



Commercial fishing vessels have been licensed in Bermuda since 1972, with an average of 180 licensed vessels and approximately 300 licensed commercial fishers active in recent years. This report examines the commercial fishing industry to identify recommended interventions for its sustainable growth and continued management. The focus is to improve outcomes for fishermen, their customers, the environment, and the people of Bermuda.

Find the full reports at [BermudaOceanProsperity.org/blue-economy](https://BermudaOceanProsperity.org/blue-economy)

Public consultations to gather input and opinions regarding the report Recommendations will be conducted from March 15th to May 1st. The report recommendations will then undergo an economic analysis that will be incorporated to the larger Blue Economy Draft Strategy to be discussed with policy makers and shared with the public in the Fall of 2021. The final recommendations in the Blue Economy Strategy will not be legally binding, but are intended to inform policy and investment decisions going forward.

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION 1

#### Increase Harvest of Pelagic Species such as Yellowfin Tuna

Increase harvests of exportable tunas. Pilot the use of anchored Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) as well as piloting a small scale longline vessel set up to catch more yellowfin tuna.

Improve access to ice for improved quality and provide training for sushi grade fish handling techniques for improved quality.

Provide increased local market value with a "virtual auction" to serve locals with sushi grade tuna and other high-value species.



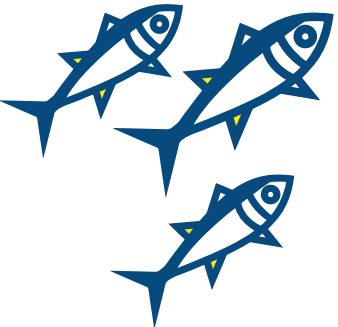
### RECOMMENDATION 2

#### Explore the Use of a Shoreside Facility for Exporting Fresh Tuna Loins

Keep operating costs low & focus on high value product for export.

Incentivize participation by providing trip credit for supplies and running the facility as a cooperative which includes processing facilities that meet safe food handling standards.

Improve Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance with warden validation of catches, Electronic Monitoring, and traceability of product to build data and market certainty.



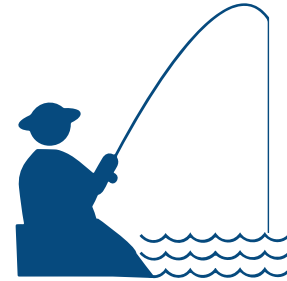
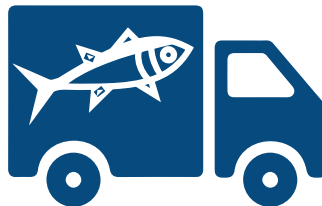
### RECOMMENDATION 3

#### Enhance Commercial Fishing Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance

Enhance electronic reporting by providing fishers with necessary Electronic Monitoring gear. Use reporting apps to design validation systems and price collection.

Transition to mandatory landing/reporting stations and/or a refrigerated truck for consolidated landings.

Pilot Electronic Monitoring if a system can't be designed to alter current behaviour of filleting inshore without validation.



### RECOMMENDATION 4

#### License Recreational Fishers

License non-resident anglers and charge a moderate fee for a 1-3-day license for charter trips to raise funds for fisheries management.

License resident anglers for no fee or a nominal fee to increase data collection and monitoring without creating a burden to locals.

Develop a mechanism to capture license revenue for fisheries management such as changing legislation or using a Public-Private Partnership structure.

### RECOMMENDATION 5

#### Enhance Recreational Fishing Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance

Use licensing to collect data, validate harvest, and cut down on illegal fish sales with an electronic catch reporting app, either an existing app or developing a unique one for Bermuda.

Validate catch and effort data from the app using periodic field, phone, or mail surveys to ensure accuracy and engage the recreational fishers in process.

Drive participation by withholding licensure for non-reporting.



## HOW DO WE PAY FOR IT?

### VALUE ADDS

Construction of Shoreside Facility

*(While the construction of a facility is not part of this report's recommendations, it is acknowledged that the Government is working to move forward with a facility & thus is included here for context.)*

Reporting Apps

Training & Transition

Electronic Monitoring

Marketing Plan for Enhanced Tuna Products

Fisheries Improvement Project Audit

Food Safety Training & Audits

Refrigerated Truck

Recreational Catch and Effort Validation

Commercial Validation

Annual FIP Audit

### COST

\$1,500,000

\$589k Start-up cost

(\$550k without Electronic Monitoring)

\$650k Yearly cost

(\$620k without Electronic Monitoring)

### FUNDING

Pledge from Government

Start-up Loan

Tourist angling licensing fees, increased tuna landings, or tax

## DEVELOPED BY:



BERMUDA OCEAN  
PROSPERITY PROGRAMME  
STEERING COMMITTEE

The Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme is a commitment to support Bermuda's Blue Economy, promote sustainable and profitable fisheries, and fully-protect 20% of Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone.