OETS Workshop:
Trade Policy Perspectives on the Fisheries Sector - BELIZE
Overview:

1. Trade Policy from International and Regional perspectives
2. Architecture of the Fisheries Sector in Belize
3. National Trade Policy: Synergies with Fisheries Sector
International Perspective: Trade Policy

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (EST. 1995)

• Predecessor was the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
• the only international organization dealing with the rules of trade between 164 nations (members);
• It is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements and settle trade disputes
• Fish and fishery products covered as Non-Agricultural (Market Access) Products (NAMA products);
• NAMA negotiations: in MC 11 proposal on transparency of regulatory measures was made; no movement in commitments to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers.
• Ongoing Fisheries Subsidies negotiations: adoption of fisheries subsidies work program
The WTO Agreements include:

• Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary

• Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
OTHER INSTRUMENTS:
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;
World Customs Organization;
CODEX;
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
FAO Instruments (including Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fishing, Convention on Biological diversity, International Plan of Action to deter IUU, Port State measure to deter IUU (PSMA) Belize National Bio-Diversity Action Plan
Regional Perspective: Trade Policy

The Treaty of Chaguaramas establishes the Caribbean Community and Common Market; five Community Councils.

- Council on Trade and Development (COTED) – promotes trade and economic development of the community.

- CARICOM Regional Fisheries Machinery (CARICOM Institutions est. 2003 under article 60.2b)
  
  - Caribbean Community Fisheries Policy is a regional treaty on conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of the region’s fisheries resources.

- SICA
  
  - OSPESCA program ongoing initiative to address traceability system; pilot in Belize of the traceability of the lobster fisheries in Central America; possibility for national wild catch to enter the European market; benefits: reduce IUU and promote trade
Other Trade Policy obligations:

CARIFORUM EU – EPA
CARICOM bilateral Agreements with Costa Rica, Dominica, Cuba, Venezuela and Columbia
Belize Guatemala PSA
CARIBCAN
CBIA/CEBERA
Synergies of Trade Policy with Fisheries Sector

Legal instruments:
The principal legislation on fisheries is the Fisheries Act which was enacted in 1948 and last revised in 1989 (Chapter 210), its subsidiary legislation which was last revised in 2003 (Chapter 210S), and the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013.

The High Seas Fishing Act 2013 provides the domestic legislative basis to comply with the FAO Agreement to Promote International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas. The Act provides the legislative basis for the High Seas Fishing Unit, *inter alia*, to issue regulations to determine participatory rights, allocate fishing quotas, issue fishing licenses, and set effort and gear restrictions. *The High Seas Fisheries Unit under the Ministry of Finance is the authority responsible for the regulation and control of high seas fishing.*
Belize Electronic Licence and Permit System (BELAPS) expected to improve customer satisfaction through an easy and simple process for online applications and the granting of licenses and permits which aims to increase effectiveness and improve fisheries export data collection and monitoring
Other Compliance:

- International and local Standards
- SPS (BAHA) and TBT (BBS) measures (including food safety)
- Other Non-tariff Barriers

Fundamental National Development Policy:

- Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy:
  - Critical Success Factor #1 Optimal National Income and Investment
  - Critical Success Factor #3 Sustained or improved Health of Natural, Environmental, Historical and Cultural Assets
# Belize

## Table: Exports of fish and fish products, 2008-17

(US$ million)

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<tbody>
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<td>of which</td>
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<tr>
<td>030613</td>
<td>Shrimps &amp; prawns, whether or not in shell, frozen</td>
<td>10.72</td>
<td>14.47</td>
<td>14.85</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>14.14</td>
<td>42.03</td>
<td>41.77</td>
<td>28.4</td>
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<td>030611</td>
<td>Rock lobster &amp; sp. sea crawfish (Palinurus spp., Panulirus spp., Jasus spp. ...)</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>5.39</td>
<td>7.52</td>
<td>7.03</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>7.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>030623</td>
<td>Shrimps &amp; prawns, whether or not in shell, other than frozen</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>1.48</td>
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<td>030799</td>
<td>Molluscs &amp; invertebrates (excl. of 0307.10-0307.60), frozen/dried/salted/in ...</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>030791</td>
<td>Molluscs &amp; invertebrates (excl. of 0307.10-0307.60), live/fresh/chilled</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1.26</td>
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<td>030612</td>
<td>Lobsters (Homarus spp.), whether or not in shell, frozen</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>3.13</td>
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<td>030379</td>
<td>Fish, e.g. fish, fillets/other fish meat of 03.04/livers &amp; roes</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.16</td>
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Source: UN Comtrade database.
List of importing markets for a product exported by Belize in 2017
Product: 03 Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates

Exported value, USD thousand:
- N.A.
- 0 - 130 USD thousand
- 130 - 651 USD thousand
- 651 - 1,302 USD thousand
- 1,302 - 2,603 USD thousand
- > 2,603 USD thousand
Prospects for market diversification for a product exported by Belize in 2017
Product: 03 Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates

Share of partner countries in Belize's exports, 2017, %

- Viet Nam
- Taipei, Chinese
- Thailand
- France
- Hong Kong, China
- Mexico
- United Kingdom
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

Annual growth of partner countries' imports from the world between 2015-2017, %

Belize export growth to partner < Partner import growth from the world
Belize export growth to partner > Partner import growth from the world
Reference bubble
The bubble size is proportional to the share in world imports of partner countries for the selected product
Government institutions: Trade Policy Execution of the four pre-selected sectors

The Parent Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development & Immigration

The Belize Fisheries Department

The Agriculture Department:
Aquaculture Unit – under the Agriculture Department

Ministry of Finance:
High seas fishing Unit – Ministry of Finance
Draft National Trade Policy

• Due to fragmented trade policy instruments and dynamic global economy yielded the need for a responsive and comprehensive National Trade Policy

• Establishment of the National Trade Policy Framework in 2015; Launch of private Sector consultations in 2016

• CURRENTLY: Draft National Trade Policy approved by Cabinet on 27th November 2018

• NATIONAL TRADE POLICY (Draft) includes: 5 general policy objectives, 3 guiding principles, four policy pillars, 15 policy implementation measures and complementary policies, strategies and synergies.
  • Including Exclusive Economic Zones
The Ocean Economy Trade Strategy pre-selected sectors.....

BELIZE TRADE POLICY

- Sustainable Fisheries
- Sustainable Aquaculture
- Seafood Processing
- Marine and Coastal Tourism
THANK YOU!

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