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# REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS FISHERIES ACT REVISION PROJECT

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# REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS FISHERIES ACT REVISION PROJECT

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

During the period 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011, the legal and fisheries consultants presented the first working draft of the new Fisheries Act, entitled the “Aquatic Living Resources Bill” in a series of public consultations held in four major coastal fishing communities: Belize City, Sarteneja, Placencia, and Punta Gorda.

These meetings were widely publicized through a television infomercial broadcasted on two national television stations and on cable networks in Sarteneja and Punta Gorda, a radio notice broadcasted on three national radio stations, and a notice published in two national newspapers. Flyers advertising the consultations (see Appendix 1) were also distributed in Placencia and the surrounding communities. The flyer notice was also sent to all persons who attended meetings held previously in relation to the development of the Preliminary Analysis report of the project.

As several members of the Belize Fisherman Co-operative Association (BFCA) were unable to attend the public consultations, a special meeting was held with the Association on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

The agenda for the consultations is included in Appendix 2. The comments received during these meetings will be considered by the consultants for inclusion where feasible in future drafts of the fisheries act.

### BELIZE CITY CONSULTATION

The consultation in Belize City was held at the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMA) Training Room on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was attended by 44 participants, representing the fishing industry, government, non-governmental organizations, donors, academia and the general public. Details on the participants are included in Table 1, below, and a list of their names is included in Appendix 3.

No. of government and statutory body representatives	12
No. of fishing industry representatives	8
No. of non-government organization representatives	12
No. of media representatives	1
No. of representatives from academia	2
No. of general public representatives	5
No. of donor representatives	4
No. of male participants	26
No. of female participants	18

Table 1: Details on participants attending the Belize City consultation

## **Welcome and Introduction**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. George Myvett, and the Senior Fisheries Officer. He introduced the legal consultants, Bill Edeson and Elisa Montalvo, the Fisheries Administrator, Beverly Wade, and the Country Director of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Janet Gibson.

Ms. Wade opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and saying she was looking forward to an interactive discussion. She gave some background to the process of revising the Fisheries Act, which began in early 2010, although the Fisheries Department had recognized the need to revise the Act from a long time ago. A new Act is urgently needed to reflect the progress made in the sector since the old legislation was first enacted in 1948. The old Act cannot accommodate all the advances made in fisheries management. Consultations were held last year to determine what the new Act should encompass, and the results of this effort are included in the Preliminary Analysis report which is up on the project's web site. This analysis looked at the current national and international legal framework and identified the gaps, and it noted areas where synergies and efficiencies could be created. This Analysis has informed the structure and content of the draft of the new Act. The draft that has been circulated includes some key sections where feedback from stakeholders is required. The input received will be used to develop the draft further. The final polished draft should be ready for distribution in 3 to 4 months.

## **Presentation of the Draft Fisheries Act**

Mr. Edeson then began the presentation of the new draft Act. He explained that a lot has happened in fisheries between 1948 and the mid-1980s. For instance, the Law of the Sea Convention in 1982 included many aspects that required legal changes in the domestic law of its signatories. Then in 1995 the Fish Stocks Agreement was passed, which required even more legislative changes to be made to give effect to its provisions through domestic laws. There is a sense of urgency to the revision of the Fisheries Act, as Belize is one of few countries that have not yet made these necessary changes to its domestic law. Also, Belize is in an unusual situation, as it administers national fishermen in its national waters and EEZ, foreign fishermen who come within this area, and also a fleet on the high seas.

Mr. Edeson pointed out that this is an enabling act, providing a comprehensive framework that will be adequate into the future. He explained that a skeletal outline of the Act had been provided in the Preliminary Analysis report and this has been filled out with provisions. He added that drafting legislation is a continuous process of improvement, and is very iterative and time-consuming.

Mr. Edeson commended the Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society on the approach being taken with implementing this project.

He then went through the outline of the sections of the act (see Appendix 4), pointing out aspects of interest.

1. The name, ‘Aquatic Living Resources Bill’ was chosen as it also covers inland fishing and aquatic organisms in general.
2. In relation to interpretation and the definitions, these have to be very carefully defined and they will all need to be harmonized later in the drafting process.
3. Part II: This includes the Principles and Measures, which are extremely important as they form the foundation of the Act. These refer to the precautionary approach, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the protection of biodiversity, etc. Mr. Edeson stressed that feedback on this section would be particularly welcomed.
4. Part III: This covers the Fisheries Council and input from stakeholders is also needed on this section.
5. Part IV: This covers, for example, total allowable catch determination and fishery management plans, which will be an important new mechanism of fisheries management, and will include licensing and access. Designated fisheries, will require special management measures, and refer to those fisheries of national importance or needing special protection.
6. The section on co-management has not yet been drafted, and the assistance of the fisheries consultant Dr. Patrick McConney, will be needed.
7. Monitoring and collection of data underlines the importance of having fisheries data to inform management.
8. In relation to inland fisheries, this section will provide the general power to make regulations to manage these fisheries.
9. Part V: The section on marine reserves is quite detailed and comments are welcomed.
10. Part VI: The section on local fishing licenses also requires feedback from the participants. Both fisherman and vessel licenses will be provided for, and the different types of fishing have yet to be defined. These will include commercial, sport, recreational and subsistence fishing.
11. Part VII and VIII: These provide for controls on foreigners fishing in Belizean waters and the conditions for licenses, etc.
12. Part IX: This section covers the high seas fishing fleet and will give effect to the provisions of international and regional treaties that Belize is a party to.

13. Part X deals with Port Measures and will reflect provisions of the globally binding agreement of 2009.
14. Part XI covers research and test fishing and the controls needed for these activities.
15. Part XII included prohibited fishing methods, stowage of gear and transshipment, all methods to help prevent illegal fishing.
16. Part XIII: The record of vessels is required for the international fleet and would be useful of local vessels as well.
17. Parts XIV and XV are currently being drafted. These are very technical sections and the powers need to be very comprehensive. Elements will include certificates of evidence to facilitate prosecution, and also sale, release and forfeiture of retained property.
18. Part XVI will cover the regulations that can be developed under the Act, and it will be very extensive.
19. Part XVII: This final and general section will include penalties.

## **Discussion**

The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion and comment. The main points raised were the following:

### **Role of Coast Guard**

- The Coast Guard should be integrated into the Act and could be a member of the Fisheries Council. Ms. Wade explained that the Coast Guard will be included as authorized officers. She added that the Fisheries Administrator is on the Board of the Coast Guard, but this Board has never met. The Coast Guard Act is apparently not fully implemented yet. The importance of the Coast Guard was recognized by other participants and mention was made of the need for flexibility when determining the composition of the Fisheries Council.

### **Damage Assessments**

- A query was made as to where in the Act is the matter of damage assessment to ecosystems is covered, and how will appropriate penalties be set. Mr. Edeson said that this matter is being considered, but he is not sure yet where in the Act it will be included.
- A participant felt there is the need to take into account the habitat, which is related to the question of assessing damage to the ecosystem. Mr. Edeson stated that it would be novel to include this issue in fisheries laws, but how it would proceed in court is an aspect to consider. Nevertheless, the issue will be taken into account, although it is

usually included in environmental legislation. Ms. Wade added that more and more often, provisions are needed to deal with impacts to ecosystems. For instance, fines should not only be for IUU fishing but also address the associated impacts to ecosystems. If there is a strong commitment to apply the ecosystems approach, then regulations could be introduced later on to protect the habitat.

