

Honduran Miskito Cays: among the last unexplored reef systems in the Caribbean

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Many Caribbean reef systems have been studied over the past five decades of active reef exploration and research. An exception is the Honduran Miskito Cays, an archipelago of 49 cays and about 750 km² of consolidated shallow benthic habitat off the northeast coast of Honduras. The only scientific publication describing reefs in the area IN 1984 by Hay predated the Caribbean-wide *Diadema* and *Acropora* die-offs. It describes two shallow forereefs, a small sample of a region that extends along more than 100 km in latitude. There have never been tourist diving operations in the Miskito Cays.

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