



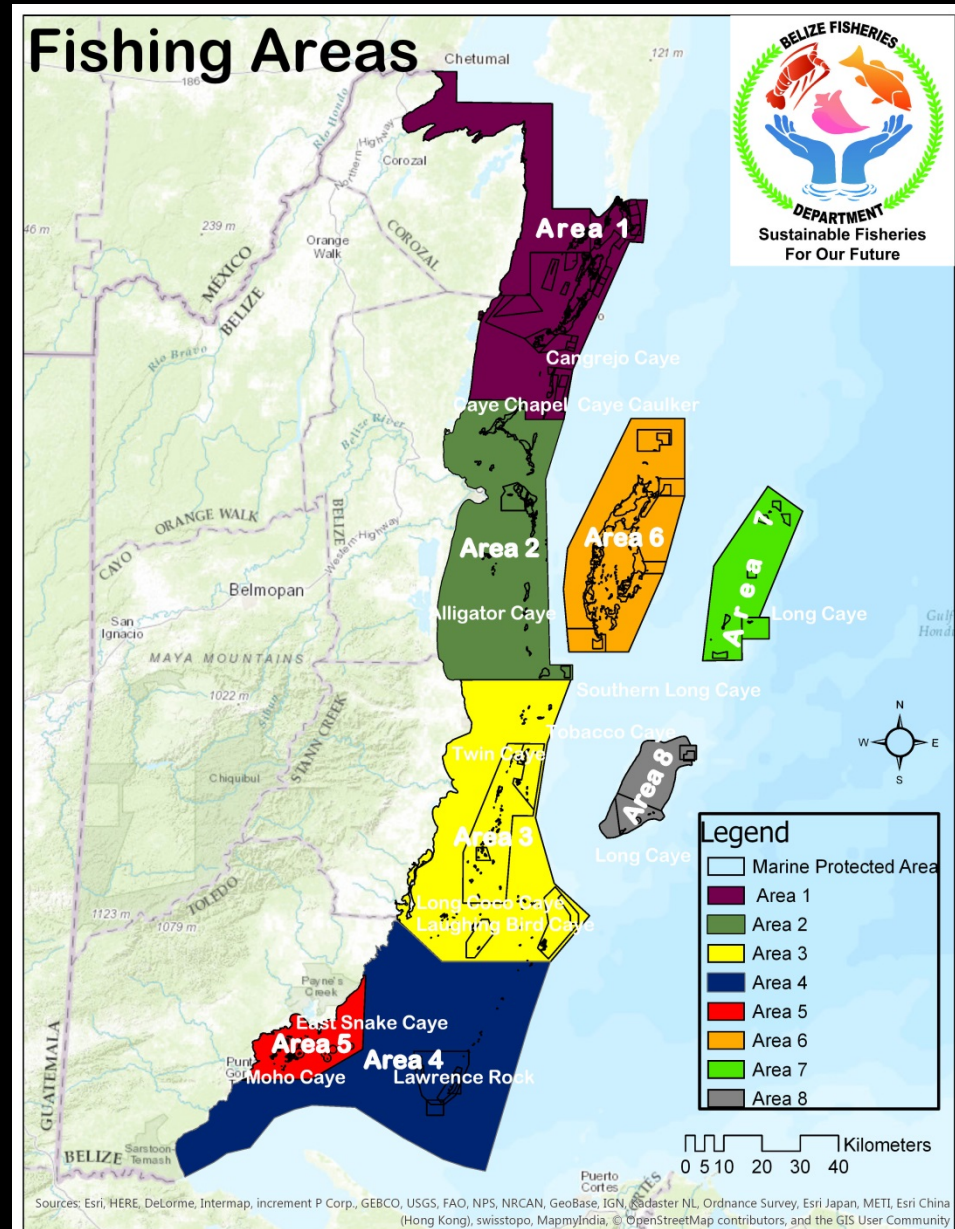
Country Presentations Workshop of Range States of the American Eel



