

CONSULTATION REPORT

Future Planning Community Consultations

Findings, Analysis and Integration into the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

Prepared to support continued development of the draft BSOP

Community sessions conducted March-May 2026

Prepared by the Marine Spatial Planning Unit
Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute

Revised draft | July 2026

Executive Summary

The Future Planning Community Consultations were designed to build understanding of the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan (BSOP), gather place-based knowledge, test assumptions about major drivers of change, and identify how marine uses and community priorities may evolve under different futures. Fifteen sessions were held between March and May 2026, engaging 157 recorded participants across coastal communities and atoll user groups.

Central finding: Communities support forward-looking marine planning, but the credibility and effectiveness of the BSOP will depend on transparent governance, enforceable rules, meaningful participation, protection of livelihoods and access, and the integration of climate and ecosystem risk into zoning and implementation.

Key findings

- The ocean was consistently described as livelihood, culture, home, freedom, food, recreation and wellbeing, confirming that marine space has economic, social and cultural value.
- Climate change and governance were widely recognized as major, interacting drivers. Participants also identified pollution, overfishing, illegal activity, sand mining, settlement pressure and food-web disruption.
- Environmental impact and sustainability frequently ranked highly, while livelihoods and safety remained essential and strongly context-dependent. Economic contribution alone was generally not treated as a sufficient basis for prioritization.
- Repeated concerns included weak enforcement, illegal incursions, dredging, mangrove clearing, untreated sewage, misinformation, restricted access to cayes and coastal areas, and competition among commercial, non-commercial, tourism and sport-fishing users.
- Communities identified opportunities in mariculture, cultural and nautical tourism, habitat restoration, conch nursery areas, seagrass cultivation, sport fishing and improved protected-area management.
- Spatial corrections and additions were provided for fishing, tourism, habitat, research and future-use areas. These inputs require geospatial verification before they are incorporated into zoning.

Priority BSOP responses

1. Create a traceable consultation-to-plan matrix showing whether each material input is incorporated, referred for verification, addressed through implementation, or not adopted with a reason.
2. Validate community-drawn areas against existing ocean-use, ecological, tenure, legal and cumulative-effects data before changing zone boundaries.
3. Apply environmental impact, sustainability, livelihoods and safety as a balanced, context-sensitive decision framework, supported by transparent criteria.
4. Strengthen implementation provisions for enforcement, inter-agency coordination, compliance, access safeguards, education and grievance handling.
5. Embed climate resilience and ecosystem protection in zoning, development controls, monitoring and periodic plan review.
6. Return to communities with simplified maps and a clear account of what changed before finalization.

Important evidence limitation

The consultation record is predominantly qualitative. Several activities were not conducted in all communities, and a small number of exercise totals do not reconcile with recorded session attendance. Results should therefore be interpreted as directional evidence and place-based input, not as a statistically representative national survey.

1. Introduction and Purpose

Marine spatial planning provides a framework for organizing marine uses so that economic development, community wellbeing and ecosystem protection can be pursued coherently. The BSOP brings together sectors including fisheries and mariculture, tourism, maritime administration, energy, finance and investment, marine and coastal development, and marine and coastal ecosystems. It also recognizes general-use areas with cultural, religious, social and recreational value.

The supporting presentation introduced the MSP concept, explained compatible and conflicting uses, located the consultations within the BSOP development timeline, and used scenario-based discussion to explore how governance and climate change could affect Belize's marine future. This report consolidates the community record and translates it into planning implications and recommended actions for the draft BSOP.

Consultation objectives

- Establish a shared understanding of the BSOP's purpose, objectives, goals and scope.
- Integrate multi-sector and place-based knowledge and identify potential conflicts among marine uses.
- Use future scenarios to identify trade-offs, opportunities and options for resilience under major drivers of change.
- Capture spatial corrections, emerging uses and community concerns that should be considered during plan development.

2. Methodology

Sessions used a participatory workshop format aligned with the Future Planning Community Presentation. Activities included an "Ocean in One Word" icebreaker, an introduction to MSP and the BSOP, a "Thinking on Your Feet" exercise using six statements, discussion and ranking of key planning considerations, scenario-based future planning, and mapping or general feedback where time and participation allowed.

