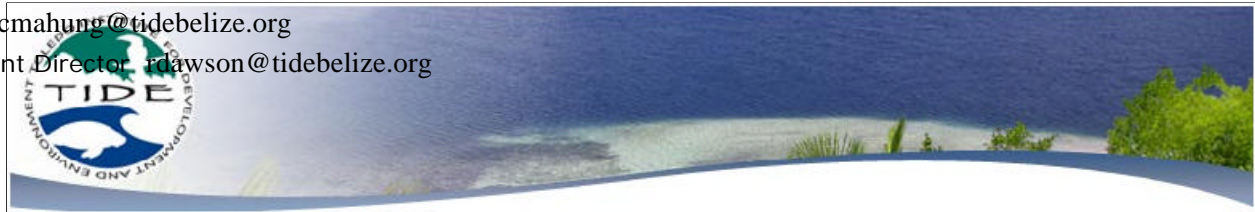




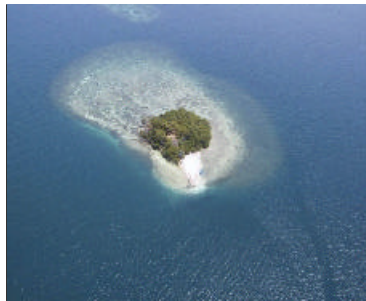
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Halt sedimentation and coastal loss at Abalone Caye in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve through a reef wall, environmentally friendly construction to save this sensitive marine area. When the Ranger Station, Visitor Center and Lighthouse was built at Abalone Caye mangroves and other vegetation provided protection. A particularly heavy hurricane season, climate and tide changes, and other factors contributed to erosion that is now out of control - waves now reach the Ranger Station.

Abalone Caye will disappear if action is not taken to halt the severe



erosion by quickly constructing an environmentally appropriate reef wall to halt the destruction. Abalone Caye is the hub for surveillance and management activities conducted in Port Honduras Marine Reserve in southern Belize. Abalone Caye was chosen to build the Ranger Station, Visitor Center, and Lighthouse (2001) because of the island's central location.



Saving Abalone Caye allows the continued effective co-management of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. The rivers of Belize flow into the reserve where they are filtered by the sea grass and extensive coastal mangroves before entering the Belize Barrier Reef System World Heritage Site. Protecting PHMR involves environmental education for local communities, patrols to discourage illegal and over-fishing, and maintaining an environment that all can enjoy.

To visit the Ranger Station, Visitor Center and Lighthouse at Abalone Caye is to begin to understand the work that is accomplished to protect the Port Honduras Marine Reserve and the Belize Barrier Reef for fly-fishers (the "grand slam" of tarpon, bonefish, and permit can be accomplished in the flats), for fishers from the community, and for tourists. The erosion is shocking, despite the daily efforts of individuals to slow the destruction.

Management of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve by the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) is widely recognized as a successful example of community-based co-

management. The protected areas co-managed by TIDE (Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Payne's Creek National Park and the TIDE Private Protected Lands) offer natural and cultural amenities unparalleled in the region. TIDE provides an opportunity to offer unique contact in protected areas to researchers and eco-tourists. Infrastructure plans include ranger stations, education centers, seaside campgrounds, and interpretive signs to increase understanding and enjoyment of the irreplaceable flora and fauna. Plans are coordinated to facilitate enjoyment of protected areas, build opportunities for livelihoods for buffer communities, and are in line with existing carrying capacity studies and management plans.