

Working Draft

Aquatic Living Resources Bill

This document sets out in outline form the overall framework of the proposed new Aquatic Living Resources Bill. It also contains several draft provisions that are put forward for consideration at the consultation.

These draft provisions are

- **interpretation (words and meanings)**
- **objective of long term sustainable use**
- **principles and measures**
- **fisheries council**
- **fishery management plans**
- **designated fishery**
- **marine reserves**
- **local fishing vessel licence**
- **local fishers' licence**
- **fees**
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- **conditions of fishing licences**
- **notice**
- **cancellation or suspension of fishing licence**
- **marine scientific research operations related to fisheries**
- **test fishing operations**
- **prohibited fishing methods**
- **stowage of fishing gear**
- **transshipment**
- **regulations**
- **negative resolution**

Work is still being undertaken on the provisions concerning fishing on the high seas, port measures, international obligations governing high seas fishing, as well as on powers of authorized officers, (including monitoring control and surveillance), jurisdiction and evidence, and sale, release and forfeiture of released property, and general provisions.

It should also be noted that it will be necessary to check carefully the numbering of provisions as the draft evolves. Further some provisions may be absorbed into other provisions.

BELIZE:

AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCES BILL, 2011

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Interpretation.

2.(1) In this Act

"authorized officer" means any fisheries officer and any other person or category of persons designated as an authorized officer by the Minister under section 4;

"fish" means any aquatic animal, whether piscine or not, and includes any shellfish, turtle, mollusc, crustacean, coral, sponge, echinoderm, holothurian, its young and its eggs;

"fisheries officer" means the Fisheries Administrator and any other officer appointed under section xx;

"fishery" means one or more stocks of fish or fishing operations based on such stocks which can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and which are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational and economic characteristics;

"fishery management plan" means the plan for the management and development of fisheries prepared under section 8;

"fisheries waters" means the waters of the exclusive economic zone and the territorial sea of Belize and internal waters as defined in section 2 of the Maritime Areas Act, all inland waters of Belize, and such other waters in respect of which Belize exercises jurisdiction from time to time for fisheries purposes;

"fishing" means fishing for or catching or taking or killing fish by any method and includes

searching for fish;

the attempted searching for or catching or taking of fish;

engaging in any other activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the taking of fish;

the use of an aircraft in relation to any activity described in this paragraph;

but does not include the taking of fish from an aquaculture facility or any other activity related to aquaculture;

"fishing vessel" means any vessel used for fishing or related activities or for sport fishing;

"Fish Stocks Agreement" means the Agreement for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, adopted at New York on 4 August 1995;

"foreign fishing vessel licence" means a licence issued in respect of a foreign fishing vessel under **section 18**;

"foreign fishing vessel" means any fishing vessel other than a local fishing vessel;

"high seas" means the waters beyond the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or other zone of extended fisheries jurisdiction) of any State, to the extent that such territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or other zone of extended fisheries jurisdiction) is recognized by Belize;

"length" means

- (a) for any fishing vessel of Belize built after 18 July 1982, 96 percent of the total length on a waterline at 85 percent of the least moulded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the foreside of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that is greater, except that in ships designed with a rake of keel the waterline on which this length is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline; and
- (b) for any fishing vessel of Belize built before 18 July 1982, registered length as entered on the vessel's documentation;

"master" means the person or persons having control of a fishing vessel at any given time;

"Minister" means the Minister with responsibility for fisheries;

"related activities" in relation to fishing means:

- (a) trans-shipping fish to or from any vessel whether or not for the purpose of sale or barter; or
- (b) storing, processing or transporting fish taken from the fishery waters up to the time it is first landed; or
- (c) refuelling or supplying fishing vessels or performing other activities in support of fishing operations; or
- (d) the use of an aircraft in relation to any activity described in this paragraph;
- (e) attempting or preparing to do any of the above,

“regional or subregional fisheries management organization” means a regional or subregional fisheries management organization or arrangement established or designated pursuant to Part III of the Fish Stocks Agreement and which is recognized by Belize;

"test fishing operations" means any fishing operations undertaken over a limited period of time with the approval of the Fisheries Administrator under Section ??? for the purpose of testing the feasibility of commercial fishing operations with a view to the establishment of locally based fishery operations;

“transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in any port;

Objective of long term sustainable use.