Analytical approach

- Attendance records were summarized to describe reach.
- Closed-response exercises were reviewed for direction of agreement, but were not converted into national percentages where denominators were missing or inconsistent.
- Narrative feedback was coded into recurring themes: governance and enforcement; climate and ecosystems; livelihoods and access; fisheries and user conflict; development and pollution; opportunities; spatial corrections; and engagement.
- Place-based inputs were separated from cross-cutting findings to avoid treating a local issue as a national consensus.
- Recommendations were derived by linking recurring evidence to a specific BSOP planning, implementation or monitoring response.

Limitations

- The exercise was consultative rather than statistically representative.
- Activities were not completed uniformly across all sessions, and several tables contain "X" entries indicating that an activity was not conducted.
- Scenario feedback was recorded unevenly and is too sparse for comparative scoring.

- Spatial inputs require digitization and validation; this report does not independently verify boundaries, legal status or ecological suitability.

3. Participation and Geographic Reach

The MSP Unit documented 15 sessions and 157 participants. Participation ranged from 3 people in Independence to 19 in both Punta Gorda and Belize City. The consultations included town and village settings, northern and southern fishing communities, urban stakeholders, and users associated with Lighthouse and Turneffe Reef Atolls.

No.	Session	Communities represented	Date / time	Venue	Participants
1	Dangriga Town	Dangriga Town	16/Mar/2026 4:00pm-7:00pm	Ocean View Beach Facility	12
2	Hopkins Village	Hopkins Village			11
3	Barranco Village	Barranco Village	20/Mar/2026 9:00am-12:00pm	Barranco Community Centre	6
4	Punta Gorda Town	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	21/Mar/2026 4:00pm-7:00pm	Social Security Board Conference Room	19
5	Placencia Village	Placencia Village	22/Mar/2026 4:00pm-7:00pm	Placencia Community Centre	16
6	Riversdale	Riversdale	23/Mar/2026 10:00am-1:00pm	Lost Reef	4
7	Seine Bight Village	Seine Bight Village	23/Mar/2026 6:00pm-10:00pm	Seine Bight Welcome Centre Conference Room	5
8	Independence Village	Independence Village	24/Mar/2026 4:00pm-7:00pm	Independence Water board Conference Room	3
9	San Pedro Town	San Pedro Town	22/Apr/2026 5:30pm-8:00pm		12
10	Lighthouse Reef Atoll	Sarteneja, Chunox, Long Caye	29/Apr/2026 9:00am-12:00pm	Belize Audubon Society Conference Room	8
11	Belize City	Belize City	30/Apr/2026 9:00am-12:00pm	National Fishermen Cooperative Conference Room	19
12	Turneffe Reef Atoll	Turneffe Reef Atoll	6/May/2026 9:00am-12:00pm	Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute Conference Room	15
13	Sarteneja Village	Sarteneja Village	12/May/2026 2:00pm-12:00pm	Sarteneja Inn	11
14	Chunox Village	Chunox Village	12/May/2026 10:00pm-4:30pm	Chunox Fishermen Association Office	8

No.	Session	Communities represented	Date / time	Venue	Participants
15	Caye Caulker Village	Caye Caulker	12/May/2026 5:00pm-7:00pm	Island Magic Conference Room	8

Source: Stakeholder representation table. Total recorded attendance: 157.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Relationship with the ocean

Participants described the ocean using terms such as livelihood, culture, fish, home, freedom, beauty, adventure, therapy, peace and love. “Livelihood” appeared repeatedly. This reinforces that the BSOP must treat the ocean not only as an economic space, but also as a source of identity, food security, cultural continuity, recreation and wellbeing.

4.2 Drivers of change

Climate change and governance were presented as the two principal axes of uncertainty. Recorded responses generally support their importance, especially in sessions where the exercise was completed. Participants also emphasized that future conditions will be shaped by interacting human pressures rather than by climate alone.