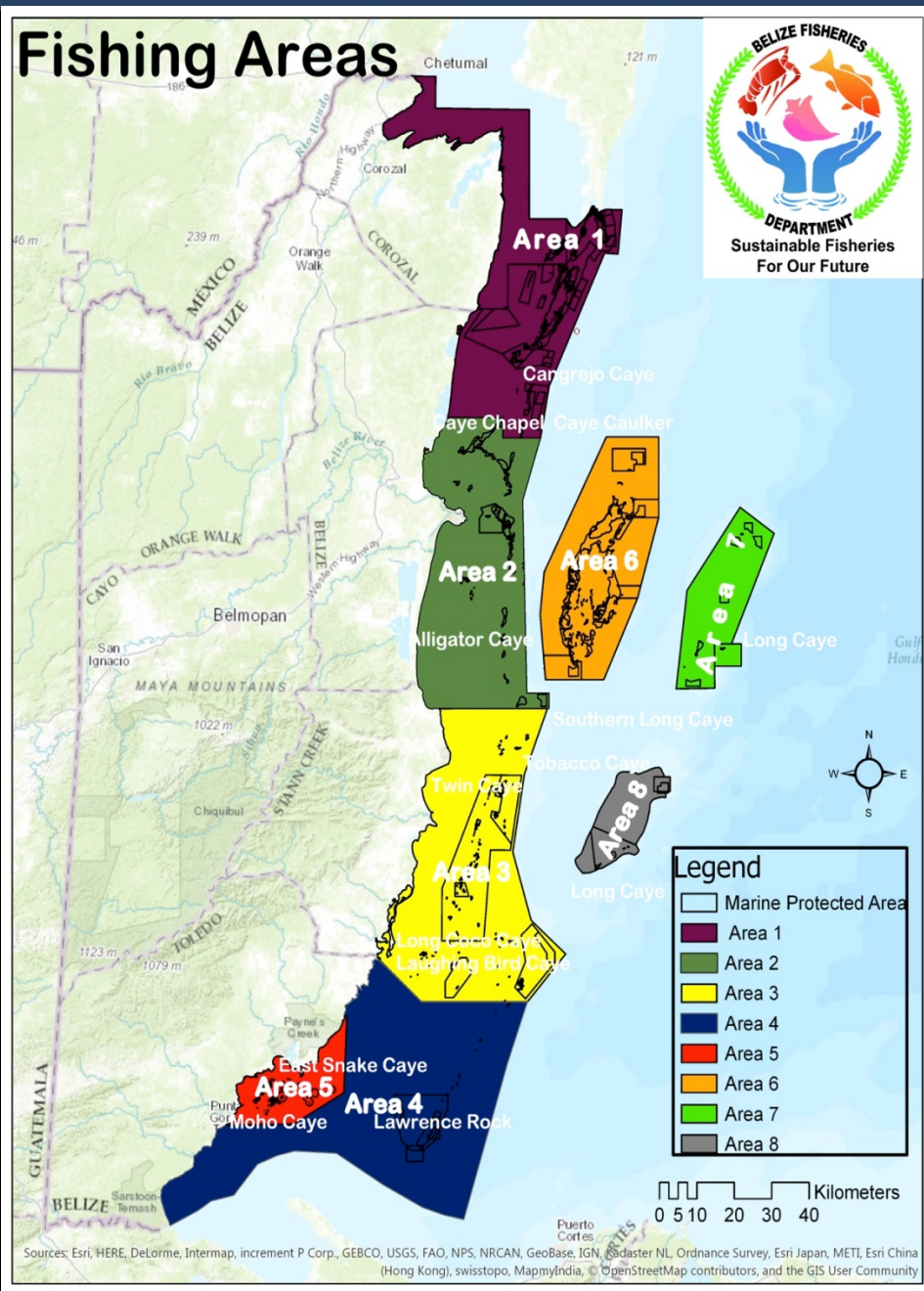
Country Presentation by
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Our Mission

To provide the country and people of **Belize** with the best possible management of its aquatic and **fisheries** resources, with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management.



Belize



- Fishing activities should be carried out in accordance to the areas specified in the license as per attached map;
- Boat captains should ensure that all fishers onboard should be licensed in accordance with the areas assigned to the vessel license;
- Vessel marking should be in accordance with Regulation 41 of the Fisheries Act and the color coding assigned for each fishing area.

Main characteristics of the Fishing Industry

- ✓ Artisanal/Small Scale
- ✓ Employment approx. 2600 fishermen directly.
- ✓ 15,000 Belizeans benefit from fishing activities.
- ✓ Fishermen are highly organized in fishing cooperatives.
- ✓ Fishing is done in shallow waters (20m).
- ✓ Fishing is done exclusively by free (skin) diving.
- ✓ Focussed primarily on reef species: Lobster, conch, finfish, sea cucumber.
- ✓ In 2017, the fisheries sector contributed 2.0 % to GDP



National Legislation Relevant to Management of American Eel

Fisheries Act and Regulations (revised edition 2003) – Chap 210 and 210s of the Laws of Belize provides for:


- Registration and licensing of vessels and fisher folks
- Species and fishery specific regulations (size limits, gear restrictions, closed seasons, limited entry, production quotas)
- Marine Reserves and SPAGS sites
- Fisheries research and data collection
- Enforcement

CITES in Belize

- Belize Fisheries Department is the Management Fisheries CITES Authority.
- The Department regulates the exportation, re-exportation, importation of fisheries commodities.
- Also the Department issues CITES certificate for fish species that require the certificate. Eg Queen Conch, Sharks and etc.

Population Status of American

- The American Eel has only been reportedly spotted twice in our waters.

Family	Species	Author	Info	Occurrence	Common names	Abundance	Max length	Maturity	Remarks	Photo
Anguillidae	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	(Lesueur, 1817)	Fr, Br, M	native	American eel (English)		120 (unsexed)		Recorded once from Mango Creek, southern Belize and once from off the coast (Ref. 30499). Also Ref. 3242.	

Sortiz. "List of Freshwater Fishes Reported from Belize." *FishBase*, 27 June 2017, fishbase.org/country/CountryChecklist.php?showAll=yes&what=list&trpp=50&c_code=084&sortby=alpha2&ext_CL=on&ext_pic=on&vhabitat=fresh

Domestic Harvest of American

- The American Eel is not harvested in Belize. There is no market targeting the American Eel in our country.

Domestic Farming of American Eel

- Currently, there is no farming of American Eel in Belize.

Trade of American Eel

- Belize does not export or import American Eel
- Belize does not participate in any trade of American Eel

National Jurisdiction & Enforcement

- The Belize Fisheries Department is responsible for the proper management of all aquatic marine species.
- There has not been any prosecutions made based on American Eels.



THANK YOU