

## BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

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### Milestone 4 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Discussions on Lighthouse Reef, Belize City Deep Sea Fisher

May 31st, 2024

Duration of meeting: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: CZMAI Conference Room

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#### Minutes

##### Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the delivery of Milestones 4 of the Blue Bond Agreement and the potential inclusion of the Lighthouse Reef Atoll Area.
2. Other Matters

##### Present:

Number of Stakeholders: 2  
Belize Audubon Society  
Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

#### Meeting Notes

##### Update on delivery of Milestone 4 - CZMAI

- The context of the Blue Bond Agreement was reviewed, noting the completion of Milestone 1, 2, and 3. With current efforts on working to wards Milestone 4. Emphasizing CZMAI's involvement with Milestones 4, 5, 6 and 8.
- Milestone 4 Expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) to 25% of Belize's Ocean Space: to use a map approach to designate space identified by stakeholders.
  - o Several steps involved:
    - Analysis of future conditions,
    - Understanding current use of space to have a starting point,
    - Understanding areas of conflicts



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- Analyze potential areas for BPZs based of previous works done by organizational research,
- Potential areas of interest to be endorsed by stakeholders.
- Delivery of Milestone 4:
  - Due November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - To focus only on medium BPZs, areas for general use zones.
  - Will not affect how people are using the zones, but with assist with management of the areas.
- Total ocean space under protection currently is:
  - Total ocean space = 33,706.99km<sup>2</sup>
  - Total ocean under protection = 6,845.60km<sup>2</sup> / 20.3%
  - Total current High Protection = 11.67%, approximately 3.7% remaining.
  - Remaining ocean space target = 1,565.819km<sup>2</sup>
- Areas under consideration for medium protection (general use zones) are: Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Banco Chincharro-Bacalar Chico Transboundary MPA, and S.I 180 of 2011 Shark fishing regulations.
- Areas under consideration for a mix of high and medium protection are: Central region Goff's Caye area and Placencia Lagoon.
- Medium use zones, general use zones

### Open Discussion

Views and concerns expressed by the fishers concerning the area of interest:

- To place no more "No Take Zones" in the Lighthouse Reef area
- The closest point between lighthouse and gloves is 13 miles wide, other areas are about 16-18 miles wide.
- Fishers work up to 1000ft , from reef to the drop off is 1 miles around
- The elbow is a high protected zone where enforcement is needed.
- For the protected area, GSP coordinates is need, to be digitised, to be put in longitude and altitude not UTM.
- When licensing time to enforce and educate fishers along with the co-manages and fisheries dept on the protected areas Do's and Don'ts.
- To add the band on spear fishing, as an add on to the BPZs restricted activity.
- There is a still a lot of sharks noted in the area.

Suggested potential areas for protection:

- Deep water is noted between Lighthouse and Glovers and Lighthouse and Turneff, which is home for pelagic fish. These areas can be put under protection for future planning.



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**Final Decision**

- Stakeholders is in agreeance with the proposed area and for the regularizing the boundary shape.
- Noting their strong views against not having no more “no take” zones.

**Notes submitted by:**

MSP Coordinator of CZMAI

**Agenda: Discussion of the redesignation of the Lighthouse Reef Area**

***Milestone 4 Stakeholder Engagement: Belize City Deep-Sea Fishers***

***Discussions on the Lighthouse Reef Atoll Area***

**Date:** Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Venue:** CZMAI Conference Room

**Objective:** To provide an update on the delivery of Milestones 4 of the Blue Bond Agreement and the potential inclusion of the Lighthouse Reef Atoll area.

***Agenda***

#	Time	Item
1	2:00pm – 2:10pm	Welcome and Introductions
2	2:10pm - 2:25pm	Provide update on the delivery of Milestone 4
3	2:25pm – 2:40pm	Proposal to include Lighthouse Reef Atoll as a Medium Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ)
4	2:40pm – 2:55pm	Discussion Session
5	2:55pm – 3:00pm	Closing of Meeting



### Lighthouse Reef Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Images



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Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Belize Audubon Society and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.

Contact information [bsop@coastalzonebelize.org](mailto:bsop@coastalzonebelize.org) (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>



## Lighthouse Reef Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Participants sheet

**BSOP**  
Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

THE BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN  
Milestone 4: Lighthouse Reef Atoll: Deep Sea Fishers  
May 31st, 2024, 2:00 pm Belize City, Belize  
CZMAI Conference Room

Name	Community	Organization	Contact Info (Email/Phone #)	Gender		Do you provide consent for recording and using feedback and photos?	
				M	F	Yes	No
RAY McNab	BELIZE CITY		6612927	✓		✓	
Samir Casado	Belize City	CZMAI	223-0719	✓		✓	
Delwin Guevara	Belize City	CZMAI	223-0719	✓		✓	
Janel McNab	BZ City	CZMAI			✓	✓	
Maty Alvarez	bze	BAS	635-3935	✓		✓	
Shayne Young	Bze City		6768009	✓		✓	



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# DRAFT



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