

Anchoring in Florida

Below is a brief overview of anchoring regulations in Florida. In the interest of keeping this summary concise, many details and exceptions are not included. Florida anchoring laws are highly nuanced, and changing one seemingly minor fact can materially change the applicable rules. For additional information and current updates, please visit the [Boaters Rights Coalition website](#).

For most cruisers transiting Florida waters, very little has changed in practice. If you are traveling through the state and anchoring for a few nights at a time, you are generally free to do so. The statutes below primarily affect vessels remaining in the same location for extended periods.

STATEWIDE LONG-TERM ANCHORING PERMIT

Vessels anchoring in the same location for more than 14 consecutive days are required to obtain a FREE Long-Term Anchoring Permit from the State of Florida. The permit is valid for one year and can be obtained online. If a vessel relocates more than one mile and intends to remain anchored in the new location for more than 14 days, the permit information must be updated accordingly. Please refer to Florida Statute 327.4111 for additional details.

ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS (ALAs)

Counties may establish Anchoring Limitation Areas, or ALAs, which limit vessels to 45 days of anchoring within any six-month period in a particular location. These areas must be clearly identified and may only encompass a limited portion of a county's navigable waters. Please refer to Florida Statute 327.4108 for additional details.

LARGE COUNTY ALAs

Counties with populations exceeding 1.5 million residents may establish expanded ALAs that limit anchoring to 30 days within any six-month period throughout the county's jurisdiction. Currently, Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, Hillsborough County, and Orange County qualify under this provision. Please refer to Florida Statute 327.60 for additional details.

OVERNIGHT ANCHORING PROHIBITED AREAS

Certain areas within Broward County and Biscayne Bay prohibit overnight anchoring entirely. Additional information and maps are available on the [Boaters Rights Coalition website](#), including this [Miami Beach Overnight Anchoring Map](#).

The Coalition welcomes feedback regarding personal experiences with anchoring, enforcement practices, and interactions with local authorities. The more information we receive from boaters, the better we can assist the cruising community.