

**Port Honduras Marine Reserve
Annual Report 2008**

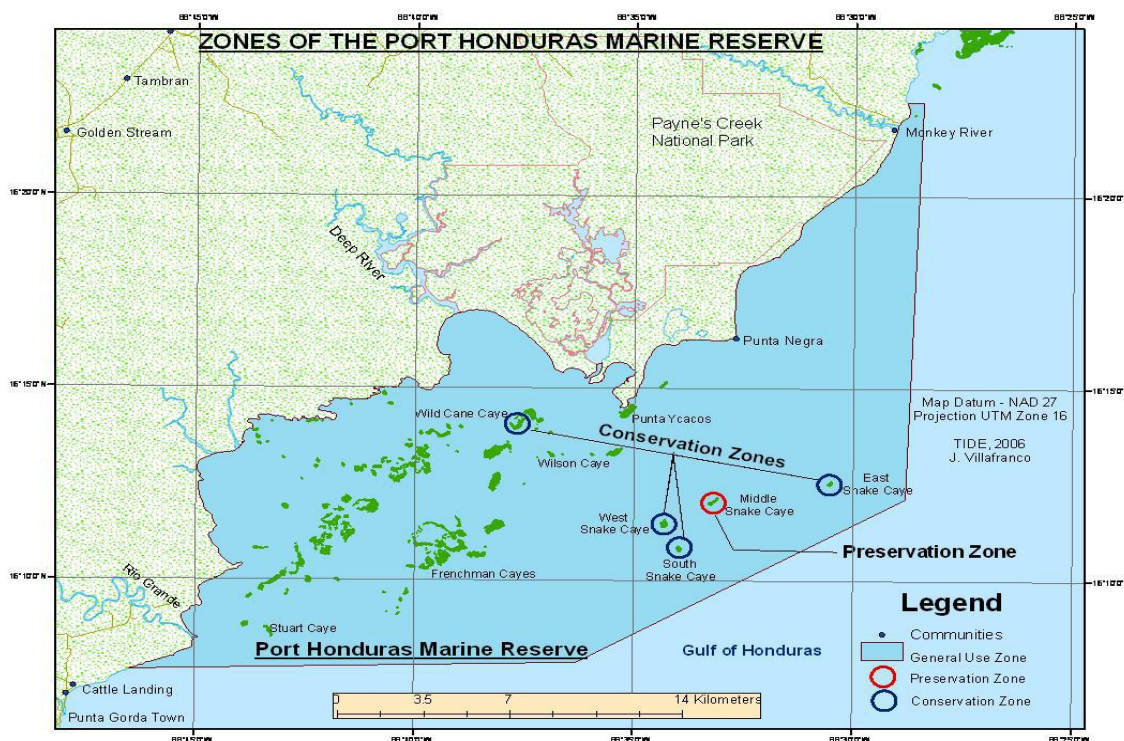
**Seleem F. Chan
Marine Manager**

Table of Content

1. Introduction	3
2. Enforcement	4
3. Monitoring (this includes total Visitation per month and type of visitation)	5
4. Staff	6
5. Meeting and Trainings	8
6. Education/Public Awareness	10
7. Fuel Usage	11
8. Revenues (revenues received by the reserve by month)	12
9. Equipment and Infrastructure	13
10. Recommendation	14
11. Conclusion	14
12. Annex	

Introduction

The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) was founded in 1997 as a grassroots initiative in response to the negative environmental effects of manatee poaching, illegal fishing, illegal logging, destructive farming methods, and other types of unsustainable development with the mission to *foster community participation in resource management and sustainable use of ecosystems within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of present and future generations*. TIDE is an award winning non-governmental organization registered with the Government of Belize that manages a budget of over US\$ 1 million and a staff of 26 full-time and 10 part-time employees. TIDE is a leader in developing and implementing innovative programs to prevent habitat and biodiversity loss with a focus on providing alternative and environmentally friendly means for local residents to earn a living. The organization is led by a committed Board of Directors and works closely with local, national, regional and international partners.



The primary focus of TIDE has been on the coastal communities of Monkey River, Punta Negra and Punta Gorda. TIDE has expanded to include an increasing number of inland communities whose activities have an impact on the watersheds that empty into Port Honduras Marine Reserve. TIDE works with each to promote sustainable development and build local capacity to facilitate responsible resident management and a sense of ownership of natural resources.

