



CONTENTS

OCEANA 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

3	Letter from the VP
4	Oceana Approach
5	Campaigns and Victories
6	On the Ground and In the Water
6	Responsible Fishing
6	Gillnets
7	Fish Right, Eat Right
8	Reducing Single-use Plastics
8	Earth Day
9	Marine Litter
9	Coastal Clean-up
10	Clean Energy
10	Hands Across the Sand
11	Reef Week 2018
11	World Oceans Day
12	Online and In the News
15	Engage with Oceana
16	Financial Statements
17	Staff
17	Contact Us



LETTER FROM THE VP

“Energy and persistence conquers all things”

-Benjamin Franklin

My fellow sensational Belizeans,

At its heart, advocacy is about making sure that people, especially society's most vulnerable, have a voice and a participatory role in arriving at the decisions that impact their lives. To their credit, Belizeans have always mustered the courage to rally together to build Belize. One example of this took place in December 1997, when more than 200 commercial fishers from Punta Gorda wrote a letter to the Fisheries Department, petitioning to stop the use of gillnets in Belizean waters to “preserve today for tomorrow's future”. These fishers had personally witnessed the impact of this gear on key marine species and important habitats and they came together to take a stand.

But more than two decades later, Belizean fishing-based livelihoods are being threatened daily by this gear. But given the importance of sustainable fishing practices, to safeguard the more than 15,000 beneficiaries of fishing and our national food security, this issue has not fallen to victim to time. The persistence of fisherfolk to promote best practices continues to fuel a sustained effort to support the approximately 170 fishers who use this gear identify and transition to alternatives.

It is commendable that many of those 170 breadwinners are already exploring other means of generating income given the destructive nature of these nets and are open to learning other means of fishing. They do this because fishing is not something they do, it's who they are and it's a way of life they want future generations to also be able to benefit from. Their sustainable actions are not just making waves, they are helping to keeping fish swimming and fishermen fishing.

But fisherfolk need your help. Writing a letter, signing a petition, calling or talking to your area representative about gillnets might seem like a small act but collectively, it has a huge impact! Keep your eyes peeled for the Fish Right, Eat Right logo. As we have shared, this initiative is designed to curb illegal fishing and promote best practices in fisheries by providing marketing incentives throughout the supply chain via the promotion of responsible seafood consumption.

The program highlights restaurants and other establishments that comply with the fisheries regulations as well as recommended best practices, such as not sourcing food caught in destructive gear or serving top predators such as sharks. Responsible fishers who don't use destructive or indiscriminate gear have preferential access to these reliable markets to ease pressures of catching specific finfish species. Gillnetters who have voluntarily stopped using their nets are also registered in Fish Right Eat Right. Look for the Fish Right, Eat Right app late next year so that you can support these fishers by buying your favorite seafood directly from them using your smart phone or tablet!

In 2019, Oceana will continue to campaign alongside the hundreds of fisherfolk, tourism allies, businesses and individuals just like you, for a phase out of gillnets in Belizean waters. Key next steps will be working with as many of the licensed fishers to develop a transition plan. Through communication and collaboration, this is entirely possible! Together we can keep fishers fishing and continue to take care of their families with dignity...just without using on destructive gear.

Oceana is also supporting the implementation of the national phase out and eventual ban of Styrofoam and single use plastics in Belize's food sector. As the co-chair of the Communications and Public Awareness Working Group, we are working on the



design and implementation of a communications plan to maintain and increase the public's support for the ban of single use, disposable plastic and Styrofoam products within the food sector. We are also championing the food vendors who are making the transition to environmentally friendly alternatives and practices.

Through the advocacy and the power of persistence, as a people, we can work towards a Belize that is beautiful, bountiful and clean! For more than seven years, Belizeans stood as one in the fight against offshore oil. By rallying together, that threat was resolved. May the first anniversary of The People's Law, serve as inspiration and as a reminder that when it comes to the sea, we are all in this together!

May God bless you all and may God bless Belize.

Janelle Chanona

OCEANA APPROACH

HOW WE WORK

OCEANA WAS CREATED TO IDENTIFY PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND MAKE THEM HAPPEN

Our oceans are in trouble. But the good news is that together we can restore the oceans to their former glory. Since its founding, Oceana has won more than 100 victories around the globe and protected more than one million square miles of ocean.

