



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

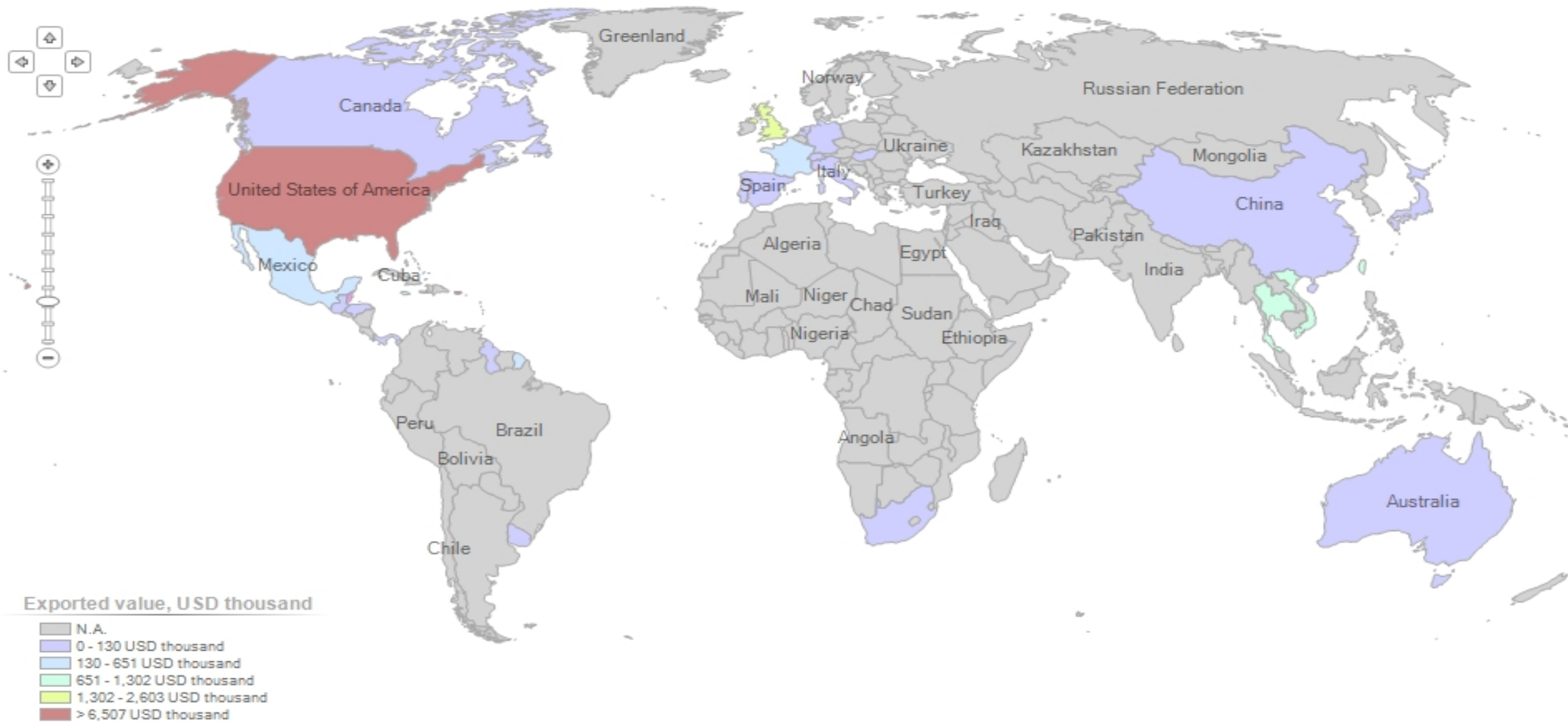
(US\$ million)

HS02		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Exports of fish	23.83	26.29	31.33	25.41	29.05	56.50	57.30	44.60	21.5	20.4
	of which										
030613	Shrimps & prawns, whether or not in shell, frozen	10.72	14.47	14.85	10.50	14.14	42.03	41.77	28.4	--	--
030611	Rock lobster & oth. sea crawfish (<i>Palinurus spp.</i> , <i>Panulirus spp.</i> , <i>Jasus spp.</i> ...) frozen	3.49	3.56	3.92	5.39	7.52	7.03	7.00	7.65	6.27	7.70
030623	Shrimps & prawns, whether or not in shell, other than frozen	0.02	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.07	0.00	2.46	1.48	--	--
030799	Molluscs & invertebrates (excl. of 0307.10-0307.60), frozen/dried/salted/in ...	0.01	0.02	0.79	0.49	0.27	0.76	2.37	3.48	3.86	2.50
030791	Molluscs & invertebrates (excl. of 0307.10-0307.60), live/fresh/chilled	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.08	2.31	0.93	1.48	1.26
030612	Lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>), whether or not in shell, frozen	3.91	2.94	3.24	3.49	0.22	0.05	0.81	2.02	2.86	3.13
030379	Fish, <i>n.e.s.</i> , frozen (excl. fillets/oth. fish meat of 03.04/livers & roes)	0.04	0.04	0.19	0.58	0.43	0.53	0.28	0.16	--	--

