



Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - **Management Issue, June 2020**

COVID-19 threatens fisheries livelihoods!

Maren Headley, CRFM Secretariat

A rapid assessment conducted by the CRFM Secretariat during May 2020, suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant threat to livelihoods in the fisheries sector and food security. It appears that as a result of the safety measures, put in place to stem the spread of the virus, the supply chain has been impacted in various ways including: disruptions in air/sea freight, transportation logistics, and processing; reduced access to fish and seafood and; inadequate storage facilities. The reduced demand has directly affected fisherfolk livelihoods, with the majority of fisherfolk being unable to meet living expenses due to reduced incomes. If the current situation were to continue, most of the fisherfolk, who responded to the May survey, indicated that they could only manage one month before facing significant economic challenges.



COVID-19 "do's and don'ts" have been proposed

The majority of Member States reported a decrease in demand for fish by restaurants, hotels, wholesale retailers and processors/exporters. This decrease in demand was linked to safety measures such as curfews, closed borders and states of emergencies, which were put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Interestingly though, an increase in demand by households was noted by some Member States which highlights the importance of the local markets and points to the need for strengthening local value chains and improving food sovereignty.

Some of the key gaps found in the assessment were that: not all States identified fishers as essential workers; fisherfolk did not have adequate support in value addition and marketing aspects of the value chain; real time data on catches and fisheries product were not available; and, the extent to which fisherfolk were benefitting from support measures is unknown

Support that has been offered by the private/public sector

during this time included: delayed or reductions in utility payments, deferred mortgage payments and social security/unemployment payments. However, additional support was requested including; micro loans, stimulus packages, promotion of fish consumption, development of online marketing options, and facilitation of intra-regional and international trade.

The regional fisherfolk body-CNFO has also been raising awareness about the importance of essential fisherfolk in the Caribbean and their contributions to food and nutrition, resilient livelihoods and communities, and local economies.

This assessment will be pivotal in supporting the implementation of the COVID-19 Agri-Food Risk Management Framework specifically through the Response and Recovery Phases of the risk management process and the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Sector Action Plan.

For more information on the assessment contact maren.headley@crfm.int

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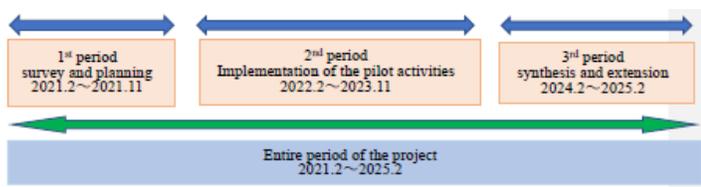
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CRFM and JICA ready to start CARIFICO II project

Milton Haughton, CRFM Secretariat

The CRFM and JICA are now poised to start the implementation of a follow-up project, the CARIFICO II Project. The new JICA-funded Project for Strengthening Sustainable use and Management of Coastal Fisheries Resources in the CARICOM Countries will strengthen fishers' organizations for greater involvement in MPA/MMA management by establishing mechanisms through which fishers contribute to the co-management process and receive tangible benefits. The project will focus on coastal and marine resources such as lobster, conch and reef-fishes, and marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, as well as livelihood issues such as value addition, marketing and gender mainstreaming.

The new project is also designed to assist the countries in making progress towards achieving some of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The results and best practices developed under the project will be shared with all CRFM Member States through regional workshops. However, the start of field activities has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but is expected to get underway as soon as conditions improve and regional and international travel resume.



The Project will be divided into three parts

A Regional “Satoumi” Workshop on Implementation and Baseline Survey for the Conservation of Coastal Marine Resources in the Caribbean, held in March 2019 in Saint Lucia, reviewed the state of coastal fisheries resources management in the 6 target countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The workshop also shared Japanese experiences and perspectives on coastal resource management; and discussed the concept and framework of the new project based on the “Satoumi” experience, while building upon the successes of the CARIFICO Project. “Satoumi” is a Japanese term meaning a coastal and marine system where human and ecosystem interactions are in harmony with each other, resulting in increased biodiversity and productivity, thereby improving the health of the environment and ecosystems and providing enhanced, sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities

This workshop had been a follow-up to a meeting between Japanese fisheries experts, the CRFM Secretariat and the main beneficiary countries between February and July 2018, to discuss the scope and focus of the new project. In August 2018, the CRFM Secretariat developed a Concept Note entitled, “The Project for Promotion of Coastal Fisheries Resources Management in the Caribbean”. This was submitted to Japan for funding consideration, after it was endorsed by the main beneficiary countries. Following Japan’s acceptance of the Concept Note, Japanese experts had conducted a mission to the

region, to consult with the countries and CRFM; to further develop the project, so that the required documents could be prepared and submitted to JICA before the end of 2019..

CARICOM countries and Japan have had a long and fruitful history of cooperation in fisheries going back to the 1990s. The value of that cooperation has been underscored by the successful implementation of the JICA funded Study on Formulation of a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean, 2009 - 2012. This was followed by the Caribbean Fisheries Co-management (CARIFICO) Project, 2013 to 2018, aimed at implementing some of the recommendations of the Master Plan.

