

Illegal fishing

Fishing boat intercepted in Aride Special Reserve

On Thursday, 3 December 2020, the Island Conservation Society reported that they had been notified by the Seychelles Coast Guard that a vessel was caught engaging in illegal fishing in the Aride Special Reserve.

The authorities concerned are now handling the case and further investigations are ongoing. As per the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act, Aride Island and

the surrounding marine area extending to 1.2km from the shoreline is designated as a Special Reserve. ICS is committed to protecting the Aride Special Reserve from unlawful activities in close collaboration with

the Seychelles Coast Guard and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment.

However, TODAY was contacted by Darell Green of the Praslin Fisherman's Association on 3 December who claimed

that the fishermen were approached and told by the Coast Guard to go back to shore and later told they were fishing in a marine park, an offence, despite the GPS reading that they were 1.2 nautical miles away from the

marine park. Green also pointed out that the authorities have what he described as a "negative mindset" and that authorities on Cousin, Cousine and Aride should have markers or buoys to note boundaries.