Oceana has the tools to win. We are-

CAMPAIGN-DRIVEN: We channel our resources towards strategic, directed campaigns to achieve measurable outcomes that will protect and restore our oceans to former levels of abundance.

FACT-BASED: We believe in the importance of science in identifying problems and solutions for the oceans.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND EXPERT: Our scientists work closely with our teams of economists, lawyers, communicators and advocates to achieve tangible results for the oceans.

SUPPORTED BY CITIZENS AND ALLIES: Oceana has a base of close to one million supporters, including 712,000 Wavemakers globally. Our Ocean Council is a select group of academic, business, policy and philanthropic leaders who represent and support Oceana's efforts on the global stage. Locally, Oceana is supported by 4,000 Belizean Wavemakers.



CAMPAIGNS AND VICTORIES

Oceana's long-term vision for the Belize Barrier Reef is a thriving ecosystem, capable of producing abundant, healthy marine resources that support a vibrant and sustainable local economy for Belizeans. To this end, in 2018, Oceana in Belize primary focus was to obtain a commitment from the government to phase out the use of gillnets in Belize's marine environment.

Status: In Progress



RESPONSIBLE FISHING

Belize's marine resources, if managed responsibly, can provide healthy seafood meals, stable income, and fulfilling livelihoods for countless Belizeans in perpetuity. Unfortunately, the still-legal use of gillnets in Belize threatens this future.

GILLNETS

Gillnets are indiscriminate in their catch, and the fishers who use them often find much more than their target species caught in its mesh. This "bycatch," which is often discarded, can include protected species like sportfish, sea turtles, and even manatees.

Since December 1997, when more than 200 commercial fishers from Punta Gorda wrote a letter to the Fisheries Department, petitioning to stop the use of gillnets in Belizean waters to "preserve today for tomorrow's future", Belizeans have been asking for the nets to be banned. These fishers had personally witnessed the impact of this gear on key marine species and important habitats and they came together to take a stand.

More than two decades later, Belizean fishing-based livelihoods are being threatened daily by this gear. But given the importance of sustainable fishing practices, to safeguard the more than 15,000 beneficiaries of fishing and our national food security, this issue has not fallen to victim to time.

As a trusted voice for ocean conservation and sustainable management in Belize, and an ally of fisherfolk, coastal communities, and ecotourism representatives throughout the country, Oceana has led the charge for a phase-out of gillnets in Belize's waters.

In 2018, Oceana through a Freedom of Information Act request, publicly asked for information on Belize's registered gillnet fishers and shark fishers including names, location, and fishing vessels used. As expected, we did not receive an adequate response to our data request. Using eye-catching images on billboards in high trafficked areas, posters, national print and broadcast press as well as our social media platforms, Oceana emphasized our campaign position that "Transparency = Sustainability". We also continued to stress that the Fisheries Department's intransigence is compromising thousands of Belizean jobs, a 100-million-dollar industry and undermining sustainability.

Oceana also went to downtown Belize City to ask residents what they knew about this type of gear and whether or not they supported its use. This activity resulted in a video demonstrating the widespread support for a ban on gillnets not only among Belize's fisherfolk, who vocally oppose the use of gillnets, but also among its citizens.

Oceana has also collected letters of support for the phase out of destructive fishing gear, like gillnets, from many different Belizean groups, including the Belizean Coast Guard,

the Belize Chamber of Commerce, the Belize Tourism Industry Association and the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust. We have also leveraged constituencies that are powerful in Belize; recently the sports fishing community organized itself into the National Sports Fishers Association. It's first two passed resolutions were to join our coalition against gillnets and to demand that the regulatory body that governs them, the Coastal Zone Management Authority, take an official position on gillnets. These voices were further strengthened by efforts of the newly formed Coalition for Sustainable Fisheries which is comprised of Oceana, the Belize Federation of Fishers, MAR Alliance, the Turneffe Atoll Trust and the Turneffe Sports Fishers Association.



We also continued to prominently feature fishers and their families in Oceana's social media and public communications campaigns and have continued our annual "Ocean Heroes" awards program, which recognizes two individuals for their exceptional leadership and advocacy on issues impacting Belize's marine environment. We also gave presentations and held meetings in Corozal, Belize City, Stann Creek, Toledo, and the Cayes with local community members to discuss the importance of protecting Belize's marine resources.