Enforcement

A total of 805 patrols were conducted from January 2008 to December 2008. As a result of these patrols 22 gill nets were confiscated. No long lines were encountered during the course of this year. Four persons were arrested in 2008. In June 2008, one person was arrested for illegally setting of a gill net in the conservation zone. In August 2008, one person was arrested for fishing with an expired boat license and a fisher folk license. In September 2008, 2 persons were arrested for fishing without a valid fisher folk license and four was detained. All persons were brought to court and charged, with the assistance of the department's prosecutor Mr. Lyndon Rodney.

Table 1 summarizes the number of patrols done from January 2008 to December 2008 and also includes the number of arrests made, reason for arrest, number of gill nets confiscated and the number of long lines confiscated.

Table 1: Patrol summary for January 2008 to December 2008

Month	# of Patrols	# of arrests	Reason for arrest	# of gill nets confiscated	# of long lines
Jan-08	51	0		3	0
Feb-08	31			0	0
Mar-08	71			0	0
Apr-08	59	0		1	0
May-08	66	0		7	0
Jun-08	72	1	Illegally setting of a gill net within the Conservation Zone	3	0
Jul-08	79	0		0	0
Aug-08	84	1	Fishing with an expired boat license and Fisher folk license	0	0
Sep-08			2 men arrested for fishing without a valid Fisher folk License		
	92	2	4 men detained regarding same incident	2	0
Oct-08	74	0		0	0
Nov-08	78	0		0	0
Dec-08	48	0		6	0
TOTAL	805	4		22	0

Visitation

Nationality	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	TOTAL
Belizean	3	50	19	22	53	30	68	16		6	17	4	288
Americans	35	38	62	25	30	32	49	16	3	8	14	21	333
Guatemalans	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	23
Canadians	1	4	3	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	24
Germans	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
Irish	0	0	0	2									2
Mexican	1	1	10		1								13
Grenadians	0	0	0										0
Italian	4	0	0								1		5
Nicaraguan	0	6	0										6
UK	8	2	2		7	2	3	1	3	1	1		30
Netherlands	0	1	0										1
French	2	0	0					7					9
Swedish	0	2	0									4	6
Scottish	0	0	2										2
Spaniard	0	0	0				1						1
Costa Ricans	0	0	0	1									1
Australian	0	1	0		1		2	1					5
Dutch	0	0	2										2
Ecuadorian					1								1
Swiss					1								1
Danish						2							2
Argentine							1						1
Panamanian								1					1
Cypriot				2									2
Uruguayan								1					1
Japanese									2				2
Salvadoran								1					1
Indonesian											1		1
Venezuelan											1		1
New Zealanders											1		1
TOTAL	54	105	112	63	97	67	125	55	11	17	36	31	771

Staff

The Port Honduras Marine Reserve is managed by a total of 8 full time TIDE staff members for the year 2008. These include a Manager, Seleem Chan, who is supported by Head Ranger Carlos Ramirez, four full time rangers; Rodney Selgado, Godfrey Alford, Kenly Williams, Ms. Janel Borland and several temporary rangers. The ongoing research and monitoring of the reserve's biological resources is headed by the Senior Marine Biologist, Nicola L. Foster, PhD and Junior Marine Biologist, Marlon Williams.

The Head ranger and other rangers are stationed at the PHMR ranger station on a weekly basis. The staff conducts regular patrols to monitor activities within the Reserve and reduce threats such as gill-net use, illegal fishing and over-fishing. These rangers also enhance TIDE's public relations by conducting community meetings and play an active role in research activities being conducted within the Reserve. The rangers also orient visitors to the ranger station by reviewing the Reserve's educational display of rules, facilities, and zoning.

PHMR Manager: Mr. Seleem Chan

Seleem Chan is the Marine Manager for TIDE with direct oversight of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Mr. Chan earned an Associates Degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Belize. He is a licensed boat captain, a Special Constable with the Belize Police Department, a SCUBA Diver and has advanced training in the management of Marine Protected Areas. Mr. Chan managed all park activities for Sarstoon Temash National Park and protected area and has worked as a Reserve Biologist and an Environmental Educator. Mr. Chan is a native of Belize.

