

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Fisheries Forum St. Kitts and Nevis



Jainarine Pamashwar (right) meeting with St Kitts & Nevis, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Eugene Hamilton (left).

During March 20-21, 2019 Mr. Jainarine Pamashwar represented the CNFO at the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) 17th annual meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum held in St. Kitts and Nevis. The CNFO report submitted to the forum:

Third-party interventions in fisheries management in the Caribbean region, in particular the aggressive focus of NGO'S to promote conservation measures. For example, WAITT Foundation in Barbuda and Montserrat with the Blue Halo initiative, and OCEANA in Belize with proposals to ban gill net fishing. These NGOs display a

high level of disrespect for existing fisheries management measures and institutions. Their modus operandi leaves much to be desired and the region may need to consider if and how we should work with them. In Belize, the management measures on gill net are deemed sufficient by fishers and the fisheries authorities, yet this outside entity which is not impacted by fisheries, seeks to promote additional onerous management measures. In Antigua and Barbuda, the fisheries management regime included significant fisheries measures based on the precautionary approach to

fisheries, but Blue Halo initiative still promoted onerous additional measures.

The Blue Economy initiative is cause for serious concern in small-scale (SSF) fisheries in the Caribbean region.

The Global Blue Economy (2018, Kenya) meeting was attended by several Caribbean Government representatives. This meeting totally side lined the SSF Fisheries Sector. They created a real threat to small-scale fisheries existence. Any Blue economy initiative should seek to recognise, promote and enhance SSF Fisheries activities, and should not promote any negative impacts to ecosystems or SSF fisheries, in particular not reducing access to land and fisheries resources by SSF fishers. Tools such as marine spatial planning and Marine Protected Areas (MPA) are used to further marginalise small-scale fisherfolks. When these tools are promoted fisherfolks are often negatively impacted (access to the resources).

Significant unutilised and underutilised fisheries resources exist in the Caribbean region, and hold the potential to improve food security and fisheries, including blackfin tuna, ocean triggerfish and diamondback squid. A focus on diversifying and enhancing our fisheries is needed.

(Partial CNFO's report presented to Caribbean Fisheries Forum)

March is Women's Month
We are giving recognition to the very nice lady fish workers
From Rocky Point, Clarendon, Jamaica



Vanessa Hamilton is the president of the fisherfolks at Rocky Point, she is a fish vendor and a boat owner. Vanessa was a cosmetologist but due to the fact that there was no working class in her community she had to depend on the fishing village to support her family. Fishing is a fast-paying job. She has two children, one is studying at the University of the West Indies and the other one is planning to join the army. She believes that men and women are equal in the community as well as in the fishing industry. Most women are boat owners and the men have to work with the women to make a living. In addition, she has a small business at Pedro Caye which is 63 miles from Rocky Point.

A market was built supporting the community excluding the fish vendors. The fish vendors have to continue working at the area shown in the pictures above. The structures are mostly made of zinc and board. When there is a storm, these structures receive much damage. The fish workers don't receive much help during these times, however they are people who are resilient and not dependent on the government. They depend the sea. Ms. Vanessa desires to upgrade her structure, would love to have uniforms, wants rules and regulations, a cleaner facility, more security, so that their working environment is attractive to the general public.

They operate from the biggest port on the Southern part of Jamaica. They work hook and line, net, pots, diving and such. They want to uplift their community in the fishing area and also cater to the tourist industry.

The Global Strategic Framework of the SSF Guidelines



L-R

World Forum of Fish Harvester & Fish workers (WFF) Leaders: Margaret Nakato, Cairo Laguna and Editrudith

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Leaders: Christiana Louwa, Moises Osorto and Nadine Nembhard

In 2016, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) welcomed the development of a Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF). The GSF-SSF will be a multi-stakeholder framework with no formal constitutional/legal standing, but with an important advisory and facilitative role to connect the thematic and regional process relevant for the SSF Guidelines implementation. The proposed structure of the SSF-GSF includes an Advisory Group (AG), a Friends of the SSF Guidelines group, a Knowledge Sharing Platform and an FAO Secretariat.

