



BARBADOS MARINE SPATIAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

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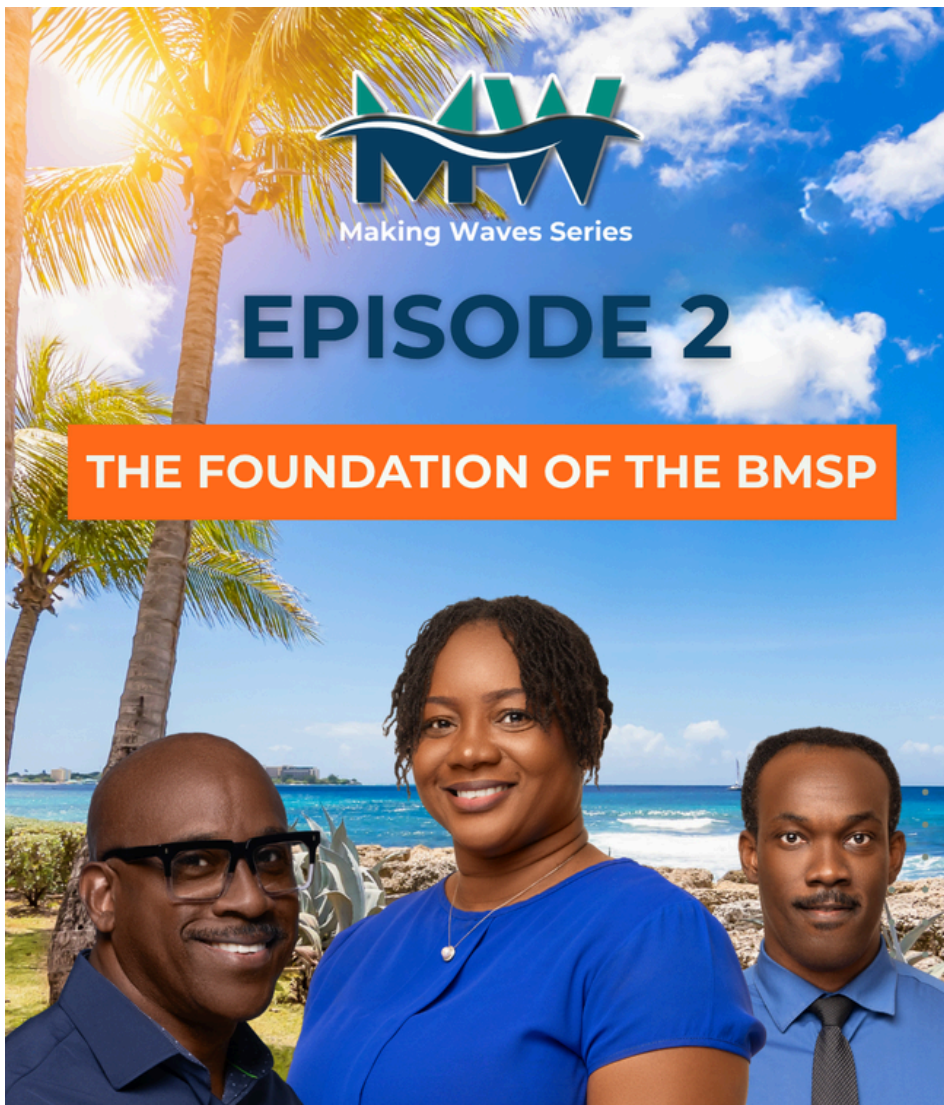
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS, AND CHARTING THE FUTURE

As we move through 2026, the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan (BMSP) continues to make meaningful progress toward a healthier, more resilient ocean for present and future generations.

This quarter has been marked by several important milestones. We concluded a major phase of stakeholder engagement with the Deep-Sea Zone Design consultations, expanded our marine environmental education programme through hands-on gully tours with secondary school students, increased public visibility through the launch of our branded bus and bus shelter, and strengthened community partnerships through youth and cultural initiatives.

We are also excited to share updates on upcoming scientific research, including shark surveys, new seafloor mapping activities, and a special collaboration with National Geographic.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to ensure Barbados' marine resources are managed sustainably for generations to come.



MAKING WAVES EPISODE 2 GOES BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BMSP

The second episode of Making Waves, the documentary series chronicling Barbados' Marine Spatial Planning journey, is now available to watch.

