

CDB EBSA Criteria	DESCRIPTION	Ranking of Criterion Relevance			
		Don't Know	Low	Some	High
Uniqueness or rarity	The body of water which exists between Grenada , Tobago. is a unique area with distinct and rear ecosystem for the <i>Hirundichthys affinis</i> and <i>Parexocoetus brachypterus</i> ,(flying fish).				X
This body of water yields the highest concentration of flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean Region. North and south of this area experiences indicate insignificantly low abundance of this species. Studies done by Mahon et al, indicates that this body of water possesses necessary current and oceanographic attributes and right conditions for breeding of the flying fish which has great significance for fisheries in that part of the Caribbean.					
Special importance for life history stages of species	This area is the breeding ground and nursery area for the flying fish species.				X
This population is the only one in the Eastern Caribbean and there is no mixing with other populations					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Declining catches the cause of which is not well understood.				X
The flying fish fishery is very important to the islands of the Eastern Caribbean and provides a source of livelihood for many people. Any decline in the population is cause for concern and it is therefore deemed very important, hence a high ranking.					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery Biological productivity	Vulnerable to climate change impacts and sensitive to fishing activity and possible over fishing.			X	
This score is given because the area is vulnerable to fishing pressure and is ecologically sensitive because it is a breeding ground for the flying fish which is a commercial species for the Eastern Caribbean Islands. As large pelagic resources become more scarce due to high fishing pressure, this area is likely to experience heavier fishing activity considering that the species are schooling fish and are very vulnerable to certain types of fishing gear.					

Biological diversity	The area at issue is rich in large pelagic fish diversity including tuna and tuna like species, billfishes and other species which feed off the flying fish.				X
A high ranking is given because of the large schools of pelagic fish associated with the flying fish. It is significant part of the food chain within the large marine ecosystem which exists in that area. It is also presumed to be an area of high primary productivity which sustains the larval stages of the flying fish.					
Naturalness	This is a large expanse of marine space straddling the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea with no known sources of pollution or other anthropogenic influence and therefore deemed to be natural				X
A high ranking is given because of the pristine nature of that location and the dynamics of the ocean currents in the region.					

List of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas

1. The Eastern Caribbean Flying fish Stock.

Links to documents and articles are given below

**MOVEMENTS OF FLYINGFISH
(HIRUNDICHTHYS AFFINIS)
IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN
H. A. Oxenford**

Reprinted from BULLETIN OF MARINE SCIENCE, vol. 54, no. 1, 1994, pp. 49-62.

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM:

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Miami, Florida.

<http://scitec.uwichill.edu.bb/bcs/courses/Ecology/BL34B/fish3-2.pdf>

Distribution and relative abundance of flyingfish (Exocoetidae) in the eastern Caribbean. I. Adults Hazel A. Oxenford^{1,2*}, Robin Mahon¹, Wayne Hunte²
www.int-res.com/articles/meps/117/m117p011.pdf

**CLME Full Project component 4:
Flyingfish pilot project**

Prepared by

Robin Mahon

CLME Project

www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/.../tda.../component_4_flyingfish.pdf

2. Resident Sperm Whale Population of Dominica.

There exists a small population of Sperm Whales which occurs within the marine waters of Dominica. They are encountered mainly on the west coast of the island and are of great biological and ecological significance. The waters off the west coast Dominica present an ideal ecosystem for various species of marine mammals including, pigmy killer whales, Cuvier's beaked whale, false killer whale and whale sharks among many others.

The waters close inshore of Dominica are very deep and whales can be watched for the land in some areas although most whale watching is done from boats. It is presumed that with the abundance and diversity of species observed in Dominica that the area is of very high ecological and biological significance. In addition it is also presumed to be an area of high productivity in order to be able to sustain a year round population of sperm whales and to accommodate a host of other marine mammals at various times of the year.

New emerging trends with in water experiences with the sperm whales of Dominica requires prudent management and the entire area which is considered the breeding grounds of the sperm whales require protection.

Some research work had been done but not shared to any great extent with Dominican authorities. Some links have been provided for ease of reference.

References

In Crystal Blue Waters: Whale Watching Dominica

www.avirtualdominica.com/crystal.../whalewatchingdominica.cfm

Biologists interpret the language of sperm whales in Dominica

dominicanewsonline.com/.../biologists-interpret-the-language-of-sper...

Dominica Sperm Whale Project: Research and Publications

whitelab.biology.dal.ca/dswp/dswpres.html

Scientists speculate that sperm whales in Dominica have names for ...

www.greenantilles.com/.../scientists-speculate-that-sperm-whales-in-d...

3. The Soufriere /Scotts Head Marine Reserve (SSMR)

The Soufriere /Scotts Head Marine Reserve is a marine protected area located in the South of Dominica. It is home to several species of coral, sponges, a diversity of fish species, hawks bill turtles and often frequented by marine mammals. The area boasts of pristine clear waters, wall diving with caves and under water canyons.

It is an area of great biodiversity and scenic beauty with champagne bubbles caused by volcanic activity rising from the ocean floor. It is in deed an area of great ecological and biological significance and has been rated as the 5th best dive destination in the world.

There exists very few publications or information on this area. However some links have been provided below to allow for a better understanding of this hidden gem in the waters of Dominica.

[Soufriere Scott's Head Marine Reserve \(SSMR\), Dominica.](#)

www.avirtualdominica.com/ssmr

[Dominica Attractions: Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve ...](#)

www.visit-dominica.com/querydetail.cfm?id=296

[Soufriere/Scotts Head Marine Reserve \(SSMR\)](#)

www.sidsnet.org/successtories/14.html

[DOMINICA'S MASSIVE SOUFRIERE/SCOTTS HEAD BAY IS NOW A ...](#)

www.airwreck.com/life/articles/dominica/ssmr.htm