In early 2018, The Government of Belize created a participatory task force focused on recommending strategies for reducing the harmful impact of gillnets. Despite its creation, the task force has taken no action to mitigate the threats posed by gillnets, nor to respond to concerns from Belize's Coalition for Sustainable Fisheries, on this lack of action.

Belize's government has yet to take any decisive action towards phasing out the use of gillnets. Their inaction on this issue not only allows overfishing and wasteful fishing to continue; it puts future generations of Belizeans at risk of hunger, job-insecurity, and poverty.

In 2019, Oceana will continue to campaign alongside the hundreds of fisherfolk, tourism allies, businesses and individuals just like you, for a phase out of gillnets in Belizean waters. Key next steps will be working with as many of the licensed fishers to develop a transition plan. Through communication and collaboration, this is entirely possible! Together we can keep

fishers fishing and continue to take care of their families with dignity...just without using on destructive gear.

FISH RIGHT, EAT RIGHT

We continue to increase significant allies in the tourism sector via the Oceana-led Fish Right Eat Right initiative. Fish Right, Eat Right is designed to curb illegal fishing and promote best practices in fisheries by providing marketing incentives throughout the supply chain via the promotion of responsible seafood consumption. The program will highlight restaurants and other establishments that comply with the fisheries regulations as well as recommended best practices, such as not sourcing food caught in destructive gear or serving top predators such as sharks. Responsible fishers who don't use destructive or indiscriminate gear have



preferential access to these reliable markets to ease pressures of catching specific finfish species. Gillnetters who have voluntarily stopped using their nets are also registered in Fish Right, Eat Right.

Look for the Fish Right, Eat Right app late next year so that you can support these fishers by buying your favorite seafood directly from them using your smart phone or tablet!

Thank you for your generous support of our campaigns in Belize to strengthen sustainable fishing, together we can help restore Belize's ocean to abundance.



REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

On the heels of its decision to say no to offshore oil in 2017, Belize announced its intention to ban single-use plastic and Styrofoam in its food sector by April 22, 2019 (Earth Day). According to a joint press release issued by the Ministries of Tourism; Investment, Trade and Commerce; and Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development, the goal is to phase out the use of single use plastic shopping bags and Styrofoam, as well as plastic food utensils such as clamshells, flat plates and cups. According to the Government, plastic and Styrofoam constitute approximately 19 percent of the volume and cost of national solid waste management.

We are therefore supporting the Government's efforts to ban single use, disposable plastic items in the food sector. Oceana was invited to be a member of the Communications and Public Awareness Working Group, which will lead implementation of a ban on Styrofoam and single use plastic utensils in Belize's food sector. Our presence on the working group offers us an opportunity to advocate an international dynamic, which takes on new importance as Belize recently assumed presidency of the Central American Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development, whose goal is to advance the sustainable development goals of the Central American region by strengthening the cooperation and integration regime of environmental management.

We have been supporting the ban at an

organizational level by continuing our grassroots activities in beach and coastal clean-up activities, research related to marine litter, and by having our vendors transition to environmentally friendly products and practices. We are championing the food vendors who are making the transition to environmentally friendly alternatives and practices ahead of the government's April 2019 deadline. Once the ban is in place, we will ensure that it is implemented and enforced, and that Belizeans recognize the importance of transitioning away from harmful single-use plastics.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day was celebrated under the theme "End Plastic Pollution". To commemorate the day, our Stann Creek field representative in collaboration with Southern Environmental Association (SEA) and Independence Active Movement (IAM) hosted a community cleanup and a movie night in Independence Village. In Corozal, we partnered with FOCUS to do a beach cleanup. Other activities included presentations promoting environmental awareness efforts as well as an information booth at the University of Belize's annual Earth Day Fair which was attended by hundreds of students in the Belmopan area.



