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CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2012 – MARCH 31, 2013



Towards Sustainable Development of Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean

CRFM Administrative Report

Annual Report

April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013



CRFM Secretariat
2013

CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – CRFM Annual Report, April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

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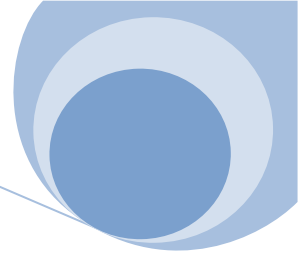
To promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the Region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefit of the current and future population of the Region.





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FOREWORD



Milton Haughton
Executive Director, CRFM

Just over 10 years ago, on the 4th January 2002, CARICOM Heads of State signed the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), an indigenous, regional fisheries body comprising CARICOM Members and Associate Members, to spearhead the sustainable development of the fisheries sector of the region. I am pleased to present this annual report (April 2012 to March 2013) to you our Member States, development partners and stakeholders, as we take stock of our first 10 years of operation and consider the future we want to leave our children.

The mandate of the CRFM is to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of current and future populations of the region. This mandate is more important now than at any other time in our history.

The Caribbean region has been generously blessed by our Creator with a rich diversity of living marine and other aquatic resources from which we and our ancestors before us have derived significant social, economic, nutritional, cultural and recreational benefits. Today these natural assets are becoming increasingly important—not only for food and nutrition or job security, but also to achieve sustainable economic development, peace and prosperity in the region.

This report provides a brief summary of the work and achievements of the CRFM during its 10th year of operation. It demonstrates that although the challenges are great, and the human and institutional resources are limited, yet the region can look forward to a future that is bright and prosperous in which the sea and ocean around us make enhanced sustainable contribution to our growth and development, based on the principles of sustainable development, mutual cooperation, good governance, and inclusiveness. It shows that the staff of the CRFM Secretariat, working under the direction and guidance of the Ministerial Council and the Fisheries Forum, and in collaboration with fisherfolk and other regional and international development partners, is ready to tackle the challenges the organization might face in the future.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, we conducted an independent performance review of the CRFM since its inception in 2002, and prepared a new strategic plan, through extensive consultation, that addresses the current needs and priorities of the Member States. Both activities were made possible through the generous contribution of FAO.

Among the challenges facing the CRFM in the future are how to improve access to financial resources, technology and knowledge for the development and implementation of agreed priorities, to provide tangible benefits to stakeholders and Member States; how to efficiently apply ICT to overcome the problems involved in the complexities of coordinating working relationships with the numerous partners

and stakeholders of the organization, to improve communication, sharing of information, and cooperative actions so as to ensure that these relationships remain positive, productive, and mutually beneficial; and finally, how to improve the conservation and protection of the resource base, while at the same time boosting production, productivity and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, to improve profitability and enhance the quality of life of our people.



Milton Haughton
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME YEAR

A new vision and strategic direction for the CRFM

Value of Fisheries

- **Foreign Exchange**
- **Employment**
- **Food Security**
- **Good nutrition**



Fisheries in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region employ over 182,000 persons. (Source: CRFM Fisheries Facts)

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) reached a major turning point during the 12 months spanning April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013. This period was a vital year of strategic planning, organisation and redirection for the CRFM – serving as a bridge between the first and the second strategic plans of the regional fisheries organisation.

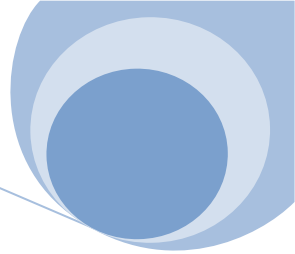
The CRFM now has a new strategic plan, spanning 2013-2021. Against the backdrop of the strategic planning process, the CRFM subjected itself to a comprehensive, independent performance appraisal conducted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, with a view of enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of its work.

In the planning process, the CRFM had to take into account the need to integrate Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into the mainstream work of the organisation, as well as in the manner in which it interacts with stakeholders across Member States. This modern way of information sharing and dialoguing has proven to bring speedier delivery of programme outputs as well as cost savings.

In line with this effort, the CRFM has been able to implement a major overhaul of its web portal and it now boasts an *avante garde* website which includes social networking features, allowing users to interface with the CRFM on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.

These portals have allowed the CRFM to showcase the work it has been doing, in collaboration with its invaluable partners, to integrate the ecosystem approach to management; as well as to introduce strategies for disaster risk management and the mitigation of climate change impacts on the fisheries sectors in the Caribbean.

Ultimately, every initiative undertaken by the CRFM is geared towards fulfilling its mandate: To promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the fisheries and other aquatic resources of the Caribbean, for the economic and social benefit of current and future populations across the region.

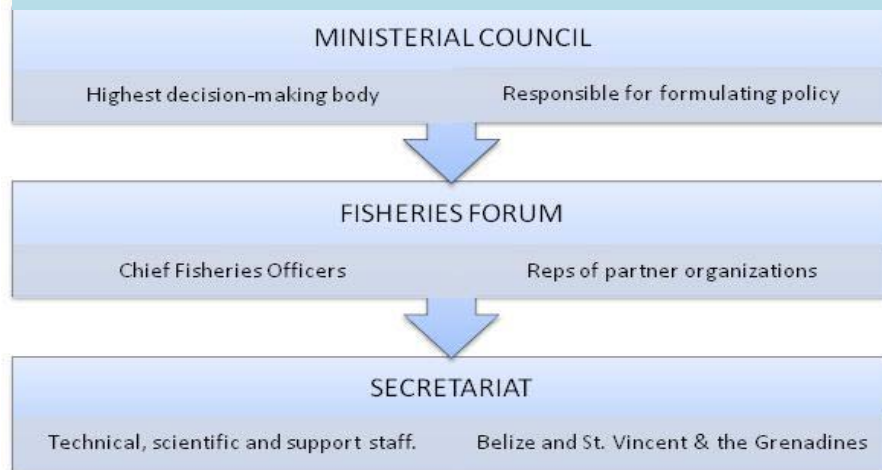


Through a newly solidified collaboration between the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and its Central American counterpart, OSPESCA - the Organisation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Central America, a major forum was held which brought together 24 countries in a move to strengthen collaboration in the sustainable management and development of shared fisheries resources.

In beginning to chart this new course for the management of the region’s fisheries, Fisheries Ministers of the 17 Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) met in The Bahamas on Friday, June 15, 2012, for their regular annual meeting.

On that occasion, Bahamas Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government, V. Alfred Gray, assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Council for 2012/2013, taking over from Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment, Hilson Baptiste.

The Ministerial Council, which meets in regular session at least once a year, has primary responsibility for determining the policies of the CRFM, resource allocation, cooperative agreements and related decision-making.



Bahamas Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government – V. Alfred Gray



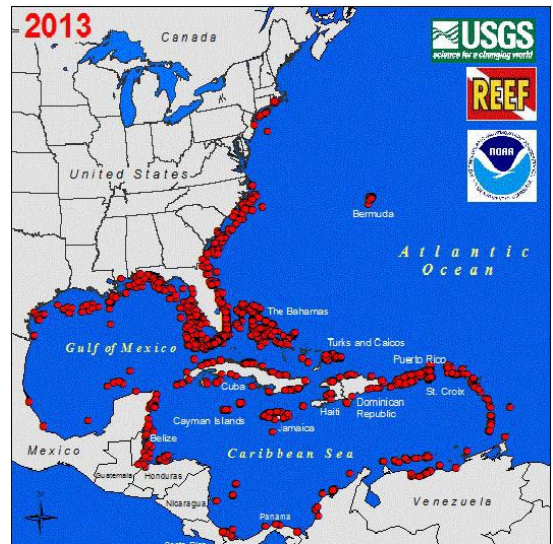
Bahamas Director of Fisheries - Michael Braynen (BIS photo)

Likewise, in March, The Bahamas Director of the Department of Marine Resources, Michael Braynen, had assumed leadership of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, the body comprising Director of Fisheries and other technical experts which advises the Ministerial Council.

Actions taken at Ministerial Council Meeting:

- ✚ review of CRFM activities over the past year;

- ✦ determination of the policies, directions and programmes for sustainable development, management and conservation of fisheries resources in the region;
- ✦ guidance on the way forward to the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and CRFM Secretariat;
- ✦ review of report on the 10th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum which was convened in Bahamas in March 2012;
- ✦ highlight the need to address issues such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, developments in international law, and the establishment of an aquaculture working group;
- ✦ review of CARICOM/Spain diagnostic study to determine poverty levels in 10 CARICOM States;
- ✦ review of the JICA-funded Study on the Formulation of a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean
- ✦ discussion on proposals for the development of a regional strategy to tackle the lionfish invasion in the Caribbean;
- ✦ improvements in scientific knowledge of commercially important fish stocks, their conservation status and resource management recommendations; and
- ✦ discussion on regional strategy development for disaster risk management and climate change.



Range of lionfish invasion includes the Caribbean

CRFM Member States 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.

Financing

The work of the CRFM is funded directly by Member States, which provide core funding of US\$960,500. Other technical activities are funded directly and indirectly by international development partners.

