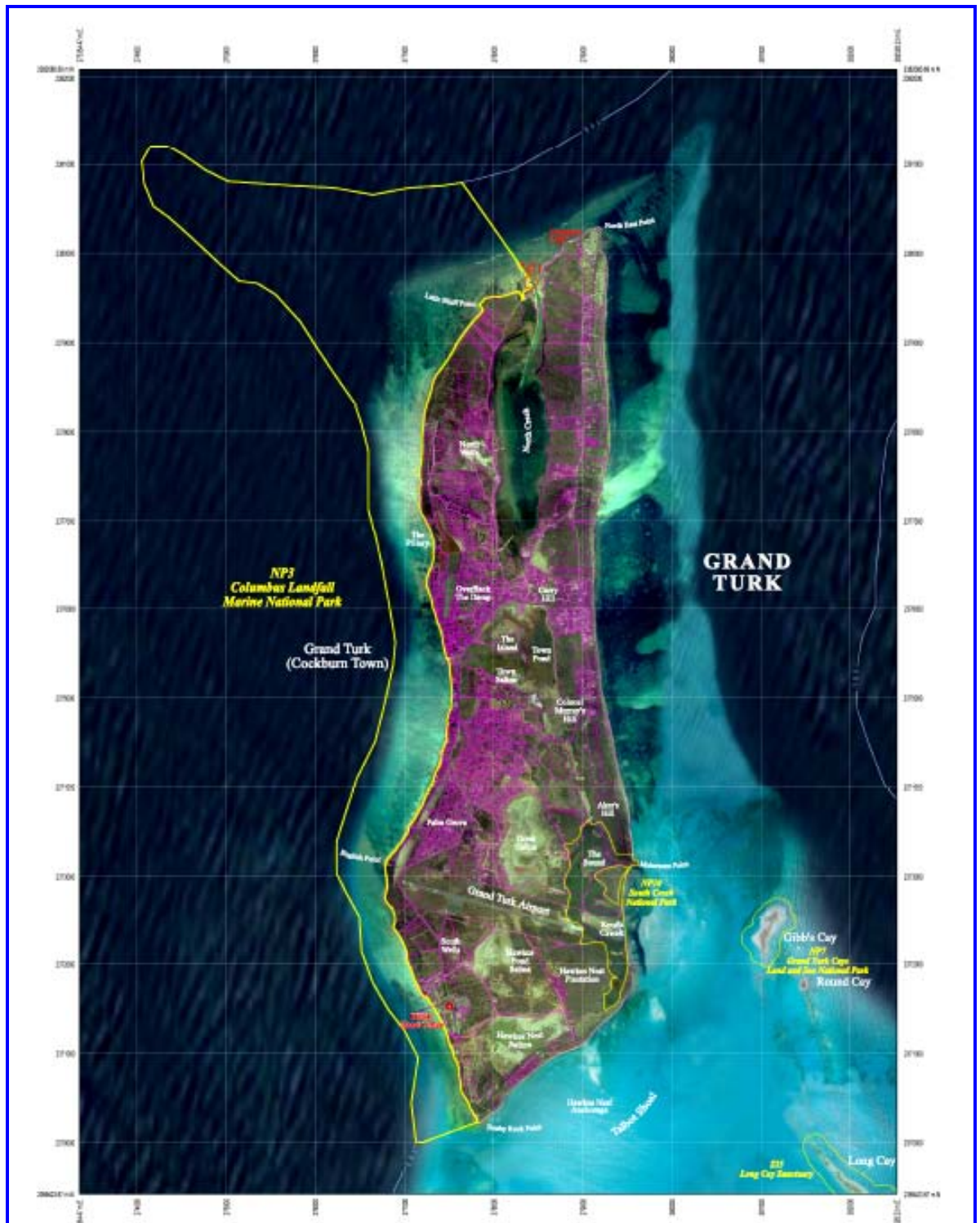
An area of 1280 acres in Grand Turk comprising the area of sea from the high water mark to the 100 meter depth line; a NW/SE straight line from the North Creek Entrance to the 100 meter depth line, following that contour southwards to meet a NE/SW straight line originating 100 meters north of Booby Rock, the southernmost point of Grand Turk.

#### **Features of interest:**

Inclusive of most of the western approaches to the Island of Grand Turk, the CLMNP contains an extensive, pristine barrier reef system averaging  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from shore. Beach and seashore included in the Park border the historic capital of Cockburn Town. Undeveloped beach areas contain extensive bird and turtle foraging and nesting habitat.

The Dive Mooring Buoy System was the first in the country, established by volunteers in the early 1980's.

(Present in the park, but apparently unknown, are the remains in shallow water of a colonial gun emplacement, Dunmore's Fort ca: 1795).



**Map 2- Columbus Landfall and South Creek National Parks  
(map does not included the new amendments that excludes  
the Grand Turk Cruise Centre dock area)**

### **NP 7 Grand Turk Cays Land & Sea National Park**

#### **General Description:**

An area of 386 acres southeast of Grand Turk comprising the whole land area of Gibbs, Penniston, Pear and Martin Alonzo Pinzon (formerly East) Cays and the surrounding 400 feet of sea in each case.

#### **Features of interest:**

Widespread shallow water patch reefs are nursery habitat for fish, conch and lobster. All cays are migrant bird nesting habitat, especially for Sooty and Noddy terns (Gibbs, Pear Cay), Brown boobies (Pinzon [East] Cay) and Frigate Birds (Penniston Cay).

Gibbs Cay is the site of an un-investigated, small, colonial era emplacement. (Archival information suggests the structure is French-built gun or observation post. French archival map ca: late 1700's, labels Gibbs Cay as "Fort Castries.")

Gibbs Cay also contains one Lucayan site.

### **NP 10 South Creek National Park**

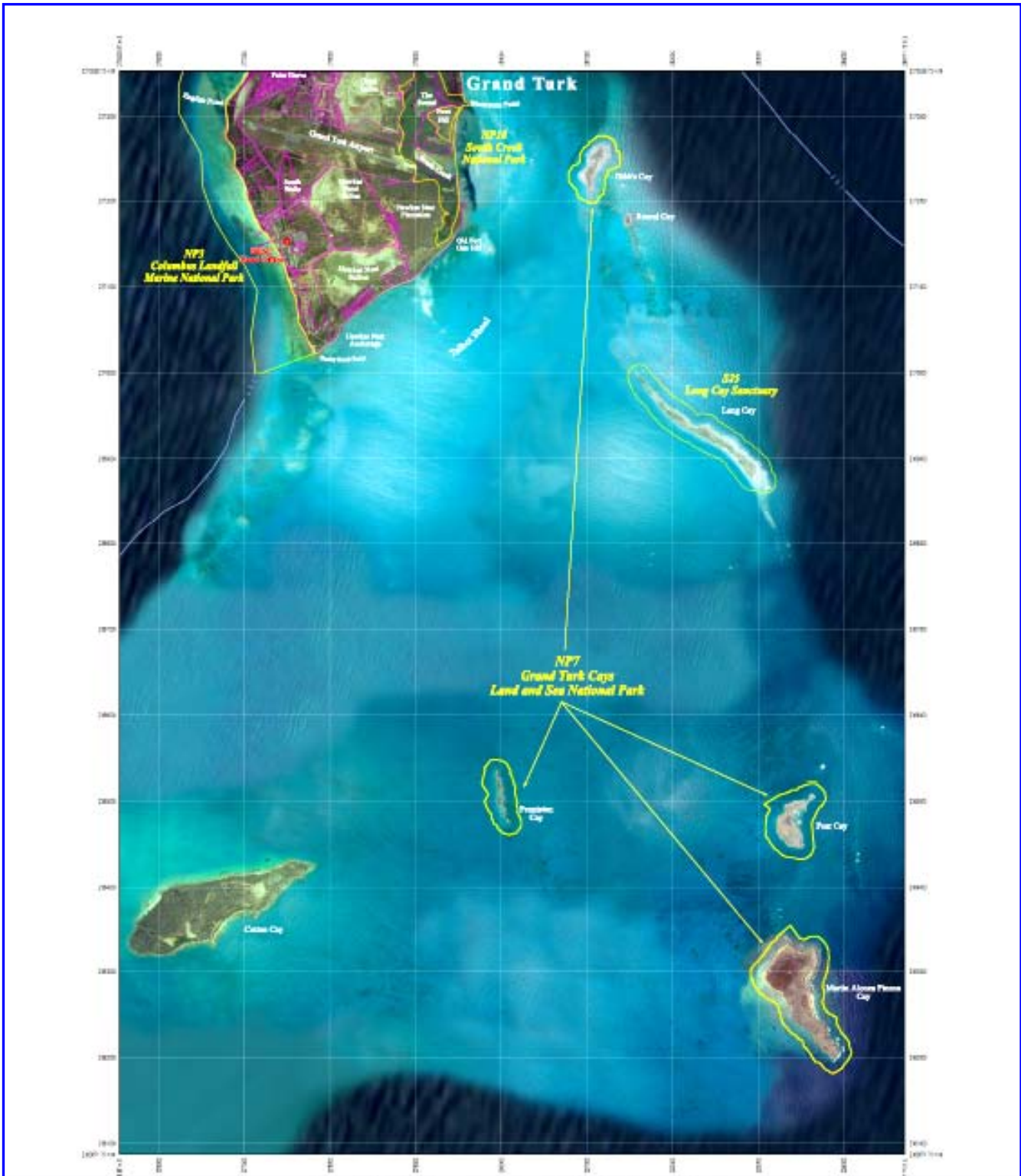
#### **General Description:**

An area of 183 acres in Grand Turk bounded by a line across the mouth of the South Creek extending northwards along the coast to a point north of Matterson's Point, following various parcel boundaries and tracks to the eastern end of Grand Turk airport. Around the eastern edge of the airport to the canal leading from Hawkes Pond Salina to South Creek. Then south along a track to the west of wetlands and mangroves, east to a track next to Gun Hill, then north along track to the southern shore of the South Creek.