3. The fundamental objective of this Act is to promote the long term conservation and sustainable use of the aquatic living resources of Belize.

Principles and measures.

4. (1) The Minister or Fisheries Administrator, when performing their functions or exercising powers under this Act, shall

(a) apply, in particular, the following principles and measures:

- (i) conservation and management of fishery resources shall be conducted in a transparent, accountable and inclusive manner, taking into account applicable best international or regional practices;
- (ii) fishing shall be commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources taking into account the impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species and the general obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment;
- (iii) ensure that such measures and management decisions are based on the best information available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional or global;
- (iv) overfishing and excess fishing capacity shall be prevented or eliminated;
- (v) full and accurate data on fisheries, including information relating to the ecosystems and social systems in which

fisheries occur, shall be collected, verified, reported and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

- (vi) protect biodiversity;
- (vi) effective compliance with conservation and management measures shall be pursued;
- (vii) pollution and waste originating from fisheries operations, discards, by-catch, lost or abandoned gear and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems shall be minimized; and

(b) apply the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach in accordance with paragraph 2.

(2) (a) The precautionary approach as described in the Fish Stocks Agreement shall be applied widely to the conservation and management of fishery resources in order to protect those resources and to preserve the aquatic ecosystems in which they occur, and in particular the Minister or the Fisheries Administrator shall

- (i) be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate;
- (ii) not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures; and
- (iii) take account of best international practices regarding the application of the precautionary approach, including Annex II of the Fish Stock Agreement.

(b) An ecosystem approach shall be applied widely to the conservation and management of fishery resources through an integrated approach under which decisions in relation to the management of fishery resources are considered in the context of the functioning of the wider ecosystems in which they occur to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of those resources and in so doing, safeguard those ecosystems.

Fisheries
Council.

5. (1) There is established a Fisheries Council which shall advise and make recommendations to the Minister on

- (a) matters relating to the conservation, management, sustainable utilization and development of fisheries in the fishery waters;

- (b) the development and implementation of a comprehensive fisheries policy;
- (c) the formulation, establishment and implementation of guidelines and conservation and management measures to safeguard the over-exploitation and over-harvesting of fisheries; and
- (d) any other matter at the request of the Minister.

(2) The Council shall comprise the following members

- (a) the Fisheries Administrator or his designate;
- (b) the Director of the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute or his designate;
- (c) the Solicitor-General or his designate;
- (d) the Chief Environmental Officer or his designate;
- (e) the Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry responsible for Economic Development or his designate;
- (e) the Chairperson of the Belize Tourism Board, or his designate;
- (g) two members appointed by the Minister responsible for Fisheries from the private fisheries sector including fishing cooperatives associations;
- (h) one member representing non-governmental organizations with an interest in the conservation and sustainable utilization of fisheries and marine resources.

(3) The Minister shall appoint the members of the Council under paragraphs (g) and (h) by Notice in the *Gazette*.

(4) The Council may co-opt any person as the Council thinks fit by reason of any particular knowledge or skill, to assist the Council for a specific purpose, and the person co-opted shall not be entitled to vote on any question before the Council.

(5) The Council may regulate its own proceedings.

(6) The Council may establish sub-committees chaired by a member of the Council to deliberate on a specific issue or with specified responsibilities and for a specified term.

(7) The sub-committee shall make recommendations to the Council for deliberation.

10. (1) The Fisheries Administrator may cause a fishery management plan or plans to be prepared in respect of each fishery or category of fisheries.

(2) A fishery management plan shall

- (a) identify the fishery to be managed;
- (b) describe the status of the fishery;
- (c) specify conservation management and development measures to be applied to the fishery;
- (d) specify the process for the allocation of any fishing rights provided for in the fishery management plan;
- (e) identify the impact on non target species of fish;
- (f) identify any stocks of fish which need special protection;
- (g) identify any precautionary measures to be adopted;
- (h) identify how the ecosystem will be protected;
- (i) identify how marine biodiversity will be protected;
- (j) make provision in relation to any other matter necessary for sustainable use of fishery resources.