MARINE LITTER

During the months of May and June, Oceana and the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) partnered for Belize's first ever national Marine Litter Campaign and plastic pollution education. During the campaign, CZMAI and Oceana visited 14 schools (10 Primary and 4 Secondary) in coastal communities across Belize which included Corozal Town, Sarteneja Village, Belize City, San Pedro, Dangriga, Hopkins, Seine Bight, Placencia, and Punta Gorda. The goal was to raise awareness on the marine litter issue, as well as conduct microliter sampling of debris found along the coast. Data collected

was fed into a regional database on marine litter in the Caribbean. Other countries involved in this campaign include Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua. Oceana's outreach team later participated in a "Standardization of Methodology for Marine Litter sampling; A citizen scientist approach" Training on 22nd August 2018. The focus of the workshop was to train citizen scientists on the standardization method of the quantification of Marine Litter in Belize. The method utilized the citizen scientist approach of sampling marine litter which Oceana plans to share with its Wavemakers during the upcoming Coastal and Riverways Cleanup in September.

"The data gathered from this exercise will be extremely helpful in quantifying the impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment, ecosystems and the tourism sector. But even more importantly, it will help to identify innovative, meaningful and practical solutions to curb plastic pollution." said Janelle Chanona, Oceana Belize's Vice President. "Oceana is fully committed to supporting all efforts to safeguard our precious marine resources, and the people who depend on them, from these types of overarching threats."

COASTAL CLEAN-UP

On Saturday September 29th, 2018, Oceana and its wavemakers participated in the Scout Association of Belize's 27th annual National Coastal and Riverways Cleanup. At the end of the day, 73,549 items of debris were collected of which 7,961 were Plastic Bottle caps, 7,333 were Metal Bottle Caps, 4,762 Plastic Beverage Bottles, 4,666 were Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.) and 3,226 were other plastic bags summing up the top five items of debris collected.



CLEAN ENERGY

The Petroleum Operations (Offshore Zone Moratorium) law, which indefinitely prohibits offshore oil exploration and drilling everywhere Belize exercises maritime jurisdiction, became law on December 31st, 2017. Since it was enacted, Oceana has referred to it as “The People’s Law” because it has been the unwavering position of the Belizean people that the risks associated with offshore oil is simply too great; any “benefit” is short term and the damage to quality of life, job and food security is irrevocable.

In 2018, Oceana successfully enhanced national endorsement of the ban and leveraged media coverage to increase international visibility of Belize’s leadership. The importance of the moratorium was the main feature of Belize’s annual Reef Week. We emphasized how the legislation impacts Belizeans and the importance of the protections for our country and citizens as well as the role of the legislation in climate change mitigation efforts at a national and regional level.

In June 2018, we hosted an award ceremony to promote the moratorium and to honor Prime Minister Dean Barrow for his decision to ban offshore oil drilling in Belize. At the event, the Prime Minister highlighted Oceana’s key role in achieving this ban and in “pushing leaders to go further” than they would have ever contemplated. The offshore oil moratorium was also a key factor in the decision by the United

Nation’s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Center to acknowledge Belize’s steps towards meaningful stewardship and safeguarding of its World Heritage Site status. At its meeting in late June, UNESCO announced that Belize is no longer on the Sites in Danger list.

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

On Saturday, May 19th at noon, Belizeans around the country joined hands on beaches, across bridges, in conference rooms, along sea walls and in other public areas to celebrate Belize’s historic decision to implement an indefinite offshore oil moratorium to safeguard its natural resources. The event is also a unique platform to promote clean energy alternatives to fossil fuels.

Every year, patriotic Belizeans and nature lovers from across all sectors of society join hands to promote a clean energy future across the world and to end our dependence on fossil fuels in world-wide solidarity events.

Belize was one of 117 countries to organize Hands Across the Sand events world-wide. This year saw the participation of hundreds of residents from Orange Walk town, Dangriga, Belize City, Placencia, Corozal Town, San Ignacio, Hopkins, Sarteneja, Punta Gorda, Caye Caulker, San Pedro and Belmopan.



REEF WEEK 2018: "OUR REEF ROCKS! PROTECT IT. DON'T NEGLECT IT!"

Each year, local 'reef-minded' organizations come together to celebrate Belize's national resource, the Belize Barrier Reef through a week-long celebration, known as Reef Week. This year's Reef Week was officially launched on March 9th, 2018, under the theme: Our reef rocks! Protect it. Don't neglect it!