Driver or pressure	Community evidence	Relevance to the BSOP
Climate hazards and ecosystem change	Sea-level rise, hotter days, storms, changing weather, habitat damage, altered spawning and species movement.	Use climate-risk information in zoning, infrastructure decisions, ecosystem protection, monitoring and plan review.
Governance and institutional capacity	Policy quality, accountability, investment, enforcement, crisis response and confidence in co-management.	Define institutional roles, transparent decision rules, enforcement responsibilities and accountability measures.
Resource pressure and illegal activity	Overfishing, illegal incursions, user crowding, depletion of target species and food-web effects.	Use spatial controls with fisheries management, patrols, compliance, licensing and cross-border coordination.
Coastal development and pollution	Dredging, mangrove removal, sewage discharge, settlement pressure and erosion.	Link marine zoning to coastal development controls, cumulative-effects assessment and water-quality safeguards.
External shocks and finance	Pandemic-related pressure, economic instability and uneven dependence on government or donor investment.	Build adaptive management and diversified, resilient livelihood considerations into implementation.

4.3 Responses to the six statements

The recorded exercise indicates broad recognition that climate change, habitat condition, government decisions and regulations can affect marine livelihoods and access. Responses to government investment were more mixed: some participants viewed public investment as essential for institutions and management, while individual fishers sometimes reported less direct dependence.

Statement	Directional interpretation
Climate change and governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Broad support where recorded, with some concern that finance and political will may be equally decisive.

Statement	Directional interpretation
Sea-level rise and hotter days will affect my livelihood.	General agreement, while some participants distinguished gradual sea-level rise from more immediate heat, habitat and seasonal effects.
Damage to seagrass, coral and mangroves will affect my livelihood.	Strongly supported; participants linked habitat condition to fisheries, tourism, construction risk and income.
Government decisions directly affect my use of marine areas.	Generally supported, reflecting the importance of policy, enforcement, permits and access rules.
New or amended regulations can change where I use marine areas.	Generally supported; responses highlight the need for clear maps, transition arrangements and communication.
My marine use depends on government investment.	Mixed and role-dependent; institutional management may depend on public funding, while some individual users do not perceive direct dependence.

These interpretations are directional only because not all communities completed the activity and a few response.

4.4 Key considerations for spatial decisions

The Steering Committee's initial considerations were livelihoods, sustainability, environmental impact, economic importance and safety.

Ranking	Key Consideration	Description
1	Livelihoods	number of people participating in the activity
2	Sustainability	Ability to conduct the activity long-term
3	Environmental Impact	Relative environmental footprint of the activity
4	Economic Importance	Contribution to GDP
5	Safety	Ability to conduct activity free from harm, danger, or risk

Community rankings show no single universal order. Environmental impact and sustainability were often placed first or near the top; livelihoods ranked first in several livelihood-dependent communities; and safety was treated either as a high priority or as a minimum condition that should apply to every activity. Economic importance was frequently ranked last, suggesting that GDP contribution should not override ecological, social or safety considerations.

An estimated new key considerations layout would result as the following, noting livelihoods and safety having similar ranking:

1. Environmental importance
2. Sustainability
3. Safety & livelihoods
4. Economic importance

Recommended interpretation: Use the five considerations as a multi-criteria decision framework rather than a fixed national ranking. Environmental integrity and legal/safety requirements should operate as thresholds; sustainability, livelihoods and economic contribution should then be assessed in the context of the place, activity and affected users.

4.5 Scenario-based future planning

The four scenarios explored combinations of good or poor governance with high or low climate impacts. The strongest cross-cutting lesson is that governance determines Belize's capacity to anticipate, absorb and recover from shocks. Good governance cannot eliminate climate impacts, but it can reduce harm through science-based decisions, transparent institutions, resilient infrastructure and equitable support. Poor governance can deepen vulnerability even where climate impacts are comparatively low.

Scenario	Core lesson for the BSOP
Good governance / low climate impact	Maintain ecosystem health and avoid complacency; use favourable conditions to invest in prevention and sustainable blue-economy development.
Good governance / high climate impact	Prioritize adaptive zoning, ecosystem-based resilience, emergency readiness, flexible livelihoods and rapid evidence-based decisions.
Poor governance / low climate impact	Prevent overexploitation, weak enforcement, habitat loss and inequitable benefit capture from eroding otherwise favourable conditions.
Poor governance / high climate impact	Treat as the critical risk case: compound climate, economic, ecological and social impacts require safeguards, accountability and contingency planning.

4.6 Cross-cutting themes from community feedback

Governance, enforcement and trust

Illegal fishing and incursions, underfunded enforcement, concerns about co-management, and the need for government accountability appeared repeatedly. A plan without clear enforcement and institutional responsibilities may not change outcomes.

