

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:

- [14.7] Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources, [14.b] Support small scale fishers, and [14.c] Implement and enforce international sea law.



Government of Belize



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:



Situation analysis:

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

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)



Project Road Map:



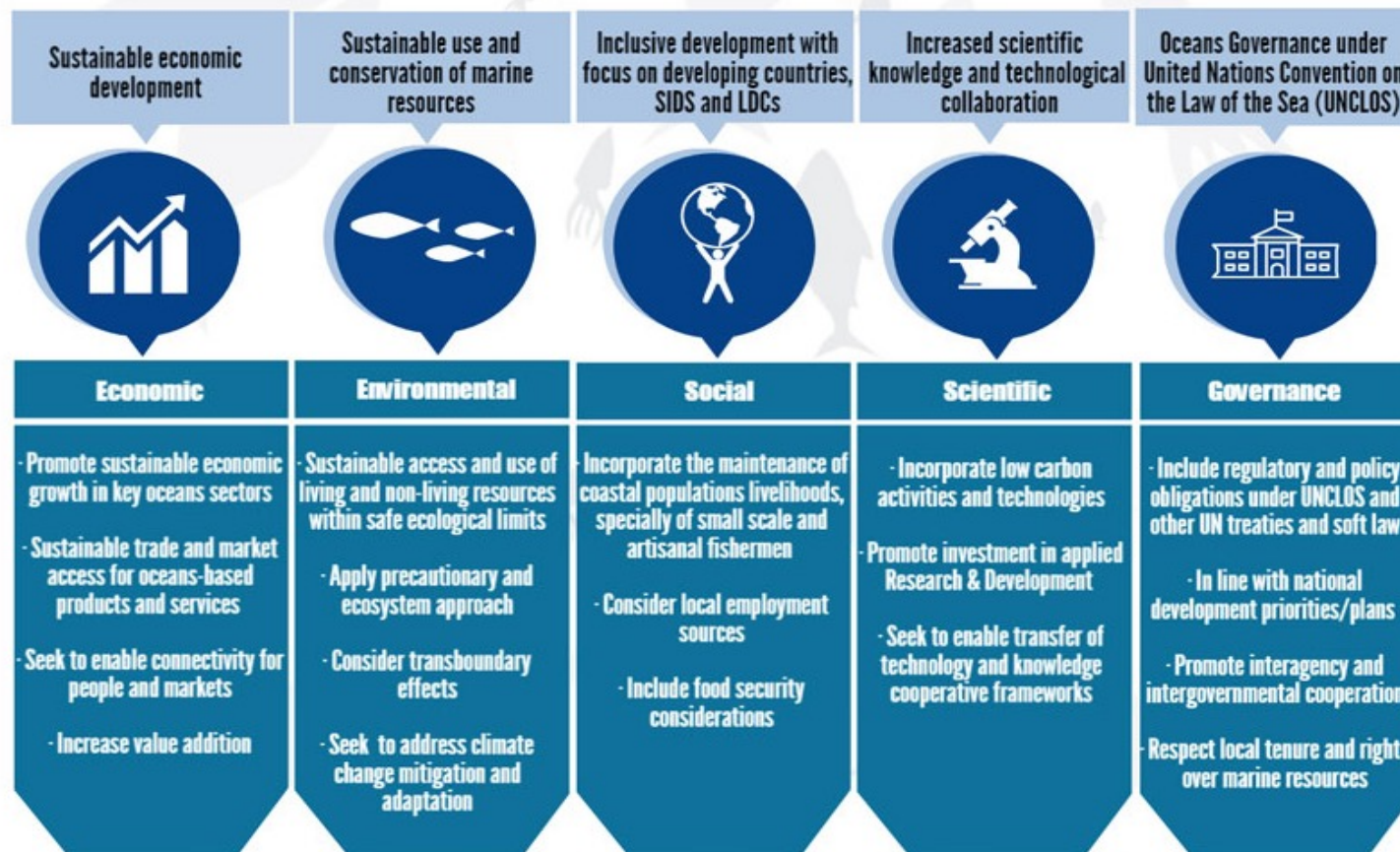
Ocean-based sectors.

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

- 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.



