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## MSP Steering Committee #29, with Technical Working Group #21

Date: Tuesday 6 June 2023

Time: 1-4 PM (Seychelles local time)

Location: Virtual

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### Minutes

#### Meeting Objectives:

1. To finalise Allowable Activities Tables Zone 1, 2 and 3 and all associated documents: Codes, Master List of Definitions, General and Area-based Management Considerations.

#### Attendance (\* reported challenges with connectivity):

Alain de Comarmond- SeyCCAT, Financing and Implementation TWG \*

Ameer Ebrahim- Independent Consultant, Fisheries TWG

Amia Jovanovic-Desir- Tourism Department, Tourism TWG\*

Annabelle Constance- SIF, Marine Ecology TWG

Ashley Dias- Acting DG MACCE – Steering Committee, Terrestrial Ecology TWG

Bernice Senaratne- Dept. of Tourism, Steering Committee, Tourism TWG

Chris Mason-Parker - CEO, MCSS, Steering Committee, Marine Ecology TWG

Cynthia Adrienne- MLH, Steering Committee

Elle Brighton – Blue Safaris, Marine Ecology TWG

Errol Renaud – Consultant Island Carbons Solutions –, TWG Energy & Infrastructure

Gregory Burke – ICS, Steering Committee & Marine Ecology TWG

Gilberte Gendron – independent consultant – Marine Ecology TWG

Henriette Grimmel- SOSF-DRC, Marine Ecology TWG\*

James Lea- SOSF-DRC, Marine Ecology TWG

Joanna Prosper, PCU (Ridge to Reef Project), Steering Committee & Marine Ecology TWG

Karyss Auguste – SFA MCS (licences), Fisheries TWG

Kelsy Gill- Outreach & Capacity Building office- MACCE, Marine Ecology TWG

Lana Gabriel- SFA (EMS)- Fisheries TWG

Lilianne Bijoux – NISCC, Maritime Security TWG

Marie-Antoinette Micock - Dept. of Tourism, Tourism TWG

Marie-May Jeremie – CEO SeyCCAT, Steering Committee, Finance TWG\*

Miguel Herrera – AGAC – Fisheries TWG

Murray Duncan, UniSey, (alt) Steering committee & Marine Ecology TWG

Rodney Quatre- MACCE, Steering Committee & Marine Ecology TWG

Sabrina Lawrence – rep Rodney Govinden, SFA- Fisheries TWG

Sophie Morel- MACCE, Terrestrial Ecology TWG

Stuart Laing – UniSey, Financing & implementation TWG

Veronica Uzice – SFA (aquaculture), Fisheries TWG\*

Vincent Lucas- SFA, Steering Committee, Fisheries TWG\*

Wilna Accouche- GIF, Steering Committee, Fisheries TWG

Yannick Roucou- SFA (Legal) – Fisheries TWG

#### MSP Core Team



Joanna Smith-Science and Process lead, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC Canada  
 Helena Sims- Project Manager, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC  
 Elke Talma- SeyCCAT Project coordinator

**Minutes:**

Agenda Item #	Agenda Item	Comment/Advice	Action_Response (with initials)
1.0	Welcome	The SMSP team welcomed all the participants to the meeting.	
1.1	Agenda Review	The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and adopted without any changes.	Annex I
1.2	Introductions	Introductions from SC and TWG members. Members were requested to please put their name, affiliation and SC or TWG member in the chat.	See attendance list
2.0	Allowable Activities Tables Zone 1, 2 and 3		
2.10	Changes from 22 March and outstanding items	The SMSP team proposed the following document review order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Floating Structures, marine.</li> <li>2. Underwater Structures, marine.</li> <li>3. Zone 2</li> <li>4. Zone 3</li> <li>5. General Management Considerations and Area-based Management Considerations</li> <li>6. Definitions</li> <li>7. Codes</li> </ol>	
2.11	Proposed revision for floating structures marine	The SMSP team proposed to move floating structures marine and underwater structure to Maritime Infrastructure as both activities could apply to multiple themes.  Floating Structures, marine means any structure floating on the surface of the water. Floating structures could include floating accommodation, restaurants, visitor centres, floating decommissioned vessels, or a building with pontoons. Floating Structures do not have a working engine.  Underwater Structures, marine means any structures fully submerged below the surface of the water. Underwater structures could include tourism accommodation, facilities for research, submerged decommissioned vessels for SCUBA. Underwater structures do not have a working engine.	
2.12		Members queries as to how will this revised definition impact blue barriers and reef balls used for climate change responses; used for breaking wave action for shoreline protections/ coral reef restoration.	SMSP questioned if this activity would be allowable in a zone 1 – shoreline protection and artificial reefs. Proposal

