

## About This Guide

This guide includes a map of coastal waters from Oleta River to Card Sound that depicts seagrasses, artificial reefs, parks and preserves, fishing piers, canoe/kayak launches and boat ramps open to the public. Also featured is information on habitats and animals, popular sport fish, boating safety and protocol and a resource directory.

The **Boating and Angling to Biscayne Bay** was produced by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Please address any comments to, or request additional copies of this guide from:

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This publication was supported by the National Sea Grant College Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Grant No. NA 14OAR4170108. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of these organizations.



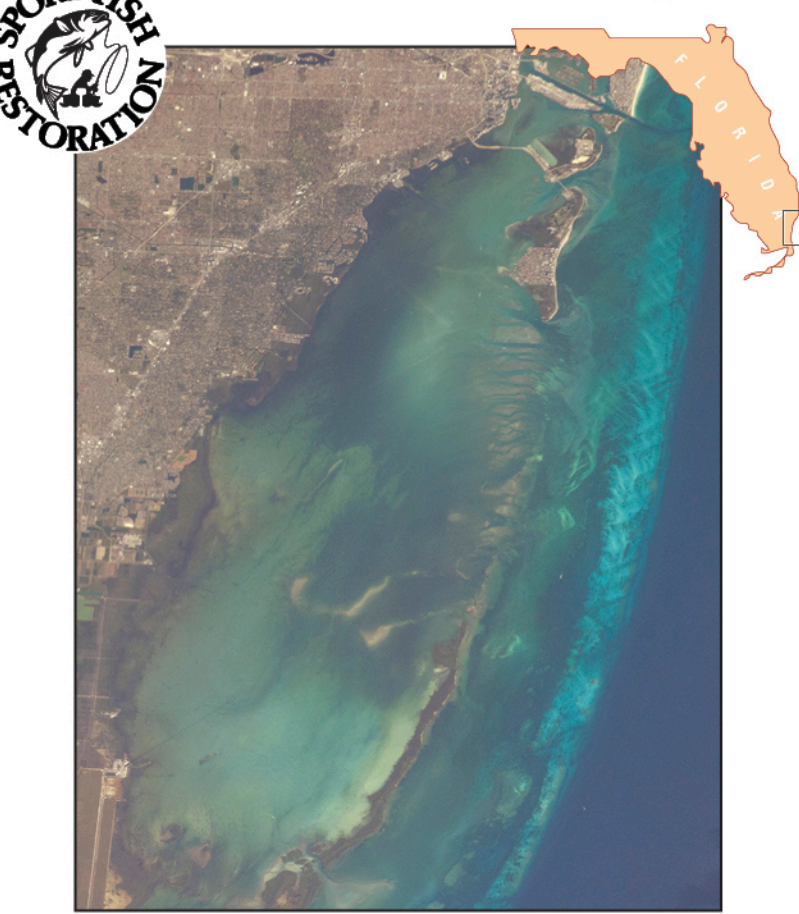
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2015

## A Boating and Angling Guide to

# Biscayne Bay



Ana N. Zangroniz



Miami, Key Biscayne and Biscayne Bay from the International Space Station (2013). NASA

## Popular Sport Fish

Below is a very small list of the sport fish caught inside and offshore of Biscayne Bay.

Fish images © Diane Rome Perles



**RED DRUM (Redfish):** Inshore near grass beds, oyster bars and docks and pilings; deeper channels during the warmest and coolest months.



**SNOOK:** Canals, tidal creeks and other deep warm waters in cool months; near tidal passes and mangrove fringe at high tide.



**SPOTTED SEATROUT (Speckled seatrout):** Inshore over grass beds, sand and sandy/mud bottoms; deeper water during warmest and coolest months.



**TARPON:** Commonly found inshore near bridges, pilings, rock walls, harbors and on flats.



**BONEFISH:** Found in shallows, often in water less than a foot in depth, usually over lush grass beds, occasionally over white sand.



**PERMIT:** Offshore on wrecks and debris, inshore on grass flats, sand flats and in channels.



**SAILFISH:** Offshore species found in waters of the Gulf Stream; feeds on the surface or at mid depths on smaller pelagic fishes and squid.



**KING MACKEREL (Kingfish):** Found nearshore and offshore; occasionally caught from piers running into deep water.



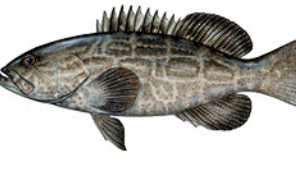
**DOLPHIN (Mahi-mahi):** Found in warm waters. Feeds on flying fish and squid.