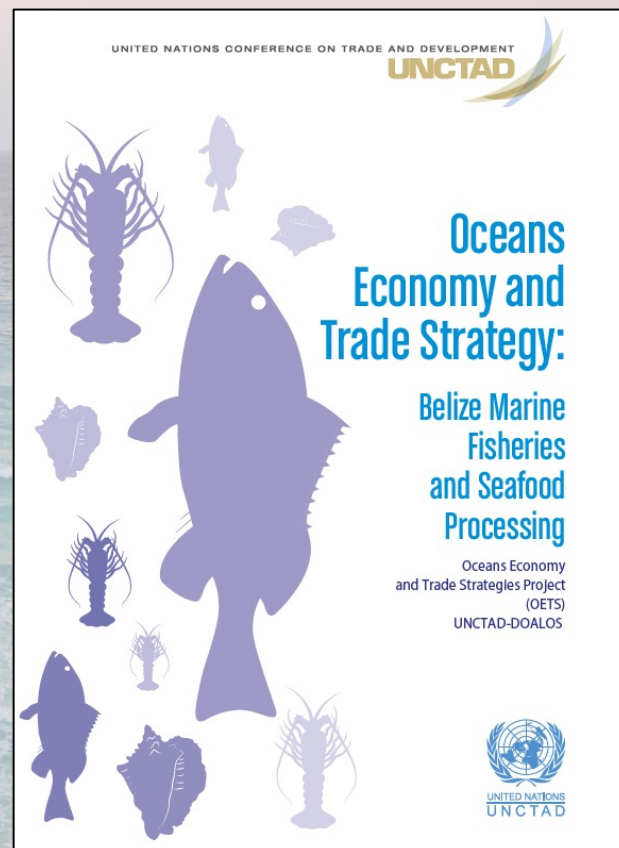
UNCTAD's OCEANS ECONOMY PILLARS



Project Road Map:



Ocean Economy & Trade Strategy Report: BELIZE



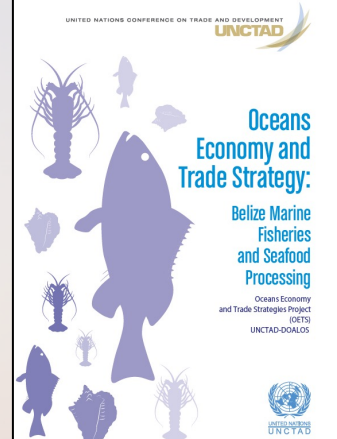
OETS Report: Marine Fisheries Strategies

Marine fisheries	
<i>Goal: increase the capacity of fishers for the sustainable harvest of commercially important deep slope red snapper fish species.</i>	
Strategy Code	Strategies
MF1	Provide training and capacity building opportunities for fishers to develop the deep slope fishing sector.
MF2	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.
MF3	Support increased export of finfish (fresh and frozen fish) and finfish products to regional and international markets (i.e. United States and Mexico, etc.).
MF4	Implementation of HACCP standards for fish processing/handling facilities for fish and fish products for domestic consumption.
MF5	Promote domestic consumption (including through tourism) using national educational campaigns for fish consumption.
MF6	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).

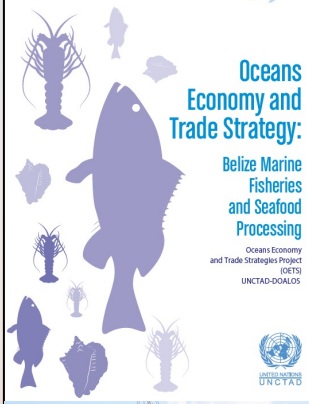
OETS Report: Seafood Processing Strategies

Seafood processing	
<i>Goal: To add value to commercially targeted species, to access niche markets and to develop and implement smart marketing approaches for fishery products.</i>	
Strategy Code	Strategies
SP1	Support access to new and strategic niche markets with the assistance of BELTRAIDE and other government agencies.
SP2	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).
SP3	Increase and expand marine product lines for domestic sale (marketing of small packages and increasing availability of high-quality seafood products in domestic markets).
SP4	Support increased domestic consumption of fishery products by the tourism sector through legal acquisition from BAHA and HACCP certified and licensed seafood business establishments.
SP5	Strengthen the linkages between fishing and tourism sectors to increase economic benefits to both sectors.
SP6	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.
SP7	To support fisheries law enforcement through increased monitoring, control and surveillance.

OETS Report: Action Plan



Sector	Issue Code	Related Strategy Code	Possible interventions/strategies	Actions
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
				Host workshop to present status update of OETS, and way forward for chosen sectors
	I1	MF1, MF2, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF6	Develop regulations for finfish to create a safeguard for fish stocks	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
				Conduct revision of data collection methodologies, data inventory, and mapping of finfish datasets
I1	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 workshop with co-managers and stakeholders select reliable data sets for the AMF framework	



Sector	Possible interventions/strategies
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.
Marine Fisheries	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)
Seafood Processing	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!



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