

## National "Get Into Your Sanctuary" Day – May 19 & 20, 2018



### Who We Are

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments.

Within these protected waters, majestic whales feed and migrate, coral reefs flourish, and shipwrecks reveal secrets of our maritime history. And it's YOURS to enjoy, because the vast majority of national marine sanctuary waters are open to recreational fishing, birding, wildlife watching, diving, surfing, kayaking and many more activities that are compatible with conservation goals.

### How to get involved...

- Plan a visit so you can get into the waters of *your* sanctuary!
- Take photos (and leave only bubbles!) while enjoying your favorite sanctuary experiences.
- Share with an **#ILoveMySanctuary**
- Enter your best shots in the **photo contest**: Categories include sanctuary views, life and portraits; min. 1200 pixels wide. Submit to [earthisblue@noaa.gov](mailto:earthisblue@noaa.gov)

### You're invited!

As a travel destination, few places on the planet can compete with the diversity of the National Marine Sanctuary System. So, we're going to celebrate ALL of the sanctuaries on the East Coast at the same time, and we want YOU to join us!

May marks our fourth national "Get Into Your Sanctuary" celebration, when sites across America will be hosting concurrent public events to help you personally experience, enjoy and protect these special places.

Check our website and social media channels for updates and don't forget to enter the "Get Into Your Sanctuary" photo contest! Please help us spread the word by sharing your favorite sanctuary photos and stories with the hashtag, **#ILoveMySanctuary**.

### Gray's Reef Comes to Hunter Army Airfield & Fort Stewart!

**What:** Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary joins with MWR Child and Youth Services to invite the military community to "Get Into Your Sanctuary!" We will bring Gray's Reef to you via 3D dives using virtual reality goggles. Dive into Gray's Reef without getting your feet wet. Adults and kids of all ages are welcome!

**When:** Saturday, May 19 Hunter AAF 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 20 Ft. Stewart 11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Hunter AAF -- SAC, 304 N. Perimeter Rd., Building 6054 on Saturday  
Ft. Stewart -- SAC, 97 Austin Rd., Building 7160 on Sunday



# NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

- National Marine Sanctuary
- ▲ Marine National Monument
- Proposed National Marine Sanctuary

## About *Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary*

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary protects a vibrant hard-bottom area off the Georgia coast. The reef's scattered rocky outcroppings and ledges provide homes for an abundance of marine life. Crabs, lobsters, soft corals, sponges, sea stars and other organisms form a dense carpet of living creatures, covering the nooks and crannies of Gray's Reef and giving it the name "live bottom." The reef attracts more than 200 species of fish, including black sea bass, snappers, groupers and mackerels. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, forage and rest year-round at Gray's Reef, and the reef is within the only known winter calving ground for the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale. The 22 square mile sanctuary is the only protected natural reef and one of a few natural marine protected areas in the Atlantic Ocean between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Gray's Reef also attracts people: recreational boaters, anglers and divers are among the sanctuary's user groups. However, given the sanctuary's remote location 19 miles east of Sapelo Island, Georgia, most people experience Gray's Reef through pictures or videos showing some of its colorful fish and benthic organisms.

No need to get your feet wet; Gray's Reef has exhibit partnerships with the Tybee Island Marine Science Center, Live Oak Public Libraries, the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Georgia Southern University and South Carolina Aquarium, among others.

### *Our Office:*

10 Ocean Science Circle  
Savannah, GA 31411  
912-598-2345

### *On the Web*

Email: [graysreef@noaa.gov](mailto:graysreef@noaa.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/graysreefsanctuary](http://www.facebook.com/graysreefsanctuary)  
Twitter: @graysreefnms



<http://graysreef.noaa.gov>