

National Conservation Council



Promoting and securing
biological diversity
and the sustainable use
of natural resources
in the Cayman Islands

Annual Report 2022



Cover images of the draft Seabird Conservation Plan,
for which a public consultation was conducted in 2022.

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Executive Summary

The National Conservation Council exists to promote and secure the biological diversity of the Cayman Islands and ensure the sustainable use of Cayman's natural resources. It acts to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic wildlife and their habitats. The Council oversees the protection of terrestrial, wetland and marine areas with the support of the current generation and for the benefit of future generations of the Cayman Islands.

During 2022 Council oversaw a number of conservation advancements, most notably

- Successfully defended a judicial review which confirmed that the NCC has the authority to direct any entity of the government (except Cabinet) when the taking of any action by an entity would or would be likely to have an adverse effect, directly or indirectly on a protected area or on the critical habitat of a protected species, where the adverse impact cannot be satisfactorily mitigated by conditions. Also that the National Conservation Act provides the Council with an express power of delegation, and that it is lawful for the Council to delegate such powers to the Director of the Department of Environment (DoE) including the NCC's powers to direct.
- Passage of the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations.
- Acquisition of over 800 acres of land for conservation purposes.
- Passage of two species conservation plans and public consultation on a third.

Chapter 1 Cayman Islands National Conservation Council

1.1 Purpose

The National Conservation Council (the Council, NCC) is established by, and to facilitate the goals of, the National Conservation Act 2013 (the Act, NCA), that is: to promote and secure biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Cayman Islands; to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic wildlife and their habitats; to provide for protected terrestrial, wetland and marine areas; and to give effect to the provisions of certain international conventions (the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean region, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as waterfowl habitat), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

1.2 Statutory Functions

The functions of the NCC are set out in Part 2, section 3 of the Act, in particular in subsection (9):

- (a) subject to this Act, managing and making recommendations on the use of the Environmental Protection Fund;
- (b) promoting the biological diversity and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Islands;
- (c) co-ordinating the establishment and adoption by the public and private sectors of national policies for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including-
 - (i) the use of wetlands and wetland resources; and
 - (ii) the excavation of aggregate and fill materials;
- (d) recommending and maintaining protected areas and conservation areas and conserving, maintaining and restoring their natural resources in accordance with Part 3;
- (e) conserving, maintaining and restoring populations and critical habitats of protected species in accordance with Part 4;
- (f) promoting the training of professional and voluntary personnel in the fields of research, management and wardening of protected areas and species and the other natural resources of the Islands;
- (g) promoting wider understanding and awareness of the significance of the ecological systems of the Islands, the benefits of conserving natural resources and of the provisions of this Act and the Conventions;
- (h) publicising the establishment of protected areas and the designation of protected species and raising public awareness, through educational programmes and other means, of the significance and value of protected areas and species and of the benefits that may be gained from them;
- (i) encouraging public involvement, particularly by local communities, in the planning and management of protected areas and the conservation of protected species;
- (j) promoting the adoption of guidelines by entities for the integration of conservation issues into their decision making processes and for the achievement of the sustainable use of natural resources;

- (k) promoting district, national and regional initiatives, including co-operative enforcement measures and mutual assistance in the enforcement of national laws, in order to further the objectives of the Conventions;
- (l) promoting national plans for emergency responses to activities or events, whether caused naturally or not, that present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity and encouraging international co-operation to supplement such national plans;
- (m) promoting national plans for the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases; and
- (n) carrying out such other functions and duties as are specified under this Act and the regulations;

and in subsection (12):

the Council, subject to any directions of the Cabinet, may make orders and guidance notes and issue directives for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act and such orders, guidance notes and directives may include-

- (a) criteria for identifying endangered or threatened species or other species needing protection under this Act;
- (b) criteria for evaluating proposals for the establishment and management of protected areas and for the measures required to protect and conserve protected species and their critical habitat;
- (c) criteria for the application for, and grant of, monies from the Fund;
- (d) criteria for the review, assessment and reporting of activities funded in whole or in part by monies from the Fund;
- (e) the form and content of a petition under section 16(3);
- (f) procedures for determining the circumstances under which permits and licences may be granted under Part 5;
- (g) measures governing the methods and conditions under which the captive breeding or artificial propagation of protected species may be allowed;
- (h) procedures for regulating and controlling wild populations and the import, introduction, possession, transportation and release of alien or genetically altered specimens;
- (i) procedures for consultation by entities pursuant to section 41(3); and
- (j) the carrying out of environmental impact assessments under section 43.

1.3 About this report

This report is prepared in compliance with the duty set out in section 5 of the Act requiring the Council, no later than three months after the end of the financial year, to prepare and submit to the Minister a report of its activities during the preceding year, following which the Minister shall submit it to Cabinet for laying on the table of the Parliament.

This is the eighth annual report of the National Conservation Council and covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 December 2022 inclusive.

1.4 Composition of the Council

The Act regulates the composition of the Council. The Council is composed of thirteen voting members (section 3(2)):

- (a) the Director or his nominee from the Department of the Environment;
- (b) the Deputy Director of Research in the Department of the Environment;
- (c) the Director of the Department of Agriculture or his nominee from the Department of Agriculture;
- (d) the Director of Planning or his nominee from the Department of Planning;
- (e) a person nominated by the National Trust and appointed by the Cabinet; and
- (f) eight persons appointed by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet appoints the Chair. Amongst the Cabinet appointees at least four shall have relevant scientific or technical expertise and they are chosen such that there is at least one person from each of the six electoral districts. The Council for 2022 were as follows.

