

# CONCH GROUP

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## Conch Shell Project

# OUTLINE

- What is the Conch?
- CITES Regulation
- SGA
- Our Project
- Call to Action



# STROMBUS GIGAS: THE QUEEN CONCH

- Marine gastropod with external, spiral-shaped shell
- Found in Caribbean from Bermuda to Brazil
- Full Size: 12 inches and ~5 lbs (3-5 yrs)



# PARTS OF THE CONCH

- Shell
- Operculum
- Harvested Meat
- Meat Scrapings
- Enzyme Rod



# CONCH MEAT FOR HARVEST

- In one year...
  - More than 4 million animals harvested
  - 950,000 pounds of cleaned fillet exported
    - Meat Harvest (15% of the animal)
    - Conch Fillet (8% of the animal)
- Problem...
  - 85% minimum waste = approx. 19 million lbs. wasted in Belize alone!!
  - Unsustainable harvest
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# CONCH WASTE: SHELL MIDDENS

- Definition:
  - Collection of wasted shells that are tossed away
- Problem:
  - Conch shell populations
  - Marine life
  - Coral reef



# SARAH

“Awareness is critical to confront change. Now that we are aware of the conch waste in the ocean, we can do our best to find a solution.”



A sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water's surface. The sky transitions from a bright yellow near the sun to a deep blue at the top. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples. In the distance, a low horizon line with some faint structures is visible.


**“If they don’t start changing...the institutional structure, the problems are going to exist forever.”**

**- *Where’s the Learning in Service Learning,*  
Chapter 6**


# CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)


- Definition:
  - International treaty to protect wildlife across the world
- Appendix II
  - Regulates the import and export of queen conch

# CURRENT REGULATIONS IN BELIZE

- No take zones
  - Limit quotas
  - Size and weight restrictions
  - Seasonal closures
  - Difficult to export legally
  
  - Intended to change the structure, but caused new problems, such as...
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# CITES AND WASTE

- As previously states, lots of the animal is wasted – both meat and other byproducts
  - CITES unintentionally condones this waste, but that is not the purpose of the legislation
  - SGA is hoping to pass a resolution that would alter the way conch byproducts can be used and transported
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A sunset over a body of water with a cloudy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow. The water is dark blue with some ripples. In the distance, there are some faint silhouettes of structures or land.

**“Worthy service projects are often described solely as the pursuit of a good cause. We have ignored the effects of service and the voices of the recipients of service for so long.”**

***Service-Learning and Multicultural/Multiethnic Perspectives***

# STROMBUS GIGAS ALLIANCE (SGA)

- International non-governmental organization
- Mission:
  - Conserve Queen Conch and related products
  - Promote livelihoods of fisherfolk and communities
- Projects:
  - Find added value to wasted by-products of meat harvest
  - Ensure the global trade of the Queen Conch
- Adhere to CITES!

## KELSEY REFLECTION

“This [experience] continues to remind me of how difficult it is to start a project of this magnitude - it takes such a long time ... The entire process is lethargic!”



# FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH

- Orientation on SGA and Conch Shell
- Initial Project Development
  - Windchime
  - Waterfall
  - Conch-crete
- Uses for the Conch



# USES

## ➤ Ancient Mayans

- Food
- Art
- Structures
- Weapons
- Music

## ➤ Current

- Food
  - Jewelry
  - Building material
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# PICTURES




# REFLECTION

“Service is not only measured directly or indirectly, service can be measured through advocacy too. We are helping create a platform and voice for SGA.”



# MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH

- Project Progress
  - Regroup and Redesign
  - Conch Extraction and Filet
  - Snorkeling for Live Conch
- 
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# Regroup and Redesign

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, some dark and some catching the light. The water in the foreground is dark with gentle ripples. In the distance, a low horizon line with some faint structures is visible.