(3) In preparing and reviewing a fisheries management plan, the Fisheries Administrator shall consult with the Fisheries Council.

(4) Each fishery management plan and each review of a fishery management plan shall be submitted to the Minister for approval.

(5) A fishery management plan shall enter into force by Order of the Minister published in the *Gazette*.

Designated
Fishery.

12. (1) The Minister, by Order published in the *Gazette*, may declare a fishery as a designated fishery where, having regard to scientific, social, economic, environmental and other relevant considerations, it is determined that such fishery

- (a) is important to the national interest; and
- (b) requires specific conservation and management measures for ensuring sustainable use of the fishery resource; or
- (c) is at risk of serious harm unless special measures for its protection are put in place

(2) The Fisheries Administrator shall prepare a fishery management plan for the management of each designated fishery declared under subsection (1).

Marine
reserves.

19. (1) The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, declare any area of the fishery waters and, as appropriate, any adjacent or surrounding land, to be a marine reserve where he considers that special measures are necessary

- (a) to afford special protection to the flora and fauna of such areas;
- (b) to protect and preserve the natural breeding and nursery grounds and habitats of aquatic life, with particular regard to flora and fauna in danger of extinction;
- (c) to allow for the natural regeneration of aquatic life in areas where such life has been depleted;
- (d) to promote scientific study and research in respect of such areas;
- (e) to preserve and enhance the biodiversity and natural beauty of such areas.

(2) The Minister, by Order published in the *Gazette*, may declare zones within any declared marine reserve within which certain activities may be conducted or prohibited.

(3) Any person who, in any marine reserve, without permission granted under subsection (4)

- (a) fishes or attempts to fish;
- (b) takes or destroys any flora or fauna other than fish;
- (c) dredges, extracts coral, sand or gravel, discharges or deposits waste or any other polluting matter, or in any way disturbs, alters or destroys the natural environment;
- (d) constructs or erects any buildings or other structures on or over any land or waters within such a reserve; or
- (e) does any other thing or takes action which is in violation of this law or any other law relating to marine reserves,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceedingdollars.

(4) The Minister, or any person authorized by him in writing, may give written permission to do any of the things prohibited under this section where the doing of such things may be required for the proper management of the reserve or for any of the purposes referred to in subsection (1).

(5) Where an activity that could have a detrimental impact on a marine reserve is planned within that marine reserve by any Ministry or entity pursuant to any other Act or law, the Ministry or entity under whose management that activity is planned shall

firstly obtain the written consent of the Minister of Fisheries before commencing any activity in that marine reserve.

(6) The Minister may

- (a) make regulations for the further management of marine reserves;
- (b) establish an advisory committee for each marine reserve where he considers it necessary;
- (c) determine the terms of reference advisory committees established under paragraph (b);
- (d) set fees for entrance to and activities in a marine reserve;
- (e) provide for research permits and fees for issuance of such permits;
- (f) provide for management plans for marine reserves which shall include
 - (i) physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural aspects of the marine reserve;
 - (ii) conservation and management objectives; and
 - (iii) management programmes
- (g) do any other thing or take any action necessary for the protection and preservation of a marine reserve.

(7) A person who undertakes any activity contrary to the provisions of this section or to any regulations made pursuant to this section commit an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding

PART VI

Local fishing licences

Local fishing vessel licence.

14. (1) No local fishing vessel shall be used for fishing or related activities in the fisheries waters without a valid licence issued under this section in respect of that vessel.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to any local fishing vessel used purely for the purpose of fisheries related research or survey operations in respect of which there is a valid authorization issued under section xxx.

(3) An application for a local fishing vessel licence or for the renewal of a local fishing vessel licence shall be made in the prescribed form to the Fisheries Administrator.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the Fisheries Administrator may issue a local fishing vessel licence in the prescribed form.

(5) No local fishing vessel licence shall be issued or renewed in respect of any local fishing vessel unless

- (a) an application has been made in accordance with subsection (3);
- (b) the vessel has been listed on the record of local fishing vessels in accordance with section xx; and
- (c) any fees payable in respect of the licence have been paid.

