



# Developing Belize's Blue Economy Policy & Strategy

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11 May 2022

# Background:

- ▶ November 2020 – Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation(MBECA) established.
- ▶ Responsible for coordination of development in Belize's blue space (land & sea)
- ▶ Blue Economy arm needed to built/developed
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> 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)
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> 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



# Potential for Blue Growth in Belize

## 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**