



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**

33 East Quay Road  
Key West, Florida 33040

April 30, 2025

Mr. Michael Goldberg  
I.CARE (Islamorada Conservation Restoration  
and Education)  
79851 Overseas Highway  
Islamorada, FL 33036

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has approved the issuance of permit number FKNMS-2023-177-A1 to conduct activities within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) for management purposes. Activities are to be conducted in accordance with the permit application and all supporting materials submitted to the sanctuary, and the terms and conditions of permit number FKNMS-2023-177-A1 (enclosed).

This permit is not valid until signed and returned to the ONMS. Retain one signed copy and carry it with you while conducting the permitted activities. Additional copies must be signed and returned, by either mail or email, to the following individual within 30 days of issuance and before commencing any activity authorized by this permit:

Dr. Harrison Albert  
Permit Coordinator  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
33 East Quay Road  
Key West, Florida 33040  
[Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov)

Your permit contains specific terms, conditions and reporting requirements. Review them closely and fully comply with them while undertaking permitted activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Harrison Albert at [Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov). Thank you for your continued cooperation with the ONMS.

Sincerely,

David Burke  
Acting Superintendent

Enclosure





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
33 East Quay Road  
Key West, Florida 33040

## FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PERMIT TO ASSIST IN SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT

**Permittee:**

Mr. Michael Goldberg  
I.CARE (Islamorada Conservation Restoration  
and Education)  
79851 Overseas Highway  
Islamorada, FL 33036

**Permit Number:** FKNMS-2023-177-A1

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

**Expiration Date:** May 31, 2026

**Project Title:** *I.CARE Trash Derby.*

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This permit is issued for activities in accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), 16 USC §§ 1431 *et seq.*, and regulations thereunder (15 CFR Part 922). All activities must be conducted in accordance with those regulations and law. No activity prohibited in 15 CFR Part 922 is allowed except as specified in the activity description below.

Subject to the terms and conditions of this permit, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) hereby authorizes the permittee listed above to conduct otherwise prohibited activities within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS or sanctuary). All activities are to be conducted in accordance with this permit, the permit application, and any responses to requests for additional information (RFAI) between ONMS and the permittee during the application review and evaluation process. The permit application and any RFAI responses are incorporated into this permit and made a part hereof; provided, however, that if there are any conflicts between the permit application or the RFAI responses and the terms and conditions of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit shall be controlling.



**Permitted Activity Description:**

This permit authorizes the person(s) listed above, and staff and contractors under their supervision (hereafter referred to as Authorized Persons, Teams, or Participants) to conduct the following activities that are otherwise prohibited by the following Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary regulations for the purposes of conducting research and assisting in sanctuary management:

1. Alteration of, or disturbance to, the seabed (15 CFR § 922.163(a)(3)) to support assisting in management activities (i.e., conduct marine debris removals).
2. Temporary placement of objects, tools, materials, and/or other equipment on the seabed (15 CFR § 922.163(a)(3)) to support assisting in management activities (i.e., conduct marine debris removals).
3. Touching, moving, disturbing, breaking, cutting, or similarly injuring any living or dead coral, coral formation, or attempting any of these activities (15 CFR § 922.163(a)(2)(i)) to support assisting in sanctuary management activities (i.e., conduct marine debris removals).
4. Touching, moving, disturbing, breaking, cutting, or similarly injuring any coral or other marine invertebrate, or any plant, soil, rock, or other material in the Key Largo and Looe Key Existing Management Areas (15 CFR § 922.164(b)(1)(i)) to support assisting in management activities (i.e., conducting marine debris removals).
5. Touching, moving, disturbing, breaking, cutting, or similarly injuring any coral, marine invertebrate, bottom formation, algae, seagrass or other dead organism, in all Sanctuary Preservation Areas or the Western Sambo Ecological Reserve (15 CFR § 922.164(d)(1)(ii)) to support assisting in management activities (i.e., conducting marine debris removals).

