

Sector Selection Workshop for Trade Strategies in Oceans Economy (OETS): Belize

Improving Oceans Governance and Boosting
Trade Performance

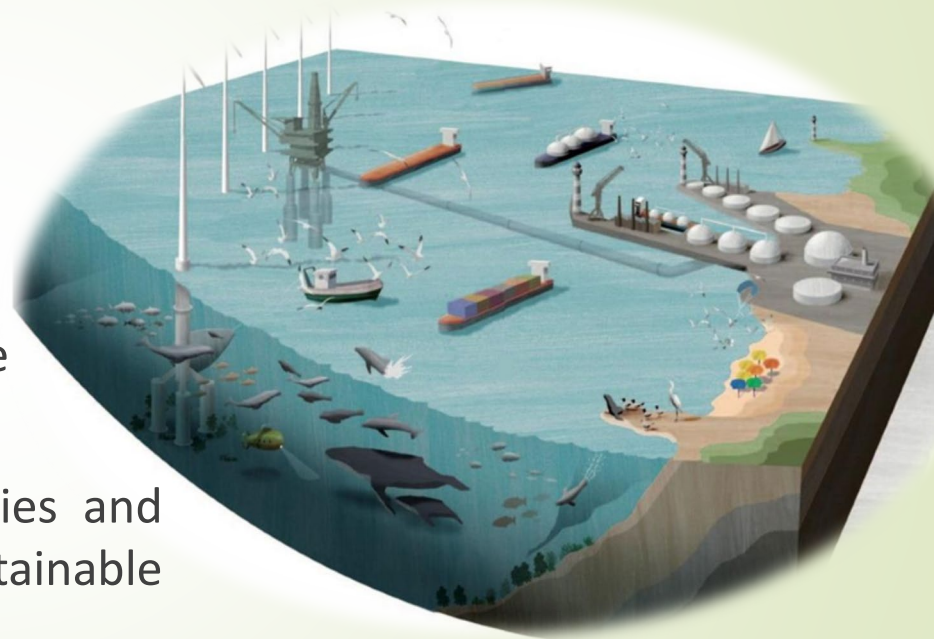
Belize, 27 – 28th November, 2018

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Oceans Economy /Blue Economy/ Blue Growth – *increased profile* in recent years

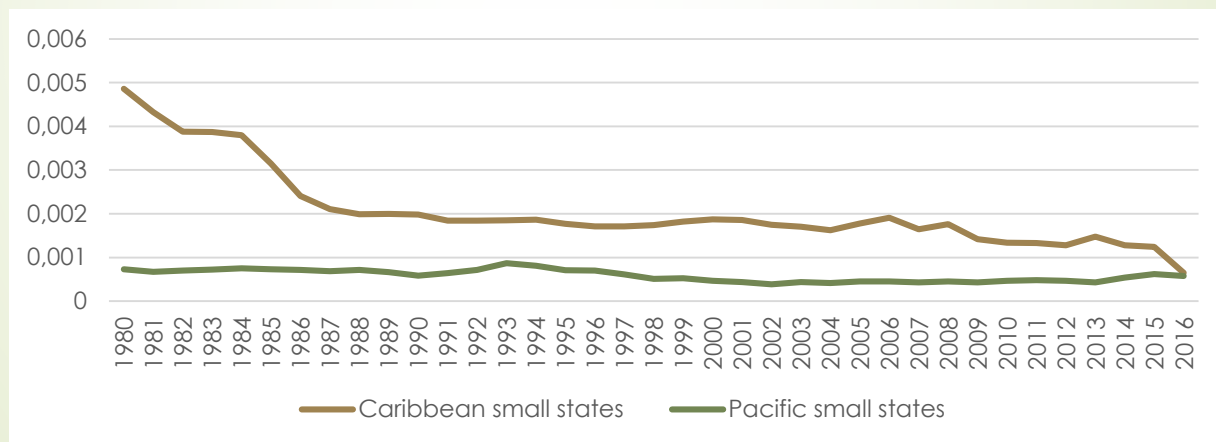
- Sector based, yet cross-sectoral
- **Traditional:** shipping, fisheries, tourism
- **Emerging:** blue biotechnology, marine renewables
- 'Blue economy/Blue Growth **'concept'** – Rio 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development
- Approach to managing current activities and supporting new focus areas in a sustainable manner – ***not business as usual***



Integrated ocean governance: planning, policy, legal frameworks, administrative practices.

