



The Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - **Management Issue, 2012**

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY TAKE OVER AT CRFM SECRETARIAT *adapted from CARICOM Secretariat*

Mr. Milton Haughton is the new Executive Director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). Milton Haughton, a Jamaican national, replaces Hugh Saul of Guyana who retired on 16

December 2011. Mr. Haughton has a wealth of experience in fisheries and aquaculture development and governance, coastal and marine resource conservation and management, public administration, project management, and law.



Mr. Milton Haughton

He has played a central role in the development and implementation of a number of regional projects including the \$20 million Canadian funded CRFAMP project, the Fisheries Component of the EU Funded Integrated Caribbean Regional Fisheries and Agriculture Project, IDRC funded regional project of community-based coastal resource management in the Wider Caribbean, Japanese funded project for the development of a master plan for coastal fisheries development in the CARICOM States, the

ACP Fish 1 and 2 Projects, and the GEF funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Project.

As Deputy Executive Director he was responsible for the technical and scientific work of the CRFM and has provided strategic leadership for the development and implementation of the CRFM Strategic and Medium Term Plans, the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Draft Agreement on the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, and several other research and capacity building initiatives of the CRFM. He has negotiated partnership agreements with several international and regional organizations with an interest in fisheries in the region, including the International Ocean Institute, Dalhousie University; the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland; IOCARIBE/IOC/UNESCO; University of Florida Sea Grant; and NACA. He has also written and published extensively on a range of topics including fisheries and aquaculture, marine governance, marine environmental policy, and conservation.

Mr. Haughton's stated vision is to ensure that the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Caribbean is transformed and developed into a dynamic, profitable, internationally competitive, and environmentally sustainable sector capable of making enhanced contribution to the economic development and food and nu-

trition security of the countries of the region.

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Dr. Susan Singh-Renton, a national of Trinidad and Tobago has been appointed the new Deputy Executive Director. Dr. Singh-Renton brings to the position over 19 years of work experience in fisheries research and management, during which she has contributed expertise at all stages within the fisheries management framework, from the level of statistics and information to the level of policy analysis and advice.



Dr. Susan Singh-Renton

As Programme Manager responsible for Research and Resource Assessment at the CRFM, Dr. Singh-Renton served as the lead planner and coordinator for CRFM's annual scientific meetings. These meetings conduct fishery assessments and produce scientific-based management advice on a routine basis, and address capacity building needs. The CRFM has gained international

recognition for the work of its annual scientific meetings. To further strengthen CRFM's scientific capacity, Dr. Singh-Renton has recently collaborated closely with one of

CRFM's international partners, the United Nations University – Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland, for the purpose of developing a Caribbean-customized regional training course in fish stock assessment. She has consistently contributed to CRFM's strategic planning process, the formulation of regional project proposals for the international donor community to address priority policy and management issues, and multidisciplinary deliberations for the formulation of CARICOM's Common Fisheries Policy.

Since 1992, Dr. Singh-Renton has been the scientific advisor to CARICOM countries on matters handled by the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which is the regional fisheries management organization for these species in this part of the world. And for the past twelve years, she has also been the regional policy and management advisor and analyst on ICCAT. In this capacity, Dr. Singh-Renton has successfully assisted CRFM States to overcome a number of major challenges, such as illegal fishing allegations, trade sanctions, and catch quota negotiations.

As the Deputy Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat, Dr. Singh-Renton will continue her efforts to build the capacity of the CRFM to successfully deliver its mandate. She also seeks to improve the profile of the fishing industry in the region, by increasing understanding of the value of the industry, and realization of this value in real benefits for the societies concerned.

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY COMMON FISHERIES POLICY *by Milton Haughton— Executive Director ,CRFM Secretariat*

In May 2011, a significant development in Caribbean fisheries took place in Antigua and Barbuda without much fanfare. The Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) accepted the text of a legal agreement aimed at establishing a Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) for CARICOM countries. The CFP envisions a future in which there is "effective cooperation and collaboration among Participating Parties in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of the fisheries resources and related ecosystems in the Caribbean region in order to secure the maximum benefits from those resources for the Caribbean peoples and

for the Caribbean region as a whole."

The policy, as it now stands, includes carefully negotiated provisions addressing a number of areas considered necessary to realize the vision, goals and objective.

But why is such a policy necessary? There are a number of good reasons. The first reason is based on the fact that there are among the living marine and aquatic resources of the Caribbean several commercially important species which inhabit the waters of several States. There are also in some States other species which are dependent on or inter-related to those in other Caribbean States. In addition there are certain highly migratory species

which are of interest to Caribbean States but which are also harvested by non-CARICOM fishers. Conservation and sustainable use of such resources can only be secured through cooperation among the States involved.

The second reason is that a Policy such as that proposed, will enable all participating States to collectively conduct research, collect data, determine the availability and abundance of the various stocks in their waters and ensure optimum sustainable utilization and conservation of such stocks through harmonized measures.

Thirdly, the participating States, working together, will be better able to monitor and control access to the

waters under their jurisdiction by vessels of Third States and to enforce such conservation and protective measures as are applicable. This is important because the CARICOM countries currently lose tens of millions of dollars each year due to unacceptably high levels of illegal, unregulated and unreported.