No further activities prohibited by sanctuary regulations under 15 CFR §§ [922.163](#) and [922.164](#) may be conducted.

**Permitted Activity Location:**

The permitted activity is allowed only in the following locations:

1. all Sanctuary Preservation Areas.
2. the Western Sambo Ecological Reserve.
3. the Key Largo & Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary Existing Management Areas (EMAs).
4. in non-zoned areas of the sanctuary.

**Special Terms and Conditions:**

**PROJECT SPECIFIC SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

**Derby Participant Special Terms and Conditions:**

1. All teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) wishing to participate in an ICARE-sponsored derby must designate one individual to represent the team (or themselves if someone is participating as an individual) by attending a mandatory captain's meeting & resource protection training prior to each derby event.
2. All derby teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) must carry at least one signed copy of the permit onboard (either as a hard-copy or through a reliable digital format) while participating in derby-sponsored activities.
3. All teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) must provide a field activity notification by completing the following link (for location of activities field, use “*All ICARE trash derby permitted locations*” & for the closest mile marker to US 1 field, use “*Throughout the Keys*”.):  
Field Notification Form Link: <https://forms.gle/akQVbLQZDfqE2bfMA>
4. No activities are allowed in any Special Use (Research Only) Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, or other Ecological Reserves, or other zoned areas of the sanctuary not explicitly listed in the Permitted Activity Location above.
5. Prior to beginning activities, the permittee shall conduct a benthic survey of the project area with a 72.18 foot (or 22m) radius from the central point of the deployment, placement, or installation location to ensure that no queen conch (*Aliger gigas*) are present. Should any queen conch be found, the permittee shall notify ONMS by completing the Queen Conch Reporting Form below. To continue work, deployments, placements, or installations must be at least 72.18ft (22m) away from the animal’s location at the time of the benthic survey.  
Queen Conch Reporting Form: <https://forms.gle/K5E3gxtD1ZS4T6Uz6>
6. Disturbance to cultural or historical resources, including artifacts, historic shipwrecks and submerged Native American archaeological sites, is not authorized.
  - a) If prehistoric/historic artifacts are encountered in the water, they shall be left in place and their location (GPS, depth) and characteristics documented (photographs), and reported to ONMS at [FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov](mailto:FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov).
  - b) In the event that human remains are encountered during marine debris removal activities, all removal activities at that location shall cease. Reports of human remains discovery including location and character must be made to the district medical examiner pursuant to Florida Statute 872.05 and ONMS at [FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov](mailto:FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov) within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery.

Discoveries of human remains shall not be publicly released except to the above authorities or law enforcement.

- c) The permittee shall monitor debris at sorting & disposal locations for potential artifacts. Any potential artifact turned in for sorting & disposal shall be placed in a container of saltwater. The permittee shall document which team turned in the potential artifact, the geographic location of its recovery, and take a photo of the item. This information shall be provided to ONMS at FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov within twenty-four (24) hours of the item's arrival at a sorting location. The permittee shall maintain the potential artifact submerged in saltwater until receiving further guidance from ONMS.
7. Every effort should be made to remove any and all living and non-living marine invertebrates, coral, bottom formation, coral formation, rock, or other material which may be encrusted on marine debris prior to removing the objects or items from the sanctuary.
8. Should any coral specimens be found on marine debris at the event sorting stations, the permittee shall immediately notify Dr. Harrison Albert (FKNMSpermits@noaa.gov). Once notification has been made, ONMS will provide guidance on how to proceed.
9. Temporary object, tool, material, and equipment deployments may not occur on stony or soft corals, sponges, and shall avoid other living sessile invertebrates or organisms with at least a three (3) foot (or 1.5m) radial distance.
10. All objects, tools, materials, and equipment deployed under this permit shall be immediately removed upon completion of each day's activities. All objects, tools, materials, and equipment are prohibited to be left overnight without explicit authorization from ONMS and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as applicable.
11. All activities undertaken by the permittee and Trash Derby teams or participants shall adhere to the Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys Protocols for Underwater Marine Debris Removals within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (protocols), attached. Any deviation from the protocols shall be approved by ONMS. Contact Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov) for assistance if needed.
12. Event data shall be reported by each team (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) according to the ONMS guidance provided at each event's captain's meeting. Contact Dr. Harrison Albert (Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov) and Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov) for more information.
13. All debris collected by teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) shall be turned over / transferred to the permittee at approved sorting locations for inspection. Derby teams or participants may not dispose of debris on their own.

