

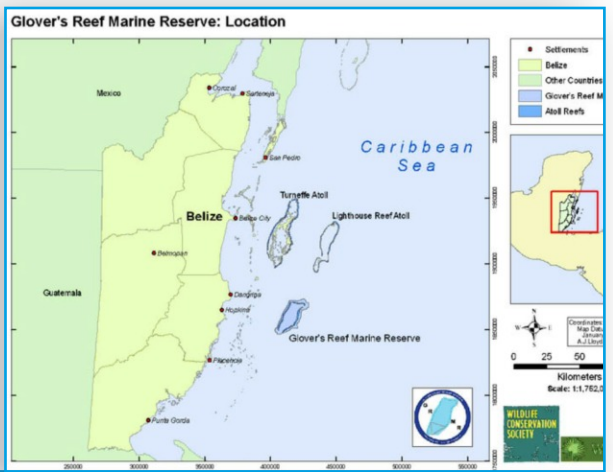


The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW):

Glover's Reef Marine Reserve

- A SPAW listed site -

Identification



Country: Belize
Name of the area: Glover's Reef Marine Reserve
Administrative region: Caribbean/Central America
Date of establishment: 1/1/1993
Geographic location:
 Longitude X: -87.791111
 Latitude Y: 16.823056
Date of listing under SPAW: 23 October 2012

Contacts:
 Contact address: Belize Fisheries Department, Princess Margarite Drive, Belize City Belize
 Website: www.fisheries.gov.bz
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Introduction

Glover's Reef Marine Reserve encompasses the southernmost of Belize's three offshore atolls, and is considered not only the best developed biologically, but also to possess the greatest diversity of reef types (Dahl et. al. 1974). It was established as a Marine Reserve in 1993 to provide protection for both the physical and biological resources of the area, and is an important fishing ground for traditional conch and lobster fishermen, particularly from the northern coastal community of Sarteneja. In 1996, it was included as one of seven marine protected areas in Belize to be recognised for their global value, as part of Belize's World Heritage Site.

The approximately 86,653 acre Glover's Reef Marine Reserve encompasses the marine area of the Atoll, managed under the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Statutory Instrument was updated in 2001, and currently designates five different management zones: the General Use Zone, Conservation Zone, Wilderness Zone and Seasonal Closure Zone (covering the Nassau Grouper spawning aggregation area).

SPAW criteria met

Ecological criteria

- Representativeness
- Conservation value
- Rarity
- Naturalness
- Critical habitats
- Diversity
- Connectivity/coherence
- Resilience

Cultural and socio-economic criteria

- Productivity
- Cultural and traditional use
- Socio-economic benefits

Site description

General features of the site

Size: 350 sq. km

Terrestrial surface under sovereignty, excluding wetlands:

0 sq. km

Wetland surface: 0 ha

Marine surface: 200 sq. Km

National status of your protected area: Marine Reserve

Marine ecoregion: 68. Western Caribbean

Management structure, authority

Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Management plan

The Marine Reserve has clear zones embedded in the legislation that allow for extractive / non extractive use, and conservation protection, with use concentrating on fishing, tourism, and research. Management responsibility for Glover's Reef Marine Reserve is held by the Fisheries Department, which has established a staffed Fisheries Base on Middle Caye for site-level management of the area. The Wildlife Conservation Society provides assistance to the Fisheries Department through collaborative research and monitoring activities, and hosts the Fisheries Base on Middle Caye. An active Advisory Committee assists the Fisheries Department with management recommendations, and is composed of representatives from the major stakeholder components.

Main fauna populations and/or those of particular importance present (resident or migratory) in the area:

Mammals

Spotted, bottlenose and spinner dolphins are seen all year in the deeper waters outside the Atoll and bottlenosed dolphins also venture into the Atoll lagoon, through the channels.

Birds

The total number of species recorded for the Atoll is 84, including migratory species. Only a few species, such as brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), kingfishers, herons and ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), are resident on the caye, as is the near-threatened white-crowned pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*). Glover's Reef is considered important as a migratory bird stopover refueling point every spring and fall (approximately 87% overlap of migratory species).

Reptiles

The herpetofauna of Glover's Reef Atoll is comprised entirely of reptile species. No amphibians have been recorded there, as the

saline conditions, absence of freshwater sources, and distance from the mainland are the main determinants precluding their presence.

Seven reptile species have been recorded from Glover's Reef, four terrestrial (residents of the littoral forest), and the three marine turtles (loggerhead, green and hawksbill). Additionally, the island leaftoed gecko is rated as Near Threatened on Belize's National List of Critical Species. A second gecko species, St. George's island gecko (*Aristelliger georgeensis*), was recorded on Middle Caye for the first time (Walker, 2007), and was found to be significantly more abundant than the endemic *Phyllodactylus insularis*.

There are two invertebrate species of commercial importance to the Glover's Reef fishery - the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), both of which are fished extensively throughout Belize. There are a number of fin fishes present on the Atoll but some of the more economically important species include the Nassau Grouper, Black Grouper and Mutton Snapper. Sport fishing fishes include the Permit and Bonefish are present. There are also a number of parrotfish's and grazers present.

Inhabitants inside the area or in the zone of potential direct impact on the protected area:

Inside the area:

Permanent: 46

Seasonal: 17

In the zone of potential direct impact:

Permanent: Not Given

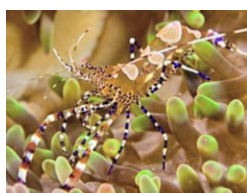
Seasonal: Not given

Comments about the previous table:

There are 6 resorts on the Glover's Atoll but only 5 are operational as Mata Ray Resort is up for sale. One Caye, Middle Caye does not have a resort but it has a research station and the Belize Fisheries Department is located there as well. The research station has guest periodically throughout the year and varies from year to year. The Fisheries Department has staff working on rotations but always has someone on site. The other resorts have minimum of a cook, a boat captain and a watchman on staff at any given time unless it's a resort that the owners live at. Visitation to the resorts is seasonal.

International status and Date of designation

SPAW Site : 2012



Links

PA LISTING : www.spaw-palisting.org

CaMPAM : <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

UNEP-CEP : www.cep.unep.org/

SPAW-RAC : www.car-spaw-rac.org