Although the commitment to protect and conserve the fish stocks and associated ecosystems from over-exploitation and degradation due to irresponsible fishing, pollution and other human activities are very important reasons, there is more. In addition to these, there are good social and economic reasons. A CFP will enable fisheries to make enhanced contribution to the region's social and economic development through im-

provement in employment, incomes and the standard of living, particularly of the poor, marginalized and young people who live in the coastal areas and depend upon fishing and other coastal resources for their livelihoods. The welfare of fishers and their families, and the eradication of poverty from fishing communities can be more effectively addressed within the framework of a common policy.

The CFP will also improve food and nutrition security by seeking to ensure that consumers in the region have access to adequate supplies of safe and affordably priced fish and seafood. It will also contribute to the transformation of the harvesting, processing and marketing of fish and seafood into modern, vibrant, interna-

tionally competitive, and ecologically sustainable activities through the application of science, technology and international best practices.

Caribbean States will have the opportunity to establish sub-regional arrangements for the governance and management of stocks of interest to them and which are not now subject to any management regime. Fisheries Policy will enable the Participating States to speak in international fora with a unified voice to greater benefit on matters relating to fisheries in the Caribbean Region.

The Draft Agreement endorsed by the Ministers responsible in May 2011, will undergo further examination and refinement before it is submitted to the Heads of Government for decision.

OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION - NOW! *by Professor Robin Mahon- Director ,CERMES*

The conversation about ocean governance is changing rapidly globally and also in the Wider Caribbean Region. It has taken us some time to understand and accept the idea that governance is more than government and more than management. It encompasses all the stakeholders and the actions and interactions they engage in as they make use of the oceans resources. This perspective recognises the complexity of the challenges much more clearly than early views that governance as management was mainly about controls and regulations. This perspective suggests that we need to have a wider understanding of the needs and roles of all stakeholders and how these can be addressed. As if this is not complicated enough, ideas about ecosystem-based management are becoming prominent in ocean governance and adding further complexity.

Now, when we speak of ocean governance, we are also thinking about all of the activities that use and

derive benefits from coasts and oceans – fishing, tourism, shipping, petroleum extraction, recreation and the interactions among them. In the Wider Caribbean Region the close proximity of many small countries means that most of our ocean governance issues are transboundary - affecting two or more countries – a further complication.

Many groups and organizations in the region are engaged in aspects of ocean governance. They may be local, national, sub-regional, regional or even global in their scope. There are governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector groups in the mix. Many are scientific-technical, producing information about the oceans, others are management oriented and still others are about promoting the interests of their membership.

How can we make use of this array of multi-level interests and agendas? One might be inclined to consider consolidating all these responsibilities

and mandates in a single organisation whose role it will be to sort all this out and bring order to ocean governance in our region. However, setting up a new organisation is costly and would overlook the many well-established organisations already operating in the region, some for decades. Might a different approach, one in which networking and cooperation among the organisations is enhanced, work best for the Wider Caribbean? The fact is that there is already quite a bit of networking among these organisations, or at least some of them. There are problems too, as one would expect with such a situation; problems of gaps in coverage, overlaps in mandate and duplication of effort using up resources that could be better deployed. Communication gaps between technical and governmental organisations may also mean that the best information does not reach the decision-makers in a form that they can use it, or in a useful time-frame. In governance terminology this is

referred to as the 'science-policy interface', and in the Wider Caribbean ours are often weak, or even missing. Is this situation a fact of life for a complex region such as ours; one that we have to live with, or is it possible to manage it to make the situation better?

This question is one that the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project has been trying to address directly for the past 5-6 years. It has been looking specifically at how the many regional organisations referred to above relate to each other and to the countries of the Wider Caribbean to address the ocean governance issues we face. At the same time, researchers have been examining the arrangements among the many organisations that are responsible for environmental governance at the global level where there are similar problems to those faced by the Wider Caribbean. On both fronts, new perspectives and new language are emerging. At the global level there is the idea of 'institutional complexes' which, if managed to enhance the 'interplay' among them, could provide the 'governance architecture' needed to achieve effective governance.

These ideas can be found also in the work of the CLME Project where a Large Marine Ecosystem Governance Framework has been developed and is being applied to the Wider Caribbean. The idea of the Frame-

work in a nutshell is that organisations require certain characteristics to be effective. In addition, organisations must be linked with others to successfully deal with the many levels of governance that prevail in our region. The Framework provides a way to evaluate the characteristics of, and linkages among regional organisations as well as their connections to global levels above and national/local levels below.

So how can we make these ideas for improving ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean a reality? A first and important step is for the many organisations that make up the ocean governance 'institutional complex' in the Wider Caribbean to recognise that they are part of such a complex; and to embrace it. This would mean accepting that for it to work, their role and interactions will need to be assessed and that this may lead to the need to adapt to the needs of the network as a whole. Discussions among regional organisations suggest that most organisations are willing to move in this direction. This is an encouraging start, that leads us to even refer to the 'emerging ocean governance regime' within the Wider Caribbean Region, as one where all partners agree on the need to build a functional 'Wider Caribbean Ocean Governance Regime' and to take part in the initiative.

