

**Fee**

Blue Flag Marina Certification



# Commonwealth of the Bahamas



## Major Islands:

Andros, Acklins, Bimini, Berry Islands  
Cat Island, Crooked island, Eleuthera.  
Grand Bahama, Great and Little Abaco,  
Great and Little Inagua, Great Exuma and Cays  
Long Island, Mayaguana, New Providence,  
San Salvador, Rum Cay

Archipelago extends 750 miles

Reportedly over 80 marinas

# Blue Flag Pilot Phase 2003

Grand Bahama Island



**Port Lucaya Resort and Marina**

**Old Bahamas Bay Resort and Yacht Harbour (72 slips)**

**Port Lucaya Resort and Marina (106 slips)**

# Old Bahama Bay Resort and Yacht Harbour

- After Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne (2004) raised Blue Flag Feb. 2005
- Awarded Blue Flag 2005-2006
- Hurricane Wilma October 24, 2005
- Resort Closed until December 23, 2005
- Currently no Blue Flag Marina's operating in the Bahamas

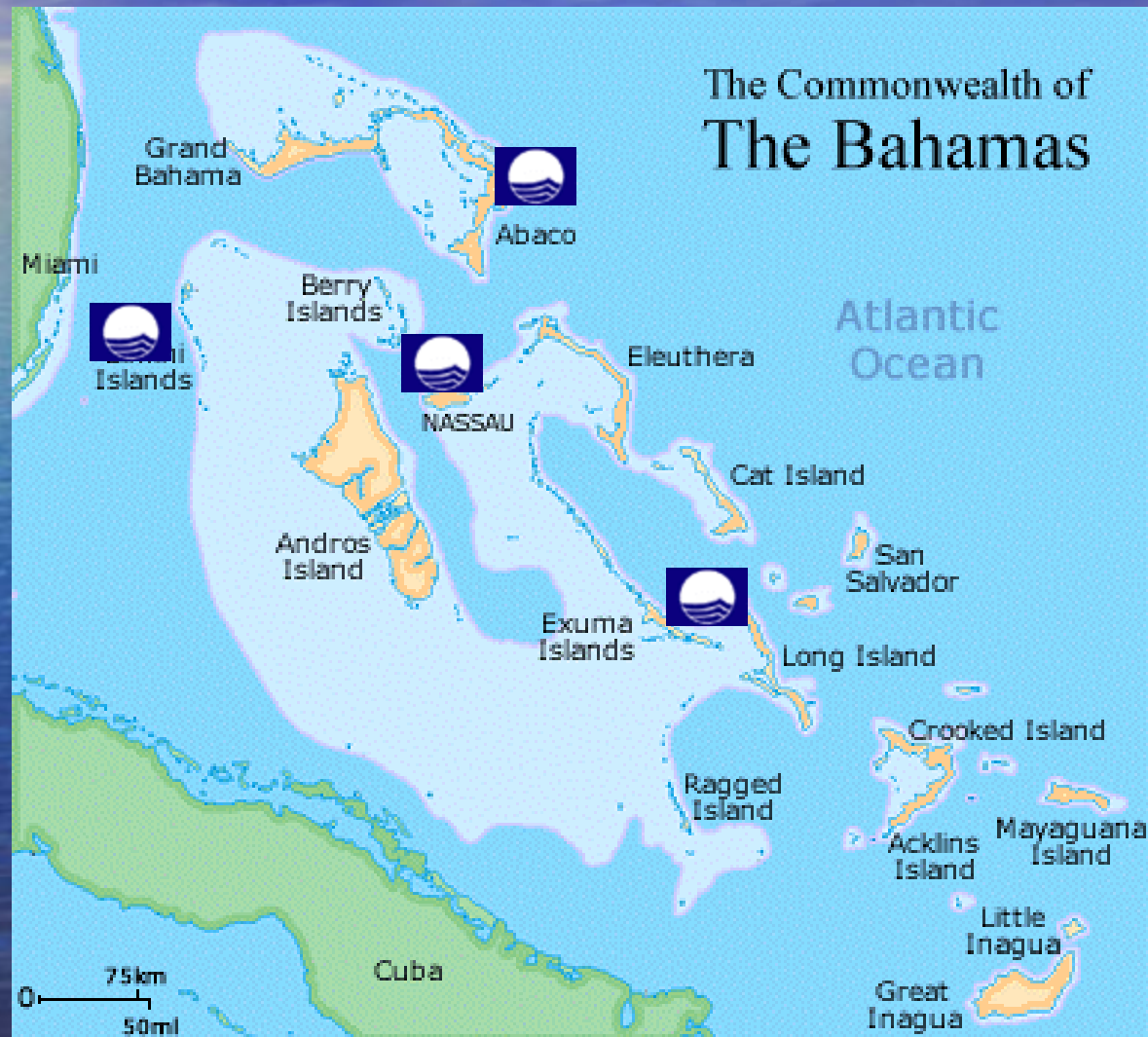
# Impacts from Wilma



# Impacts from Wilma



# Efforts to Expand Blue Flag



# Blue Flag Candidate Marina's Bimini Island



# Blue Flag Candidate Marina's Bimini Sands

Hotel and Marina  
53 Slips



Met with Marina Owner and Dock master – Presentation on Blue Flag

# Bimini Big Game Resort & Marina



74-Slips

Renovation planned

# New Providence Island



# Paradise Island

## Atlantis Marina Village



# Great Abaco Island



# Great Abaco Island



- Marsh Harbour Marina (Marsh Harbour)  
(66 slips)



- Boat Harbour Marina (Marsh Harbour)  
(190 slips)



- Club Soleil (Hope Town)  
(16 Slips)

# Great Abaco Island

- Formed local Blue Flag Committee
- Problems with Waste Management Issues
  - Used Oil disposal
  - Recycling
  - No waste water treatment systems
  - Lack of Safety Equipment

# Challenges with Blue Flag in The Bahamas

- Many islands which services have to be replicated or transportation and shipping issues
  - Used oil Disposal
  - Recycling
- Some Marina's operators are reluctant to accept used oil or recycle due to the challenges of a multiple island destination

