



Contact:

Belize Tourism Board

Contact: 227-2420

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Manatee Protection Initiatives

Belize City, Belize – September 4, 2015 – After hearing about the collisions between boats and the manatees, a meeting was held with the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and the Belize Port Authority (BPA), to figure out a quick response to the collisions, and to eventually work on a plan with stakeholders to completely eradicate these incidents.

From this meeting, came the first initiative, which is to install buoys in the Belize River, in the vicinity of Haulover Creek. The BTB donated six (6) buoys, and Mr. Chamberlain of Belize Marine & Sand donated two (2) for a total of eight (8) buoys to be installed by Belize Marine & Sand. The CZMAI and BPA will simultaneously install additional Warning and No Wake signs to bring added attention to all users of that portion of the river.

The CZMAI and the BTB decided to work together to conduct a workshop for Tour Guides and Tour Operators who utilize the river in their packages. The workshop was conducted today, September 4th, 2015, at the Radisson. Presenters at the workshop included:

Jamal Galves – CZMAI

Port Authority

Forestry Department

Maria Vega – Friends of Swallow Caye

Zoey Walker – Wildtracks

Shola Babb, Capacity Building and Sustainable Tourism Officer at the BTB commented, “We are cognizant of the fact that these are little steps towards achieving the permanent alleviation of this crisis, but we have also highlighted areas for immediate attention such as the drafting and implementation of a legislation which will ensure that all boats and/or watercrafts are outfitted with prop guards as a condition of granting licenses by the BPA.”

For more information on these initiatives, please contact Misael Canto, Sustainable Tourism Specialist at the BTB, at 227-2420.

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About the Belize Tourism Board

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector - including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association – and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travellers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets.

The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instil high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit www.travelbelize.org.

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