#### Abuse of Powers

- A question of whether officers who abuse their powers can have action taken against them was raised, and Mr. Edeson responded that there will be a section in the Act to address this matter.

#### Discretion of Minister

- The discretion of the Minister in issuing licenses is also a concern and the hope was expressed that broad ministerial discretion will not be allowed under the new Act. Ms. Montalvo explained that the Minister's discretion cannot be removed completely because of our system in which the Minister is part of the legislature. In some instances, however, the discretion used by some Ministers is not actually conferred on them by law. Such abuse of power can be minimized by putting in safeguards and adding special criteria in the Act. A participant felt that one safeguard could be to remove the authority given to the Minister to grant exemptions, which seem to be included in many of our laws. Another felt that it can be useful for the Minister to be able to use his discretion, provided that the rules and procedures he must follow are laid down very clearly.

#### Objective of the Act

- One participant felt that the focus of the draft Act was geared mainly towards conservation and did not offer assistance to fishermen, such as the development of fish processing plants. It was agreed, however, that such assistance is more a matter of policy, although the Act would have provisions for processing plant licenses and export licenses. Such matters would also be included as part of the fishery management plans, which will cover socio-economic aspects. The suggestion was made that such a policy statement should be included in the Act. It was agreed that the fundamental objective could be expanded to include social and economic objectives, e.g. sustaining livelihoods.
- A recommendation was made to include the wording of the Law of the Sea that states an objective is to promote optimum utilization of resources.

#### Definitions

- Mr. Edeson pointed out that the definition of fishing is very wide in scope. He also mentioned that although the concept of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is included in the Law of the Sea and the Fish Stocks Agreement, it is increasingly being replaced by more progressive and conservative concepts. However, it has been retained in this draft as it is one yardstick that is widely understood. Although it is retained, it has been qualified within the context of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem-based approach. These concepts are essential but they can be difficult to apply in practice.

- The definition of ‘fish’ should include aquatic plants. The definition could encompass all aquatic flora and fauna.

#### Ban on gill nets

- In response to a query, Mr. Edeson said the draft Act would provide for a ban on the use of gill nets, but the provision does not necessarily have to be applied. Ms. Wade added that applying the intent of the Act would require that non-target species are considered, but it would not necessarily mean a ban would be instituted. The challenge is moving from single species fisheries management to an ecosystem-based approach.

#### Fishery Management Plans

- In relation to the requirement for fishery management plans, concern was expressed of the time lag during which losses to fisheries can occur prior to the development and implementation of the plans. These include the impacts caused by coastal development and the related dredge-and-fill operations that are leading to loss of mangroves and seagrasses.
- Mr. Edeson explained that the fishery management plans will address specific elements within the various fisheries and that their preparation will be the responsibility of the Fisheries Administrator, however, the Department will actually develop them. Such plans are presently not legally required.
- A participant pointed out that in the draft Act, it states that these plans ‘may’ be developed, and made the suggestion that this be changed to ‘shall’.

#### Data Collection

- A strong provision and commitment are required for the collection and compilation of data, which are needed to make informed decisions. The Fish Stocks Agreement provides adequate details that can be used in the Act.

#### Research Licenses

- Regarding research license fees, it was felt that for local researchers the fees should be reduced or waived. This provision can be incorporated.

#### Fisheries Council

- The proposed Fisheries Council (FC) that will replace the Fisheries Advisory Board will be based on law and have a legal identity. Although the FC will remain an advisory body making recommendations to the Minister, it will still have considerable influence with a formal role in developing policy and in decision-making. This was viewed as a positive, pro-active step for fisheries management in Belize. Conversely, others felt that the FC should have a more executive role.
- Regarding the composition of the FC, several comments were made. Some felt that a more balanced representation was needed between government and private sector. There was also the concern, however, not to make the FC too large. It was agreed that an independent fisheries scientist should be included. Aspects such as length of term need to be decided, although it was noted that the government members are named by post. A participant recommended that the NGO representative on the FC

should be a local NGO who is co-managing a marine reserve. The need for the representatives from the Solicitor General's Office and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) was questioned. However, others felt that having legal advice available is very useful and tourism is a very important sector that is closely related to fishing as both industries are using the same resource. Another participant felt that the fishing co-operatives should be included automatically on the FC as they represent the two major fisheries in Belize.

#### Enforcement and Fisheries Fund

- One participant felt that the funds for enforcement are inadequate. On the other hand, Mr. Edeson explained that even if enforcement capabilities are weak, it is still important to have good laws in place. He gave the example of Namibia, where with only one patrol boat they were able to be effective to some extent because the necessary laws were in place.
- In relation to the Fisheries Fund, there are options for monies to be raised for the Fund, such as from confiscations. These could in turn be used for enforcement costs.

#### Other Comments

- A participant asked for a clarification on what is negative resolution in relation to the regulations made under the Act. Ms. Montalvo explained this means that although the regulations passed would come into effect, they should be laid before Parliament, which could decide to nullify them.
- A participant asked how the sale of fish will be controlled. This issue is now under the responsibility of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).
- Ms. Wade explained that aquaculture and mariculture are not covered in the new draft Act, as they will be dealt with in a separate piece of legislation. However, these industries will be included under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Mr. Edeson commented that the consultants will assess what common recommendations emerge during the consultations.

#### Conclusion

In concluding the session, the Fisheries Administrator explained that this was the first of a series of public consultations. Others will be held in Sarteneja, Placencia and Punta Gorda. Dr. Patrick McConney, the fisheries consultant, will join the consultations to be held in the south. The project is also holding focus group sessions on the High Seas section of the Act. The next step will be to expand the draft and incorporate the feedback received from all the meetings. The formal draft Act is expected to be completed in June or July and it will then be presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and subsequently to the Solicitor General. It is hoped that the Bill will be presented to Cabinet in September and then to the Parliament in October or November. She urged all to stay in touch via the project's web site and Facebook page, at [www.collaborations.wcs.org/bzfisheriesactrevision](http://www.collaborations.wcs.org/bzfisheriesactrevision).

Mrs. Janet Gibson then thanked all for participating. She thanked the legal consultants for their careful explanations and the Fisheries Administrator for her support for the

process. She also thanked the Moderator for his assistance. She then expressed gratitude to the project's donors, the Oak Foundation and the USAID Regional Program for the Management of Aquatic Resources and Economic Alternatives.



**Fisheries Administrator, Beverly Wade, National Legal Consultant, Elisa Montalvo, International Legal Consultant, Bill Edeson, and WCS Country Director, Janet Gibson at Belize City public consultation**



**Bill Edeson presenting the draft Fisheries Act at Belize City public consultation**



**Audience at Belize City public consultation**



**Fisheries Administrator presenting at Belize City public consultation**

## SARTENEJA CONSULTATION

The consultation in Sarteneja was held in the Old School located in the middle of the largest fishing community in Belize on the 23rd February 2011 at 2 pm. The local community-based organization, the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), assisted with the arrangements for the meeting. At least 55 participants attended, the majority of which were fishermen from Sarteneja. Details on the participants are included in Table 2, below, and a list of their names is included in Appendix 3.

Table 2: Details on participants attending the Sarteneja consultation

No. of fishermen	45
No. of government representatives	2
No. of non-government organization representatives	8 *
No. of male participants	52
No. of female participants	3

\*Four of these representatives were also fishermen.

### Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was opened by the Moderator and Senior Fisheries Officer, Mr. George Myvett, who stressed the importance of the fisheries legislation to the management of the fishing industry. A fisherman, Mr. Stanislaw Viamil, then said a prayer to bless the session.

Mr. Myvett explained that the first Fisheries Act was passed in 1948, with a few amendments following that date. The present exercise, however, is a major revision of the Act.

He then introduced the staff from the Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the legal consultants.

### Presentation of Draft Fisheries Act

Mr. Edeson stated that it was a pleasure for him to be in Sarteneja and complimented WCS and the Fisheries Department on the best organized process of revision that he has experienced. He added that in 1948 when the first Act was passed, Belize was responsible for only its territorial waters extending 3 miles and the Act had only 18 sections. Then in 1982, the Law of the Sea Convention extended the sea limit to 200 miles. In 1995, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement extended fisheries management to the High Seas, and brought with it new management concepts, including the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management. These concepts now need to be included in Belize's national law. Mr. Edeson then gave a brief overview of the process of drafting legislation.

Ms. Montalvo then went over the outline of the draft Act, speaking in Spanish. She explained what is required in such a law and highlighted the importance of the definitions, the principles and measures, and the proposed Fisheries Council. She also described the role of the fisheries management plans and designated fisheries, in terms of the criteria and management measures that can be applied. These have worked well in other countries and will be given the force of law.

Mr. Edeson spoke about the licensing for local fishermen and vessels, going over the different categories. The full definitions for each category have yet to be completed.

## **Discussion**

### Harmonizing Laws in the Region

- In response to a query regarding the regional harmonization of laws, Ms. Montalvo explained that Belize is a part of SICA and this regional Central American body recognizes that it needs to protect its resources. Under such agreements, Belize has certain commitments, including the requirement to harmonize fisheries laws where possible.

### Decision-making Process

- The issue of the Fisheries Dept. and the Ministry of Fisheries making decisions without necessarily carrying out consultations was raised. This matter will be addressed through the provision of Principles and Measures to guide such decisions.

### Foreign Fishing Vessels

- A participant expressed concern about foreign vessels coming to fish in Belize's waters. The Fisheries Administrator responded that the new legislation will provide special criteria to govern the granting of licenses to such vessels. This practice is not allowed currently, especially as Belize is moving towards limiting even the number of Belizeans who are granted fishing licenses. However, foreign vessels could possibly be granted a license to fish in our EEZ as part of a joint venture. She emphasized that the first priority is to manage fisheries for the benefit of Belizeans. Ms. Wade added that Belize has 119 vessels registered and licensed to fish on the High Seas, and this also has to be regulated by law. She then described the difference between the domestic fishery and the High Seas fishery.
- A fisherman then asked about the Jamaican fishing boats that came into southern Belize. The Fisheries Administrator replied that they had to leave as no licenses were issued to them.

### Fisheries Management Plans

- These will be developed through consultation with fishermen.

### Fisheries Council

- One participant felt it was not necessary for the BTB to be represented on the Council, as tourism is a separate industry.

- Several felt there should be more fishermen representatives, possibly at least four, to ensure that the interests of fishermen are addressed.

#### Marine Reserves

- Several participants were concerned whether the new Act will restrict fishers, such as through the establishment of additional marine reserves. They felt that the law should require consultation with fishermen before marine reserves are declared.
- They also felt that fishers who have been displaced from the existing reserves should be assisted. It was pointed out, however, that the area under no-take is very small and so does not affect many fishermen's activities.

#### Fishing Licenses

- Currently, fishermen who are also captains are required to have three licenses: a fisherman license, a fishing boat license, and a boat license from the Port Authority. Many fishermen feel these are too many licensing requirements. The Port Authority license, however, is in relation to seaworthiness of the vessel.
- As fishermen are taking resources that belong to everyone, the license should be viewed as a resource rent. Furthermore, the cost is only a nominal fee.
- In response to a query about regulating the import and export of fish, including lobster, Ms. Wade replied that a license will be required. Presently there is a policy in which only the fishing co-operatives are allowed to export conch and lobster. A fisherman can obtain a personal license to export fin fish; the license costs \$200.
- A fisherman stated that obtaining fishing licenses was very difficult and time-consuming this year. The Fisheries Administrator explained that the difficulty arose because the expiry date of licenses was changed from the fisher's birth date to the calendar year on the request to the Minister by fishermen. The system will be improved next year to make the process more efficient.

#### Other Comments

- A participant asked how the fishing co-operatives related to the new Fisheries Act, and Ms. Montalvo explained that co-operatives are governed by their own law.
- One fisherman queried why an international consultant is necessary and it was explained that Belize needs to fix its laws so that fishing can continue into the future. Mr. Myvett explained that Mr. Edeson is providing the expert advice, as he has the required expertise in fisheries law with experience of drafting fisheries legislation in many countries around the world. Ms. Montalvo is providing the local legal knowledge to the process.
- One fisherman leader expressed his appreciation of the revision process and felt that it was good for fishermen to be engaged in the discussion. He felt that Belize was going in the right direction. The Fisheries Administrator explained that the consultants will be holding similar consultations in Placencia and Punta Gorda. She said that it is a difficult and costly process and she hoped that fishermen would cooperate and contribute their input to the process.
- Another participant asked what would happen to the new regulations that were recently passed. Ms. Montalvo explained that the regulations come under the Act and that the existing regulations will still be valid when the new Act is passed. However,

a follow-on project will then address the complete revision of the regulations and bring them in line with the new Act.

- Participants were concerned that they did not fully understand the present laws and so were anxious about proposed changes. There was a query about the new Nassau grouper law that requires skin patches to be retained on fillets, as it was felt to be contradictory. It was determined, however, that the law was being misinterpreted and the misunderstanding was clarified.
- Participants asked that senior fisheries staff members attend all meetings in Sarteneja in the future, and the Fisheries Administrator agreed to this request.
- A participant commented that the other consultations may recommend conflicting views and he wondered how such a situation will be handled. For instance, the view of divers, which most Sarteneja fishers are, may be different from trap fishermen. The Fisheries Administrator responded that all views will be considered and addressed as far as possible.

## Conclusion

The Fisheries Administrator concluded the meeting, stating that an updated version of the draft Act will be distributed in March, incorporating the comments received during the consultations held in Belize City, Sarteneja, Placencia and Punta Gorda. The formal draft will be completed in June or July and then submitted to the Minister for forwarding to the Solicitor General's Office. It will then be presented to Cabinet in September and to Parliament in October or November. She encouraged the participants to seize the opportunity to influence the development of the new Act by continuing to send their comments to the Fisheries Department.

Mrs. Gibson from WCS then closed the meeting, thanking all for attending and extending a special thanks to Julio Maaz of WCS and to SACD for assisting with the meeting arrangements. She also thanked the donors, the Oak Foundation and USAID Regional Program, for making the revision process possible.



Fisherman participants at Consultation in Sarteneja



**Opening of Consultation by Senior Fisheries Officer, George Myvett**



**Fisheries Administrator, Beverly Wade, National Legal Consultant, Elisa Montalvo (presenting the draft Fisheries Act), International Legal Consultant, Bill Edeson, and WCS Country Director, Janet Gibson**



**Janet Gibson, WCS, giving the Thanks and Closing**

## PLACENCIA CONSULTATION

This consultation was held at the Community Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> March at 6 p.m. There were 53 participants, representing mainly the communities of Placencia, Riversdale, Seine Bight, Hopkins and Independence. The majority were fishermen. The local non-government organization, the Southern Environmental Association (SEA), assisted with the arrangements for the meeting. Details on the participants are included in Table 3, below, and a list of their names is included in Appendix 3.