For more information on the “CARIFICO II” project contact milton.haughton@crfm.int

BOX 1: CRFM introduces new Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Maren Headley as the Programme Manager-Fisheries Management and Development.



Maren joined the Secretariat in 2006, and held the position as Research Graduate-Research and Resource Assessment until March 31, 2020. Maren brings her years of expertise in the fisheries sector to her new role as Programme Manager and we look forward to her continued contributions. Please join us in congratulating her on the promotion!

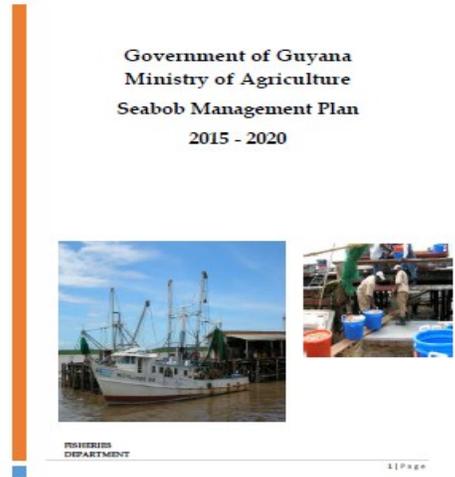
Commodity Development Review Highlights the Role of PPPs

Susan Singh-Renton, CRFM Secretariat

In considering challenges facing food industries particularly with achieving value creation, value addition, and international food safety standards for increasing trade revenues, the CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG) recommended that CRFM give priority attention to establishing a commercial research and innovation centre to manage public-private partnership (PPP) ventures as a fundamental strategy to support commodity development. Because of the slow pace of aquaculture development, the technical experts comprising the working group noted that, as aquaculture ventures are essentially business ventures, governments should ensure that their supporting frameworks are tailored for improved business planning support. These are best implemented through public-private partnerships (PPPs). There was also a call for in-depth studies of the successful, as well as failed aquaculture experiences, so that new ventures could benefit from this knowledge.

Marine fish and aquaculture commodity development are a priority consideration for CARICOM, especially for their potential to offer food security, reduce the region’s food import bill, and provide a strong and sustainable base for holistic economic development in view of the linkages with the tourism industry and international trade. Leading the charge on this issue, the FISHCOM WG has been active since 2017, and reports its progress annually to CARICOM governments. In April 2020, the FISHCOM WG convened a technical expert review on various value chain and commodity development

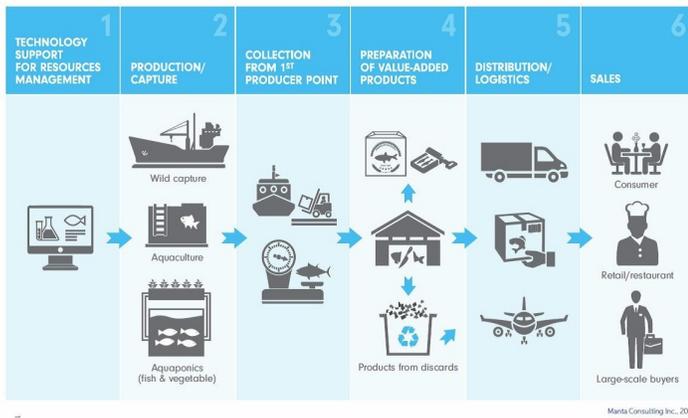
initiative is expected to involve partnership arrangements with both large and small-scale private sector parties. In Grenada, the efforts are focused also on using PPPs and blended financing arrangements to introduce an essential form of value addition (loining of tunas), which is associated with the highest profits made in this value chain. If local loining is successfully introduced, it will allow more of the value chain income to reach the local industry stakeholders.



Management plan - essential for MSC certification

The FISHCOM WG also facilitated technical exchanges on 2 new regional projects that are coming onstream in 2020: a project on strengthening food safety and hygiene controls and standards that builds on a similar earlier initiative; and, a project to advance blue economic growth through holistic marine spatial planning, and strengthening ecosystem approaches to fisheries and value chain management for which the role of PPPs is also emphasized.

For more information, on the working of FISHCOM WG, contact Susan Singh-Renton at the CRFM’s St. Vincent and the Grenadines office (susan.singhrenton@crfm.int)



The Fishery sector is a flow of commodities from pre-production to final consumers

initiatives in CRFM States.

The FISHCOM WG examined progress made for the Atlantic seabob fishery of Guyana and the tuna fishery of Grenada that are currently receiving international donor support for further development of their value chains. In the case of Guyana, the seabob trawl fishery holds *Marine Stewardship Council* certification. This certification recognizes that sustainable management standards are in place for the fishery, and creates a stable and secure environment for investors and donors alike to support value creation and value addition activities. The

BOX 2: Conclusions of 2018 Preliminary CRFM Member State Fisheries Industry Analysis—Reprise

There is need for the Caribbean to focus on high-valued fish products, some traditional, such as fish fillets and dried, smoked and salted fish. However, there is increasing demand for even higher-valued products, such as fish meal and fish preparations, based on expected increasing prices and demand for these products.