Livelihoods, access and equity

Participants emphasized fishing livelihoods, access to cayes and coastal areas, crowding and territorial behaviour, and the risk that new zones or private development may displace local users.

Ecosystem condition and climate resilience

Mangroves, seagrass, coral, nursery areas, spawning sites and erosion were linked directly to livelihoods and community safety.

Dredging, coastal development and pollution

Dredging, mangrove removal and untreated sewage were recurrent concerns, particularly around the Placencia Peninsula, Belize City and Sarteneja.

Fisheries and marine-use conflict

Participants described competition among commercial fishers, non-commercial fishers, sport-fishing and tourism users; mobile activities such as fishing were considered difficult to confine to rigid zones.

Data gaps and spatial corrections

Communities identified uncaptured fishing grounds, traditional-use areas, research sites, nursery areas, tourism routes and potential future-use areas.

Emerging opportunities

Suggestions included mariculture, seagrass farming, cultural and nautical tourism, habitat restoration, protected areas and value-added fisheries.

Communication and participation

Stakeholders requested earlier notice, simple maps, standardized information, wider fisher participation and practical guidance on how to use the final plan.

5. Integration of Consultation Findings into the BSOP

Community input should be integrated through a transparent chain from evidence to decision. The table below distinguishes matters for zoning, plan policy, implementation, further analysis and stakeholder validation.

Feedback theme	Evidence from consultations	Proposed BSOP integration	Follow-up / verification
Livelihoods and access	Fishing dependence, non-commercial use, traditional areas, access concerns and private-development restrictions.	Include livelihood and access safeguards; identify general-use and customary-use considerations; assess displacement and distributional effects.	Validate affected users, legal access, seasonality and alternative areas before zoning changes.
Environmental sustainability	Priority given to habitats, nursery areas, mangroves, seagrass, coral and long-term resource condition.	Apply ecological condition and sustainability as core zoning criteria and thresholds; align with BPZ and ecosystem objectives.	Cross-check ecological datasets, climate-risk assessment and cumulative-effects assessment.
Enforcement and governance	Illegal incursions, weak patrols, underfunding, misinformation and accountability concerns.	Add an implementation framework with roles, coordination, financing, compliance, reporting and grievance mechanisms.	Confirm mandates, budgets, enforcement feasibility and co-management arrangements.
Dredging and coastal development	Erosion, mangrove clearing, sewage and dredging impacts.	Include development compatibility rules and referral triggers; connect BSOP decisions to coastal permitting and cumulative-effects controls.	Verify jurisdiction, permits, sensitive areas and water-quality evidence.
Fisheries and tourism conflict	Overlap among commercial, sport and non-commercial fishing and tourism; mobile fishing effort.	Use seasonal, conditional or co-use provisions where rigid zoning is unsuitable; protect safety and priority livelihood functions.	Conduct targeted user-group validation and compatibility review.
Spatial corrections	Unmapped fishing, nursery, tourism, research and future-use areas.	Digitize as candidate layers; retain source and confidence metadata; use them during boundary review.	GIS verification with community representatives and authoritative datasets.
Climate resilience	Habitat impacts, storms, heat, species movement and livelihood disruption.	Use adaptive zoning, resilience objectives, trigger-based review and ecosystem-based adaptation measures.	Integrate climate-risk outputs and define measurable indicators.
Communication and participation	Requests for standardized information, more fisher engagement and practical plan orientation.	Include an engagement and accessibility commitment in implementation.	Prepare plain-language maps, Spanish/English materials where needed, and a consultation response matrix.

6. Recommendations

1. Establish a consultation-to-plan response matrix

Record each material issue, location and recommendation; identify the responsible technical or policy workstream; assign a disposition; and provide a clear rationale. Publish a simplified version during validation.

2. Validate spatial inputs before changing zoning

Digitize all community-drawn areas and verify boundaries, seasonal use, intensity, legal status and overlap with ecological and other sector data. Do not treat a single workshop sketch as a final boundary.

3. Apply a balanced, context-sensitive decision framework

Use environmental impact, sustainability, livelihoods, safety and economic contribution together. Treat ecological integrity and safety/legal compliance as thresholds, and document trade-offs transparently.

