



Fisher Folk Net

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A newsletter to share information among fisher folk organisations and people in fisheries on matters relating to sustainable fisheries management and other issues of interest to fisher folk organisations throughout the region

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**Happy
Holidays!**



Well folks, we've come to the end of another year of highlighting your issues, challenges, triumphs and opportunities. The editorial team for Fisher Folk Net thanks you for your interest and your support and we hope that you will continue to offer us information that you want shared with your counterparts across the Caribbean and the rest of the world. If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to contact us by 'snail mail', e-mail or fax using the information in the mast head above.

Strengthening fisher folk leaders to advance regional network

The CRFM/CTA staged a 10-day leadership workshop in St Lucia from the end of September to the beginning of October for 26 participants who were leaders and managers of primary and national fisher folk organisations, and members of the coordinating unit for the network of national fisher folk organizations. The aim of the

workshop was to enhance participants' capacities in the areas of leadership, management, communication and advocacy, in order to improve on the organizational, operational and financial management of these organisations.



The workshop sessions at the Palm Haven Hotel and the Bay Gardens Inn, in Rodney Bay, St Lucia, were led by Ms. Sharon Almerigi whose range of training topics included strategic planning, situational analysis and negotiation and conflict management. Dr. Patrick McConney and Ms. Carmel Haynes of the UWI CERMES MarGov Project were also on hand to guide participants through the rudiments of the project cycle, log-frame analysis, and

networks, and the links between timely and strategic communication and advocacy.



Participants also enjoyed a tour of landing sites across the island and an opportunity to share experiences with St Lucian fishers in Dennery, Soufriere, Vieux Fort, and Canaries.

RFO-CU calls for urgent feedback on way forward

The Regional Fisherfolk Organisation-Coordinating Unit is urging stakeholders to respond by January 15, 2009, to suggestions for a new name, mission statement and operating structure for the networking of national fisher folk organisations.

Coming out of the CRFM/CTA St Lucia workshop, the RFO-CU issued an action note earlier this month that outlined suggestions for:

1. The new name: Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation (CNFO)
2. The new mission statement: "To improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable fishing industry through networking, representation and capacity building"

3. For the RFO to take the form of a virtual network that is internet-based, therefore removing the need of a physical office.



RFO-CU Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay, Deputy Coordinator Joslyn Lee Quay and Secretary Nadine Nembhard address the St Lucia workshop

Responses can be made to either RFO-CU Secretary Ms. Nadine Nembhard at Nadine_nem@yahoo.com; or Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay at mitchlay@yahoo.co.uk; or Deputy Coordinator Mr. Joslyn Lee Quay at joslee@tstt.net.tt.



Hurricane Omar costs Dominican boat owners millions in damage

Hurricane Omar caused extensive damage to fishermen's boats and other property on the west coast of Dominica. Boat owners were caught unawares by the huge waves which battered the west coast for two days.



It is estimated that over EC\$5 million worth of damage was caused by that hurricane destroying boats, engines, boat sheds, and other fishing equipment, reports Huron Vidal, a committee member of the National Association of Fisherfolk Cooperatives in Dominica. Government has promised financial assistance to those who need to get their boats back in operations and assistance is being awaited by the boat owners.



Fisheries panel discussion looks at future of industry

The regional fisheries sector and how it is addressed by regulators and fishers on the ground were discussed for over two hours by a wide cross section of the public and fisheries stakeholders in October when the MarGov Project held its first panel discussion - "Caribbean Fisheries: Sinking or Swimming in a Sea of Uncertainty" - in collaboration with the CRFM at the Fisheries Division Complex in Bridgetown, Barbados.



Barbados' Ambassador to CARICOM, Dennis Kellman (right) makes a point while (from left) moderator Mr. Julius Gittens, Mr. Mitchell Lay, head of the RFO CU, Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat and MarGov project manager Dr Patrick McConney listen on.

Such questions as: whether fishers have enough say in regional fisheries management decisions; and whether regional governments have the political will to come a collective agreement on fisheries were tackled by panelists: MarGov project manager Dr Patrick McConney; Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat in Belize; Barbados' Ambassador to CARICOM, Dennis Kellman; and Mr. Mitchell Lay, head of the Regional Fisherfolk Organisation Coordinating Unit.



RFO Coordinating Unit meets with BARNUFO in Barbados

*I*n October, Regional Fisherfolk Organisation - Coordinating Unit coordinator Mitchell Lay and deputy coordinator Joslyn Lee-Quay met with the current executive of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) to discuss issues facing the Barbadian NFO. In particular, the difficult position presented where only three executive members were elected at the annual general meeting in September and two more members are still required in order to form a full board.



Mr. Mitchell Lay (second from right), Coordinator of the RFO Coordinating Unit and Ms. Laura Tabet, an intern from Dalhousie University meet with members of the BARNUFO Executive.

In their meeting with BARNUFO President Mr. Oliver Grant, Secretary Ms. Eulene Haynes and Vice President, Ms. Vernell Nicholls, Mr. Lay and Mr. Lee Quay suggested to the BARNUFO executive that they take a number of steps to reinvigorate the nearly decade old organisation, including:

- ✿ Focus on one priority issue and develop a project
- ✿ Ensure better communication with the fisherfolk at various landing sites
- ✿ Cooperate with the fisheries division in developing project proposals and providing assistance
- ✿ Develop a plan to increase participation and seek assistance if needed at the national and regional levels.
- ✿ Work with Fisheries Division to fully complement BARNUFO board

Barbados FAC raising its profile in fishing industry



Chair of the Barbados FAC and boat owner Mrs. Felicia Corbin talking through issues with fishers in Consett Bay in Barbados

*T*he Barbados Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) has been raising its profile among the fishing communities as Barbados as it seeks to fulfil its legal mandate to be the advisor to the Minister responsible for fisheries in all matters related to the sector.

Since being awarded a US\$8,750 grant in July by the Centre for Resource Management

and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at UWI, Cave Hill through its Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean (MarGov) Project, the FAC has been meeting with fishers at major landing sites across Barbados, including Consett Bay in the north east parish of St John, and the major Bridgetown Fishing Complex in the City to hear first hand what concerns and suggestions they can raise with Minister of Agriculture Haynesley Benn.

TT Fisherfolk learn new ways of curing fish



In an attempt to promote down stream processing of fish in Trinidad, the SIDC sponsored a salt curing course for fisherfolk from the communities of Blanchisseuse, Point Coco and Claxton Bay. Between August 18 and September 5, participants were trained at the Caribbean Training and Development in the proper handling, salting and smoking of fish.

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Guyana, TT cooperatives exchange ideas

Mr. Karem Abdul-Jabar, Chief Cooperative Officer of Guyana visited the Almoorings Fishing Cooperative Society Limited in early November and met with its executive members.



Mr. Karem Abdul-Jabar (left) meets with Mr. Archibald Ackrill, President of the Almoorings Fishing Cooperative.

After reviewing the operations of the Almoorings cooperative, Abdul-Jabar and the executive members discussed the similarity of the laws under which they operated and indicated a willingness to work towards the formation of A Caribbean Cooperative League (Similar to the Credit Union League.) Abdul-Jabar , however, indicated that he disagreed with modifications made by Jamaica to its cooperative laws whereby a board member must have a degree in business. He said he felt that this was taking away some of the indigenous attributes of persons involved in cooperatives.