#### **Features of interest:**

This tidal salt water estuary contains the largest stand of Red Mangroves on the Turks Bank. Mangroves and surrounding grass flats are important nursery habitat for lobster, conch, and reef fish. Deeper water lagoon (the Sound) is important bonefish and tarpon habitat.

Prime example of mangrove succession forest featuring Red, Black and White Mangroves and associated habitats. Mangrove area and associated natural salina are significant habitat and nesting area for wading birds.



**Map 3- Grand Turk Cays Land and Sea National Park and Long Cay Sanctuary**

### **S 23 Big Sand Cay Sanctuary**

#### **General Description:**

Large Iguana and Turks Head Cactus populations. Nurse shark breeding grounds.

Permit required for visitation.

### **S 25 Long Cay Sanctuary**

#### **General Description:**

An area of 198 acres southeast of Grand Turk comprising the total land area of Long Cay and nearby islets and the surrounding 400 ft of sea.

#### **Features of Interest:**

An undeveloped Cay with iguana population and extensive migrant bird nesting habitat, particularly Sooty and Noddy Terns.

Permit required for visitation.

### **HA 30 H.M.S. Endymion Wreck Area of Historical Interest**

#### **General Description:**

An area of 6.5 acres to the south of Great Sand Cay comprising the site of the wreck and the entire area within 100 yards of the wreck.

#### **Features of Interest:**

British Warship wrecked in August 1790, approx 7 miles south of Great Sand Cay. Main part of wreck, in a coral groove, contains at least 18 large cannon, 4 anchors and many pieces of iron and bronze ship's rigging. Though visited by sailors and souvenir hunters in the past, it is still an impressive wreck site.

Neighboring coral grooves also contain historic, but unidentified wrecks.

## **HA 32 Salt Cay Area of Historical Interest**

### **General Description:**

An area of 435 acres in Salt Cay comprising Town Salinas and the waterfront from North District to South District. Also includes the Gray Salina and surroundings of an old Whaling Station from Long Bay Point to a disused canal. Also including the whole of Whale Island and Whale House Bay.

### **Features of Interest:**

#### **Section 1**

Encompassing most of Balfour Town (South and North Districts) and the architecturally significant structures therein, including the Brown House, the White House and surrounding structures, Dean's Dock, St. John's Anglican Church, and other buildings, structures, dwelling houses and ruins. The area also includes Town Salina and associated rock walls, canals and other structures connected with the Salt Industry.

(Dean's Dock may still contain several cannons and other large artifacts that could be salvaged remnants of the HMS Endymion. Some were moved during dredging to neighboring shallow water areas.)

#### **Section 2**

Whale House Bay was the headquarters of a short-lived whaling industry in the 1870's –80's. Humpback whales were caught in the Turks Island Passage during seasonal winter migration. Area is now prime migrant and wetland bird habitat.

## **Other natural areas of Interest**

### **North Creek Wetlands Grand Turk**

Both the extreme northern and southern ends of the North Creek have extensive wetland habitats and both, surprisingly, are in a relatively untouched state. Both are significant nursery habitats for the shallow and reef-dwelling populations outside the North Creek Mouth, supplying juvenile fish and lobsters in great numbers.

Bird populations are dense, especially wading birds and flamingos in particular, often visit the southern end.

It is the site of the discovery of the Lucayan canoe paddle on display in the Turks & Caicos National Museum. The shallow water area here borders pre-Columbian site GT-3 and may be part of it. This site is on private property, Corallie Gardens, owned by Mr. Andrew Newlands. After minimal excavation, the site proved to be very significant, in that it is the oldest known Indian site anywhere in the Bahamian archipelago, dating to about 700 AD.

### **The Turks Bank**

This is home to the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Annually, between the months of January and April, about 100 humpback whales migrate from the cold waters of New England to the Mouchoir and Silver Banks, just southeast of the Turks Bank, where they give birth to their young.

Hereafter, these travel around the Turks and Mouchoir Banks, as they rest and nurse their young, until the spring when they travel back to the Gulf of Maine to feed.

***You will read more about policies regarding whale watching.***



# Laws and Regulations

## You Should Know

## DEMARCATIION BUOY MEANS A BUOY INSTALLED TO MARK THE BOUNDARIES OF A MARINE PROTECTED AREA

### DEMARCATIION BUOYS

**Each Access Lane is comprised of two Starboard and two Port buoys.** Access Lanes run at a 90 degree angle to the Beach. The distance between Port and Starboard buoys is 100 feet and the overall length of an Access Lane is 330 feet. Watercraft accessing the beach must use Access Lanes as follows:



Approach the outermost buoys keeping close to the Starboard buoy in order to allow other craft to exit and to avoid collision.

**Starboard Access Lane Buoy (Green)** must be to the right of the craft while entering the lane to access the beach.



**Port Access Lane Buoy (Red)** must be to the left of the craft while entering the access lane to the beach.

#### **Park Boundary, Training Zone and Swim Zone Boundaries**

These white buoys with red stripes are plainly labeled to delineate National Park Boundaries, safe swimming areas and Scuba and snorkeling training areas.



#### **Dive & Snorkel Mooring Marker**

Areas for safe SCUBA diving and snorkeling are marked by this white buoy with a blue stripe.



#### **Scientific Monitoring Marker**

This buoy demarcates areas under scientific Study. Please avoid these areas.



### UNDER THE LAW

- No buoys can be installed before prior approval in writing has been obtained from the Director, DECR
- Buoys approved above will become the property of the Crown
- No anchoring is permitted within 300 feet of a dive site mooring buoy

An individual, or owner or operator of a dive vessel or charter vessel, may apply to the Director in form NP4 to lease single-user buoys that are not dive site mooring buoys.



## HERE ARE SOME ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED

### **The following are prohibited within all national parks**

- The taking of any animal or plant by any method on land or at sea, except to the extent permitted in a fishing zone
- The taking of any artifact
- The destruction of, or damage or injury to, any animal or plant
- The removal of sand, rock, coral, coral-frag or any calcareous substance
- Anchor damage to coral reef structures living or dead and associated marine plant and animal life
- The anchoring of vessels greater than 60 feet in length other than in an anchoring zone
- Jet skis and hovercraft
- Water skiing, except in a water-ski zone
- The dumping of refuse, abandoned vehicles, toxic or other wastes, bilges, oil and other petroleum products, pesticides and other items harmful to animals or plants, or unsightly items
- The driving or riding of motor vehicles and bicycles other than on public roads declared under the Road Traffic Ordinance or in a parking zone
- Car parking except in a parking zone
- The making of fires, other than in a portable stove or grill
- Camping except in a camping zone or with the prior written approval of the Director, DECR
- Erecting any structure unless authorized by the Director of Planning
- Playing a game to the discomfort of other persons
- Playing any musical instrument, radio, cassette player, record player, television or other item which produces or reproduces music, to the discomfort of other persons
- Operating a vessel in excess of 15 miles per hour unless within an aquatic sports or water-ski zone

**The following are prohibited within all nature reserves**

- The taking of any animal or plant by any method on land nor at sea, except to the extent permitted in any fishing zone
- The taking of any artifact
- The removal of sand, rock, coral, coral-rag or any calcareous substance
- Anchor damage to coral reef structures living or dead and associated marine plant and animal life
- The anchoring of vessels greater than 60 feet in length other than in an anchoring zone
- Water skiing, jet skis or hovercraft
- The dumping of refuse, abandoned vehicles, toxic or other wastes, bilges, oil and other petroleum products, pesticides and other items harmful to animals or plants, or unsightly items
- The driving or riding of motor vehicles and bicycles other than on public roads declared under the Road Traffic Ordinance or in a parking zone
- Car parking except in a parking zone
- The making of fires, other than in a portable stove or grill
- Camping except in a camping zone or with the prior written approval of the Director
- Erecting any structure unless authorized by the Director of Planning
- Playing a game to the discomfort of other persons
- Playing any musical instrument, radio, cassette player, record player, television or other item which produces or reproduces music, to the discomfort of other persons

