This workshop is brought to you by

Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

in partnership with

BELIZE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY & INSTITUTE

The Nature Conservancy Belize

Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future

BLUE BOND and Finance Permanence Unit
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

Welcome to

Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

MSP Future Planning Workshop

Date: February 25th -27th, 2025
Location: Coral Room,
Grand Resort and Residences Belize

MSP Compass Rules – The 8 B's of Participation

The 8 B's of Participation

1. Be Present

Remain actively engaged and minimize phone use during workshop sessions.

2. Be Respectful

Recognize and value diverse sector perspectives and experiences.

3. Be Brief

Keep contributions concise to allow balanced participation.

4. Be Open

Remain receptive to new ideas, viewpoints, and collaborative solutions.

5. Be Balanced

Consider environmental, social, economic, and governance dimensions in discussions.

6. Be Constructive

Focus conversations on solutions and future-oriented outcomes.

7. Be Collaborative

Work across sectors to build shared understanding and consensus.

8. Be Mindful of Boundaries

Maintain open body language, attentive listening, and professional engagement.

Currents of Character

- *Recognizing the strengths shaping our shared MSP journey*

Let the currents guide you…

1. **Move around the room .**
2. **Pair with the person closest to you**
3. **Observe & reconnect.**
4. Create a **positive and professional name** that reflects the energy and character your partner has brought to this workshop.

5. Introduce your partner:

   “This is ___, and today we recognize them as ___ because…”

AGENDA: Day 3

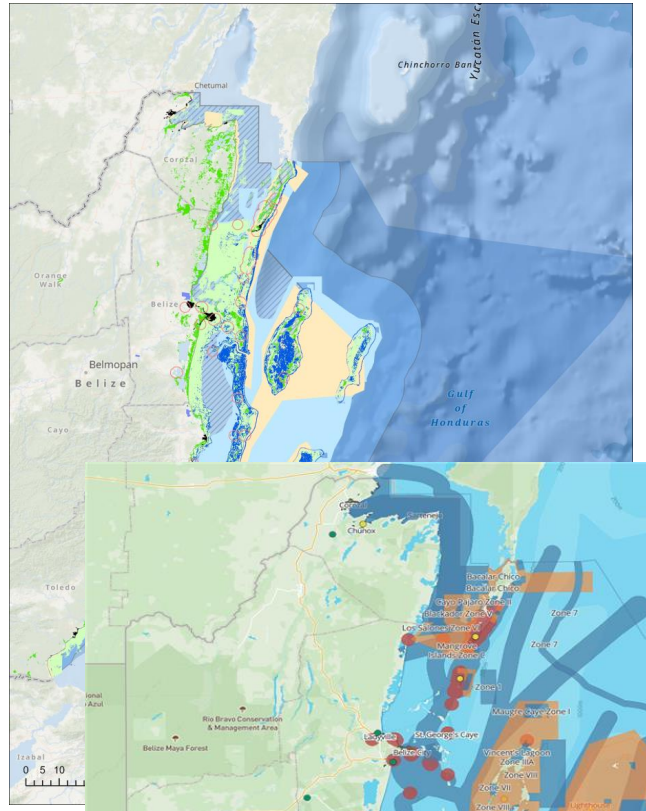
- Welcome, Recap & Ice Breaker
- Zoning Framework & MPA Design Criteria
- Future Planning – Scenario 1
- Break
- Future Planning - Scenario 1 & 2
- Lunch

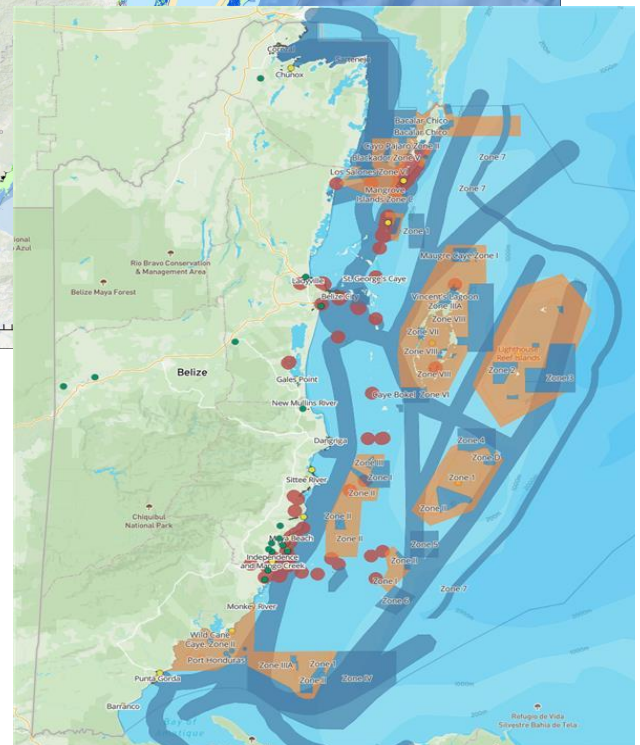
AGENDA: Day 3 cont'd

- Future Planning – Scenarios 3 & 4
- Wrap up Next Steps
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn

MPA Design Criteria &

Zoning Framework





Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

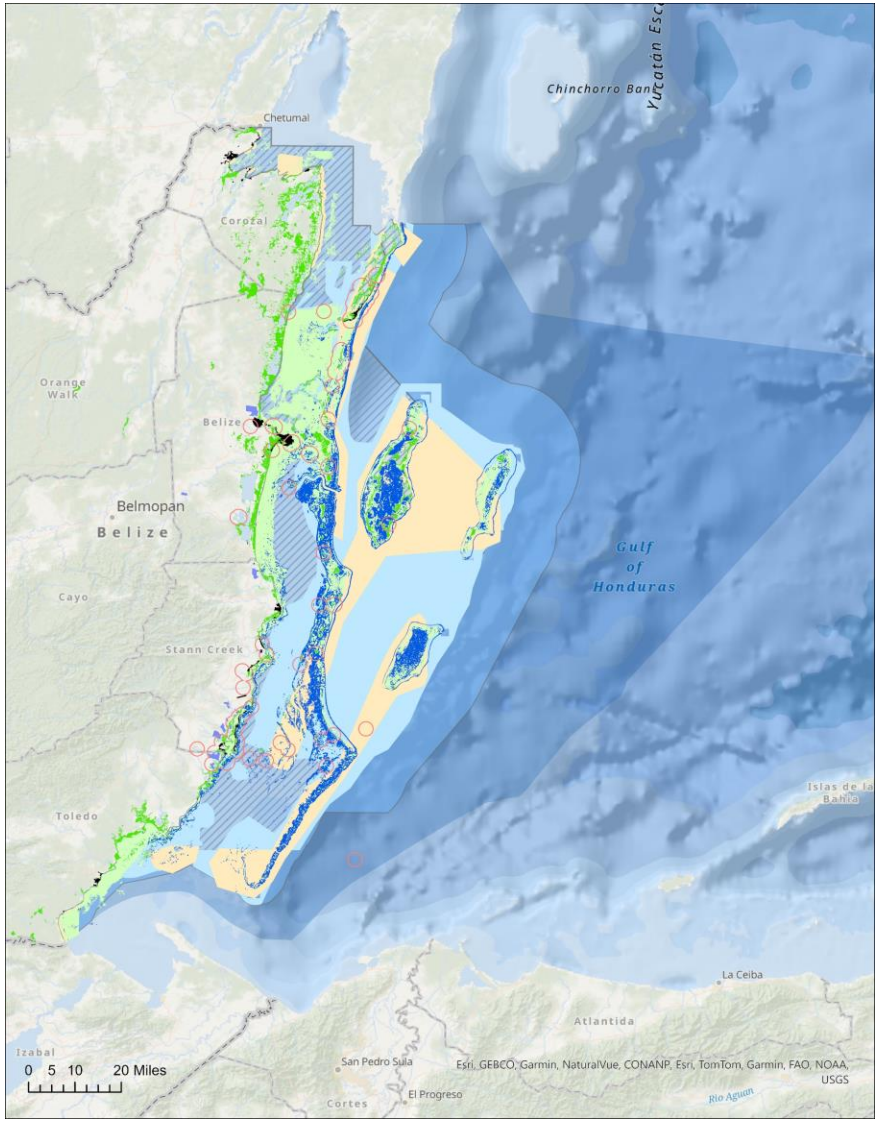
MSP Future Planning Workshop
Grand Residences & Resort Belize
26th Feb 2026

Samir Rosado

Delwin Guevara

Zoning Framework

Structured, spatially explicit set of policy instruments and rules that allocate and regulate human activities within a marine area to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. It integrates ecological data, stakeholder input, and management goals to delineate specific zones, each with defined permissible uses, restrictions, and timing, thereby guiding decision-making and enforcement across the maritime space.



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Zoning Framework

Zone Type	Primary Purpose	Typical Compatible Uses	Non-Compatible Uses
Marine Protected Areas	Conserve and restore biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, support fisheries productivity, ecological connectivity, cultural and recreational value.	Scientific research; environmental education; responsible ecotourism under permit; sustainable artisanal/subsistence fishing only in designated zones; cultural documentation; reef restoration; enforcement patrols; co-management.	Destructive/unregulated fishing (trawling, explosives, poisons); coral/shell/sand removal; industrial development; seabed mining; reclamation; petroleum exploration/ extraction; unauthorized disturbance of archaeological artifacts; any unpermitted activity compromising ecological or cultural integrity; gillnetting; for of coral, sand and shell removal, the regulating agency issues permits for the extraction of these under conditions; some mining and dredging is also permitted
Fishing Areas	Promote sustainable and equitable fisheries management that supports livelihoods and food security of traditional fishers and contributes to employment, income generation, & national economic development.	Licensed commercial and subsistence fishing; permitted gears; reporting; monitoring; community stewardship; livelihood training.	Fishing by unlicensed individuals; fishing outside assigned zones and seasons; illegal or destructive gear; harvest of protected/undersized species; fishing in replenishment/conservation zones; activities causing habitat degradation or pollution.

