Ocean Country Partnership Programme

Developing a National MPA Fisheries Monitoring Strategy for Fisheries Management:
Workshop Report

Belize

6–8 October 2025

Author(s): Yolanda Arjona & Christina Woods

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Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management

BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
Sustainable Fisheries For Our Future

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Ocean Country Partnership Programme: The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a bilateral technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood.

Contents

Acronyms

BAS	Belize Audubon Society
BFiD	Belize Fisheries Department
CZMAI	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MBEMC	Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBIO	National Biodiversity Office
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Sustainability Action Plan
NPAS-MEE	National Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Evaluation assessments
OCPP	Ocean Country Partnership Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SACD	Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development
SEA	Southern Environmental Association
SPAG	Spawning Aggregations
TASA	Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association
TIDE	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UBERI	University of Belize Environmental Research Institute
UoB	University of Belize
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

1   Introduction

1.1   Background

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a UK-led programme funded through the UK's £500 million Blue Planet Fund. The Blue Planet Fund is financed through the UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, initiated to help eligible countries reduce poverty, through supporting the sustainable management of their marine environment. The OCPP provided demand-led technical assistance in marine science to partner countries, supporting them to overcome challenges that threaten marine environments and the livelihoods that depend on them.

Under the marine biodiversity theme, the OCPP has partnered with Belize to strengthen and develop Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and MPA networks, building capacity to enable sound and robust decision making on MPAs.

The workshop took place in Belize City (Biltmore Hotel) from 6 to 8 October 2025.The workshop was organised by the Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Ocean Country Partnership Programme and the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, bringing together key partners to co-develop Belize's first National MPA Fisheries Monitoring Strategy for Fisheries Management.

1.2   Objectives of the Workshop

The three-day workshop aimed to:

- Align biodiversity and fisheries monitoring priorities.
- Consolidate existing monitoring efforts under a unified framework.
- Define roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for coordinated implementation.
- Support Belize's commitments to conservation and sustainable marine resource management.

1.3   Workshop Participants

The workshop took place in Belize City and focused on building on the information gathered in the MPA data review activity. The workshop was attended by 27 individuals (13 female and 14 male) from MBEMC, BFiD, BAS, CZMAI, SACD, SEA, TASA, TIDE, WCS, UBERI, UoB, TNC, MarAlliance and Wildtracks. Please see the acronym table for the full names of the organisations. Details of the pre- and post-survey results from participants are provided in Appendix 1.

2 Workshop Summary

Over three days, participants engaged in discussions on how to strengthen Belize's approach to MPA monitoring. See workshop agenda in Appendix 1.

2.1 Notes from Day 1

2.1.1 Session 1: National Data Governance and the Data-Sharing Framework

The workshop opened with an update on the national database being developed under the IDD project. This system is intended to strengthen data control, improve transparency, facilitate data sharing, and support collaboration with NGOs. Participants reviewed monitoring recommendations and the draft data-sharing agreement, noting the importance of harmonising approaches across existing protocols (e.g. SPAG monitoring, pre-/post-lobster surveys). The fisheries department has drafted a national data-sharing agreement designed to support a unified national approach to data management and information flow.

The draft agreement focuses on how fisheries data will be managed and shared with third parties, ensuring sufficient flexibility to cover a wide range of data types and user needs. Because data originates from multiple agencies, traceability was highlighted as essential, from original data collection through processing and entry into the database. Users must be able to identify who collected the data to seek clarifications where needed. The agreement outlines guiding principles, including responsible use, collaboration, national stewardship, and equitable benefit, and includes clear definitions to ensure consistency.

Under the proposed structure, the fisheries department will act as Data Administrator and custodian, with authorised managers responsible for sharing data upon request. Conditions will govern the purpose of use, what is permitted, acknowledgement and attribution requirements, and compliance with relevant laws and policies, including commercial considerations. Standardised citations will ensure data owners are properly credited, supported by metadata requirements. The agreement encourages the establishment of pre-approved arrangements with recurring third-party users to streamline future requests.