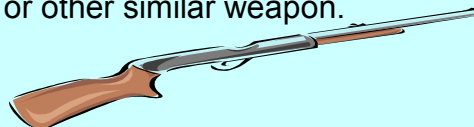
**The following are prohibited within all sanctuaries**

- Public access unless with the prior written approval of the Director in form NP1
- The introduction either temporary or permanent of any domestic animal or any other animal or plant not indigenous to the site
- The taking of any animal or plant by any method on land or at sea
- The taking of any artifact
- The destruction of, or damage or injury to, any animal or plant
- The removal of sand, rock, coral, coral-rag or any calcareous substance
- Anchor damage to coral reef structures living or dead and associated marine plant and animal life
- The anchoring of vessels greater than 60 feet in length other than in designated areas
- Water skiing, jet skis or hovercraft
- The dumping of refuse, abandoned vehicles, toxic or other wastes, bilges, oil and other petroleum products, pesticides and other items harmful to animals or plants, or unsightly items
- Erecting any structure unless authorized by the Director of Planning

**The following are prohibited within all areas of historical interest**

- Subject to any building preservation order made under the Physical Planning Ordinance, any alteration to the outward appearance of any structure that is not otherwise permitted
- The taking of any animal or plant by any method on land or at sea
- The taking of any artifact
- The removal of sand, rock, coral, coral-rag or any calcareous substance
- Anchor damage to coral reef structures living or dead and associated marine plant and animal life
- The anchoring of vessels greater than 60 feet in length other than in an anchoring zone
- Water skiing, jet skis or hovercraft
- The dumping of refuse, abandoned vehicles, toxic or other wastes, bilges, oil and other petroleum products, pesticides and other items harmful to animals or plants, or unsightly items
- Erecting any structure unless authorized by the Director of Planning

No person, other than a Park Warden/ Conservation Officer carrying out his duties, is allowed to use or have in their possession within a national park, nature reserve, sanctuary or area of historical interest any type of firearm, air gun, spear gun, cross bow, bow and arrow or other similar weapon.





## HERE IS WHAT IT MAY COST YOU IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OUTLINED

If you

-Place, deposit, cause or permit to be placed an offensive substance on the coast

**OR**

- Cause or allow an offensive substance to be deposited in the sea, causing the substance to travel to the coast

You will be guilty of an offence and liable.

If convicted, compensation for damage to the coast may be necessary.

You may be liable to

-A fine of \$25,000 or to a term of imprisonment for two years and upon conviction on indictment to a fine of \$100,000

**OR**

-Imprisonment for five years or to both a fine and imprisonment.

Any vessel or machinery used in committing the offence is liable to be turned over to the Crown by order of the Court.

If while on the coast you

- Deposit or leave any garbage, rubbish, litter or derelict articles other than in a place or receptacle intended for disposal

**OR**

- Break bottles, other glass or china and fail immediately to dispose adequately of the broken pieces accordingly

You will be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of \$500.



## **HERE ARE SOME ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE ALLOWED WITHIN NATIONAL PARKS, NATURE RESERVES AND AREAS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

### **If you walk or own a regular vessel this applies to you**

- Pedestrian access routes designated by the Director, DECR;
- Vessels, given -

-They do not enter the swimming zones except if they are rescue vessels, police vessels, or DECR vessels engaged in placing, repairing, replacing or removing fixed DECR buoys or performing rescue.

**NB:** Persons involved in such operations should cause no unnecessary damage to the environment within the zone and that the vessels must leave the swimming zone upon completion of the operation within the zone.

-Their not depositing on the land or in the water of the national park, nature reserve or area of historical interest any refuse, waste produce or other items/substances which will or is likely to diminish or restrict the enjoyment of the amenities of the national park, nature reserve or area of historical interest.

- Anchoring on clear sandy bottom, provided that the vessel is not greater than 60 feet in length

### **If you own a dive or charter vessel**

A dive vessel or charter vessel is only be permitted within a national park or nature reserve subject to the conditions that—

- The owner or operator of the vessel applies in form NP2 for a licence and in form NP3 permitting him to operate within the national park or nature reserve
- The vessel moors only to fixed DECR buoys approved by the Director, DECR
- The vessel does not enter the swimming zones unless permitted to do so as a rescue vessel or repairing, replacing or removing fixed DECR buoys (again provided that persons involved in such operations cause no unnecessary damage to the environment within the zone and that the vessel leaves the zone upon completion of their operation in the zone)
- The vessel anchors only in clear sandy bottom
- The owner or operator of the vessel pays the relevant fees for operation in the national park

### **If you want to conduct a scientific study**

The Director may grant a written permit to scientists to collect—

- Animal and plant specimens within a national park, nature reserve, sanctuary or area of historical interest;
- Artifacts from a national park, nature reserve or area of historical interest;

## Samples of The NP (National Park) Forms

### FORM NP 2

#### APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO OPERATE DIVE/CHARTER VESSEL IN A NATIONAL PARK

**1. Name, address in the Islands and telephone number of Applicant**

[If the Applicant is not a Belonger within the meaning of the Immigration Ordinance, the Applicant must provide details of his passport, his immigration status in the Turks & Caicos Islands and particulars of his Bank or a reference from a Bank which is established in the Islands]

**2. Licence required**

I hereby apply for the issue to me of a licence to operate a Dive/Charter vessel in the ..... National Park in accordance with the provisions of the National Parks Regulations, for a period of SIX months / TWELVE months\*

**3. Particulars of vessel to be used**

[Give full details and evidence of its being seaworthy and properly equipped; date and particulars of last marine survey to be given if the vessel is not ordinarily based in the Islands]

**4. Particulars of crew**

[Give name, qualification and address of master or other person in charge of vessel]

**5. Security for payment of Fees**

[Security offered for payment of fees becoming due in respect of operations by the Applicant under the licence]

**6. Other Information**

[Any information offered to enable the Director to satisfy himself as to the suitability of the Applicant]

**7. Address for Service**

If the Applicant is a body corporate, partnership or association of persons full details must be provided, including registered address in the Islands for service of documents or notices.

Signature or common seal of Applicant.

Dated the.....day of .....19/20.....

*\* Delete as necessary*

**Note:** This application must be submitted in duplicate and delivered or sent by registered post to the Director at the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources.

**FORM NP 3**

**LICENCE TO OPERATE DIVE/CHARTER VESSEL**

\*.....of..... is hereby authorized to operate a DIVE/CHARTER vessel in the ..... National Park Nature Reserve in accordance with the National Parks Regulations subject to the following:—

**1. Particulars of vessel**

(Name, number or other identification)

**2. Period of licence**

(Insert dates. Licences can be for six months or 12 months.)

**3. Licence to be carried on vessel**

The licence shall at all times be carried on the vessel to which it relates, and shall be produced for inspection by the Master or other person in charge on demand made by any person empowered to enforce the National Park Regulations.

**4. Cancellation of licence**

(a) The Director may cancel any licence if he is satisfied that the licensee has supplied any false information to procure the issue of the licence or has committed any material breach of the Regulations or used any vessel or equipment which is unsafe or unlawful.

(b) When a licence is cancelled no part of any fees paid for the licence shall be repayable.

**5. Failure to pay fees**

A licence shall lapse forthwith if the licensee fails to pay the fees due therefore on the due date or dates.

**6. Inspection of licensee's records of operation**

The licensee shall at all reasonable times provide facilities for any person authorized by the Director to inspect any records kept by the licensee as to his operations under the licence and in particular those records which are relevant to the calculation of the fees payable for the licence.

Given at Grand Turk this .....day of.....19/20.....

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL RESOURCES

\* A licence may be issued to an individual, a partnership, a body corporate or an association of persons. The licence should state the capacity or status of any such and in the case of a body corporate should state the country in which it is incorporated.

