



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Managed Access: A Rights-Based Approach to Managing Small Scale Fisheries in Belize

Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018
Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



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Belize

- Independent Commonwealth nation on the eastern coast of Central America
- Belize has an area of 22,800 Km² (8,867 sq mi) and a population of 387,879 (2017)



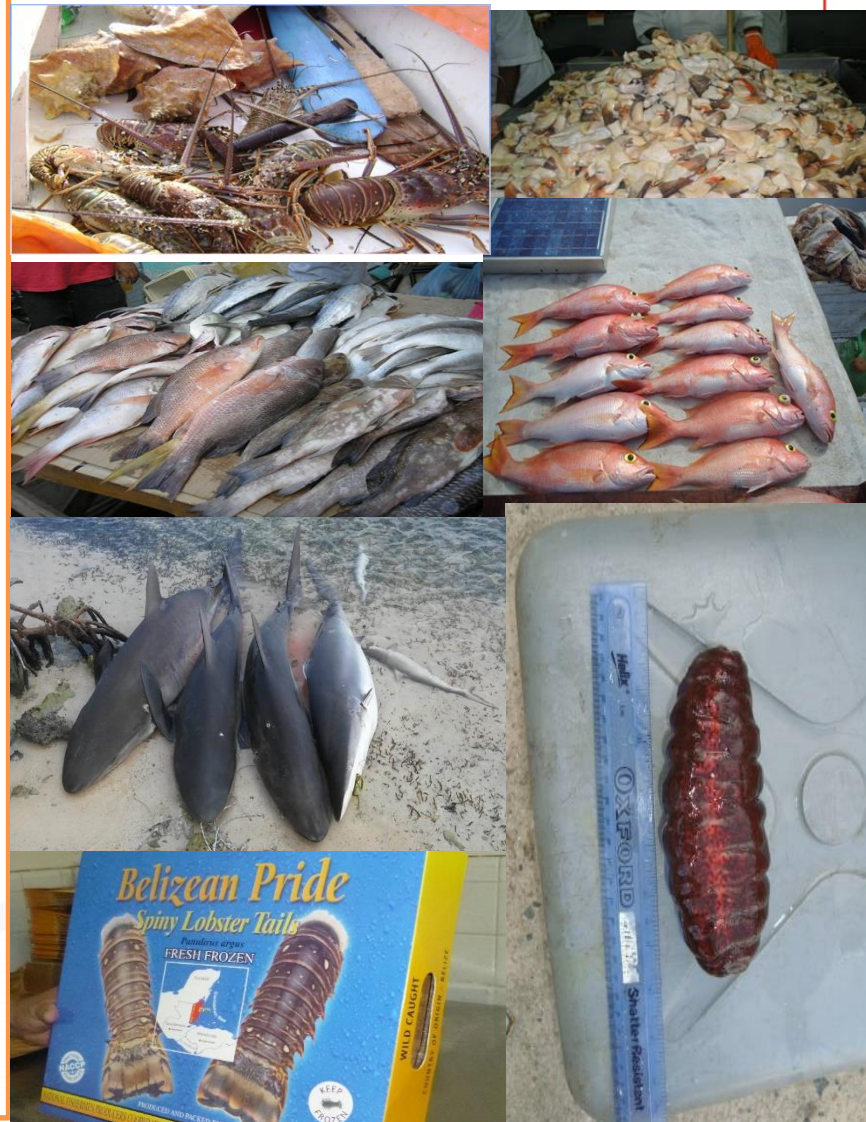
Belize Fishing Industry Profile

- Small-scale/artisanal fisheries
- Employ 2,716 licensed fishers
- 770 licensed artisanal vessels
- 15,000 Belizeans direct beneficiaries
- Fishermen are highly organized in fishing cooperatives.
- 9 Fishing Zones established in territorial waters.
- Fishing is done in shallow waters of the barrier lagoon and 3 offshore atolls (20m).
- Fishing is done exclusively by free diving (use of SCUBA prohibited) and use of traps and handlines.
- Focused primarily on reef species: lobster, conch, finfish, sea cucumber, sharks.