Council Member	Representation
McFarlane Conolly	Chairperson; East End
Jessica Harvey	George Town; Marine & Terrestrial Affairs
Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie	West Bay; Sustainable Development & Climate Change
Edward Chisholm	North Side
Pierre M. Foster	Bodden Town
Harrison A. Bothwell	Sister Islands
Annick Jackman Frank Roulstone	National Trust for the Cayman Islands (Executive Director) January – September 2022 (invited attendee, Sept – Dec, pending formal Cabinet appointment)
Patricia Bradley	Avifauna & Biodiversity
Stuart Mailer	Sustainable Development
Adrian Estwick	Director of Agriculture
Haroon Pandohie	Director of Planning
Richard Mileham	Planning Officer, representing the Director of Planning
Gina Ebanks-Petrie	Director of Environment
Timothy Austin	DoE Deputy, Research

The Department of Environment (DoE) is charged with appointing a Secretary to the Council (section 6). John Bothwell, Manager of the Department's Legislation Implementation and Coordination Unit, has remained as Secretary throughout 2022 and since the Council's inception in 2014.

Chapter 2 Council Activities, January – December 2022

2.1 Governance

Section 3 of the Act governs the proceedings of the Council. Seven voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. The decisions of the Council are by simple majority and the chair has a casting vote only. The Council is obligated to meet in a place open to the public and cause to be prepared and published the agendas and minutes of all meetings. The Council may, subject to the Act, regulate its own procedure.

The Council's Manual of Policy and Procedure contains rules for administration of the Council, a Code of Conduct, and a procedure for Disclosure of Interests. The Council chose to adopt the model Code of Conduct proposed by the Commission for Standards in Public Life.

In respect of Disclosure of Interests Schedule 2 of the Act provides, in subsection 9:

- (1) If a member of the Council has any pecuniary or other interest in any matter to be dealt with by the Council he shall disclose the fact to the chairman and shall not take part in any meeting at which the matter is considered or discussed.
- (2) A member of the Council who fails to comply with subparagraph (1) commits an offence and is liable-
 - (a) on summary conviction to a fine of twenty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for two years; or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for five years,
 unless he proves that he did not know that matter in which he had an interest was the subject of consideration at that meeting.
- (3) A disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

Council members are also subject to the provisions of the Standards in Public Life Act and were required to file a declaration of interests with the Commission for that Act. Access to that register of interests would be through the Commission on Standards in Public Life.

The Department of Environment's Freedom of Information staff have been delegated to administer Freedom of Information requests to the Council.

2.2 Meetings

The Council held General Meetings in 2022 on 23 March, 29 June, and 14 December. Agendas with working papers, and Minutes (once approved), of the meetings can be found at <https://conservation.ky/general-meetings/>. In accordance with the statutory requirement and the Council's Policy and Procedure Manual, the agenda and working papers for the meetings were published in advance and the public was able to view the proceedings of each General Meeting in full and live on YouTube. The meeting recordings can be viewed at [National Conservation Council \(NCC\) General Meetings - YouTube](#).

Council also conducts non-binding working groups approximately every three weeks in order to prepare for the general meetings. Council occasionally considers procedural items at these sessions or via correspondence, e.g., section 41 advice to ensure that Planning Department timelines could be met, with those items being ratified at the next appropriate General Meeting.

Matters for the Agenda are cast as Board Papers which may consist of Information Papers or Working Papers prepared by the Department of Environment and papers prepared by Council members either individually or representing Committees of the Council. Matters for decision are usually presented with a recommendation and a draft motion for approval as a resolution of the Council.

2.3 Entry Into Force of the National Conservation Act

Parts 5 and 7 of the National Conservation Act, 2013 (NCA), with the exception of sections 46 and 47 of Part 7, came into force on the 15th day of August 2016. This included section 51, which repealed the Marine Conservation Act (2013 Revision). Only sections 46 and 47 of the National Conservation Act still remain to come into force.

2.4 Implementation of the National Conservation Act

During 2022 the implementation of the National Conservation Act continued with ongoing efforts to improve management of protected species and important natural areas.

- 2.4.1. 2017 Judicial Review of previous Little Cayman feral cat culling programme was concluded. Little Cayman feral cat cull resumed.
- 2.4.2. Judicial Review of Central Planning Authority decision not to implement Council directions was successful. CPA is appealing.
- 2.4.3. Protected Areas Acquired (see section 2.8.1)
- 2.4.4. Protected Areas public nominations period conducted successfully (section 2.8.2).
- 2.4.5. Sybil's Crownbeard Conservation Plan and Meagre Bay Pond Management Plan approved by Cabinet.
- 2.4.6. Seabird species conservation plan consultation conducted.
- 2.4.7. Cabinet waived Wildlife Interaction Zone permit renewal fees for 2022.
- 2.4.8. Regulations for the control of alien species were passed by Cabinet.
- 2.4.9. Cabinet Approved the *Aegiphila caymanensis* Conservation Plan.
- 2.4.10. The Honourable Premiere & Minister of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency tabled the Council's annual reports for 2020 and 2021.
- 2.4.11. Guidance Notes for the handling of stingrays and starfish were refreshed and promulgated.

Other actions will be covered in more detail in the rest of the report.

2.5 Invasive Species

2.5.1 Green Iguanas

The current Green Iguana Culling Program, utilising a 'bounty' approach, officially began in November 2018, although smaller pilot programs had been trialled annually since 2016. Funds were approved through Finance Committee to be taken from the Environmental Protection Fund. As of December 2022 a total of **1,435,767 culled green iguanas** had been processed through the Iguana Culling station at the George Town Landfill as part of the Green Iguana Culling Program (2018-2023) at a combined cost of **KYD 8,675,289**.

	Iguanas	Cost KYD
Iguanas Culled November - December 2018	298,106	\$ 1,543,511
Iguanas Culled January - December 2019	825,420	\$ 4,475,559
Iguanas Culled January - December 2020	139,032	\$ 1,020,451
Iguanas Culled January - December 2021	87,361	\$ 860,697
Iguanas Culled January -December 2022	85,848	\$ 775,071
TOTAL CULLED SINCE NOVEMBER 2018	1,435,767	\$ 8,675,289

The Green Iguana Culling Program remains in progress through 2022/2023 with approved Finance Committee funds of CI\$1,078,196 (combined years) allocated from the Environmental Protection Fund to the Department of Environment through the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency. Additional Supplemental Funding will be required to meet the 2023 culling objectives.

Cornwall Consulting remain as the contracted Cull Management Team with a competitively tendered contract awarded from April 2022 to December 2023. Approximately 150 Caymanians were registered as cullers in 2022 with the majority expected to reregister in 2023.

