



**BELIZE**

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT  
CHAPTER 329**

**REVISED EDITION 2000**  
SHOWING THE LAW AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2000

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 1980 - 1990.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws-	Page
<b>ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS</b>	3
<b>COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT</b>	6
Amendments in force as at 31st December, 2000.	



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**CHAPTER 329**

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**

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## CHAPTER 329

## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

5 of 1998.  
Commencement  
[ 8. 5. 1998]  
S.I. 52 of 1998.

[16th April, 1998]

## PART I

*Preliminary*

Short title and  
commencement.

1.-(1) This Act may be cited as the Coastal Zone Management Act.

(2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“Authority” means the Coastal Zone Management Authority established under section 3 of this Act;

“Board” means the Authority’s Board of Directors established under section 14 of this Act;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Authority’s Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 11 of this Act;

“coastal zone management” includes the conservation of the Barrier Reef and other coastal resources, and the planning, management and sustainable development of resources within the coastal zone;

“coastal waters” means the sea, as that term is defined herein, and those waters adjacent of the landward line of the adjoining land, or of land connected permanently or intermittently with the sea, which contain a measurable quantity of seawater, including but not limited to sounds, bays, lagoons, ponds and estuaries;

“coastal zone” includes the area bounded by the shoreline up to the mean highwater-mark on its landward side and by the outer limit of the territorial sea on its seaward side, including all coastal waters;

Interpretation.

“Council” means the Advisory Council established under section 6 of this Act;

“Director” means the Director of the Coastal Zone Management Institute appointed under section 13 of this Act;

“Minister” means the Minister for the time being responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries;

“fish” means any of the species of fish specified in Schedule V of the Fisheries Regulations;

Sub. Leg.  
1991 Edn.  
Vol. IV.  
CAP. 174.  
p. 7.

“Institute” means the Coastal Zone Management Institute established under section 8 of this Act;

“sea” means the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and all areas subject to tidal action through any connection with the Caribbean Sea or the Atlantic Ocean, including but not limited to harbours, bays, channels, estuaries, salt ponds and marshes, but excluding streams, tributaries, creeks, and flood control and drainage channels;

“sports fishing” means fishing for recreational purposes only without the intention of selling the fish.

## PART II

### *Establishment and Objectives of the Authority, the Council and the Institute*

3.-(1) A body to be known as the Coastal Zone Management Authority is hereby established as an autonomous institution governed by the provisions of this Act.

Establishment of  
Authority.

(2) The Authority may exercise any of the functions entrusted to it

by or in accordance with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder and may exercise any other duties incidental or ancillary to, or consequential upon, the performance of its functions.

Body corporate.

4.-(1) The Authority shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and, subject to the provisions of this Act, shall have power to acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property of whatever kind and to enter into contracts and do all things necessary for the fulfillment of its objectives.

(2) The Authority may sue and be sued in its corporate name and shall for all purposes be described by that name.

(3) The seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman of the Board or the Chief Executive Officer and one other Director authorized by the Board to act for that purpose, and the seal thus authenticated shall be judicially and officially noticed.

(4) All documents made by the Authority, other than those required by law to be made under seal, shall be signified under the hand of the Chairman of the Board or the Chief Executive Officer, and one other Director authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.

(5) The Authority shall have its principal office in Belize City or at such other place in Belize as the Board may decide.

(6) The Authority may establish regional or local offices in any locations within Belize as it considers necessary.

Functions of the Authority.

5.-(1) The functions of the Authority shall be to:-

- (a) advise the Minister on all matters relating to the development and utilization of the resources of the coastal zone in an orderly and sustainable fashion;
- (b) advise the Minister on the formation of policies in



regard to the coastal zone;

- (c) assist in the development and implementation of programmes and projects that translate the marine and related policies of the Government into activities that contribute to sustainable development of coastal resources;
- (d) assist in the development and execution of programmes and projects that foster and encourage regional and international collaboration in the use of marine and other related areas of the environment;
- (e) review the Coastal Zone Management Plan prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part V of this Act and furnish recommendations thereon, if any, to the Minister;
- (f) commission research and monitoring in any coastal area or in relation to any activity which may impact on such areas;
- (g) promote public awareness of the unique nature of the Belize coastal zone and of the importance of its effective conservation and the sustainable management and utilization of its resources for the benefit of present and future generations of Belizeans;
- (h) in consultation with governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and the private sector, assist in the preparation of guidelines for developers for coastal zone development;
- (i) co-operate with government departments, statutory boards, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on matters that are likely to have an impact on the

ecology of the coastal zone;

