



Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - **Management Issue, April 2017**

Linking Fisheries to Tourism-related Markets

Strengthening the linkages between fisheries and tourism can catalyse and add value to the socio-economic benefits each sector contributes to sustainable development in the countries. This strengthening, is consistent with the development objectives enunciated in regional policy instruments such as the: CARICOM Strategic Plan (2014 – 2019); Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; Second CRFM Strategic Plan (2013 – 2021); CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy; Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework.

Increased utilization of locally produced fish and fishery products by the tourism sector would also contribute to the saving of foreign currency, improvement in balance of payment deficit, and reduce the region's vulnerability to rising food prices and other forms of external economic shocks.

The challenges of increasing inter-sectoral linkages are numerous and include the mismatch between supply and demand and the lack of intermediary support structures that enable suppliers (fishers and sales agents) and buyers from the tourism sector to come together to better understand each other needs, and work together to satisfy the requirements of the market. A further consideration for demand for local fish and aquaculture products is the seasonality of visitor arrivals, which implies that demand will vary over the year. If these challenges can be addressed in ways that meet commercial needs and customer satisfaction, then these industries can significantly increase their contribution to local economic development.

The ability of local fish and seafood systems to meet these requirements will be dependent both on supply factors (natural resource base, fish systems in place, processing and marketing capacity) and the kind of tourism development (mass tourism, high-end niche, eco-tourism, branded product, certification etc). Additionally, the exposure of tourists to specific local products could also help to create a unique local experience as well as improve

export market penetration when such visitors help build domestic demand upon their return home. Additionally, the opportunities for strengthening linkages are not confined to improving the consumption of locally produced fish and seafood in the catering sector. There are also a variety of non-consumptive ways in which the fish and other living marine resources and biodiversity in the marine environment may be utilized to enhance linkages between the sectors to create new economic opportunities.



Increased use of "fish art" by the tourism sector can help improve market penetration

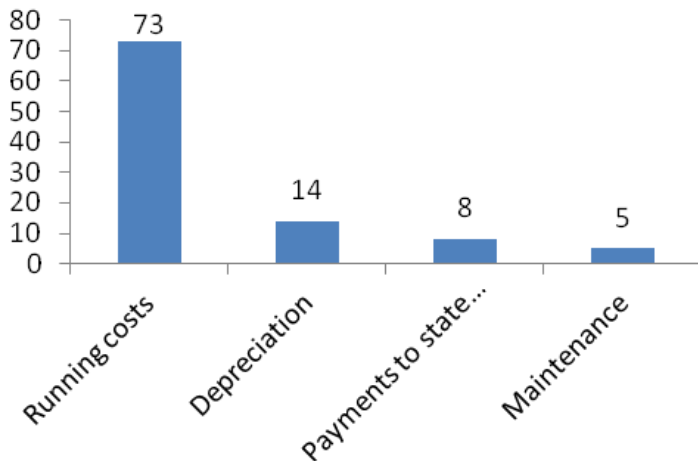
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CRFM winds down cost factor study

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism recently completed a study to identify the impacts of various cost factors such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs in the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of fishing operations. This study, funded by FAO, proposes appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues, and also to reduce economic risks to the sector.

Overall, regional results from fishers' questionnaires



Average % contribution to total costs

suggest that fishing operations are profitable, although there are differences between countries in terms of running cost, mandatory payments (to the State, market fees, insurance policies and payments of loans), level of catches and prices of landed products. Despite these factors, maybe the main reason that explains profitability is the satisfactory level of production, as stated by most of the respondents of surveys and interviews.

A total of 106 fishers' questionnaires and 29 suppliers'/processors' interviews had been applied to collect quantitative and qualitative information useful to understand the behaviour of the cost structure in fishing operations and to obtain a general overview of the fisheries value chain at national and regional level. A major challenge of the study was the fact that due to limitations in funding, it had to be focused primarily on fishers' perspectives, rather than empirical data, which are scarce.

