

2018 Freediving
Caribbean Junior Cup



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ROATAN
MARINE PARK

RMP is a nonprofit
conservation organization
on the Bay Islands

COMMUNITY FOR CONSERVATION

June
2018

Roatan Marine Park, protecting Roatan's marine ecosystems since 2005.

Loggerhead Turtle Nesting in West Bay

On May 15th at around 9:30 P.M., an extremely large adult female loggerhead nested on West Bay beach near Grand Roatan Resort. After laying around an estimated 100 eggs, she made her way safely back into the water.

Loggerheads nest at intervals of 2 to 4 years and can lay 3 to 6 nests per season, approximately 12 to 14 days apart. They lay an average of between 100 to 126 eggs in each nest which then take about 60 days to incubate. Hopefully this is a sign of more Loggerhead nests to come in areas where they can be effectively monitored and protected. Loggerheads are considered an endangered species and face a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

RMP is working in collaboration with El Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF), Abundant Life Foundation, and Grand Roatan Resort to ensure the sheltering and protection of the nest right on West Bay beach. The area is protected by fencing and a mesh net and will be monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the hatching.



Stay tuned as the estimated 100 eggs are expected to hatch mid-July. RMP is currently working with our partners to develop a safe and stress free release plan for the turtles. Please visit us at roatanmarinepark.org/saveroatansturtles for more information and find out how you can help turtles, hatchlings, and nests stay safe on Roatan.



Community Spotlight

The Freediving Caribbean Junior Cup



Every year, Roatan hosts the freediving Caribbean Cup—an event that gathers the most talented free divers from around the world who are pushing the limits of the human body. In coordination with SOL international and the Roatan Freediving School and Training Center, RMP kicked off the future of freediving with the Junior cup on May 26 & 27.

The Freediving Caribbean Junior Cup is quickly becoming a fun community-oriented addition to the annual international competition. This year, 29 boys and girls of different ages from Sandy Bay, El Berrinche, and West End dove beneath the ocean's surface during two days of freediving that culminated in an open water competition. Congratulations to all participants who gave their best as they explored their depth limits. We would like to thank our great instructors Carlos Correa and Ricardo Montans and all the volunteers, parents, and supporters who helped make this event possible.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or getting involved in RMP initiatives contact us at education@roatanmarinepark.net.



West End Beach Cleanup

Join RMP in cleaning up West End's beaches and reef. Contact us at education@roatanmarinepark.org to volunteer.

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Loggerhead Turtle Hatching

The loggerhead turtle eggs in West Bay beach are expected to hatch mid-July. Stay tuned for more information on the plan for their release.

Alternative Livelihoods

RMP's newest team member, Yuri Rivera has recently made great strides with the RMP's most successful alternative livelihood program, Island Honey.

In the last two months, RMP has worked with The Corozal Association of Apicultural Producers to conduct research, make strategic alliances and most importantly, bring about concrete changes for the Corozal community. On April 14th, the Corozal beekeepers took part in a practical workshop where seasoned apiculture technicians provided their expertise to the Corozal community on the management of an apiary, the biology of bees, and key insights on beekeeping practices.

Just one month later, the beekeepers took part in a second collaborative workshop to improve their socioeconomic conditions after fishing regulations established in Corozal stripped the livelihoods of fishers in the area over 4 years ago. The Innovati Foundation Inc., an organization that improves the quality of education and socioeconomic conditions for low income communities, organized activities, workshops, panels, and conferences with national and international guest entrepreneurs MiPyMES and Grandes. The beekeepers were provided knowledge on how to manage the organization with limited resources. Through the workshop the beekeepers learned



how to value and take full advantage of their resources and how to specifically use these resources in the context of their growing enterprise.

Last but not least, The Corozal beekeepers had reason to celebrate this May as they have finally become recognized as a legal entity after a long and hard fought process of

Environmental Education

Earth and Nature Conservation Courses

During the months of March, April, and May, RMP collaborated with 8 teachers from Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University to carry out environmental awareness events in four schools and their surrounding communities on Roatan. Under the guidance and instruction of RMP's education coordinator Timna Varela, students from C.E.B. Grover Vendal Webster (Cañaveral), C.E.B. Arnaldo Auld (Constellation Bight), C.E.B. Dionisio de Herrera (Barrio Lempira, Jose Santos Guardiola), and C.E.B. Marco Aurelio Soto (Oakridge) took part in a number of courses and fun activities focused on environmental education and conservation. A few of the many notable activities developed were a Water and Earth Day celebration, school and community clean ups, field trips on the glass bottom boat, and an afternoon of creating signs with conservation messages to place around their community.



