

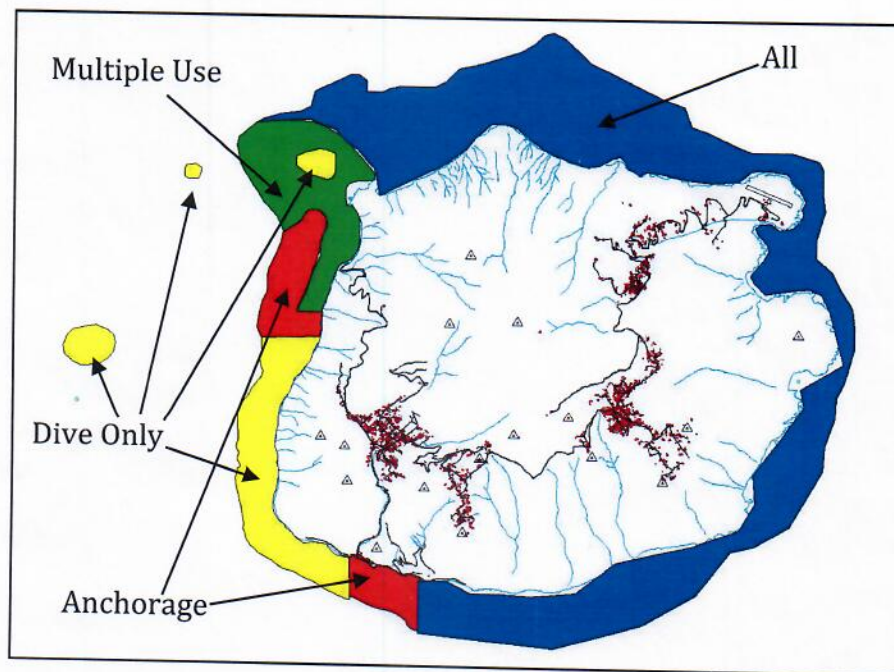
SABA NATIONAL MARINE PARK LEGISLATION RULES & REGULATIONS

The mission of the Saba National Marine Park (SNMP) is to protect and manage the island's natural, cultural and historical resources, while allowing ecologically sustainable use, for the benefit of future generations.

1. Saba National Marine Park Legislation

- It is prohibited to undertake activities which damage or intentionally destroy the marine environment in the Marine Park.
- It is prohibited to kill, break, catch or collect corals or other bottom-dwelling invertebrates and plants on or in the sea floor.
- Any and all acts which conflict with the rules of the zoning plan for the Saba National Marine Park are unlawful.

The Saba National Marine Park encompasses the sea floor and the overlying waters around and adjacent to the island of Saba, with the high water tidemark as the upper limit and the 60m depth contour as the lower limit, and also including two undersea mountains, situated at 17°37.94'N, 63°16.43'W and 17°38.70'N, 63°15.91'W respectively, and the overlying waters, with the sea surface as upper limit and the 60m depth contour as lower limit.



The Saba National Marine Park is divided into the following zones:

- **A multiple use zone**, situated along the coast from Torrens Point (17°38.70'N, 63°15.18'W) to Fort Bay (17°36.90'N, 63°15.08'W), measured along Flat Point,
- **Five recreational diving zones**, situated along the coast, from Tent Bay (17°37.00'N, 63°15.30'W) to Ladder Bay (17°37.83'N, 63°15.50'W), measured in northern direction; surrounding Diamond Rock (17°38.81'N, 63°15.40'W); surrounding Man of War Shoal (17°38.77'N, 63°15.35'W);

at and surrounding the undersea mountain west of Ladder Bay (17°37.94'N, 63°26.43'W); and situated at and surrounding the undersea mountain west of Well's Bay (17°38.70'N, 63°15.91'W),

- **Three anchoring zones**, situated along the coast, from Fort Bay (17°36.90'N, 63°15.08'W) to Tent Bay (17°37.00'N, 63°15.30'W); in Ladder Bay, situated along the coast from 17°37.83'N, 63°15.50'W to 17°37.95'N, 63°15.43'W; and in Well's Bay, situated along the coast 17°38.37'N, 63°15.23'W to 17°38.48'N, 63°15.22'W,
- **An all-purpose recreational zone**, situated along the coast from the Ladder Bay anchorage (17°37.95'N, 63°15.43'W) to Torrens Point (17°38.70'N, 63°15.18'W).

