



BARBADOS MARINE SPATIAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2025



A NEW PHASE BEGINS!

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Newsletter. Our journey to sustainably manage Barbados' marine space continues to gain momentum, and we are pleased to share that the MSP process is now moving into a new, crucial phase.

As shown in the MSP roadmap, we have progressed from Phase 2, where we focused on identifying key issues and gathering essential information, to **Phase 3: Analysing Information and Generating Options**. This means we are now **using the valuable feedback, data, and local knowledge collected so far to develop informed scenarios and practical options for how Barbados can best use and protect its ocean space.**

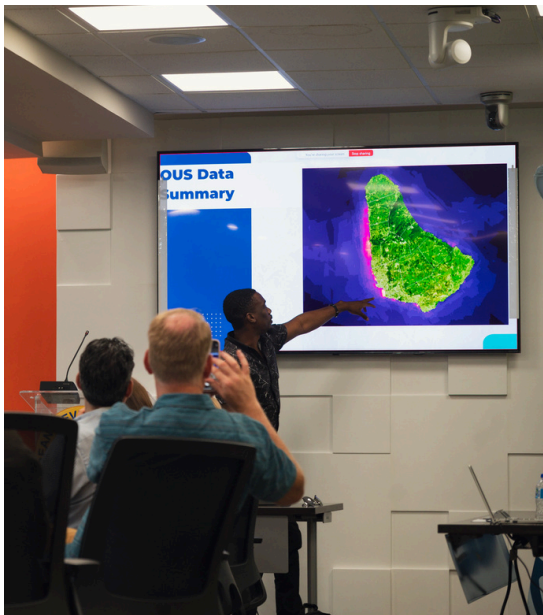
This stage is about turning information into action, carefully balancing the needs of our marine ecosystems, coastal communities, and economy. As always, stakeholder engagement remains at the centre of every step we take, ensuring that your voices and priorities continue to shape the plan.



We look forward to sharing updates, options, and opportunities for you to stay involved as we move through this important next phase together.

In this Issue

- A New Phase Begins- Cover story
- Barbados Advances Ocean Planning with Natural Capital Accounting Workshop- page 2
- Let's Set Sail- Bathymetric Survey Begins Soon- page 3
- Ocean Use Survey Completed- page 3
- MSP in the Community- page 4
- A Tide of Ideas: Wrapping Up our First Round of Community Conversations- page 4
- What's Next? page 5



BARBADOS ADVANCES OCEAN PLANNING WITH NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP

At the end of June, Barbados hosted a successful Natural Capital Accounting Workshop at the Caribbean Development Bank, bringing together government ministries, technical experts, and regional partners to strengthen how the island measures the value of its marine and coastal ecosystems. Organised by the Marine Spatial Planning Unit (MSPU) with the support of the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), eftec (UK-based environmental economics firm) and the Blue Marine Foundation, the workshop introduced the UN SEEA-EA framework to help Barbados better understand and include nature's benefits—like coral reefs, fisheries, and beaches—into national planning.

Dr. Leo Brewster, Director of the CZMU, explained that this work directly supports the Marine Spatial Planning process now underway, providing the evidence Barbados needs to balance conservation with economic opportunity. “By quantifying these services, we can make smarter, sustainable decisions about how our marine space is used now and in the future,” he said.

Read more about the workshop and how natural capital accounting strengthens Barbados' Marine Spatial Plan [by clicking here](#).

 info@barbadosmarinespatialplan.com

  [@barbados_msp](#)



L-R Dr. Leo Brewster (Director, CZMU), Tommy Furey (Marine Institute of Ireland), Mr. Aodhan Fitzgerald (Marine Institute of Ireland), The Hon. Ryan Straughan (Minister in the Ministry of Finance), Ms. Yolande Howard (PS. Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy) and Mr. Michael "Mikey" Mercer (MSP Ambassador) at the signing ceremony.

LET'S SET SAIL!

We are delighted to announce that Barbados is set to launch its first-ever bathymetric survey in the coming days through a new partnership with the Marine Institute of Ireland. Just a few weeks ago, the visiting team from Ireland journeyed to Barbados to officially sign the vessel agreement and begin planning the logistics for this milestone project.



