

Benefits of a Common Fisheries Policy

- Increased protection of biodiversity in the marine environment
- Increased levels of food security
- Advancement of social and economic development of the fisheries sector
- Minimization of intra and inter sectorial conflicts
- Increased institutional and human resources capacity building
- Harmonized data and information systems
- Better research in support of fisheries development and management
- Improved monitoring, control and surveillance, and reduction of illegal fishing



Caribbean Regional
Fisheries Mechanism

Towards a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM

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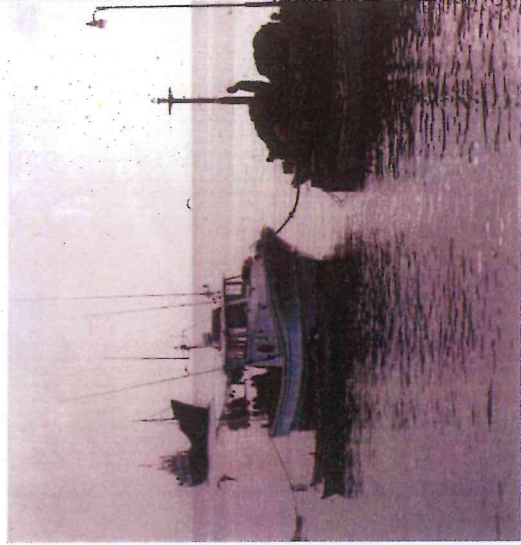
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Towards Sustainable Development of
Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean

Progress to Date

Vision

Sustainable use and management of living marine resources and ecosystems of the Caribbean through increased cooperation and collaboration among the CARICOM Member States and Third States for the improved welfare of their people.

The effort to establish a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime at the CARICOM level was initiated in 2003 at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government. In 2009, the CRFPM Ministerial Council, as the implementing agency, decided to

separate the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Implementing Regime and to focus first on elaborating the Policy. Since that date, many rounds of consultation and negotiation have led to the development of the *Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy*. The Draft lays down the objectives to be achieved, and the basic principles regarding sustainable use, conservation, management and development of the aquatic resources under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Member States of the Community. Currently, the *Draft* is still being negotiated and once finalized will be submitted to COTED, COFCOR, the Legal Affairs Committee and the Conference Heads of Government for final approval and signature.

Common Fisheries Policy Objectives

- Management and development of the living marine resources and ecosystems of the region to ensure social and economic benefits to the community
- Sustainable fisheries through harmonized regional management of shared resources
- Strengthened cooperation and collaboration and development of harmonized positions
- Promotion of a viable fishing industry
- Strengthened shared fisheries information base