The Department of Environment's Green Iguana Survey, typically conducted in August each year, has documented the impact of the culling activities with an estimated 80,500 Green Iguanas remaining in the wild of Grand Cayman in 2022, down from a surveyed peak of approximately 1,320,000 in 2018 when the cull began. Though successful so far there is still concern that the bounty style approach to control the green iguana population may have reached the limit of its effectiveness. As iguanas become more skittish and dispersed the bounty per iguana has had to be increased. For financial sustainability, and to target areas with low iguana catch rates but high biological or social value, new approaches will be needed in the future. In 2023 DoE culling efforts in the Sister Islands will be expanded to focus on reducing or removing entirely the potential impacts of the invasive green iguana on the endemic Sister Island Rock Iguanas.

In 2022 targeted green iguana culling led by the Department of Environment continued on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, with the assistance of community volunteers. This included biosecurity activities on Little Cayman by the DoE iguana intern in the first half of 2022. In the second half of 2022 an RSPB supported project was initiated that involved targeted culling of invasive species, employment of an officer to assess biosecurity needs and solutions for the Sister Islands and a community outreach officer especially for Cayman Brac. The establishment of green

iguanas on either of the sister islands brings with it the potential for interbreeding between the invasive green iguanas and the endemic endangered rock iguanas.

2.5.3 Little Cayman Alien Species Controls

In 2022 on Little Cayman in addition to targeted green iguana culling and biosecurity work the Department of Environment also undertook other alien species control work, in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Feral cat culling was conducted in June 2022 with the support of the Department of Agriculture and feral rat removal surveys were carried out repeatedly throughout the year. This work should continue in 2023. The rat removal surveys in 2022 set a baseline index of the rat density to track if there is any fluctuation as feral cat removal occurs in 2023.

The house cat (*Felis catus*) has become invasive in the Cayman Islands, readily becoming feral and living and breeding in the wild around human habitations and throughout the interior of all three islands. Such feral cat populations are well documented to be extremely harmful to natural resources, and in the Cayman Islands their impacts on endemic, endangered and protected species are known to be severe. As species conservation plans continue to be developed it can be expected that alien species controls, including of feral cats, will continue to be highlighted, e.g., the draft seabird species consultation plan and any future iguana species conservation plans.

2.5.4 Alien Species Regulations

Previous annual reports have noted the need for the introduction of invasive species regulations to manage public removal of invasive species and support efforts by the Department of Agriculture to keep invasive pest species from becoming established in the Cayman Islands. This need was met in 2022 with the Gazettal on November 3rd of the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations.

Little Cayman Rats

Rodents are an invasive species to Little Cayman and present a biosecurity risk if their population goes unmanaged. The citizens of Little Cayman believe the feral cat population have kept the rodent population balanced, and controlling the feral cat population will result in an increase in the rodent population. Even though, evidence from feral cat necropsies of cats caught in Little Cayman have showed no rodent remains. In an effort to better understand the population dynamics of the rodent population on Little Cayman and the potential predator-prey relationship between cats and rats, the Cayman Islands Department of Environment conducted a survey to create an index of the rodent population on the west end of Little Cayman.

Baseline rodent surveys were conducted in March, July and October 2022, where forty T-Rex Snap traps were placed in lines parallel to road ways in the West end of Little Cayman for several nights each time. These traps were set overnight, commencing in the evening and closed the following morning to avoid by-catch of the endangered Sister Island Rock Iguana.

During the survey period of over a thousand trap-nights only the Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) were caught.

The work has produced a standardised and repeatable method, creating an index of rat presence in these areas which can be repeated over time to gauge changes in the rat population.

Alien Species in the Cayman Islands – The National Conservation Council

On 3rd November 2022 the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations, 2022, were published in the Cayman Islands Gazette. These important regulations will help protect our endemic and native plants and animals from the potential negative impacts of alien species. The regulations provide definitions of ‘*feral species*’, ‘*the wild*’, and ‘*release*’ to enhance the application of the National Conservation Act. The Regulations distinguish between feral, i.e., wild or unowned, specimens, and domestic pets, horticultural plants, agricultural animals and plants, and prohibited species. The Regulations give force to the Act’s prohibition on releasing alien or genetically altered specimens (into the wild) and strengthens the country’s ability to prohibit or permit the import, ownership, and breeding, of species that present a heightened concern of becoming invasive in the Cayman Islands. The lack of regulation for the control of feral and invasive species, and species that should not be introduced into the Cayman Islands has long been recognised and these new Regulations now address many of those issues.

2.6 Section 41 Consultations

Under Section 41 of the National Conservation Act all Government entities are required to consult with the National Conservation Council before granting a permit or licence, or making some other decision, that would be likely to have an adverse effect on the environment. Section 43 of the Act allows the Council, where necessary, to require the proponent to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). When an EIA is initiated, the Council appoints an Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to regulate the process.

In 2022, under delegated authority from the National Conservation Council, the Environmental Management Unit of the Department of Environment (as part of the Department’s Technical Review Committee) reviewed 661 planning applications, 21 coastal works applications and 31 general consultations under section 41 of the National Conservation Act. This represents a comparable level to 2021 and a 1,000% increase from 2015 (which is prior to the development consultation provisions within the National Conservation Act (2013) coming into effect in 2016).

Four (4) EIA Screening Opinions were issued by the DoE and endorsed by the NCC:

- the Prisma Hotel and Condominium Developments in Crystal Harbour (West Bay Road canal development),
- Phase 1B of the Beach Bay Hotel (Beach Bay, Grand Cayman),
- A Cement Plant and Storage Facility for North Sound Property Holdings, and
- East-West Extension to Hutland Road for the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

The Screening Opinions concluded that EIAs were not required for these proposals, though certain additional studies were often recommended.

An additional EIA for a large marina community development on Cayman Brac was also voluntarily initiated by the proponent.

All EIA Screening Opinions can be found at the following link: <https://conservation.ky/eia-screening-opinions/>.

