



## Green Fins Environmental Briefings

A briefing either as a welcome boat briefing or a pre dive brief is the best opportunity to pass important points onto the customers. Green Fins suggests that during these briefings you mention some important environmental aspects in keeping with the Code of Conduct.

### *Boat Briefing*

On every dive tour all customers on board should receive a boat briefing. Once you have everyone's attention, you can mention that you are a Green Fins member. This is an easy way to introduce your environmental topics. Once you are ready the main aspects that should be covered are:

- **No fish feeding** This is important to stop algae growing on nearby reefs as the fish are no longer grazing them and it upsets the local ecology.
- **All rubbish and food that is taken out comes back.** Use the bins. Point out where they are. Mention that if you have tank tape to put it in the bin provided.
- **Ashtrays for smokers** Cigarette butts take a long time to breakdown in the sea and they release chemicals into the water. Also marine species eat them which can block their digestion or even cause cancer.
- **Toilet** Mention not to put any rubbish, tissue paper or anything else in the toilet as it will end up in the sea. Use the bin provided.
- **Reef Watch** Tell you customers that if they are interested they can do a Reef Watch survey.



## Pre Dive Briefing

In addition to your pre-dive briefing, please use the points below to guide your environmental briefing. Remember that all divers should hear these points before every dive.

- **No Touching** As Green Fins members you must adhere to Code of Conduct item #15:  
*"Promote a strict 'no touch' policy for all reef diving and snorkeling"*
- **Watch your distance** People tend to get too close to the reef when they are diving for a better look. This can cause direct accidental damage, fin wash that can disturb habitats and can cause stress to some species. Tell them to maintain good buoyancy at all times.
- **Watch your equipment** It is important to secure all hoses and gauges with BCD clips to prevent them from dangling into coral.
- **No gloves** Unless there is a genuine reason for wearing them, gloves encourage people to touch and handle marine life.
- **No collecting** If it is found down there naturally it should stay down there. Collecting marine life dead or alive should be discouraged.
- **Photographers** Tell them to pay particular attention to their buoyancy and to watch their fins. Suggest a buddy to watch out for them while taking a picture. Take care with sensitive species and don't take too many pictures. Camera flash is damaging too many species.