

Marine Protected Areas in Saint Lucia

Please find below a list of marine reserves, comprising coral and artificial reef areas, beaches and mangroves as last declared in 2000 under the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 1984. Many of these reserves were first declared in 1986 or 1990. All marine reserves are no take areas. However, in two cases, with written permission from the Chief Fisheries Officer to authorised groups under special conditions, some level of take (low) is allowed:

- Man Koté Mangrove, with regards to select cutting for charcoal production; and,
- Grande Caille Reef (part of a larger marine reserve (see below)), with regards to restricted fishing access.

Infringements do occur in some marine reserves, particularly in the more remote areas. Fishing in Saint Lucia is artisanal in nature and with regards to the Fishing Priority Areas located within Marine Protected Areas, fishing intensity is low.

A. The Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) is a marine protected area, officially declared in 1995. It was declared a **Local Fisheries Management Area (LFMA)** in 2001 under the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 1984. It comprises several zones including Marine Reserves (no take areas), Fishing Priority Areas, Yacht Mooring Areas, Recreational Areas and Multiple Use Areas. The marine reserves in the SMMA are:

- Reefs from Anse Chastanet Bay, including Turtle Reef, to the Western most point of Trou au Diable Beach (includes Grande Caille Reef);
- Reefs from just west of Rchette Point to and including Bat Cave;
- Reefs from southern end of Malgretoute Beach to northern end of Jalousie Beach (i.e. reefs around Petit Piton);
- Reefs from northern extent of Gros Piton to the western most point of Gros Piton.

The Soufriere Marine Management Association, which manages the area, was declared a not-for-profit Organisation under the Companies Act of Saint Lucia in 2003.

Marine Reserves therein were first declared in small reef sections in **1986** as: Anse Mamin Reef; Reef between Grande Caille and Rachette Point; Anse I’Lvrogne; Reef at Malgretoute; Reef at Anse des Piton.

In **1990**, one large portion was declared as: Reefs at Anse Chastanet comprising Turtle Reef and the portion of the reef extending seawards from the southernmost point of Anse Chastanet Beach to Grand Caille Point.

In **2000**, most of the reefs in Soufriere were declared as in the revised bulleted list above, encompassing the areas declared in 1986 and 1990.

A **Pitons Management Area (PMA)**, which includes part of the SMMA, has been declared as an **Environmental Protection Area (EPA)** under the Physical Development Plan Act of 2001. In addition, the PMA, including its terrestrial and marine components, was declared a **World Heritage Site (WHS)** in 2004.

B. The Canaries/Anse la Raye Marine Management Area (CAMMA) is a marine protected area officially declared in 1998. It comprises several zones: Marine Reserves (no take areas), Fishing Priority Areas, Yacht Mooring Areas, Recreational Areas and Multiple Use Areas. The marine reserves in the CAMMA are:

Marine Reserve	Year first declared
▪ Marigot Bay Mangrove	1986
▪ Artificial Reef at Anse Cochon (Lesleen M)	1990
▪ Reefs extending from Rocky Shore South of Anse Galet to the northern most point of Anse Cochon Beach	1990
▪ Artificial Reef at Anse la Verdure (Daini-Koyomaru Dredger)	2000

All of the above areas were re-declared marine reserves in 2000.

C. Other Marine Reserves

Marine Reserve	Year first declared
▪ Grande Anse Beach and Mangrove	1986
▪ Cas En Bas Mangrove	1986
▪ Maria Islet Reef	1986
▪ Marquis Mangrove	1986
▪ Rodney Bay Artificial Reefs	1986
▪ Savannes Bay Mangrove	1986
▪ Anse Pointe Sable- Man Koté Mangrove	1986
▪ Esperance Harbour Mangrove	1986
▪ Praslin Mangrove	1986
▪ Fond d'Or Beach and Mangrove	1986
▪ Louvette Mangrove	1986
▪ Bois d'Orange Mangrove	1986
▪ Choc Bay Mangrove	1986
▪ Vigie Bay Artificial Reef	1990
▪ Artificial Reef at Moule a Chique	1990
▪ Reefs extending from Caesar Point to Mathurin Point	1990

All of the above areas were re-declared marine reserves in 2000.

The Savannes Bay and Man Koté Mangroves were declared **RAMSAR sites** in 2002. Note too, that Savannes Bay and Man Koté Mangroves, as well as Maria Island Nature Reserve, form part of a wider **Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA)**, so declared in 2007, under the Physical Development Plan Act of 2001. This initiative is part of an OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project. The Saint Lucia component of the OPAAL Project is spearheaded by the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT).

In **summary**, nineteen (19) marine reserves were declared in Saint Lucia in 1986 and a further six (6) in 1990. A revised list of twenty-four (24) marine reserves (including the reserves from the two previous listings) was declared in 2000. These are located around the island.

Sub-active to active management exists in 12/24 of the marine reserves; 8/12 fall within marine management areas (SMMA and CAMMA) and 3/12 fall within an environmental protection area (PSEPA). Sub-active to active management occurs in the following areas:

- SMMA (12 km): diving and snorkelling are allowed in marine reserves via permit;
 - *Part* of one of the four marine reserves in the SMMA (reefs from northern extent of Gros Piton to the western most point of Gros Piton) has been declared a Marine Sanctuary and it is closed to all activities except authorised scientific research;
 - Restricted fishing involving a select group of fishers is also allowed in *part* of another reserve (see above);
- CAMMA: note that the Soufriere Marine Management Association is currently managing this area, but there is no on-site management office, as in the SMMA; diving and snorkelling are allowed in marine reserves via permit;
- Man Koté Mangrove: (39.37 hectares: Proposed IUCN category: Park-like); this mangrove wetland was managed under the combined efforts of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the Department of Forestry, the Department of Fisheries and the Aupicon Charcoal Producers Group; the Group practiced sustainable harvesting (select cutting and replanting) of mangrove trees; the latter Group is currently experiencing operational problems;
- Grande Anse Beach and Mangrove: some degree of beach management has occurred from 2001 to the present, via the activities of the Desbarras Sea Turtle Watching Group (DSTWG), working in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme and the Department of Fisheries; the Group which has been experiencing operational problems in recent times;

- PSEPA: This includes three (3) marine reserves, that is, Maria Islet Reef (note that Maria Island Nature Reserve is vested in the SLNT); Man Koté Mangrove and Savannes Bay Mangrove.

The following contacts are provided to source additional information:

Organisation	Information Requested	Contact Name	Designation	Email Address
Saint Lucia National Trust	PSEPA	Bishnu Tulsie	Director	btulsie@candw.lc and director@slunatrust.org
Soufriere Marine Management Association	SMMA and CAMMA	Kai Wulf	Manager	smma@candw.lc
Department of Forestry	RAMSAR Sites	Michael Andrew	Chief Forestry Officer	chiefforest@slumaffe.org
Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme	DSTWG	Nigel Mitchel	Director	sluheritage@candw.lc and nigel@stluciaheritage.org
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute	Man Koté Mangrove	Allan Smith	Associate	as@candw.lc
Piton Management Area Office	PMA-WHS	Henix Joseph	Manager	pmawhs@candw.lc
Department of Fisheries	DSTWG; other information, where available on marine reserves for which other contacts have not been listed	Vaughn Charles	Chief Fisheries Officer	chieffish@slumaffe.org and deptfish@slumaffe.org