At the regional level the study recommended, among other things:

Research aimed at designing or strengthening *management measures* for fisheries of high commercial value. Prioritize: spiny lobster, dolphinfish, marlin, wahoo, yellowfin tuna and snapper in Eastern Caribbean.

Regional negotiation of prices and supply of equipment and materials: to improve supply at fair prices in each country. Should also include suppliers already established in the region.

A long-term training project/programme utilizing specialized (regional) institutions, should be developed and implemented to provide *integrated training of actors all along the value chain*

Joint efforts, carried out with health and social security authorities, cooperatives and companies, to organize *information campaigns about available social security services and benefits of social security system for pension and secondary health care.*

Analysis of Sargassum economic benefits to promote cleaning campaigns with fisherfolk participation. Likewise, to analyze its use as potential input in organic agriculture and diesel production.

The study covered CRFM Member States and FAO-GEF/REBYC-II LAC project participant countries. Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname were the sites of in-country visits where fisher surveys were administered and ancillary "players" interviewed; while, Guyana, Grenada, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago were targeted to "remotely" administer the fishers' survey.

CRFM Member Countries, as far back as 2008, had identified the need to undertake a study about the impacts of rising costs factors, such as capital, labor, maintenance and energy, on fishing operations in the CRFM Member States. This, given the importance of guarding against future economic shocks such as spikes in fuel prices and other inputs; reducing economic risks; modernising with a view to improving the efficiency of the fishing fleets; reducing barriers to accessing new markets; and, addressing price fluctuations for commercially important species by promoting and developing value-added products.



Consultant, Claudia Beltrán administering survey to a fisher in Belize

Planning to fight IUU fishing

The 1st meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, (RWG-IUU), which was held in Barbados on 1 and 2 March 2017, agreed upon elements of a Regional Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU).

IUU fishing is as much a national matter as a regional matter. If the countries in the region are trying to develop and expand their fisheries it is important to develop the capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance in region. It is felt that collaborating in an RPOA-IUU would enable the countries to better implement the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and consolidate the work being done by individual countries. The participants espoused the view that the RPOA should address IUU fishing in a practical way and ensure that the measures will be implementable at national and regional level -it should not become a wish list. It would allow the exchange of data and information, which was foreseen already under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), as well as facilitating capacity development in the region to combat IUU fishing and enable mobilization of resources in this respect.

The meeting also agreed on its work plan for the period 2017-2018 of the RWG-IUU for endorsement by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). The meeting also discussed and agreed in principle on the content of a proposed study into an appropriate suite of cost effective, short-term measures to combat IUU fishing for immediate implementation.



Participants at 1st meeting of RWG-IUU



CRFM Executive Director addressing RWG-IUU

The 52 participating experts, representing 21 WECAFC members, were presented with and discussed many aspects of IUU fishing. The workshop was co-hosted by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados.

The Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU) is a joint working group of WECAFC, CRFM, and the Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America (OSPESCA). The RWG-IUU's primary aim is to improve coordination and cooperation between national organisations/institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. CRFM is currently convener of the RWG-IUU.

CRFM developing Gender Mainstreaming Policy

Staff at the CRFM Secretariat are currently working towards the development of a gender mainstreaming policy for the fisheries sector.

Consistent with their international obligations, CRFM Member States seek to infuse gender equality commitments into their policy frameworks and instruments. A formal CRFM Policy on Gender Equality in the Fisheries Sector will allow for gender analysis and planning to be integrated coherently at all levels of sectoral planning and programming to realise the goals of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Treaty establishing the CRFM.

The Policy will empower the CRFM to build on its existing gender positive characteristics, such as gender equitable employment in national fisheries agencies; and, to rationalise power relations, in all areas of fisheries and aquaculture (sub-) sectoral activity.

CRFM to improve governance of flyingfish fishery



CRFM is striving for effective implementation of the Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, through a coordinated and integrated approach to governance and management among a range of levels - local, sectoral, national and sub-regional. These efforts are to be supported by the CLME+ project via a sub-project entitled: EAF (Ecosystem approach to Fisheries) for the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish.

