

❖ Fisheries and the Aquaculture in the Caribbean

Fisheries and aquaculture are important to the lives and livelihoods of most people in the Caribbean region for quality animal protein, essential fatty acids, vitamins and minerals, food security and income (personal and national).



❖ Climate-Smarting Caribbean Fisheries

Scientists believe that Climate Change will affect the ability of the Caribbean to maintain a safe and sustained fisheries sector. The many changes that is expected to affect us such rising sea levels, more frequent and devastating hurricanes calls for the region to unite minimize the expected impacts. We believe that the signs of Climate Change are already affecting our vital fisheries sector in areas such as:



- Increase in seaweed events, causing loss of access to fishing grounds
- Increased frequency of coral bleaching events (coral act as nurseries)
- Sea level rise (due to the expansion of the ocean, glacial melt)
- Warmer temperatures will cause greater evaporation, increasing the severity of drought for a given decrease in rainfall.
- Warmer temperatures that will change species distributions as the migratory patterns of traditional fish change and new species emerge.

- Change in conditions may be favourable to invasive species.
- Increased salination of water (increased saltiness) will impact traditional species and new species arrive to take their place
- Tropical cyclones may occur more often or stronger than they do at present.
- There are likely to be shifts in prevailing wind and wave patterns. Thus affecting where the currents will take fish or vessels.
- Shoreline erosion and realignment, leading to loss of amenity or damage to assets (natural and human).



Being “Climate Smart” is the realisation that every action we take will have a consequence. Being “climate smart” also aim to improve food security and to preserve natural resources. We are climate smart when we link the safety of our structures and actions with environmentally friendly interventions in a reasonably cost-effective way.

❖ What Can Be Done?

The cooperation and participation of our fishing community in fisheries management can lead to increasing understanding of management decisions, improve compliance by user groups, mitigate user conflicts, improve relationships across the fisheries sector and increase effectiveness of fisheries governance.

- Cooperate with Government Agencies.
- Consider Insurance as a backup plan in case of disaster.
- Adopt humane fishing techniques by using biodegradable pots/traps.
- Consider establishing fish ponds.
- Consider fish species that would be adaptable to the emergency environmental conditions for aquaculture.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL
FISHERIES
MECHANISM



ACTION PLAN FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE
IN THE
FISHING INDUSTRY

- Consider shifting existing ponds away from coastlines, relocate to higher locations.
- Agree to quotas on fish harvests.
- Consider harvesting invasive species.
- Equip vessels with safety equipment such as VHF Radios and mirrors.
- Take part in boat registration and licensing, vessel monitoring, safety at sea training and such preparatory measures. Personal safety in ever changing climate conditions is important.

All what we do must be linked to the CRFM Action Plan for Climate Change in the Fishing Industry

❖ CRFM Action Plan For Climate Change in the Fishing Industry

Approximately 182,000 persons are directly and indirectly employed in the fisheries sector, with the majority from rural coastal communities. It is recognized that small-scale fisheries contribute to about two-thirds of global fish catches. The sector employs over 90 percent of the world’s capture fishers and fish workers, about half of whom are women.



The CRFM Action Plans seeks to works towards a regional society and economy that is resilient to a changing climate and enhanced through comprehensive disaster management and sustainable use of aquatic resources, towards this end there are five strategic elements

Strategic element 1: Mainstream climate change adaptation strategies into sustainable development/agendas of CARICOM Member States

Strategic element 2: Promote the implementation of specific adaptation measures to address key vulnerabilities in the region

Strategic element 3: Promote actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through fossil fuel reduction and conservation, and switching to renewable and cleaner energy sources

Strategic element 4: Promote actions to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems in CARICOM Member States to the impacts of a changing climate

Strategic element 5: Promote actions to derive social, economic and environmental benefits from the prudent management of standing forests in CARICOM countries

To achieve the objective of a safe and sustained fisheries sector there must be cooperation among the partners and the work of communities become critical.



❖ The CRFM

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was established in February 2002 by CARICOM with a number of objectives among them “the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States”.

It 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, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands



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