

# Contributing to Resilient Fisheries by Strengthening Managed Access Committees

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# Building Capacity of MACs to convene and help lead changes in Fisheries Management

- Climate resilience
- Replenishment zone
- Multispecies finfish management
- Recreational fishing



# Climate Change and Fisheries Management in Belize

The ability to prepare for, recover from and adapt to impacts of climate change = “Climate resilience”

Focus on

1. Climate change impacts on marine life and Fisheries
2. Community resilience
3. Adaptive Management





# Impacts of Climate Change

Sea level rise

Ocean warming

Ocean acidification can erode coral reefs, reducing important habitat for reef-dwelling species

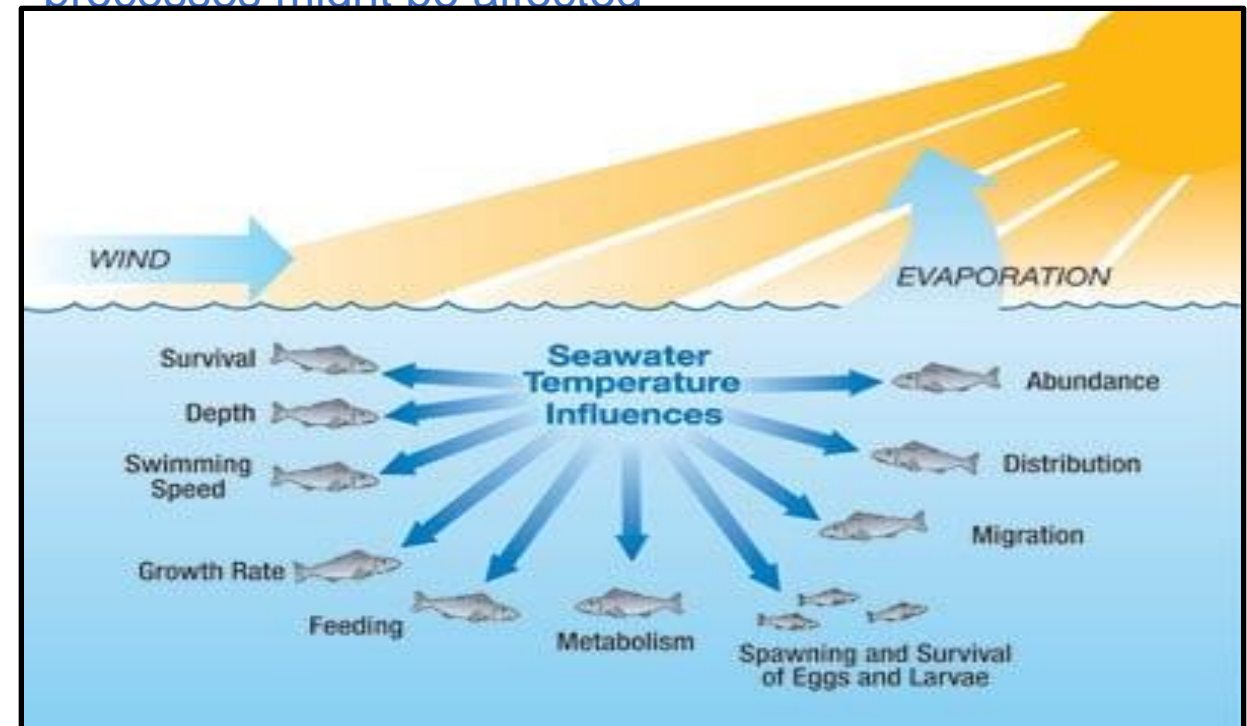
Coastal habitat such as mangroves and seagrass beds are at high risk



