



# Rules & Regulations: Man of War Shoal Marine Park



**The Man of War Shoal Marine Park** is a home and migratory stop over or breeding site for 3 IUCN Red List Species, 10 CITES Appendix I species and 89 Appendix II species. It is an area with a healthy population of marine life including migratory whales and dolphins, numerous species of shark, rays, sea turtles and numerous fish species. Studies conducted by the St. Maarten Nature Foundation have shown that biodiversity in this area, particularly coral reef coverage, is high and the economic goods and services, which the ecosystem provides are in excess of fifty million dollars annually.



Article 15 of the Island Ordinance Nature Conservation and Protection St. Maarten declares that within the Man of War Shoal Marine Park, the following are **prohibited**:

- Feeding of animals
- Sinking of vessels or other objects
- Any type of fishing
- Harassing marine life
- Removing live or dead animals or plants
- Using or discharging biological or chemical products into the sea
- Placing/moving/removing anchor buoys
- Anchoring/use of anchors

Tourists to the island must purchase an **User Tag** which goes towards the maintenance of equipment in the Marine Park. Any boat wishing to enter the Marine Park should **register** with the Nature Foundation and fly an alpha flag when divers are in the water.

**Only** registered boats can use dive site moorings, vessels should be less than 15 meters (50 feet) overall length and up to 30 tons. Only one boat on each mooring at a time, maximum stay is 2 hours. Captains should pick up the yellow floating line and feed the vessel's bow line through the loop at the end of the floating line and tie the bow line back onto the vessel. The boat line must be **at least as long as your vessel**.

The **MPA Boundary** is comprised of four coordinates:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 18 -00.0 N 63 -01.3 W | 18 -00.0 N 63 -04.5 W |
| 17 -57.0 N 63 -01.3 W | 17 -57.0 N 63 -04.5 W |

Within the Boundary of the park the areas:

- To the left of 17 -58.55 N 63 -04.5 W & 18 -00.0 N 63 -03.9 W
  - To the right of 17 -58.55 N 63 -01.3 W & 18 -00.0 N 63 -03.0 W
  - To the south of 17 -58.4 N 63 -04.5 W and 17 -58.4 N 63 -01.3 W
- MUST** remain open to shipping

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## Mission:

To preserve and enhance the natural environment of St Maarten through proper management, education, public awareness, law enforcement, scientific research and monitoring relating to all aspects of the marine, terrestrial and wetland surroundings.