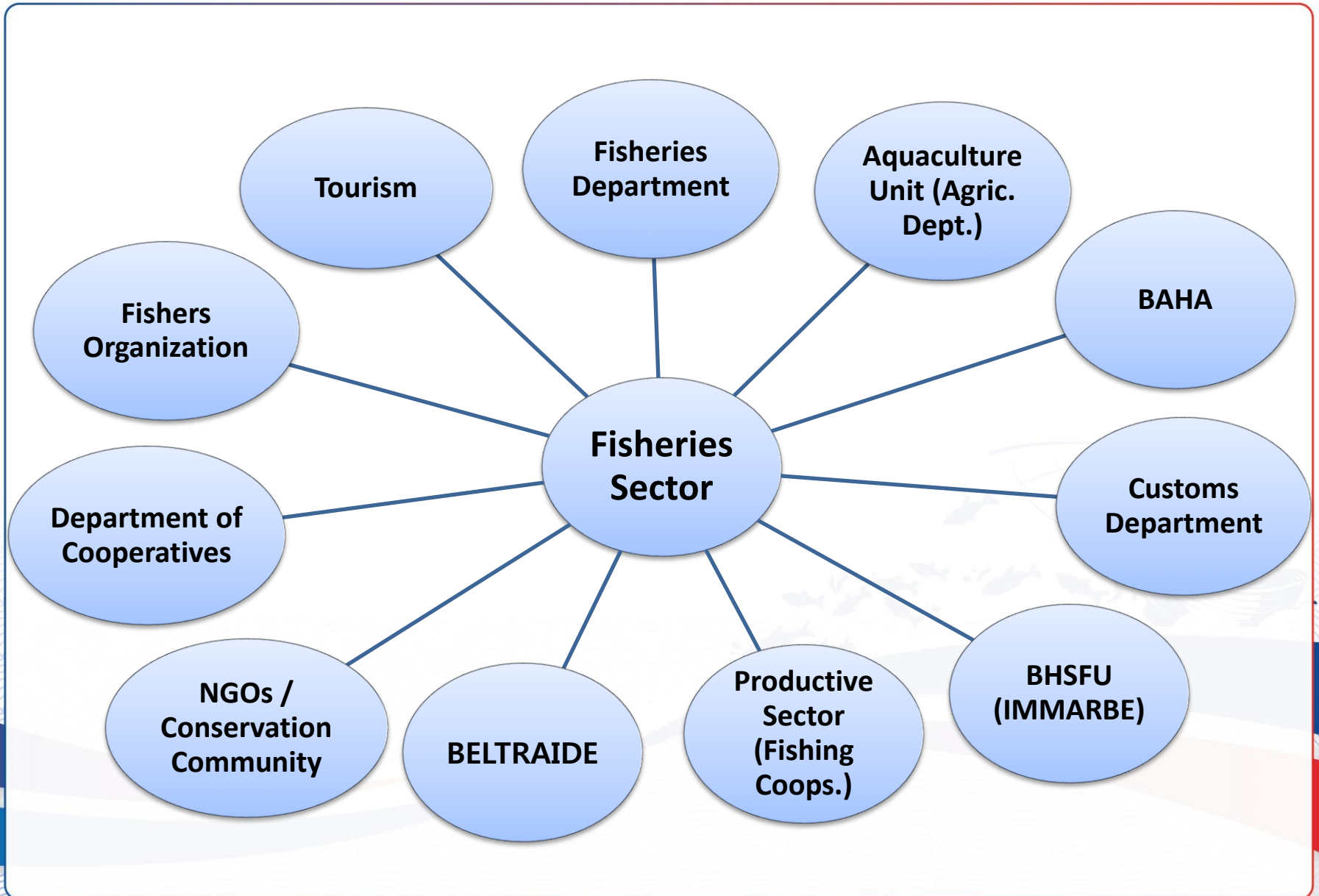


Performance of the Fisheries Sector

- Capture fisheries contribution to GDP average 3% in 2017 with total **export value of US\$15.3 million.**
- Main export commodities include Caribbean Spiny Lobster and Queen Conch
- **Lobster** export values representing **74.8%**
- **Conch** export values representing **24%**
- **Other 1.2%** include: King Crab, whole fish, aquarium fish, sharks
- Total export volume: 1.62 million pounds



