

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

48th Core Team Meeting

August 20th, 2025

Duration of meeting: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities
2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities
3. Other Matters

Present:

Samir Rosado – MSP Process Lead, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Janel McNab – MSP Coordinator, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Delwin Guevara – MSP GIS Mapping & Spatial Analysis, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Brittney Garcia – MSP Science Lead, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Kelsie Garbutt – MSP Communications & Personal Relations Officer, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Serena Reyes – MSP Project Assistant, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Janiel Chan – MSP GIS Technician, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Arlene Young – Director, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Safira Vasquez – Acting Director, Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, Office of the Prime Minister

Felicia Cruz – Director, Blue Economy Unite, Ministry of Blue Economy & Marine Conservation

Adriel Castenada – Fisheries Officer, Belize Fisheries Department

Alana Godoy – Blue Bonds Director, The Nature Conservancy

Nidia Chacon – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

Kate Longly-Wood - Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Chantal Collier – Senior Associate, Ocean Planning and Mapping, The Nature Conservancy

Daniel Viana- Marine Scientist, World Wildlife Fund

Minutes :

Agenda Item Number	Notes/Comments/Advice	Action Response
Welcome & Meeting Called to Order		
1.1	The MSP Process Lead welcomed the Core Team (CT) members and called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.	
1.2	<p>The agenda was presented, the meeting objectives were reviewed and accepted. CT members were asked if anyone had any additional items would like to address during other matters section of the meeting.</p> <p>Objective were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities 2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities 3. Other Matters 	
1.3	<p>Next steps from 47th Core Meeting held July 17th, 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science and Technical: to have a separate call to discuss MSP Gap Analysis on next steps. 2. Science and Technical: to have TWG meeting between 28th July - 1st August 2025 3. Science and Technical: to share with team when cleaned, the updated full protection assessment map 4. Science & Technical: to follow up on the percentage (%) for RBB 5. To have a larger work plan drafted with the inclusion of milestone 6 and RBB 6. Comms: To get clarity on the Milestone 4 press release from BBFP 7. Comms: send poll for upcoming Sub-Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Group for end of July 	
Science and Technical Updates		
2.1	<p>TWG & RBB Update By MSP GIS Mapping & Spatial Analysis, CZMAI & Marine Spatial Planning Process Lead</p> <p>CZMAI discussed the challenges of getting stakeholder participation in the fisheries process, with only one person responding to their request. Suggested sending materials in advance of meetings to improve engagement.</p> <p>TNC inquired about sport fishing representation, and CZMAI explained that they were working to include representatives from the forming national sport fishing association. WWF confirmed that sport fishers were</p>	

	<p>being targeted in the upcoming community consultations through specific working sessions.</p> <p>CZMAI outlined the consultation process for the Resilient Blue Belize project, which included working sessions in 14 communities starting the following day, followed by community consultations and a national validation session.</p> <p>Clarified that while area identification would be completed by year-end, the legal designation process would extend into the first quarter of the following year.</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p>MPA Gap Analysis Terms of Reference by MSP Process Lead</p> <p>CZMAI presented updates on the terms of reference for two consultancies. The first, originally a gap analysis, was transformed into a zoning framework to standardize marine zone definitions across Belize.</p> <p>The team discussed coordination challenges with an existing WWF consultancy that was already working on standardizing zones for marine reserves under the Fisheries Department.</p> <p>TNC suggested that ideally one comprehensive consultancy should have addressed all protected area categories.</p> <p>WWF recommended reviewing existing policy documents and possibly organizing a working session with relevant stakeholders rather than hiring a new consultant.</p> <p>The second consultancy focused on cumulative effects assessment to analyze how proposed marine zones would impact socioeconomic conditions in coastal communities, incorporating surveys to gather local perceptions.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Update on Full Protection Assessment By MSP GIS Mapping & Spatial Analysis</p> <p>A representative from WWF clarified that the protection target included both the redesignation of current MPAs and the establishment of new MPAs.</p> <p>TNC sought confirmation that the 8% high protection target fit within the 15% conservation commitments outlined in the Blue Bonds agreement.</p> <p>CZMAI agreed that this approach would work in Belize, noting they needed to be clear about the types of high protection areas they were discussing.</p>	

