



The Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - **Management Issue, March 2013**

## **TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLME STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME** by *Laverne Walker - Senior Project Officer, CLME*

The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme (CLME SAP) is an agreed upon document that promotes the use of an ecosystem approach to advance governance of shared living marine resources within the project area. Together with the countries and the partners, the CLME Project Coordinating Unit is working on preparing a second draft of the CLME SAP which should be shared with National Focal Points for their review and input in early February. The CLME SAP is to contain priority strategies and actions necessary for the improved management and governance of shared living marine resources in the three ecosystems known to support major fisheries in the CLME (reef, pelagic and

continental shelf).

It is expected that the content of the CLME SAP will be technically approved at the Fourth Steering Committee meeting scheduled to take place 5-6 March 2013.

The document will then be submitted to the participating countries for endorsement at the Ministerial level. It is expected that the CLME SAP will provide a roadmap to guide countries and donors efforts, including the execution of a new SAP implementation project co-financed by the GEF.

**For more information on the CLME Project, please visit the project website at: [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org).**

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## ACP FISH II PROJECT: Update of the CRFM Study on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in the CARICOM/ CARIFORUM region (2005) *by Terrence Phillips - Programme Manager, Fisheries Management & Development, CRFM*

During August/September 2012, two key experts from the consulting firm Poseidon and the Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM Secretariat, participated in a field mission to St. Lucia, Suriname, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Belize as part of the project activities to update the *2005 Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat Study on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in the CARIFORUM region*. The purpose of the field mission was to identify the needs and responsibilities of the national fisheries authorities, related agencies, and regional fisheries bodies, such as the CRFM, to improve on the MCS capacities to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing at the local, national and regional levels. Additionally, as part of the exercise to gather more recent information for the updating of the MCS Study, a questionnaire was circulated via email to the other countries of CARIFORUM/CRFM. In October 2012, a Validation Workshop, involving a good cross-section of the stakeholders, was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to review the Draft Updated MCS Study, which included a strategy and programme proposal to enhance MCS capacity. The revised Draft Updated MCS Study and Draft Workshop Report are being finalized.



*Consultation with fishers of Halfmoon Bay Fishermen's Cooperative, Jamaica, August 2012. Source: Poseidon*

## A REGIONAL LIONFISH STRATEGY *by Maren Headley - Research Graduate-Research & Resource Assessment, CRFM*

In the continued effort to address the regional lionfish invasion and minimize its negative impacts, a draft regional lionfish strategy was prepared during a writing workshop held in September, 2012. The workshop was organized by the International Coral Reef Initiative's Regional Committee for the control of Lionfish. Key regional lionfish experts contributed to the draft strategy which seeks to promote coordination, cooperation and commitment of countries to address the invasion and to guide the development of local action plans. In order to move towards finalization, the draft strategy is currently being reviewed by countries for their inputs. The strategy will also be presented for endorsement during the upcoming meetings of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the Ministerial Council to be held during April and May, 2013 respectively.



*Workshop participants, Puerto Rico, September 2012  
Source: Franck Gourdin*

## CRFM & OSPESCA COLLABORATION-moving forward together *by Susan Singh-Renton - Deputy Executive Director, CRFM*

In September 2012, CRFM & OSPESCA, 2 regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) working in the CARICOM and Central American regions respectively, made history when Fisheries Ministers of the member countries gathered to approve a joint work programme. The parent bodies, Caribbean Community (in the case of the CRFM) and the System for Integration in Central America (in the case of OSPESCA), via a Heads of Government Meeting held in El Salvador in 2011, called upon the two RFBs to pursue common approaches to guarantee responsible and sustainable management of the region's fisheries and aquaculture resources.

