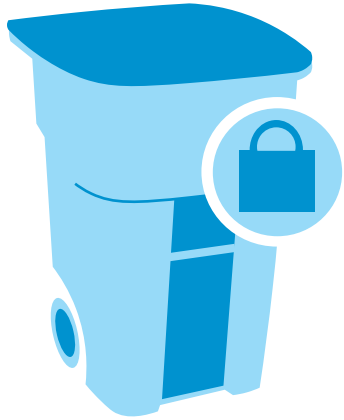


Storm Preparedness & Marine Debris



Hurricanes and severe storms bring high winds, rain, strong waves, and storm surges that can damage or destroy your home, boat, or other property, can put your family or business at risk, and have the potential to create a large amount of marine debris. This document runs through some basic steps to prepare for storms and prevent your property from becoming marine debris.

For Homeowners



- Store outdoor items inside, such as furniture, birdfeeders, decorations, trash bins, etc.
- Tightly secure outdoor items that cannot be stored indoors.
- Tie down trash and recycling bin lids so they cannot blow open during a storm.

- Pick up debris and litter in the neighborhood prior to a storm.
- For more information on preparing your home for a storm visit [Ready.Gov/Hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes).

For Marinas

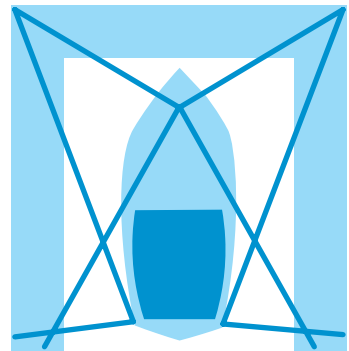
- Have a site-specific hurricane preparedness plan in place.
- Review hurricane procedures annually with marina staff.
- Contact boat owners and make hurricane preparedness guidance is available.
- Remove as many boats from the water as possible whenever a storm is approaching, and properly secure the rest.
- Store or secure any loose items around the marina facilities and docks.



Photo: Federal Emergency Management Agency

For Boat Owners

- Have a hurricane plan in place unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment, and weather conditions likely to occur in that region.
- Understand your insurance policy and marina contract.
- Remove your boat from the water, if possible.
- Locate an area likely to have the least amount of wind and wave action, if you must moor your boat.
- Use long lines when moored to a fixed dock, so your boat has flexibility in rising water.
- Replace all old and worn dock lines.
- Double all mooring lines and cover at the contact points to prevent fraying.
- Anchor your boat properly, and set multiple anchors if necessary.
- Reduce windage by removing all covers and canvas, including dodgers and biminis.
- Turn off the electrical system and remove the battery to eliminate the risk of fire or other damage, unless the battery is needed to run automatic bilge pumps.

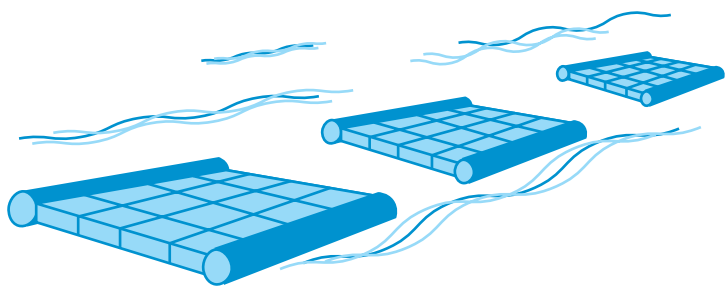


Aquaculture and Fishing Gear

- Write a storm plan and hold annual drills for employees.
- Make decisions early about gear removal and storage (about 3 days before a storm hits).
- Write down GPS locations for gear that will remain in the water.
- Be prepared to cleanup and retrieve lost gear after a storm.

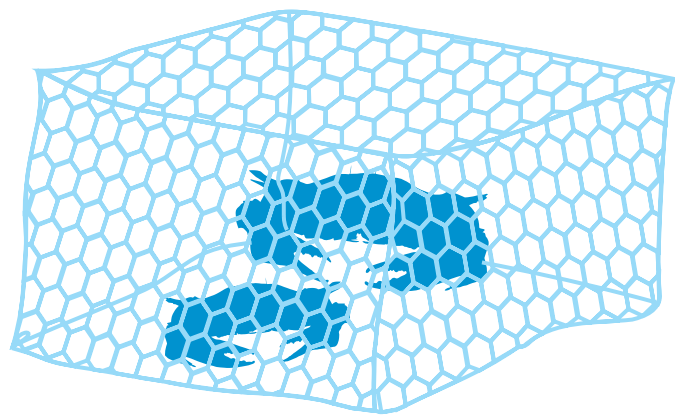
For Aquaculture Farms

- Design the farm to withstand hurricanes by using larger lines and anchors.
- Attach identification information on all floating or off-bottom culturing structures.
- Practice sinking a line of gear to estimate how long it will take.
- For floating gear, check knots and lines, check cage doors, and make sure bags are not overstocked.
- For suspended gear, check pilings, make sure basket doors are closed, and lower the lines to the lowest position on the anchor post to be out of wind and wave action.
- For bottom gear, inspect bag and net anchors to ensure they are secure and in good condition, and add an additional crisscross anchor line over your bags and nets.
- For more information on preparing an aquaculture farm for a storm, see the Florida Shellfish Aquaculture Gear Management Workshop Proceedings, <https://go.usa.gov/xm3HZ>



For Fishers

- Pull nets, lines, and traps out of the water to protect them from wind and wave damage.
- Protect nets by weighing them down and securing them where they will not be washed away by surge or floodwaters.
- Remove your boat from the water when possible.
- Locate an area likely to have the least amount of wind and wave action, if you must moor your boat.



Important Contacts

- National Weather Service, <https://www.weather.gov/>
- National Hurricane Center, <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- Marine Debris Emergency Response Guides, <https://go.usa.gov/xm3ss>
- FEMA, <https://www.fema.gov/>

Photo: Federal Emergency Management Agency

