

CODE OF CONDUCTS

Code of conduct in Marine Protected Areas Zanzibar

1. [Dolphins](#)
2. [Catch & Release Fishing](#)
3. [Snorkeling](#)
4. [Garbage Disposal](#)
5. [Sea kayaking](#)
6. [Free diving & Spear fishing](#)
7. [Scuba Diving](#)

Code of conduct for Dolphins

1. When attempting to swim with a pod of relaxed dolphins: slide gently into the water next to the boat, to ensure you do not scare them.
2. Keep your distance, try to keep at least 5m from the dolphins, let them come to you
3. Never try to touch the dolphins
4. While in the boat – never obstruct their path, don't head them off or box them in
5. Boat engines should be shut off at least 15m away from the pod
6. If the pod approaches the boat, don't change direction suddenly, slow down & shut off the engines
7. Let the dolphins come to the boat – no chasing!
8. Dolphins that have babies are less willing to allow you to play, please respect this



Code of conduct for Catch & Release Fishing

Catch & release fishing is an increasingly popular practice among many anglers. It is quiet common for the fishers with a strong conservation commitment to release fish, which they could legally keep.

To maximize a fish's survival when practicing catch & release fishing, it is important to follow these guidelines:

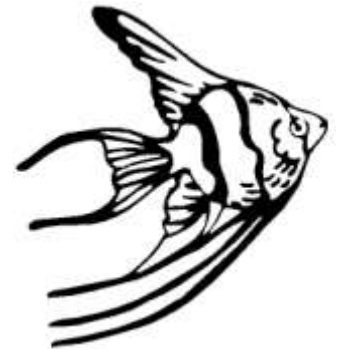
1. Minimize the time spent to land a fish. Long fights on light tackle unduly stress fish & lead to a lower chance of survival as a result
2. Use barbless hooks whenever possible to minimize hook damage to fish
3. Avoid taking fish from the water. Release the fish while it is still in the water.
4. If you do have to remove the fish from the water, handle it carefully. Use wet hands or a wet towel to minimize damage to its skin. Support its body weight. Minimize the length of time the fish spends out of water
5. Avoid using nets to pick up the fish. If absolutely necessary, use a fish-friendly landing net with soft, knotless mesh to reduce harm to a fish's scales, skin, eyes & fins



6. Avoid dropping the fish onto the bottom of the boat or any other hard surface as this can cause internal organ damage. Hold the fish with a firm grip across the back of the head to remove the hook
7. Try to retrieve hooks & release the fish as quickly as possible. The use of needle-nosed pliers or a hook-retrieving device can greatly reduce the time the fish are out of the water.
8. Take care to revive the fish upon release if required. This involves gently holding or pushing the fish through the water so it obtains a good supply of oxygen

Codes of Conduct for Snorkeling

Coral Reefs are one of the world's most spectacular marine habitats and snorkeling is an excellent way of exploring them. As coral reefs face an increasingly uncertain future, snorkelers & other coral reef visitors play an important role in helping to protect these fragile habitats. Follow these simple guidelines to help protect the coral reefs you visit



Be sure to avoid any contact with the corals and other marine life. Not only could you be hurt but corals are very fragile animals – as much a gentle touch can harm them

Even sand kicked up by fins can smother & choke coral colonies.

Repeated contact between snorkelers & corals, removes the corals mucus covering and causes physical damage to the coral tissue

1. Be careful where you get into and out of the water to avoid walking on the corals
2. Be sure to snorkel in your comfort zone – don't get too close to the reef
3. Lie flat in the water, and avoid coming upright so you don't stand on corals
4. Try to swim without using your arms to avoid accidentally touching the reef
5. Make sure you know where your fins are so that you don't kick anything
6. Move slowly & deliberately in the water – relax and take your time
7. Remember LOOK and don't touch
8. Promote a no-contact policy for recreational snorkelers, which can be supported by the use of floatation vests for the inexperienced
9. Never chase, harass or try to ride marine life
10. Take nothing, living or dead, out of the water
11. Do not touch, handle or feed marine life
12. Do not use gloves in a coral environment – it will make less careful about what you touch
13. Choose operators that make use of moorings at snorkeling sites as anchors destroy corals when set directly on a reef
14. Make sure no garbage is thrown or blown overboard – take it with you when you go and dispose of it safely and responsibly
15. Refuse to buy souvenirs made of coral, shells or marine life: take only pictures & memories with you!