# Waste Issues



# Safety Issues



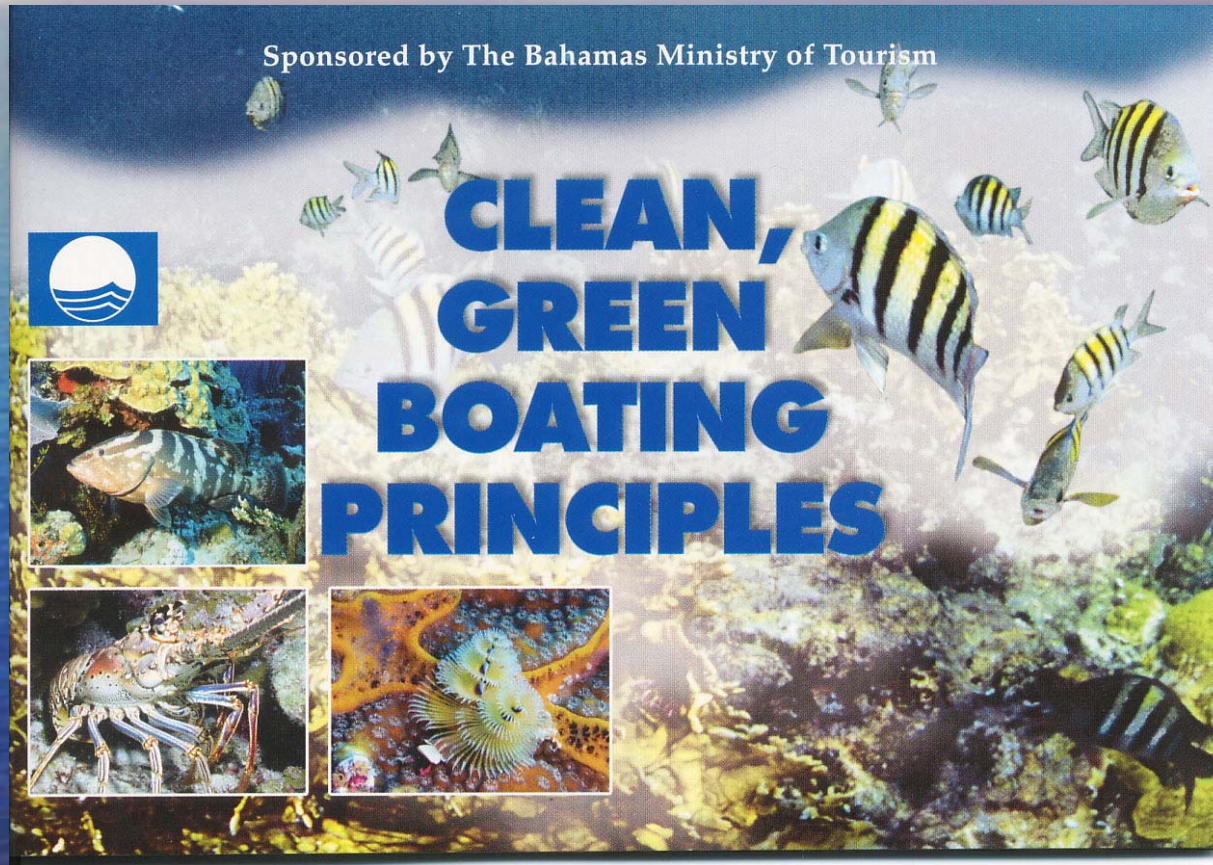
# Candidate Marina's 2005

- Bimini Sands Resort & Marina
- Bimini Big Game Resort & Marina
- Atlantis Marinas

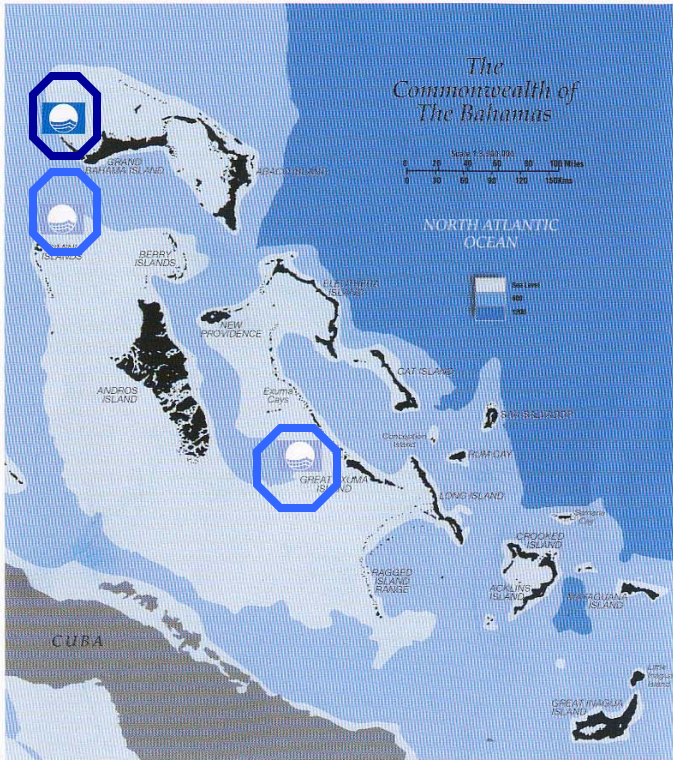
# National Co-ordinator

- National Promotion of Blue Flag Program
  - Boat Shows
  - Presentation at National Oil Spill Conference
  - Launch of Brochures for Media