Fisheries Sector Stakeholders



Belize Fisheries Management Principles & Goals

1. Empower fishermen to steward resources, comply with regulations, and grow their businesses
2. Promote sustainability of fish stocks and support development for job creation, revenue generation and foreign exchange
3. Protect the coral reef system
4. Build national capacity as a global leader in oceans management
5. Support the national interest by protecting maritime territory and ensuring food security

Sustainable Management and Growth Driven!



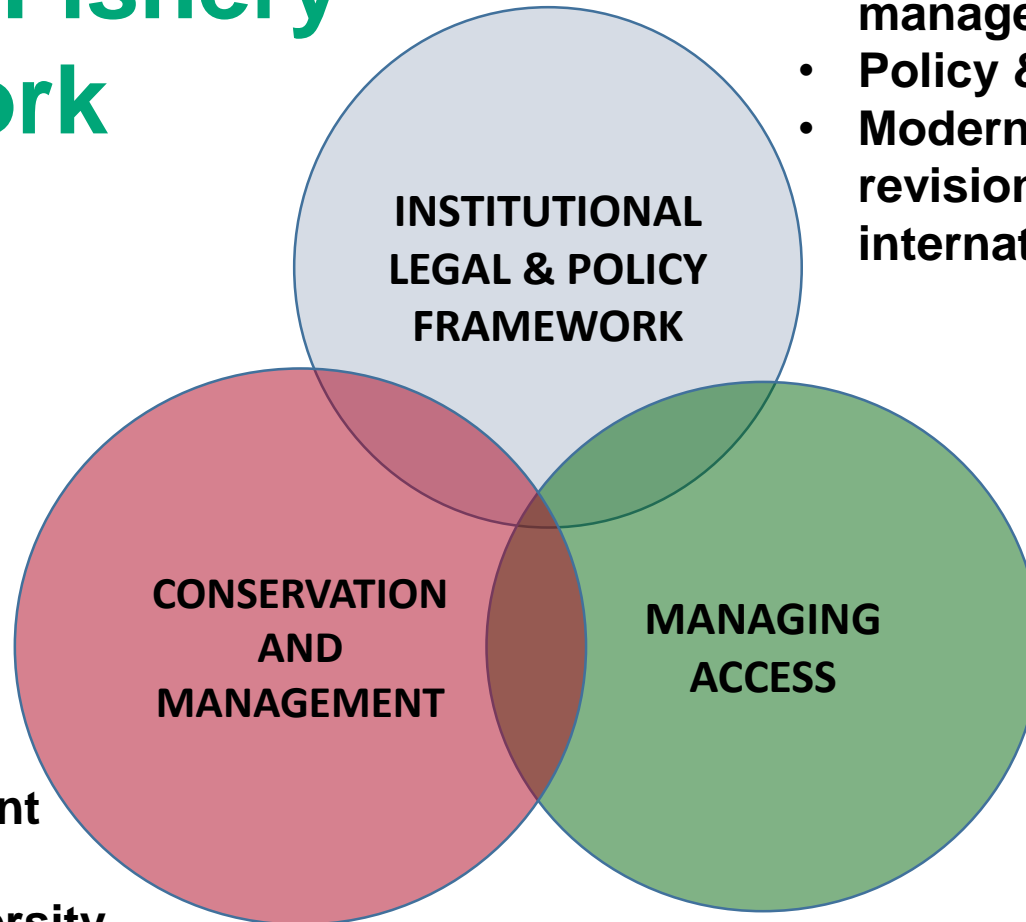
Managed sustainably, the value of Belize fisheries could increase and ensure the security of fishing jobs.