(6) The Fisheries Administrator may refuse to issue or renew a local fishing vessel licence in respect of any local fishing vessel

- (a) where it is necessary to do so in order to give effect to any licensing programmes specified in any applicable fisheries scheme;
- (b) where the licence application is made in respect of a fishery that has not hitherto been exploited in Belize and where the Fisheries Administrator is satisfied that it would be contrary to the interests of the proper management of that fishery to issue the fishing vessel licence; or
- (c) for such other grounds as may be specified in this Act or any regulations made under this Act.

(7) Where a local fishing vessel is used in contravention of subsection (1) or of any condition of the local fishing vessel licence, the master, owner and charterer of that vessel each commits an offence, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding dollars.

Local
fishers'
licence.

15. (1) Any person who wishes to engage in the following types of fishing shall be required to hold a licence issued by the Fisheries Administrator:

- (a) commercial fishing;
- (b) sport fishing
- (c) recreational fishing
- (d) aquarium trade;
- (e) export and import of fish.

(2) The Minister may regulate or prohibit the activities that may be conducted under a license issued under subsection (1).

Fees. 17. There shall be payable in respect of every licence issued under this Part such fees as may be prescribed.

PART VIII

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL FISHING

Validity of fishing licences.

23. (1) Unless earlier cancelled in accordance with section xx, a fishing licence shall be valid for such period not exceeding twelve months as may be specified in the licence.

(2) Where a vessel licensed as a local fishing vessel becomes a foreign fishing vessel, the licence shall automatically cease to be valid.

(3) A fishing licence shall be valid only for the fishery or fisheries specified in the licence.

(4) No licence shall be transferable except with the written permission of the Fisheries Administrator.

Conditions of fishing licences.

24. (1) Every fishing licence shall be in the prescribed form and shall be subject to

(a) such general conditions as may be prescribed;

(b) such general conditions as may be specified under subsection (2); and

(c) such special conditions as may be specified under subsection (3).

(2) The Minister may, by Order published in the Gazette, specify general conditions additional to those prescribed to which all fishing licences or any category of fishing licences shall be subject including conditions relating to open and closed seasons, prohibited fishing areas, minimum mesh sizes and minimum species sizes.

(3) The Fisheries Administrator may attach to any local fishing licence such special conditions as he may think fit relating to the proper management of fisheries, the base of operations of the vessel, the landing of its catch and the gathering of information on the vessel's operations.

(4) The Fisheries Administrator may, from time to time, where he is satisfied that it is expedient for the proper management of fisheries in the fisheries waters or the proper regulation of fishing operations, vary any special conditions attached to any fishing licence.

(5) Where the Minister or the Fisheries Administrator varies any special conditions attached to any fishing licence he shall notify the licence holder of such variation as soon as practicable.

Notice.

25. Any variation of a special condition given under Section 20 or cancellation or suspension under Section 22 shall be in writing, which may include electronic communication.

Cancellation or suspension of fishing licence.

26. (1) The Fisheries Administrator may cancel or suspend a fishing licence or a category of fishing licences on any of the grounds set out in subsection (2).

(2) A fishing licence, or a category of fishing licences, may be cancelled or suspended where the Fisheries Administrator is satisfied that

- (a) it is necessary to do so in order to allow for the proper management of any particular fishery; or
- (b) where, following the inspection of a local fishing vessel, the certificate of registration of the vessel has been cancelled under Section 12; or
- (c) the vessel in respect of which the licence has been issued has been used in contravention of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder, or of any conditions of the licence or in breach of any applicable access agreement; or
- (d) he is required or authorized to do so in accordance with the provisions of any agreement entered into under Section xx.

(3) Where a fishing licence has been cancelled or suspended under subsection (1), notification in writing, including by **electronic communication**, of the cancellation or suspension shall be given to the person to whom the licence was issued.

(4) Where a fishing licence has been cancelled or suspended on the grounds specified in subsection (2)(a) of this Section a proportion of any fees paid for the fishing licence representing the unexpired period of that licence or the period of

suspension, as the case may be, shall be reimbursed to the person to whom the licence was issued at his request.

