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Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)

Advocacy Strategy and Plan on Fisherfolk's Positions on Critical Issues concerning the Implementation of Regional Fisheries Policies in the Caribbean



CRFM Secretariat
Belize
July 2013

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Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) Advocacy Strategy and Plan on Fisherfolk's Positions on Critical Issues concerning the Implementation of Regional Fisheries Policies in the Caribbean

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Scope of the Strategy

This Advocacy Strategy and Plan is based on the CNFO's Communications Strategy which was developed in 2012, with a focus on the adoption and implementation of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, operationalization of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, and mainstreaming EAF, CCA and DRM in SSF governance and management. This Advocacy Strategy and Plan will be used by the CNFO and its members – the National Fisherfolk Organization (NFOs) and the Primary Fisherfolk Organization (PFOs) - at the regional, national and local levels.

The Strategy has scope for adaptation at the national and local levels and can be refined for future use.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ALLIANCE	The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCFP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFO	Chief Fisheries Officers
CFP&R	Common Fisheries Policy and Regime
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations
CNFO-CU	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations – Coordinating Unit
CO	Competent Organization
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GIS	Government Information Service
GIS	Geographical Information System
GIs	Geographical Indications
IUU	Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing
NFO	National Fisherfolk Organization
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development
OSPESCA	Central America Fisheries and Aqua-culture Organisation
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems
PFO	Primary Fisherfolk Organization
UWI	University of the West Indies
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region

GLOSSARY OF WORDS AND TERMS

Advocacy - the deliberate process, based on demonstrated evidence, to directly and indirectly influence decision makers, stakeholders and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfilment of Fisherfolk views interest and rights.¹

Alliance - The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, in the Wider Caribbean has the following organs: General Membership, the Chairman and the Secretariat. The Alliance is a grouping of representatives of stakeholders involved in agriculture and rural development. The representatives of Government, private sector, academia, rural women and youth, and technology developers dialogue as equals with the Ministers being primus inter pares.

Audience – the people whose attention we want to get through reading, listening or other medium.

Awareness – sensitize on an issue.

Capacity building – Fisherfolk and institution’s capabilities enhancement on a more meaningful role in fisheries governance and management.

Channel – medium in which a message is transmitted to the audience e.g. print, broadcast.

Communication - the basis for knowledge, information exchange, awareness and education, learning, capacity building, negotiation, cooperation, coordination, collaboration, conflict management and networking.

Control - the regulatory conditions under which the exploitation of the resource may be conducted.

Financial – financing.

Fisherfolk - people who perform different types of work and have different roles in the fishing industry

Fisher – (1) a male or female; may or may not use boats; captain or crew; full time or part time; commercial, recreational or subsistence; inshore or offshore; (2) boat and gear owners (who may be fishers or not); (3) fish seller or vendor (who may also own boats); and (4) helpers such as fish skimmers, scalers, boner, etc.

Fishing - means catching, taking or harvesting fish or aquatic flora or attempting to catch or harvest fish or aquatic flora or any operation at sea, on a river or lake.

Fish - means any aquatic plant or animal or parts and derivatives thereof.

¹ Adapted from UNICEF’s definition for Advocacy

Fisheries resources - includes all the fishable resources, natural and cultivated.

ICTs – Information and Communication Technologies. This refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications with a focus on communication which includes the internet, wireless networks, mobile phones, and other communication mediums.

IUU Fishing – Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing – a term used for any fishing

Illegal – failure to comply with the legal rules and procedures for responsible and sustainable fishing and protection of the aquatic environment.

Information Product – avenue used to present message e.g. poster, workshop.

Laws - the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

Listserv - software used for managing e-mail transmissions to and from a list of subscribers.

Media – the main means of mass communication (television, radio, newspapers and online) regarded collectively.

Media cluster – a group of media or journalists identified to share information with on a regular basis

Memorabilia – items used to highlight an important event or person, creating history generally considered a collector’s item e.g.: branding of pencils, pens, etc., with key messages.

Message – main set of points to be communicated

Network – “interrelated groups of several independent institutions or organizations that are established according to a specific design or need. The members of the network share a common vision, objectives and rules and they carry out a set of common activities and rules” (GTZ, 2006).

Organization – a group that forms with some structure in order to pursue agreed upon goals and objectives.

Policy - includes formal policy, laws and regulations and also includes informal policy which may be unwritten rules, guidelines or common practice.

Regulations - a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.

Unreported - failure to report or properly report on catch and related data to the authorities (e.g. national fisheries authorities and/or RFMOs) where required to do so by law.

Unregulated – refers to fishing, within an area regulated by a regional fisheries management organization, that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by vessels flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, in a manner that is not consistent with the conservation and management measures of that organization; or fishing for stocks for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are

conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

Monitoring - the continuous requirement for the measurement of fishing effort characteristics and resource yields

Social media - Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking, e.g.: electronic discussion lists boards, Facebook, twitter, blogs, micro-blogging, wikis, podcasts, video, pictures and slide sharing platforms, social bookmarking etc.

Surveillance - the degree and types of observations required to maintain compliance with the regulatory controls imposed on fishing activities.

BACKGROUND

One hundred and eighty two thousand people benefit from employment, directly or indirectly from the fisheries sector in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM) which collectively comprise 16 member states. The majority of the employment is mostly in rural communities that lack other income earning opportunities.

Globally there is an increasing call for action and responsibility to manage the earth's ecosystem resources wisely amidst environmental change and biodiversity loss. In the Caribbean, this responsibility is for the nation-states in the region to find ways for sustainable management of its marine resources (Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea). Caribbean efforts are to engage local communities in the management of natural resources through planned-out mechanisms at all levels to advocate for effective policy. A joint effort is required to construct complementary assets of institutions, relationships and norms that shape the quality and quantity of society's social interaction (social capital), together with the innovative skills, talents, competencies and abilities of individuals as well as the well-being of individuals (human capital) (The World Bank, 1999).

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organization (CNFO) is a network of national fisherfolk organizations within CARICOM/CRFM. Through the assistance of the CTA, CRFM, UWI-CERMES and other collaborating partners, the initiative to develop the CNFO was undertaken at a meeting in Grenada in 2007, after a period of consultation among the national Fisherfolk organizations and partners.

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)

The CNFO comprises members from the following countries which have established National Fisheries Organization (NFO) and / or national steering committees to form national Fisherfolk organizations:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. The Bahamas
3. Barbados
4. Belize
5. The Commonwealth of Dominica
6. Grenada
7. Guyana
8. Jamaica
9. Saint Lucia
10. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
11. Suriname
12. Trinidad and Tobago

CNFO Mission: To improve the quality of life for Fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation and capacity building.

CNFO Vision: Primary, national and regional Fisherfolk organizations with knowledgeable members collaborating to sustain fishing industries that are mainly owned and governed by Fisherfolk who enjoy a good quality of life achieved through the ecosystem based management of fisheries resources.

The CRFM, UWI-CERMES, CTA and other partners have been collaborating since 2006 on the strengthening / development of the NFOs and the establishment of the CNFO to, among others, enhance the capacity of Fisherfolk in the region to develop informed policy recommendations and to get their voices heard at the policy level.

The CNFO has been able to make policy representation on behalf of its members at the Forum level of the CRFM since 2009. It remains engaged in the discussions / negotiations on the elaboration and implementation of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; operationalizing the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU fishing; as well as matters related to the trade in fish and fish products at the national, regional and international levels, among other key issues. Its representatives are also participating in the implementation of the EU-ACP Fish II Project, which is aimed at assisting in fisheries policy development and execution in the CARIFORUM region and other parts of the ACP, and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Project which has had a focus on governance of fisheries at the wider Caribbean regional, national and local levels using an Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

Engagement at the Forum level allows the CNFO to interact with the main advisors on fisheries policy development and execution in the CRFM / CARICOM region. It also provides the

Organization with the opportunity to influence policy development and implementation in the region as well as gain access to the Ministerial Council by way of request to the Forum.

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum is made up of one representative from each Member; each Associate Member and each Observer country. The CRFM Secretariat will be the secretariat of the Forum. The Forum, among others, is responsible for:

- recommending for approval by the Ministerial Council, arrangements for sustainable fisheries management and development in Member States based upon the best available technical and scientific data and information;
- reviewing the arrangements recommended by the Technical Unit for sustainable fisheries management and development in Member States;
- promoting the protection and rehabilitation of fisheries habitats and the environment generally;
- encouraging the establishment of effective mechanism for monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries exploitation;
- encouraging the use of post-harvest practices in the fisheries sub-sector that maintain the nutritional value and quality of products;
- recommending for approval by the Ministerial Council, co-operative and other arrangements relating to fisheries; and
- receiving and examining the draft Work Plan and Budget of the Mechanism and submitting recommendations thereon to the Ministerial Council.

In addition to its participation in, and inputs into the Forum, there are usually several other regional workshops and meetings that feed into the Forum, and that the CNFO is normally invited to participate in these events

As a result of their exposure at workshops on policy influence and planning and their involvement in the CRFM Special Forum on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, Fisherfolk leaders have recognized the need to keep themselves informed as well as, share information about current fisheries policy and related matters so as to be in a better position to make informed contributions to fisheries policy development at both the national and regional levels.

Through a project for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: positioning and engaging Fisherfolk organizations in the region, the CRFM, CTA, CANARI and UWI-CERMES are partnering with, and providing support for the CNFO to advocate Fisherfolk's positions on critical issues concerning implementation of regional fisheries policies in the Caribbean.

In this context, a four-day NFOs consultation was facilitated by the CRFM and CTA between 25 and 28 February 2013 in Guyana, engaging 25 NFO representatives from 14 countries with the policy processes from ideas to decision making and implementation of regional fisheries policies.

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for implementing an advocacy strategy and plan identified at the workshop, (see Part One herein) aided the development of this advocacy strategy and plan, which are required to articulate policy issues and positions in order to influence the finalization and / or implementation of the fisheries policies mentioned above.

About the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

The CCCFP seeks to establish, within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, appropriate measures for the conservation, management, sustainable utilization and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimization of the social and economic returns from the fisheries; and the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions (Draft CFP p.4). See *Appendix 1*.

About the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing

The *Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing* demonstrates the Region's determination and commitment to protect the economic interests of CARICOM Member States and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance at the national and regional levels by creating and sustaining the necessary harmonized and contemporary legislative and regulatory regimes. The Declaration also serves as a useful tool in the mobilization of resources to develop and implement the national and regional plans of actions to combat IUU fishing. (www.caricom.org) See *Appendix 2*.

About Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

While the fisheries sector has demonstrated considerable resilience to climate variability in the past, factors such as lack of good governance and political support, access to capital on reasonable terms, weak Fisherfolk and other stakeholder organizations and consequently low bargaining power will compromise adaptation capacity in the future.

Climate change is likely to have profound effects on fishing and fish farming communities in the region. Species distributions are likely to be changed with some species moving more towards the poles. Ecosystem productivity in the tropical waters is likely to be reduced because of surface water temperature increases which will have feedback effects on food chains. Increased temperatures are likely to adversely affect coral reefs with greater incidences of coral bleaching occurring, especially in the wider Caribbean. Changes in sea temperature will also affect fish physiology with implications for both capture fisheries and fish farming. Increasing ocean acidification is also likely to affect reef structures and a wide array of other marine organisms with calcium carbonate structures.

Storms are likely to damage fishing boats, fish processing facilities, landing infrastructure and houses. Sea level rise is likely to increase coastal flooding and the ingress of salt water into coastal areas will affect agricultural production and fish farming. Sea level rise, although it may take place slowly, will make coastal fisheries and aquaculture communities more exposed to storms and tsunamis.

It should be noted that the circumstances surrounding the livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers, particularly disaster-related interruptions to their productive ability, have serious implications for fish consumers throughout the Caribbean region. But, fisheries also have the capacity to play a significant role in recovery from disasters by being one of the few productive activities that can be restarted fairly quickly with a limited lead-in time. The lack of public awareness on the full extent of the risks involved in fishing and for Fisherfolks, to be able to furnish the markets and maintain a livelihood are also contributors to the implications for consumers.