The deep-sea survey will be the island's first to map the seafloor and study the water columns in the outer reaches of Barbados' Exclusive Economic Zone, providing crucial data to inform the Marine Spatial Plan and guide the sustainable use of our marine resources.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of the signing ceremony, and look out for more details as the research vessel makes its way into Barbados.

Survey dates: August 15 to September 17, 2025

OCEAN USE SURVEY COMPLETED

This milestone marks a major step in understanding how our marine space is used and valued. The Marine Spatial Planning Unit extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who took the time to share their knowledge and insights. Your input will help shape a plan that balances conservation with livelihoods. Next, the team will move into data validation meetings with stakeholders across multiple sectors to ensure the information collected is accurate and reflects the voices of all who depend on, utilize and care for our ocean.



 info@barbadosmarinespatialplan.com

  [@barbados_msp](https://www.instagram.com/barbados_msp)



MSP IN THE COMMUNITY

The Marine Spatial Planning team has been busy taking the conversation beyond meeting rooms and into the heart of the community, connecting with Barbadians where they live and work. One lively highlight was the team's engaging presence at the Oistins Fish Festival, where visitors stopped by the booth to learn more about the Marine Spatial Plan, share their thoughts on ocean use, and pick up educational materials.

As we look back on this energetic day of community interaction and local pride, check out our flashback video to see the action, the conversations, and the spirit of Oistins that continues to inspire this national plan.



A TIDE OF IDEAS: WRAPPING UP OUR FIRST ROUND OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Over the past months, the Marine Spatial Planning team travelled across all 11 parishes, hosting community listening sessions to give Barbadians an informal chance to share their ideas and vision for how our marine space should be used and protected. From central town meetings to lively stops at village shops, farmers' markets, and fish markets, these conversations captured local knowledge and everyday experiences that will help guide the Marine Spatial Plan. Now that the sessions have come to a close, a full report is available online for everyone to see how these voices are shaping the future of Barbados' ocean.



[Click here to read more.](#)

 info@barbadosmarinespatialplan.com

  [@barbados_msp](https://www.instagram.com/barbados_msp)

WHAT'S NEXT!

As Barbados' Marine Spatial Planning process moves forward, we're entering an exciting new phase: taking all the valuable data, ideas, and local knowledge gathered so far and carefully analysing it to develop a few design options for how our marine space could be used and protected. Stakeholder engagement remains at the heart of this work, because your input ensures the plan truly reflects Barbados' shared vision for a healthy, productive ocean. We're now halfway through this national effort, and in the months ahead, all this input will come together into the island's first draft Marine Spatial Plan.

Stay tuned and stay involved...our future depends on it!



SECTORAL MEETINGS

Sessions with fisheries, tourism, maritime transport, conservation and energy will help validate the data collected so far and ensure that no major information or local knowledge has been overlooked. By checking in directly with those who use and depend on the ocean every day, we're making sure the Marine Spatial Plan is built on the most accurate picture possible of how Barbados' marine space works and what it needs for the future.



NEW CAMPAIGN TO MAKE A SPLASH!

Get ready to dive in—our new campaign will be making a splash across Barbados! This fun, fresh effort will bring the Marine Spatial Planning process to life through a brand-new television series, a lively social media series hosted by MSP Ambassador Mikey Mercer, outdoor messages you can spot around the island, and even radio trivia games with chances to win ocean-inspired prizes. Stay tuned as we make a splash together and keep Barbados talking about our ocean future!



PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Up next for wide-spread stakeholder engagement, the Marine Spatial Planning team will soon host a new round of public consultations to keep everyone involved in shaping Barbados' ocean future. At these sessions, three draft zoning designs for the island's marine space will be presented, giving all ocean users a chance to see what's proposed and share their feedback, so stay tuned for dates and make your voice heard!

A note on Grievances

As we prepare to develop several zoning design options, we have also implemented our grievance redress mechanism. Further details on requirements and the process can be found by visiting [our website](#).



Get in on de plan!

[Subscribe to our mailing list](#)



As we continue shaping the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan, your voice remains essential in building a sustainable future for our marine space. We encourage you to stay engaged, attend upcoming consultations, and follow our updates on social media. Thank you for being part of this journey!



BARBADOS
MARINE SPATIAL PLAN



barbadosmarinespatialplan.com



[@barbados_msp](https://www.facebook.com/barbados_msp)

Click the icons to visit our pages.