

Inter-American Development Bank – Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program - US\$7.0 Million - Loan Motion, 2023.

WHEREAS, Belize, as a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (the “Bank”), is eligible for development assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance from the Bank on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between Belize and the Bank from time to time;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize, in an effort to enhance the Government’s ability to sustainably manage key commercial species in the fisheries sector; and promote the adoption of sustainable technologies and best fishing practices by artisanal fisherfolk, approached the Bank for financial assistance to finance a Program to support sustainable growth in the Blue Economy, hereinafter referred to as “the Program”;

AND WHEREAS, the Program will consist of two components whose activities will (i) create an enabling environment for the sustainable and resilient management of the fisheries sector; (ii) provide direct support to the sustainable development of the Finfish Fishing Industry; (iii) strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the Spiny Lobster and Queen Conch Fishing Industries; (iv) provide direct support to artisanal fisherfolk in Belize; and (v) strengthen the institutional capacity to improve data collection, management and analysis of information from the Fisheries Sector;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the project shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered loan financing of up to US\$7,000,000.00 from its Ordinary Capital Resources for the said purpose under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The Inter-American Development Bank;
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$7,000,000.00;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five (5) years from the date of signature of the Loan Contract;
Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) Years inclusive of sixty-six (66) months Grace Period on Principal Repayments;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 39 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$179,487.18;
Purpose:	To execute a program that will improve the income generation capacity of artisanal fisherfolk, and to maintain export levels of fisheries products while contributing to the sustainable use of commercial oceanic resource;

Rate of Interest: Interest will be charged on the daily outstanding balance of the loan, as per the SOFR-Based Interest Rate, plus the applicable lending spread for the Bank's ordinary capital loans;

Credit Fee: A Credit Fee will be charged on the undisbursed loan balance at a percentage to be established by the Bank on a periodic basis, not exceeding 0.75% per annum;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7 (2) of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, 2005, the Government of Belize is required to obtain the prior authorization of the National Assembly, by way of a Resolution, for such a borrowing to take effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Loan proceeds would assist the Government of Belize in its efforts to mitigate the factors that can jeopardize the fisheries sector's ability to maintain its contribution to the Belizean economy in terms of marine exports and income opportunities for fisherfolk, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.