The Big Picture

- Commonwealth Small States currently export a total value of \$2 billion of fisheries exports and score just below the global average for coastal protection
- They have experienced a *relative decline* in their share of world trade over most recent decades.
- The *Caribbean region* has been seemingly hit harder than other regions e. Pacific since the 2008-9 global trade slowdown



Source: UNCTADstat (Goods and Services, BPM5)

- During the crisis **Belize** along with other small states such as **Seychelles**, remained a strong trade performer (although individual state performance was mixed)



Question:. What are the associations (if any) between improved oceans governance (with focus on fisheries in the marine spaces of the selected states), and SDG trade – related outcomes?

Is there more trade as a result of improved coastal protection, or does increased export result in better coastal protection to protect fish stocks?

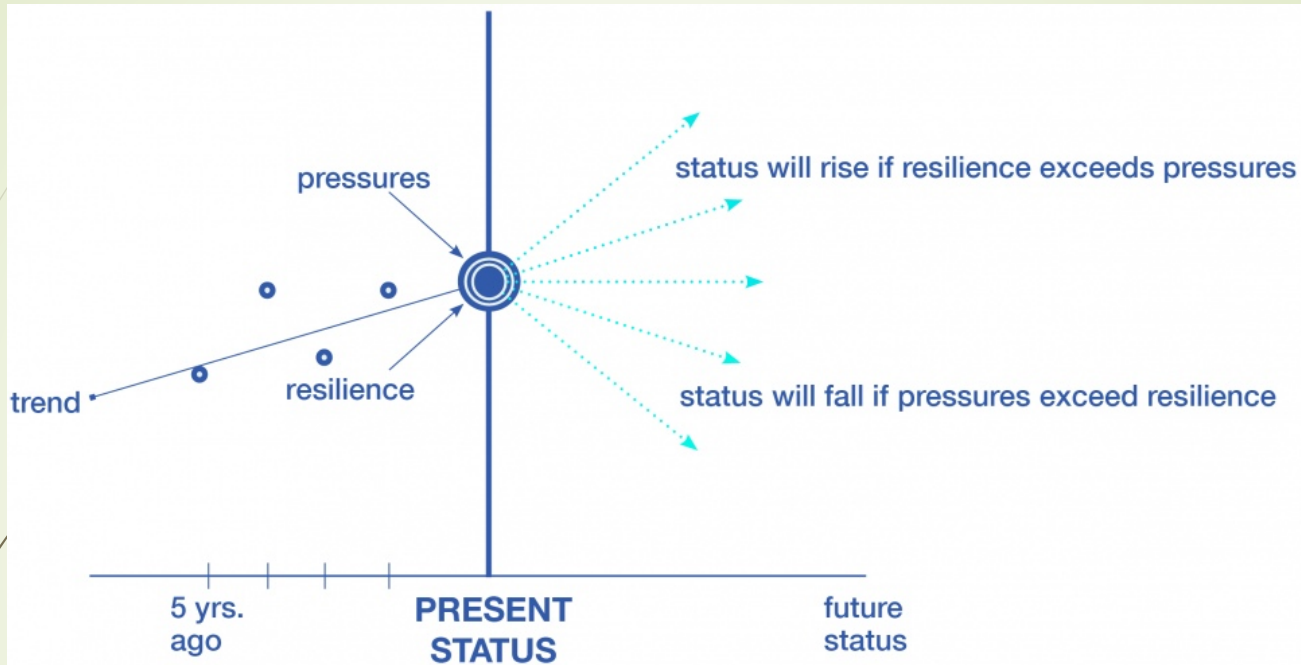
- Are there benefits (or not) for coastal SIDS such as Belize, from developing integrated ocean governance frameworks under UNCLOS, and pursuing targets for conserving and the sustainable use of oceans and its resources under the SDGs (which are supported by such ocean governance frameworks)
- Indicators used from Oceans Health (OHI) Index - used in a number of studies related to the state of ocean health and economic benefits
- First time we have used it specifically for Commonwealth Small States in relation to the goals and targets of SDG 14 concerning economic interests
- Series of comparisons including Commonwealth Small States – Global index; comparisons with 3 Commonwealth small states



OH Index focuses on coasts and EEZs and the implementation of ocean governance policies by:

- Measuring overall condition of the ocean, assessing socioeconomic benefits and determining how well coastal states make use of their marine space;
- Measuring whether people who need to fish on a small scale locally have the opportunity to do so*
- Examining the condition and extent of ecological habitats which protect the coast e.g. mangrove forests, seagrass beds, saltmarshes, tropical coral reefs;
- Measuring jobs and revenue created from marine related sectors/industries, its indirect value for community identity and other socio-economic aspects;

*Artisanal fisheries is considered as traditional fisheries involving fishing households (as opposed to commercial companies), using relatively small amount of capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels (if any), and making short fishing trips, close to shore, mainly for local consumption (*FAO 2012*).



