



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
Male', Republic of Maldives

Ministry of Environment and Energy
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Number: (IUL)438-ENV/438/2018/262

Announcement

Under Article 4 of Law no. 4/93 (The Environmental Protection and Preservation Act), by the power vested in this ministry, the following areas have been proclaimed as protected as of 07th October 2018. These places will be maintained according to the guideline pertaining to the protection and sustaining of the nature of such places (guideline number: 2018/R-78). The details of these areas are presented below.

1. **Alif.Alif. Rasdhoo Madivaru Region**

a. Name of area to be protected: A.A. Rasdhoo Madivaru Region

b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

A.A. Rasddoo

Figure 1

c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in this area: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (×) where actions prohibited.

Action	Buffer zone	Core area
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean (without oxygen tank)	✓	✓
Tourism and leisure activities, going in the ocean and diving with oxygen tank	✓	✓
Tourism and leisure activities, going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Fishing – float fishing	✓	X
Tourists fishing – tourists float fishing	X	X
Bottom fishing	X	X
Tourists bottom fishing for reef fish	X	X
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	X
Catching fish by casting nets	X	X
Fishing where fish reproduce	X	X
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	X	X
Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	X	X
Dropping anchor	✓ (In an emergency or a situation where a person's life is in danger)	X
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for commerce	X	X
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells – for livelihood	X	X
Taking sea cucumbers	X	X
Shark fishing	X	X



Catching small fish – for commerce	X	X
Aquarium trade (all species – for commerce)	X	X
Taking lobsters for any purpose	X	X
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	X	X
Capturing seabirds and taking their eggs	X	X
Taking sand – for commerce	X	X
Taking sand – for use in daily life	X	X
Taking rocks – for commerce	X	X
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	X	X
Dumping waste in the sea and on the beach	X	X
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Agriculture	X	X
Aquaculture	X	X
Land reclamation and dredging	X	X

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
 Category 1: Internationally acknowledged area
 Category 6: Habitat/ species management area

- e. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features.

Rasdho Atoll, in the north of Ari Atoll, is an atoll that possesses special natural and environmental features, and is rich with diverse species of living things, the subsistence of which are intertwined with human actions. The reef area of Rasdho Atoll was declared as an “Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area” interationally in 2016 by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Rasdho Atoll is an atoll formed, separate from the main atolls of Maldives, that is naturally distinctive from others. The Rasdho Madivaru Sea is host to a dive spot that attracts the most Hammerhead Sharks throughout the year in the Maldives. Moreover, it is home to important species such as, Manta rays, Napoleon wrasses, turtles and tortoises.

2. **GDh. Dhigulaabadhoo**

- a. Name of area to be protected: GDh. Dhigulaabadhoo island
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:

GDh. Dhigulaabadhoo

Figure 2

- c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in this area: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (x) where actions prohibited.

Action	Buffer zone	Core area
Leisure activities: going in the ocean (without oxygen tank)	✓	✓
Leisure activities: going in the ocean and diving with oxygen tank	✓	✓
Leisure activities: going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Fishing: float fishing	✓	X
Tourists fishing: tourists float fishing	X	X
Bottom fishing	✓	X
Tourists bottom fishing for reef fish	X	X
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	✓
Catching fish by casting nets	X	X
Fishing where fish reproduce	X	X
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	X	X



Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	X	X
Dropping anchor	X*	X*
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells: for commerce	X	X
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells: for livelihood	X	X
Taking sea cucumbers	X	X
Shark fishing	X	X
Catching small fish: for commerce	X	X
Aquarium trade (all species): for commerce	X	X
Taking lobsters for any purpose	X	X
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	X	X
Capturing birds and taking their eggs	X	X
Taking sand – for commerce	X	X
Taking sand – for use in daily life	X	X
Taking rocks – for commerce	X	X
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	X	X
Dumping waste in the sea and on the beach	X	X
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Collecting firewood	✓	✓
Agriculture	✓	X
Aquaculture	X	X
Deforestation	X	X
Land reclamation and dredging	X	X
Dumping or throwing away anything in this area	X	X
Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests	X	X
Lighting fires and burning	X	X

X* vessels must be moored on mooring buoys in areas where there are mooring buoys. Dropping anchor is prohibited in these areas.

