

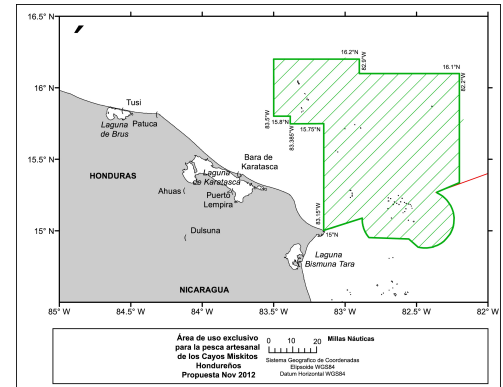
Media Advisory

What: Largest locally managed fishery in Central America proposed around the Miskito Keys of Honduras.

Who: Honduran Council of Ministers is expected to discuss proposal.

Where: The area would encompass 1.45 million hectares (3.6 million acres) off of the Moskitia Coast of Honduras.

When: An announcement is likely sometime during the last two weeks of December.



Contacts:

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The Honduran Council of Ministers is expected to discuss, within the week, the creation of a fishery exclusively for the use of artisanal fishers of La Moskitia, Honduras. The area, which would prohibit industrial harvesting, would encompass 1.45 million hectares (3.6 million acres) in the Caribbean, off of the Moskitia Coast of Honduras. This is an area slightly larger than the state of Connecticut.

The scuba diving lobster fishery will be banned at the end of the current season (February 2013). Dr. Stephen Box from the Smithsonian Institution, working in support of the Honduran-based Center for Marine Ecology, and other colleagues have been helping the local population of the Moskitia Coast, and the local and National government, to create a secure, sustainable, alternative fishery for the residents of La Moskitia.

A commission comprised of indigenous, societal, and local governmental leaders, aided by the scientific community, has guided this process.

The International League of Conservation Photographers (iLCP) has been working with Dr. Box since March 2012 to visually document this transition through three photo expeditions to the region. Photographic and video assets are available to illustrate this important story of the empowerment of local fishers to determine their future, as they develop sustainable artisanal practices and an economically secure future.