



# R O A T A N MARINE PARK

Community for Conservation Since 2006 | Summer 2019 Newsletter

## RMP Would Like To Say THANK YOU For Your Support In Our Recent Fundraising Events!

Thank you to all who came out to support our 14th Birthday Party at Bananarama! Together, we raised \$11,000 in donations that will go directly toward our programs in conservation, education and community development. The event featured live music from Scotty C and his band, live and silent auction and raffle with prizes including a trip to Cayos Cochinos and Tela diving trip! Thank you again to all the individuals and businesses that supported us for this fundraiser.

On May 31, we held our Sponsor Social to personally thank the community for their support. This event was an opportunity for the community to meet new staff and learn about program accomplishments. All funds from this event were directed toward our "Ocean Guardians" campaign to support Roatan's marine patrol programs. We also announced the winners of the Vacation Raffle at our Social, big congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you to all who supported this fundraiser!



## Upcoming Events

### June

**Modular Reef + Roatan Marine Park**  
Friday, June 21st

**Eco Talk & Trivia on Marine Life**  
Friday, June 28th

### July

**Eco Concert ft. Alberto Laínez and Proyecto Aullador**  
Wednesday, July 10th

**SAVE OUR REEF School Parade**  
**Flowers Bay to Coxen Hole**  
Friday, July 12th

### August

**Dive Against Debris**  
Tuesday, August 13th

**Junior Freediving Caribbean Cup**  
Thursday, August 15th

**REDUCE-REUSE-REFUSE Plastic Mural and Video Competition**  
Thursday, August 29th

**Check our Facebook for more event details!**

# Community Events

## Celebrating World Ocean's Day With BICA, MAR Alliance, and More!

To celebrate World Ocean's Day on June 8, 2019, we helped organize an Ocean's Day Conservation, Music, and Art Festival at Tranquil Seas Beach Resort. In collaboration with BICA, MAR Alliance and other organizations, we raised funds for Sol Foundation, a local organization dedicated to promoting quality

education for children in Roatan. The day consisted of beach clean ups, kids' activities, a raffle, auction and live music! It was inspiring to see so many kids and community members participate in learning more about the importance of ocean life for Roatan and how we can protect it!

## Support The Reef Simply By Doing Your Laundry!



We are pleased to announce we have teamed up with Happi Earth Laundry Liquid to raise funds for our programs. Switching to a sustainable laundry liquid takes pressure off the reef by reducing the release of toxic chemicals into our oceans; these chemicals are harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects that include mutations, sterility and even extinction. Happi Earth is dedicated to helping reduce the devastating effects laundry products have on our marine life and supports Roatan's efforts to raise funds for the conservation of the ecosystem. For every purchase, not only will they donate 30% of the purchase price to RMP, but by switching to Happi Earth you are helping save our marine life by reducing the plastic waste and toxic chemicals that end up in our oceans. Please help us in promoting and using only reef friendly products! Shop to donate at:

<https://www.happi.earth/roatanMP>

## Sea Turtle Camp, Beach Clean Ups, And Monthly Eco Talks & Trivia!

We recently held "Sea Turtle Camp" in schools located where most of turtle incidents have been reported over the last two years. With the support of volunteers, awareness of the turtle watch and reward program has spread with the intent to increase turtle protection within communities.

In partnership with Abundant Life Foundation, Bay Islands Coastal Clean Up, and other community volunteers, we held several beach clean ups over the last couple months in and around West End.

Monthly "Eco Talks and Trivia" also began in

April at Splash Inn. Over the last two months presentations about coral restoration and recycled art in Roatan were held with an excellent turnout! The next event will be held on June 28 about marine species, follow our facebook page for more details!



## Community Development Initiatives: East Side Meetings & AHBC

Over the last couple of months, our community development coordinator, Yuri, has been busy with current and upcoming initiatives. Her efforts have included hosting several community meetings on the East side to increase the awareness of the benefits of alternative livelihood programs as a way to reduce pressure on the reef. Over 50 community members participated!

This month, we also had a special visit from the board of MAR Fund, one of our major funders. The beekeepers in Corozal had the opportunity to meet with them and discuss the challenges and progress regarding this successful initiative, and how it has changed their lives. One major concern that was addressed is ensuring the sustainability and continued growth of the Association of Honey Beekeepers of Corozal.

To address this concern, we focused on the maintenance of the equipment and material needed for efficient production and renovation of the production building. These efforts were made thanks to the support of MAR Fund!



## Education



Since March, the RMP Education Program has extended its environmental education program to the East side. Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences partnered with us to offer experiential learning opportunities, such as the glass bottom boat tour, to increase awareness of coral reef protection.



We also implemented the “My Island, My Treasure, My Future” project in the Camp Bay community. Once a month, kids get involved in beach clean ups and community activities followed by an environmental talk.

We are also currently training high school students for a Coral Reef Education Campaign and Back to School Plastic Challenge, both to be implemented in Roatan public schools.

## Marine Infrastructure

RMP has installed about 99% of marine infrastructure on the island, and is dedicated to maintaining and improving this infrastructure.