There is potential for the use of underutilized species however, developing countries such as ours must focus on developing food safety protocols, versatility in trade negotiations to enhance market access and develop requirements for environmental sustainability and “fair trade” labelling, which are all becoming increasingly demanded by consumers with higher incomes.

CRFM fish imports and exports

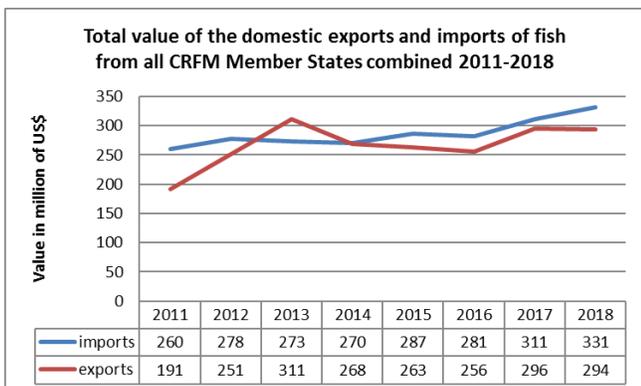
June Masters, CRFM Secretariat

During the period 2014 to 2018 CRFM Member States combined imported fish products valued at approximately US\$292.3 million and exported fish products valued at approximately US\$281.4 million per year. Imports included such products as canned, smoked and salted fish, as well as frozen or chilled finfish and shellfish, while exports included species such as lobster, conch, shrimp and finfish. There were also imports of fish for bait and ornamental purposes valued at about US\$0.82 million annually for 2017 and 2018.

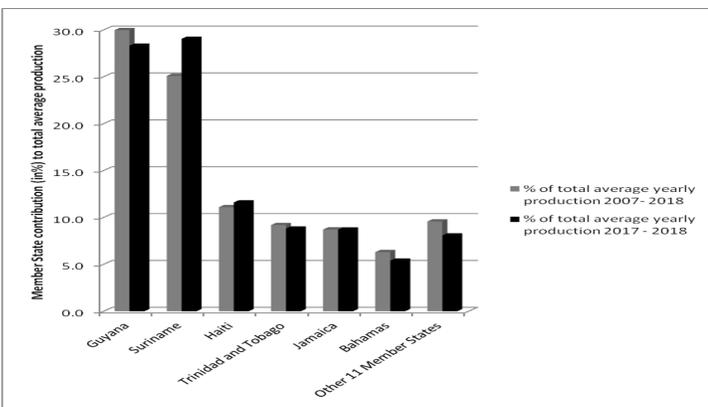
80,979 mt of foreign imports (an additional 49% of local production). Similar figures for 2018 showed that local fish production for food (marine and aquaculture) was 148,617 mt and that was supplemented by 87,717 mt of foreign imports (59% of local production).

For more information on CRFM fisheries data analyses contact june.masters@crfm.int

The species exported from 2013 to 2018 included: lobsters,



shrimp, conch, tunas, snappers, groupers, and various other finfish species and aquatic invertebrates. The breakdown of domestic exports from 11 of the 17 Member States for 2018, showed that: export of shrimp accounted for approximately 26% of the exports (valued at US\$61 million); exports of conch accounted for approximately 3% of exports (valued at US\$13 million); exports of lobsters accounted for 8% (value US\$96 million) and various finfish including tunas, snappers, flyingfish, mackerel, bangamary and groupers accounted for approximately 63% (value US\$74.5 million). The region also exported ornamental fish in 2017/2018 valued at approximately US\$0.26 million.



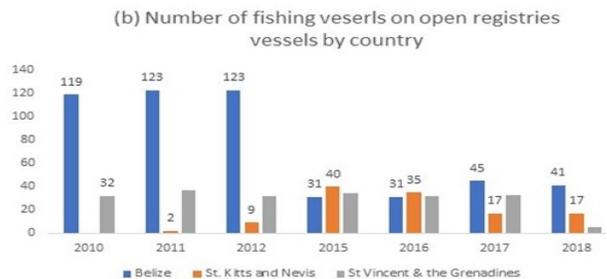
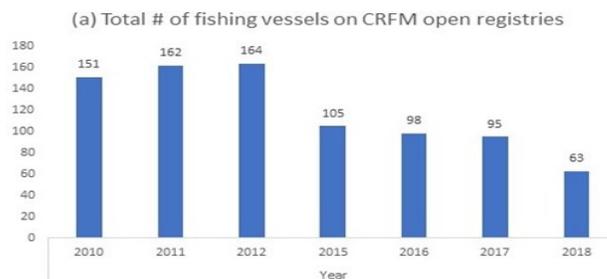
% contributions to average annual fish production of the six highest marine capture fisheries producers and all others combined, from CRFM Member States

Fish produced for food locally (from marine capture and aquaculture in 2017 was 165,877 mt and was supplemented by

Open registry fishing vessels decline

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

Data from CRFM statistical and information reports over the past decade, show that after an increase in the number of fishing vessels on the open registries of Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, between 2010 and 2012, a sharp decline between 2012 and 2015 signaled a steady downward trend between 2015 and 2018.