- (j) in collaboration with government and private sector agencies, maintain a national coral reef monitoring programme and coastal water quality monitoring programme and any other technical monitoring programmes;
- (k) advise the Minister on any other matters relating to the coastal resources that may be referred to the Authority by the Minister.

(2) In the exercise of its functions, the Authority may:-

- (a) appoint committees to examine and submit reports to it on any matters arising out of or connected with any of its functions, and any such committee may consist of at least one member of the Board together with such other persons, whether members or not, whose advice or assistance the Board may consider necessary;
- (b) by resolution:-
  - (i) reject or adopt wholly or with modifications, the report of any committee appointed under paragraph (a) above;
  - (ii) declare the remuneration and allowances, if any, payable to persons other than members of the Board, appointed to a committee under paragraph (a) above;
  - (iii) determine the limit on the value of goods and services which the Chief Executive Officer may procure without the consent of the Board;

- (c) do all such other things as may be necessary or expedient for the proper performance of its functions.

(3) The Authority shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Institute including:

- (a) approving the work programmes;
- (b) approving the budget;
- (c) appropriating funds for the budget of the Institute;
- (d) considering the annual reports;
- (e) securing finances for the Institute; and
- (f) generally doing and taking all such steps as may be deemed necessary for the achievement of the objects of the Institute.

6.-(1) There is hereby established an Advisory Council appointed by the Authority consisting of -

Establishment and composition of Advisory Council.

- (a) the Fisheries Administrator;
- (b) the Chief Forest Officer;
- (c) the Chief Environmental Officer;
- (d) the Ports Commissioner;
- (e) the Commissioner of Lands;
- (f) the Director of the Office of Geology and Petroleum;
- (g) the Director, Belize Tourism Board;

- (h) the Principal Public Health Officer;
- (i) the Physical Planner in the Ministry of Natural Resources;
- (j) the Housing and Planning Officer, Housing and Planning Department;
- (k) two representatives from nongovernmental organizations, namely, one from a conservation organization, and one from the tourism private sector;
- (l) not more than two members from the private sector who are suitably qualified in or have technical competence and experience in one or more of the following disciplines:
  - (i) marine fisheries and aquaculture;
  - (ii) physical and engineering sciences;
  - (iii) marine technology;
  - (iv) environmental science;
  - (v) business management;
- (m) the Director, University of Belize Marine Research Centre;
- (n) the Director of the Institute, who shall be an *ex officio* member.

(2) The Director of the Institute shall be the Secretary to the Council.

- (3) The Council shall elect one of its members as Chairman.
- (4) Where for any reason the Chairman is unable to preside at any meeting of the Council, the members present shall elect one of their members to preside at that meeting.
- (5) The quorum of any meeting of the Council shall be seven members and the decision of the majority present and voting at the meeting shall be the decision of the Council.
- (6) The Council shall maintain proper records of its proceedings.

7. The functions of the Council shall be to:-

Functions of  
Advisory  
Council.

- (a) advise the Institute on technical and other related matters;
- (b) advise the Authority on any matter with a view to enabling the Institute to perform its functions;
- (c) at the request of the Authority, formulate draft policies, plans and programmes relating to coastal zone management;
- (d) facilitate and encourage the sharing of information among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions with regard to coastal zone matters;
- (e) review the Coastal Zone Management Plan prepared in accordance with Part V of this Act;
- (f) perform any other duties as may be assigned to it by this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