Of the ongoing EIA, the following progress was made in 2022:

East-West Arterial

The National Roads Authority procured and selected consultants to prepare the Terms of Reference for the East-West Arterial. The consultants were approved by the Environmental Assessment Board and began preparing the Terms of Reference.

Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS or ReGen)

The proponents are carrying out the works as defined in the agreed Terms of Reference. As of the end of 2022, no preliminary chapters had been sent to the EAB for their review. Numerous meetings were held between the proponents and the EAB regarding the delays by the proponents to the programme.

Dart Hotel/Tourism Planned Area Development, Seven Mile Beach

The EIA was not commenced by the proponents and so the project is now considered closed by the Council. The proponents are welcome to reapply for an updated EIA screening opinion at any time they wish to restart the process, taking into account any changes to the proposal or the area's environmental situation over time.

East-West Extension to Hutland Road

The proponents were informed of the need for an EIA. The EIA was not commenced by the proponents and so the project is now considered closed by the Council.

If the project is proposed a third time it will be reassessed for need for an EIA, taking into account any changes to the proposal or the area's environmental situation over time.

Port Zeus Cayman Brac Marina

The proponents voluntarily instigated the EIA process, recognising it would be of benefit to their project and likely be a national development requirement. EIA consultants were selected by the proponent, in consultation with the EAB. At the end of 2022, the draft ToR had not yet been submitted to the EAB.

EIAs remain international best practice at a relatively minor cost for those projects that require them, especially compared to the potential savings they can identify for the project. They are an important tool for assuring the public that environmentally, socially and economically appropriate decision-making is occurring. The activation of EIAs in local legislation has gone a long way to raising the profile of the Cayman Islands which in February 2013 were assessed as "weak" in each of the four areas of environmental governance (species, sites, development control and people) evaluated by the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD). Having EIA legislation also assists the Cayman Islands in achieving commitments made under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, the 2001 Environment Charter, and the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009.

Unfortunately, the non-acceptance of Council recommendations, or even Directions under the Act, in some instances remains a significant problem. Non-acceptance of Direction could leave the non-complaint Government agency, or even private sector entities acting on the advice or permission of the non-compliant Government entity, open to legal challenge or prosecution. In late 2021 the NCC was given leave by the Court to apply for a Judicial Review of a decision of the Central Planning Authority not to require certain conditions as directed by the Council when

they issued Planning Permission. The Judicial Review of the CPA decision was conducted in 2022 and a ruling issued on 23 August 2022. <https://conservation.ky/jr-23aug22/>

The ruling overwhelmingly concluded that the actions and procedures of the NCC were lawful and that choosing not to include the Council's directions was unlawful.

However, the CPA has appealed this decision of Court so we expect this issue to continue into 2023 before being concluded. Despite the court ruling which confirmed the application of the Act, Council Directions continue to not be applied by the relevant authorities.

The Council continues to recommend Turtle Friendly Lighting for any development on coastlines frequented by nesting turtles, and to encourage existing properties to take part in the Environmental Protection Fund supported retrofit programme administered by the Department of Environment. Six (6) turtle friendly lighting plans were reviewed by the Department of Environment, which were conditions of planning approval, for a mix of residential schemes and hotel/tourism developments.

On 22 February 2022, Cabinet refused an application to construct overwater bungalows in South Hole Sound, a Marine Reserve under the National Conservation Act. One of the reasons for refusal was the principle of prohibiting the construction and establishment of habitable structures in Marine Protected Areas.

2.7 Climate Change

Throughout 2022 the Council, individual members, and the Department of Environment continued to engage with local and international partners to both better understand the potential impacts of, and responses to, climate change, as well as to promote the need for a robust, national-level response to the reality of climate change for our small, low-lying country. In exercising its delegated authority, the

Judicial Review

The NCC sought the Court's consideration in 2021 after the CPA approved an application to rebuild a seawall and cabana on Boggy Sand Road in West Bay, counter to an NCC direction not to approve the project due to the potential for negative impacts on the surrounding marine protected area, namely the Seven Mile Beach Marine Reserve.

In a decision released 23 August 2022, the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands confirmed that the National Conservation Act (2013) provides the National Conservation Council (NCC) with the ability to direct government bodies in circumstances where actions could have an adverse effect on protected areas or species.

As a result, the Court concluded that the Central Planning Authority (CPA) acted unlawfully when it approved an application to rebuild a cabana and seawall at Block 5B parcel 162 on Boggy Sand Road in West Bay. The Court has quashed this Planning approval, which was given contrary to direction from the NCC.

The 51-page decision confirms the NCC has the authority to direct any entity of the government – including ministries, departments, portfolios, statutory authorities, etc. – when the taking of any action by an entity would or would be likely to have an adverse effect, directly or indirectly on a protected area or on the critical habitat of a protected species, where the adverse impact cannot be satisfactorily mitigated by conditions. In all other circumstances, the originating entity retains its decision-making authority.

The ruling also confirms the National Conservation Act provides the NCC with an express power of delegation, and that it is lawful for the NCC to delegate such powers to the Director of the Department of Environment (DoE) including the NCC's powers under section 41(5). These powers relate to the ability of the NCC to instruct an entity (including the CPA, but excluding Cabinet) to refuse any action that may give rise to an adverse effect on a protected area or the critical habitat of a protected species if the adverse effects cannot be mitigated by conditions of approval as specified by the DoE on behalf of the NCC.

A copy of the full decision may be accessed online: <https://conservation.ky/jr-23aug22/>

Department of Environment, with input from the Council, ensured that all of its Section 41 environmental reviews recommended measures to reduce physical vulnerability to existing weather-related and projected climate change impacts, and enhance resiliency in efficient ways that address the consequences of and responses to changing climatic conditions. These recommendations sought to deliver win-win outcomes for other government policy objectives such as the National Energy Policy.

Council was pleased to participate, along with other local stakeholders in the Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Cayman Islands that is underway with the assistance of the Governor's Office. Overseas experts identified a list of climate risks based on international and local information which was then modified and ranked by the local stakeholders, including members of the Council, to prioritise the risks for the Cayman Islands identify actions and opportunities for addressing them. This work fed into an update of the 2011 draft Climate Change Policy which is expected in 2023. This will present to the country the policies and regulatory changes necessary to enhance the resilience of the Cayman Islands to current and future climate impacts.

