

Fishing Regulations for The Bahamas

- Each vessel shall use not more than six (6) rods or reels unless the operator is in possession of a permit authorizing the use of more rods or reels;
- Vessels with a valid fishing permit are allowed 20 pounds of scale fish, 10 conch, and six crawfish (in season) per person, at any time.
- All other migratory fish shall be returned to the sea alive unless it is to be used immediately.
- No grouper or rockfish weighing less than three pounds may be taken.
- No spearfishing within 200 yards of any island in the Bahamas.
- It is illegal to use any type of underwater air supply for spear fishing or collecting of any marine life. This includes scuba gear as well as air compressors.
- Spearfishing is restricted to free divers only and only with the use of a Hawaiian sling.
- It is illegal to take coral, tropical fish or sea fans.
- It is illegal for a non-Bahamian to use any type of fishing net, except a cast net.
- It is illegal for a non-Bahamian to use fish traps or to sell marine products of any type.
- Nothing may be taken from Bahamas National Underwater Parks.
- A person shall fish by the traditional method of angling with a hook or lure attached to a line held in the hand or attached to a pole, rod or reel;
- A person, unless otherwise authorized by the respective permit, shall not use a spear, a fish trap, or a net other than a landing net;
- Any migratory fishery resource that is caught shall not in total consist of more than six (6) Kingfish, Dolphin, Tuna or Wahoo per vessel and any resource not intended to be used shall not be injured unnecessarily but be returned to the sea alive;
- No vessel shall have on board any conch, turtle or more than twenty pounds of any demersal fishery resources (groupers, snappers, etc.) per vessel at any time and excluding not more than six crawfish per vessel.
- No vessel shall have on board any fish unless its head and tail is intact.
- The general public is advised that the Queen Conch (conch) is considered to be an endangered species throughout much of its range within the wider Caribbean area, including The Bahamas. The Government, in an effort to ensure the continued sustainability of local conch stocks, has decided to prohibit the harvesting of the species by foreign boaters.

For more information, contact:

Department of Marine Resources
Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources
P.O. Box N-3028
Nassau, The Bahamas
Email: fisheries@bahamas.gov.bs

Fishing Regulations Updated 4/2014

To protect the marine environment, possession of spear guns and spear fishing using scuba gear are illegal in The Bahamas, although free diving with a Hawaiian sling is permitted.

Permits - Permits can be obtained from Customs officials at ports of entry. Fishing gear is restricted to hook and line and you may not fish with more than six rods at a time.

Bag limits

Lobster or Crawfish: Six tails per person, at any time. Annual closed season is 1 April to 31 July. Minimum size limits are 3 3/8" carapace length or 6" tail length. Egg-bearing female crawfish are protected.

Conch

Harvesting and possession of conch without a well-formed lip is prohibited. Bag limit at any time is 10 per vessel.

Wahoo/Dolphin/Kingfish

Six fish per person, in any combination.

Stone Crabs

Closed season is 1 June to 15 October. Minimum harvestable claw is 4". Harvesting of females is prohibited.

Turtle

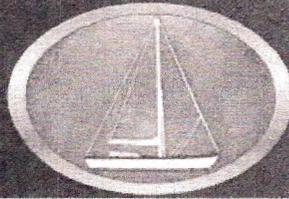
Illegal to import although legal to eat in The Islands of The Bahamas.

Spearfishing

A Hawaiian sling is the only approved spearfishing device. Use of scuba gear or an air compressor to harvest fish, conch, crawfish and other marine animals is prohibited. Spearfishing is not allowed within 1.6 km off the coast of New Providence, within 1.6 km off the south coast of Freeport or Grand Bahama Island, or within 200 yards off the coast of all the Out Islands. Spearing or taking marine animals by any means is prohibited within national sea parks.

Vessel bag limit

20 pounds of scalefish, 10 conchs and 6 crawfish per person may be exported from The Islands of The Bahamas. Closed season on grouper from Dec-Mar.