- Establishment of Institute. 8. There is hereby established an Institute to be known as the Coastal Zone Management Institute.
- Objects of the Institute. 9. The objects of the Institute are:
- (a) to stimulate and advance the conduct of marine scientific research in Belize;
  - (b) to promote the utilization and conservation of the marine resources for the economic and social benefit of Belize, and to enhance the national capabilities of Belize in the conduct of marine scientific research;
  - (c) to promote a public understanding of the appreciation for all aspects of the marine and related environment;
  - (d) to do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
- Functions of the Institute. 10. The functions of the Institute are:
- (a) to conduct research and development on the marine environment of Belize, the Caribbean and adjacent regions;
  - (b) to collaborate in the maintenance of a centralized accessible centre for information and research related to the coastal zone;
  - (c) to provide support to the University of Belize initiative in providing courses and educational programmes related to the coastal zone;
  - (d) to study the multiple uses of the sea and coastal zones, their resources and potential use in Belize, the Caribbean and adjacent regions, and to evaluate and

promote such studies with a view to minimizing possible conflicts which may result from such uses;

- (e) to establish the Institute as an information center for the collection and dissemination of information relating to economic, social, technological, scientific, environmental and legal developments in the marine areas and coastal zones of the Caribbean and adjacent regions;
- (f) to provide information and advice to the Authority in its formulation of policies relating to the coastal resources;
- (g) to respond to technical enquiries and questions made by policy-making organs of the Government, private sector organizations and individuals;
- (h) to organize training courses and projects that foster and encourage regional and international collaboration in the sustainable use of coastal resources;
- (i) to advise on the development and optimum utilization of the marine and coastal resources potential of Belize;
- (j) to assist the Authority in the development of technical guidelines for the sustainable use of coastal resources;
- (k) to provide support to governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, and educational institutions on matters relating to coral reef and water quality monitoring;
- (l) to provide advice, as required, on development activities within the coastal zone;
- (m) to facilitate the sharing of information on coastal

resources among governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and the private sector;

- (n) to assist the Authority in identifying technical problems and provide advice to government, non-governmental agencies and the private sector on coastal zone management issues;
- (o) to take such action as may be necessary or expedient for the proper performance of its functions.

### PART III

#### *Appointment of Staff, etc., of the Authority and the Institute*

Appointment of staff for the Authority.

11. (1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint and employ, at such remuneration and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, a suitable qualified Chief Executive Officer for the Authority.

(2) The Board may appoint and employ, on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer and at such remuneration and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such other officers, employees and agents as it considers necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Authority.

Duties of Chief Executive Officer.

12. The Chief Executive Officer shall, subject to the general policy directions of the Board, be responsible for:-

- (a) the administration and implementation of the provisions of this Act;
- (b) the efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the Authority;
- (c) the organization of staff in accordance with the general terms and conditions of service established by the Board; and



- (d) such other duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

13.-(1) The Board may appoint and employ, at such remuneration and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, a Director for the Institute.

Appointment of Director and staff of the Institute.

(2) The Board may appoint and employ, on the recommendations of the Director, and at such remuneration and subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such other officers, employees and agents as it considers necessary for the proper performance and administration of the affairs of the Institute.

(3) The Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Institute, and, subject to the other provisions of this Act, shall be responsible for the efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the Institute, including the programme of its activities, the control and use of its equipment, vessels and vehicles. The Director shall also be responsible for the effective management of research projects and consultancy services of the Institute.

(4) The Director shall actively explore opportunities from local, regional and international sources for funding the programmes of the Institute.

#### PART IV

##### *Administration*

14. There shall be a Board of Directors of the Authority, which shall be appointed by the Minister and constituted as provided in section 15 below, and the Board shall be the principal policy-making organ of the Authority.

Board of Directors.

15.-(1) The Board of Directors shall consist of the following nine members:-

Composition of Board of Directors.

- (a) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for Fisheries;

- (b) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for Forestry;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for the Environment;
- (d) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for Economic Development;
- (e) the President of the University of Belize;
- (f) one representative from non-governmental organizations;
- (g) one person representing the private sector;
- (h) the Chief Executive Officer, *ex officio*, without a right to vote;
- (i) the Director of the Institute, *ex officio*, without a right to vote.

(2) The non-governmental members of the Board shall be nominated by their respective non-governmental organization or network. Only persons who are qualified and are from organizations or networks recognized by the Minister shall be appointed after nomination.

(3) The Minister shall appoint one of the Directors to be Chairman of the Board and the Chairman shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for reappointment. The Chairman shall be appointed on a rotating basis from among the members listed in subsection (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.

