

## Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Table 1.1. Summary of FGBNMS regulations

<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Exploring for, developing, or producing oil, gas, or minerals within a NAZ. <b>Exceptions:</b> Oil, gas, or mineral exploration, development, or production is permitted outside of NAZs provided all drilling cuttings and drilling fluids are shunted to the seabed through a downpipe that terminates an appropriate distance, but no more than ten meters, from the seabed, unless such discharge injures a Sanctuary resource or quality.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Anchoring any vessel within the sanctuary.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Mooring a vessel over 100 feet (in registered length) on a sanctuary mooring buoy.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Mooring a vessel in the Sanctuary without clearly displaying the blue and white International Code flag "A" ("alpha" dive flag) or the red and white "sports diver" flag whenever a SCUBA diver from that vessel is in the water and removing the "alpha" dive flag or "sports diver" flag after all SCUBA divers exit the water and return back on board the vessel.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Discharging or depositing any material or other matter in or into the sanctuary. <b>Exceptions:</b> 1) Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used while fishing with conventional hook and line gear within the sanctuary; 2) clean effluent from an operable Type I or II marine sanitation device (MSD) (vessel operators are required to lock all MSDs in a manner that prevents discharge or deposit of untreated sewage); 3) clean water generated by routine vessel operations (e.g. cooling water, deck wash down, anchor wash, and bilge water) excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping; 4) engine exhaust.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Taking any marine mammal or turtle within the sanctuary.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Killing, injuring, attracting, touching, or disturbing rays or whale sharks. <b>Exceptions:</b> Incidental catch by conventional hook and line gear.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Injury to or possession of sanctuary resources: Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate (e.g., spiny lobster, queen conch, shell, sea urchin), brine-seep biota or carbonate rock; possessing within the sanctuary (regardless of where collected, caught, harvested or removed), any carbonate rock, coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear); drilling into, dredging or otherwise altering the seabed of the sanctuary; or constructing, placing or abandoning any structure, material or other matter on the seabed of the sanctuary.
<b>Prohibited Activity:</b> Fishing and related activities: injuring, catching, harvesting, collecting or feeding, or attempting to injure, catch, harvest, collect or feed, any fish within the sanctuary by use of any gear, device, equipment or means (e.g. spear guns, nets); possessing (except while passing through the sanctuary without interruption) any fishing gear, device, equipment or means; possessing, or using explosives or releasing electrical charges within the sanctuary. <b>Exceptions:</b> Use of conventional hook and line gear.
<b>General Exception:</b> Oil or gas exploration or development. Prohibitions on anchoring within the sanctuary, drilling or altering the seabed, and using explosives do not apply to necessary activities conducted in areas of the Sanctuary outside NAZs and incidental to exploration for, development of, or production of oil or gas in those areas.
<b>General Exception:</b> Activities necessary to respond to emergencies threatening life, property, or the environment.
<b>General Exception:</b> Activities being carried out by the Department of Defense (DoD).
<b>General Exception:</b> Activities executed in accordance with the scope, purpose, terms, and conditions of a National Marine Sanctuary permit or a Special Use permit.
<b>General Exception:</b> Activities authorized by any lease, permit, license, approval or other authorization provided that the applicant complies with ONMS requirements for notification and review and the applicant complies with any terms and conditions the ONMS deems necessary to protect Sanctuary resources and qualities.