

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRFM advises fishers to be prepared and stay vigilant amid forecast for active 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Belize City, Friday, 22 July 2022 (CRFM)—The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is advising fishers and fishing communities across its seventeen (17) Member States to **PREPARE and GET READY as we approach the peak** of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Early preparation and understanding risks are key to reducing loss, damage and injury to fishers and their families.

Fishers and fishing communities should take steps to prepare for any disaster. One of the available tools is the Fisher Early Warning and Emergency Response ([FEWER](#)) mobile app. Fisherfolk should also stay informed and carefully follow official information from the government about severe weather systems and hurricanes (shared via our [live map](#)). Fishers should be aware of their risks and safeguard themselves from hazards such as high winds and turbulent seas, storm surge and storm tide, rip currents, heavy rainfall and flooding, and tornadoes.

Fishers are also encouraged to make a family emergency plan and have an emergency kit with supplies, enough food, water, medicine and other essentials that will last them for at least two weeks.

The CRFM cautions fishers against operating vessels under these conditions and urges them to act early to secure their boats and store their fishing gear and basic supplies like ropes, lines, hooks, coolers, crimps and crimpers in the event of an approaching storm. This will help to ensure that fishers can protect their



GET READY!

- STAY INFORMED WITH OFFICIAL INFORMATION
- HAVE AN EMERGENCY HURRICANE PLAN IN PLACE
- DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SECURE YOUR BOAT AND GEAR
- DO NOT NAVIGATE YOUR BOAT IN A CYCLONE'S PATH
- BE PROACTIVE: PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY



GET READY!

	FEWER Module	How?
<p>AVAILABLE IN THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE</p> 	<p>To prepare BEFORE an emergency use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Weather  Alerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive and share weather information from different sources (NOAA, National Meteorological Services, Disaster Office) • To receive alerts sent by Fisheries Department, Met office, Disaster Office and other fishers
	<p>To respond DURING an emergency use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Emergency Contacts  Emergency Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To access Emergency Contacts • To receive trusted guidance on procedures to follow in emergency situations
	<p>To recover AFTER an emergency use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Damage Reporting  Missing Persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare reports of property damage and share with Authorities • To broadcast information to help find missing fishers

livelihoods and return to fishing more quickly after the storm passes and minimize lost and abandoned fishing gear that will continue to ghost fish.

A few weeks ago, the Colorado State University (CSU) updated its April 2022 prediction—from 19 named storms and 4 major hurricanes to 20 named storms and 5 major hurricanes—noting that this hurricane season will be “well above-average.” An average season has about 14 named storms and 3 major hurricanes. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2022 will mark the 7th straight year having busier-than-normal tropical cyclone activity for the Atlantic Basin and the Caribbean region.



Fisherfolk are encouraged to stay vigilant by following the forecasts during this hurricane season and to contact their disaster management office or their national Fisheries Department or Division if they sustain damages to their vessels or equipment due to a storm or hurricane event. Fishers are urged to continue to work together to support and help each other to prepare during the hurricane season and to assist in the event they are impacted by severe weather systems in 2022.

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ABOUT THE CRFM:

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2003 in Belize City, Belize, where it is headquartered, following the signing of the “Agreement Establishing the CRFM” on 4 February 2002. It is an inter-governmental organization whose mission is “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.”

CRFM social media links:

You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCRFM>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarFisheries>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CaribFisheries>

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