This Sub-Project focuses on strengthening the governance framework at the sub-regional and national levels through support, which will help build additional necessary capacity among relevant regional entities for effective implementation of the EAF. The CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish is expected to take an active role in reviewing and evaluating new information generated

under the project and during implementation of the flyingfish management plan, and the views and suggestions of the range of stakeholders at varying levels in the context of the EAF, so as to propose updated management recommendations for approval by the CRFM Ministerial Council. Further, recognizing that long-term sustainability of the flyingfish resources will be more effective with the cooperation of the French Overseas Departments that exploit the same stock, engagement of these Departments at the political level is to be addressed. This is expected to facilitate discussion and agreement on cooperative arrangements for management of the flyingfish resources, to inform elements of a related Memorandum of Understanding.

The overall regional fisheries governance arrangement to be established under the CLME⁺ will facilitate active cooperation for the sustainable use, conservation and management of all shared living marine resources through an expected regional commitment.

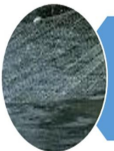
This intervention will also seek to engage the range of stakeholders in meaningful dialogue, exchange of data and information and active engagement in the management process. In this context, recognizing the impacts of lack of availability, or access to required data sets for decision-making and monitoring and evaluation processes, the sub-project is also expected to deliver a sub-regional data policy, a key component needed to give firmly grounded support to the EAF approach for the flyingfish fishery policy cycle. It is envisaged that this formal arrangement will impose an obligation on the part of Member States to share data and information to improve the knowledge base for management decision-making in the EAF context.

FAO Regional Fisheries Officer now in Belize

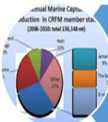
Raymon VanAnrooy, FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Officer and Secretary to WECAFC took up posting in Belize City, Belize from 7th March 2017. VanAnrooy, the main fisheries liaison between FAO and CRFM, had previously been stationed at the FAO Sub-regional Office in Barbados.



Encouraging the non-retrieval of Fisheries Aggregation Devices (FADs). Flyingfish eggs are non-buoyant and highly adhesive, they can be found adhere, among other things, to FADs or creelers (as they are known in Barbados) located within flying fish areas; this can assist with increasing the population of flying fish. Fisherfolks are therefore, encouraged not to retrieve their FADs when eggs are attached.



Mesh size regulations for gill nets. The usual size of the nets are 1 ½"; this is a traditional/voluntary compliance by the fisherfolks in the islands.



Catch and effort data collection system in place in the islands which permits the authorities to monitor the state of this resource in order to make informed decisions.

Some fishing and management best practices already in place in the CRFM sub-region

Optimising Lobster Management

A Regional Workshop on the Standard options for Monitoring Management Measures for the sustainable use of lobster was held in San Jose, Costa Rica over the period 23 – 24 February 2017. The main focus for the discussions was OSPESCA's Regulation OSP-02-09, with its Central American scope, and the CRFM's St. Georges Declaration on the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster.

The meeting recommended, among other things, that: a Caribbean lobster working group should be defined and formalized under the *Ecolangosta+* sub-project with its respective terms of reference; progress should be made in generating responses to the recommendations and approaches made within the framework of this Workshop; a comprehensive review of OSP-02-09 and the St. Georges Declaration should be carried out to update and adapt a standardization that entails the implementation of future fisheries management actions; and, monitoring of the implementation of the lobster season closure in 2017 should be promoted by seeking the harmonization of data collection reports and formats.

The very successful workshop facilitated a review of current monitoring modalities of management measures and proposed modalities or options for the harmonization of both the definition, implementation and follow-up, to improve these measures jointly and augur better results. The meeting was attended by 46 participants from 10 countries and four regional agencies, who also contributed to fine-tuning the *Ecolangosta+* sub-project's action plan.

Wealth from Waste?

