

## BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

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### 49th Core Team Meeting

September 18th, 2025

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

Location: Belize Fisheries Department Conference Room & via Zoom

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### 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

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

Alicia Eck-Nunez – Fisheries Officer, Belize Fisheries Department

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

Richard Tingey - Spatial Support Systems, LLC, GIS Consultant- The Nature Consultancy

Esmay Muslar – Muslar Saunders Consultancy & Services

Shaliny Sanders – Muslar Saunders Consultancy & Services

Ramon Carcamo – Muslar Saunders Consultancy & Services

Latrell Solis – Muslar Saunders Consultancy & Services

#### Minutes :

Agenda Item Number	Notes/Comments/Advice	Action Response
<b>Welcome &amp; Meeting Called to Order</b>		
1.1	The MSP Process Lead welcomed the Core Team (CT) members and called the meeting to order at 9:00 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"> <li>1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities</li> <li>2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities</li> <li>3. Other Matters</li> </ol>	
1.3	<p>Next steps from 48th Core Meeting held August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategize on approaching technical working groups, potentially sending materials in advance of meetings. <i>In-process</i></li> <li>2. Review the policy recommendations document to identify gaps in the zoning framework. <i>In-process</i></li> <li>3. Update and post the revised community consultation dates once confirmed. <i>Completed</i></li> <li>4. Lead engagement with stakeholders for deep water sites and co-design process. <i>Pending development</i></li> <li>5. Advance work on standardizing zones as soon as possible to support the MSP process. <i>In-process</i></li> <li>6. Correct the recurring call calendar for science and technical subgroup meetings. <i>Completed</i></li> <li>7. Post the translator TOR document. <i>Completed</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Science and Technical Updates</b>		
2.1	<p><b>Habitat Protection Planning Updates</b></p> <p>CZMAI presented updates on the inventing habitat project, including community consultations using SeaSketch, where stakeholders mapped areas for full protection and areas they did not want protected.</p> <p>The team compiled about 80 shapes from different communities, with some friction noted between tourism and fishery sectors over protection areas.</p> <p>Discussed preliminary results from the consultants, including entropy maps and coral layers, with plans for ground-truthing efforts starting the following week and validation scheduled for October 17th.</p>	

	<p>TNC briefly introduced upcoming Marxan scenarios for the next week’s workshop, emphasizing the need to refine spatial design criteria and start with simple data exploration patterns before adding complex constraints.</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p><b>Marine Protected Area Optimization Analysis</b></p> <p>TNC presented an analysis of potential marine protected areas using the Marxan tool, focusing on shallow habitats like mangroves, seagrass, and coral. They demonstrated how adding constraints, such as minimizing overlap with high-value fisheries areas, shifted the proposed locations away from certain areas.</p> <p>The team also explored scenarios for filling gaps in existing medium protection areas, particularly for mangroves and seagrass, while maintaining 20% coral representation outside of medium protection areas.</p> <p>TNC noted that across all scenarios, they were creating hotspot maps to identify areas suitable for different protection levels based on various design criteria and avoidance factors.</p> <p>WWF asked about creating a heat map specifically for coral reefs and how to compare consultation results with Marxan outputs. TNC explained two approaches for incorporating existing areas: either locking them in as strict constraints or setting high targets for representation while maintaining flexibility, noting that the latter approach allowed for better optimization across multiple criteria.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p><b>Marxan for Coral Reef Analysis</b></p> <p>The team discussed using Marxan for coral reef analysis and the importance of developing design criteria to inform zoning decisions. TNC explained that Marxan provided baseline spatial analysis and reference maps rather than definitive answers, emphasizing the need to connect technical outputs to real-world impacts on livelihoods and economics. The group noted that while previous Marxan analyses from 2015 informed the existing MPA network, new coral, seagrass, and mangrove datasets required a fresh analysis.</p>	
<p>2.4</p>	<p><b>Workshop Logistics Planning</b></p> <p>The introduction of the facilitation team, including members from Muslar Saunders Consultancy, including Ms. Esmay Muslar, Ms. Shaliny Sanders, Mr. Latrell Solis and Mr. Ramon Carcamo.</p> <p>The team discussed planning for the upcoming workshop, focusing on the agenda structure and breakout sessions. TNC presented a draft process</p>	

	<p>agenda covering two days, including sessions on workshop objectives, stakeholder input, and Marxan outputs. The group discussed incorporating a new activity where participants would identify potential coral reef protection areas based on both consultation outputs and Marxan results, with WWF suggesting this be done in the morning due to his afternoon departure. CZMAI agreed this could be valuable for his future work and suggested potentially extending the session to include this activity while adjusting the timing as needed.</p> <p>Workshop to be held at the Belize Biltmore Plaza, coordinating room walkthroughs for Tuesday and Wednesday.</p> <p>CZMAI proposed media appearances, including morning shows and interviews, suggesting members from CZMAI, TNC Global and Local to participate in these opportunities.</p> <p>The facilitation team committed to sharing a draft guide by Friday morning, and the group agreed to set a deadline for presentation materials by midday Wednesday.</p>		
<b>Closing of Meeting</b>			
3.1	<p>Next Core Team meeting date, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.</p> <p>MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 11:30 am.</p>		
Item #	Next Steps/Action Items	Status	Date
1	<i>Samir &amp; Janiel:</i> Complete compiling the different shapes from community consultations, dividing them into full protection areas and prohibited areas	Completed	
2	<i>Facilitation Team:</i> Finalize workshop planning for next week's event	Completed	
3	<i>Delwin:</i> Prepare preliminary maps showing areas of agreement/disagreement for protection across different stakeholders for the workshop	Completed	
4	<i>Samir:</i> Prepare analysis showing overlapping polygons between different stakeholder groups	Completed	
5	<i>Samir:</i> Conduct further analysis on protected areas within each managed access area to determine equitable distribution	Completed	
6	<i>Delwin:</i> Organize ground-truthing efforts for benthic habitat mapping starting next week	Completed	
7	<i>Richard:</i> Add coral-only Marxan solution scenarios to the presentation for the upcoming workshop		
8	<i>Delwin:</i> Integrate Marxan outputs into SeaSketch for the workshop		
9	<i>Ocean Ledger consultants:</i> Continue refining benthic habitat mapping		
10	<i>Core Team:</i> Participate in benthic habitat validation on October 17th	Completed	
11	<i>Delwin:</i> Reach out to partners for ground-truthing support	Completed	



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**Minutes submitted by:**

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator of CZMAI

**Approved**

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**Mr. Samir Rosado**  
Marine Spatial Plan Process Lead,  
CZMAI

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**Date**

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Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



## 49th BSOP Core Team Meeting

### Agenda

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025		
<b>Time</b>	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (BZE local time)		
<b>Format</b>	Hybrid: Belize Fisheries Department Conference Room & Zoom <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87303082509?pwd=N4PDgsfby4NzTNEVCpAF61HmG6lDB8.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87303082509?pwd=N4PDgsfby4NzTNEVCpAF61HmG6lDB8.1</a>		
<b>Recorded</b>	Yes		
<b>Format</b>	Presentation and discussions		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates on Science &amp; Technical</li> <li>2. Updates on Communications &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>3. Other Matters</li> </ol>		
<b>AGENDA</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
1	9:00 – 9:15	Welcome & Meeting Called to Order	S. Rosado
2	9:15 – 9:30	Update on action items from 48 <sup>th</sup> Core Team Meeting, August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025.	
3	9:30 – 10:00	Update on RBB Planning Sessions	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



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