
Public Announcement from Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

New management plan allowing weighted marker buoys promotes safe diving practices in Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary – Effective 8\18\2014

NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary published a final rule and environmental assessment today which now permits the use of weighted marker buoys in the sanctuary, an important safety measure for recreational diving and an enhancement for recreational fishing.



While sanctuary regulations prohibit the placement of any material on the seafloor, which previously included weights to mark locations during recreational diving or fishing, the exemption now allows for weighted marker buoys

- Weighing up to 10 pounds
- Maximum of 1¼ inch buoy line
- Continuously tended by divers and fishers
- Cannot be attached to a vessel
- Cannot be capable of holding a boat at anchor
- Must be removed within 12 hours

Weighted marker buoys are intended to increase diver safety and to help recreational anglers mark and relocate a fishing spot as their boat drifts.

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