

# FisherFolk Net

## New Blue Economy Looking Really Red for Small Scale Fisherfolks

sessions that included the SSF sector actors in leading roles. Side events did feature CSOs and SSF actors.

The Civil Society Forum featured large NGOs and was not led by SSF representative organisations.

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*The conference appears to promote the marginalisation of the largest number of humans who are directly dependent on the blue space.*  
- Mitchell Lay

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*Pictured: Mr. Mitchell Lay Program Coordinator, CNFO at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, Nairobi, Kenya Nov 2018*

Urgent action is needed from fishers to ensure that SSF is not negatively impacted by Blue Economy, and that our space is protected from ocean grabbing, unnecessary MPAs, ecosystem degrading aquaculture, and unsustainable mining, oil and gas.

SSF actors and their partners must energise to defend livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and to negate the threat of extinction.



- CNFO Editorial Staff

Current global moves to a blue economy spurred by the SDG's resulted in the convening of a global conference "The Sustainable Blue Economy" in Nairobi, Kenya from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The conference is proposed to contribute towards preparations for the UN Ocean's Conference 2020.

Over 18,000 participants from around the world including Government leaders from various countries, including a significant number of political leaders including those from the Caribbean, various stakeholders from national and local governments, private

sector, civil society, NGOs, regional and sub-regional groups as well as domestic and international financial institutions. *Participating small-scale fishers from the Caribbean region have expressed serious concerns regarding the direction and focus of the conference.*

Conference agenda clearly pointed to the focus areas of the organisers, which side-lined the major actors in the blue economy space, the small-scale fisheries actors.

The message received by small scale fishers present at the conference is that Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) is not a part of this Blue Agenda initiative.

There were no main or thematic

# SOLVING PIRACY IN SURINAME with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

By Mark Lall

In the month of May 2018 fisherfolks have been victims of brutal piracy attacks which cost the lives of several fisherfolks at sea.

Due to this recent development fisherfolk have been given the privilege to advocate through the PFO Visserscollectief on behalf of the Suriname National Fisherfolk Organisation (SNFO), with the government to implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) that meets the licence requirements and fits the need and budget of the fisherfolk. The VMS was tested on boats of the fishers for durability, after which a report was made with advice to the government.



The VMS will also contribute to the fight against IUU and make exports flow smoother in accordance with EU regulations and requirements. The coast guard and other police institution will have a better overview of the coast and will be able to take actions faster.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Coastguard, Police, and Marine will have a land-based control, and monitoring room with access to all VMS information.

In accordance with the fish licence requirements, a fisher will need to have a VMS on his vessel before he sets out to fish in 2019. The fishers are aware of the threats out on the sea and will work towards a better, and more safe working environment.

## BILLFISH MANAGEMENT MEETING IN GRENADA By Luis Acosta

The 6<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation (C.B.M.C.) meeting was held at the Radisson, St. George's Grenada, 3-7 October 2018.

### Concerning the meeting:

Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), other companies and regulatory bodies such as Wilderness Markets, ICCAT were presenting a business case for Grenada to:

1. Export more Grade 1 tuna instead of Grade 2. (It is said that 22% of Grenada's exports are Grade 1's and 78% is a mixture of Grade 2's and 3's).
2. Get better prices from the exporters and end-buyers.

3. Transparency and traceability through VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) and data systems/dataflow in the fish markets. (preferred was GPS datalogger system. Not VMS because fishers don't want to disclose fishing spots.)

4. Reduce Billfish catches through setting deeper lines and circular hooks. The Billfish species are mainly surface pelagics and deeper lines would increase Big Eye tuna catches and swordfish. Circular are designed to hook at the corner of the mouth in order to preserve the life of the fish on the line preventing gut hooking.

5. Fisheries Support -Talking to the fisherfolks on how much money they are losing due to insufficient ice, improper fish handling etc and show them how much they can earn hopefully incentivizing them to take actions in the right direction.

The first thing they want to do is to install data systems in 3 different areas on the island which helps with, weight, tagging, barcode printing etc. In this way the grading system is quickened thus increasing productivity and efficiency.



