

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Public Workshop

MSP Workshop #23

Friday 29 March 2019

09:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: STC Conference Room, Victoria, Mahe

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

Present: x13 AD, HS, JS

Alain de comarmond – Principle Secretary for Environment, MEECC

Marie-Claude Morel – Chair of regional council for East Region of Mahe

Ian Charlette- Environmental Consultant (Port Expansion, Aquaculture project) and sits on council for central region & school conselar

Gonzalo Macho – Consultant with background in research in Fisheries management and marine ecology (Spain).

Franky Laporte – Seychelles Port Authority (planning of infrastructure of the port and technical committee for East coast reclamation phase IV)

Diana Renaud- Seychelles Ports Authority (background of Social and Environment fields)

Saratha Naiken- intern at SeyCCAT (worked with wise oceans, SYAH, outer islands clean up in Remire)

Camilla Labonte- SYAH

Abel Sorry- Blue Economy Department

Josep Nogues- ICS consultant (Living in outer islands for 5 years Desroches, Poivres, Alphonse; hakwbill tagging, red footed booby and interested in connect)

Hansel Thomas – Offshore yacht skipper (Sunsail)

Jeremie Bossy – Sport Fishing in outer islands – concern of fishing lodges on the outer islands and revenue retention nationally from these lodges & MSP needs to address this; Lodges on Cosmoledo, Desroches, Alphonse, Providence, Poivre. Management needs to consider outer islands too and activities in these islands. Concern on FADs and threat to other vessels.

Edwin Adrienne- Seascapes Yacht Charter concern for lack of enforcement

Archille Marimba – Private Sector has own business in fisheries and agriculture

Will – Today Seychelles

MSP Core Team:

Joanna Smith - Science and Process lead, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC Canada

Helena Sims - Project Manager, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC

Minutes;

Agenda Item Number	Agenda Item	Notes/Comments/Advice	Action_Response (with initials for who provides response)
1.1	Welcome	A short welcome was delivered by the MSP Core Team and an overview of Packet Content was provided.	Annex 1 for documents provided.
1.2	Agenda Review	The agenda was reviewed and adopted.	Annex 2 for agenda.
1.3	Opening	Opening Remarks were made by the Principle Secretary for Environment.	
1.4	Round-table of introductions	There was a round table of introductions of members in the meeting.	
2	Overview of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan initiative	<p>An overview of the MSP was provided to participants including points on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Background of marine protection in Seychelles -Commitment to protect marine environment including CBD, SDG14 -Conventions signed; CBD, Ramsar, World Heritage Convention, Bonn convention for migratory species, ICRI, PSMA -Blue economy of Seychelles and the 2 main pillars of the Seychelles economy- fisheries & tourism. -Threats to the economy including piracy and IUU fisheries. -Threats to the ocean –coral bleaching, sea level rise, pollution & sedimentation. -Seychelles Debt Swap, SeyCCAT & MSP milestones -Definition of MSP (Ehler & Douvere, 2009) & countries where MSP is being used -Guiding principles of MSP – governance & management, approach & practice - the MSP decision making framework -MSP zoning framework – zones 1, 2 3 -MSP data catalogue -MSP milestone 1 & 2 areas -launch of milestone 3 and list of March to April meetings 	
		Concerns were raised regarding geophysical surveys on the 'Zoroaster' plateau. This area is important for sports fishing. The area is 46m and the depth has changed now to 110m.	There has been only seismic surveys to date and no drilling has started. AD. To send coordinates of area to MSP team to follow up. HT

		Concerns on sustainability and IUU and implementation & enforcement and IUU advance with technology to get away with these activities.	Role of sentinels of the Sea – existing users for enforcement. 90% of IUU reports come from fishermen in Seychelles. AD.
		It was pointed out that the current situation and the difficulty to get a swift response from the authorities is a concern as reporting these activities can also be dangerous for the fishermen/users making the report.	
		A range of speed of 2 m/s is for Industrial Fisheries and different speeds would need to be considered for sailing yachts.	
		How will board without AIS be identified?	VMS, Satellite can also be used. Pilot with drones currently ongoing. JS
		Query on the use of radar stations and whether they will be used in the enforcement	They are included in the consideration for implementation & enforcement.
		Why is Alphonse not included in the milestone 2 areas.	Alphonse is being considered in the next milestone.
		Does zone 2 restrict the artisanal fishermen?	Reference to AAT. Improvement of the fishery plans being developed and should include these uses.
		Any conditions would restrict some individuals even if all requirements are met. Concern on awareness of local fishermen on the conditions and ability to abide to the conditions and lack of equipment compared to larger vessels, charter operators.	
		Concerns of fly fishing camps in outer islands, foreign owned and managed and why these areas are yet to be zoned.	

		Zone 2 reference is medium BD & sustainable use indirectly implies Zone 3 can include unsustainable uses.	
4	Introduction and discussion about the next milestone 3	An introduction to milestone 3 was provided to participants. -explanation on building blocks. -overview of data layers for stakeholder information	
		Question regarding decision making for drilling in a zone 2 in future.	MSP developing a decision matrix in conjunction with the EIA process to guide this consultation process. JS. Implementation of the plan will start in 2021 and an independent authority will be developed which will have oversight on the AAT and decision making framework which will trigger EIA and other procedures in line with the national laws. AD. Petroleum exploration remains a policy of GoS. AD.
		Queries pertaining to the JMA and if petroleum activities in the area. Is there a potential for GoS to create a border/buffer to protect the Seychelles EEZ so any activities in the JMA does not affect Seychelles?	JMA is being managed jointly by Seychelles & Mauritius. The JMA area currently applies only to the seafloor and the water column remains the high seas.

		Saya de malha has a high number of Sri lanka vessels fishing in the area. Concerns regarding no jurisdiction of GoS to monitor this.	This concern has also been raised at JMA committees and on other platforms. International negotiations ongoing for high seas areas for protection. AD
		Query on whether reclamation areas (Mahe, Praslin and other islands) have been mapped to inform zoning.	Reclamation areas have been mapped and is described in the infrastructure layers. JS.
		Concern on shipping lane next to Aldabra and why a Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) is not created in this area.	Currently no official TSS even on the Mahe plateau. There is a proposal to create a PSSA around Aldabra being led by SMSA. JS.
		A request was made for the Cruise ship mooring areas demarcation may be addressed by MSP	
		Query on the semi industrial and artisanal layer as artisanal vessels are small and do not have VMS.	Some artisanal vessels are large enough to have VMS but not all are displayed on the map. JS.
		Query on whether there is any national effort to map the artisanal fishery.	This has been identified as a gap in the MSP for priority action in the coming year. JS.
4	Introduction and discussion about the next milestone 3	An introduction to milestone 3 was provided to participants. -Summary advice for milestone 3	

		Concerns on the validity of the activity and the workshop participant's comments and whether other individuals will have the opportunity to provide input in the decision making process. Propose for this area to have 6-7pm meetings in each district to allow others to provide input.	If it is raised that further consultations is required for this area this can be put forward. EA.
		Discussions on stakeholder consultation processes in Seychelles and stakeholder engagement.	Associations can come forward to request representation in MSP process.
		Concerns on activities on large yacht charter companies, designated mooring areas clearly demarcated, mooring buoys.	
		Availability of designated mooring has been raised as a concern for many years.	
		Concerns raised on foreigners/large companies forming associations and providing input with a designated interest.	
		Concerns pertaining the perception of artisanal fishermen regarding management of resources and needs careful and good engagement of this user group.	Milestone 3 is shallow water and the team is considering the level of maximum engagement in this phase. AD
	Area 1a and 1b: Mahe plateau central	Request for suggestions for improved management in this area.	
		The concern of poaching in existing marine parks such Ste Anne MNP was raised. Query as to increased enforcement, monitoring in the existing marine parks.	
		Why is there only a small area next to Felicite? Possibility to extend this boundary to include Felicite.	This is the boundary of the Ile Cocos MNP that is adjacent to Felicite. HS.
		Baie Ternay and why is Anse Major not included as a Marine Protected Area. High BD area and difficult access from land.	
		Conception island is difficult to land and not many people landing there. Difficult to fish around that area and can be protected. Propose 200m radius.	
		Recife is terrestrial special reserve and can include a marine radius around the island.	