No. of government and statutory body representatives	2
No. of fishing industry representatives	34
No. of non-government organization representatives	10
No. of general public representatives	2
No. of general tourism representatives	5
No. of participants from Placencia	21
No. of participants from Riversdale	5
No. of participants from Seine Bight	7
No. of participants from Hopkins	5
No. of participants from Independence/Mango Creek	4
No. of participants from other communities	11
No. of male participants	42
No. of female participants	11

Table 3: Details on participants attending the Placencia consultation

### Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. James Azueta, Ecosystems Coordinator of the Fisheries Department. He explained briefly the need to revise the old Fisheries Act and then introduced the speakers: Bill Edeson, Elisa Montalvo, the international fisheries consultant, Dr. Patrick McConney, and Janet Gibson from WCS.

### Presentation on “Fixing Fisheries”

Dr. McConney then gave a PowerPoint presentation, entitled *Fixing Fisheries*, in which he covered the subjects of the precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management and co-management. He touched on topics such as fishing down the food web, harmful fishing gear, the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge as well as science, the uncertainties in managing natural systems such as fisheries, the use of marine resources by multiple groups leading to the need for integrated coastal management, and the importance of having good leaders. A copy of his presentation is included as Appendix 5.

### Presentation of Draft Act

Mr. Edeson gave an introduction to the new Act, providing similar details as he did at the Belize City consultation. He then went over the outline of the new draft Act. He

mentioned that currently the Fisheries Advisory Board has no legal status, and the new Act will provide for a Fisheries Council with legal standing. He gave a description of the terms of reference and composition of the proposed Council.

Ms. Montalvo explained the difference between the Fisheries Act, which is the parent law, and the fisheries regulations, which are the subsidiary laws. Many of the comments received were in relation to the regulations rather than the parent law.

## **Discussion and Comments**

### Fisheries Council

- Funds should be allocated to support the work of the Council.
- The Council should have at least four representatives that are persons actively involved or interested in fishing. It was noted that this suggestion was also made at previous consultations.
- Although the fishing industry should be strongly represented, Belize is applying the principle of ecosystem-based fisheries management and so it is important that other sectors also be represented.
- As many fishermen are also tour guides, the relevance of having BTB on the Council was recognized. However, there should be reciprocal representation, and so Fisheries should also be a member of BTB's board.
- The Minister choosing which members will represent the fishing community is open to abuse. The legal consultants explained that, based on comments received earlier, this section has already been re-drafted. The wording in relation to selecting the NGO representative will also be revised.

### Ban on Gill Nets

- In response to a query as to whether gill nets will be banned, Mr. Azueta explained that they are only banned in certain areas, such as in rivers, near communities and in marine reserves.
- Many felt that they should be completely banned as they are destroying the very resources that many fishermen who are also tour guides rely on.
- Mr. Gongora from the Fisheries Dept. said that fishermen in general want stricter measures governing the use of gill nets, but not a complete ban. Such measures would include controls such as 100m maximum net length, three nets per boat, the need to register all nets, and limits on mesh size, such as 3" mesh for regular nets and 6" mesh for shark fishing. There is also the possibility of prohibiting use in certain areas if the majority of fishermen are supportive, such as near Monkey River.

### Seaweed Farming

- Fishermen in Placencia are interested in diversifying into seaweed farming but they are encountering problems in obtaining a lease. The Fisheries Dept. will be assisting to resolve this issue very soon.

### Subsistence Fishing

- There should not be many restrictions on subsistence fishing. It was noted, however, that some species are endangered and cannot sustain any exploitation. Furthermore, Belize has certain treaty obligations in relation to particular species that need to be upheld.

### Fishery Management Plans

- A participant pointed out that in the draft Act, it states that these plans ‘may’ be developed, and made the suggestion that this be changed to ‘shall’. This point was also raised in a previous consultation and the change has been made.

### Fishing Licenses

- Concerns was expressed that fishermen have to obtain too many licenses, including from the Port Authority. Fisheries Dept. personnel explained that licensing of fishermen is essential to control fishing effort, and pointed out that the Port Authority license is for seaworthiness of boats.

### General Comments

- Some enforcement officers are taking away nets illegally. The Fisheries Dept. will follow up on this matter.
- Illegal fishing by foreigners is being ignored, and in some cases foreigners have been granted fishing licenses. Mr. Azueta commented that stricter regulations have been introduced governing the issuing of licenses.
- Concern was also expressed about the membership of the Board of TRIGOH, the tri-national alliance for the Gulf of Honduras. This is a consortium of regional NGOs, however, and is not a matter covered by the Fisheries Act.

## Conclusion

Mr. Edeson concluded the meeting, saying the new Act will be very comprehensive, with provisions for licensing, marine reserves, foreign fishing in the EEZ, high seas fishing, marine research and test fishing, prohibited fishing methods and transshipment, record of fishing vessels, enforcement powers, jurisdiction and evidence, and broad regulation-making powers.

Mrs. Gibson then thanked the participants for attending, and expressed appreciation to those who had made the effort to travel from outlying communities to come to the consultation. She thanked the consultants for their presentations and explanations and the Fisheries Department personnel for their support. She took the opportunity to provide some background information on the progress of the project and encouraged participants to visit the project’s web site and send in their comments. She extended special thanks to SEA for organizing the meeting and to the donors, the Oak Foundation and MAREA.



**Mr. Azueta, Fisheries Department, opening the consultation meeting**



**Dr. Patrick McConney giving his presentation, Fixing Fisheries**



**Mr. Bill Edeson presenting new draft Fisheries Act**



Participants at the Placencia consultation

## PUNTA GORDA CONSULTATION

This consultation was held at the Parish Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3 p.m. There were 57 participants, representing mainly the communities of Punta Gorda, Monkey River, Punta Negra and Barranco. The majority present were fishermen. The local non-government organization, the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE), assisted with the arrangements for the meeting. Details on the participants are included in Table 4, below, and a list of their names is included in Appendix 3.

No. of government and statutory body representatives	1
No. of fishing industry representatives	32
No. of non-government organization representatives	9
No. of general public representatives	8
No. of students	5
No. of donor representatives	2
No. of participants from Punta Gorda	33
No. of participants from Barranco	7
No. of participants from Monkey River	3
No. of participants from Punta Negra	4
No. of participants from other communities	10
No. of male participants	48
No. of female participants	9

Table 4: Details on participants at the Punta Gorda consultation

### Welcome and Introduction

The consultation was opened by the Moderator, Mr. Mauro Gongora, the head of the Capture Fisheries Unit at the Fisheries Dept. He welcomed the participants and encouraged them to use this opportunity to provide comments on the draft Fisheries Act. He also thanked WCS and the donors, the Oak Foundation and MAREA, for supporting this revision process.

Mr. George Myvett, Senior Fisheries Officer, then conveyed apologies from the Fisheries Administrator who was unable to attend the meeting. He introduced the consultants, Bill Edeson, Elisa Montalvo and Patrick McConney, and thanked Mrs. Celia Mahung, Executive Director of TIDE, and Janet Gibson and Julio Maaz of WCS, for their support. He called attention to the Mission Statement of the Fisheries Department, and expressed the hope that there would be meaningful engagement during the consultation.