If you follow these simple guidelines, you are able to observe the reef & it's many inhabitants in their natural habitat & they will be unaffected by your presence

Make sure you are an informed snorkeler, if we work together, we can better protect the coral reefs to enable future generations to be able to explore & enjoy them too!

Code of conduct for Garbage Disposal

1. As marine tourism has grown, garbage disposal from small vessels has become a concern
2. Dumping garbage in Coastal Waters poses an increasing threat to both people and the marine environment
3. Garbage disposal in a marine environment is both unsightly and dangerous. Plastic objects, fishing line, cigarette butts and Styrofoam debris are often consumed by turtles, seabirds, fish and marine animals and cause the death of many of these animals every year.
4. Many of these animals are prime attractions for tourist to a destination; their loss can seriously hurt the tourism industry in an area
5. When garbage becomes entangled on coral reefs, it smothers and kills coral colonies and can pose a safety hazard to divers and snorkelers.



Codes of conduct sea kayaking

1. Store gear neatly when on shore
2. Ensure kayaks are in good working order
3. While in the proximity of wildlife, conduct yourself in a manner that does not disturb or alter their natural behavior
4. No feeding of marine life is permitted
5. Ensure that you are familiar with the wildlife concerns and marine protected zones in the area



Code of conduct for free diving & Spear fishing

1. No endangered species may be taken from the water, many endangered species are protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
2. No fish may be taken using a hookah apparatus or scuba equipment
3. Lobsters may not be taken if under eight inches
4. Lobsters carrying eggs must be returned to the water
5. Snorkeling. No Scuba equipment permitted
6. It is illegal to use any chemical or explosive devices to take fish
7. Always study the water movements – the tides & currents for safety
8. Always dive with a friend
9. Always remove the spearhead when not in the water



10. Never load a spear gun out of the water
11. Never point a spear gun at another person
12. Always kill the fish immediately
13. Be cautious of dangerous marine animals such as sharks & venomous fish with spines
14. Never tether fish to your body while spear fishing
15. Only hunt what you intend to eat that day – NO trophy hunting
16. Only hunt pelagic fish, not reef dwellers

Code of conduct for Scuba Diving

1. Try to avoid overcrowding at one site
2. Mark your dive boats so that your hotel or Dive Club can be easily identified
3. Always fly the diving flag when diving
4. Never leave a boat unattended
5. Divers should be using a surface marker buoy to identify areas being used by divers
6. Be conservation conscious. Avoid damage to the seabed. Do not touch any sea fans, corals, starfish, urchins etc
7. Take photographs & notes – not specimens
8. Promote a non-contact policy for recreational divers
9. Discourage the use of gloves on dives
10. Educate tourists about the sensitive nature of reef ecosystems and the potential impacts that can result from irresponsible diving
11. Offer buoyancy refreshers and other basic dive skill training for inexperienced, out-of -practice or infrequent divers, addressing the importance of issues such as proper weighting and streamlining of gear
12. Dive guides with divers experiencing buoyancy problems, should only dive over sand patches, rock and vegetation to avoid coral damage
13. Take only pictures... leave only memories
14. Discourage fish-feeding and harassment of wildlife
15. Establish permanent mooring buoys; which significantly reduces anchor damage to coral reefs. Ensure that mooring positioning are changed annually to avoid excessive damage to one area.
16. Mooring buoys should be situated no less than 20m from the reef.
17. Promote drift dives; to avoid anchoring when no mooring buoys are available
18. Work with the Zanzibar Government with regards to the issue of diver carrying capacity- in order to avoid overcrowding at the popular dive sites. Limit the number of diving operators through the issue of permits.