The CRFM has been encouraging Member States to consider making saleable products from waste generated by fish production and processing. Fish leather, beauty products and health supplements could help increase the fisheries

sector's contribution to economic growth. The CRFM Executive Director, Mr. Milton Haughton,

has espoused the view that utilisation of fisheries resources is not only about increasing catches and improving production figures: it is about maximising the value of what we are now capturing and realising the potential benefits that can be accrued from value addition. Already Dominica and Suriname are taking steps to generate added value from their fisheries through the processing of waste



CARICOM Seafood & World Markets

CARICOM countries now have in hand some up-to-date and carefully formulated model tools and guidelines to help them to achieve the long-desired goal of global competitiveness for the region's fish and aquaculture products.



Caribbean processors preparing quality seafood for export

During the EU-sponsored Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Programme in 2013-17, the CRFM provided CARICOM's fisheries and aquaculture industries with updated and comprehensive model SPS legislation instruments, as well as national and regional governance guidelines to support unhindered export of seafood products to international markets such as those of the EU. The same initiative raised the technical skills of over 50 individual private and public sector professionals working in the industry in areas covering product quality control, product processing research, quality management from ocean/farm to plate, laboratory product testing, product inspection and control. As the SPS Programme ended in March 2017, prioritizing the next steps for uptake and use of the available instruments, guidelines and skills, together with investing in the future of our SPS systems, now rests on the shoulders of CARICOM governments.

In October 2016, CARICOM's Council (The Council for Trade and Economic Development - COTED) dealing with agriculture development matters had noted the development of the first model instruments of fisheries and aquaculture product quality legislation. Wider CARICOM-level adoption of the model instruments is expected to take some time, and so COTED, in its wisdom and during the October 2016 meeting, requested countries to begin work on aligning national legal instruments with the available CRFM/CARICOM model fisheries and aquaculture SPS legislation instruments. If countries make their move to comply with the CARICOM/ COTED request, which is the essential next step, this will open all market possibilities for industry stakeholders, not only at the EU and international levels, but also within the region.

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Several government ministries and their departments play various roles in food product quality management from the point of ocean harvest or farm production to the point of the consumer's plate. Consequently, the SPS governance guidelines, which were formulated in cooperation with other SPS project partners (The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARICOM), promotes a goal-oriented approach for guiding adoption of suitable governance mechanisms. What this means is that both CARICOM and its member countries are being encouraged to focus first on the aims and functions of the desired SPS system, covering needs for: improved food chain policy formulation, enhanced service delivery arrangements, and cost-efficiency and effectiveness of tasks. Also being encouraged is the use of task forces in the early stages to explore the best options for achieving good networking governance along the product value chain, and the region already had some best practice examples.

Sustainable billfish?



CRFM Deputy Executive Director, Susan Singh-Renton, presenting on the FAD Management Plan

A draft Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan has been reviewed, with its objectives and anticipated outputs agreed upon. This occurred when 35 experts from 26 organizations spanning 17 countries met in Barbados in April 2017 for the 3rd Regional Workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation.

The three-day conference focused upon resolving declining trends in billfish (blue and white marlin, sailfish and spearfishes) stocks across the Western Central Atlantic, and sought to address ongoing challenges to sustainably manage billfish harvests in the region. Participants

recognized the value of billfish species to the marine ecosystem, as well as their socio-economic importance to both commercial and recreational fisheries sectors of nations in the Caribbean Sea and broader Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) area.

The details of the plan will be further elaborated by the Working Group in the coming months. The plan will also undergo a review and endorsement process through the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries, a joint collaboration between WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA. The Interim Coordination Mechanism was established in 2016 to synergize the partnership of these three Regional Fishery Bodies in the ongoing process towards establishment of a Regional Fishery Management Organization in the WECAFC area.

The CRFM Sub-Regional Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management Plan was also presented with a view to improving fishery management within the context of FADs expanding regional use, and the associated potential for increased harvests of several offshore pelagic species including billfishes. Opportunities to increase the effectiveness of international management recommendations for Atlantic billfish within the Caribbean were also investigated, while mechanisms to promote their effective implementation in the region were considered.