### **Presentation on Fixing Fisheries**

Dr. McConney gave his PowerPoint presentation, which set the stage for the overview of the draft Act. The presentation can be seen in Appendix 5.

### **Presentation on draft Fisheries Act**

Ms. Montalvo then presented on the draft of the new Act, stressing that measures that Belize is a party to through treaties it has signed need to be reflected in our domestic law, and explained the difference between the Act and the regulations, adding that the regulations will be reviewed later in another project. This consultation is focusing on the Act, or parent law, and it is still a draft under consideration. She went through the various sections of the draft Act. She stressed that the Measures and Principles, including the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based fisheries management, will guide the Minister and Fisheries Administrator in all instances. Ms. Montalvo also presented the proposal for a new Fisheries Council to replace the current Fisheries Advisory Board, and to provide the Council with a legal basis. She presented the suggested membership of the Council, adding that since the consultation process began, the composition has been changed to include more fishermen representation. Ms. Montalvo also touched on the category of licenses that are included for commercial, subsistence, sport and recreational fishing. Personal and vessel licenses will be required, and the conditions of licenses issued will be linked to the respective fishery management plans. The Act will also have several other provisions, such as for research permits and controls on prohibited types of fishing. The new legislation will help to improve enforcement and introduce penalties that will act as deterrents.

### **Discussion and Comments**

#### **Poaching and Enforcement**

- Concern was expressed about fishermen from neighboring countries coming into Belize's waters and poaching. Better policing of our waters is required. Ms. Montalvo explained that two issues are involved: illegal entry and illegal fishing. Belize has a very porous border and we lack the resources to patrol it effectively. Under the new Act provisions will be made for Customs, Coast Guard and Police officers to have the power to enforce the fisheries laws. Plans are also being made to empower the different agencies to be able to prosecute.
- Complaints were made of fisheries officers discriminating against particular ethnic groups. When such incidents occur, then the fisherman should inform the Fisheries

Dept. The need for improved communication between the fishing community and the Fisheries Dept. was acknowledged.

- Concern was also expressed about illegal fishing taking place at night, which is harming the fisheries resources. Mr. Myvett reported that enforcement has been strengthened and just the night before five Hondurians had been arrested. He added, however, that due to the location of the southern waters along the border with Guatemala and Honduras, cases can be sensitive and the BDF and Minister of Foreign Affairs also need to be involved.

#### Traditional Use

- Some species are traditionally used by the Garifuna culture and a request was made for allowances for this type of use. Although this is a matter that would be covered under the Regulations, the draft Act can make the provision for such regulations if the government agrees to recognize use for such special circumstances. The National Garifuna Council has submitted requests in the past but participants felt that requests also be considered from a community.
- The Catholic tradition allows for only the consumption of fish and turtle meat during Lent. Presently the Fisheries Administrator can use her discretion to allow use for cultural purposes; however, the status of the resource also has to be taken into consideration.

#### Licenses

- The suggestion was made for developing a booklet that includes all the 'do's and don'ts' that apply to fishing. These could be handed out to all fishermen when they receive a fishing license. Many agreed that this was a very good suggestion. Mr. Azueta mentioned that the Healthy Reefs Initiative and the Fisheries Dept. had distributed a similar type of booklet last year. An additional supply of them will be sent down to the Fisheries Dept office in Punta Gorda for distribution. Copies can also be obtained from the web site.
- In relation to export licenses, a report was made that a lot of product is being exported by several different persons using one license. Each exporter should apply for his individual export license. The necessary details must be provided in the application and the proper process must be followed. There is a policy, however, that the export of lobster and conch can only be carried out through the co-operatives. A participant felt that all species, not only conch and lobster, should only be exported through co-operatives, to help build the capacity of these organizations and to provide for better control.
- Special licenses will be granted to fish for mutton snapper at the Sapodilla Cayes marine reserve to traditional fishermen only. Once a fisher no longer fishes for mutton snapper, the license will not be transferred to another fisher.

#### Ownership of Cayes

- Fishermen are experiencing difficulties in camping on cayes as now many of these islands are privately owned or leased. Ms. Montalvo agreed that fishers would not have the right to trespass; however, they can seek to obtain permission to stay on the cayes. Mr. Myvett also suggested that fishermen work through their co-operative,

such as Rio Grande, to obtain small leases for their fishing camps and possibly fishermen could share these sites.

- In relation to use of the cayes, the 66 foot reserve as a public right away would apply. However, this is only the case for those cayes that were acquired prior to 1933. In addition, many of the cayes are so small that this provision is not feasible. Furthermore, although one can land on a caye in an emergency, one does not have the right to trespass on private property.

#### Fisheries Council

- A suggestion was made that before the Minister agrees to activities in marine reserves, he should be required to consult first with the Fisheries Council.

#### Other general comments

- A query was made about what measures are being put in place to ensure that offshore drilling does not harm fisheries. These controls are the responsibility of the Geology and Petroleum Dept. Ms. Montalvo also added that the Act would have the safeguard in place that would require the Director of Geology and Petroleum to consult and obtain approval from the Fisheries Administrator to ensure impacts to fisheries are minimized.

Mr. Myvett reported that the Minister has convened a Task Force to look at fishing issues in the South, and so the Fisheries Dept. will have holding another consultation soon with fishermen.

#### **Conclusion**

The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Gibson. She thanked all for participating and expressed appreciation to those who had traveled from nearby communities. She then thanked the consultants, the Fisheries Department staff and the donors. She also thanked Mrs. Celia Mahung and her team at TIDE for the excellent meeting arrangements. Mrs. Gibson said that she would be sending down some additional copies of the draft Act to TIDE for those who are interested in having a copy. She encouraged all to follow progress on the development of the new Act via the project's web site.



**Dr. Patrick McConney  
presenting on Fixing Fisheries**



**Meeting in Punta Gorda – the  
largest consultation**



**Punta Gorda Consultation**

## **SPECIAL MEETING WITH BELIZE FISHERMAN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (BFCA)**

This meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10:30 am in the Coastal Zone Training Room in Belize City. A total of 24 participants attended, including members of the executive of National and Northern fishing co-operatives and fishermen.

### **Introduction**

The Fisheries Administrator opened the meeting, stating that it was held at the request of the BFCA and asked that the participants raise their specific comments of concern. In response to the comment that the meeting was not held at a convenient time, Ms. Wade explained that the schedule had been drafted months ago and any recommended change to the schedule could have been made by the BFCA's representative who is a member of the Project's Steering Committee. All the public consultations had also been widely publicized, on radio, television, newspapers and through flyers.

The Chair of the BFCA, Mr. Bevans explained that unfortunately the Belize City consultation had overlapped with National's committee meeting. Mr. Dwight Neal, a consultant to the BFCA, noted that Mr. Alan Burn and Mr. Sydney Fuller, will be the liaison between the fishing cooperatives and the independent fishermen.

### **Comments from BFCA**

Mr. Neal had been asked by BFCA to review the draft act and provide comments. His main comments were as follows:

1. The word 'conservation' should be removed, as this is implicit as part of the management process. Fisheries management should be defined as part of natural resources management.
2. There is no culpability assigned to the Fisheries Dept. or the Minister for bad management.
3. The draft Act does not allow for the use of aquatic resources, although this might be included in the regulations.
4. Immense power is granted to the Minister and there is a lack of checks and balances. This also applies to the Fisheries Administrator.
5. There were gaps in which the text of sections is missing.
6. Exemptions without due process are a concern.
7. Licenses can be revoked at the discretion of the Minister, and this is another concern.
8. The draft Act does not appear to be in keeping with English common law.
9. Aquaculture is not mentioned.
10. The draft conflicts with other Acts, such as the BAHA Act and the Environmental Protection Act.
11. In many instances the Minister is not required to consult.

