Overview of BELIZE’S Participation in the Ocean Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) Project

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Motivation for Participation:

Anticipated deliverables:

- Improved capacity for National Authorities
- Increased stakeholder understanding of ocean-based sectors
- Complement national direction to develop Belize’s ocean economy or blue economy
- Economic potential in new or enhanced ocean-based sectors

Link to SDGs and targets:

Main Activities for Belize:

**Assessment & Formulation**
- Data analysis and stakeholder mapping of the potential of ocean-based economic sectors/products and a desk study on relevant legal and institutional components of an integrated ocean governance framework;
- Convene National Stakeholder Workshop to discuss, identify, and select key promising ocean-based sectors for further analysis;

**Validation & Implementation**
- Produce a participatory OETS on the selected ocean-based sectors and convene a National Stakeholder Validation Workshop for the OETS;
- Provide demand driven advisory services in cooperation with experts to support OETS implementation of 1 national priority action;
- Organize national training workshop to create capacity for the priority actions identified;

**Dissemination**
- Participate in 1 regional experience sharing workshop with the other beneficiary countries;
- Disseminate the findings of the OETS.
Project Road Map:

**INITIATION**
- Formal acceptance to participate in OETS Project.
- Designation of Focal Points.
- Revision of ocean-based sectors.

**SITUATION ANALYSIS**
- Stakeholder mapping.
- UN Mission to Belize.
- Strategic partnership.
- Preparation of legal study & fact sheets.

**SECTOR SELECTION**
- Sector prioritization & selection.
- Stakeholder consultation.
- Stakeholder workshop & endorsement.

**NATIONAL VALIDATION**
- Stakeholder Presentation & validation session:
  i) project overview,
  ii) selection process,
  iii) proposed strategies and actions.
- Revision, consultation & acceptance of draft report & action plan.

**REPORT & ACTION PLAN**
- Preparation of draft report and action plan.
## Situation analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Status of affairs</th>
<th>Realistic outcomes</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Belize** | Limited awareness of the potential of ocean-based products and services and the UNCLOS framework  
Increasing importance of aquaculture and fisheries for exports  
Lack of strategic plans for aquaculture  
Need to scale up efforts in implementing relevant international agreements and efforts in fighting against IUU fishing  
Low value addition in seafood exports and market access barriers  
Need to link fisheries with tourism consumption and marine protected areas  
Need to scale up efforts for coastal protection and resilience  
No system of payments for ecosystem services  
Insufficient data and tools to identify products, services and vulnerable social groups  
Low private sector involvement and maritime connectivity  
Scattered regulations, low coordination, and weak enforcement | Comprehensive oceans economy plan for key sectors  
Stronger linkages between sectors  
Improved regulatory framework to implement the international legal framework for oceans  
Potential introduction of new economic incentives for ocean-based economic sectors  
Private and civil society participation in defining national oceans economy and trade strategy  
Identification of market access barriers  
Strengthened coordination mechanisms and improved interaction among relevant agencies |
Challenges in Marine fisheries & Seafood Processing sectors:

- Fisheries Department- Limited human and financial resources
  - Enforcement
  - Diversification
  - Research
  - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
  - Since passage of Fisheries Resources act we need to follow up on drafting regulations
  - Improve licensing system and database
  - Improve catch landing scheme at designated landing sites

- Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA)-
  - Industry has some challenges in meeting certification standards (HACCP)
  - Fishers to be trained in Food handling / primary processing at sea
Challenges in Marine fisheries & Seafood Processing sectors:

- **Belize High Seas Fishing Unit -**
  - Third party on-board observers needs to be improved (limited)
  - Membership is declining
  - Cost for EU Compliance is costly
  - Catch landing data and the sharing of other information needs to be improved

- **Productive Sector -**
  - Membership issues; Outdated by-laws for the Fishing Cooperatives
  - Difficulties in meeting standards and requirements
  - Access to loans / advances
  - Infrastructure / processing facility (issue of value adding)
  - Health sanitary certification issued (HACCP, ISO certification)
  - Marketing and distribution centres
Challenges in Marine fisheries & Seafood Processing sectors:

- **Tourism**
  - Food Quality Standard for Tourism Industry not available
  - Purchase seafood directly from fishers
  - Not required to purchase seafood from certified establishments such as fishing cooperatives
  - Limited human resources to carryout inspection at tourism establishments to ensure compliance with national laws
Opportunities in Trade Agreements.

- EU-CARIFORUM Partnership Agreement
  - No or minimal custom duties
  - Potential technical cooperation

- Expand potential within CARICOM
  - No or low tariffs on low value products

- Potential FTAs with key Markets
  - Mexico
  - Countries in Asia (e.g., R.O.C. Taiwan)
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## Ocean-based sectors.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sectors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Sustainable Marine Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Sustainable (Marine) Aquaculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Seafood Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue BioTrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships and parts manufacture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Marine and Coastal Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Biotechnology and Bioprospecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port and related logistical services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal and Marine area management, protection and restoration + Carbon sequestration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean energy and renewable energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- UNCTAD’s ocean economy pillars.

