

THE HAWAII CORAL REEF NETWORK'S SUSTAINABLE DIVING AND SNORKELING PRACTICES:

RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL DIVING AND SNORKELING

- ✓ Take only photos, leave only bubbles - do not collect shells or organisms
- ✓ Observe animals exhibiting their natural behaviors rather than stimulate them to entertain
- ✓ Do not feed wildlife
- ✓ Do not grasp coral, stand on it, or kick up sediments
- ✓ Practice neutral buoyancy and train others to do so
- ✓ Keep gauges, fins and other accessories from dragging on the bottom
- ✓ Handle wildlife as little as possible, if at all
- ✓ Do not harass protected species, give sea turtles at least a 20-foot radius of approach; monk seals at least 100 foot radius of approach (law); dolphins at least 50 yard radius of approach; and whales 100 yard radius of approach (law).
- ✓ Practice sustainable fishing techniques and obey size and catch limits

LOW IMPACT BOATING

- ✓ Anchor only in sand, never in coral; use mooring pins whenever possible
- ✓ Secure and dispose of all trash in proper containers on shore
- ✓ Recycle at harbor or other land-based facilities
- ✓ Keep boat engines properly maintained to minimize petroleum product pollution
- ✓ Properly treat and lawfully dispose of sewage; use pump-out facilities at harbors
- ✓ Use non-toxic cleansers for clean-up, such as Simple Green or anti-bacterial soaps

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR DIVE/SNORKEL SITES

- ✓ Cooperate with other divers to reduce or rotate human numbers and vessels at dive sites
- ✓ Communicate with other vessel operators to locate and share moorings
- ✓ Voluntarily rotate sites that are becoming degraded, letting them "rest"
- ✓ Support the establishment and usage of artificial reefs in appropriate locations to lessen the impact on existing natural sites
- ✓ Obey the laws in State of Hawai'i Marine Life Conservation Districts and Fish Replenishment Areas

MARINE EDUCATION

- ✓ Keep informed about the biology and population dynamics of coral reef ecosystems and impending threats
- ✓ Provide a pre-dive briefing to divers to enhance their awareness and understanding of and sensitivity toward Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystem
- ✓ Support staff to continue their education on the coral reef ecosystem

PRO-ACTIVE CONSERVATION

- ✓ Participate in local conservation efforts (e.g., beach clean-ups and water conservation)
- ✓ Use best management practices on land and sea (e.g., reduce use of fertilizers, properly dispose of toxic wastes and recycle)
- ✓ Use mooring pins properly, e.g., use appropriate scoping when tying off, and assist the Coral Reef Network in maintenance through donations of time, materials and funds
- ✓ Participate in projects that assess the health of the reefs, i.e., REEF and REEF CHECK or support such efforts with donations of time, materials and funds
- ✓ Get involved in local and state government processes such as public hearings and commenting opportunities on Draft Environmental Impact Statements for projects that may affect reefs
- ✓ Use your citizen power to praise the government when they have done a good job in conservation and speak out when they do something not in line with marine conservation
- ✓ Know the laws and rules designed to protect the environment and report illegal activities
- ✓ Support establishments that show care and respect for the ocean's inhabitants