



GREEN FINS

Newsletter

Newsletter : Volume 1 Issue 3

GREEN FINS : Member Agreement and Best Practices

GREEN FINS – Agreement Between Green Fins Members

1. Adhere to *The Green Fins Environmentally Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Practices – the 7 Do's and 7 Don'ts* – by being role models for divers to follow.
2. Identify someone at your shop as your “**Green Fins Ambassador**” to promote Green Fins Best Practices for dive staff and conduct reef monitoring.
3. Educate and train group organisers and dive staff on *The Green Fins Environmentally Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Practices* annually and as new trainers are hired; ensure dive staffs are briefing customers on these practices prior to all diving and snorkeling trips.
4. Do not allow spear fishing or support the shark fin trade.
5. Promote courses such as those teaching good buoyancy, species identification and careful finning and photography skills. Do not promote try diving or activities that could potentially damage the reefs.
6. Ensure inexperienced individuals wear life jackets when snorkeling.
7. Conduct annual reef monitoring at your diving locations and submit data.

GREEN FINS: Best Practices for Dive Staff

1. Aid in public awareness of our fragile coral reefs by prominently displaying Green Fins membership and **The Green Fins Environmentally Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Practices** both inside and outside the shop, dive boats and other transport.
2. Ensure employees provide Green Fins briefings on *The Green Fins Environmentally Friendly Diving and Snorkeling Practices* before diving and snorkeling trips – most importantly enforce a strict “**no touch**” policy.
3. **Always use moorings**, drift or hand-placed anchors for your boats and where possible install and maintain mooring buoys.
4. Adopt “**minimum discharge**” and “**responsible garbage**” policies by ensuring safe collection and disposal of all hazardous waste including used oil, chemical cleaning products, fuel, food scraps, batteries, waste water and sewage. Recycle and use eco-friendly cleaning products whenever possible.
5. Make guests **aware of environmental rules and regulations**, marine protected areas and offer ID books and posters for fish, corals and other marine life.
6. Participate in **regular beach and underwater cleanups** and remove garbage where possible.
7. Prohibit the collection, sale and display of corals and other marine life.

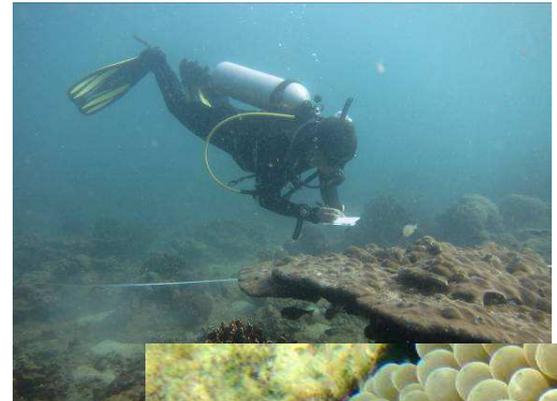
Getting Started from page 1

GREEN FINS – *Environmentally Friendly Dive Practices: Customer Do's and Don'ts*

As a Green Fins member we are committed to protecting our marine life, please help us by following these simple guidelines

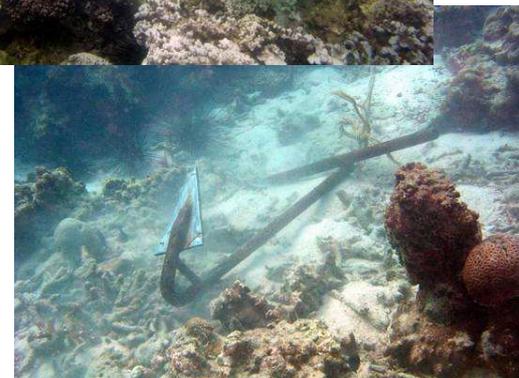
7 Things Divers Must Do:

1. Practice buoyancy control and photography skills away from the reef
2. Ensure gauges, regulators and other equipment are secured and do not drag over reefs
3. Avoid stirring up sediment by keeping your distance
4. Hold on to rock or dead coral if you need to hold onto something
5. Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs, use your buddy or dive guide to help you stay clear
6. Practice advanced finning techniques (e.g. finning backwards, pivot finning and frog kicks) to avoid causing damage to reefs
7. Support conservation and champion the best practices to ensure the sustainability



7 Things Divers Must NOT Do:

1. Touch or step on coral
2. Feed the fish
3. Litter
4. Wear gloves
5. Chase, touch, spear or capture any marine life
6. Place cameras on reefs or move marine life to capture a better shot
7. Collect marine life souvenirs from the beach or ocean – you may be breaking the law



