

# 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 & Who

Planning of the maritime space is a high priority of Government. A **national maritime policy** will balance across all interests and international and domestic law.

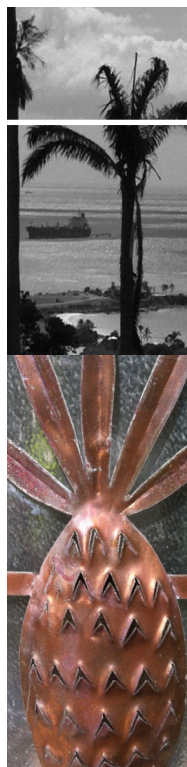
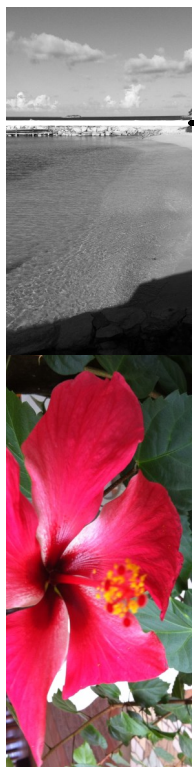
All Government departments have a role to play and should be involved. This is critical to accommodate all the multiplicity of uses and users of the marine space, now and in the future.

The Oceans Governance Committee coordinates Government policy for the management of the maritime space.

## The Blue Economy

The Blue Economy is a long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors to drive the economy of Antigua and Barbuda and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the National Development strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

This newsletter provides background to how the Blue Economy can inform the development of a maritime policy for Antigua and Barbuda.





# Where

**Where to start?** The Blue economy opens up opportunities for initiatives to harness untapped potential from the marine waters of Antigua and Barbuda for jobs and growth. Implementation requires individual sectors to work together to use marine space and resources sustainably whilst respecting the fragile nature of the marine environment.



# How

**How to decide?** The Blue economy recognizes that rapid technological progress can target maritime opportunities for energy and exploitable resources. It acknowledges that the land is a finite resource that can limit social and economic growth. Clear-sighted policymaking will allow the private sector to play a leading role in helping the blue economy reach its sustainable growth potential.

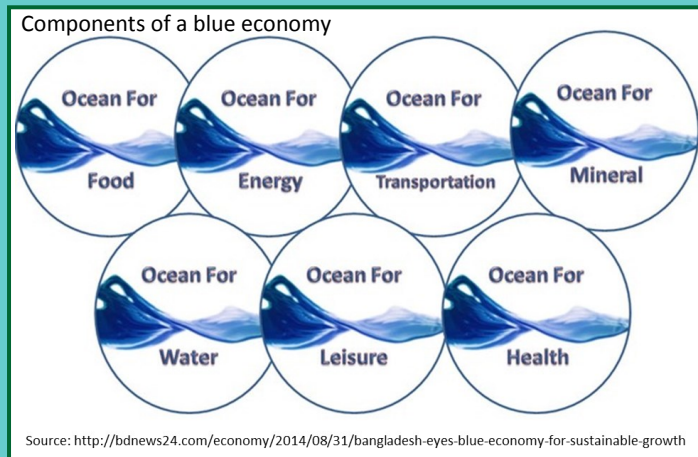


# What

**What is happening?** The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat are using principles of the Blue Economy to structure a maritime policy for Antigua and Barbuda . The policy will be based on an assessment of current maritime activity and engagement across all sectors to explore future opportunities.

## The Blue Economy process

The technical assistance provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat is creating a dialogue between all sectors with an interest in the use of the maritime space and resources of Antigua and Barbuda. Through this process a better understanding of the most appropriate dynamics of a National ocean-based blue economy can be formed. Development of this social and economic opportunity must be sustainable taking into account advantages and strategy of managing the resources of the maritime space. The policy will also address strategies to fill gaps in knowledge and data about the state of the seas, seabed resources, marine life and risks to habitats and ecosystems.



## Contact Us

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