

Milestone 6

BPZ Proposed Areas

BW Plus Biltmore Plaza Belize

5th June 2026

9:30 am – 12:00 pm



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



BPZ NATIONAL VALIDATION SESSION

AGENDA

Date: 5th June 2026

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Venue: Belize Biltmore Plaza



Time	Activity	Presenter
9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration	CZMAI & BFiD
10:00 – 10:05 am	Welcome	CZMAI & BFiD
10:05 – 10:15 am	Opening Remarks	BFiD
10:15 – 10:20 am	Objectives	CZMAI & BFiD
10:20 – 11:00 am	Milestone 6: Proposed Areas	CZMAI
11:00– 11:50 am	Discussion: Q&A	CZMAI & BFiD
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks	CZMAI

the MSP Milestones

Approved management Plans

No later than eight (8) years after signing the Agreement, Belize shall have approved Management Plans for the Biodiversity Protection Zones.

Achieving 25.05% BPZ
Expand Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) to 25% of Belize's Ocean Space.

Milestone 8
est. 4th Nov. 2029

Milestone 4
4th Nov. 2024



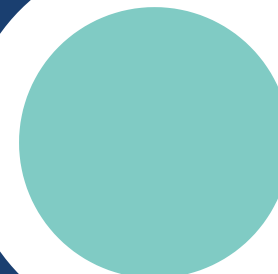
Milestone 3
19th Oct. 2022



Launch of the MSP Process

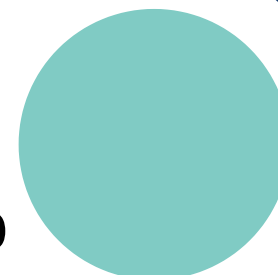
Giving identity and ownership of the process:
Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan (BSOP)

Milestone 6
**November 4th
2026**



Achieve up to 30% BPZ & enact the MSP document

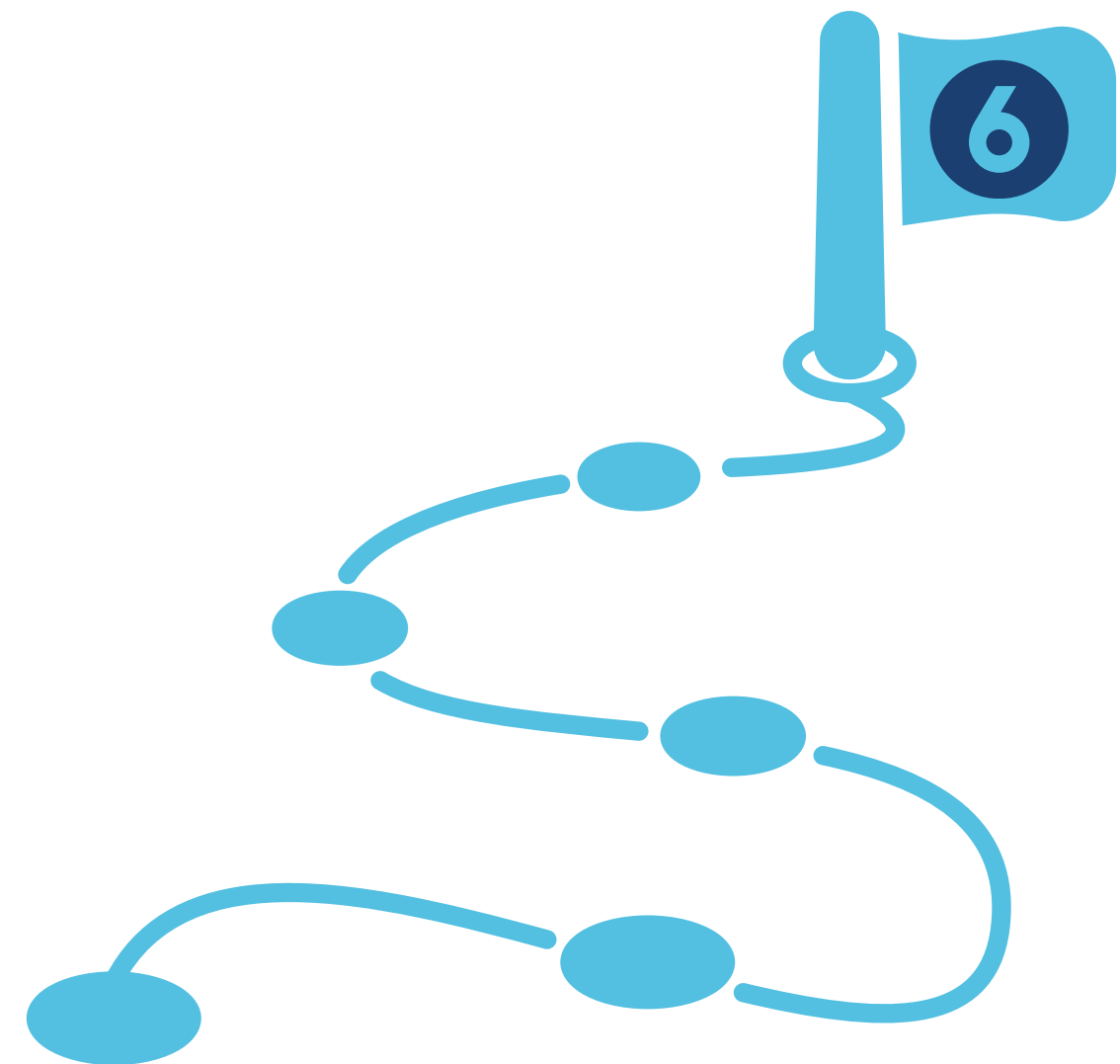
National Assembly shall approve and the Government shall formally sign into law and Gazette BPZ covering up to 30% of Belize's Ocean. MSP document approved, signed into law, gazetted & implemented.