**MUTTON SNAPPER:** Found inshore associated with grass beds, mangroves and canals. Larger adults are found on offshore reefs.



**YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER:** Found inshore on grassbeds and back reefs. Adults are found nearshore or offshore over sandy areas near reefs.



**BLACK GROUPE:** Young may occur inshore in shallow water. Adults are associated with rocky bottoms, reef and dropoff walls in water over 60 feet deep.

In most cases, a license is required for saltwater fishing in Florida waters. Visit [MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater](http://MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater) for up-to-date information about license requirements, bag limits and seasonal closures.

## Boating Regulatory Zones

Florida regulates boat speeds in certain areas for protection of manatees and for boating safety purposes. It is important that boat operators look for signs, understand what they mean and abide by the speed regulations. Here are the most common signs.

**No Entry:** All vessels and all persons, either in vessels or swimming, diving, or wading, are prohibited from entering the marked area.

**Motorboats Prohibited Zone:** Areas where all vessels equipped with any mechanical means of propulsion are prohibited from entering the marked area, even if the mechanical means of propulsion is not in use.

**No Power-driven Vessels:** The use of any motor, including an electric motor, is prohibited. All vessels equipped with any mechanical means of propulsion must turn off the mechanical means of propulsion and, if possible to do so, tilt or raise the mechanical means of propulsion out of the water.

**Idle Speed, No Wake Speed:** The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steerage and headway. The vessel should not produce a wake at this speed.

**Slow Speed, Minimum Wake Zone:** Areas where vessels must be fully off plane and completely settled in the water. Any wake created by a vessel in one of these zones must be very small. If your vessel is traveling with the bow even slightly elevated while in one of these zones, it is not proceeding at "Slow Speed" as required by law.

**Maximum 25 MPH, 30 MPH and 35 MPH Speed Zones:** Controlled areas within which a vessel must not exceed posted speed. "Miles per hour" means speed made good over the bottom measured in statute miles.

## Native Habitats

Biscayne Bay is a rich mosaic of fish and wildlife habitats that form life-sustaining links in a biologically productive ecosystem. From coastal mangroves to underwater meadows of seagrass, from patch reefs to the open water of the Atlantic Ocean, each interdependent habitat plays a vital role in this "Estuarine Machine." Three major habitats are highlighted here: corals and hardbottom, seagrasses and mangroves.

### Coral Reef and Hard Bottom

Coral reefs are part of an interdependent ecosystem that includes mangroves and seagrasses. Biscayne Bay's hardbottom coral communities include dense populations of stress-tolerant coral species. Colonies of



reef-building corals are found offshore in the Florida Reef Tract. The coral reef ecosystem is alive with an abundance of fish, stony corals, octocorals, sponges, jellyfish, anemones, snails, crabs, lobsters, rays, sea turtles, dolphins, sea birds and other sea life. The reef is home to many of Florida's threatened and endangered species.

### Seagrasses

Seagrasses are flowering underwater plants found at shallow depths in protected bays and lagoons and inside of the reef tract. More than 80 percent of all recreationally and commercially important fish

## Practice Safe Boating

- Plan your route in advance and check all boat equipment before each trip. Use the appropriate nautical charts to reference depth, bridge clearance and other natural and man-made features before you leave.

- File a float plan and leave it with a reliable person at a marina or elsewhere. Include a description of the vessel, radio and safety equipment on board, planned stops, names of passengers and an estimated time of return from voyage. Ask that person to notify the Coast Guard or other local authority if you do not return as scheduled.

- Wear a personal flotation device (PFD). United States Coast Guard boating safety guidelines require a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable Type I, II, III, or V life jacket for each person onboard. Boats 16 feet and over must also have at least one Type IV throwable device. Adult-sized life jackets will not work for children. Special life jackets are available. To work correctly, a life jacket must be worn, fit snugly and not allow the child's chin or ears to slip through. Life jackets should be tested for wear and buoyancy at least once each year. Waterlogged, faded, or leaky jackets should be discarded.

- Observe and obey posted speed limits. When in doubt, slow down.

- Watch your wake. Remember, you are responsible for damage caused by your vessel's wake. Large wakes can overturn smaller vessels and damage boats which are moored at the dock.