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CRUISING THE ABACOS IN THE BAHAMAS

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Why the Bahamas

- The weather
- The passage from the East Coast
- What you need to take with you:
 - 1.) Ships papers
 - 2.) Passports for all crew
 - 3.) Visas perhaps for other countries
 - 4.) Yellow Q. Flag for Quarantine
 - 5.) Bahamian Courtesy Flag
 - 6.) \$150 for 30 feet and under
 - 7.) \$300 for 30 feet and over
 - 8.) Lots of suntan lotion
 - 9.) Lots of sun protective clothing, hats, skins, gloves, sunglasses
 - 10.) Comfortable mask, snorkel, and flippers
 - 11.) Hawaiian sling
 - 12.) Hand held depth sounder
 - 13.) Good fast and big tender
 - 14.) Easy to use boarding ladder
 - 15.) Bimini top, dodger, awnings, sun shades for cockpit
 - 16.) Jerry cans
 - 17.) Cruising Guides, Explorer, Steve Dodge's Guide to Abacos, NV
Chart books
 - 18.) Water catchment system
 - 19.) Look bucket
 - 20.) Comfortable, easy-to-dry clothing

Crossing the Gulfstream

Checking in to a Port of Entry

Suggested Route Around Abacos

- Check in West End
- Mangrove Cay
- Great Sale Cay
- Double Breasted Cay
- Grand Cays
- Allen's Pensacola
- Moraine Cay

- Spanish Cay
- Powell Cay
- Manjack Cay
- Green Turtle Cay (Treasure Cay Airport)
- Great Guana Cay
- Foul Cays
- Man-O-War Cay
- Hopetown
- Marsh Harbor
- Tilloo Bank
- Pelican Cays
- Sandy Cay
- Lynyards Cay
- Little Harbor
- Bight of Old Robinson
- Out Little Harbor Bar
- Down to Hole in the Wall
- Back to Florida via:
 - a.) Great Stirrup
 - b.) North Rock
 - c.) Bimini
 - d.) Port Everglades

Checking in with Customs and Immigration in Florida

Good 360 degree protected harbors

- Grand Cays
- Green Turtle Cay
- Treasure Cay
- Man-O-War Cay
- Hopetown
- Marsh Harbor
- Little Harbor

Navigation Hints

- Waypoint problems
- Fish Muds
- Visibility land and water depth

People to visit

- Homesteaders on Manjack Cay
- Molly at Green Turtle Cay Marina
- Jay and Jan Manni Man-O-War Cay at Edwin's Boat Yard
- Chris and Tommy Albury Man-O-War Marine and Fanny
- Lola the cinnamon bun and bread lady MOW
- Rudy at Club Soleil Hopetown
- Vernon's Grocery Store Hopetown
- Gregory, Richard, Pete at Pete's Pub Little Harbor

Have a BLAST because it is BETTER IN THE BAHAMAS!!!

Customs Information - Bahamas and U.S.

CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION FOR BAHAMAS AND US

ENTERING THE BAHAMAS

The policy for vessels clearing into the Bahamas is as follows: A pleasure vessel arriving in the Bahamas shall be subject to a fee of \$150 for boats under 35' and \$300 for boats over 35'. This covers the cost of an initial-entry **cruising permit**, plus a **return visit** within ninety (90) days; a vessel would be exempted from additional fees within that 90-day period, except for transportation fees if officers have to come to your boat a second time in 90 days. This also covers a three-month **fishing permit** and any **attendant fees** payable to a Customs Officer, as well as any **overtime and travel** costs required for the attendance of an Immigration Officer (no transportation charges when clearing at a government dock), plus the \$25 departure tax should you need to fly home. (Bring a copy of your cruising permit to the airport.) Each additional person over three persons will be charged \$25. No charge for children under 6 years old. There should be no overtime, holiday, or transportation charges above this *initial* clearing-in fee, though charges might be made for the second entry within 90 days. Ask for a receipt, get the name of the officer, and call Customs (302-3509) or Immigration at Prince George's Dock (323-3330) in Nassau if you have any problems. You may want to call Customs before you cross the Gulf Stream into the Bahamas to verify fees. Crew members arriving by air and departing by boat should purchase roundtrip tickets. **FEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

BAHAMIAN PORTS OF ENTRY

- THE ABACOS: Green Turtle Cay, Marsh Harbour, Spanish Cay, Treasure Cay, or Walker's Cay
- ACKLINS: Spring Point (Commissioner only)
- ANDROS: Congo Town, Fresh Creek, Mangrove Cay, or Morgan's Bluff
- THE BERRYS: Chub or Great Harbour Cays
- BIMINI: Alice Town or South Bimini
- CAT CAY: Club Marina
- CAT ISLAND: Arthurs Town, Smith Bay, New Bight, or Hawks Nest
- CROOKED ISLAND: Colonel Hill
- ELEUTHERA: North Eleuthera Airport, Governor's Harbour, Harbour Island, Rock Sound, or Spanish Wells
- THE EXUMAS: George Town and Emerald Bay Marina
- GRAND BAHAMA: Freeport Harbour, Grand Bahama Yacht Club, and Port Lucaya; Old Bahama Bay at West End
- INAGUA: Matthew Town
- LONG ISLAND: Stella Maris, Deadmans Cay Airport, or Clarence Town
- MAYAGUANA: Abraham's Bay (Commissioner only)
- NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE: Any marina