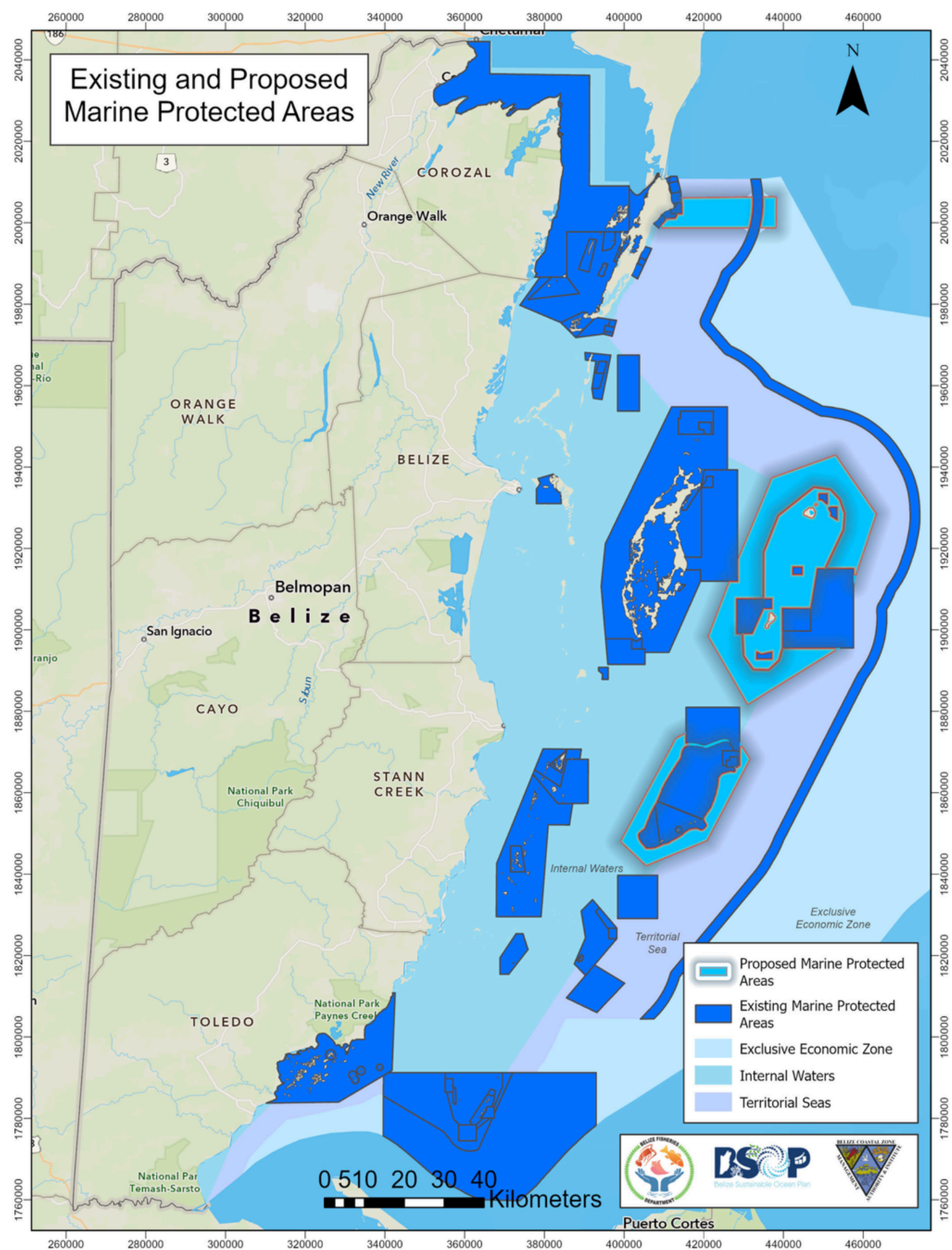
the MSP Milestones

Milestone 6

No later than five years after signing the Agreement (November 4 2026), (a) the National Assembly shall approve and the Government shall formally sign into law and Gazette **Biodiversity Protection Zones** covering a total of 30% of Belize's **Ocean**, or the percentage stated in the MSP; and (b) the **MSP** shall have been **completed and approved by the National Assembly**, signed into law, Gazetted and Implemented.



Existing MPA Network (25.05%)



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MPA Design Criteria

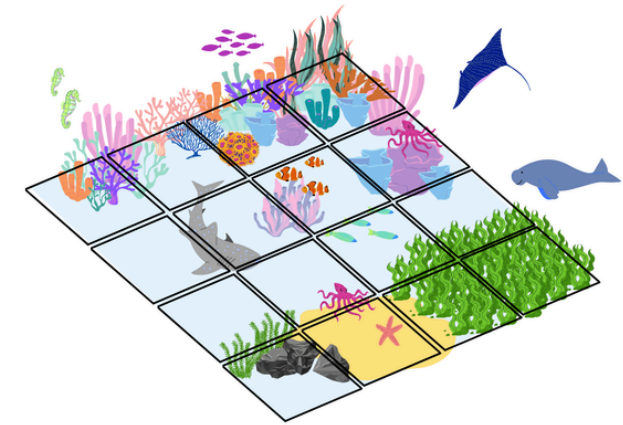
Rules used to guide the planning of ocean areas to meet management objectives.

Criteria	Pillar	Suggested Criteria
EEZ Targets	Ecological	No MPA in our EEZ, Target EEZ for selection of new MPA 4% ocean Space
Deep Sea Targets	Ecological	>200 Meters Depth , Lack of protection in deep waters, all protection are on the atolls and lagoon areas of Belize. 1.2%-2% of ocean space.
Connectivity	Ecological	20-50 km from existing MPA. MPA in Belize 3km to 26km.
Seamounts	Ecological	Protection of Seamounts
Livelihood	Social	Utilize Ocean Use Survey (OUS) Data to avoid displacement of livelihood ; using the OUS results as a cost layer, in particular the tourism and fisheries.

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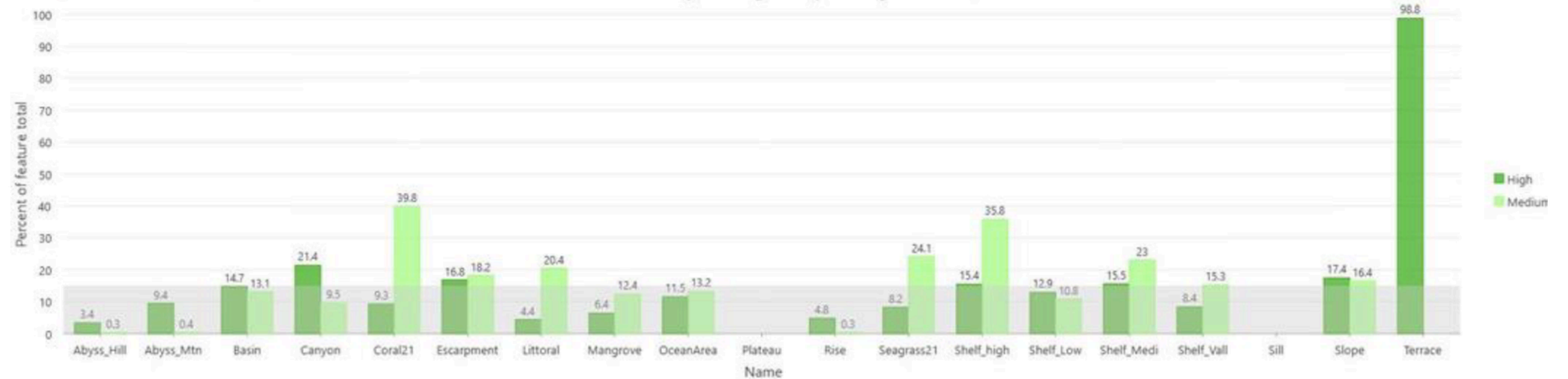
MARXAN

Decision support tool that helps to identify the best places that meet a set of design criteria identified. (Management objectives)



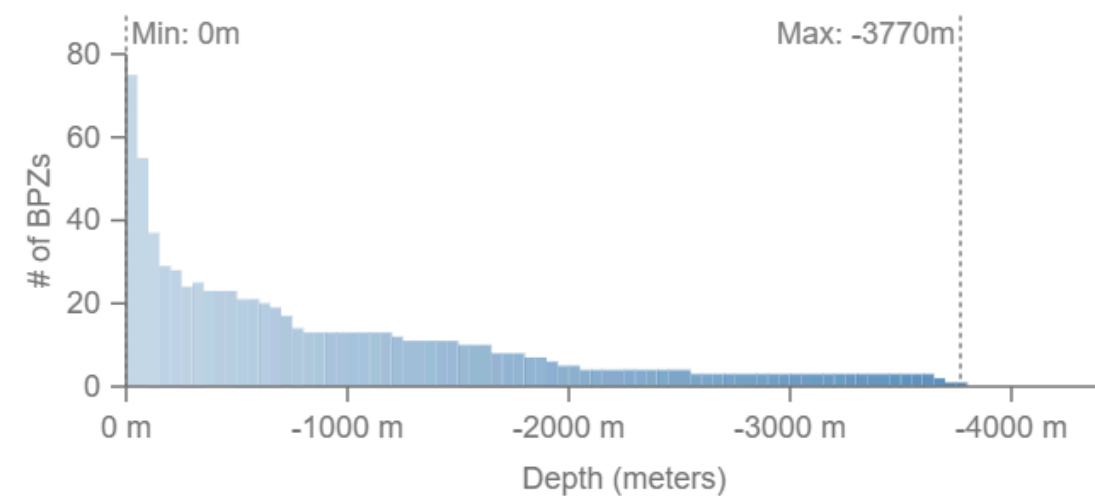
Existing Biodiversity Protection Zones

Feature % by Existing BPZ (planning unit scale)



Depth

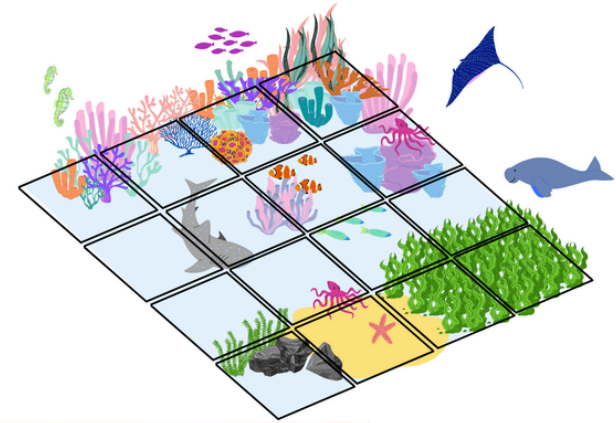
Map  



Milestone 6 Proposed Areas

MARXAN

Decision support tool that helps to identify the best places that meet a set of design criteria identified. (Management objectives)



Marxan with Zones Best Runs

Spatially efficient solutions to meeting representation goals, split among 2 zones

“What if...”