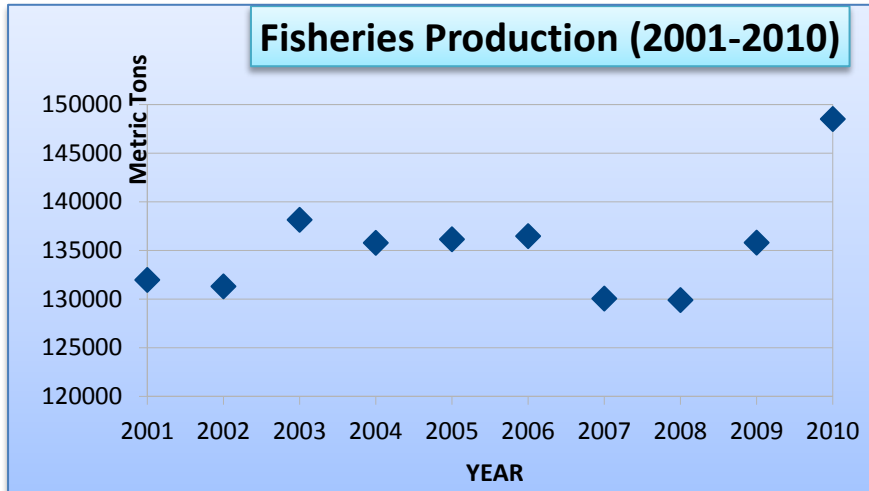
Those partners include the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations; the European Union; Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA); Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project; Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS); University of Florida Sea Grant; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), USA; United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP); Government of Iceland; International Ocean Institute (IOI) – Dalhousie University; Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Caribbean (IOCARIBE); and CERMES, UWI.

CRFM FINANCING REGIME



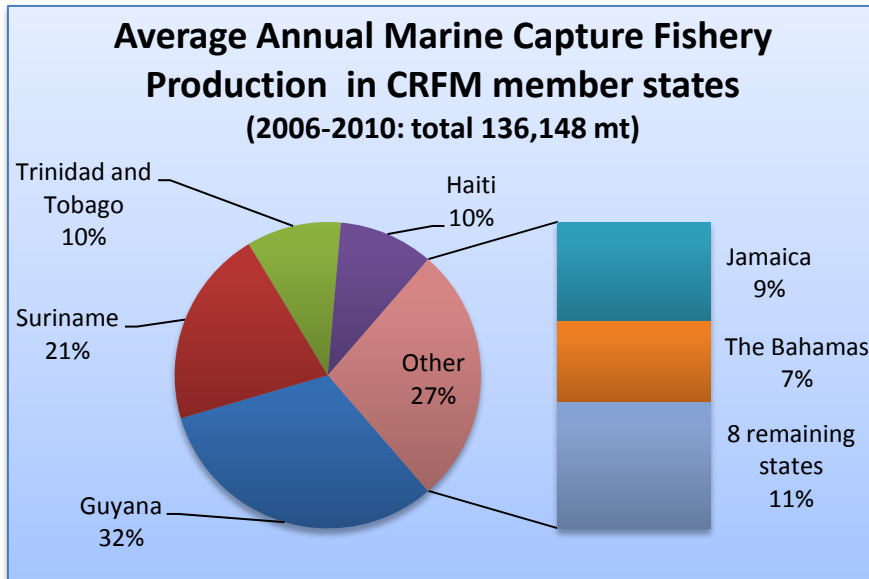
US\$960,500

Statistical Profile



During the Programme Year, we released The CRFM Statistics and Information Report – 2010. That report provides extensive information, including historical data, on the region's fisheries sector.

According to the CRFM Statistical Report, the total live weight of marine fish produced by the domestic fleet has increased from 144,552 metric tons (mt) in 1997 to 166,089 in 2010 and meat weight produced has, likewise, increased from 118,989 mt in 1997 to 148,509 mt in 2010.



Over the five-year period (2006 – 2010), the region produced an average of 136,148 mt of marine capture fish annually, representing an approximate 1 % increase over the previous five year period, the report detailed.

Whereas the region's meat weight production grew by 9.4% between 2009 and 2010, the highest meat weight production for the 5-year reporting period was recorded in 2010 at 148,509 mt.

The leading producer was Guyana, followed by Suriname – the two countries which have consistently been the top marine capture fish producers among CRFM Member States for the 5-year period - 2006-2010. The other top producers were Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and Jamaica, respectively.

There are over 24,700 commercial capture vessels across CRFM states, the CRFM Report notes.

New Strategic Plan 2013-2021 (8 years)



On Friday, May 31, 2013, a new eight-year Strategic Plan for the CRFM, to span 2013-2021, was endorsed by the CRFM Ministerial Council.

Talks towards formulating the new CRFM Strategy document and initiation of a review of the performance of the CRFM began in September 2012 in Belize, as a sidebar to the joint meeting of fisheries ministers from Central America and the Caribbean, convened by the CRFM and OSPESCA. The second workshop, to review and discuss the draft

report of the performance assessment of the CRFM, as well as to provide input for the development of the new strategic plan, was held on December 5, 2012, during a series of multi-agency fisheries meetings in Jamaica.

The multi-agency meetings were convened by the CRFM in collaboration with the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), through funding and technical assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

On Wednesday, January 30, 2013, Directors of Fisheries, Chief Fisheries Officers or Fisheries Administrators from the CRFM Member States, again met in St. Vincent and the Grenadines where they again reviewed the report of the performance review and made recommendations for strengthening the CRFM and its contribution to the sustainable development, conservation and management of CARICOM's fisheries resources. Their recommendations were fed into the CRFM's new Strategic Plan.

The formulation of the 2013-2021 Strategic Plan was done through a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) facility project of US\$99,000, funded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). A performance review of the CRFM, conducted under the same project, preceded the formulation of the new strategy and formed the basis for the development of the new strategy.

Policy Statement on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries—a central pillar to achieving sustainable fisheries, globally, and within the wider Caribbean—is primarily promoted by the FAO and is referenced in various international fisheries instruments. This is furthermore defined in the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP).

The CRFM has affirmed that the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture is a guiding principle of the Mechanism, including its network partner organisations, the CNFO and UWI, in particular, as a means of ensuring long-term conservation and the sustainable use of aquaculture and marine living resources.

The policy calls on Member States and partner organisations to strengthen their commitment to and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture through legislation, policies, plans, and management arrangements.

The CCCFP defines the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) as the “balancing of diverse societal objectives, by taking account of the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions, and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries.”

The EAF is identified as a “fundamental principle” to guide the implementation of the CCCFP in the promotion and use of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries or an ecosystem-based approach to the management and conservation of fisheries resources.

The EAF is recognized in the CCCFP for “conservation and management of fisheries resources.” The region is committed to the preparation of development, management and conservation plans on the basis of the ecosystem-based approach and precautionary approach to fisheries management.

The EAF appears in many places in the CCCFP, agreed to by CARICOM ministers responsible for fisheries as a guiding principle. Beyond the CARICOM/CRFM sub-region, the EAF has also gained traction as marine ecosystem-based management (EBM) incorporated into a vision for the Wider Caribbean Region.

CRFM Member States and stakeholder organisations have already expressed their commitment to EAF. Initiatives to begin implementation of the EAF are diverse, reflecting the fact that there are several entry points to introducing the EAF that may be pursued simultaneously or sequentially, depending on the situation.

The Policy Statement on the EAF was endorsed by the 7th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council on May 31, 2013.

CRFM and Central America (OSPESCA) Collaboration



Representatives from Central America and the Caribbean convene for historic cross-regional meeting

Over 60 high-level delegates from Central America and the Caribbean attended a milestone meeting in Belize from Monday, September 3 to Tuesday, September 4, 2012, concluding their extensive dialogue on a comprehensive roadmap for enhanced cooperation and consultation in tackling their biggest obstacles in fisheries and aquaculture.

In a joint declaration, Heads of State and Government of both Central American and Caribbean countries who had met at the 3rd CARICOM-SICA Summit in San Salvador, El Salvador, in August 2011, agreed on the need for the first high-level ministerial meeting of CRFM-OSPESCA, aimed at strengthening collaboration between both regional fisheries organisations.

One major outcome of the cross-regional meeting was the signing of the Belize Declaration on Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation (Spanish acronym OSPESCA) Cooperation for Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources. CRFM and OSPESCA also signed a Joint Action Plan and a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate closer cooperation between the two organizations.



Minister Gray (Bahamas) (left) and Belize Fisheries Minister Lisel Alamilla signing the Belize declaration. (CRFM Deputy Executive Director, Susan Singh-Renton in the background.)

“We are delighted to partnership in ensuring that countries around the Caribbean and indeed the Central and South American regions have seen the wisdom of getting together and pooling resources in order to protect what we consider to be a very important part of our countries’ very existence,” said V. Alfred Gray, chair of the CRFM’s Ministerial Council.

The 18 countries which signed are: Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, and Turks & Caicos.

The event was the first joint meeting to bring together so many countries to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the fisheries sector including the plight of their shared marine resources and the uphill battle against IUU fishing, which is a global problem. The CRFM had also produced a booklet on the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, which was first disseminated at the CRFM-OSPESCA meeting held in Belize.

The CRFM and OSPESCA are the regional agents for the harmonization of fisheries management and development efforts across 24 states.



Participants in CRFM-OSPESCA high-level meeting



New CRFM Communications Strategy & website



“[the] use of ICT will be an important catalyst for the transformational change and repositioning of the aquaculture and fisheries sector that we are seeking.”