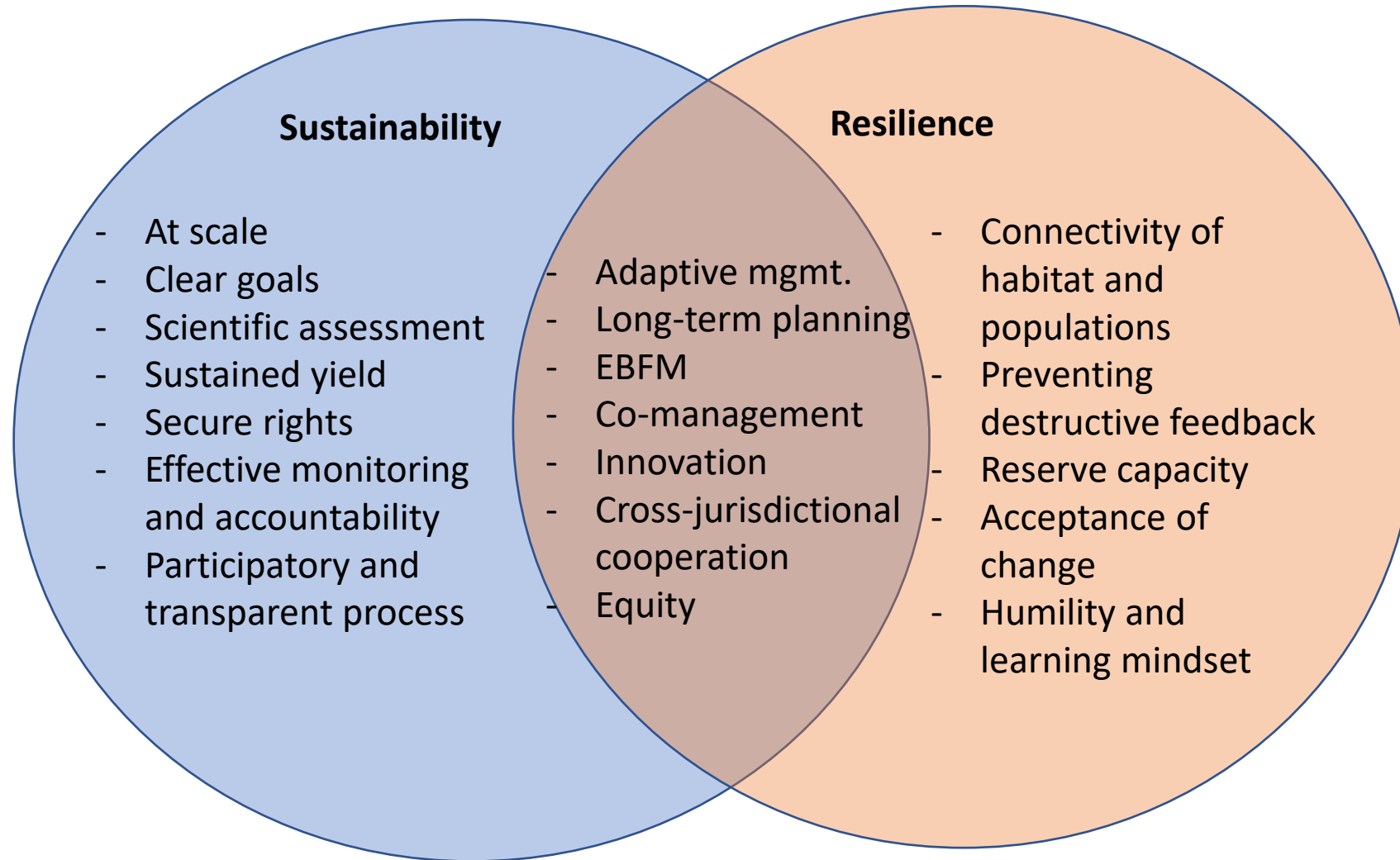
## Climate impacts on fish

Almost all physiological and behavioral processes in fish are mediated by temperature

As the ocean warms, we can expect that any of these processes might be affected



# ***Sustainability and resilience are related***



# Replenishment zones support ecosystems, fisheries and community resilience

## Benefits

Help oceans and Marine life thrive

- replenish fish populations
- protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve resilience to climate change

Strengthen fishing communities and secure livelihoods

- boost cooperation and collaboration among fishermen
- increase community involvement in management
- increase abundance of an important protein source