Fishing vessel trends in open registries

The gradual decline in the number of foreign fishing vessels authorised by Member States to fly their flag and operate on the high sea is due largely to the response of Member States to comply with European Union (EU) requirements and avoid the imposition of trade sanctions / blacklisting. According to the EU the national fisheries authorities do not have the information or means to control the fleets operating under their flag.

Thanks to all the contributors to CRFM Statistics and Information Report - 2018. We look forward to your continued, timely input



Blue Economy project advances

Adele Ramos and P.A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum, at its 18th meeting, was informed that the CAF/FAO/CRFM/GEF/Caribbean Blue Economy Project entitled, *Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (BE-CLME+ Project)* was “up and running”. The project seeks to address the marine environmental threats to realizing national climate-resilient blue economies in the Caribbean, which are hampered by several gaps and limitations in implementing the ecosystems approach to fisheries management.

Among the results expected from this project concept are: focused climate-smart investments into national and regional marine spatial planning efforts that inform development and implementation of national blue economy strategies; the establishment of a regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries; strengthening or establishing marine protected areas in at least 5 of the countries; development of the fisheries value chains; monitoring and evaluation; and knowledge management, including knowledge exchange and sharing of information.

Extensive work has been done to date to advance the project, which has assumed great importance as the region tries to retool the national economies, mindful of the need for sustainable development of the marine sector and protection of the marine resources

Participating countries in this initiative are five Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), namely Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Panama, an OSPESCA Member State. In this regard, the CARICOM Secretariat has noted that the issue confronting many Member States with being graduated to middle income countries has been occupying the attention of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Finance, and the Heads of Government.

The Forum has acknowledged the potential of the Blue Economy to provide food, jobs, livelihoods and a source of sustainable social and economic growth and development for CRFM Member States. Chief Fisheries Officers have called for work towards a common agenda in addressing Blue Economic Growth and the development of joint initiatives in addressing this. It has also expressed the view that all Member States should be given the opportunity to directly benefit, particularly given the adverse economic impacts countries have been experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Participants at project inception meeting

The *Corporacion Andina de Fomento* (CAF), the development bank of Latin America, is the lead implementing agency, while the FAO is co-implementing agency. The CRFM is the executing agency for the project. A work plan for this project is currently being elaborated and a regional validation workshop will be convened before submission of the Project Document to the GEF, which is the source of grant funding for the project.

For more information on the CAF/FAO/CRFM/GEF/Caribbean Blue Economy Project contact milton.haughton@crfm.int

Upscaling the FEWER ICT Service

Susan Singh-Renton and P.A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

As part of an effort to sustain and expand its Fisheries Early Warning and Emergency Response (FEWER) ICT service to other Caribbean countries, the CRFM is now partnering with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) which has agreed to take over the regional hosting of FEWER. The handover to CDEMA also aims to have FEWER integrated as a key tool in the overall CDEMA disaster management framework. The FEWER ICT service, launched by the CRFM in 2018, is directly accessible to small-scale fishers, providing immediate and up to date information on sea and weather conditions, and provides options for fishers to communicate with those agencies offering early warning and emergency response services such as the coast guard. In this way, FEWER can lead to ‘fewer’ risks taken and resulting losses to fishers and the industry as a whole in response to hazards such as storms, hurricanes and other difficult sea conditions.



M. Haughton and R. Jackson sign CRFM-CDEMA MoU

During the course of 2020, CDEMA will be testing and fine-tuning its administration services of FEWER. Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines benefited from pilot trials that developed the FEWER ICT services, and so these countries are in the best position to engage immediately in the CDEMA-planned tests. These countries have recently been urged to finalize their in-country arrangements with all the agencies involved in disaster management and to familiarize their stakeholders with the plans to transfer hosting of FEWER to CDEMA, and for fisher and agency participation in the CDEMA trials. Other countries already earmarked for the roll-out of the FEWER, will be making efforts to get fully on board in the coming months.

The present FEWER ICT service offers weather related information and emergency information, but also enables fishers to create a damage report, a feature that could support small-scale fisheries insurance claims. There is also potential to add new ICT service components to FEWER and to explore how other industry support programs could also benefit from linkages with the services.

Resources are available in the form of publications and manuals for persons in the pilot countries to refresh their knowledge of FEWER and for the new countries to become familiar with FEWER.