Confidentiality and handling of sensitive data were recognised as critical, particularly to protect fishers' personal information under privacy legislation. The agreement sets out clear procedures for third-party requests, including required information on purpose, methods, and expected outputs. Compliance and oversight mechanisms will allow the fisheries department to withdraw access where conditions are not met. Participants noted the need for meaningful consequences for non-compliance, potentially linked to licensing or other regulatory tools.

Discussions emphasised the importance of ensuring that all data owners must grant permission when multiple organisations are involved in data generation. The agreement will also need to align with research permits and other existing or future agreements. Participants raised questions about whether the national database will hold raw data; it was agreed that where the fisheries department assumes responsibility for storing raw data, internal policies will be required. Keeping scanned or physical copies of original data was identified as good practice for validation and long-term reference.

Stakeholders stressed that the agreement should be national in scope and applicable across different scenarios, with clarity on practical aspects such as who receives data, when, and in what format. Time-bound data-sharing permissions may be required, depending on the purpose. Traceability and security will need to be built into any finalised system. The limitations of the national freedom of information legislation were noted, highlighting that once data becomes subject to such requests, its use cannot be fully controlled; however, the agreement may help guide expectations. Participants also discussed the need to address situations where co-management or donor agreements require donors to own data. Finally, the group emphasised that research projects and externally funded activities should include provisions ensuring that data remains accessible within Belize and supports national evidence needs, noting ongoing challenges in accessing raw or detailed monitoring information.

2.1.2   Session 2: Monitoring Recommendations and Priority Fisheries

Participants reviewed major recommendations from recent technical assessments, emphasising the need to involve all stakeholders in finalising national monitoring frameworks. An overview was provided of the harmonisation workshop held in late March and early April 2025, where agreement was reached on the goal of ensuring conservation, sustainable management, and responsible use of fisheries. The workshop highlighted the breadth of existing protocols, some developed by the fisheries department and others by partners, and the need to standardise methodologies across all monitoring activities.

Key commitments from the harmonisation workshop were revisited, including the data-sharing agreement, draft national monitoring and reporting priorities, and the need for external researchers to align with national evidence needs. This alignment is essential to help fill knowledge gaps where national capacity is limited. Connections with ongoing initiatives, such as TNC-led work, were also recognised. Emerging priorities include transitioning from paper to electronic tagging, building an integrated national data information system, and updating existing protocols to reflect recommendations from the harmonisation process.

For the spiny lobster fishery, long-term sustainability will require strengthening national data collection systems and ensuring consistent monitoring across

cooperatives. Challenges include incomplete submission of catch logs and insufficient sampling effort at fishing sites. Priority biological indicators include spawning potential ratio, size-at-capture distributions, and the proportion of mature individuals in the catch. A new workshop will be convened to refine monitoring plans. Strengthening recruitment monitoring is a key need, and subsistence fishing remains under-reported at the national level.

For queen conch, priorities include standardising and expanding data collection, shifting toward biologically grounded performance indicators, and implementing an adaptive management framework. Improvements are needed in domestic market monitoring and total catch accounting. Early evidence suggests spawning may occur in deep water, and targeted surveys are planned; if shallow-water spawning sites are found, their intensity and location will need to be assessed. Applied capacity building for institutions was identified as a requirement for improving long-term monitoring.

For finfish, priorities include strengthening fishery-dependent data collection across gears and communities, incorporating size-based indicators into routine monitoring, and expanding fishery-independent surveys.

The group discussed how these monitoring improvements could inform the designation of new management areas, noting the need for clear workflows and mapping of fishing activity. Participants highlighted that funding decisions will depend on understanding the scale of methodological changes required. Agreement was reached on identifying a minimum set of indicators for the national framework. It was also noted that deep-water conch surveys are scheduled to begin soon. The harmonisation workshop report and data-sharing agreement will be shared with all participants.

2.1.3   Session 3: Data Mapping, Platforms, and Integration

The session reviewed how data is currently managed on the AGRRA platform. Participants noted that raw data can only be downloaded during initial upload, and once fully submitted only summarised data remains visible. As a result, raw datasets will need to be sent separately to the fisheries department before upload. This will help maintain access to original records and support future validation.