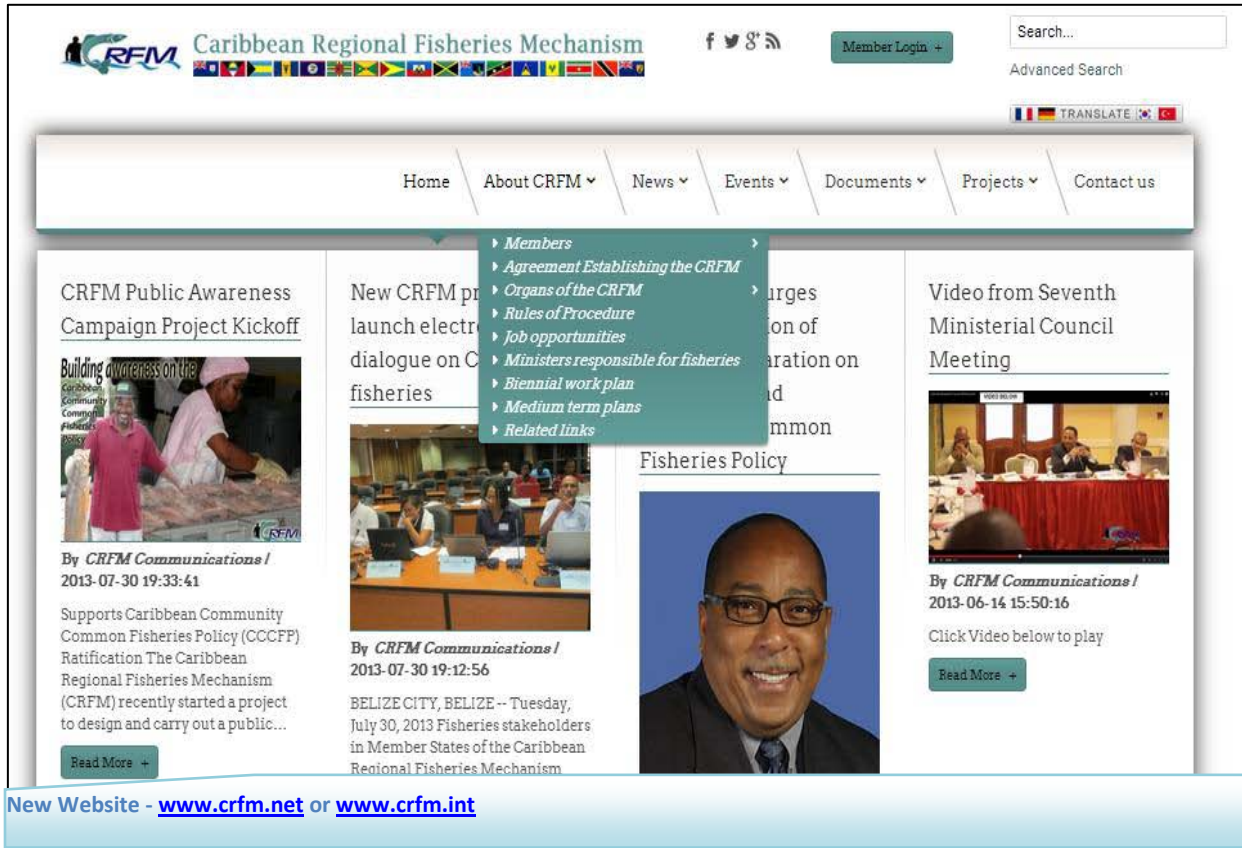
Strengthening the Capacity of CRFM and its Member States for Information and Knowledge Sharing on Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the Caribbean Region – ACP Fish II/EU

The CRFM directed much focus during the Programme Year at formulating two strategic documents: our new Communication Strategy, incorporating international best practices, and our dynamic and progressive 8-year Strategic Plan (2013-2021), which will make the CRFM more efficient at executing its mandates. The Communication Strategy was finalized at meetings held with key fisheries stakeholders in January and March 2013, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In March 2013, fisheries officials from CARIFORUM States received training in the use of modern, cutting-edge, information and communication technology (ICT) tools in their daily activities. This workshop—held from Monday, March 25 to Wednesday, March 27, in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines—was another significant milestone in the CRFM’s journey to transform the fisheries and aquaculture sector and enhance its contribution to economic development.

The three-day regional training provided focused support to the CRFM Secretariat and Member States, as they built consensus on document goals and targets for the IT component of the Communication Strategy, drafted in January 2013. The training was a follow-up to the ACP Fish II/CRFM Regional Technical Consultation held January 28-29 in Kingstown.

Both the technical consultation and the regional ICT training were implemented under a project titled, *Strengthening the Capacity of CRFM and its Member States for Information and Knowledge Sharing on Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the Caribbean Region*, made possible through a broader €30 million project grant from the European Union (EU) for projects to improve sustainable and equitable management of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.



The March 2013 training recipients included key Information and Communication Technology officers, high-ranking fisheries managers and other public sector fisheries representatives from the thirteen (13) participating CARIFORUM states: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Participants received technical assistance in upgrading and maintaining cutting-edge websites for the national fisheries authorities, while learning to maximise the use of the modern communication facilities and tools, including document editing and sharing, forums/e-groups, and web conferencing.

They additionally assisted with the formulation of the CRFM's new Communication Strategy, which will enable Member States to enhance the visibility of their work, as well as to improve coordination, and data and information sharing.

"We intend to do a much better job of communicating with each other, informing ourselves, forging a common vision and being more united in what we do, based on wide participation of stakeholders and the public at large. This is why the development and implementation of this Communication Strategy and the enhanced use of ICT is so important at this time."



One of the main objectives of the ACP Fish II project is to strengthen fisheries management in ACP Member States.

The programme is divided into five parts: (1) improving fisheries policies and management plans at regional and national levels; (2) reinforcing control and enforcement capabilities; (3) reinforcing national and regional research strategies and initiatives; (4) developing business supportive regulatory frameworks and private sector investments; and (5) increasing knowledge sharing on fisheries management and trade at the regional level.

Since November 2012, there has been a significant increase in the number of projects approved and launched, which indicated that the EU had stepped up efforts to clear the backlog of projects that were submitted by the region but awaiting approval.

Total budget = €30 million

The main benefits of the enhanced use of modern communication and information sharing tools, such as video-conferencing, social networking, and tools for online collaborative document preparation and editing are: (1) significant cost savings, (2) increased productivity and outputs, (3) greater earnings and income for fishers, and (4) improved competitiveness and profitability within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The mandate to strengthen information gathering and dissemination, to improve the management of the fisheries of the Caribbean came from (1) the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; and (2) the 6th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council held in The Bahamas in June 2012.

PBLH International Consulting SPRL of Brussels, Belgium, was contracted to deliver this knowledge-sharing project in the Caribbean. PBLH International Consulting SPRL experts, Yacine Khelladi and Vladimir Abramytchev, visited the Caribbean countries in November-December 2012 to consult with stakeholders and gather information, in order to update the Draft CRFM Communication Strategy – the document which was the subject of deliberations at the St. Vincent workshop. The firm also organized the ICT training on behalf of the CRFM. The CRFM and the ACP Fish II Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) / ACP Fish II Programme facilitated the workshop sessions.

The ACP Fish II Project, an initiative of the European Union, should have ended in May 2013, but the EU has acceded to the requests by ACP States and organizations for an extension of the project. The new timeline to allow for the completion of the planned activities is November 2013.



Development of a Management Plan for Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish

The CRFM is working to establish and implement arrangements to ensure long-term sustainable use and effective management of the Eastern Caribbean or four-wing flyingfish (scientific name: *Hirundichthys affinis*). The flyingfish is a shared resource which is exploited by seven (7) countries: Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique (France), St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

A key development during the year under review was the establishment of a Ministerial Sub-Committee on the Flyingfish to strengthen the governance framework for sustainable use and cooperative management of the fishery. Within the multi-million-dollar industry, the 7 countries mentioned above, which may all sit on the CRFM's Ministerial Sub-committee on Flyingfish, harvest the species for human consumption and/or fish bait.



The Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish is a Caribbean delicacy and cultural icon

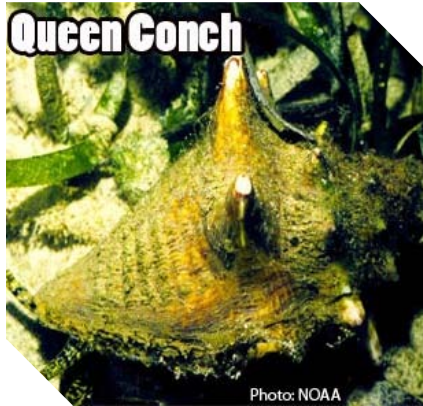
The Ministerial Sub-committee convened its first meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2012, during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda, to discuss the recommendations of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) case study that was implemented by the CRFM and which examined policy, legal frameworks and institutional investments in the flyingfish fishery - the single most important small pelagic fishery in the southern Lesser Antilles. The subcommittee also reviewed the report of the 1st meeting of the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on the Flyingfish Fishery in the Eastern Caribbean, and noted the request for national consultations on the proposed regional management plan and resolution.

The CRFM subsequently convened a second meeting of its Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish on Friday, February 22, 2013, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, to review urgent governance and management issues challenging the seven Caribbean countries that currently harvest the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish.

At the end of the meeting, chaired by Minister Gray of The Bahamas, the Sub-committee issued a call to stakeholders, asking them to ensure that the necessary technical consultations and analyses are completed, according to the agreed schedule, to ensure that the final CLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) report, which will be used to lobby for funding, adequately safeguards the interests and needs of the people of the CARICOM/CRFM States.