Increases economic opportunities

- increase fishery value with more abundant fish
- improve income opportunities through better fish handling & marketing coordination
- improve business efficiency and reduce cost for fishermen from collaboration and cooperation among fishermen



## Belize commitments

### The Marine Spatial Plan

- Belize's obligations to complete a legally enforceable Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and designate up to 30 percent of its Ocean in Biodiversity Protection Zones.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
- Evaluation of Managed Access



**GOLIATH GROUPE**

**SHARKS**

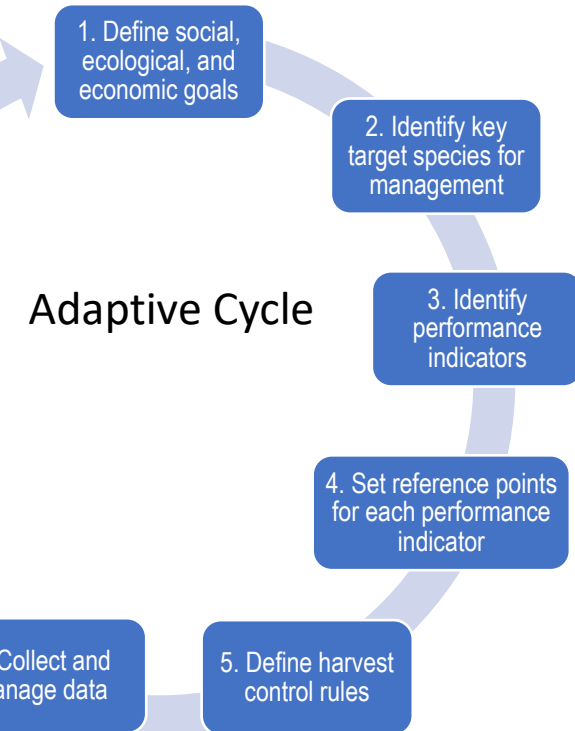


# Managing multispecies fisheries in Belize

-Learning from multispecies finfish management

-Benefits of Science-based Management

**Steps towards National Multispecies Finfish Management Plan**



# How sustainable recreational and sport fisheries can support community livelihoods and healthy ecosystems

## Why it needs to be addressed

- Participation in recreational fisheries is growing in Belize and in some cases it is perceived as rivaling commercial fishing in terms of catch
- It remains largely unmanaged despite its growth
- This growth must be addressed with commitment to manage the opportunities (alternative livelihoods) and risks (overfishing)
- In Belize only the sport fishing species are managed and regulated by the sports fishing regulations (Permit, Tarpon and Bonefish).
- There is a need to balance sustainability while considering socioeconomic benefits and changes in national goals (community resilience and conservation/development )