The group discussed ongoing efforts to compile and manage data from multiple sources, including planned revisions and recruitment of consultants and IT staff to support system development. The long-term aim is to create a master national database, though the final hosting location, within the fisheries department or the ministry, has not yet been determined. The system should provide appropriate access for stakeholders.

Linkages with wider national initiatives were highlighted. The Blue Economy Monitoring Centre is developing key indicators and aims to automate data flows between fisheries and coastal monitoring systems. There may be opportunities to

expand the data-sharing framework to include these broader datasets, subject to consultation. The coastal and marine authority's ongoing legislative developments may also provide a future home for centralised data, especially through World Bank-supported projects intended to manage confidential data.

Key action: All managers and co-managers must ensure that raw data is provided to the fisheries department before uploading summary information to AGRRA.
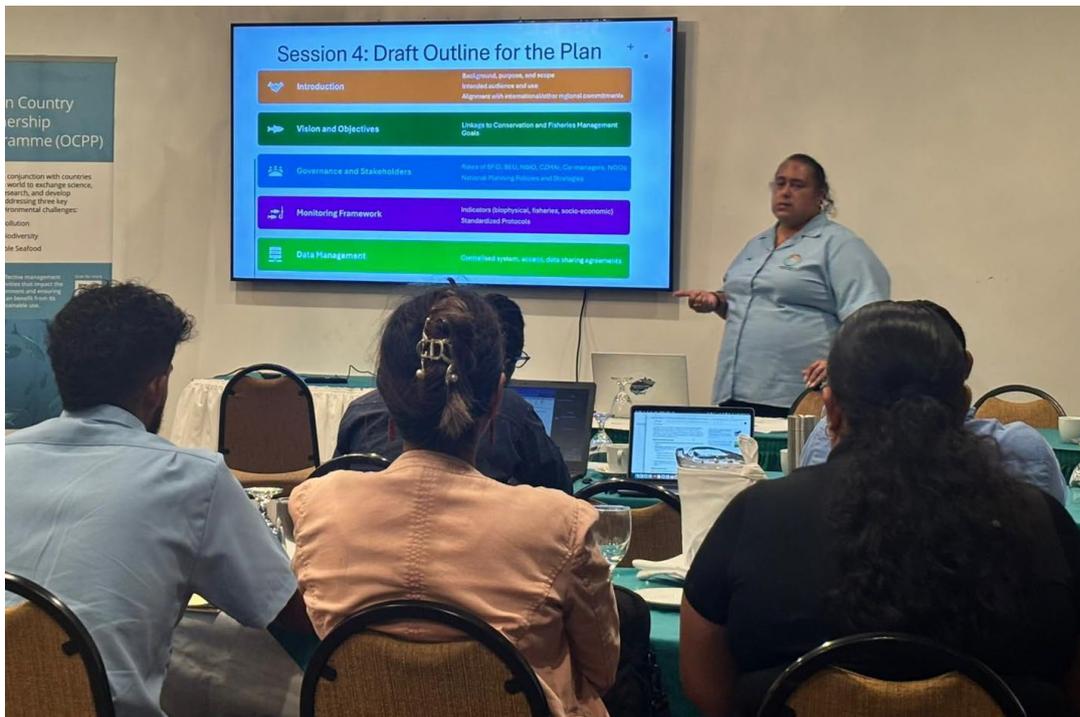

Figure 1. Belize Fisheries Department explaining session 4 to participants.

Figure 2. Participants working in groups.

2.2 Thematic Working Group Discussions from Day One

Each thematic group reviewed indicators, gaps, capacity needs, and long-term monitoring requirements.

2.2.1 Monitoring Framework

Discussions focused on consolidating indicator lists, clarifying objectives, and identifying gaps and opportunities for standardisation across fisheries and ecosystems. Participants noted that lobster monitoring remains less standardised than other areas. Where gaps exist, groups proposed recommendations. Consideration was also given to funding and capacity needs for implementing the framework.