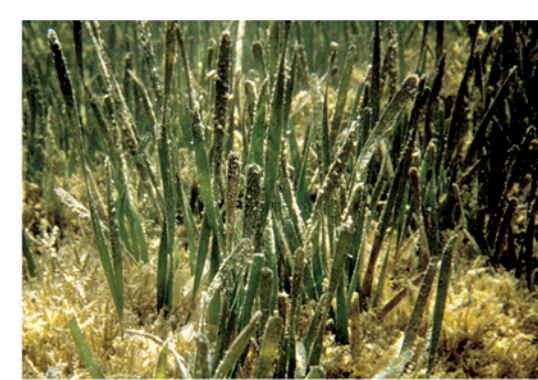
- Know your navigational rules. Use the boating rules of the road to avoid accidents.

- Don't operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances.

- Be sure that your boat is visible at night and in poor weather conditions.

- Make sure your craft has the required safety equipment on board.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a free boat inspection to advise boaters of state and federal safety requirements. Violations found during these courtesy exams will not be reported to authorities.



species are dependent upon seagrass at some point in their lives. As a nursery environment, seagrasses support small fish, shrimp and crabs that hide among the blades. Seagrasses also help stabilize shifting sands and improve water clarity by trapping fine sediments and particles. Seagrasses are an important part of the food web. They provide food for turtles, manatees and a variety of fish and habitat for filter-feeding organisms and foraging sea life such as sea urchins and sea cucumbers. Seagrasses provide a nursery for pink shrimp, lobster, snapper and other sea life.

### Mangroves

Mangroves are tropical trees that thrive in salty environments along the water's edge. Like seagrasses, they provide food and cover for a vast array of small fish and animals. The submerged roots are a nursery and breeding ground for most of the marine life that migrates to the reef. Mangroves grow and produce nutrients for food and habitat, stabilize the shoreline by trapping debris and silt and filter land-based pollutants. Mangroves are the dominant shoreline plant community providing storm protection for the islands.



## Resource Directory

<b>Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</b>	
<b>Wildlife Alert Hotline</b>	1-888-404-FWCC (3922)
<b>Cell Phones</b>	*FWC
<b>South Florida Regional Office (West Palm Beach)</b>	561-626-5122
To report oil spills, marine violations, boating accidents and marine mammal injuries or strandings. Information also available on saltwater fishing and shellfish harvesting.	
<b>Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (St. Petersburg)</b>	727-896-8626
For information on Florida's marine resources and marine research	
<b>Marine Fish Kill Hotline</b>	1-800-636-0511
To report a fish kill or red tide event in your area	
<b>U.S. Coast Guard</b>	
<b>Rescue Station (24 hr. emergency service)</b>	VHF channel 16
<b>Sector Office (Miami)</b>	305-535-4472/4520
<b>National Response Center</b>	1-800-424-8602
To report oil spills and maritime emergencies	
<b>U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (District 7, Division 6)</b>	305-898-8239
<b>Boat U.S. Foundation Hotline</b>	1-800-336-BOAT (336-2628)
For information on boating skills and safety courses offered locally	
<b>NOAA Weather Service Broadcast</b>	305-229-4522
<b>Miami</b>	162.550 Mhz/VHF radio
<b>Princeton</b>	162.425 Mhz/VHF radio
<b>Español</b>	162.500 Mhz/VHF radio
For 24-hour weather and marine forecasts	
<b>Biscayne National Park</b>	305-230-7275 (PARK)
For more information about Biscayne National Park	
<b>State Parks</b>	
<b>Oleta River</b>	305-919-1844
<b>Bill Baggs Cape Florida</b>	305-361-5811
<b>John Pennelkamp Coral Reef</b>	305-451-1202
For more information about Florida's natural and cultural lands	
<b>Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve</b>	305-755-3486
For more information about Florida's protected coastal waters	
<b>Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary</b>	305-809-4700
For more information about Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	
<b>Florida Sea Grant, Miami-Dade</b>	305-421-4017
For information on the conservation and use of marine and coastal resources	
<b>NOAA Fisheries</b>	
<b>Southeast Regional Office</b>	727-824-3301
For information about marine fisheries in federal waters	
<b>Pelican Harbor Seabird Station</b>	305-751-9840
For assistance with injured seabirds	

## Catch-and-Release Information

More and more anglers are practicing "catch-and-release" to do their part to preserve marine fisheries while they enjoy their outdoor fishing experiences. This information offers tips on how you can properly handle and release saltwater fish.

