



Fisheries plan for disasters

Ms. Yinka Jagbir, CCRIF Intern, CRFM Secretariat

The CRFM is developing a Model Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management Plan for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector for CRFM Member States. This has emerged out of a necessity to have a framework that would advise regional partners on the measures to be taken in order to be better prepared, prevent and minimize loss, damage, destruction and death arising from hazards such as severe hydro-meteorological events, tsunamis and oil spills. The Model Plan will enhance the Caribbean’s ability to manage all disasters at a regional and national level, with special emphasis on the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Natural and human-induced disasters have become more frequent and increasingly destructive. Communities relying on coastal and marine fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods and welfare are becoming increasingly more vulnerable to disasters and have been seriously affected by damage and destruction of their property and loss of life. The recent experiences with Hurricanes Irma, Jose and Maria are cases in point. The Caribbean has also had its fair share of other natural disasters including extreme flooding, droughts, landslides, and on the rare but significant occasions catastrophic volcanic eruptions. Natural disaster losses account for approximately US \$3billion annually. With 60% of the region’s population and 70% of the economic activity within 2 miles of the coastline, the region must be proactive in its mission on mitigating the effects of natural disasters. The impacts from these hazards are predicted to intensify as a result of climate change. In order to help fishing communities to be better prepared and to recover in the fastest possible time after an event it is imperative that the particular characteristics of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the livelihood contexts of

small-scale fishers and fish farmers and their communities be clearly understood and provided for in a national disaster preparedness and risk management plan.

The information contained in the model plan has been adapted from several Disaster Management Plans in the Caribbean and Pacific SIDS.

Check out CRFM Secretariat for more information

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Hurricane Irma Damage to Barbuda

Incorporating SSF Guidelines into the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

Ms. Sanya Compton, Research Project Assistant UWI, CERMES

In May 2017, the CRFM Ministerial Council endorsed the development of a protocol on the International Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) for inclusion in the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP). This followed the March 2017 decision by fisherfolk leaders in the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and CRFM Secretariat to collaborate in a CERMES-led initiative to incorporate the SSF Guidelines into the CCCFP.

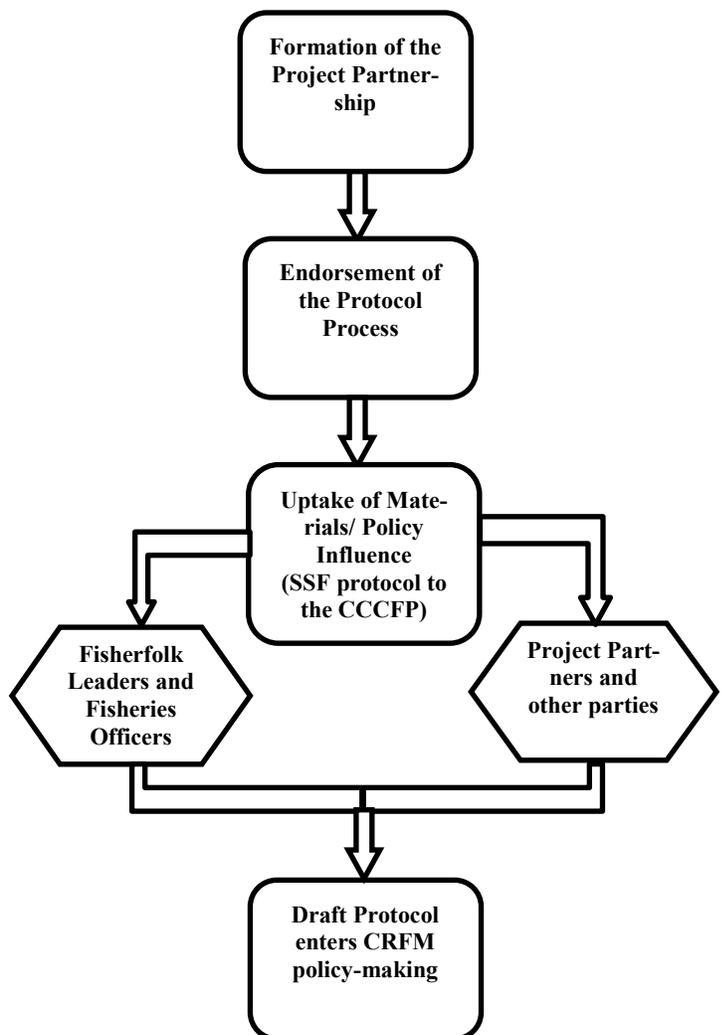
The CCCFP promotes the sustainable utilisation of our fisheries for the well-being of all Caribbean people, and thus the aim is to put the global SSF Guidelines into regional policy and practice. The SSF Guidelines recognize the significant contribution of small-scale fisheries to socio-economic development, food security and nutrition. The Guidelines support responsible fisheries for current and future generations by engaging vulnerable and underrepresented groups.