2.2.2 Data Management

Participants considered long-term data retention, including whether co-management agreements should be aligned with 10-year periods and 5-year reviews. Historical datasets exist but often lack backups, highlighting the need for digitisation. Most data are still stored in spreadsheets, and streamlining tools was seen as a priority. Some funders place restrictions on data use, and there is limited clarity on national users of datasets. Discussions highlighted opportunities to integrate fisheries and biodiversity data systems to improve feedback loops to co-managers. The need to map data pathways and include this as an annex was emphasised. Better strategies are needed to bridge gaps between socio-economic and ecological monitoring and to generate missing data. Links to national economic datasets and related projects may support this.

2.2.3 Capacity and Resources

Discussions highlighted the need for a national database of external researchers, additional institutional support, and equipment. Participants stressed the importance of scientific monitoring capacity, staffing requirements, and identifying bottlenecks that limit resource allocation. Examples from other conservation databases were discussed, including the importance of secure external systems and cloud storage to prevent data loss. Automated outputs and minimal upkeep costs were identified as desirable features.

2.2.4 Funding

Long-term financing remains a major challenge, as most funding is project-based and time-limited. Discussions included the role of public–private partnerships, tourism contributions, donor funding linked to the Blue Bond, and the need to understand core baseline monitoring costs. Participants emphasised the need for stable institutional resources, continuous staff training, and a unified national funding

strategy. International partners may help match national financing where strategic plans are clearly articulated.

2.2.5   Governance, Implementation, and Evaluation

Participants reviewed governance responsibilities across more than a dozen institutions involved in monitoring. They discussed how existing policies connect and where duplication occurs, noting circular movement of data among departments for national and international reporting. The group outlined the need for a 5- to 10-year plan, streamlined reporting pathways, and stronger integration of implementation and evaluation frameworks. There is currently no standard mechanism for how data is shared across ministries. The need for meaningful KPIs was emphasised to track progress.

Key points: The group noted the workshop's evolving recommendation of a 10-year strategy, contrasting with the initial 5-year proposal.

Action: All groups will finalise their notes in the shared draft document and email their sections to the OCPP team for collation. A consolidated version will be circulated before the start of Day 2.

Figure 3. Participants working in the different thematic groups to discuss the draft.

2.3   Notes from Day 2: Group Presentations

2.3.1   Monitoring Framework

The monitoring framework group highlighted several key gaps in current national monitoring efforts. Participants noted that very little monitoring takes place outside Marine Protected Areas, limiting the ability to assess broader ecosystem health and

fishery trends. Interconnectivity between sites was emphasised as essential, and potential collector bias was highlighted as a concern for data reliability. The group also questioned whether ecosystem services are being adequately captured; initial discussions suggested they are generally not included. Socio-economic elements were acknowledged as an important missing component and will be addressed further in subsequent sessions.

2.3.2 Data Management

The data management group presented a draft table summarising existing data systems, including descriptions, users, and storage practices. The group compared which systems are currently operational and which may be outdated. They identified a range of challenges, each requiring expansion, including gaps in socio-economic data. Opportunities include developing robust access and data-sharing agreements that accommodate the varied needs of different users, such as academic institutions and government agencies.

Discussions explored the potential value of a flow diagram illustrating data movement from collection to national and international reporting. Such a tool would help clarify responsibilities, resource allocation, and points where raw versus processed data are needed. Participants highlighted that, at certain levels, raw data is unnecessary, so the flow diagram would need to reflect this. There was also interest in creating a mechanism for confirming when data has been formally approved by government.

Quality assurance (QA) and validation processes were identified as essential components that should operate at all levels, from initial collection through national collation. A strong QA system would ensure that erroneous-looking data can be checked with collectors and that surveyor bias is better understood. The importance of comprehensive metadata was emphasised to support long-term and historical analyses. Discussions also touched on whether monitoring staff should be certified; although formal certification would be logistically challenging, improved data literacy and a strong understanding of data purpose were seen as more critical.

2.3.3 Capacity and Resourcing

The capacity and resourcing group developed a draft framework to help institutions assess their staffing, skills, and equipment needs. This framework can be applied internally within the fisheries department or across co-management institutions. It identifies baseline requirements for different roles, expected skill levels, and associated resource needs, supported by a simple evaluation system.