A key question that emerges in this discussion is where the guidance for

this initiative will come from. It has been proposed that the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) recently established as part of the Caribbean Sea Initiative of the Association of Caribbean States may be an appropriate body to coordinate the effort. The CSC has membership of the vast majority of Wider Caribbean countries, and could also serve as a place where ocean governance policy that would guide the Regime could be developed and considered by the top decision-makers in the region. The CSC is slowly gaining acceptance as an overarching component of the regional ocean governance regime for the Wider Caribbean.

To conclude, many converging factors suggest that the time could be right for the region to explicitly recognise and strengthen a 'Wider Caribbean Ocean Governance Regime' involving all the organisations of the region with a mandate to contribute to ocean governance. The CLME Project, involving all countries of the region; the emergence of the Caribbean Sea Commission; new ideas about global and regional governance; many willing organisations with good sub-regional capacity and specific subject areas; the increasing attention of the United Nations to oceans affairs; and last but not least the evidently high profile that ocean will have at Rio+20 in June 2012 are all pointing in this direction.

REGIONAL EFFORT BY UWI TO ADDRESS RESILIENCE IN FISHERIES GOVERNANCE & INTRODUCE SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS IN FISHERIES *by Dr. Patrick McConney- Senior Lecturer, CERMES*

Simply put, resilience in fisheries governance is about examining how and why things change in the way we go about making decisions (from international policy down to local management) in fisheries. All over the world fisheries management is becoming more people-centred and ecosystem-based. That means including a

wider variety of fisheries stakeholders (government, non-government, private sector, national, regional and international). It also means including an increasing diversity of coastal and marine uses and abuses (fishing, aquaculture tourism, transportation, industry, agriculture, waste disposal, etc.). We

need, therefore, to think differently about how fisheries are governed.

Conventional fisheries management, or business as usual, will not see our region achieving sustainable fisheries. It is important to think about resilience so as to make the best decisions for our societies, but there are

often trade-offs, winners and losers. If arrangements for making decisions (aspects of fisheries governance) are good, then we want to make sure that they are resilient. If fisheries decision arrangements are bad, but also resilient, we want to know what it takes to improve and sustain them. Knowing more about resilience in fisheries governance and about social network analysis in fisheries allows the many stakeholders in fisheries to work better together and to organise themselves to get better results from fisheries. The aim is for fisheries to benefit the society.

These points were addressed in a series of workshops in 2011 implemented under the CERMES project on Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean (MarGov) that

is grant funded by the IDRC of Canada. The two one-day back-to-back workshops on resilience in fisheries governance and social network analysis in fisheries were conducted in the OECS countries and Barbados. They covered topics such as how fisheries decisions are made and who makes them, how individuals and organisations can examine and improve relationships for the benefit of fisheries, what are Caribbean examples of fisheries governance and networking, and much more.

The workshops provided a wide cross-section of fisheries stakeholders with alternative perspectives to encourage resilience thinking that can improve fisheries. Action and innovation begins with ideas and creativity. Workshop participants also consid-

ered if and how they will be able to put the ideas about fisheries governance and social networks into action as follow-up. CERMES will continue working on the topic of marine resource governance beyond the end of the project in February 2012.



Participant shares information in SVG

CNFO & CARIBBEAN FISHERS FEATURED AT 64th GCFI *by Mitchell Lay- Coordinator, CNFO*

The 64th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) came to a successful close in Puerto Morelos Mexico on 4 November 2011. This is the largest annual gathering of scientists, researchers, fishers and natural resource managers in the wider Caribbean region, with over 300 participants from 38 countries or island groups.



CNFO Fishers Funded by FAO

The meeting served as a unique op-

portunity for fishers, conservationists and scientists to come together to exchange current information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region and to work in partnership to develop effective solutions to the many challenges they face.

The fisher led activities at this 64th GCFI commenced on the first conference day with the Fishers Forum on Monday 31 October. The Forum included presentations from leading Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) fishers, Todville Peets of St. Kitts and Nevis presenting on behalf of Armando Ramirez of Belize, Sibby Charles of Antigua and Barbuda, and the 2010 GCFI's Gladding Memorial Award winner Angelica Mendez of Guatemala.

This year's Forum centered on the involvement of fishers in fisheries governance (highlighting case studies from Guatemala, Belize and Antigua

and Barbuda in the Lesser Antilles) and the continued development and capacity-building of leading individuals and communities within the fisheries sector who are committed to sustainable use of their resources.

Other fisher activities included the Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) which recognizes fishers who demonstrate, through word and action, their commitment to the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. The award is named in honor of patriarch Florida Keys fisherman Peter Gladding, and the local winner was Martha Gongora of Cozumel, Mexico. CNFO coordinator and GCFI's GMA/The Fishers for Fishers Initiative (F4F) Chairman Mitchell Lay, a former GMA winner, conducted the awards segment of the fishers' activities and indicated that the regional winner for this year, Pelagio Paulino of the Dominican Republic was unable to attend the conference to

receive his award.