The CRFM, with funding from FAO and in coordination with partner agencies (CDEMA, CCCCC, UWI-CERMES), have been working on a CCA and DRM project to strengthen regional and national cooperation and develop capacity to address the issues of climate change impacts and disasters in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The following outputs have been approved by the Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council and are currently being implemented:

1. Assessment study on the interface between DRM, CCA and fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region, with a focus on small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture
2. A Regional Strategy and action plan for integrating DRM, CCA and fisheries and aquaculture, with a focus on small-scale fisheries (SSF) and small-scale aquaculture (SSA)
3. Results-based programme proposal with supporting project concept notes towards implementation and resource mobilization. (<http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/ClimateChangeAdaptationandDRM/tabid/225/Default.aspx>).

INTRODUCTION

The Advocacy Strategy and Plan describes regional guidelines for work which includes capacity building and institutional strengthening in the area of policy advocacy and communication based on assessment and evaluation of the NFOs at a forum on the “*Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: positioning and engaging fisherfolk organizations*”.

This document is structured in three main parts:

The first part highlights the CNFO’s development, the rationale behind the advocacy strategy and plan, and the main steps of the development of policy advocacy work within the CNFO from 2004 to 2012.

The second part of the document is an assessment of the CNFO’s strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats regarding the different aspects of advocacy within the strategy and planning for implementation as outlined during the four-day consultation in Guyana (February 2013) under this project.

Finally, in the third part, there is the description of the proposed interventions and activities along with the implementation plan outlining the processes that involves participation from the PFOs, NFOs, CNFO, CRFM, CTA and other partners and stakeholders.

Assessment of Advocacy

In keeping with its mandate and objectives, CNFO has been undertaking advocacy work at three levels:

1. In some member countries which have established NFOs
2. At Caribbean Fisheries Forum where it has a seat and through this to the CRFM Ministerial Council
3. At international level through fora at which it has been participating.

In addition to CNFO interventions, NFOs and PFOs have been involved in advocacy work, mainly through direct engagement with policy-makers and senior technocrats (Chief Fisheries Officers and others). However, current advocacy work by Fisherfolk has not been systematic, in terms of overall strategic approach, involvement of the entire CNFO membership, coordination of advocacy work including media and use of various regional opportunities, example, Caribbean Week of Agriculture / The Alliance and COTED.

Although the CNFO has been involved in consultations which led to the formulation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Regional Fisheries Policies, it appears that there is a need for more vigorous and focused advocacy and lobbying work involving not only the CNFO-CU but all its members (NFOs and PFOs), partners, allies, the media and the general public in order to ensure that the Agreement is signed as soon as possible and a competent organization is appointed for its implementation.

Still missing is robust advocacy work calling for the operationalization of all the elements of the Castries (Saint Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, and the mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, CCA and DRM in small-scale fisheries governance and management.

At the national level, advocacy work by Fisherfolk organizations has been centred around practical issues regarding the fisheries industry and small scale fisheries governance and management, but less attention has been given to the translation of regional policies into specific policy instruments at the level of each signatory country as well as the design of special arrangements with likely non-signature Caribbean countries such as the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic.

A robust and effective advocacy campaign at the regional and national level necessitates a well-focused communication strategy that is embraced by all CNFO members, partners and allies. Communication for the mobilization of Fisherfolk and their partners and allies must be reinforced. More systematic direct engagement with public policy actors (decision-makers, policy analysts / advisors and technocrats) on the basis of powerful and consistent messages is needed as well as mass communication is required to create a groundswell of social pressure and / or change. Effective involvement of communication professionals, including media people as advisors, service providers and allies of Fisherfolk is essential for effective advocacy.

Fisherfolk organizations in the Caribbean are today better equipped in terms of skills to undertake policy advocacy work. However, there is a need for continuous improvement of their capacities, so as to ensure the preparation of policy messages, engage with policy-makers, senior technocrats in Government, regional bodies and to interact with media etc.

CNFO's Progress

Discussions during the CNFO's four-day consultation in Guyana 2013 revealed the current progress and gaps in their policy and advocacy work at the national and regional levels. Progress is based on the following results:

1. Proposed observer status at the COTED and CWA planning committee
2. Growing interest in building national policy and advocacy capacity
3. Policy influencing at national and regional level occurring
4. National processes beginning to come together under CNFO's monitoring and coordination
5. National Focal Points active at the local and national levels and through the CNFO
6. Regional fisheries policy and strategy being developed with CNFO's input (Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; operationalizing the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU fishing).

CNFO's increased consultation with relevant NGOs on fisheries issues and the monitoring by the CRFM and the CNFO of the NFOs and other local Fisherfolk organizations allow for the gauging of success through regional reporting on a regular basis and at scheduled meetings of the CNFOs. Advocacy occurs at lower levels as lobbying through communication techniques such

as letter-writing, telephone contact, one-on-one interaction for policy and advocacy impacts. The impacts have been indicated as less visible and not as effective as the CNFO would like.

Part One

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose of Advocacy

The purpose of advocacy work by the CNFO is to bring about changes in policies so as to contribute to the development of a sustainable and profitable industry, improvement of the quality of Fisherfolk lives, food nutrition and security in the CRFM / CARIFORUM Region.

This strategy will deal with advocacy in a manner that is inter-related and inclusive of preparation of specific policy proposals, communication, education and training even though each aspect requires specific approaches. The strategy is meant to provide a framework for contributing to policy dialogues while promoting sustainable fisheries development and Fisherfolk priorities and to foster the ways of collaboration with a wide number of policy makers from governments, regional institutions, the development community and other NGOs. It is also meant to strengthen the partnership of the CNFO and the NFOs and local communities policy and advocacy efficiency and to develop, through education and training, a wider audience in the Caribbean who care about fisheries and the resources of the sea along with those audiences who are capable of taking up the agenda at a higher level of advocacy.

The key policy areas of focus under the current strategy are:

1. Adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
2. Operationalization of the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing
3. Mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in small-scale fisheries governance and management.
4. Adoption and implementation of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).²

Guiding Principles

The following principles have been considered for the development of this strategy:

1. The CNFO's advocacy work is aimed at enhancing livelihoods and achieving an improved quality of life for Fisherfolk and their communities
2. The CNFO, NFOs and PFOs in the respective countries, with support from the partnering agencies and allies, will implement the strategy

² The guidelines are still being negotiated. The Caribbean countries are expected to develop their positions on this issue and be part of the global negotiations so as to ensure those positions are incorporated in the SSF Guidelines.

3. The current strategy is aimed at strengthening capacities of Fisherfolk organizations at the regional, national and community levels to undertake and maintain their roles in influencing fisheries policy development and implementation
4. Community-based mechanisms and initiatives will be encouraged and enabled for greater policy influence and advocacy
5. Ensuring that community initiatives and motivation are not derailed by external agendas
6. Effective cooperation will be sought with media as channels of communication and as allies
7. Youth, women and children are engaged as part of the solution
8. Improving and increasing learning and information sharing
9. Including science-based knowledge, including traditional knowledge, as the foundation for policy influence and advocacy actions
10. Strengthening partnerships
11. Encouraging participatory decision making and actions with partners

Target Audiences

The main targets of the Advocacy Strategy and Plan are:

1. **Policy and decision makers** at the regional and national political levels:
 - (a) Ministers responsible for fisheries, who make policy decisions at the national level and also at the regional level, collectively as representatives of their countries at the CRFM, COTED and Alliance. They are to be targeted in their two capacities as their roles and the decision-making mechanisms differ between each role
 - (b) Other members of the Cabinet (e.g. Ministers of Justice, Finance, National Security)
 - (c) Heads of Government who make decisions at CARICOM level
 - (d) Secretary General and other Executives of CARISEC and other relevant regional bodies
 - (e) Members of parliament, including members of specialized commissions or groups in charge of fisheries, economic and financial affairs, law enforcement.
2. **Direct collaborators of decision-makers** who are involved in prioritization and agenda setting, formulation of policies, decision-making mechanisms, resource allocation, etc.
 - (a) Policy analysts / advisors and senior technocrats in Ministries responsible for fisheries such as permanent secretaries (PSs), chief technical officers, chief fisheries officers
 - (b) PSs, CEOs in related sectors including legislation and enforcement of laws, funding, etc.
 - (c) Policy analysts / advisors and senior technocrats in CARICOM and other regional organizations

Currently, Ministers call on their Chief Fisheries Officers and other Government Officers for advice regarding fisheries matters. It is vitally important that CNFO members

establish close relationships with their Fisheries officers and other technocrats to ensure that they can take their inputs into account when advising Ministers. Among others, mechanisms should be put in place to allow fisherfolk representatives to be part of country consultations on CFP and other fisheries policies.

3. Partners and allies

- (a) Groups who can join forces with Fisherfolk organizations on specific issues and advocate themselves for the same objectives: within the public sector (national and regional agricultural and related sectors), independent sector (Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, etc.), international organizations and initiatives
- (b) Media professionals can help profile Fisherfolk's issues and organizations when provided with regular, accurate, timely information, adequately crafted according to their needs. Media professionals include:
 - Communications and media officers in Ministries responsible for fisheries and related Ministries, GISs
 - Independent media (TV, radio, press, online)
The independent media can create social pressure, influence policy agenda, decision-making and accountability; mobilize civil society and the general public
- (c) Research institutions which provide science based knowledge that Fisherfolk need to prepare their policy positions and recommendations
- (d) Fisherfolk organizations and leaders themselves at various levels and from the various countries who need to be mobilized and provided with the necessary tools and information to fully engage in advocacy work in its appropriate forms
- (e) International organizations which make policy related recommendations and are involved in global policies in fisheries and related sectors and can influence the policy agenda and decision-making at the national and regional level in the Caribbean organizations (national, regional) which can provide scientific, technical assistance (e.g. training, training materials) and financial resources
- (f) General public who can provide support to Fisherfolk ideas and proposals and influence policy agenda and decision making through their interaction with policy makers. They can bring pressure to bear on the policy makers.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

SG 1: Ensure that appropriate regional fisheries policies are formulated, adopted and implemented.

Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policies

Strategic Objectives:

1. Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy signed by all CARICOM countries with the exception of The Bahamas.
2. CCCFP signed by third party countries.

3. Protocols on EAF, CCA and DRM in SSF and on sustainable SSF development (incorporating the SSF guidelines) under the CCCFP adopted.
4. CRFM designated as the competent agency in the CCCFP.
5. Legislation amended at the national level to enable the implementation of the new regional fisheries policies adopted.

Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fisheries

Strategic Objectives:

1. Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing being implemented by all CARICOM members.
2. Legislation enabling policy adoption and implementation at the national level enacted.
3. Trade of legally harvested fish through the appropriate channels encouraged.
4. Inclusive fisheries value chain to ensure equitable returns initiated and developed.

SG 2: Mobilise resources for the implementation of the policies at national and regional levels

Strategic Objectives:

1. Financial resources made accessible for the development and management of national fisheries industries as well as human and institutional capacities of Fisherfolk organizations in accordance with the CCCFP and Castries Declaration on IUU fishing.
2. Research findings and recommendations made available to Fisherfolk organizations and their partners and allies who use them as evidence for policy advocacy and decision-making regarding the ecological, economic and social dimensions of fishing industry.
3. Additional technical expertise are mobilized to assist PFOs, NFOs, CNFO as well as small scale fisheries enterprises to prepare and put into practice their development plans and activities and strengthen their capabilities in order to implement approved policies at the national and regional levels.

SG 3: Strengthen the capacity of the Fisherfolk organisation to undertake advocacy.

Strategic Objectives:

Capacities of PFOs, NFOs and CNFO enhanced for:

1. Policy and advocacy influence at local, national and regional levels relating to the key priority areas identified by their membership and the CNFO;
2. Policy development, including collection / generation, repackaging of policy evidence;
3. Internal and external communication for policy purposes;
4. Resource mobilisation.

SG 4: Cross-Cutting Communication and work with Media

Strategic Objectives:

1. Ensure the general public, stakeholders and policy-makers are aware of key fisheries development issues and policy responses are triggered, implemented and monitored
2. Ensure improved access to, and sharing of information between and among stakeholders and actors in regional fisheries policies
3. Use of ICTs to mobilise people and attract attention
4. Mobilise external resources for advocacy purposes.

Part Two

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The CNFO structure enables it to work from the grassroots up to the national, regional and international levels. The CNFO is active on the ground through the NFOs and PFOs, with the support of the CRFM and other partners, and often do work to influence policy development and implementation, including the identification of gaps, at various fora. The CRFM and other partners collaborate with the CNFO for the building of capacity in various areas including policy, advocacy and communications. Some partners are well placed to influence governments to effect policies that would be good for Fisherfolk, their livelihood and the environment in which they operate, including marketing of their fish and fish products.

