

## Regulations Detail

Regulations represent the detailed implementation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) in the protection and conservation of sanctuary resources. Upon designation of a sanctuary or during a management plan review, site-specific regulations are issued that restrict a narrow range of activities, because an activity has already been found to be incompatible with the primary mandate of resource protection or is a proactive step necessary for the protection of a specific resource. This may occur after a sanctuary has been in operation for several years and either a new issue is identified that did not exist prior to the sanctuary's designation, or new information about an existing activity reveals it is incompatible with resource protection or is resulting in user conflict. Existing regulations can also be revised and under certain circumstances, emergency regulations can be issued. Although the Gray's Reef NMS would generally seek non-regulatory means to address an issue, circumstances may warrant the issuance of a new regulation.

### Gray's Reef NMS Regulations Effective February 16, 2007

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Boundary.

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) consists of approximately 16.68 square nautical miles of ocean waters and the submerged lands thereunder, off the coast of Georgia. The Sanctuary boundary includes all waters and submerged lands within the geodetic lines connecting the following coordinates:

Datum: NAD83

Geographic Coordinate System

- (1) N 31.362732 degrees W 80.921200 degrees
- (2) N 31.421064 degrees W 80.921201 degrees
- (3) N 31.421064 degrees W 80.828145 degrees
- (4) N 31.362732 degrees W 80.828145 degrees
- (5) N 31.362732 degrees W 80.921200 degrees

Definitions.

In addition to those definitions found at § 922.3, the following definitions apply to this subpart:

*Handline* means fishing gear that is set and pulled by hand and consists of one vertical line to which may be attached leader lines with hooks.

*Rod and reel* means a rod and reel unit that is not attached to a vessel, or, if attached, is readily removable, from which a line and attached hook(s) are deployed. The line is payed out from and retrieved on the reel manually or electrically.

*Stowed and not available for immediate use* means not readily accessible for immediate use, *e.g.*, by being securely covered and lashed to a deck or bulkhead, tied down, unbaited, unloaded, partially disassembled, or stowed for transit.

Prohibited or otherwise regulated activities.

(a) Except as may be necessary for national defense (subject to the terms and conditions of Article 5, Section 2 of the Designation Document) or to respond to an emergency threatening life, property, or the environment, or except as may be permitted by the Director in accordance with § 922.48 and § 922.93, the following activities are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted within the Sanctuary:

(1) Dredging, drilling into, or otherwise altering in any way the submerged lands of the Sanctuary (including bottom formations).

(2) Constructing any structure other than a navigation aid, or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the submerged lands of the Sanctuary.

(3) Discharging or depositing any material or other matter except:

(i) Fish or fish parts, bait, or chumming materials;

(ii) Effluent from marine sanitation devices; and

(iii) Vessel cooling water.

(4) Operating a watercraft other than in accordance with the Federal rules and regulations that would apply if there were no Sanctuary.

(5)(i) Injuring, catching, harvesting, or collecting, or attempting to injure, catch, harvest, or collect, any marine organism, or any part thereof, living or dead, within the Sanctuary by any means except by use of rod and reel, handline, or spearfishing gear without powerheads.

(ii) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any marine organism or part thereof referenced in this paragraph found in the possession of a person within the Sanctuary has been collected from the Sanctuary.

(6) Except for possessing fishing gear stowed and not available for immediate use, possessing or using within the Sanctuary any fishing gear or means except rod and reel, handline, or spearfishing gear without powerheads.

(7) Using underwater any explosives, or devices that produce electric charges underwater.

(8) Breaking, cutting, damaging, taking, or removing any bottom formation.

(9) Moving, removing, damaging, or possessing, or attempting to move, remove, damage, or possess, any Sanctuary historical resource.

(10) Anchoring any vessel in the Sanctuary, except as provided in § 922.92 when responding to an emergency threatening life, property, or the environment.

(b) All activities currently carried out by the Department of Defense within the Sanctuary are essential for the national defense and, therefore, not subject to the prohibitions in this section. The exemption of additional activities having significant impacts shall be determined in consultation between the Director and the Department of Defense.