

The Belize Oceans Economy and Trade Strategy:

Main trade trends, findings, opportunities and recommendations for the development of the finfish value chain



**Belize Adaptive Multispecies Finfish Management Workshop
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Setting the course

1. Socioeconomic data of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in Belize (2000-2019)
2. Applicable HS for finfish species covered by the project
3. Export and import trends in main species covered
 - Wild Marine capture
 - Fin fish
4. The Belize finfish value chain
5. Opportunities in Trade Agreements
6. Main findings of the UNCTAD- DOALOS OETS Belize report (2019)
7. The Belize Trade policy (2019-2030) and the OETS report and Plan of Action response for Finfish species
8. Final point of information regarding upcoming research regarding COVID-19 impacts and responses by UNCTAD & DOALOS

Socioeconomic data of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in Belize (2000-2019)

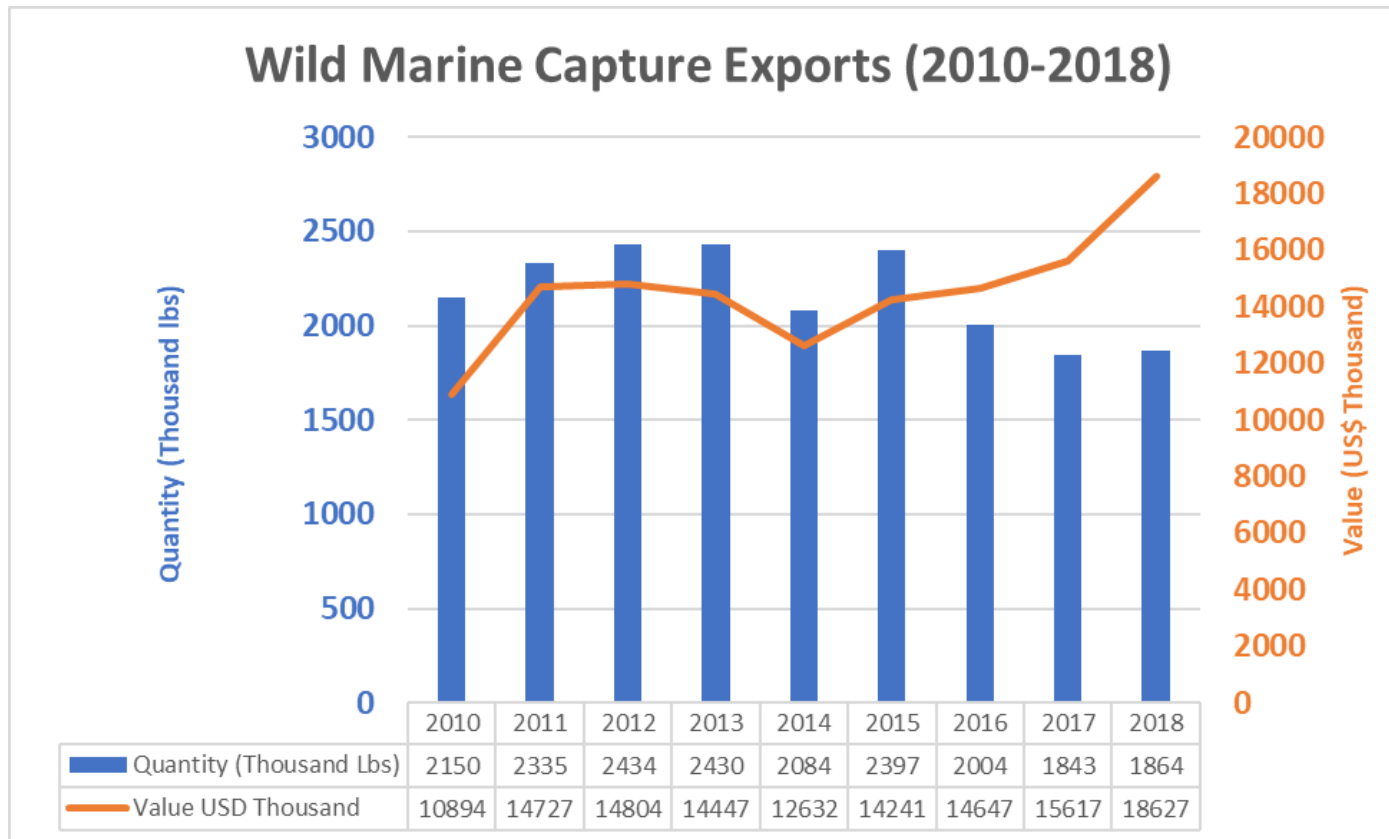
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Marine capture fisheries (Tons)								
Crustaceans (spiny lobster)	1076	905	685	859	778	774	774	774
Various coastal Finfish	869	970	953	53	189	295	1872	1187
Molluscs (queen conch)	6087	3339	2414	2391	2776	3034	4083	4290
Total capture fisheries	8032	13946	4052	3303	3743	4103	6729	6251
Aquaculture in tons	3630	11078	7411	4200	1145	560	560	560
Aquaculture (US \$ 1000)	17424	49001	25486	16725	4497.5	2150	2150	2150
Employment	3,800	3,230	3210	3210	2751	2710	2710	2550
consumption (kg/capita)	16.1	14.1	15.3	14.8	13.2	n.a	n.a	n.a
Export in tons	2663	9595	7097	11107	3772	3237	3140	n.a
Export in US\$ thousand	32284	43023	31334	44637	21634	20432	21539	n.a
Import in tons	1761	2685	676	664	871	537	665	n.a
Import in US\$ thousand	3313	2589	1214	934	952	671	905	n.a