Zoning Framework

Zone Type	Primary Purpose	Typical Compatible Uses	Non-Compatible Uses
Maritime Security / Coast Guard Operational Zones — *Military Facilities Zones*	Maintain national security, surveillance, readiness, and protection of Coast Guard assets.	Coast Guard operations only: vessel deployment, patrols, dock/port maneuvering, tactical training, helicopter landings, drones, emergency response.	All civilian access; fishing; diving; snorkeling; recreational boating; anchoring; unauthorized presence; unauthorized drone/aircraft activity.
— Live Firing Ranges at Sea	Designated training areas for live-fire exercises and tactical operations.	Coast Guard live-fire training during activation periods; normal navigation when inactive.	Civilian entry during active training; unauthorized presence; aircraft entry into restricted airspace during activation.
Maritime Areas (Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, EEZ)	Safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity, and jurisdiction while enabling marine spatial planning.	Diplomatic boundary negotiations; Coast Guard enforcement; hydrographic/oceanographic surveys; lawful navigation; research and MSP-approved activities.	Unauthorized foreign vessel entry; IUU fishing; unauthorized resource extraction; actions undermining sovereignty or international law.
Oil & Gas Wells / Petroleum Zone (under Moratorium)	Safeguard seabed resources under moratorium; ensure strict compliance if ever lifted.	Geological/geophysical/geotechnical surveys; environmental baseline studies; seabed mapping. *(If moratorium lifted: petroleum exploration/ extraction subject to EIA and licensing.)*	Any seabed disturbance causing pollution or conflict with conservation, fisheries, or cultural zones; oil exploration or seismic surveys; offshore oil exploration as prohibited by the moratorium.

Zoning Framework

Zone Type	Primary Purpose	Typical Compatible Uses	Non-Compatible Uses
Seabed Mines & Minerals Zone	Manage exploration and extraction of solid seabed minerals while safeguarding ecosystems and national benefit.	Geological/geophysical surveys; controlled extraction of sand/gravel/ phosphorite/ metallic nodules with EIA or LLIA; beach restoration; baseline monitoring; research; responsible technology; dredging for navigation; borrow sites as navigation channels.	Unauthorized extraction; activities causing habitat loss or pollution; extraction in MPAs, spawning aggregation sites, or cultural heritage zones; dumping of tailings/waste; recreation in borrow sites; mariculture near dredging areas.
Port, Anchorage & Navigation Zones	Maintain safe maritime access for cargo, cruise, and vessel movement.	Anchorage; loading/unloading; vessel maintenance; regulated navigation.	Fishing; recreational swimming; unauthorized anchoring.

Zoning Framework

Zone Type	Primary Purpose	Typical Compatible Uses	Non-Compatible Uses
Marine Archaeological Sites	Protect underwater cultural heritage including caves, ancient Maya artifacts, colonial-era sites & shipwrecks.	Regulated visitation; controlled public access; research; conservation; community engagement when safe; eco-cultural tourism where appropriate.	Unauthorized disturbance/removal of artifacts; unsafe access to hazardous sites (e.g., submerged caves); extraction not aligned with heritage laws.
Tourism & Recreation Zones (outside MPAs)	Support sustainable tourism that benefits local communities.	Snorkeling; diving; sportfishing; kayaking; guided tours.	Industrial fishing; dredging; unregulated motorized sports.
General Multi-Use Zones (outside MPAs)	Allow balanced, regulated multi-sector use (fishing, tourism, research).	Fishing; navigation; tourism; research under regulation.	Industrial dumping; destructive gear use; unregulated extraction.
Mariculture Allocation Zone (MAZ)	Support sustainable, climate-smart mariculture, such as seaweed farming, shellfish culture, & IMTA, while minimizing ecological impacts and contributing to food security, livelihoods, & Belize's Blue Economy.	Seaweed farming; shellfish and finfish mariculture using approved species; IMTA; research and pilot projects; environmental monitoring; value-chain processing; navigational access for servicing farms.	Use of invasive species; commercial extractive fishing; unregulated chemicals or antifoulants; dredging or seabed alteration; operations without environmental clearance; activities causing pollution, disease spread, fish escapes, or habitat degradation.

Zoning Framework

Zone Type	Primary Purpose	Typical Compatible Uses	Non-Compatible Uses
Sport Fishing Zone (SFZ)	To protect critical habitats that sustain bonefish, permit, tarpon, & other recreational species while supporting world-class catch-and-release sport fishing and sustainable livelihoods	Catch-and-release sport fishing; guided fly-fishing, poling, and trolling; wildlife viewing; scientific monitoring; guide training and certification.	Commercial fishing; harvest of sport fishing species; use of nets, traps, longlines, or destructive gear; dredging; mangrove removal; destructive anchoring; unlicensed tour operations; activities that degrade flats, seagrass beds, or lagoon habitats.

MPA Design Criteria

MPA Design Criteria are the set of standards and requirements used to plan, establish, and evaluate Marine Protected Areas. These criteria ensure that MPAs effectively conserve biodiversity, manage fisheries, protect ecosystem services, and are socio-economically feasible and enforceable. Design criteria address ecological, biological, physical, social, and governance dimensions.