The group expanded on previous discussions about institutional support, recommending the development of a standardised handbook for capacity requirements. Participants noted the importance of identifying overlaps in training needs, for example, between monitoring staff and enforcement teams, and ensuring

that all personnel understand the rationale behind their work. Flexibility in staffing, enabling individuals to contribute across multiple functions when needed, was also highlighted. To avoid misinterpretation that the strategy focuses solely on commercial species, participants suggested expanding the strategy title to explicitly reference ecosystems.

2.3.4 Funding

The funding group categorised funding needs across different levels and types of funding, including government, private sector, and commercial sources. They noted that sustainability initiatives are increasingly driven by companies purchasing products from Belize, creating an opportunity to strengthen partnerships that contribute to monitoring and conservation. The group recommended developing an annual funding calendar to help organisations prepare for upcoming calls.

Collaborative applications were encouraged to improve competitiveness for larger funding pots and to reduce inefficiencies and duplication. Participants emphasised the importance of understanding how monitoring activities could become financially self-supporting, for example, exploring options for monetising certain types of data. Strategic coordination across institutions was identified as essential to prevent funding losses and maximise long-term financial sustainability.

2.3.5 Governance

The governance group underscored the importance of ensuring that ecosystems, not just commercially exploited species, are fully represented within the strategy. They outlined a broad set of national reporting requirements and noted the need for directives permitting report transfers between organisations to streamline data sharing. A formal framework is needed to clearly establish which institutions can share specific datasets and under what conditions.

Evaluation metrics must be embedded throughout the strategy to track progress effectively. Participants discussed the need to identify key indicators early, determine responsibilities for maintaining them, and ensure that achievements can be demonstrated clearly. The idea of an evaluation officer or dedicated monitoring role was raised. The group emphasised keeping monitoring and reporting processes efficient, focused, and sustainable, especially given continuous reporting requirements under initiatives such as Green Listing. Streamlined data flows and clearly defined priorities will be essential for achieving national commitments.

Figure 4. Group presenting findings of the discussions in group under Capacity and Resourcing.

2.4   Notes from Day 3: Workshop Summary

2.4.1 Presentation: TASA Shiny App

The day began with an overview of the TASA Shiny App, an open-source tool that integrates with GitHub, R, and other platforms. The app does not store data itself; instead, it processes standardised Excel templates to generate visualisations and summaries. Current integrations include fisheries catch data, LAMP, and SPAG monitoring, with functionality linked to the SMART application. The tool can be used locally while also maintaining full code availability on GitHub. A public-facing dashboard allows users to explore trends such as temporal changes in fisheries catch.

Participants discussed the potential role of the app within the national monitoring strategy. It was agreed that its inclusion as an option, for data visualisation, standardisation, and reporting, would be beneficial. The need for interoperability with the national database currently under development was emphasised, ensuring systems can communicate seamlessly. There was also interest in institutionalising similar tools within national academic institutions to ensure continuity despite fluctuating funding. A parallel was drawn to other national tools, such as KOBO Toolbox used by the National Emergency Monitoring Organisation.

2.4.2 Final Discussion and Next Steps

The session progressed to discussions on how the monitoring strategy will link to the overall vision of the fisheries department. The strategy is intended to consolidate key elements from all working sessions and formalise requirements for monitoring across the marine sector. A complete draft is expected by late November or early December 2025.

Several operational and governance considerations were raised:

- A request was made for the earlier data harmonisation report (not the workshop summary) to support final drafting.
- Responsibilities for finalising different sections will rest with breakout group leads.
- Diagrams will be required for the data management section, with OCPP supporting their development.
- Groups should identify any elements requiring publication or approval prior to inclusion in the strategy.
- Interim instructions must be provided for the period before the new data management system is implemented.
- As the fisheries department currently lacks a data manager, a temporary standardised protocol must be established and incorporated.
- Minimum capacity and resource requirements need to be clearly defined. A full capacity assessment may be necessary before publication.
- A separate document compiling all standardised protocols may be required, drawing from recent technical reviews.