The ministers furthermore urged participating countries to ensure that the consultations with stakeholders at the national level and the Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the Flyingfish are finalized in a timely manner, so that the Sub-committee can review the final plan for endorsement at its next sitting.

CRFM responds to the Queen Conch Petition



In October 2012, the CRFM submitted a response to a petition filed in the USA for the listing of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) as a threatened or endangered species under the United States Endangered Species Act. The petition was submitted to the US Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service, by WildEarth Guardians of Denver, Colorado, USA. The petitioners note that, “The conch fishery is considered the second most important benthic fishery in the Caribbean, after spiny lobster,” but argued that “the queen conch remains imperiled throughout much of its range.” This petition request was a priority item for discussion at the 3rd Special Meeting of the CRFM's Ministerial Council, held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, in Antigua and Barbuda, during The Caribbean Week of Agriculture. The CRFM, therefore, submitted a formal statement on behalf of Caribbean member states, in response to the WildEarth Guardians petition.

The 3rd Special Meeting of the CRFM's Ministerial Council expressed grave concern over the petition and mandated the CRFM to respond. The CRFM Secretariat formulated a response which was submitted to the United States Government on October 26, 2012. That statement said that were the petition to be approved, it would impose several economic and social hardships on Caribbean fishers.

Conservation and Management Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus Argus*)



The Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) represents one of the most economically significant fisheries in the CARICOM range; 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 acknowledge and understand the magnitude of the issue at hand.

CRFM continued its efforts to improve sustainable use, conservation and management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster. The goal is to ensure long-term sustainable use and preserve the economic and social benefit for the people of the region strengthened collaborative management measures for this transboundary resource in the Caribbean Region.



In 2010, the CRFM Secretariat began collecting data from Member States on the status of their spiny lobster fisheries, including stock assessment data, as well as information on current management and conservation measures. This data and information was used to produce a report titled *Baseline Review on the Status and Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries in the CARICOM Region*, which presents the regional status of spiny lobster fisheries in CARICOM, as well as country specific portraits. This document provides recommendations for the future conservation and management of the species. Furthermore, it urges immediate, concerted action towards the wise management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster.

The Fourth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, 20 May, 2011, called upon member states to:

- (i) *“ Promote the coordination and harmonisation of national conservation, management and enforcement measures, e.g. establishment of harmonized closed seasons for high-valued resources such as lobster;.....*
- (ii) *Develop co-operation agreements with countries in the wider Caribbean.*

2. The Fifth Meeting of the Ministerial Council held in Dominica on 13 October, 2011, returned to the subject as follows:

- (i) *“ Endorsed the need to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance systems in the region and recommended collaborative talks with Central and South American countries to develop and implement harmonised conservation and management measures for shared species, particularly in regard to lobster fishing in the region;*
- (ii) *Noted the progress made by the CRFM Secretariat in addressing the Council’s mandate to develop harmonized conservation and management measures;*
- (iii) *Expressed satisfaction with the progress made in addressing the mandate of the Fourth Council on combating IUU fishing, and harmonising management and conservation measures for Spiny Lobster;”*

The *Baseline Review* and the OSPESCA Regulation for the Regional Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (2009), was used to prepare an outline for a regional cooperative agreement that specify the common objectives and common measures to manage, protect and conserve the spiny lobster. The outline agreement also addresses the need for coordinated effort to resolve issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice for the fisheries on a regional level. This outline agreement was endorsed by the 10th Meeting of the CRFM Forum and the 6th Meeting of the Ministerial Council on June 15, 2012. The Secretariat is now seeking resources to develop a full regional agreement on conservation and management of the spiny lobster.

Positioning and Engaging Fisherfolk



Fisherfolk need to be more engaged in policy formulation

The vast majority of the 182,000 jobs provided by the fisheries sector in the Caribbean are held by persons engaged in small-scale—not commercial fisheries.

A €117,956 (US\$150,000) project, entitled, *Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and Engaging Fisher Folk Organisations*, is being undertaken through the CRFM under a 12-month contract with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) signed by Milton Haughton, Executive Director of CRFM, and Michael Hailu, CTA Director, on 18 October 2012.

The direct beneficiaries of this new project are the national fisherfolk organisations (NFOs) in 15 ACP member countries which are part of the CRFM/CARIFORUM group, as well as representatives from partnering organisations. Since the start of the project, Caribbean fisherfolk have been engaging decision makers, as they increase their participation in the formulation of key regional fisheries policies.

Under the auspices of this collaborative initiative, a cross-regional consultation was held at Grand Coastal Hotel in East Coast Demerara, Georgetown, Guyana,

from February 25-28, 2013. The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations Coordinating Unit (CNFO-CU), national fisherfolk organisations (NFOs), and NFO Steering Committees from 15 CARIFORUM Member States attended the event. Collaborating partners were the CTA, the CRFM Secretariat, and The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

The one-week consultation on the implementation and mainstreaming of regional fisheries policies into small-scale fisheries governance arrangements in the Caribbean was helpful in our efforts to address pressing problems facing the sector. The consultation enabled stakeholders to progress with formulating common positions on the finalization and adoption of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing, and other relevant fisheries agreements.

At the Guyana consultation, participants analysed the implications of regional policies, in an effort to determine what these policies mean for small-scale fisheries. They also explored a range of actions that fisherfolk could take and formulated strategies for strengthening CNFO governance for effective participation in fisheries management and governance.

The mainstreaming of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) into small-scale fisheries (SSF) were also highlighted during the course of the consultation.

The Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

The FAO/CRFM/WECAFC Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) was convened from Thursday, December 6 to Saturday, December 8, 2012, in Kingston, Jamaica. It was centered on small-scale fisheries development and more specifically, the development of international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

The consultation welcomed the SSF Guidelines as a guiding instrument for regional and national interventions, for securing rights and benefits, and for reducing the marginalisation of the small-scale fisheries sector in the region.

Participants called on governments from across the region to ensure strong representation at the FAO Consultation on the SSF Guidelines Technical slated for May 20-24, 2013 in Rome, during which the text for the SSF Guidelines is to be negotiated to ensure that the special needs of the region are addressed.

The International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) is billed for adoption by the 31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in July 2014.



Small-scale fisheries is the most important sector to the region. (Photo taken in Dominica)

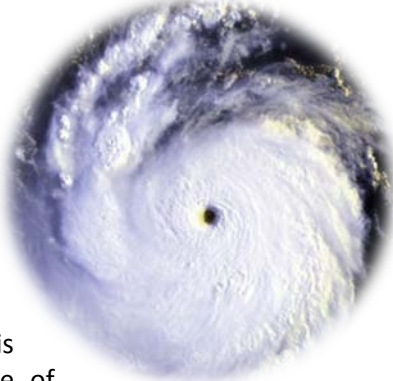
Workshop participants expressed that the sector is threatened by pollution, over-exploitation, and increasing competition for coastal and marine space, in particular from the tourism sector, but increasingly also from oil and gas extraction.



Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change Adaptation

Objectives:

- ✚ Improve understanding and preparedness
- ✚ Take action to address impacts on fish stocks, ecosystems and livelihoods
- ✚ Initiate work on models

Fisheries and aquaculture sector is an important source of food and nutrition security, and employment, particularly for the poor and vulnerable members of society. Fishers, fish farmers and fishing communities, particularly those in coastal areas, are for various reasons, particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disasters arising from natural and man-made sources, especially from the recurrent storms and hurricanes during the hurricane season, June to November, each year.

Over the past 3 decades, these hazards have had devastating impacts on fishing communities and fisherfolk including their property and livelihoods, and on the social and economic development of our countries. It is against this backdrop that the CRFM, with funding and technical assistance provided by FAO, undertook a project to strengthen the capacity of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to prepare for and respond to these threats.

The project involved an assessment study on climate change and disaster risk management issues in the fisheries sector; the convening of a regional workshop to formulate “a strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region.”

This was done in collaboration with CDEMA, CCCCC, University of the West Indies, and other members of the Agriculture Disaster Risk Management Committee to ensure policy coherency with the “Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change”, which was adopted by Heads of States in 2009; and the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (CDM) developed by CDEMA for the region.

The main expected output is a comprehensive regional strategy and action plan for integrating climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and fisheries and aquaculture, with a focus on small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture.



In Jamaica, in December 2012, stakeholders looked at developing a strategy and action plan to respond to climate change and disaster risk management in fisheries and aquaculture across the Caribbean.

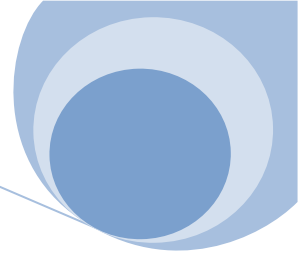
The climate change and disaster risk management initiatives, being undertaken by stakeholders in fisheries, will serve to build resilience through the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA), which will in turn facilitate the ability to quickly recover and rebuild with improvements in the aftermath of a disaster event, the participants agreed.

On Wednesday, December 12, at the closing of the regional workshop on “Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region,” stakeholders provided input for a draft assessment study, a draft strategy and action plan, and a draft programme proposal to be used in seeking funding for the region.

Workshop participants recognised the need, at regional, national and local levels, for innovative insurance schemes for small-scale fishers and fish farmers, for early warning systems, rapid damage impact assessment and emergency relief assistance and support.

The Regional Strategy, Action Plan and Project Proposals on Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Management, and Fisheries and Aquaculture was reviewed and adopted by the 7th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council in May 2013.

