

National Report of Guyana’s Fishing Industry to the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

1.0 Description of the National Industry

The fisheries sub -sector is divided into three components:

Marine Fishery	Aquaculture	Inland Fishery
- The Offshore Industrial (Trawl) Fishery	- Brackish-water Culture	- Subsistence Fishery
- The Semi-industrial Fishery	- Fresh-water Culture	- Ornamental Fishery
- The Inshore Artisanal Fishery		

The Offshore Industrial fishery consists of one hundred and nineteen (119) trawlers, eight (8) large fish/shrimp processing plants and numerous wharves and dry docking facilities. Thirty one (31) trawlers are licenced to catch penaeid shrimp while eighty eight (88) are licenced to catch seabob. Ice and freezing facilities servicing this fishery are owned and operated by participants within and outside the fishery sub-sector.

Thirty-one trawlers are exploiting mainly penaeid shrimp (*P. brasiliensis*, *P. notialis*, *P. schmitti*, and *P. subtilis*) with finfish and small amounts of squid (*Loligo spp.*) and lobster (*Panulirus spp.*) as by-catch. While eighty eight (88) mainly exploit seabob (*Xiphopenaeus kroyeri*) and various fin-fish species (*Macrodon ancylodon*, *Micropogonias furnieri*, *Nebris microps*, *Arius spp.*, *Cynoscion spp.*), with small quantities of penaeid shrimp as by-catch. The Turtle Excluder Devices (TED’s) are mandatory for the entire shrimp trawl fleet.

In the semi industrial fishery there are three Guyanese companies with licencing agreements to rent sixty (60) Venezuelan long-line vessels to operate in Guyana’s waters. Also, there are forty three (43) local vessels licensed to operate traps.

The Inshore Artisanal Fishery consists of 1234 vessels ranging from 6 – 18 meters propelled by sail, outboard or inboard engines. All boats are manufactured locally. The fishing gears in use includes Chinese seine / fyke nets, gillnets, caddel lines “demersal longlines” and pin seine.

The Inshore Artisanal Fishery is mainly demersal. The species caught include Seabob and Whitebelly shrimp, Gillbacker, Bangamary, Sea Trout, Grey Snapper and Red Snapper.

The Inland Subsistence Fishery involves catching of fish in rivers, lakes, canals, flood plains by subsistence and part-time fishers for their own consumption or for sale.

There is a small but active inland fishery for ornamental fish. Live fish are caught in the rivers by collectors and sold to exporters of ornamental fish. The Guyana Wildlife Authority has responsible for aquarium fish.

2.0 Statistics, Research and Resource Assessment

The Department will be conducting a survey to determine the number of persons involved in fishing activities in the sector.

The Inter-Sessional Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group meeting between (Guyana / Surinam) was held in February 2013. It is expected that at the Ninth CRFM Scientific Meeting a full assessment will be done on the seabob data sets for ten years.

3.0 Policy and Legislation

In 2012 Guyana received technical assistance from FAO to develop the Policy and Strategic Plan for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture. The policy is currently being finalized and will be implemented later in the year.

The Department is in the process of updating all fisheries regulations and the creation of regulations for aquaculture sector. By June 2013 it will be mandatory for all seabob and penaeid shrimp vessels to be equipped with Vessel Monitor System (VMS) and By-catch Reduction Devices (BRD). This is part of the Department's efforts to improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) of the industrial fleet and the seabob industry's move to attain Marine Stewardship Council Certification.

The updated Fisheries Management Plan (2013-2017) is scheduled to be completed by July 2013. The updated FMP is being funded under EU-ACP Fish 11 Project.

4.0 Development Activities

The Ministry and the Department provided technical assistance to aquaculture farmers. Large and medium scale farmers benefited from loans and grants under the Agriculture Support Development Unit (ASDU) project to expand their operations.

Three aquaculture projects were identified to the sum of G\$15,000,000.00. Two projects will be executed in Region # 1 and one in Region # 9. Technical assistance will be provided by the Department of Fisheries.

There are plans to conduct research in Guyana's waters and to limit / phase out the uses of pin seine gear. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Public Works are examining the port /

artisanal facilities and infrastructure with the aim of upgrading and improving the standards and quality of seafood landed. Three industrial companies are EU certified.

