



**Research & Education:  
Sampling & Collection Activities at KML**

NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, but rather guidance influenced by local experience.  
Please refer to governing bodies (FWC, FKNMS, ENP, state parks, etc.) for final deliberations.

Collecting & Sampling Activities	FWC Special Activities License (SAL) FL Saltwater Fishing License FMSEA permit	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Permit
Ovigerous female <i>P. argus</i>	SAL required	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA); avoidance of these areas is preferred
<i>P. argus</i> collected out of season/under-sized/over bag limit	SAL required	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA); avoidance of these areas is preferred
<i>P. argus</i> collected during season, legal size	1. Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required (see Regulations for restrictions & bag limits); 2. SAL required to deploy gear not authorized for recreational harvest (i.e. lobster traps), or for collections in excess of established bag/possession limits	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA); avoidance of these areas is preferred
Coral, rubble & live rock	SAL or Aquaculture License (AQ) required	Permit required, no matter where collected
Soft corals; except <i>Gorgonia</i> spp. (sea fans)	1. Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required (see Regulations for restrictions & bag limits); 2. SAL required for collections in excess of established restrictions and/or bag/possession limits	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA) or if from Key Largo or Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary EMAs; avoidance of fully protected zones is preferred; Permit required if <i>Gorgonia</i> spp.
Tropical fish: barrier nets, slurp guns	1. Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required (see Regulations for restrictions & bag limits); 2. SAL required for collections in excess of established restrictions and/or bag/possession limits and/or use of non-conforming gear (i.e., nets with larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, greater than 2" stretched mesh, nets made wholly or partially of monofilament - excludes cast nets).	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA) or the Key Largo or Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary EMAs; avoidance of fully protected zones is preferred
Invertebrates for ID or display for education groups;	1. Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required (see Regulations for restrictions & bag limits);	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA) or the Key Largo or Looe Key National

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<b>except:</b> Queen conch, Bahama star, <i>Diadema</i> sp. Urchins <i>Condylactis gigante</i> anemone	2. SAL required for collections or possession in excess of established restrictions, bag limits, and/or seasonal closures (or for prohibited species). 3. FMSEA permit also covers this	Marine Sanctuary EMAs; avoidance of fully protected zones is preferred
-Temporary buoy or marker deployment (surveys) -Sediment sampling (grabs, cores, shovels, etc)	N/A	Permit required, no matter where deployed
Seagrass	SAL required	Permit required, no matter where collected
Algae	1. Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required (see Regulations for restrictions & bag limits); 2. SAL required for collections or possession in excess of established restrictions, bag limits, and/or seasonal closures 3. FMSEA permit also covers this	Permit required if collected from fully protected zones (SPA, ER, ROA) or the Key Largo or Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary EMAs; avoidance of fully protected zones is preferred

<b>Permits Summary:</b>	
If it involves: fish, vertebrate/invertebrate animals, algae/seagrass collections, etc.	FWC is involved through either recreational fishing license, SAL, FMSEA, etc. Contact them to ensure compliance.
If it involves: (within FKNMS) placing items on or disturbing the seafloor (survey work), collecting corals, sediment, rubble, seagrass, discharging materials or ROVs, or operating in Sanctuary restricted areas	NOAA/FKNMS very likely involved (mostly with Research & Education permits). Contact them to ensure compliance.
Any survey, monitoring, research or collection within the Everglades National Park.	Everglades National Park must issue research permit, contact them to ensure compliance.

**IACUC requirements for all vertebrate research and education at KML:**

Research and education groups who wish to house vertebrate animals (fish) at KML are required to provide their **approved IACUC Protocol, Final Approval Letter, and a signed KML Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** from their home institution for KML/USF review and approval. These plans/documents must be received by KML's IACUC Coordinator **45 business days** prior to your arrival to allow adequate time for our review process. We, both KML and USF, are required to review and approve your IACUC plan from your home institution. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

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**Special Activities License**

- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Marine Fisheries Management
- Contacts: Lisa Gregg, Kyle Miller, or Luke Trimmer-Smith
- Website: <http://myfwc.com/license/saltwater/special-activities/>
- Email: SAL@MyFWC.com

**FKNMS Research Permit**

Dr. Harrison Albert – Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

- Agency Website: [floridakeys.noaa.gov/](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/) . . .
- Permit forms and instructions available at:  
<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/permits/>
- Email: [harrison.albert@noaa.gov](mailto:harrison.albert@noaa.gov)

**Florida Marine Science Educators Association (FMSEA) Permit**

- website for more information: <http://fmsea.org>

**Permit required for ALL sampling within the Everglades National Park**

- Website: [https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/sfnrc\\_permits.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/sfnrc_permits.htm)