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For more information on the FEWER ICT solution contact susan.singrenton@crfm.int

Resources for Flyingfish management insufficient

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

Staff, financial, and infrastructure resources for flyingfish management are insufficient across the region. This is one of the lessons learned in the recently completed Flyingfish subproject of the CLME+ Project. In considering the enhancement of governance arrangements for the flyingfish fishery, it was found that without financial and technical support for fisheries management activities, Eastern Caribbean countries will be challenged to implement the newly approved Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fisheries Management plan 2020-2025 (ECFF FMP 2020-2025).

Subproject consultants found that additional financial resources will be needed to implement many aspects of the ECFF FMP 2020-2025, which includes a Data Policy, and a draft Cooperation Agreement for management of living marine resources of the southern Eastern Caribbean chain of islands. Local stakeholder involvement and expertise is a critical component of cooperation building efforts. Additionally, it is opined that technical body capacity must be strengthened if a data policy or cooperation agreement is to improve shared living marine resource management in the Eastern Caribbean.

Recent attention on fiscal condition of Member States and rise in Blue Economy priorities has led to a shift in focus in many member states from financial support for fisheries divisions. Strengthened local stakeholder groups are a critical bridge between fisheries division staff and fishers. Their involvement in fishery management, including data collection, monitoring, and sharing and receiving information related to decision-making can reduce the management burden on national fisheries divisions; while, the ability to implement harmonized data collection and management protocols is dependent on political support, including from national environment ministries and

in non-consumptive aspects of the fishery including data collection, monitoring, and analysis, which can contribute to fishers' livelihoods. A high priority for regional organizations and Fisheries Division is investing in and supporting the continued development of fishers' organizations through training and investment in new ventures. In addition to creating alternative employment and incomes within fishing communities, these skills can contribute to better decision-making at the community level related to economic performance and sustainability thus protecting livelihoods and promoting greater collaboration across the value chain (fishers, regulators, marketers, processors, and exporters). In some countries, managers and stakeholders might not appreciate the full socioeconomic and ecological value of flyingfish, especially including indirect benefits through the role of flyingfish as a forage species for other large pelagics. Effective communication about the benefits of a regional flyingfish management regime, and how these benefits outweigh its implementation costs is needed. In fact, it has been mooted that the widely varying direct economic importance that the flyingfish fishery holds in individual Eastern Caribbean countries has impeded collaborative regional management efforts.

The CLME+ Project) benefited from the financial support of the UNDP/GEF and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in close collaboration with a large number of global, regional and national-level partners, of which CRFM was one.

For more information on the CLME+ flyingfish subproject contact peter.a.murray@crfm.int



Regional discussions on flyingfish

international bodies.

The work on the flyingfish subproject also showed that it is important for the focus on the business of harvesting flyingfish to be maintained and supported by governments. This can involve enhancing the role of fishers and fishers' organizations

Box 3: Employment in the CRFM fisheries sector (excerpted from CRFM Statistics and Information Report 2018)

The number of persons employed in direct production in the commercial marine capture fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors (including full time and part time fishers, harvesters and farmers engaged in, artisanal/subsistence and commercial activities) in CRFM States in 2018, was approximately 123,540 persons (~118,811 employed in the marine capture fisheries and ~4,729 in aquaculture). Fishers who harvest fish exclusively for recreation and or sport and those harvesting exclusively from inland freshwater systems are not accounted for, as those data were not available. Member States with inland waters/fresh-water systems that are of cultural and / or subsistence, and/or economic importance did not have available information on the number of persons employed in direct production from the inland waters and or freshwater systems.

The fisheries sector provides employment for many persons who supply services and goods to the primary producers, including those in processing, preserving, storing, transporting, marketing and distribution or selling fish or fish products, and activities, such as net and gear making, ice production and supply, vessel construction and maintenance; and, research, development and administration linked with the fisheries sector. FAO suggests that, for each person employed in capture fisheries and aquaculture production, about three jobs are produced in the secondary activities, like post-harvest.

CRFM Member Countries have begun to Combat IUU Fishing

Eric Wade, FAO Consultant

Preliminary results, of a study by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) to assess Member State's readiness to implement the 28 measures and actions of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU), indicate that member countries have already begun the process at the national level to combat cases of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

This study builds on the efforts of the CRFM and OSPESCA; and, of CRFM countries that have responded, 80% have indicated that they are either currently implementing or are ready to develop and adopt a national plan of action to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. On the other hand, 50% of the CRFM countries have indicated that they are not yet ready to maintain a list of vessels confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing. Despite not being ready to accomplish this measure, all respondents indicated that this is a high priority for their countries to be able to meet this requirement. In describing the mechanisms that may support their countries' implementation of the RPOA-IUU measures, CRFM countries overwhelmingly indicated increased budgetary/ financial support and increased training and capacity development.



Ad hoc working group finalizing WECAFC RPOA IUU

The RPOA-IUU was endorsed by WECAFC at its July 2019 meeting. This readiness assessment is establishing not only WECAFC members' readiness to meet the requirements of the measures; but, is also assessing members' timeline to implementing these measures and their associated priority level in meeting each requirement. To this end, the current assessment is seeking to expand the region's understanding of the challenges and prospects in WECAFC's ability to meet these measures. The final results of the assessment are still being processed and should be available within the next couple of months.