PART XI

Marine scientific research, test or exploratory fishing operations

Marine scientific research operations related to fisheries.

35. (1) The Minister may, on the submission of a research plan approved by the Fisheries Administrator, authorize any vessel or person to undertake marine scientific research operations related to fisheries in the fishery waters, and may, in granting any such authorization, exempt that vessel or person from the requirements of any fisheries management and conservation measures specified in the authorization.

(2) The Minister shall attach such conditions as may be prescribed and may attach such additional conditions as he thinks fit and are consistent with those which may be prescribed, to any authorization granted under subsection (1).

(3) Each vessel or person authorized in accordance with this section shall comply with all applicable laws of Belize and any conditions of such authorization.

(4) The Minister may suspend or revoke such authorization if there is failure to comply with the conditions of the authorization or the requirements of this Act.

(5) Any authorisation or exemption granted under this section shall be in writing.

(6) Any person who undertakes or assists in any marine scientific research related to fisheries in the fishery waters

- (a) without authorisation under subsection (1); or
- (b) in contravention of any condition or conditions attached to the authorisation under subsection (2); or
- (c) in contravention of the requirements of subsection (3),

commits an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding.....

Test fishing operations.

36. (1) The Fisheries Administrator may, where he considers it to be in the best interests of Belize, approve test fishing operations to be undertaken by any fishing vessels.

(2) Any approval given by the Fisheries Administrator under this Section shall be in writing and shall be valid for such period not exceeding six months as may be specified in the approval, provided that a longer period may be specified with the approval of the Minister.

(3) Any approval given under this Section shall not exempt a foreign fishing vessel from the requirement to hold a valid foreign fishing vessel licence under section xx.

PART XII

Prohibited fishing methods, Stowage of Gear and Transshipment

Prohibited
fishing
methods.

39. (1) A person who

- (a) permits to be used, uses, or attempts to use any explosive, poison, or other noxious substance for the purpose of killing, stunning, disabling, or catching fish, or in any way rendering fish more easily caught; or
- (b) permits to be carried, carries or has in his possession or control any explosive, poison, or other noxious substance in circumstances evidencing an intention of using the explosive, poison, other noxious substance for any of the purposes referred to in paragraph (a),

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding xx or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both.

(2) An explosive, poison, or other noxious substance found on board any fishing vessel shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to be intended for the purposes referred to in subsection (1)(a).

(3) Any person who lands, sells, receives, or is found in possession of any fish taken by any means which is in contravention of subsection (1)(a), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding xx or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

(4) In any proceedings for any offence against this section, a certificate as to the cause and manner of death or injury of any fish, signed by the Fisheries Administrator, or by any person authorised by him or her in writing, shall, until the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence as to the matters stated in the certificate.

(5) In any proceedings for any offence against this section, the defendant shall be given not less than fourteen days notice in writing of the prosecution's intention to adduce a certificate under subsection (4).

Stowage of
fishing gear.

40. (1) The fishing gear of any foreign fishing vessel which does not have permission to fish in the fishery waters shall be stowed in the prescribed manner while the vessel is within the fishery waters.

(2) Where a foreign fishing vessel is licensed to fish by means of a particular type of fishing gear in any specific area of the fishery waters, any other fishing gear on board the vessel shall be stowed in the prescribed manner while the vessel is within that area and all fishing gear on board the vessel shall be stowed in the prescribed manner while the vessel is or within any other area of the fishery waters where it is not licensed to fish.

(3) Where a foreign fishing vessel contravenes subsection (1) or (2), the master, owner and charterer of that vessel is each commits an offence, and is liable on summary conviction **xx** to a fine not exceedingdollars.

Transshipment.

41. (1) The Minister may authorize in writing any transshipment involving any foreign vessel in the fishery waters where such activity does not constitute a condition of license for fishing, in accordance with any applicable access agreement and any requirements which may be prescribed.

(2) The Minister shall attach such conditions as may be prescribed and may attach additional conditions as he thinks fit which are consistent with any conditions which may be prescribed, to any authorization granted under subsection (1).