Regionally, the CRFM provides support for the development of the CNFO. Through this partnership, the voice of the CNFO can be heard at the regional decision making level which can contribute to the development of the Fisherfolk and their organizations at the national level. At the national level, each NFO has knowledge of the policy arrangements and fisheries polices in place. This knowledge should add to the capacity of the regional body CNFO and its appreciation for emerging issues in fisheries and related sectors and for the development and implementation of advocacy strategies and plans.

This regional policy and advocacy strategy will use the strengths of the existing network and partnerships to ensure the outcomes outlined above are achieved for the benefit of the region and the Fisherfolk organizations.

Each NFO will have a host of interventions that will contribute to the overall process and these will be developed further in each country according to national and local issues. Relevant institutions such as government, civil society, NGOs, CRFM, CARICOM will be engaged based on their capacity to add value and an engagement plan for each will be developed. Local knowledge coupled with scientific research will form the basis for most of the interventions outlined in the strategy. Participation of the NFOs at national and local levels will be emphasised to ensure ownership and sustainability.

Other themes, such as food and nutrition security and environmental conservation will be given emphasis and included into the main objectives of this strategy and subsequent events. Building of capacity is a key focus of the strategy which will ensure continuity of the CNFO and the NFOs.

The goal of all the activities within this strategy is to create benefits that will promote improved livelihoods and a sustainable fisheries industry. In order to achieve the outcomes outlined, the agencies, institutions, organizations, companies, and all those who impact on fisheries and the environment in the Caribbean will be targeted through the development and implementation of an advocacy plan. This advocacy plan will be implemented over the period August 2013 to July 2015.

SWOT Analysis for Implementation of the Advocacy Plan

Strengths and weaknesses occur because of actions taken by an organisation, they are internal factors which can be controlled by the organisation. Opportunities and threats occur beyond the control of an organisation. The SWOT was compiled based on brainstorming by Fisherfolk at the Guyana 2013 project's workshop. This was refined and aided in the development of the CNFO Advocacy Strategy and Plan.

Implementation SWOT Analysis – Advocacy Strategy and Plan

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong messages by Fisherfolk on policies 2. Fisherfolk Networking platform at Regional, National and Sub-National 3. Community and social obligation 4. Membership Increasing 5. Can rely on collective NFOs 6. Strong leadership at CNFO and NFO 7. Partnership formation among urban and rural fisheries stakeholders and actors 8. Building on existing partnerships 9. Improved capacity to advocate better governance for fisheries 10. Strong commitment to follow the campaign through to the implementation stage 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited human capacities in Fisherfolk organizations for advocacy, including ineffective communication within the Fisherfolk organisation 2. Limited capacities for policy development and advocacy and resource mobilisation 3. Insufficient understanding of policy process including legislative process at NFO level 4. Inadequate support at NFO and PFO / Cooperative level 5. Environmental issues not always adequately dealt with in project design 6. Health and security issues not adequately dealt with in project design 7. Lack of finance and inadequate management of finance 8. Limited commitment from individual Fisherfolk to NFO, not all fishers are members of the NFO 9. NFOs may not be taken seriously due to action already taken at community level 10. Not all stakeholders have been clearly identified and engaged as well as, limited collaboration between Fisherfolk and potential allies

Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fisheries issues are higher on the development agenda e.g.: under the Blue Economy considerations resulting in the availability of funds and donor support including technical support 2. Training opportunities with respect to advocacy work 3. New partnerships are available 4. Scope for closer coordination with CARICOM and its organs (COTED, Council of Ministers, ALLIANCE, CARICOM Secretariat) 5. New economically sustainable fisheries initiatives for food and nutrition security 6. Participatory legislative process 7. Growing relationship with National Ministries' Officials 8. Conducive media landscape and growing relationship with media 9. Scope for technical advice from partner agencies 10. Availability of dialogue space about fisheries issues at community and national levels 11. Potential partnerships between government, NGO and communities to manage resources, increase compliance with regulations, provide a means of gathering and monitoring information and engender sense of ownership 12. To successfully brand the CNFO 13. Telecommunications coverage and availability of applications of internet to use open applications as Viber, Skype, Whatsapp to communicate 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited access to ICTs and time effective management of information sharing 2. Small scale Fisherfolk views and interest need not be taken into full account 3. Low level of implementation of approved policies - Political will exists but a lack of instrument prevents implementation. The stigma aligned with Fisherfolk in contrast with other professionals and business folk 4. Financial instability so resources not available to continue projects 5. High vulnerability to climate change, desertification for both marine and inland fishing, and pollution 6. Limited activities and insufficient coherence in the implementation of regional activities 7. Poor integration of national framework mechanism of Fisherfolk policies into regional policies 8. Insufficient consultation between Fisherfolks and actors in other economic sectors which results in risks of fish resources - e.g.: industrial drilling in fishing waters (environmental pollution) 9. Regulations to be reviewed to ensure that the impact of industries pollutants are reduced on the fishing sector 10. Lack of fishing consultation 11. Insufficient evidence from research and developmental work in the sector and limited integration of Fisherfolk in discussion on poverty reduction and food nutrition and security 12. Aging population of Fisherfolk and less interest by youth in fishing

Geographical Approach to Advocacy Work

Effective advocacy work for sound regional small-scale fisheries policies requires that interventions are integrated with each other at all geographical levels under a comprehensive and coordinated approach. The levels are as follows:

1. the community / village
2. district
3. national
4. sub-regional (e.g. OECS)
5. regional (e.g. CARICOM and CARIFORUM)
6. inter-regional (e.g. wider Caribbean region (WCR), Caribbean-Pacific-Africa)
7. global.

The geographical approach to advocacy work will ensure that regional policies are:

1. informed by national and local interests and positions, including with regard to cross-boundary issues e.g. related to fish harvesting, natural hazards, climate change mitigation and adaptation, IUU
2. informed by science and practice-based evidence generated within and outside the Region
3. bought into by Fisherfolk and other stakeholders represented through their organizations
4. informed by policies made at the global level (e.g. on IUU, EAF, International SSF Guidelines) and the Caribbean region speaks with one voice at international fora and debates
5. translated into national public policies (once they have been discussed and adopted), in terms of country-specific priorities, objectives and instruments (laws, regulations, economic and fiscal incentives, financing, provision of public goods, etc.), for their implementation.

Similarly, the approach:

1. requires that, at a given geographical level, all Fisherfolk organizations, supported by their partners and allies are actively involved in the design and implementation of specific advocacy tools, and effective media work according to the respective political, economic, socio-cultural, institutional and media environment
2. facilitates direct engagement of Fisherfolk organizations with policy stakeholders, policy decision-makers and other actors in a way that synergy is created and Fisherfolk interests and positions are better taken into consideration at the national and regional levels
3. facilitates cross-learning between organizations and countries with regard to lessons learnt, experiences and best practices with policy formulation and implementation
4. enables Fisherfolk organizations to seize opportunities available at the various levels for capacity strengthening, financing, etc.
5. caters for cost-effectiveness of developmental interventions such as capacity strengthening and research.

Primary and national Fisherfolk organizations will engage in systematic advocacy work at the community / village and national levels so as to ensure that issues, practice-based evidence and positions provided by Fisherfolk organizations are fed into policy debates, processes and decision-making which take place at the national level. In their advocacy work, PFOs and NFOs will also seek and use policy-evidence generated by other institutions (research institutions, Civil Society Organizations, etc.) within and outside the region as indicated above.

Advocacy work at the regional level will be coordinated by the CNFO, which will provide guidance and leadership in order to ensure coherence and synergy necessary for effectiveness and impact. Through the geographical approach, common advocacy messages are prepared and disseminated, after adaptation as appropriate.

The development and implementation of sound small-scale fisheries policies in the Region should be informed by interests, issues and views of stakeholders and actors at the community / village, national, regional, inter-regional and global levels.

Part Three

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Areas of Intervention

The areas of intervention are derived directly from the strategic goals of the CNFO as follows:

1. Policy development
2. Advocacy
3. Resource mobilization
4. Capacity strengthening
5. Role of Media

Policy Development

1. Generation / collection / repackaging of evidence for the policy process:
 - (a) Science as provided mainly by research agencies and institutions (e.g. CRFM, WECAFC, UWI (CERMES, Marine Science Centre) and World Fish)
 - (b) Practice as provided by Fisherfolk organizations, traders, processors, input suppliers
 - (c) Observation as provided by Civil Society Organizations (NGOs, e.g. CANARI, community-based organizations, youth-based organizations)
 - (d) Experience with policy-making processes, as provided by policy makers and senior technocrats, other actors and stakeholders from the public and independent sector at the national, regional and global levels
2. Policy analysis undertaken by policy analysts and subject matter specialists
3. Development of Fisherfolk positions on specific issues according to their interests and views
4. Formulation of policy proposals through consultations, expert work, committees, Ministry departments, etc.
5. Decision-making on the basis of proposals through the appropriate channels involving Ministries, Parliament, PM Office.

Advocacy

1. Assessment of who makes policies and how on specific policy issues at the regional level and in the various countries
2. Preparation of advocacy tools e.g. fact sheets, issues papers, policy briefs, advocacy newsletter, brochures, etc.
3. Internal communication to mobilize Fisherfolk and their organizations at the community, national and regional levels

4. Development of alliances and coalitions with structures and individuals from the public and independent sector at the national, regional and global levels
5. Effective communication with stakeholders and decision-makers and other policy actors
6. Effective communication with media
7. Media work to get public and political support and trigger policy response: agenda setting, formulation, decision-making, monitoring and ensure accountability.

Resource Mobilization

1. Development of a mid-term resource mobilization strategy and plan for CNFO to attract technical, scientific, financial, lobbying, and other types of support for the implementation of policies
2. Profiling of Fisherfolk organizations and their objectives, views and programmes through various tools, including media work
3. Creation and maintenance of presence of Fisherfolk issues on media, including conventional and new media
4. Identification and targeting of national, regional and global organizations which are potentially interested in providing specific types of support to, and cooperating with, Fisherfolk organizations
5. Involvement of partners and allies of Fisherfolk organizations on specific issues according to their areas of intervention and comparative advantages
6. Preparation of sound technical and financial documentation, adapted to the needs and requirements of individual organizations targeted
7. Identification and implementation of appropriate channels of communication, including direct engagement with organizations targeted
8. Preparation and implementation of formal and informal arrangements with organizations.

Capacity Strengthening

1. Skills training through attendance and learning lessons/best practices at national, regional, intra-ACP and all ACP events
2. Exposure (through attendance and learning lessons/best practices at national, regional, intra-ACP and all ACP events and Global);
3. Access to, and sharing of information, knowledge and materials
4. Specialised media training including media relations and networks, etc.

The Role of Media

Media is a very important tool in advocacy, since media has the ability to reach a large and diverse audience. It is essential to raising awareness and building support from relevant stakeholders on major advocacy issues because it can be effectively used to influence social change for the benefit of the larger community.

In carrying out the advocacy campaign aimed at influencing the finalisation and/or implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries (Saint Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the CNFO will adopt a multi-channel and integrated communication approach aimed at informing and mobilizing the Network members, attracting and maximizing attention of stakeholders, like-minded organizations, decision-makers and specific segments of the general public, and influencing the policy agenda and policy formation nationally and regionally.

Media includes traditional / conventional and new / ICTs based tools:

Traditional media:

1. Print or publications: newspaper, books, reports, fact sheets, brochures, leaflets, policy briefs, flyers, newsletters, manuals and guidelines
2. Broadcast – television, radio
3. Photography
4. Video
5. Telephone / Facsimile

New / ICT based Media:

1. New Media technology or media convergence – a combination of tools using the internet: live television / radio on the internet and online newspaper
2. Smart mobile phones
3. Electronic notebooks as iPad
4. Online publications
5. Social media as Facebook, twitter, blogs
6. Email
7. E-discussion groups
8. Online chats
9. Face to face communications using online tools such as Skype, Google Webcast
10. Websites / Web2 Tools
11. Photography (digital)

The news media is the most important element of the mass media communications for advocacy. It plays an important role in advancing democratic discussion around policy debates and effectively set the public agenda for discussion of issues. The mass media is an on-going public forum for arguing public policy, not only to be heard in the Parliament but on the current affairs programmes, the news, the front pages and business section of newspapers, and even on 24-hour all talk radio. The mass media, especially the news media and through community media can amplify voices so that policy makers cannot ignore them.