This goal makes the CRFM-OSPESCA joint work programme an ambitious one. However, it was agreed to focus immediately on the challenges facing those fisheries that are important in international or sub-regional trade, such as spiny lobster and large pelagic fishes. These fisheries, as well as illegal fishing and aquaculture had already been marked for priority attention by the Heads of State and Government in 2011. In addition, the joint work plan includes queen conch and other transboundary fish

resources because of their contribution to trade earnings, as well as to regional food and nutrition security. Climate change risks, and the impacts of invasive fish such as lionfish, are some of the other shared major challenges also to be examined. Following the meeting in September 2012, the two RFBs have been working to share and compare information to identify the best point at which to start activities within their agreed joint plan.

Over 60 stakeholders, including senior government managers, researchers and fisherfolk, were able to witness the historic signing of the joint work plan and the associated *Belize Declaration on CRFM-OSPESCA Cooperation for Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources*. A major sponsor of the meeting was the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, which, as the name implies, is responsible for promoting ecosystem-based management approaches in the Caribbean. The findings of the CLME project, in which both CRFM and OSPESCA were major players, have also helped to pave the way for the two RFBs to move forward together.

## EYE ON ICCAT-2012 COMMISSION MEETING OVERVIEW *by Susan Singh-Renton - Deputy Executive Director, CRFM*

The International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held its last annual meeting in November 2012 in Agadir, Morocco. The CRFM States of Belize, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname attended, supported by the CRFM Secretariat.

Belize and Trinidad and Tobago are members of ICCAT, while Suriname became a cooperating Party in 2011.

The 2012 Meeting considered new scientific advice on the state of three species of international interest: Atlantic bluefin tuna (historically very important for sashimi); white marlin (a major gamefish), and; shortfin mako, one of several pelagic shark species causing international concern about their conservation status and being taken as bycatch in tuna fisheries. The latest science outputs showed ICCAT measures to be having some positive effects on the populations of these three species. This was some good news as the health of bluefin tuna and

white marlin has been in trouble for many years. Noting the progress and wanting to keep it up, ICCAT adopted new and strengthened management measures for these species.

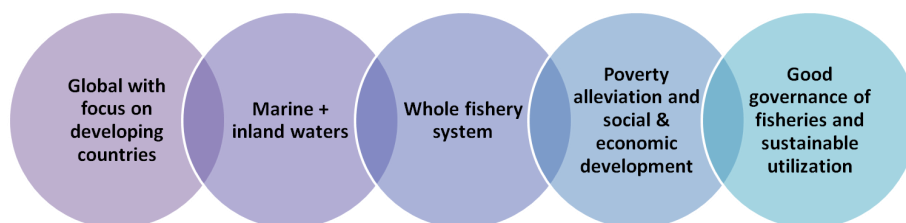
As in previous years, illegal operations were a major concern, and new, stronger regulations were introduced in 2012 as a result. ICCAT expanded monitoring of transshipments, making it compulsory for fish carrier vessels to have an ICCAT- appointed observer on board and minimum standards must be established for port inspections. Also, an electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme will commence in 2013, (intended to replace the paper system by 2014). There was also agreement to develop a catch certification scheme by 2015 for tuna species not covered by existing schemes, including tropical tunas caught by many CRFM countries.

Finally, ICCAT established a Working Group to

propose essential changes to the ICCAT Convention, which is now over 4 decades old, and so predates other major international fisheries agreements.

## SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES GUIDELINES *by Raymon VanAnrooy - Secretary, WECAFC, FAO*

The FAO/CRFM/WECAFC Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries ('SSF Guidelines') was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on 6–8 December 2012. It was attended by 61 participants from 32 countries, representing government, regional and civil society organisations, and academia. The main objective of the event was the sharing of policies and practices in support of small-scale fisheries in the Caribbean region and the discussion of the Zero Draft of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in order to inform the development process of the SSF Guidelines. The SSF guidelines will cover both, marine and natural and managed inland capture fisheries, including not only rivers and lakes but also other water bodies like flooded rice fields, and consider the sector in its entirety, from production to post-harvest and its institutional set-up. The guidelines aim to increase the sectors' contribution to poverty alleviation and to social and economic development and to promote the principles of good governance of fisheries and sustainable utilization of the resources.



