

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

54th Core Team Meeting

Thursday, July 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 and public inspection period
2. Updates on the zoning scheme and validation arrangements
3. Consultancies update
4. 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

Arlene Young – Director, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Chantalle Samuels – CEO, 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

Felicia Cruz – Director 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 9:00 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 and public inspection period 2. Updates on the zoning scheme and validation arrangements 3. Consultancies update 4. Other Matters	
BSOP Draft Plan Update		
2.1	Public Inspection Period The presentation reported low turnout at community public inspection sessions and limited feedback on the draft plan itself. Issues raised centred on enforcement, management methods, and crowded fishing grounds. The team indicated that compiled feedback would be passed to the consultant by Tuesday, July 21, 2026.	Compile and transmit public inspection feedback to the consultant by July 21.
2.2	MPA Design Criteria Proposed MPA design criteria included protection in the EEZ and deep sea, connectivity to existing MPAs, representation of deep-sea features, and consideration of livelihoods. The presentation proposed using Ocean Use Survey fisheries and tourism data as a cost layer to reduce displacement. It showed alternative Marxan scenarios with different existing MPA and Milestone 4 locking assumptions, alongside existing and proposed Milestone 6 areas.	Continue reviewing spatial scenarios and the proposed design criteria.
2.3	Zoning Scheme The zoning material identified shipping, fishing, and military zones, including port buffers such as San Pedro. It also described a proposed sport fishing zone. The Belize Flats Fisheries Association (BFFA) had supplied priority flats areas and sought restrictions on dredging, jet skis, overwater structures, and mangrove clearing within a sport fishing zone. CZMAI planned to compare BFFA's map with priority areas mapped by its Sport Fishing Coordinator.	Compare the BFFA and CZMAI sport fishing maps and document proposed restrictions.
	Validation Week Draft Outline Validation week was planned for August 3–7, 2026. The presentation included draft arrangements for a Steering Committee/Core Team and Board session, tentatively on August 5, and a national validation session tentatively on August 7. Dates and times, venue, logistics, and invitations remained to be confirmed.	Confirm sessions and venues, then issue invitations.
Consultancies Update		
3.1	Editor The editor's near-final document was due July 29 for validation and an August 4 submission to BIC. The final deliverable was expected during August 17–21. An	Review the editor's near-final document and resolve any extension.

	extension to the end of September was under consideration to allow inclusion of the implementation roadmap.		
3.2	Multimedia Avant Garde Digital Marketing & PR Studio had been awarded the multimedia services contract for video, website visuals, graphic design, and creative guidance. Its inception report had been received and was under review. The contract period was June 15–October 30, with a possible extension to include plan design.	Complete the inception report review.	
3.3	Cumulative Effects Assessment & Climate Risk Assessment Coastal Dynamics Limited submitted Deliverable 3, comprising the draft Cumulative Effects Assessment report and preliminary in-person survey report. The Integrated Climate Risk Assessment contract was being finalized. The presentation indicated that Coastal Dynamics would help integrate both assessments into the BSOP zoning scheme.	Review Deliverable 3 and finalize the climate risk assessment contract.	
3.4	Implementation Plan Baastel, consulting firm, has been awarded the gender-inclusive BSOP Implementation and Monitoring Plan consultancy under BE-CLME+. The inception report had been received for internal review.	Complete the internal review of the inception report.	
Other Matters			
4.1	Stakeholder Engegment Plan Document - The CZMAI-CEO had internally reviewed the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Social Safeguards documents in light of Attorney General’s Ministry advice on the application of FPIC and the terms “rightsholders” and “first nation” in Belize. CZMAI was to determine whether a consultant was needed for revisions and consult the Blue Bonds Finance and Permanence Unit on the path to approval after changes. MSP/BSOP Internation Presentation - The presentation reported that, with support from The Nature Conservancy, CZMAI’s oral presentation abstract on the BSOP had been accepted for the 8th International Marine Conservation Congress in Edinburgh, November 13–17, 2026.	Determine revision support and consult the Blue Bonds Finance and Permanence Unit.	
Closing of Meeting			
5.1	Next Core Team meeting date, August 2026. MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 11:00 am.		
Item #	Next Steps/Action Items	Status	Date
1	Compile public inspection feedback and provide it to the editor/consultant	Completed	21/07/2026
2	Compare BFFA priority flats map with CZMAI sport fishing mapping	Completed	
3	Confirm validation dates, times, venue, logistics, and invitations	Planned	Before Aug 2026 validation
4	Review near-final BSOP document for validation and BIC submission	Planned	29/07/2026
5	Complete internal reviews of multimedia and implementation plan inception reports	In progress	
6	Review Coastal Dynamics Deliverable 3 and finalize ICRA contracting	In progress	

7	Determine SEP/Social Safeguards revisions and consult BBFP on approval	Pending	
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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



54th BSOP Core Team Meeting

Agenda

Date	Thursday 16 th July 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 - Public Inspection Period - Zoning Scheme Updates - Draft Validation Outline	All
3	9:40 – 10:10	Consultancies Update: - Multimedia - Cumulative Effects Assessment & Climate Risk Assessment Implementation Plan	All
4	10:10 – 10:30	Other Matters - Next Steps -	All
5	10:30 – 11:00	Closing of Meeting	S. Rosado