When the media is used in advocacy, the aim is to have your message heard by the target audience(s) in order to exercise influence over the policy environment. Gaining access to the news media and framing problems from a public policy perspective, CNFO can apply pressure

strategically to key decision makers to make any required changes in the CCCFP and Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing in the Region.

The CNFO will have to form a special relationship with the journalists. To get the Fisherfolk issues and recommendations in the media, the network will have to provide information to the journalists and have frequent follow up to help the media understand the importance of the Fisherfolk issues and their views on same. Fisherfolk should provide the media with information in a way that they can use it, that is, in a concise format, using terminology the media will understand and / or explaining terminologies if it is essential to be announced. More importantly, Fisherfolk must be able to determine what or the amount of information sent, its relevance, accuracy and timeliness in order for media to get the news out in real time or to have the information current in the media.

Media's understanding will assist to develop a link between the policy makers and the Fisherfolk, which becomes the vehicle to influence policies and get political, administrative and financial support for CNFO positions - thus, making it easier to get the CNFO's information out to the public and through the media to the policy makers and all authorities on the issues. Effective media work is predicated upon better mutual understanding and trust between the CNFO and media people.

CNFO, NFOs and PFOs should contact the media on the various incidence that they are aware of and activities being held by the CNFO. Incidences are not trivial, rather it creates news and your contact with the media helps establish relationship with the media, example: vandalism of boats, less fish harvested, pollution, etc. The information or scoop helps the media to know the industry and what is happening giving them a better understanding of the Fisherfolk and indirectly building a gap between media and Fisherfolks. This relationship built assures media that the information provided is reliable and they could reach Fishers anytime for clarification.

Meet the editors of the media houses once in a while, show appreciation about their articles or editorials or provide them with valuable information and proposals; this would enhance future interactions. There are many opportunities to create news and help set the media and public agendas. But there will be times when the best way to present the information you want the audience to receive is by paying for exposure, example, advertisements, public announcements, pamphlets, and photo-advertisement.

The advocacy messages will be adapted to the roles, needs, requirements of policy-makers and other audiences, including media by the PFOs, NFOs and CNFO.

In keeping with its direct and grassroots advocacy approach, the CNFO-CU and national members will develop systematic collaboration with press, radio and TV houses in the region. Through proper public information and engagement, regional and national policy-makers will pay more attention to CNFO positions and proposals and will be more amenable to providing their support. With regard to the general public, the CNFO will seek to make a clear distinction between public relations and public engagement. While the former can be equated with promotion and publicity, the latter is aimed at improving stakeholders and ordinary citizens' insights into the issues so that they can become themselves stakeholders and support CNFO positions and demands.

It necessitates informal arrangements, including training and technical workshops through which media people improve their knowledge of fisheries issues and gradually become full-fledged fisheries stakeholders.

Media Practices

New and traditional media practices are prevalent modes of operations for advocacy. The convergence of media allows for access to information at the fingertip - the newspaper can be seen on the internet or the radios heard through a live stream/broadcast online – the news or information can be read, seen or heard in real time or as it happens. A fisher could be interviewed live by media in one country and be seen or heard in other countries through the world wide web, once the support of the internet is available on both sides.

Various ICT tools support the sharing of information and communications in organizations, networks and the general public. ICTs will be used by the CNFO to get the advocacy messages to its audiences in real time with audio, content and visuals.

Internet has become a major source of information for policy actors and stakeholders, and the general public, and also for media themselves. From this perspective, CNFO and its member organizations will use their Websites as an important channel for their advocacy work. In addition to reaching decision-makers, senior technocrats, Fisherfolk partners and allies, the CNFO Website will serve to share information and knowledge and get its membership and Fisherfolk in general, mobilized around specific issues such as the signature of CCCFP or fight against IUU. In this context, special attention will be given to Web 2.0 and social media tools taking into consideration its potential in information dissemination, policy networking and advocacy. Social media can also help attract young people to the sector.

CNFO will use the media to raise public awareness by informing and educating the audiences on activities, processes, and outcomes from its advocacy implementation plan. The media will be used for advertising, marketing and to promote specific objectives of the network as required in the NFOs. Radio broadcasting has been the most used medium in the Caribbean, since information can be transmitted to rural areas where internet service, newspapers and television are not always available. Most fishing areas are in the rural areas and community radio has been playing a significant role in sharing information by providing a service for national news and news at the grass root level providing to the needs of the community it serves, therefore contributing to the development. The same applies to television.

Media houses work with deadlines and have to distribute the news to its audience in a timely manner. In the news business ‘late news is no news’ and it will not be given any space in a newspaper column or on news broadcast. Journalists monitor the legislative framework, keeping an eye on the checks and balances of government’s decision making and implementation processes. Crucial issues and policy commitments to the agricultural and more so, the fisheries sector can be left unaccounted for, if information remains undocumented or is not widely shared, and data can remain in the hands of a few. With media, a strategic link in the chain of information distribution and communications can bring many stakeholders together.

The media throughout the ACP countries are enhancing their knowledge on the importance of agriculture, and related sectors, including fisheries for the sustainability of food and nutrition security, and have been treating the issue of poverty and poverty reduction in the way crime and politics and good governance are reported on. However, there is still insufficient reporting on agriculture and rural development, including fisheries.

The CNFO will utilise the tools available in the media to facilitate components of the advocacy work for the policy developments in the Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing and CCCFP. The tools will be assessed for each national level to find the best channel to successfully deliver the advocacy messages to policy makers, technocrats and other stakeholders to influence change.

The media has been involved in many regional activities such as the Caribbean Week of Agriculture and have been exposed to agricultural issues and the impact of climate change on agriculture and the region. In the past three years, the media has been a way of bridging the gap between the law makers and the agricultural researchers and farmers, while informing the general public.

The CNFO and NFOs, in their aim to highlight an issue and affect change to key policy issues in the fisheries sector, will enhance its relations with the media, to increase the public awareness through its news and current affairs programmes. The CNFO and NFO will assist the media by helping build media's capacity to understand the issues being advocated and the processes being undertaken to implement the advocacy plan. Once media understands the CNFOs goals and objectives it will make for greater understanding and more effective reporting on the advocacy issues and information CNFO provides to the media.

The Fisherfolk organization at its national and regional level will incorporate the media in its processes and activities to brand the network in a positive light and to involve media as a champion, a partner and ally in the advocacy process to influence policies and get political, administrative and financial support for CNFO positions and proposals.

The CNFO should see the media as an important tool in changing the way fisheries is portrayed as an unattractive career or a job for the semi-educated. The CNFO and the NFOs will through the media inform and educate the public on their roles in contributing to food and nutrition security for the 40 million people living in the Caribbean.

The CNFO will be active in any media development that portray or affects them and vice versa, the CNFO will learn from media by staying informed on decisions that affects them and utilise media for a call to action. Media can be monitored to create awareness within the Fisherfolk organizations on what is being said about fisher folk and policy advocacy, whether the news is positive or negative could be gauged, if negative the CNFO will strategize to alleviate the impact on the network and, if positive, to champion the cause and build on the experience.

The CNFO will utilise the "free" media (when organizations get space for their news without having to pay) through lobbying media houses and journalists to become champions of their cause and struggle. Developing close working relationships with journalists and editors will prove beneficial to the Network, providing exclusive stories to a specific media or a group of selected media (media cluster). Press releases could be written to provide facts on the policy issue and objectives in two to three paragraphs using key points to address the issue. Once the

press release has been sent to the media, follow up telephone calls will assist the media to clarify any details or point journalists into the right direction for further information gathering to compose a reliable story for the news. Media people will, through the collaboration, improve their knowledge of fisheries issues and gradually become full-fledged fisheries stakeholders. Through the media the CNFO and the NFOs can enhance participation and gain power. It is possible to shift power to a community by cultivating skills that can enhance and raise the network's voice. By partnering with the media, the CNFO can provide the network with an independent voice to lend visibility, legitimacy and credibility to the issues of the Network.

Advocacy Planning

Proposed CNFO Advocacy Plan on Fisherfolk's positions on critical issues concerning the implementation of Regional Fisheries Policies in the Caribbean.

The Advocacy Plan Outline

- Goals / Objectives
- Messages
- Audience
- Actions
- Channels and Product
- Timeline

The Audience and Channels

Channels are determined by the audience targeted and the type of information to be communicated. For each country participating in the advocacy, the NFO's could identify which media works best in its respective country, that is, whether radio is better than printed material to communicate with the Fisherfolk or television and printed advertisement to communicate with the general public. The following table suggests the various channels which could be utilised for various audiences:

Audience	Primary Channels	Secondary Channels
Heads of Government, Ministers (Policy and decision makers), CARICOM	Issue Papers, Policy Briefs, Meetings, Presentations	Lobby Letters
Inter-government bodies, Government Officials e.g.: Chief of Fisheries, Permanent Secretary	Issue Papers Policy Briefs Meetings Letters	Telephone Email
Media	Press Releases Published documents, Fact	Interviews, Town Meetings information and invitation,

	sheets,	Website, Social media
General Public	Website, Advertisement in media, Printed material, media (tv / radio / print/online)	Town meetings, Social media
Fisherfolk	Meetings, Telephone, Updates using newsletters and email, Printed material	Town Meetings, Workshops, Social media
NGOs, Collaborators and other Stakeholders	Printed material, issue papers, meetings, relevant documents	Telephone, email, website, Social media

**PROPOSED CNFO ADVOCACY PLAN ON FISHERFOLK'S POSITIONS
ON CRITICAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
REGIONAL FISHERIES POLICIES IN THE CARIBBEAN
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2015**

SG1: Ensure that appropriate regional fisheries policies are formulated, adopted and implemented.					
Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels / Products³	Timelines
<p>1. Ensure all CARICOM members to sign onto and implement CCCFP, including the designation of the CRFM as the competent agency in the CCCFP</p>	<p>1. All CARICOM Countries must sign onto and implement the CCCFP for the sustainability of the Caribbean fisheries Industry, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) should be designated as the Competent Agency to execute the Caribbean Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Government, Ministers responsible for fisheries, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Fisheries Officers • Legal Affairs Ministries • National Security agencies • Inter-governmental bodies – CARICOM, CHOG, COTED, ALLIANCE, CRFM, OECS, FAO / WECAFC • Allies: Media, NGO ❖ General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby national governments to sign on to the CCCFP • Lobby by CNFO and NFO to raise issues and awareness for signature • Undertake regional and national targeted campaigns calling for stakeholders to implement priority actions that would ensure that the CRFM is designated the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Ministers through CRFM to take to CARICOM • Lobby • Media releases by CRFM • Opinion editorials • Media interviews with CRFM / CNFO / Ministers that the signing is high on agenda (radio, television, newspapers, online media, social networks) • CRFM Website – update • Caribbean Week of Agriculture 	<p>From August 2013 until signature</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u> CCCFP could be signed during the CWA Guyana – October 2013 for greater impact on the region's government and community.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase Fisheries Sector and the CCCFP</p>

3. In addition to CNFO, as a regional body, PFOs and NFOs will chose some of these channels according to their specific needs, the wider policy, media, cultural and social environment in their respective countries as well their internal capacity to use them for their advocacy and media work.