One of the main outcomes of this questionnaire is to not only provide baseline knowledge of WECAFC readiness but to begin the discussion of regional and national level tools that are able to combat and deter IUU fishing in the region.

IUU fishing, one of the main inhibitors to sustainable fisheries management, is largely limited to small-scale vessels and poaching activities in neighboring countries; and, has begun to increase. WECAFC members recognizing the importance of being able to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU in the region have voted overwhelmingly to begin the process of increasing its capacity and ability to share information and cooperate effectively to combat IUU Fishing in the region.

For more information on the IUU readiness survey contact Eric.Wade@fao.org or peter.a.murray@crfm.int

Gender policies are in place for Caribbean fisheries

Margaux Granat and Emmett Boyer, Gender Consultants

Sound international and regional frameworks, linking gender, youth, and decent work in fisheries, are in place in the Caribbean Community. This is one of the main findings of an ongoing initiative to mainstream gender into the fisheries sector of the CARICOM. The compliance with these social elements at national and regional levels of fisheries governance and policy are varied, but lean toward limited integration of considerations and implementation.

All of the six countries in this CRFM initiative signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) between 1980 and 1982. However, none have signed the Optional Protocol for CEDAW, which establishes legal mechanisms that enable people to seek justice for human rights violations and hold signatories accountable to the treaty, including toward ending violence against women and girls and strengthening equal land and property rights.

Based on analysis, as part of this gender mainstreaming initiative, it was found that at national levels the gender policies either do not exist, or in regard to fisheries, have: no considerations; limited considerations, or moderate considerations. At the same time, the majority of the national fisheries policies reviewed (with two exceptions) were found to have "none or very limited" considerations in gender. Similar situations were found in a review of the youth and decent work considerations of the national fisheries policies.

International frameworks provide general guidance for countries to meet a common set of standards and goals on fisheries, gender, youth, and decent work. However, to implement these frameworks and make progress on these goals, there must be national-level capacity political will, and resources to do so, and reporting on results. This can come in the form of policies, strategies, accountability mechanisms, organizations and other national-level actions or enabling factors that demonstrate commitment to these issues and can foster effective implementation of international and regional commitments, with specific and necessary focus on the unique national context.

Enhancing gender-responsive and inclusive approaches in sustainable fisheries necessitates identifying and understanding the existing international and regional frameworks relevant to gender equality and sustainable resource management, including critical intersecting aspects of youth engagement and sustainable economic livelihoods and how a country's policies and actions align with these frameworks. Investigating these frameworks, with insight on the context and capacity of each country, helps identify gaps, needs and entry points to guide more effective, equitable and synergistic approaches that contribute to progress toward national, regional, and global goals.

For further information on the CRFM Gender Mainstreaming Initiative, to share or discuss your experiences, please contact peter.a.murray@crfm.int or margaux@engen.global.

CRFM undergoes 2nd independent review

Delmar A. Lanza and P.A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

A team of consultants is currently carrying out the Second Independent Strategic / Institutional Review of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. Among other things, this review has become a high priority consequent upon the designation of the CRFM as the Competent Agency (CA) for implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), and the resulting need to look at the responsibilities, functions and competence of the existing organization. The review is also seen as critical in light of challenges faced by the Secretariat, arising from the imminent departure of senior staff and difficulties that have been encountered in filling core technical positions, and the need to examine the suitability of existing recruitment policies and working arrangements.

The 18th meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum has determined that the CRFM Secretariat and Member States need to discuss and determine the functions and priority areas going forward, because the form of the organization should be shaped to deliver upon those priorities and to carry out the functions that would be agreed. As a result, the Forum has called on Member States to conduct national consultations to identify functions and priorities and provide guidance for the consultants.

The Second CRFM Strategic Plan is due to expire in March 2021, thus the Third CRFM Strategic Plan needs to be developed; this Plan, which should lay out the CRFM's new strategic priorities, incorporating the responsibilities in the CCCFP, and important developments and commitments made by countries at the international and regional levels, to address blue growth, aquaculture development and climate change; informed by the results of the current strategic review.

Another reason for the strategic review is the need for the CRFM to have in place internationally acceptable necessary fiduciary, procurement and operating standards and procedures. It is difficult to attain eligibility to receive and manage large, longer-term donor funded projects unless these criteria are met.

Three consultants are currently on-board, carrying out two consultancies as part of the review: Dr. Ronald M. Gordon supported by Mr. Vincent Gillett, are reviewing the performance of the CRFM, looking at technical aspects to make recommendations to strengthen the organization; while Ms. Mona C. Romilly is evaluating the CRFM's fiduciary, procurement and related human resource management and other operating systems and procedures, including the Operations Manual, to make recommendations for addressing deficiencies.