4. Strengthen enforcement and institutional provisions

Specify lead and supporting agencies, patrol and compliance arrangements, information-sharing, financing, reporting, sanctions and co-management coordination. Link zoning ambition to realistic implementation capacity.

5. Protect access, livelihoods and equitable participation

Assess displacement risks, maintain reasonable access to traditional and general-use areas, consider transition or mitigation measures, and strengthen representation of fishers, cultural groups, women, youth and other affected users.

6. Integrate climate and cumulative-effects evidence

Use the climate-risk and cumulative-effects assessments to test proposed zones, development compatibility and vulnerable livelihood areas. Include review triggers for storms, ecosystem decline, species shifts and new activities.

7. Address dredging, mangrove loss, sewage and coastal development

Define compatibility conditions and referral pathways across BSOP, ICZMP, permitting and environmental assessment processes. Prioritize sensitive habitats, erosion-prone areas and cumulative impacts.

8. Use flexible management for mobile and seasonal uses

Where fishing, tourism or species distributions move over time, consider seasonal rules, conditional co-use, corridors, priority-use provisions and adaptive boundaries rather than rigid exclusion alone.

9. Improve communications and feedback loops

Provide advance notice, simple sector maps, consistent explanations of rules, accessible materials and practical orientation on how to read and use the BSOP. Return to communities with a “what we heard / what changed” summary.

10. Build monitoring around outcomes and equity

Track ecosystem condition, compliance, access, livelihood effects, user conflict, participation, climate impacts and management response. Disaggregate social indicators where feasible and establish a periodic review cycle.

Prioritization

Timing	Priority actions
Before final draft / validation	Complete consultation-to-plan matrix; digitize and verify spatial inputs; resolve major factual and mapping corrections; integrate climate and cumulative-effects findings; prepare plain-language validation materials.
At plan finalization	Confirm decision criteria, zoning compatibility rules, access safeguards, institutional responsibilities, grievance process, monitoring indicators and review triggers.
Early implementation	Deliver community orientation; operationalize enforcement coordination; establish baseline indicators; address priority data gaps; publish implementation progress and consultation responses.
Ongoing adaptive management	Monitor outcomes, reassess mobile and emerging uses, update risk information, review conflict hotspots and revise measures through a transparent process.

7. Conclusion

The consultations demonstrate that communities understand the need to plan for a changing ocean and can provide detailed knowledge that is not always visible in national datasets. They also show that support for the BSOP will depend on whether the plan protects ecosystem function, respects livelihoods and access, manages conflict fairly, and can be implemented and enforced.

Annex A. Detailed Community Feedback Matrix

The following table preserves the substance of the draft report's community-level general feedback, recommendations and concerns. Wording has been lightly cleaned for readability; entries should be checked against facilitator notes and maps before final publication.

