



4–5 December 2019, Belize

Second National Stakeholder Workshop:
Discussion and validation of an Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy for Belize.
Marine finfish species and seafood manufacturing

Ocean Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS)

Organized by



In cooperation with



The Commonwealth

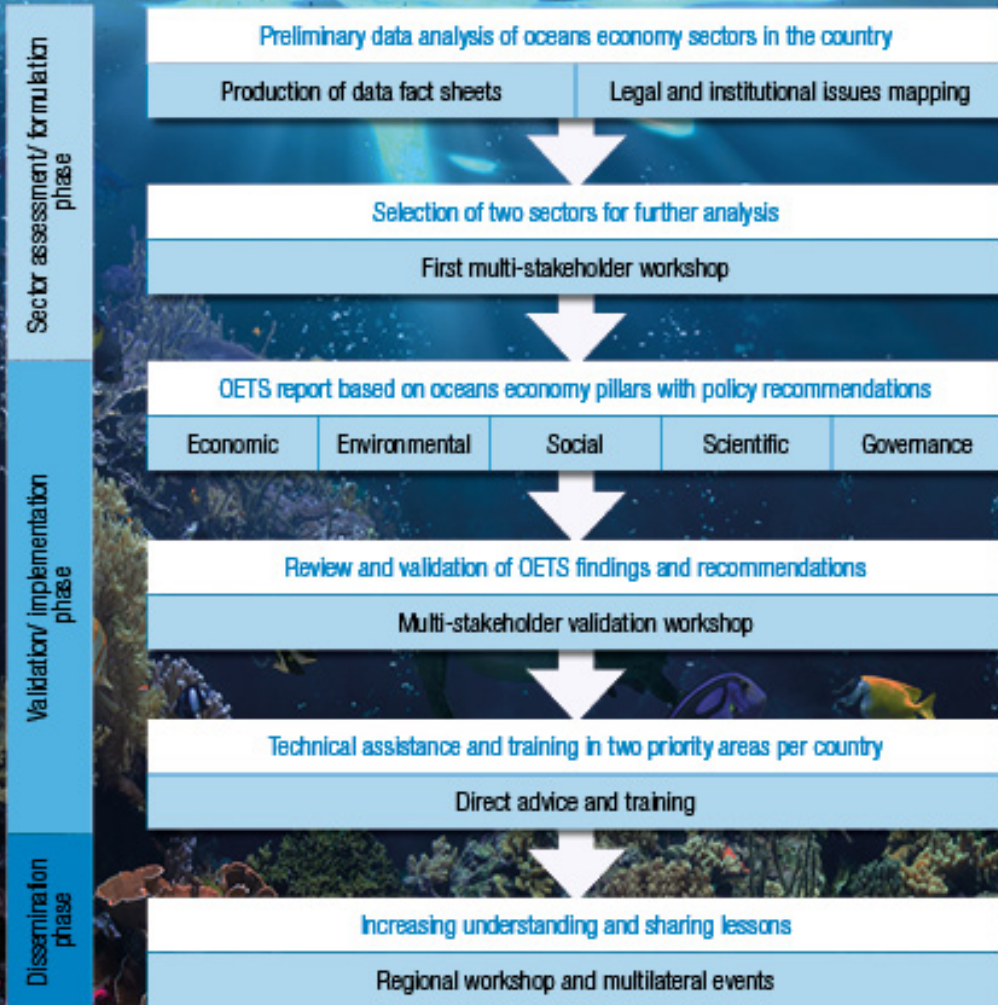


Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy: Belize

Presentation of Action Plan



Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies



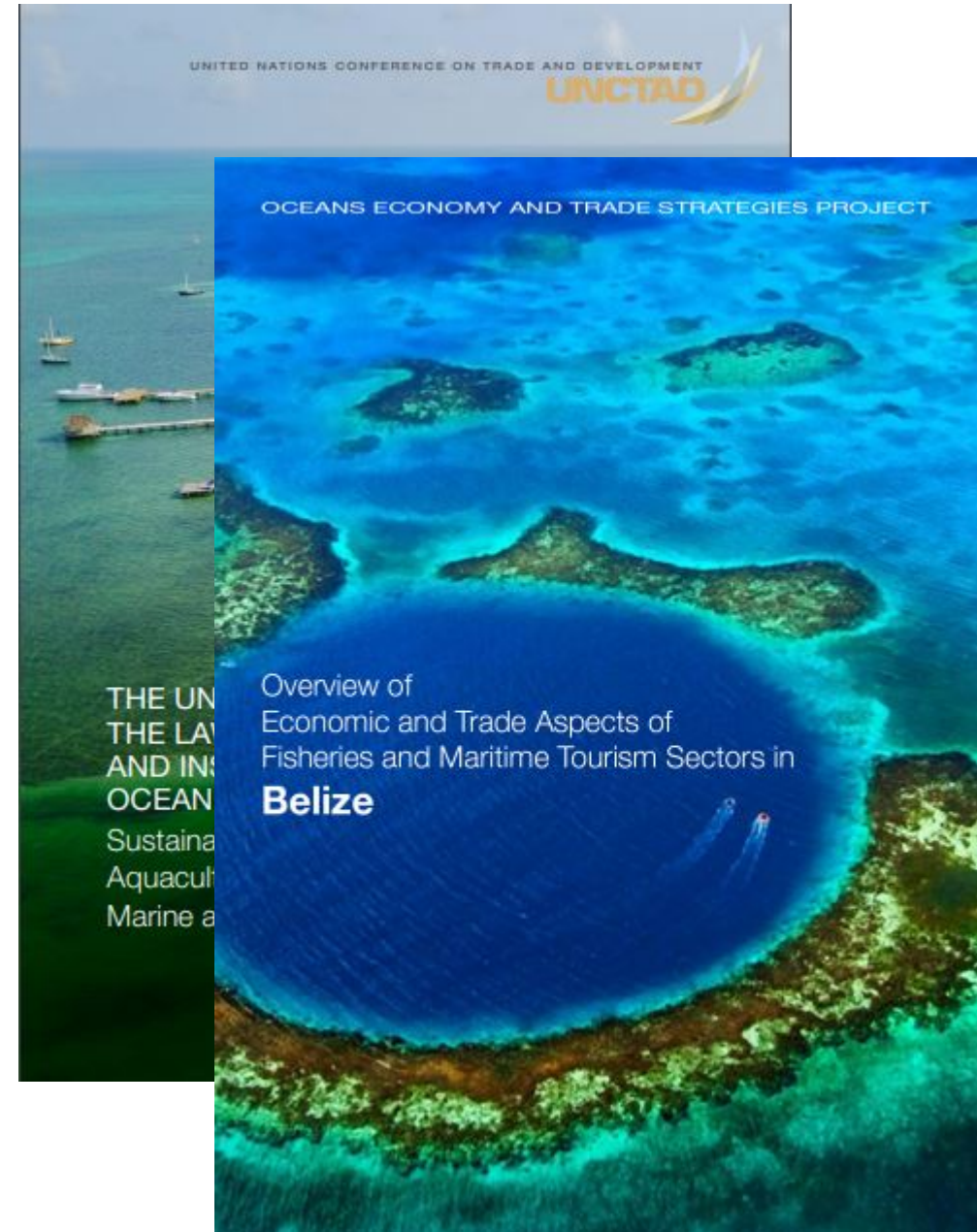
PART I

Objective:

The main objective of this report is to provide analytical inputs needed to elaborate a national strategy to promote sustainable trade products and services in ocean-based economic sectors within the UNCLOS framework.

Methodology

- Institutional and legal review
 - https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditctedinf2019d11_en.pdf
- Economic and trade assessment
 - <https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ditc-ted-04122019-belize-Economic-7.pdf>
- Stakeholder workshop (Nov, 2018)
 - Selection of sectors
 - SWOT analysis
- Follow-up Interviews with key stakeholders in the selected sectors



Marine fisheries

Goal: to increase capacity of fishers for the sustainable harvest of commercially important deep slope fish species.

Strategy Code	Strategies
MF1	To support training and capacity building opportunities for fishers to develop the deep slope fishing sector.
MF2	To support the acquisition of suitable fishing vessels, gear and equipment to allow fishers access to the fishery resources.
MF3	To support increased export of finfish (fresh and frozen fish) and finfish products to regional and international markets (the United States and Mexico, etc.)
MF4	To support the adoption of HACCP standards for fish processing/handling facilities for fish and fish products destined for domestic consumption
MF5	To support increased domestic consumption (including tourism) through national fish consumption
MF6	To cement the undeniable linkages between fishing and tourism with the goal of optimizing economic benefits for both sectors (e.g. pesca-tourism that is currently being tested in Sarteneja and northern communities)

Seafood processing

Goal: to add value to commercially targeted species to access to niche markets and to develop and implement smart marketing approaches for fishery products.