"It is the first time that fisheries, disaster risk management and climate change officials [met] together with representatives of fisher-folk organisations, civil society organisations, academic institutions, and international and regional development partners, to come up with collective plans and programs, and identify strategic directions to move the sector towards higher levels of outputs and sustainable development."



CRFM/JICA Best Practice Workshops



CRFM and JICA have been working together to document, promote and disseminate to CRFM Member States, best practices in various areas of fisheries through a series of best practice workshops on various high priority issues in the fisheries sector. The first such workshop which was held in February 2012, focused on documenting and promoting the development of best practices for quality assurance and marketing of fish and fish products.

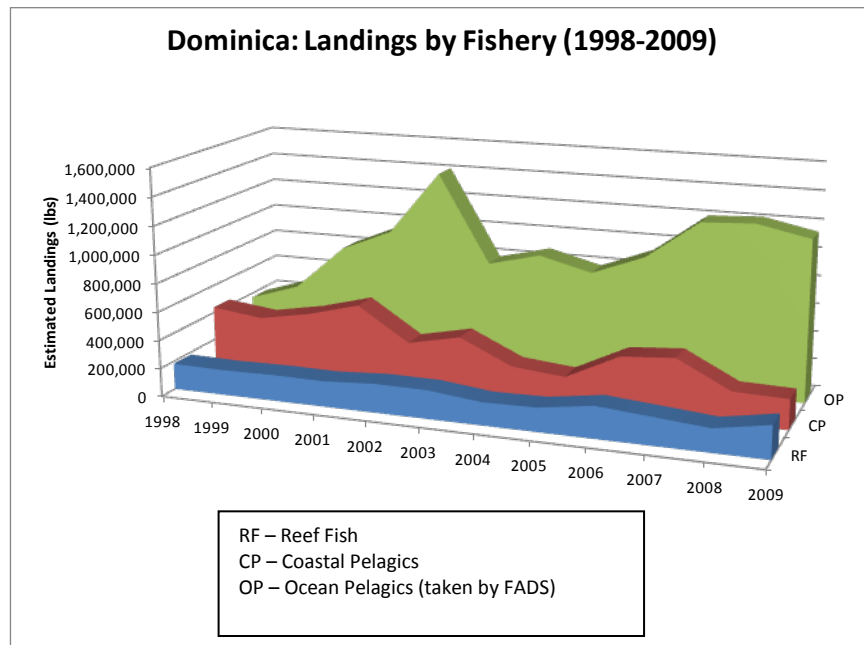


Grenadian Longline Boats
(Photo: Fisheries Department, Grenada)

During the 2012 – 2013 programme year, the CRFM and JICA, building on the information obtained during the JICA funded Development Study on Formulation of a Master Plan on the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean, convened two follow up best practice workshops. The first workshop which was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 25-27 July 2012, dealt with the development and dissemination of good practices for fisheries management. The workshop addressed experiences in the region with co-management, fisheries registration and licensing systems, data collection and management systems, and current laws and regulations. The overall objective was to identify and exchange information on good practices in order to further develop the capacity of fisheries officers and fisherfolk leaders from

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where JICA fisheries experts were assigned. The information obtained from these countries was compiled into technical reports which were then shared by the CRFM Secretariat with all CRFM and CARIFORUM Member States.

The second sub-regional workshop, which was held in Dominica on 13 March 2013,



Effect of FAD Fishery on Fish Catch
(Source: D Theophile, Fisheries Department, Dominica)

focused on the use and management of fish aggregating devices (FAD) in the pelagic fisheries. The workshop reviewed and shared research results and best practices in the construction, maintenance and management of FADs as tools for sustainable development, management and conservation of large pelagic resources in the region. The workshop also reviewed and documented the experiences of States and fisherfolk representatives in respect of biological, and catch and effort data collection and data management around FADs. Participants included fisheries officers and leaders of fisherfolk organizations from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Also in attendance were officials from the IFERMER of France, University of Florida / Florida Sea Grant, OECS Secretariat, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the CRFM. The information obtained was compiled into technical reports and shared, by the CRFM Secretariat, with all CRFM and CARIFORUM States.

Scientific Meeting Outputs and Research

CRFM's Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting



Fisheries Officers at 8th Annual Scientific Meeting

The Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting of the CRFM was held from 20 – 30 June 2012 in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During this meeting, the Conch and Lobster Resource Working Group completed a bio-economic assessment of the Jamaica queen conch fishery, which provided managers with the tools to consider alternative management decisions, possible states of nature, and performance from both a biological and economic standpoint.

Many countries in the Caribbean are known for their sport fishing activities and attract visitors for that purpose, while charter-boat fishing is a major component of the marine-based tourism activities in other countries. The main target species of the recreational fisheries in the Caribbean are: billfishes, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, king mackerel, and dolphinfish.

Notwithstanding this level of importance, recreational fishing activities have received minimal fishery management attention in most Caribbean countries and data on this fishery are lacking.

In view of this, the Large Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group noted that CRFM is overseeing a series of studies that are ongoing, to document the nature and importance of recreational fishing activities in the Caribbean region: Northern Caribbean, Southern Caribbean, Western Caribbean and Eastern Caribbean. These studies have since been published by the CRFM and have improved the technical information base with regard to recreational fishing activities.



Management of Large Pelagics

CRFM participation in ICCAT

As in previous years, the CRFM provided support for participation by its Member States in the activities of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) -- an inter-governmental fishery organization. Along with CRFM staff, ICCAT Member States – Belize and Trinidad and Tobago, and ICCAT cooperating party - Suriname, attended the 2012 Annual ICCAT Commission meeting held in November 2012, in Agadir, Morocco.

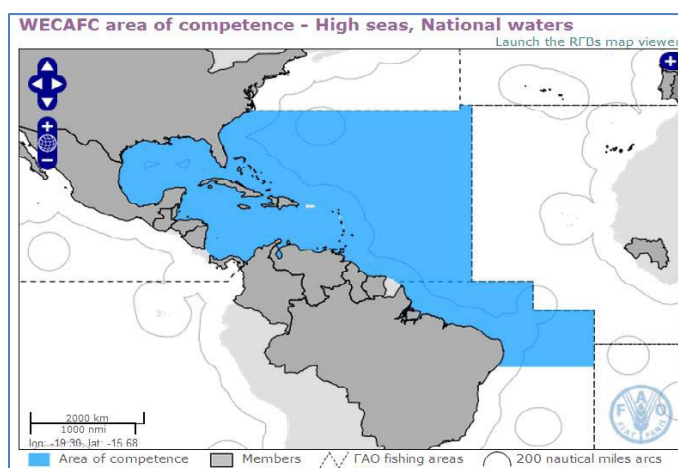
During that meeting, CRFM States were active in the negotiations for formulating several new ICCAT measures which were adopted. In particular, ICCAT considered new scientific advice on the state of three species of international interest: Atlantic bluefin tuna (historically very important for sashimi); white marlin (a major game fish), and shortfin mako, one of several pelagic shark species attracting international attention on their conservation status.

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 that of white marlin have 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 with specific white marlin catch limits agreed for CRFM States.

Four CRFM states – Barbados, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago – are members of ICCAT. Suriname became a Cooperating Party in 2011, and its Cooperating status was renewed in 2012. Guyana has also been a Cooperating Party to ICCAT since 2003.

Fisheries Management Performance and Conservation Measures in the WECAFC Region

In line with our mission to develop sustainable fisheries, the CRFM was contracted by FAO/WECAFC to undertake a study of current fisheries management performance and conservation measures in the WECAFC region. This study, which aims to facilitate the preparation of an overview of current fisheries management options—continued during PY 2012-13.



During 2012, data and information were gathered through a survey of countries within the WECAFC region. A total of 18 countries provided responses, but only 16 of these provided sufficient data and information for review and analysis purposes.

In December 2012, a validation workshop was held to consider and confirm the regional and sub-regional analyses completed. The final regional report will be submitted to FAO later in 2013.

CRFM/CLME Case Studies – Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery and Large Pelagic Fishery



Tunas (Photo: Fisheries Dept. Grenada)



The CRFM's work also encompasses initiatives to improve the management of the flyingfish and large pelagic fisheries.

The CRFM, in collaboration with regional partners, implemented case studies on the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery, as well as the Large Pelagic Fishery under the GEF funded CLME Project.

In line with these initiatives, the CRFM, in PY 2012-13, led the testing of the Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) – a tool for incorporating ecosystem data into fisheries analyses. It also spearheaded studies to improve understanding of the nature and importance of recreational studies in the Caribbean.

A stakeholder analysis for each fishery, which involved an assessment of the stakeholder's capacity to take part in the regional and international management processes, was also undertaken. Additionally, CRFM completed a review and analysis of existing policy, legal and institutional arrangements and investments for management and governance of the two fisheries.

A sub-regional management plan for both the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish (in partnership with WECAFC) and the blackfin tuna were prepared for consideration by the harvesting states. The CRFM Ministerial Council

established a Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish, which held 2 meetings in PY 2012-13, to foster ministerial-level adoption of the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish management plan.

The four-wing flyingfish (*Hirundichthys affinis*) fishery is the single most important small pelagic fishery in the southern Lesser Antilles. It is a shared resource which is exploited by seven countries producing annual landings of about 3000-4000 mt. With expanding fleet capacity and only limited cooperation among the States exploiting the flyingfish, overfishing is a concern.