Community	General / spatial feedback	Recommendations	Concerns
Dangriga Town			
Hopkins Village	Participants indicate that Poor Governance & Low Climate Change Impacts are more likely for Belize's Future. Good governance & high climate change impacts are good to focus on because a good government would be able to plan and protect the resources despite high stress from natural factors.	There is a need for a representative of Garifuna representative in Steering Committee.	
Barranco Village	The development of national park and management areas to help boost the village. Like the Sarstoon Temash areas which is a RAMSAR site. Development of tourism activity in the village. Construction of a seawall to stop the beach erosion. Trolling for shrimp (not sea floor but water column). Development of industry, with farms and processing facility for: shrimps, hairy crabs, Proper waste disposal on land, so it does not affect the sea. Studies underway to stop beach erosion (20ft already washed away), with the use of prementia wood, boulders wrapped in mesh and sand fill to encourage mangrove growth and natural sand collection. Our Legacy at Sea - new association looking into erosion Preparation for the construction of a new pair, north of the existing structure. There are patch reefs in the area, but no fishing is done in that area as it is close to the channel by Guatemala. Hair crab population has decreased due to overharvesting and erosion.		
Punta Gorda Town	There are current protection of several species, but still no increased in their population under the current administration.		
Placencia Village	Comparing flyfishing plan of the USA and how it works there and why it cannot work in Belize. Saying why we can't have a plan like that. Referring to RBB meetings about lock-out areas. Emphasizing that this plan is to safeguard areas that are used without displacing people. Clarifying that this meeting is not RBB. This meeting is the opposite of what RBB wants to do. Meeting timing isn't ideal. Summarize presentation to be shared beforehand about what the meeting will be about to garner interest from invitees.		Making note about enforcement problems regarding incursions to the reef and illegal activities that happen in those areas.
Riversdale Village	New areas for mariculture were highlighted by pelican range. Expansion in tourism (snorkeling and diving) Glovers, Water Caye and surrounding, Ray Caye, small water Caye and Silk Cayes Sport fishing (fly fishing) for tarpons in Sapodilla lagoon and along the coast Shark fishing in the deep area between the reef and gloves (current use) From north water Caye to south water Caye (gladden spit area) along the shallow area of the reef for seagrass farming. 300 feet from the reef the sail fishers use?		
Seine Bight Village	Coastline from Riversdale to Placencia is an area where dredging is happening more frequently. Drunken Caye possible use for the future. Area is primarily dominated by mangroves. Locals made mention that dredging in the past could have contributed to the "caving in" of sand and made the land and beach lower than what it was. 200-300 feet from the shore under False Caye; locals identified that area as a possible reserve which can therefore contribute to a new destination of tourism. Lagoon does not have many activities that are major attractions for tourism. Activities include manatee sighting, dolphin sighting, sunset tours, etc. but it is not as prominent. Locals made mention that they have possibilities of growing in the tourism sector as a village, specifically with cultural tourism on the beach side and lagoon side of the Placencia peninsula. Local outlined that current non-commercial fishing extends up to Riversdale and sittee river. Non-commercial fishing in the Placencia lagoon happens up to Harvest Caye. Locals made mention that there are incursions by gladden spit by Guatemalans and Hondurans. High deposits of sewage into the Placencia lagoon without any treatment. Opportunities for fly fishing (sport fishing) along the coast of Placencia peninsula. Opportunities are present near False Caye for mariculture as the water there has low turbidity. Locals made mention that cage fishing is a potential use in the future. Local mentioned that the government should acquire land in the peninsula that no one else can purchase. In this manner, private owners cannot prohibit or make it difficult to be used or accessed by the community members.	General mention: information dissemination of meetings is not properly done to community members (local gov side). Locals advised printing posters and flyers for meetings to get the attention of the community.	Made mention that the Placencia lagoon is being dredged. Maya beach area had a lot of mangroves, but developers have been actively cutting it down even though they have been warned about repercussions. Locals have noticed that there has been a decline in fish populations as a consequence.

Community	General / spatial feedback	Recommendations	Concerns
Independence Village	Area around bugle Caye and the Cayes below was not highlighted in the OUS mapping as commercial fishing. The area that is left blank is what was drawn. Commercial area around and below crawl Caye lobster fishing. Area around and below crawl Caye was highlighted as area for commercial fishing that was not captured in the OUS mapping. Traditional use zone highlighted above gladden spit (snappers) Commercial fishing in the Placencia lagoon (jew fish). Shark fishing areas were highlighted around Spider Caye, Rendezvous Caye, Pompion Caye. (long lines) Riversdale shark fishing association? Harvest Caye area for non-commercial fishing to be removed SPAGS surveys are conducted inward of gladden spit Coral bleaching surveys are also conducted north of gladden spit Ray Caye and Little Water Caye are areas for conch nursery (hotspots) Future conch nursery highlighted north of gladden spit below the main channels Big creek to monkey river coast highlighted as manatee watch areas. Area highlighted as 'backup tours' from Crawl Caye below to Colson Caye when main Caye destinations cannot be done (weather, etc)		
San Pedro Town			
Lighthouse Reef Atoll			
Belize City	What are fishers getting from the Blue Bonds How does government invest in local fisherfolk? There is no direct investment that ensures enforcement and management into the sector for sustainability Will more percentage be added in the extended future after the current targets have been met? Dredging is a major issue, all in the name of tourism What about the land space of these islands, is that included in the MSP? Coastal development is a major issue for the coral health.	More fishers need to be engaged in the process, they are willing to participate More enforcement and patrols are needed for better management	Deforestation of mangroves for develop is another huge issue
Turneffe Reef Atoll			
Sarteneja Village	To have key areas designated for dredging activities.	To educate and bring greater awareness to fishers and users of the marine space about what can and can't happen in specific areas with best practices. Recommendation for the implementation of the MSP/BSOP: to have a workshop for stakeholders to know all aspects of the plan, how to use it the document and what is entails. To be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation along with relevant agencies e.g. Tourism.	The deforestation of mangroves has caused major disruption to habitat and species. Grievances relating to access to new development in Sarteneja with potential of deforestation of mangroves. Grievances relating to access to Cayes. Locals cannot: Hatchet Caye/Ray Caye, cannot be used for harbour again.
Chunox Village	To have information Area restriction and over population of fishers makes it harder to use allocated space. Marine product is not the problem, the number of fishers in the area is. Currently a lot of tour operators have commercial fishing license, is becoming a problem. Illegal	To have accurate and standardised information being disseminated to fishers on rules, maps and regulations. Education/awareness of fishing on best practices.	Co-managers are a huge problem in relation to misinformation and corruption.
Caye Caulker Village			

