

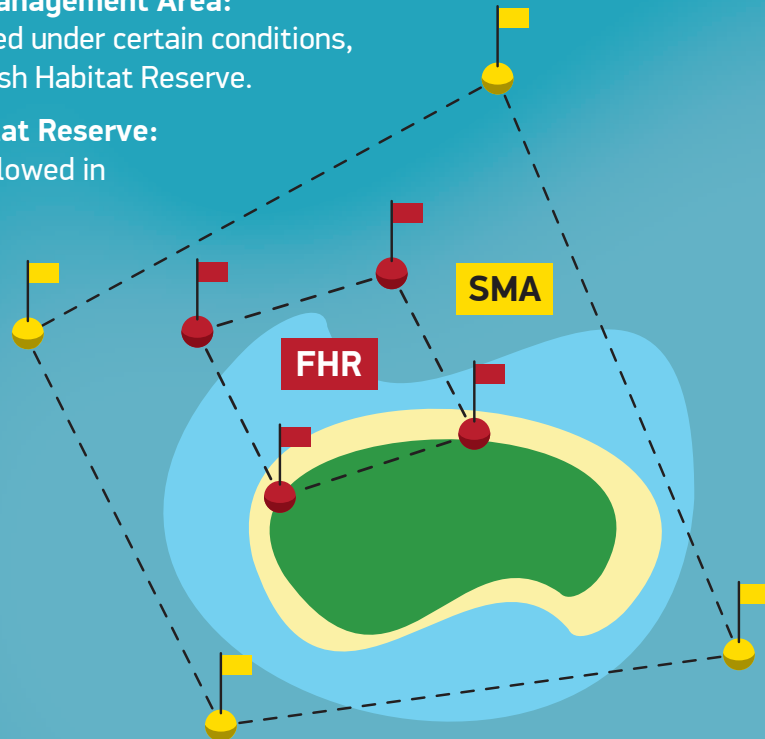
What is an SMA?

SMA stands for Special Management Area. It is a coastal, marine area looked after by a coastal community to protect marine resources from overfishing.

An SMA is designated under the Fisheries Management Act (2002) for the purpose of community-based fisheries management.

SMA Special Management Area: fishing is allowed under certain conditions, except in the Fish Habitat Reserve.

FHR Fish Habitat Reserve: fishing is not allowed in this permanent no-take area.



How to report suspected illegal activities in your SMA

Report directly to the nearest Police station, then contact the Ministry of Fisheries for assistance.



WHAT?

- Identify illegal activities and regulation breached.
- Identify illegal catches or fishing tools and their details.
- Identify evidence collected (exhibits).



WHO?

- Description of vessel(s): type, name, registration.
- Name of fisher(s).
- Number of offending vessels and/or fishers.



WHEN?

- Time and date of incident.



WHERE?

- Provide nearest landmark, reef or coordinates.

If possible and practical, photos can be supplied.



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Illustrations by Eudania

Special Management Areas



What are the general fishing conditions?

SMA Special Management Area

Only fishers and fishing vessels listed in the fishers register and fishing vessel register of an SMA are authorised to fish.



Any other person or vessel owner not listed on either register may apply for a fishing permit from the SMA Coastal Community Management Committee.

> *There are also additional fishing conditions for each SMA.*



No person shall harvest any marine organism for the aquarium industry – this includes hard corals, soft corals, small invertebrates and aquarium fish.



No person shall use destructive methods of fishing, such as using metal bars or iron rods.

FHR Fish Habitat Reserve

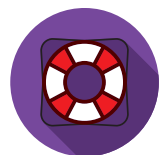
No person shall access or undertake fishing of any nature in FHRs. The Coastal Community Management Committee may allow access:



for observation, monitoring and restocking activities;



for tourist activities (sightseeing);



in an emergency or circumstances involving the safety of a vessel or its crew.

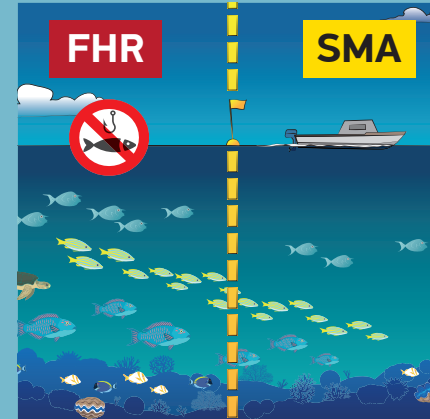
> *Any other activities shall require an endorsement from the Committee and written authorisation from the Ministry of Fisheries.*

What are the benefits?

SMA help us to protect and conserve our coastal resources.



Controlling fishing activities through community action.
In an SMA the community can look after their fish more easily than outside the SMA



Restoring fish stocks and habitats in no-take FHRs.
The fish will breed and move to other areas



Promoting sustainable fishing practices



Improving living standards in the community

How to establish an SMA in your community



1 Expression of interest

The community applies by submitting a letter of request to the Ministry of Fisheries.



2 Community confirmation meeting

The Ministry of Fisheries meets with the community to confirm its interest.



3 Coastal Community Management Committee election

Fisheries officers and community meet together to establish a Coastal Community Management Committee (CCMC).



4 Coastal Community Management Plan development

The community develops a draft Coastal Community Management Plan (CCMP) for the SMA with the help of the Ministry of Fisheries.



5 Consultation processes

Consultations are held on the draft management plan, which includes presenting it to the proposed SMA community as well as to neighbouring communities and announcing it publicly to invite and address any comments or concerns on the proposed SMA.



6 Submission for approval

The Coastal Community Management Plan is finalised and submitted for approval by the Fisheries Management Advisory Committee, then the Minister for Fisheries, and the Cabinet.



7 Gazette and regulation of plan

The CCMP is translated into regulations or an Order for the SMA to be gazetted and legally enforced.



8 Announcement and implementation

The SMA is announced publicly and implemented.