On funding, participants noted the importance of clarifying what national resources are already available and developing a coordinated mechanism for engaging funders. Current gaps, such as uncertainty over funding for the next five years, highlight the need to identify core costs early. Many funders have shifting thematic priorities and often do not support essential, ongoing monitoring, underscoring the importance of allocating national funding for baseline needs. Clear national priorities will improve the ability to secure external support, and guidance from the fisheries department will be critical in aligning funding with strategic objectives.

Governance discussions pointed to the need for clarity on institutional responsibilities, interactions between different databases, and the future location and ownership of data analysis. An evaluation process must be built into the strategy to track progress, demonstrate achievements, and guide adaptive management. Participants stressed the importance of clear definitions, links to policies and reference documents, and alignment with broader national initiatives such as "ridge to reef" approaches, the marine component of the National Biodiversity Office, and system-level monitoring priorities.

3   Key Conclusions Identified

Across the three days, participants reached several shared conclusions that will shape the national monitoring strategy:

3.1   Continuing work on a Standardised National Monitoring System

There was broad consensus that Belize requires a harmonised set of monitoring protocols across fisheries, ecosystems, and co-managed areas. Standardisation is essential to ensure comparability, reduce duplication, and improve evidence for national decision-making. Belize has already made significant progress in recent years toward greater standardisation, and many of these changes are already underway.

3.2   National Data-Sharing and Management Framework

All groups recognised the need for a clear, unified data management system, supported by a national data-sharing agreement. Traceability, metadata requirements, QA/validation processes, and defined roles for data custodians and users are core components. Belize has already made significant progress in recent years toward data sharing agreements, and many of these changes are already underway.

3.3   Strengthening Capacity, Resources, and Data Literacy

Institutions require clear guidance on staffing, skills, and equipment needs. Building data literacy, understanding why data is collected, not just how, is essential. Flexible staffing models and long-term institutional support were highlighted as priorities.

3.4   Sustainable, Coordinated Funding Mechanisms

Long-term funding should combine national investment with external support. Participants emphasised creating an annual funding calendar, collaborating on applications, and identifying core costs that cannot rely on donor funding alone.

3.5   Governance, Accountability, and Clear Responsibilities

A coherent governance framework to clarify institutional roles, reporting pathways, and evaluation mechanisms. Efficient, streamlined reporting, aligned with national and international commitments, is essential to sustaining Belize's monitoring efforts.

3.6   Integration of Technology and Tool Interoperability

Tools such as the Shiny App, SMART, and national platforms can support efficient data analysis, but should be interoperable with the national database. Development of integrated, future-proof systems is a key priority.

3.7   Strong Vision and Roadmap for Implementation

Participants agreed that the strategy must provide:

- a long-term roadmap (5–10 years),
- minimum national monitoring requirements,
- interim procedures before new systems are in place, and
- clear links to wider national priorities such as NBIO, ridge-to-reef management, and blue economy objectives.

4   Next Steps and conclusions

4.1   Next steps

Belize might take forward the development and finalisation of the National MPA Fisheries Monitoring Strategy for Fisheries Management. Building on the progress made during the workshop, national partners will continue refining the strategy's core components, including standardised monitoring protocols, data management procedures, capacity and resource requirements, and governance arrangements.

The relevant departments and co-management partners will work collaboratively to complete the remaining sections, integrate outstanding recommendations, and prepare the draft strategy for internal review and approval. This might include outlining interim guidance for data handling, incorporating agreed quality assurance processes, and confirming institutional roles and responsibilities for long-term implementation.

Belize might also explore opportunities to align funding priorities, strengthen national capacity, and ensure interoperability between emerging data systems. If finalised, the strategy will serve as a national framework guiding fisheries monitoring across Marine Protected Areas and supporting evidence-based management over the coming years.

4.2   Conclusion

The OCPP technical visit to Belize successfully identified key challenges and opportunities for strengthening MPA monitoring and data management. By fostering collaboration, developing practical solutions, and prioritising national needs, the programme supports Belize in achieving its marine conservation goals. Moving forward, sustained efforts might focus on implementing a national monitoring plan, improving data systems, and securing the resources needed to ensure the resilience of Belize's marine ecosystems.