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS: ARE WE READY FOR THEM? *by Patrick McConney - Senior Lecturer, CERMES*

Ways to strengthen regional and national inter-sectoral cooperation and development of capacity to address climate change impacts and disasters in the fisheries and aquaculture sector were addressed at the CRFM/FAO/WECAFC/CCCC/CDEMA Regional Workshop on Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 10 – 12 December 2012. This study will be a long term process requiring sustained effort by many. It will assess vulnerability to disasters and climate change in CARICOM countries; identify gaps in the existing knowledge to assess vulnerability in this system; determine potential measures for reducing vulnerability to disasters and climate change; provide policy guidance to reduce the system's vulnerability within the wider sustainable development objectives; develop a strategy and action plan for integrating DRM and CCA into small-scale fisheries and aquaculture; and suggest a programme for funding. **More information is available at [www.caricom-fisheries.com](http://www.caricom-fisheries.com).**



Workshop participants, Jamaica 2012. Source: Patrick McConney

## CNFO ACTIVITIES-AN UPDATE *by Nadine Nembhard - Executive Secretary, Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association*

The current structure of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) provides capacity building, information sharing, representation and advocacy for fisherfolk at the regional level. In continuing along this vein, CNFO members have just completed participation in the CRFM/CNFO/CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation) consultation on the Implementation and Mainstreaming of Regional Fisheries Policies into Small Scale Fisheries Arrangements in the Caribbean 25-28 February, 2013, Guyana. A CNFO executive meeting was also held on 27 February, 2013 during which members exchanged their experiences on fisheries governance, fishing practices in general and shared ideas on the improvements required for the fishing industries in their respective countries. Amongst other agenda items they also looked at the way forward for the CNFO.

The CNFO has also been collaborating with international organizations and regional projects to conduct its work. In December 2012, a FAO funded project on the importance of fishers' participation in fisheries governance and developing an awareness of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries (EAF) with linkages to livelihoods security and sustainable practices was completed. The project involved meetings led by the CNFO Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay in the following countries; Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In October 2012, a regional workshop on training in EAF and climate change for the CNFO members was conducted in St. Kitts & Nevis with funding from the ACP Fish II project. Topics related to resilience in fishing communities, adaptive measures, and participatory policy formulation were examined during this workshop.

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CNFO members during the EAF and climate change workshop, St. Kitts and Nevis. Source: Nadine Nembhard



CNFO members during a field visit, St. Kitts and Nevis. Source: Nadine Nembhard

## THE 2011 SARGASSUM INVASION OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN *by Jim Franks - Senior Research Scientist, University of Mississippi*

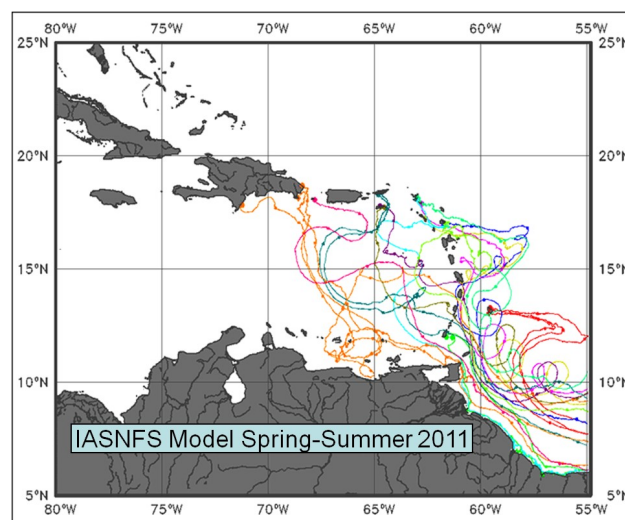
In the spring and summer of 2011, unprecedented quantities of pelagic sargassum came ashore on many islands of the eastern Caribbean, seriously affecting fishery and tourism industries.



