

# Samadai Dolphin Sanctuary Guides Training Course

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

- Importance of developing a tourism based on marine biodiversity
- Need for implementation of management plan in Samadai Dolphin Sanctuary
- Importance of monitoring

### 2. The dolphins

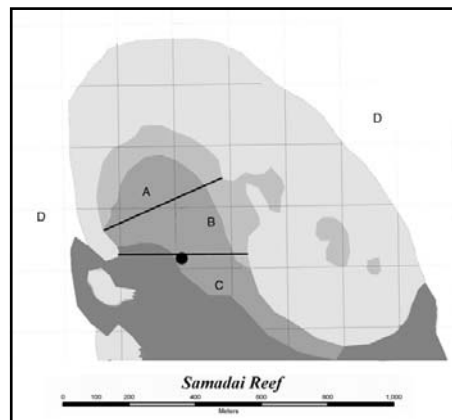
- General presentation of marine mammals, and in particular cetaceans
- The Samadai spinner dolphins and their special needs

### 3. The role of guides

- Importance of guides in the Samadai Dolphin Sanctuary Management Plan
- Requirements: Samadai certification + dive master certification (this way a guide will be insured, legally authorised to bring people in the water, will have had rescue training, etc.).

### 4. Bringing people to swim with the dolphins

- General comments on swim with dolphins programmes. Tendency to discourage what may be classified as “Level B Harassment” of a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (US Marine Mammal Protection Act, 1994). Although swimming with wild cetaceans is growing in popularity, the impact of such activities on marine mammals is not well known.
- Samadai zoning:



Four management zones can be considered within Samadai:

- Zone A: the core area (= “dolphin house”), strictly a no-entry Zone.
- Zone B: area where entry is allowed only to snorkelers accompanied by certified guides. No boats are allowed here.
- Zone C: all the remaining deeper waters of the reef. Moving boats of all types (i.e., including inflatables) must limit movements to a minimum, and never exceed “no wake” speed. Larger boats heading for a mooring must do that expeditiously, and turn off their engines as soon as it is safe to do so. Inflatables moored must not keep their engine idling unnecessarily.
- Zone D: deep waters surrounding the reef.

Two main demarcation lines must be considered:

- the AB demarcation line – cannot be crossed by swimmers
- the BC demarcation line – cannot be crossed by boats

➤ General considerations

- **Golden Rule.** This is a dolphin sanctuary, where dolphins come to rest. Let the dolphins control the nature of the interaction. When the dolphins are in sight underwater, stand still and silent and let them decide if they want to approach swimmers or not.
- Snorkelers may only enter Zone B in the company of a guide.
- Guides may be allowed a maximum of 10 snorkelers under their control.
- Guides must be visibly marked to be recognised by swimmers.

➤ Code of conduct

Group behaviour

- Guides must keep snorkelers together in a group, and will steer the group around the area in such a way as to minimise disturbance to the dolphins.
- Children under 12 should be allowed only under the control of a parent.
- if a school of dolphins intends to swim in or out of the Reef, manoeuvre to give the dolphin school wide berth.
- never cut in front of the dolphin school, swim head to head to a dolphin or school, or cause the school to change its course.
- never corner a dolphin or school against the reef or against another group of snorkelers or any other real or perceived obstacle



## Individual behaviour

### Things to do:

- Wear a life jacket
- Follow the guide
- Paddle quietly with fins always kept underwater

### Things not to do:

- Wear a weight belt
- Dive from the surface
- Swim using arms
- Shout, talk, whistle, use shakers or other noise-making devices
- Use camera flashes
- Touch a dolphin
- Chase a dolphin
- Bring food to the dolphins

## 5. Tasks of guides

### ➤ Briefing of swimmers

- On the boat
- On the snorkeling
- On the dolphins
- On the Code of conduct

### ➤ Management of in-water visit

### ➤ Co-operation with the rangers

### ➤ De-briefing of swimmers