The development of the protocol, using a participatory process, has already received support from senior fisheries officers and representatives from inter-governmental organisations and civil society organisations, at the CRFM's 15th Caribbean Fisheries Forum, on 30 March. The proposed protocol will address issues of governance, resource management, livelihoods, value chain equity, trade, gender equality, disaster risks and climate change. The participatory approach to its development is providing fisherfolk, fisheries officers and other key stakeholders in the fisheries sector with the opportunity to influence fisheries policy at regional level.

To date, the project partnership (CERMES, CANARI, CNFO, and CRFM Secretariat), through communication products, events, and a survey of priorities, has built awareness and engaged fisherfolk, fisheries officers and other key stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing fisheries issues.

Responses mainly from Belize, Saint Lucia and Suriname indicate that governance of tenure, resource management, disaster risks, climate change, and ensuring an enabling environment for the SSF Guidelines are among the top priorities. Fisherfolk, fisheries officers and other key stakeholders from all CRFM Member States should participate in the survey to identify priorities for the draft SSF Guidelines protocol before its submission to the CRFM Secretariat.

The draft protocol is expected to be presented to the next meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.



Activities and processes leading to the draft SSF protocol engaging CRFM policy-making

Lobster TURFs work

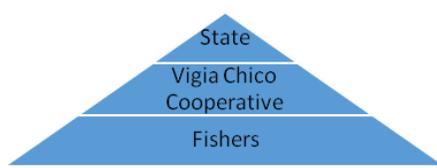
Dr. Maren Headley, CRFM Secretariat

A small fishing community in Quintana Roo, Mexico has maintained a sustainable spiny lobster fishery over the past 50 years using a Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries (TURFs) approach. The fishery was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in 2012 and operates in a large bay which the fishers have divided into individual fishing grounds (IFGs). Fishers have exclusive rights to place artificial shelters and to harvest spiny lobsters within their fishing grounds. Local fisher knowledge, strict Cooperative regulations, and self-enforcement ensure that fishing ground boundaries are respected.

The spiny lobster is currently thought to be threatened with overfishing in the Caribbean region. The Mexican experience has shown that TURFs provide a solution to fisheries management challenges such as overfishing and enforcement of regulations. Resources most suited for TURFs are benthic high value species (e.g. lobster and abalone), because their low mobility makes management of the fishing area easier and the prices provide incentives for fishers with secure rights to cooperate among themselves.

However, implementing a TURF system is not an easy task. Agreements on who has the right to participate in the fishery, and how fishing grounds will be allocated are required. Issues of access to the resource can be addressed through rotation of fishing activity between fishers, or pooling of profits with equal distribution of shares to all fishers. The success of these systems is highly dependent on well-organized and functional Cooperatives, which operate in a co-management setting, using a bottom-up approach.

Countries that have successfully implemented TURFs include Belize, Chile, Fiji, Japan, Mexico and Spain. As the Caribbean continues to look at ways to address overfishing, adapt to climate change and develop sustainable livelihoods, the rights based approach for spiny lobster fisheries management, especially at local scales is worth considering as a way forward.



Exclusive, *de facto*, user rights are transferred to fishers by the State of Quintana Roo, through the cooperative

Enforce Belize Gender policy in Fisheries sector!