**Permittee/Organization Special Terms and Conditions**

14. The permittee shall provide the exact dates of all derbies to ONMS at least thirty (30) days prior to each event. Contact Dr. Harrison Albert (Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov) and Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov) with this information.
15. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any additional permits, authorizations, or permissions that may be needed to conduct the activities including those from other applicable federal, state, or local agencies. Notably, authorization from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is required for any trap debris and derelict trap removal activities. Contact CleanUpTraps@MyFWC.com for assistance. Additionally, this permit does not authorize activities in any state or national park, state aquatic preserve, national wildlife refuge, or other protected area that may overlap sanctuary waters and have additional jurisdictional authority. If applicable, the permittee is responsible for forwarding these documents to ONMS (fknmspermits@noaa.gov) once available.
16. The permittee and the organization shall ensure that all derby participants are provided with a copy of the ONMS signed permit (either hard-copy or digital) at each captain's meeting. Permittees, Authorized Personnel, Participants, Teams, and all other persons conducting derby-sponsored activities must carry one signed copy of the ONMS permit with them while conducting the permitted activities.
17. This permit authorizes activities for two (2) discrete two (2) day derby events. Permission to conduct additional derbies or events should be submitted in writing to Dr. Harrison Albert (Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov).
18. The permittee shall provide ONMS staff an opportunity to review and provide edits to the Trash Derby Rules prior to finalizing and distributing them to participants. Contact Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov) with draft(s).
19. The permittee shall provide ONMS staff an opportunity to present an overview of sanctuary regulations and other pertinent information at the captain's meeting prior to each derby event. Contact Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov) with this information.
20. The permittee shall instruct all derby teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) to follow the requirements presented at each derby's captain's meeting. The permittee is additionally responsible for ensuring that team leaders train all teams or participants in appropriate debris removal techniques.
21. The permittee and the organization shall allow access to any ONMS staff that wishes to inspect or look at any objects or items that are removed as part of the event activities. Access to the objects or items will be immediately (i.e., same day) made to the ONMS staff member making the request.

22. All debris collected by teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) shall be recycled or disposed of by an organizational staff member at approved, upland facilities after being sorted and inspected.
23. Any injury to seagrass (other than what is described in the permitted activity description above), hardbottom, coral, or other sanctuary resources during activities shall be reported to ONMS (fknmspermits@noaa.gov) immediately. Activities in the area of observed injury shall cease until further guidance is provided by ONMS. Should any sanctuary resources be injured, destroyed, or lost during activities, the permittee may be liable under Section(s) 307 and/or 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. § 1431 et seq.) for damages incurred.

24. The permittee and the organization are required to provide the following acknowledgement during any media coverage (press releases, video/photo, social media, or other means) related to trash derbies or events:

*“Activities occurred within the NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary under permit.”*

25. The permittee must submit an annual report by January 31 each year this permit is in effect that summarizes derbies from the previous calendar year, including the information listed in Attachment 1 as well as:
- each derby date and land based headquarters location,
  - number of total teams and boats used at each derby event,
  - number of total participants that engaged in activities at each derby event,
  - type and amount/quantities of debris removed at each derby (i.e., material and total weight or length sorted by derby region [upper keys, middle keys, lower keys]),
  - any unusual items removed as part of the derby,
  - number of total attendees at the event’s outreach/festival,
  - a list of locations from which debris was collected at,
  - how debris was disposed of,
  - any other valuable metrics collected at each derby,
  - any relevant observations made by participants during removals, and
  - a summary of which dive sites and FKNMS regions marine debris were most observed and removed from by the participating teams (or participants if individuals are not operating as a formally organized team) (GPS coordinates are not necessary but please ask the teams to report their depth information for each site visited).