He concluded that:

1. The definition of ‘fish’ needs to be expanded and strengthened.
2. Recreational and sport fishing need to be defined.
3. There should be more authority and balance in relation to the Fisheries Council.
4. Fees for a license that is cancelled should not be returned.
5. Fisheries management plans should be mandatory for commercial fisheries.
6. Need provision for innocent passage of boats, such as through marine reserves.

## **Discussion**

Ms. Wade responded, saying that several items raised would be included in the regulations and not in the parent Act. She also felt that most of the comments were very general and asked for more specifics to be provided.

Mr. Neal then provided some additional comments:

1. The definition of ‘fishing’ should include use of other types of vehicles, not only aircraft. Also he queried the source for the definition of ‘length’ and why the definition of ‘transshipment’ only refers to vessels.
2. Reference to protecting biodiversity is too broad. Ms. Wade said it is meant to be broad as it also reflects international treaties that Belize is a party to.
3. Means of transshipment should not only refer to aircraft but also to other types of vehicles.
4. The Fisheries Council should have two to four members from the co-operatives, and another member from the fisheries sector.
5. The fisheries management plans should be mandatory, so ‘may’ should be changed to ‘shall’. Every commercial fishery should have a management plan.
6. The word ‘consult’ should be used with caution as a result of the recent Court ruling; another word should be used that embodies more accountability.
7. Some of the wording, such as reference to ‘proper management’, is too general.
8. He asked how the authority to declare marine reserves co-exists with the new national protected areas act being prepared. Ms. Wade explained that there will be no conflict, as the legislation is to create a national authority to coordinate the overall management of protected areas, but it will not replace the existing mandates for protected areas.
9. As the definition of ‘fish’ includes coral, the clauses under the marine reserve section need to be reviewed.
10. In relation to the concern regarding innocent passage, the Fisheries Administrator explained that this is defined by international law. There are means of monitoring the passage of boats, such as by the use of VMS. However, this mechanism is expensive and not practical for the domestic fleet. In allowing innocent passage, a boat should not stop and its gear should be stowed. However, stowage of gear is very difficult for small boats used in artisanal fisheries, and this matter is the subject of an ongoing debate internationally.

11. Reference to pollution under the regulations section should be removed, as this aspect comes under the Dept. of Environment. Reference to aquaculture in this section should also be removed.

Other participants then joined the discussion and provided the following comments.

#### Fisheries Council

1. The Minister should not choose who will represent the various organizations on the Council. Ms. Montalvo explained that this has already been amended, and the organizations, such as the co-operatives, will nominate their representative.
2. A representative from BTB is not necessary on the Council. Ms. Wade explained that the fisheries sector interact the most with the tourism sector. It was felt that BTB was the most appropriate entity as they are involved in issuing licenses, and they are represented on the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) and the Protected Areas Committee. Participants felt that the BTB should have a fisheries representative on their Board. Ms. Wade agreed and said she plans to follow up on the matter.
3. All four main fishing co-operatives should be represented on the Council. Ms. Wade responded that the recommendation is for two from the fishing co-operatives and one representing the independent fishermen. Presently the balance on the Council is 5 state to 5 non-state members.
4. Another suggestion was to have the two main co-operatives, National and Northern, as members of the Council, along with the representative from a third fishing co-operative.
5. One participant noted that the Council should include 'new blood' and he suggested that representatives from other organizations be considered, such as Customs, Coast Guard, and BAHA.

#### Licenses

1. The cancelling of licenses should follow due process.
2. Licenses should be granted for certain types of fishing.
3. Sport fishing licenses are proposed to be issued by the Fisheries Department instead of by the CZMAI.
4. Limited entry licenses need to be defined further. The Fisheries Administrator pointed out that the Act needs to provide some flexibility and planning for the future. Details will be included in the regulations.
5. Strong concerns were expressed about the cancellation of licenses for citizens who are born in Belize, particularly with the move away from open access to limited entry. Ms. Wade stressed that arbitrary cancellations will not take place and that due process will have to be followed.
6. A participant felt that the import and export of fish should be restricted only to Belizeans. Ms. Wade explained that is not possible because of the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME). However, the Act will attempt to restrict indirectly such as through safeguards via the provision for designated fisheries. Also, the law can restrict those involved to CARICOM nationals only. The issue can possibly be addressed further via policy rather than through legislation. For

example, there is a current policy that limits the export of conch and lobster through the co-operatives only.

#### Marine reserves

1. All reserves should have proper markers, and tampering with or removing such markers should be illegal.
2. The powers given to the Minister in the marine reserves section of the draft Act are too broad, and do not seem to require any due process.
3. Boats may need to stop within a restricted area of a reserve due to emergencies, such as engine failure. The Fisheries Administrator explained that is permitted under the concept of 'force majeure', and does not need to be included in the Fisheries law.
4. Fishermen present also wished to know whether they can stay on the cayes within marine reserves. If the cayes are not privately owned, then the issue can be worked out with the reserve staff. Fishers felt, however, that the reserve rangers are often not reasonable and they need training in public relations. This matter will be addressed by the Fisheries Department.
5. The establishment of Advisory Committees is necessary and should not be left up to the discretion of the Minister.
6. Concern was expressed about residents fishing in the Conservation Zones of the marine reserves, such as at Glover's. Ms. Wade stated that this matter would be covered through the definition of subsistence fishing and through the reserve regulations. Subsistence fishing is not allowed in Conservation Zones.
7. A complaint was made that the rangers at the Port Honduras Marine Reserve at letting Hondurans fish in the reserve. Ms. Wade explained that an official report should be made to the Fisheries Department about the incident.

#### Marine Research permits

1. The person, not the vessel, should be authorized.
2. Approval of test fishing should be governed by due process.

#### Prohibited fishing methods

1. Noxious substances should be defined.
2. A fisherman felt that spear guns should not be banned, as they are more accurate than Hawaiian slings.

#### Regulations

1. The import, export and marketing of fish are governed by the Fisheries Department; BAHA is only in charge of the sanitary aspects.
2. Participants were reminded that the regulations are subject to negative resolution.

#### Alternatives

1. All agreed that there is great need for alternative economic activities for fishermen. The government needs to consider this very seriously and take on the responsibility. The Fisheries Department will also be looking at diversifying into other fisheries, such as crabs, seaweed and aquaculture.

2. A participant commented that sections on regional co-operation and the high seas are needed in the Act. He felt that Belize should be able to participate in High Seas fishing, for example, as crew members.

## **CLOSING**

In closing the meeting, the Fisheries Administrator explained that the consultants will incorporate the comments received during the series of consultations. An updated draft will then be made available. She emphasized that the BFCA needs to take the responsibility to share the new draft with its members. The deadline for additional comments will be the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. A final draft will be completed in June or July for submission to Cabinet by September 2011.