Dr. Sandra Grant, MCCAP Project Manager

There has been a loud call for enforcement of the existing Belize National Gender Policy, by mainstreaming gender in all aspects of the fisheries sector. This occurred when Belize hosted, as part of the celebration of June as Caribbean Fisherfolk month, its first ever *Women in Fisheries Forum*. At the June 13 one-day workshop, which brought together women involved in all aspects of Belize's fisheries industry, a draft Gender Action Plan was developed for the fisheries sector of Belize based on working group discussions and recommendations.

Against the theme for Fisherfolk Month 2017, which was "Fisheries: contributing to food security in a changing climate", the workshop was geared toward promoting the achievement of gender equality and equity in the allocation of resources, rights, status and responsibilities between women and men. Consequently, participants were presented with the results of a study, which looked at the perception of women in 12 fishing communities with regard to gender equality in general; and, within the fisheries sector, in particular.

A number of action plan recommendations were made including:

- Gender should be mainstreamed in all aspects of the fisheries sector including management, development and decision-making; and, women should be actively engaged to participate in organizations (Cooperatives, Associations, etc.).
- Women should be specifically targeted in communication and awareness campaigns, utilising the appropriate language.
- Women empowerment forums should be supported.
- Women should be involved in artisanal fisheries training, with additional support provided to ensure their full engagement.
- Consideration should be given for special/flexible interest rates of credit for women and women in fisheries.
- The issue of benefits (maternity, sick leave, retirement, health & life insurance) for women should be addressed.

The workshop was funded by the Adaptation Fund, The World Bank and the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP).

Improving fisheries prosecution

Lt. (CG) Rolerick Sobers, Maritime Officer, Regional Security System

Twenty border security officers from six CRFM Member States recently completed a three week training course in Fisheries Prosecution and Interdiction, organized by the Regional Security System (RSS) in collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat, the Government of Barbados and the British Royal Navy's Fisheries Protection Squadron.

The Training was held at the Coast Guard Base of the Barbados Defense Force: "HMBS Pelican" and brought together officers of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard (2), Barbados Coast Guard (4), Royal Barbados Police Force Marine Unit (3), Royal Grenada Police Force Marine Unit (2), Royal Saint Lucia Police Force Marine Unit (3), the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force Coast Guard (3) and the St. Kitts-Nevis Defense Force Coast Guard (3). The aim of the Course was to heighten the awareness, enhance the skills and competencies of authorised officers who have Border Security responsibilities for enforcing the laws under the Fisheries Acts, Fisheries Regulations and other supporting administrative policies. Participants have increased their capability to function in an operational environment and in accordance with best practices based on the Prosecution and Enforcement Manuals for CARIFORUM Member States, CRFM Technical & Advisory Document, No. 2013 / 10: Volume 1 – Fisheries Prosecution Manual; and, Volume 2 – Fisheries Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

The performance of participants (who were all awarded a Certificate of Training for the successful completion of the course) was gauged by: (a) their interaction and participation in classroom discussion and group homework assignments including the application of the information and skills taught; (b) their ability to recall/utilize the information provided to them through two individual assignments, one of two "syndicate" (group) scenario activities, two group "homework" assignments and (c) an assessment of their level of case preparation and prosecution skills by practicing the various techniques, in mock trials emanating out of one of three working group scenarios developed by the course officer, and assessed by Barbados' Senior

Crown Counsel and the Officer-in-Charge of the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) Marine Unit. This approach was geared to making them more knowledgeable about the correct procedures to follow while enforcing the laws under the Fisheries Act and Regulations, as well as to be able to better prepare for Trial Proceedings where offences are committed and where there is a violation of the Fisheries Laws.

The Subject Matter Experts who facilitated the Course were drawn from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) – Barbados; the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat; the Royal Barbados Police Force Marine Unit; Royal Navy – Fisheries Protection Squadron; the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - Barbados; the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture Food Fisheries and Water Resource Management – Barbados; and, the Regional Security System Headquarters.

This course was jointly funded by the European Union through the 10th EDF Project and RSS Headquarters. At the course's closing ceremony, the EU Representative affirmed the commitment of EU to strengthening law enforcement in the Caribbean; in also emphasising the importance of participants sharing what they learnt with colleagues in their home countries; thus, contributing to the development of a cadre of efficient and effective fisheries prosecutors in the region.