- Nature Conservancy (Bahamas office) on National Jury
- In the process of Establishing a National Waste Oil Disposal Program with the DEHS
- Establishing Local Committee's

# National Co-ordinator



# National Co-ordinator

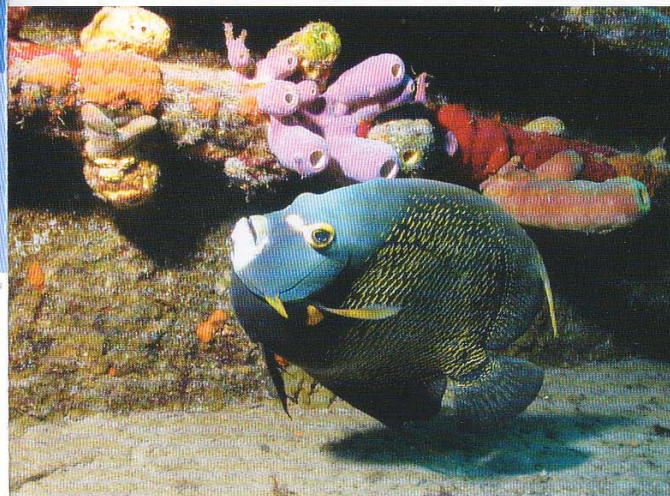


The lighter Blue Flag logos indicate the pilot phase of the Blue Flag Program on marinas in Bimini and Exuma.