The workshop was supported by the Caribbean Billfish Project, which is a component of the GEF-funded, World Bank implemented, project: Ocean Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation Models for Innovation and Reform Project of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program, and is being executed by the Secretariat of WECAFC at the Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Forum endorses Climate Change Report Card

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum, at its 15th meeting held in Jamaica in March 2017 recommended that the Ministerial Council approve the CME-funded Caribbean Marine Climate Change Report Card 2017. The Forum called upon CRFM Member States, as well as regional organisations and agencies, to use it in national and regional decision-making geared towards improving resilience of living marine resources and ecosystems in light of climate change and related threats such as ocean acidification. The Forum also recommended that the Ministerial Council request that CEFAS and the other CME partners work closely with the CRFM Secretariat, other relevant regional organisations and national authorities to coordinate the development of the project proposals to be put forward, as part of the CME programme in years 2-5, to ensure consistency and coherency with regional and national policies and priorities.

MEETINGS IN 2017

NO.	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1	4 April	Technical Consultation on the Incorporation of Small-scale Marine Fisheries into the Scope and Mandate of the Commission of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean	San Jose, Costa Rica
2	4 - 6 April	3rd Regional workshop on Caribbean Billfish Fisheries Management and Conservation, under the Caribbean Billfish Project (GCP/SLC/001/WBK)	Barbados
3	11 - 13 April	Meeting of the WECAFC/OSPESCA Working Group on Sharks under project GCP/SLC/013/USA Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Wider Caribbean Region	Barbados
4	19 April	Workshop on climate change induced loss and damages in artisanal fisheries (GIZ)	St Lucia
5	24 - 25 April	IOCARIBE 35th Anniversary Marine Science Conference	Cartagena, Colombia
6	3 May	Fifth Meeting of the CARICOM Committee of Ambassadors (CCA)	Guyana
7	4 May	Joint Meeting of the Secretary-General, CARICOM, Heads of Community Institutions and the CCA	Guyana
8	8 May	Signing of the Statute of the Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal (CCAT)	Barbados
9	10-11 May	Second Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) Workshop,	Barbados
10	19 May	11th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council	Guyana
11	23 - 25 May	Regional workshop on the establishment of a Regional Fishing Vessel Register under project GCP/SLC/012/EC Workshop on IUU fishing of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	Barbados
12	29 May - 2 June	1st Meeting of the Parties to the PSA Agreement	Oslo, Norway
13	5 - 9 June 2	High-level UN Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden, will coincide with the World Oceans Day, and seeks to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)	New York
14	21 - 22 June	Meeting with CARIFICO in Belize	Belize City, Belize
15		9th session of the COFI Subcommittee on Aquaculture / SIDS Side Event on Aquaculture	Iran
16	5 - 7 July	MARE Conference 2017 People & the Sea IX: Dealing with Maritime Mobilities	Amsterdam
17	September	5th ACP Fisheries Ministers Meeting	The Bahamas
18	19-21 September	2nd Meeting of RWG-IUU	Barbados
19	October	Caribbean Week of Agriculture	
20	17-19 October	1st Meeting of RWG—Sharks	Barbados
21	November 2	70th GCFI Meeting	Merida, Mexico
22	30 November - 1 December	CARIFICO Final Dissemination Workshop	St. Lucia

Editor's Note

In this edition of the management issue of the newsletter we seek to provide information on management related activities of the CRFM Secretariat and Member States up to April 2017. We have included contributions that take the form of newspaper articles rather than academic-style papers. We want to continue to make the management issue of the newsletter something that contains NEWS about what is happening in fisheries management in the region; short interesting stories written in a way that we hope you, the reader, will find appealing and easy to read. We are searching for a product persons might pick up from a coffee table in an office (fisheries or one of our partners) and be so captivated by the articles, which they have managed to read in the time that they were waiting, that they would either take that copy with them or ask for a copy.

Please tell us: have we succeeded?

This Newsletter is published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat

The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to "Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region". The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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