Prosecution's "Examination in Chief" during one of the mock trials. Barbados' Senior Crown Counsel and Officer-in-Charge RBPF Marine Unit look on.

CRFM designated to implement CCCFP

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

On Friday 6th October 2017, in Georgetown, Guyana, the Seventy First meeting of the CARICOM Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED), designated the CRFM as the Competent Agency (CA) for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP). This decision followed on a recommendation of the 7th Special Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council the previous day.

The Ministerial Council's recommendation and subsequent COTED decision, which were based on the work of legal consultant Ms. Safiya Ali, determined that, in keeping with Article 7.3 of the CCCFP, the CRFM shall "have the authority and perform the functions outlined in the CCCFP".

To this end, the Mechanism has been directed to ensure that its Work Plan for 2018 - 2020 (which is to be submitted to Member States for approval as part of the usual governance arrangements for the CRFM), include the requirements of the Competent CA, where these are not already addressed together with an assessment of any additional resources or arrangements which may be required to effectively perform the mandated functions.

COTED, in considering various options for the establishment or designation of an institution to perform the functions of the CA, acknowledged that the CRFM is the only fisheries institution established by the Community and shares similar objectives and functions as those provided for the Competent Agency. COTED was also mindful of the ongoing reform of the Community, which includes a review and rationalization of its institutions; and, that the implementation of the CCCFP, including the functions of the Competent Agency, is included in CRFM's Strategic Plan (2013 - 2021).

CARICOM had approved the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) pursuant to the decision of the COTED, at its Fifty-First Special Meeting - Agriculture, held in Suriname in October 2014



7th Special Meeting of CRFM's Ministerial Council

Fisheries scientists say ban shark finning

Dr. Maren Headley, CRFM Secretariat

The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) at its eighth session at Merida, Mexico, in November, endorsed a ban on shark finning. This was one of three recommendations coming out of the first meeting of the WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management. Other recommendations endorsed by the SAG dealt with the improvement of shark and ray fisheries management and conservation status; and implementation of the precautionary approach for threatened species.

Additional recommendations endorsed by the SAG are related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and seek to establish markings and identification of fishing vessels, record fishing vessels over 12 meters, and maintain lists of vessels presumed and/or confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the WECAFC area. Recommendations were also made regarding billfish management and conservation, and improving the sustainability of

Fishing Aggregating Device (FAD) fisheries; as well as two resolutions on the institutionalization of the reporting mechanism for the CLME+ State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies (SOMEE). The reporting and coordinating mechanisms will inform decision-making to ensure sustainable benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region. There was also a resolution on the Interim Coordination Mechanism, made up of five regional organizations, including the CRFM.

Also among the recommendations and resolutions to be presented to the Commission during 2018 was a resolution calling on WECAFC Member States to support the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (WECAFC-FIRMS) partnership, which is developing a regional database for collating and sharing scientific information in fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.4.



Participants of the 8th SAG session, Nov 3-4, 2017

FISHCOM WG to Convene

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

The CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG) is set to convene its first meeting in early December 2017. The meeting, which will be held virtually, will focus initially on supporting commodity development initiatives that already enjoy some estimated or observed market potential. The FISHCOM WG, an expert working group, will consider a number of commodity developments that would benefit, in the short term, from additional business/ market research or planning support.



Aquaculture and Marine Fish have been identified as agricultural Priority Commodities by CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) at its 33rd Meeting, and the CRFM was asked by CARICOM Secretariat to lead the development of these commodities. The CRFM Ministerial Council, at its Sixth Special Meeting, approved the establishment of the CARICOM/CRFM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity (FISHCOM) Working Group. The Terms of Reference for the FISHCOM Working Group were subsequently developed and also approved. In addition, a draft Strategy and Planning Document on Development of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries was prepared and endorsed. The FISHCOM WG is responsible for preparing and coordinating implementation of this Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Strategy and Action Plan.

CRFM at the UN Ocean Conference

Milton Haughton, CRFM Secretariat



The high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was held at UN Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.

The CRFM along with CARICOM Secretariat and several other CARICOM Institutions and Member States played a prominent role in the Conference and Side Events, in collaboration with development partners.

