

# Palm Beach County Mooring Buoy Program

## BREAKER'S SHALLOW REEF SITE

### The Problem

- Palm Beach County's reefs have been and continue to be damaged by boat anchoring.
- When deployed, boat anchors can damage reefs by crushing and killing marine life living on the reef.
- Continuous anchoring on a reef may prevent it from being able to recover.

### The Solution

- Create a system that will allow boaters, divers, and fishermen to moor their vessels to buoys instead of dropping anchors on the reef.

### Project Location

- One-quarter mile offshore adjacent to the Breaker's Hotel in Palm Beach.
- Buoys are centered around 26°42.86' N, -80°01.82' W.

### Benefits

- Reduce damage caused by anchors to the benthic resources of reefs.
- Provide the reefs time to recover from previous damage.
- Additional buoy installations are planned throughout the County when funding becomes available.

### Breaker's Reef Buoy Locations



Photo Credit: Steve Anton

### Marine Life on Near Shore Reef



Photo Credit: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

### Proper Mooring Technique

#### PROPER BUOY MOORING STEPS:

1. Approach the buoy from down wind or current.
2. Retrieve the pick-up line with your boat hook.
3. Pass your bow-line through the eye of the pick-up line. Put out extra scope and cleat your bow-line off securely.
4. **NEVER** tie your boat directly to the mooring buoy pick-up line as you may damage your boat and place too much strain on the mooring.

#### • Wildlife Foundation of Florida (WFF) Endowment Fund

Established for long term maintenance and monitoring of PBC's mooring buoys. For more information or to donate to the fund, contact WFF at 1-800-988-4889 or visit <http://www.wildlifefoundationofflora.com/>

### Project Overview

- Installed 12 stainless steel u-shaped anchor pins in 24-inch deep by 2-inch wide holes along the ocean floor in depths ranging from 12 feet to 20 feet.
- Attached mooring buoys to 6 of the 12 anchor pins so that only half of the pins on the natural reef are used at any one time.
- Buoys will be regularly rotated to different pins to reduce extended periods of stress on areas of reef due to the moorings.
- There is no fee, and overnight docking is not allowed.
- Each buoy is designed to handle only one boat.
- Monitoring will be conducted to record usage of the buoys and to assess if any damage occurs after installation of the buoys.

### Project Partners

Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Palm Beach County Reef Research Team, Breaker's Hotel



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