

Special Fishery Conservation Areas (SFCA)

Special Fishery Conservation Areas are no-fishing zones reserved for the reproduction of fish populations. Their nature reserve statuses are declared by the Agriculture Minister under Orders privileged through Section 18 of the Fishing Industry Act of 1975. It is, therefore, illegal and punishable by law to engage in any unauthorized fishing activities in the demarcated zones. Bogue Island Lagoon, Montego Bay and Bowen Inner Harbour, St Thomas, were the first two SFCA's to be declared.

Benefits of the Special Fishery Conservation Areas

The special fishery conservation areas are anticipated to gradually increase fish populations affected by overfishing, habitat degradation and land-based nonpoint-source pollution, among other stressors. SFCA establishment has been scientifically proven to improve fish stocks by 3 to 21 times its original biomass. Furthermore, due to the 'spill over' effect, adjacent marine areas benefit as excess fish from the reserves will migrate into these areas where fishing is allowed.

The SFCA's will also maintain genetic diversity of marine species within Jamaica's water – reducing the probability of extinction. The habitats provide the marine species the opportunity to reach full sexual maturity therefore increasing their egg producing/spawning potential and survival of the species overall.

SFCA's also offer socio-economic benefits, in terms of:

1. Improving economic opportunities for fishers as the catch per unit effort for fishermen should increase within the areas surrounding the reserves
2. Increased opportunities for eco-tourism, allowing visitors and citizens to view our tropical fish species in their natural environment
3. Providing environments for further research and development initiatives

Special Fishery Conservation Areas Establishment

Our SFCA's were selected based on the following criteria:

1. Ecological characteristics: presence of seagrass beds, a reef system, and/or shallow waters abutting mangrove stands. These areas are known to be important nursery grounds for many and perhaps most juvenile reef fish species. The inclusion of reefs allow for the protection of a critical growth and feeding habitat for the species being protected by the sanctuaries.
2. General agreement of the primary stakeholders (fishers, investors, hotel and tourism businesses) for these areas to be declared as sanctuaries. It is only through such consensus that the stakeholders will protect and ensure the success of the SFCA.
3. The existence of an organized entity with the commitment and capacity to partner with the Fisheries Division in the management of the SFCA.
4. These characteristics were considered bearing in mind the potential impacts that point source pollutants may have on these sites.

Management Arrangement

SFCA's are managed through a cooperative arrangement between the government and community organisations (non-government organisations). Each partnership is formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Ministry and the collaborating organization, which outlines the responsibilities of the synergic entities. Under the MoA agreement, Government will provide financial resources for the partner NGOs to undertake the day-to-day operations of the SFCA.

In December 2008, Cabinet approved funding for the monitoring and surveillance through a partnership arrangement with selected NGOs. The sum of \$36.92 Million was allocated in 2008, and for each successive year of the life of these SFCA's, the sum of \$34.92 Million is to be paid. The Board of the Fishery Management and Development Fund approved the sum of \$3.3 Million to conduct the baseline studies within these sanctuaries and \$23 Million to the NGOs to support their activities.

If no partner NGO is readily identified, the Fisheries Division will assume management of the SFCA.

The main managerial responsibilities of the government include the provision of training, budgetary support, research and development, instituting policy and enabling legislation, and monitoring control and surveillance of the marine parks. Surveillance by the Marine Police and Coast Guard is supplemented by the Partner NGOs who engage in patrolling the SFCA's and enforcing the laws. Additionally, partner NGO's may engage in research activities related to and conducted in the SFCA's.

Declared Sanctuaries - their Locations and Partner NGOs

	Names Of Declared Fish Sanctuaries	Regions/Parishes	Year Declared	Managed by and Contact Persons	Approximate sizes (Ha)
1	Three Bays Fish Sanctuary	Hellshire, St. Catherine	July 28, 2009	C_CAM Foundation Ingrid Parchment 383-2184, Brandon Hay 382-8543	1261.3
2	Galleon Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Old Harbour, St Catherine	July 28, 2009	C_CAM Foundation Ingrid Parchment 383-2184, Brandon Hay 382-8543	1872.7
3	Salt Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Salt River, Clarendon	July 28, 2009	C_CAM Foundation Ingrid Parchment 383-2184, Brandon Hay 382-8543	1022.1
4	Galleon St. Elizabeth Fish Sanctuary	Crawford, St Elizabeth	July 28, 2009	The Breds Foundation Mr Luke Bem Brown	260.6
5	Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary	Belmont, Westmoreland	July 28, 2009	Bluefields Bay Fisherman's Friendly Society (BBFFS) Mr. Livingston Thompson 421-7449	1359.409
6	Orange Bay Fish Sanctuary	Orange Bay, Hanover	July 28, 2009	Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT) 957-4626 Keisha Spencer	535.514
7	Montego Point SFCA	Montego Bay, St James.	July 31, 2009	Montego Bay Marine Park Trust (MBMPT) Mr Hugh Shim	302.796

8	Discovery Bay Fish Sanctuary	Discovery Bay, St Ann	July 28, 2009	Alloa Fisherman's Cooperative Mr Shawn Arscott 858-3977 JFCU Mr. Drysdale 818-4690	168.385
9	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary	Boscobel, St Mary	Feb. 23, 2010	Sandals Foundation Ms. Heidi Clarke 935-0746	99.115
10	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary East & West	Boscobel, St Mary		Sandals Foundation Ms. Heidi Clarke 935-0746; Mr. Jonathan Hernould 527-5337	
11	Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary	Oracabessa Bay, St Mary	Feb.23, 2010	Oracabessa Bay Foundation/Oracabessa Bay fisherman's Group Mr. John Gossie 470-8139	83.7
12	Bowden Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Bowden, St Thomas	May 13, 1986	Fisheries Division Mr. Stephen Smikle	57.9
13	Bogue Island Lagoon Fish Sanctuary	Bogue, St. James	July 25, 1979	(MBMPT) Mr. Hugh Shim 579-9529	450
14	Sandals Whitehouse	Whitehouse, Westmoreland	May 2012	Sandals Foundation Heidi Clarke 935-0746	294
15	Alligator Head Portland	Turtle Crawl	2016	Portland Environment Protection Association (PEPA) Mr. Machel Donegan	538
16	Bird Cay	Pedro Banks (Off-shore)	May 2012	C-CAM Foundation 298-8252, Ms. I	1515

				Parchment 383-2184	
17	White River	White River, Ocho Rios, St Ann		White River Marine Foundation. Mr. Dalean Anderson 817-9167	
	Proposed Fish Sanctuaries 2014 -2017				
	Rocky Point, St. Thomas	Morant Point, St. Thomas		Local NGO / Fisher folk Organization	Further assessment needed
	Alligator Hole,	Canoe Valley Manchester		Undecided	Further assessment needed
	Salt Marsh	Falmouth		To be assessed	
	Little Bay and Homers Cove	Westmoreland		To be assessed	
	Fish Bay St Catherine	East Polink Point, St. Catherine		Undecided	To Be Assessed
	Port Royal Cays	Kingston		In Negotiations	Further assessment needed

Prepared by J. Squire

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