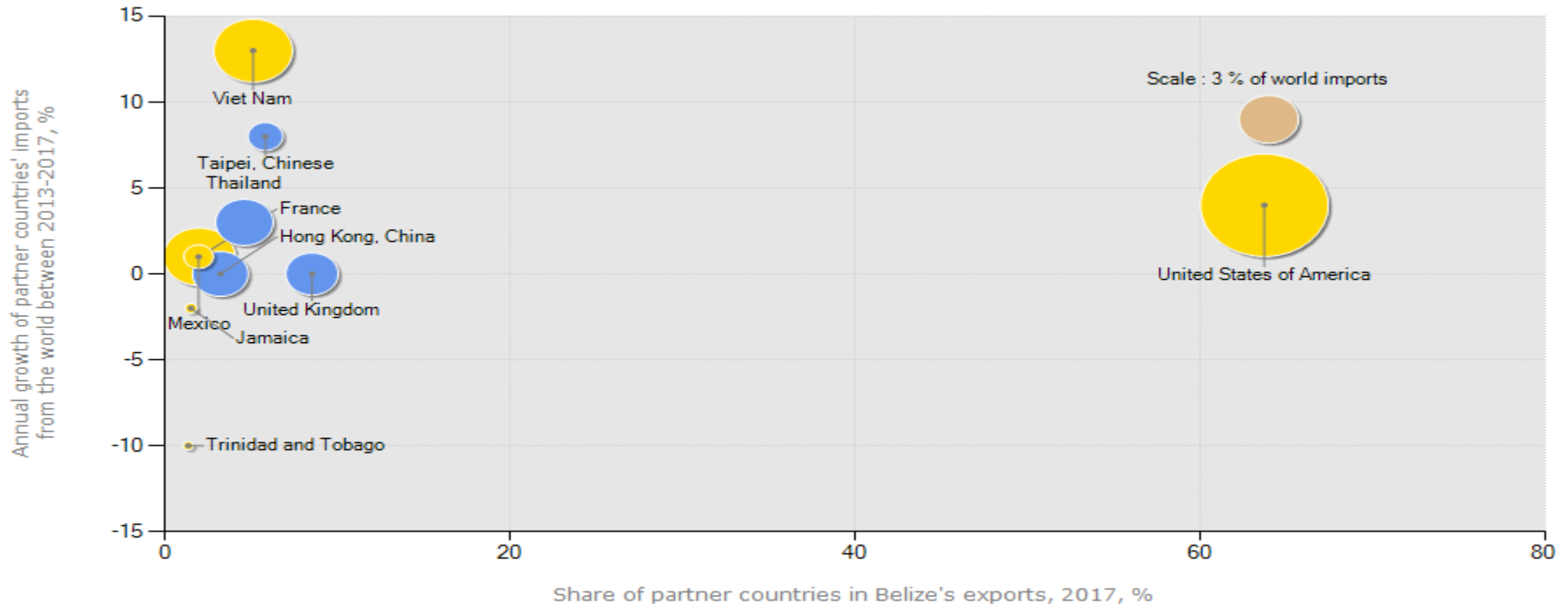
Source: UN Comtrade database.

List of importing markets for a product exported by Belize in 2017

Product : 03 Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates



Prospects for market diversification for a product exported by Belize in 2017
 Product : 03 Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates



● 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

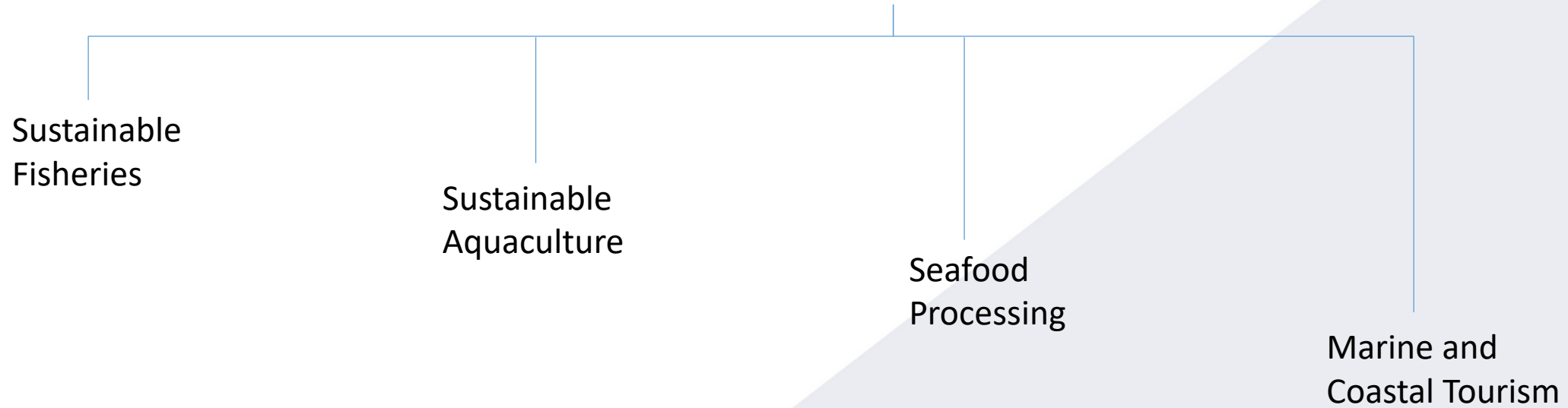
The Agriculture Department:
Aquaculture Unit – under the Agriculture Department

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

BELIZE TRADE POLICY



The Ocean Economy Trade Strategy pre-selected sectors.....



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