**“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”**

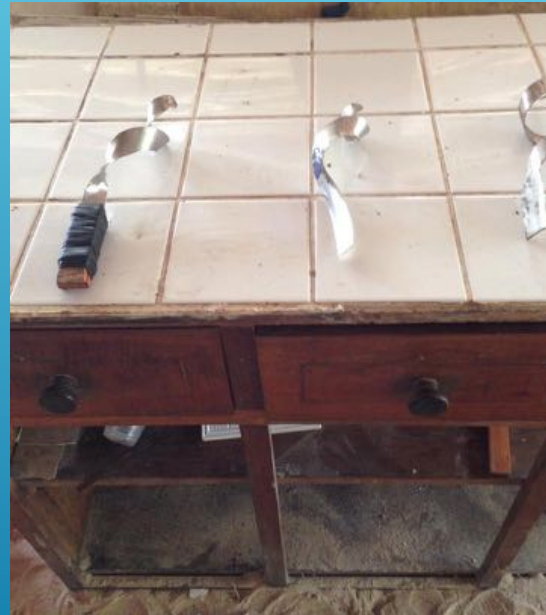
**-Thomas Edison**

# MEAT EXTRACTION TOOL

Knocking the Shell



Extraction Tool



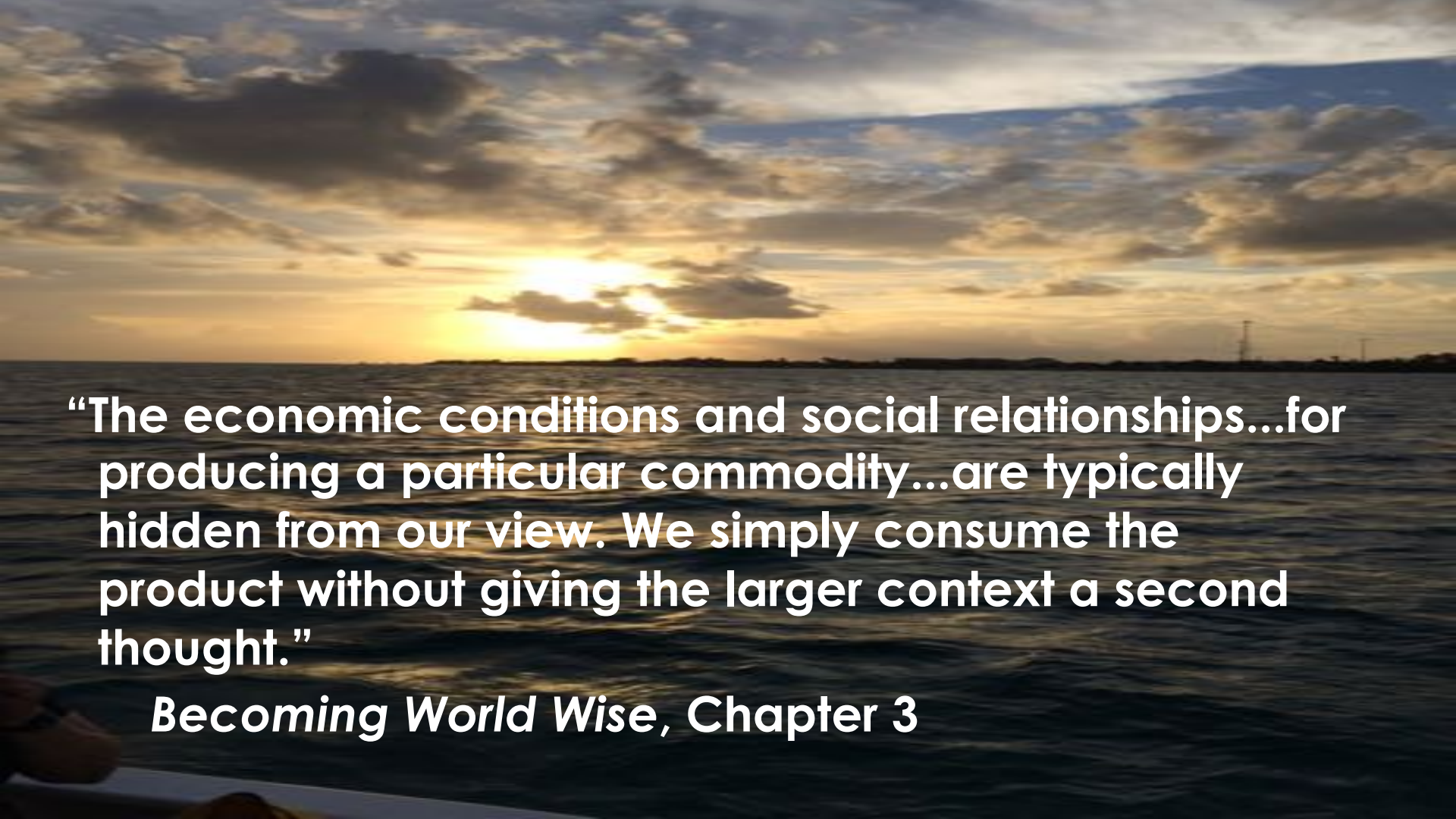
# CONCH EXTRACTION & FILET



# CONCH EXTRACTION & FILET





A sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, some catching the light of the setting sun. In the distance, a dark silhouette of land is visible, with a few structures or towers on the right side. The water in the foreground is dark with gentle ripples.

