



ACTIVITIES TO AVOID



Do not anchor boat on the reef

Photo by Linda Searle



Take care when diving. Fins can damage the reefs

Photo by Nadia Brood



Do not set gears near coral reefs

Photo by Nadia Brood



Do not abandon lines, nets, and traps at sea. They continue to fish

Photo by Roberto Pott



Do not litter or dispose of unwanted items at sea

Photo by Roberto Pott



Reduce catches in non-target species and undersized fish

Photo by Sandra Grant

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Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



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Improving the Outlook for Caribbean Coral Reefs

A Regional Plan of Action 2014-2019

Guiding Actions for Fisherfolks





WHAT IS THE CORAL REEF PLAN OF ACTION?

Coral reefs and associated fisheries are important to Caribbean small-scale fisheries as it provides food, coastal protection, and livelihoods. More than 75% of the coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by coral disease, siltation, overfishing, and climate change.

Understanding and addressing climate change risks for coral reef is critical to the regions goal of achieving development resilience to climate change.



The Coral Reef Plan of Action or "Improving the Outlook for Caribbean Coral Reef: A Regional Plan of Action 2014-2019" addresses strategic elements and goals elaborated in the *CARICOM Regional Framework* (<http://crfm.int/>). It is a roadmap for sustainable coral reef management.

GOALS OF THE PLAN:

- Improve the health and resilience of Caribbean coral reef
- Strengthen adaptive capacity of communities
- Build foundations for national and regional actions
- Advocate globally for stronger action on climate change

The plan will help build regional coordination, motivate action, and stimulate financial support to improving the management of Caribbean coral reefs and achieving development resilience to climate change.

This pamphlet was adapted from the Plan of Action and highlights actions that fisherfolks can do to help save and maintain their reef.

WHAT CAN FISHERFOLKS DO TO HELP?

Protect coral reef ecosystems



- Fish responsibly by using appropriate fishing gear and methods.
- Share your experience, interest, and knowledge on changes in fish movement, taste/smell of the seawater, new species, or unusual events at sea with fishers/researchers/Fisheries Officers.
- Get involved in Marine Managed Area planning and assist Park Rangers in enforcing the rules.
- Talk with other marine users (e.g., hoteliers) and share concerns and interests about securing our coral reef.
- Observe conservation and management regulations for key species such as lobster, conch, and parrotfish.

Promote awareness building and education



- Share with fellow fishers on the importance of good fishing practices and healthy ecosystems.
- Invest in yourself, get involved when training opportunities arise.
- Get involved in CNFO's advocacy strategy on climate change (<http://www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>).
- Share and add information on the CNFO's website through your national CNFO Representative.



Strengthen fisherfolk organizations

- Join your local fishermen organization for positive group action and encourage other fishers to participate.
- Support your local Fisheries Department.
- Support the national fishermen organization to engage NGOs and government agencies to enforce reef management.
- The regional Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation (CNFO) has information that could benefit you. Become part of the network by contacting them at <http://www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>.



Encourage social action

- **Plan** together, **work** together, and you will have a better chance of surviving/coping with a disaster.
- Save and invest wisely for your family security.
- Invest in your future by contributing to your Social Security/ National Insurance Scheme.
- Do not depend on one fishing activity, "**mix it up**"... use different types of gears and invest in additional income earning activities.