	<p>Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP).</p> <p>2. Caribbean fisheries policies must be properly formulated, adopted and implemented to achieve sustainable fisheries development, including the small-scale fisheries sub-sector.</p>	<p>❖ Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media (could help with getting the information out for support of the CRFM as the competent agency) 	<p>competent agency in the CCCFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure NFOs and PFOs are engaged with Policy Officials in terms of lobbying for CRFM to be the competent agency • NFOs and PFOs to lobby national governments to implement CCCFP • Work with media to monitor the implementation of the CCCFP and to create awareness at the national and regional community levels • Ensure that CNFO is invited to the COTED Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting: CRFM Council of Ministers 	<p>CNFO could make such a recommendation at the CRFM Forum or to the Secretariat for communication to the Ministerial Council or through one of the Member States.</p>
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Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channel / Products	Timelines
<p>2. Promote the adoption the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF) at national and regional development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highlight the importance of SSF in the Caribbean Region. 2. Highlight the need for a human rights approach to sustainable small-scale fisheries development 3. Call for the development of a protocol on SSF in the CCFP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherfolk including: organisations committees, individuals • Government: including Chief Fisheries Officers, Permanent Secretaries and Ministers responsible for fisheries • Legal Affairs Ministries • CARICOM Heads of Governments • Partners in regional fisheries and related bodies • Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sensitize ministers and advisors on the policies on International Guidelines for SSF • Lobby the media to promote the importance of the SSF • Lobby the media to create awareness • Participation in CRFM forum, National and Regional forum • Make a presentation to the ALLIANCE at the CWA 2013 • Social media campaigns • Consultation with Stakeholders to promote SSF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Forum e.g.: CTA International Conference (the views of the Caribbean Fisherfolks are taken into consideration) • Policy Briefs • Issues Paper • Media interviews/updates (radio, television, newspapers, online media, social media) • Website • Newsletter • Advertisement to reach Fisherfolk • Factsheet on SSF done by CRFM 	<p>July 2013 to June 2015</p>

Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels / Products	Timelines
<p>3. Encourage all CARICOM members to implement the Castries Declaration on IUU</p>	<p>1. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (and Enforcement) – key to addressing IUU Fishing issues</p> <p>2. Fisherfolk have a key role to play in the implementation of the Castries Declaration on IUU fishing and for sustainable fishing in the Caribbean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherfolk • Government ministries and departments including: agriculture and fisheries, coast guard / marine police / defence force, finance, attorney general, judiciary, customs, foreign affairs • CRFM • Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation (OSPESCA) • General public • Partners • Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the CRFM to ensure all Member States implement the Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing • Lobby national governments to implement policy • Create awareness among fishers and general public about the dangers of IUU fishing • Promote the development of access agreements with third party states as one means of addressing IUU fishing • Lobby media to create awareness • Lobby for the delimitation of EEZ boundaries • Lobby for stiffer penalties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional forums to express the views of the Fisherfolks • Letter to Agencies and Government on national issues • Media interviews (radio, television, newspapers, online media, social networks) • Letters to the Editor by CNFO • Website by CRFM/CNFO • CNFO Newsletter • Advertisement to educate publics 	<p>July 2013 - Dec 2014</p>

Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels/Products	Timelines
<p>4. Initiate and develop inclusive fisheries value chain policies for equitable returns</p> <p>5. Trade of legally harvested fish through the appropriate channels encouraged</p>	<p>1. Value Chain must involve Fisherfolk, vendors and other actors to ensure equitable benefits and improved quality assurance for competitive marketing and trade in fish and fish products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers and vendors and other actors • Consumers • Government, including decision makers in agencies responsible for consumer affairs, standards, quality assurance • Fisherfolk organisations • Other partners in the value chains • Media • Women • Youth • Entrepreneurs • General public • CWA • Research partners and Universities e.g.: UWI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is regular, accurate and time efficient of information dissemination among members of the value chain for effective coordination • Engage fishers and vendors, and government and stakeholder to improve fishers involvement in the value chain, standards and quality assurance development • Encourage legitimate buying and selling • Promote the development of policies conducive to public and private investments • Engage media to create awareness on value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Briefs • Issue Paper • Fact Sheet • Advocacy Newsletter – CRFM, CNFO • Consultations / Fora • Stakeholders’ Meeting • Media interviews (radio, television, newspapers, online media, social networks) • Opinion editorials / Letter to the Editor • Website CNFO / CRFM • Newsletter • Advertisement to promote issues • CNFO / CRFM Booth at CWA on fisheries and value chain • Utilise national and regional agricultural events e.g.:CWA 	<p>July 2013 to May 2015</p>

			<p>and its role in the fisheries sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education of all publics including youth and women on the various roles in value chain • Utilise national and regional agricultural events to highlight the benefits to youth and women in fishing 		
<p>6. Amend or enact new legislation to enable the implementation of the new regional fisheries policies</p> <p>7. Ensure small-scale Fisherfolk are considered in the development and implementation of new</p>	<p>1. Developing and implementing enabling legislation for policy adoption and implementation at the national level is critical.</p> <p>2. Legislation on quality assurance and safety in the fisheries sector must take into consideration the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers responsible for fisheries, legal affairs, consumer affairs • Fisherfolk organisations (FFOs) • Vendors and other actors • Media • General Public • Parliamentarians and other Politicians (identify to gain support) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the relevant mechanisms to develop a regional recommendation to the CARICOM Heads of Government and Members of Parliaments on the importance of such legislation and the need for the involvement of fishers and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters • Public Consultation • Media releases • CRFM/CNFO to produce articles for media • Media interviews (radio, television, newspapers, online media, social media e.g.: twitter, Facebook by CNFO, NFO, CRFM) • Website update 	<p>July to October 2013</p>

<p>legislation on quality assurance and safety in the fisheries sector</p>	<p>needs of small scale Fisherfolk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Parliamentary Committees (which addresses fisheries) 	<p>their organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for stiffer penalties on emerging threats resulting from poorly managed projects e.g.: chemicals, pollution, conservation • Lobby media to create awareness to ensure issues are on the agenda by monitoring the formation and the implementation of policy 	<p>by CRFM / CNFO</p>	
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SG2: Mobilise resources for implementation of policies at national and regional levels

Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels / Products	Timelines
<p>1. Financial resources made accessible for the development of local fisheries industries as well as human and institutional capacities of</p>	<p>1. To attract attention and support from relevant institutions and public opinion in support of local, national and regional capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Government ministries, agencies, etc. • Donor community e.g.: EU, JICA • Technical Centre support e.g.: CTA • Private Sector (banks etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategy for resource mobilization • CNFO to develop a business plan • Identify appropriate institutions for targeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website CNFO/CRFM • Media • Face to Face meetings at regional events to mobilise ministers • Fact Sheets • Newsletters 	<p>July 2013 to Dec 2014</p>

<p>Fisherfolk organisations</p> <p>2. Research findings and recommendation are available to Fisherfolk organisations and their partners and allies who use them as evidence for policy advocacy and decision making regarding the ecological, economic and social dimensions of fishing industry</p> <p>3. Technical expertise mobilised to assist PFOs, NFOs, CNFO and small scale fisheries enterprises to implement advocacy plan</p>	<p>for policy engagement and implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs e.g. CANARI • Allies and Coalitions e.g. Media • Research partners and Universities e.g. UWI, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have in place different teams from the CNFO for fund-raising on different priorities • Lobby media to create awareness and monitor for the formation and implementation of policy 		
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SG3: Strengthen the capacity of the Fisherfolk organisations to undertake advocacy.

Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels / Products	Timelines
<p>1. Capacity strengthening of the PFOs, NFOs and CNFO for policy and advocacy influence</p> <p>2. In policy development, include collection / generation, repackaging of policy evidence</p> <p>3. Internal and external communication for policy purposes</p> <p>4. Resource mobilisation</p>	<p>1. Strengthening capacity of the Fisherfolk organisation in advocacy for greater participation and success of regional and national policy development and implementation</p> <p>2. Engage stakeholders through forum and other events for education and awareness</p> <p>3. Contribute to work programmes related to different sectors, e.g. CNFO, NFO, CRFM (to get international / regional conventions and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherfolk • NGOs • Partners • Government Officials/Policy Makers • Government: including Chief Fisheries Officers, Permanent Secretaries and Ministers Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessments in relevant areas e.g. Fisheries, markets, biodiversity conservation, climate change • Undertake skills training and capacity building interventions • Strengthen institutional capacity at regional level and across the network for advocacy work, and interact with partner agencies. • Training in Communication skills e.g. How to communicate with media and the public; public speaking; Use of ICTs • Exposure (through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Video / Vignettes • Website CNFO / CRFM • Social networks (to mobilise youth and to disseminate information) • Use of Android source applications (mobile phones) • Training in Communication skills e.g.: How to communicate with media and the public; public speaking; Use of ICTs 	<p>July 2013 to Feb 2015</p>

	agencies)		<p>attendance and learning lessons / best practices at national, regional (e.g.: CWA, CRFM and Partners); intra-ACP and all ACP events (e.g. CTA Annual Conference); and Global (e.g. FAO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to sharing of information, knowledge and materials • Participate in meeting at various levels and adding inputs to the meetings • Developing and continually updating CNFO's position on various areas relevant to fisheries e.g., climate change, IUU, etc • Engaging regional and national institutions in the sector through 		
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			identified focal points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure CNFO is represented at other relevant forum e.g.: regional - ALLIANCE at the CWA, ACP • Mobile the youth to play a role in fishing 		
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SG4: Cross-Cutting Communications and Work with Media

Strategic Goals / Objectives	Messages	Audiences	Actions	Channels / Products	Timelines
1. Ensure the general public, stakeholders and policy-makers are aware of key fisheries development issues and policy responses are triggered, implemented and monitored 2. Networking	1. To form an alliance with media and collaborate for advocacy 2. Partnering with media to ensure a sustainable fisheries sector through the harmonising of policy, legal and regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherfolk • Fisherfolk leaders • FFOs • Media • General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include media alongside Fisherfolk for training • Include media to participate in fisheries events and activities • Engage media on the role of CNFOs and NFO's advocacy strategy and plan and policies for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ interviews (radio, television, print, online, magazines) ❖ Media cluster ❖ Media conference ❖ Letters to the Editor ❖ Opinion Editorial ❖ Vignette/Vide 	July 2013 – May 2015

<p>3. Use of ICTs for advocacy purposes for the development of Fisherfolk to attract attention (lobby using android phones)</p> <p>4. Mobilise external resources for media</p>	<p>framework in the IUU and CCCFP</p> <p>3. Media championing the CNFO advocacy cause on the developments in the IUU and CCCFP to inform the public</p> <p>4. To get the general public Ensure media have information on advocacy issues and activities – making media a partner</p>		<p>CCCFP, IUU, EAF, CCA DRM including visibility and effective content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage media to ensure policy decisions are implemented on the CCCFP, IUU, EAF, CCA, DRM at national and regional levels • CNFO and NFOs to use mainstream media and ICTs to promote positive perceptions, success stories, new innovation and lessons learned • Use of ICTs for advocacy purposes for the development of Fisherfolk to lobby using android phones • Consolidate and optimise use of existing spaces in Government and independent media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o/Audio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Press Release • Printed Material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Posters ❖ Memorabilia carrying core messages ❖ Brochures and printed materials ❖ Fact sheets ❖ Newsletter • Internet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Websites ❖ Social media: twitter, Facebook, blogs ❖ Media listserv • Media monitoring 	
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			<p>for engagement such as talk shows, website, public forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNFO / CRFM / NFOs to produce and distribute targeted advocacy materials on the status of policy development and actions of the Fisherfolk to evoke change, recommendations or decisions taken or made by stakeholders of the fisheries sector • CRFM / CNFO / NFOs to provide regular information and updates to media for news and features production • Publicise CNFO and NFOs / PFOs activities at national, regional and international levels • Monitor media 		
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			<p>reporting on CNFO developments on policies status – keep Fisherfolk informed of the news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRFM / CNFO develop media listserv		
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PROPOSED BUDGET SAMPLE

The following proposed budget is a sample showing activities with indicative cost using Trinidad and Tobago as the focal country for implementation of the Advocacy Plan in keeping with the Strategic Goals and Objectives:

SG1: Ensure that appropriate regional fisheries policies are formulated, adopted and implemented.	Letters, Interviews, Meetings	CWA, Briefs	
SG2: Mobilise resources for implementation of policies at national and regional levels.	Website activities and publications	Letters, Interviews, Meetings	
SG3: Strengthen the capacity of the Fisherfolk organisations to undertake advocacy.	Training	Letters, Interviews, Meetings	
SG4: Cross-Cutting Communications and Work with Media.	Meetings, Letters, Documents	Interviews, Articles, Advertisements, Printing	

	ACTIVITY (estimate for period July to October 2013 – 4 months)	INDICATIVE IN HOUSE COST NECESSARY (US DOLLAR)	COMMENT	INDICATIVE CONSULTANCY FEES AS REQUIRED
1	PRE-ACTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT			
	Regional Web-Site Development and Maintenance and the Creation of In-Scope website and social media sites (2 weeks)	8,000.00	Consultant Existing Website to be enhanced and maintained	0
	Regional Production of virtual toolkit and password intranet pages for New Generation networking among CNFO, NFOs, PFOs members (2 weeks)	2,000.00	Consultant For uploading content to a base for edit and posting by Webmaster	0
	Maintenance of Web-Site externally (estimated July to October – 4 months)	6,000.00		0
	CNFO Internet/Telephone Cost 4 months	2,000.00		0
	Computers for office	1,000.00	to be considered	0
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB-TOTAL:	19,000.00		0
2	Internal Communications			
	Briefings (telephone/internet)	0	CNFO Infrastructure Cost	0
	Stationery	5,000.00		0
	CNFO Staff including CNFO Members product training/inductions (2 days) Workshop cost and logistics (cost per country representative to attend workshop + logistics = 2000.00)	2,000.00	Training in using and maintaining Web Site	Consultancy Fee for Trainers to be considered
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB-TOTAL:	7,000.00		