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MPA Design Criteria

Design Criterion Category	Dataset / Information Source if available	Type of Dataset	Ecological Design Criteria
Representation of Ecosystem Diversity	National habitat maps (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, deep benthic habitats, lagoons, estuaries); benthic habitat classifications (CZMAI, Fisheries Department, HRI)	Spatial	Identify and map all major marine habitat types to ensure 20–30% of each is represented within MPA networks and no-take zones.
Replication of Habitats	Habitat distribution layers; regional MPA shapefiles; ecoregional boundaries (northern, central, southern Belize)	Spatial	Ensure ≥3 spatially separated examples of each habitat type (e.g., reefs, seagrass, mangroves) are protected across geographic regions to provide redundancy.
Representation of Resilient and Resistant Characteristics	Reef Health Index (Healthy Reefs Initiative); oceanographic datasets (currents, upwelling zones); coral bleaching resistance data	Spatial & Non-Spatial	Select high-resilience reefs and climate-buffered areas (based on RHI scores and thermal stress history) for inclusion in core no-take zones.
Protection of Unique or Vulnerable Habitats	Critical habitat maps (spawning sites, deep reefs, lagoon systems); biodiversity hotspots identified in national and MAR studies	Spatial	Legally designate irreplaceable habitats (e.g., Gladden Spit, deep reefs) as no-take or highly restricted zones within MPAs.

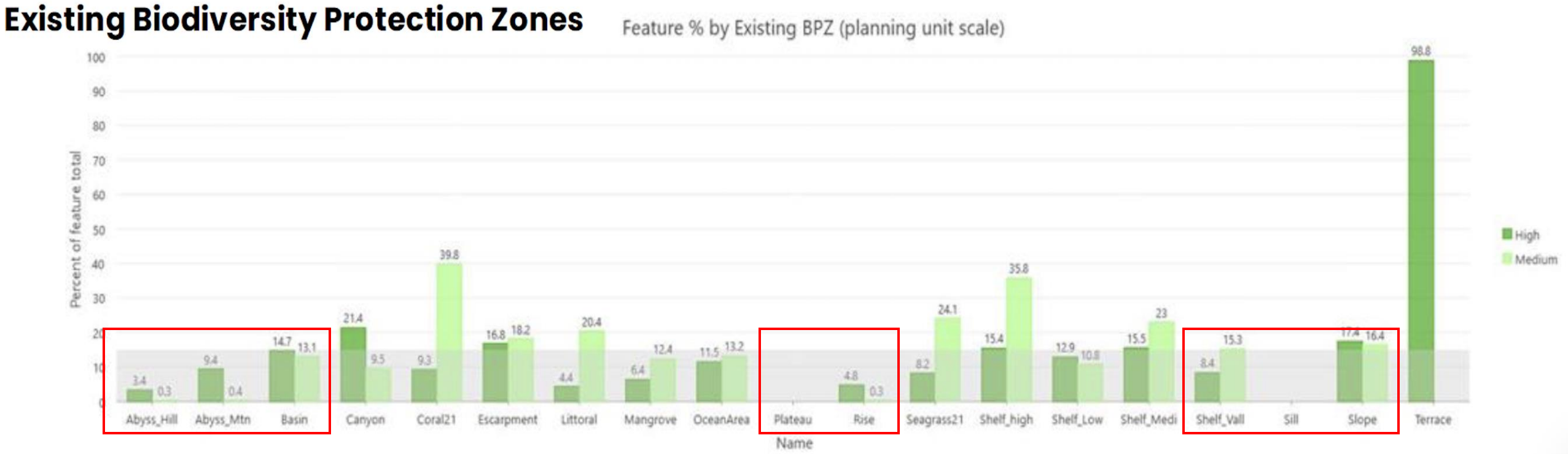
MPA Design Criteria

Design Criterion Category	Dataset / Information Source if or when available	Type of Dataset	Cultural Design Criteria
Protection of Cultural Heritage Significant Areas	Cultural mapping of sacred sites, ancestral fishing grounds, traditional routes; marine archaeological site inventories (e.g., shipwrecks, submerged cemetery, submerged cavern)	Spatial	MPA design and zoning shall integrate mapped cultural and marine archaeological sites into the MPA network, recognize their protection by the National Institute of Culture and History Act (2020), and classify them as Medium Protection for Biodiversity Zones where human use is permitted in the absence of formally declared Archaeological Reserves; such
Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Governance Systems	Records of indigenous and traditional governance structures (e.g., village councils, community statutes, customary marine-use practices)	Non-Spatial	MPA governance frameworks shall formally recognize indigenous and traditional authorities as co-governance partners, including provision for statutory decision-making, advisory, or enforcement roles through policy or regulatory amendments.
Integration TE)	TEK documentation from fisher and community interviews; workshop records; bilingual publications combining local and scientific knowledge	Non-Spatial	Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) shall be incorporated into MPA site selection, species management, and monitoring by integrating community-derived knowledge into spatial planning tools (e.g., SeaSketch, Marxan) and adaptive management processes.

