



Information Sheet Fisheries Advisory Committees (FACs)

The role of fisheries advisory committees (FACs) is to provide advice on significant issues related to the fishery. FACs inform fisheries legislation and make determinations on key aspects of fishery management. Fisheries legislations, such as the harmonized fisheries legislation (1992) in the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean (OECS) region, call for the establishment FACs.

FACs, if properly used, can provide a useful channel for the fishfolk to express their views and a means for the fisheries authorities to gain fisherfolk acceptance of new regulatory and development schemes. If enthusiastic and influential members are included on the Fisheries Advisory Committees, they can also provide effective pressure groups within Government. It is recommended that those OECS Member Countries that have not yet established FACs, follow the lead of the other OECS islands in establishing them. Some of the key functions of FACs are:

1. Advise on fisheries management and development;
2. Consider and advise on the plan for the management and development of fisheries in the fishery waters, and on each review of the plan;
3. Consider and advise on the need for any amendment to Fisheries Acts and Regulations;
4. Consider and advise on any proposals for access agreements, joint ventures investment in fisheries, or development projects in the fisheries sector;
5. Consider and advise on any initiative for the regional harmonization of fisheries regimes, including any regional licensing scheme or for foreign fishing vessels; and
6. Advise on the coordination of fisheries related policies and activities of government departments and

The expectation is that FAC members will engage with industry and community members to communicate the issues of the relevant fishery. FACs can be considered as a type of national intersectoral coordination mechanism(NIC) because the committee is usually comprised of various stakeholders from different sectors within fisheries (industry, research, relevant departments/ministries, community, non-governmental organization, etc.). The chairperson of a FAC is usually a government minister or appointed government representative.

One of the main objectives of this project is to improve the education and awareness of FACs as well as NICs about flyingfish fisheries management, ecosystem approach to fisheries and the policy cycle. Having FACs in place is critical to the effective management of the flyingfish fishery. It would lend the support needed for the implementation of projects such as the CLME+ Project.