**“The economic conditions and social relationships...for producing a particular commodity...are typically hidden from our view. We simply consume the product without giving the larger context a second thought.”**

***Becoming World Wise, Chapter 3***

# SNORKELING



# REFLECTION

“Although we strive for completion and success, failure does not mean that we aren’t growing and learning.”



# WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

- Black and White Garifuna Cultural Center
- Traditional Belizean Dishes Featuring Conch
- Garifuna Presence in Belize






# REFLECTION




“Language lacks the ability to fully describe a real-life experience.”

# THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

- Project Finalization
  - Operculum incense & Shell Instrument
  - Summary of Feasible Uses for Conch
  - Final Discussions with Dianne
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## OTHER SGA PROJECTS

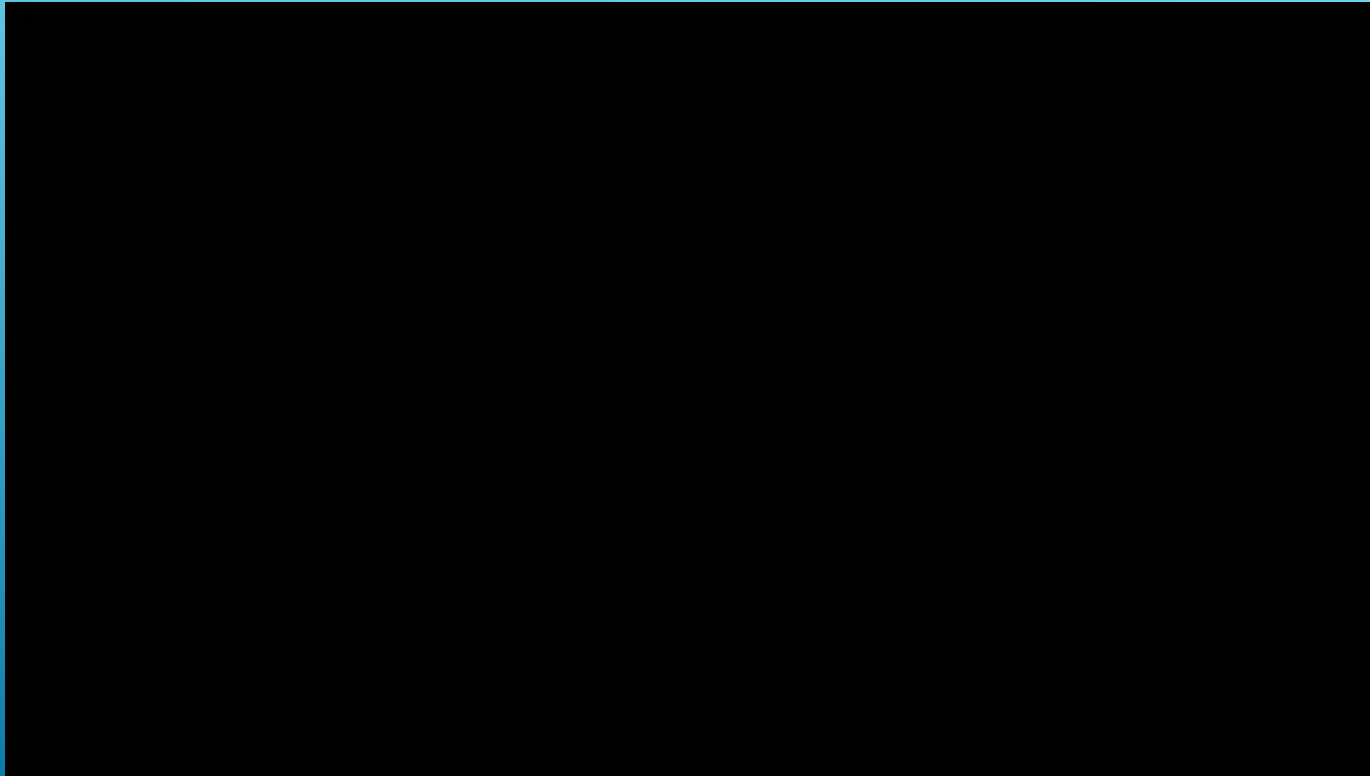
- In-process of building pontoon barges
  - Providing secondary incomes to fisherman
  - Calcium Carbonate supplements
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- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# REFLECTION

“After meeting such a passionate person like Dr. Dianne, she inspires me to go beyond my comfort zones and find what truly inspires me.” - Sydney Klimas



# DR. DIANNE'S CALL TO ACTION



# SPECIAL THANKS



# REFERENCES

<http://sgainternational.org/>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

