

In what ways can stakeholders play a role?

The success of the plan requires effective cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders for the conservation, management and sustainable use of the flyingfish resource to maximize benefits.

Stakeholders can be a part of the process through different ways that allow for active participation:

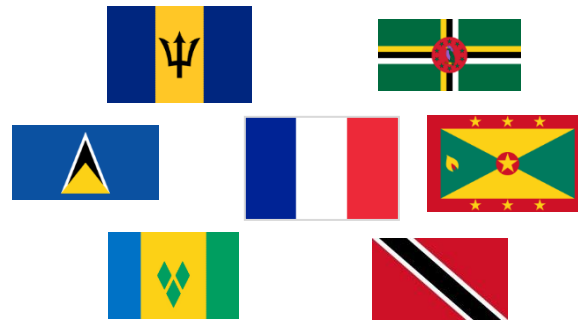
- CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean provides a platform for Fisherfolk Organizations (FFOs) to work with Working Group to provide technical advice on the implementation, review and evaluation of the plan.
- Communication is critical to the efficient implementation and broadcasting of the Plan. FFOs should use all available forms of communication to share information.
- Contribute accurate information for the sub-regional flyingfish catch and effort and vessel registry database in a timely manner.
- Flyingfish stakeholders can be better represented through national FACs, and influence sub-regional policy through the CRFM Ministerial Sub-committee.
- The establishment of National Inter-sectoral Committees (NICs) to encourage stakeholders from other sectors to collaborate in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). Successful stakeholder participation of the NICs entail proactive assistance from the private sector.

ABOUT THE CRFM

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2003, in Belize City, Belize, where it is headquartered.

The CRFM was established following the signing of the "Agreement Establishing the CRFM" on February 4, 2002 and is an inter- governmental organization.

The CRFM's mission is to "To promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region".



THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM)

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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM



SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE FLYINGFISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

What is the plan?

The Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (FFMP) is the first regional fisheries management plan in the sub-region. It is a voluntary document for regional implementation by seven CRFM Member States (Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Martinique and Trinidad & Tobago). It was prepared through consultations with stakeholders at the national and regional level. The plan is directed to all persons involved in the industry and aids in the successful implementation of a fishery management that takes into account both the resource and the livelihood of the users.

What issues will be addressed?

The plan seeks to address the following issues that have plagued the fishery industry by limiting its development and management in the eastern Caribbean:

Ecological

Negative impact from sea and land-based human activities and unsustainable fishing practices

Governance

Inadequacies of regional, national and local management capacity

Socio-economic

Constrained harvesting, post-harvest infrastructure and trade



Why is the plan important?



Flyingfish is a very important shared resource to the Eastern Caribbean. Prior to the FFMP, there was no formalized plan of action for managing this shared resource since the majority of national fisheries management plans do not target a specific resource.

The plan is intended to ensure resource conservation and long-term sustainability while enhancing the livelihood of people in the region.

It also permits the countries to meet the objectives of regional and international agreements such as the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible Fisheries and Small Scale Fisheries guidelines.

What are some of the best practices being used?

Best practices must be employed in order to maximise long-term catches of flying fish. Some of which include

- Leaving Fisheries Aggregation Devices (FADs) or screealers in the sea after fishing. Fishers are encouraged employ these practices to assist with increasing the population of flying fish.
- Use of the mesh size stated by the country's law. Using smaller meshes results in catching smaller fish prior to spawning which can decrease the flyingfish population
- Use of a data collection system to monitor the resource landed by fisherfolk. This data would ensure that management advice is

What are the key actions for implementation?

CRFM has provided actions for successful implementation of the management plan. These actions will be achieved through a Working Group supported by national authorities.



Create and develop a regional database to coordinate data collection, statistics and analysis in the region.



Involve stakeholder at all stages and ensure they are well represented on the Fishery Advisory Committees (FAC).



Enable access to resources. E.g. CRFM can secure funding from donor agencies



Develop a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme to ensure compliance with management and conservation measures.



Institute a system to ensure that the National Fisheries Authorities are achieving the objectives of the plan.