MPA Design Criteria

Design Criterion Category	Dataset / Information Source if available	Type of Dataset	Ecological Design Criteria
Legal and Institutional Datasets	Gazette notifications (MPA boundaries), Fisheries and NPAS Acts, co-management agreements	Non-Spatial	Align new MPA designations with statutory frameworks and update legislation to legally recognize new zones and adaptive provisions.
Cost-Effectiveness and Shared Responsibility	Co-management agreements; NGO and community program budgets; citizen science participation records	Non-Spatial	MPA zoning shall prioritize cost-effective management arrangements by aligning zones with existing co-management partnerships and community capacity to reduce central government operational costs.
Enabling Economic Policies & Governance	Fisheries Resources Act (2020b); PACT Act (2020), Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Act (2025); Conservation Funding Agreement Conservation Funding Agreement (2021); fiscal policy and tax incentive frameworks	Non-Spatial	MPA zoning and designation shall align with national legal and fiscal frameworks that enable revenue retention, access to incentives, and reinvestment of fees into site-level management.

MPA Design Criteria



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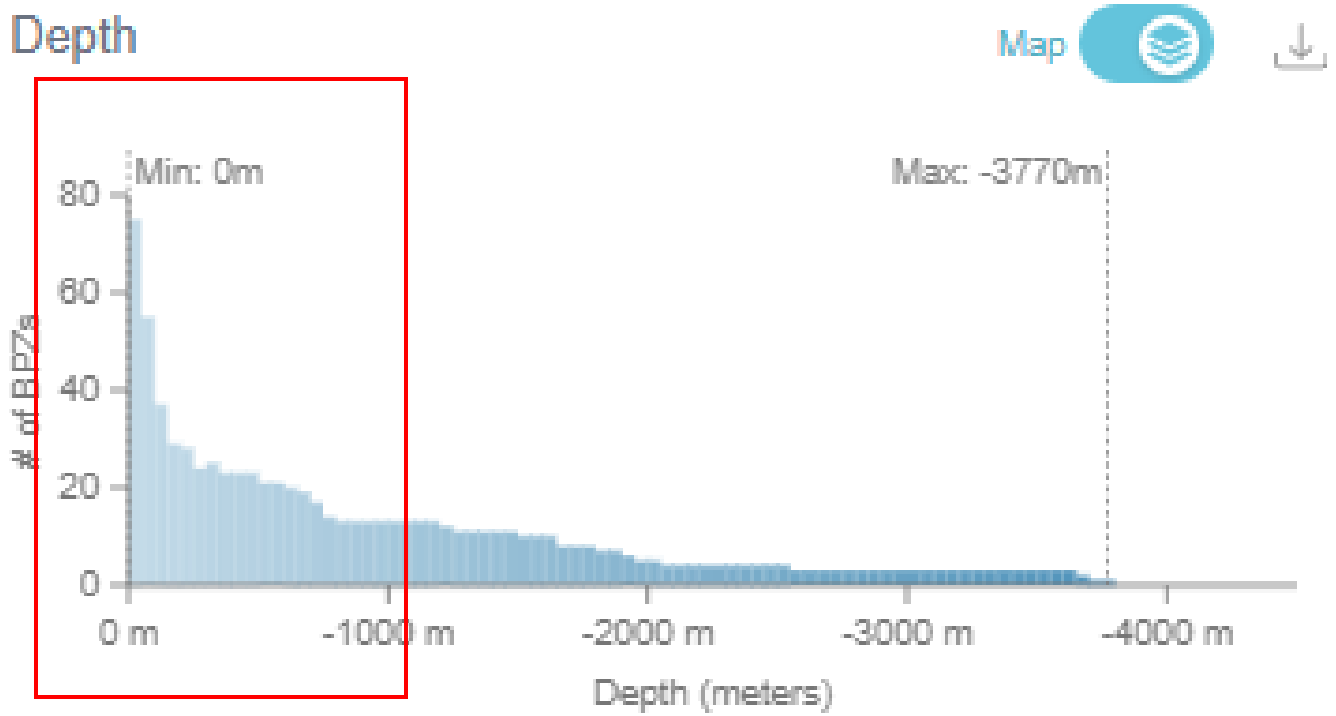
MPA Design Criteria