2018 also marked the International Year of the Reef. To celebrate this and our recent conservation successes, the Reef Week committee kicked off the week with a Launch event: Year of the Reef Declaration. At the launch event, members of the media, conservation community, as well as educational and country leaders were invited to sign onto our Year of the Reef Declaration, a document that would underscore each community member's commitment to support efforts in green policies, single-use plastic reduction, sustainable fishing practices, environmental research and sustainable development.

Oceana also partnered with La Ruta Maya to highlight the race's roots in the ridge to reef message, a concept of preserving the marine habitats and coastal biodiversity of our connected waterways.

Signature Reef Week events included the: Reef Swim (March 12th: English & Goff's Caye), Ride to the Reef (March 10th: Belmopan to Belize City), Lionfish Derby (March 14th- 15th: Stann Creek, Caye Caulker, San Pedro), and the Reef Fair (March 16th: Dangriga).

Other Events, such as classroom presentations, a marine art exhibition, field trips, scuba clean-

up events, and photo & video exhibitions were also a part of the official Reef Week calendar of activities.

Sponsors included Smart Belize, Mahogany Bay Village, Atlantic Bank, Tropic Air, the Belize Tourism Board, Belize Telemedia Limited, RF&G, Chukka Caribbean, Unicomer Belize and Grace Kennedy.

WORLD OCEAN'S DAY

As part of national activities commemorating World Oceans Day 2018, Oceana in Belize and the Belize Coalition to Save Our Natural Heritage officially recognized the Government and people of Belize for their collective leadership in establishing the world's first indefinite moratorium against offshore oil. The Ocean Champion award was formally presented to Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dean Barrow during ceremonies in Belize City on Saturday, June 9th, 2018.

In presenting the award, Oceana's Vice President for Belize, Janelle Chanona, emphasized that the significance of the moratorium cannot be overstated, given the daily dependence of tens of thousands of Belizeans on healthy marine resources. "We are world leaders," said Chanona. "We are proudly loving and protecting the tens of thousands of Belizeans who depend on our world-renowned marine resources. This decision reflects the reality that we may be small but we are strong. And will continue to ensure that this law inspires others to follow the

exemplary leadership of the Government and people of Belize."

In accepting the award, Prime Minister Barrow acknowledged both citizenry and civil society in Belize's historic decision to safeguard marine assets from the inevitable destruction of offshore oil. "I'm grateful at being honored by Oceana in Belize in recognition of Government's role in passing the legislation banning offshore oil exploration in our country. Let me say right off the bat though, that while the particular step with respect to banning offshore oil exploration in our country is extremely important, it is of course, just one step. As the speakers before have made clear, ocean conservation is an ongoing exercise necessitating the deployment of constant vigilance and a toolbox updated as required in view of the continuing challenges. I also want to quote Mahatma Gandhi, who famously said, "If the people lead, the leaders will follow", Right Honorable Prime Minister Dean Barrow.

The closing remarks of the ceremony were delivered by fifteen-year-old Wavemaker Sofia Reyes of E. P. Yorke High School who had this message for Belizean leaders: "Your legacy has guaranteed that my future can include healthy marine resources. Thanks to you they are safe from the inherent threats of this dirty and dangerous industry. Together our voices are roaring through the corridors of power and will echo through time. From my generation to yours, thank you for safeguarding my right to have nature inspire wonder and awe in me."

ONLINE AND IN THE NEWS

In 2018, Oceana's social media following grew to 41,914 supporters; 22,261 followers on Facebook and 19,200 followers on Instagram.

Responsible Fishing and Phasing out of Gillnets in Belize's waters

Oceana's advocacy efforts over the last nine years has shown that the Belizean public is firmly against gillnetting in Belizean waters. Our Communications strategy has always been to remain as transparent as possible with the Belizean public, and this has proven successful in maintaining their engagement and involvement with the responsible fishing campaign.

Our media strategy has consisted of direct calls for transparency to the Fisheries Department, requesting the number and details of gillnet licenses issued to fishers. We have and continue to utilize broadcast media, specifically television and radio to build visibility and support for the campaign, via strategically placed advertisements, press releases and media interviews, as well as appearances on local morning talk shows.