Annex B. Community Ranking of Key Considerations

Rankings are reproduced from the draft report. “X” indicates that the exercise was not conducted or no ranking was recorded.

Community	Recorded ranking	Context / explanation
Dangriga Town	Livelihoods / Sustainability / Environmental Impact / Economic Impact / Safety	Participant believes that tourism is being prioritized based on the key considerations presented. Expresses that fishermen who do flyfishing and tour operators are exhausting resources and don't have to struggle like those who undertake fishing for livelihood. Monitoring and control were identified as essential to considerations as well as tourism. Flat fishing areas are important to catch bait which is important for fishers. Expresses frustration about fly fishers using flats areas which could exhaust the resources in that area and creates no benefit to local fishers.
Hopkins Village	Livelihood / Sustainability / environmental impact / safety / economic impact	Flat fishing is a hard activity to zone because fishers move with the fish and the tide. Fishing distances may vary, and tourists tend to claim ownership/are territorial about waters that they use. Participant suggests that dredging should only take place between 300-400 ft from an island to reduce island erosion. Participant states that timing/recovery for dredging is important due to availability of product (sand) being changed by wind and water flow/tide. Participant noticed that in Hopkins, that when fishermen go out in the first 1-2 week of an open season, they don't go out again after that. He suggests that this happens because tourists come to fish and reduce the product largely and are territorial. He states that they need to have more control when it comes to this issue.
Barranco Village	X	
Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	Sustainability / Environmental impact / Economic impact / Safety / Livelihoods	The suggested order sets the longevity for stakeholders livelihoods. Safety should be higher on the list, due the area they use, with threats from neighbouring countries.
Placencia Village	Environmental impact / Sustainability / Livelihood / Safety / Economic impact	Making points about what constitutes livelihoods. Example given opening a hotel and the people employed would that be under livelihood; would the people staying at the hotel be under livelihood; would the patrons of the bar would fall under livelihood. Clarified that sustainability pertains to the activity rather than people and environment specific. Overlap situation (whale sharks): SPAG with divers and traps (said that they were impacting each other); they minimized boats in the area; minimized activities in the area but mentioned that it still crumbled; making a point about mismanagement. SEA personnel made mention that enforcement is an issue and that NGOs are underfunded. NGOs must fundraise to be able to conduct enforcement. Stakeholder made mention that NGOs must please the government as they must renew their co-management agreement.
Riversdale	X	
Seine Bight Village	X	
Independence Village	X	
San Pedro	Environmental Impact / Safety / Sustainability / Livelihood / Economic Impact	Mostly concerned with Environmental Impact being first and Economic Impact last.
Lighthouse Reef	Environmental impacts / Sustainability / Safety / Livelihood / Economic impact	
Belize City	Livelihoods / Sustainability / Environmental impacts / Safety /	This plan is an accountability for the government and designation of area and usage We need to understand how you use the space

Community	Recorded ranking	Context / explanation
	Economic impact	
Turneffe Reef Atoll	Environmental impact / Sustainability / Economic impact / Livelihoods / Safety	Sustainability and environmental impact are both long term, there needs to a balance If environmental impacts are high, them it won't be sustainable. All the considerations require safety to conduct any type of activity It is contextual based on the current area; state of government and activity being done. Safe should not be in the list, as it is main issue.
Sarteneja Village	Safety / Livelihoods / Sustainability / Environmental Impact / Economic Impact	
Chunox Village	Sustainability / Livelihoods / Safety / Environmental Impacts / Economic Impact	Chunox is a fishing based community Sustainability is a key aspect
Caye Caulker	Livelihoods / Sustainability / Environmental Impact / Economic Impact / Safety	Stakeholders agreed with the initial consideration as they prioritise their livelihoods above all.

