

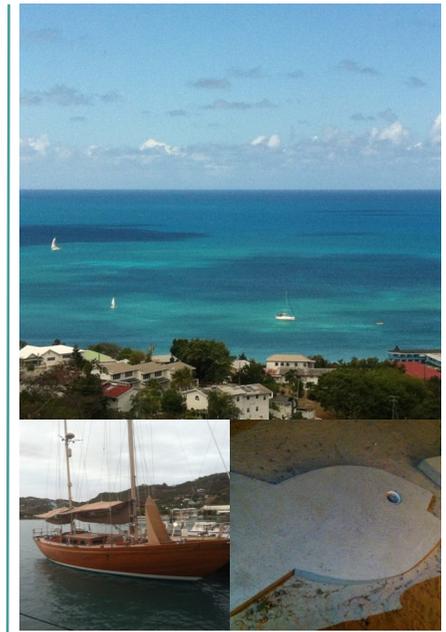


A Marine Policy for Antigua & Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda has sovereign rights and responsibilities over around 108,000 square km of maritime space along with associated living and non-living marine resources such as fisheries and aggregates. Its waters support important and sensitive marine habitats that provide many valuable economic, social and cultural benefits.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is providing technical assistance to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to develop a comprehensive ocean governance framework to support the sustainable development and utilization of the country's marine space and associated resources.



UPDATE

WORKING TOGETHER

This monthly progress report will keep you up-to-date on the development of a national maritime policy, and is also an opportunity to share information, ideas and visions with all of those involved.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| April | May | June |
| July | August | September |
| October | November | December |

Why

Planning of the maritime space is a high priority of Government. This integrates management and sustainable use of fisheries and other living marine resources; exploration and exploitation of non-living marine resources, protection of the marine environment, marine scientific research, maritime customs and immigration enforcement, industries and tourism; and maritime administration including shipping.

A **national maritime policy** is needed to balance across all interests and international and domestic law.

Who

All Government departments have a contribution to make towards a vibrant and sustainable maritime economy and should be involved. This is critical to accommodate all the multiplicity of uses and users of the marine space, now and in the future.

The Oceans Governance Committee is the mechanism for the coordination of Government policy relating to the management of the maritime space under the jurisdiction of Antigua and Barbuda according to international and domestic law.





Where

Where to start? The challenge is to decide what to do, where and when. This requires a strategic **vision** for the gains to be made from the maritime space, and procedures in order to **prioritize** allocation of space, as well as **safeguards** to ensure the sustainability of activities. This requires **policy** to guide governance and management of activities that take place within it.



How

How to decide? Working out what opportunities are available now and what may become available in the future requires consultation with all stakeholders. This will develop cooperative and coordinated approaches across government to outline policy, plans and management procedures to collectively derive the greatest benefit to Antigua and Barbuda.



What

What is happening? The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat are facilitating a national dialogue on behalf of the Oceans Governance Committee to ensure the decisions of today are fit for now and the decades ahead.

Workshop events

Workshops have been held in late September, 2014 and March 2015 to begin and establish a long-term strategy vision to the development of a maritime policy process for Antigua and Barbuda. The discussions will inform a situational and stocktake analysis that will present the current situation, status and use of the maritime space and its resources—what is and what is not known—and clarify the policy options available.



Contact Us

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All Departments and Agencies are **invited** to participate