Source: FAO Stats 2020

HS codes for finfish species for exports in Belize covered by the OETS project (a commercial basket approach)

HS Code listed	Code Description
302649000	Other mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i> , <i>Scomber australasicus</i> , <i>Scomber japaonicus</i>), fresh or chilled.
302692000	Snapper, croaker, grouper, dolphin, banga mary and sea trout, fresh or chilled.
302699000	Other fish, excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.
303290000	Other salmonidae, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
303390000	Other flat fish, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
303550000	Jack and horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus</i> spp.)
303749000	Other mackerel, frozen.
303770000	Sea bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> , <i>Dicentrarchus punctatus</i>), frozen.
303792000	Snapper, croaker, grouper, dolphin, bangamary and sea trout, frozen.
303799000	Other fish, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
303839000	Other rays
303892000	Snapper, croaker, grouper, dolphinfish, bangamary
303899000	Other flying fish
305499000	Other smoked fish, including fillets.
305591000	Mackerel, dried, whether or not salted, but not smoked.
305599000	Other dried fish, whether or not salted, but not smoked.
305691000	Mackerel, salted but not dried or smoked and in brine.
305699000	Other fish salted but not dried or smoked and fish in brine.
305710000	Shark fins

The value of marine capture exports in value are increasing, but volumes are decreasing