Using the National Marine Park

- Users must follow instructions given by those managing the Marine Park.
- It is prohibited to undertake activities which are harmful to or intentionally destroy the marine environment in the Marine Park.
- It is prohibited to kill, break, catch or collect corals or other bottom-dwelling invertebrates and plants on or in the sea floor.
- According to the Weapon Ordinance/National Law, it is not allowed to carry a spear gun in public accessible areas (road, harbor, sea).
- Fishing in the Dive Zone is limited to use of a line from shore and trolling
- Those transporting persons commercially to destinations within the Marine Park (not just passage through) must have a written permit from the Executive Committee, which may have conditions attached.
- Anchoring is not permitted except in designated areas
- It is prohibited to intentionally destroy or damage moorings
- It is not permitted to place moorings without approval of the Executive Committee
- It is not permitted to occupy a mooring longer than necessary to make a dive
- It is prohibited to discharge any substance with the exception of fish, fish parts, chumming material, cooling effluent and effluent of marine sanitation devices
- Development or modifications to the coastal zone require an EIA
- Violations are punishable with imprisonment up to 1 month or fines up to US\$

Permits, Licenses, Certificates, Exemptions and Fees

- There is a nature fee of USD1.00 per person per night for visitors to Saba, to be collected by the managers of guest accommodations (Island Ordinance Trail Compensation 2009).
- Visitors to the Saba Marine Park are charged fees of:
 - USD3.00 per SCUBA diver per dive.
 - USD3.00 per person who comes to the island to snorkel from a buoy.

- USD1.00 per SCUBA dive for hyperbaric chamber fees.
- Persons diving or snorkelling on their own in the Marine Park are also obliged to pay the visitors fee for diving or snorkelling except residents of Saba and non-residents who are Saban.
- The permit holder must pay visitors' fees to the Marine Park Manager prior to the 10th of the following month, accompanied by a signed tally sheet provided by the manager.
- If fees are late the Marine Park manager can impose a new provisional taxation for that month which is due immediately and includes an increase of the fees due.
- No more licenses will be issued to live-aboard dive boats to operate in the Marine Park.
- When any of the existing live-aboard licenses is surrendered, revoked or becomes invalid, no new licenses will be granted.

Dive operator permits are issued to on-island dive shops and live-aboard dive vessels. Presently there are three land-based shops (Saba Deep, Sea Saba and Saba Divers) and three live-aboard vessels (M/V Caribbean Explorer, Trimarine Boat Company Ltd. S/V Cuan Law and Broadreach). Broadreach and the Cuan Law do not visit Saba the whole year around, the Caribbean Explorer does.

In accordance with an Executive Council Island resolution in 1989, "no more live-aboard permits will be issued". Dive operators from other islands cannot bring their divers to the SNMP to dive from their vessel without a permit, which has historically not been recommended.

The off-island shop must make some agreements and arrangements with a Saba Dive Shop to accommodate these divers within the Saba Business. With regard to issuing land based permits consideration should only be given if existing operators are nearing their individual carrying capacity.

Terrestrial – as set out in the Saba Exotic Species Ordinance (2000)

- Import of an non-native plant or animal is prohibited without a written permit.

Other Conventions

- CITES – restricts international trade of endangered species
- SPAW – restricts disturbance of habitats and animal species

2. Saba National Marine Park Regulations

In addition to national and island legislation, following regulations were implemented to accomplish our mission.

Regulations on how to tie to a buoy:

- Always tie from the bow.
- The tie on line should not be shorter than 18 feet (6 meters).

Regulations for how to **navigate** in the SNMP:

