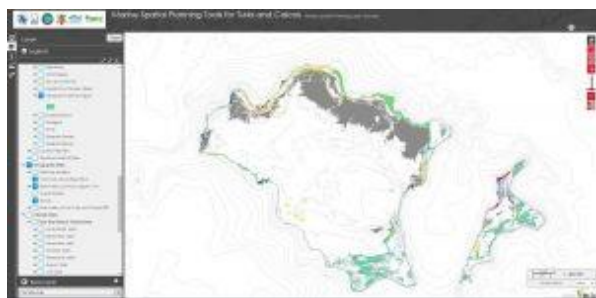


## MSP Tools for Turks & Caicos now online!

Dr Julian Tyne & Marcin Gorny

First published 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Tools for the Islands are now fully developed and available online at <https://webgis.gov.tc/> and <https://dataportal.gov.tc/>.



Additional layers, including shorebird counts and the high-resolution marine benthic habitat map have been added to the WebGIS and Data Portal. Having these data, together with some newly created species presence layers is of great value to the MSP project.

In March, the project team conducted an online training workshop to update stakeholders about the WebGIS and to familiarise stakeholders on how to search and request data held in the Data Portal. The underwater habitats of the TCI are well known for their rich biodiversity. From deep fore reefs, frequently visited by sharks and full of small reef fish species, to shallower coral patches. The seagrass meadows of the TCI marine environment provide a home for turtles and queen conch, and in the shallow muddy lagoons and mangroves, sometimes you can spot a Caribbean Flamingo. Important and rare species are present in the TCI, such as the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana, that can be seen, on occasion, sun bathing on the beach, see our accompanying photo!