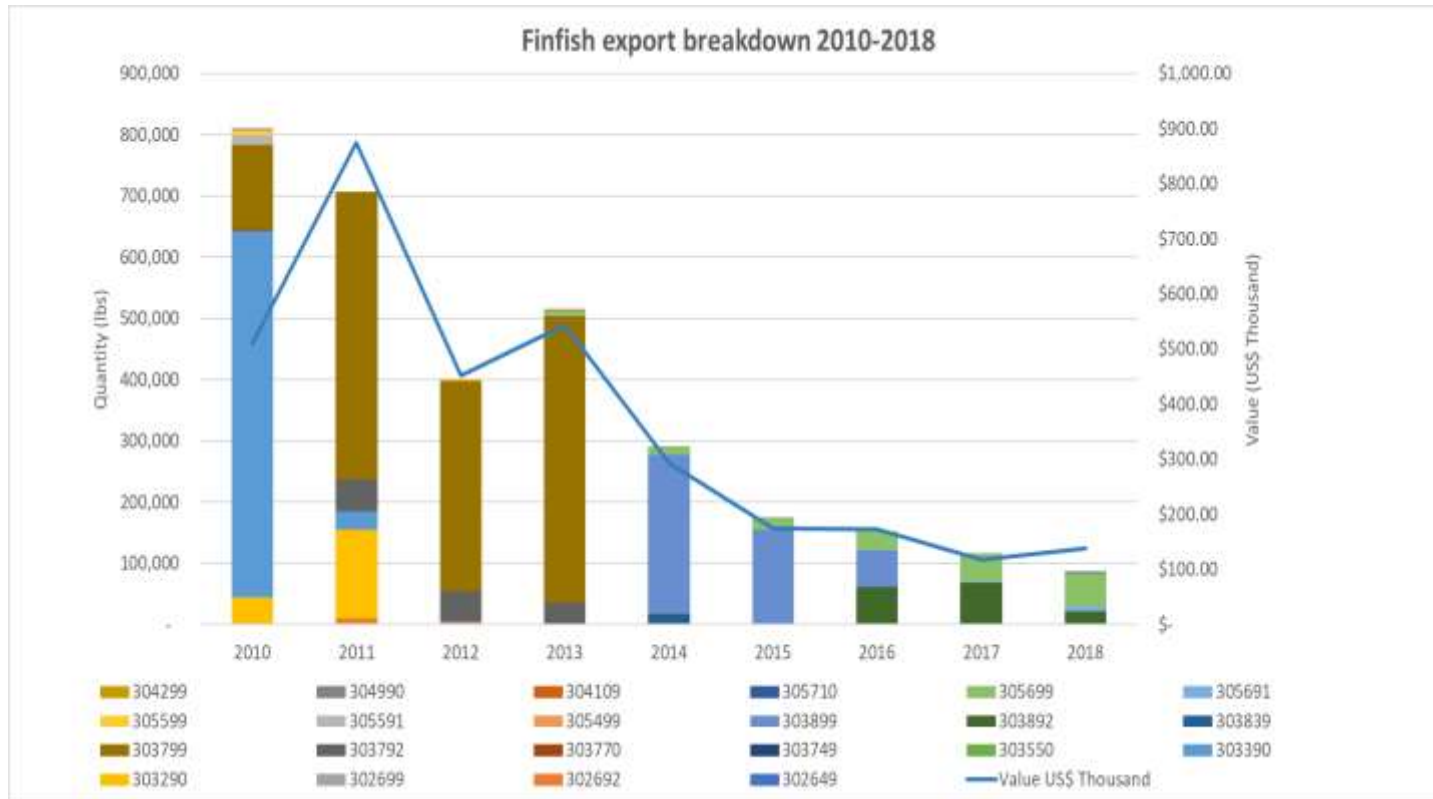


Source: SIB, 2019

Note: Values were extracted from the export breakdown provided by SIB. Quantity and values reported exclude the shrimp and aquaculture sector

