

WHAT IS MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP)?

MSP is a Government lead participatory process where Belizean citizens and key stakeholders are invited to participate to determine the best use of our ocean space to achieve Belize's economic, social and environmental goals. This MSP process has been named the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan, which will serve as Belize's framework for MSP.

WHY IS THE BSOP IMPORTANT FOR BELIZE?

It contributes to:

- Improved ocean management and stakeholder participation in decision-making
- Economic stability and maritime safety
- Protection of valuable ecosystems and adaptation to climate change



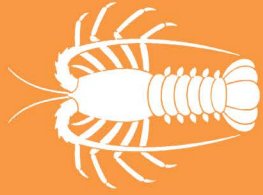
Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

- On October 19th, 2022, the Government of Belize launched the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan (BSOP) process and designated Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute as the lead implementing agency.
- The BSOP will be developed through a science-based, stakeholder-driven process that strives to achieve a balance between protection of key ecosystems and developmental demands in alignment with Belize's economic, ecological, and social goals.
- An established governance framework provides many opportunities for stakeholder participation, ensuring fair and equal contribution to the development of the BSOP.
- The BSOP process will consider both current and future uses of Belize's ocean, aligning with its development and marine conservation priorities.



HOW WILL BSOP IMPROVE CURRENT SECTORS?

FISHERIES



It aims to ensure that the identification and effective management of productive fisheries habitats or ecosystems are prioritized for the benefit of a thriving fishing industry.

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT



It will take into account coastal activities with the aim of striking a balance between development, conservation and management requirements to sustain the health of coasts and oceans.

TOURISM



It will establish an optimal allocation of tourism activities across the ocean, with the goal of securing the long-term sustainability of the industry while maintaining the healthy ecosystems that serve as its foundation.

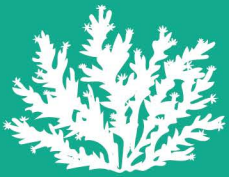
SHIPPING AND PORTS



It will consider the location of deep-water channels and shipping lanes, as well as the maneuvering of ships and other navigation concerns to ensure that the shipping and transportation sector can continue to operate efficiently while minimizing negative impacts on the marine environment.

HOW WILL BSOP SUPPORT EMERGING SECTORS?

MARICULTURE/ AQUACULTURE



It can help to identify best locations for mariculture operations that minimize environmental impacts, promote sustainable practices and support restorative functions.

BIO- PHARMACEUTICALS



It can assist in the identification of opportunities for both bio- pharmaceutical advancements and ecosystem services, while actively avoiding any negative environmental effects.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



It can identify areas that can contribute to the long-term prosperity of Belize's coastal communities that depend on the ocean by identifying key ecosystems and recommending best management practices that support economic growth and environmental sustainability.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY



It can help to inform Belize's transition towards a low-carbon economy and increase energy security by identifying areas within Belize's ocean space that are suitable for renewable energy development and considers impacts on marine ecosystems and the needs of coastal communities.

DEEP SEA MINERALS

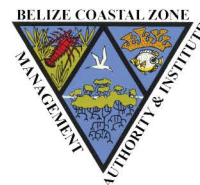


It can help to identify opportunities for deep-sea mineral development while considering possible social and environmental impacts.

Public awareness and participation are critical to the development of the BSOP. You can actively participate by:

- Staying informed by attending public meetings
- Visiting the BSOP website and social media pages to get updates on engagements
- Participating in technical or community consultations and providing your input

For more information contact:



Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute
Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City, Belize
bsop@coastalzonebelize.org
501-223-5739/ 501-223-0719

Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

bsop_bz

<https://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org/>