The annual reports shall be submitted to Dr. Harrison Albert (Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov) and Marlies Tumolo (Marlies.Tumolo@noaa.gov).

26. An interim report of work conducted annually shall be submitted to ONMS by January 31 of each year that this permit is active. The report shall consist of a summary of activities conducted under this permit for the previous calendar year and follow the permit report guidelines in Attachment 1. The report shall be submitted to fknmspermits@noaa.gov.



27. A final report of activities shall be submitted to ONMS thirty (30) days after the permit expires. The report shall consist of a summary of activities conducted under this permit and follow the permit report guidelines in Attachment 1. The report shall be submitted to [fknmspermits@noaa.gov](mailto:fknmspermits@noaa.gov).
28. In addition to the required reports, the permittee shall provide raw data resulting from research activities conducted under this permit at the request of ONMS.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

1. Within 30 (thirty) days of the date of issuance, the permittee must sign and date this permit for it to be considered valid. Once signed, the permittee must send copies, via mail or email, to the following individual:  
  
Dr. Harrison Albert  
Permit Coordinator  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
33 East Quay Road  
Key West, Florida 33040  
[Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Albert@noaa.gov)
2. It is a violation of this permit to conduct any activity authorized by this permit prior to the ONMS having received a copy signed by the permittee.
3. This permit may only be amended by the ONMS. The permittee may not change or amend any part of this permit at any time. The terms of the permit must be accepted in full, without revision; otherwise, the permittee must return the permit to the sanctuary office unsigned with a written explanation for its rejection. Amendments to this permit must be requested in the same manner the original request was made.
4. All persons participating in the permitted activity must be under the supervision of the permittee, and the permittee is responsible for any violation of this permit, the NMSA, and sanctuary regulations for activities conducted under, or in conjunction with, this permit. The permittee must assure that all persons performing activities under this permit are fully aware of the conditions herein.
5. This permit is non-transferable and must be carried by the permittee at all times while engaging in any activity authorized by this permit.
6. This permit may be suspended, revoked, or modified for violation of the terms and conditions of this permit, the regulations at 15 CFR Part 922, the NMSA, or for other good cause. Such action will be communicated in writing to the applicant or permittee, and will set forth the reason(s) for the action taken.
7. This permit may be suspended, revoked or modified if requirements from previous ONMS permits or authorizations issued to the permittee are not fulfilled by their due date.
8. Permit applications for any future activities in the sanctuary or any other sanctuary in the system by the permittee might not be considered until all requirements from this permit are fulfilled.
9. This permit does not authorize the conduct of any activity prohibited by 15 CFR Part 922, other than those specifically described in the "Permitted Activity Description" section of this permit. If the permittee or any person acting under the permittee's supervision

conducts, or causes to be conducted, any activity in the sanctuary not in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this permit, or who otherwise violates such terms and conditions, the permittee may be subject to civil penalties, forfeiture, costs, and all other remedies under the NMSA and its implementing regulations at 15 CFR Part 922.

10. Any publications and/or reports resulting from activities conducted under the authority of this permit must include the notation that the activity was conducted under National Marine Sanctuary Permit FKNMS-2023-177-A1 and be sent to the ONMS official listed in general condition number 1.
11. This permit does not relieve the permittee of responsibility to comply with all other federal, state and local laws and regulations, and this permit is not valid until all other necessary permits, authorizations, and approvals are obtained. Particularly, this permit does not allow disturbance of marine mammals or seabirds protected under provisions of the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, or Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Authorization for incidental or direct harassment of species protected by these acts must be secured from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries, depending upon the species affected.
12. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA, the Department of Commerce and the United States for and against any claims arising from the conduct of any permitted activities.
13. Any question of interpretation of any term or condition of this permit will be resolved by NOAA.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with all terms and conditions of this permit. This permit becomes valid when you, the permittee, countersign and date below. Please note that the expiration date on this permit is already set and will not be extended by a delay in your signing.



