



Dive Vessel Authorization

In Sint Maarten, commercial or private entities seeking use of dive moorings and/or access to the Man of War Shoal Marine Park, a marine protected area (MPA), must register with the managing authority of the site and all its buoys, the Nature Foundation Sint Maarten (the "Foundation"). This involves agreeing to regulations associated with their use, registering each and any vessels used, and paying dive tag fees [at sintmaarten.reefsupport.org](https://sintmaarten.reefsupport.org). Funds generated through these means are used for the maintenance of dive moorings and patrols of the MPA.

Regulations

Mooring

1. Vessels utilize dive moorings at their own risk. The Nature Foundation cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to vessels, or personal injuries obtained through the use of dive moorings. Operators assume full responsibility for incidents at sea.
2. Vessels must be tied using a bowline that is fed through the loop of the floating line on the mooring and tied back onto the boat. Do not tie the floating line directly onto your boat. The boat's bow line must be at least as long as your vessel or longer.
3. All vessels are required to have surface support of at least one (1) person capable of safely maneuvering the boat in the event of a mooring failure or other emergency.
4. Vessels must weigh fewer than 30 tons (27.2 tonnes) and measure less than 14 meters (46 feet) in overall length to utilize the mooring.
5. Anchoring anywhere within 50 meters (150 feet) of the mooring is strictly prohibited.
6. Only one boat is allowed on each mooring at a time, for a maximum stay of 2 hours.
7. Mooring use is observed on a first-come, first-served basis.
8. Vessels must display the 'alpha' flag at all times when divers are in the water. Passing boats must operate extremely slowly if approaching within 90 meters (300 feet) of an alpha flag.
9. All boats must adhere to applicable regulations and codes of conduct for boats operating in Sint Maarten with appropriate safety equipment.
10. All vessel operators should expect Nature Foundation staff to approach them at a safe distance at any time and for any reason.

Nature is our future.

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11. Operators are obliged to contact the Nature Foundation upon encountering an at-risk, damaged, or missing mooring so repairs can be made quickly.
12. Vessels must be registered with the Nature Foundation for valid access until the end of the calendar year (e.g. registering in mid-June only permits validity until December). To register for the year, a fee of USD 250 *per vessel* must be paid to the Nature Foundation.

Diving

1. It is prohibited to feed, touch, harass, damage, or remove marine life, dead or alive.
2. Any type of fishing is prohibited within 50 meters (150 feet) of the mooring. The presence of weapons or fishing equipment of any kind are banned from dive sites.
 - i. No exception for legal sling/pole spears, or spearguns with a permit.
 - ii. No exception for lionfish hunting without written permission from the Foundation.
3. Divers are expected to:
 - i. Avoid using gloves, except for holding onto mooring lines or entering wrecks.
 - ii. Maintain buoyancy control and avoid kneeling or standing on the bottom.
 - iii. Secure all gauges so that they cannot get caught on or drag along the bottom.
 - iv. Pass seaward of mooring buoys, and always steer clear of dive vessels.
4. Snorkelers are prohibited from using moorings even with the purchase of a dive tag; only scuba divers and authorized free divers may utilize the dive sites.
5. It is prohibited to place, remove, or move buoys or moorings on any dive site, or within Sint Maarten's territorial waters without authorization from the Foundation.
6. Visitors must purchase a dive tag for each diver at sintmaarten.reefsupport.org. Dive shops can purchase customer day tags in bulk by contacting the Nature Foundation.



Registration

To register, please (1) submit this filled-out packet to info@naturefoundationsxm.org with (2) a photo of the vessel(s) attached, and (3) make your USD 250/vessel payment via wire transfer or cash. If sending via wire transfer, please (4) attach a screenshot of payment confirmation to your email. EUR and XCG are accepted at an exchange rate of 1-1 and 1-1.8, respectively. Note that the registration is only valid from date of registration until the end of that same calendar year, not on a 12-month basis.

Banking information: WIB Bank Account #21899303, Foundation for the Management and Conservation of Nature on SXM.

"By filling out this registration, I signify my understanding of the regulations listed above. As an operator, I and/or any of my authorized captains use the dive moorings at our own risk and will not hold the Nature Foundation responsible for any loss or damage to vessels, or personal injuries to humans. I will follow the mooring and diving guidelines and commit to clearly instructing my guests, customers, staff, and anyone on board to adhere to the abovementioned regulations. If I am a commercial operator, I will purchase dive tags for my customers. I understand that failure to abide by these rules may result in a ban or penalty from any Nature Foundation-managed dive sites or marine protected areas."

Company (if commercial): _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Boat 1 (USD 250)

Boat name: _____ Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____ Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____

(print out next page only if registering additional vessels)



Boat 2 (+ USD 250)

Boat name: _____

Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____

Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____

Boat 3 (+ USD 250)

Boat name: _____

Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____

Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____

Boat 4 (+ USD 250)

Boat name: _____

Color: _____

Boat/tender type: _____

Docked at: _____

Registration number: _____