- Always navigate on the seaside of the mooring buoys in the dark blue water.
- The international 'rules of the road' for how to avoid collision should be adhered to in the waters of the SNMP.
- First come first serve; mooring buoys cannot be reserved.
- Use of the buoys is at the user's risk.
- The maximum amount of divers (including guides) on a boat must not exceed 20 (see also the Management Plan *Limits of Acceptable Change*).
- It is prohibited to wear gloves and dive knives and it is not allowed to touch or collect anything either dead or alive. Divers who must wear gloves due to medical conditions will need to bring a doctor's declaration, not older than 30 days, to the headquarters of the Saba National Marine Park at Fort Bay to get a permit allowing them to use gloves.
- Trolling is in principle allowed anywhere in the Marine Park, unless it poses no danger to divers in the water. Line fishing from the coast is allowed anywhere around the island, but from a boat it is not allowed to line fish in the Recreational Diving Zones.
- When diving the use of a dive flag is obligatory. Divers should stay in a radius of 150 meters from the mooring. Passing boats should keep a minimum distance of 150 meters from a dive boat.
- The safety standards set by the dive organizations PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC etc. need to be followed.
- **Orientation:** All SCUBA divers must attend an orientation with their dive operator before diving in the SNMP. The orientation consists of a 'dry' part and a 'wet' part. The 'dry' part is a briefing on the Saba National Marine Park rules. The 'wet' part of the orientation is the check out dive, which is always supervised by the visitor's dive operation of choice. Repeat divers are required to attend a dive orientation and perform a check out dive every time they are back on island.
- **Collecting:** A special note to our visitors: Do not collect seashells, sea fans, sand, or dead pieces of any type of coral. This includes purchased souvenirs that may include any of the mentioned items. These items will be intercepted by the customs x-ray machines upon your departure and will be removed from your luggage. This can lead to unnecessary delays of your flight.
- **Personal control:** Do not make any contact with the corals or other parts of the reef. Avoid silting up the bottom, by swimming too close, or by kicking while in a head-up position over sand. Have the knowledge and the skills to make sure you don't damage any undersea environment: reefs, sand flats, grass beds, etc. - in any manner.
- **Turtles:** turtles are totally protected in the SNMP. Don't disturb turtles when diving; stay far enough away from them so your presence does not alter their behavior. By respecting their space, you'll be able to watch these ancient creatures forage for sponges and other tasty morsels
- The use of **chemical light sticks** is prohibited in the Saba National Marine Park

Rules for photographers and videographers

The abundance of marine life makes Saba a perfect place for underwater photography and video although these activities require advanced diving skills. Taking a camera in the water will change both buoyancy and balance, therefore, you should practice these skills with your camera before attempting a reef dive. It is also essential that you avoid all contact with the reef and your subject so that no damage is caused. To get the most out of this fascinating activity, it is important to follow certain guidelines that will allow you to shoot your best photos and videos:

- Position yourself and your equipment before attempting your shot!
- Get buoyancy correct before trying to get close to your subject!
- Stay at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from your desired subject; you may be considerably closer than your viewfinder suggests!
- Make all camera and strobe adjustments before moving in to take the shot!
- Once you have taken your shot and are ready to move on, inhale to lift you clear of the bottom; do not push off from the reef and do not fin until you are clear of the reef!
- Your shots should show your underwater friends at home in their natural habitat. Repeatedly flashing a strobe, touching or moving your subject may cause stress on the creatures!
- To eliminate the temptation of touching; gloves are not permitted while diving. One glove can be used while ascending the mooring line if the diver wishes.

Good buoyancy control will help avoid contact with corals, gorgonians or sponges. They are living invertebrates that can be easily damaged. Practice buoyancy skills before diving on the reef! Introducing foreign food substances into the reef environment is harmful; it may cause behavioural changes that could cause fish to be more vulnerable to disease and predation. Therefore, do not feed the fish.

Protocol for Violation of Saba National Marine Park (SNMP) Rules & Regulations Misconduct of SCUBA Diver

1. Local licensed dive operator files complaint about misconduct by a diver, violating the rules and regulations of the SNMP, as outlined in the Saba Marine Environment Ordinance (A.B. 1987 no. 10).
2. Evaluation of complaint by SNMP staff; mandatory formal orientation and formal first warning will be issued, if misconduct is confirmed.
3. If repeated misconduct is confirmed, a second warning will be issued and in accordance with article 17 of the Marine Environment Ordinance, a fine will be imposed.
4. If misconduct is confirmed after the second warning, the diver will not be allowed to conduct diving activities within the jurisdiction of the SNMP for a period of 2 years and an additional fine will be imposed.



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SABA NATIONAL MARINE PARK BROADREACH RULES

The agreed upon rules for Broadreach using the moorings are as follows:

- Between 09:00 and 15:00 the entire Broadreach group on Saba will be limited to using 1 dive site mooring at a time. They may use the same dive site all day or switch between dive sites but only occupying one mooring. Before 09:00 and after 15:00 they can occupy any number of moorings.
- When occupying a mooring, Broadreach has 2 options:
 - for white moorings, use dinghies only
 - for red moorings, use dinghies or catamarans
- If a Broadreach boat is moored to a dive site, they do not have to relinquish to another dive boat.