(4) The directors shall elect from their number, a Deputy Chairman who shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for reappointment. The Deputy Chairman shall be elected from among the

members listed in subsection (1) (c), (f), or (g) above.

(5) Where for any reason, the Chairman is unable to preside at any meeting of the Board:-

- (a) the Deputy Chairman shall preside if he is present and able to preside; and
- (b) if the Deputy Chairman is absent or is for any reason unable to preside at the meeting, then the Directors present shall elect one of their members to preside.

(6) Any vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled in the same manner as the appointment or election of the member vacating office.

16. (1) Every appointed member of the Board shall hold office for a period of three years, unless he earlier vacates office by death, resignation or removal.

Terms of office of appointed members of the Board.

(2) An appointed member may at any time resign his office by letter to that effect addressed to the Minister.

(3) If an appointed member at any time resigns or is removed from office, the Minister may, having regard to the provisions of section 15 above, appoint any other person to be a member in place of the member who dies, resigns or is removed from office.

(4) A member who has been appointed under subsection (3) above shall, unless he earlier vacates his office by death, resignation or removal, hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of his predecessor.

(5) Where an appointed member of the Board is by reason of illness, infirmity or absence from Belize for a period of not less than three months, temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office, it shall be the duty of the Board or of such member to so inform the Minister in writing. The Minister may, having regard to the provisions of subsections (1) and (6)

of section 15 above, appoint another person to act in the place of such member.

(6) Any appointed member of the Authority who vacates office other than by removal shall be eligible for reappointment

Meetings of the Board.

17.-(1) The Board of Directors shall meet as often as the business of the Board requires but not less frequently than once every two months in the year.

(2) The Chairman, or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, shall summon a special meeting of the Board within seven days of a requisition for that purpose addressed to him in writing by any five Directors.

(3) The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be five Directors, of whom at least three must be members appointed under section 15(1) (a), (b), (c) or (d).

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

(5) Decisions of the Board shall be by majority of the votes cast, provided that in any case in which the voting is equal, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) No act, decision or proceeding of the Board shall be invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy in the Board or any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board.

(7) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the Secretary to the Board. He shall ensure that all records of the Board's acts and decisions are properly kept and maintained.

Disqualifications to be a director.

18.-(1) No person shall be appointed or remain a Director of the Board who is a member of the National Assembly.

(2) The Minister may terminate the appointment of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman or any other Director of the Board only if the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, or such Director, as the case may be:

- (a) by letter to that effect addressed to the Minister, resigns his office;
- (b) becomes subject to the disqualification specified in subsection (1);
- (c) becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or compounds with his creditors or benefits under the law for the relief of a bankrupt or makes any assignment in whole or in part of his income for the benefit of such creditors;
- (d) is convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, or of any other offence punishable with not less than three years imprisonment; whether or not the convicted person is awarded such sentence;
- (e) becomes totally or permanently incapable of performing his duties;
- (f) is guilty of gross misconduct.

(3) The Minister may terminate the appointment of a Director of the Board who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave from the Board.

(4) The names of all members of the Board as first constituted, their terms of office and every change in the membership shall be published in the *Gazette*.

Delegation of powers.	<p>19.-(1) The Board may from time to time, in respect of any particular matter or class of matters, and in writing, delegate to any member or to the Chief Executive Officer any of its functions under this Act except this power of delegation and the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) approving annual budgets or programme of activities;</li> <li>(b) making regulations;</li> <li>(c) carrying out activities which require off-budget expenditures.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Subject to any general directions given to him by the Board, the person to whom any powers are so delegated may exercise those powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had been conferred on him directly by this Act and not by delegation.</p> <p>(3) Every person purporting to act pursuant to a delegation under this section shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be presumed to be acting in accordance with the terms of the delegation.</p> <p>(4) Every delegation under this section shall be revocable at will by the Board, and no such delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power by the Board.</p>
Protection of Directors.	<p>20. No Director shall be personally liable for any act or omission of the Authority, Board, Council, Institute, or of any other Director or officer of the Authority, Board, Council, or Institute, if the act or omission is made in good faith in the course of the operations of the Authority, Board, Council, or the Institute.</p>
Remuneration of Directors	<p>21. The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be compensated for reasonable costs incurred for attending Board meetings or conducting other business of the Board.</p>
Rules of the Authority.	<p>22. The Board may from time to time make rules for the Authority, not inconsistent with this Act, for all or any of the following purposes:</p>