The Conference brought together more than one thousand stakeholders including Governments, regional and international organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders to assess the challenges and opportunities and solutions to the implementation of Goal 14.

The CRFM in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and development partners including the Government of Norway, United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the ACP Secretariat organized side events and participated as panelists on a number of others including Partnership Dialogue 4: Making Fisheries Sustainable, where the CRFM Executive Director was one of the 5 Panelists.



The Conference increased awareness of ocean issues, challenges and opportunities and laid out the pathway and innovative solutions to reverse the decline in the health of our seas and ocean and create wealth and prosperity for peoples everywhere, particularly in SIDS, with limited land masses and large ocean spaces.

CRFM Ministers call for risk insurance

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

Several Caribbean countries have been recently devastated by two catastrophic hurricanes, Irma and Maria. At the 7th Special Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council, hosted in Georgetown, Guyana, on 5th October 2017, policy-makers underscored the need for CARICOM Member States to move ahead with adopting risk insurance that would enable the fisheries sector and fishers to bounce back more quickly after a hurricane strikes. The recent devastation underscored the need for Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to press forward with risk insurance for the fisheries sector—currently being developed by the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) in collaboration with the World Bank. This initiative is supported by the United States government under the Caribbean Ocean and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility (COAST). So far, there has been no payout provided specifically for the rehabilitation and recovery of the fisheries sector, although there have been other payouts under the broader umbrella of the CCRIF scheme.

The development and implementation of the livelihood protection policy for individual small-scale operators and the sovereign parametric policy for States that the CCRIF SPC is working on, now assumes greater urgency for the sector. In light of the destruction and devastation which the recent hurricanes have caused in CRFM Member States such as Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Haiti, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Turks and Caicos, all parties must redouble efforts to get the risk insurance facilities for the sector established as soon as possible: certainly before the next hurricane season. The insurance policies are being designed to provide quick relief to those fishers who experience distress as a result of disasters such as hurricanes as well as to incentivize investments in preventative measures that promote both sustainable fish production and adaptation to climate change, including incentives for the fisheries sector to use climate-smart food security best practices and simultaneously improve coastal resilience. In support of this initiative, the CRFM Secretariat has developed a model Disaster Management Plan for the Fisheries Sector to facilitate adequate preparation by stakeholders before disaster events and to ensure speedy, coordinated assessment and recovery efforts after such events.

Preliminary damage estimates for Dominica's fisheries sector stood at roughly US\$3 million. The initial assessment for Antigua and Barbuda stood at just over US\$316,000, with an estimated 778 individuals affected: including 193 fishers and 585 financial dependents; accounting for 25.5% of the population of Barbuda and 0.3% of the population of Antigua. These numbers reflect damage mostly to fishing boats and equipment, as well as infrastructure vital to the sector; but do not include damage to marine ecosystems and habitats (coral reefs, mangroves etc.) or impacts on the fish stocks themselves. Many fishing communities already subsist in precarious and vulnerable conditions because of poverty and rural underdevelopment, and there is need for adaptation to secure a more resilient future for them.



The high-level meeting organized by CARICOM and the US

The “CARICOM-UN High-level Pledging Conference: Building a more Climate-Resilient Community,” held in Washington DC in November, has resulted in over US\$2 billion in pledges to respond to the urgent needs the countries and to offset an estimated US\$5 billion in recovery costs, across all sectors. This includes US\$1 billion in loans pledged by the Inter-American Development Bank, \$30 million in soft loans pledged by Italy and \$1 million in debt forgiveness by Venezuela. CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, has urged that the same collaboration and generosity which marked the relief efforts should continue as the countries go forward to build a resilient Caribbean.

Bahamas Hosted 5th Meeting of ACP Ministers in Charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Milton Haughton, CRFM

Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries met in Nassau, Bahamas on 20-21 September to discuss and agree on the way forward to enhance the role of fisheries and aquaculture in national socio-economic development by enhancing sustainable flow of benefits to the countries.