People Focused!



Empower fishermen and managers to collaborate to steward and protect our resources for the benefit of Belizeans.

National Fishery Framework



- Model framework for innovative fisheries management
- Policy & Management Plan
- Modern Law (under revision) consistent with international principles

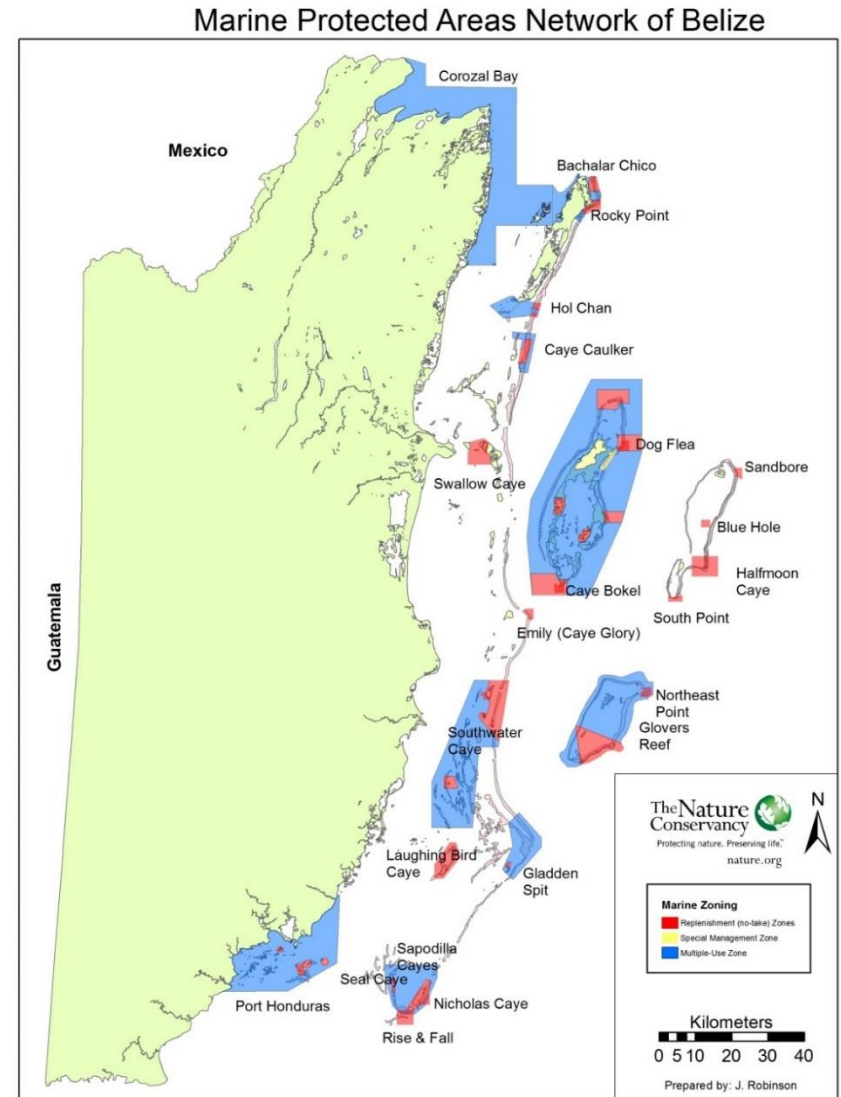
- Protect important habitats
- Support biodiversity
- Rebuild fisheries
- Resilience to climate change
- Replenishment zones/MR network

- Manage Catch and Effort
- Area-based Management & Licensing
- Incentives for fishermen to steward resources

	Where we are today?	What is the goal?
New Fisheries Act	Draft developed	Act legislated in 2018
Managed Access (since 2011)	National roll-out to all territorial waters in 2017, including licensing system and fisherman committees	Accountability of catch per area from fishers logbooks and data incorporated into science to manage fisheries and turfs sustainably
Replenishment Zones and Marine Reserves	3.1% of territorial waters and 21% of territorial waters	Expansion to 10% of territorial water
Community Empowerment	Fisherman organizations formed	Fisherman organizations. progressively have capacity to help manage fisheries
Business Development	Potential revenue and financing opportunities for fishermen	Business plan development and implementation for new revenue opportunities for the seafood industry
Adaptive Management framework	Fishery management plans (FMPs) to prevent overfishing and rebuild stocks for Conch and Lobster	2019 management plan for finfish and adaptive management framework employed in all main fisheries.

Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management

- Marine Reserves and Rep lenishment Zones Management (21% territorial waters)
- Ecosystems health monitoring (mangroves, coral reef, fish, sea grass)
- Endangered Species Management (turtles, West Indian Manatee, marine mammals, Groupers, spawning aggregations)
- Invasive species Management (lion fish)



Fisheries Enforcement

Goal

To prevent, deter and eliminate illegal fishing within Belize's national waters

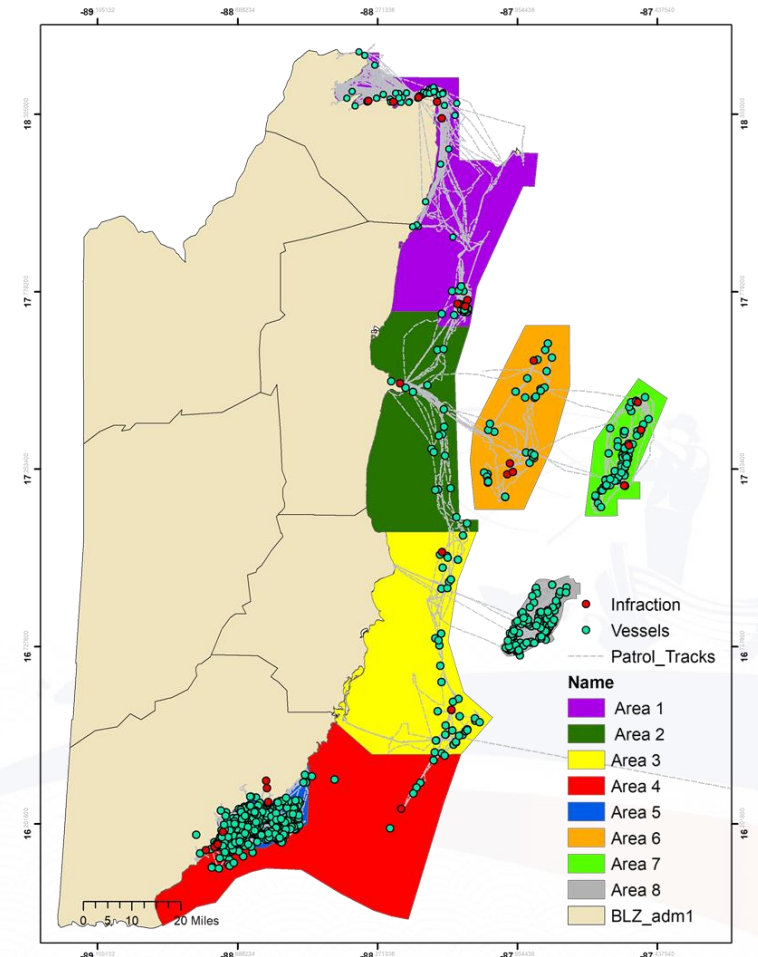
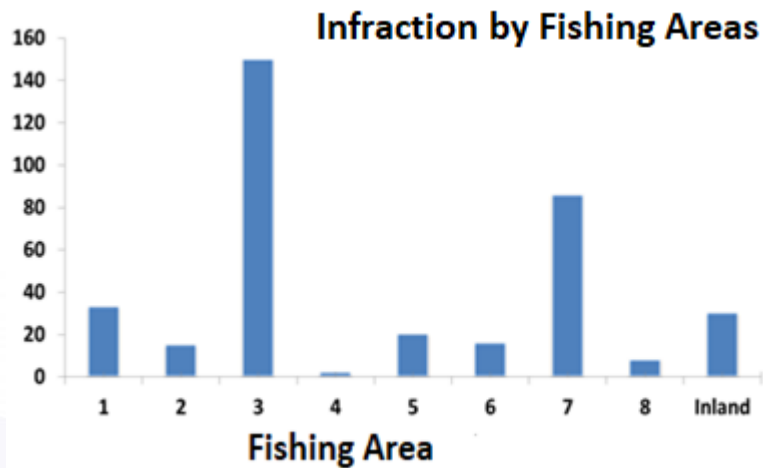
Primary Objectives