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			to move the activity to Maritime infrastructure. JS.
2.13		MACCE confirmed that the requirement for an EIA depends on the size of the structure (scale) and that hence, where this is in the AAT depends on the nature of the intervention.	
2.14		MACCE confirmed that submerged vessels for SCUBA activities already exists in Seychelles (North of Mahe).	
2.15	Decision	SMSP proposal to move floating structure and underwater infrastructure to maritime infrastructure sector as both activities apply to multiple themes with a requirement to relook at underwater marine activity in Zone 1.	No objections.
2.16	Blue Barriers	There were discussions on whether the blue barriers are attached to the seabed and if they are using artificial structures.	Members agreed to keep the definition general as it can include restorative aquaculture with coral reefs and oysters which can be attached to or sitting on the seabed.
2.17	Allowable Activities Table: Zone 2	Revisions pertaining to the AAT Z2 was presented to the SC & TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquaculture operational- remove c17</li> <li>• Fly Fishing, Semi-industrial, Subsistence. Add #21 (?)</li> <li>• Sport fishing. Add #16</li> <li>• Floating Structures. Add #19 (?)</li> <li>• Cruise Ships. Remove #16 and #19</li> <li>• Area-based management considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denis Island - check</li> <li>• Amirantes to Fortune Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Joseph Atoll</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
2.18		Revised definitions pertaining to a Area-based management considerations (moved from Zone 2 Tables – March 2023) was presented to the SC & TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denis Island</li> <li>• Amirantes to Fortune Bank – St Joseph Atoll</li> <li>• Artisanal – X</li> <li>• Semi-industrial – X</li> <li>• Desalination, boat-based - #1, #5</li> <li>• Renewable Energy – all – X</li> <li>• Bioprospecting, Development – X</li> <li>• Petroleum Exploration, Drilling – X</li> <li>• Petroleum Development, Production, Extraction – X</li> <li>• Tourism Accommodation, marine - X</li> </ul>	

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2.19	Aquaculture C17	The SMSP team queries as to whether C17 would apply to operational aquaculture and if the aquaculture structures have beacons on them?	SFA confirmed EMS not applicable to aquaculture hence C17 not applicable to aquaculture. JS
2.20		SFA advised that the aquaculture team to confirm when logs in.	<i>*Significant connectivity issues were being encountered throughout the meeting and at this particular time.</i>
2.21	Fly Fishing, Semi-industrial, Subsistence. Add #21 (?)	SMSP sought consensus to add C21 Fly Fishing, Semi-industrial, Subsistence.	
2.22		TWG members queried as to what would constitute a dive site and whether there an official dive site register/map? Consideration of providing clarity as to what constitutes a dive site if C21 is added.	
2.23		Fisheries TWG members mentioned that there are fishing activities occurring on dive sites already and how would this be considered.	Considerations for safety when there is a spatial overlap. JS.
2.24		Marine Ecology TWG members proposed that there should be considerations of only pelagic fishing over dive sites.	
2.25		SMSP reminded members that the spatial overlap and conflict was mostly around the inner islands. There may be a general management consideration needed to consider spatial overlap with fishing and the considerations may also be site specific.	
2.26		There was agreement to add C21 to Fly Fishing, Semi-industrial, Subsistence Fishing.	
2.27	Sport fishing. Add #16	SMSP sought consensus to add C16 to Sport fishing.	No objections
2.28		Why does C16 only apply to hire craft and not to other vessels? In some instances, a personal vessel can be used for sport fishing.	Vessel owners taking clients fishing would have to apply for hire craft license. Code 5 already addresses environmental impact and code 7 addresses fishing gear and reporting requirements etc. code 16 was proposed in March to draw attention to hire craft license which may be limited. JS