A fourth consultant, not yet recruited, will be responsible for conducting the third consultancy: a legal review of the CRFM, including a review of the 2002 Agreement Establishing the CRFM, against commitments in the CCCFP and recent developments in international and regional law and policy. This consultancy would seek to determine if any changes/amendments are necessary for the CRFM to function effectively and efficiently as the CA to carry out its functions and mandate in support of Policy implementation. The existing COVID-19 situation has forced the CRFM to hold back on the third consultancy, but the consultant will be engaged as soon as the situation normalizes and the financial resources are available.

More fisheries interdiction events since 2017

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

An increase in the reporting of fisheries interdiction events has resulted from heightened awareness of the significance of fisheries prosecution and interdiction, generated by the course and participants of the Fisheries Prosecution and Interdiction Training Course (FPIC), hosted by the Regional Security System (RSS) Training Institute (TI), in collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat, since 2017. Forty (40) persons have been trained to date. Since the institution of this course, the member countries of the RSS have begun to note more cases of fisheries interdiction than previously, in their operational reports to the RSS headquarters.

Lt (CG) Rolerick Sobers, Maritime Officer of the RSS, has noted "...that prior to the delivery of the first Fisheries Prosecution and Interdiction Course in 2017 by RSS TI, they were fewer than 10 fisheries interdiction events captured in the Maritime Operational Activities of the RSS Member States. Since October 2017 however, 12 such events were reported, with eight fisheries interdiction events occurring during the period January - August 2019". This, he believes, is because "Maritime Law Enforcement Officers are now more aware of other maritime offences that occur in their Areas of Operation ..., and the impacts that such illegal activities can have on small economies as well as fisheries management and conservation activities in general and IUU fishing activities in particular; where such activities are not attributed to distant water foreign fishing vessels alone".

The CARIFORUM Fisheries Prosecution and Enforcement manuals are utilized as the course textbooks and the course is organized and executed by RSS and affiliate organizations, with overall course coordination by the CRFM. Both theoretical and practical components are included, and content material is delivered through lectures and interactive participation of the student, while practical exercises include fishing vessel boarding and fishing gear inspection, evidence gathering, preparation of case files and a simulated trial. Group work forms an integral part of the learning and demonstration process and the practical exercises are geared to enable participants to develop the requisite skills for operating in real life scenarios. By the end of the course students/officers who have border security and/or fisheries enforcement responsibilities are more knowledgeable about the correct procedures to follow while enforcing the laws under their national fisheries acts and regulations; and, know how to prepare for trial proceedings where offences are committed in violation of the fisheries laws.

The performance of the participants was gauged by: their interaction and participation in classroom discussion and group homework assignments including the application of the information and skills taught; their ability to recall/utilize the information provided to them through two individual assignments, one of two "syndicate" (group) scenario activities, two group "homework" assignments (one of which depicted a case scenario); and, an assessment of their level of case preparation and prosecution skills by practicing the various techniques, in mock trials emanating out of one of three working group scenarios.

Priorities for gender equality for CRFM fisheries

Emmett Boyer and Molly Gilligan, Gender Consultants

Four key data and research priority areas for developing an evidenced-based gender mainstreaming strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in the Caribbean have been identified from the research and stakeholder consultations in CRFM Member States. A team of gender-environment experts contracted by the CRFM Secretariat to support efforts to mainstream gender equality, youth empowerment and decent work issues under the CLME+ flying fish subproject have identified, as priorities :

- Collection and analysis of comprehensive sex-disaggregated socioeconomic data in fisheries.
- Strengthening understanding of the differentiated social and cultural factors impacting labour and poverty of women, men, and youth in fisheries and gender-responsive approaches to address these issues.
- Enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge generation on gender equality and youth engagement in fisheries.
- Engaging with fisherfolk and develop appropriate methodologies for building their capacity on gender, youth, and decent work issues in fisheries.

This initiative compliments the work done in the CLME+ flying-fish subproject.

Even though COVID-19 interrupted plans for in-person stakeholder engagement, the consultant team was able to virtually consult with over 40 stakeholders and stakeholder organizations in CRFM Member States to learn about their experiences of gender equality within the fisheries sector during April and May. Prioritizing sex-disaggregated data collection, analysis, and dissemination is essential to making women and girls and their struggles, priorities, and ideas visible and valued. Incomplete data along the fisheries value chain masks the important roles of women, men, and youth at each part of the value chain, which can result in activities that unintentionally contribute to unequal access to resources, food insecurity, poverty, and social marginalization.

Identifying these priority areas will inform subsequent aspects of

CLME/SPy-RAF For the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish: Technical Support to Enhance Data and Information Management for Decision Support

GENDER IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN FISHERIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN FLYINGFISH FISHERY

PREPARED FOR: CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM



NEXUS Coastal Resource Management Ltd. | October 2018



Gender issues were specifically considered during flyingfish subproject

the gender mainstreaming efforts, including the development of a gender mainstreaming analysis, strategy, and action plan.