	<p>The team emphasized the importance of completing and standardizing the zoning framework quickly to ensure stakeholders understood the designations.</p> <p>CZMAI presented the coral report findings, showing 24.03% total coral output with 10.94% within marine protected areas. The team discussed the need to carefully distinguish between different protection levels in their communications to avoid confusion, particularly regarding how the 3.99% of corals under full protection related to the 11.67% of ocean space under high protection.</p>	
<p>Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Updates</p>		
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Outreach Activity By MSP Communications & PR Officer</p> <p>CZMAI provided updates on the communications activities, including morning show appearances with representatives from CZMAI, the MSP Unit, Fisheries, and WWF.</p> <p>There were discussions on the development of a knowledge-sharing and outreach campaign, mentioned that a press release was being published, and reported on public outreach events, including the Bird's Eye Lobster Fest and upcoming Climate Week participation.</p> <p>There were discussions on the shared information about media initiatives, including SMS broadcasts that reached 600 people, a Love FM advertising package that ran from August to September, and three billboards installed across the country.</p> <p>Additionally, mentioned upcoming boat outreach activities targeting fishing communities to inform them about community consultations and ensure their interests were represented.</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Upcoming/Ongoing Activities: By MSP Communications & PR Officer</p> <p>Billboard Placement Strategy Discussion</p> <p>TNC commented that the billboard in San Joaquin Village was not strategically placed, as it was hidden under a tree and easily missed by drivers. Suggested it would have been more effective at the entrance of Corozal Town, where more fishers would see it. Two alternative strategic locations: before the cultural corridor diversion and at the bay entrance to Corozal</p> <p>CZMAI explained they were currently under contract for that location but could consider changing it in the future, noting they could monitor website traffic but not specific QR code scans.</p>	

	Blue Bonds recommended using trackable QR codes for future materials to better measure engagements.		
3.3	<p>Communications Workplan Fy 2025-2026 By MSP Communications & PR Officer</p> <p>Gender-Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Strategy</p> <p>TNC suggested incorporating Milestone 6 messaging into the communication strategy and emphasized the need to engage with diverse groups, including gender, youth, and marginalized communities, through focused outreach. Alos recommended obtaining stakeholder engagement feedback from the CRFM consultation and pointed out the existing gender action plans for fishing communities could be leveraged instead of creating new ones.</p> <p>CZMAI agreed to add this to the next meeting's agenda and mentioned that a gender action plan was already part of the GSA activities. Noting the MSP Unit would review existing documents but clarified that their intended gender approach needed to be broader than just the fisheries community.</p>		
Other Matters			
4.1	<p>MSP Process Lead and MSP Coordinator informed the CT of other upcoming activities:</p> <p>CZMAI thanked the team for their participation in the CRM consultancy.</p> <p>The translator and interpreter service TOR would be posted that day.</p> <p>Requested confirmations for the Marxan workshop on September 25–26 by the following week to secure a venue for approximately 70 participants.</p>		
Closing of Meeting			
5.1	<p>Next Core Team meeting date, 18th September 2025.</p> <p>MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 11:33 am.</p>		
Item #	Next Steps/Action Items	Status	Date
1	Strategize on approaching technical working groups, potentially sending materials in advance of meetings.	In-process	
2	Review the policy recommendations document to identify gaps in the zoning framework.	In-process	
3	Update and post the revised community consultation dates once confirmed.	Completed	20/08/2025

4	Lead engagement with stakeholders for deep water sites and co-design process.	Pending Development	
5	Advance work on standardizing zones as soon as possible to support the MSP process.	In-process	
6	Correct the recurring call calendar for science and technical subgroup meetings.	Completed	
7	Post the translator TOR document.	Completed	20/08/2025

Minutes submitted by:

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator of CZMAI

Approved

Mr. Samir Rosado
Marine Spatial Plan Process Lead,
CZMAI

Date

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



48th BSOP Core Team Meeting

Agenda

Date	Wednesday 20 th August 2025		
Time	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (BZE local time)		
Format	Virtually: Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84045442148?pwd=8GJXMAh8Mwj649xyCJCRuN3sabBrIb.1		
Recorded	Yes		
Format	Presentation and discussions		
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates on Science & Technical 2. Updates on Communications & Stakeholder Engagement 3. Other Matters 		
AGENDA			
#	Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1	9:00 – 9:15	Welcome & Meeting Called to Order	S. Rosado
2	9:15 – 9:30	Update on action items from 47 th Core Team Meeting, July 17th, 2025.	J. McNab
3	9:30 – 10:00	Resilience Bold Belize (RBB) Consultations	S. Rosado
4	10:00 – 10:15	Science & Technical	B. Garcia & J. Chan
5	10:15 – 10:30	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	K. Garbutt
6	10:30 – 10:45	Other Matters	All
7	10:45 - 11:00	Closing of Meeting	S. Rosado