**Meeting with the Belize Fisherman Co-operative Association**



**Fisheries Administrator, Ms. Beverly Wade, presenting at BFCA meeting**

# ANNEX I: A NEW FISHERIES ACT FOR BELIZE- FLYER FOR CONSULTATIONS



## A New Fisheries Act for Belize

You are invited to attend a public consultation on the presentation of the first draft of the new Fisheries Act by legal consultants Bill Edeson and Elisa Montalvo. You can provide your input to this important process at this meeting or by sending your comments via our website at <http://collaborations.wcs.org/bzfisheriesactrevision>.

Dr. Patrick McConney, the international fisheries expert for the revision process, will also be giving a presentation on rights-based fisheries.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Belize City</b></p> <p>Date : Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011            Time: 9:30 AM            Venue: CZMA/I Training Room</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sarteneja</b></p> <p>Date: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011            Time: 2:00 PM            Venue: Old School</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Placencia</b></p> <p>Date: Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011            Time: 6:00 PM            Venue: Placencia Community Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Punta Gorda</b></p> <p>Date: Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011            Time: 3:00 PM            Venue: Parish Hall</p>

## ANNEX II: AGENDA FOR REVISION OF THE FISHERIES ACT CONSULTATION



### AGENDA

#### Revision of the Fisheries Act Consultation

- 1) Welcome and Introduction – Beverly Wade, Fisheries Administrator, Fisheries Department
- 2) Presentation of the draft Fisheries Act – Bill Edeson and Elisa Montalvo, Legal Consultants
- 3) Presentation on *Fixing Fisheries* – Dr. Patrick McConney, Fisheries Consultant
- 4) Discussion - Moderator, George Myvett, Senior Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department
- 5) Thanks and Closing – Janet Gibson, Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society



USAID REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

## ANNEX III: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**DATE:**

February 22, 2011

**LOCATION:**

Coastal Zone Training Room

Belize City

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1	Dr. Michael Tewes		<a href="mailto:mteues@gmail.com">mteues@gmail.com</a>
2	Ralna Lamb		<a href="mailto:rk_lamb@hotmail.com">rk_lamb@hotmail.com</a>
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4	Angeline Valentne	OAK Foundation	<a href="mailto:angeline_valentine@oakfnd.org">angeline_valentine@oakfnd.org</a>
5	Adriel Castaineda	Fisheries Department	<a href="mailto:adrielcast@gmail.com">adrielcast@gmail.com</a>
6	Steve Fuller	National Fishermen Cop	667-4705
7	Erin Mutrie	CRFM	<a href="mailto:erinmutrie@dal.ca">erinmutrie@dal.ca</a>
8	Candy Gonzaes	BELPO/ BACONGO	<a href="mailto:candybz@gmail.com">candybz@gmail.com</a>
9	Patrick Christie		
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15	Valarie Lanza	IMMARBE	Marina Towers, Belize
16	Kenneth Gale	Educational of Belize	40a Princess Margaret Drive

17	Delice Pinkard	IMMARBE	<a href="mailto:Fishingadmin@immarbe.com">Fishingadmin@immarbe.com</a>
18	Robert Robinson	IMMARBE	<a href="mailto:bfdliaisonofficer@immarbe.com">bfdliaisonofficer@immarbe.com</a>
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20	Robert Usher	Northern Co-op	<a href="mailto:norficoop@btl.net">norficoop@btl.net</a>
21	Rene Tun	Northern Co-op	<a href="mailto:norficoop@btl.net">norficoop@btl.net</a>
22	Estevan Solis	Northern Co-op	<a href="mailto:norficoop@btl.net">norficoop@btl.net</a>
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26	George Myvett	Fisheries Dept	<a href="mailto:georgemyvett@yahoo.com">georgemyvett@yahoo.com</a>
27	Yvette Alanzo	APAMO	<a href="mailto:execdirector@apamo.net">execdirector@apamo.net</a>
28	Evita Quiroz	APAMO	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer@apamo.net">developmentofficer@apamo.net</a>
29	Gianna Gomez	APAMO	<a href="mailto:projectoffice@apamo.net">projectoffice@apamo.net</a>
30	Elissa Gibson	Belize Port Authority	<a href="mailto:elissa_gibson@yahoo.com">elissa_gibson@yahoo.com</a>
31	Nadia Bood	WWF	<a href="mailto:nboo@wwfca.org">nboo@wwfca.org</a>
32	Mike Heusner	Belize Rive Lodge	<a href="mailto:piampiam127@gmail.com">piampiam127@gmail.com</a>
33	Nayari Diaz	PACT	<a href="mailto:nayari@pactbelize.org">nayari@pactbelize.org</a>
34	Joyce Tun	PACT	<a href="mailto:jtun@pactbelize.org">jtun@pactbelize.org</a>
35	Hampton Gamboa	Fisheries Dept	<a href="mailto:hgamboa@yahoo.com">hgamboa@yahoo.com</a>
36	Roberto Pott	Healthy Reefs	<a href="mailto:pott@healthyreefs.org">pott@healthyreefs.org</a>
37	Nicole Auil Gomez		<a href="mailto:nauilgomez@gmail.com">nauilgomez@gmail.com</a>
38	Philip Baldaramos	GEF / SCP	UNDP
39	Addiel Perez		<a href="mailto:addielperez@yahoo.com">addielperez@yahoo.com</a>
40	McRae	SBF	<a href="mailto:siwaban@gmail.com">siwaban@gmail.com</a>

41	Alyssa Carregie	GOB Press Office	Nat. Assembly, BMP
42	Dole Fairmetter	National Coop	Belama Phase II
43	H. Smith	National Coop	Sun Flower Street
44	A. A	National Coop	121 Brown Street

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**DATE:**

**February 23, 2011**

**LOCATION:**

**Sarteneja**

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1	Anne Sasso	Wildtracks	Wildtracks
2	Danica Thomas	Wildtracks	Wildtracks
3	Ceser Munoz	SFA	Sarteneja
4	Joel Verde	SACD	Sarteneja
5	Marcelo Cruz	SACD	
6	Hilmar G	SHCD	
7	Hen B		
8	Juan Tepaz		
9	Luis Quintantly		
10	Julius		
11	Amil		
12	Elireo Cruz Sr		
13	Eliezer Munuz Jr		
14	James Azueta	Fisheries Dept	Belize City
15	Wilferdo Pott	Fisheries Dept	Corozal

16	Tirso Aragon		
17	Edgar Aguilar		
18	Quintanilla Richy		
19	Timoteo Cruz		
20	Marvin Verde		
21	Rivero		
22	Bryan Aragon		
23	Avi R		
24	R. Valentiv		
25	A. Gongora		
26	signature		
27	Antonio Nunez		
28	N Tons		
29	O		
30	Fred B		
31	Victor Reed		
32	Josue Munoz		
33	Adgar Gongora		
34	Abisai Verde		
35	Melvan		
36	Hilmar Gowgura		
37	Crispino Mora	Fisherman	Sarteneja
38	N. Cristino Ve		
39	Zoe Walker	Wildtracks	Sarteneja
40	Israel Sosa		
41	E. Verde		
42	Emil Cruz		

43	Edwardo Ortega		
44	Leonardo Sosa		
45	Edier Cruz		
46	Nelson Gongora		
47	Angel Verde Jr.		
48	Estevan Flores		Sarteneja
49	Adario Aysna		Sarteneja
50	Darry Flores		
51	Roque Verde		
52	Galan Curillo		
53	Pedro Perez		
54	Pucho Quintanilla		
55	Ford Santos		