5.0 Fisheries Management and Conservation Activities

In CRFM 2007 report on *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri* (seabob) stock assessment it was suggested that the trawl fleet size be reduced by fifty percent. The Department of Fisheries and Guyana Association of Trawlers Owners and Seafood Processors (GTOSP) agreed on a twenty percent (20 %) reduction. By the end of 2013 the total seabob fleet will be reduced to eighty vessels.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Health- Veterinary Public Health Unit and the Guyana Trawler Operators and Seafood Processors (GTOSP) meet regularly to discuss the way forward on Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. By the end of June 2013 the vessels will be equipped with VMS and BRD. Additionally, there is also an annual six weeks 'closed season' for trawling for seabob.

Guyana has Co-operating Party status with ICCAT and has been submitting reports annually. However, it should be noted that the fishery is artisanal and with the exception of Spanish mackerel, King mackerel and sharks which are landed dressed (no fins, heads etc), does not harvest any of the major species on the ICCAT list. Since sharks are landed dressed the Data Collectors are unable to identify the species being caught.

Annex

Table 1: Fisheries Sub-sector Production for the period 2012-2010

Item	Annual Production (mt)		
	2012	2011	2010
Prawns (wholeweight)	512	368	931
Prawns (tail weight)	320	231	582
Seabob industrial (wholeweight)	24,362	19,433	19,679
Seabob artisanal (whole weight)	521	196	686
Whitebelly (whole weight)	603	830	526
Total Shrimp (wholeweight)	25,999	20,827	21,781
Finfish (industrial)	1950	1,890	1,314
Finfish (artisanal)	24,192	20,889	22,969
Red Snapper	952	758	1,037
Total Finfish	27,094	23,537	25,320
Overall Production	53,093	44,364	47,101

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 2 Annual Export for the period 2012-2010

Item	2012		2011		2010	
	mt	Value G\$	mt	Value G\$	mt	Value G\$
Pawns	280	488,877,378	294	527,473,285	641	1,120,241,485
Seabob/Whitebelly	12509	6,082,969,915	9,114	4,480,899,264	8,773	4,455,589,157
Frozen fish	8786	4,163,318,252	7,560	3,407,472,658	6,246	2,844,542,376
Dried Shrimp	16	11,465,602	2	2,138,768	10	8,954,667
Salted/Smoked Fish	192	136,078,226	339	242,184,524	194	116,846,418
Glue/Fins	164	465,730,708	224	689,100,654	126	431,501,477
Crabs/ crabmeat/shells	22	12,387,595	15	8,268,478	20	11,729,585
Ornamental	2	790,380	.1	5,447,141	4	5,072,815
Fish eggs	39	13,524,116	32	3,940,869	14	4,255,940
Squid	-	-	.10	81,600	10	6,541,600
Total	22,010	11,375,142,172	17,581	9,367,007,241	16,038	9,005,275,520

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 3: Characteristics of the Artisanal Fishing Fleet of Guyana

No. of Vessels		Method of Propulsion	Length of Vessels (m/ft)	Gear Type	Trip length	Catch Composition	Crew Size	Preservation method	Principal Fishing Area
Frame Survey	2011 Vessel Count Exercise								
558	64	Inboard diesel Lister, Perkins 210 hp	12-15/40-50	Gillnet polyethylene (inboard)	12-18 days	Grey snapper, sea-trout, gillbacker, tarpon, spanish-mackerel, croaker, snook, shark spp.	4-6	Ice	Area between 10 and 20 fathoms.
	296	Outboard engine 48 hp	8-11/35	Gillnet polyethylene (cabin-cruiser)	6-12 days	Grey snapper, sea trout, pagee, tarpon, croaker, gillbacker, spanish mackerel.	4-6	Ice	Area between 10 and 20 fathoms
	448	Outboard engine 25 hp	30m	Gillnet nylon	1-2 day	Bangamary, sea-trout, butterfish.	4-6	Ice	Area between 10 and 15 fathoms
253	307	Sail, outboard engine 6 - 9 hp	6.40-12.19 m (21-40ft.)	Chinese seine	6 - 12h	Whitebelly, seabob, immature fish, bangamary, butterfish, catfish	2-4	Fresh	Estuaries, river mouths and banks on the coast.
79	87	Outboard engine 6 - 9 hp	6 - 9/15 - 30	Cadell	12h	Catfishes, sharks spp.	2-4	Fresh	Areas between 5 and 10 fathoms.
46	32	Sail, outboard engine	6 - 9/15 - 30	Pin Seine	12h	Mullet, snook, queriman, catfish, croaker, bangamary.	2	Fresh	Intertidal zones

Source: Department of Fisheries