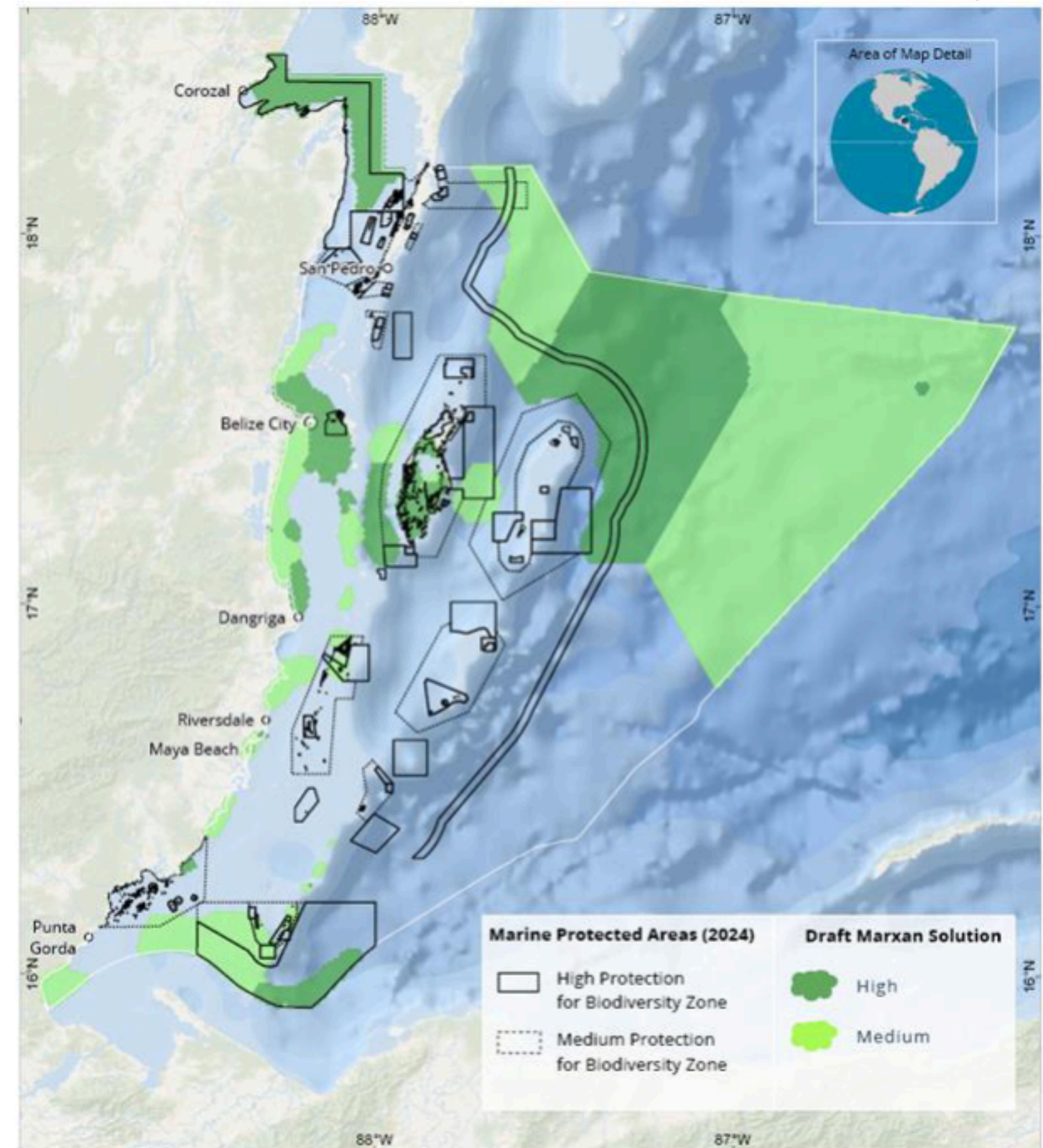
Features/Targets: All shallow habitat features 30% + deep seafloor geomorphology features 30% + ocean space 30%

Cost: OUS Fisheries Access Preference (minimizes overlap with fisheries preference areas)