Appendix 1

Workshop Agenda

Day 1: 6 October 2025

Time	Duration	Details	Speakers
08:45 – 09:00		Arrival, coffee	
09:00 – 09:30	30 mins	Introduction to the workshop • Welcome • Housekeeping • Introductions	Speakers: OCPP
09:30 – 10:15	45 mins	Session 1: Vision, Objectives & strategic Rationale • Opening remarks • Overview of Belize's marine policy direction • Rationale for developing a unified monitoring strategy • Agency priorities and alignment • Purpose and expected outcome of the workshop	Speakers: BFiD – Adriel Castaneda
10:15 – 11:00	45 mins	Session 2: Review of National Biodiversity and fisheries monitoring Strategy • Presentation: recommendations from data standardization workshop, fisheries stock assessment reports: key management data needs and gaps, management plan recommendations • Brief overview of the monitoring protocols • Data sharing Agreement • Open Discussion	Speakers: BFiD - Kenneth Esquivel
11:00 – 11:15	15 mins	Tea/coffee break	
11:15-11:45	30 mins	Session 3: Mapping responsibilities and coordination • Stakeholder roles: Draft map to be shared ahead of workshop detailing current situation in Belize: who does what, clarify roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms for data collection. Discussion to validate map	Speakers: All Facilitators: OCPP
11:45-12:45	60mins	Session 4: Overview of proposed document structure • Present the Monitoring Strategy draft outline. • Explain how the following sessions will be used to refine and finalise the strategy. • Open discussion and agreement on the steps to follow to finalise the draft.	Speakers: BFiD – Alicia Eck-Nunez Facilitators: OCPP
12:45 – 13:45	60 mins	Lunch	
Time	Duration	Details	Speakers
13:45 – 14:30	30 mins	Session 5: Planning Next Steps • Agree on post-workshop timeline, deliverables, and consultation process. Clarify how feedback will be integrated.	Speakers: BEU Facilitators: OCPP
14:30– 15:00	30mins	Session 6: Group Formation & strategic Framing • Presentation: Introduction to the overview of suggested breakout themes (Monitoring framework, Data management, Capacity & resources, funding strategy, governance/implementation & Evaluation) • Agree on suggested groups and explain how each theme will link national goals and funding leverage • Groups will be split based on expertise / interest (proposed groupings to be decided in advance) • Expectations & Outputs	Speakers: BFiD – Alicia Eck-Nunez Facilitators: OCPP
15:00-15:15	15 mins	Tea/ coffee break	
15:15-16:30	45 mins	Session 7: Breakout Group Kick-off • Start populating group templates (tables, priority lists) • Identify initial gaps, challenges, and opportunities • Draft early inputs for Monitoring Strategy sections	Facilitators: OCPP

Day 2: 7 October 2025

Time	Duration	Content of the presentation/ Materials needed	Speakers
08:45 – 09:00		Arrival, coffee	
09:00 – 09:15	15 mins	Recap of Day 1 & Overview of Day 2	Facilitators: OCPP
09:15 – 11:00	105mins	Breakout Groups – refining key points • Groups continue refining outputs started on Day 1, focusing on creating outputs (e.g. completing tables, identifying gaps, and drafting recommendations).	Facilitators: OCPP
11:00 – 11:15	15 mins	Tea/coffee break	
11:15-12:30	75mins	Group Presentations & Discussion • Each group presents key findings (10–15 mins each) • Open discussion to identify overlaps, gaps, and integration points for the National Fisheries Monitoring Strategy	Facilitators: OCPP
12.30 – 13.30	60 mins	Lunch	