Titled **The Foundation of the BMSP**, the episode takes viewers behind the scenes to explore how this groundbreaking national initiative got started and what it takes to keep a project of this scale moving forward. Featuring members of the project team, the documentary highlights the planning, coordination, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration required to keep the process on schedule while working toward a shared vision for Barbados' ocean future.

[Watch Episode 2 here.](#)

Deep-Sea Zone Design Consultations Reach a Successful Conclusion

After months of engagement and dialogue, the BMSP has successfully concluded consultations on the proposed Deep-Sea Zone Design. The consultation process brought together stakeholders from across sectors and members of the public to discuss opportunities, concerns, and priorities related to the management and sustainable use of Barbados' deep-sea environment. The feedback received provided valuable insights that will help shape future planning and decision-making. Through a consultative process that was grounded in science, four (4) zone designs were presented, and further refined based on stakeholder input. In the end, one preferred option emerged, which has been submitted for review.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated and contributed their expertise, perspectives, and lived experiences throughout this important process.

Stay tuned for details on the nearshore consultations!



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ON THE ROAD WITH THE BMSP

AND OUR DESTINATION SUSTAINABLE SEAS CAMPAIGN

This quarter, we launched our branded electric bus and bus shelter, expanding public awareness efforts across the island. While it is indeed a branding initiative, the Destination: Sustainable Seas campaign reflects the BMSP's commitment to ensuring that marine spatial planning remains visible, accessible, and relevant to everyday Barbadians. As the bus travels throughout communities, it serves as a reminder that our ocean supports livelihoods, food security, tourism, culture, and economic development, making sustainable ocean management a shared national responsibility.

The launch forms part of a broader communications strategy that includes community outreach, educational programming, media engagement, and public awareness campaigns designed to keep the conversation around Barbados' ocean future alive. Supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, the initiative invites all Barbadians to learn more and "Get in On De Plan."

Keep an eye out for the bus as it travels throughout the island.

[Click here to watch remarks delivered](#) by The Hon. Santia Bradshaw, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries, The Hon. Ryan Straughn, Minister of Finance, Mr. Francesco De Simone, Chief of Operations, InterAmerican Development Bank and Dr. Leo Brewster, Director CZMU.



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UTOPIA OF THE SEA COMES TO CROP OVER

This year, the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan is proud to support the Arthur Smith School's Junior Kadooment Band in collaboration with Kaleidoscope Productions, whose 2026 presentation, Utopia of the Sea, celebrates the rich diversity of marine life found in Barbados' waters. Through colourful and imaginative costumes inspired by ocean species, young revellers will showcase the beauty and wonder of the marine environment while participating in one of Barbados' most cherished cultural traditions.

The partnership extends beyond the road. Band registrants are also participating in ocean literacy workshops designed to help them learn more about Barbados' marine ecosystems and the importance of protecting them. Many Arthur Smith School students are already engaged in the BMSP's Marine Education and Ocean Literacy Programme, making this initiative a natural extension of our efforts to connect young people with the ocean through education, creativity, and culture.



BRINGING OCEAN LITERACY TO LIFE

This quarter, secondary school students participated in guided gully tours, exploring the important connections between land-based activities and the health of Barbados' marine environment. Meanwhile, we continued to introduce primary school students to the wonders of the ocean in exciting ways.

The classroom sessions, and tours encouraged critical thinking about environmental stewardship and highlighted the role young people can play in protecting Barbados' natural resources. These experiences are helping to build the next generation of ocean advocates and informed environmental leaders.

Interested in learning more? Watch the episodes of Seaside Chat [on our Youtube Channel](#).



NEW RELEASE: OUR MSP UPDATE VIDEO

Curious about what we've been working on and what we've achieved?

Our latest BMSP update video highlights some key achievements, partnerships, research activities, stakeholder engagement efforts, and community outreach initiatives that have taken place over the past three years.

