Biscayne National Park - Everglades National Park Homestead, Florida

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## **Boating Education Class**

APPRECIATE the beauty, immense value, and fragility of seagrass flats, coral reefs, and other resources encountered by boaters in Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

UNDERSTAND how boater impacts harm these precious resources.

LEARN local boating regulations and your liabilities as a boater in the State of Florida.

IMPROVE your safe boating knowledge and skills to better navigate the waters of Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

PROTECT your National Parks for future generations by becoming an ecologically conscious and safe boater.



Seagrass flats in Biscayne and Everglades National Parks are heavily impacted by vessel grounding scars.





Vessel groundings cause extensive damage to personal property and fragile Park resources.

## Biscayne and Everglades National Parks are fantastic places to explore by boat!

Biscayne National Park protects a rare combination of aquamarine waters, emerald islands, and fish-bejeweled coral reefs, not to mention 10,000 years of human history. Florida Bay in Everglades National Park is one of the largest estuaries in the world, where fresh water meets the sea, creating important nursery grounds for fish, lobster, crabs and other wildlife.

The Boating Education Class provides an overview of the submerged resources in Biscayne and Everglades National Parks, and includes information intended to help boaters safely experience these parks. Specific topics include:

- Seagrass and coral reef ecosystems
- Vessel groundings in Biscayne and Everglades National Parks
- Boating safety, "rules of the road", and navigation
- Boating accidents, regulations, and liabilities
- Local knowledge on navigating in Biscayne and Everglades National Parks
- Caring for your National Parks

The class is offered to the general public free of charge as a service to the community and as a means of preventing boating accidents and violations. In addition, the course is also offered as a mitigation option to individuals who have received citation/s, at the discretion of the Ranger issuing the citation/s.

## **Class Details:**

The Boating Education Class is open to the general public free of charge to those who have not received violations. Pre-registration is required.

The class takes approximately three hours to complete, and is offered periodically at locations in south Florida (e.g., Homestead, Key Largo, or Miami). A Spanish language version of the class is also available upon request.

For information on class dates, times, locations, and to register for the class, please contact:

Boating Education Class Coordinator 305-230-1140, ext. 041



Enjoy boating in the National Parks! Stay safe and avoid accidents through careful navigation.