**FORM NP 4**

**APPLICATION TO LEASE A SINGLE-USER BUOY IN A NATIONAL PARK OR NATURE RESERVE**

**1. Name, address in the Islands and telephone number of Applicant**

[If the Applicant is not a "Belonger" within the meaning of the Immigration Ordinance, the Applicant must provide details of his passport, his immigration status in the Turks & Caicos Island, and particulars of his Bank or a reference from a Bank which is established in the Islands]

**2. Name required**

I hereby apply for the issue to me of a lease for the sole use of a mooring buoy within the ..... National Park/Nature Reserve in accordance with the provisions of the National Parks Regulations, for a period of SIX/ TWELVE months

**3. Particulars of mooring buoy required**

[Give location and other details of buoy for which lease is required]

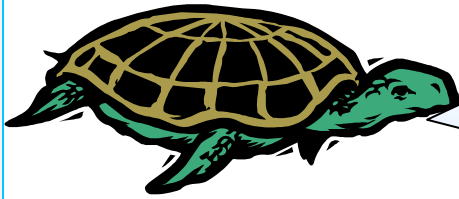
**4. Particulars of vessel to be used**

[Give full details of vessel including Name and Identification Number, length and displacement]

**5. Particulars of crew**

[Give name, qualification and address of Master or other person in charge of vessel]

**NOTE:** This application must be submitted in duplicate and delivered or sent by registered post to the Director at the Department of Environment, and Coastal Resources



We have rights too.  
Following the rules and  
regulations below will keep  
you out of trouble.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FISH AND OTHER MARINE SPECIES**

**Marine product:** means any fish, aquatic animal or vegetable matter living in water including- turtles, carcharinidae (sharks of the requiem variety such as tiger, bull, hammerhead and reef sharks), cetaceans (e.g. dolphins/porpoises/whales), crustacean (e.g. crabs, lobsters, crayfish, shrimp and barnacles), mollusks (e.g. oysters, conch, squid, octopus) and sponges.

### **Licences**

**You must have the relevant license to:**

- (a) Take or be in possession of any species of marine product**
- (b) Process or export any species of marine product**

**If you are not the holder of a license authorizing the taking, processing or exporting of marine products here are some guidelines-**

- **A Belonger (except during any closed season for that species of marine product or by a prohibited apparatus or method) may take or process reasonable quantities of any species of marine product for pleasure, recreation or for personal consumption.**
- **Any person traveling to a place outside the Islands, upon payment of the relevant export duty, may take with them**
  - ⇒ **Any worked black coral**
  - ⇒ **Not more than three of any sponge or**
  - ⇒ **In the case of any other species of marine product (other than black coral), not more than ten pounds in weight of each of any species of marine product without being the holder of an export licence.**

**With prior written consent of a Fishery Officer, a non belonger may in addition to the marine products specified above, take one fish of unlimited weight for the purpose of mounting as a trophy.**

***Be sure you use your boats for the right purpose***

**You are not allowed to use your vessel for commercial or sport fishing unless it has been licensed appropriately for these uses.**

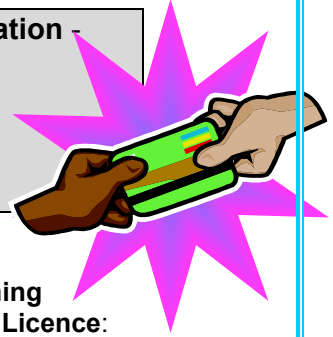
Penalties for violating any of the regulations highlighted above is a fine of \$50,000 or to imprisonment for twelve months or to both

*The regulations above do not apply in the case of a vessel entering the Islands for a period of less than one month.*

## WHAT YOU NEED TO OBTAIN A LICENCE

### An applicant who is not a Belonger must submit along with the application -

- Valid work permit
- National Insurance Card
- A completed request for assistance form
  - Two recent photographs
- Permanent Residence Certificate Number and Card



## THE VARIOUS LICENCES

### 1. Mouchoir Bank

**Licence:** for the operation of a fishing vessel or vessels in the area of the Mouchoir Bank.

### 2. Processing or Export

**Licence:** for the processing and/or exporting of any species of marine product.

### 3. Aquarium Licence:

for the taking of any species of marine product for export alive for use in an Aquarium.

### 4. Scientific and

**Research Licence:** for the taking and/or processing and/or exporting of any species of marine product for scientific and research purposes.

### 5. Access Agreement

**Licence:** for commercial fishermen and commercial fishing vessels operating within the fishery limits under an Access Agreement.

### 6. Coral Licence:

for the taking and/or processing and/or exporting of any species of coral for commercial purposes.

### 7. Commercial

**Fisherman's Licence:** authorizing the holder to engage in commercial fishing within the fishery limits and to sell or otherwise dispose of for gain the marine products taken by him: this licence does not permit the holder to engage in fishing in the area of the Mouchoir Bank unless he is aboard a vessel holding a Mouchoir Bank licence.

### 8. Sports Fishing

**Licence:** authorizing the holder to engage in fishing in any area of the fishery limits. *This licence does not permit the holder to engage in fishing in the area of the Mouchoir Bank unless he is aboard a vessel holding a Mouchoir Bank Licence*

### 9. Commercial Fishing

**Vessel Licence:** authorizing the use of a particular vessel for commercial fishing by the holder of a commercial fishermen's licence in any area of the fishery limits other than the Mouchoir Bank. *This licence is not issued to persons other than Belongers.*

### 10. Sports Fishing

**Charter Vessel Licence:** authorizing the use of a particular vessel for hire or other reward by persons fishing for sport in any area of the fishery limits other than the Mouchoir Bank.

### 11. Ordinary Fishing

**Vessel Licence:** authorizing the use of a particular vessel for fishing other than commercial fishing and other than for hire or reward by persons fishing for sport in any area of the fishery limits other than the Mouchoir Bank.

### 12. Tournament Fishing

**Vessel Licence:** authorizing the use of a particular vessel in any area of the fishery limits other than the Mouchoir Bank by the holder of a Tournament.

### 13. Fishing Licence for

the purposes of a sports fishing event or tournament.

**THE REVISED LICENSING FEES AS OF JULY 2008 ARE AS FOLLOWS**

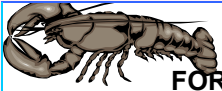
• Non-motorized vessel (e.g. Kayaks)	<b>\$50.00</b>
• Vessels less than 30 ft	<b>\$10 / ft</b>
• Vessels 30-60 ft	<b>\$20 / ft</b>
• Vessels greater than 60 ft	<b>\$30 / ft</b>
• Single user mooring	<b>\$200.00</b>
• Other Commercially Operated Activity	<b>\$300.00</b>
• Scientific Research License	<b>\$500.00</b>



### SOME FISHING ACTIVITIES NOT ALLOWED

1. Use of any explosive, poison, or any noxious substance within the fishery limits or a bang stick (unless you can prove that it was used to protect yourself, another person or any property against any marine product of a dangerous nature which attacked you).
2. Possess any noxious substance being bleach or other substance containing or comprising sodium hypochlorite or chlorine or dogwood or quick lime within the fishery limits with intent to take any marine product.
3. Use scuba equipment or any artificial breathing device other than a snorkel when taking marine products (provided that you have an appropriate licence allowing you to do so).
4. Use a Hawaiian sling for the taking of marine products anywhere within the fishery limits (unless you are the holder of a commercial fishing licence or unless you can prove that it was used to protect yourself, another person or any property against any marine product of a dangerous nature which attacked you).
5. Be in possession of a spear gun within the fishing limits of the Islands
6. Engage in the practice of throwing any food into the water for the purposes of feeding or attracting or harvesting any species of marine life unless authorized to do so by the Director, DECR.
7. Break, remove or cause any damage to any coral reef or marine plant within the fishery limits of the islands.
8. Have in your possession or purchase any marine product which has been taken by the use of a spear gun or Hawaiian sling (unless you are the holder of a commercial fishing licence).
9. Have a spear gun in your possession on or within fifty feet of any tidal water, beach, foreshore, while swimming or while in any vessel.
10. Take any turtle on any beach or at any place above low water mark.
11. Take or be in possession of or offer to buy or sell, any laid turtle eggs.
12. Organize or hold a sports fishing event or tournament without the prior written approval of the Minister of Natural Resources including the payment of a fee as the Minister may determine.
13. Purchase any species of marine product, whether for processing or consumption by himself or by any other person, from any person who is not the holder of a commercial fisherman's licence or any other relevant licence. This does not apply to purchase from a hotel, restaurant, shop or other commercial establishments that previously purchased from the holder of a commercial fisherman's licence or other relevant licence.

Penalties for violating any of the regulations highlighted above is a fine of \$50,000 or imprisonment for twelve months or both



## FOR LOBSTERS (CRAWFISH)

### YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO

- ⇒ Take any crawfish by use of any hook (or other devices) which may wound or kill the crawfish or prevent it being returned to the sea alive and unharmed
- ⇒ Be in possession of any egg-bearing crawfish;
- ⇒ Strip or in any manner molest any egg-bearing crawfish in order to remove the eggs;
- ⇒ Take or be in possession of any moulting or soft-shelled crawfish or crawfish which is in the early stage of spawning (when described as appearing to be tar-spotted).
- ⇒ To offer for sale in a restaurant or hotel any meal containing crawfish during the close season.

### REMEMBER

- If you find any egg-bearing crawfish or any crawfish that is otherwise prohibited to be taken, in any trap that you operate, it must be returned to the water unharmed.
- When taking crawfish ensure that the crawfish remains in whole condition after being caught until you arrive at a location on the Islands where they are to be sold, processed or used for personal consumption. They can only be processed at sea if it is in accordance with the terms of a processing licence.