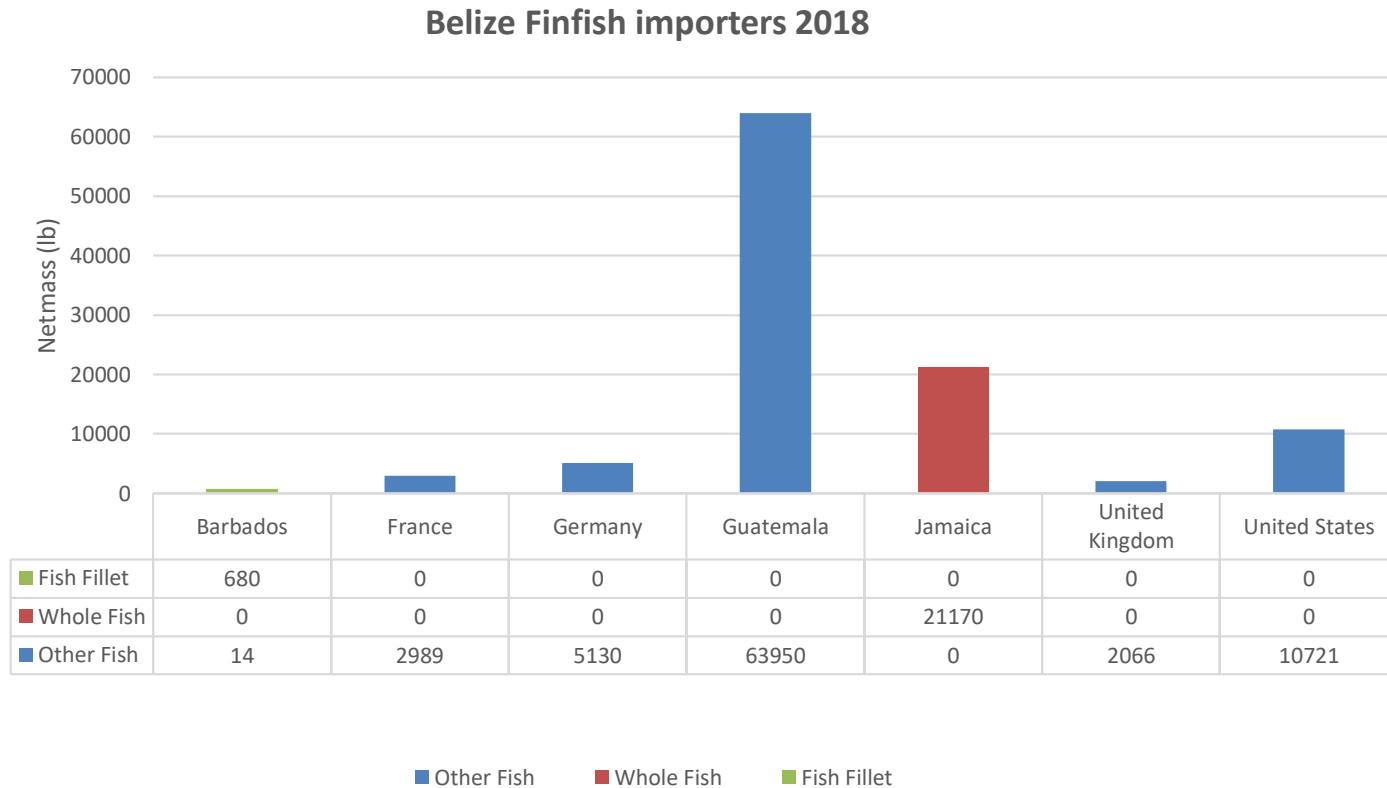
These can be good news for the potential expansion of sector if we can increase supply in a sustainable manner and add value

Exports of finfish are steadily decreasing in value & volume terms due to few exporters and low prices



- Decline in exports do not imply that finfish stocks have decreased
- Finfish are also sold in domestic markets and sales are closely linked to the tourism sector, fishers supply hotels, & restaurants