PHMR Head Ranger: Carlos Ramirez

Mr. Carlos Ramirez is the Head Ranger for Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Mr. Ramirez has excellent boat handling skills. His was raised by his mother and father on Head Caye, one of the islands within PHMR, hence the reason for his vast knowledge of the area. Mr. Ramirez got his primary school education in Punta Negra, one of the buffering communities to PHMR.

PHMR Senior Marine Biologist: Ms. Nicola L. Foster, PhD

Dr. Nicola Foster is the Senior Marine Biologist for the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment. Dr. Foster earned her PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of Exeter with: *Population Dynamics of the Dominant Caribbean Reef-Building Coral, Montastraea annularis*. She took her MSc in Marine Environmental Protection with distinction and her BSc with honors, both at the University of Wales. A member of the International Society for Reef Studies and the Society for Conservation Biology, Dr. Foster has conducted research in the United Kingdom, aboard the Research Vessels Prince Madog I and II, in the Bahamas, Honduras, Nicaragua, Barbados, and Belize. A published author, Dr. Foster is a SCUBA Diving Instructor, a certified power boat driver, and Marine Mammal Medic.

PHMR Junior Marine Biologist: Mr. Marlon Williams

Mr. Marlon Williams is the Junior Marine Biologist for the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. He has been with TIDE since 2004 and has excellent boat handling skills. Because of his vested interest in research and monitoring Mr. Williams was given the opportunity to work as the assistant to TIDE's lead scientist. Mr. Williams was the former Head Ranger and Assistant Manager for the Port Honduras Marine Reserve.

Ranger: Mr. Rodney Selgado

Mr. Rodney Selgado has been working with TIDE as a ranger little over a year. He is a native of Punta Gorda Town. Mr. Selgado also possessed very good boat handling skills. Previous to becoming a ranger Mr. Selgado was a fisherman.

Ranger: Mr. Godfrey Alford

Mr. Godfrey Alford is also a ranger working within the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. He was raised by a fishing family as well, and has a vested interest in marine conservation. Mr. Alford was privileged to receive his dive master training through TIDE and with his training he has been assisting in research and monitoring. Mr. Alford is also a native of Punta Gorda Town.

Ranger: Mr. Kenly Williams

Mr. Kenly Williams is also a ranger of Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Mr. Williams got his secondary education at Toledo Community College and did one year of studies at the University of Belize – Toledo Campus. Mr. Williams is a fast learner and has a strong concern for nature and conservation. Mr. Williams is also a native of Punta Gorda Town.

Ranger: Ms. Janel Borland

Janel is one of the first female rangers to work in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. She is also one of the first female rangers with a valid boat captain license and boat handling skills. Before becoming a PHMR ranger, she was a ranger for TIDE's Private Lands.

Temporary Rangers, volunteers, interns and community researchers for 2008

Narciso Martinez	Temporary Ranger	Punta Gorda Town
Edwin Lopez	Temporary Ranger	Punta Gorda Town
Elon Cuevas	Temporary Ranger	Monkey River Village

Meeting and Trainings

Meetings

On January 29th and 30th 2008 PHMR Manager and Head Ranger participated in the fourth and final two days of workshop as part of the CAPS process for the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor held at the Machaca Outreach Center in Emery Grove Village Toledo. This workshop focused on finalizing the strategic actions to abate the threats to the conservation targets, prioritize the strategic actions and come up with work plans.

On January 21st 2008 PHMR Manager and Head Ranger along with TIDE'S Executive Director and Project Manager attended meeting with members of the Rio Grande Cooperative to discuss joint efforts with their assistance to monitor illegal activities during the closed season for lobster. Fishers are interested to work along with Rangers to monitor illegal activities in the Reserve during the closed season for lobster focusing on fishers from across the border who continue to extract marine products over the years even during the closed season. Fishers are now seeing the need to help as their catch are dropping drastically and they believe that the harvesting by fishers from across the border are contributing to this during the closed season.

For the month of April 2008, the Marine Manager (PHMR) got the opportunity to represent his protected area at a Spawning Aggregation Working group meeting held in Belize City. The meeting was held on April 8th 2008 at Coastal Zone's Conference Room. At that meeting the working group got the opportunity to watch a short documentary which depicts what was the state of the Nassau Groupers and its present status. It will be used as a tool to educate the Belizean Public on the present state of the Grouper population in Belize and what must be done for its population to be replenished.

