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**NOVA Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center,
International Study Opportunity
Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

ENVIRONMENTAL Coastal Policy Program Class and Trip to BELIZE, Central America
Taught and Led by Dr. Steffen Schmidt, Ph.D.

The Dec-Jan class: CZMT-0760, "Environmental Issues and Policy in Coastal Developing Countries: CZM Related Issues in Belize, Central America." Winter Inter-Semester 2005 - 3 credits will be earned from Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center. Students will do readings and look at some web-based material for background on some of the key environmental issues facing coastal developing countries and on Belize, Central America. Students will also do a "Service Learning" project by collecting educational and environmental supplies and delivering these to schools and the University of Belize to help with environmental education.

Class/Field trip: December 27, 2004 -January 7, 2005 to southern Belize.

We will fly into Belize City, then on Tropic Air a short hop to the town of Dangriga where y'all will overnight at the Sittee River Guest house. The next morning we leave for a 2-3 hour boat ride to the remote and beautiful Glovers Reef.



"Bring food, supplies, soap, towels, flashlight, candles, toilet paper, sunscreen, bug repellent, liquor or soft drinks and raincoat for Sittee River and maybe boat. Bring on boat, food for lunch and snacks; keep sunscreen and rain gear handy and hats. Low price of boat trip is made possible by carrying freight, lumber, coconuts, please help with loading." From: Glover's Reef Instructions

We will stay on a small island covered in coconut trees on a huge, crystal clear

circular coral reef lagoon (like in the South Pacific). It's quiet and calm on the "inside". On the outside is the wild open ocean.

"Glover's Atoll is a United Nations World Heritage Site and Marine Reserve. Located on our privately owned 9 acre; 5 hectare Northeast Cay at Glover's Atoll, in the Glover's Atoll Marine Reserve, white sand, coral & coconut trees, left in their natural state atop the pristine reef."

From: Glover's Guide



The living here is "primitive" - in raised "palapa" houses (covered in palm leaf roofs, right on the beach). There is no electricity, running water, or phones - no TV. It is a very beautiful place where we can experience the simple life, snorkel a pristine marine park (no people!), learn to scuba dive, kayak, sail, etc. Learn about coral reefs.

Placencia is just south (down) along the mainland coast of Belize.

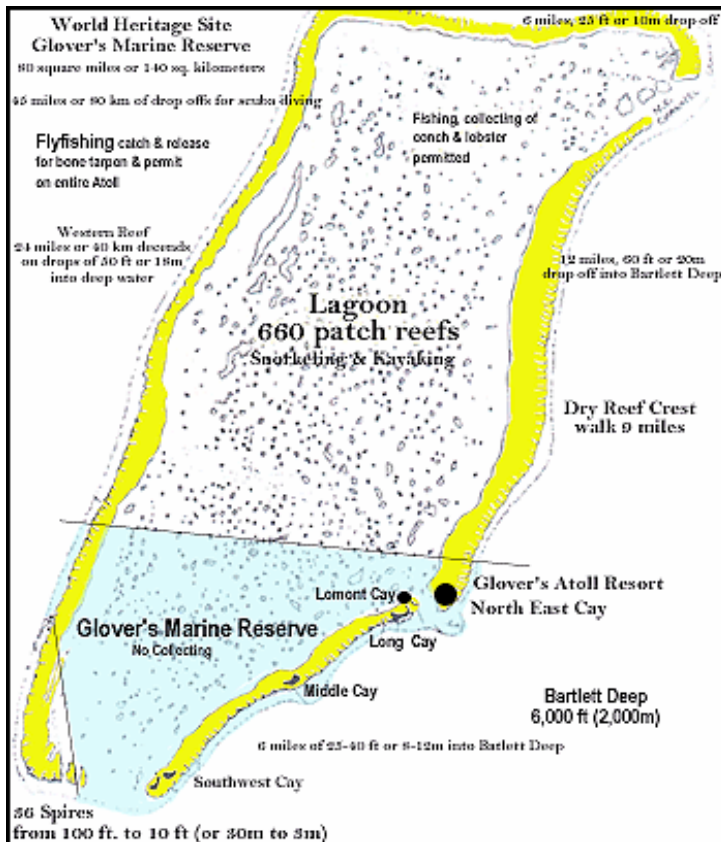
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*"We offer complete privacy and solitude and what we really give you is access to an amazingly beautiful unspoiled group of islands and reefs, a place to sleep and cook and a truly unique experience in traditional Belizean living and the adventure of a lifetime."
From: Glover's Guide*

You will also learn to work with others and gain self-confidence, lose some of your dependence on all the stuff we get so used to. We also will look at the effects of hurricanes on islands and generally learn a lot about the CZM issues.