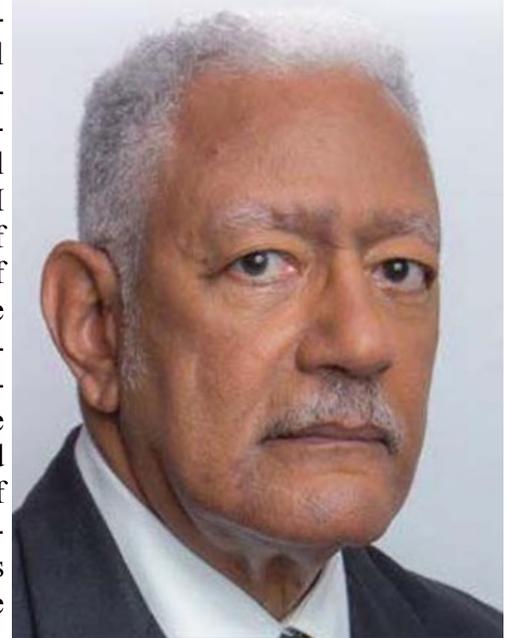
The 5th ACP Meeting of Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture was opened by the Prime Minister of The Bahamas Dr. The Hon. Hubert A. Minnis. The ACP Secretary General H.E. Dr. Patrick Gomes, a Guyanese Diplomat and former Head of CARICAD, a CARICOM Specialized Institution, welcomed participants and reaffirming the important role of the sector in ensuring food and nutrition security, livelihoods, and revenues for ACP states. The Hon. Renward Ricardo Wells, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Bahamas also welcomed participants and chaired the meeting.

More than 150 delegates from 60 ACP countries and international development partners were in attendance. The meeting reviewed the progress made to date in fulfilling the ACP Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategic Plan, clarified the priority areas for future attention, and renewed commitment to developing the full potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the countries, including unlocking the potential of the blue economy through a new €40 million “ACP Blue Growth Initiative”.

The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a 2 day preparatory meeting of Directors and Chief Fisheries Officers from the 60 ACP Countries and was well attended by the CARIFORUM States and the CRFM Secretariat which played a coordinating role for CARIFORUM States.

Among the key discussion topics were the need to promote effective fisheries management, eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, support small scale fisheries, address the issue of harmful fisheries subsidies, strengthen aquaculture production, enhance capacity building activities, improve data collection and research, deepen policy analysis and continuously explore ways to secure funding to support and implement agreed programmes. The need to stimulate investment in, and development of the blue economy, which encompasses a large range of marine-related activities, in environmentally sustainable ways, was another important area of focus.

The Hon-ourable Noel Holder, Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM and Minister of Agriculture of Guyana was the main spokesman and presenter of the positions and contributions of the CARIFORUM Countries during the meeting.



Hon. Noel Holder

The Meeting adopted a Ministerial Declaration which detailed the agreed strategic interventions and measures to accelerated sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the countries by addressing the priorities areas mentioned above. Ministers pledged their commitment to continue the implementation of the ACP Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture, which helps countries to coordinate and cooperate on joint actions. They highlighted the need for stronger partnerships, more funding opportunities, as well as South-South Cooperation to build capacity, share expertise and knowledge and catalyse progress. Ministers also emphasised the urgent need to intensify efforts to mobilise financial resources, accelerate technology transfer and build human and institutional capacity in ACP countries to achieve these measures. The declaration called on development partners and the ACP Secretariat to give priority attention to this issue.

ACP Ministers also agreed to allocate €40 million from the Intra-ACP funding mechanism of the European Development Fund (EDF) to support the ACP Blue Growth Initiative, which was formally launched during the meeting.

The 6th Meeting of ACP Ministers responsible for Fisheries of Aquaculture will be held in Apia, Samoa in the Pacific in 2019. The CRFM will continue to coordinate the involvement of the CARIFORUM States in the ACP Fisheries and Aquaculture programme.

