



BARBADOS MARINE SPATIAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

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The Latest News

As our understanding of Barbados' ocean space continues to grow, so too does the work happening around it. This quarter took us from scientific research and preparations for the next phase of seafloor mapping, to important conversations with the people who know and use our marine space. Through education, cultural activities, and public engagement, we continued finding meaningful ways to bring the ocean into the national conversation. In this edition of the BluePrint, we share some of those stories, reflect on the progress made over the past few months, and look ahead to an equally busy final quarter of 2026. **Let's dive in!**

THE OCEAN WENT TO JUNIOR KADOOMENT!

There were feathers, colour, plenty of energy and this Crop Over, even the ocean had a place on the road.

Through its sponsorship of Utopia of the Seas, a Junior Kadooment band under Kaleidoscope Productions at the Arthur Smith Primary School, the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan (BMSP) found another way to bring marine awareness into the heart of Barbadian culture.

The young masqueraders took to the road in a presentation inspired by the marine environment, carrying the message of our ocean into one of the season's most joyful celebrations. And they didn't just make an impression **Utopia of the Seas placed second in the Environmental Category.**

For the BMSP, however, the experience was about more than a prize.

Children are important stakeholders in the future we are planning. Finding ways for them to learn about and connect with the ocean doesn't always have to begin with a textbook or a classroom presentation. Sometimes it can happen through colour, creativity, movement and play. This Crop Over, our youngest ocean advocates showed us exactly what that can look like.

[Click here to see the live action.](#)



Photo Credit: The National Cultural Foundation

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OUR SONG GOT A REMIX!

If we're going to talk to Barbadians about our ocean, why not do it in a way that catches many of us?

The BMSP song returned for Crop Over 2026 with a new remix, bringing fresh energy to one of the project's most distinctly Barbadian communications initiatives.

The original song was created as an accessible and memorable way of introducing marine spatial planning through culture. The Crop Over version takes that idea one step further, connecting the BMSP message with the sounds and energy of Barbados' largest cultural festival.

[Click here](#) to listen to the remix and stay tuned for a new dance video featuring the iconic landship and tuk band of Barbados.

MAKING WAVES EPISODE 3 WITH OUR MARINE EDUCATION TEAM

What does it take to help the next generation of Barbadians better understand the ocean around them? Episode 3 of Making Waves turns the spotlight on the BMSP Education Workstream and its efforts to build marine awareness and ocean literacy among Barbadians.

Hosted by BMSP Cultural Ambassador Mikey Mercer, the episode goes behind the scenes of our marine education and ocean literacy programme, highlighting how the importance of the ocean, and what's happening with the ecosystems around Barbados.

[Catch Episode 3 of Making Waves.](#)



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NEW BRANDED BUS SHELTER UNDER THE “DESTINATION: SUSTAINABLE SEAS” CAMPAIGN

Marine spatial planning isn't only happening in meeting rooms or out at sea. Increasingly, Barbadians are encountering the conversation as they move through their everyday lives.

This quarter, the “Destination: Sustainable Seas” campaign expanded with the introduction of a branded BMSP bus shelter, sponsored by the InterAmerican Development Bank, adding another visible element to the project's outdoor communications programme.

The shelter joins the BMSP bus, adopted roundabout, street banners and outdoor digital screens in taking marine spatial planning into public spaces across Barbados.

The goal is to make the BMSP visible and familiar, meeting people where they are and creating opportunities for more Barbadians to recognise the project, learn about it and ultimately participate in shaping the future of our ocean.

Next stop: Sustainable Seas.



Photos of the BMSP branded bus shelter located in Welches, Christ Church

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GETTING TO KNOW BARBADOS' SHARKS

There is still much to learn about the marine life found within Barbados' ocean space including its sharks.

During the quarter, preparations advanced for a shark survey designed to help researchers better understand sharks found in waters beyond Barbados' coastline, including the species present and the habitats they use.

Ahead of the survey, a three-day preparatory workshop brought participants together to build knowledge and capacity for the research ahead. The BMSP Communications Workstream also began an educational campaign to help Barbadians understand the purpose of the research and why studying sharks forms part of the wider effort to understand our marine environment.