Other Caribbean fishers involved in the fishers' activities included Winston Hobson, Malvern Jeffers and Dennis Small of the Nevis Fishermen Cooperative; Joanus Sylvester of St. Lucia's Soufriere Fishermen's Cooperative; and Nicholas Diaz and Patrick Rogan of Guadeloupe.



Quintana Roo Fishers Coop

Fishers were joined by fishery officers, fisheries researchers and other interested parties during the field trip

to the Quintana Roo federation of fishing co-operatives on 1 November to learn from their Mexican counterparts about lobster, conch and reef fish fisheries management. Interactions highlighted the importance of fishers participation in management and marketing as the cooperative shared their management measures which prohibit fishers crossing designated areas and the value of collective marketing through the

organization. The maintenance of a decompression chamber, provision of insurance and the availability of loan funding for engines and gears are all a part of the cooperatives' functions.

The next day a smaller group including attending fishers, met to take decisions on priority issues and actions raised at the Fishers Forum general session and in support of the wider F4F objectives. The Fisheries for Fishers Initiative or F4F is founded on the principle that fishers must be



CNFO at F4F Meeting

engaged and empowered to be part of the process of managing marine resources. Fishers looked at the draft F4F strategic plan and highlighted fisher exchanges, the ambassador program, and information sharing and publicity as major priority areas. Caribbean fishers participated actively in this meeting as well and their contributions in all the fisher led activities have enriched the F4F initiative of the GCFL.



EYE ON ICCAT - SOME HISTORY & 2011 ACTIVITY REVIEW *by Dr. Susan Singh-Renton- Deputy Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat*

For those readers who do not already know, the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is a regional fisheries management organization that was created in 1966 to coordinate management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The ICCAT Convention came into force in 1969, by which time there were 10 Contracting Parties.

CARICOM has had observer status at ICCAT since 1991, with participation handled by CARICOM / CARICOM-associated fisheries initiatives (CFRAMP, ICRAFD) and by the CRFM Secretariat since 2003. Through this effort, CARICOM (and later on, CRFM) States were updated on a yearly basis about ICCAT's ac-

tivities. During the 1990s, new fisheries sprung up, old fisheries expanded and more advanced technologies were introduced. This increased fishing pressure throughout the Atlantic region, which had a significant impact on the health of several major tuna and billfish stocks, and the fight for fishing rights then became more intense. This was further compounded by a surge of illegal fishing activities, with illegal fishing allegations directed at some CARICOM States. Not surprisingly, therefore, CARICOM States started joining ICCAT individually from 1999 onwards. Today, there are 48 Contracting Parties to ICCAT, four of which are also CARICOM States (Barbados, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grena-

dines and Trinidad and Tobago) and five Co-operating Parties, two of which are CARICOM States (Guyana and Suriname). In the initial years of their ICCAT membership, CARICOM countries spent much of their time upgrading and defending their fleet management systems, and battling to obtain whatever catch allocations they had a right to claim. Although the ICCAT challenges increase every year, CARICOM countries, particularly those that are active members of ICCAT, are now better positioned not just for defending their rights to fish, but guiding the future of ICCAT and tuna management in the Atlantic region.

In 2011, ICCAT completed detailed assessments of the stocks of

yellowfin tuna, Mediterranean albacore, south Atlantic albacore and Atlantic blue marlin. Additionally, new, updated, or supplemental management regulations were agreed for the following fish stocks: a combined regulation for the two tropical species bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna; north and south Atlantic albacore; Mediterranean swordfish; north Atlantic swordfish; blue and white marlin; silky shark. A supplemental regulation was also adopted to enhance the measures already being taken to reduce bycatch of seabirds, by strengthening of standardization of mitigation measures and of scientific observer programs to report on the success of such measures.

The details of each of the 2011 regulations vary, but all strive to restrict harvest levels in one way or another, usually via catch allocations, fishing effort limits, and/or time/area closures. For some stocks, agreement was also reached on 'pay back schemes' to be implemented if recommended catch levels are exceeded in the future (both north and south Atlantic albacore & north Atlantic swordfish). In the case of north Atlantic swordfish, countries are also expected to prepare and submit national swordfish fishery development plans each year, to inform the catch negotiation process – this, together with reported catches, allows ICCAT to review the usage of catch allocations by countries, and to offer flexibility in quota transfers to those countries most in need. In the case of the marlins, these species have become more important for our artisanal fisheries and for local consumption. It is therefore important to note that the 2011 ICCAT measure includes several new provisions that will: see establishment of an overall Total Allowable Catch (entire Atlantic) for the industrial fleet in 2012 (when the Commission meets this year); SCRS examination of the data gaps, espe-

cially those associated with artisanal fisheries because these are now considered to have significant fisheries for marlins, and there is concern about the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) by these fisheries, and; SCRS consideration of the potential benefits of time/area closures. If such closures are proposed for the Caribbean, there could be severe negative impacts for local consumption in several islands, and the associated business generated by the street stall trade in local communities.

In 2011, ICCAT also continued work to improve catch documentation programmes for tracing tuna products from vessel to market, and this work is expected to yield a fully electronic system for bluefin tuna by 2012, and also a less costly traceability system for tracking all the tropical tuna catches, including those destined for the fresh market and the canneries. Of course, the traceability system for the tropical tunas will increase the reporting burden for many CARICOM countries that fish the tropical tunas. There is also increasing pressure from ICCAT for all fisheries to establish scientific observer programmes, even those with open-deck vessels doing single-day trips. Hence CARICOM countries will have to look at ways of achieving such independent observer coverage at minimum cost.