### How to Begin

- Use tackle heavy enough to land a fish quickly to reduce its exhaustion. An exhausted fish is likely to be weak making it vulnerable to predators or die upon release.
- Use non-stainless steel hooks as they will dissolve if they remain in a fish.
- Use non-off-set circle hooks when fishing with natural bait to avoid gut-hooking a fish. Circle hooks tend to hook fish in the jaw, making them easy to remove.
- Bend barbs down on hooks so they can be removed with less damage to a fish.
- Keep release tools handy.

### Handling Your Catch

- Handle fish as little as possible and only with wet hands – never with a towel.
- If a fish must be lifted from the water, support its weight horizontally.
- If necessary, use a venting tool or descending gear to release pressure in a fish taken from deep water.

### Removing the Hook

- Back the hook out the opposite way it went in.
- If a hook is deep in a fish's throat or stomach, cut the line as close as possible to the hook – the hook will eventually dissolve inside the fish.
- Use a de-hooking device if needed to help remove hooks safely.

### The Release

- Gently release a fish head first into the water.
- If a fish is exhausted, revive it before releasing it by passing water over its gills – move it forward in the water with its mouth open.
- If a released fish does not swim away, recover it and try to revive it again.

## Learn to Read Water Color

### BROWN, BROWN, RUN AROUND

Reef formations that grow close to the water's surface and shallow seagrass beds will make the water appear brown. These areas should be avoided to keep from damaging your boat and sensitive habitats and from running aground.

### WHITE, WHITE, YOU JUST MIGHT

Sand bars and shallow rubble areas appear white. These areas can be deceptively shallow. Navigate with caution around these areas.

### GREEN, GREEN, NICE AND CLEAN

Green water usually indicates an area free of shallow reefs or seagrass beds. Navigation of small, shallow draft boats in these areas is generally safe. However, larger, deeper draft boats should exercise caution.

### BLUE, BLUE, CRUISE ON THROUGH

Deep-water areas, such as the ocean side of a reef, may appear blue. Navigation in these areas is free from hazardous contact with reefs or seagrass beds. Remember, however, that coral reefs rise abruptly from deep water so give yourself plenty of room to maneuver.



## Welcome to

# Biscayne Bay

Biscayne Bay is a subtropical estuary that extends the entire length of Miami-Dade County from Aventura in the north to the northern edge of Key Largo. Protected from the ocean to the east by a chain of islands or keys and by the mainland to the west, it encompasses a marine ecosystem that totals approximately 428 square miles.

Biscayne Bay is an important estuarine and marine habitat for fish and wildlife including numerous endangered, threatened and protected species. Mangroves fringe the shorelines of central and southern Biscayne Bay, and seagrass and hardbottom communities support a vast array of life. In fact, approximately 70 percent of the area's recreationally and commercially important

fishes, crustaceans and shellfish spend a portion of their young lives in the bay's protective environment.

Home to Biscayne National Park, the largest marine park in the national park system, as well as the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, Biscayne Bay has been recognized as an Outstanding Florida Water for its ecological values. The bay's crystal blue waters also support vital economic activity for the region and are a defining feature of life in Miami-Dade County. Recreational activities are available year-round, and boaters and anglers are among the most frequent users of Biscayne Bay.

## Show You Care About the Marine Environment

Residents and visitors alike share the waters of Biscayne Bay with its magnificent array of birds and marine animals, including species that are threatened or endangered. Boaters should be on the lookout for these creatures and take special care to protect them and to preserve their habitats.

Always stow trash carefully for disposal on shore and make it a policy to pick up plastics and other marine debris encountered while underway. Carelessly discarded trash can trap and kill birds, fish and other marine animals.

When fueling boats, be careful not to 'top off' the tank, allowing gas to spill. Small toxic spills add up quickly. Sewage from holding tanks should be discarded only at approved pump-out stations and marinas.

**The Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP)** is a statewide effort to educate the public on the problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment, to encourage recycling through a network of line-recycling bins and drop-off locations and to conduct volunteer monofilament line cleanup events.

Outdoor recycling bins constructed of PVC are mounted at many piers, boat ramps and marinas throughout the state. Indoor recycling bins are located by tackle shops and department stores. To locate fishing line recycling bins in your area, please visit [fishinglinerecycling.org](http://fishinglinerecycling.org).