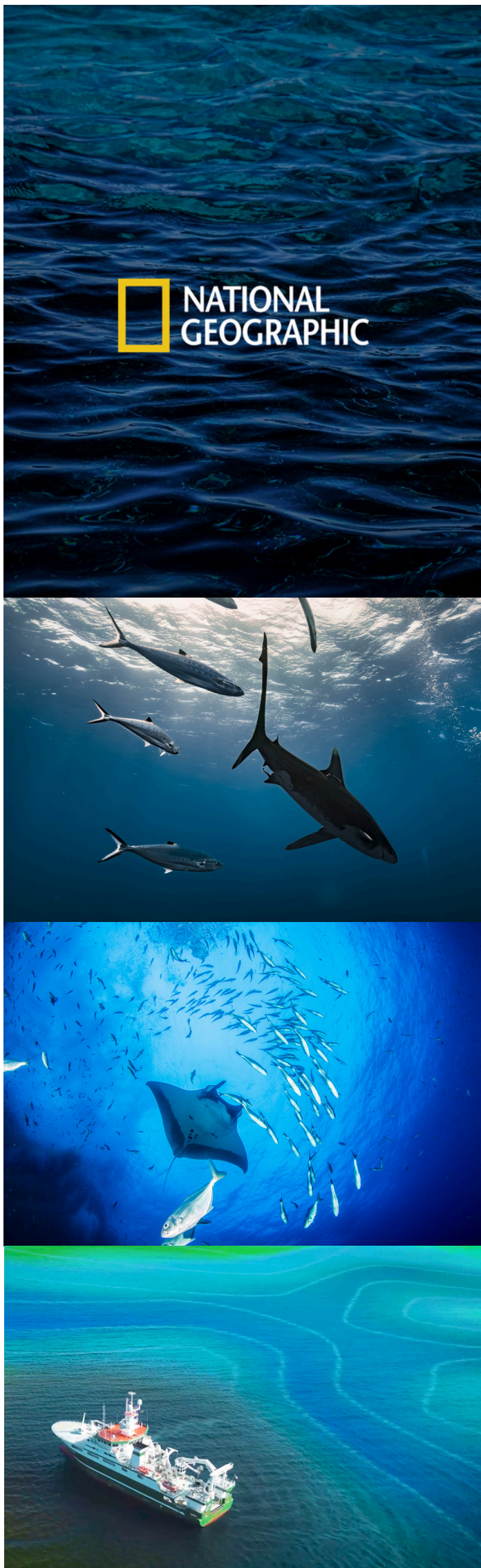
We invite you to share it with your networks and help spread awareness about the important work being undertaken through the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan.



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

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LOOKING AHEAD: EXCITING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON THE HORIZON

Welcoming National Geographic to Barbados

We are pleased to announce that we will soon welcome National Geographic's Exploration Technology Lab as they utilize deep sea camera systems to investigate marine ecosystems around Barbados in areas up to 350m deep. Working with National Geographic Explorer's Dr. Aliyah Griffith, the expedition seeks to shed some light on these little known marine environments. Follow the BMSP on social media for updates on this as it unfolds.

Shark and Ray Research

The BMSP will be undertaking shark and ray research designed to improve our understanding of populations, distribution, and habitat use for these important predators within Barbados' marine environment. Making use of underwater video systems, the research will occur on nearshore reef environments (< 40 m depth), around the entire island. The information collected will contribute to evidence-based marine management and conservation efforts

Seafloor Mapping Survey

The second phase of Barbados' sea floor mapping survey is scheduled to take place later this year to continue the process of better understanding our marine environment. Commissioned by the Government of Barbados, the Marine Institute of Ireland is expected to return with a team of scientists on board one of its research vessels to continue the mapping process. During the first survey round, approximately 24% of Barbados' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was successfully mapped. We look forward to returning to the high seas to undertake this important work.

Always in our hearts

DR. SHELLY-ANN COX

We are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Dr Cox, Chief Fisheries Officer (CFO), who worked closely with several members of our team. "Shelly" was a fierce advocate for building a fisheries sector that is resilient, sustainable, and of benefit to all. She could stand tall with regional and global research giants, but she truly came alive when she was amongst fisherfolk, fishing boats and in the markets.

For the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan, she was a true champion, showing up and showing out at every turn. We will never forget her unwavering commitment to partnership, collaboration and to getting the job done. Her support didn't just look like attending Project Steering Committee Meetings, it looked like showing up at various stakeholder consultations across the country, strategizing on calls about best approaches for Fisheries, it looked like a message with an idea, and it looked like adding her voice to help deliver important MSP-related messages to her stakeholders.

We extend sincere condolences to her son Shae, her family and friends, The Fisheries Division, fisherfolk across the island, and the wider Blue Economy community in Barbados.

Rest in Peace "Shelly", go with the tide!





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