The principle is simple: before we can effectively plan our ocean space, we need to better understand what is in it. Information generated through research such as this contributes another piece to the growing body of scientific knowledge supporting Barbados' marine spatial planning process.



Click the image above to watch our video.



EXPLORING WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Barbados' marine research also received an international boost this quarter through a research expedition involving National Geographic's Exploration Lab.

The expedition explored areas along Barbados' west and southwest coasts, contributing to efforts to expand knowledge of marine environments around the island.

The visit also provided an opportunity to highlight the growing partnerships supporting Barbados as we work to build a stronger scientific picture of our ocean space.

[Click here to read the press release.](#)



MAPPING WHAT LIES BENEATH: PHASE TWO

In 2025, Barbados took an important step towards changing that when a groundbreaking bathymetric survey mapped a portion of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (approximately 24%), helping us begin to build a clearer picture of the seafloor beneath our waters.

Now, we're preparing to go again.

Barbados' Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Cleveston Haynes, recently signed the vessel agreement with representatives of the Marine Institute of Ireland, paving the way for the second phase of seafloor mapping to take place in December this year.

The next survey will map another portion of Barbados' EEZ, adding another piece to an increasingly detailed picture of our ocean space.

This research is critical to help us to make informed decisions about our ocean, we need to understand what happens on its surface, and what lies beneath. Seafloor mapping can help identify physical features and habitats and contribute information that may eventually inform decisions around conservation and potential future uses.



H.E. Cleveston Haynes signs the vessel agreement in Ireland, as representatives from The Marine Institute of Ireland and the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan look on.

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FROM THE DEEP TO THE SHORE: CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE

For several months, the conversation has taken us farther out into Barbados' marine space.

Through the deep-sea consultation process, the BMSP has been listening to the people connected to these areas, learning more about the activities taking place, how different spaces are being used, and the perspectives that need to be considered as the Marine Spatial Plan develops.

Now, as that phase draws to a close, the conversation is coming closer to shore. The next stage of stakeholder engagement will turn attention to the many activities taking place along Barbados' coasts.

These are busy, familiar spaces. They are places where people work, fish, swim, sail, operate businesses, earn livelihoods and spend time with family and friends. The people who use these spaces hold knowledge that a map alone cannot provide.

The nearshore consultation process will help us better understand what happens where, how different activities and users interact, and what matters to the people who know these spaces best.

If you use our coastline, your experience is part of the picture. Stay tuned to our social media pages and website to see how you can get involved.



Photos from the first data gathering consultation to determine ocean use within the nearshore environment.

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YOUR PERSPECTIVE MATTERS!

Two years ago, we asked Barbadians what they knew about marine spatial planning and how they felt about our marine environment. That first Public Perception Survey provided an important baseline.

Since then, a lot has happened and now, we're asking again. We're checking in because your perspective matters to us.

Click [here](#) to take the survey by midnight on September 30th, 2026.



BARBADOS
MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

We've been talking, listening, engaging and sharing information about the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan.

What do you know? What have you heard? What do you think?

Take our perception survey and help us understand how far the conversation has reached.

Take the survey:
Scan the qr code



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MSP BITES: OUR LATEST TIDBITS ON MSP



Click the images above to watch our latest videos.



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MORE TO COME!

Heading into the final quarter of 2026, there is so much happening with the BMSP and plenty more opportunities to learn, participate and “get in on de plan”!

We'll be heading back out on the water for the second seafloor mapping survey, adding another piece to our growing understanding of what lies beneath Barbados' waters. Closer to shore, our nearshore consultations will get underway, creating opportunities for the people who know and use these spaces to share their experiences and help inform the planning process.

Online, we'll also be demystifying marine spatial planning, breaking down some of the terminology, answering the questions you've been asking and making the science and planning behind BMSP easier to understand.

And that's only part of what's ahead. Expect more research, more opportunities to have your say, more stories from Making Waves and Marine Minute, and a few creative surprises along the way.

The year may be winding down, but we certainly aren't.

Stay with us, there's much more to come.



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