**TURKS & CAICOS  
ISLANDS  
LOOKING AT  
SHARKS  
By Oscar Talbot**



The Fisheries Department & Department of Science, of the TCI invited the Turks & Caicos National Fishing Co/op TCNFC to meet with Miss Shelley Cant Woodside, Director of Science & Policy, Bahamas National Trust. Purpose of meeting was to get a highlight on Sharks and how they help to preserve the reefs and why there is a ban for shark fishing in the entire Bahamas.

**FISHERFOLKS JOIN  
THE CNFO  
WHATSAPP  
NEWSGROUP?**

Send a whatsapp message to +501-624-5364 and make the request. Currently 76 people mainly fishers from CNFO member countries share real time news updates, weather conditions and more.



**Anguilla - Global  
Warming  
By Aristo Richardson**

Caribbean Natural resources Institute (CANARI) working with fisherfolk and other coastal and marine resource users, to capture local stories on climate change through participatory videos and to build their capacity to communicate effectively. On the field trip we were able to show areas where climate change has impacted us in Anguilla. We were able to take pictures of landslides and erosions.



*Participants of workshop*

**Belize Fishermen Cooperative  
Association (BFCA)  
SAYS NO TO THE  
BAN OF GILLNET  
FISHING**

*Submitted by Sydney Fuller printed in Amandala Newspaper.*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Dec. 6, 2018– The issue of whether or not to ban gillnets has been one that has been hotly debated, especially recently. Oceana, as well as the Belize Federation of Fishers (BFF), have been advocates for the banning of the nets in the name of sustainability. The Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association (BFCA) says “no” to banning, however, and they

are the premier representatives of the country’s fishermen...

The BFCA does not believe that gillnets are causing any harm. Sidney Fuller, the executive director of BFCA, said in an interview with News5, that they are the “legal body” that represents the fishers and that they work in collaboration with the Fisheries Department. He said that, on behalf of BFCA, they believe that, after consulting with the fishermen of Belize, the banning of gillnets would be “unfair” to the fishermen and to the Fisheries Department.

Fuller said that the regulations they have in place are sufficient, and they allow the users of gillnets to fish in a sustainable manner. According to him, “people benefit from it because when it targets species like mackerel and others, which is mainly what they use gillnets for, for a poor family, a mackerel... can be cut in several slices.”

The chairman of BFCA, Daniel Dawson, shared the same sentiments when he said that the small gillnets are not doing nearly as much harm as the “power boats,” since those are the ones killing the big animals such as the manatees. “They are the ones that are very destructive,” he said. “These small nets on the coast of Belize are not harmful to that extent,” he remarked.



*L-R Daniel Dawson and Sydney Fuller*

# PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## STEARDFISH:

*The Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish)* project was launched in September 2018, with the convening of the Inception Workshop, in Barbados, and finalization of the project work plan. In 2019, activities aimed at developing organizational capacity for fisheries governance, enhancing ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability and securing sustainable livelihoods for food and nutrition security will begin in the seven project countries.

More information: <https://www.thegef.org/project/developing-organizational-capacity-ecosystem-stewardship-and-livelihoods-caribbean-small>

## CC4FISH:

*Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH)* project continues into 2019. This year the CNFO Program Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay is expected to visit each country and host national level meetings. Project countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

## PISCES:

*Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)*. FFOs, CBOs and NGOs will be supported via mentoring and coaching to apply for **small grants** (ranging from EUR5,000 to EUR10,000) and deliver projects provided.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- STEWARDFISH Virtual Project Committee, 24, 2019 (project country invited participation) Regional Steering Committee, January 2019 (project country invited participation)
- International Women's Day 2019. 8 March 2019. Theme: "Balance for Better"
- Caribbean Fisheries Forum, St. Kitts and Nevis 20-21 March 2019
- Understanding the Intersection between Gender and Climate Change, Commonwealth Foundation, Jamaica, February 2019
- Caribbean Fisherfolk Day 29 June
- UN Oceans Conference 2020
- International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

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