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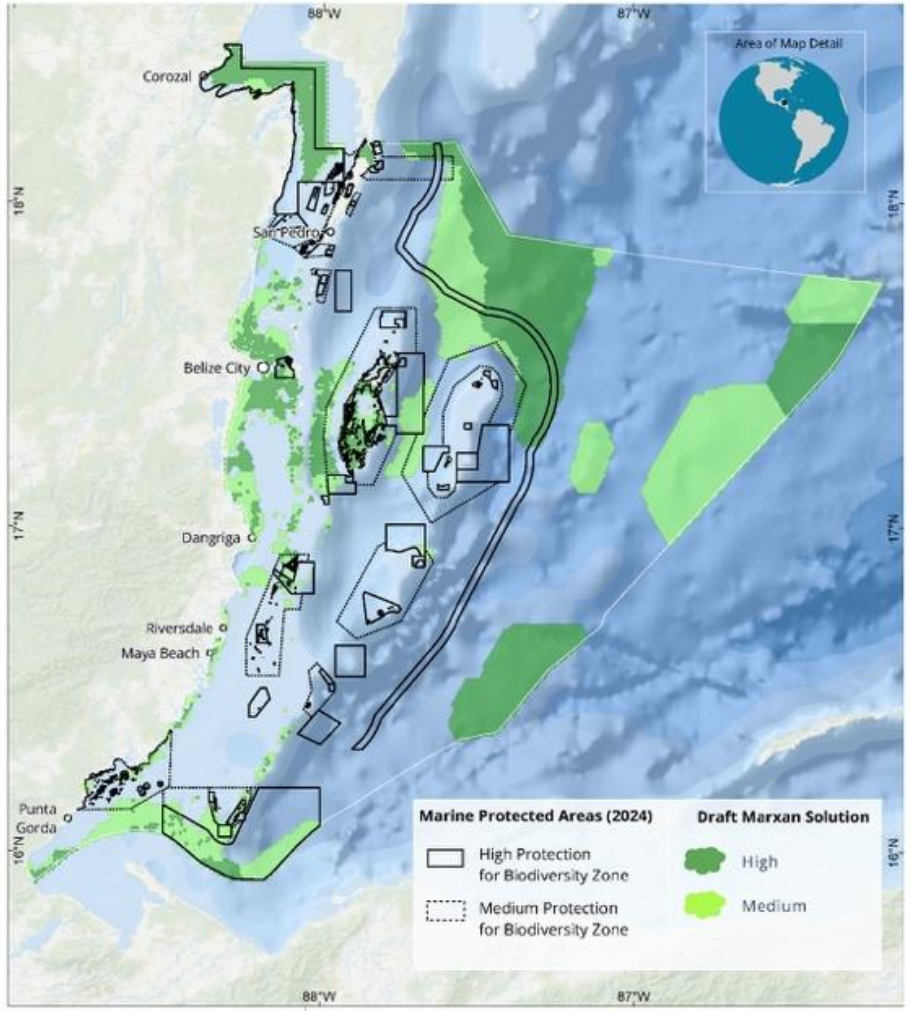

