

FisherFolk Net

Hurricanes and Fisheries in the Caribbean - *A Personal perspective*

by Dwight Scotland on hurricane Maria in Dominica

Hurricane Maria (2017) destroyed 90% of Dominica, including my 2 fishing boats, one with a 40 hp and the other with two 40hp engine. All the fisherfolks in the community of Rosseau lost their boats also. Everybody is trying to fight their way and see what they can do. I got a boat from a man in Grand Bay. I give him half the profit and the remainder are shared between us who went out to sea to fish. When I go to sea, I take a different fisher from Rosseau on the trip so everyone can eat a bread. Some fishers received jobs from the government to clean up the community immediately after the hurricane. At this time, it's me alone from Roseau who can go out to fish, therefore I do not have enough fish to supply the community who come out to buy.

The communities of Dominica don't have lights nor ice. So, we would catch a little fish and have to run back to shore because we do not want the fish to spoil. Other areas where the boats were not destroyed, they still do not go out fishing because there is no

lights and they do not want to go without ice and waste their time because they do not want to come back early on the shore.

First time in my life I ever experience a category 5 hurricane. What I seen there I would never in my life want to see again. I would not want to experience that in my life again. The way that hurricane was is like it had many tornadoes in it. It caused a lot of lamp post to fall, a lot of people house destroyed, a lot of roof came off the houses, plus you could stand by the road side all you saw was brown, nothing was green again, all the trees in the mountain brown.

Well me, from the since the hurricane started around 8-9 pm so. I watched outside my window and watched the rain and the wind blowing all I saw was white, white, white. All of

a sudden, I saw the lady next door roof flew off from her house. After 10-11 o'clock so, we were trying to close the door for the toilet. We started to push the door, the kind of pressure the wind had we could not close that door, we could not touch that door. All of a sudden, we heard

“Boom” in the toilet, the glass and them broke. We then started to hear the roof shake I

saw dust came from the roof, then the roof flew off. Water started to come inside the house, meanwhile I kneeled and I started to pray I said Lord, let this past, let this past” Lord Please! It was the first time in my life I was ever afraid. I took it that “boy we were all going to die”. Then around 1-2 O'clock, it seemed like the eye came above us. It stayed for a little while. We then ran downstairs at our neighbour. When we went downstairs the rain picked up back again. When we woke the next morning and we watched outside we did not see any roof on any house. All walls were destroyed.



Dwight Scotland holding a Dolphin fish about 40 pounds

Missing Tobago fisherman found in Grenada



(Information brought to the CNFO's attention by Earl George of Dominica)

Thursday, April 4, 2019
Missing fisherman Rondell Kendall has been found alive in Grenada.

The mysterious circumstances surrounding three missing fishermen at sea deepens, as one of three has been found alive in Grenada.

All Tobago Fisherfolk Association president Junior Quashie confirmed Kendall was found and is in hospital.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

By Joslyn LeeQuay



Participants of April 2019 Workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago

In April 2019 CNFO Public Relations officer Mr. Joslyn LeeQuay attended a leadership workshop organised by SHIFT Caribbean.

Rondell Kendall (picture Kendall's facebook page)

SHIFT! Caribbean is a locally registered T&T-based NGO through the Ministry of Legal Affairs since 2013.

Past participants of our workshops have included community leaders from all levels, from government, corporate and grass-root organizations, who are committed to sustainable and just change for our country, region and the planet.

Fisheries sector in Caribbean among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change

CNFO Chairlady Ms. Vernel Nicholls reported attending a meeting April 11-12, 2019 with about 15 persons in attendance.

This project launched by FAO will address the linkages between poverty and climate change and to improve climate resilient livelihoods and food security of fisherfolk in Barbados, Dominica and St.

Kitts and Nevis as part of its Climate Change Strategy.



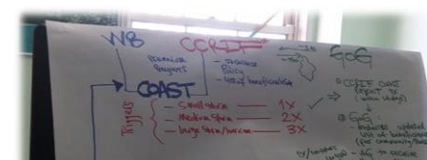
V.Nicholls present at meeting

CCRIF -Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility GRENADA

- Luis Acosta

Mr. Luis Acosta participated in a meeting held on Monday April 29th at the Fisheries Division. A presentation on the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility was made by Juliana Castaño from the World Bank.

