

MSP Zoning Design Codes for Allowable Activities Tables

Date approved: 20 May 2024

Allowable Activity Table (AAT) Codes for the Zone areas identified through the SMSP Initiative (2014-2020).

The Codes in this table apply to the superscript numbers in Allowable Activities Tables (AAT) for the MSP zoning design. Coding comes from legislation, regulations, scientific studies, government reports, unpublished studies, expert advice and/or best available information. Stakeholders have developed and refined the restrictions and codes, starting in 2015. See also the General and Area-based Management Considerations and the Master List of Definitions.

Code #	Codes for Allowable Activities Tables
1	See General and Area-based Management Considerations. Approved management plans needed for Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), where applicable or required. Development proposals require a transparent and participatory process with all stakeholders.
2	For subsistence fishing, the management plan for the area will provide direction on the meaning of, the conditions, and definition of the activities it would apply to, noting the intent of subsistence fishing for persons residing on the islands. Subsistence fishing would be allowable for residents of Outer Islands. The details of subsistence fishing can be done at the technical level alongside or after the MSP is approved. Quotas and monitoring of all species harvested is required. Sustainable yield would need to be determined in a Zone 1 (SFA). Definition and regulations of subsistence fishing are as per the Seychelles Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill 2023 and regulation(s). See also notes in General Management Considerations.
3	Anchor in designated areas and/or use permanent mooring buoys as required by legislation, regulation, management plans or policy, and/or where practical.
4	Restrictions may apply to avoid or minimise disturbance on key species and ecological functions. For fisheries activities, see relevant legislation, regulations, and agreements for restrictions on target and non-target species.
5	Authorised approved permit and/or licenses are required for research and monitoring activities, where applicable.
6	Restrictions or prohibitions on fishing gear or technique may apply. Catch and release may be required, depending on species targeted. Some techniques may be prohibited, such as popping. Fishing in accordance with bag limits, catch limits, rod limits and other gear or catch or fishing effort restrictions found in laws, regulations, policies, management plans, or international conventions and agreements. Reporting requirements, catch & release requirements, bans on discards, bans on retention, handling of species, best practices such as catch & release guidelines by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Resolutions, and the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) criteria.
7	All vessels conducting seismic surveys must have necessary functioning acoustic equipment and adequately trained operators to detect the presence of cetaceans to always avoid and minimise detrimental effects during operation in accordance with strict, international published scientific guidelines for minimising disturbance to cetaceans (e.g., JNCC Guidelines for Marine Mammals 2017).
8	For non-renewable and bioprospecting activities, exploration and development phases must adhere to strict standards for the sector incl. health, safety, and environment. Petroleum activities must comply with Petro Seychelles Model Petroleum Agreement.

9	Motorised devices and motor watercraft (jet skis) are prohibited in all SMSP Marine National Parks (Zone 1) and in the Desroches, Poivre, Alphonse, and Farquhar Atoll SMSP Marine Sustainable Use Areas (Zone 2; see Outer Islands Project) except where authorised for research, essential access and/or infrastructure, enforcement, safety and/or rescue. See the SMSP Master List of Definitions for motor watercraft and motorised devices. Motor watercraft (jet skis) are conditionally allowable in the remaining SMSP Zone 2 areas: they must meet the details on specifications that are allowable in SMSP Zone 2, and only operate in the allowable location(s), outside a lagoon and shallow waters, included in the SMSA regulations and/or Marine Sustainable Use Area management plans. Motor watercraft (jet skis) should not operate within reef zones 150 m from high water mark as per international best practice. All other motorised devices are prohibited in Zone 2.
10	No activity on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and/or instrumented buoys by supply vessels except recovery. Authorisation required from SFA.
11	The type and extent of activities offered by a Hire Craft licence may be limited, depending on the area objectives.
12	In compliance with Seychelles, legislation, regulations, policies, management plans, agreements, and harvest strategies for fisheries monitoring. Fisheries monitoring includes, and is not limited to, human observers, electronic monitoring systems (EMS), vessel monitoring systems (VMS).
13	Only for essential access and/or essential infrastructure for the zone, including enforcement, safety and/or rescue. Considerations for essential access and infrastructure development include emergencies and whether an activity has fewer known impacts to the marine environment than to the terrestrial environment.
14	In compliance with Seychelles, legislation, regulations, policies, management plans, agreements, and harvest strategies for FAD management. FAD management includes, and is not limited to, authorisation given by SFA, no unauthorised deployment of FADs, and information to SMSA for anchored FADs
15	In accordance with the Seychelles Aquaculture Master Plan, Seychelles Aquaculture Policy, and other relevant legislation, regulations, policies, management plans, agreements, and strategies.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan v.20241010

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A “look up” table to cross reference the migration of AAT codes from the ones used during the Milestones to finalising the approved AAT on 20 May 2024 so that the code numbers are sequential. This look up table is not published in the final Plan document or regulations.

ORIGINAL code #	NEW code #
1	1
2	2
4	3
5	4
6	5
7	6
8	7
10	8
11	9
14	10
16	11
17	12
19	13
22	14
23	15