- To ensure the effective management of the Marine resources through compliance with the Fisheries laws
- To increase the rate of conviction of fisheries offenders
- To maintain an effective enforcement information system
- To promote stakeholder engagement for voluntary compliance with the fisheries regulations



Innovation with Modern Enforcement Technologies

- SMART Tool
- Conservation Drones





Innovating Fisheries Management in Belize



**SUSTAINABLE
FISHING FOR
OUR FUTURE**
MANAGED ACCESS

What is Managed Access?

- Fisheries management tool which seeks to protect the rights of customary fishers by giving them exclusive access to fish certain areas.
- Think about it as a turf system.
- Ends open access.

Belize's Managed Access Strategy

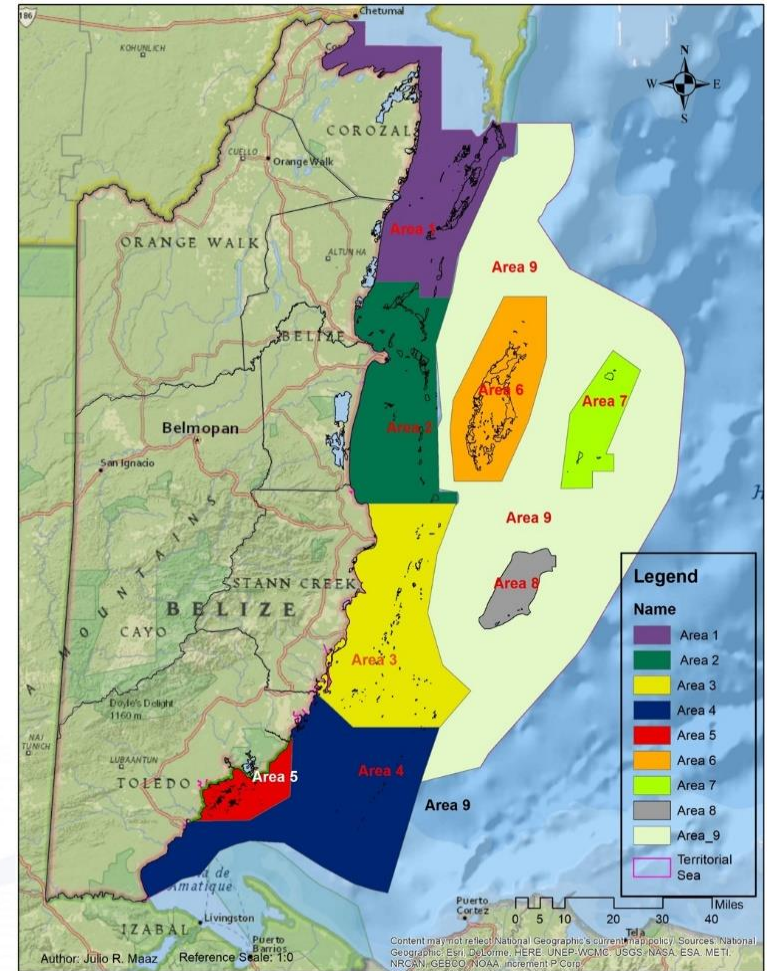
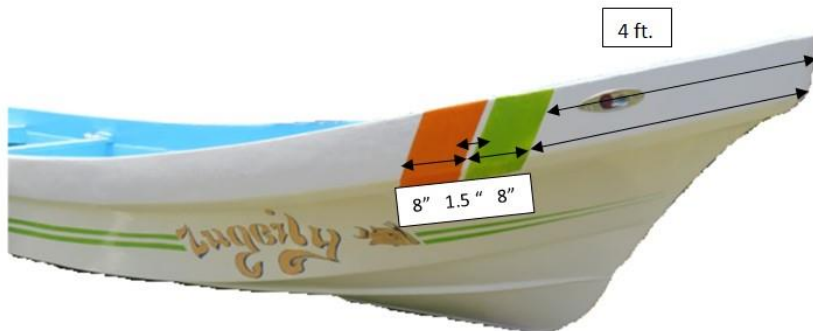
- **Strengthen management** through a national system of secure tenure for fishermen to fish in designated fishing areas,
- **Empower fishermen** and **improve livelihoods** through community-based management and diversified, higher value markets
- **Science-based catch limits** would allow the most important commercial and biological species to recover.
- Use a national, **multi-stakeholder collaboration** including government, fishermen and NGOs to analyze and recommend policies