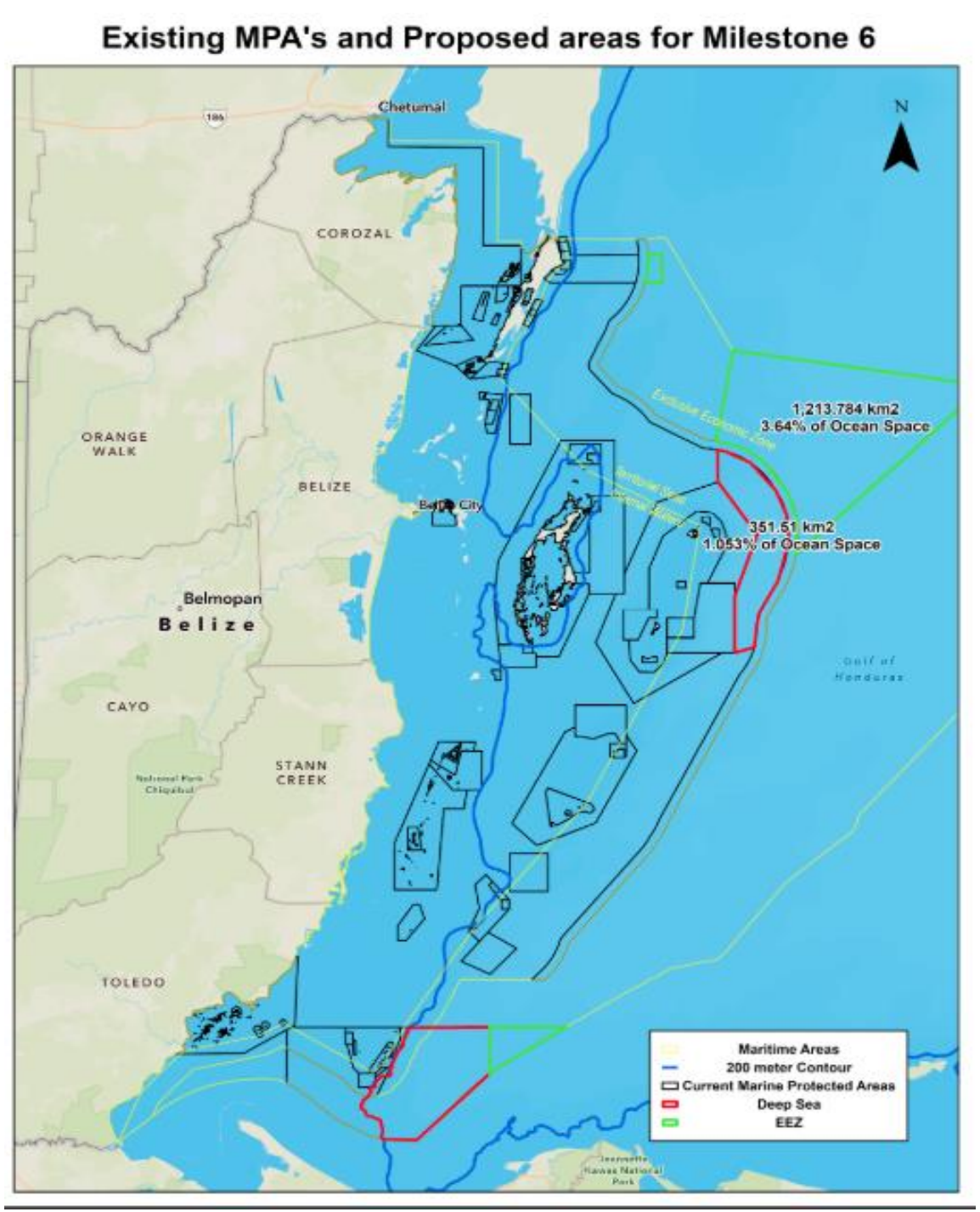

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MPA Design Criteria

Activity 1: Rank Recommended Design Criteria

- Using Menti rank the recommended design criteria by importance.
- In groups, create a specific SMART targets for the top four (4) Criteria Identified

Example:

“Representativeness of habitats.”

SMART target: “Protect and monitor at least 90% of the mapped occurrences of coral reef habitats within the reserve network by 2030, ensuring each major reef habitat type (e.g., fringing, barrier) is represented in at least one designated zone.”

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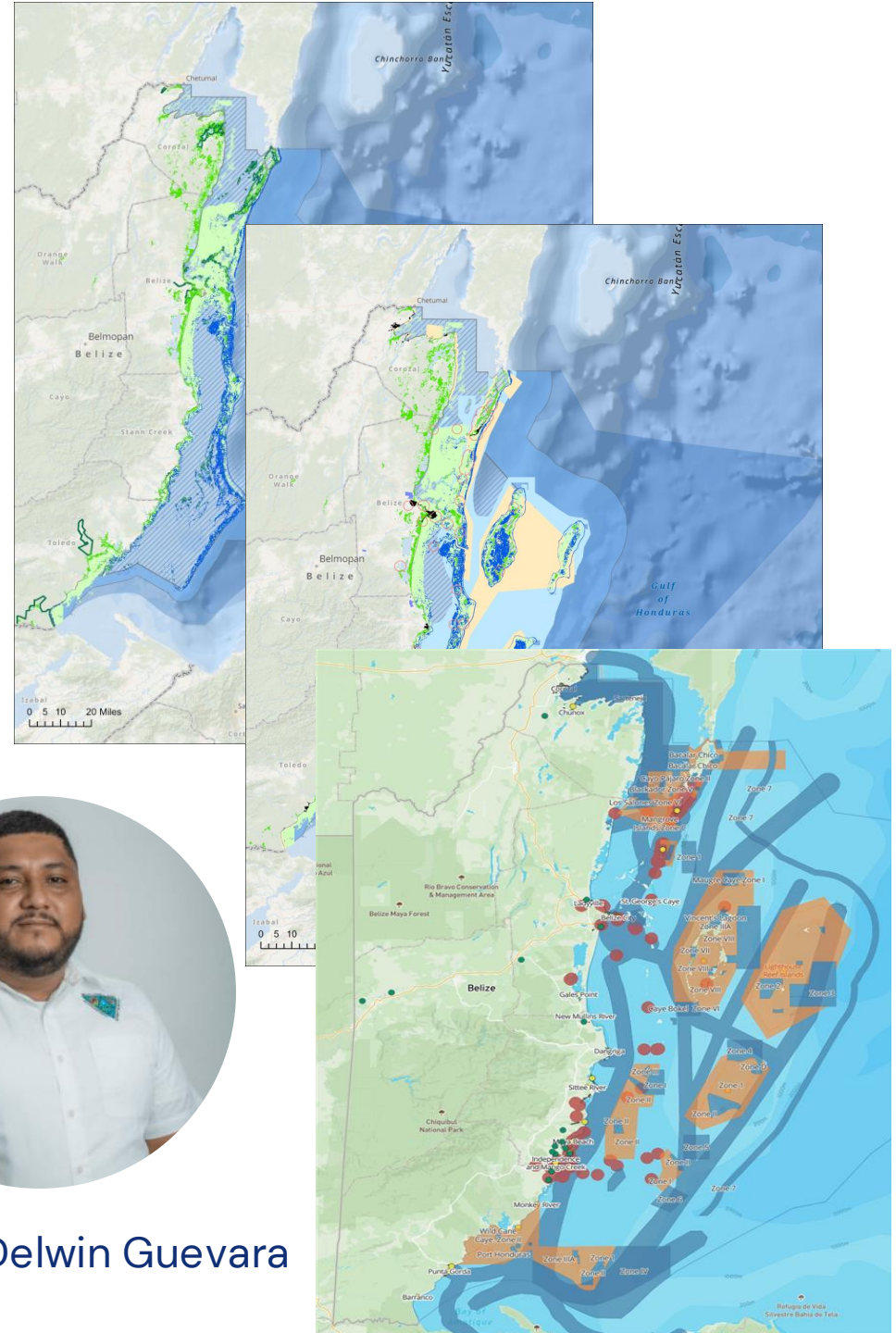
Break

