

Glover's Reef Research Station

Guidelines for Research

Visiting researchers of GRRS are asked to design their research methodologies with the utmost responsibility for all persons involved in the research and for the natural resources of Glover's Reef. All research methodologies will be reviewed by both the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Belize Fisheries Department.

All visiting researchers are asked to adhere to the following principles and practices while designing and conducting their research:

1. Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity while conducting research.
2. Strive to increase the knowledge needed to advance the management of Glover's Reef Marine Reserve and address research needs highlighted by Belize's National Environmental and Natural Resources Management Research Agenda, facilitated by the University of Belize's Environmental Research Institute.
3. Recognize the Belize Fisheries Department's governing local laws and scientific management authority of the natural resources at Glover's Reef while conducting research and minimize impacts to these natural resources and dependent stakeholders (e.g. collection of protected species; collection of different species in different reserve management zones; use of restricted gear, etc). GRRS encourages the refinement of research methodologies so as to meet this goal.
4. If research requires the use of permanent structures on the reef (cages, predator exclusion devices, nets, etc), a full justification needs to be made with special consideration to length of time, location, why alternative methods would not work, and potential impacts to the habitat.
5. If research requires any habitat to be altered in any way, a full justification is required (e.g. coral coring, placing artificial structures, etc).
6. If wildlife must be caught (either for catch and release or for collection purposes), use the least stressful and most humane methods available, considering the biology of the species, field conditions, etc.
 1. For catch and release, ensure the minimum time of captivity is utilized. Procedures should be completed as quickly as possible. Methods used should be non-invasive and temporary whenever possible, and must not interfere with the normal functioning of the animal.
 2. All wildlife that have to be handled should be restrained appropriately so as not to hurt themselves or researchers. Care to keep the animal from environmental stresses is required.
 3. While handling wildlife, all researchers must maintain good personal hygiene, and should refrain from smoking, eating, or drinking during handling.
 4. All collection of wildlife needs to be fully justified with a minimum number of specimens collected. Potential conservation and management impacts should be included in this justification. Collection methodologies must be very detailed. All specimens collected should be fully documented and lodged with a publicly

accessible scientific collection. For researchers wishing to export collection specimens, permits need to be in place (e.g. CITES).

7. Disseminate information, including a final report due within one year of field research, and any published articles to both GRRS and the Belize Fisheries Department. When research spans across multiple years, renewal permits will not be issued without receipt of the previous year's work.
8. For published peer-reviewed articles resulting from work at Glover's Reef, GRRS kindly requests that researchers obtains a publication number from the GRRS manager which then should be referenced in the paper's acknowledgment section.
9. If time permits, participate in local education and capacity building programs, such as the jointly led Wildlife Conservation Society and Coastal Zone Management Institute technical seminars, to share research agenda and disseminate results. Please inquire with the GRRS manager for opportunities.
10. Upon arrival at Glover's Reef, meet with and inform the reserve manager of the details of their research plans at Glover's. If advised by the Reserve and GRRS managers, meet and explain research agenda to other Glover's Reef stakeholders.
11. Scouting or exploratory visits to GRRS will be permitted for prospective researchers without submission of a proposal or procurement of a research permit. However, a written request must be sent to the GRRS manager and is subject to approval. Standard GRRS fees will apply.
12. All research is subject to permission from the Belize Fisheries Department and a research permit must be obtained. All conditions set forth in that permit must be adhered to.