Top press coverage around this issue includes radio and television interviews featuring Oceana in Belize's Vice-President, Janelle Chanona, following a press release Oceana issued in response to a statement made by the newly formed Shark Fishers Association, claiming that getting rid of gillnets would threaten their livelihoods; in addition to two senators, Mark Lizarraga and Osmany Salas, who joined the call to ban gillnets after witnessing firsthand the magnitude of the situation and its impact

at the Sarstoon River during their visit there on November 10th.

The Fish Right, Eat Right Program (FRER) was created with the goal to have seafood purveyors become part of the solution to managing and protecting Belize's natural resources, by agreeing to purchase only seafood that is legally caught, and follow the best management practices, reducing the market for juvenile seafood products and other unsustainable practices. The program is implemented by the Belize Fisheries Department (BFD) and Belize Tourism Board (BTB), along with the support of Belize Federation of Fishers, Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association, Oceana Belize, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and Environmental Defense Fund.

FRER has certified various restaurants on Ambergris Caye for their efforts in promoting sustainable seafood.

Media coverage around Fish Right, Eat Right has included digital and broadcast media hits, in the form of blogs, social media posts, local radio and tv talk show appearances, and interviews.

EVENTS

Oceana's 9th Annual General Meeting

On Saturday October 20th, 2018, Belizeans from across the country came out in waves to the George Price Center in Belmopan to participate in Oceana's Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its dedicated volunteers, our "Wavemakers". Over two hundred and fifty Wavemakers from

Corozal, Orange Walk, the Belize District, San Pedro, San Ignacio, Belmopan, Dangriga, Hopkins and Toledo attended this year's event.

During the meeting, several Wavemakers were awarded certificates of appreciation for their sensational above and beyond support for Oceana's campaigns and initiatives over the past year. Among them were Kariel Slusher from the Belize District; the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and the Health Education and Community Participation Bureau (HECOPAB) from Corozal; the Ocean Academy Wavemakers Club from Caye Caulker; Arren Andrews and Whitney Majano of the Stann Creek District, and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) in Punta Gorda. Oceana was also proud to present a national award when we recognized Ms. Abigail Parham of Stann Creek District as the 2018 Wavemaker of the year.

Invited guest speaker was Mr. Gian Vasquez, History Lecturer at St. John's College Junior College and Facilitator of the Referendum Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His presentation focused on the history of Guatemala's claim to Belize, the implications of either a yes or no vote at the referendum to be held in April 2019 to decide on taking this claim to the International Court of Justice, as well as the current pressures that continue to negatively affect Belize's natural resources such as deforestation and illegal fishing. Mr. Vasquez's presentation was followed by engaging dialogue during the question and answer segment. Most importantly, Vasquez stressed the importance of making an informed decision.

Oceana's 2018 Ocean Heroes

On Saturday, October 27th, 2018, Oceana in Belize was proud to recognize two Belizeans for their invaluable contributions to ocean conservation. The 2018 Oceana Ocean Heroes are Captain Earl David Jr. and Michael J. Heusner.

David Jr. has lived and worked in what is now the South Water Caye Marine Reserve all his life. As a seaman, captain and fisherman, he has advocated for the sustainable use and development of Belize's marine resources. David Jr. has also supported scientific research of coral reefs, mangroves and sea grasses through his technical and logistical assistance to the Smithsonian Institution's field operations at Carrie Bow Caye.

"Well I never really thought about it as, as a hero. I mean, I just do what I had to do and get on with it but I guess it's a good thing you know and I just hope that when it comes to conservation and taking care of the ocean other people who just feel would be as passionate as I am and and lets try and keep this thing for the grandchildren, you know. Atleast they can experience some of this. Because I believe I have seen the changes on the sea. And it's not pretty." [sic]

"Mike" Heusner has been active in conservation in Belize for more than four decades. In 2009, he was a leading advocate for the protection of three sports fishing species to secure the lucrative economic benefits of the fly-fishing sector. Heusner's tireless efforts in this regard continues up to today given that indiscriminate fishing gear such as gillnets undermine the protected status of a host of charismatic

species such as managers and turtles as well as bonefish, tarpon and permit.

"Whatever I've done has been achieved through active participation in various organizations and committees. I challenge the younger generations to get informed and involved in development issues. Work as an advocate rather than an activist. We need activists and we need advocates, who are after the same end result."