2.8 Protected Areas

2.8.1 Protected Areas Acquisition

In 2022 purchases concluded of land previously approved for conservation and some Crown lands were protected by Cabinet.

Area	acres	Island
Duck Pond Cay (Crown) (Central Mangrove Wetland)	0.44	Grand Cayman
Salina Reserve Parcel (Private)	33.68	Grand Cayman
Sand Cay Parcel (Crown)	0.48	Grand Cayman
Western Mangrove Cays (Crown)	18.38	Grand Cayman
East Interior Parcels (Crown)	48.92	Little Cayman
East Interior Parcels (Private)	71.56	Little Cayman
Tarpon Lake Parcels (Crown)	691.07	Little Cayman
TOTAL	864.52	
TOTAL CROWN	759.28	
TOTAL PRIVATE	105.24	

Notes

- 1) The acreage includes land only and does not include the marine areas surrounding the Western Mangrove Cays and Sand Cay.
- 2) These areas, while approved as Protected Areas by Cabinet, are still pending final Gazette notice of their acquisition and status as protected areas.
- 3) The Crown also acquired one other parcel for conservation purposes. A 22.81 acres area of land designated in 2019 as critical habitat for the rare plant *Agalinis kingsii*. (Interim Directive by the National Conservation Council for the Protection of *Agalinis kingsii*,

Gazette 11/2019, 27 May 2019.) This land has not undergone the formal protected area designation process, though it is hoped that that will occur in 2023.

These acquisitions increased the nationally protected land area of the Cayman Islands to approximately 11%, when including land protected by the National Trust as well as under the National Conservation Act, 2013.

Protected Land Area of the Cayman Islands

<u>Grand Cayman</u>			
	acres	km2	
Land Area (Total)	48,558.83	196.51	
Protected Areas	acres	km2	% of Land Area
National Trust Owned or Managed Land	2,817.92	11.40	5.80%
NCA Protected Areas - Protected	2,656.29	10.75	5.47%
Total	5,474.21	22.15	11.27%
ALL AREAS INCLUDING OVERLAP	5,312.74	21.50	10.94%

<u>Little Cayman</u>			
	acres	km2	
Land Area (Total)	7,129.75	28.85	
Protected Areas	acres	km2	% of Land Area
National Trust Owned or Managed Land	445.79	1.80	6.25%
NCA Protected Areas - Protected	1,363.05	5.52	19.12%
Total	1,808.84	7.32	25.37%
ALL AREAS INCLUDING OVERLAP	1,616.99	6.54	22.68%

<u>Cayman Brac</u>			
	acres	km2	
Land Area (Total)	9,536.95	38.59	
Protected Areas	acres	km2	% of Land Area
National Trust Owned or Managed Land	336.07	1.36	3.52%
NCA Protected Areas - Protected	228.17	0.92	2.39%
Total	564.24	2.28	5.92%
ALL AREAS INCLUDING OVERLAP	564.24	2.28	5.92%

All Three Cayman Islands			
	acres	km2	
Land Area (Total)	65,225.53	263.96	
Protected Areas	acres	km2	% of Land Area
National Trust Owned or Managed Land	3,599.78	14.57	5.52%
NCA Protected Areas - Protected	4,247.51	17.19	6.51%
Total	7,847.29	31.76	12.03%
ALL AREAS INCLUDING OVERLAP	7,493.97	30.33	11.49%

(Cayman Islands terrestrial protected areas, accurate as of March 2023.)

2.8.2 Protected Areas Public Nominations

On 7 February 2022 the National Conservation Council published an open call for members of the public to nominate sites as potential protected areas around the Cayman Islands. The nomination period was open for 113 days, closing on May 31st. (Nominations can be received at any time and do not fall away. The call for nominations is to encourage the public to consider where they think should be protected and why and allow all proposals to be properly, fairly and simultaneously assessed.) The response this year was truly exceptional. 89 nominations were received from individual members of the public, non-profit organisations, landowners and realtors. Encouragingly, many were completely new proposals, while others added to multiple calls to protect well known areas, such as the Eastern Lighthouse area of Cayman Brac, the Central Mangrove Wetland and Barkers of Grand Cayman.

The Council had previously promulgated a scoring system to rank each nomination on its conservation merits. The Department of Environment's Terrestrial Resources Unit conducted that formal scoring on the Council's behalf allowing Council members to see all the nominations (new and old) in a broad context, with comparable metrics that point to which ones can offer the best conservation returns per unit expense and management effort. The Council can also take into account other relevant social considerations at this time. For its December general meeting the Council reviewed all 89 nominations, and the previously nominated areas as well, deciding which to seek to advance in 2023 for acquisition (purchase from willing sellers) and which to defer for later nomination/acquisition cycles. In doing so, Council had to scale land purchase proposals with the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) budget currently released for conservation land purchase. The scale of the nominations brought home Council's oft noted quandary that larger budgets need to be made available for purchase of protected areas otherwise only a few small parks or reserves will ever be created.

At the time Council considered the nominations 6.4% of Cayman Islands land was protected under the National Conservation Act, with 5.5% protected by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, giving an overall statistic of 11.3% protection. There is some overlap of National Trust land that is also protected by the NCA, which is why the percentages don't quite sum to the overall total. To put this 11.3% in context, the current position internationally (IUCN), and formalised in the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022, is a goal of 30% of land coming under protection by 2030 with a representation of all key habitat types.

Recognising that the amounts historically budgeted for the acquisition of conservation land are insufficient to purchase the large parcels, or large contiguous areas from multiple willing sellers, that would be needed for the Cayman Islands to achieve a representative and effective system of protected areas in a reasonable period of time the Council requested the Department of Environment to prepare presentations to Cabinet proposing the national acquisition (pending seller willingness) of such large and biologically important areas. This would likely be through future special budget allocations as funds are available within the Environmental Protection Fund, and following the process in sections 9 (6) – (9) of the Act. To guide the acquisition of protected areas under the process set out in the Act the Council identified the following priority areas for conservation purchase in 2023 (and beyond) as and when funds and willing sellers are available. And recognising that not all landowners will wish to dedicate their land in whole or in part for conservation purposes.

