

Roatán Marine Park Newsletter

December 2010 Highlights



SBWEMP and RMPSSC Patrols



A total of 32 masks, 15 fins, 9 spears or Hawaiian slings, 6 spear guns, 6 gaffs, 2 lobster traps and 1 net were confiscated throughout the Sandy Bay-West End Marine Park (SBWEMP) in 2010 by our Park Rangers with assistance from the police.

Marine Infrastructure Update



In 2010, the RMP installed 7 new dive moorings and maintained a total of 59 within the SBWEMP and 29 on the Southside. In addition, 6 fishing moorings were installed at Cordelia Banks. Also, 20 yacht moorings are available now within SBWEMP and 8 in the French Cay area.

Lionfish Update



After 183 lionfish were reported and 75 killed in 2009, the numbers have greatly increased in 2010. Just on the Southside, between 1,200 and 1,500 lionfish were caught. Sizes vary from 1 to 14 inches; the biggest registered lionfish caught was 14 in long and weighed over 2 pounds!

Education Statistics



the information given in the classrooms.

This year, 3,156 children from all around the island were part of the RMP's education program. Activities including celebrations of environmental days, beach cleanups, glass bottom boat trips, snorkel tours, diving, and recycling, among others, were organized to enhance

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Introduction

12 months of hard work that included several challenges but also many accomplished objectives have now past. An increase of development on the island, more visitors, the increasing number of lionfish, among other things, are not helping to make work easier. The RMP however struggled continuously throughout the year to contribute to reef conservation. Examples of our contributions include daily patrols; maintenance of dive, yacht and fishing moorings within the SBWEMP and the Southside, as well as channel markers; 3,156 children targeted by our education program; 523 members of community groups (tour guides, water & land taxi drivers, teachers, patronatos, dive shops, university students, among others) trained through our Coral Reef Leadership Network; new lionfish videos were developed to create awareness of this invasive species; beach & underwater cleanups. All of this was possible only with the help of our supporters and volunteers.

Thanks to all for your continuous support and may 2011 be a year of joy, love, happiness, prosperity, and of course, a healthy reef.

Patrols

Sandy Bay West End Marine Park Patrols

Number of items confiscated and cases reported within the Marine Park

Cases / Item	Number
Incidents	46
Imprisonments	25
Community service	11
Masks	32
Fins	12
Spear and slings	9
Spear guns	6
Lobster gaffs/hooks	6
Lobster traps	2
Gill net	1
BCD and regs	1
Live conch released	110
Dead lobster	80

46 incidents occurred within the SBWEMP in 2010, 25 individuals were imprisoned and 11 sent to do community service. Fines were also imposed since we had the support from the Municipal police for several months of the year. A new park guard was integrated into the patrol team in 2010 and 3 new VHF radios were donated by Ocean Connections. With these new acquisitions, it is our main objective in 2011 to provide a better service to the community.



South Side Chapter Patrols

Items confiscated on the South Side

Incident	Number
Masks	20
Spears and slings	9
Fins	6
Spear guns	5
Gaffs	4
Lobster traps	3
Nets	2

The South Side patrol has been busy throughout 2010 as is evident by looking at the figures in the adjacent tables. However they were somewhat intermittent in December due to the lack of policemen from the high incidence of crimes around the island. With no policemen available, it's not safe for the park ranger to patrol alone.

Incidents reported on the South Side

Incident	Number
Anchoring on reef	20
Arrested	9
Oil spills	6
Imprisoned	5
Mangrove cuts	4
Land fills	3
Reef groundings	2

Infrastructure

Summary of the marine infrastructure available at the end of 2009 and 2010

Mooring	Location	2009	2010
Dive moorings	SBWEMR	62	59
Dive moorings	South Side	26	29
Fishing moorings	SBWEMR	3	0
Fishing moorings	Cordelia Banks	10	10
Yacht moorings	SBWEMR	8	20
Yacht moorings	French Cay	10	8
Channel markers			
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>SBWEMR</i>	<i>\$5,970</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>

As shown in the table on the left, a total of 59 dive moorings are now available in the SBWEMP. Regarding the yacht moorings, these are located between West End and West Bay. 14 were originally funded by PMAIB in 2008 and in 2010 funds were received from Project AWARE to install 6 new ones and renovate the existing ones. A fee was introduced with backing from the Municipality of Roatan, which generated \$3,600, and \$1,000 was donated to West End community projects. Channel markers

have been installed and maintained in 8 channels within the protected area: West Bay, Luna Beach, West End, Half Moon Bay, Gibson Bight, AKR, Mangrove Bight and Sandy Bay. On the South Side, 4 new dive moorings were installed including Mary's Place and Cemetery Wall. 17 dive moorings were repaired and 29 moorings are now available.

