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PRESS RELEASE

MBEMC Hosts Validation Workshop on Belize's Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy

Belmopan, April 21, 2026.

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC) convened a stakeholder validation workshop on Thursday, April 16, 2026, to review the stocktaking and implementation review of Belize's Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy (BEDPS), marking a critical step toward strengthening the country's blue economy framework.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from across government, the private sector, academia, and civil society to review and assess progress made since the adoption of the BEDPS in 2022 and to help shape the next phase of its implementation. The review process aims to evaluate achievements to date, identify challenges and opportunities, and develop a clear, actionable plan to advance the remaining priorities under the policy framework.

Findings presented during the workshop highlighted significant strides in advancing Belize's blue economy. Since 2022, the Ministry and its partner agencies have undertaken a wide range of initiatives aligned with BEDPS priorities, including the establishment of the Blue Economy Unit, development of key policies such as the National Mariculture Policy and National Seagrass Management Policy, and the formation of the National Sargassum Task Force.

Additionally, Belize has strengthened its institutional and legislative framework through ongoing work on the Blue Economy Bill and the enactment of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Act in 2025. Strategic partnerships and international engagement have further positioned Belize as a leader in blue economy development, with participation in global forums and the mobilization of significant financial resources to support sustainable growth initiatives.

The review process also underscored areas requiring continued focus, noting that while progress has been substantial, several priority actions remain outstanding. Key challenges identified include stakeholder coordination and communication gaps.

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation extends its appreciation to all stakeholders for their valuable contributions and continued partnership in advancing Belize's blue economy.

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