

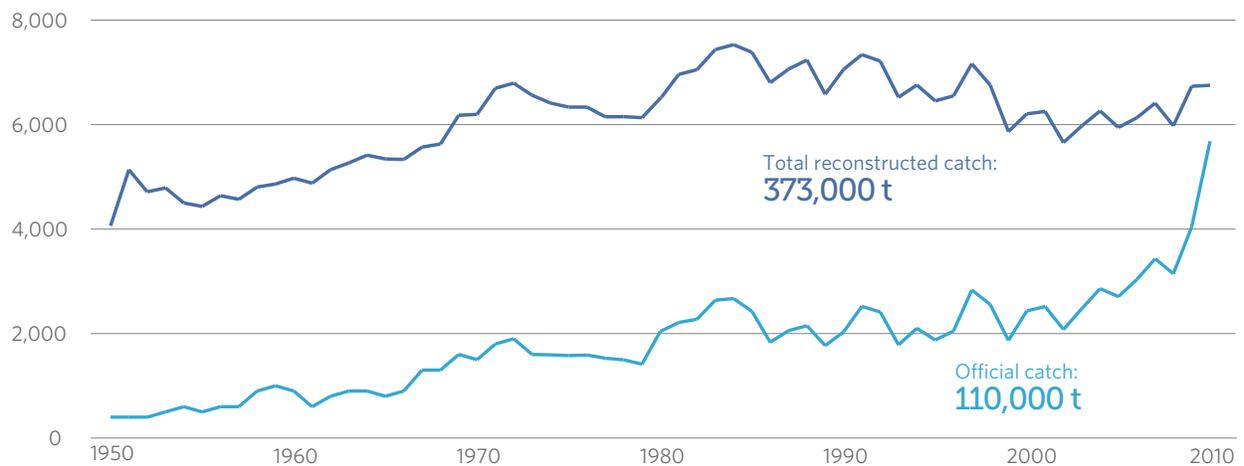
Belize Catch Reconstruction

Overview

Official fisheries data for Belize cover only exports and fish sold through fishing cooperatives. "Catch reconstruction" is an approach that supplements official data with information from a broad range of sources. This fact sheet presents results and methods from a catch reconstruction study of Belize, which shows a decline in finfish catch for the first time.



Reconstructed Fisheries Catch of Belize, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



Note: Figures are rounded.

Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



Source: The *Sea Around Us* project
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Data Sources for Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Metric Tons 1950-2010

Type of fishing	Catch	Data sources
Artisanal	263,000	<p>Data for four types of artisanal catch were reconstructed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For exported catch, researchers extrapolated back to 1950 using improved official data from later periods. 2. For domestic markets, researchers used estimates of per-capita consumption in 1950, 1992, and 2008. They interpolated these for the rest of the time series and multiplied by each year's human population estimate. 3. For shark catches, a published estimate indicates that catch was 800 metric tons in 2006. Based on a 2007 survey of fishers, researchers assumed that this was 50 percent higher in 1985 and that the fishery started at zero in 1937. They interpolated between these three data points for the intervening years. 4. For the tourist market, researchers used a published estimate of per-tourist lobster consumption plus industry data on hotel occupancy and the number of hotel rooms.
Subsistence	93,500	<p>Researchers used human population data for Belize plus a consumption estimate from 1944 to calculate catch in 1950. This was assumed to decline substantially starting in 1950, by 90 percent in urban areas and 80 percent in rural areas.</p>
Discards	8,800	<p>Researchers assumed discards came only from shrimp trawlers, which represent the vast majority of industrial boats. They used published estimates of shrimp-to-discard ratios: 1-to-5 from 1966 to 1978 and 1-to-2.5 for the 2000s, interpolating linearly for the intervening years.</p>
Industrial	8,000	<p>Official data deemed accurate.</p>

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