Future plans include the installation and maintenance of a swim zone inside Half Moon Bay, renovation of the one in West Bay, expansion of the yacht mooring program, installation of fishing moorings within the Reserve, more dive moorings near Flowers Bay and use of heavy duty channel markers.



Education

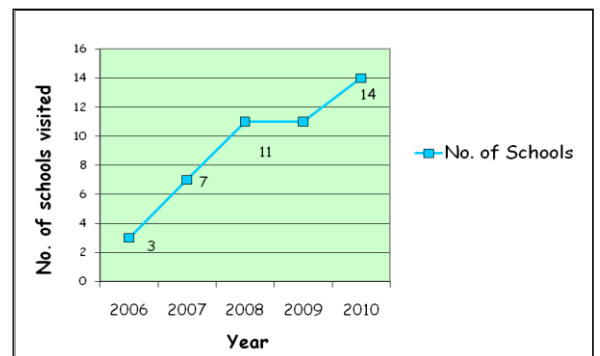
ESBIR Children learn about the Reef Ecosystem

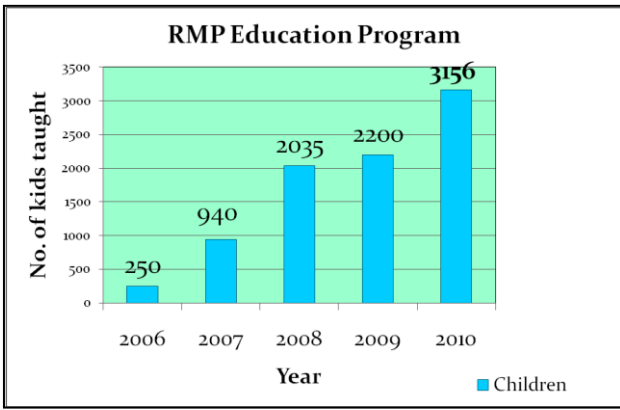


Just a few weeks before the end of 2010, 3rd graders from ESBIR had lots of fun with the RMP's visit to talk all about Reef Ecosystems. They enjoyed the virtual snorkel tour to the mangroves and sea grass beds, as well as the virtual dive onto the reef, where they were able to see the lagoon, coral heads, reef crest, reef front and outer reef slope. The question-answer part of the lecture was left until the end, and many interesting questions came up, such as "how big is the ocean?" The use of the world map, an example of 2 glasses of water and 1 of soil and a little assistance from their teacher, Ms. Caroline, were all very helpful.

Summary of Education Achievements for 2010

2010 was definitely a year of success for the education program run by the RMP. The number of education centers addressed increased from 11 to 14. These are located within the Sandy Bay-West End Marine Park and beyond its boundaries: Mud Hole, Coxen Hole, Dixon Cove, Los Fuertes and French Harbor.





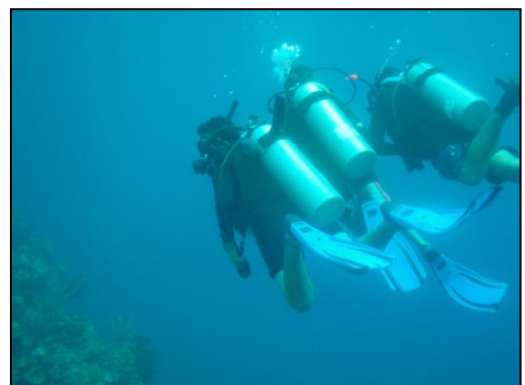
Classroom lectures, glass bottom boat trips, snorkeling tours, mangrove replantation, contests, cleanups, paper recycling, and many more activities were all part of the program. Once again, the amount of children taught surpassed the mark of the previous year (2,200 in 2009 to 3,156 in 2010!). Students from kindergarten to high school participated.



Field trips and hands-on activities developed in 2010

Creating Awareness and Providing an Alternative to the Youth of Roatan by facilitating Diving Course Scholarships

In conjunction with some dive shops from West End, in 2010 the Marine Park provided a total of 9 scholarships for Open Water Courses, as well as 1 Rescue and 1 Divemaster. The purpose of the project is to give locals an alternative livelihood that would further incorporate them into the diving business. Local high school students who have shown exceptional interest for reef conservation are also being benefited by such scholarships. All dive shops interested in becoming a part of this project are invited to contact us if they want to join the cause in 2011.