- Cost avoidance High 2x, Medium 1x

Lock In Areas: None

Lock Out Areas: None

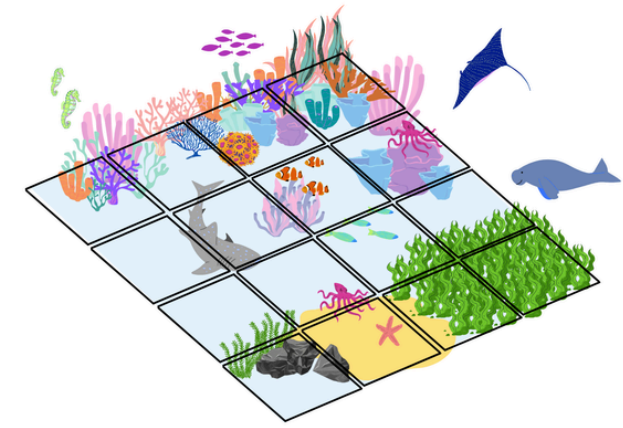


Milestone 6 Proposed Areas

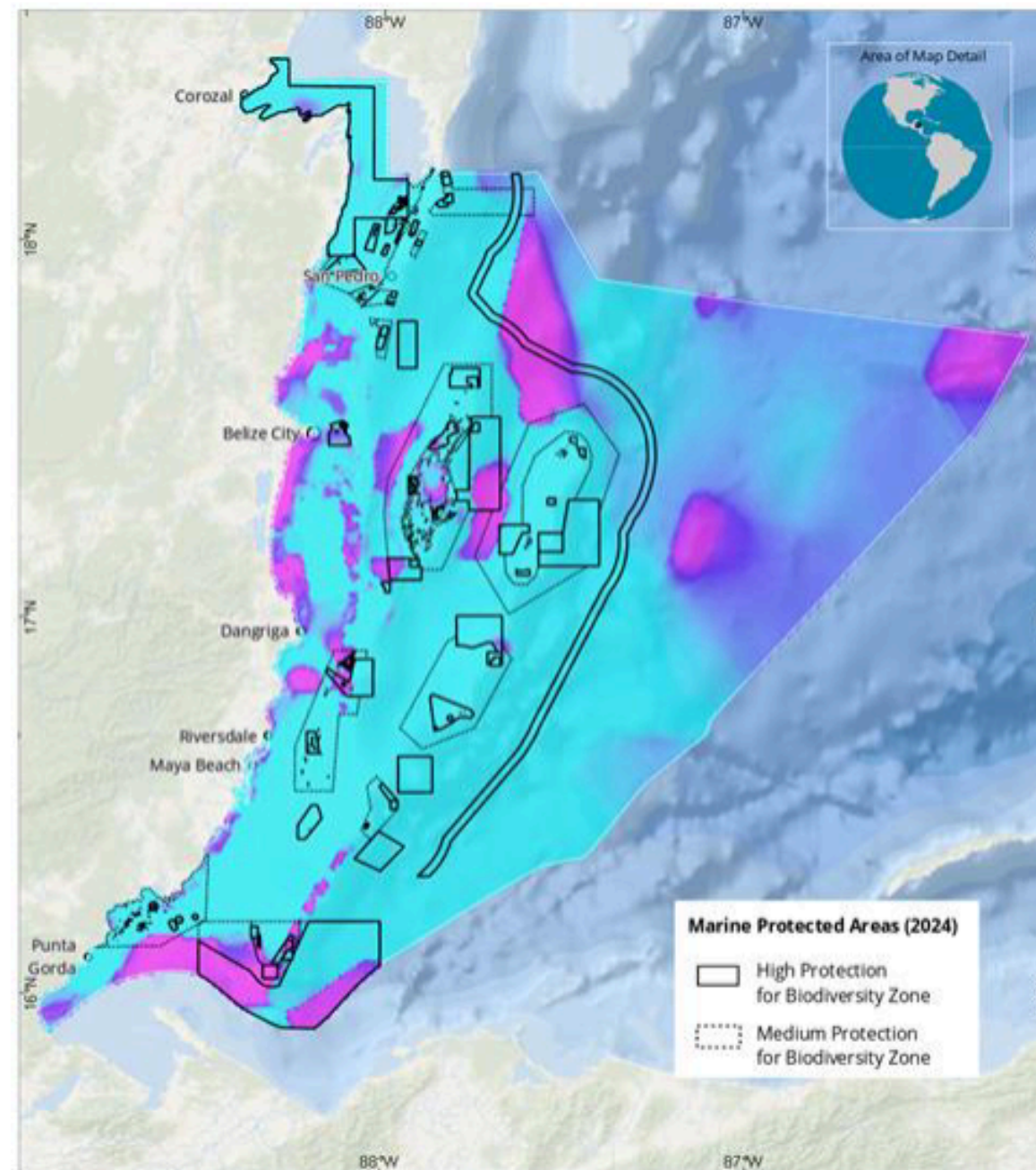
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Decision support tool that helps to identify the best places that meet a set of design criteria identified. (Management objectives)

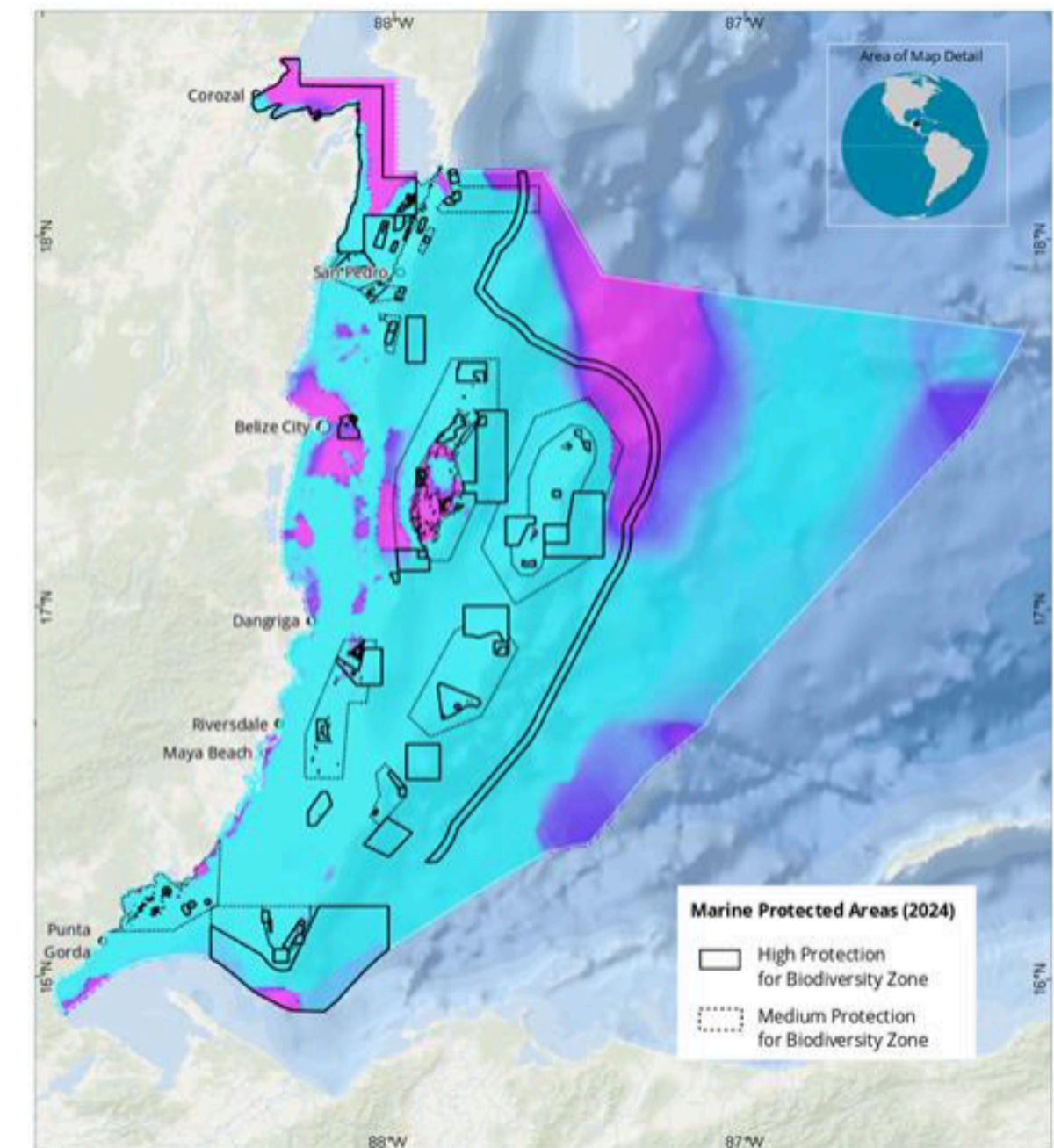
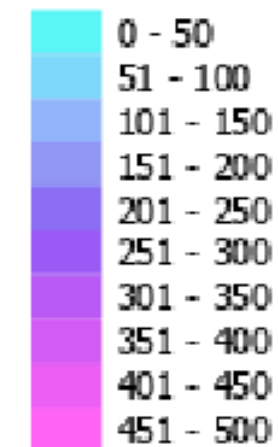
Selection Frequency – The number of times an area was selected as part of a “Best Solution”, among **500** Marxan runs.