## FOR SPONGE

### YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO

- ⇒ Take, have in your possession, buy or sell any of the following sponges that have less than the following minimum measurements when removed from the sea:
  - a. wool sponge – 5½ inches;
  - b. grass sponge – 5½ inches;
  - c. hard head sponge – 3 inches;
  - d. reef sponge – 3 inches.
- ⇒ Without the written consent of the Minister of Natural Resources, export sponge for commercial purposes unless:
  - a. the sponge is clipped, graded and packaged; and
  - b. the sponge is presented to a Fishery Officer prior to exportation.

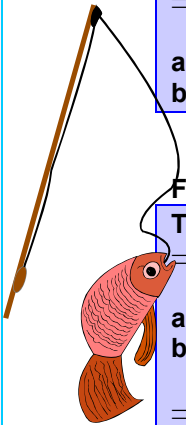
## FISHING METHODS

### THINGS NOT ALLOWED

- ⇒ Use a wire mesh to trap fish within the fishery limits unless the wire mesh has the following minimum size:
  - a. in the case of a hexagonal wire mesh 1½ inches (greatest length of mesh); or
  - b. in the case of welded or woven rectangular wire mesh 1 inch by 2 inches.
- ⇒ Use a trap to take or attempt to take marine products within the fishery limits, unless the trap contains a panel that would, after use in water for continuous period of not more than six weeks, deteriorate to an extent that any marine product within the trap could exit from the trap.
- ⇒ Handle, touch or in any way interfere with any pot or trap of another person.
- ⇒ Leave pots or traps in the water unattended or unexamined or a period exceeding forty-eight hours from the time of placing them in the water: unless weather conditions prevent the removal or examination of the pots or traps.

### REMEMBER

If using pots or traps for the purpose of taking marine products identify your pots or traps by marking them conspicuously with the number on your Commercial Fisherman's Licence.

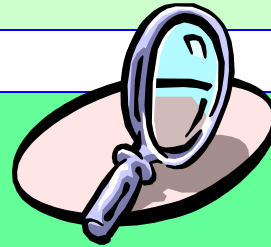


## SEASONS

The closed season for crawfish is from the first day of August to the thirty-first day of March

### You are not allowed to

- ⇒ Take any marine product during a period which is a closed season for that species of marine product
- ⇒ Purchase or be in possession of any marine product during a period which is a closed season for that species of marine product



## HOW SMALL IS TOO SMALL?

The legal size means, in relation to

### Crawfish

- When whole, a length of 3.25 inches measured from the front of the groove between the horns directly above the eyes along the middle of the back to the rear edge of the carapace or back shell; or
- When the tail has been separated, a tail weight of 5 ounces whether processed or not.

### Conch

- A minimum shell length of 7 inches measured from the spiral tip to the foremost edge; and
- Conch meat, when removed from the shell, of a total weight of 8 ounces after the removal of the digestive gland.

### Turtles

- Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)- a shell measurement of 20 inches in length measured from the neck scales to the tailpiece and a weight of at least 20 lbs;
- Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)- a shell measurement of 20 inches in length measured from the neck scales to the tailpiece and a weight of at least 20 lbs.

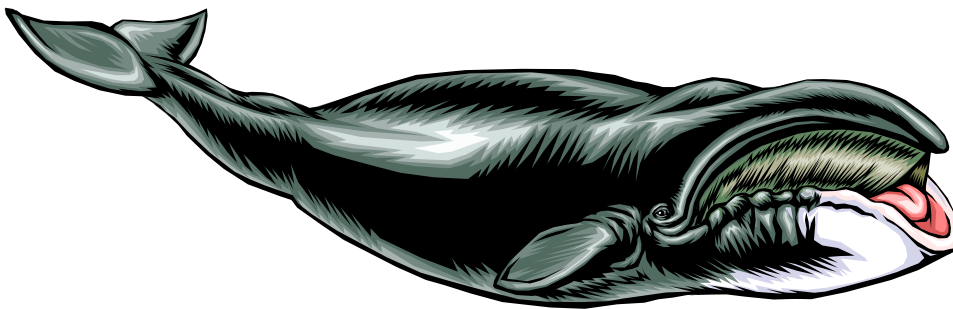
For any other turtle, they must have a weight of at least 20 lbs.

You can find out more details on the various Fisheries Laws and Regulations at:  
<http://www.environment.tc/regulations/lawregs/ordinances/FisheriesProtectionOrdinance.pdf>

## **POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMPBACK WHALES AND OTHER CETACEANS (aquatic mammals such as dolphins and porpoises)**

### **Did you know?**

A population of humpback whales migrates from the cold waters of Iceland and Southern Greenland to the Silver Banks where they mate and give birth. The Silver Banks lies just north of Santo Domingo and Southeast of the Turks and Caicos Islands. After giving birth the whales travel around on the Turks, Caicos and Mouchoir Banks.



### **Whale Watching**

The presence of aggregations of humpback whales close to the Turks and Caicos Islands has given rise to opportunities for whale watching. The advantages of whale watching are wide: it provides an opportunity to teach people to appreciate and understand the value of whales and other cetaceans; it fosters research; it contributes to the conservation of the animals; and helps ensure the economic security of local communities which serve as protectors of marine habitat.

It is estimated that from December to April, during the whale migration, Salt Cay and Grand Turk receive 75% of their tourists and operators earn up 70% of their annual income.

Like all coastal communities, the Turks and Caicos Islands depend primarily on tourism, specifically marine tourism. Grand Turk is directly located on the migration route of the whales.

### **Guidelines for a Single Vessel Watching Whales**

- Single Vessels engaged in Whale Watching should not have more than 20 persons on board.
- When stopping to watch whales, engines should be placed in neutral or allow the motor to idle for a short period before turning it off. Keep noise levels down- no horns, whistles or racing of motors. Whales can be alarmed not only by a sudden noise but also by a noise to which they have become accustomed suddenly ending (passengers should remain as calm as possible).
- Boats should not approach within 100 metres of a whale. This also applies to swimmers and divers who should not get into the water with whales (unless special provisions are outlined on permit/licence stating otherwise).

- Do not allow your vessel to cause the whale to change direction. Disturbance has driven whales away from critical habitats.
- Never allow a boat or person to come between a mother and a calf. Disruption of parental care may reduce a calf's chance of survival and mothers may be aggressive.
- Vessels should approach whales from a direction parallel and slightly to the rear. Alternatively, position your vessel at least 300 metres ahead well clear of path of the whales and allow them to approach you.
- Head on approaches can be threatening to a whale and should be avoided as should approaches from directly behind.
- Within 300 metres of a whale move at a constant slow speed no faster than the slowest whale or at idle, 'no wake speed'.
- Avoid sudden or repeated changes in speed or direction. Changes in speed or direction may alarm the whales. If you continually need to change speed or direction to watch the whales, they are probably trying to avoid you, so it is best to leave them alone.
- Do not approach whales closer than 100 metres. If whales approach within 100 metres of your vessel, either slowly steer a straight course away from them or stay put and place the engines in neutral and let the whales come to you. Do not engage propeller while the whales are within 100 metres and do not chase the whales when they leave.
- When attempting to watch whales do not 'Box' the whales in, cut off their path and/or prevent them from leaving, particularly when more than one vessel is present.
- Do not attempt to approach mothers with young calves. Should you mistakenly approach these whales, leave immediate area at once at a constant slow 'no wake' speed. A whale with a young calf may protect her offspring aggressively if it feels the calf is threatened.
- When leaving the whales, move off slowing at idle, 'no wake' speed until at least 300 metres from the closest whale before picking up speed.

### **Guidelines for More than One Vessel at the Same Observation Site**

- No more than three vessels should attempt to watch a whale or group of whales at one time. If several vessels in an area wish to watch the whales, limit your time with the whales so that others may see them.
- When approaching an area where other vessels are whale watching, establish contact by VHF radio (Channel 16) and ensure that all operators are aware of the whale watching guidelines.

Vessels not complying with the Code of Conduct should be reported to the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources at telephone numbers 231-2236 or 231-1239 or the Marine Branch of the RTC Police Force at 231-6295

### **Guidelines for Aircrafts**

- Do not operate any aircraft less than 450 metres (1,500 *feet*) above or near a whale. The use of helicopters for whale watching is prohibited as they can cause considerable distress to whales because of the loud noise and down draught.

### **Guidelines for Cruise ships**

- The large vessel and engine size of cruise ships are potentially disturbing to whales, particularly when whales are between vessels and the shore. Consequently, these vessels should not at any given time, stop on the Turks, Mouchoir or Silver Banks to allow whale watching from their vessel;
- Whale watching should only be done from the ship tenders, if certified, or with local certified operators;
- Certified ship tenders should observe the same guidelines that apply to single vessels or multiple vessels watching whales and maintain a minimum distance of 100 metres from the whales.