## Stop the Release and Spread of Nonnative Species

Many nonnative aquatic species are finding their way into Florida's coastal waters. When new animals and plants are introduced into an area, they often cannot survive there and die. However, if they can survive in the new area, they can begin to compete with native species and may end up displacing native plants and animals. This can result in major changes to the environment.

If you have unwanted aquarium plants or animals, try to find them a new home. Some pet stores may accept them, or they can be turned in at FWC Nonnative Pet Amnesty Day events. Unwanted aquarium plants can also be placed in plastic bags and disposed of into garbage bins.

For more information about nonnative species, please visit [MyFWC.com/nonnatives](http://MyFWC.com/nonnatives) or <http://nas.er.usgs.gov>.



The lionfish is native to the waters of the Eastern Pacific and Indian Oceans. These beautiful fish have been observed in the waters of the western Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. It is believed these fish were released by aquarists. Lionfish have no natural predators in local waters and will eat any native fish they can catch.

## Grounding Prevention Tips

How to prevent your vessel from running aground:

- Use NOAA charts 11462, 11463, 11465, 11466, 11467 and 11468.
- Know how to read your chart.
- Refer to your chart prior to leaving the dock.
- Learn how to use your electronic navigational equipment.
- Watch the weather closely.
- Learn how to read the water. Wear polarized sunglasses to reduce glare.
- If you are unsure of the situation, stop and refer to your chart.



Biscayne National Park

What to do if your boat runs aground:

- Turn your motor OFF. (DO NOT ATTEMPT TO POWER OFF)
- Trim your motor up.
- Wait for high tide in order to drift free.
- If you are still aground, call for assistance on VHF Channel 16.

### Seagrass Scarring

Avoid damaging seagrass and your vessel by knowing your boat's operating depth and navigating in marked channels. Anchor only in bare sandy bottoms. If you run aground in shallow water, stop and pole your boat into deeper water. **Destruction of seagrass in Aquatic Preserves and Biscayne National Park is a violation of law and carries penalties.**

## Share the Nautical Road

Recreational boats share the waters of Biscayne Bay with a variety of vessels including cruise and cargo ships traveling to and from PortMiami. Large vessels have a limited ability to maneuver and may require a mile or more to come to a complete stop.



PortMiami

- Stay clear of the main channel when large ships are approaching. Views from the pilot house may be obstructed up to three-fourths of a mile away.
- In case of emergency, use VHF Channel 13 for bridge-to-bridge communication with commercial ships. Keep transmissions short and simple and never tie up the frequency.
- Exercise caution when boating around ships or tugs involved in docking or under way. Their prop-wash can easily capsize small vessels or send them into the path of oncoming traffic.
- Be sure that your boat is visible at night and in poor weather conditions.

## Rafting Restrictions

No more than five (5) vessels may raft or attach to one another by means of a line or any other means. Within Biscayne National Park, these groups of rafted, tied, or attached vessels must maintain 100 feet of separation from other rafted vessels. In all other Miami-Dade county waters, except the Florida Intracoastal Waterway, rafted, tied, or attached vessels must maintain 30 feet of separation from other rafted vessels.

Three species of sea turtles nest on the beaches of Miami-Dade County from March to early September. The loggerhead is the most common, but greens and leatherbacks have also been documented in small numbers. The Kemp's ridley and the hawksbill sea turtles are seen rarely in Biscayne Bay. Floating sargassum, often found off Florida's east coast, is important for juvenile sea turtles, where they spend their first few years maturing.



### Manatees

The Florida manatee is a large, plant-eating aquatic mammal which is commonly found in shallow coastal waters, rivers, canals and springs of Florida. Manatees are

most common in Biscayne Bay during winter months when many migrate south for the warmer water. Some manatees are present in Biscayne Bay and its tributaries year round. Many manatee injuries and deaths occur as a result of blunt trauma with watercraft. Boaters can reduce the chance of harming manatees by practicing responsible boating.

### YOU CAN HELP MANATEE AND SEA TURTLES:

- Observe and follow all speed zone signs.
- Slow down and maintain a moderate vessel speed in shallow water and near beaches.
- Use marked channels whenever possible.
- Wear polarized glasses. Polarized lenses make it much easier to see objects beneath the surface by reducing glare.
- Keep a sharp lookout for animals near the surface, especially on sunny days.
- Keep beaches and waterways clean and free of litter, such as fishing line, which can entangle sea turtles and manatees.
- Obey state and federal laws that make it illegal to harass, capture, hunt, or kill sea turtles and manatees. To report violations, injured, or dead animals, call FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).



