



BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT **MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND CIVIL AVIATION**

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Press Release

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 IN FISHING COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS (INCAVPESCA Project) - Handing-over of Equipment

Belmopan. November 26, 2020.

A ceremony was held on Thursday, November 26, 2020, at the Coastal Zone Training Room in Belize City in which the Fisheries Department handed over COVID-19 safety equipment for the Fishing Cooperatives and private sector seafood processing facilities. The equipment included seven COVID-19 testing units, sanitizing supplies, and two laptops.

The donation was made possible through the regional project titled “Integration of the Value Chain in Fisheries and Aquaculture” which is a regional project being implemented by the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA). This regional project is being funded by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the sum of US\$1.5 Million in which Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua are project beneficiaries.

The ceremony was attended by Hon. Andre Perez, Minister of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, and CEO Ms. Kennedy Carillo. The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) was represented by Ambassador H.E. Remus Li-Kuo Chen.

Minister Perez expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to OSPESCA for the continued commitment and support given to the fisheries sector in Belize. As the new Minister of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Hon. Perez pledged his support for the responsible development of fisheries in Belize given its prominent role in the Blue Economy. Ambassador H.E. Remus Li-Kuo Chen also reaffirmed his country’s continued support to the Government of Belize.

Ends

The Mission of the Department is to provide the country and the people of Belize with the best possible management of aquatic and fisheries resources, with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management



Picture 1 from left to right: Troy Gabb, Jason Arnold, HE Chen, Hon. Andre Perez, Estevan Solis



Picture 2 COVID-19 Safety Units/equipment

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Picture 3 Head Table: left to right CEO Ms. Kennedy Castillo, Hon. Andre Perez, HE Chen, Fisheries Administrator Beverly Wade

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