During the days March 18-21, 2019 about 20 participants including the IPC Fisheries Working Group member organisations (WFF, WFFP, IITC, Via Campesina) met in Rome to set priorities with regard to engagement in global processes and the modalities for operationalizing the AG within the framework of the SSF-GSF.

Marijuana as part of Agro-tourism Discussion in SVG

CNFO Fisheries Liaison Officer Mr. Winsbert Harry of Saint Vincent and Grenadines reported that he attended an Agro-tourism workshop, Beachcombers Hotel, St. Vincent and Grenadines, March 19 & 20, 2019. This workshop forms part of five others also hosted in three other Eastern Caribbean countries, and hugely supported by the CTA. The collaboration of the CTA and IICA has resulted in the securing of \$35M euro funding for the Caribbean under the 11th EDF Intra-ACP Envelop. There is a lot of development within the Caribbean region in the area agro tourism / food tourism policy and strategy. It was presented that there are opportunities through marijuana farming, hydro technology and value added bi-products from traditional agro produce. Also, in the mix of the discussion was the importance to re-evaluation the development of the fishing supply chain to support the hospitality industry, underpinned by policy and stakeholder support.



Mr. Winsbert Harry present at Agro-Tourism Meeting in St. Vincent and Grenadines

BARBADOS WOMEN IN FISHERIES 2019

8 March, 2019 – International Women’s Day Barbados Fisheries Division, Princess Alice Highway, Bridgetown – The event commenced with a presentation of a song and video. Ms. Maria Pena of CERMES-UWI gave an update on what is happening with the **Gender in Fisheries Team** (GIFT), to learn more about gift visit: <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/gift/overview.aspx>

Main activity was a panel discussion on “WHY WOMEN MATTERS IN BARBADOS FISHERIS”. On the panel were three important women selected from the industry, Ms. Joyce Leslie, Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Ms. Vernel Nicholls, CNFO Chairperson and Ms. Melissa Taitt fish vendor and social scientist.

Ms. Nicholls is pleased with the effort now being made in the Caribbean to appreciate the valuable contribution of women in the fisheries sector.



Some participants of the Women in Fisheries Forum in Barbados

Statement calling for attention to enhancing and developing mechanisms for effective engagement of fisherfolk and other stakeholders in regional fisheries governance

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) thank Member States and the Secretariat for the opportunity to participate in this technical meeting of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (**WECAFC**) held on March 25-26, 2019 in Barbados on the process for strengthening regional fisheries governance.

We appreciate the call made by Antigua and Barbuda during this meeting for attention to co-management given that this is a central part of policy and practice in the CARICOM region.

We are concerned that the farther away fishers are from decisions made, the greater the negative impacts are on small scale fisheries and livelihoods of fishers and their communities. We emphasise that management measures must be in context and should not use a "one size fits all" approach.

We would therefore like to recommend, and indeed urge, that **the current WECAFC process towards strengthening regional collaboration includes specific attention to enhancement and development of mechanisms for effective engagement of fisherfolk and other stakeholders.**

We note that such mechanisms would include encouragement of, support for and facilitation of:

- effective participation as observers in regional decision-making meetings;
- effective participation in scientific and technical committees and working groups;
- participation in national delegations;
- capacity building, including via preparatory meetings and cross-regional exchanges, to facilitate effective engagement and voice;
- national dialogue and engagement to facilitate effective input into regional decision-making processes.

CNFO and CANARI stand willing to work in partnership with Member States to facilitate discussion and develop recommendations on mechanisms for effective engagement of fisherfolk and other stakeholders as preparation the 17th WECAFC meeting and discussions beyond this towards strengthening regional collaboration.

Excerpt of Joint Statement by CANARI and CNFO made at the Special Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) held March 25-26, 2019 in Barbados.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Caribbean Fisherfolk Day 29 June
- World Fisheries Day 21 November
- UN Oceans Conference 2020
- International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

FISHERFOLKS JOIN THE NEWSGROUP

Send a whatsapp message to +501-624-5364 and make the request. Currently 85 fisherfolks from CNFO member countries share real time news updates, weather conditions and more.



Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

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