- SAN SALVADOR: Cockburn Town

WHAT TO DO

- Hoist the yellow quarantine flag near a port of entry.
- Report to a Customs and Immigration facility as soon as possible upon entering Bahamian waters.
- Only the captain may go ashore to clear Customs. No others are allowed off the boat until the vessel is cleared.
- The captain should have the following information ready for officials: ship's documentation/registration, passports for all persons aboard, pet import permit, and firearms information (make, model, serial number and number of rounds or ammunition—don't take weapon).
- Treat officials with respect; follow their instructions.
Be courteous and neatly dressed. Officers may limit the stay of anyone deemed a security threat or who may be seeking to take the jobs of Bahamians.
- After receiving your cruising permit, take down your "Q" flag and hoist your Bahamian courtesy flag (cruising pennant).

IMMIGRATION NOTES

There is no evenly applied policy for Bahamas Immigration in terms of length of stay granted to persons on cruising boats. A wide diversity exists at various Ports of Entry. The statutory regulations allow all persons a stay of 3 months with a maximum of 8 months, as deemed appropriate by the clearing officer; however, that is a courtesy, not a guarantee, and it does not apply to all nationalities. Sometimes, less time is granted. You **may** be asked to present a Visa in order to stay longer than 3 months, but not necessarily. The Visa would have to be secured from your Embassy at home or in Nassau or from the Bahamas Embassy in Miami. See our *Bahamas Chatter* for updates at <http://chatter.explorercharts.com>.

Yachtsmen who are given less time than they desire can apply for an extension if they come in to an office a couple of days before their permit expires, or on the expiration date. Arrangements can be made for extenuating circumstances, such as weather preventing arrival at a Port of Entry on the due date. If you have any problems, 1) Ask to speak to the Immigration Officer's supervisor (if there is one), 2) Call Immigration Nassau **323-3330** or Exuma **225-1349**. Renew and extend your immigration card at an Immigration office where you are near the time of expiration.

The best places to clear in, as far as getting a longer stay, are locations with both a Customs Officer and an Immigration Officer, such as Nassau, Bimini, West End, Port Lucaya, and Marsh Harbour. Judgments are made by individual case and are still "at the whim of the officer."

FIREARMS

Bahamian law permits firearms on your vessel as part of your ship's equipment. They must remain aboard in a secure compartment. In the event of your being boarded by Customs or the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the information on your cruising permit will be checked carefully against your actual supply. Ammunition must match the number on the cruising permit. In case of an emergency departure by air, you must leave your firearm(s) with local Bahamian Police or Customs. It will be returned when you present your receipt.

PETS

If you wish to bring a pet aboard when cruising the Bahamas, secure a permit before you leave home. An application will be sent to you if you write to: Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box N-3704, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas. You may expedite the process

by calling 325-7413/7509 or faxing 325-3960 or go in person to the office on East and Bay Streets, Nassau, opposite the Shell station. Expect to pay a \$10 fee. Send Postal Money Order made payable to the Public Treasury. Do not send a US dollars check or cash with your application. To receive your certificate by fax, include an extra \$5 and your fax number. In addition, you will need a health certificate for your pet from your veterinarian to present to the Customs officials when you clear in.

FISHING LICENSE

At the time of clearing Customs, you will have an opportunity to obtain a fishing license as part of the fee. If you intend to troll or spearfish (fishing with SCUBA equipment or speargun is illegal), ask for a fishing endorsement. Details of fishing regulations are on the permit.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

When leaving home, make sure you have three flags for cruising in the Bahamas—your country's flag, a yellow quarantine flag, and the Bahamian courtesy flag.

Your vessel's temporary cruising permit is for one year from date of entry. It may be renewed for up to two additional years by written application to Bahamas Customs, Nassau, prior to expiration and with payment of \$500 per year. To leave your boat in the Bahamas permanently, you must pay an import duty of 10% for vessels of any size.

At your first opportunity, make copies of your cruising permit. If you need to fly home, you will need a copy of your permit, as well as your passport, to present to your airline and Bahamas Immigration when you reenter the Bahamas. Leave the original on the boat.

As of December 2013, cruising visitors with a valid Bahamas Temporary Cruising Permit are still allowed to import boat repair/replacements parts for engines DUTY FREE. In addition, there is a 10% duty on printed matter and original artwork. This policy is subject to change. Call Bahamas Entry Checking in Nassau Harbour Office at 322-8791 to get the up-to-date policy.

