

CRFM/CNFO/CTA Blue Growth Workshop

Draft Regional Declaration on the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*)

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Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



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Content

- Background to the Declaration
- Expected outcome
- Overview of the Declaration
- Key Provisions
- Next Steps

Preamble

1. Introductory statement
2. purpose, goal & justification
3. doesn't create rights or obligations
4. Helps with interpretation substantive paras
5. 18 preambular paragraphs

General Provisions

- Art. 1 Use of terms /definitions
- Art. 2 Scope
 - sustainable use, conservation, management
 - P. argus & habitats
 - Waters of Member
 - Minimum standards
- Art. 3 Objective
 - long-term sustainable use through effective implementation of conservation and management measures for the stocks, and their habitats [based on the best scientific evidence available]

Art 4 - Principles

- (a) Precautionary and ecosystem approaches
- (b) Long-term sustainability & optimum utilization;
- (c) Best scientific evidence available
- (d) Protect biodiversity;
- (e) Levels of fishing effort match sustainable use of stocks;
- (f) Interests of small-scale and subsistence fishers and promote their participation in the decision-making;
- (g) traditional ecological knowledge and local knowledge
- (h) Collect and share data and information;
- (i) Ensure compliance through MCS & public education

Art. 5. Research, Data Collection and Sharing of Data & Information

Member States shall:

- Collect and share data
- Sufficient detail and accuracy
- Requiring vessel owners and masters, fishers, processors & traders to submit data
- Agree on specification of data and the format
- Conduct scientific research & promote the publication and dissemination of results
- Cooperate with neighbouring States in research

ART.6: CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Ministerial Council shall:
 - make policy decisions to ensure long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of stocks, & protect their habitats
 - Use scientific advice provided by the Forum or other competent body

ART.6: CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Member State shall:
 - Develop national strategies, plans, programmes or regulations to give effect to the decisions of the Council
 - Integrate conservation and management measures into relevant national plans and policies

ART.6: CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Prohibit fishing without a valid licence
- Closed Season not less than 4 months, between 15th February - 31st August
- Upper limit on Traps
- Trap made of biodegradable material
- Trap equipped with an Escape Panel
- Trap equipped with Escape Gap
- Removal of traps from sea during closed season
- Declaration of inventory at beginning of CS

ART.6: CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Minimum size 80 mm Carapace Length;
- Maximum size limit ?
- Adopt, 5 ounces tail weight;
- Prohibit catch, Possession, storage, sale:
 - (i) with tar spot;
 - (ii) Berried Lobster;
 - (iii) moulting;
 - (iv) that has been scrubbed; and
- Require landing of the whole
- Prohibit the use of scuba diving and hookah.

ART 7. MONITORING, CONTROL & SURVEILLANCE

Member States shall:

- Cooperate in taking enforcement action to deter IUU fishing
- MC shall adopt regional guidelines to:
 - Establish sanctions for non-compliance
 - adequate in severity
- Evaluate systems of sanctions to ensure that the penalties are effective

Art 8. Public Education & Awareness

Member States shall:

- Promote understanding of importance of lobster & need for conservation & management measures
- Cooperate in developing educational and public awareness programmes
- Promote use of ICT tools including social media, in order to improve public awareness and understanding

Next Steps

- Scientific Working Group comments - received
- Other comments – this meeting
- Revise document
- Discuss at next Forum March/April 2015
- Present to Ministerial Council for adoption 2015
- Implementation

Working Group – some Questions?

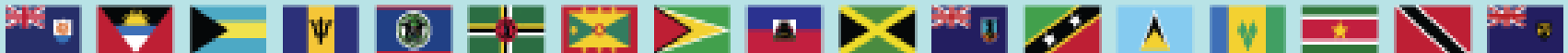
1. Are principles adequate?
2. Management Measure
 1. Should there be maximum size limit?
 2. Should scuba be prohibited?
 3. Should there be a limit on the no. of traps?
 4. How much time should be allowed to soak traps before the start of fishing season ?
 5. Should fishers be required to land whole lobster?

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Thank you



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