### Sea Turtles

Florida's waters are home year-round to five species of sea turtles. All are protected by state and federal law. Sea turtles surface to breathe and, occasionally, bask at the surface, which makes them vulnerable to boat strikes.



# A Boating and Angling Guide to

# Biscayne Bay



## Public Access Boat Ramps

No	FACILITY	ADDRESS	CITY	Boat Ramp	Public Access	Restroom	Electric	Water
1	Bill Bird Marina - Haulover Marine Center	10900 Collins Ave.	Miami Beach	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Pelican Harbor	1275 NE 79 St.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Lagdon Park	6447 NE 79 Ave.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Morningside Park	750 NE 53th Ter.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Barry Kufan	1802 Purdy Ave.	Miami Beach	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Watson Island Park	1001 MacArthur Cswy.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Garry Curtis Park	2396 NW River Dr.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	Antonio Mazoni Park	5115 NW 7th St.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Seminole Boat Ramp at Dimer Key	3400 Pan American Dr.	Miami	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Crandon Park Marina	4000 Crandon Blvd.	Key Biscayne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Matheson Hammock County Park and Marina	9610 Old Cutler Rd.	Coral Gables	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	Black Point Marina and Park	24777 SW 87 Ave.	Homestead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	Homestead Bayfront Park	9638 N Canal Dr.	Homestead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## MIAMI RIVER BRIDGES

The letters in this list coincide with the letters on the map.

Ltr.	BRIDGE NAME	TYPE*	HEIGHT AT CENTER†
A	Brickell Ave. (US-1)	Vertical Clearance	23'
B	Peoplesover Bridge	Vertical Clearance	75'
C	S. Miami Ave.	Vertical Clearance	21'
D	Metrolink Bridge	Vertical Clearance	75'
E	SW 2nd Ave.	Vertical Clearance	11'
F	I-95	Vertical Clearance	75'
G	SW 1st St.	Vertical Clearance	18'
H	W Flagler St.	Vertical Clearance	35'

\* Bridge type is shown in map legend.  
† Height at bridge center (in feet) when closed and at high tide

## Artificial Reefs

No	REEF NAME	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (ft)	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	Golden Reef #1	Limestone boulders	45	25 57.760° N	80 05.865° W
2	DFB Boulder Reef	Limestone boulders	35	25 56.939° N	80 07.715° W
3	Greyhounds Park Reef	Limestone boulders	10	25 55.750° N	80 09.000° W
4	Oleta River State Park	Limestone boulders	8	25 54.433° N	80 08.003° W
5	Bal Harbour Milligation Boulders Reef	Limestone boulders	68	25 54.311° N	80 05.384° W
6	Andro	165' steel ship	104	25 53.622° N	80 05.126° W
7	PM Reefballs	Reefballs	25	25 48.806° N	80 09.390° W
8	Met Wreck Reef	200' steel barge	23	25 48.840° N	80 09.830° W
9	Tortuga	165' steel ship	110	25 49.262° N	80 05.967° W
10	Deep Freeze	210' steel ship	135	25 49.291° N	80 04.955° W
11	Army Tank #1	M60 Army tank	49	25 48.675° N	80 05.452° W
12	Star Island Reef	Bridge material and limestone boulders	12	25 46.434° N	80 09.078° W
13	Jose Cuervo Reef	Concrete bar and tetrahedron	20	25 46.134° N	80 07.694° W
14	PM B Pile 21	Boulders and piles	45	25 44.999° N	80 05.698° W
15	Brickell Area Reef	Rock limestone	12	25 44.916° N	80 11.783° W
16	Mercy Hospital	Lime rock boulders	13	25 44.330° N	80 12.531° W
17	Proteus	220' steel ship	72	25 42.331° N	80 05.286° W
18	DEMA Trader	165' freighter	80	25 41.218° N	80 05.215° W
19	Neptune Memorial Reef	Concrete and bronze modules/sculptures	45	25 42.035° N	80 05.286° W
20	Betzna II	90' steel tug	60	25 41.797° N	80 05.273° W

NOTE: There are many more artificial reefs in the offshore waters of Miami-Dade county that are not shown on this map. Visit [myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs/](http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs/) for a complete list of artificial reefs around Florida.