Since concerns regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna were brought to the attention of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 2010, ICCAT has tried to reclaim and earn its space as an effective Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) for all Atlantic tuna species. As a first step towards this end, in 2011, ICCAT finalized guidelines for a formal cooperation arrangement with CITES, that allows regular exchange of information to improve mutual understanding of the aims and operations of the two organizations.

The Working Group on the Future of ICCAT (WGFI) that was established to identify options for strengthening the ICCAT process, presented the report of its 2011 meeting. This report indicated that the whole ICCAT Convention and process was poised to be shaken up to accommodate: the precautionary approach, the ecosystem approach, a revised membership contribution scheme, and a revised approach to decision-making within ICCAT, strengthened and more focused assistance to developing states, and improved co-operation with non-parties. The WGFI is expected to meet during late May 2012, when these issues would be further debated in an effort to reach agreed decisions on future approaches.

In terms of present assistance to CARICOM countries, ICCAT reconfirmed some level of financial assistance to Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize in 2011 to help these 3 countries to establish sampling programmes at the transshipment port in Trinidad. The funding and implementation arrangements need to be agreed and finalized by ICCAT and the respective national governments by March 2012.

Other 2011 ICCAT activities included revision of the mandates and Terms of Reference for ICCAT's Compliance Committee and its Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures. Both of these Bodies have both focused on various statistics and compliance issues in the past, and the revision of their mandates is expected to make their activities more streamlined and focused, with the Compliance Committee handling all aspects of compliance by member states, as well as Cooperating Parties such as Guyana and Suriname.

CARICOM/CRFM KINGDOM OF SPAIN: DIAGNOSTIC STUDY TO DETERMINE POVERTY LEVELS IN FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE CARICOM REGION

by Terrence Phillips- Programme Manager ,Fisheries Management & Development , CRFM Secretariat

In 2003/2004, the CRFM Secretariat, with assistance from the FAO, undertook a Comparative Study Mission to Malaysia and the Philippines on the utilization of demographic and socio-economic variables in the planning and execution of programmes and projects for the management of integrated coastal zone and coastal communities, and determining their impacts on the socio-economic conditions of the coastal communities. Also, by way of existing literature review, country specific case studies were conducted in selected CARICOM countries, i.e. Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands in order to identify ways and means to determine how socio-economic and demographic concerns can be incorporated in the on-going integrated coastal zone management programmes.

As a follow-up to these activities, the CRFM Secretariat in collaboration with the FAO and the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR), Trinidad and Tobago, organized and convened a regional workshop to review the findings of the country case studies and the comparative study, with a view to making recommendations for the strengthening of integrated coastal zone and community based fisheries management in the CARICOM Member States and on the collection and use of demographic information on coastal fishing communities.

Recognising the importance of the use of socio-economic and demographic data in the planning and execution of programmes and projects for the management of integrated coastal zone and coastal communities, the CRFM Secretariat sought assistance under the cooperation agreement between CARICOM and the Government of Spain to undertake a diagnosis study of the socio-economic and demographic situations in fishing communities in selected CRFM Member States, especially as it relates to the determination of poverty levels in these communities, and its effects on the quality of life and community structures, in order to identify suitable models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes and alleviate poverty in fishing communities.

The Study was implemented by the CRFM Secretariat and Tragsatec, a Spanish consulting firm, in ten CARICOM/CRFM Member States, which, based on an agreed-upon criteria were selected as being a representative sample of the entire fishery sector in the CRFM region, as well as reflecting the most frequent problems encountered in this sector. The selected member states were The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Following on the training of field supervisors and interviewers, the field survey, including data input and transmission of databases to Tragsatec, was conducted during the period July 2010 – June 2011, with data

analysis and report preparation taking place during the latter half of 2011.



Data collector interviewing fisher in Barbados

The findings of the Regional Study to Determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in CARICOM/CRFM countries were presented during a two-day regional workshop (February 1-2, 2012) in St. Vincent & The Grenadines.

The Study examined poverty in fishing communities of CARICOM in two different ways, with the first being through the analysis of living conditions using the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) method in households of respondents of the three sectors (fishing, processing and aquaculture) involved, while the second takes into account the results of the analysis of extractive fisheries productivity in each country. Among the ten countries, the Study showed that there were countries in which no poor households were detected and in which vulnerable homes represent less than ten per cent of the sample studied in each country; countries in which poor households are beginning to appear, but the number does not yet exceed the percentage of vulnerable ones; and countries with very high levels of poverty within the fisheries sector.