- (a) regulating the proceedings of the Authority;
- (b) providing for the custody of the property of the Authority, and the custody and use of the common seal of the Authority;
- (c) regulating the terms and conditions of employment of persons appointed under sections 11, 12 and 13 above;
- (d) providing for such other matters as may be necessary or expedient for the carrying out of the functions of the Authority.

(2) Notice in writing of every proposed resolution to make rules under this section or for the amendment or revocation of any rule so made, (including a copy of the proposed rules, amendment, or revocation) shall be given to every member of the Board not less than 21 days before the meeting at which the proposal is to be moved, but an inadvertent failure to comply with this subsection shall not invalidate the making, amendment, or revocation of any rule at that meeting.

PART V

*Coastal Zone Management Plan*

23.-(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall, not later than three years after the appointed date, submit to the Board a comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan (hereinafter referred to as “the Plan”). The Plan shall include:

Coastal Zone  
Management  
Plan.

- (a) guidelines to be used in determining the suitability of particular development activities in the coastal zone;
- (b) guidelines for the general monitoring of the coastal zone, including its biological species, communities and habitats;

- (c) proposals, including existing proposals from Government agencies, relating to the coastal zone which deal with the following subjects:
- (i) land use;
  - (ii) planning for the establishment of marine protected areas and for the conservation of threatened or potentially threatened or endangered species;
  - (ii) preservation and management of the scenic, cultural and other natural resources;
  - (iv) recreation and tourism;
  - (v) monitoring of the environment and natural resources, mineral extraction, living resources, human settlements, agriculture, aquaculture, and industry;
- (d) proposals for the reservation of land or water in the coastal zone for certain uses, or for the prohibition of certain activities in certain areas of the coastal zone; and
- (e) recommendations for the improvement of public education as well as public participation in management of coastal resources;
- (f) recommendations for strengthening governmental policies and powers and the conduct of research for the purposes of coastal resources conservation and management.



(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall, in the preparation of the Plan, consult with all affected governmental agencies, statutory bodies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

(3) The Board shall, within sixty days of the Plan being submitted to it by the Chief Executive Officer, make modifications, if any, to the Plan, and by Order published in the *Gazette*, notify the public that it is available for public inspection. Any person may, within sixty days of the date on which the Plan is made available for public inspection, submit any comments thereon to the Authority in writing.

(4) At the end of the period of sixty days referred to in subsection (3) above, the Board may approve the Plan subject to such modifications, if any, as it may consider necessary, having regard to any comments submitted to it under subsection (3) above.

(5) After approving the Plan as specified in subsection (4) above, the Board shall submit the Plan (together with any comments received from the public) to the Minister for his approval.

(6) After approving the Plan, the Minister shall table the Plan in the House of Representatives for approval by the House by affirmative resolution.

(7) Upon the approval of the Plan by the House, it shall be published in three consecutive issues of the *Gazette*.

(8) The Plan shall come into operation on the date of the last publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

(9) The Plan shall be revised during the period of four years commencing from the date of its coming into operation, and during such revision, the provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) above shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply in respect of every such revision.

(10) The Plan shall be implemented by governmental and non-governmental agencies responsible for aspects of the Plan.

(11) The Authority shall, in consultation with all affected governmental and non-governmental agencies, monitor the implementation of the Plan.

## PART VI

### *Financial Provisions, Accounts and Reports*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Charges.                              | 24. The Institute may charge fees for services rendered to the private sector.  |
| Agreement.                            | 25. The Institute may, with the approval of the Authority, enter into agreements for the purchase, sale or lease of land or for other purposes connected with the objects and functions of the Institute.   |
| Funds and resources of the Authority. | 26. The funds and resources of the Authority shall consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) such sums as may be provided for that purpose from time to time by the National Assembly;</li> <li>(b) all sums as may be collected in the form of fees or charges;</li> <li>(c) contributions allocated to it from external funding agencies;</li> <li>(d) all other sums or property which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Board in respect of any matter incidental to its powers and duties;</li> <li>(e) all sums collected under the authority of this Act or regulations made thereunder or under any other law;</li> </ul> |

- (f) any other money or property lawfully contributed, donated, or bequeathed to the Authority from any source.