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2.29		Members from SFA proposed that they can revert and confirm if C16 applies to sports fishing.	VL
2.30		Fisheries TWG members reminded all that in the last meeting it was mentioned that SFA will be regulating sports fishing and tourism mentioned hire crafts may be carrying out sport fishing as well as other activities.	
2.31		Representatives from the department of tourism expressed that they do not see any harm in including this here.	
2.32	Add C11 to fly fishing and recreational fishing	SMSP sought consensus to add C11 to fly fishing and recreational fishing.	
2.33		Representatives from the Blue Safari questioned as to why Cosmoledo and Astove are not included in C11?	In March the feedback received for zone 1 was that no motorized devices allowed. Same applied to zone 2. The proposal was for it to be prohibited in all areas. If there is disagreement, then this needs to be discussed.
2.34		Representatives from tourism added that some large hire craft and superyachts have motorised devices on board (jet skis), and they use it throughout their stay.	Members to discuss if use of motorized devices is compatible with biodiversity conservation in zone 2. JS.
2.35		Members clarified that for the four sustainable use areas under the OIP (Desroches, Poivre, Alphonse, Farquhar) there were consultations and agreement that there would be no jetskis in these (Z2) areas. The other zone 2 areas were not included in these consultations as they were not part of the OIP. The timeline has now passed for the Management plans for these areas.	
2.36		SMSP explained that there needs to be a distinction between zone 1 and zone 2 and zone 3. However, not all operators are present at TWG so for zone 2, code 11 applies, but it can be addressed in the management plan.	
2.37		SFA expressed concerns of being too restrictive.	
2.38	Floating Structures. Add #19	SMSP sought consensus to remove c19 to floating structures.	No objections
2.39	Break		
2.40	Process & way forward	SMSP members were informed that due to poor internet connectivity leading to limited participation and as some members struggling to connect and/or follow, SMSP will plan a 3rd meeting next week to	SMSP requested members to save the date for same time next week to run through any

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		<p>review outstanding items before it is presented to SC for decision.</p> <p>The SC meeting scheduled for tomorrow will hence be postponed.</p>	<p>remaining pieces of the AAT- 13 June 1300-1600hrs. Members can send comments in writing and the SC will confirm changes in the in-person meeting in June. HS.</p>
2.41	Cruise Ships. Remove #16 and #19	SMSP sought consensus to Remove #16 and #19 to Cruise Ships.	No objections
2.42	Bunkering at sea, fishing vessel	SMSP sought clarification on bunkering at sea for fishing vessels and whether there would be restrictions in a zone 2.	
2.43		SFA confirmed bunkering at sea is allowable with normal considerations.	
2.44		SFA legal queried as to who would be responsible for monitoring the activity of bunkering at sea, as the request doesn't come to SFA.	SMSP to follow up as it could be SMSA but need to confirm what the authorisation is for refuelling at sea. JS.
2.45	Tourism and recreation codes added.	<p>The summary of changes to the codes for tourism and recreation related activities was presented to the SC and TWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anchorages and Mooring Buoys. Add #21</li> <li>• Floating Structures. Add #19, #21</li> <li>• Hire Craft License. delete</li> <li>• Motorised Activities, commercial. Remove #19</li> <li>• Motorised Activities, non-commercial. new line</li> <li>• Non-motorised Activities, commercial. new line</li> <li>• Non-motorised Activities, non-commercial. Remove #19. Add #4, #21</li> <li>• SC agreement to changes to Zone 1 vessels: Tourism. No objections.</li> <li>• Cruise Ships. Remove #16</li> <li>• <u>SMSP team check</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cruise ships. Remove #19</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
2.46		Members discussed that C19 is needed to make provisions for zone 1 but that it is not needed in zone 2.	
2.47		Members were reminded that C19 was added to ensure that essential infrastructure is provided for enforcement.	
2.48		SC members pointed out that using the precautionary principle, it may be best to keep C19.	No objection form TWG/SC to keep code 19
2.49	Area-based management considerations	SMSP team summarised that the AAT for Z2 now has one column and the other two columns for Denis Island & St Joseph Amiranter to Fortune Bank – St	