EXITING BAHAMAS/ENTERING U.S.

It is not necessary to clear out of the Bahamas when going farther south or entering the U.S. When entering the States, you must clear in with U.S. Customs. You can make an appointment for an interview with one of the Ports of Entry below to appear in person and pre-register under the "Local Boater Option" before you go to the Bahamas. You will need passports, vessel information, names and dates of birth, last port of call, purchases. After an interview, a free pleasure boat registration number will be assigned. The most convenient ICW location is Riviera Beach, Florida M-F, 8-4, One East 11th Street, (561) 848-6922.

When you return to the U.S., call the appropriate number. You may be asked to appear personally at the nearest Immigration Office. Be prepared to leave your boat and get a ride there if necessary. However, by choosing the Local Boater Option, your chances are greater that you will not have to report in person to clear in when you return from the Bahamas. You may be able to clear in over the phone.

Non-U.S. recreational vessels must submit a Notice of Arrival. See <https://enoad.mvmc.uscg.gov> or call 800-708-9823/304-264-2502.

If you are clearing back in to the U.S. anywhere from the Sebastian Inlet south down the east coast of Florida, including Ft. Pierce, Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami and on through the Keys to Key West and as far north on the west coast as Ft. Myers, the correct phone numbers are 800-432-1216 or 800-451-0393. If the number keeps ringing and is not answered or if you are put on hold for longer than 20 minutes, call back the next day. The least busy times to call are during business hours on weekdays. Weekends and evenings are busier times for U.S. Customs so you may have to wait longer. Once you clear Customs, you will likely be asked to call Immigration as well.

Numbers for clearing in at other locations in Florida:

Fernandina Beach 904-261-6154

Ft. Myers 239-561-6205

Jacksonville (St. Augustine) 904-360-5020

Naples City Dock, 880 12 Ave. S

Panama City 850-785-4688

Pensacola 904-432-6811

Pt. Canaveral 321-783-2066 x2 (24 hrs)

West Palm Beach 561-844-1703 x249

Pt. Manatee 941-729-9301

St. Petersburg 727-536-7311 (24 hrs)

Tampa 813-228-2385 x119 (24 hrs)

Miami 305-536-4758

Pt. Everglades 954-761-2000

Key West 305-296-5411

U.S. vessels of 30+ ft. must display a Customs User Fee Decal and be prepared to give the decal number when clearing back in to the States. The new Decal and Transponder Online Procurement System (DTOPS) replaces the previous online system. To procure your Decal, go to <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov>. > Sign in with your DTOPS user name and password or register under New DTOPS User. > You can print an application online for a mail-in registration, call, or email to have one sent to you. For technical assistance, call **317-298-1245** or e-mail decals@dhs.gov. Check the website for updated information before you leave.

Passports Required for Air Travel to United States as of January 23, 2007

The Departments of State and Homeland Security requires citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere.

This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which Congress subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. These new travel document requirements make up the Departments' Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). In order to obtain national security benefits as quickly as possible, and to expedite the processing of arriving passengers, the plan will be implemented in two phases.

Regulations are published can be viewed at www.regulations.gov. That rule is also available on the Department's consular web site, travel.state.gov and on the Department of Homeland Security's web site, www.dhs.gov.

BAHAMAS CUSTOMS

Nassau, The Bahamas

Medical Officer

MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH Appendix 5

(To be tendered by Master of Ships arriving from Ports outside the territory.)

Port of _____ Date _____
Name of Ship _____ From _____
Nationality _____ Master's Name _____
Net Registered Ton _____ Certificate _____ Date _____
Derating Exemption _____ Issued at _____
No. of Passengers _____ Cabin _____ No. of Crew _____
Deck _____

List of Ports of Call from commencement of voyage with dates of departure.

HEALTH QUESTIONS (Answer Yes or No)

Has there been on board during the voyage* any case or suspected case of plague, cholera, yellow fever or small pox? _____

Has plague occurred or been suspected among rats or mice on board during the voyage* or has there been an unusual mortality among them? _____

Has any person died on board during the voyage* otherwise than as a result of accident? Give particulars in Schedule. _____

Is there on board during the voyage* any case of illness which you suspect to be of an infectious nature? Give particulars in Schedule. _____

NOTE: In the absence of a surgeon, the Master should regard the following symptoms as grounds for suspecting the existence of infectious diseases; fever, accompanied by prostration or persisting for several days, or attended with glandular swelling or any acute skin rash or eruption without fever, severe diarrhoea with symptoms or collapse; jaundice accompanied by fever.

