

## Appendix 7



### Park Ranger Training at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument

**Belize City, December 31 2014 –Organized by the Belize Audubon Society, a group of park rangers and Fisheries Officers recently took part in joint law enforcement training for marine protected areas.**

The training was held over the course of a full week in December at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument. It addressed the specialist skills required by park rangers and fisheries officers to ensure that the rules and regulations of marine protected areas are understood and respected by all.

“The rangers and officers learned about many aspects of marine law enforcement, from standard procedures for ensuring public safety and officer safety to case management and court procedures,” explained Mr. Shane Young, Marine Manager, Belize Audubon Society. “This was an important step in having our park rangers officially deputized as Fisheries Officers.”

The training was capably delivered by Mr. Lyndon Rodney of Belize Fisheries Department and Retired Captain Jayson Horadam of MPA Enforcement International, both experts with extensive practical experience at the frontlines of marine conservation.

Also joining the training was a group of park rangers from nearby Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak in Mexico. “The park where we are based is ecologically connected to the Belize Barrier Reef and we face similar issues as our Belizean colleagues in ensuring compliance with park rules and regulations,” explained Mr. Jorge Gomez Poot, Sub-Director of the national park.

“All participants walked away with new information and, importantly, with confidence in practical skills that they can apply at their respective marine protected areas,” commented Mr. Young.

An initiative of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), this on-site training follows up on the regional MPA enforcement training organised by GCFI in Key West in 2012. NOAA’s support is part of CRCP’s international strategy to work with regional initiatives to develop and implement long-term MPA capacity building programs based on capacity assessments. Additional sponsorship was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Island Expeditions and by the Belize Audubon Society. For more information, please contact Belize Audubon Society, [marineparks@belizeaudubon.org](mailto:marineparks@belizeaudubon.org)



Park Rangers and Fisheries Officer in law enforcement training

(Photo: E. Bochub)