Developing Belize’s Blue Economy Policy & Strategy

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November 2020 – Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation (MBECA) established.

Responsibility for coordination of development in Belize’s blue space (land & sea)

Blue Economy arm needed to be built/developed

1st for Belize

Guide & Support MBECA: Development of a Blue Economy Policy & Strategy

Establish Blue Economy Cluster
Blue Economy Cluster

- Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation (MBECA) - Chair
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment
- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- Ministry of Tourism & Diaspora Relations
- Fisheries Department
- Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit
- Blue Bonds - Project Finance for Permanence Unit – OPM
- Beltraide
- Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute
- Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association
- World Wildlife Fund Mesoamerica
- Northern Fishermen Cooperative Association
- Fein Catch Ltd.
- Galen University
Development Process

- Belize Blue Economy Stock take & Diagnostic Analysis (Aug 2021)
- Formation of Blue Economy Cluster
- Collaborative partnership with TASA
- Funded by MAR Fund - Belize Marine Fund Program
- Inception Report
- Institutional & Organisational Baseline Assessment
- Stakeholder Engagement (Covid restrictions)
- 1st Draft
- Validation Workshop
- Next Step – Submitted to Cabinet
Belize Blue Economy Development Policy & Strategy (BEDPS)

- Provides an enabling framework
- Sustainable development of Belize’s blue space (coastal zone, intertidal areas, territorial waters, EEZ, and BBNJ)
- Sets forth overarching high level policy direction
- Vision: Belize’s Blue Economy, by 2030, is productive, sustainable, resilient and vibrant, contributing substantially to the socio-economic well-being of the country and its people
- Mission: To increase GDP through a thriving Blue Economy Development pathway that is wholistic, harmonised, innovative and socially just, supported by a robust, science-based management regime of our aquatic resources and space to improve the livelihood of all Belizeans
Aim

Proposed Policy Priority Areas

1. Governance Framework for Blue Economy Development
2. Incentives for Blue Economy Development
3. Capacity Building, Education, and Research
4. Resource Mobilisation

Class Photo – Validation Workshop 27 April 2022
Potential for Blue Growth in Belize

Traditional Sectors

- Maritime Transport – Shipping, Ports
- Tourism – cruise, yachting, beach/resorts
- Minerals, aggregates
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
Emerging Sectors

- Energy – renewables, storage, hydrogen, ocean thermal, energy conversion (OTEC), sea water air conditioning (SWAC)
- Biopharma /bio technology
- Tourism – eco-tourism
- Deep sea minerals/minerals
- Mariculture
- Ecosystem Services
THANK YOU!

Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation