



The Soufriere Marine Management Association Inc.

User Fees: Challenges to present and proposed fee structure

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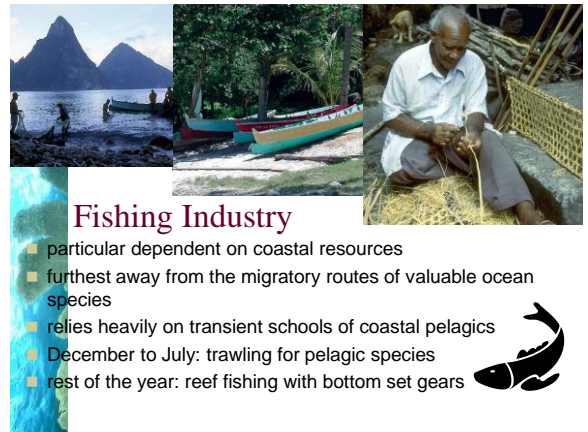
St. Lucia

- SMMA extends from Anse Jambon in the north to Anse l'Ivrogne in the South
A 12 km Stretch
- In this region you will find beautiful scenery, a variety of healthy coral reefs and attractive beaches



Soufriere

- established 1746
- approx. 4500 residents
- until late 1970s large scale producer of cocoa, citrus, bananas, coconuts and ground provisions
- fragile economy
- high unemployment rate



Fishing Industry

- particular dependent on coastal resources
- furthest away from the migratory routes of valuable ocean species
- relies heavily on transient schools of coastal pelagics
- December to July: trawling for pelagic species
- rest of the year: reef fishing with bottom set gears



Tourism

- Favorite Destination of:
 - Yachtsmen
 - Scuba divers and
 - Day trippers
- Range of Attractions in Vicinity of Town:
 - Volcanic cones
 - Waterfalls
 - Tropical forests
 - Solfataras
 - Sheltered bays and
 - Coral reefs



Background

Degradation of resource base

- land based sources of marine pollution.
 - overfishing.
 - Destruction of reef from anchoring.
 - Improper fishing practices.

Background



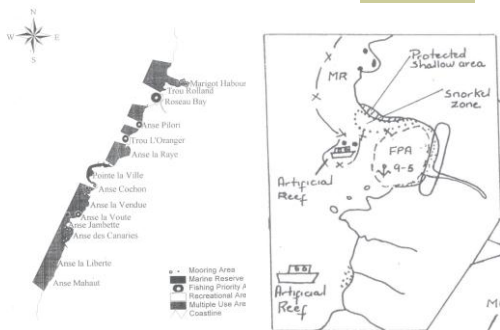
Conflicts

- Acute conflicts between divers and pot fishermen.
- between seine fishermen and yachts anchoring in seine fishing areas.
- increased competition between recreational users and fishermen over access to resources.



CAMMA

Canaries/Anse la Raye Marine Management Area



Background (SMMA Mandate)

- The mission of the SMMA is to contribute to national and local development, particularly in the **fisheries and tourism sectors**, through the management of the coastal zone of Soufriere, based on the principles of sustainable use, cooperation among resource users, institutional collaboration, active and enlightened local participation, and equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities among stakeholders.

Background



- **A not-for-profit company. BoD comprising of all the agencies, which have a demonstrated management function in the Area.**
 - five community and non-governmental organizations
 - Five government agencies
- **Designation as a Local Fisheries Management Authority.**
- **Completely dependent on user fees for all operating costs inclusive of salaries.**

Current fee system



Three kinds of fee categories have been established within SMMA:

1. **Dive Permits:** where each person diving within the Managed Area pays either an annual or daily permit (XCD\$40.00 and XCD\$13.50 respectively).
2. **Snorkel permits:** where each individual who visits the Managed Area through an organized snorkel tour or cruise ship pays for a snorkel permit.
3. **Yacht mooring permits:** where each vessel coming into the area must pay a mooring fee dependent on the length of the vessel

Challenges



- Area of responsibility increased without corresponding increase in fees.
- Increase in fuel and operating costs.
- Fees have not increased since 2004.
- Increased Stakeholders demand (moorings, maintenance, enforcement etc).
- Staffing, equipment etc.
- Adjustments to perceived inequalities in the Fee and Billing Systems.
- Inefficient collection of revenue.

Proposed fee and billing system



- **The three categories of fees will remain; additionally a User Entrance Fee will be applied to all persons entering the Marine Management Area.**
- **The fee will be US\$1.00 per person entering the area using day boat charters. There is no increase in the fee for snorkeling and dive permits.**
- **A fee of US\$2.00 will be applied, per person per day, to anyone entering the Marine Management Area using yachts.**

Proposed fee and billing system



- **Dive operators will be centrally billed annually (or as preferred biannually quarterly or monthly), at the rate of a daily dive permit fee, at 25% of their licensed boat capacity.**
- **Day boat charters will be billed US\$1.00 per person phased over 3 years.**
- **Year1: US\$0.25, Year 2: US\$0.50, Year 3: US\$1.00**

Challenges (new fee and billing)



- **Opposition to change.**
- Marine User/Entrance fee is a new concept for stakeholders.
- Data sharing and management.
- **Advanced payment of fees is not popular in some sectors.**
- Increased number of freelance, unlicensed water taxi operators.
- **Inefficient operation of some stakeholder associations.**
- **Current Management Model.**

How has SMMA survived?



- A few small contracts.
- The sinking of the Angeln (cargo Ship)

Lessons



- **Assist in the revival of the catamaran and boating association.**
- **Try to encourage and assist new entrants to form viable associations.**
- **Try to ensure that information filters through to members of associations, by increasing frequency of stakeholder engagements.**
- **Diversification of revenue and financing mechanism.**
- **See opportunities where others see challenges.**



Questions? Comments!



Thank You!