

FisherFolk Net

68th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Panama November 9-13, 2015



Pictures and Press Releases can be found on GCFI facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Gulf-and-Caribbean-Fisheries-Institute-GCFI

Financing fisherfolk — success stories was the theme for this year's Fishers Forum. The aim was to get success stories of how fisherfolk organisations have achieved financial sustainability while following their own agendas and plans to serve their members. Mr. Earl George CNFO representative of Dominica was one of the five presenters during the fishers Forum. Under the ECMMAN project eight CNFO-EC members were sponsored, an additional two sponsored by CANARI and two more by FAO.

A CNFO member reported that much information was acquired, moreover he was grateful for the opportunity to meet people who can assist with the development of his national fisheries association.

Gladding Memorial Awardees were Abel Ruiz, President of the Association of Fishermen of Hicaco in Panama and Edwin Font of Puerto Rico, for his concern in sustainability of the fishery resources.

At the end of the forum, more than 80 fishermen and researchers of the event participants visited the town of Puerto Caimito, located in the Province of West Panama, where the fishing leader Gabriel Caballero spoke to them about the working dynamics of this community, which involves activities of artisanal and industrial fisheries.

These activities were made possible with contributions and collaboration of FAO, MarViva ANDELAIPP and FUNAPESCA Foundation.

Experts Meet to Improve Regional Management of Caribbean Billfish Resources through Innovative Approaches

Panama City, Panama, November 11, 2015 – 54 experts from over 20 countries from the Caribbean and the USA met in Panama City on November 9, 2015 for a three day workshop on Caribbean Billfish Fisheries Management and Conservation.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the World Bank's Ocean Partnership Programme, Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the 68th Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI).

Mitchell Lay and Innis Henderson represented the CNFO at this meeting. During the workshop, attendees increased their awareness and understanding of the Caribbean Billfish Project: a 1.95 million USD project to develop business plans for two pilot projects to create sustainable management and conservation of billfish within the Western Central Atlantic Ocean. Pilot trials will be in Grenada and Dominica Republic.



Picture Credit: Desmond Brown online article Caribbean 360 News

By Desmond Brown

PARIS, France, Tuesday December 8, 2015, IPS

 Horace Walters has made the 6,903km journey from his native
 Lucia to Paris to deliver a simple, yet urgent message to the international community.

Walters, who has been involved in fishing for more than 40 years, said coastal communities, fishers, and fish farmers are already profoundly affected by climate change. He pointed to rising sea levels and acid oceans among the impacts of climate change.

"We need the international organizations and the (rich) countries to put their money where they have done a lot of damage. The damage is not done by us. We have not been able to have that kind of impact on the environment like the developed world has had so we want them to be mindful and we want them to understand that we need support," Walters told IPS.

"We need money to build new sea defences, new protection areas; it's going to take us money to buy new boats and bigger boats. We need help." In the CARICOM region, the local population is highly dependent on fish for economic and social development. This resource also contributes significantly to food security, poverty alleviation, employment, foreign exchange earnings, development and stability of rural and coastal communities, culture, recreation and tourism.

The subsector provides direct employment for more than 120,000 fishers and indirect employment opportunities for thousands of others – particularly women – in processing, marketing, boat-building, net-making and other support services.

"We want to ensure that there is recognition of the negative impacts of climate change on our fishing industry; that our people need to continue to sustainably use the resources and based on the science we have not been overexploiting out resources," Walters, who is the President St. Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society, said.

"We have to be mindful that our people want to eat good protein and fish is a source of the best protein." Horace Walters represented the CNFO! Readmore: http://www.car-ibbean360.com/news/making-the-case-for-caribbean-fishers-at-parisclimate-conference

No to Blue Carbon, Yes to Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice

Statement issued by World Forum of Fisher Peoples' (WFFP) & World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers in relation to the COP21

As the devastating consequences of climate change become ever more disastrous, it is likewise becoming ever clearer that the corporate-dominated UNFCCC-negotiations are not part of the solution but part of the problem. Instead of the necessary systemic changes that stop the profit-driven plunder of the earth's resources through fossilfuel extraction and deforestation, the only proposals coming from the negotiators are corporate friendly market-based solutions.

Full statement: WFFP Website

Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk

to Participate in Governance

Port of Spain. October 20. 2015 - Over 17 fisherfolk leaders from national and primary fisherfolk organisations in 15 CARICOM countries, and resource persons from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CFRM), Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission participated in the Third Regional Caribbean Fisherfolk Action Learning Group (FFALG) workshop, during October 5 - 8, 2014, in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Caribbean-Pacific Agrifood Forum- innovative solutions for small island states

November 2-6, 2015 The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) brought together 250 leaders, decision-makers and agrifood actors in Barbados. The action packed week included a space for ICT for fisheries. The CNFO members met for a half-day session on Feb 4, 2015 to participate in a practical workshop that offered a structured approach to analysing ICT needs and translating the findings into a road map for ICT4Fisheries projects and programmes. **Facilitators** were Dr. Kim Mallalieu and Kyle Defreitas.

During the workshop, participants reviewed the actions implemented under the Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance project to date; shared experiences and lessons learned in policy influencing from their participation in various fisheries and related fora at the international, regional and national levels; and reviewed key fisheries policies (e.g. Small-scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy) and projects (e.g. Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem⁺ Project) and determined the implications for sustainable small-scale fisheries development in the Caribbean.

Participants also took part in a leadership development training session aimed at building the leadership skills of the FFALG members. They undertook a field trip to the fisheries complex at Parham where they interacted with the fisherfolk of the Antiqua and Barbuda Spear Fishing

Association in identifying problems affecting their livelihoods and proposing likely solutions using a participatory approach.

The workshop was convened under the European Union funded Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance project, which is targeting fisherfolk organisations in the countries of Anguilla, Antiqua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos. The project is aimed at improving the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to food security in these countries through building the capacity of regional and national fisherfolk organisation networks to participate in fisheries governance and management. It is being implemented by CANARI, working in partnership with UWI-CERMES, Panos Caribbean, CNFO and CFRM.



A few of the CNFO members present at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre. St. Michael. Barbados

C.N.F.O UPD&TES



New Fisher's Associations

- Guyana National Fisherfolk Organisation (October 26, 2015) the executive pictured above!
- Barbuda Fisherfolk Association (December 14, 2015)
- G.I.F.T- Gender in Fisheries Team comprise about 12 members to conduct SSF research on gender in the Caribbean. Vernel Nicholls and Nadine Nembhard are apart of this team.

ECMMAN IIPDATES

- Capacity building training Workshop in Barbuda (Feb 10-12, 2016)
- Capacity building training for St. Vincent & Grenadines and Dominica (February/March 2016)
- Capacity training workshop for Saint Lucia, Grenada & St. Kitts & Nevis (March 2016)
- Fishers Exchange
 Belize: Hol Chan Marine
 Reserve (May 2016)
- Building CNFO/TNC bulletin boards for communication products.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND NOTBLE DATES

- Caribbean & Latin America Regional Consultation Ca-FAN (Panama Feb 18-20)
- FAO Global Assistance program –WFFP (Rome Feb 22-26, 2016)
- FAO User Rights (Uganda Feb 29-Mar 4, 2016)
- ECMMAN ACC meeting (Grenada March 9-11, 2016)
- GEF/CNFO Validation Meeting (Guyana March 5-6, 2016)
- 14th Meeting Caribbean Fisheries Forum (Guyana April 7-8, 2016)
- FAO Expert Consultation on Marketing Fishing Gears (Rome April 4-7, 2016)
- WFFP Coordinating Meeting (Bangkok April 25-29, 2016)

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