PRESENT STATUS (50% of goal score)
goal's present value (represented by the most recent data available) compared to a goal specific reference point.

LIKELY FUTURE STATUS (50% of goal score)		
Trend (67%) average percentage change in Status shown by the most recent five years of data.	Pressure (16.5%) sum of the ecological and social pressures likely to depress near-future scores for a goal.	Resilience (16.5%) sum of ecological factors (if any) and social initiatives (policies, laws etc.) enacted that can reduce pressures and therefore increase near-future scores for a goal.



Belize Quick Facts

- Belize land area of 22,810 km², EEZ of 34,310 km² and 386 km coastline – not a wide disparity in land: water ratio*
- Economy heavily commodity-based with exports mainly in sugar and citrus fruits, along with fish products (including crustaceans) and crude oil production.

Since the 1990's, Belize has made continuous efforts to diversify its exports....

- Belize's coral reef is a critical feature of the national economy and food security, as it provides commercially valuable fish, crustaceans, as well as opportunities for recreation and tourism.
- * Figures vary based on whether territorial sea is included in computation
- UNCLOS describes the EEZ as an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, so it only begins 12M (or 3M in areas where Belize claimed such) offshore



Question : Where is Belize in relation to meeting specific trade related targets under SDG 14 and achieving a more sustainable oceans based economy:

- ▶ **Target 14.7:** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- ▶ **Indicator 14.7.1: Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries**
- ▶ **Target 14.B:** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets;
- ▶ **Indicator 14.B.1: Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries**
- ▶ **Target 14.C:** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want
- ▶ **Indicator: Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources**



➤ **Data for Indicator 14.7.1** (*Sustainable Fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries*) is difficult to obtain.

➤ Unless it comes from in country sources, the available data we have can only calculate fisheries as a whole, and not necessarily 'sustainable' fisheries.

➤ Due to data limitations in services trade data - analysis of trade performance is limited to fisheries trade – not related services (despite their growing importance, and interconnectedness with transportation and tourism).

➤ Indicators for fish trade from UNCTADStat are utilised.

➤ Different variables in the OHI relevant to this analysis are explored, alongside the total value of fish exports; coastal protection and artisanal fishing opportunities.



