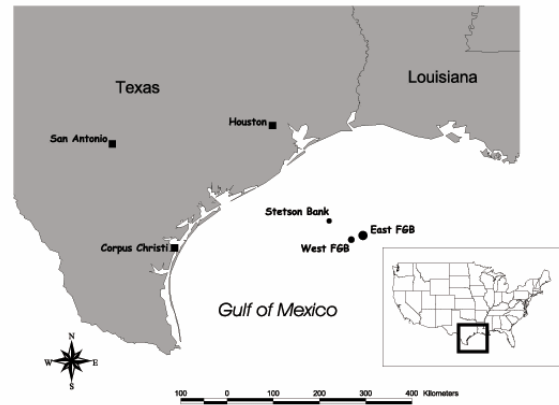


Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary



- **Year Designated:** 1992
- **Size (area):** 56 square miles
- **Location:** About 100 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana; includes Stetson Bank, East Flower Garden Bank and West Flower Garden Bank
- **State Waters:** None
- **Purpose:** To protect and manage the conservation, ecological, recreational, research, educational, historic, and esthetic resources and qualities of the area.
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** None
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1991
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** The Management Plan Review process was initiated July 1, 2005.



Map credit: Flower Garden Banks NMS

Sanctuary Website: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>
Sanctuary Regulations: 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart L

Examples of Research and Monitoring Activities in the Sanctuary:

- Habitat characterization, ultimately resulting in a base-line habitat map of the sanctuary that will be updated as new information becomes available.
- Long-term annual monitoring of coral health.
- Crustacean population surveys, studies of algae/coral dynamics, cephalopod population surveys, and studies of elasmobranch movements.

Examples of Endangered Species in the Sanctuary:

Endangered	Threatened
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Loggerhead Sea Turtle



**Summary of Regulation of Activities and Uses in
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary**
(For full regulations, see 15 C.F.R. § 922 and contact the regulating agencies)

Type of Use	Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS)				Examples of Other Regulating Agencies, States/Territories, or Laws (may not be comprehensive list)
	Zoned (areas closed to this type of use)	Restricted	Prohibited	Comments	
Commercial Fishing		√		Only allowed gear is hook and line	Gulf Fishery Management Council
Recreational Fishing		√		Only allowed gear is hook and line	Gulf Fishery Management Council
Bottom Trawling			√		Gulf Fishery Management Council
Collecting Aquarium Fish		√		Only allowed gear is hook and line	Gulf Fishery Management Council
Aquaculture				May be regulated under Discharges and Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service
Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor			√		U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service
Seabed cables or devices				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC
Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas	√	√		Not permitted in more than 95% of NMS; restrictions on method used*	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals	√	√		Not permitted in more than 95% of NMS; restrictions on method used	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Removal/Damage of Natural Resources		√		Listed species are protected	
Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987
Overflights				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Use of motorized watercraft		√		Only vessels 100ft or less in length may moor in the NMS; No anchoring allowed	
Underwater Noise				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS		√		Only listed types of discharge are allowed	U.S. Coast Guard
Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources		√		Only listed types of discharge are allowed	U.S. Coast Guard

* There is only one production platform (gas) within sanctuary boundaries. There are no leases located entirely within the NMS boundaries; only lease blocks that have very small pieces of the block located within the NMS.

Other Regulations: NMS regulations authorize permits for research, education, or salvage/recovery operations, even for otherwise prohibited or restricted activities. In addition to the uses regulated in the above table, the use (and in some cases possession) of dangerous weapons/explosives is regulated by the NMS.