Marxan with Zones produces a selection frequency output for each zone



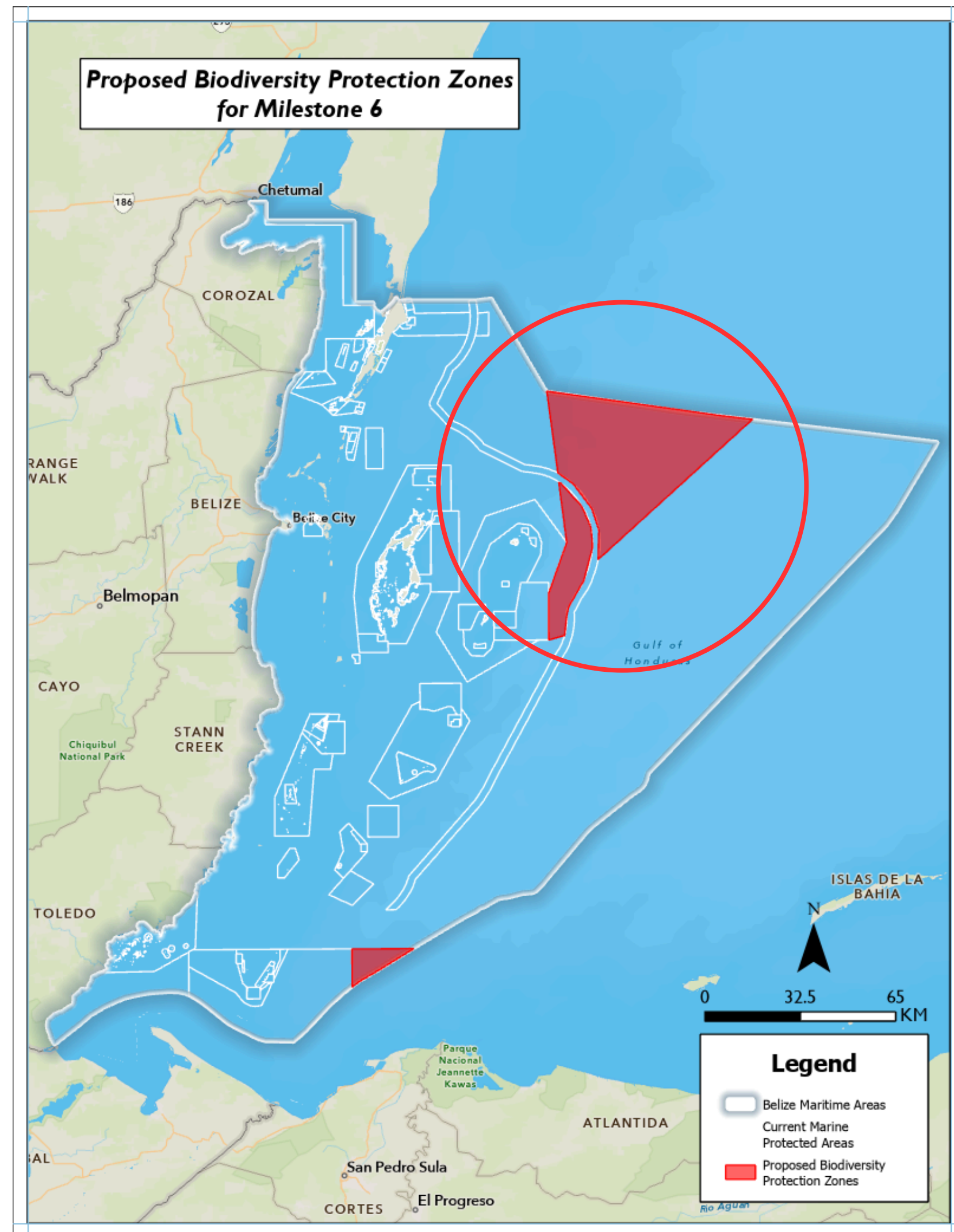
Marxan “Medium Protection”



Marxan “High Protection”

Milestone 6

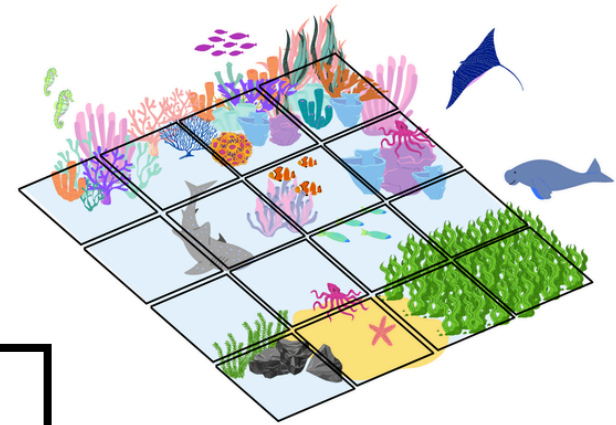
Proposed Areas



Milestone 6 Proposed Areas

MARXAN

Decision support tool that helps to identify the best places the meet a set of design criteria identified. (Management objectives)



Deep Sea Feature	Representation in Existing MPA Network	Gains	Representation with New Designations
Abyss	13.5	8.3	21.8
Basin	27.8	0	27.8
Canyon	30.9	5.3	36.2
Escarpment	35	10.4	45.9
Plateau	0	100	100
Rise	5.1	6.6	11.7
Sill	0	0	0
Slope	33.8	6.3	40.1

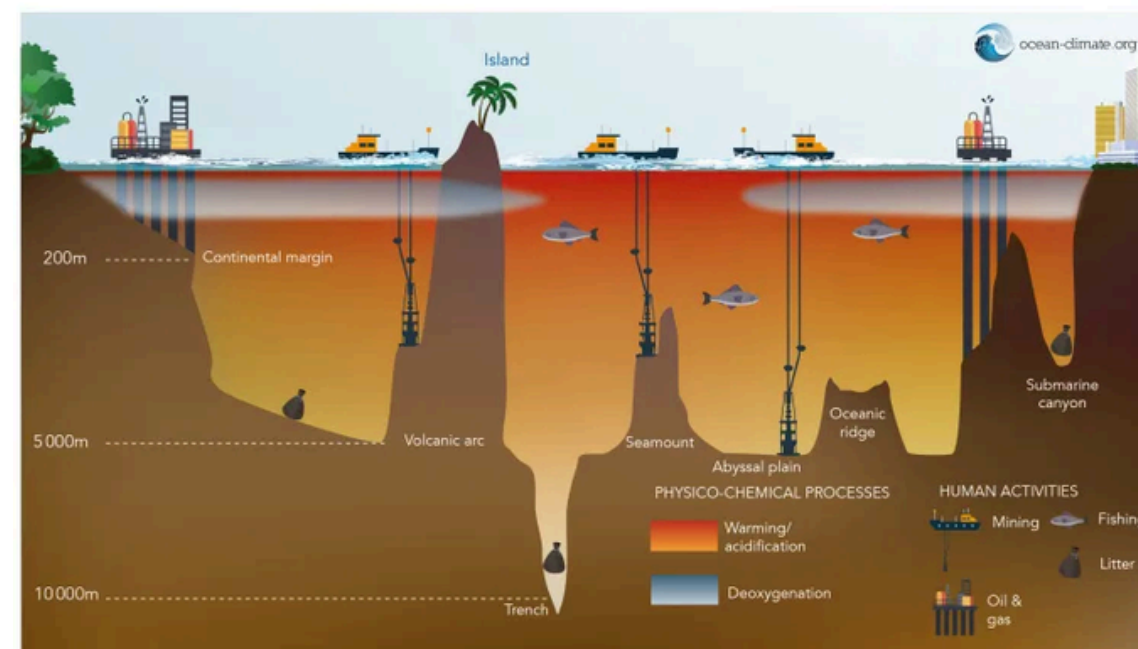
Milestone 6 Proposed Areas

Why are these feature important?

- Features provide unique habitats for unique species
- Nutrients from the deep drift upward to sustain near shore food webs
 - Feed some fish species
 - Nourish Reef systems

