

FisherFolk Net

First Meeting for CNFO at World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Coordinating Meeting



Herman Kumara (Sri Lanka), Nadine Nembhard (CNFO), Mohammad AliShah (Pakistan), Manickam Illango (India), Naseegh Jaffer (South Africa)

Leaders of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) gathered in Pondicherry, India this July to discuss the main challenges facing fisherfolk across the world and how to confront these challenges. The leaders traveled from the Caribbean, Honduras, Canada, Mauritania, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. A key strategic decision made was to host the coming 7th General Assembly of the movement in Delhi, India in 2017.

The WFFP is a global fisheries movement representing 40 million people in 37 countries.

The goal of the meeting was to build the capacity of small-scale fishing communities in order to facilitate implementation of the International Guidelines on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, adopted by the Committee of Fisheries of the United Nations. According to WFFP, these guidelines will bring social justice and economic development to small-scale fishing communities across the world.

Full press statement at: <http://worldfishers.org>

The meeting made a hit in every prominent media house in Pondicherry, India. A big success was the release of two Pakistan fishers, Hussain Walri and Haneef Murgher from an Indian jail after 22 years. A Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) statement had said five fishermen were thought to have gone missing in 1993. "They came to know that these fishermen had been languishing in an Indian jail, facing criminal charges. Then they were awarded life imprisonment with fine of Rs 100,000 each. Three fishermen out of five were released about three years back. At the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) meeting in India, PFF Chair and also Co-Chair of WFFP Muhammad Ali Shah was informed that they have completed their sentences but since they do not have any money to pay the fine, they were in jail." The PFF took the issue to the WFFP platform and forced the Indian government, through the media and human rights defenders, to release these fishermen.



Shrimp & Groundfish

Mr. Mark Lall of the CNFO attended the shrimp and groundfish meeting in Barbados, September 7-8th. The workshop served as a meeting of the joint Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER). The workshop was supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under its programme for Managing Regional Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems for Biodiversity Conservation.

The 35 experts discussed the status of the shrimp and groundfish stocks, investment options for fisheries in the sub-region - and opportunities to harmonize fisheries management measures to increase financial and

environmental sustainability of the fisheries sector.

Country representatives were asked to recommend four priority areas in need of support to improve and manage the fisheries.

On behalf of the CNFO, Mark Lall requested that more attention for small scale fishers who play a vital role. Data is a critical area which needs to be addressed for the small scale fisheries so that a good assessment can be made, taking into consideration an ecosystem-based approach to the fisheries.

The CRFM, IFREMER, IDB and WECAFC will continue to work together to provide technical advice in support of better fisheries management in the sub-region.

(Picture of participants above)

Research: Leadership in Small-scale Fisheries

Abi Sutton, a PhD Research Student at University of York, in the UK studies a holistic approach to fisheries leadership. Community based approaches are thought to increase ownership and empowerment at the local level, encourage the integration of local knowledge into decision making, reduce conflict and increase compliance with policies.

Factors at the local level such as community structures and relationships, history, culture, resource type and individual characteristics can all influence the success of leadership. Sutton conducted interviews with over 50 people worldwide. Key findings will be submitted for publication December 2015.

FISHERFOLKS MEET TO BOOST LEADERSHIP

By: Lucienne Cross

With Caribbean nations increasingly committed to protecting their nearshore and coastal areas, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) and The Nature Conservancy facilitated a leadership training meeting to ensure that fishers play a central role in environmental management planning.

The workshop occurred on September 11th 2015 at the Fisheries Complex in Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia. Members of all ages from all nine of the fisherfolk organizations in Saint Lucia met to develop both leadership capacity

and strategies to improve representation in meetings and government decision making.

The meeting was funded as part of the Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN), sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

Members of ECMMAN's CNFO sub-committee attended the meeting, and will share results with their respective countries. Participating countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Through the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the region has an ambitious goal to protect 20% of nearshore and coastal areas by 2020. These initiatives seek fishers' advice in order to manage marine resources in

ways the community can respect and support.

"Fishers need to be able to express their interests and concerns when concerning marine managed areas," said Coordinator of the CNFO, Mitchell Lay. "Marine managed areas are one of the tools that can help sustainability, but there should be consideration to sustainable use of resources within them."

Attendees raised a number of issues including business and financial management and membership and succession planning. "Good leaders develop other leaders," said one of the participating fishers in a discussion on leadership styles.

With the CNFO taking the lead to address many of the primary concerns of the cooperatives, their emphasis on leadership opportunities encourages fishers to have a voice in critical decisions that impact their livelihoods.

2015 Fisher Exchange

The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) organized a learning exchange in September, 2015. Fishers from the Eastern Caribbean shared their experiences and engaged in discussions on issues related to marine managed areas and sustainable fishing practices. This exchange took place in St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Tobago Cays Marine Park, and involved fishers from the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda.



L-R Mitchell Lay (Antigua & Barbuda), Winsbert Harry (St. Vincent & Grenadines), Horace Walters (Saint Lucia), Winston Hobson (St. Kitts & Nevis), Earl George (Dominica), Royan Isaac (Grenada)

Mentors Training

Over 21 mentors and resource persons from 16 Caribbean countries participated in the Final Regional Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisherfolk Mentors, held in Anguilla in July. The workshop was delivered by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES), the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

This workshop complemented the First Regional Training of Trainers Workshop, Saint Lucia, November 2013, in which a group of regional fisherfolk mentors was established to provide support to Caribbean fisherfolk organisations to enable them to effectively participate in fisheries governance and management. The key objectives of the workshop were to strengthen the mentors' capabilities in mentoring and facilitation and project management. It was also aimed at familiarising them with the positions of fisherfolk on key fisheries and related policies for small scale fisheries development in the Caribbean.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Othlyn Vanterpool, Advisor on Fisheries and Agriculture, commended the Anguillan fisherfolk on forming the Anguilla Fisherfolk Association (AFFA). He noted that much would be expected of the mentors. (CANARI Press Release)



Participants of Mentors Workshop in Anguilla July 6-9, 2015

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UPCOMING NOTABLE DAYS & EVENTS

- CNFO-EC online Meeting December 7, 2015
- WFFP Ocean Grapping Workshop at COP21 December 8, 2015
- CNFO Formalisation Meeting online January 2016
- 1st Steering Committee Meeting CLME, Columbia Jan 26-28, 2016
- Expert Consultation for marketing fishing gears, Rome, April 4-7, 2016
- 14th Meeting Of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, Guyana, April 7-8, 2016

Food Safety



On August 24-25, 2015, fishing industry government officials from across the Caribbean wrapped up two days of preliminary talks to introduce a new regime for safe seafood for local and international consumption.

The meeting is part of a European Union-funded project to help CARIFORUM countries introduce laws, regulations and a governance system to guarantee safe seafood for export to EU markets and beyond.

The project, is implemented by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) jointly with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).