

SOUFRIERE MARINE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 305, 3 Bay Street, Soufriere, St. Lucia, West Indies

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL DIVE-, TOUR-, & YACHT OPERATORS
FROM: KAI WULF, SMMMA MANAGER
SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING OF THE SMMA/CAMMA FEE SYSTEM
DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2009
CC: PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AN FISHERIES
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TOURISM
PRESIDENT, ST. LUCIA HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

To Whom It May Concern:

The fee system for use of the resources within the Canaries Anse la Raye Marine Management Area (CAMMA) and the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) has remained constant since January 1st, 2004. Already in 1999, it was agreed to review the fee structure every 3 years; hence an assessment has been overdue. To meet our added responsibilities, challenges and increased operating costs, the Board of Directors of the SMMA, in it's meeting of January 28th, 2009, decided to slightly increase the user fees.

The findings of the University of York (Reef Valuation Study, Saint Lucia, West Indies 2000-2001, Dr. Nola Barker and Dr. Callum M. Roberts) confirm that the suggested new structure stays within an acceptable frame. In comparison, the Bonaire Marine Park currently charges US\$ 25.00 per diver and US\$ 10.00 per snorkeler.

To assist in covering the administrative costs of the soon to be established Hyperbaric Chamber (HBC), which at least initially will not be running self sustainable, a chamber contribution has been added to the dive fees. Hyperbaric chamber contributions are common throughout the dive industry and accepted by the divers, who often chose their vacation destination based on the availability of such a facility.

According to the amount of monies actually received, quarterly submissions will be made to the Saint Lucia Hyperbaric Society (SLHS), which has been established as a non for profit organization under the Companies Act of Saint Lucia, in charge of the chamber operations. The Board of Directors of the SLHS comprises St. Lucia's dive association, ANBAGLO, the SMMA and Medical Associates Ltd. in an Ex Officio capacity.

As an added benefit, paid up divers involved in a dive accident will receive their first hyperbaric chamber treatment free of charge, except incurred doctor and technician fees.

Therefore, it is important that the SMMA receives a list of divers via fax or email before every dive, to ensure eligibility for free hyperbaric chamber treatment.

Furthermore, participants of Introductory Scuba Courses will not be excluded from the system any longer, since there are greater safety risks involved and they have as much impact on the marine environment as certified divers.

Consequently, this serves to inform you that effective March 1st, 2009, the fee system of the Soufriere Marine Management Association will change as described in the following:

Daily Dive Permit	EC\$ before	EC\$ new
SMMA/CAMMA	13.50	16.00
HBC Contribution	0	5.00
Total	13.50	21.00

A Daily Dive booklet of 25 tickets will sell at EC\$ 525.00.

Annual Dive Permit	EC\$ before	EC\$ new
SMMA/CAMMA	40.50	47.00
HBC Contribution	0	12.00
Total	40.50	60.00

An Annual Dive booklet of 25 tickets will sell at EC\$ 1,500.00

Snorkeling Permit	EC\$ before	EC\$ new
SMMA/CAMMA	3.00	5.50

A Snorkeling Permit booklet of 50 tickets will sell at EC\$ 275.00

Dive/snorkel operators paying up front or within 15-days of the purchase of the ticket books will receive a 5% discount.

CORAL CONSERVATION FEE

SIZE OF VESSEL	Up to 2 Days		2 Days to 1 Week	
	EC\$ before	EC\$ new	EC\$ before	EC\$ new
Class 1: up to 40 feet	40.00	50.00	54.00	70.00
Class 2: more than 40 feet, up to 70 feet	70.00	70.00	67.00	90.00
Class 3: more than 70 feet	162.00	200.00	n/a	n/a

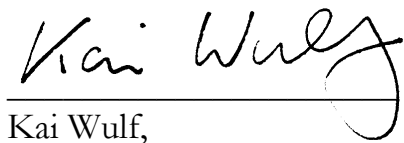
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS	EC\$ before	EC\$ new
Half Day (up to 6 hours, Class 1 only)	27.00	35.00
Licensed Local Vessel*	0	10.00 daily
Licensed Local Vessel**	160.00 monthly	180.00 monthly
Licensed Local Vessel**	1,500.00 annually	1,825.00 annually
Crewed Charter***	804.00 annually	945.00 annually

- * *Locally registered and licensed vessels (Licensed Local Vessel) utilizing the moorings in the established yacht mooring areas of the SMMA/CAMMA*
- ** *Locally registered and licensed vessels which are permanently based within the area of our jurisdiction can rent a limited quantity of moorings in specific areas (e.g. in front of the Soufriere Jetty), upon application and subject to approval of the Board of the SMMA, for either EC\$ 180.00 a month or EC\$ 1,825.00 per annum. There are also special arrangements for local fishing vessels.*
- *** *Provisions were made to facilitate foreign crewed pleasure boat charters (Crewed Charter) visiting the area on a regular, but non permanent basis, which will have the choice of paying either a flat rate of EC\$ 945.00 per annum or the regular daily or weekly fee, as described in the above chart.*

The SMMA looks forward to continued favorable working relationship with you and is grateful for your support and cooperation.

Please don't hesitate to contact us, if you need any further clarification.

Kind regards,



Kai Wulf,
SMMA Manager.