## Fishing Piers

No	FACILITY	ADDRESS	CITY
1	Newport Fishing Pier	16500 Collins Ave.	Sunny Isles
2	Oleta River State Park	3400 NE 163rd St.	North Miami Beach
3	South Pointe Park	1 Washington St.	Miami Beach
4	Rickenbacker Causeway (East)	Rickenbacker Causeway	Virginia Key
5	Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park	1200 Crandon Blvd.	Key Biscayne

## Canoe/Kayak Launches

No	FACILITY	ADDRESS	CITY
1	Greyhounds Park	17530 W Dixie Hwy.	N. Miami Beach
2	Blue Moon Outdoor Center	2500 NE 163rd St.	N. Miami Beach
3	Oleta River State Park	3400 NE 163rd St.	N. Miami Beach
4	Chapman Field Park	1300 SW Goodpastor St.	Miami
5	Deering Estate at Cutler	17300 Old Cutler Rd.	Miami
6	Biscayne National Park - Dante Fascelli Visitor Center	9700 SW 328th St.	Homestead

Many of the public access boat ramps shown on this guide can also be used as a canoe and kayak launch.

## BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

Two thirds of Biscayne Bay lies within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park. This shallow body of water is only part of the park's 173,000 acres which also includes coral reefs, the northernmost Florida Keys, and stretches of mangrove coastlines. Special regulations apply and by being a responsible visitor you too can do your part to help protect it for the future. Remember: The Park is a wildlife and historical preserve where natural and cultural resources are protected.

- Disturbance or removal of natural or historical objects is prohibited.
- Portions of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park are a designated lobster sanctuary. Lobster can never be taken even during lobster season.
- Reefs are fragile. Whenever possible, please use mooring buoys instead of dropping an anchor.
- In order to protect wildlife and other visitors, pets are only permitted in certain areas of the park and must always be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Please clean up after your pet! Pets are not permitted on Boca Chita Key or on vessels otherwise attached to the island.
- For your safety, anchoring and swimming in harbors is prohibited.
- Ground fires are never permitted. Fires are allowed only in camp stoves raised at least 12" off the ground or in designated grills.
- Boca Chita, Elliott and Adams Keys do not offer trash removal services; everything packed in must be packed-out.
- Wide-brimmed hats, polarized sunglasses, insect repellent, sunscreen and layering light-colored clothing will help protect you from the elements. Mosquitoes and other biting insects are always present but heaviest May-November. Sunscreens with gentler compounds are recommended when snorkeling since they are less harmful to reef organisms.
- Rafting, noise and commercial operations are regulated.
- Take nothing but pictures and memories and leave no trace of your presence.

For more boating and fishing information please visit [nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/](http://nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/) nearby-marinas-access-for-boaters.htm. For business and commercial use permit information, please visit [nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm](http://nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm).

Data Sources: Benthic Habitats - 2014, FWC/FWRI Center for Spatial Analysis; Mangroves - 2008 SWFWMD Landuse/Landcover; Water Depth - 2014, NOAA Office of Coastal Survey; Aids to Navigation - 2013, U. S. Coast Guard; Artificial Reefs - 2015, FWC/DMFM Artificial Reefs Program; Boat Ramps - 2014, FWC/FWRI Center for Spatial Analysis; Fishing Piers - 2014, FWC/FWRI Center for Spatial Analysis; Canoe/Kayak Launches - 2015, FWC/FWRI Center for Spatial Analysis; Managed Areas - 2015, FWC/FWRI Center for Spatial Analysis and National Park Service/Biscayne National Park; Boating Zones - 2015, FWC/SM, FWC/Boating and Waterways and National Park Service/Biscayne National Park

### Legend

- Seagrass
- Hardbottom w/ Seagrass
- Hardbottom
- Coral Reef
- Mangroves

### WATER DEPTH

- Depth Contour (in feet)
- Exposed at Mean Lower Low Water
- Dredged Channel
- Spoil Area

### MANAGED AREAS

- Aquatic Preserve
- State Park
- Biscayne National Park
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Biscayne Bay-Card Sound Lobster Sanctuary

### Boating Zones

- 1 - No Entry (All Year)
- 2 - No Entry (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / Idle Speed (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 3 - No Entry (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / Slow Speed (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 4 - No Entry (Fixed Security Zone)
- 5 - No Entry (Moving Security Zone)
- 6 - Motorboats Prohibited (All Year)
- 7 - Idle Speed (All Year)
- 8 - Slow Speed (All Year)
- 9 - Slow Speed (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / 30 MPH (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 10 - Slow Speed (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / 35 MPH (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 11 - 30 MPH (All Year)
- 12 - 30 MPH (All Year)