Rank	Private Land to Approach Landowners	Crown Land for Protection
1	Cayman Brac, dry forest	Little Cayman, Jackson Pond & north coast wetlands
2	Grand Cayman, mangrove wetland & parrot habitat	Little Cayman, Muddyfoot's (Modyford's) Pond
3	Little Cayman, Rock Iguana Habitat	Little Cayman, Rock Iguana Habitat
4	-	Grand Cayman, Ironwood Forest (Crown Only)
5	Barkers National Park	Grand Cayman, Malportas Pond
6	Grand Cayman, East End karst shrubland	Grand Cayman, East End karst shrubland

2.9 Conservation Enforcement

The Department of Environment Conservation Officers are at the forefront of applying the National Conservation Act and its Regulations, enforcing the law but also educating the public and engaging in other related activities. In 2022 nine officers (rising to ten in November) worked across all three islands on both sea and land, processing 99 criminal incidents, 18 Coastal Works, 14 Animal Rescue, 9 oil spills (all thankfully small), and 3 search and rescue events.

Conservation Officer Incident Reports - 2021

*Note: Criminal Incident Reports are only generated when subjects are
"Warned / Warned for Intended Prosecution / Arrested."*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	<i>Coastal Works</i>	<i>Animal Rescue</i>	<i>Oil Spill</i>	<i>Search & Rescue</i>	<i>Notes</i>
January	2	3	0	0	1	S&R Barra Bite; 28 Jan vessel anchored in coral in GT Harbour
February	12	0	0	1	0	-
March	10	2	0	0	1	Land clearing in Newlands (mangroves) under investigation w/ Planning (CW1); (CW2) Dock work stopped due to machine in water (South Sound); (Search & Recovery) 4 persons on 2 kayaks rescued from blowing offshore; 2 incidents of visiting sailboats anchored in coral.
April	23	2	0	0	0	Coastal Works were both mangrove clearing. 23 Criminal were all Marine Parks Education.
May	4	2	0	1	0	-
June	3	2	1	0	1	-
July	2	0	2	2	0	Also 1 coral damage incident.
August	8	1	2	2	0	4 criminal reports involved repeat offenders, but no evidence recovered. 1 animal rescue was a turtle in a pool at Boggy Sand Road.
September	5	2	2	2	0	Animal rescues both turtles in pools
October	9	2	4	1	0	2 incidences of repeat criminal offenders.
November	16	2	1	0	0	Criminal: 4 WIZ License Violations, 3 Mangrove Clearing/Take Violations. 4 Incidences of repeat offenders.
December	5	0	2	0	0	-
Total	99	18	14	9	3	-

Under section 27(2) of the National Conservation Act the DoE's Conservation Officers submit to the NCC an inventory of the specimens seized, e.g., conch from conch poaching, and their disposal of those specimens. The Council has asked that as part of these reports additional information such as the location and the nature of the offense be also reported, including whether the suspect is a recognised repeat offender. The inventory for 2022 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Chapter 3 Financial

All accounts for the National Conservation Council and the Environmental Protection Fund are held and administered by the Department of Environment and Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency (MSCR). The following information and tables are for qualitative purposes only and are as reported by the Ministry and Department. Accounts for financial reporting or auditing purposes should be sourced from the Department or Ministry directly. .

3.1 Council Budget and Expenses

2022 expenditures reported by the Department of Environment on behalf of the Council totalled \$7,903.27 for member stipends, public consultations and other public education and outreach (including ongoing maintenance costs for the Council's website).

Conservation Council 2022 Expenditures	Expenditures
Public Education & Outreach (including public consultations)	\$ 744.48
Council Stipends	\$ 6,650.00
Total	\$ 7,394.48

The Council budget for the financial years 2022-23 was again included with the Department of Environment's biennial budget. The Council continues to be of the view that the Council's budget and expenses should be accounted for separately in core government accounts.

3.2 Environmental Protection Fund

Section 3 (9) of the NCA provides that the Council manage and make recommendations on the use of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF or Fund). Although sections 46 and 47 of the Act (which provide in greater detail for the operation, management and reporting on activities financed from the Fund) remained unimplemented in this reporting period and the Fund continued to be operated under the pre-existing 1997 legislation¹, the Council makes the following report in completion of its duties under the National Conservation Act.

The Council hereby reports that in 2022 the following amounts were approved and allocated by Finance Committee from the Environmental Protection Fund and spent by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Lands on behalf of or with the approval of the National Conservation Council:

In 2022 the following was spent from the by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Lands on behalf of or with the approval of the National Conservation Council.

¹ The 1997 legislation describes the purpose of the Fund as "defraying expenditure incurred in protecting and preserving the environment of the Islands"

Description	Appropriation code-description	EA 146	Acquisitions from the Environmental Protection Fund by the Ministry of District Administration & Lands in 2022.
Salinas Reserve Extension	EA 146 - Land Purchase Conservation	770,000	
Little Cayman Eastern Interior Protected Area Extension	EA 146 - Land Purchase Conservation	849,000	
<i>Agalinis kingsii</i> Critical Habitat	EA 146-Land Purchase Conservation	1,038,489	
		2,657,489	
		7,000,000	
2022/23 Appropriation		7,000,000	
Unutilized as at Dec 31, 2022		4,342,511	

Rate of purchase of lands identified for protection continue to remain a concern for the Council. While spending less than half of the \$7 million 2-year budget may seem to be 'on target' it should be noted that the limited budget meant that the Government had to wait for relatively small parcels to come on market (or for direct sale offers to be negotiated) before a purchase could occur. This compares poorly to the relatively large areas that will need to be acquired relatively quickly to achieve a biologically or culturally useful volume of protected areas, despite recognising the unlikelihood of achieving the international 30-by-30 goal of 30% of land area protected by the end of 2030. With the public nominations in 2022 of more areas for consideration for protection we encourage the Government to consider dedicating more funds for the acquisition of larger areas in the 2024/25 budget.