15 minutes

Future
Planning Exercise



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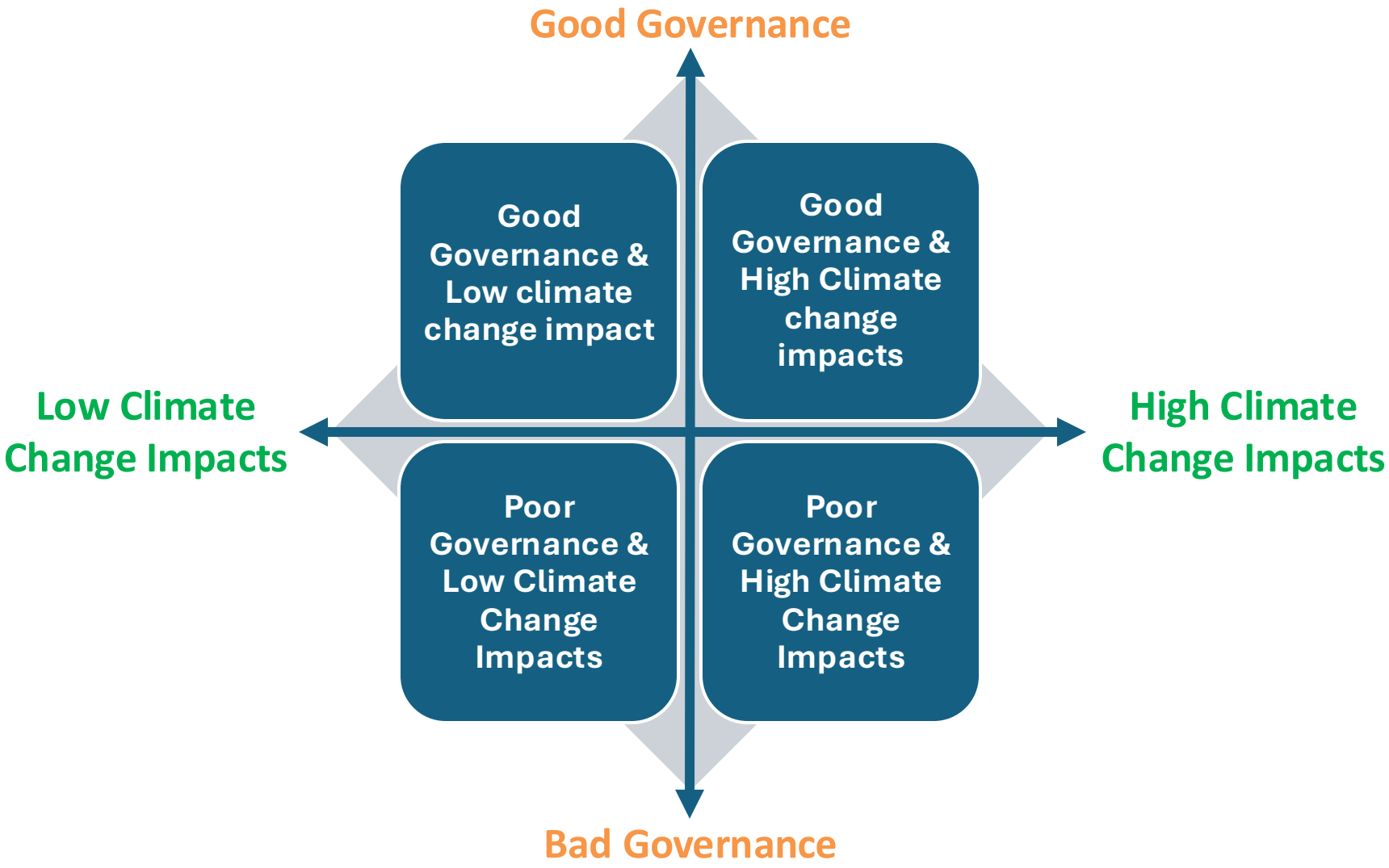
Samir Rosado

Delwin Guevara

Future Scenario Development

Recap:



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Future Scenario Development

How did the future scenario affect the zonation for your sector?

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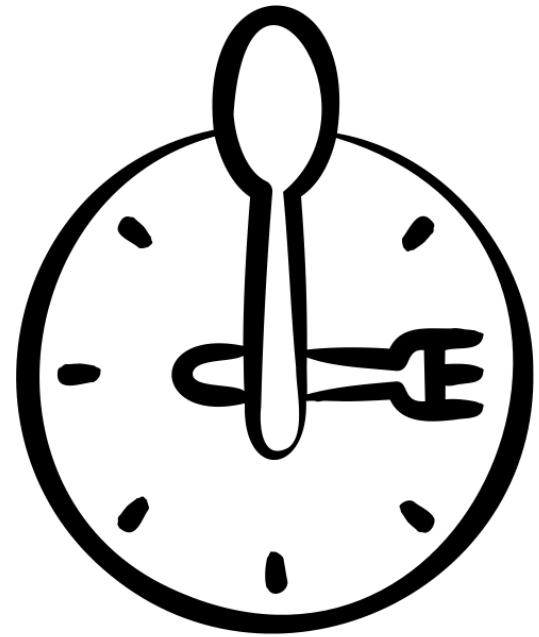
Lunch time



End of Workshop

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JEOPARDY