

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

51st Core Team Meeting

Thursday, February 19th, 2026

Duration of meeting: 9:00 am – 10:55 am

Location: Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute Conference Room & 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

Janiel Chan – MSP GIS Technician, 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

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

Abel Valdivia - Lead Marine Conservation Scientist- Oceans Team, World Wildlife Fund

Alana Godoy- Belize Blue Bonds Director, The Nature Conservancy

Belizario Carballo-Technical Officer, Blue Bonds Finance & Permanence Unit

Carlie Gillett- Blue Economy Officer, Blue Economy Unit

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 9:15 am.	
1.2	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. Objective were: 1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities 2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities 3. Other Matters	
Process Update		
2.1	The team discussed sector-specific meetings held with Belize Fisheries Department, International Merchant Marine Registry, and Port Authority to reintroduce the MSP process and clarify its purpose, with more meetings planned for March and April.	
2.2	Discussions were had regarding the postponement of the coral reefs designation under full protection pending adequate stakeholder engagement, under the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) initiative.	
2.3	<u>Future Planning Workshop:</u> The team discussed logistics for future planning community workshops and noted ongoing challenges related to scheduling. A three-day workshop was proposed to focus on finalizing the Existing Conditions assessment and transitioning into Future Planning discussions. The team reviewed the draft agenda, which included revisiting the compatibility matrix and refining the scoring system to three categories, prioritizing sector activities, and validating key data layers. It was agreed that previous workshop outputs should be reviewed and incorporated to help inform current discussions and decision-making. The team also discussed activities related to future planning, including identifying emerging ocean uses and assessing their likelihood of implementation over the next 5–15 years. Participants would analyze the compatibility of these emerging uses with existing activities using a compatibility matrix and develop narrative statements to support different governance and climate change scenarios. Discussions also focused on future-proofing the goals and objectives of the implementation plan. The team emphasized the importance of maintaining a forward-looking vision while taking current conditions and trends into account. It was noted that clear goals and objectives for the Marine Spatial Plan itself should be established and distinguished from process-oriented objectives. Examples from other countries would be provided to help guide this discussion. The Core Team recommended incorporating information from the Existing Conditions Report throughout the workshop to encourage participants to think	

	holistically about future planning and the importance of safeguarding ocean resources for future generations. The team further reviewed the zoning framework and Marine Protected Area (MPA) design criteria. It was agreed that implementing recommendations from the zoning framework, including simplifying existing zones and re-zoning areas, would be a long-term undertaking and would not be feasible within the current planning milestone. Instead, the team agreed to present high-level findings from the zoning framework and focus workshop discussions on refining and prioritizing design criteria. To support this process, breakout sessions were proposed to allow participants to work concurrently on prioritizing criteria. The team also discussed the structure of the final workshop day, during which participants would apply future planning scenarios to proposed zones. The Core Team recommended encouraging participants to consider both current conditions and emerging trends when evaluating future uses and spatial management options.	
Science & Technical Updates		
3.1	It was noted that Delwin and Janiel were attending GeoWeek to learn about new mapping technologies, with plans to prioritize equipment needs based on their findings.	
Communications & Stakeholder Engagement		
4.1	Updates were provided on public outreach activities, including the OCPP Youth Day Forum and upcoming Little Stewards in Action Program presentation. The team reviewed progress on multimedia consultancy applications, with applications closing on Friday and plans to onboard a consultant by mid-March.	
Other Matters		
5.1	The team also discussed the need for a science lead position and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officer, with plans to finalize terms of reference for both roles by early next week. Reviewed progress on human use zones synthesis, consultancy contracts for facilitator and cumulative effects assessment, and the draft terms of reference for a drafter/editor.	
Closing of Meeting		
6.1	Next Core Team meeting date, 19 th March 2026. MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 10:55 am.	
Item #	Next Steps/Action Items	Status
1	Share the technical proposal for the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) consultancy (Coastal Dynamics Limited)	
2	Finalize and circulate the draft terms of reference for the plan drafter/editor position by Monday for comments, then send to interested candidates.	
3	Finalize vetting process with the negotiation of the financial proposal of consultants for the Integrated Climate Risk Assessment (ICRA) Consultancy.	

4	Follow up with the National Fishers Network of Belize (BNFN) after the upcoming workshop to coordinate best timing and support for community engagement.		
5	Belizario: Follow up on the status of the stakeholder engagement plan and resolve any delays, including checking with relevant authorities.		
6	Carly: Ensure the Minister is invited and confirmed for the upcoming Flat Fishery Working Group meeting and follow up with Ms. Cruz regarding the sector-specific meeting date.		
7	Carly: Coordinate with Giselle and the Ministry of Blue Economy M&E officer to ensure alignment of M&E approaches for the plan implementation.		

Minutes submitted by:

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator

Approved

Mr. Samir Rosado
Marine Spatial Plan Process Lead,
CZMAI

Date

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



51st BSOP Core Team Meeting

Agenda

Date	Thursday 19 th February 2026		
Time	9:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. (BZE local time)		
Format	Hybrid: CZMAI Conference Room & Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84489244379?pwd=zsevvwayz1bUDEgRsO50QUexeeRBpb.1		
Recorded	Yes		
Format	Presentation and discussions		
Objectives	1. Updates on Science & Technical 2. Updates on Communications & Stakeholder Engagement 3. Other Matters		
AGENDA			
#	Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1	9:00 – 9:10	Welcome & Meeting Called to Order	S. Rosado
2	9:10 – 9:25	Update on action items from 50 th Core Team Meeting, 22 nd January 2026.	J. McNab
3	9:25 – 9:40	Process Update	S. Rosado
4	9:40 – 10:00	Science & Technical	S. Rosado
5	10:00 – 10:10	Break	
6	10:10 – 10:25	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement	K. Garbutt
7	10:25 – 10:40	Other Matters	All
8	10:40 – 10:55	Closing of Meeting	S. Rosado

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