"Fly fishing for bonefish and permit from shore, reef crest or boat and guide (Stephen Young is an expert fishing guide and will bring his boat and be available for fishing excursions at a special rate for us). There is catch and release, excellent trolling for jacks, Wahoo, kingfish, jacks, barracuda, tuna, bonito, mackerel, and other fish."

We will celebrate New Years here - away from the US way of doing it! I will have a large catamaran sailboat there and we will use it as our "water base" for many of the activities. Our friend, dive master, fishing guide, and local person Stephen Young will be with us during this trip and **he knows everyone and everything in Glovers and Placencia!**



"At Glovers you can paddle from Northeast Cay north along the reef crest for up to 12 miles and rest on sand bars, then snorkel back to the island down-wind or paddle to the 650 patch reefs to snorkel or visit the 5 other islands situated from 1 to 5 miles distance." From: Glover's Guide.

Placencia

From Glovers we go by motorboat to the charming little beach town of Placencia on the mainland.

From this base we will do a day trip up the wild Monkey River and explore the southern rain forest. The Village of Monkey River was smashed by a hurricane and we can talk to locals about that experience. We will also visit a school and community center in Placencia and deliver school supplies and teaching material on the environment collected in the

US before the trip. We will explore Placencia; you can talk to locals about what their big issues are related to CZM. I'll try to get a briefing by the local government officials.

There will be some other opportunities for learning projects on things such as eco-tourism, transportation issues, waste disposal, sewage and fresh water issues, the impact of new economic activities like shrimp farming (we will try to



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visit a huge shrimp farm). Of course, there is swimming any time and just hanging around opportunities every day!

You need to be interviewed for this trip. I need to make sure that you want to do part of this in a camping type environment on Glover's Reef. If you HAVE to shampoo your hair every day this may not be the trip for you! It is a huge learning experience and you will come out a stronger, more self-confident person, a better leader, more adaptable to adversity, and you'll know a lot about another culture and especially the coastal zone and it's issues/problems!

Assessment:

- o Assigned readings tests - 20%;
- o Class and field experience/trip - 50%;
- o Final Report on a project conducted during the field visit on a pre-approved CZM topic - 30%.

Reading Requirements:

- o Book 1 - *The Enchanted Braid*, Osha Gray Davidson
- o Book 2 – To be announced
- o 2000 State of the Coast Report, Belize Coastal Management Authority and Institute (\$10.00). (We will try to get these delivered from BCMAI)
- o <http://icm.noaa.gov/laws/pdfs/BelizeCZMA.pdf> Belize CZM Act
- o http://www.gefweb.org/Outreach/outreach-PUBlications/Project_factsheet/Belize-sust-1-bd-undp-eng-ld.pdf
- o Small Island Developing States Network
<http://www.sidsnet.org/index.html>
- o



Your full name:

E-mail:

Phone #:

A paragraph on why you would like to go on this trip and why we should consider you for the second application phase which involves a lot of forms. For December trip also indicate why you can handle living for 5 days on a remote, beautiful tropical island (A cross between Gilligan's Island and Survivor Belize!).

Send this information **to: sschmidt@nova.edu**

Or if not a NOVA OC student: Belize2005trip@hotmail.com

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Jungle Tips from the newsletter - <http://www.placenciabreeze.com/>

Everyone who comes to Belize will, at one time or another is exposed to the jungle. In order to get the most enjoyment from your experience, you should be properly prepared. Here are some suggestions.



Belize's Scarlet Macaw

1. Wear lightweight, lightly colored clothing: Long pants, and a long sleeved shirt. Tuck the hems of you pants into your socks. Take a hat, also.
2. Wear proper walking hiking shoes, keeping in mind it can very wet or muddy at times.
3. Use Insect repellent: apply it to your face, neck and hands and spray your clothing too.
4. Be careful what you touch or grab for support some plants can cause painful injury.
5. Avoid stepping on debris and fallen brush...that branch could be a snake!
6. Stay on designated trails or roads.
7. Do NOT handle insects.
8. Do NOT remove artifacts or pottery.
9. Do not pick or disturb orchids or other plants.
10. Don't litter, and remember to walk and talk softly... you'll see more wildlife that way.
11. Take a fold up poncho for cover during tropical rain showers.
12. Take a pair of binoculars and don't forget your camera!



Photo: Placencia