

THE QUARTERLY CATCH

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CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Mahatma Ghandi once said "A customer is the most important visitor on our premises, he is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so." It is with these words that we wish to thank you our valued clients. We are very grateful for your loyalty throughout the year despite the unprecedented occurrence of Covid 19, so we renew our commitment to offer you only the best service with quality. As we celebrate the holiday season we want to send you and your loved ones our best wishes and hope that you discover the magic of Christmas, sharing moments that will remain in your hearts forever. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to having your preference in the years to come.



Valarie Lanza
Director for High Seas Fisheries

CHRISTMAS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL JEWEL, BELIZE

Delice Pinkard- Senior Fisheries Officer



When November ends and the dreaded hurricane season has seen its last days, most Belizeans breathe a sigh of relief knowing that cooler weather also known as 'cold fronts' or 'north' is coming. And with this change in weather comes the delightful feeling of the Christmas season! Lots of Belizeans and stores begin preparation for the joyous holidays in anticipation of all the

wondrous 'bramming' and merriment of what this special season brings.

With the hustle and bustle of the season, many fisher folks would take their 'skiffs' or boats to sea to seek good catches of lobster and queen conch among many other different fishes to either return for sale or for their delicious Christmas dinner. How the tourists would flock to sunny Belize during this time to enjoy all that the jewel has to offer. Once the fisher folks were satisfied with their earnings, they would return home, some to the coastal villages, to enjoy Christmas with their families before returning to sea again. My grandfather was a fisherman, and he would always bring home the biggest fish he could

find for my grandmother to bake along with her turkey and ham for the family to enjoy. Oh, what a feast it was! My mother used to always tell me that their home was filled with so much aroma from the delicious food and of course my grandfather would invite all his friends from their village to come and play music at their home.

They would go from house to house and play music for everyone to dance and be merry. From my Creole heritage, this was what Belizean Creoles called 'True True Christmas'. A delight it was to see the joy lit up on faces of the little children as they opened their gifts under the tree and danced to the old Creole 'bruk' down music.

What makes Belize so unique is that we are so diverse with our food and culture. During Christmas, one could enjoy a delectable traditional creole turkey dinner with all the trimmings, rum popo and mouth-watering seafood at home and visit the Mestizo neighbour's right after to enjoy hot tamales, 'Bollos' and 'Chimole' which is a blackened soup with chicken, jalapenos, eggs and vegetables. From Indian Christmas cuisines such as Roti and Tikka Masala to Mayan 'Caldo' which is a traditional Mopan Mayan chicken soup to my mother's famous rum soaked Black fruit cake with just the right amount of fruits, pecans, and of course that little extra secret ingredient. Yum!

But let's not forget that at the end of all the merriment, all the gifts, all the food and company, we must all remember what Christmas is truly about. This year's Christmas season unfortunately, in the history of the world will be very different for most of us, but we should always remember the true meaning of Christmas and to be grateful, and that Christmas is about giving, loving and creating memories with loved ones. So remember, it's not just what you have for the Christmas, but who you have to spend it with. MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!



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How We Have Adopted to a Remote Working Culture

by: Stanley Burgess - Monitoring Officer



A company's organization culture is one of the most valuable assets at risk during this Covid-19 Pandemic. Common ideas and social norms that normally brings people together is no longer the same now that most employees are working from home. While long-term remote working is preferred by most employees, it may bring some quantifiable risk to the business and to

the employees. Working remotely does not favor opportunities for critical work relationship building among staff. Nevertheless, the pandemic has pretty much seen to remote working as the new norm and while some companies cannot easily adopt to this way of working some have had little to no disruption in their routine of providing uninterrupted services to their clients.

Here at the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, our staff, while small in numbers have adjusted quite well to remote working. Some prefer the ease of working from home while others enjoy the routine of going to the office. Regardless of the option, we have all the tools in place for business continuity and we are all still available to serve you even more enthusiastically. Rest assured that our remote working conditions have not and will not affect the level of quality and efficient service which we provide to our clients.

IATTC Adopts Conservation Measures for the Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean

With over 70 years of exemplary and consistent work, the IATTC has been an example in the world of fisheries management. However, during the 95th Virtual Annual Meeting of IATTC which was held from 30 November to 4th December, the Commission failed to adopt measures for the continued conservation of tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean putting the tropical tuna fisheries and marine ecosystem at risk.

Belize as a member of the Commission joined other countries in voicing our concern regarding the inaction of the Commission to take decisive actions regarding the tropical tuna fisheries and requested that an extraordinary meeting be called immediately to adopt new measures or at a minimum agree to to the roll over of the existing management measure for another year.

As a result of the interventions by many member countries an extraordinary meeting was called on 22nd December in which the Commission was able to reach consensus for the adoption of conservation measures for tropical tunas for 2021.