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**DATE:**

**March 1, 2011**

**LOCATION:**

**Placencia Community Center**

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1	Evan Fairweather	Former Fisherman	Placencia
2	Christina Garcia	SEA	Placencia
3	David Leslie	Fisherman	Independence
4	Stewart Krohn	PBTIA	Cocoplum
5	Annelise Heagan	SEA	Placencia
6	Sydney Lopez Jr	Placencia Co- op	Placencia
7	Patricia Celenza	PCSD	Placencia
8	Mary Ton	PCSD	Placencia

9	A. Caballero	PWB- Placencia Health Center	Placencia
10	Lionel Tucker		Placencia
11	Bruce Godfrey	Placencia Co-op	Placencia
12	Elswith Eiley	Fisherman	Placencia
13	Terrence Cabrox	Fisherman	Placencia
14	Adgar Randes	Fisherman	Santa Anna Village
15	Grevil Franklin Lara		Dangriga
16	G. Coleman		
17	Lineker Ortega		Punta Gorda
18	Jose Colman		Seine Bight
19	Harrison Palacio	Fisherman	Seine Bight
20	Phil Ferguson	Fisherman	Seine Bight
21	Benny Cacho		Seine Bight
22	Tunear Paloa		Seine Bight
23	Aldo Geovanni		Seine Bight
24	Lupe Lampella		Rivers Dale
25	Dinah Lampella		Rivers Dale
26	Iuan Leslie		Placencia
27	Kurt Godfrey	Tour Guide/ Fisherman	Placencia
28	Rene Leslie	Tour Guide/ Fisherman	Placencia
29	Levi		Sittee River
30	Dunmark	Fisherman	Hopkins
31	Timothy Maximus		Seine Bight
32	Peter Leslie	Fisherman/ SEA Ranger	Hopkins
33	Alan Stann	Paradise Hotel	
34	George Myvett	Fisheries Dept	Belize City
35	Justino Mendez	SEA	Placencia / Independence

36	Leonard Williams		Seine Bight
37	Roney Castillo		
38	Macario A		Hopkins
39	D. Lampella		Rivers Dale
40	Docas Lampella	Fisherfolk	River Dale
41	Deborah Lampella		Rivers Dale
42	Stevling Grabutt		Mango Creek
43	Belford Logan		Mango Creek
44	Troy Nunez	Dive Instructor	Hopkins
45	Luke Nunez	HFA	Hopkins
46	Doyle Garbutt	Fisherman	Independence
47	Shannon	SEA	Placencia
48	Linda Garcia	SEA	Placencia
49	Shalini Cawich	SEA	Placencia
50	Horace Andres	Fisherman	Sittee River
51	Carlton Young Sr	Fisherman	Placencia
52	Mario Gongora	Fisheries Dept	
53	Gina Green	MAREA	

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**DATE:** March 2, 2011

**LOCATION:** Punta Gorda

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1	Maximiliano Caal	UB Student	Punta Gorda

2	Daniel E	Fisherman	Monkey River
3	Micheal W	Fisherman	Monkey River
4	Harris Logan	Fisherman	Monkey River
5	Delonie Forman	Tide Tours	Punta Gorda
6	Louis		Barranco
7	W. Bahadur	TIDE	Eldridge
8	Mario Chavarria	TDC	Punta Gorda
9	Victor Pauline	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
10	Kay Jacobs	Student	Punta Gorda
11	David Gilharry	Student	Punta Gorda
12	Santiago Cubul	TIDE	Punta Gorda
13	Harvey Sandival	Fisherman	Barranco
14	LaSalle Alverez		Barranco
15	Lois Valencio	PGFA	Punta Gorda
16	Edward Vernon	PGFA	Punta Gorda
17	Winston Coleman	Fisherman	Forest Home Village
18	Geovanni Ramirez	PGFA	Punta Gorda
19	Apollonio Wesby	PGFA	Punta Gorda
20	Vivian	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
21	Carmen Canelo	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
22	KC Augustine	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
23	James Foley	TIDE	Punta Gorda
24	Emar Requena	TIDE	Punta Gorda
25	Ben Corman	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
26	Aurevia Corman	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
27	Carlos Alvarado	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
28	Martin Reyes	Fisherman	Punta Gorda

29	David Castellanos	Tour Guide	Punta Gorda
30	Yoonardo Cus	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
31	Serbando Callido		Punta Gorda
32	David Fuentes		Punta Gorda
33	Mynor Melgar	Fisherman	Punta Gorda
34	Martin Williams	TIDE	Punta Gorda
35	Nigel Alvarez	PG TV	Hopeville
36	Rodney Avila	PG TV	Punta Gorda
37	Julius KL	Fisher Folk	Barranco
38	Zeynaldo	Fisherman	Hopeville
39	Melecia Jacobs	Fisher Folk	Punta Negra
40	Peter Cho	Recreational Fisher	Punta Gorda
41	Suzette Jacobs	Fisher Folk	Punta Negra
42	Paula William	Fisher Folk	Punta Negra
43	Charles Paulino	UB Student	Punta Gorda
44	Frank F		Punta Gorda
45	Armaundo Rameriz	Rio Grande Coop	Punta Gorda
46	Alvin		Barranco
47	Derrick Zuniga		Barranco
48	A. M. Cruz0	Bze Red Cross	Punta Gorda Town
49	Gwendolyn Jacobs		Punta Negra
50	Kenneth Martin	TIDE	Punta Gorda
51	Larry Epstien	EDF	
52	Gina Green	MAREA	
53	Ivo Orellano	MAREA	
54	Celia Mahung	TIDE	Punta Gorda
55	James Azueta	Fisheries	

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**DATE:**

**March 3, 2011**

**LOCATION:**

**Coastal Zone Training Room**

**Belize City**

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1	Hopeton Wesby Jr.	Fisherman	678 Oleander Street
2	James Rhaburn	Fisherman	17 Banak Street
3	N. Eiley	Fisherman	7178 Ceaser Ridge
4	Gilbert Gibson	Fisherman	91 West Street
5	Krisna White		
6	Albert C	Fisherman	15 B Mahagony Street
7	Alan Burn	National Fishermen	63 Eve Street
8	Carlos Cruz		Sarteneja
9	Lewelyn Smith	National Fishermen	44 North front Street
10	Allen Bevans	BFCA	859 Sun Flower Street
11	Pedro Alvarez	National Fishermen	42 Sarstoon Street
12	Elmer Rodriguez	National Fishermen	19 Amara Ave
13	David Flore	National Fishermen	Sarteneja
14	Fidel Castro	National Fishermen	Copper Bank
15	Naniel Dawson	National Fishermen	Belize City
16	Adelberto Slusher	National Fishermen	Belize City
17	Bernard Flowers	Fisherman	23 Police Street
18	Eden Lear	National Fishermen	Angel Lane
19	Nadine Nemhard	BFCA	45 Consuelo Street
20	Dwight Neal	BFCA	45 Consuelo Street
21	Estavan Solis	Northern Fisherman Co	Sarteneja
22	Emil Cruz	Northern Fisherman Co	Sarteneja

23	Alfred Cobb	Northern Fisherman Co	Copper Bank Village
24	Robert Usher	Northern Fisherman Co	49 North FrontStreet
25	Ovel Leonardo	Northern Fisherman Co	49 North Front Street

## **ANNEX IV: WORKING DRAFT OF AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCE BILL**

Please see attached.

## **ANNEX V: “FIXING FISHERIES”, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

Please see attached.