The main output of the Study will be a Diagnostic Study Report, including details of the analyses using UBN and extractive fisheries productivity, recommendations and models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes, and the identification of suitable socio-economic and demographic indicators for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

CARICOM/CRFM/JICA: STUDY ON FORMULATION OF MASTERPLAN ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN *by Terrence Phillips- PMFMD, CRFM Secretariat*

The CARICOM/CRFM/JICA Study on Formulation of Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean (The Study) commenced in March 2009. The Study is funded by JICA under the CARICOM/Japan Cooperation Agreement and contains the following five components: (i) pelagic resource development and management; (ii) aquaculture development policy formulation; (iii) regional fisheries database development; (iv) support for community-based management; and (v) education and training in the component fields in the CARICOM States. It was implemented by the Japanese consulting firm, IC Net Limited and the CRFM Secretariat.

The overall objective of the Study was to analyze and propose options for a comprehensive resource management approach in the Caribbean region that may include limited entry to coastal fisheries, diversification of the industry, and promotion of the optimal use of fisheries resources with cooperation between government and communities. The specific objectives were to understand the situation in fishing and rural village development, the needs of community members, and development potential and constraints; formulate a master plan for the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the region that includes a coastal resource management approach that promotes cooperation between government and communities, and recommend practical resource management activities; identify effective schemes for fisheries resources management and sustainable development, and verify the feasibility of these through the implementation of pilot projects; and enhance the policy making and problem analysis capabilities of CRFM Secretariat and Fisheries Department staff as well as fishers' organization personnel through implementation of the various studies and pilot projects.

At the commencement, the Study team along with a regional consulting firm, Trevor Hamilton Associates, conducted an inception mission and baseline survey that included visits to CRFM Member States and the preparation of country reports for 13 States in 2009. A Draft Preliminary Master Plan was also prepared in 2009 and reviewed during the first Steering Committee Meeting in December of that year, with the document being finalized in February 2010. The vision of the Proposed Master Plan is "The sustainable use of fisheries resource by coastal communities is being promoted". The three strategies to achieve the vision are based on fishery diversification; creation of alternative income opportunities and community based resource management.

Pilot projects were designed to verify the efficacy of these strategies, with the projects covering:

1. Coastal fisheries resources management: Pelagic Fishery Resource Development, utilizing Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), conducted in St. Lucia and Dominica.
2. Aquaculture: Small Scale Aquaculture Planning, Training and Extension conducted in Jamaica, and a Study on Low Cost Inputs for Small Scale Aquaculture conducted in Belize.
3. Fisheries Statistics: Improving Fisheries Statistical Systems conducted in Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Fishers assembling FAD parts in St. Lucia



Farmers monitoring tilapia catch in Jamaica

The pilot project results and the Draft Master Plan were reviewed at a Regional Workshop, from January 16 to 17, 2012, in St. Lucia. The main output of the Study will be a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean.

A LOOK AT THE RECENT FAO TREATY TO FIGHT ILLEGAL FISHING *by Milton Haughton- Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat*

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2009 (The Port State Agreement) is the most recent international fisheries treaty to be developed. It was approved by FAO's governing Conference on 22 November 2009, in Rome, Italy, and will enter into force 30 days after 25 States have ratified it. The main purpose of this treaty is to close fishing ports to fishing boats involved in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. According to Article 2 the objective is to 'prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures, and thereby to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the living marine resources and marine ecosystems.'



Fishing boat-Kingstown Fish Market

The treaty builds on the 2005 FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing and the practice of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to establish minimum standards and procedures for port States to exercise greater control over fishing boats entering their ports.

The Port State Agreement addresses, *inter alia*: integration and coordination at the national level (Article 5); cooperation and exchange of information (Article 6); designation of ports (Article 7) advanced request for port entry (Article 8), port entry, authorization or denial (Article 9), force majeure or distress (Article 10), use of ports (Article 11), levels and priorities for inspection (Article 12), conduct of inspections (Article 13), result of inspections (Article 14), transmittal of inspection results (Article 15), electronic exchange of information (Article 16), training of inspectors (Article 17), port States actions following inspection (Article 18), information on recourse to the flag State (Article 19), role of flag States

(Article 20), requirements of developing States (Article 21), and peaceful settlement of disputes (Article 22). The Agreement does not permit reservations or exceptions to be made (Article 30), but allows declarations and statements in limited circumstances. There is also the possibility of provisional application of the Agreement (Article 32).



Vernon St. Fish Market, Belize

In addition, the Agreement contains five annexes dealing with: information to be provided in advance by vessels requesting port entry (annex A), port inspection procedures (annex B), report of the results of the inspection (annex C), information systems on port State measures (annex D), and guidelines for the training of inspectors (Annex E).

At the heart of the Port States Agreement is a scheme that requires vessels to request permission ahead of time to use designated ports, and provide advance notification and data on their activities, including the catch on board, to the port State (Article 8). Based on the notification and information received the port State will determine whether the vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, and decide whether to authorize or to deny entry into its port (Article 9(1)). A port State shall deny entry to its port if it has sufficient evidence that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, and in particular if the vessel is on an IUU vessel list established by an RFMO (Article 9(4)).

Article 11 provides that where a vessel has entered a port it shall not be permitted to use that port if any of the following conditions exist:

- the vessel does not have an authorization required by the flag State or a coastal State;
- there is clear evidence that the fish on board was taken in contravention of the requirements of the coastal

State;

- the flag State, on request, fails to confirm that the fish onboard was taken in accordance with requirements of an RFMO; or the port State has reasonable grounds to believe that IUU fishing had taken place, unless the vessel can establish otherwise.

The obligations on States to submit to routine inspections of their fishing boats entering ports of another State are set out in Part 4 of the Agreement. Detailed rules and standards are established for use during the inspection process. Port States must publish reports when a vessel is denied access, and the national authorities of the country whose flag the vessel is flying must take retaliatory measures. The treaty also calls for the creation of information-sharing networks that allow countries access to data on vessels involved in IUU fishing.

Part 6 addresses the special requirements of developing States, and calls upon States to provide assistance so that developing nations can comply with their treaty obligations.

Although the main provisions of the Agreement are di-

rected at foreign fishing vessels using the port of another State, countries may choose to apply them to their own fishing fleets to ensure compliance with acceptable standards.

This treaty is a significant development in international fishing law and addresses one of the most pressing global problems facing the fishing industry today. Its success in combating IUU fishing will depend on the extent to which States implement and apply it.

This is a treaty that should be of interest to all Caribbean State and especially those that continue to suffer economic losses and flagrant violations of their sovereignty and maritime jurisdiction due to illegal fishing. Twenty four countries have signed on to Agreement to date and there have been 4 ratifications, approvals or accessions. So far no CARICOM State has become party. CARICOM States should consider the value of becoming party to this important treaty, given the urgent need to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

THE REVISION OF BELIZE'S FISHERIES ACT *by Beverly Wade- Fisheries Administrator, Belize Fisheries Department*

The Belize fishing industry continues to play a significant role in our national economy. It continues to be one of the top four foreign exchange earners and employs directly just under 3,000 fishers. Recent estimates indicate that reef and mangrove-associated fisheries are valued at US\$14 to \$16 million per annum. However, like every productive sector, this industry's sustainability and its maintained importance to the national economy is very much dependent on a robust legislative framework which provides for its responsible development and effective management and regulation.

The current Fisheries Act is very much outdated with its most recent amendment carried out in 1989. As a result, there is a dire need for the revision of this Act in order to provide an improved framework which is consistent with modern conservation and management principles. The new framework should reflect Belize's international legal obligations and be complimentary to regional initiatives focussed on the management of fisheries resources and their ecosystems.

The effective application and enforcement of the current Fisheries Act and its Regulations are major challenges in the management and control of the sector. This initiative will also make recommendations for an Act which makes penalties commensurate with infractions. Currently, the penalties in the existing framework have become almost obsolete and their application has resulted in a situation where enforcement

officers are encountering difficulties in presenting cases and having successful convictions in court. As a result, a new act which addresses these difficulties and loop holes and able to withstand local court challenges is imperative.

The new Act will embrace formally Belize's leadership role in the application of the ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) principles and allow for additional innovations aimed at sustainable fisheries such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and emerging guidelines on the role of MPAs in sustaining fisheries. It will also be forward thinking in providing proactive measures and approaches that may emerge over the next 20 years or more of its expected life span. In addition, it will formalize the role of the industry's partners and actors through the legalization of the Fisheries Advisory Board.

The revision of the Fisheries Act is being implemented through a partnership between the Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society with the kind support from the Oak Foundation. This is a two year initiative (Dec 2009- Dec 2011) and the process has been carefully designed to include the participation and input of all stakeholders in the industry. It is envisioned that the final product will result in a modern and robust Act and be a source of pride for the people of Belize.

STATUS & MANAGEMENT OF THE SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY *by Kayleigh Grieve- CIDA Intern, CRFM Secretariat*

The Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) represents one of the most economically significant fisheries in the CARICOM region; generating over 450 million USD per year and employing over 250,000 individuals either directly or indirectly. However, since 1995, regional landings have shown a decreasing trend, indicating that most local fisheries are either fully or over exploited.

Because of the socio-economic importance of spiny lobster fisheries as a source of livelihood and foreign exchange earnings across the Caribbean region, it is important to ac-

knowledge and understand the magnitude of the issue at hand.

In January 2010, the CRFM Secretariat began compiling regional and country-specific



Lobster tail - main export form

information on the status and management of spiny lobster fisheries in the CARICOM region in order to make recommendations towards its conservation and wise management. Data and information are analyzed in the CRFM's *Baseline Review on the Status and Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries in the CARICOM Region*. The final version was distributed to Member States in December 2010.

The results of the study indicate that on top of biological and ecological threats such as climate change, habitat destruction and disease, some of the major management problems facing the spiny lobster fisheries re-

gion-wide include the open-access nature of the fisheries, lack of harmonization of regulations leading to widespread violations, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, as well as weak enforcement, compliance, research and management capacity.



Lobster fisher at sea

Fisheries managers and scientists in the Caribbean region agree that *P. argus* is fully or overexploited throughout its entire range. Furthermore, given the threats and management issues facing the species, bold and immediate management action is required. Although, individually, countries in CARICOM are taking steps to preserve this economically and biologically important species, the research suggests that at the regional level there are many critical steps that need to be taken towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of spiny lobster fisheries.