- Factsheets for 4 sectors.

- Legal review & institutional issues.

- Sectors that
  - have potential growth.
  - will contribute to employment.
  - will benefit most.
  - are socially inclusive.
UNCTAD's OCEANS ECONOMY PILLARS

**Sustainable economic development**
- Promote sustainable economic growth in key oceans sectors
- Sustainable trade and market access for oceans-based products and services
- Seek to enable connectivity for people and markets
- Increase value addition

**Sustainable use and conservation of marine resources**
- Sustainable access and use of living and non-living resources within safe ecological limits
- Apply precautionary and ecosystem approach
- Consider transboundary effects
- Seek to address climate change mitigation and adaptation

**Inclusive development with focus on developing countries, SIDS and LDCs**
- Incorporate the maintenance of coastal populations livelihoods, specially of small scale and artisanal fishermen
- Consider local employment sources
- Include food security considerations

**Increased scientific knowledge and technological collaboration**
- Incorporate low carbon activities and technologies
- Promote investment in applied Research & Development
- Seek to enable transfer of technology and knowledge cooperative frameworks

- Include regulatory and policy obligations under UNCLOS and other UN treaties and soft law
- In line with national development priorities/plans
- Promote interagency and intergovernmental cooperation
- Respect local tenure and rights over marine resources
Project Road Map:

**INITIATION**
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**2017**
- Stakeholder mapping.
- UN Mission to Belize.
- Strategic partnership.
- Preparation of legal study & fact sheets.

**2018**
- Sector prioritization & selection. Stakeholder consultation.
- Stakeholder workshop & endorsement.

**2018**
- Stakeholder Presentation & validation session:
  1) project overview,
  2) selection process,
  3) proposed strategies and actions.

**2019**
- Preparation of draft report and action plan.
- Revision, consultation & acceptance of draft report & action plan.

**REPORT & ACTION PLAN**
### Marine Fisheries Strategies

**Goal:** Increase the capacity of fishers for the sustainable harvest of commercially important deep slope red snapper fish species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy Code</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MF1</td>
<td>Provide training and capacity building opportunities for fishers to develop the deep slope fishing sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF2</td>
<td>Support the acquisition of suitable fishing vessels, gear and equipment to allow fishers access to the fishery resource within the scope of the WTO subsidies Agreement and any subsequent disciplines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF3</td>
<td>Support increased export of finfish (fresh and frozen fish) and finfish products to regional and international markets (i.e. United States and Mexico, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF5</td>
<td>Promote domestic consumption (including through tourism) using national educational campaigns for fish consumption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF6</td>
<td>Strengthen linkages between fishing and tourism sectors to optimize economic benefits for both sectors (e.g. PESCA-tourism that is currently being tested in Sarteneja and northern communities).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## OETS Report: Seafood Processing Strategies

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Issue Code</th>
<th>Related Strategy Code</th>
<th>Possible interventions/strategies</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I1-I5</td>
<td>MF1-MF6 &amp; SP1-SP7</td>
<td>Develop a comprehensive and coherent OETS report and Action Plan</td>
<td>Host workshop to present and validate findings and strategies for OETS-Belize and collect comments. Host workshop to present status update of OETS, and way forward for chosen sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I1</td>
<td>MF1,MF2,MF3,MF4,MF5,MF6</td>
<td>Develop regulations for finfish to create a safeguard for fish stocks</td>
<td>Conduct deep sea finfish stock assessment. Validate deep sea finfish stock assessment. Fisheries regulation is drafted to establish minimum size limits and possible TAC for finfish species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I1</td>
<td>MF1,MF2,MF3,MF4,MF5,MF6</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Conduct revision of data collection methodologies, data inventory, and mapping of finfish datasets. Conduct workshop with co-managers and stakeholders select reliable data sets for the AMF framework.</td>
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<td>Sector</td>
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| **Marine Fisheries & Seafood Processing** | - Develop a comprehensive and coherent OETS report and Action Plan  
- Develop regulations for finfish to create a safeguard for fish stocks  
- 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.  
- Assess the capacity of data management procedures.  
- To support and strengthen fisheries law enforcement collaborations through increased monitoring, control and surveillance.  
- Facilitate financial access to fishers for obtaining DSF equipment.  
- Increase access to finfish through supermarkets and other retail stores  
- 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  
- To cement the undeniable linkages between fishing and tourism with the goal of optimizing economic benefits for both sectors  
- Support the increase export of finfish (fresh and frozen fish) and other finfish products to regional and international markets:  
- Improve and standardize fish market displays (access to ice, running water, and an effective drainage system)  
- Support the implementation of SPS measure in local fish markets.  
- To support access to new and strategic niche markets with the assistance of BELTRAIDE and other government agencies.  
- 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)  
- Incorporate technological tools to increase market access and value addition for seafood products.  
- Support the application to other certification programs to increase market access, innovation, and competitiveness in the seafood sector.  
- 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.  
- Reduce the entry of ‘reject’/substandard seafood product entering local markets |
Thank you!