3	Internal Communications			
	Database creation and issue of e-alerts	0	In house communications	0
	Website updates and e-newsletter (content)	0	CNFO could handle this after training of officers OR	Consultant (4months @ 3000) 12,000.00
	Database management/ distribution/e-newsletter	0	CNFO Online	0
	In-Scope website/social media sites	0	Existing PR budget (Marketing)	0
	Media relations	0	Management only OR	Consultant(4months @ 3000) 12,000.00
	Regional Production of One (1) 6-minute vignettes DVD - Consultant (1 month) – including scripting, travel, filming, editing	12,000.00	For exhibitions at CWA and advocacy events	
	Production of 5 monthly podcasts for intranet (regional)	5,000.00		
	Photography	0	Could be done by CNFO for Website Upload OR	Consultant(4months @ 1000) 4,000.00
	Follow-up support including strategic direction and media relations management	0	Could be done In House OR	Consultant (4 month @ 1500) 6,000.00
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB-TOTAL:	15,000.00		34,000.00
4	Issues Management			
	Media monitoring for region, 4 months daily	0	CNFO Officer In-house monitoring	Consultant 4 months (daily)

	monitoring On national, regional and global fisheries developments		OR	monitoring @ 2,000) 8,000.00
	Press Release (6 press releases)	0	In house OR	Consultant (8@ 300) 2,400
	Media Conference 4 x 4 months (Logistics)	12,000.00	Using CNFO base for venue	
	Contingency Fee for Consultant for Media Relations	4,000.00		
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB- TOTAL:	16,000.00		10,400.00
5	Publication Communications			
	Creation of fact sheet, brochure/i-brochure	10,000.00	Outsource	
	Production/Printing of fact sheet, brochure	10,000.00	Outsource	
	Newsletter/briefings (4 months)	4,000.00	In House	
	Strategic advertising in newspapers x 5 editions: creative and production costs only	10,000.00	Outsource	
	Media relations: • Production of press briefing packs	10,000.00	In House/ Consultant	
	Contingency for Publications	10,000.00		
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB- TOTAL:	54,000.00		
6	Lobbying Activity			
	Meetings Logistics: venue, refreshments, Cottage meetings (average 6 meetings)	8,000.00	Unpaid venue	
	Rally (average 6)	10,000.00		
	Contingency for Lobbying – printing of flyers, Plaque cards, refreshments	8,000.00		
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB- TOTAL:	26,000.00		

7	Evaluation			
	Traditional and social media monitoring and evaluation. Monthly reports x 5 months	0	PR Budget In-house (See Issues Management Budget)	
	Contingency for monitoring, evaluation and analysis	8,000.00		
	EXTRAORDINARY BUDGET SUB-TOTAL:	8,000.00		
	TOTAL	145,000.00		

Consultancy Charges

Disbursements including travel, accommodation and subsistence are charged in addition as per the agreed terms and conditions. Specific national day rates will be agreed with the client and may be subject to fluctuations in exchange rates.

The working budget within this report is for initial planning purposes only, and a detailed consultancy support budget will be discussed and agreed with the client.

We discussed the budget. An indicative / tentative budget can be included for the overall plan. It could be noted that it would have to be further refined by the CNFO in consultation with the NFOs.

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[ribbean&es_nrs=true&pf=p&scient=psy-ab&oq=population+of+the+ca&gs_l=&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r_cp.r_qf.&bvm=bv.44697112,d.eWU&fp=4372f53a4ca1d3b0&biw=1778&bih=812](https://www.ribbean.com/es_nrs=true&pf=p&scient=psy-ab&oq=population+of+the+ca&gs_l=&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r_cp.r_qf.&bvm=bv.44697112,d.eWU&fp=4372f53a4ca1d3b0&biw=1778&bih=812)

- Technical assistance funded under the CTA (ACP-EU) Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and engaging fisherfolk organizations project through a contract with CRFM to facilitate a workshop for the design of an advocacy campaign, including media work, for the final adoption and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Castries Declaration.
- Technical assistance funded under the ACP Fish II project through a contract with CANARI to facilitate a workshop to build the capacity of the CNFO to participate in decision-making about the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and climate change (CC) adaptation (see [YouTube link](#)). Findings from the workshop were used to revise the 2011 Communication Strategy

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

The Participating Parties:

Being guided by the Principles and Rights enunciated in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was signed by Heads of Government in Nassau, Bahamas on 5 July 2001, and by the Principles expressed in the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, which was signed in Belize City, Belize on 4 February 2002;

Conscious of the decision of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community at the Fourteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, 14 to 15 February 2003, to elaborate a Common Fisheries Regime;

Conscious also of the directive of the Ministers responsible for fisheries at the First Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on 16 January 2009, to elaborate the Common Fisheries Policy and defer consideration of matters relating to the Common Fisheries Regime;

Committed to fostering cooperation and collaboration among Participating Parties in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources and related ecosystems for the welfare and well-being of the peoples of the Caribbean;

Mindful of the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the 1983 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; the 1990 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean; the 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas; the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; the 1995 United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action; and the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

Recognising the Caribbean Sea as a large marine ecosystem that is shared by Members of the Caribbean Community and non-Member States and Territories;

Recognising also the importance of fisheries to social and economic development, food and nutrition security and the welfare of the peoples of the Caribbean;

Conscious that there exists within the jurisdiction of Participating Parties underexploited or unexploited fisheries resources of great value which represent a safeguard for the future development of fisheries and, when used sustainably, present an opportunity to increase the contribution of fisheries to the social and economic development of the Caribbean Community;

Aware that many commercial species are fully or overexploited and are in need of management, conservation and rehabilitation;

Aware also that certain living marine resources, which are of interest to the peoples of the Caribbean, are shared, straddling or highly migratory and in some cases are harvested by Third States;

Conscious of the need to promote the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources and the need to protect associated ecosystems through the efficient development, management and conservation of such resources;

Noting that Article 60 of the Revised Treaty provides that the Caribbean Community, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international agencies and organisations, shall promote the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources in and among the Members of the Caribbean Community on a sustainable basis;

Noting also that Article 4(a) of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism has among its objectives the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of the Members of CRFM;

Determined to ensure the long-term sustainable utilisation and conservation of the living aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Participating Parties;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions supporting sustainable ocean management in the Caribbean;

Convinced that the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy will contribute to the enhanced treatment of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development;

Recognising the need to develop the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy in consultation with all relevant parties, including representatives of fisherfolk organisations;
Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) “access agreement” means an agreement concluded between or among Participating Parties or between or among one or more Participating Parties and one or more Third States, for the purpose of exploiting the fisheries resources of a State or group of States;
- (b) “aquaculture” means all activities in fresh, brackish or salt waters aimed at the husbandry or culturing of fish or aquatic flora and includes ranching and hatchery-reared re-stocking practices;
- (c) “aquatic flora” means any aquatic plant, including parts or derivatives;
- (d) “Competent Agency” means an organisation designated by Participating Parties to support them in achieving the objectives of this Agreement;

- (e) “conservation” means the maintenance, improvement and use of natural resources according to principles that will assure both the sustainability of those resources and economic and social benefits for present and future generations;
- (f) “ecosystem” means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit;
- (g) “ecosystem approach to fisheries management” means the balancing of diverse societal objectives, by taking account of the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries;
- (h) “fish” means any aquatic animal, including parts and derivatives;
- (i) “fisheries management and development plan” means a specific plan, policy or strategy for the management and development of single-species or multi-species fisheries in a sustainable manner;
- (j) “fisheries resources” means any harvestable fish or aquatic flora, natural or cultured;
- (k) “fishing” means:
 - (i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking or harvesting of fisheries resources;
 - (ii) engaging in any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fisheries resources, for any purpose;
 - (iii) placing, searching for or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment, such as radio beacons;
 - (iv) any other operations at sea, on a lake, in a river or within any other water body in connection with, or in preparation for, any activity described in paragraphs (i) to (iii), including transshipment; and
 - (v) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft or hovercraft, for any activity described in paragraphs (i) to (iv), but does not include any operation related to emergencies involving the health or safety of crew members or the safety of a vessel;
- (l) “fishing effort” means the level of fishing, as may be defined, *inter alia*, by the number of fishing vessels, the number of fishers, the amount of fishing gear and technology that may enhance catchability and the time spent on fishing or searching for fish;
- (m) “fishing vessel” means any vessel, boat, ship or other craft, including associated equipment, which is used for or is intended to be used for fishing;
- (n) “Participating Party” means any State or Territory that has signed or acceded to this Agreement;

- (o) “precautionary approach to fisheries management” means an approach to management according to which:
 - (i) Participating Parties shall be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate; and
 - (ii) the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;
- (p) “Revised Treaty” means the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, signed by Heads of Government in Nassau, Bahamas on 5 July 2001;
- (q) “Secretary-General” means the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community;
- (r) “SPS” means sanitary and phytosanitary standards;
- (s) “stock” means fisheries resources in a given management area; and
- (t) “Third State” means a State or Territory that is not a party to this Agreement.

Article 2: Establishment of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

This Agreement establishes the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

Article 3: Participation

Participation in this Agreement is open to:

- (a) Members of the Caribbean Community, in accordance with Article 25 or Article 26; and
- (b) any other Caribbean State or Territory that is, in the opinion of the Participating Parties, able and willing to exercise the rights and assume the obligations under this Agreement, in accordance with Article 26.

Article 4: Vision, Goal and Objectives

4.1: Vision

The vision of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy is effective cooperation and collaboration among Participating Parties in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of the fisheries resources and related ecosystems in the Caribbean region in order to secure the maximum benefits from those resources for the Caribbean peoples and for the Caribbean region as a whole.

4.2: Goal

The goal of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy is to establish, within the context of the Revised Treaty, appropriate measures for: the conservation, management, sustainable utilisation and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimisation of the social and economic returns from their fisheries; and the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions, so as to realise the vision expressed in Article 4.1.

4.3: Objectives

The objectives of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy are to:

- (a) promote the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture industries in the Caribbean region as a means of, *inter alia*, increasing trade and export earnings, protecting food and nutrition security, assuring supply to Caribbean markets and improving income and employment opportunities;
- (b) develop harmonised measures and operating procedures for sustainable fisheries management, post-harvest practices, fisheries research and fisheries trade and the administration of the fishing industry;
- (c) improve the welfare and livelihoods of fishers and fishing communities;
- (d) prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including by promoting the establishment and maintenance of effective monitoring, control, and surveillance systems;
- (e) build the institutional capabilities of Participating Parties, *inter alia*, to conduct research, collect and analyse data, improve networking and collaboration among Participating Parties, formulate and implement policies and make decisions;
- (f) integrate environmental, coastal and marine management considerations into fisheries policy so as to safeguard fisheries and associated ecosystems from anthropogenic threats and to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters;
- (g) transform the fisheries sector towards being market-oriented, internationally-competitive and environmentally-sustainable, based on the highest international standards of quality assurance and sanitary and phyto-sanitary systems;
- (h) strengthen, upgrade and modernise fisheries legislation; and
- (i) facilitate the establishment of a regime for SPS for the fisheries sector.

Article 5: Fundamental Principles

The following fundamental principles shall guide the implementation of this Agreement:

- (a) use of the best available scientific information in fisheries management decision-making, taking into consideration traditional knowledge concerning the resources and their habitats as well as environmental, economic and social factors;
- (b) application of internationally-recognised standards and approaches, in particular the precautionary approach to fisheries management and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
- (c) the principle that the level of fishing effort should not exceed that commensurate with the sustainable use of fisheries resources;
- (d) the participatory approach, including consideration of the particular rights and special needs of traditional, subsistence, artisanal and small scale fishers;
- (e) principles of good governance, accountability and transparency, including the equitable allocation of rights, obligations, responsibilities and benefits; and
- (f) the principle of subsidiarity, in particular that the Competent Agency will only perform those tasks which cannot be more effectively achieved by individual Participating Parties.