The region's highly migratory tuna and billfish resources are exploited by countries from within the region, as well as by foreign nations. In the Insular Caribbean, the fishing of large pelagics is a major tourist and recreational activity although reporting data on this fishery is lacking. The region attracts a multitude of international anglers wishing to target the large migratory tunas and billfishes.

More ACP Fish II outputs

- **Improving fisheries policies and management plans at regional and national levels**

For this first component of the ACP Fish II project, there were 11 specific activities which address issues related to the improvement of fisheries policies, legislation and management plans at both the national and regional levels: of these, 6 have been fully completed by the time of preparation of this report: (i) formulation of a fisheries and aquaculture policy for the DR; (ii) design and development of a website for CODOPESCA in the DR; (iii) formulation of a fisheries policy for St. Lucia; (iv) formulation of a fisheries and aquaculture policies for the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; (v) formulation of an aquaculture land and water use development plan for Jamaica; and (vi) elaboration of an aquaculture development strategy for St. Kitts and Nevis.

- **Reinforcing control and enforcement capabilities**

This component addresses (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) MCS capabilities and identified 7 specific activities of which 2 have been completed to date: (i) support to update the 2005 regional MCS study, and (ii) development of a prosecution toolkit for St. Lucia.

- **Reinforcing national and regional research strategies and initiatives;**

Of 4 specific activities planned, 2 have been completed to date: (i) the strategic assessment of aquaculture potential in Haiti, and (ii) completion of a study to improve and harmonize the scientific approaches for the sustainable management of queen conch in the region.



One of the Working Groups developing management options for queen conch during ACP validation workshop on improving and harmonizing approaches for sustainable management of queen conch.

- **Developing business supportive regulatory frameworks and private sector investments**

This fourth component is aimed at improving business support and private sector investment. It has been quite successful. A total of 8 specific activities were planned, 4 have been completed, and the remaining 4 are in progress. Completed activities in this component include: (i) training in EAF and climate change for the CNFO (a regional project); (ii) a training workshop of fisherfolk in business planning and management - ICT applications for fish enterprise management training requested by the Commonwealth of Dominica; (iii) a training workshop in business acumen for fishermen cooperative officers requested by St. Lucia; and (iv) an activity aimed at building resilience of commercial fishermen and boat owners in Grenada.

- **Increasing knowledge sharing on fisheries management and trade at regional level**

A regional capacity strengthening activity was identified for component 5 that aims to increase knowledge sharing on management and trade, and has now been completed.

Human Resource and Capacity Development



Fisheries professionals attend training in St. Lucia

One of CRFM's objectives is to train personnel from Member States, to enhance their capabilities to provide the specialized leadership, management, scientific and technical inputs and oversight necessary to foster a thriving fisheries industry across the region. This is achieved through regional training workshops, as well as fellowships, short-courses and more extensive university-level training.

The CRFM is grateful to its partners in education which have helped to ensure that this vital objective continues to be met by providing training and capacity building courses. These are the International Ocean Institute (IOI), the United Nations University - Fisheries Training Program (UNU-FTP), and the University of Florida (UF) – Sea Grants Program.

CRFM-ANCORS, University of Wollongong Collaboration Strengthened



Trainees in Australia (Photo: ANCORS)

Fourteen (14) fisheries professionals from CRFM Member States traveled to Australia in September 2012 to attend a 5-week training – the first Fisheries Law and Management Training Workshop, developed jointly for them by the CRFM Secretariat and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS), at the University of Wollongong.

The training workshop, which began on September 10, 2012, covered sustainable fisheries management, law of the sea, international fisheries, trade, marine environmental law, and monitoring, control and surveillance to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The comprehensive training, which was undertaken at a cost of AUD459,996 or roughly USD470,000, was provided in line with the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program's (AusAID's) Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Fellowships.

The CRFM will ensure that the knowledge, skills and values imparted to the fellows who attended the Australia workshop are distributed more widely within the Caribbean

and that they are used as the foundation for the development of sustainable fishing practices, particularly measures to combat IUU fishing.

Before the training kicked off, Milton Haughton, CRFM Executive Director, and Martin Tsamenyi, Professor of Law & Director, ANCORS/University of Wollongong, developed the text of a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding, which was formalized during the training workshop. The specific objectives of the MoU are: to identify and implement joint research opportunities and to develop further capacity-building training opportunities.

Under the MoU, ANCORS, which has committed to 30 hours of follow-up mentoring, undertook to send a senior ANCORS staff member to the CRFM Secretariat in Belize City for a one day follow-up workshop. That staff member is also to visit up to 3 other priority CARICOM states, facilitated by CRFM, to provide further post-workshop support.

The CRFM and ANCORS will also collaborate on hosting a second Fisheries Law and Management Training Workshop for those who could not attend this first session as well as strengthen cooperation in other areas of common interests.



ANCORS/CRFM MOU signing on October 11: CRFM Executive Director Milton Haughton and Martin Tsamenyi - Professor of Law & Director, ANCORS/University of Wollongong.

In 2009, CARICOM and The Government of Australia signed their first Memorandum of Understanding for development cooperation between the Government of Australia and CARICOM, valued at AUD 60 million (USD 62 million), focusing on climate change and disaster risk reduction; economic resilience; and people-to-people and institutional links.

CRFM/UNU-FTP

Six-month Fellowship Programme



UNU fellows
(Photo: UNU)

The CRFM has established a long-term relationship with the University of the United Nations – Fisheries Training Programme (UNU – FTP), Iceland, for the purpose of building national and regional capacities for fisheries development and management in the region. The UNU has agreed to offer up to three (3) training fellowship valued at US\$45,000 -50,000 each to qualified fisheries personnel from the CRFM Member States each year to pursue post-graduate training in fisheries at the United Nations University Fisheries training Programme in Iceland.

For Academic Year September from September 2012 to March 2013, three candidates from the region



Laboratory sessions

(Photo: UNU)

were awarded fellowships to study at the UNU-FTP. All three have successfully completed their training and returned to the region. The candidates were: (i) Ms. Tricia Lovell, Senior Fisher Officer, Antigua and Barbuda, (ii) Ms. Murielle Felix, Fisheries Officer, Haiti; and (iii) Ms. Alisa Martin, Fisheries Officer (Quality Control and Product Development), St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Fellowships for the September 2013 to March 2014 academic year have been awarded to (i) Ms. Lucine Edwards, Fisheries Officer, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and (ii) Ms. Ta'Chala Beecher, Fisheries Officer, Jamaica.

Short Courses

- **Project Cycle Management for Fisheries Officers**

The CRFM Secretariat and the UNU-FTP conducted a regional training course on Project Cycle Management for Fisheries Officers, 4-8 June 2012. The objective of the workshop was to develop new project cycle management skills to benefit senior fisheries officers, and where appropriate, renew and update their existing expertise, to formulate project proposals and manage the implementation of projects in fisheries in the Caribbean. The participants, Fisheries Officers from CRFM Member States, were taught the skills to design, plan, implement, monitor, review and report on projects to achieve greater excellence and success in project management.

- **Advance Leadership Training for Fisheries Officers**

The CRFM Secretariat and the UNU-FTP, in collaboration with the University of Akuyreri, Iceland; the University of Belize, and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus (UWI), developed the training material for an Advanced Leadership Training for Heads of National Fisheries Administrations of CRFM Member States and delivered the first regional training course in April 2010, through a grant awarded to the CRFM by the Government of Iceland. A second in the series of Advanced Leadership Courses, targeting senior fisheries officers was held in St. Lucia during the period 8 to 12 April 2013. Twenty senior fisheries officers from CRFM Member States were trained.





CRFM / IOI Dalhousie University

Fisheries Officers from CRFM Member States continued to benefit from training opportunities and fellowships for studies in Canada made available under the CRFM – International Ocean Institute (IOI) Agreement of 2004. The successful scholars in Programme Year 2012 were, Mr. Mitchell Lay, Coordinator CNFO, Antigua and Barbuda; Mr. Denzil Roberts, Chief Fisheries Officer, Guyana; Ms. Marie Carmele Joseph, Fisheries Officer, Haiti; and Ms. Lucine Edwards, Fisheries Officer (Conservation), St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The training covered marine policy, law and governance.