		Concern that hand gathering activities occur in these areas and is considered as a fishing activity and that this needs to be considered.	
		Grand Police area as important turtle nesting area can be considered.	A nomination file is being prepared to protect the beach during the turtle nesting season. Can be considered for marine. AD.
		Propose to connect curieuse, AveMaria, Felicite, Grande Soeur to one large area.	
5	Input, Question and Answers	-Other areas for improved management -Activities, concerns, challenges	
		Concerns remaining the zone 3 (70%) and set places aside for Ports and land based activities that support the Blue Economy.	
		Suggest more activities to sensitise the public on these areas and the information available, management and sustainable use.	
		A request was made for information on CC and SL maps and predictions as Seychelles is a SIDs. Challenge is closing activities in areas of high use to effect change and for visibility of impacts of protection. Recreational fishing and artisanal fishing mapping effort is also key.	
		Query was raised pertaining to designated areas that ban/allow dumping at sea. Eg dredged materials, old buses. Etc. Activities may be ongoing and public is not aware of the designated areas.	Considered for Z3.
		Observations have been made that buildings in outer islands eroding into the sea (Remire).	IDC looking at coastal protection in outer islands to consider erosion in low lying coralline islands.
		Fly-fishing has different techniques and studies are being made. Survival rates lower with jigging -80-90% mortality. All fish caught in Alphonse is released and target species does not include groupers. Species are migratory and need to consider connectivity and natural corridors in the EEZ. Look as a system as a whole not only AAT in each zones.	
		Suggest conservationists to work more closely with users and share information to help each other.	

		Suggest that the organisations work together and improve the authorities to make more efficient.	
		Suggest quick wins. Charter industry has exploded as well as recreational fishing industry. Lack of moorings and need them. Pump stations for black water discharge. What applies to small vessels should apply to large industrial vessels.	
		Concerns on Alphonse island.	OIP has a proposal for Alphonse as a Z2.
		If there is a resort on an island which has fly fishing you cannot zone as a Z1. Other fishing activities is also not allowed within these areas.	
		Agree to Boudeuse, Etoile, Sand Cay, Ile Gilles (next to Poivre) as Z1. St Joseph and D'arros problematic as Z1 as there is ongoing sport fishing there (jigging) and clients from Desroches and Mahe. African Banks also high use for Sports Fishing. Remire as Z1 as large sand Cay opposite Remire but fishing around Remire.	African Banks is already a Protected area (terrestrial).
		Platte island has high fishing but also high biodiversity and should be considered at least Z2.	
		Denis island sell exclusive fishing destination & a fishing lodge on the island. Island owners have been trying to prevent access to the area by artisanal fishermen.	The nomination file proposed for Denis is a Z2.
		Some areas can be closed seasonally e.g. South drop to constant bank in one season and next season West drop to Bird.	
		Concern that some private island will use designation of the area to restrict access to the islands.	
		North island has only 2 anchoring areas. Private island with own activities. Grand Soeur is a potential MPA though difficult to put mooring buoys there. Approx. 57 boats per day.	
		Alphonse has been looking at moorings. Need insurance for mooring. Prefer to give coordinates for safe mooring areas for approaching vessels.	Compulsory mooring and fines would need to be defined in the laws.
5	Closing remarks	The meeting was closed by the PS for Environment who thanked all for attending and for their input. Revisions will be made based on input provided and the next meetings are scheduled for June 2019.	
		Meeting adjourned at hrs 1230hrs	

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 29 March 2019

Annex I: Documents provided for the meeting

SEYMSP_Draft_Zoning_Design_InnerIslands_areas_V50_27Mar2019
SEYMSP_PublicWorkshop_Advert_March2019
SEYMSP_ZoneStatsSummaryTables_areas_V50_20190312
Seychelles_MSP_Update_Jan2019_FINAL-logo
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Phase2_Map4.3_Codes_20181031
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Phase2_Map4.3_Zone1_20181112
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Phase2_Map4.3_Zone2_20181102
SEYMSP_Data_Layers_Maps_Zoning_Design_v50_20190327
SEYMSP_Draft_Zoning_Design_Amirantes_areas_V50_27Mar2019
SEYMSP_Draft_Zoning_Design_EEZ_areas_V50_26Mar2019



PUBLIC WORKSHOPS INVITATION

The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) with the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative (SMSP) invites the public to learn about the Marine Spatial Plan and provide input in to the development of the zoning design for nearshore and deep waters.

What are your ideas for managing the ocean better in Seychelles?
What marine areas are important to you?
We want to hear from you!

Mahé

*Date: Friday 29 March 2019
Time: 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: STC Conference Room,
Victoria, Mahé*

Pralin & La Digue

*Date: Saturday 30 March 2019
Time: 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Seychelles Pension Fund
Complex, Grand Anse, Praslin*

AGENDA

1. Welcome from MEECC
2. Overview of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative
3. Maps, data and stakeholder information for the plan
4. Introduction and discussion about the next Milestone #3
5. Input, Questions & Answers

Refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there – All Welcome!

For more information:

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