Article 6: Scope

- 6.1. The Agreement shall apply to: the development and management of fisheries and aquaculture; the conservation, sustainable development and management of fisheries resources and related ecosystems; the production, processing, marketing and trading of fishery and aquaculture products; and to the welfare of fishers.
- 6.2. The Agreement shall apply within areas under the jurisdiction of Participating Parties, on board fishing vessels flying the flag of a Participating Party and, subject to the primary jurisdiction of the flag State when fishing takes place on the high seas or the coastal State when fishing takes place in the waters of a Third State, to nationals of Participating Parties.

Article 7: General Undertakings on Implementation

- 7.1. Participating Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the fulfilment of obligations arising under this Agreement and shall abstain from any measures which could jeopardise the attainment of its objectives.
- 7.2. Participating Parties undertake to adopt, as appropriate, detailed rules for the implementation of this Agreement, in particular by preparing Protocols in accordance with Article 20.
- 7.3. Participating Parties undertake to establish or designate a regional organisation as the Competent Agency with responsibility for implementing this Agreement and, as appropriate, any Protocols adopted under it and, if necessary, to establish such an organisation by means of a Protocol adopted under Article 20.

Article 8: Role of the Competent Agency

- 8.1. The Competent Agency, where requested by one or more Participating Parties, and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity in Article 5(f), shall cooperate with and provide assistance to those Participating Parties in order to support them in achieving the objectives of this Agreement or in discharging their obligations under it.
- 8.2. The functions which may be performed by the Competent Agency pursuant to Article 8.1 shall include:
 - (a) providing technical assistance and advice in connection with the implementation of this Agreement, including where appropriate technical assistance and advice on national policy, management or law or on sub-regional, regional or global policy, management or law;
 - (b) making recommendations on any of the matters referred to in paragraph (a);
 - (c) coordinating or undertaking data collection, research and development activities;
 - (d) providing coordination or cooperation facilities, services or mechanisms, as may be required to fulfil the objectives of this Agreement;
 - (e) identifying and mobilising technical and financial resources, in collaboration with multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, to build the research, administrative and management capacities of Participating Parties;
 - (f) supporting Participating Parties in their relations with Third States, directly or in relevant international organisations, including by providing representation at the international level of the Participating Parties collectively;
 - (g) any other functions which may be requested by one or more Participating Parties for purposes related to implementation of this Agreement.
- 8.3. In providing assistance and facilitation under Article 8.1 and in carrying out its functions under this Agreement, the Competent Agency shall:
 - (a) give effect, as far as possible, to the Vision, Goal and Objectives set out in Article 4; and
 - (b) be guided by the Principles set out in Article 5 and by applicable principles set out in the Community Agricultural Policy and the Fisheries Management and Development provisions of the Revised Treaty and by principles provided for in any other applicable international agreements concerning fisheries.
- 8.4. Participating Parties and the Competent Agency shall agree on rules of procedure, including as necessary any budgetary contributions or other financial regulations, for the carrying out functions by the Competent Agency under this Agreement.
- 8.5. The Participating Parties shall review the role and functions set out for the Competent Agency by this Agreement and if necessary shall modify, supplement or remove those

functions by means, as appropriate, of a Protocol adopted under Article 20 or by amendment to this Agreement under Article 22.

Article 9: Access to Fisheries Resources

9.1. Without prejudice to the jurisdiction and authority of Participating Parties over fisheries resources in areas under their national jurisdiction, and existing obligations under the Revised Treaty, Participating Parties may consider entering into:

- (a) arrangements, including access agreements, with other Participating Parties for the purpose of providing access to fishing opportunities in their waters; and
- (b) such arrangements or access agreements with Third States or international organisations; and in doing so, subject to the limits of their capabilities, shall take account of the applicable provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other instruments, including the objective of optimum utilisation and the provision of access to surplus fisheries resources.

9.2. Participating Parties shall seek to:

- (a) develop opportunities and to promote the equal participation of Participating Parties in fisheries on the high seas, and
- (b) develop opportunities in areas within the national jurisdiction of Third States,

and to this end shall collaborate directly or through the Competent Agency and other competent regional and international fisheries bodies.

Article 10: Fisheries Sector Development

Participating Parties, to the extent of their capabilities, will endeavour to promote and adopt measures to enhance the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and to improve the welfare and socio-economic conditions of fishers and fishing communities, including, *inter alia*, by:

- (a) improving the business, financial and insurance environment;
- (b) promoting and facilitating joint ventures;
- (c) promoting access to training;
- (d) supporting capital investment;
- (e) promoting the involvement of stakeholders, in particular in planning and management activities, including by supporting the formation and strengthening of fisherfolk organisations; and
- (f) supporting and protecting the rights of traditional, subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fishers.

Article 11: Statistics and Research

The Participating Parties, acting directly and, where appropriate, in collaboration with other Participating Parties, Third States, the Competent Agency or relevant international organisations, and in an effort to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, are required, *inter alia*, to:

- (a) collect and compile fisheries catch and fishing effort, registration and licensing data as well as biological, ecological, economic, social, aquaculture and any other relevant data;
- (b) conduct research in order to:
 - (i) ascertain the status of fish stocks;
 - (ii) determine the effects of environmental changes on fisheries and aquatic ecosystems;
 - (iii) analyse the effectiveness of management and conservation measures;
 - (iv) evaluate the social and economic performance of fisheries and aquaculture;
 - (v) determine the development potential of underutilised and unutilised fisheries resources; and
 - vi) otherwise contribute to the fulfilment of an objective of this Agreement;
- (c) develop and maintain national and regional databases relating to (a) and (b) and develop and adopt appropriate standards for data and information sharing; and
- (d) analyse data and information collected and, subject to any confidentiality requirements, to disseminate it periodically to Participating Parties and the Competent Agency.

Article 12: Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources

- 12.1. The Participating Parties shall formulate, adopt, implement and revise conservation and management measures and, where appropriate, fisheries management and development plans on the basis of the best available information, including traditional knowledge.
- 12.2. The Participating Parties shall formulate, adopt and implement conservation and management measures and development strategies on the basis of:
 - (a) fisheries management and development plans and other fishery-specific conservation, management and recovery plans;
 - (b) the Fundamental Principles set out in Article 5; and
 - (c) as appropriate, other provisions of this Agreement and other relevant international standards in fisheries management.

- 12.3. In implementing Article 12.1, Participating Parties shall, where appropriate, seek to adopt harmonised measures, legislation, plans or strategies.
- 12.4. The Participating Parties shall cooperate with regional fisheries management organisations and, as appropriate, other international organisations in the management of shared, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.
- 12.5. Participating Parties shall discourage the use of measures and practices that will contribute to unsustainable fishing.

Article 13: Registration and Licensing

- 13.1. Participating Parties shall take into account the status of available fisheries resources and existing fishing capacity when registering and licensing fishing vessels, fishers and other operators in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- 13.2. In order to maintain the balance between fishing capacity and fisheries resources, Participating Parties, to the extent of their capabilities, shall, *inter alia*:
 - (a) establish and maintain a national register of fishing vessels flying its flag;
 - (b) establish and maintain a national licensing system for fishing vessels flying its flag;
 - (c) establish and maintain a record of licences or authorisations issued to fishing vessels, fishers and other operators in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; and
 - (d) cooperate with the Competent Agency to establish and maintain a regional fishing fleet register.
- 13.3. In implementing Article 13.2, Participating Parties, where appropriate through the Competent Agency, shall consider the development of harmonised procedures or common standards in relation to licensing systems.
- 13.4. The Participating Parties shall, in accordance with agreed procedures, share with the Competent Agency information collected through the national registers established under Article 13.2(a) and the records under Article 13.2(c) for the purpose of maintaining a regional register under Article 13.2(d).

Article 14: Inspection, Enforcement and Sanctions

- 14.1. Each Participating Party, to the extent of its capabilities, shall develop, either directly or through cooperation with other Participating Parties or the Competent Agency, as appropriate, such inspection and enforcement measures as are necessary to ensure compliance with:
 - (a) the rules contained in and adopted pursuant to this Agreement;
 - (b) national regulations relating to fisheries; and

- (c) rules of international law, binding on the Participating Party concerned.
- 14.2. The inspection and enforcement measures referred to in Article 14.1 shall apply to rules applicable in the territory of the Participating Party, in waters under its jurisdiction, on fishing vessels flying its flag and, where appropriate, and subject to the primary jurisdiction of the flag State when fishing takes place on the high seas or the coastal State when fishing takes place in the waters of a Third State, to its nationals, wherever they may be.
- 14.3. In implementing Article 14.1, Participating Parties shall, *inter alia*:
- (a) monitor, control and undertake surveillance of their maritime space and co-operate in monitoring, controlling and undertaking surveillance of areas contiguous to their maritime space in order to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as appropriate;
 - (b) establish an appropriate vessel monitoring system to monitor the position and activity of vessels flying their flag;
 - (c) adopt port and “at sea” inspection schemes;
 - (d) take inspection and enforcement measures necessary to ensure compliance with the rules of this Agreement;
 - (e) ensure that appropriate and effective measures are taken against violators of the applicable rules and in particular that such measures are capable, in accordance with the relevant provisions of national law, of effectively depriving those responsible of the economic benefit of the infringements and of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringements.

Article 15: Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Rights

- 15.1. Participating Parties shall retain ownership of any data, information or product made available to other Participating Parties or to the Competent Agency as a result of the implementation of this Agreement.
- 15.2. All intellectual property rights in data, documents and products developed by the Competent Agency in the course of implementing this Agreement shall, subject to and in accordance with any relevant contractual obligation, belong to the Competent Agency.
- 15.3. All intellectual property rights in data, documents and products developed by the Competent Agency from material made available by one or more Participating Parties shall jointly belong to the Competent Agency and the Participating Parties involved.
- 15.4. The Competent Agency shall make available to public institutions and others, for non-commercial and educational purposes, such of its informational products as it considers appropriate.
- 15.5. The Competent Agency and Participating Parties shall maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary information or any other information provided on a confidential basis by any

other Participating Party and shall refrain from disclosing such information to third parties or using it for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

- 15.6. The identity of individuals from whom research data or information is obtained shall be kept strictly confidential. No information revealing the identity of any individual shall be included in any report or other communication, unless the individual concerned has given prior consent in writing to such inclusion.

Article 16: Dissemination of Information

- 16.1. Participating Parties shall disseminate to other Participating Parties and to the Competent Agency:
- (a) statistical data on fisheries;
 - (b) information on research findings;
 - (c) information on proposed management programmes;
 - (d) information resulting from implementation of management programmes; and
 - (e) information on the activities taken for the implementation of this Agreement.
- 16.2. Participating Parties and the Competent Agency shall disseminate relevant information to stakeholders to enable them to be familiar with regional and international developments in fisheries and thereby facilitate informed decision-making and widespread acceptance of and participation in this Agreement.
- 16.3. Participating Parties shall promptly notify the Competent Agency and other Participating Parties of any localised threats, whether actual or potential, to their fisheries and marine ecosystems which may cause harm to the fisheries resources, environment or economic interest of other Participating Parties.
- 16.4. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to require a Participating Party, in fulfilment of its obligations under this Agreement, to supply information, the disclosure of which is contrary to its national security interests.

Article 17: Public Awareness

The Participating Parties shall promote public awareness of good conservation, exploitation and management policies and practices in relation to this Agreement by, *inter alia*:

- (a) informing stakeholders of the status of this Agreement;
- (b) strengthening regional and sub-regional institutions working with citizens, especially fishers and fishing communities, with a view to increasing knowledge and understanding of methods of conserving, sustaining and preserving living aquatic resources and of avoiding overexploitation of them;

- (c) collaborating with relevant educational institutions to introduce sustainable use of living aquatic resources into their programmes;
- (d) establish research and education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of global warming, climate change, sea level rise and other environmental changes on the fisheries sector; and
- (e) promoting recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

Article 18: Marketing and Trade of Fisheries Resources

18.1. The Participating Parties, acting where appropriate in collaboration with other Participating Parties, Third States, the Competent Agency or relevant international organisations, and in an effort to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, shall develop, *inter alia*:

- (a) harmonised food quality assurance legislation;
- (b) harmonised intra-regional SPS measures;
- (c) common marketing standards for fisheries and aquaculture products; and
- (d) national or common policies, measures and standards to:
 - (i) encourage stable market conditions;
 - (ii) promote the production and marketing of fishery products;
 - (iii) develop new and existing markets in fishery products including external markets for the Caribbean region's fisheries products;
 - (iv) enhance intelligence on developments in internal and external markets at all levels;
 - (v) facilitate trade between the Participating Parties;
 - (vi) strengthen relevant human, institutional and technological capacities, including the transfer and development of relevant technologies; and
 - (vii) otherwise improve the management of fish-handling practices, marketing or trade in the Participating Parties.