CRFM / University of Florida

Under the University of Florida / Sea Grant for Fisheries programme, 4 months of training was provided for fisheries personnel. The 2013 fellow who won the Gulf and Caribbean Training Opportunity was Randel Thompson of St. Kitts and Nevis. Additionally, short-term HACCP training in Miami was provided through the UF Sea Grant and JICA for two professionals from the region, Ian Horsford, Senior Fisheries Officer, Antigua and Barbuda, and Lucille Grant, Fisheries Officer, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

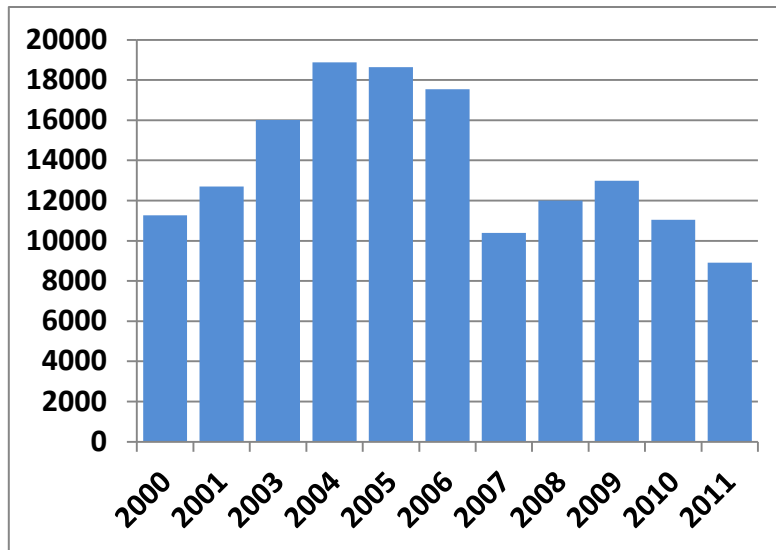
COUNTRY	Recipient	Programme
Antigua and Barbuda	Mitchell Lay, Coordinator Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organizations (CNFO)	CRFM / IOI Dalhousie University
	Tricia Lovell Senior Fisheries Officer	CRFM / UNU-FTP
	Ian Horsford Fisheries Officer	CRFM / UF Sea Grant / JICA
Guyana	Denzil Roberts Chief Fisheries Officer	CRFM / IOI Dalhousie University
Haiti	Marie Carmele Joseph Fisheries Extension Officer	CRFM / IOI Dalhousie University
	Murielle Felix Fisheries Officer	CRFM / UNU-FTP
St. Kitts and Nevis	Randall Thompson Fisheries Officer	CRFM / UF Sea Grant / GCFI Fellowship
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Lucine Edwards Fisheries Officer (Conservation)	CRFM / IOI Dalhousie University
	Alisa Martin Fisheries Officer (Quality Assurance and Product Development)	CRFM / UNU-FTP
	Lucille Grant Fisheries Officer	CRFM / UF Sea Grant / JICA

Other training include-:

- Training of CRFM Staff in new website use, management and maintenance. March 18 - 20, 2013 in Belize and St. Vincent.
- CRFM / ACP Fish II Training Workshop for the CRFM Website. March 25 - 27, 2013 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sustainable Aquaculture Development in CARICOM

Aquaculture



Aquaculture production has remained relatively low in the region averaging 14,146 mt per year during the period 2000 -2010. Production increased from 11,265 mt in 2000 to a peak of 18,879 mt in 2004 due mainly to strong growth in Belize, but since then has gradually declined to 11,047 mt in 2010. The main producer countries in the CARIFORUM region are Belize and Jamaica, which have seen the development of viable commercial farming of shrimp (*Litopenaeus vanamaie*) and tilapia (*Oreochromis* species and hybrids). Together these two countries account for seventy-six percent (76%) of production, followed by Guyana, Haiti and Suriname. These larger

CARIFORUM States are endowed with an abundance of natural resources including land, water and tropical climate suitable for aquaculture development.

The CRFM had included the promotion and facilitation of aquaculture development as one of the strategies for increasing the sustainable supply of fish and fishery products since the development of the first CRFM Strategic Plan. The major challenges for aquaculture include inadequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks and plans to enable sustainable aquaculture development, inadequate technical capacity for production, processing and marketing of aquaculture products, the limited local availability of and access to fertilized eggs/fry and feed, high costs of transport, high competition with marine fisheries products and cheap imports from Asia and South America, but through a collaborative approach it must be possible to overcome these. The need for the collaborative approach to involve OSPESCA and its Member States was also endorsed by the First CRFM- OSPESCA High Level Ministerial meeting held in September 2012.



Cobia farming in Belize
(Photo: Fisheries Dept. Belize)

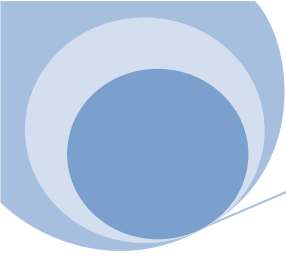
In 2012, the CRFM established a Working Group to promote sustainable aquaculture development in the region to increasing food production and security; improving rural income and employment; diversifying farm production; and increasing foreign exchange earnings and savings.

The Working is expected to advise the Member States, through the Forum and Ministerial Council, on policies, programmes and projects to promote the development of aquaculture. The Group is further expected to develop a work plan, with priority actions to promote sustainable aquaculture development in the CARICOM region, taking into account the agreed Terms of Reference for the Working Group and the CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action plan.

Pipeline Projects

As the CRFM embarks on the implementation of its new Strategic Plan (2013 - 2021), groundwork has already been laid for a series of new projects, some of which began to be conceived in the Programme Year 2012 - 2013.

- Among our pipeline projects is a new EU-funded project, to assist countries in implementing the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement, which will focus on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) legislation, monitoring programmes, among other initiatives. The CRFM has highlighted the need for an evaluation of the current SPS situation in the region.
- The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) recently approved a project, entitled, *Development of Caribbean Fisheries Knowledge Platform*, to provide Caribbean fisherfolk with skills to capitalize on the use of ICT tools. The project is valued at €84,817.
- During the Programme Year, the CRFM proposed the Caribbean Fisheries Co-management (CARIFICO) project, which is being executed through support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). CARIFICO will run for 5 years, until April 2018.
- The CRFM will continue its collaboration, under an AUD \$60 million (USD 62 million) development cooperation with the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program's (AusAID's) Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Fellowships. A 4-year Memorandum of Understanding signed between the parties in 2010 is due to conclude in mid-2014.
- The Inter-American Development Bank/World Bank project: Measuring Climate Change Impact on Key Marine Resources and Development on Adaptation Strategies for Fishing Communities



ANNEXES

FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET (*Unaudited*) MARCH 31, 2013 AND 2012 (EASTERN CARIBBEAN DOLLARS)

<u>ASSETS</u>	2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and bank balances	510,159	578,554
Outstanding contributions	2,761,821	2,002,034
Accounts and other receivables	1,547	34,619
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,273,526	2,615,207
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	799,714	795,814
TOTAL	4,073,241	3,411,021
LIABILITIES AND GENERAL FUND		
Accounts payable and accruals	315,065	300,853
CTA Project	91,394	0
JICA Mission	34,755	11,532
Iceland – Leadership Training Project	47,907	53,553
Iceland – Stock Assessment Project	102,175	102,175
CARICOM/CRFM/Kingdom of Spain Project	13,596	119,638
CLME Project	145,480	102,311
Iceland – Project Cycle Management Project	1,471	168,539
FAO Project	75,431	121,297
TOTAL LIABILITIES	827,274	979,898
CAPITAL FUND	402,042	402,042
GENERAL FUND	2,843,922	2,029,081
TOTAL	4,073,241	3,411,021

**STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013 AND 2012 (EASTERN CARIBBEAN DOLLARS)***(Unaudited)*

	2013	2012
MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTIONS	2,582,016	2,582,016
OTHER INCOME	219,626	176,023
	2,801,642	2,758,039
EXPENDITURES		
Bank Charges	16,877	17,481
Consultant fees and travel	18,377	37,452
Hospitality	284	2,247
Insurance - furniture, equipment and houses	3,871	6,293
Janitorial supplies and supplies	11,772	9,976
Meetings and workshop expenses	230,372	140,660
Office equipment rental	445	444
Other expenses	1,347	2,259
Personnel emoluments	1,429,479	1,551,374
Postage and courier services	5,173	9,024
Printing, photocopying services and office supplies	38,115	19,073
Publication and subscription	8,491	710
Repairs and maintenance – computers and office equipment	4,821	6,296
Repairs and maintenance – office and houses	7,539	6,570
Repairs and maintenance/insurance - vehicle	25,128	21,777
Telephone and fax charges	49,699	50,544
Travel – airfares and living expenses (staff)	116,208	160,779
Utilities – electricity and water	18,804	20,592
Sub-total expenses	1,986,801	2,063,551
TOTAL	1,986,801	2,063,551
OVER/UNDER EXPENDED FUNDS	814,841	694,488
GENERAL FUND, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	2,029,081	1,334,593
GENERAL FUND, END OF PERIOD	2,843,922	2,029,081

EVENTS LIST



March 25 - 27, 2013 - CRFM / ACP Fish II Training Workshop for the CRFM Website; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

March 18 - 20, 2013 - Training of CRFM Staff in new website use, management and maintenance; Belize and St. Vincent

March 13, 2013 - CRFM Pelagic Working Group / JICA FAD Fishery Workshop; Dominica

March 11 - 12, 2013 - CLME Large Pelagic and Flyingfish Final Steering Committee Meetings; Dominica

March 4, 2013 - CLME Project Advisory Group (PAG); Miami

March 4 - 6, 2013 - CLME Steering Committee Meeting; Colombia

February 28 - March 8, 2013 - CTA / TNC SusGren - Participatory 3D Mapping Workshop; Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

February 25 - 28, 2013 - CTA / CRFM / CNFO Consultation Workshop on the Implementation and Mainstreaming of Regional Fisheries Policies into Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements in the Caribbean; Guyana

February 22, 2013 - 2nd Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish Fishery; Trinidad and Tobago

Inter-sessional Meeting of the CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Resource Working Group; February 19 - 20, 2013; Guyana

February 6 - 7, 2013 - Caribbean Weather Information Generator Project - First Stakeholder Workshop; Jamaica

February 5, 2013 - ACP Fish II Steering Committee Meeting; Brussels, Belgium

February 2013 - CARICOM Heads of Government Inter-Sessional Meeting; Haiti

January 30, 2013 - 3rd CRFM / FAO Performance Review and Strategic Planning Workshop; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

January 29 - 31, 2013 - CLME IMS / REMP Workshop; Playa del Carmen, Mexico

January 28 - 29, 2013 - Validation Workshop for the CRFM Communication Strategy; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