Time	Duration	Details	Speakers
14:15 – 15:15	*60 mins*	**World Café session – Refinement & Content development** • Participants to rotate through all groups (5 x ~10 mins, leaders to remain) to refine and incorporate overlap, links and ideas between each group. • Group leaders to collate discussions, review, and finalise expected outputs • Draft section content for the Monitoring Strategy. • Internal group review	Facilitators: OCPP
15:15-15:30	*15 mins*	*Tea/ coffee break*	
15:30-16:30	60 mins	**Breakout Groups – Cross-Group Synthesis & Integration** • Collate discussions from world café sessions and incorporate into your section of the document • Share outputs across groups. • Define key recommendations based on feedback. • Highlight overlaps or conflicts with other groups' inputs. • Draft concise summary points for inclusion in the Monitoring Strategy. • Flag any unresolved issues that need plenary discussion on Day 3.	Facilitators: OCPP

Day 3: 8 October 2025

Time	Duration	Details	Speakers
08:45 – 09:00		Arrival, coffee	
09:00 – 09:15	15 mins	• Plan for the day • Presentation: TASA Shiny apps	Speakers: OCPP Virginia
09:15 – 10:45	90mins	Strategy Vision: Linking the draft to the overall vision and implementation Challenges and reccomendations session • Breakout group key points from the last 2 days • What's missing, how do we achieve what we've set out?	Facilitators: MBEMC, BFiD OCPP
10:45 - 11:00	15 mins	Tea/coffee break	
11:00-11:45	45mins	Plenary & Consultation Planning • Next steps: actions needed for consultation and implementation • Confirm: roles for final edits, timeline for internal review, stakeholder consultation process (e.g. who, how, when)	Facilitators: OCPP, BFiD
11:45 - 12:00		Closing Remarks	Speakers: BFiD
12:00	60 mins	Lunch & head home or lobster protocol standardisation session	
13:00 – 15:00		Belize Fisheries Independent Lobster Protocol Standardisation Session	

Workshop Feedback Summary – Pre- and Post-Survey Results

Pre-Survey Insights

1.   Participant Demographics

The workshop attracted a diverse range of participants from various organisations, including the BFiD, SEA, TIDE, and BAS. Participants included Marine Biologists, Reserve Managers, and Protected Areas Managers.

2.   Relevance of workshop to their role

Respondents all agreed that the workshop was highly relevant to their role. Participants noted that they are all contributing to a number of different monitoring programs, so having the necessary guidance to standardise this work is vital going forward.

3.   Expected Outcomes

Respondents wanted to gain a clear understanding of how standardisation was going to be achieved under the strategy and wanted the opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategy document and ensure the guidance fit and was useful in the context of the work they undertake.

Post-Survey Insights

1.   Workshop Effectiveness

All respondents agreed that the workshop was really effective in bringing in all the key players to better understand and contribute to the strategy. The workshop met their expectations, and some noted that they were especially happy with the way the workshop ensured that everyone could gain a sense of ownership over the strategy through their collaborative contributions to the document.

2.   Usefulness of the national MPA monitoring strategy

Respondents thought that the strategy would be very useful to everyone involved in MPA monitoring in Belize. They thought that it will help unify stakeholders and give everyone a good understanding of what is required to monitor marine resources in Belize going forward. They also noted that it is vital for adaptive management of the marine environment and will help with ensuring robust data is available for decision making. It also teaches people about the full flow of data as some may not have been aware of what the data are used for once it has been collected and uploaded.

3.   Usefulness of the workshop / takeaways and implementation

Respondents found the workshop really useful and liked that they were able to properly contribute and share their knowledge of the subject. They liked the chance to learn and understand other people's work and how collaborative the process was. They liked the opportunity to understand different perspectives and understand what others were doing as this allowed discussion on how things could be developed to improve the situation for everyone. They commented on the nice way that workshops have linked together (from the data standardisation workshop in February, to this one) in a way that they can see the process and goals being developed and achieved.

4.   Quality of the Workshop

The workshop received positive feedback regarding its content, venue, timing, and engagement activities. Participants appreciated:

- The interactive nature of the workshop, which encouraged collaboration and participation.
- The timing of the sessions, though some suggested that a longer workshop (one additional day) might have allowed for more in-depth discussion and collaboration.
- The venue, which was praised for its suitability.

5.   Suggestions for improvement

The only suggestion that was given was that crowd management could have been dealt with better. No further information was given, however this could have referred to the management of the breakout groups and ensuring everyone moved group within the allotted timeframes.