7 new dive moorings were installed of which 4 were named after family or friends that sadly passed away. The Kustra's dedicated their site in French Key to their son, naming it "Ben's Clubhouse". Wendy and Paul Morris dedicate their site, "Lee's One Love", to her father. Kelly Nelson dedicated a site to a dear friend Charlie, naming it "Mr Charlie's Reef" which is near Four Sponges. The last mooring that has been installed was for Uwe, late owner of Tyll's Dive shop who sadly passed several months ago. "Fiascos in Paradise" is located near Deep Sea Quest and was paid for by divers who had known him all these years.

Other sites include "Maddera's Reef" which is on the wall near Turtle Crossing and was purchased by Brian Maddera. "John Gow's Gallows" which is in the shallows by West Bay, was a 50th birthday gift for Kimberly Gow's husband. Finally "Shang-Ying", a snorkel/dive site on the island of Mora channel, was purchased by Shang Ying Clark. If you want to dedicate a dive site to a loved one or just want bragging rights, please contact [nic.bach@roatanmarinepark.org](mailto:nic.bach@roatanmarinepark.org) for more information.

## Marine Patrol Program

Since last rainy season, we been working on some very necessary maintenance on the patrol boats and training for new Park Rangers. We are happy to announce that we finally have 5 boats operating out of West End, Sandy Bay, Barefoot Key and Port Royal, monitoring all 80 miles of coastline around Roatan! Even with 5 boats it is still hard to ensure that illegal fishing doesn't occur. Even once an individual is caught with illegal product, they are only kept in jail for 24 hours, which doesn't act as enough of a deterrent.



One such case involved two fishermen from Milton Bight who were caught with 32 parrot fish, several other species of speared fish, conch, lobster and a juvenile hawksbill turtle. As turtles are endangered species they should have been prosecuted and sent to jail for up to 10 years. Unfortunately, they were promptly released the next day. Fortunately, the turtle was not badly harmed and released safely back into the ocean.

This scenario highlights the need for more support from government entities regarding punishing offenders. Other confiscations these past few months include 2 nets and 2 fish traps which are extremely destructive and can be hard to spot as individuals leave and return to collect them at anti-social hours.

## Protect Our Pride Program



The Protect Our Pride Program provides local community members with an alternative livelihood that encourages them to protect the reef; giving islanders an opportunity to become PADI Open Water Divers all the way up to Divemaster or Instructor! The program increases their awareness of the reef and provides an employment opportunity as a dive professional here in Roatan.

POP is supported by several dive shops on the East End who graciously volunteer, including Dive Pangea, Subway Watersports, Media Luna, and various other volunteer instructors. The program is funded by Coral Reef Alliance, PADI, and other local businesses!

This year we have 12 POP Candidates who recently completed their Open Water and required volunteer hours! They will be visiting the West Side of the island at the end of July to shadow several dive professionals at various shops in West End and West Bay.

We are excited to track their progress as they advance to Instructor and want to congratulate them on the journey ahead. To keep up with their journey, follow our POP Facebook Page at **Protect Our Pride East End Roatan!**

## Help a Hatchling Through Our Newest Campaign!

Exciting news! We have confirmed the location, and initiated necessary protective measures, for two recently found turtle nests on Roatan. The nests were found and reported by locals, including students from our education coordinator's "Turtle Camp!"

We are currently looking for sponsors to help protect the eggs until the hatchlings start their new ocean adventures. For a donation of \$20, you can Help a Hatchling! Your donation entitles you to exclusive details about the hatchlings, includes the choice to name your sponsored turtle, and a marine park voluntary user fee bracelet.

Take a look at the link below for more information and to make a donation:  
<https://donate.keela.co/roatan-marine-park/help-a-hatchling>

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## Sponsor Spotlight: Ocean Connections



“Ocean Connections is proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of RMP. We are a business that puts a lot of people in the water, so supporting the marine park is the least we can do to give back. As the leading “protect the reef” presence on Roatan, the RMP is an essential entity to the island. Without their proactive approach to control poaching and reef damage, things would be worse. Since arriving here in 2012, we have already seen the reef beginning to thrive again.”

- Jeff, Ocean Connections

As we are a nonprofit organization, our conservation, education and community development efforts rely on support from our donors, members and business sponsors.

**We are a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit in the US and Honduras, donations are tax-deductible. Shop to donate at our Eco Stores in West End, West Bay, Mahogany Bay, and Port of Roatan!**

Learn more about how to be an individual or business donor or sponsor at  
[www.roatanmarinepark.org/donate](http://www.roatanmarinepark.org/donate)

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### PLATINUM

Rothschild Family Foundation	Ocean Connections
Salt Life	Port of Roatan
West Bay Divers	Cocoview
	Anthony's Key Resort
	Mahogany Bay

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### GOLD

Blue Island Divers	Brisas del Mar
Infinity Bay	Jolly Roger
Sun Petroleum	Roatan Life Real Estate
Roatan Travel Network	Mayan Princess Resort

### SILVER

Bananarama	Island House Vacation
Cannibal Cafe	Rentals
Grand Roatan Resort	Beach House
Eco Divers	Mares
Hotel Posada Arcoiris	Cayuco Divers

### BRONZE

Las Rocas	Wikkid Resort
Bottom Time Scuba	Richardson Serenity
Ginger's Caribbean Grill	Villas
Mariposa Lodge	Sun Divers
Roatan Shark Dive	Grand Bleu Diving
Splash Inn Dive Resort	A Plus Marine