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Executive Council

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Decision:

No: 339/2025
Date: 22-12-2025

Island Decree containing general measures to amend the Island Decree on the Marine Environment related to the designation of new marine protected areas

The Executive Council of the Public Entity of Saba,

Having regard to: Article 2 of the Island Ordinance on the Marine Environment of Saba

Considering: that the construction and arrival of the new port at Black Rocks makes it necessary and desirable to amend the zoning plan for the Saba Marine Park

Has decided to adopt the following island decree containing general measures:

Article I

The **Island Ordinance on the Marine Environment (A.B. Saba 1987, no. 11)** is amended as follows:

A

Article 1 shall read as follows:

Article 1

The Saba Marine Park is divided into the following zones:

- a. Eight zones as marine protected areas:
 - i. located along the coast from Tent Bay (17.6177435°N; 63.2553085°W) to Ladder Bay (17.6319618°N; 63.2561700°W) in a northerly direction;
 - ii. around Diamond Rock (17.6476071°N; 63.2561010°W);
 - iii. around Man of War Shoal (17.6466913°N; 63.2550796°W);
 - iv. on and around the Pinnacles; Outer Limits, Twilight Zone, Third Encounter, and Mount Michel west of Ladder Bay (17.6316642°N; 63.2732822°W);
 - v. on and around Shark Shoal west of Well's Bay (17.6458232°N; 63.2649089°W);
 - vi. the area around Green Island (17.6474286°N; 63.2324347°W to 17.6463882°N; 63.2284390°W in an easterly direction);

- vii. located along the coast of Flat Point (Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport) from Great Hole (17.642750°N; 63.219351°W to Cove Bay (17.646416°N; 63.222939°W) in an easterly direction; and
- viii. located around the coast of Wiba Hole (17.6232179°N; 63.2218807°W) to Hole in the Corner (17.6178195°N; 63.2296619°W);
- b. Three anchorage areas:
 - i. located off the coast of Fort Bay (17.6139177°N; 63.2471899°W) to Tent Bay (63.2555774°W 17.6170653°N);
 - ii. off the coast at Ladder Bay (17.6322930°N; 63.2576118°W) to off the coast at Well's Bay (17.6424537°N; 63.2539522°W); and
 - iii. located on the coast of Black Rock from (17.6147170°N; 63.243450°W) to (17.6145418°N; 63.2382783°W);
- c. Zone for general and recreational use, insofar as it is not designated as a marine protected area or anchorage area.

B

Article 2 is amended as follows:

1. in the preamble, "the areas referred to in Article 1(1)" is replaced by "the areas referred to in Article 1(a)".
2. In parts a and b, "recreational diving zones" is replaced by "marine protected areas."

Article II

This island decree, containing general measures, shall enter into force on the day after its promulgation.

Thus established on the date of this island decree and signed on 22/12/2025

The Executive Council of the Public Entity of Saba,




The Island Governor,
J.G.A. Johnson



plv. The Island Secretary,
B. Streppel
M.M. van Duin

Issued 22/12/2025



The Island Governor,
J.G.A. Johnson

Explanatory Memorandum

The government of Saba is constructing a new harbor in the Saba Marine Park, near Black Rocks. This new harbor and its construction will have an impact on underwater life in the marine park and the corals growing there. Measures are therefore being taken to mitigate and compensate for the adverse effects on the marine park. Part of these measures involve designating additional marine protected areas. This island decree establishes the location of the new marine protected areas and guarantees additional protection for these areas.

Through this island decree, three additional areas are designated as marine protected areas. These areas, selected in collaboration with Saba Conservation Foundation, are of particular value to nature and are also partly suitable for recreational diving:

1. **Hole in the Corner marine protected area:** this area contains natural populations of Staghorn and Elkhorn corals, and is a suitable transplant location for the coral restoration project. Coral that is being moved from the new harbor area will be transplanted here.
2. **Yrausquin Airport Marine Protected Area:** this area contains a lot of coral and a wide variety of fish.
3. **Green Island marine protected area:** natural populations of Staghorn and Elkhorn corals are present around Green Island. In addition, the island is an important nesting site for endemic and protected bird species.

The three new areas will be added to the five existing 'recreational diving areas'. The new term for these areas will be 'marine protected areas', as this term better reflects the purpose of the zoning. Recreational diving will still be possible in these areas, just like under the current rules. In total, there will be eight marine protected areas, as shown on the map in this explanation.

The new harbor area at Black Rock is designated as an 'anchorage area', similar to the area at the existing harbor in Fort Bay. The remaining part of the Saba Marine Park remains a zone for general and recreational use, to which the general rules of the Island Ordinance Marine Park Saba apply.

