## **Belize Protected Reef Offers Model for Conservation**

Written by ERIK OLSEN/NYT Tuesday, 27 April 2010 09:35

<u>Scientists claim</u> that a a protected reef in Belize offers hope that MPAs can help with conservation. Glover's Reef, about 28 miles from the coast of Belize, is one of the only true atolls in the Atlantic Ocean. It is also the site of Belize's largest "no-take" marine reserve, a 17,500-acre zone where all types of fishing are prohibited. The no-take zone makes up about 20 percent of the wider 87,000-acre Marine Protected Area here. Within 75 percent of the reserve, some types of fishing are allowed, although there are restrictions on the type of gear that can be used.

According to scientists, the marine reserve at Glover's Reef offers a test case for the viability of similar reserves around the world. They are now hoping to apply some of the conservation strategies here to make other places succeed.