All the Components of Managed Access Work Together to Achieve Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries.



Manage Access

- 2017 – all fishers licensed according to 9 designated fishing areas
- Areas were legislation for implementation and management
- Main components: vessel coding, catch data submission, enforcement, license conditions



Cont'd

Manage Access Committees:

- Representation of each community that fishes in the Managed Access area- (Associations, Non-Affiliated)
- Elected to two-year terms, eligible for reelection
 - Alternates will also be elected
- Members responsible to attend meetings, represent fishers, and report back to community

Local Fishermen Exchange Program

- Collaboration with the fishermen associations

Outreach

- Reef Fair, Lobster fest, knowledge fair, Science Fair, boat to boat outreach and forums



Licensing

- Upgrade licensing system to license fishers (95%) and vessels (98%) by fishing area
- Improved efficiency of licensing same day issuance
- Updated the database to collect all demographic, socio-economic, catch and gear information
- Database also linked to enforcement data including arrests, convictions and SMART application
- Better support system for fishers during licensing periods



COMMERCIAL FISHER FOLK LICENSING RENEWAL 2017

Fishers must present:

- Expired License**
Expired fisher folk licenses.
- Proof of Residence**
Utility bill in fisher's name or an authorization from the landlord signed and sealed by a Justice of the Peace (JP).
- Valid ID Card**
A valid form of identification - Social Security card, Voter's ID card and/or Passport.

*Naturalized Belizeans must present Nationality documents.

Contact:
Belize City Office: 224-4332 or 222-2187

PRESS RELEASE

✓ Commercial Fisher Folk License Renewal

The Belize Fisheries Department hereby informs the PUBLIC that it will commence with the renewal of fisher folk licenses on **January 4th 2017**. A grace period for renewals will be in place until **January 31st 2017**. Fishers are advised to bring along all required documents upon renewal to facilitate the process.

