

# Montego Bay Marine Park 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## **ABOUT THE TRUST**

Bay was 1991 after nearly thirty years of conservation advocacy to oversee Jamaica's first marine park through the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources. As a membership-based organization, the Trust is led by an elected Board of Directors and managed by a professional staff that works alongside public and private partners to raise environmental awareness and promote stewardship while protecting and restoring this national treasure. The Trust is tasked with managing a 15 square kilometer park and two Special Fishery Conservation Areas in Jamaica's tourism capital and home to over 100,000 residents.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PARK**

The Montego Bay Marine Park is commemorating its 25th year in 2017. It was designated a Marine Park on June 8, 1992 by the Natural Resources (Montego Bay Marine Park) Order, 1992, under the authority of the Minister responsible for the Environment and Housing. Since then the management focus of MBMP has been modified to fulfil its biodiversity and ecosystem conservation role and managing multiple and conflicting uses. In recent years its role is adapting to the potential impacts of climate change, and sustaining socio-economic benefits for the coastal communities of Montego Bay.

The activities and achievements over the years include: – Educating students and community members on best practices to protect the marine environment from the negative impacts of pollution and overfishing . - Enforcement of fishing regulations within the park and encouraging water sports operators to use best practices for water sports operators. - Conducting Scientific research to assess and address the health of the reefs. - Installation of the Ocean Debris Containment Boom at South Gully - Conducting field trips via glass bottom boat tours for schools and community members. - Hosting summer camps pertaining to marine life.