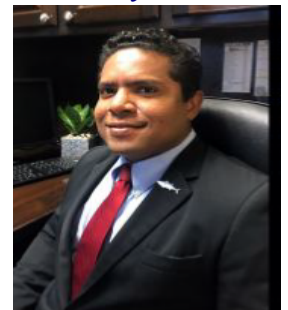
*Celebrates her birthday on
December 25, 2020*



Happy Birthday

We take this opportunity to wish two of our senior staff members a Happy Birthday in advance. May their birthdays be filled with delightful gifts of family, friends and well wishes.

*Celebrates his birthday on
January 10, 2021*



FISH!! IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER-CHRISTMAS DINNER

By: Ernie Howe - Fisheries Officer



In Belizean culture and in most parts of the world, the Christmas season brings a feeling of celebration, sharing and spending quality time with family. In Belize we all look forward to our scrumptious Christmas lunch of baked turkey, ham, rice and beans, potatoe salad and cranberry. Belize is blessed with a diversity of multi-ethnic population, each with their own christmas culture and traditional Christmas dinners.

A typical dish in Belize that is traditionally enjoyed during Christmas season and that comes directly from the Maya Mopan and Ketchi cultures is known as the Banana Leaf Wrapped Whole Snapper. As we all know Christmas is a very special time of the year and most cultures traditionally would prepare ham and turkey or other delicacies, but these Maya ancestors tend to go for a more traditional fish cuisine.

RECIPE

1. 1 Whole Snapper scaled and cleaned
2. 1 Whole Tomatoes Wedge
3. 1 Whole Sweet Pepper Julienne
4. 1 Whole Onion Julienne
5. 1 Small Bunch Culantro Chopped
6. 1 Roasted Guajillo Red Chill
7. 1 Banana Leaf
8. 1/2 teaspoon Achiote Paste
9. 1/4 teaspoon ground Maya Spice
10. 1/4 teaspoon salt
11. Pinch of black pepper
12. 1 lime



Method:

Season the whole fish with spices and place on the center of the banana leaf. Place vegetables around the fish and drizzle with lime juice. Then wrap the fish ensuring that it is sealed completely. Then bake on firewood or fire heart for approximately 15 minutes. The fish should be flaky and juicy when ready to enjoy. The Mayas of the southern part of Belize enjoy this delicacy with fresh home made corn tortillas.

This recipe came courtesy of Chef Samuel Galdamez a native from San Antonio Village, Cayo District.



Pioneering Sustainable Fisheries Management

Belize proudly recognizes the **PLAYA DE AZKORRI** which has voluntarily undertaken to certify its Atlantic unassociated purse seine yellowfin tuna fishery as a member of the National Association of Tuna Freezer Vessel Shipowners (ANABAC); which is comprised of 5 tuna purse-seine companies located in Bermeo, Spain. This level of stewardship demonstrated by the owners of the Playa de Azkorri, and all vessel owners who endeavor to become certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), gives us hope for an ocean full of life and seafood supplies safeguarded for all generations.

By way of background, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international non-profit organization that recognizes and rewards efforts to protect oceans and safeguard seafood supplies for the future. Their mission is to use their ecolabel and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by recognizing and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood and working with their partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.



Belize flagged fishing vessel "PLAYA DE AZKORRI"

FROM OUR HOMES AND FAMILIES TO YOURS



"Time is ever so fragile and we must try to put our hearts forward. Forgive and love those who are still with us now. Be kind to others and treat people as you would yourself. Christmas is but a season but let the meaning of this season carry on throughout the year. Instead of saying 'Merry Christmas' this year, let us all say 'Blessed Christmas' for we are all truly blessed to be here."

Delice Pinkard
Senior Fisheries Officer

Happy
HOLIDAYS



"The year 2020 will be a year to remember, the Corona virus has thought us that everything around us is temporary. All the things we enjoyed have come to a halt and for some we are learning to adopt. It has thought us that in the end it's our home and family that keeps us safe. Lets us take this time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and although we may not be able to spend it with all our families let us keep them in our hearts. Warmest wishes for a refreshing holiday season and a New Year full of happiness, health and success"

Valarie Lanza
Director for High Seas Fisheries

Season's
Greetings



"Thank you for your continued loyalty and support. May the Christmas Season bring peace, joy, hope and love to you and your families and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!"

Robert Robinson
Deputy Director for High Seas Fisheries



"In order to save the lives of our loved ones let's keep our celebration in our hearts and celebrate in the comfort of our homes and in our own bubble. Let us join in prayer as we approach 2021 with a positive mind. Season Greetings and remember-stay home and stay safe."

Ernie Howe
Fisheries Officer



"Wishing you happy holidays and may the spirit of the Christmas Season bring joy, peace and warmth this joyous season. Cheers to 2020 and hello to a happy 2021."

Stanley Burgess
Fisheries Monitoring Officer