For the month of May 2008, the Marine Manager (PHMR) attended a CAPS Workshop in Placencia. The Workshop was held on May 6th & 7th 2008 at Robert's Grove. I got the opportunity to attend the second day of the workshop. The day started off with the presenter going over the materials that were discussed on the first day, after which the participants were divided into groups.

Trainings

PHMR Head Ranger Marlon Williams and Rangers Dennis Castillo this month continue to participate in joint research methodology training in monitoring of marine ecosystems and species. The training was done in-conjunction with TASTE and Friends of Nature, held at the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve a World Heritage Site on the southern tip of the Belize Barrier Reef.

Within the month of March trainings in protocol for water quality monitoring and protocol for lobster survey were conducted by Senior Marine Biologist for PHMR Rangers prior to the execution of both of these researches.

On June 13th 2008, the staff of TIDE participated in a Team Building Training held at the Machaca Hill Lodge. The training's facilitator was Ms. Joanna Monk. The purpose of the training was to assist TIDE's employees in working effectively as a team. The training lasted the entire day.

On August 20th, 2008 TIDE hosted a Boat Handling/Engine Maintenance Training for its rangers including two rangers from Yaxche Conservation Trust. The trainers were Mr. Ernest Caliz and Mr. Mario Muschamp both employees for TIDE. During the training the participants were educated on basic maintenance of the outboard engines used on a daily basis and proper handling of TIDE vessels.

Other trainings that were conducted within the month of August are as follows:

- 1. SCUBA Gears Servicing Training (by Ed Hoyt)**
- 2. MIDAS Training**
- 3. Use of Community Marine reserves for fisheries co-management and marine conservation workshop**

On September 3, 4 and 5 2008, TIDE rangers participated in a Special Writing Skills training facilitated by Belize Institute for Management. This training will provide our field staff with the ability to efficiently produce reports of activities that occur out in the field.

Within the month of October 2008, the Marine Manager for Port Honduras Marine Reserve got the opportunity to attend a workshop entitled “How is your MPA Managed?” in Barcelona Spain. Participants from eleven different countries from around the world were present at the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to review and test a rough draft of a document entitled: How is Your MPA Managed? a Step – by – Step Workbook for the planning of Effectively Managed Marine Protected Areas. The one week workshop took the participants on a step by step process of creating and properly managing a Marine Reserve.

The senior staff and other staff members from within the office got the opportunity to attend a training entitled: “Bring out the Leader in You”, held at TIDE conference room on November 28th 2008. The training was conducted by a trainer from the Belize Institute of Management (BIM).

Education/Public Awareness

On January 12th, 13th, and 25th 2008 PHMR staff assisted TIDE’S Education and Outreach Coordinator with conducting field trips for local primary(Big Falls, San Marcos, Bladen, Trio) and secondary(TCC) schools students to the PHMR and PCNP. Students were given presentations on both protected areas visited.

On February 5th PHMR manager did field trip to PCNP/PHMR and TIDE’S Private Lands Initiative with one of TIDE’S Donor organization personnel Carlos Savedra and Dianne Crockett of the SUMMIT Foundation on site visit to protected areas managed by TIDE. Purpose of the trip was to showcase TIDE’S work in these protected areas, some of which is managed with Summit Funds. Summit Foundation personnel were pleased with what they saw and pledge to continue support TIDE’S work in the protected areas it manages.

The Port Honduras Marine Reserve Field Staff makes an effort to carry out presentations to all of its visitors. The picture below depicts Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Dennis Garbutt making a presentation to a group of delegates from the United States Embassy. General information concerning the reserve is presented. As is depicted in the picture below, a painted map of Port Honduras Marine Reserve is used to give our

visitors an opportunity to see exactly where they are and where they have traveled. It also, depicts the three different zones of the Reserve; the Conservation Zone, the General Use and the Preservation Zone.



Head Ranger Carlos Ramirez presenting to visitors on the importance of PHMR

TIDE through its Education Outreach Programs continues to provide the general public with information on TIDE conservation activities especially on the management of protected areas and rules and regulations on the Marine reserve. During the month of May Educational Field Visit was implemented for Monkey River Primary School as part of the awareness campaign on the endangered species protection of PHMR and the importance of a sustainable Environment. Students of Monkey River community were able to learn about the importance of Corals and other marine habitats and how it affects livelihoods. These students did not only visit PHMR, but was also fortunate to visit the PCNP which is adjacent to PHMR reserve. They were able to see the importance and connectivity of both protected areas.