Second RWG-IUU meeting provides draft WECAFC recommendations

Peter A. Murray, CRFM Secretariat

The second meeting of the WECAFC RWG-IUU Working Group (RWG-IUU 2), held in Barbados from 19-21 September 2017, addressed the WECAFC Programme of Work and provided some necessary regional-level follow up to the Meeting of the Global Record informal open-ended technical and advisory working group (Rome, 23–25 February 2015). More specifically, the Meeting developed draft WECAFC recommendations on: establishment of an Authorized Vessel Record for the WECAFC area; establishment

global and cooperative tool supported by COFI. There are responsibilities of the different RFMOs to have information on their areas of management and have enough information on the vessels that use those areas. A large number of member countries and RFMOs are currently captured in the global registry, and data can be exchanged manually and automatically through a website.

The practical implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) was also considered by the meeting. The PSMA is an instrument specifically for the fight against illegal fishing, which entered into force in July 2016. It works with the focal points of the competent fisheries authorities that should form national groups. The PSMA has requirements that the state has to meet for vessel inspection. The steps to follow are consistent with the FAO Compliance Agreement. The global registry is a tool that complements PSMA.

Against the back-drop of the previous discussions, a regional ship registry and its possible links to the global registry were considered. The information generated from the national registries is necessary for the implementation of regional registries. The registry not only captures data on fishing activities but is also used for relevant subsidies in certain countries. The global registry also contains management plans for several species (conch, flying fish and lobster) with the approval of CRFM and OSPESCA. Participants held a plenary discussion on the challenges and opportunities of establishing a regional vessel registry linked to the global registry. A matrix was created with the challenges and opportunities for the development of such a regional record.

The meeting also received a presentation on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) work in the region to combat maritime crime: specifically drug trafficking which, in reality, is being found to be very close to illegal fishing. UNODC will be working with the OECS to combat piracy of fishery products, illegal fishing and money laundering linked to fishing.



Participants at Second Meeting of RWG-IUU

and maintenance of lists of vessels presumed and/or confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the WECAFC area; and, fishing vessel marking and identification.

The meeting considered the International Programme of Action on IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU) and the need for vessel registrations at the regional level. RWG-IUU also received a brief summary on the Global Registry, which is primarily an information system for combating illegal fishing by way of helping in the transparency of fishing, exchanging of information and providing necessary fishing data. Experiences in the use of the global registry in Central America were also discussed; as were experiences of implementing the global registry in the United States of America. The requirements for the implementation of the global registry in the WECAFC area fishing vessels, supply and trans-shipment were also considered.

RWG-IUU 2 also was given an overview of the agreements for the exchange of information for the global registry. It was emphasised that this registry is a



James Azueta, OSPECSA, presenting

Potential for deep sea fishing in Belize

Fisheries Department, Belize

Between late June and early July this year, a team from the Capture Fisheries Unit of the Belize Fisheries Department conducted a deep-sea fishing expedition in Southern Belize, on board the “Isabelle”: a 38 ft vessel owned and operated by Mr. Kurt Godfrey assisted by his son Kurt Jr.

Employing vertical line and vertical drift line, the species that were caught during the expedition were yellow mouth grouper, yellow eye snapper, Vermillion snapper, Black jack, Red hind and one Dolphinfish with a the total length of 39 inches and weight of 12 pounds. Long line fishing for bonito was also conducted. A variety of species: sardine, jacks,



MV Isabelle

bonito and snappers, were used in an effort to determine the most appropriate bait.

This activity comes out of a Deep-Sea Development project by the Fisheries Department in collaboration with the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP) and local deep-sea fishermen; seeking to diversify and expand the fisheries sector. An integral component of the project is the deep-sea data collection, which will quantify and qualify the feasibility of deep sea fishing. The deep-sea fishery is a fishery with great potential for expansion with proper management.

The Fisheries Department plans to continue conducting deep seas fishing at other fishing grounds to substantiate the commercial potential of the deep-sea fishery; and, to collect all relevant biological and catch per unit effort data to develop scientific information for sustainable management of the fishery.

Damage to Anguilla and Antigua/Barbuda during 2017 hurricane season to date

(excerpted from submissions from Anguilla’s DFMR and Antigua’s Fisheries Division)

From the rapid assessments that were carried out Anguilla’s Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) has put the estimated cost of the damage from Hurricane Irma to be more than US\$500,000.00. This figure does not include the sport fishers, nor the loss of markets; it only accounts for physical damage to vessels and engines, loss of vessels, loss of gear and fish aggregation devices. A total of 2,989 fish traps were reportedly lost at sea .