Recognition of ocean heroes by Oceana began in 2009. Prior Belizean recipients are Lionel "Chocolate" Heredia, Dr. Melanie McField, former Fisheries Minister Rene Montero, Lisa Carne, Jamal Galves, Miguel Alamilla, Captain Romauldo Badillo Sr., Janet Gibson, Wil Maheia, Luz Hunter, and Madison Edwards.

In presenting the awards to both honorees, Oceana's Vice President for Belize Janelle Chanona shared, "Collectively our awardees represent the reality that as Belizeans we are innately aware of the existential connection between our lives and our natural resources. All around us are men and women who are going above and beyond that call of duty to safeguard Belize, our home. Their actions come straight from the heart; they do what they do not to get praise but because it's the right thing to do—and not necessarily because it's the easy thing to do. And all of us benefit. Very rarely do we even know who these unsung heroes are—much less do we get the opportunity to acknowledge their selfless efforts. At its essence, that is what this award is all about: To express gratitude and to share their stories so that others can be inspired."

About the 2018 awards:

The limestone carvings were made by artist Anthony Vaccario of Maskall village and designed by Gilvano Swasey.

ADDITIONAL PRESS

Journey to the bottom of Belize's Blue Hole

On December 2nd, the Discovery Channel broadcasted Sir Richard Branson's, Fabien Cousteau's and submarine partner the Roatan Institute of Deep Sea Exploration (RIDE)'s expedition to the bottom of Belize's Great Blue Hole. Supported by the Aquatica team of scientists, explorers and filmmakers, scientific data was collected by performing a complete sonar scan of the Blue Hole's interior.

The expedition and its team, received support from leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs); the Belize Audubon Society, responsible for managing the Blue Hole in concert with the Government of Belize, Sir Richard Branson's Ocean Unite, whose goal is to place the ocean at the forefront of political consciousness, Oceanic Global, an ocean conservation non-profit organization that educates and empowers through art, music and technology, Oceana Belize, the local chapter of the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation, and The Fabien Cousteau Learning Center, that works with both children and adults to restore our oceans through the tenets of public awareness, education and special projects. Oceana received hundreds of national and international media hits and press coverage leading up to the broadcast, during the broadcast and post expedition via digital media, tv and radio show

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT



/OceanaInBelize
17K+ Followers



@Oceana_Bze
13K+ Followers

2,200+
WAVEMAKERS

OCEANA Protecting the
World's Oceans

FOLLOW
OCEANA

PLEASE GIVE TODAY TO HELP US REBUILD OCEAN ABUNDANCE

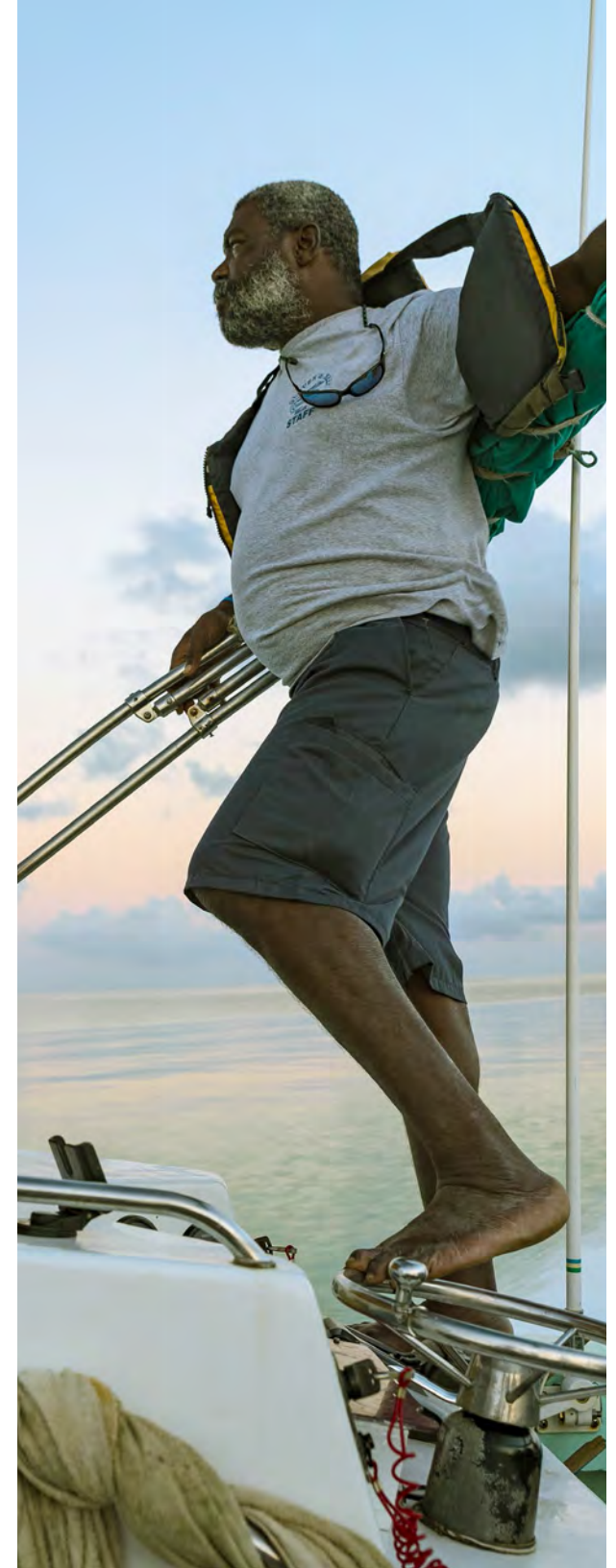
Each of us has the power to help save the oceans and feed the world. The support of people like you allows Oceana to carry out targeted campaigns to end overfishing, limit bycatch, protect habitats and curb ocean pollution. With your help, Oceana can win victories that will help to restore the ocean's bio-diversity and abundance for generations to come. Become part of a growing circle of ocean advocates by joining Oceana today.