Sargassum washing onto Crane Beach in Barbados in July 2011: Source Professor Hazel Oxenford

Two species were identified in the invasion: *Sargassum natans* and *Sargassum fluitans*, both of which coexist throughout the North Atlantic with large populations in the Sargasso Sea and in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Back-tracking the sargassum from reported Caribbean island landfalls with model ocean current data suggests that sargassum may have been in the north equatorial recirculation region (NERR) by the spring/summer of 2010 where it flourished under high ocean temperatures and high nutrient inputs, later followed by mass release into currents that flowed from the south into the Caribbean. Satellite chlorophyll images show that this region is influenced by nutrients from the Amazon, Orinoco and Congo Rivers, and by equatorial upwelling. Ocean dynamics here are strongly affected by the location and intensity of the atmospheric Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone. The unusual nature of the sargassum event and the coincidental relationship with major global climate indices which

showed 60-year peaks in 2010 suggest that that sargassum invasion may have been directly related to larger swings in regional ecosystem dynamics due to global temperature increases. The updated model shown below was presented during the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) meeting held in November, 2012.



Modeled pathways (ocean current movements) that brought the Sargassum into the Caribbean region (from an area off Brazil) and onto the island countries.

### Co-researchers:

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date (2013)	Event	Location
18-20 Mar	CRFM Staff Training in Use of New Website	Belize
25-27 Mar	CRFM/ACP Fish II Training Workshop for the CRFM Website	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Mar	ACP Fish II Regional Conch Survey Training	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Apr	FAO Caribbean and Latin America aquaculture workshop	Dominican Republic
1-5 Apr	CRFM/UNU Second Advance Leadership Training Workshop	St. Lucia
Apr	ACP Fish II National Validation Workshop on Fisheries Management Plans	Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname
Apr	ACP Fish II Regional Validation Workshop on Conch Assessment	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
8-18 Apr	CTA/TNC SusGren – Participatory 3D Mapping Workshop	Grenada
24-26 Apr	Eleventh Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum	Barbados
24 Apr-3 May	Visit and Public Lecture by Director of ANCORS to the Caribbean	Barbados + 1 or 2 other States (To be determined)
May	ACP Fish II 4 <sup>th</sup> Regional Programme Monitoring Workshop	The Bahamas
May	ACP Fish II Final Steering Committee Meeting	To be determined
17-18 May	Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders	British Virgin Islands
20-24 May	FAO Technical Consultation on SSF Guidelines	Rome
30 May	Third Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council Sub-committee on Flyingfish	Barbados
31 May	Seventh Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting	Barbados
3-7 Jun	Caribbean Studies Association Environment and Sustainability Strand for the CSA Annual Conference in Grenada	Grenada
Jun 4-13	CRFM Ninth Annual Scientific Meeting	St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## CRFM STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited from interested and suitably qualified nationals of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean Community to fill the following positions in the CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM) SECRETARIAT with assigned duty station in Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines respectively:

- (A) PROGRAMME MANAGER - FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
- (B) PROGRAMME MANAGER - RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Full details of these positions may be obtained by accessing the following web sites- [www.caricom-fisheries.com](http://www.caricom-fisheries.com); and [www.caricom.org](http://www.caricom.org); and [www.caribbeanjobsonline.com](http://www.caribbeanjobsonline.com)

Applications in English Language with full curriculum details, including nationality, work experience, educational qualifications, summary of professional skills and/or expertise, language proficiency, list of professional publications, details (including e-mail addresses) of three referees (at least two of whom must be familiar with the applicant's work), and other relevant information, should be addressed to the Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, Belize City, Belize, and sent by email to [crfm@btl.net](mailto:crfm@btl.net).

The deadline for the submission of applications is **30 April 2013**.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This newsletter provides updates on the progress made regarding governance, stakeholder policy, legal, management and project planning activities and initiatives that were undertaken/addressed by the CRFM, partner institutions/organizations and CRFM Member States. The Newsletter is published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat.

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