Environmental Protection Fund 2022 Expenditures by the Department of Environment

EPF Projects	Account	Full 2022 Budget	Expenses @ Dec 2022	Variance	Full 2023 Budget	Variance 2022+2023 Budgets
ENV0004 - Sister Islands Rock Iguana programme	55005	25,000	582	24,418	25,000	49,418
ENV0006 - Turtle Friendly Lighting	55005	140,000	85,469	54,531	140,000	194,531
ENV0007 - Coral Reef Restoration	55005	-	(329)	329	-	329
ENV0008 - Legal Advice for NCC	55005	50,000	116,068	(66,068)	50,000	(16,068)
ENV0009 - Green Iguana Expenditures	54256	600,000	782,248	(182,248)	478,196	295,948
ENV0010 - Nassau Grouper Monitoring	55005	50,000	43,664	6,336	50,000	56,336
ENV0011 - Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease	55005	195,000	98,515	96,485	150,000	246,485
Total EPF Expenditures		1,060,000	1,126,216	(66,216)	893,196	826,980

Several of these projects are also supplemented with grant funding, and Department of Environment project funding, e.g., boat costs, or funding from international partners, e.g., visiting scientists. Most particularly The Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease and Nassau Grouper projects.

The green iguana culling programme remains on target and operating at the expected cost. However the two year budget originally appropriated was known to be insufficient and that supplemental funding would have to be requested. This has resulted in the recorded cost overrun in 2022 and the projected need for supplemental funding in 2023.

Legal advice for Council was especially high in 2022 as expert outside legal representation was required to successfully prosecute the Judicial Review of the Central Planning Authority (see sidebar to section 2.6). While the Judicial Review included a costs order in favour of the Council the Central Planning Authority has appealed the Court's decision so the final outcome of the Judicial Review, including any decision on aggregate costs awarded to either party, is still pending. Regardless, it is likely that the overspend will have to be covered by an eventual transfer of funds from other parts of the approved EPF budget which are underspent. Fortunately there appears to be enough underspend to meet this shortfall. However it does draw attention to the challenge of enforcing section 41 directions as the Council would have to engage in several Judicial Reviews a year to address every instance of Government agencies not adhering to lawful directives.

The Parrot Amnesty, funded by the EPF in 2020 has over time seen over 300 registered parrots now legally owned, one successful prosecution of a poacher and 30 releases of injured and rehabilitated birds that wouldn't have been saved without the Environmental Protection Fund having been available to support the initial registration and public outreach programme.

Chapter 4 2023 Goals & Objectives

With the National Conservation Act now substantially in force the National Conservation Council will balance long-term policy direction with short-term initiatives to achieve those longer-term goals, while maintaining a watching brief on ongoing conservation operations. These ongoing operations for 2023 will include:

1. Financial Governance
 - a. Final Environmental Protection Fund management sections of the National Conservation Act brought into force for the 2024-25 budget.
 - b. 2024-25 budget for Council split out from Department of Environment.
 - c. Increased funds for purchasing larger land parcels for protection, and ways to do so faster, in the 2024-25 budget years.
2. Protected Areas
 - a. Resume acquisition of high conservation value lands for protected areas.
 - b. Management Plans for existing protected areas, both marine and terrestrial.
3. Protected Species
 - a. Species Conservation Planning for the management of selected protected species.
 - b. Completion of the Seabird Conservation Plan.
4. Administrative
 - a. Issuing Permits and Licences
 - b. Providing guidance and advice to all government entities under the consultation requirements set down in Section 41 of the Act, as well as screening certain projects for the requirement for EIAs and managing various EIAs for ongoing major infrastructure projects.
 - c. Work to reduce incidences of government Agencies not adhering to lawful section 41 directives issued by or on behalf of the Council.
5. Supporting the development, passage, and enactment of the updated National Climate Change Policy.
 - a. Continue to advise the National Security Council and other branches of the Government on the implications of climate change for the Cayman Islands and measures to enhance resiliency.
 - b. Support the implementation of the National Energy Policy through DOE's position on the Energy Policy Council and other collaborations.
 - c. Support research by the DOE and continue to provide evidence-based recommendations for managing climate change impacts on Seven Mile Beach and other coastal systems.
 - d. Provide input into the PlanCayman National Development Plan review and updated Climate Change Policy process.
6. Public education and outreach activities
 - a. Particularly to educational institutions
 - b. In coordination with conservation partners such as the National Trust.
7. Continuation of Invasive Species Control Programmes.
 - a. Green iguana culling efforts on all three islands.
 - b. Feral cat and rat control activities in selected areas for the protection of native species, the welfare of the cats, and the avoidance of potential human health and nuisance issues.

- c. On Little Cayman reduce the high densities of feral cats known to be clustered in certain residential areas and at the landfill site, and to reduce the population in accessible areas island-wide to ease the unsustainable predation pressure on native wildlife.
- d. Produce a feasibility study on the potential for eradication of feral cats from Little Cayman, in consultation with partner entities and other specialists.
- e. Targeted invasive plant removals on all three islands.
- f. Licencing individual and group lionfish control efforts.
- g. Licencing continued Stoney Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) control efforts by the Department of Environment and others.