Kids experiencing diving for the first time

Meetings and Workshops

RMP General Assembly 2010

Every year, the RMP organizes a General Assembly where everyone learns about the organization's achievements for the past year, goals for the future, and also discusses any concerns. The RMP held its annual General Assembly on December 16th, and had each of our managers present their achievements for 2010. In addition to informing them of our activities, oceanologist Giacomo Palavicini had the opportunity to present the results and goals of the Shark Legacy Project, which is being developed under the umbrella of the RMP. The new voluntary standards for the South Side were also mentioned at the General Assembly, so dive operators from the north are aware of the standards on the south. We would like to thank all those who attended and participated that night and Blue Marlin in West End for kindly letting us use their space.



Invitation to General Assembly

New Cooperation Agreements with DIGEPESCA



After a year of waiting and several meetings, we finally got our agreement of cooperation between the RMP and DIGEPESCA (National Fisheries Department), which is to consolidate efforts on patrols and research. This will give us jurisdiction all around the island and therefore, according to DIGEPESCA, we finally be able to bring the Navy here to work on patrols, since it will be a request from DIGEPESCA directly.

Public Awareness

Coral Reef Leadership Network

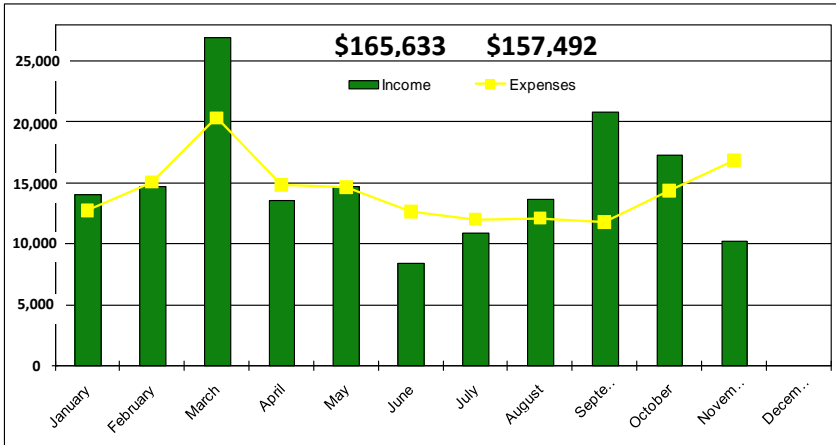


Taxi & minibus drivers after training with CRLN leader, Juan Valla

Created to reduce negative tourism impacts on reefs, the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) has developed an approach to provide information about coral-friendly practices to marine tourism operators and people visiting reef areas: the Coral Reef Leadership Network (CRLN). Launched in Roatán at the end of 2009 and implemented by the RMP all through last year, the CRLN has trained a total of 523 people including: 150 tour guides, 203 taxi & mini bus drivers, 38 dive shop staff, 30 teachers, 27 Water taxi captains from West End & Oak Ridge, 25 people working on beaches, 35 Community groups and 15 University students.

Wrapping things up

Summary of Accounts for 2010



With months where expenses have been higher than income, the RMP again had to financially struggle to survive in 2010. We can only hope the coming year is better through the implementation of an increase of the RMP voluntary user fee, which will now be \$15 for a year, \$10 for the week and a \$5 daily fee. Also, a lot of work was done at the end of 2010 by submitting grants to different international organizations in order to continue providing environmental protection and services to the community.



Refurbished Eco-Store

Our eco-store in West End has a new look! Stop by and check it out. Take a look at our RMP official merchandise, eco-friendly products, locally made crafts and much more! Don't forget the 2011 calendars, available for \$15 each or 2 for \$25.

Open from Monday to Sunday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Credit cards accepted.



Win a week of diving at Anthony's Key Resort

Anthony's Key Resort has kindly donated a "Diving Package for One" to the Roatan Marine Park which includes a 1 week hotel accommodation, 3 meals a day, 3 single tank boat dives per day and much more. Tickets are only \$50 each with all money going to the RMP. To find out more, please visit our [website](#).



Become our fan on Facebook!

We have a **Facebook** page on which we post a host of relevant links and photos. Stop by, check it out, and become our fan to receive updates and invites. So far we have over 3,100 fans. Recommend us to your friends and let's break that 3,250 mark!



Our newsletter is sponsored by Roatan Life Real Estate & Roatan Life Vacation Rentals. Roatan Life will donate 10% of net commission earned on the sale of any property or any vacation rental to the RMP if the customer mentions that they saw Roatan Life on the Marine Park Newsletter. Please contact Roatan Life for all of your real estate and rental needs at www.roatanlife.com and www.roatanlifelvacationrentals.com or +504-445-3130 or from the U.S. at +1-970-300-4078.

As always, we would like to thank all our supporters and volunteers for the help they've given us in the past month. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to email us at info@roatanmarinepark.net. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or stop by our offices in Half Moon Bay and Barefoot Cay.

Grazia, Nic,
Licario and Cesy

