

**"It's  
my  
choice"**

Before you set out, take time to study the recommendations on safe navigation, as well as the basic information on protecting the environment. When you cruise into the island paradise of your dreams, remember that it is coral that makes your dreams a reality, so spare a thought for coral reefs and take steps to protect them... It's really easy.

First, identify the sensitive sites, the prohibited and authorised anchoring areas, and the facilities for collecting waste, sewage and spent oil.



Anchoring is prohibited: this symbol indicates a protected area of natural interest and risk for animals living on the seabed.

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Mooring buoys for visitors. You will find them in places where anchorage is prohibited.

You are in a marine protected area. Increased vigilance is required: minimal pollution, anchoring precautions, etc.



This sign indicates the presence of a container for spent oil from boats.



Watch out for divers! Steer clear of boats flying this flag and be on the lookout for bubbles on the surface in order to avoid injuring divers.

[www.uneptie.org](http://www.uneptie.org)  
[www.icriforum.org](http://www.icriforum.org)



ICRI



A special thanks to Jack Grove for his photographic support - [www.jsgrove.com](http://www.jsgrove.com)

## You too can help to protect the coral reefs. All you have to do is remember a few simple guidelines...

- **Avoid damage caused by careless anchoring: this is not difficult!**

- Make sure that you have an anchor of appropriate size and a sufficiently long chain.
- Anchor only in sandy areas. Never drop anchor on a coral reef or a bed of seagrass, or moor your boat to mangrove trees.
- Do not drag your anchor over a poor holding ground.

- **Mooring regulations and fees may vary from one place to another. Make enquiries...**

- **For reasons of safety, always run a check when you tie up to a mooring point (a buoy).**

Give yourself more room for manoeuvre by passing a mooring rope about half the length of your boat through the eye of the buoy and secure both ends to a cleat on the deck.

- **All marinas provide waste containers. Remember to use them!**

Make sure that nobody on board throws any waste into the sea. Get rid of superfluous packaging before you set out, and buy goods in bulk. Crush empty cans before throwing them away. This will reduce the volume of waste.

- **To sea turtles and other animals, plastic bags look very much like the jellyfish they love to eat. But if they try to swallow the plastic, it is likely to kill them!**

### To avoid this:

- Keep all plastic objects in a safe place on board.
- Pick up damaged fishing nets or lines cut away from propellers. Do not leave them in the sea. They too could harm the marine wildlife.
- Make sure nobody uses lightweight plastic or styrofoam objects on the deck: a gust of wind could blow them into the sea.

- **Avoid discharging toilets or sewage holding tanks in confined or crowded places, environmentally sensitive areas or marine protected areas.**

- **Non-toxic oils are available and should be used wherever possible.**

To dispose of your waste oil, wait until you get to a marina. A specific receptacle will always be provided.

- **Avoid pumping oily bilge water into the sea, particularly when you are near a coral reef.**

Unless the boat is in danger, wait. Avoid using detergents or emulsifiers as bilge cleaners.

- **If you use a two-stroke outboard engine, opt for alkylate petrol.**

- **Refuel only at dock or in the marina. You never know...**

if you fill up at sea, you could spill fuel into the water.

You can also help to make other crew members and passengers more aware of these issues. Simply explain what they can do to protect the coral reefs.  
Now you know how...