Field Trips for Roatan's Public Schools

On May 4th, RMP organized a day of environmentally themed field trips for over 140 students from Roatan's public schooling system in Maya Key, Gumbalimba Park, and the West End glass bottom boat. For many of these students, it was their first time experiencing Roatan's reefs and nature. It is our hope that by giving students first-hand experiences with nature, they will learn to love and care about Roatan's ecosystems and become future conservationists. Special thanks to our hardworking and dependable volunteers from Eco Divers for helping to lead student groups.



Reef Festival

Series of events and activities all week long in West End to promote marine conservation and a single use plastic free West End.

West End Beach Cleanup

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Green Schools, Green Future

This year, RMP is launching an environmental education pilot project in a school from each of Roatan's Municipalities, C.E.B. Miguel Paz Barahona (El Berrinche) and C.E.B. Jose Santos Guardiola (Punta Gorda). The project will begin with two monthly seminars incorporating a conservation based curriculum into the schools. Students from 1st to 9th grade will take part in a 6-month program where they will receive continual conservation education to make their school and daily life more eco-friendly. In addition, RMP will instruct and coordinate students to carry out conservation and marine protection projects throughout their communities.



RMP Tackles Roatan's Largest Marine Infrastructure Project to Date

Dive Moorings

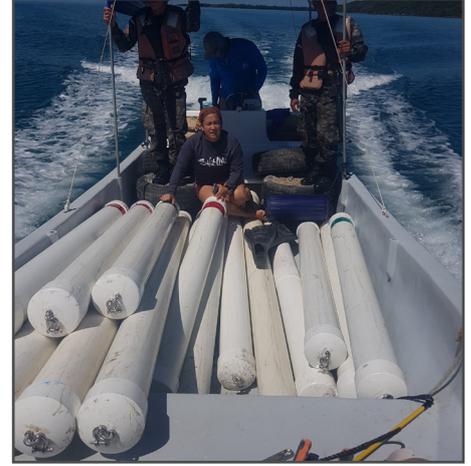
We would like to say a huge thank you to our most recent dive site owners including Randy Belham who names his site "International Diver", Andy Zambito whose site is "Zambito's Happy Hour", Brenda and Ken Leach who named theirs "KAB'S Zen Garden", Art Zeile with "Kristi's Cove", Thad Renaud with "Zoe's Midnight Garden", Nuria Corraliza with "Pirata's Dream" and Scuba Steve and friends with "Captain Ron's Hideaway."



Pirata's Dream

In March, RMP began a long awaited project funded by ZOLITUR involving the demarcation of all the primary channels around the island of Roatan. In total 65 heavy duty PVC markers were installed in 30 channels, along with 18 solar beacons throughout the island. The areas which had channels marked by the project were West Bay (2), West End (5), Sandy Bay (5), Corozal (6), Milton (4), Diamond Rock (6), Camp Bay (2), Helene (8), Port Royal (5), Calabash (2), Oak Ridge (2), Jonesville (2), Parrot Tree (4), French Key (3), Dixon Cove (2), and finally Flowers Bay (2). More markers will be installed around Helene later this year. The project compliments an already thorough marine infrastructure program and brings the total number of channel markers to over 150.

If you ever find any markers or buoys on the beach or free floating, please collect them and contact us at info@roatanmarinepark.org so they can be reinstalled and continue to keep Roatan's reef and vessels safe.



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RMP Marine Infrastructure

location	distance	dive moorings	snorkel moorings	channel markers	demarcation markers
Point - AKR	5 miles	70	15	41	14 (swim zones)
AKR - Corozal	5 miles	39	1	43	8
Corozal - Turquoise Bay	6.5 miles	30	0	18	4
Turquoise Bay - Marble Hill	5 miles	12	0	8	0
Marble Hill - end of road	5 miles	19	0	4	0
End of road - Morat	5 miles	0	0	0	0
Morat - Old Port Royal	5 miles	0	0	13	0
Old Port Royal - Oakridge	6 miles	0	0	6	0
Oakridge - Cocoview	5 miles	18	0	6	0
Cocoview - Mahogany Bay	5 miles	26	2	13	0
Mahogany Bay - Flowers Bay	5 miles	11	5	4	0
Flowers Bay - Point	3 miles	16	0	0	0
Total		241	23	156	12

This table gives you a detailed breakdown of the marine infrastructure installed and maintained by the RMP throughout the different parts of the island, accounting for over 90% of all the marine infrastructure on Roatan. With the success of the "name a dive site" fundraising program, we have been able to consistently increase the number of dive and snorkel moorings around the island, meeting the growing demand for new sites.

Contact RMP

Want to contribute to conservation efforts on Roatan? Perhaps you want to honor the memory of a loved one? Or shopping for the perfect gift? Either way, naming your own dive site is a rewarding way to make a difference. Please contact us for more information.

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