Strategy Code	Strategies
SP1	To support access to new and strategic niche markets with the assistance of BELTRAIDE and other government agencies.
SP2	To support export-oriented seafood business establishments to increase revenue generation through use of smart marketing techniques (market intelligence gathering, sale/export of fishery products during highest demand/highest tourism periods).
SP3	To support and expand domestic sale (marketing of small packages and increase availability of high-quality seafood products in the domestic markets).
SP4	To support increased domestic consumption of fishery products by tourism sector through legal acquisition from BAHA and HACCP certified and licensed seafood business establishments.
SP5	To strengthen the linkages between fishing and tourism to increase economic benefits to both sectors.
SP6	To support increased domestic use (lobster head meat) and marketing, including export of currently discarded fishery by-products such as queen conch trimming that can potentially generate additional revenue to stakeholders.
SP7	To support fisheries law enforcement through increased monitoring, control and surveillance.

Action Plan

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries & Seafood Processing	I1-I5	MF1-MF6& SP1-SP7	Develop a comprehensive and coherent OETS report and Action Plan	Host workshop to present and validate findings and strategies for OETS-Belize and collect comments	BFD, UNCTAD, DOALOS	All fisheries stakeholders
				Host workshop to present status update of OETS, and way forward for chosen sectors	BFD, DGFT	All fisheries stakeholders
	I1	MF1,MF2,MF3,MF4,MF5, MF6	Develop regulations for finfish to create a safeguard for fish stocks	Conduct deep sea finfish stock assessment	BFD	Marine reserve comanagers
				Validate deep sea finfish stock assessment	BFD	Marine reserve comanagers
				Fisheries regulation is drafted to establish minimum size limits and possible TAC for finfish species	BFD	Marine reserve comanagers
		MF1,MF2,MF3,MF4,MF5, MF6	With the development of DSF, the department should consider establishing a robust data collection program for finfish and adopting the AMF framework for finfish as well.	Conduct revision of data collection methodologies, data inventory, and mapping of finfish datasets	BFD: CFU	
				Conduct workshop with co-managers and stakeholders select reliable data sets for the AMF framework	BFD	Marine reserve comanagers

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries & Seafood Processing	I2	MF1-MF6& SP1-SP7	Assess the capacity of data management procedures.	Develop a data entry management protocol for managed access logbook data set	High	BFD: Licensing Unit	
				Develop a data entry management protocol for fisherfolk dataset	High	BFD	CITO
				Hire additional staff for database management system (1)	Medium	BFD	MAFFSD
				Conduct training in database management for fisherfolk database	High	BFD	CITO
				Institute licensing registration late fee and deadline for registration	High	BFD	MAFFSD

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries & Seafood Processing	I3	SP7	To support and strengthen fisheries law enforcement collaborations through increased monitoring, control and surveillance.	Conduct assessment to quantify volume of marine species extracted and exported from IUU fishing	High	BFD	Belize Port Authority, FAO, SIB
				Conduct assessment of vessel, staff, and equipment needs to reduce IUU by half over the next 5 years.	High	BFD	Marine reserve Comanagers, Coast Guard, Police Dept, BDF
				Training of enforcement officers and other enforcement agencies to continue collaborative enforcement of fisheries laws	Medium	BFD	Marine reserve Comanagers, Coast Guard, Police Dept, BDF

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries	I4	MF2, MF3, MF6, SP1	Facilitate financial access to fishers for obtaining DSF equipment.	Conduct round table discussion with stakeholders and fishing associations to determine pathways and access small business finance programs for fisherfolk	Medium	BELTRAIDE	BFD, BFF, Belize Credit Union League, DFC
		MF1, MF5, MF6	Increase access to finfish through supermarkets and other retail stores	Consult with major retailers in Belize (e.g. James Brodies and Co. & Save U) to determine capacity to supply and sales of finfish in retail stores.	Medium	BFD	BFD,
				Develop and implement a standardized seafood labelling protocol for domestic seafood	Medium	Belize Bureau of Standards	BFD

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries	I4	MF1, MF5, MF6	Promote the supply and transport (ease of access) of fresh seafood products to inland areas, particularly inland towns (eg. Belmopan, San Ignacio, Benque Viejo) and, Support increased domestic consumption through tourism sector	Host roundtable discussions with management bodies of tourism sector to develop protocol or guidelines on acquisition of marine and seafood products	High	BFF, DSF Fishers	BTIA, BFD, WCS
				Develop and implement a distribution channel strategy to readily supply marine finfish to hotels and restaurants	Medium	Independent consultant, DSF Fishers	BFF, BTIA, BFD