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	(moved from Zone 2 Tables – March 2023):	Joseph Atoll moved to management-based considerations and noting that some of the activities are not applicable in the areas. E.g., Industrial fishing is an X in Z2 Denis and St Joseph as shallow and within the industrial fishery exclusion zone.	
2.50		SOSF-DRC confirmed that they have no reservations with the changes from AAT to area-based management considerations. However, they questioned on implementation if restrictions are in the AAT vs Area Based management considerations. The AAT and Area Based management considerations then need to be as strong and regulated if these changes are being made.	SMSP confirmed that the steps for implementation are being developed and how area-based management considerations inform management plans and regulations. JS
2.51		SOSF requested clarity on Jet skis use and respective consultations around St Joseph as if it is permitted it will impact sensitive species (e.g., manta). For St Joseph, wanted to restrict use for medical emergencies only.	SMSP to check for motorised vessels allowable for essential access in St Joseph. - C19 for jetskis (motorised devices). JS.
2.52		SMSP queried as to whether semi-industrial fishing is an activity in St Joseph.	SFA confirmed that it may be applicable to sea cucumber. VL.
2.53		SMSP queried as to whether artisanal fisheries are an activity in St Joseph?	SFA confirmed it is possible. VL.
2.54		SMSP proposed that the restrictions can be addressed in the management plan developed through engagement in the Amirantes to Fortune Bank management plan with stakeholder engagement.	
2.55		Fisheries TWG members questioned if the management plan will be legally enforceable and if it can supersede the MSP?	SMSP reiterated that there needs to be consistency with the objectives of the area. The process to develop the management plans and the specific area objective need to follow the SMSP. The AAT needs to guide the development of the management plans and the conditions within. JS.
2.56	Table clean up	The SMSP confirmed that the activities will be moved to alphabetical order to clean up the tables.	
2.57	Allowable Activities Zone 3	The SMSP presented on the AAT for zone 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Table for Z3 deep and Z3 shallow (combined) and activities not occurring would not be applicable.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differentiation of Z2 and Z3- are all the codes necessary in a zone 3?</li> </ul> <p>Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Purse Seine. Remove #22</li> <li>Motorised activities. Codes?</li> <li>Non-motorized activities. Codes?</li> </ul>	
2.58		Some members proposed that for ease of use it is better to have the two areas separately as the two areas are very different both ecologically and user wise, and persons may not know what is applicable or not in an area.	
2.59		SMSP highlighted that having the tables separate could indicate low consistency with the other tables for Z1 and Z2 where activities which are not applicable are not an X but conditional to existing legislation.	
2.60		SMSP proposed that one option would be to include the clarifications in the management considerations for shallow and deep-water zone 3.	
2.61		For consistency, members agreed to have a combined table for zone 3 and the list of prohibited activities can be captured under other general management considerations.	
2.62		<p>Fisheries TWG members flagged that it is unclear how management plans and regulations will reflect the AAT and the need for strong coordination for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management plans for each zone/area vs</li> <li>Regulations vs.</li> <li>AAT</li> <li>Revised legislations</li> </ul> <p>The members proposed to have one plan and all conditions in that one plan for ease of reference.</p>	SMSP confirmed that management plans are currently required for designated MPAs and that other areas in Zone 3 may refer to a fisheries management plan such as the Tuna Management plan. HS.
2.63		SFA advised that for fisheries related activities, management plans may be specific to the gear and the fishery, area or species and that there is a need to ensure alignment with the objectives of the area.	
2.64		Members sought clarity on if there is there going to be a single document per sector that brings all the regulations to one place, so users know what applies to them and not having to track multiple management plans.	SMSP to discuss with GoS in June 2023 in person meetings. JS.
2.65		Members from the fisheries TWG stressed that for the consideration of how/what changes will apply to the EU SFPA – clear coordination will be needed.	Existing agreement runs to 2026 and will apply and this is reflected in the general management considerations. JS.