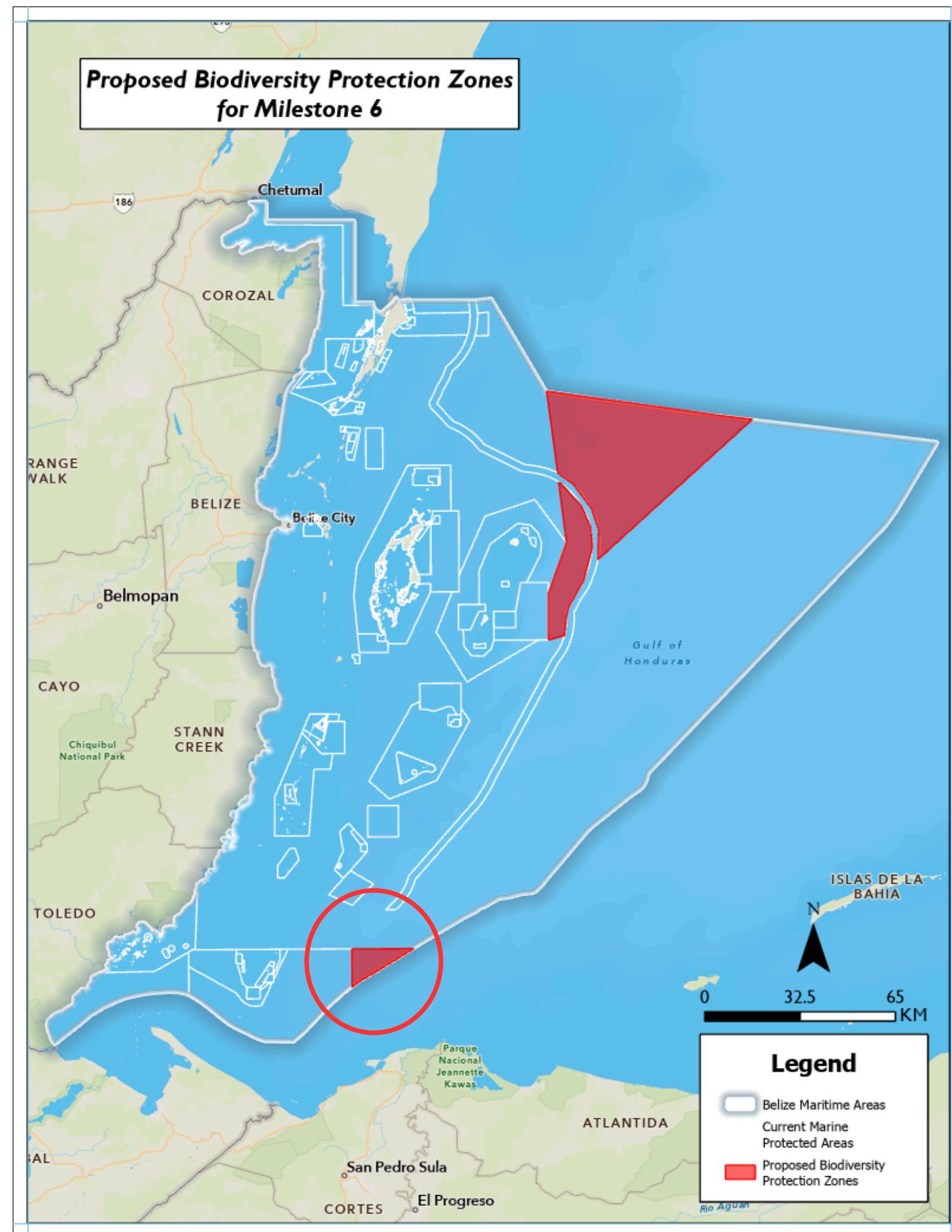
For example: Plateaus

- Plateaus are primary real estate for cold-water corals (some estimated to be 5,000 years old) and deep-sea sponge grounds, which provide essential shelter, nursery grounds, and habitats for countless other species.
- These areas act as vital breeding grounds and stopovers for iconic migratory species, including whales, sharks, and sea turtles.
- Deep-sea plateaus often serve as climate refuges. They provide a safe haven for species migrating away from the warming, acidifying waters of shallow coastal reefs.

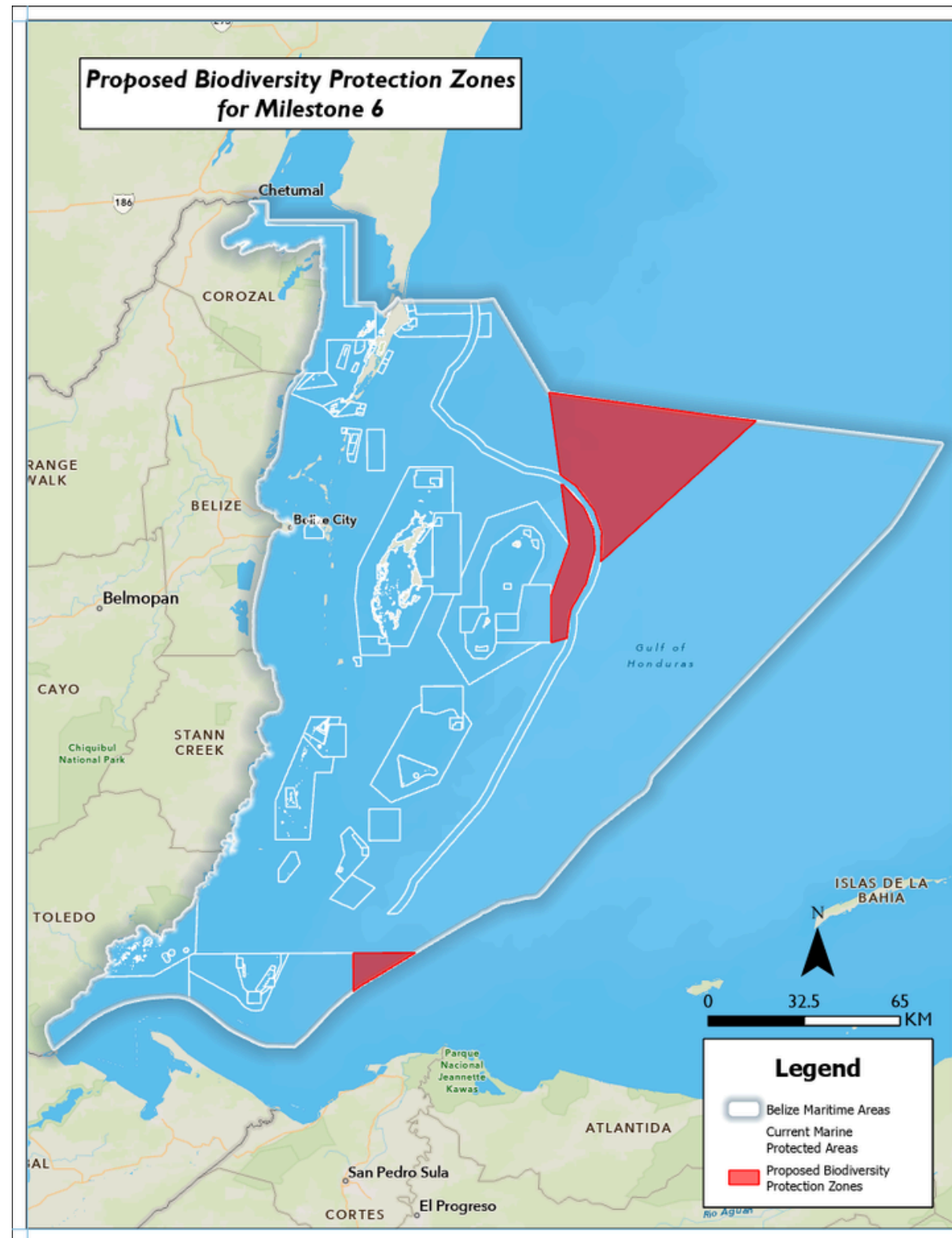


Milestone 6

Proposed Areas



Milestone 6 Proposed Areas



Biodiversity Protection Zone Community Consultations

April 2026

10
Sessions

27
Communities

822
Stakeholders

General feedback

- Majority stakeholders support the proposed BSOP area for the remaining 4.95%
- approximately 15 miles east of Lighthouse Atoll, does not affect many fishers
- Do not support the 2025 proposal of 20% coral protection & limited understanding of the PfP-RBB
- Does not support protection beyond the 30%