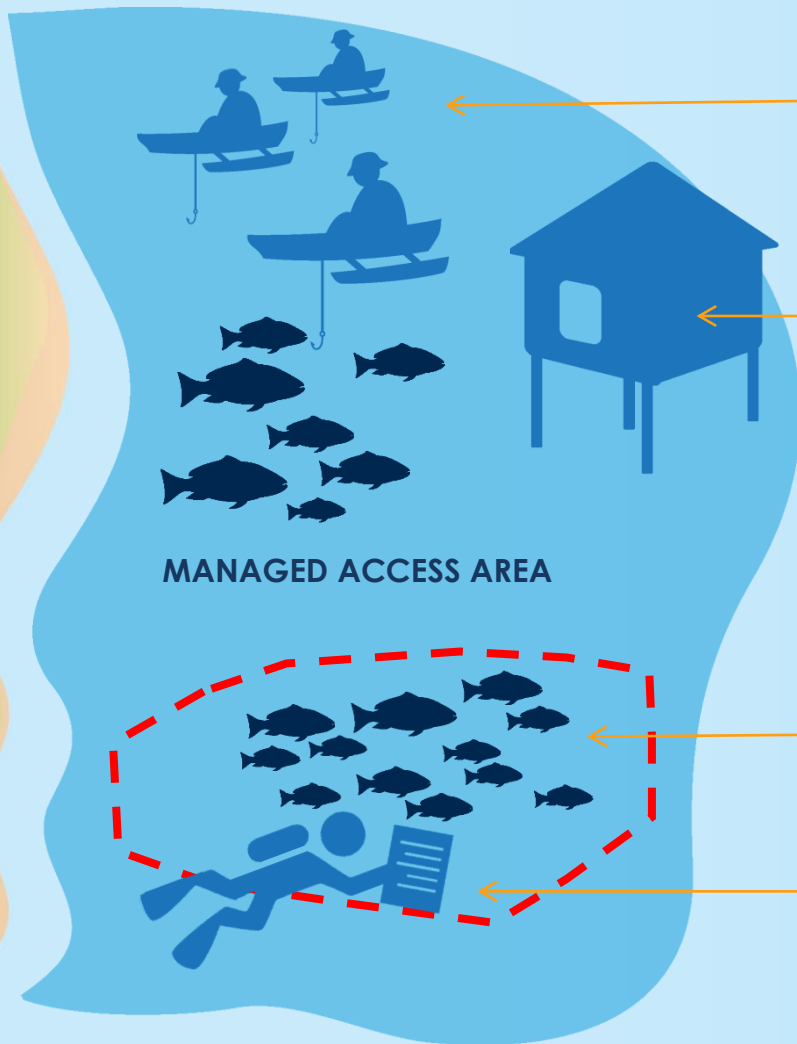
Licensing will be carried out for the following communities at the Belize Fisheries Department Office in Belize City on the dates specified below:

Date	Communities
04 th January – 06 th January	Belize City
09 th January – 13 th January	Sarongia, Copper Bank, Chanux – all fishers from Corozal & Orange Walk Districts
16 th January – 20 th January	Hopkins & Dangriga
23 rd January – 27 th January	San Pedro & Caye Caulker





**COMMUNITY
CAPACITY
BUILDING**



**MANAGED
ACCESS
LICENSES**

**MONITORING &
ENFORCEMENT**

**FISHERY
REPLENISHMENT
ZONES**

SOUND SCIENCE

Industry Challenges ...

- Illegal fishing by fishers from neighboring countries pose significant challenges to the sustainability of the fishery resources.
- Insufficient budgetary support does not allow for effective law enforcement.
- Initial resistance from fishermen for implementation of Managed Access.
- Skepticism from Fisher Organizations (Cooperatives & Associations).
- Availability to meet and influence key decision makers.
- Initial minimal participation of fishers.
- Initial lack of organization and limited capacity of fishing communities.
- Limited human and financial resources.
- Limited legal framework for national expansion.
- Institutionalization of the management tool



The Way Forward...into the future!

- Sustainable use of fishery resources in Belize depends on continued and greater commitment and action from decision-makers; increased funding for data collection, research and law enforcement activities supported by government and external sources.
- Lack of effective fisheries law enforcement may discourage good fishers from continuing to respect fisheries regulations when they witness illegal fishing activities in "their" fishing areas and law enforcement is minimal.
- Increased institutional support to maintain fishers' participation and ownership of the management tool is extremely important. Fishers need to be fully convinced that "their fishing areas" are secure and that they will continue to have access to the fishery resources and management decisions for these areas are based on sound science and not just hypothetical scenarios.
- Field research is badly needed to gather sufficient fish biomass data to support the establishment of appropriate fishing effort in each fishing area. In the absence of such information, management may not be necessarily justified in blocking additional fishing effort in a particular fishing area.
- Fishers' participation in the fisheries management decision-making process need to be further strengthened so that the Manage Access community committees truly represent the interests and wishes of fishers.



Thank You!