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3.0 3.1	Wrap up and Next Steps	<p>The next steps were discussed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SC meeting cancelled for 7th June.</li> <li>-SC/TWG meeting planned for 13th June so can submit recommendations to the EC so can finalise AAT and relevant documents. Written comments will be accepted for consideration.</li> </ul> <p>The June in person session will focus on implementation and finalizing chapter is SMSP document.</p>	
3.2	SC on 7 June 2023: Quorum for recommendations to EC	<p>SMSP confirmed the next meetings below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SC for 7 June- Postponed</li> <li>SC/TWG for 13 June 2023 1-4pm (virtual)</li> <li>SC/TWG 22 June, full day (Eden Bleu Hotel)</li> <li>SC 26 June, morning (Eden Bleu Hotel)</li> </ul>	
4.0	AOB		
4.1	Definition of Artisanal fishing	Fisheries TWG members requested clarification from the SFA on the definition for artisanal fishing and whether it changed.	SFA legal confirmed that the draft revised legal framework makes no reference to artisanal and semi-industrial fishing as it makes reference to class systems for fishing vessels. YR
4.2		The SMSP team flagged whether the SMSP AATs need to align with the changed classification framework.	<p>SFA legal can share the revised classification to SMSP. YR</p> <p>SMSP can also meet with SFA when the in-country meetings are held in end of June 2023.</p>
4.3		SFA legal confirmed that a table will be a schedule in the fisheries act with Small scale fishing now class 1-3; Artisanal and semi-industrial now class 4,5; Industrial fishing is now referred to as Seychelles/Foreign fishing vessel (>24m)	
5.0	Adjourn		
Meeting adjourned at 1600hrs.			

Minutes prepared by Helena Sims, with assistance from Elke Talma, and submitted on 12 June 2023.

## Annex I: Meeting Agenda

### SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

#### MSP Steering Committee #29, with Technical Working Group #21

Date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Time: 1-4 PM (Seychelles local time)

Location: Virtual

#### DRAFT Agenda

##### Meeting Objective:

1. To finalise Allowable Activities Tables Zone 1, 2 and 3 and all associated documents: Codes, Master List of Definitions, General and Area-based Management Considerations.
2. Next in-person consultations in June

#	Time	Topic
	12:55 PM	<i>Virtual meeting started</i>
1	1:00 PM	<b>Meeting Opening</b> – Steering Committee Chair MACCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome – MACCE and SMSP Team</li> <li>• Agenda review – MACCE</li> <li>• Introductions from SC and TWG members. Please put your name, affiliation, and SC or TWG member in the chat.</li> </ul>
2	1:10 PM	<b>Allowable Activities Tables</b> - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Changes from 22 March and outstanding items</li> </ol>
	2:20 PM	<b>Virtual Break</b>
2	2:30 PM	<b>Allowable Activities Tables, continued</b> - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Changes and outstanding items, cont'd</li> <li>ii. Summary of Recommendations from SC/TWG to SC#29</li> </ol>
3	3:50 PM	<b>AOB and Wrap up</b> - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SC#29 on 7<sup>th</sup> July 23: Quorum for recommendations to EC</li> <li>ii. Next in-person consultations for 20-30 June 2023: Implementation of the SMSP</li> </ol>
	4:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>

##### Annex II: List of documents provided and in shared dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kcp10sq9jlfjd1p/AABIKhsup\\_2yZex3IGKAbVBHa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kcp10sq9jlfjd1p/AABIKhsup_2yZex3IGKAbVBHa?dl=0)

- SEYMSP\_ActivitiesTable\_Completion\_Zone3\_20230605
- SEYMSP\_ActivitiesTable\_Revisions\_ALL\_20230605



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- SEYMSP\_MasterList\_Definitions\_AllowableActivities\_20230605\_SC-TWG\_tracked
  - SEYMSP\_SC29\_TWG21\_Agenda\_6Jun2023\_Draft
  - SEYMSP\_SC29\_TWG21\_PPT1\_20230606\_v1\_draft
  - SEYMSP\_ActivitiesTable\_Completion\_Codes\_20230605\_SC-TWG\_tracked
  - SEYMSP\_ActivitiesTable\_Completion\_Zone1\_202300605\_SC-TWG\_tracked
  - SEYMSP\_ActivitiesTable\_Completion\_Zone2\_20230605