(3) Each person authorized in accordance with this section shall comply with all applicable laws of Belize and any conditions of such authorization.

(4) The Minister may suspend such authorization if there is failure to comply with the conditions of the authorization or the requirements of this Act.

(5) Any authorization granted under this section shall be in writing.

(6) Any person commits an offence who undertakes any transshipment activity in respect of a foreign vessel without an authorization issued pursuant to this section, and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of **xx**.

Regulations

Regulations.

88. (1) The Minister may make such regulations as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act and for due administration thereof.

(2) Without, limiting the generality of subsection (1), regulations made pursuant to this section may provide for all or any of the following

- (a) prescribing measures for the conservation, management, development, licensing and regulation of fisheries or any particular fishery, including the prohibition or regulation of specific activities in any designated fishery;
- (b) licensing, authorization or registration in respect of any vessel or class or category of vessels to be used for fishing, related activities or any other purpose pursuant to this Act, including the form, issuance requirements, grounds for denial, terms and conditions and fees, charges, royalties, and other forms of compensation related to such licensing, authorization or registration;
- (c) licensing, authorization or registration in respect of any fisherman or class of fisherman, fishing gear and other equipment or devices used for fishing;
- (d) the operation of, and conditions and procedures observed by any fishing vessel while in the fishery waters;
- (e) the operation of, and conditions and procedures to be observed by any other vessel which may enter the fishery waters for any purpose under this Act;
- (f) the catching, loading, landing, handling, transshipping, transporting, possession and disposal of fish;
- (g) the import, export, distribution and marketing of fish and fish products, including live fish;
- (h) the manner in which any fishing gear is to be stowed;
- (i) the appointment, powers and duties of authorised officers and observers;
- (j) the duties and procedures to be followed by the master and crew of any vessel in respect of authorised officers and observers;
- (k) rewards to be paid to any person providing information on the operations of foreign vessels leading to a conviction of an offence against this Act;

- (l) the licensing, control and use of fish aggregating devices and the rights to the aggregated fish, and prescribing times and the minimum distances from such devices any vessel may fish around such devices;
- (m) regulating or prohibiting the use of self-contained underwater breathing apparatus;
- (n) regulating or prohibiting the use of spear guns or other similar devices, including regulating or prohibiting the use of specific fishing gear;
- (o) standards and measures for the safety of local fishermen and fishing vessels;
- (p) regulating aquaculture and access to land leased for aquaculture and to the waters superjacent to such land;
- (q) prescribing the terms and conditions of leases for aquaculture;
- (r) requiring the provision of statistical and other information related to fisheries;
- (s) the control, inspection and conditions of operation of fish processing establishments;
- (t) the prevention of marine pollution;
- (u) the appointment, maintaining of and procedures for agents appointed to receive and respond to process pursuant to this Act;
- (v) the implementation of any access or related agreement or other agreement or arrangement entered into pursuant to this Act;
- (w) regulating or prohibiting, either generally or in any specified fishery
 - (i) the taking of coral and shells;
 - (ii) the setting of fish fences or nets;
 - (iii) the taking of aquarium fish; or
 - (iv) aquaculture operations;
- (x) prescribing measures for the protection of trochus, pearl and pearl-shell, turtles, green snails, clams and lobsters;
- (y) regulating or prohibiting fishing of all kinds within any lagoon or any part of any lagoon, the time or times of year during which such fishing may occur or is prohibited, and approving, restricting or prohibiting the equipment or methods which may be used in connection with such fishing;
- (z) regulating or prohibiting the use of fish aggregating devices;
- (aa) regulating test or exploratory fishing;

- (bb) setting out the requirements for the contents of fisheries management plans, and the procedures to be followed in their implementation;
- (cc) prescribing offences against the regulations and penalties for such offences, not exceeding a fine of and, where the offence is a continuing one, a further fine not exceeding ??? for every day that the offence has continued;
- (dd) defining the conditions or circumstances under which Belizean fishing vessels may be chartered; and
- (ee) prescribing any other matter, which is required or authorised to be prescribed by this Act.

Negative resolution.

89. Regulations made under this Part are subject to negative resolution.

DRAFT