Key Concerns

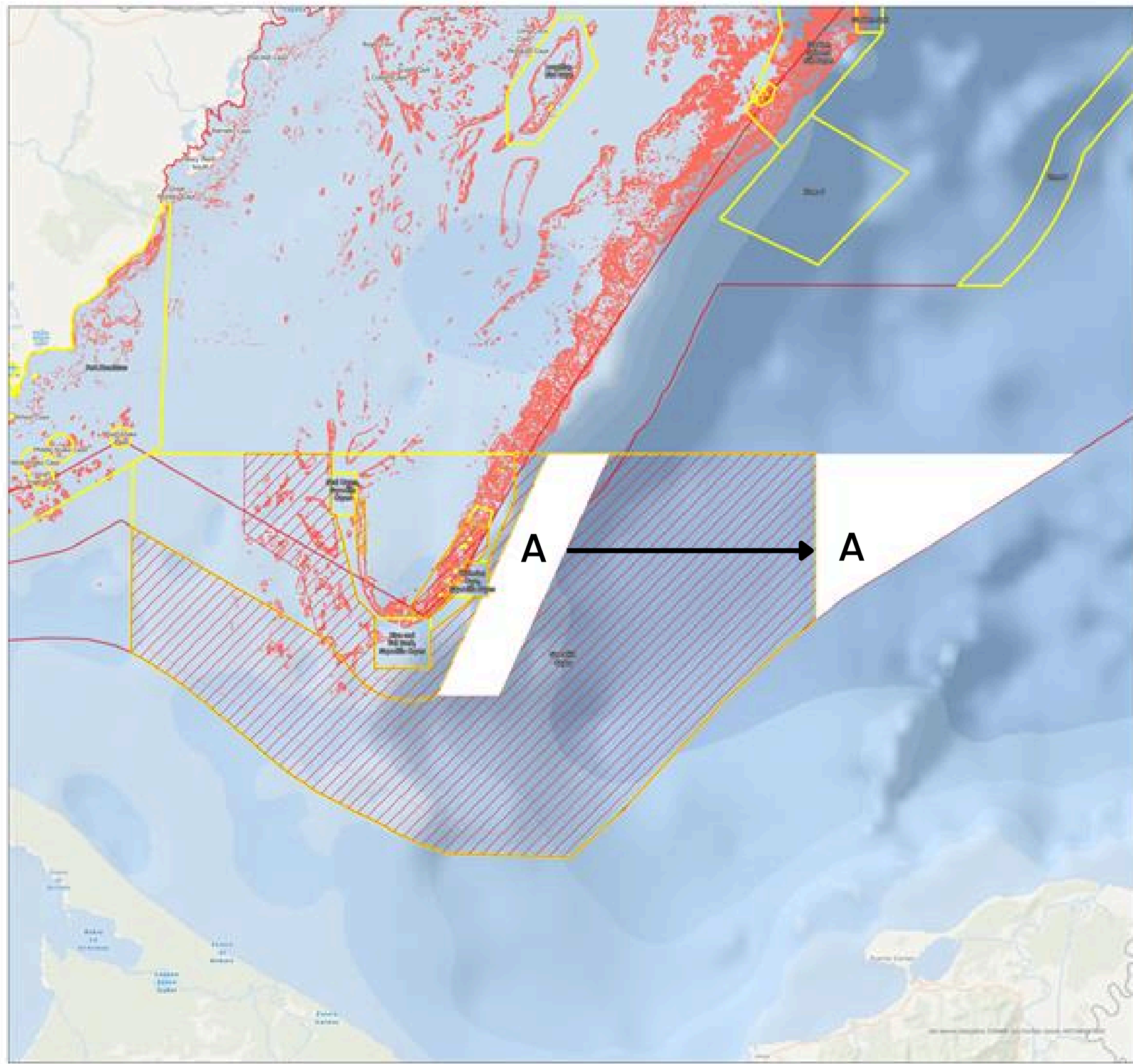
- Need for improved enforcement
- Need for improved management of existing MPAs
- Conflict with tour operators holding commercial fishing licensing, increase competition
- Overcrowded fishing grounds, limited accessible space