January 28 - February 1, 2013 - IUCN - 3rd Caribbean Fishes Assessment Workshop; Trinidad and Tobago



December 10 - 12, 2012 - 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 Region; Jamaica

December 6 - 8, 2012 - Small-Scale Fisheries Workshop; Jamaica

December 5, 2012 - Workshop on Performance Review of the CRFM; Jamaica

November 5 - 9, 2012 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Meeting; Santa Marta, Colombia

November 2012 - CRFM / FAO Regional Validation Workshop on the Review of Current Fisheries Management Performance and Conservation Measures in the WECAFC Region; Santa Marta, Columbia

October 30 - November 1, 2012 - ACP Fish II Programme Monitoring Workshop; Suriname

April 8 – 12, 2012 - CRFM/UNU Advance Leadership Training for Senior Fisheries Officers;; St. Lucia

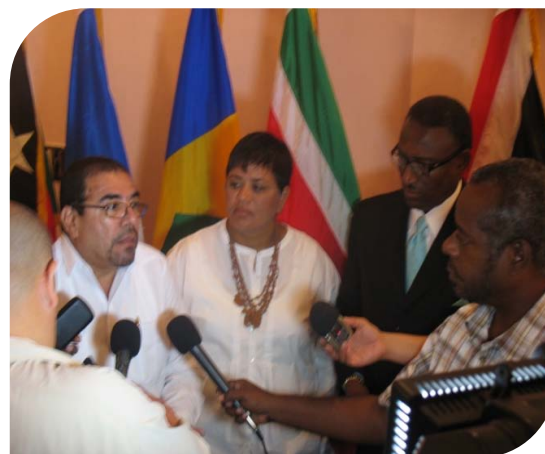
October 22 - 23, 2012 - CRFM / ACP Fish II Regional Validation Workshop: Review of the Report of the Consultancy to Update the CRFM Study on MCS in the CARIFORUM Region; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

October 18, 2012 - Third Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM; Antigua and Barbuda

September 10 - October 12, 2012 - CRFM / AusAID, University of Wollongong (ANCORS) - Fisheries Law and Management Training; Australia

September 2012 - March 2013 - CRFM / UNU-FTP Six-Months Full Study Fellowship (United Nations University); Iceland

September 3 - 4, 2012 - CRFM OSPESCA High Level Ministerial Meeting; Belize



July 25 - 27, 2012 - JICA-CRFM Workshop: Promoting the Development of Good Practices for Fisheries Management and Development; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

July 18, 2012 - JICA Project Formulation Mission; Belize

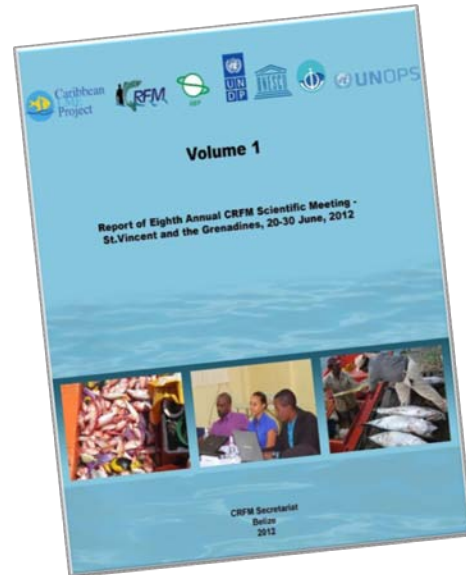
June 15, 2012 - Sixth Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council; The Bahamas

PUBLICATIONS LIST

1. Report of the Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 20 - 30 June 2012. *CRFM Fishery Report - 2012, Volume 1*
ISBN#: 978-976-8165-62-6
2. Report of the Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 20 - 30 June 2012. *CRFM Fishery Report - 2012, Volume 1, Supplement 1*
ISBN#: 978-976-8165-60-2
3. Report of the Eighth Annual Scientific Meeting, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 20 - 30 June 2012. *CRFM Fishery Report - 2012, Volume 2*
ISBN #: 978-976-8165-61-9
4. CRFM Annual Work Plan and Budget: 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013
5. Report and Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, 15 June 2012, Nassau, The Bahamas. *CRFM Management Report, PY 2011 / 12. Volume 2*
ISSN#: 1995-4808
6. Report and Proceedings of the Third Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, 18 October 2012, Antigua and Barbuda. *CRFM Management Report – PY 2012 / 13. Volume 2 – Supplement 1*
ISSN#: 1995-4808
7. Report of the First Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish, 18 October 2012, St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda. *CRFM Management Report, PY 2012 / 13. Volume 2 – Supplement 2*
ISSN#: 1995-4808
8. Report of the Second Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish, 22 February 2013, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. *CRFM Management Report, PY 2012 / 13. Volume 2 – Supplement 3*
ISSN#: 1995-4808

Newsletter:

1. The Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism: Management Issue (March 2013)

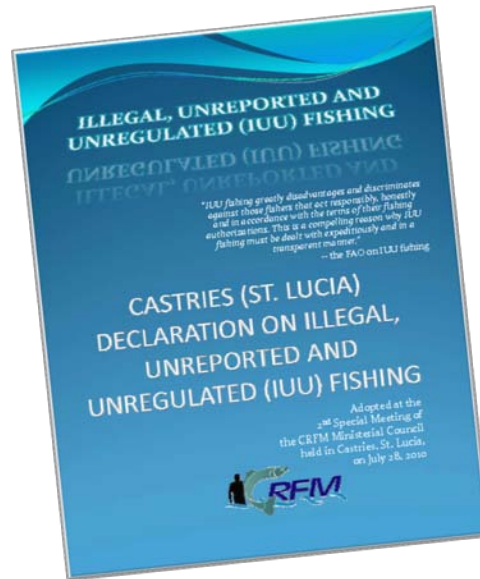


IUU Booklet:

1. The Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (September 2012) ISBN# 978-976-13689-3-8

News releases:

1. Region's Fisheries Sector to Gain Cost Savings from Information and Knowledge Sharing Technology (27 March 2013)
2. Region's Fisheries Sector to Gain Cost Savings from Information and Knowledge Sharing Technology (26 March 2013)
3. 2013 Fisherman's Day Committee School Competitions (25 March 2013)
4. Information and Knowledge Sharing Workshop to Boost Regional Fisheries Collaboration (23 March 2013)
5. SVG 2013 Fisherman's Day Activities (22 March 2013)
6. S & G International Meeting, Guyana (22 March 2013)
7. Information and Knowledge Sharing Workshop to Boost Regional Fisheries Collaboration (21 March 2013)
8. Fisheries Facts 2012 (16 March 2013)
9. Opening Ceremony of CTA / CRFM / CNFO Consultation to formulate Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements (16 March 2013)
10. Advanced Leadership Training Workshop for Heads of Fisheries Department/Divisions in CARICOM States (15 March 2013)
11. Training in web page design, CRFM Belize (14 March 2013)
12. CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish to meet in Port of Spain, Trinidad (9 March 2013)
13. CTA / CRFM / CNFO Consultation to formulate Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements for the Caribbean (8 March 2013)
14. CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish calls stakeholders to action (25 February 2013)





15. CTA / CRFM / CNFO Consultation to formulate Small-scale Fisheries Governance Arrangements for the Caribbean (24 February 2013)
16. CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish to meet in Port of Spain, Trinidad (21 February 2013)
17. CRFM “stepping up” with new Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy for 2013 (6 February 2013)
18. A New Regional Fisheries Strategy: Information and Knowledge Sharing are Key to Sustainable Fisheries Management (25 January 2013)
19. Focused regional action recommended for small-scale fisheries, and climate change and disaster risk management (14 December 2012)
20. Over 100 to gather for multi-agency fisheries meetings in Jamaica (28 November 2012)
21. Caribbean fishers to benefit from €117,956 project (6 November 2012)
22. USA considers listing Queen Conch as threatened or endangered: “Caribbean Ministers discuss conch petition, management of flyingfish, and common fisheries policy for CARICOM during Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2012 in Antigua and Barbuda” (12 October 2012)
23. CRFM and ANCORS, Australia sign 5-year MoU (12 October 2012)
24. Caribbean fellows off for prestigious ANCORS training (6 September 2013)
25. New Regional Fisheries Collaboration between CRFM-OSPESCA Solidified (2 September 2012)
26. Historic, High-level CRFM / OSPESCA Meeting: “Solidifying Collaborative Action in Fisheries and Aquaculture across 25 Caribbean / Central American States” (28 August 2012)
27. Sixth (6th) Meeting of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Ministerial Council (13 June 2012)



ACRONYMS

ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific States
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ALA	Australian Leadership Awards
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARIFICO	Caribbean Fisheries Co-management Project
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCCFP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (project)
CNFO-CU	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations Coordinating Unit
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CODOPESCA	Dominican Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture*
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EAA	Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture
EBM	Ecosystem-based Management
ERAEF	Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Devices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (for food safety)
ICCAT	International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFERMER	French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Caribbean
IOI	International Ocean Institute
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency

MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFO	National Fisherfolk Organisation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPESCA	Organisation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Central America*
PAG	Project Advisory Group
RFU	Regional Facilitation Unit
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SICA	Central American Integration System*
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
SSF	Small-scale Fisheries
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UF	University of Florida
UNU-FTP	United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme
UWI	University of the West Indies
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

* **Spanish acronym**



STAFF LIST

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- 3) Mr. Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development
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New Websites:

<http://www.crfm.net>

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