Advancement of SDG 14 targets

SDG 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

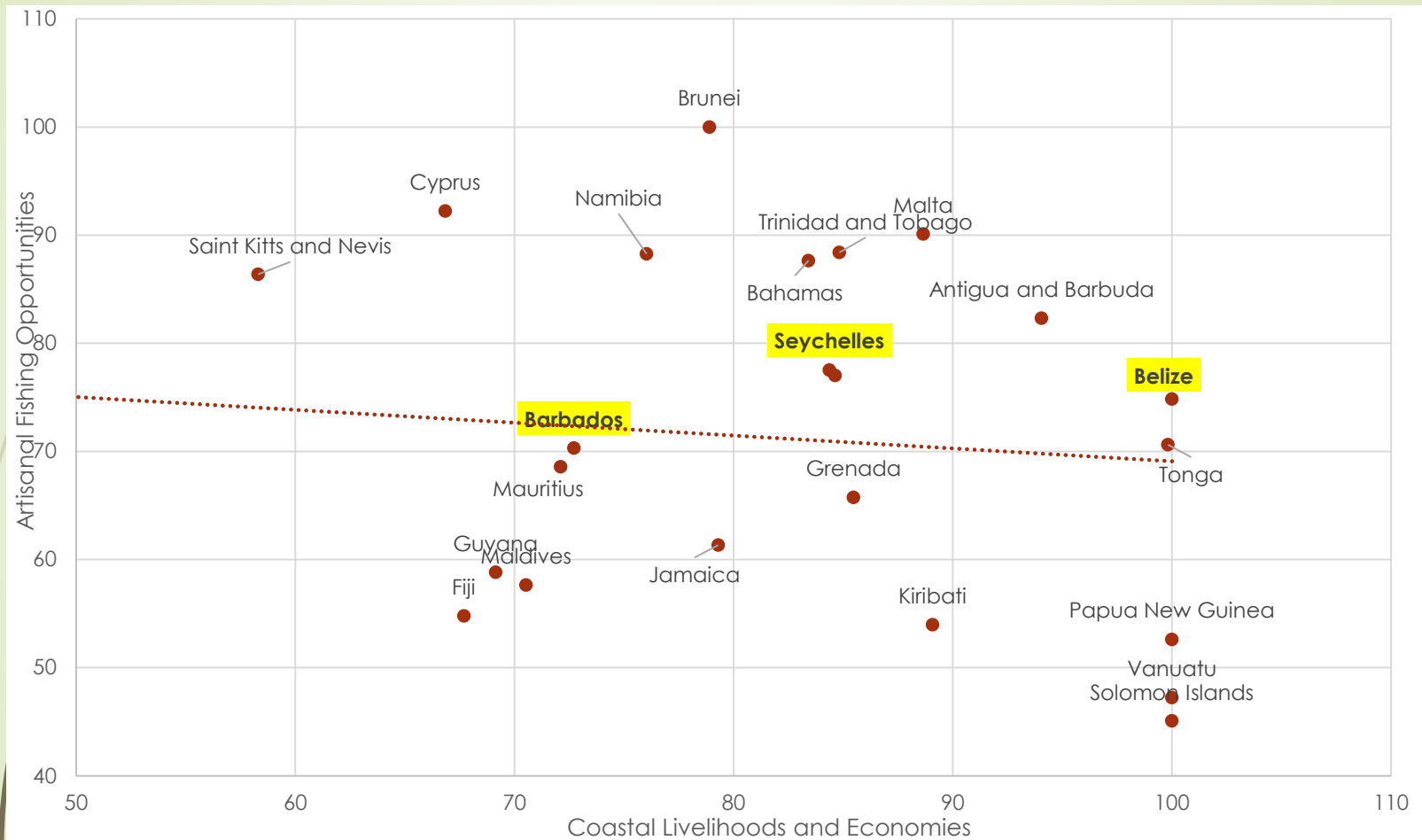
- ▶ Belize is making strides towards achieving a more sustainable oceans based economy and meeting targets for SDG 14 e.g. Compliance with **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries** and the **FAO Compliance Agreement: National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on High Seas** in 2014 to introduce a more holistic approach through new license regulations, monitoring and surveillance regulations.

Target 14 B: In the fisheries sector, the domestic market is primarily served by the small-scale fisheries:

- ▶ Belizean Government, to improve artisanal and small-scale fisher's opportunities adopted the '**Managed Access**' program to end open access by commercial fishers, increase market access to small-scale and artisanal fishermen and women and end IUU fishing by allocating and giving control of specific geographic areas for fishing to small-scale fishers and fishing communities. Roll out across the country approved.