Belize participates in Caribbean Recreational Fisheries CVA

Caribbean Recreational Fisheries Exchange in Belize





# SSF Hub and Belize

About the SSF Hub: <https://ssfhub.org/about-ssf-hub>

## Resources

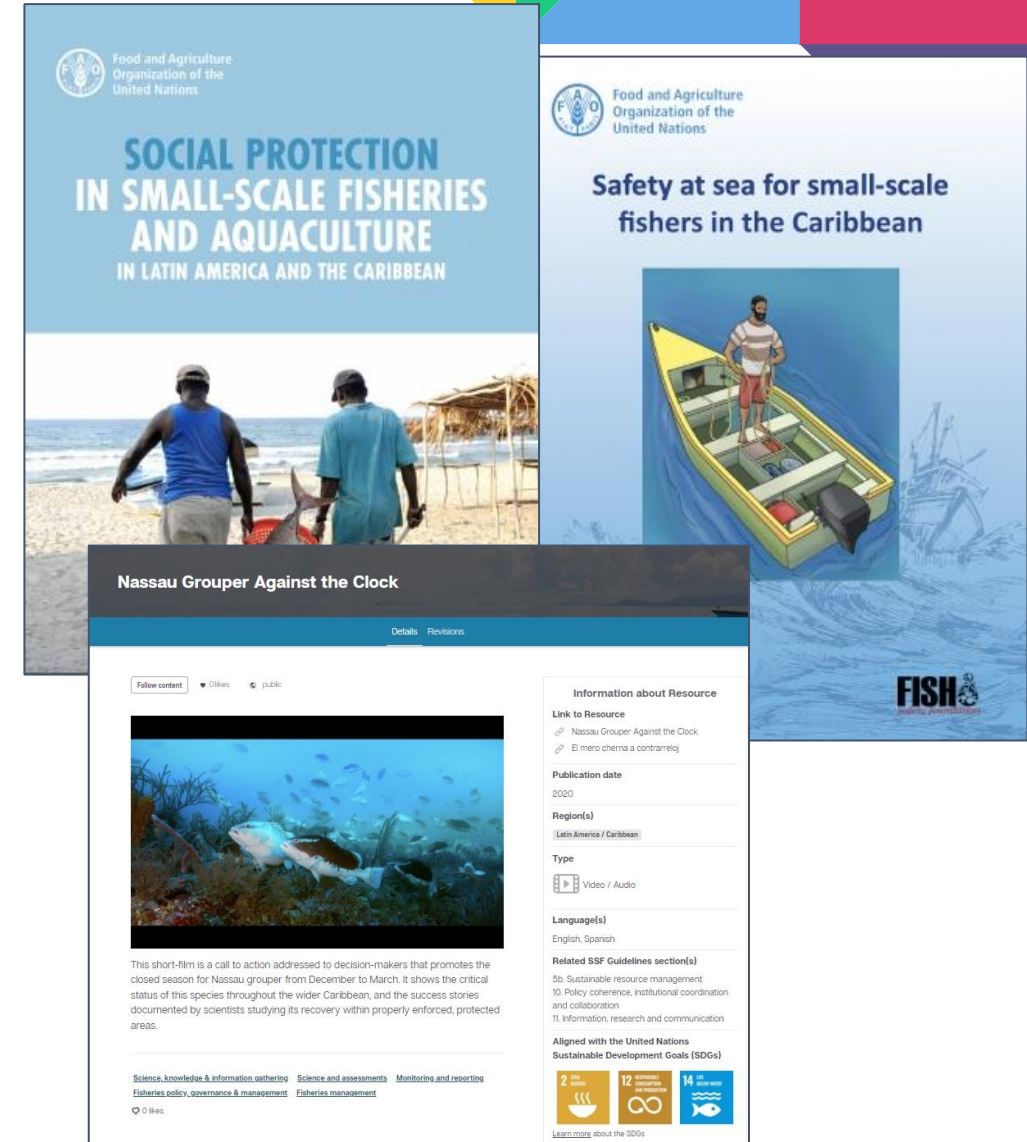
- *Video*: Nassau Group Against the Clock
- *Guide*: Data collection in nearshore fisheries
- *Report*: Adaptive management of fisheries in response to climate change
- *Suggest new resources!*

## Groups

- Multispecies Management
- Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries Group
- ICT4Fisheries
- Global Octopus Network

SSF Guidelines: <https://ssfhub.org/about/small-scale-fisheries-guidelines>

IYAFA: <https://ssfhub.org/about/international-year-artisanal-fisheries-and-aquaculture-iyafa-2022>



# Updates

## Capacity building Training workshops have been held with all 8 MACs

- Listening session with fishermen
- updates provided by Belize Fisheries Department and Co-managers
- Discussions and input from fishermen on thematic areas to enhance fisheries management
- Introduction to SSF-Hub [www.ssfhub.org](http://www.ssfhub.org) and uploading of training video

### Key Highlights

Fishers and community leaders see the MACs as an important platform

Fishers want to participate in meetings and want to be consulted in fisheries related matters

Covid-19 has negatively impacted several Fishermen Associations ability to convene meetings

Mr. Oscar Mena “We fishermen know and are willing to do our part to protect the resources we depend on. This has been our livelihood, we need to work together”

- One on one meetings and community visit
- Leobihildo Tamai participates in Our Ocean Conference

\*Belizean Fisher participation in upcoming UN Ocean Conference







THANK YOU