### **Guidelines for Land based Observers**

- If whales come close to the shore, remain quiet and do not disturb them. Cliffs and headlands are good vantage points for watching whales. Whales can be more easily seen on clear calm days.

### **Guidelines for Marine Construction and Marine Traffic (Oil and Freight Tankers)**

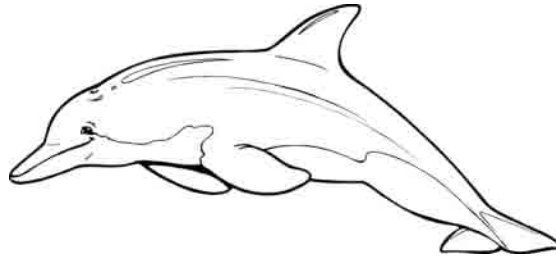
- Major marine construction would not be allowed during the months of the whale migration; if it is extremely necessary for the construction to continue then all dredging or pile driving equipment should be muffled to reduce noise levels;
- Minor construction should be contained with aluminum sheeting rather than silt curtains to avoid entanglement
- Construction should only take place in day light, not at night;
- Follow an agreed route without stops or deviations except for safety reasons

- The discharge of any substance into the waters is prohibited. Dispose of fuel, oil, litter and other contaminants in the appropriate containers on shore to avoid additional marine pollution.

**Permits for Whale Watching Operators**

- All water sports operators conducting whale watching tours in the Turks and Caicos Islands require a permit from the Director, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, with specific conditions;
- To qualify for a permit, the Director must be satisfied that the operator is knowledgeable of the Policy Guidelines and presents no harm to the whales;
- Any operator who fails to abide by the provisions of their permit is liable to suspension or revocation of their permit.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DOLPHINS/PORPOISES



- Maintain forward process at a slow, steady speed throughout a trip *-to reduce the risk of collision, harassment and noise disturbance.*
- Follow an agreed route within the area of operation without stops or deviations except for safety reasons *-cetaceans are more likely to become accustomed to predictable boat noise and behavior.*
- Always slow down gradually to no-wake speed if cetaceans appear directly ahead. Once clear of the animals, slowly resume cruising speed. If cetaceans approach the boat, maintain a slow cruising speed *-to reduce acoustic disturbance and avoid collision or breaking up groups to avoid disturbance from sudden change in speed or direction.*
- Limit the duration and number of trips in certain areas sensitive to marine traffic *-to avoid potential repeated disturbance to specific animals in areas where they have limited space for manoeuvre.*
- Dispose of fuel oil, litter and other contaminants in the appropriate containers on shore *- to avoid additional marine pollution.*
- For your safety and theirs, do not allow passengers or crew to swim with, touch or feed dolphins or other marine mammals *-remember these are wild animals. Swimming with, or touching cetaceans may be dangerous,' infections can also be transmitted between humans and cetaceans. Feeding these animals may alter their behavior.*
- Do not relentlessly pursue a particular pod of dolphins. If dolphins show signs of not wanting contact, e.g. continuously diving to depth when approached- do not pursue them. Avoid dolphins with young.

## PROTECTION OF BIRDS

### YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO

- Willfully kill, wound, take or attempt to kill any wild bird
- Take, remove, injure or destroy any nest or egg of any wild bird
- Expose for sale, or knowingly possess any wild bird, or any part of such bird killed, wounded or taken in the Islands
- Export or attempt to export the skin or plumage of any wild bird, killed, wounded or taken in the Islands, or the nest or eggs of any wild bird taken in the Islands.

The regulations above do not apply to any non-protected bird.

### DID YOU KNOW?

⇒ The Governor may authorize a person for scientific or other purposes-

- To kill, wound or take any wild bird (other than a rare or endangered bird) or
- To take or remove the nest or eggs, export the skin or plumage of any such bird subject to conditions as he thinks fit.

⇒ Any National Parks Officer or member of the Police Force may seize and detain the skin or plumage or the nest or eggs of any wild bird which he may have reasonable cause to suspect is intended for exportation contrary to the laws outlined.

### THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATING THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Liable to a fine of \$5,000 and to imprisonment for six months
- In respect of any other wild bird a fine of \$500 and to imprisonment for one month

### RARE AND ENDANGERED BIRDS IN THE TCI

Pelican



Flamingo



Roseate Tern



A stylized illustration featuring a yellow sun with rays in the upper left, a blue sky, a red sailboat on blue waves, and a yellow and brown ground area at the bottom. The word "ZONES" is overlaid in large, bold, silver 3D letters with a blue outline.

# ZONES

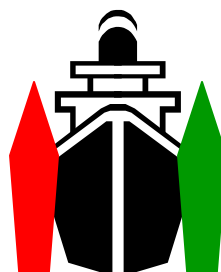
## THERE ARE FIVE DIFFERENT ZONES OUTLINED FOR THE COLUMBUS LANDFALL MARINE NATIONAL PARK

1. **Swimming Zones** where bathing, swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving from shore only are permitted. These zones comprise the area between the low water mark and a line situated 91.44 meters (300 ft) offshore from the low water mark, running parallel to the shore and situated in the following: -



- The beach between the Grand Turk Cruise Centre excursion dock and the Cruise Ship pier.
  - The beach running parallel the Grand Turk Cruise Centre beginning at the area adjacent the Cruise Ship pier moving North to the area adjoining White Sands Resort (marking the start of the boat access lane-port).
  - Governor's Beach comprising the entire coastal strip from the starboard access lane (adjacent the Southern freighter dock) to the area adjoining just North of Waterloo (Governor's House).
  - The entire coastal strip of the Pillory Beach in the area running parallel to the Bohio Resort (adjacent to the South of the newly constructed Cacique Royale) from the starboard access lane buoy for the Bohio Hotel.
2. **Mixed Use Zones** where bathing, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving from shore and non-motorized activity e.g. water bicycles and kayaking, is permitted. These zones comprise the area between low water mark and a line situated 91.44 meters (300 ft) offshore running parallel to the shore and situated in-
    - The beach beginning at Boaby Rock Point traveling North towards the area adjacent the Grand Turk Cruise Centre excursion dock.
    - The White Sands Resort Area (adjacent the beach for the Grand Turk Cruise Centre) from the Southern boundary adjoining the starboard access lane buoy running parallel to land parcel 10506/36 to the boundary adjoining the port access lane buoy for the South base ramp.
    - A Taste of the Island restaurant from the Southern end adjacent the fish landing site traveling to the Northern end parallel to the restaurant.
  3. **Access Zones** for the purpose of allowing entry and egress of boats (both power boats and sail and manually propelled boats). The following locations are where these zones can be found-

- White Sands Resort
- South Base ramp
- Governor's Beach
- Oasis Dive Shop (Downtown)
- Fish Landing Site
- Pillory Beach

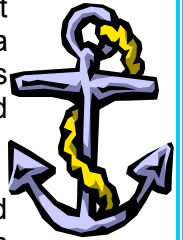


4. **Anchoring Zones** where the anchoring of vessels greater than 18.3 meters (60 feet) in length is permitted and will be situated at the following based on those specified on Seachart TC001, Edition 2 and TC0002 Edition 1 and 4: -

- Grand Turk Freighter Dock from where the South freighter dock lies adjacent to Governors Beach traveling Southwest and then Northeast to the area running parallel to the Oasis Divers (Southern Location). The area ends Northeast along the low water line to the starting point at the starboard access lane buoy (South base ramp).

