

# GLOVER'S REEF MARINE RESERVE TOUR GUIDE SOCIOECONOMIC SURVEY RESULTS: HOPKINS 2004

In June 2004, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) conducted a socioeconomic survey in Hopkins, focusing on the tour guides who use the resources of the Glover's Reef Marine Reserve. The objective of the survey was to help strengthen the management of the Reserve by conducting planning that is responsive to the needs and priorities of the community, while encouraging community support for the conservation of the Glover's Reef Atoll. Similar surveys were conducted in Sarteneja and Dangriga, communities that also depend on the Atoll's resources. The surveys followed the method described in the SocMon guidelines developed for the Caribbean.



Glover's Reef is one of the areas used by tour guides based in Hopkins. Ten guides were interviewed. The survey covered information on demographics, coastal and marine activities, attitudes and perceptions, threats and problems, solutions, and material style of life.

## Results – Demographics

All tour guides were males. Guiding was the primary occupation for all respondents, and only two also had a secondary occupation, which was fishing and construction. Nine were members of an association, the Dangriga, Belize City or Hopkins Tour Guide Association.

Average age	28
Average household size	3
No. with primary education	2
No. with secondary education	7
No. with tertiary education	1
No. with family members involved in income-generating activities	4
No. member of an association	9



## Coastal and Marine Activities

The majority of the guides have used Glover's Reef for less than five years and carried out 25% of their business at this site. They used mainly the north end and east reef of the atoll, and the main type of guiding is for diving. Their trips to the atoll were mainly in December to April, with peak use in December to March. The guides made an average of 26 to 50 trips annually to the atoll, with an average group size of 10. The average fee per person for diving was \$247.

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Guides gave tourists oral briefings and lectures. The respondents requested that they be supplied with material such as brochures, charts, and results of research. They also requested an educational center at the reserve headquarters at Middle Caye. Guides reported that visitors registered very good to excellent satisfaction with their trips to Glover's.

### Attitudes & Perceptions

Respondents felt the condition of the resources had improved over the past five years. The reasons stated for this improvement were the appointment of rangers and fisheries officers who are doing a better job and the results of conservation efforts on the atoll.

The results also demonstrated the following:

- 100% agreed the Conservation Zone was helping to sustain fisheries
- 70% felt penalties should be increased
- 40% agreed that enforcement was adequate
- 30% felt most fishermen respect the reserve regulations
- 60% felt most tour guides respect the reserve regulations
- 90% supported protection of the mangroves at Glover's
- 80% felt all sport fishing should be catch-and-release
- 30% agreed the facilities at the reserve HQ on Middle Cayes were adequate
- 80% wished to participate in decision-making.

The majority of respondents felt they were not well represented on the Glover's Reef Advisory Committee. The majority supported joint management of the reserve by government and a NGO or co-operative. **Significantly, all guides agreed that the marine reserve is important for protecting the atoll's coral reef system.**

All guides were aware of the Glover's Reef Marine Reserve and the majority knew of the management zones. The majority also reported that they were familiar with the regulations for commercial and sport fishing, the protection of mangroves, resort

development, and tourism (e.g. snorkeling and diving).



### Threats, Problems and Solutions

Respondents identified the following as the main threats and problems facing the reserve:

- Illegal fishing
- Reserve understaffed
- Improper patrols
- Poor public relations
- Destroyed coral

They recommended the following solutions to address these concerns:

- Conduct more patrols
- Charge illegal fishers
- Train staff

### Material Style of Life

Only 35% of the guides owned their house and 50% owned their lot; in addition 10% owned farmland. A few owned their own boat (20%) and engine (10%). The majority owned a washer, TV, phone, stereo, refrigerator and stove.

Most of their homes were built of wood (60%), with zinc roofs (90%), wooden (50%) or glass (40%) windows, and wooden floors (70%).

*WCS is grateful to all the fishermen who took part in the survey and to those who assisted with the study. We are also grateful to NOAA who funded the study.*