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries	I4	MF6	To cement the undeniable linkages between fishing and tourism with the goal of optimizing economic benefits for both sectors	Assist in the development and implementation of the Pesca Tourism in Northern Communities	High	MCCAP, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD)	BTIA, BTB, SACD
				Consult with Belize Tourism Board and BTIA on developing a specialized tour operator license for fishers	Medium	MCCAP, BFD	SACD
				Develop criteria for specialized tour operator licenses for fishers	Medium	BTB, MCCAP, BFD	SACD
		MF1, MF3	Support the increase export of finfish (fresh and frozen fish) and other finfish products to regional and international markets:	Include the trade of fish products in trade negotiations with Mexico and other trade agreements negotiated by Belize	High	DGFT	BFD
				Identify potential buyers so the trade is feasible (eg. Hotel associations in Cancun)	Low	BELTRAIDE	DGFT
				Investigate options for the export by air freight of fresh fin fish to international markets of close proximity (eg. Cancun, Mexico).	Low	DGFT	BFD, BELTRAIDE

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Marine Fisheries	I4	MF1, MF4, MF5	Improve and standardize fish market displays (access to ice, running water, and an effective drainage system)	Conduct fish market needs assessment in compliance with SPS Standards in all fish markets of Belize	High	Belize Agriculture & Health Authority	BFD
				Review current and update or develop minimum sanitary standards for fish markets and stands	High	Belize Agriculture & Health Authority	BFD
				Establish a fish market use payment fee for sale of seafood product	Medium	Belize City Council	BFD
		MF4	Support the implementation of SPS measure in local fish markets.	Conduct stakeholder training sessions with independent fishers and fish handlers at fish market stations	Medium	BAHA	BFD

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Seafood Processing	15	SP2, SP6	To support access to new and strategic niche markets with the assistance of BELTRAIDE and other government agencies.	Hire marketing consultant to conduct market research and branding of seafood products	Medium	BELTRAIDE, DGFT	BFD
			To support export-oriented seafood business establishments to increase revenue generation through use of smart marketing techniques (market intelligence gathering, sale/export of fishery products during highest demand/highest tourism periods)	Conduct workshop on queen conch export quota revision to account for by-products	Medium	BFD, CITES committee	MFFSD
				Conduct queen conch pearl harvest and export assessment	Medium	BFD	Fishing cooperatives, pearl exporters
				Determine and institute queen conch pearl export criteria and regulations	Medium	BFD	MFFSD
		SP2	Incorporate technological tools to increase market access and value addition for seafood products.	Expand traceability system to include Queen Conch and other species (acquisition of software, tablets, label printing)	High	TNC & Fishing Cooperatives	BFD
				Monitoring, upkeep of traceability system and reporting	Medium	TNC & Fishing Cooperatives	BFD

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions /strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Seafood Processing	I5	SP2,SP4	Support the application to other certification programs to increase market access, innovation, and competitiveness in the seafood sector.	Open dialogue with Seafood Watch and independent parties to conduct assessment on Queen Conch and Spiny Lobster fishery sustainability	Medium	Independent consultant	BFD, Fishing Associations, Fishing Companies and Fishing Co-operatives
				Develop Fisheries Improvement Programme for Conch and its preparedness for certification including MSC.	High	FAO, CITES and UNCTAD	BFD, Fishing Associations, Fishing Companies and Fishing Co-operatives
				Conduct feasibility study on seafood certification programs such as MSC and FishChoice for spiny lobster and queen conch seafood certification	Low	Independent consultant	BFD, Fishing Associations, Fishing Companies and Fishing Co-operatives

Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions	Priority level	Leading agency	Supporting agencies
Seafood Processing	15	SP6	To support increased domestic use (lobster head meat) and marketing, including export of currently discarded fishery biproducts such as queen conch trimming that can potentially generate additional revenue to stakeholders.	Conduct market study for queen conch to identify additional niche markets (eg. By-products from pearls, trimmings, shells, operculum)	High	DGFT& Independent consultant	MFFSD
				Conduct market study for spiny lobster to identify additional niche markets such as food flavoring and pharmaceuticals	Medium	DGFT & Independent consultant	MFFSD
		SP3, SP4, SP5, SP6, SP7	Reduce the entry of 'reject'/substandard seafood product entering local markets	Conduct a fisheries knowledge exchange program with Cuban counterparts to evaluate and determine gaps and challenges in Belizean lobster trap fishery	Medium	BFD, lobster trap fishers	Cuban Counterparts and successful spiny lobster trap fishers
				Conduct a lobster trap inventory and production status	Medium	BFD	BFF, Comanagers