Voice of Volunteer

Green Fins without borders

Many of you may already know that Green Fins has been active since 2004 but did you know this is not just in Thailand? It has also been operating in other popular diving hotspots in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines and is now expanding into the Maldives and Vietnam. Green Fins is a unique approach to marine conservation as it is managed and supported by Government departments, NGO's, volunteers and of course the dive community. The project empowers people by providing a platform for those who are in a position to support local marine conservation through the use of whatever skills and resources they have which may help in our quest to keep our corals and other marine life in a healthy condition. All this is coordinated and managed in each country through a National Team who are usually seated under a Government department. For example Green Fins Thailand is managed by the Phuket Marine Biological Centre, under the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and in Indonesia it is the Ministry of Environment who coordinate the project.

With so many people doing so much great work across such a large geographical area, there is a need to share lessons learned and successes as well as promote standardisation within this international initiative. This job falls under the responsibility of The Reef-World Foundation who have been supporting Green Fins since it's outset in 2004. Historically, Reef-World's roots are actually in Phuket which is where the conservation activities of its founder, Anne Miller, started. However, as the Green Fins initiative grew Reef-World was keen to ensure that quality of the Green Fins brand is maintained and is easily recognised by diving and snorkelling tourists.

Reef-World activities are now led by Chloe Hunt and JJ Harvey who coordinate and conduct the training for the Green Fins Coordinators and Assessors, whose job it is to provide environmental information for dive staff and assess the environmental credentials of Green Fins centres to measure compliance and encourage change. These Coordinators and Assessors can be national government officials, local government staff, staff of NGO, representatives of the diving industry and international volunteers. Reef-World follows broad direction from the United Nations Environment Programme. This year (2013) Reef-World in collaboration with UNEP and the Mangroves for the Future initiative is introducing the Green Fins approach to the diving industry in the Maldives and Vietnam. Chloe Hunt and JJ Harvey started their work with Green Fins in 2008 as volunteers of Khun Nipon Phongsuwan in Thailand, as a result their programmes and initiatives are built on principles inspired by him.

Green Fins is developing very much like a franchise in that the packaging, core values, philosophy and standards are the same the world over but like a restaurant franchise it has a slightly different menu in each country according to the local demands. Green Fins Thailand and Green Fins Malaysia are both using the diving industry to protect and conserve coral reefs but the marketing, people and environmental priorities in each country differ significantly.



Chloe



JJ



Chloe and JJ (Reef-World) with Aey and Khun Nipon from Green Fins Thailand

Reef-World aims to support this approach in all six countries and promote the great work they achieve to the media and potential funders. Green Fins is free to join and UNEP and Reef-World intend on keeping it that way as they believe that access to education for environmental conservation should not be a privilege for only those who can afford it.

Later this year a new Green Fins International website will be developed to support this international development by linking each of the countries, those departments and institutions involved and the champions who help make this project successful. This coincides nicely with the new Green Fins Thailand website which will focus on national activities and promotion of its members as well as hosting a new user-friendly Reef Watch database- which is very exciting. This reef health data will be used by Green Fins Thailand Network Leader Khun Nipon Phongsuwan to enable him and other resource managers to keep a closer eye on potential crown of thorn outbreaks, coral bleaching or physical damage to the reefs which without the support from the diving community, they would not otherwise be able to access.

To find out more about Green Fins around the world and Reef-World, please go to www.greenfins.net or if you would like to read about specific activities that are happening right now with Green Fins Thailand then please go to www.greenfins-thailand.org.

Activities



With the cooperation among the SAMPAN Project, the Green Fins Project and Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the seminar for the Andaman Reef Guardian was organized and held during the date of 11-12 August 2013 at Koh Lanta Yai, Krabi. Forty participants had attended the seminar including representatives from the organizations participating in conserving Andaman coral reef and organizations with a long-standing working relationship with the coral reef conservation namely, the officers from Mu Ko Similan and Mu Ko Surin Marine National Parks, Phang Nga, the officers from Mu Ko Lanta Marine National Parks, Krabi and the representatives from the marine tourist entrepreneurs running businesses in Phang Nga and Krabi. The main purpose of this seminar is for creating a network among the eco-friendly entrepreneurs running dive shops and also proposing the survey on coral reef which can be submitting through new channel; www.greenfins-thailand.org.



In the afternoon session of August 11, 2013, the Green Fins Project had offered a training course on how to prepare an eco-friendly multi-purpose cleaner to the officers from the Marine National Parks and the representatives from the marine tourist entrepreneurs running businesses. All participants attended had personally practiced preparing an eco-friendly multi-purpose cleaner and bringing it home for personal purpose and it can be said that they had a great joy in this sessions.



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