

What is Marine Spatial Planning and why is data so important?

Social Media Trivia

Communication and Visibility Material

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Submitted by: Science for Sustainability Ltd (SSL).

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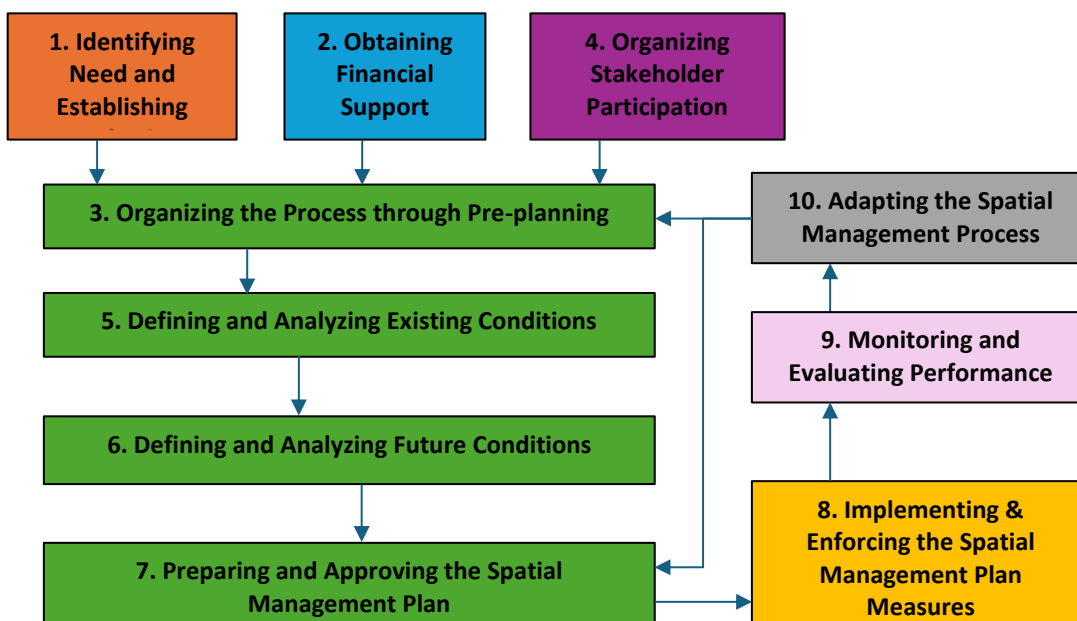
Title: What is Marine Spatial Planning and why is data so important?

Question 1. What is Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)?

Answer: MSP is a public process of analyzing the distribution of human activities, habitats and natural resources in marine areas, across space and time, to establish specific use zones for achieving ecological, economic and social objectives in an open and planned way.

Question 2. How many steps are there in the MSP process?

Answer: 10 Steps



Question 3. What two steps of the MSP process depend on analyzing data to inform decision making regarding use of the blue space?

Answer:

Step 5 – Defining and Analyzing Existing Conditions

AND

Step 6 – Defining and Analyzing Future Conditions.

Question 4: What are two types of data outputs obtained in step 5?

Answer:

- Inventory and maps of important biological and ecological areas
- Inventory and maps of existing human activities and pressures
- Maps of possible conflicts and compatibilities among existing human uses
- Maps of possible conflicts and compatibilities between human uses and nature

Question 5: List and describe two data gaps for Belize that can affect the MSP process?

Answer:

Coastal Geomorphology

The landforms that develop and persist along the coastline of Belize and their influence on the development and evolution of the coast, littoral zone, beaches, nearshore and offshore environments is an area lacking in suitable data.

Hydrography

Complete bathymetric data showing underwater features for the entire extent of Belize's seas and exclusive economic zone is an outstanding need and priority for planning and development of the maritime area.

Land Tenure

An updated land tenure dataset, including leasehold, freehold and public lands, is necessary to properly plan for multiple and future uses of Belize's coastal space.

Biodiversity Hotspots

A good understanding of biodiversity resources (species richness and abundance) as well as biodiversity status (threatened or otherwise) is needed across ALL Belize's habitats and ecosystems in the blue space, but especially deep reef and pelagic ecosystems of the EEZ.

Future Scenario Projections

Best practice guidelines from the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO recommends looking to future scenarios to decide present day use of the ocean. Priority future uses for Belize's blue space include mariculture, biopharmaceuticals and offshore renewable energy.

Long-term Research Data

MSP requires a long-term commitment to data collection, management and analysis. But long-term data, over many decades, needed to understand the significance of human impacts, are frequently not available when MSP is initiated. Establishment of long-term research data to inform implementation of the BSOP is crucial.