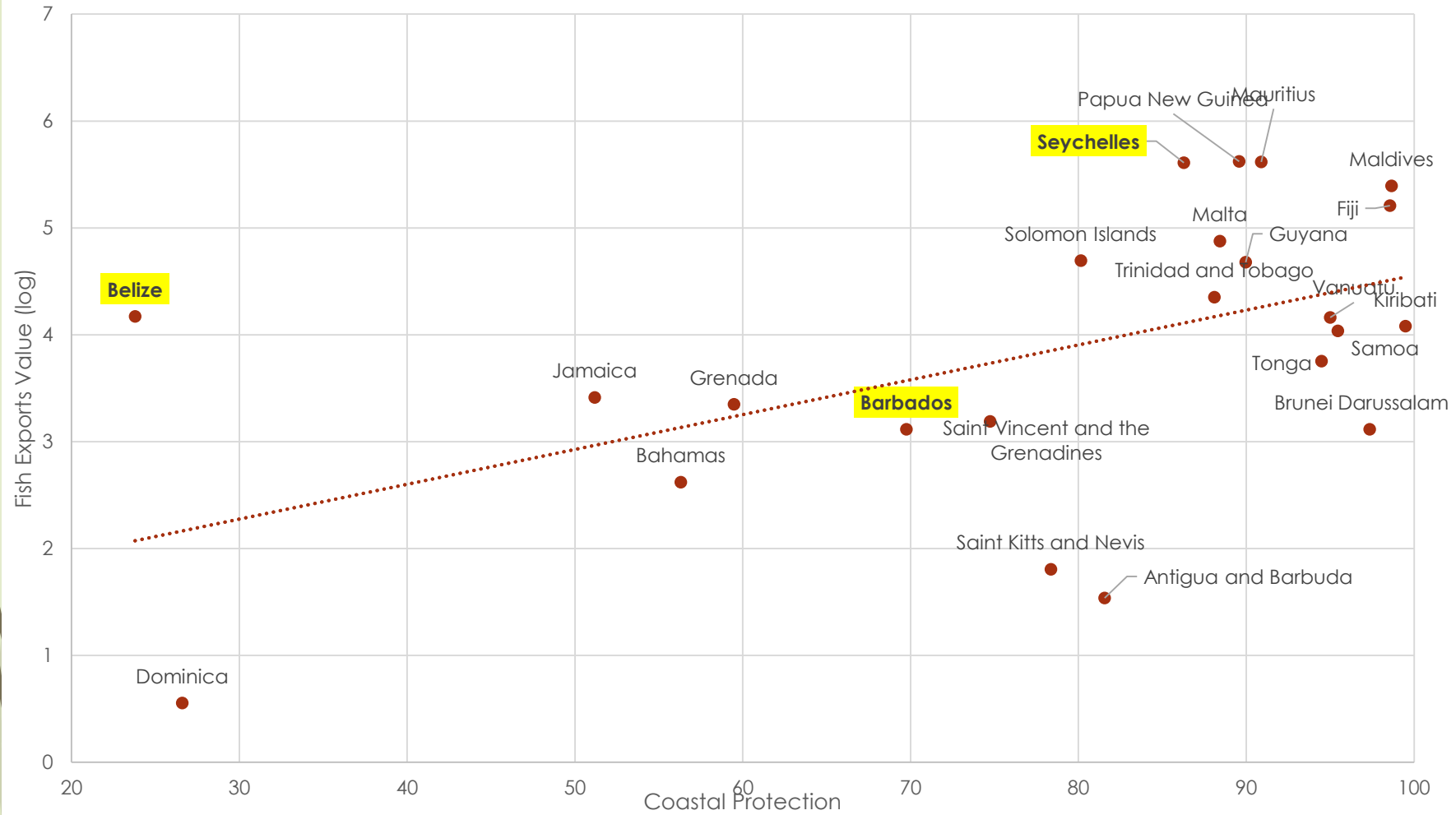
Target 14 C: Good progress in enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law – (*see Timeline in paper*)

- ▶ Assessing the efficacy of Legislative Framework – Legal Fact Sheet provides basis for evaluating this



Source: Authors' elaboration of OHI for Commonwealth Small States
<http://www.oceanshealthindex.org/region-scores>

Coastal Protection and Fish Exports – Commonwealth Small States



Source: Authors' elaboration of OHI for Commonwealth Small States
<http://www.oceanshealthindex.org/region-scores>



The Ocean Health Index ranks Belizean ocean health at 123rd in the world, with a ocean health index score of 67 out of 100

Major findings (preliminary):

- Positive Association between small scale/artisanal fishing opportunities and coastal planning and management which specifically seeks to improve coastal livelihoods.
- Enhancing coastal planning and management for improvement in coastal livelihoods & expansion of artisanal fishing opportunities has the potential to boost trade and economic outcomes
- Through initiatives such as Managed Access and the moratorium on extractive activities, Belize is widening market access for its smaller scale producers, artisanal fishermen and women as well as allowing concentrated focus on maintaining the marine environment around the barrier reef.



Summary

- These are preliminary analyses, intended to develop the economic narrative regarding improvements in legal, institutional and policy frameworks for oceans governance and trade performance
- Part of Commonwealth Advocacy on behalf of member states
- Provides a snapshot of how trade performance within the fisheries sector can be bolstered through enhanced trade-related governance
- Has not explored or identifying specific market access opportunities that could be better targeted – that is the role of the OETS
- Linkages with artisanal, as opposed to commercial, fisheries opportunities have been explored in relation to enhanced domestic policy frameworks
- Reinforces the role of improved oceans governance and legal, institutional and policy frameworks for the SIDS being considered

Thank you

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 The Commonwealth