About CCRIF SPC: CCRIF SPC is a segregated portfolio company, owned, operated and registered in the Caribbean. It limits the financial impact of catastrophic hurricanes, earthquakes and excess rainfall events to Caribbean and – since 2015. It is the world's first regional fund utilizing parametric insurance, giving member governments the unique opportunity to purchase earthquake, hurricane and excess rainfall catastrophe coverage with lowest-possible pricing. CCRIF was developed under the technical leadership of the World Bank and with a grant from the Government of Japan.



A Belize Gill Net Fisher of 50 Years

- Steve Fuller



Mr. Steve Fuller, Belizean Fisherfolk and activist for gillnet fishing seen here with mackerels

I am a gillnet fisher for the past 50 years and I wish to appraise the readers of a grave injustice that is being done to gillnet fishermen in Belize. The practice of gillnet fishing in Belize's waters has been in existence from time immemorial, long before the existence of the tourism industry. Presently, there are certain elements who are agitating for a total ban on gillnets.

In the early 1980's, a Guyanese national by the name of Winston Miller was appointed the post of Fisheries Administrator. During his tenure as Fisheries Administrator, Mr. Miller used to give lectures at the fishing cooperative's conference rooms to impart knowledge to the fishermen. I can recall during one of his lectures he mentioned that overprotection of marine species is far worse than over exploitation.

It defeats the very purpose it was intended for.

Mr. Miller along with the then Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) made recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries to pass certain Statutory Instruments (S.I) to make gill net fishing sustainable in Belize.

Here are some that come to mind:

1. No one shall set seine or gillnet within 2-mile radius of any river mouth. (reason for this is because fresh water from river meets salt water at sea. This is perfect environment for microorganisms).
 2. No one shall set any seine or gillnet within 2 miles of any town or village. (Today this include sport fishing lodge).
 3. No one shall set any seine or gillnet within 100 yards of the reef.
 4. No one shall set any gillnet in Belize's waters with a stretched mesh of less than 3 inches.
- Around the time the S.I. was passed gillnets were made manually. Since the latter part of the 1980's webbing for gillnets are made with monofilament line and manufactured by machines.

Gill nets can only be used a total of 6 months out of every year. The reason is that gill nets can only work during dark nights.

Some three years ago the Fisheries Department has bent backwards to appease these so-

called conservationists by making it illegal for any gillnet fisher to carry in his boat gillnets of combined length which exceeds 300 metres.

In concluding, these fishing measures have been given serious consideration and well thought out before implementing by people who are genuine and have a sound knowledge of what is sustainable fishing. The conservationists pushing for the ban of gillnet want the public to believe that gillnet fishing in our waters are unregulated and there is a wanton destruction of our marine resources. The conservationists need to bear in mind that the healthiest fish comes from the open sea. They don't want us and our children to eat healthy fish?

St. Kitts & Nevis the two fishermen missing at sea found in good health



(Pictures courtesy Buckie got it local news)

When Mr. Winston Hobson of St. Kitts and Nevis reported to the CNFO wide membership that two fishers were missing at sea everyone express their concerned. Not all of these missing stories have happy ending so we were all joyful that Carlos Jimenez and Ismael Vincente Lorenzo were found in good health. They left on their fishing trip from Nevis in a vessel named "GOD".

People Managing Ocean

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has released a publication entitled 'People Managing Oceans' developed by and for civil society, fisherfolk and community enterprises. It is a framework to guide their practical actions for a healthy marine environment in the Caribbean Sea and North Brazil Shelf to provide benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region.



(Source: www.clmeproject.org)

This will support implementation of the 'Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems', which was endorsed by governments of 25 countries and 6 overseas territories. Civil society, fisherfolk and community enterprises see themselves as important partners in implementing this key regional plan.

'People Managing Oceans' was developed through a participatory process led by CANARI, a regional non-profit technical institute. Representatives of civil society, fisherfolk and community enterprises from across the region came together at a workshop and developed the CLME+ C-SAP

The next step will be endorsement of 'People Managing Oceans' by civil society and fisherfolk organisations and community enterprises, as well as mobilising financial and technical support for them to undertake practical actions for conservation and sustainable use of our shared oceans.

The publications are available for download on CANARI's website:

• Full booklet English: <http://www.canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/csap-booklet-english.pdf>

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 87 fisherfolks from CNFO member countries share real time news updates, weather conditions and more.



Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

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