

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

53rd Core Team Meeting

Thursday, June 18th, 2026

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

Location: Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute Conference Room & via Zoom

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. Updates on Draft BSOP Plan
2. Updates on final areas for Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) and Next Steps
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

Nidia Chacon – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

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

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

Alana Godoy- Belize Blue Bonds Director, The Nature Conservancy

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

Jamani Balderamos – Consultant, Blue Bonds Finance & Permanence Unit

Andria Grinage – Senior 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. Updates on Draft BSOP Plan 2. Updates on final areas for Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) and Next Steps 3. Other Matters Proposed topic in other matters by CT members: - Status of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan	
BSOP Draft Plan Update		
2.1	The MSP Unit focused on reviewing updates to the draft BSOP plan, including the inspection period, zoning scheme, and biodiversity protection zones. The unit presented key components of the plan and outlined proposals for Milestone 6, highlighting the process goals and ocean zoning framework. Details were provided on the implementation of new areas within existing high biodiversity protection zones and marine reserves, explaining how these would be incorporated into legislation. The team discussed the need to future-proof the goals and update boundary descriptions for specific zones.	
2.2	The MSP Unit displayed the draft document table on content, emphasising on the updated version of section 6 of implementation plan and section 7 monitoring plan, that needs to be added into the revised draft after the public inspection period.	
2.3	The MSP unit discussed the public inspection period for the draft plan, which began in June. The unit reported completing community consultations in the northern regions and planned to continue in southern regions, with a new interactive format including stations with maps, timelines, and compatibility matrix. The team received positive feedback about the new approach, with stakeholders appreciating the refresh of existing information and finding the maps representative of their observations. No significant opposition to the plan was reported, though there were questions about data representation and access to documents.	The Nature Conservancy: reported on their observations during community visits where fishers discussed challenges beyond the primary focus, including DFC loans and other issues affecting their managed fishing areas. TNC emphasized the importance of capturing these broader concerns to build trust and demonstrate active listening to stakeholders. TNC suggested developing follow-up materials similar to those created for the Long

		Island Sound Blue Plan, including a practitioner's guide, user guide, and story map, which could be useful for implementation support.
	Links shared by TNC: LIS Blue Plan Practitioners Guide - blueplan_practitionersguide_final.pdf LIS Blue Plan Users Guide - blueplanusersguide_appendices.pdf LIS Blue Plan Story Map - Long Island Sound Ecologically Significant Areas	
2.4	The MSP unit presented results from their online survey, which received four responses primarily from government representatives, showing 50% found the draft BSOP very clear and 75% supported the plan, with plans to continue collecting feedback through one-on-one sessions.	
Biodiversity Protection Zone Validation Update		
3.1	The MSP unit provided an overview of the recent BZP validation, acknowledging the challenges in engaging fishers, noting their focus on enforcement and management issues rather than protection measures. The team is working on compiling all stakeholder feedback into a comprehensive report.	The Nature Conservancy commended the team's approach to presenting information but raised concerns about fishers' understanding of managed access areas and the compatibility matrix.
Zoning Scheme Updates		
4.1	The MSP unit discussed updates to marine reserve zoning, explaining that while they are proposing to add Zone 8, the Fisheries Department would be responsible for renaming existing zones to align with the national zoning typology. The unit also outlined plans to convert circular zones to squares in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve for better management and enforcement, though this would slightly modify the 30% conservation target that some stakeholders wanted to keep exact.	
4.2	The MSP unit is conducting an overlap analysis of various use zones and identifying conflicts using a compatibility matrix, while simultaneously gathering stakeholder feedback through a public inspection period that uses a pop-up style format. The project will use Marine Invest for habitat risk assessment and engage two other consultancies to evaluate socioeconomic impacts, with the goal of creating a sustainable zoning scheme that accounts for biodiversity and climate change considerations.	
Cumulative Effects Assessment Survey Consultancy Results		
5.1	The MSP unit presented the preliminary results of a spatial analysis and community surveys conducted by the consulting firm Coastal Dynamics Limited (CDL) across 27 coastal communities, with 741 valid responses from 809 surveys. The analysis identified key socioeconomic drivers including demographics, fisheries, tourism, agriculture, and climate change, along with pressures such as agricultural runoff, coastal development, and fishing pressure. Communities were categorized into high, medium, and low coastal cumulative effects index scores, with high-risk areas including Barranco, San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Placencia, Monkey River, and Punta Negra.	