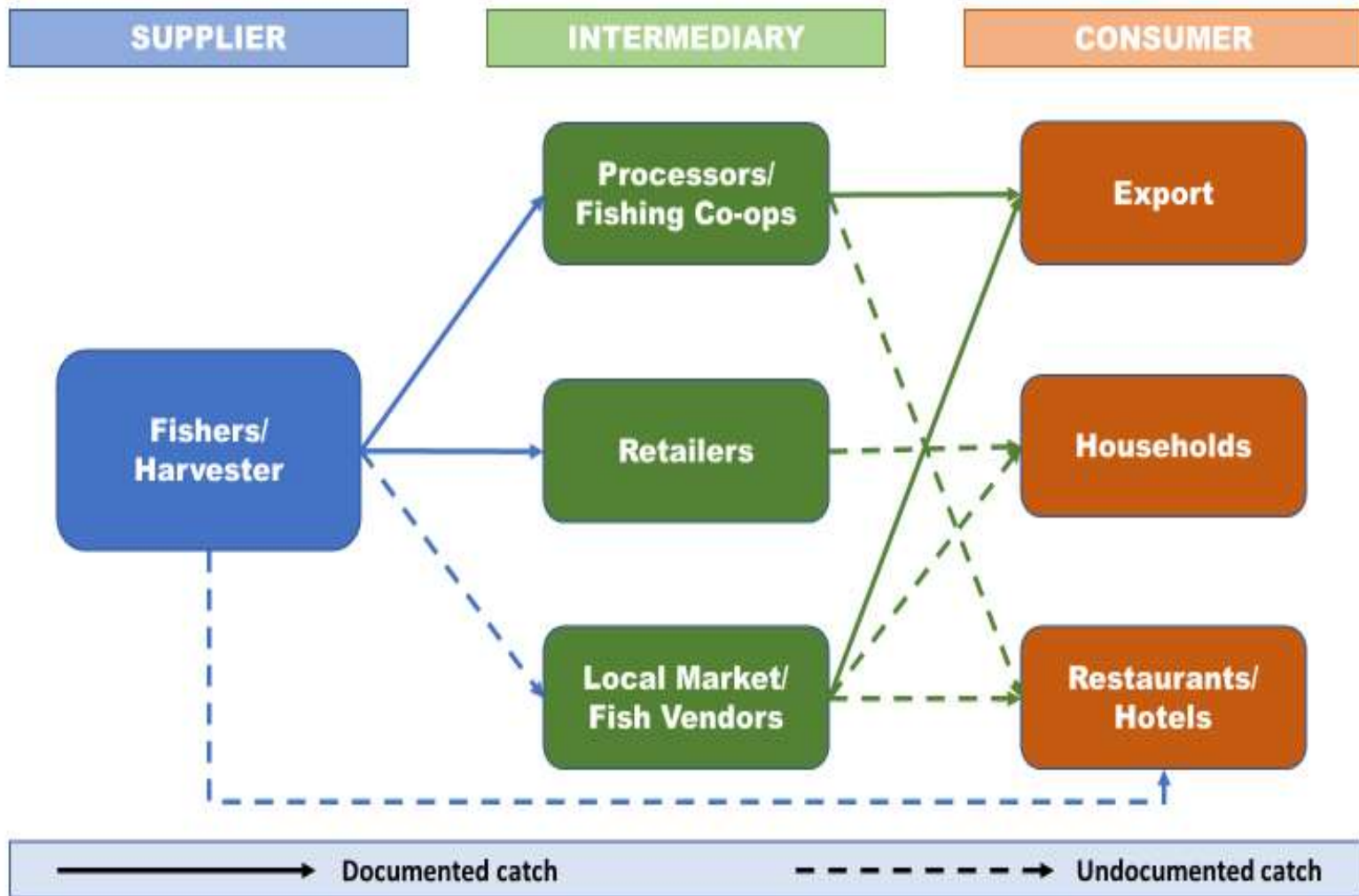
Guatemala and Jamaica are the main importers of Belize finfish



Source: BFD, 2018.

Opportunities must be enabled in domestic, tourism and regional markets as the COVID-19 pandemic is incrementally controlled

Belize finfish supply chain illustration



- Sources: BFD, 2019; Praxi5 Advisory Group, 2018; and OETS interviews conducted in 2019


Main OETS finding related to regarding trade in finfish species

- Fishing activity for finfish species vary on gear types and are primarily conducted on skiff vessels
- Cooperatives and fishing processing companies (i.e., Rainforest) only export small quantities
- Before the 2021 Fisheries Act, finfish species were subject to minimal regulation
- There is not a fin fish management plan that can assist to determine Total Allowable Catch (TAC) or Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)
- Monitoring protocol on finfish species has not been defined
- There are limited resources for the enforcement of fisheries, safety and import country regulations
- Fuel and other inputs (e.g ice and bait) is a key determinant for finfish production
- There is a need to revitalize the finfish sector by diversifying species, identifying additional markets for finfish and reducing fishing pressure on other species.

Opportunities in Trade Agreements

- **EU-CARIFORUM partnership Agreement**
 - On the EU side all custom duties on all products of Chapters 1 to 97 of HS system are eliminated with few exceptions
 - Various NTMs in place such as technical and sanitary measures (e.g., catch certification, traceability, IUU fishing carding system)
 - Great opportunity for technical cooperation (e.g., ACP-FAO fisheries programme, 2019)
 - Cooperation is fully demand driven
- **Expand potential within CARICOM**
 - Many Members are fish importers due to consumer preferences and tourist demand.
 - No barriers or low tariffs on low value products that may be shifting shift internal demand (e.g., tilapia and pangasius). External tariffs are already at maximum (i.e., 40 per cent)
- **Potential FTAs with key markets**
 - Mexico (high demand)
 - Asian countries (high demand)
- **UNCTAD' GSTP - Sao Paulo Round (1998 and 2012)**
 - 43 signatory countries - 22 participants at the last round
 - A 22% reduction in 70% of HS codes among participants
 - Only one country to enter into force
- **Future WTO Agreement on Fish Subsidies:**
 - A three-pillar prohibition agreement (for subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, fishing on overfished stocks and on overcapacity an overfishing with special and differential treatment)