*Statistics & information cited from the NBFN report, 26 April 2026

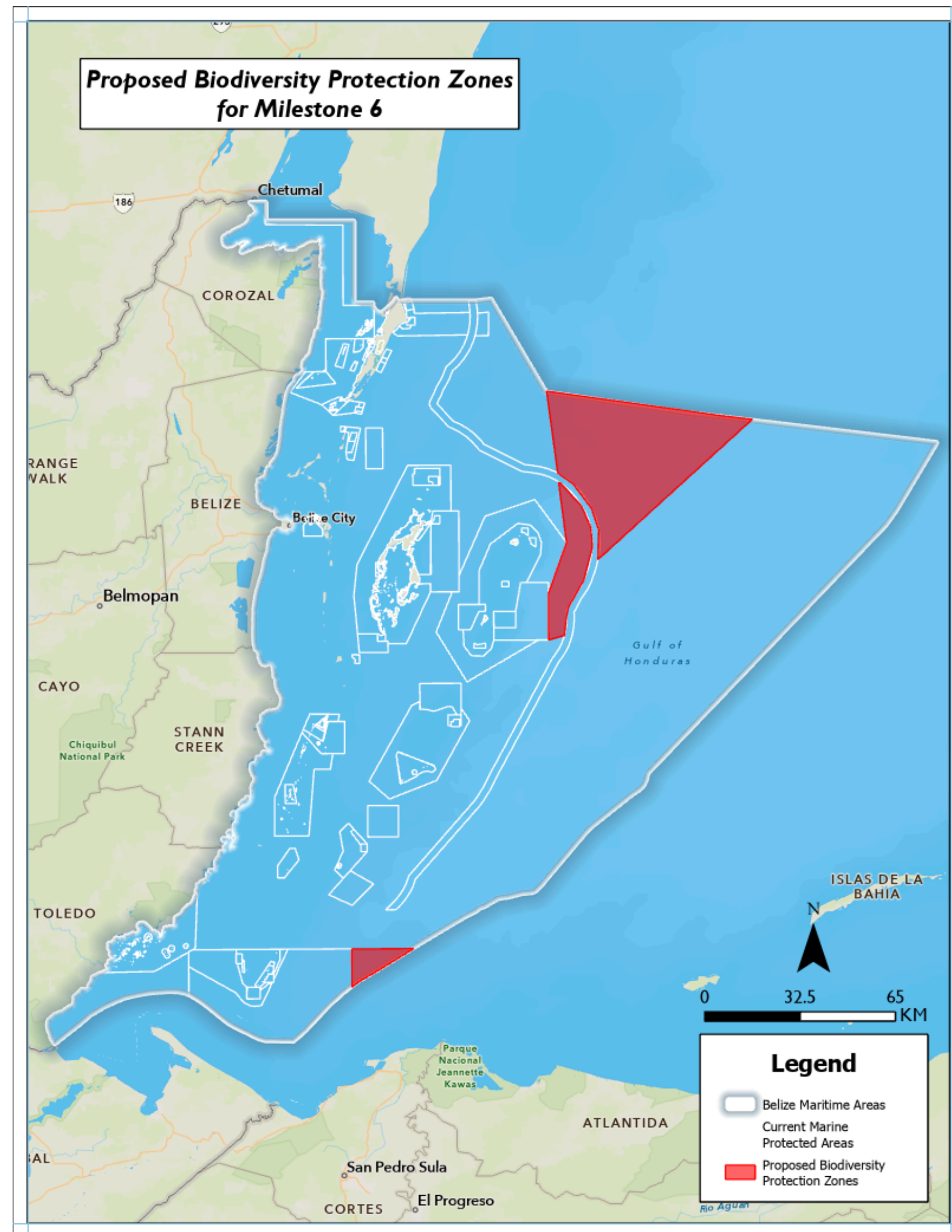
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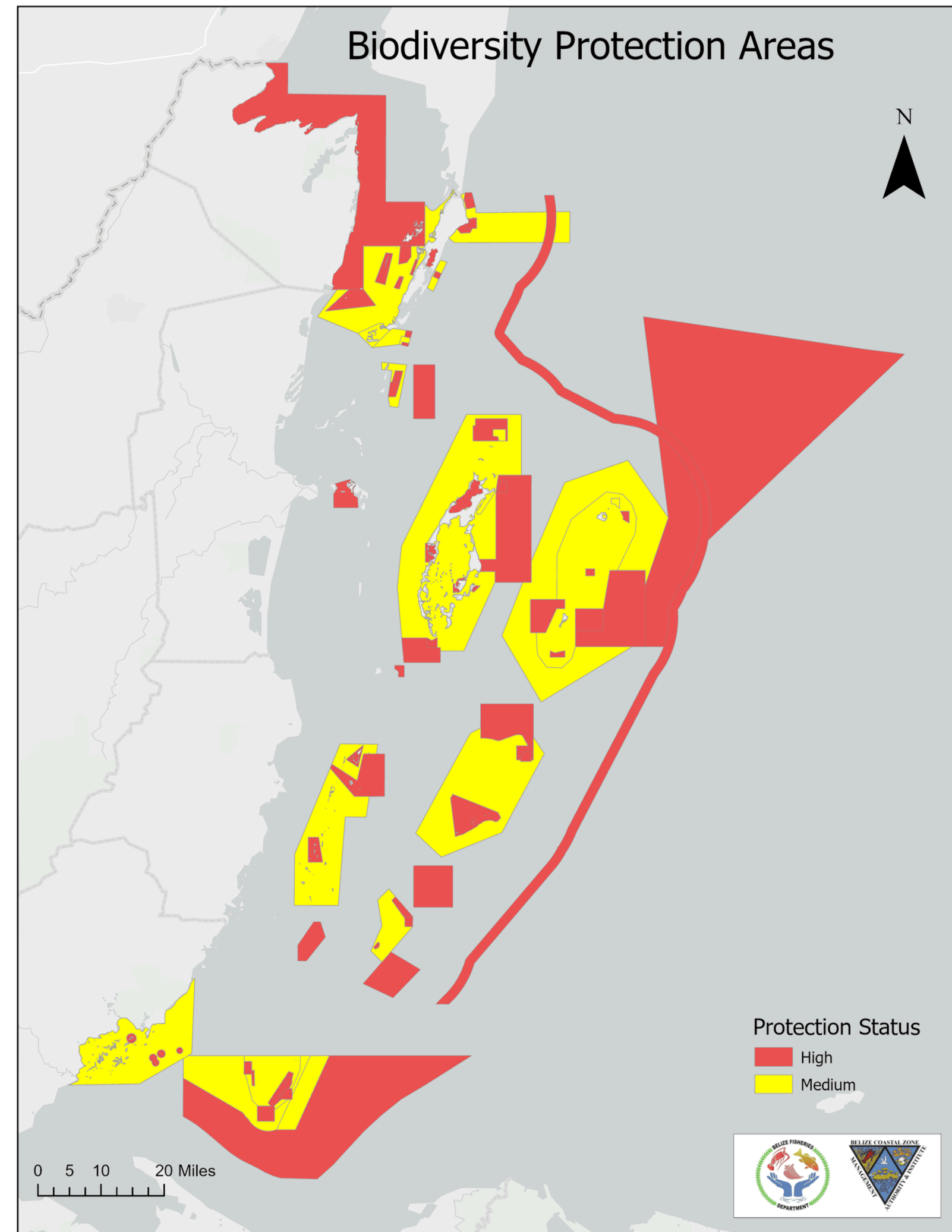
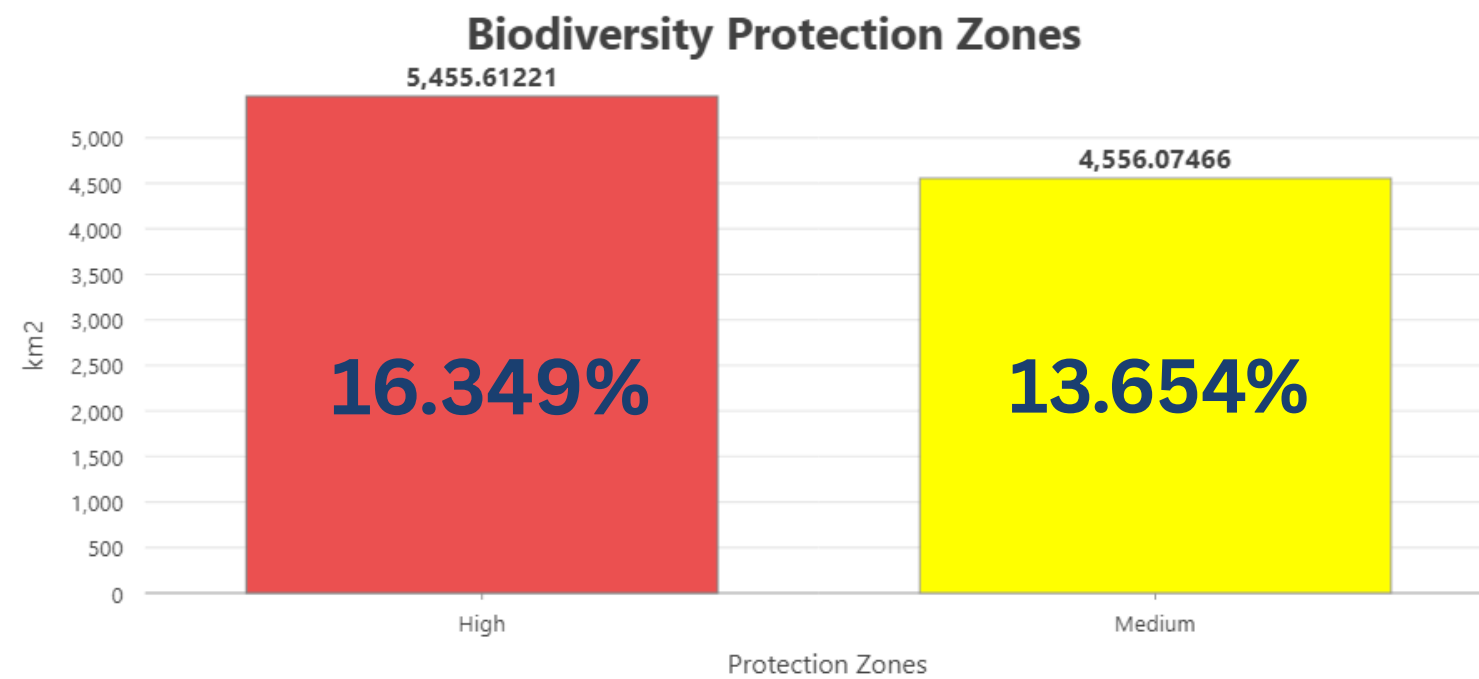
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Belize Protection for Biodiversity Zones Stats		
	Area (km2)	%
Total Ocean Space	33706.99	-
Terrestrial Area	339.102061	-
Total Ocean Space without Terrestrial Areas	33367.8987	-
Total Marine Protected Areas	68401.435	
Marine Protected Areas without Terrestrial Areas	8360.10704	25.0543
High Biodiversity Protection Zone(without terrestrial areas)	3894.964545	11.6727894
Medium Biodiversity Protection Zone(without Terrestrial areas)	4465.142498	13.3815513
Proposed Biodiversity Protection Zones(Milestone 6)	1651.57983	4.94961
Lighthouse Atoll Deep Sea Zone	1523.273214	4.56508582
Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve Expansion(Deep Sea)	128.306618	0.38452112
Total	10011.6869	30.0039



PUBLIC INSPECTION PERIOD

for the

Draft Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan



Access the Plan



MAY 25 - JULY 24, 2026

SARTENEJA & CHUNOX	JUN 6
COPPER BANK & COROZAL	JUN 7
CONSEJO VILLAGE	JUN 8
RIVERSDALE	JUN 9
SEINE BIGHT	JUN 10
HOPKINS	JUN 10
DANGRIGA	JUN 11
MULLINS RIVER & GALES POINT	JUN 17

CAYE CAULKER	JUN 22
SAN PEDRO	JUL 23
PLACENCIA VILLAGE	JUL 2
INDEPENDENCE & MANGO CREEK	JUL 6
PUNTA GORDA & CATTLE LANDING PUNTA NEGRA & MONKEY RIVER	JUL 6
BARRANCO	JUL 7
BELIZE CITY	JUL 9



Discussion Question & Answer

BPZ NATIONAL VALIDATION SESSION

THANK YOU!



bsop.coastalzonebelize.org



bsop@coastalzonebelize.org



+501-6149825