Annex C. Recorded Responses to Driver Statements

This annex reproduces the updated structured response record. SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree; X = activity not conducted. Numerical responses are presented as recorded; percentage calculations should wait until the few totals that do not reconcile with session attendance are confirmed.

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Dangriga Town		All				
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	San Pedro						
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Lighthouse Reef	1	3	3	2		not able to adapt fast enough to catch the current pace. funding issue need the will power from the government money is the greatest driver
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Belize City		19				
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Turneffe Reef Atoll	12					
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Sarteneja Village	11					
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Climate Change and Governance are the greatest drivers of change.	Caye Caulker	8					
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of	Dangriga Town	2		9	1		

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers							
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	San Pedro						
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Lighthouse Reef		5	4			sea level rise will affect the islands and cannot be controlled peak season will be more restricted reef will be affected so will the income to what extent of this will we see in our lifetime how will adaptation be
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Belize City		19				
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Turneffe Reef Atoll	3	6	6			Sea level rise is gradual, so not a direct effect there. With hotter days one will adapt and other activities to do at different time. Will affect key habitats Change in spawning behaviours Environmental impacts to fishers and tour operators

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Sarteneja Village	11					
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	
*Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood. *Sea Level Rise: increase in the average height of the world's ocean due to melting glaciers	Caye Caulker		8				
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Dangriga Town	3		9			For the civil engineer, this creates more environmental factors to take into consideration for construction (movement of heavy equipment) Fishers/divers find that a change in the seagrass can create movement of sea animals due to need for suitable habitat.
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	San Pedro						
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Lighthouse Reef	8					if the natural environment is not beautiful and vibrant any more foreigners won't want to spend time and money in Belize.
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats.	Belize City		19				

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
(Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)							
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Turneffe Reef Atoll	12		3			For the tourism sector, if the marine life are gone, it means no tourist which is critical to our livelihoods
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Sarteneja Village	11					
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe negative impact to sensitive habitats. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)	Caye Caulker		5	8			
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Dangriga Town	1	1	9	1		
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	San Pedro						
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Lighthouse Reef	1	4	3			some rules are being followed while some aren't for the general public to enjoy the natural resources laws are to be followed. displacement due to marine protected areas (MPAs)
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Belize City		19				
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Turneffe Reef Atoll	7	2	6			"no take" – taking as we protect the ecosystems. Not to stop fishing, it is to manage use. Marine Reserve is different from a MPA, correct messaging about zones are needed Yes, it has a major impact once government tells you. The quota allocation has a big impact The cooperatives should have a more active role in the decision

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
							process.
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Sarteneja Village		11				
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	
Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.	Caye Caulker		8				
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Dangriga Town	2		9	1		
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	San Pedro						
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Lighthouse Reef	8					
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Belize City		19				
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Turneffe Reef Atoll	7	2	6			
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Sarteneja Village			11			
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	

Statement	Community	SA	A	N	D	SD	Rationale
The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.	Caye Caulker	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Dangriga Town	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Hopkins Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Barranco Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Punta Gorda Town, Punta Negra & Cattle Landing Villages	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Placencia Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Riversdale	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Seine Bight Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Independence Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	San Pedro						
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Lighthouse Reef		1	6	1		some users of the area don't rely on government funding MPA co-managers do rely on some type of funding from government and from external partners.
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Belize City			19			Everything comes down to finance
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Turneffe Reef Atoll		1	13		1	Government has to play a part in the investment so the system can work. A fishier is not affected But for institutions, it does have an effect.
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Sarteneja Village				11		
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Chunox Village	x	x	x	x	x	
My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.	Caye Caulker					8	

Annex D. Images







Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

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Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

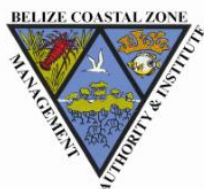
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Ministry of Blue Economy
& Marine Conservation



DEPARTMENT
Sustainable Fisheries
For Our Future



BLUE BOND
and Finance Permanence Unit
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER



Belize Fund For A
Sustainable Future