



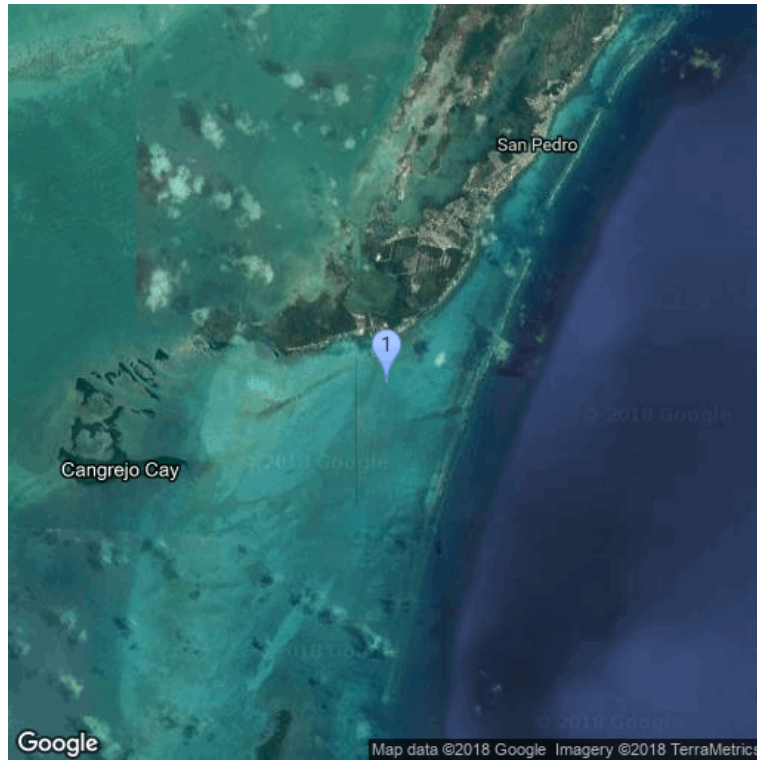
# CaMPAM

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## Network and Forum

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### Hol Chan Marine Reserve



**Short Name**

Hol Chan

**Country**

Belize

**Description**

**Ecoregion location**

WCaribbean

**Boundaries**

17 52 11, -87 59 52

**Map URL**

<http://www.holchanbelize.org/loc.html>

**Total Surface area**

55.2

**Land Surface area**

0.3

**Sea Surface area**

4.9

**Shoreline area**

None

**Site national category**

Marine Reserve

**Site international designation**

SPAW, Part of the Belize Barrier Reef System World Heritage Site.

**IUCN category**

II

**Designation**

Legally Designated

**Date established**

1987/07/05

**Legal citation**

Fisheries (Hol Chan Area Marine Reserve) Order

**Other legal designations**

SI 107 of December 1998 SI 113 of October 1989

**Primary responsible institution**

Fisheries Department

**Primary contact**

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**Geological features**

beaches, rocky shores, rocky shores, keys, blue holes

**Terrestrial habitats**

Several of the islands also include dry land with other mangrove species such as *Laguncularia racemosa* (white mangrove), *Avicennia germinans* (black mangrove), and *Conocarpus erectus* (buttonwood). One of the cayes near the north eastern reserve border is

**Marine habitats**

Hol Chan's one square mile coral reef zone can be divided into four habitats: the back reef, reef crest, fore reef, and the channel or cut across the barrier reef. Approximately .75 (linear) miles of the back reef habitat is north of the channel. This section is separated from the grassbeds by a "sand row" approximately 40 meters wide which has no seagrass cover. This sandy area is inhabited by a wide variety of mollusca including the Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). The depth of this "sand row" is approximately 1.75 meters, while the remainder of the back reef habitat (both north and south of the cut) has a depth of about one meter. This

northern back reef habitat is characterized by large formations of elkhorn coral (

### **Marine flora**

Thalassia, Syringodium and calcareous algaes, halimeda and penicillus. Among the many algae is the commercially valuable Eucheuma isoforme, used locally in "seaweed smoothies".

### **Marine invertebrates and fishes**

Over 160 species of fish have been identified in the reserve, along with nearly 40 species of corals, 5 sponges, 8 algae, 2 seagrasses, 3 marine mammals and 3 species of sea turtle. Approximately fifteen species of sponges have been identified and several were unidentifiable. Some small hard corals such as Manicina areolata and Favia fragum. Fish and invertebrates representative of this habitat are present, including a notably large population of Queen Conch. Brain corals (Diploria spp.), Starlet corals (Siderastrea spp.), boulder corals (Montastrea spp.), some patches of Staghorn coral (Acropora cervicornis), along with numerous sea fans (Gorgonia spp.) and other soft corals are dispersed throughout the area. The .25 (linear) miles of back reef south of the cut is characterized by large formations of finger corals (Porites spp.) and lettuce corals (Agaricia spp.) which cover large areas perpendicular to the reef crest. Near the southern border is a shallow region of coral rubble and sand covered with Dictyota spp. algae. Large schools of blue tangs and grunts are common, as are triggerfish, hog fish, parrot fish, barracuda and nurse sharks. Black tipped reef sharks and juvenile sea turtles (probably loggerhead, Caretta caretta) are occasionally seen. The reef crest foundation consists primarily of dead elkhorn and boulder corals, amalgamated into "reef cement" and covered with turf algae and fire coral (Millepora spp.). The depth of this high energy wave zone is generally .4 meters to 0 meters, with numerous dead elkhorn coral tips breaking the water's surface during low tides. There are several deeper areas or "mini-cuts" which allow further water exchange and passage across the reef for some

### **Marine mammals, birds and sea turtles**

Marine mammals: Delphinus delphis and Stenella attenuata West Indian Manatee - Trichechus manatus. Sea turtles: Eretmochelys imbricata, Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas

### **Primary management institution**

Fisheries Department

### **Other institutions that participate in management**

Hol Chan Trust Fund., Marine Reserve Advisory Committee, Each reserve has an advisory committee, which is composed of similar representation from each area respectively. The composition is as follows: 1 representative from each Village councils and/or Town

### **Personnel**

Manager, assistant manager, three rangers.

### **Management objectives**

species protection, ecosystem protection, fisheries management

### **Other management objectives**

Are for education and research, preserve genetic resources

### **Management framework**

Yes

### **Date of establishment of management framework**

None

### **Last update of management framework**

None

**Management programmes**

advisory committee, enforcement program, fisheries regulations, institutional arrangements for management

**Other zone types**

Zones A, B, C, D (Sark Alley).

**Funding sources**

Enforcement, education, zoning, user fees and sale of souvenir items for income generation.

**Fisheries regulations**

Reef zone, fishing and collecting prohibited, other activities regulated. Seagrass and mangrove zones, fishing regulated and restricted, collecting prohibited. Zone D (Shark Ray Alley) recreational zone for feeding sharks and rays.

**Coastal development**

Several communities on Ambergris Cay, and the largest is San Pedro Town.

**Issues or threats for accomplishing management objectives**

Conflicts exist between diving and fishing activities occasionally.

**Areas of special expertise for knowledge transfer**