

## INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE MARINE LEISURE

# WHAT CAN WE START WITH NOW TO PROTECT CORAL REEFS?

AWARENESS MATTERS IN KEEPING CORAL REEFS BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

### DIVE SHOP USER EDUCATION

Users should carefully listen and follow what shops explain below.

- No walking where corals grow nor kicking corals with fins.
- No littering. Support or participate in beach cleanups.



No-contact swimming



Supporting beach cleanups

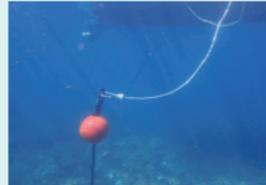
### CHOOSING CORAL-FRIENDLY MARINE LEISURE SHOPS

Diving shops should exercise caution when anchoring boats.

- Using dedicated buoys for securing a boat.
- Inspecting the seabed before anchoring a boat to avoid damaging corals.



No anchoring on corals



Use of reef-fixed mooring buoys

KNOW HOW MARINE LEISURE CAN AFFECT CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS.

### SUN PROTECTION WITH MINIMAL RISK TO CORAL

Many details about the effects of sunscreen chemicals remain unclear. Wearing clothing like rash guards and hats is one of the recommended ways to reduce risk to corals while protecting your skin.



### OBSERVING MARINE LIFE, NOT FEEDING THEM

Artificial feeding can alter fish feeding habits and behavior, causing biodiversity reduction and disrupt ecosystem balance. The international diving guidelines of Green Fins also prohibit feeding.

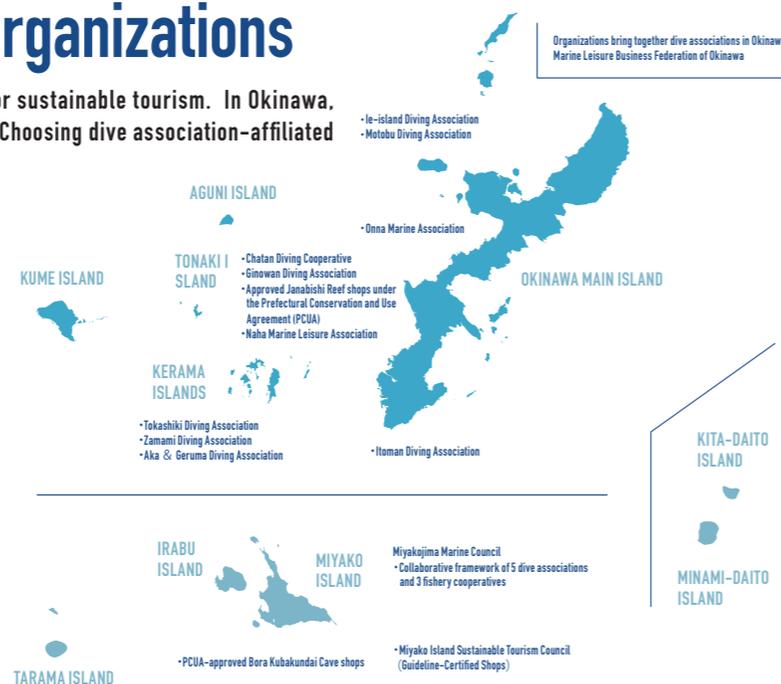


PARTNERSHIPS AMONG DIVE SHOPS SUPPORT LOCALLY ROOTED MARINE LEISURE.

## Map of Marine Leisure Organizations

Considering the natural and local environment is essential for sustainable tourism. In Okinawa, marine leisure operators collaborate with local communities. Choosing dive association-affiliated organizations benefits the environment and local areas.

\*This list mainly features organizations of dive shops and similar businesses, while other types of marine leisure organizations are in the area.



Organizations bring together dive associations in Okinawa. Marine Leisure Business Federation of Okinawa



### HOMEPAGE ACCESS

Okinawa Prefecture Sustainable Marine Leisure Website  
<https://mbf.okinawa/reef-conservation-en/>

## SUSTAINABLE MARINE LEISURE

# OUR ROLE IN MARINE LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Coral reefs nurture an abundance of marine life,

but are in a critical state due to threats including large-scale bleaching events.

Each of us can take small actions to help ensure that marine leisure activities

can be enjoyed for years to come.

Why not learn how to get involved in coral reef conservation?

Roughly 30% of tourists visiting Okinawa come for marine leisure activities like scuba diving. Increased tourism has resulted in more reports of coral damage due to improper use of popular snorkeling and diving sites. Irresponsible littering is also having an adverse impact on corals and reef dwellers.

## CORAL-FRIENDLY MARINE LEISURE ACTION



You must not litter. Especially plastics are hard to decompose and can become microplastics.



You must not touch, kick, or step on corals. Use caution in shallow coral reef areas.



Dive boat operators must exercise caution when anchoring to avoid damage to corals. Users should choose diving shops that take mooring into consideration.

This leaflet is provided by the Department of Environmental Affairs, Okinawa Prefecture.