

Project/Technology Name: Mooring Buoy

What it is: An alternative to the traditional drop anchor for mooring boats to prevent damage to sensitive underwater ecosystems, particularly coral reefs.

How it works: Install a mooring buoy close to or over a site where boats traditionally anchor. Instead of anchoring, boat users would tie off to the mooring. If an area is being overused, moorings can easily be removed, placed elsewhere, and replaced at the original site when it has had adequate recovery time.

What it does: Mooring buoys are designed to lessen damage to underwater ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, which are easily ripped apart and damaged by anchors. The buoys can also be used to aid coral reef conservation, and be used to zone an area for particular activities.

Requirements for implementation: Installing mooring buoys requires professional expertise at all phases of project planning and implementation. The Mooring Buoy Planning Guide (link below) includes details on types of mooring buoy systems, management and liability considerations, and case studies of mooring buoy programs. It also has a section with information on starting a mooring buoy project.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.projectaware.org/americas/english/pdfs/moorbuoy.pdf>