This brochure is sponsored by the Coastal Awareness Committee. 



## THE BAHAMAS BLUE FLAG INITIATIVE

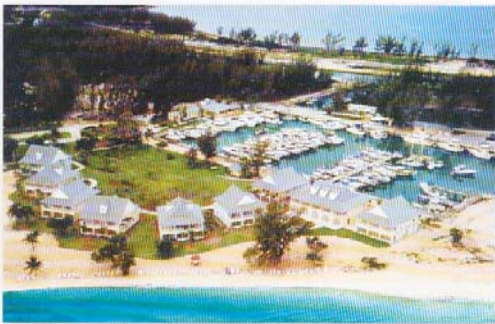


# National Co-ordinator

## The Blue Flag Initiative

The Blue Flag program is an internationally recognized voluntary environmental certification initiative for beaches and marinas which began in Europe in 1987 with 244 beaches and 208 marinas awarded Blue Flag certification in 10 European countries. In 2005 this increased to 2,400 beaches and 630 marinas awarded certification in 28 countries worldwide.

In 1995 the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) recognizing the value of this program to countries outside of the European continent lobbied the organization responsible for managing the program, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to extend this initiative beyond Europe.



## Blue Flag in the Caribbean Region

In 2001 a consortium (Caribbean Blue Flag Consortium) consisting of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the Caribbean Conservation Association and the Caribbean Hotel Association was established to evaluate the feasibility of the Blue Flag program to the region. This consortium is responsible for the management of the Blue Flag program in the region.

## The Bahamas Blue Flag Campaign

In 2002 The Bahamas became one of five countries (including Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Barbados) to join the "pilot phase" of the Blue Flag campaign in the region.

In 2005 Old Bahama Bay became one of only two marinas to be awarded the Blue Flag certificate by FEE.



## Management of Blue Flag in The Bahamas

While the National Coordination for The Bahamas program resides within The Ministry of Tourism, the National Blue Flag Committee consisting of stakeholders in the private and public sectors has responsibility for managing The Bahamas' Blue Flag program.

- The Ministry of Tourism
- The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology Commission (BEST)
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Port Authority
- Envirologic Ltd (a private environmental consultancy)
- The Department of Environmental Health Services

This committee is responsible for preparing marinas for possible certification as well as reviewing nomination applications prior to recommending the applicants to the Caribbean Regional Jury.



Old Bahama Bay  
Resort & Yacht Harbour,  
West End, Grand Bahama

## Criteria for Blue Flag Certification

The Blue Flag is awarded annually to marinas that satisfy Blue Flag criteria in the following four categories:

### Environmental Education and Information

- Information regarding natural sensitive nearby land and marine areas is made available to marina users
- Code of environmental conduct is posted in the marina
- The marina offers at least three environmental education activities annually to marina users and staff
- The individual blue flag for boat owners is offered through the marina

### Environmental Management

- Production of an environmental policy and plan at the marina
- Adequate and properly identified and segregated containers for the storage of hazardous wastes
- The marina must have facilities for receiving recyclable waste materials
- All buildings and equipment must be properly maintained and in compliance with national legislation

### Safety and Services

- Adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first-aid equipment and fire-fighting equipment, approved by national authorities

- Emergency plan in case of hurricane, fire, pollution or other accidents must be produced for the marina and safety precautions must be posted at the marina
- Map indicating the location of the different facilities is posted at the marina

### Water Quality

- Visually clean water with no oil, litter, sewage or other visible evidence of pollution

## Benefits of the Blue Flag Program to the Bahamas' Coastal Environment

With some eighty plus marinas operating in The Bahamas, attracting thousands of pleasure boaters annually, the Blue Flag initiative offers an effective environmental management program to assist our effort in protecting our fragile marine resources. Additional benefits include the following:

- Increased awareness of the importance of our coastal environment
- Internationally recognized symbol of high environmental, service and safety standards
- The Bahamas sends a strong message that it takes its responsibility of protecting and maintaining the integrity of its marine resources seriously.