18.2. In implementing Article 18.1, Participating Parties shall act consistently with their obligations under relevant international agreements, and in particular those under the Revised Treaty and the World Trade Organisation agreements, where applicable, and shall also take into account relevant international standards on trade, marketing and SPS.

Article 19: Links with International Organisations

In order to promote the objectives of this Agreement, the Competent Agency shall facilitate the development of strategic alliances and partnerships with relevant agencies created by multilateral environmental agreements as well as regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements and other relevant national, regional and international agencies and organisations, whether governmental or non-governmental.

Article 20: Protocols

20.1. Participating Parties undertake to prepare Protocols relating to:

- (a) the Competent Agency;
- (b) research on fisheries and associated ecosystems;
- (c) harmonisation of fisheries legislation;
- (d) cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- (e) establishment of a common fisheries zone;
- (f) aquaculture;
- (g) establishment of a regional fisheries management organisation or arrangement;
- (h) sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures;
- (i) data and information sharing;
- (j) enforcement;
- (k) settlement of disputes; and
- (l) any other matter for which protocols are necessary for the implementation of this Agreement.

20.2. Pending the preparation of the Protocols set out in Article 20.1, Participating Parties may cooperate on arrangements of a provisional nature in the above fields.

20.3. Participating Parties shall agree, with respect to each Protocol, on the procedure for the preparation and adoption of each Protocol.

20.4. Protocols which have been concluded under this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to this Agreement includes a reference to the Protocols.

Article 21: Reporting, Review and Development

- 21.1. The Competent Agency shall submit annual reports to the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) on the implementation of this Agreement.
- 21.2. Participating Parties shall, in light of changing circumstances, and in any event no later than 5 years after its entry into force, review this Agreement, as may be required to achieve its vision, goal and objectives.
- 21.3. The review and development referred to in Article 21.2 may include, *inter alia*:
 - (a) consultation with stakeholders to assess the impacts of this Agreement and, if required, development of proposals for its implementation or amendment;
 - (b) provision by the Competent Agency of technical support for the consultations and the analysis of the consultation results in order to inform decision-making;
 - (c) such other formal procedures or other methods as Participating Parties consider necessary to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 22: Amendments

- 22.1. A Participating Party may, by written communication addressed to the Secretary-General, propose an amendment to this Agreement.
- 22.2. This Agreement may be amended by the unanimous decision of the Participating Parties.
- 22.3. An amendment to this Agreement shall enter into force one month after the date on which the last Participating Party has signed the amendment or such other date as the Participating Parties have agreed.

Article 23: Dispute Settlement

The procedures for the settlement of disputes set out in the Revised Treaty shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, whether or not the parties to the dispute are Parties to the Revised Treaty.

Article 24: Depositary

The Secretary-General shall be the depositary of this Agreement and any amendments or revisions thereto. The depositary shall register this Agreement with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 25: Signature

This Agreement is open for signature by any Member of the Caribbean Community.

Article 26: Accession

Members of the Caribbean Community and, subject to the consent of a majority of Participating Parties, any other Caribbean State or Territory, may accede to this Agreement after it has entered into force. Instruments of Accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General who shall transmit certified copies to Participating Parties.

Article 27: Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the signature by any eight Members of the Caribbean Community under Article 25.

Article 28: Withdrawal

- 28.1. A Participating Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notice to the Secretary-General. The withdrawal shall take effect one year after the date of notification unless the notification specifies a later date.
- 28.2. A notification given under Article 28.1 may be cancelled at any time before it becomes effective by giving further written notice to the Secretary-General.
- 28.3. The Secretary-General shall promptly notify the other Participating Parties of any notification received under Article 28.1 or 28.2.
- 28.4. Withdrawal from this Agreement shall not:
 - (a) affect any financial obligations incurred by the withdrawing Participating Party prior to its withdrawal becoming effective; or
 - (b) remove or limit any obligations in respect of confidentiality of data or intellectual property rights to which the withdrawing Participating Party was subject prior to its withdrawal becoming effective.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Participating Parties, being duly authorised thereto, have appended their signature to this Agreement. DONE AT , this day of Two Thousand and Eleven.

Appendix 2

The Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

CASTRIES (ST. LUCIA) DECLARATION ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

We the Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism,

ACCEPTING that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is any fishing which undermines or disregards national, regional or international fisheries conservation and management arrangements and measures;

RECOGNISING the important role of fisheries in the CARICOM region and its significant contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, economic and the social well-being of our people;

CONSCIOUS of the potential for increased benefits from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development;

NOTING that high demand for fish, the economic benefits derived from IUU fishing and the inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems in the region have made Caribbean States particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing;

COGNISANT that the contribution of fisheries to our social and economic development and food security is being threatened by IUU fishing occurring nationally, regionally and globally;

AWARE that IUU fishing is practised by both local and foreign vessels;

RECONISING that national, regional and global cooperation is necessary to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing;

MINDFUL of the principles and rules of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the 1982 UN Convention); the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 1995 (UN Fish Stocks Agreement); and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 1993 (FAO Compliance Agreement);

RECALLING relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on Sustainable Fisheries, including resolution A/Res/64/72 of 4 December 2009;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to the principles and standards contained in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO Code of Conduct);

RECALLING ALSO the endorsement by the 120th Session of the FAO Council on 2 June 2001 of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU);

ACKNOWLEDGING the objectives of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and more specifically Articles 58 and 60 which enjoin Member States to co-operate in all areas necessary to foster regional development and integration regarding Natural Resource Management and Fisheries Management and Development respectively;

MINDFUL ALSO of the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) with its main objectives of promoting efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources and promoting and establishing cooperative management arrangements of shared and highly migratory resources in conformity with the economic objectives of the Member States;

CONCERNED by the depletion of fisheries resources, the degradation of aquatic habitats and the threats to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development worldwide;

GRAVELY CONCERNED by the prevalence of IUU fishing and its harmful consequences on the sustainability of both large-scale and small-scale artisanal fisheries, on the conservation of marine living resources and marine diversity as a whole and on the economies of Member States and on efforts to use and manage fisheries and associated ecosystems in a sustainable manner;

NOTING the responsibility of flag States under international law to effectively control and manage vessels flying their flags, as well as the responsibilities of port and coastal States in controlling IUU fishing in waters under their jurisdictions and on the High Seas;

AWARE that effective fisheries MCS is essential to combat IUU fishing and that integrated MCS, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), as well as a regional register of fishing vessels authorised to operate within the CARICOM Region, are key tools in this endeavour;

RECOGNISING the need to mobilise resources and seek international cooperation for the development of harmonized VMS so as to implement the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing and protect the livelihood of fishermen and fishing communities in the Caribbean;

RECOGNISING ALSO the unique transboundary character of living marine resources and ecosystems and, therefore, the need to co-operate in the management of shared resources and in promoting harmonized approaches to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the Region;

COMMITTED to capacity building at national and regional levels for sustainable fisheries development;

DESIROUS of achieving more effective implementation of various international instruments for sustainable fisheries development adopted or enacted in the past decades;

DESIROUS ALSO of strengthening collaboration in the fight to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, to safeguard the benefits from the optimum utilization of fisheries resources for both present and future generations;

HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. We are determined to work together and with other stakeholders, including regional and multilateral partners to identify, prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing within the Caribbean and globally;
2. We are committed to concentrating and intensifying our efforts to effectively implement relevant international instruments for the sustainable use, conservation and management of marine living resources; and
3. We reaffirm the need to implement the principles and rules of international law herein mentioned to protect, conserve, manage and use the fisheries and other living marine resources and their ecosystems in a sustainable manner.
4. WE RESOLVE AND RENEW OUR EFFORTS TO:
 - (i) establish a comprehensive and integrated approach to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by emphasising the primary responsibility of the flag state in accordance with international law, and including port State, coastal State, and market related measures, as well as measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in IUU fishing, all of which shall address the economic, social and environmental impacts of IUU fishing;
 - (ii) encourage the phased implementation of measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the development of national and regional plans of actions in accordance with the IPOA-IUU;
 - (iii) adopt conservation measures consistent with the long-term sustainable use of fish stocks and the protection of the environment in accordance with the 1982 UN Convention and other relevant regional and international agreements and documents;
 - (iv) adopt, review and revise as appropriate, relevant legislation and regulations regarding compliance with fisheries management measures and to provide sanctions of sufficient gravity, so as to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from their illegal activities and to deter further IUU fishing;
 - (v) identify, reduce and ultimately eliminate the economic incentives derived from IUU fishing at the national, regional and global levels;
 - (vi) implement MCS schemes with a view to increasing the cost effectiveness of surveillance activities, such as encouraging the fishers and other stakeholders to report any suspected IUU fishing activities they observe;

- (vii) adopt internationally agreed market-related measures in accordance with international law including principles, rights and obligations established in WTO agreements, as called for in the IPOA-IUU;
- (viii) develop a comprehensive database of fishing vessels in good standing and vessels involved in IUU related activities, subject to confidentiality requirements in accordance with national laws and in conformity with Article VI.1 of the FAO Compliance Agreement;
- (ix) seek technical assistance and training to promote the development of fisheries management regimes at the local, national and regional levels, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing;
- (x) ensure the participation and coordination of all its Member States, including stakeholders such as industry, fishing communities and non-governmental organizations, either directly or indirectly through the CRFM and other appropriate organisations, in combating IUU fishing; and
- (xi) ensure that plans of action are implemented in a transparent manner in accordance with Article 6.13 of the FAO Code of Conduct.

5. WE CALL UPON:

- (i) Member States to cooperate in the implementation of harmonized minimum terms and conditions of access to monitor, control and conduct surveillance of fisheries resources;
- (ii) Member States to maintain records of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag and authorized to be used for fishing in waters under their jurisdiction and on the high seas.
- (iii) The international community to cooperate with the Member States and provide financial and technical support where required to transfer technology and build capacity, as well as, facilitate the development and implementation of policies and measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing within the Region.

6. WE AGREE ON THE NEED:

- (i) For a holistic and integrated approach to dealing with IUU fishing;
- (ii) For flag, port, and coastal states and where appropriate, the CRFM , to effectively monitor and regulate transshipment of fish and fish products in order to combat IUU fishing activities and to prevent laundering of illegal catches;
- (iii) For Member States in collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat, as well as NGOs and members of the fishing industry, to exchange information on suspected IUU

fishing, if possible on a real time basis, and by actively participating in the International MCS network;

- (iv) To strengthen coastal and port state measures for fishing vessels consistent with international law in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the Region and on the high seas;
- (v) For further international action to eliminate IUU fishing by vessels operating in open registries, flying “flags of convenience”, as well as to require that a “genuine link” be established between states and fishing vessels flying their flags in the Region and on the high seas;
- (vi) To strengthen the CRFM as a regional fisheries body in order to more effectively coordinate the actions of its Member States and disseminate information on preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing;
- (vii) To implement vessel marking requirements in accordance with the FAO Standard Specification and Guidelines for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels and any applicable CRFM requirements;
- (viii) To establish a Working Group to be convened through the CRFM to regularly consult on methodologies and approaches that will harmonise and enhance the reliability of data collection in relation to IUU fishing; and
- (ix) For Member States, to the extent permitted by their national laws and regulations, to exchange among themselves and provide the CRFM Secretariat with relevant information including but not limited to IUU fishing activities.

7. WE URGE ALL MEMBER STATES:

- (i) To implement relevant provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) as it relates to achieving sustainable fisheries;
- (ii) To supply information on fishing vessels flying their flag to the CRFM Secretariat as agreed by the Ministerial Council;
- (iii) That have not yet done so to become parties to the 1982 UN Convention, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and other relevant international agreements that will provide support in the fight against IUU fishing;
- (iv) That are parties to the FAO Compliance Agreement to fulfil their obligations to submit to FAO, for inclusion in the High Seas Vessel Authorization Record, data on vessels entitled to fly their flags that are authorized to be used for fishing on

high seas, and those that are not yet parties to the FAO Compliance Agreement to submit data on a voluntary basis; and

- (v) To ensure that they exercise full control over fishing vessels flying their flag, in accordance with international law, in order to combat IUU fishing.

2nd Special Meeting
CRFM Ministerial Council
Castries, St. Lucia
28 July 2010