GOAL 1: TO INCREASE CAPACITY OF FISHERS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST OF THESE COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT FINFISH SPECIE

Belize Trade Policy (2019-2030)	OETS proposed outcomes (integrated approach)	Some proposed actions
<p>Reduce the cost of doing business</p> <p>Enhance competitiveness</p> <p>Develop efficient production systems & capacities</p>	<p>Overall sustainable economic growth in ocean-based economic sectors thus improving livelihoods of those involved directly in the ocean economy</p>	<p>Support the acquisition of suitable fishing vessels, gear & equipment</p> <p>Support increased domestic consumption</p> <p>Facilitate financial access to fishers for obtaining DSF equipment</p> <p>Improve & standardize fish market displays & application of SPS measures in local markets</p>
<p>Improve trade performance, diversify production & exports & enhance value addition</p> <p>Build and strengthen multilateral, regional & bilateral trade relations</p> <p>Enhance market access & entry</p>	<p>Economic resilience through diversification of fisheries and seafood production by identifying opportunities for market access</p>	<p>Export support of finfish and derived products to regional & international markets</p> <p>Include fish products in trade negotiations & expand number of preferential trade agreements</p> <p>Develop fisheries improvement programs & certification</p>
<p>Develop & enhance the growth of services trade</p>	<p>Production of high-quality marine products through value added options</p>	<p>To support the adoption of Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) standards for fish processing/handling facilities</p> <p>To enhance linkages between fishing and tourism</p>
<p>Build a strong and effective institutional and legal framework for trade development</p> <p>Competent human capital & an entrepreneurial mindset</p>	<p>Enhanced synergies with ongoing projects, national plans, strategies, and policies of Belize</p>	<p>Update of current fisheries regulation: The Fisheries Resources Act of 2020</p> <p>Develop a finfish management plan:</p> <p>Establish minimum size limits and possible TAC for finfish species</p> <p>Training & capacity building for the deep slope finfish sector</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNCTAD-DOALOS-BFD-EFD support (2021)</p>

GOAL 2: TO ADD VALUE TO COMMERCIALY TARGETED SPECIES TO ACCESS TO NICHE MARKETS AND TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SMART MARKETING APPROACHES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS

Belize Trade Policy (2019-2030)	OETS proposed outcomes (integrated approach)	Some proposed actions
<p>Reduce the cost of doing business</p> <p>Enhance competitiveness</p> <p>Develop efficient production systems & capacities</p>	<p>Overall sustainable economic growth in ocean-based economic sectors thus improving livelihoods of those involved directly in the ocean economy</p>	<p>To support increased domestic use</p> <p>Expand marketing & export of currently discarded fishery by-products</p>
<p>Improve trade performance, diversify production and export basket & enhance value addition</p> <p>Build and strengthen multilateral, regional and bilateral trade relations</p> <p>Enhance market access & entry</p>	<p>Economic resilience through diversification of fisheries and seafood production by identifying opportunities for market access.</p>	<p>Need to identify additional and niche markets</p> <p>To support & expand domestic sale (marketing of small packages and increase availability of high-quality seafood products)</p> <p>To support export-oriented seafood business establishments to increase revenue generation through use of smart marketing</p>
<p>Develop & enhance the growth of services trade</p>	<p>Production of high-quality marine products through value added options</p>	<p>Legal acquisition of seafood from BAHA & HACCP certified & licensed business establishments</p>
<p>Build a strong and effective institutional and legal framework for trade development</p> <p>Competent human capital & an entrepreneurial mindset</p>	<p>Enhanced synergies with ongoing projects, national plans, strategies, and policies of Belize</p>	<p>To support fisheries law enforcement through increased monitoring, control and surveillance</p>



UNCTAD and DOALOS are preparing a report on the impact and responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Belize, Barbados and Costa Rica

Many thanks

<https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/Oceans-Economy-Trade-Strategies.aspx>

