

Man of War Shoal Marine Protected Area Sint Maarten 2020

Rules and Regulations for dive site users 2020

Vessels are using dive moorings at **their own risk!** Nature Foundation St Maarten (NFSXM) cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to vessels or personal injuries through the use of dive moorings!

1) Using dive site moorings:

- Dive moorings may only be used by vessels maximum up to 30 ton and less than 15 meter (50 feet) overall length.
- Only one boat on each mooring, first come first served priority, maximum stay of 2 hours.
- Your bow line needs to feed through the loop of the yellow floating line of the mooring, tie your bow line back onto your boat, do not tie the yellow floating line directly onto your boat. The boat bow line must be at least as long as your vessel.
- Respect that some dive sites are more popular and refrain from repeatedly using the same dive mooring.
- Boats must display the 'alpha' flag at all times when divers are in the water.

2) Dive boats must respect other boats that have an 'alpha' flag on display and should not go closer than 30m to the boat for safety reasons.

3) All boats should expect Nature Foundation staff to approach them at a safe distance at any time.

4) Boats are not to be left alone on dive site moorings without surface support.

5) It is not permitted to **touch, harass, damage or remove** any marine life.

6) **No type of fishing** is permitted on any dive site!

7) **No feeding** of marine life on any dive site!

8) Using gloves on the reefs and dive sites are prohibited.

9) It is not permitted to remove any historical artifacts from the Marine Park without written permission from the authorities.

10) No anchoring or use of anchors on the reefs.

11) It is prohibited to place, move or remove anchor buoys or moorings. No sinking of vessel or other objects without written permission from the authorities.

12) All boats must adhere to applicable regulations and codes of conduct for boats operating in St. Maarten with appropriate safety equipment.

13) Visitors to the island must purchase their **Dive Tag** at Sintmaarten.reefsupport.org. Day tags are US\$3 and year tags US\$15, dive schools can bulk purchase **day** tags for their customers by requesting this option by contacting the Nature Foundation.

14) Each boat needs to be registered by the NFSXM and the **mooring fee** of **USD250** per year per boat needs to be paid to NFSXM to be able to use dive site moorings and to enter the marine protected area. (by check or wire transfer to WIB Bank Acc # 21899303, Foundation for the Management and Conservation of Nature on SXM).



Failure to follow above mentioned regulations will result in a penalty or a ban from Sint Maarten dive sites!

Funds generate through the sales of entry tags and mooring fees are being used directly towards the management and maintenance of the mooring and the marine protected area.

Remember: Mooring buoys and lines need to be maintained at all times. If you ever see a damaged or missing mooring, please contact the Nature Foundation by email or phone so the necessary repairs can be done.

I understand and respect these mooring regulations and marine park rules, and I use the dive moorings at my own risk, I will not hold the Nature Foundation responsible for any loss or damage to vessels or personal injuries. Me, my costumers and staff pledge to be responsible scuba divers, will respect the marine environment and cause no harm. Herewith, I also pledge to instruct my customers, staff and anyone on my boat to adhere to the above-mentioned rules and regulations and understand that failure to follow above mentioned regulations can results in a ban or penalty.

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

1st Boat

Boat name: _____ Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____ Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____

2nd Boat

Boat name: _____ Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____ Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____