Appendix 1: Specimen Seizure Records, 2022

Specimen Seizure Record - 2022 (January - June)

Date	Specimen Type	Amount	Action	Disposal	Note
12-Jan-22	Spear Gun (Pole Spear)	1	Warned (juvenile)	Destroyed	
2-Feb-22	Lobster	8	To Court (boat & car seized)	Marine life to Pines; Spear, vessel, vehicle pending Court	
	Fish	51			
	Spear Gun	9			
4-Feb-22	Sprat	2.5 gallons	Warned (taking from boat in Reserve)	Released Alive	
6-Feb-22	Lobster	2	Warned & Educated (juveniles; made to clean beach with dad)	Released Alive	Take In Marine Reserve
6-Feb-22	Whelk	1/4 bucket	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Released Alive	Take in Marine Reserve
13-Feb-22	Fish	6	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Released Alive after photographing	Take in Marine Reserve
23-Feb-22	Spear Gun	1	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Evidence Lockup (case file being prepared)	Unlicensed spear; 2 males
27-Mar-22	Fish	4	Educated	Released Alive	Take In Marine Reserve
8-Mar-22	Fish	6	Warned & Educated	Released Alive	Take in Marine Reserve (catching jacks for live bait)
10-Mar-22	Fish	5	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Released Alive after photographing	2 males, 1 fish undersized
5-Apr-22	Fish	3	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Donated to Charity	Nassau Grouper; Case Before Court

Date	Specimen Type	Amount	Action	Disposal	Note
9-Apr-22	Echinoderms	4	Warned & Educated	Released Alive to sea	Starfish; Tourists
17-May-22	Lobster	1	Warned & Educated	Disposed at Sea	3 Juvenile males, in a Marine Reserve
	Spear Gun	1		Destroyed	
25-May-22	Conch	194	Arrested (case going to court)	Donated to Charity	3 males - truck & boat seized - This & earlier incident/case in court together August 16th for first mention
25-May-22	Fish	14	-	-	Parrotfish
	Lobster	2	-	-	3 spear guns seized
4-Jun-22	Fish	14	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Back to Sea	With DPP for Ruling (various species of fish)
18-Jun-22	Lobster	3	Suspects fled, unable to identify	Donated to Charity	-
	Spear Gun (Hook stick)	2		Destroyed	-

Specimen Seizure Record - 2022 (July - December)

Date	Location	Offense	Specimen	QTY	Conservation Action	Specimen Disposal	Repeat Offender
10-Jul-22	Booby Cay Channel	Unlicensed Fish Pot in Environmental Zone	Fish Pot	1	Seized & Destroyed	Destroyed	-
27-Jul-22	North Sound, near Barkers	Unlicensed Fish Pots	Fish Pot	2	Seized & Destroyed	Destroyed after 30 days	-
17-Aug-22	Bodden Town	Marine life with unlicensed spear gun	Hawaiian Sling	1	3 Males; Warned for Intended Prosecution; Educated; Turned over to CBC	Destroyed	Cuban Asylum Seekers
			Fish	2		Donated (Pines)	
			Lobster	3		Donated (Pines)	
15-Aug-22	East End Heritage Dock	Unlicensed Spear Gun	Champion Spear Gun	1	Case File To Legal; to court	Evidence Lockup	Yes (2 persons)
22-Sep-22	North Sound, chased east	Taking Marine Life with a Spear Gun in a Marine Reserve	Spear Gun	0	Spear gun seen by conservation officer. Boat chased but outran DoE vessel.	Suspects threw spear gun overboard in deep water.	Suspects not identified
17-Sep-22	West Bay, Sand Hole Road	Unlicensed Spear Gun	Hawaiian Sling	2	Males evaded arrest but dropped spear guns.	Destroyed	Suspects not identified

Date	Location	Offense	Specimen	QTY	Conservation Action	Specimen Disposal	Repeat Offender
12-Oct-22	Barkers Marine Reserve	Taking Specimens (Marine Life) form a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Conch	159	Before the Court	Meals on Wheels & Pines	Yes (Both Males)
			Lobster	6		Evidence Lockup	
		Possession of unlicensed spear guns	Hooks Sticks / Spear Guns	2			
18-Oct-22	SW Point	Taking with Unlicensed Pots	Fish Pots	2	Confiscated & Destroyed	Crushed	Unknown
23-Oct-22	West Bay, 4-Way Stop	Lobster out of season and over-limit	Lobster	10	Court	Meals on Wheels & Pines	Yes
20-Oct-22	Bosun Bay, West Bay	Take (Possession) of a Protected Species (Cayman Parrot)	Cayman Parrot	1	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Released to wild after rehab	No
26-Oct-22	Frank Sound	Taking Specimens (Conch) from a Protected Area (Marine Reserve) & over-limit	Conch	302	3 Males Warned for Intended Prosecution	161 popped conchs donated to Pines. 141 conch released alive.	Cuban asylum seekers at BT Civic Centre
14-Nov-22	Barkers, West Bay	Taking Specimens (Marne Life) in a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Lobster	7	Going to Court (File With Legal)	Meals On Wheels	Yes (Both Persons)
			Fish (Various)	6		Meals on Wheels	
		Possession of Unlicensed Spear Gun	Spear Gun	2		Evidence Lockup	

Date	Location	Offense	Specimen	QTY	Conservation Action	Specimen Disposal	Repeat Offender
14-Nov-22	Prospect Point, South Sound Marine Reserve	Taking Specimens (Marne Life) in a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Fish (Snapper)	2	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Released to Sea	No
20-Nov-22	Barkers Line Fishing Only Zone	Taking Specimens (Conch) in a Protected Area (Line Fishing Only Zone)	Conch	24	Warned for Intended Prosecution; Case File Prepared	Meals on Wheels	Yes
21-Nov-22	Barkers Marine Reserve	Taking Specimens (Marne Life) in a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Fish (Various)	6	Warned for Intended Prosecution; Case File Prepared	Meals on Wheels	Yes (3 warning in 2 days)
24-Nov-22	Near Stingray City (Deep), North Sound	Conch Over Limit	Conch	40	Case File Prepared	Meals on Wheels	Yes
			Boat and 2 sets of Snorkel Gear	-	-	Confiscated; In Evidence Lockup & DoE Compound (Boat)	
29-Dec-22	Seven Mile Beach to Lobster Pot	Taking Specimens (Marne Life) in a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Fish (Various)	10	Warned for Intended Prosecution	Meals on Wheels	No
		Possessing Unlicensed & Taking Specimens With a Spear Gun	Spear guns	2		Evidence Lockup	

Date	Location	Offense	Specimen	QTY	Conservation Action	Specimen Disposal	Repeat Offender
30-Dec-22	Prospect Point (South Sound Marine Reserve)	Taking Specimens (Marine Life) in a Protected Area (Marine Reserve)	Lobster	2	5 Males Warned for Intended Prosecution	Disposed to Sea (dumped at sea)	No
			Whelks	36		Released to Sea	