Implementation Plan Update			
6.1	Samir Rosado outlined the next steps for developing and implementing a monitoring framework, with a target delivery date of November 4th. The discussion concluded with updates on the public inspection process and plans to develop a gender-inclusive implementation and monitoring plan, with a firm identified and an inception meeting scheduled for the following week.		
6.2	The MSP Unit plans to finalize the spatial analysis by August and submit a near-final version of the BSOP document to BIC by August 4th, with most work completed by November 4th deadline.		
Other Matters			
7.1	The Integrated Climate Risk Analysis consultancy to be conducted by the CDL, as an add on to their current contract. Pending approval. The implementation plan for the BSOP is waiting inception meeting, as CRFM has selected a firm to conduct the consultancy. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan: feedback has been received from the Attorney General’s Officer. There is the need to update the document and make adjustments that is being proposed to.		
Closing of Meeting			
8.1	Next Core Team meeting date, 16th April 2026. MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 10:55 am.		
Item #	Next Steps/Action Items	Status	Date
1	Compile and document all stakeholder concerns (including those not directly related to MSP/BSOP) from community consultations into a reference document, and share with relevant agencies for follow-up	On-going	
2	Review and incorporate feedback from Attorney General's Ministry on the stakeholder engagement plan; coordinate with management and Blue Bond Unit to address points raised and update the plan accordingly	On-going	
3	Seek and obtain approval to amend the CEA consultancy contract to include relevant aspects of the Integrated Climate Risk Assessment, and proceed with Coastal Dynamics Limited if approved	Pending	
4	Share the preliminary CEA (Cumulative Effects Assessment) presentation and findings with all meeting participants for further review	Completed	18/06/2026
5	Continue public inspection period sessions, including in the Cayes and any outstanding communities, and collect/record all feedback, especially on maps and zoning	In-process	24/07/2026
6	Adjust the final BSOP document to ensure the total protected area is exactly 30%, and coordinate with Fisheries Department on naming conventions for new/updated High Biodiversity Protection Zones to ensure consistency with national typology	In-process	24/07/2026
7	Consider developing user-friendly supplementary materials (e.g., practitioner's guide, user guide, story map) for the BSOP plan, using examples shared by TNC, to aid implementation and public understanding	Up coming	

8	Ensure raw data and detailed breakdowns (e.g., by sector, community, coast/non-coast resident) from CEA and OUS surveys are available for further analysis if required	On-going	
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Minutes submitted by:

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator

Approved

Mr. Samir Rosado
Marine Spatial Plan Process Lead,
CZMAI

Date

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Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



53rd BSOP Core Team Meeting

Agenda

Date	Thursday 18 th June 2026		
Time	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 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 Draft BSOP Plan 2. Updates on final areas for Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) and Next Steps 3. Other Matters		
AGENDA			
#	Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1	9:00 – 9:10	Welcome & Meeting Called to Order	S. Rosado
2	9:10 – 9:40	BSOP Draft Plan Updates - The document - Public Inspection Period -	All
3	9:40 – 10:10	Zoning Scheme Updates	S. Rosado & D. Guevara
4	10:10 – 10:30	Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ) Proposal Update - Final areas - Recap of validation session -	S. Rosado
5	10:30 – 11:00	Implementation Plan Update	S. Rosado
6	11:00 – 11:20	Other Matters - Consultancies Update - Next Steps -	All
7	11:20 - 11:30	Closing of Meeting	S. Rosado

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