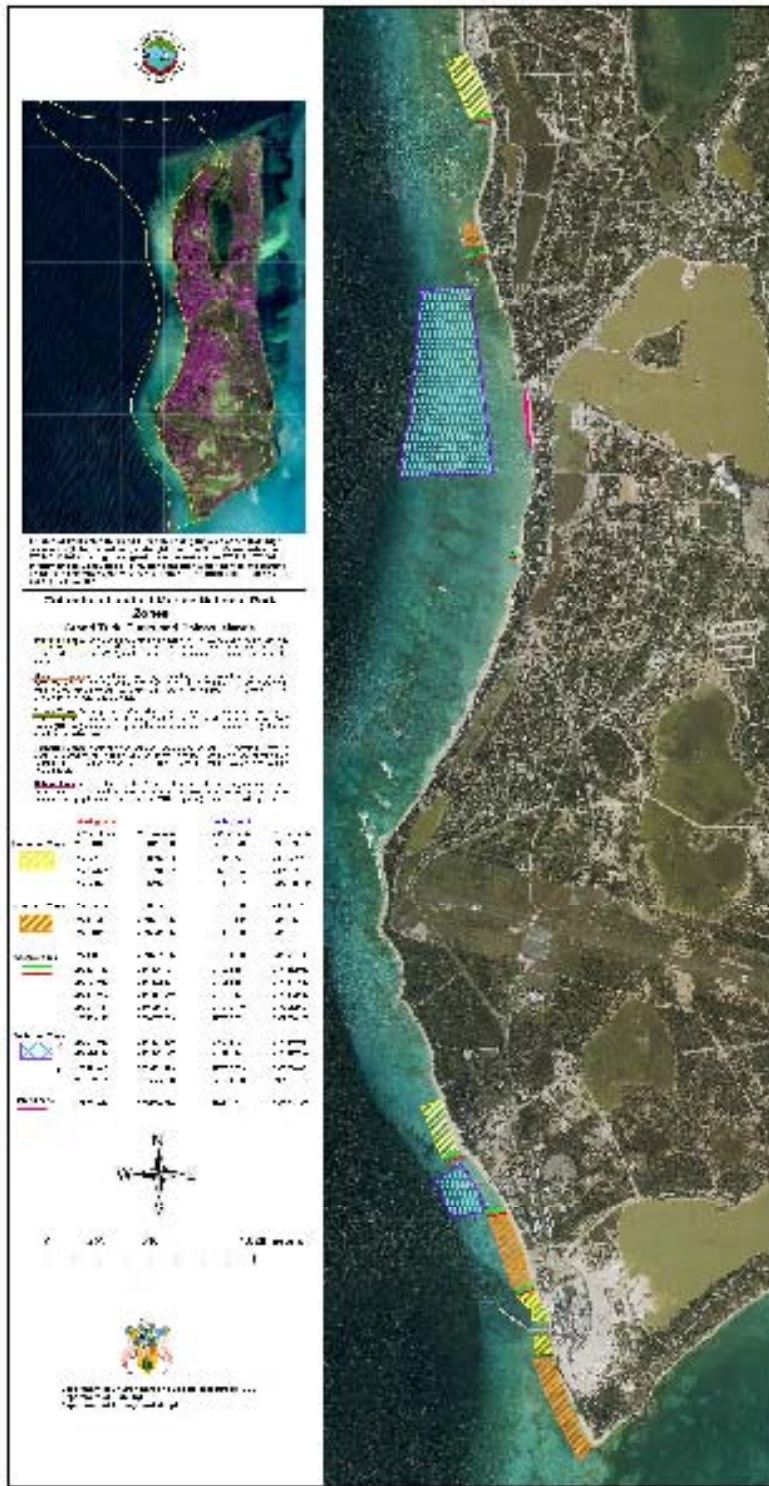
NB: The area running parallel to Oasis Divers (Southern Location) is utilized primarily for anchoring of vessels under 60 feet (18.3 meters) in length employed for private/recreational purposes (such as dive vessels) which include sailboats (example sloops, catboats and cutters), catamarans and skiffs.

- Grand Turk Town Jetty from the concrete salina intake heading West and then Southeast to the concrete groin adjacent the Legislative Council Buildings towards the Southern end of the beach North along the low water line to the starting point.



5. **A Fishing Zone** where subject to the Fisheries Protection Regulations, non-commercial recreational fishing from the shoreline or from the piers or jetties within the zone is permitted using light tackle of not more than 13.6 kilograms (30 pounds) breaking strain situated between the area in front of Cable and Wireless (Front Street) moving North to the area in front of John Missick's Fish market (beginning of West Road).

***For detailed coordinates and descriptions contact the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources***



Map 4- Zones in the Columbus Landfall Marine National Park

## **Gibbs Cay – Grand Turk Land and Sea National Park**

This is one of the most visited of all the cays in the Columbus Landfall Marine National Park. It is therefore important that individuals are aware of the rules and regulations governing the use of this cay to prevent damage to its ecology.

*Some of these regulations were highlighted earlier.*

### **Specific guidelines**

- No diver, snorkelled, or person is allowed to touch, stand on or damage any coral or reef formation. Therefore, divers are not allowed to wear gloves, unless for very special reasons.
- No person is allowed to disturb, remove or collect from the sea any species of flora or fauna, including rocks, live or dead corals, shells or sand
- No snorkelling or any other recreational activity is allowed in shallow water areas (< 4 ft) near coral reefs or where corals could suffer mechanical damage.
- No more than ten (10) divers and twenty (20) snorkellers are allowed to be present at any one time in an area of 900 sq. ft.
- There should be one (1) guide for every eight (8) divers and one (1) for every sixteen (16) snorkellers. This is in order to guarantee proper supervision of every individual.
- Lifting the stingrays partially or out of the water for any reason whatsoever is not permitted
- There should also be no diving of conch to feed the stingrays on the cay; feeding the barracudas is also not permitted.

# BioRock Artificial Reef



and



# Reef Balls

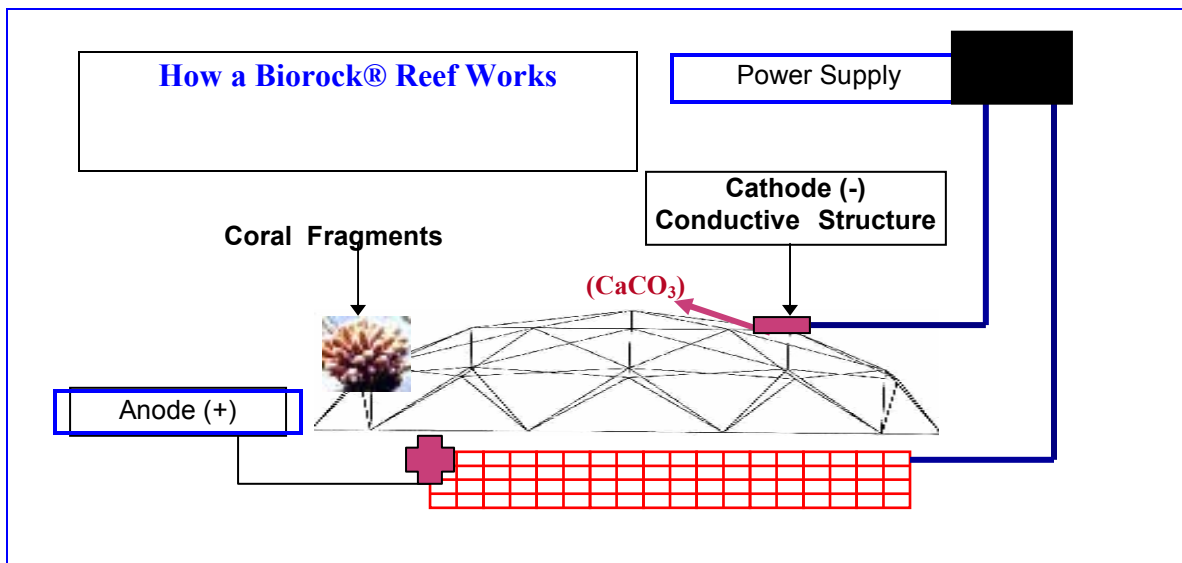
## Biorock® Reef

Biorock ® Reefs are funded by the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Government and the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), through the Conservation Fund. The reef in front of the Oasis Divers South Base shop is funded by Oasis Divers Grand Turk. Continued assistance is also provided by Bluewater Divers and Grand Turk Diving.

Red buoys demarcate the Biorock reefs. There are currently two in place. One is just outside the swim zone at Governor's Beach and has 6 structures in place; the other is just in front of the South Base Oasis dive shop and has 4 structures in place. Biorock® technology has been developed by the Global Coral Reef Alliance with success in more than 20 countries.

The system works by submerging a negatively charged cathode framework structure made up of construction grade steel, and a positively charged anode. A low voltage electric current run from the shore, which is safe for swimmers, runs between them causing white limestone, calcium carbonate, to crystallize from seawater onto the framework.

Stressed, bleached and damaged corals are attached to the reef using simple steel tie wire. Within a few days there is clear evidence of mineral accretion on the structure.



*The benefits to the corals transplanted to the Biorock® reefs are vast, they have been shown to grow 3-5 times faster and also heal up to 20 times quicker from bleaching or stress.*

Another significant factor is that the corals can survive after constant exposure to higher temperatures, 16-50 times more than corals that are of natural setting. This is particularly important as we here in the TCI and by extension the Caribbean are faced with the eminent issue of temperature rise due to global warming.

These reefs attract incredible numbers of fish and therefore make fascinating snorkel sites, especially as they are in shallow water. Local volunteers assisting in coral transplantation from stressed sites has made the projects here highly successful and are continually growing and enhancing the naturally beautiful reefs of Grand Turk.

**HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS**

- Look but don't touch all marine life, and never to remove anything from its natural habitat.
  - Fishing is prohibited in this area.
- Be aware of the cable on the beach and of boats driving around the area.  
*Leave only bubbles*

## Reef Balls™

Snorkeling out from the beach you will encounter 8 clusters of 8-12 Reef Balls leading you out to the Biorock® Reef. These Reef Balls have been in place since November 2008. They are funded by the GTCC and DECR and were developed by the Reef Ball Foundation.