As fishery economies evolve and change alongside the demographics of communities, shifting gender roles, technological advances and ecosystem changes, including climate change and the recent coronavirus pandemic, understanding what socioeconomic factors drive or are affected by these changes will be crucial to increase effectiveness and access for CRFM Member States in the short term, and the sustainable management of fisheries over the long term.

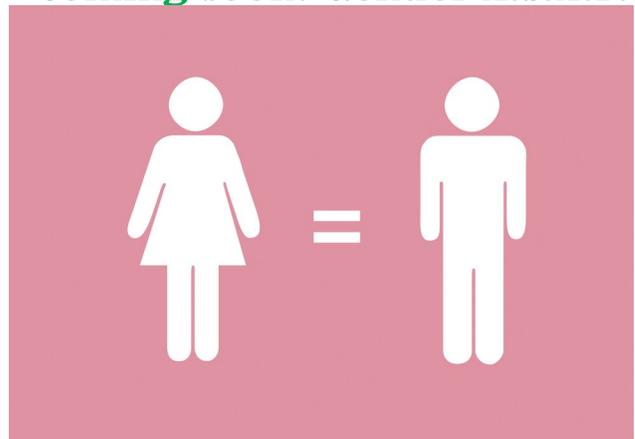
It is also important to understand how social and cultural norms shape the opportunities, resources, and services available to women, men, and youth engaged in the sector. This, and to develop policies, projects, and initiatives that address specific needs and priorities of local stakeholders, ensuring practices are culturally appropriate and just; and, do not impede successful equitable outcomes. For example, without data on how and why both women and men—including youth—rely upon or benefit from a proposed marine protected area, attempts to mitigate impacts of restricted access could result in unintentional and disproportionate effects on women or men.

To enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge generation, gender machinery representatives and gender experts should be engaged, as stakeholders in fisheries project and policy discussions, so that their input is integrated into fisheries initiatives. Actions can be taken for establishing connections between and building the mutual capacity of gender machineries, fisheries departments, and national-level organizations and institutions on gender-fisheries issues and opportunities, including workshops and forums for national stakeholders.

Ensuring long-term successful outcomes from local level initiatives involves sustained and meaningful community engagement that aims to build trust and promote social investment in results, including youth engagement as well as valuing traditional knowledge on natural resources management.

For further information on the CRFM Gender Mainstreaming Initiative, to share resources or discuss experiences, please contact peter.a.murray@crfm.int or margaux@engen.global.

Coming soon: Gender A.S.A.P.



MEETINGS JUNE TO DECEMBER 2020

No.	Date	Event	Location
	2 - 6 June	UN Ocean Conference	Lisbon, Portugal
	5 June	FAO Webinar of Progress in dealing with IUU Fishing	Virtual
	5 June	Roundtable Dialogue (Online) in recognition of UN Day of Illegal Fishing.	Virtual
	9 June	CARICOM Webinar “Innovation for Sustainable Oceans” - Biodiversity Webinar in celebration of World Ocean and World Environment Day	Virtual
	11 June	FISHCOM Working Group – sixth meeting	Virtual
	12 June	Meeting to discuss establishment of a Global Network for capacity building to increase access of small-scale fisheries to financial services (CAFI SSF Network)	Virtual
	16 - 18 June	CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting	Virtual
	25 June	14th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council	Virtual
	July	Forty-First Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
	5 - 10 July	Fourteenth International Coral Reef Symposium	
	13 -17 July	FAO COFI	Rome
	September (TBC)	4 th meeting of the CRFM/OSPESCA/WECAFC Joint Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU)	Virtual
	October	Fifteenth Quadrennial of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XV)	Barbados
	November 2020 (TBC)	Final CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting	
	9 - 13 November (TBC)	Seventy-Third GCFI Meeting	
	12 - 13 November (TBC)	Eleventh WECAFC SAG	

Please stay safe in these COVID-19 times, from all of us at CRFM

Editor's Note

In this edition of the management issue of the newsletter we seek to provide information on management related activities of the CRFM Secretariat, Member States and collaborating/partner organisations between the end of December 2020 and mid-May 2020. We utilise the form of newspaper-type (rather than scientific journal) articles to make the issue about what is happening in fisheries management in the region, presented as short interesting stories that are appealing and easy to read. We hope that you like our new masthead for the newsletter. We thought to make the appearance more exciting with the sunrise over the sea. Having the CRFM logo we do not think it necessary to repeat "CRFM". The vessel under "CRFM" is reminiscent of vessels used at least one Member States of the western and eastern Caribbean, respectively. We have located the word "News" under the sunrise: sunrise is the dawn of a new day - and we see it as symbolizing "News".

We apologise for the hiatus since December 2017 and would like to thank the contributors who "stepped up to the plate" for this edition. In particular, those from outside the CRFM Secretariat team. In this latter regard, special mention must be made of contributors from the Margaux Granat Consortium and the FAO

This Newsletter is published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat

The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to "Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region". The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat, and is the Competent Agency for implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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