27.-(1) The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, prescribe fees to be levied by the Authority for the use of natural resources within the coastal zone. Fees

(2) An Order made under subsection (1) above shall, as soon as may be after the making thereof, be laid before the House of Representatives and shall be subject to negative resolution.

28.-(1) Any person who is desirous of conducting sports fishing within Belizean territorial waters shall obtain a licence at a fee and on terms and conditions prescribed by the Minister. Sports fishing licence fee.

(2) The licensee shall not kill any fish caught under a sports fishing licence.

(3) The sports fishing licence fee shall be paid to the account of the Authority.

29.-(1) The Authority shall keep accounts and other records in relation to its business and shall prepare annually a statement of its accounts, including those of the Institute, in a form satisfactory to the Minister, being a form which shall conform to the best commercial and accounting standards. Accounts and audit.

(2) The accounts of the Authority, including the Institute, shall be audited annually by an auditor appointed in each year by the Board.

30. The Board shall, in such form and by such dates as may be prescribed by the Financial Secretary, prepare and submit to the Minister responsible for Finance, through the Minister, estimates of income receivable and the expenditure to be incurred during each financial year (including any supplementary estimates), and the Minister responsible for Finance shall present the said estimates to the National Assembly with such amendments and modifications, if any, as he may consider necessary. Submission of budget estimates.

Application of  
revenue.

31. The revenue of the Authority shall be applied for the purposes authorized by this Act in relation to the functions, powers and responsibilities of the Authority, and also to meet the following heads of expenditures:-

- (a) repairs and maintenance of buildings and equipment and other current expenses;
- (b) any other expenditure approved by the Board.

Financial and  
accounting  
procedures.

32.-(1) The Authority shall establish and maintain sound financial and accounting procedures, where such procedures relate to the following matters:-

- (a) the determination of rates of depreciation;
- (b) the establishment of procedures governing reserves, accumulated surpluses or deficits and the disposal of balances and net revenue.

(2) The procedures referred to in subsection (1) above shall be subject to the approval of the Minister responsible for Finance.

Annual report.

33.-(1) The Authority shall, as soon as is practicable after the end of each financial year, cause to be made and transmitted to the Minister a report containing:-

- (a) an account of its transactions throughout the preceding year in such detail as the Minister may direct; and
- (b) a statement of the accounts of the Authority audited in accordance with section 29.

(2) The Minister shall cause a copy of the report, together with the annual statement of accounts and the auditor's report thereon, to be laid on the table of the House of Representatives.

34. The Board shall establish a Barrier Reef Foundation to receive gifts and donations and to raise funds to promote the conservation and management of the coastal resources of Belize, including the barrier reef. Establishment of Foundation.

## PART VII

*General*

35. It shall be lawful for the Chief Executive Officer or any officer generally or specially authorized by him in writing, at any reasonable time to enter upon any land within the coastal zone and to do such acts as may be reasonably necessary for the purpose of executing any scheme of work or of making any survey, examination or investigation, preliminary or incidental to the exercise of any power or the discharge of any function under this Act, or any regulations made thereunder. Powers of entry.

- 36.-(1) The Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for the better carrying out of the objects of this Act. Regulations.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) above shall be subject to negative resolution.

- 37.-(1) The Authority and the Institute shall be exempt from the payment of income tax and property tax. Exemption from income tax, property tax and stamp duty.

(2) All instruments executed by or on behalf of the Authority or the Institute shall be exempt from stamp duty.

38. The Authority and the Institute shall be entitled to the same protection under the Public Authorities Protection Act as if both were included in the definition of "Public Authority" given in section 2 of that Act, and the places at which both shall hold meetings shall be deemed to be their respective 'abode' within the meaning of that Act. Authority and Institute protected by Public Authorities Protection Act. CAP. 31.