Reef Balls are in place in more than 60 countries worldwide with projects including coral propagation, estuary restoration, mangrove plantings, oyster reef restoration, erosion control and coral rehabilitation. On Grand Turk, the reef balls have been use to relocate corals under threat and enhance the snorkel areas for local residents and tourists alike.

The project here has been designed for the shallow areas where snorkellers frequent with corals relocated from the South End of the island.

Reef Balls are made by pouring concrete into a fiberglass mould containing a polyform bladder similar to a beach ball; other various sized smaller balloons are also positioned to make exterior holes. The surface is textured and pits are created for small marine organisms and larval corals to attach to. There are many different sizes and types of reef ball available, reflecting the variation in natural reefs. Here we have Layer Cake and Original designs ranging in size.

The concrete used is engineered to last over 500 years and the Reef Balls have been tested in wave tanks to ensure they cannot be overturned in waves. They have also been optimized to provide protection for fish and substrate for corals to settle on. The holes in the reef ball are designed to create whirlpools, which help bring nutrients to animals and plants living in and around the Reef Balls. The void spaces in the center can also be customized by filling partially with rocks or conch shells to increase juvenile fish populations. The layer cake designs provide crevices and overhangs for shelter seeking and nocturnal organisms such as lobster.

The project came to fruition in November 2008 with construction, deployment and coral transplantedation being finalized. Members of the Reef Ball foundation traveled to Grand Turk and were joined by a small team of volunteers. Grand Turk Diving, Bluewater Divers and Oasis Divers were as ever on hand to help along with other local businesses CBMS, Osprey Beach Hotel, Otis and DECR staff.

This new snorkel attraction can be easily reached from shore at Governor's Beach in front of the Biorock artificial reef in place there (demarcated by red buoys).

These artificial reef projects help our communities understand more about these fragile systems and provide near shore snorkeling and diving opportunities while reducing the pressure on nearby natural reefs. These coral reef restoration projects are part of the DECR's comprehensive coral reef restoration and management strategy intended to preserve the health of TCI reefs which includes monitoring, assessment and management of different impacts on the coral reef systems, mitigation measures and others.

CBMS, Bohio Resort and Otis also provided assistance for this project.

*Important websites:*

Reef Balls: [www.reefball.org](http://www.reefball.org)

GTCC: [www.grandturkcc.com](http://www.grandturkcc.com)

## GLOSSARY- TERMS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

- ⇒ **area of historical interest** means an area so declared and described in the National Parks Order
- ⇒ **artifact** means any human-made object on land or in the sea that is of anthropological, historical or artistic value, including carvings and drawings in, or on, rock, carved stone and pottery shards
- ⇒ **bang stick** means a firearm the barrel of which is attached by some means to a spear or lance, and the ammunition of which is activated by the spear or lance head when the barrel head comes in contact with any object
- ⇒ **beach games** means games and recreations normally associated with recreational beaches and adjacent waters, other than those specifically excluded by these Regulations
- ⇒ **Belonger** has the meaning ascribed to it by the Immigration Ordinance;
- ⇒ **camping zone** means a zone established under National Parks regulation where camping is permitted
- ⇒ **closed season** means in relation to any particular species of marine product the close season for that marine product under the provisions of the law
- ⇒ **commercial fishing** means fishing carried on wholly or partly for financial reward or other material gain
- ⇒ **crawfish** means the spiny lobster, the slipper lobster, the smooth tailed lobster, the spotted lobster or crayfish or the species *Panulirus Argus* or *Panulirus Guttatus* or *Scyllarides*
- ⇒ **charter vessel** means any seagoing sail or motor powered vessel licensed or approved for hire to carry people
- ⇒ **Director** means the Director of Environment and Coastal Resources
- ⇒ **Director of Planning** means the Director of Planning appointed under the Physical Planning Ordinance
- ⇒ **dive operator** means a person providing snorkel or scuba diving facilities for other persons, involving entry into, or exit from the water by means of a vessel
- ⇒ **dive vessel** means a vessel operated by a dive operator, when such vessel is actually involved in dive work, including the transportation of divers to and from the dive site
- ⇒ **engineless vessel** means any sea-going apparatus with no onboard engine and powered by only human effort, including canoes, kayaks, surfboards and non-motorized dinghies
- ⇒ **export** includes the transport of any marine product taken in the fishery limits to a place outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands whether or not the same has previously been imported into the Turks and Caicos Islands

- ⇒ **fish aggregating device** means any apparatus or device designed for or intended for use in attracting any marine product into a particular area or for facilitating fishing for any marine product
- ⇒ **fishing** includes catching, taking, killing or removing from the sea or attempting to catch, take, kill or remove from the sea any marine product by any means or method or placing or retrieving any fish aggregating device or searching for any marine product for the purpose of fishing
- ⇒ **fishery officer** means any person appointed under the Fishery Limits Ordinance and any member of Her Majesty's naval forces acting under instructions to fulfill this role accordingly
- ⇒ **foreign owned vessel** means a vessel owned by a person or persons who are not Belongers and in the case of a vessel owned by a partnership or a company means a vessel owned by a partnership or a company in which a Belonger or Belongers do not have the controlling interest (within the meaning of the Business Licensing Ordinance)
- ⇒ **Hawaiian sling** means a spear not exceeding five feet in length projected by a device consisting only of elastic material not exceeding eighteen inches in length and one half inch in width;
- ⇒ **hovercraft** means a self-propelled motorized sea craft that rides on a cushion of air, capable of motion on both land and sea
- ⇒ **Islands** means the Turks and Caicos Islands and includes the Territorial Sea
- ⇒ **jet ski** means (regardless of the trade name of the vessel concerned) a motor vessel propelled by a water jet—
  - capable of carrying a maximum of 4 persons; and
  - having a maximum length of 10 feet
- ⇒ **measuring gauge** means a device so constructed as to be capable of accurately determining the legal size of a marine product as outlined under the law
- ⇒ **motor vehicle** means any self-propelled wheeled vehicle, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, scooters and all terrain vehicles (ATV)
- ⇒ **motor vessel** means any apparatus propelled, or capable or being propelled, on the sea by use of an onboard or outboard motor, including sail vessels containing motors
- ⇒ **no wake** means the state in which a boat while the engine is running does create waves or turbulence on the water's surface
- ⇒ **Park Warden** means a person referred to under National Parks regulation who can enter all parts of a national park, nature reserve, sanctuary or area of historic interest and who can arrest any person committing an offence or seize any article that may have been used in committing an offence
- ⇒ **parking zone** means a zone established under National Parks Regulations established for the purpose of parking vehicles while in the proximity of a national park, nature reserve or area of historic interest
- ⇒ **permanent mooring** means a mooring with a suitable attachment for securing a mooring buoy set into or laid on the sea bed solely for that purpose and incapable of movement in normal circumstances

- ⇒ **process** in relation to any species of marine product, includes manufacturing (including the use of any part of that product in any manufacturing process), bottling, canning, curing, freezing or otherwise preparing or preserving the marine product for use as food or for any commercial purpose but does not include the taking or cleaning and chilling of marine products
- ⇒ **prohibited apparatus** (or prohibited method) means in relation to any particular species of marine product, any apparatus or method prohibited to be used for the taking of that marine product as outlined by the law
- ⇒ **rescue vehicle** or **rescue vessel** means a vehicle or vessel approved by the Director for use in rescue
- ⇒ **resident** means a person who—
  - a) is a Belonger; or
  - b) possesses a valid permanent resident certificate or a valid work permit issued in accordance with the Immigration Ordinance
- ⇒ **sail vessel** means a wind surfer, boat or ship propelled on the water by the wind
- ⇒ **shoreline** means that part of any national park, nature reserve or sanctuary comprising the foreshore and sand-dunes immediately adjacent to the sea
- ⇒ **spear fishing** means taking or attempting to take any species of marine product, by means of a spear of any description, shape or size including a Hawaiian sling
- ⇒ **spear gun** means any weapon, apparatus or mechanism other than a Hawaiian sling, so constructed as to be capable of use under water for the discharge (whether complete or partial) of any projectile, whether or not a spear or harpoon
- ⇒ **sports fishing** (or fishing for sport) means fishing for any species of marine product for pleasure or recreation and not for gain or reward
- ⇒ **training zone** means a zone designated under National Parks regulation where the training of persons for scuba diving and snorkeling are permitted
- ⇒ **vessel** means any vehicle which travels on water and includes ships, boats, dinghies, windsurfers, jet skis and any motorized vessel
- ⇒ **wall** means the 50 fathom depth (91.44 meters) sea floor contour line on the seaward boundary of any national park
- ⇒ **water ski** means a ski or ski-like apparatus used in gliding behind a power vessel over the surface of the water
- ⇒ **worked black coral** means black coral worked into jewellery
- ⇒ **zone** means a zone, access lane or right of way established under National Park regulations

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