TAKE ACTION

Become a Wavemaker and join more than 840,000 Oceana supporters from around the world who have signed up with Oceana to save our oceans. Being a Wavemaker means you won't stand by while shrimp nets drown sea turtles and airgun blasts deafen dolphins to enable offshore drilling. With you by our side, we can fight these and other threats.

FOLLOW OCEANA

Follow Oceana on social media for breaking news from all over the world and insights into our research and campaigns.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Oceana's contributors provide the support that is essential to our campaigns to preserve and rebuild ocean life.



STAFF



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANDREW SHARPLESS	Chief Executive Officer
JAMES SIMON	President & General Counsel
MICHAEL HIRSHFIELD, PH.D.	Senior Advisor
LASSE GUSTAVSSON	Senior Vice President and Executive Director, Europe
MATTHEW LITTLEJOHN	Senior Vice President, Strategic Marketing and Communications
JANELLE CHANONA	Vice President, Belize
JOSHUA LAUGHREN	Executive Director, Oceana Canada
PATRICIA MAJLUF, PH.D.	Vice President, Peru
LIESBETH VAN DER MEER	Vice President, Chile
MONICA BRICK PERES, PH.D.	Vice President, Brazil
GLORIA ESTENZO RAMOS, J.D.	Vice President, Philippines
ADEMILSON ZAMBONI	Vice President, Brazil
JACQUELINE SAVITZ	Vice President, U.S. Oceans
SUSAN MURRAY	Deputy Vice President, U.S. Pacific
NANCY GOLDEN	Vice President, Development
CHRISTOPHER SHARKEY	Chief Financial Officer
KATHRYN MATTHEWS	Chief Scientist

BELIZE

JANELLE CHANONA	Vice President, Belize
DARIUS AVILA	Office Administrator
KELSIE CUEVAS	Executive Assistant
LUIS KYLE MONTERO	Administrative Assistant
ALYSSA CARNEGIE	Communications Director
MARTINIQUE FABRO	Communications Officer
JACINTA GOMEZ	Outreach Director
CAMILLE WADE	Outreach Assistant
KLEON COLEMAN	Field Representative
ANALEE CHUC	Field Representative
SHANDA SAINSBURY	Field Representative
RYAN RIVERA	Intern
ANGEL BRICENO	Field Representative

CONTACT OCEANA | BELMOPAN, BELIZE

2358 Hibiscus Street | P.O. Box 731 | City of Belmopan, Belize, Central America
P | +501-822-2792 • F | +501-822-2797 • E | info@oceana.org