- d. Category of natural protection and sustaining
Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use
- e. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features.
GDh. Dhigulaabadhoo is an island that is different from others in its formation and has extraordinary environmental features. A large region of this island is covered with a lush lake and wetland area, and the shape of the island forms several bays. The unique environmental qualities of this island distinguishes it from other islands. Since this island environmentally significant, it has been included in the 'Environmentally Sensitive Areas List' comprised by the Environmental Protection Agency. Besides this, research has been done on the diverse varieties of organisms on this island, as well as fragile places and species on it. The natural environment of Dhigulaabadhoo can be divided into 6 categories. They are:
1. Treeline of the island
 2. Lake connected to the sea (Finihaka Lake)
 3. 7 fresh and saltwater lakes and the surrounding wetlands
 4. Area where seagrass grows
 5. Beach of the island
 6. The reef and lagoon area of the island

3. **Sh. Farukolhu**

- a. Name of area to be protected: Sh. Farukolhu island
- b. Parameters of the region to be protected and details of zonation:
Sh. Farukolhu



Figure 3

c. Actions allowed and prohibited in this area:

Table showing actions allowed and prohibited in this area: Tick mark (✓) where actions allowed and cross mark (x) where actions prohibited.

Action	Buffer zone	Core area
Leisure activities: going in the ocean (without oxygen tank)	✓	✓
Leisure activities: going in the ocean and diving with oxygen tank	✓	✓
Leisure activities: going on picnics and sightseeing from ashore	✓	✓
Fishing: float fishing	✓	X
Tourists fishing: tourists float fishing	X	X
Bottom fishing	✓	X
Tourists bottom fishing for reef fish	X	X
Bait fishing by the traditional Maldivian way	✓	✓
Catching fish by casting nets	X	X
Fishing where fish reproduce	X	X
Spearfishing and using guns to catch fish	X	X
Fishing that harms the environment (using chlorine, dynamite, cyanide, or the like, to fish)	X	X
Dropping anchor	X*	X*
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells: for commerce	X	X
Collecting shells from reef/ taking shells: for livelihood	X	X
Taking sea cucumbers	X	X
Shark fishing	X	X
Catching small fish: for commerce	X	X
Aquarium trade (all species): for commerce	X	X
Taking lobsters for any purpose	X	X
Taking turtles, tortoises, and their eggs	X	X
Capturing birds and taking their eggs	X	X
Taking sand – for commerce	X	X
Taking sand – for use in daily life	X	X
Taking rocks – for commerce	X	X
Taking rocks – for use in daily life	X	X
Dumping waste in the sea and on the beach	X	X
Collecting dry coconut leaves	✓	✓
Collecting coconuts	✓	✓
Collecting firewood	✓	✓
Agriculture	✓	X
Aquaculture	X	X
Deforestation	X	X
Land reclamation and dredging	X	X
Dumping or throwing away anything in this area	X	X
Capturing, taking, or killing any species of bird, or taking their eggs and damaging their nests	X	X
Lighting fires and burning	X	X

X* vessels must be moored on mooring buoys in areas where there are mooring buoys. Dropping anchor is prohibited in these areas.

d. Category of natural protection and sustaining

Category 7: Protected area with sustainable use

e. Reasons why this site was determined as an area that needs to be protected and sustained in its natural state with its unique features.

Sh. Farikolhu is an island that is different from other islands in its formation and possesses special environmental features. A large region of this island is rich with



lake and wetland areas. The shape of this island forms multiple bay areas and the unique environmental aspects of this island sets it apart from others. Since this island environmentally significant, it has been included in the 'Environmentally Sensitive Areas List' comprised by the Environmental Protection Agency. Besides this, research has been done on the diverse varieties of organisms on this island, as well as fragile places and species on it. The natural environment of Farukolhu can be divided into 5 categories. They are:

1. Treeline of the island
2. Lake connected to the sea (Finihaka Lake)
3. 7 fresh and saltwater lakes and the surrounding wetlands
4. Beach of the island
5. The reef and lagoon area of the island

27th Muharram 1440
07th October 2018