During the month of May TIDE Education Outreach presented a Poster display as part of the Monkey River and Punta Negra community festivities. These communities which buffer both PHMR and PCNP play a vital role in the sustainable management of the resources of the area. TIDE continue to work with these communities to manage the natural resources and at the same time seeking opportunities for community members to engage in alternative livelihood enterprises that will provide income generation to families who depend on the marine resources, and at the same time provide sustainable management support.

Fuel Usage

The field staff of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve receives a total of 70 gals of premium gas on a weekly basis to conduct surveillance and patrols. A weekly itinerary is prepared with the proposed patrols for the week; this is then reviewed and approved by the Programs Coordinator.

Revenues (revenues received by the reserve by month)

Month	Amount per Month	\$ Amount
January	5	\$ 50.00
February	144	\$ 1440.00
March	183	\$ 1830.00
April	88	\$ 880.00
May	118	\$ 1180.00
June	27	\$ 270.00
July	40	\$ 400.00
August	53	\$ 530.00
September		
October	17	\$ 170.00
November	50	\$ 500.00
December	50	\$ 500.00
Total Tickets	775	\$7750.00
Total Tickets Issued for 2008	814	

Income and Expenditure Statement

Income

4001 - Grants	783,065.64
4004 - Donations & Other Income	<u>5,562.30</u>
Total Income	<u><u>788,627.94</u></u>

Expense

3001 - Equipment	98,620.55
3002 - Furniture and Fixtures	1,100.00
3005 - Buildings	29,244.63
5001 - Salaries & Wages	266,732.01
5002 - Travel & Transportation	14,556.34
5003 - Cleaning & Sanitation	1,143.50
5004 - Donations	1,980.92
5005 - Dues & Subscriptions	266.45
5006 - Insurance, Licensing & Permits	20,471.29
5007 - Postage & Delivery	9.00
5008 - Profesional Fees	65,578.98
5009 - Public Awareness & Env. Ed.	12,539.49

5010 - Repairs and Maintenance	62,090.06
5011 - Supplies	28,134.87
5012 - Training	44,526.90
5013 - Taxes	2,486.72
5014 - Board/Advisory Board Expense	7,161.14
5015 - Utilities	3,553.69
5016 - Telephone, Comm. & Internet	10,531.42
5017 - Bank Charges	61.88
5019 - Reserves & Parks Improvement	9,062.18
5020 - Net Working	15,151.30
5025 - Institutional Strengthening &	21,935.82
5026 - Research & Monitoring	22,586.73
5035 - Surveillance, Patrol & Enforce	37,715.69
5036 - Disaster Preparedness	<u>620.03</u>
Total Expense	<u><u>777,861.59</u></u>
Surplus of Income over Expense	<u><u>10,766.35</u></u>

Equipment and Infrastructure

The Port Honduras Marine Reserve boasts of its equipment and infrastructure. Situated on Abalone Caye inside the reserve is our ranger station, which is equipped with 5 bed rooms, a huge hall that serves as a conference room, dining room and displays our educational materials, a kitchen, an observatory tower and a store room on the lower flat. The reserve is also equipped with two functioning patrol vessels (25ft fiber glass skiff & a 23ft fiber glass skiff) and a third 25ft fiber glass skiff which is under repairs.

A second substation was constructed within the Conservation Zone on West Snake Caye. This building has one bedroom with a display room and also a second observatory tower.



Recommendation

Recommendations are listed below:

1. Continue to have regular exchanges with other Marine Protected Areas within the country of Belize
2. Continue to offer as much support as possible to the staff of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve
3. Assist in deploying demarcation and mooring buoys within the Port Honduras Marine Reserve
4. Provide additional training in law enforcement and the overall understanding of the laws of Belize that governs our maritime sea.

Conclusion

To conclude our annual report for 2008, I would want to thank the staff of TIDE for their continued support and hard work they have invested in conservation. To the field staff, Carlos, Godfrey, Rodney, Kenly, Ms. Janel, Narciso, and Edwin continue to grow and strive for excellent in the work that we do, and always remember to appreciate one and other for who we are. Each and every one of us brings something to the table.

To the Belize Fisheries Department Belize City and to the Department here in Punta Gorda, thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to continue working with you in 2009. May God bless us all.