Damaged vessel in Anguilla

For Antigua and Barbuda, based on the damage done to fishing vessels (EC\$254,300), fisheries infrastructure (EC\$178,001), fish traps (EC\$387,240) and other fishing gear (EC\$34,000), the total damage done by Hurricane Irma to the fisheries sector of Antigua and Barbuda was valued at EC\$853,541, with Barbuda accounting for 51.8% (EC\$441,845) of this amount. This assessment was limited to *damage* as opposed to *losses*. The damage to 68.5% of the active fishing fleet in Barbuda and 44.4% of the estimated 4,899 traps in operation is expected to *negatively*



Destroyed vessel, River Wharf, Barbuda

impact fisheries’ GDP for 2017 and 2018.

Look out for shark management recommendations for WECAFC!!



See: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/news/detail-events/en/c/1051568/>

MEETINGS AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2017

1	21 - 22 August	Regional Consultations to advance the Draft Caribbean Community Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework and its First Action Plan	Trinidad and Tobago
2	31 Aug -1 Sept	Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop	Haiti
3	31 August - 1 September	USAID Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) Inaugural Meeting of the Program Advisory Community	Saint Lucia
4	11 - 13 Sept	CLME+ Project PEG Meeting	Miami
5	14 - 15 Sept	11th Meeting of the Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture - Innovation Systems for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development	Barbados
6	18 - 21 Sept	5th ACP Fisheries Ministers Meeting	The Bahamas
7	19 - 21 Sept	2nd Meeting of Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing	Barbados
8	25 - 6 October	SCRS Species Groups Meetings and Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)	Madrid, Spain
9	26 - 27 Sept	18th Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Fisheries Ministers in the OECS and Suriname	Saint Lucia
10	2 - 20 October	RSS Fisheries Prosecution and Interdiction Course	Barbados
11	4 October	COTED (Agriculture) Officials	Guyana
12	5 October	7th Special CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting	Guyana
13	6 October	COTED (Agriculture) Ministerial	Guyana
14	9 -12 October	CCCC International Conference on Climate Change for the Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago
15	17 - 19 October	1st Meeting of the WECAFC / CITES / OSPESCA / CRFM / CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management	Barbados
16	19 October	Visit of CARIFICO Evaluation team to Belize	Belize
17	25 - 26 October	EU—CARIFORUM Fisheries and Agriculture Sub-committee Meeting	Dominican Republic
18	3 - 4 November	WECAFC SAG Meeting	Merida, Mexico
19	6 -10 November	70th GCFI Meeting	Merida, Mexico
20	8 - 10 Nov	OECS Fisheries Subsidies Workshop	Saint Lucia
21	14 - 22 Nov.	25th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	Marrakech, Morocco
22	20-21 Nov	CARICOM-UN High Level Pledging Conference	New York
23	27 - 28 Nov	High-level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean	Mexico City, Mexico
24	28-29 Nov	OECS Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers Meeting	Castries , St Lucia
25	30 Nov- 1 Dec	CARIFICO Final Dissemination Workshop	Castries, St. Lucia
27	10-13 Dec	11th WTO Ministerial Meeting - Fisheries Subsidies	Argentina

Merry Christmas and a successful 2018 from all of us at CRFM

Editor's Note

In this edition of the management issue of the newsletter we seek to provide information on management related activities of the CRFM Secretariat, Member States and collaborating/partner organisations between the end of April and mid-December 2017. We have stuck to the form of newspaper-type (rather than scientific journal) articles to make the issue about what is happening in fisheries management in the region, presented as short interesting stories that are appealing and easy to read.

Knowing that our readers are used to two issues of *CRFM News* a year; and, mindful that we could not produce a “scientific” issue this year, we decided to let you enjoy another “management” issue! We would like to thank the contributors who “stepped up to the plate” for this edition. In particular those who provided pictures that helped to “lively-up” this issue!! In this latter regard, special mention must be made of contributors from the fisheries departments/divisions and fisherfolk of Anguilla; Antigua and Barbuda; and Belize

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The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation 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 CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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