5/1/2025

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Mr. Michael Goldberg  
I.CARE (Islamorada Conservation Restoration and  
Education)

Date



5/1/25

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David Burke  
Acting Superintendent  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Date

2 documents attached.



NOAA FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



ATTACHMENT 1

PERMIT REPORT GUIDELINES

Permit reports are intended to be brief, but comprehensive, summaries of activities conducted under specific permits, typically in no more than two pages. Please submit the required information electronically to ONMS (fknmspermits@noaa.gov). When submitting narrative reports (i.e., interim and final report summaries should follow the information outlined in #1-9 below), please attach a separate Word or PDF document. When submitting data reports (on the next page), please attach a separate Excel file.

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS

- 1) Date of report.
- 2) Permittee(s) name(s) and contact information (institutional affiliation, mailing and email addresses, phone number).
- 3) Permit number:
- 4) Type of report: Interim or Final
- 5) Permission: YES or NO – Please indicate if ONMS can share the information contained in your project summary with the public, with credit to you and/or your institutional affiliation. Credit will follow information supplied in #2, above, unless otherwise specified.
- 6) Was this permit conducted as a result of a student project (i.e., undergraduate, masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral research)? If so, please specify which kind. If not, please indicate “independent research investigation of PI”.
- 7) Project / permit title.
- 8) List of keywords.
- 9) Project Summary (as a narrative in paragraph form, no more than 2 pages maximum):
  - a. Goal(s) of project.
  - b. Significance of project.
  - c. Connection to Sanctuary Management or Research issues.
  - d. Research Questions and Hypotheses (if applicable).
  - e. Description of all permitted activities conducted, including field or laboratory methods.
  - f. Results/findings to date. If results are not available at the time of this report, indicate when they are expected and in what format/publication.
  - g. Table, graph, photos as appropriate.
  - h. List of / links to publications resulting from permitted activities.

Numbers 1-9 above will be required information to be submitted in all interim and final reports.

The information below will only be submitted, if applicable, to your specific project.

- 10) Collections: If your permitted activities included the collection of organisms, please provide the following as an Excel file appendix to your report (lists, tables or charts are acceptable):
  - a. Dates of collections.
  - b. Locations of collections (GPS coordinates in decimal degree format with latitude and longitude in separate columns).
  - c. Species collected.
  - d. Quantity collected of each species:
    - (i) Coral and octocoral - if fragmenting, cutting, or otherwise sampling from a “parent” colony, provide the total number of individual samples per species collected, and how many samples were taken from each parent. A separate parent colony report may also be required.
    - (ii) Non-coral species - if collecting marine life flora (e.g., seagrass or algae) volumetric estimate is acceptable; provide exact numbers for fauna (e.g., fish, non-coral invertebrates).
  - e. Sizes of organisms and/or samples collected (binned by size class is acceptable).
  - f. Fate of all specimens collected.
  - g. Mitigation completed.
  
- 11) Equipment Deployment: If your permitted activities included temporarily deploying materials, tools, or equipment on the seabed, please provide an Excel file as an appendix to your report with the following information for each deployment:
  - a. Dates of deployments.
  - b. Types of equipment deployed.
  - c. Locations of deployments (GPS coordinates in decimal degree format with latitude and longitude values in separate columns).
  - d. Method of deployment.



NOAA FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



ATTACHMENT 2

GOAL: CLEAN SEAS FLORIDA KEYS PROTOCOLS FOR UNDERWATER MARINE  
DEBRIS REMOVALS WITHIN FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
(PROTOCOLS)

See the attachment of the Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys Protocols for Underwater Marine Debris Removals within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (protocols) in the permit email issuance which can be downloaded separately.