### Boating Zones

- 1 - No Entry (All Year)
- 2 - No Entry (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / Idle Speed (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 3 - No Entry (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / Slow Speed (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 4 - No Entry (Fixed Security Zone)
- 5 - No Entry (Moving Security Zone)
- 6 - Motorboats Prohibited (All Year)
- 7 - Idle Speed (All Year)
- 8 - Slow Speed (All Year)
- 9 - Slow Speed (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / 30 MPH (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 10 - Slow Speed (Nov. 15 - Apr. 30) / 35 MPH (May 1 - Nov. 14)
- 11 - 30 MPH (All Year)
- 12 - 30 MPH (All Year)

This guide is not intended for navigational use. For local navigation, see NOAA Charts 11462, 11463, 11465, 11466, 11467, and 11468.

## SECURITY ZONES

Two types security zones are present in the water around PortMiami (PM):

**Fixed Security Zones:** A fixed security zone (all waters between Watson Park and Star Island along the MacArthur Causeway south to PM) is enacted when two or more cruise ships are docked at PM. When the security zone is activated no vessel, recreational boat or personal watercraft is permitted to enter into transit through or anchor without express permission from the Captain of the Port. Additional fixed security zones are established 100 yards around all passenger vessels, vessels carrying cargoes of particular hazard or liquefied hazardous gas (LHG) while they are docked at PM.

**Moving Security Zones:** Moving security zones are established 100 yards around all passenger vessels, vessels carrying cargoes of particular hazard, or vessels carrying liquefied hazardous gas (LHG) during transits entering/departing PM, through Government Cut, out to "M" buoy.

## MOORING BUOYS

Mooring buoys are an alternative to anchoring, which can break and damage coral reefs. Buoys are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Approach slowly from down wind or down current. Retrieve the yellow pick-up line with a boat hook and run your boat's bow line through the loop of the pick-up line. Cleat both ends of your bow line to the bow of your boat. Inspect the buoy your boat is tied to; you are responsible for your vessel.

## DIVER DOWN FLAG

It is required by law to display this flag when divers are in the water. Boaters in the vicinity of a vessel displaying the diver down flag must give 100' clearance inshore or 300' clearance in open waters. A flag displayed on a vessel must be 20" by 24" or larger. Flags attached to a buoy or float must be 12" by 12" or larger. A stiffener is also required to keep the flag unfurled.

## LEGARE ANCHORAGE

The Legare Anchorage was created to protect sensitive, underwater archaeological resources, in particular, the wreck of the *HMS Fowey* (owned by the government of the United Kingdom.) This area is closed to the following activities:

- SCUBA Diving, snorkeling, floating or any activity that involves placing persons or equipment on, in or under the water.
- Use of any underwater viewing device including, but not limited to, face masks, glass bottom boats, glass bottom buckets or cameras.
- Anchoring, mooring or drifting of a vessel.
- Fishing while underway (trolling), is permitted.

Visit [nps.gov/bisc](http://nps.gov/bisc) for more information on the specific regulations for Legare Anchorage.

## MARITIME HERITAGE TRAIL

Biscayne National Park's Maritime Heritage Trail offers an exciting opportunity to explore the remains of some of the park's many shipwrecks. Six wrecks, spanning nearly a century and a wide variety of sizes and vessel types, have been mapped, brochures have been produced and mooring buoys have been installed. The newest addition to the trail is the *Fowey Rocks Lighthouse*. Snorkeling is great around the base of the light, but the structure itself is not open to the public. For more information about the Maritime Heritage Trail, visit <http://nps.gov/bisc/learn/historyculture/maritime-heritage-trail.htm>.

No	SITE NAME	DEPTH (ft)	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	Aratron Apar	23	25 35.498° N	80 05.728° W
2	Fowey Rocks Lighthouse	0	25 35.473° N	80 05.805° W
3	Elli King	20	25 25.479° N	80 07.463° W
4	Alida	30	25 24.705° N	80 07.660° W
5	Lugano	30	25 25.639° N	80 07.174° W
6	Mandalay	20	25 26.530° N	80 07.301° W
7	19th Century Wooden Sailing Vessel	30	25 24.705° N	80 07.660° W