Are you aware of any other conditions on board which may lead to infectious disease? _____

I HEREBY DECLARE that the particulars and answers to the questions given in this DECLARATION OF HEALTH (including the Schedule) are true and correct to be best of my knowledge and belief.

I/WE _____ SIGNED _____
MASTER

COUNTERSIGNED _____

* If more than six (6) weeks have elapsed since the voyage began, it will suffice to give particulars for the last six (6) weeks.

(Over)

BAHAMAS CUSTOMS CLEARANCE



CLEARANCE: INBOUND OUTBOUND SIGHTING ONLY ROTATION REF:

VESSEL NAME: REGISTRATION #:

OWNER: ADDRESS:

DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL: AT HRS. INTENDED DEPARTURE DATE:

PORT OF ARRIVAL: PURPOSE OF VISIT:

PREVIOUS PORT: PREVIOUS COUNTRY:

NEXT PORT: NEXT COUNTRY:

CONTACT TELEPHONE: GPS:

TYPE OF VESSEL: COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION:

HOME PORT: HULL MATERIAL/COLOUR:

YEAR BUILT: GROSS TONNAGE: HOW MANY MASTS?:

VESSEL'S TOTAL LENGTH: ft./m WIDTH: ft./m

OUTBOARD MOTOR: HOW MANY? → BRAND: → HP:

INBOARD ENGINE: HOW MANY? → BRAND: → HP:

CREW & PASSENGER LIST

Family Name	First Name	Master [M] Crew [C] Passenger [P]	Nationality	Date of Birth DD/MM/YY	Passport #
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

DO YOU HAVE WEAPONS ON BOARD? YES NO IF YES, PROVIDE DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Type (eg. Pistol)	Manufacturer	Serial No.	Calibre & Qty. Ammunition

I hereby declare that all information and particulars supplied on this form are true and correct:

SIGNED: (MASTER) DATE: / /

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS:

DATE TO RCS 2000: OFFICER PROCESSING:

BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT Inward Report — Pleasure Vessels

- Note 1— This modified form of report under the Customs Regulations is applicable only to pleasure vessels engaged in a voyage for recreation, sporting or pleasure purposes only. Masters of vessels carrying cargo must complete an Inward Report in Form No. C2.
- Note 2— If the proper officer is satisfied that the Inward Report of a foreign pleasure vessel on this form is in order, he may issue a Temporary Cruising Permit (Form No. C39) for use while the vessel is in The Bahamas.
- Note 3— If the foreign pleasure vessel does not clear outwards, the Temporary Cruising Permit (Form No. C39) must be sent by the most expeditious means to the Comptroller of Customs, P.O. Box 155, Nassau, The Bahamas from the first foreign port of call after leaving The Bahamas.
- Note 4— Part C of this form is to be completed only in respect of pleasure vessels which have been entered for home use in The Bahamas. Evidence of duty payment or other customs clearance must be produced.

A.	Port of _____	Date _____	
	(1) Name of Vessel _____	Nationality _____	
	(2) Document No./Registration No. _____	Master's Name _____	
	(3) Port of Departure _____		
B.	Crew and Passenger Report		
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Nationality</i>
	(1) _____	_____	_____
	(2) _____	_____	_____
	(3) _____	_____	_____
	(4) _____	_____	_____
	(5) _____	_____	_____
	(6) _____	_____	_____
	2. Stores on Board _____		
	3. List of Arms and Ammunition _____		

C.	Domestic Based Pleasure Vessels Only		
	(1) Port of Departure _____	Date _____	
	(2) Reference to Customs Entry on which duty was paid or exemption granted:		
	No. _____	Date _____	
	(3) Purposes of Trip Abroad _____		
	(4) Repairs, renovations, accessories and/or goods purchased while abroad _____		
	(5) Any other charges incurred by or alterations made to vessel while abroad _____		

I declare that the particulars in this report of my vessel and her lading are true and complete, that there are no goods on board other than the *bona fide* baggage of the crew and passengers and the stores, arms and ammunition declared above and that no goods have been delivered from the vessel since her departure from _____
(Last Foreign Place of Departure)

* I further declare that I am not ordinarily resident in The Bahamas and that the vessel while in The Bahamas will not be used for commercial purposes or for hire and that the vessel will depart from The Bahamas within six months of arrival.

In the presence of _____ Signed and declared this _____ day of _____

Proper Officer Signature of Master

* Delete in the case of vessels, duty paid or otherwise entered for home use in The Bahamas.