The following recommendations towards conservation and management of Caribbean spiny lobster are proposed in the *Baseline Review*:

- The collection of statistical, biological and socio-economic data needs to be strengthened and standardized across the region, as it is the foundation of a successful management system upon which we may draw comparisons over time.
- The harmonization of fishing regulations such as minimum size

restrictions and closed seasons to support region-wide enforcement.

- The reorganization of management structure and policy-making processes to become more collaborative and participatory through effective vertical and lateral linkages.
- The implementation of stronger enforcement regimes and a disincentive program to combat the serious problem of IUU fishing in the region.

The results of this study and recommendations were presented at the 64th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Institute International Conference, October 31st to November 4th, 2011 in Puerto Morelos, Mexico.

More significantly, in an important



Kayleigh presenting results at GCFI

step towards improving the governance of this species, and at the request of Ministers of CARICOM States, Member States will endeavor to create a regional agreement setting key principles and standards for sustainable use and conservation to safeguard the long term economic viability and profitability of the fisheries, based in part on the information and recommendations from the *Baseline Review*. The proposal and drafting of an agreement will become a priority for the CRFM Secretariat in 2012.

THE SURINAME SEABOB FISHERY AND ITS PATH TO MSC CERTIFICATION *by Dr. Susan Singh-Renton- DED, CRFM*

Secretariat

In November 2011, the Suriname seabob trawl fishery became the first tropical shrimp trawl fishery in the world to be awarded the MSC ecolabel. The MSC ecolabel is used to identify market products from sustainably managed fisheries, and this gives the MSC-certified fishery a competitive edge on the world market.

The Suriname seabob trawl fishery entered full assessment for MSC certification in June 2009, and though faced with many challenges along the way, made it smoothly to the finish line in November 2011. The assessment was conducted by the MSC-approved Certification Body, Food Certification International (FCI). This achievement might be considered amazing given the limited resources of a developing country such as Suriname, but there is no magic or mystery in the Suriname seabob MSC story. It is simply a story of vision, consistent commitment and hard work of all those who were involved: the government and its national fisheries authority, the two private companies operating the two major seabob trawl fleets in Suriname (Heiploeg Suriname and Namoon/SAIL), the fishers, the fish processors, and the scientists. The extensive inputs, queries, and objections made by rival shrimp trawl companies in Suriname and the NGOs also played their role in enhancing the effort and standards reached by the fishery in earning its MSC ecolabel.

Prior to the formal commencement of the MSC assessment, the government of Suriname already had systems in place for routine statistical monitoring of fishing activities (the usual catch per trip type of data), for controlling fishing effort through a limited licensing arrangement, and for regulating turtle bycatch. How-

ever, these systems were in need of improvement for full compliance with even the basic MSC standard, a standard that subscribes to the sustainable fisheries management requirements of fundamental international fisheries agreements such as UNCLOS (1982), UNFSA (1995), FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, to name a few.



Offloading seabob catch in Suriname

Some attempts to evaluate the health of the Seabob stock had been made during the first half of the 2000s, and then the start of the annual CRFM scientific meetings in 2004 made it easier to complete regionally peer-reviewed seabob stock assessments on a regular basis. With the data and science pieces coming together nicely, this made a good start, but there were also other challenges of trying to manage the fishery according to the MSC standard. These included, among other things: the need to update the national fisheries legislation; formalize the fisheries management plan at least for the seabob trawl fishery; demonstrate that the fishing method was habitat-friendly and non-threatening to the rest of the living ecosystem of interest; and connect the dots among the identified stakeholders in the prescribed management cycle, for full and meaningful stakeholder consultation and participation that yielded goal-oriented and tangible outputs

embraced by all. It is probably safe to say that the range of challenges faced by the Suriname seabob trawl fishery before the start of its MSC assessment was not very different from the situation existing for many fisheries in the CARICOM region and beyond.

The MSC assessment process for this fishery took over 2 years, owing to delays in realizing some of the desired changes in the fisheries management environment as may be expected for any developing country with limited resources, and objections by local, rival trawl companies and NGOs demanding stock assessment and management conditions that do not even exist for many fisheries in developed states.



Trawling nets with bycatch reduction device

Notwithstanding, the seabob trawl fishery stakeholders were remarkable in the way they handled these setbacks, learning their lessons well as the MSC assessment unfolded, and working steadily and consistently to remove every obstacle between them and the MSC ecolabel.

Even after all systems and conditions were sufficient to comply with

the MSC standard by July 2011, the fishery's MSC assessment report prepared by FCI received a further objection by an international NGO. This same NGO further insisted that the issues be fully debated during an oral hearing that was eventually held in October 2011. But the 2+ years of hard work and results spoke for themselves and following the October 2011 oral hearing, the independent adjudicator ruled in favour of FCI's

(the certifier) determination that the Suriname Seabob trawl fishery be MSC certified. This is an achievement not only for tropical shrimp trawl fisheries, but also for developing states that often struggle to meet global standards that give a competitive edge for international trade and marketing.

The fishery's stakeholders only paused briefly to celebrate the event though, and have since stepped up

their efforts to build on the fishery's current MSC standard to make it even better and to ensure that the next 4 years of annual MSC audits happen without any hitches. After that, the fishery will be subjected to a new MSC assessment which, if the current stakeholder effort is maintained, will be a matter of simply going through the motions.

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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