

# FisherFolk Net

## INFORMATION ON USE OF GILLNETS IN BELIZE

By: CNFO Editorial Staff



*Hopkins, Belize Fisherfolks, 21<sup>st</sup> May*

SEE FULL CNFO SUBMISSION:

<https://cnfo.fish/mdocs-posts/cnfo-submission-of-information-on-gillnets-pdf/>

Further restrictions on gillnet fishers in Belize will have clear negative impacts on more than 4000 Belize nationals, as it relates directly to their food supply and livelihood opportunities.

Gillnets are considered a legitimate fishing gear, that can contribute to and operate in sustainable fisheries. Belize has already recognized this and have appropriate management measures in place.

Some communities in Belize are dependent on gillnet fisheries for food and nutrition security, cultural and religious norms and traditional livelihoods. A prohibition would

create social and economic problems for these communities, such as the UNESCO recognized Garifuna community.

The environmental impacts of gillnet fisheries are minimal and would not constitute a reasonable factor supporting any prohibitions.

The utilization of the fisheries resources of Belize can be sustained and enhanced with the continuing contribution of gillnet fishers. The resource base is huge, in relation to fishing capacity and effort.

The contribution of gillnet fisheries to the country promotes the human wellbeing of the residents, provides locally sourced healthy food (which cannot be matched by imports), livelihoods and is entwined in local culture and traditions. Consumption of fish has a direct positive impact on human health, with implications for the public health system.

Securing gillnet fisheries will strengthen progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals, recognizing the direct contribution to many SDGs.

Gillnet fisheries in Belize is consistent with the nation's obligations to national, regional and global fisheries policy structures, such as the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). These recognize the important contribution of SSF, including SSF gillnet fisheries, to livelihoods, food and nutrition and poverty eradication.

Prohibiting gillnet fisheries will result in a net loss to the Belize economy, public health, community dignity and food sovereignty. The only winners would be those that are not directly impacted, such as NGOs and tourism interests, as they would satisfy foreign-derived objectives and remove the gillnet fishers from the marine/aquatic space.



*Hopkins, Belize Fisherfolks being consulted on Gillnets*

## LAUNCHING OF “DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING”

(2019-2028)

- Josana Pinto

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched the United Nations' Decade of Family Farming and a Global Action Plan to boost support for family farmers, particularly those in developing countries.

Ms. Josana Pinto represented the fishing community as a member of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) at the launching during the days May 27-29, 2019. Josana is on the coordinating committee of WFFP and comes from the organisation *Movimento de Pescadores e Pescadoras* (MPP), or the Movement of Artisanal Fishermen and Fisherwomen.



(Pictured Josana Pinto in Rome)

Josana made a presentation on behalf of fishers of the world where she stated that we need to look at production, but we also need to have the guarantee of territory. She made it known that there needs to be land and water security. Little was said



Picture courtesy the Commonwealth Foundation from the II Conversation “Understanding the Intersection between Gender and Climate Change”

CNFO Mitchell Lay pictured (R) always genuinely happy to support the equal and fair participation of women in fisheries governance.

about water. She mentioned that we need to give visibility to our production because women are part of the process and are often invisible to the governments. Her presentation grabbed the attention of some governments.

### Understanding the Intersection between Gender and Climate Change

The Commonwealth Foundation partnered with The GEF Small Grants Programme and The Institute of Gender and Development Studies (Mona Campus Unit) of the University of the West Indies on a project looking at applying intersectionality principles to support gender responsive strategies and facilitating civic voice access to climate change policy making spaces.

Mr. Mitchell Lay participated in a workshop second titled ‘Understanding the Intersection between Gender and Climate

Change’, May 29-31, 2019, Jamaica.

In phase 1 of the project, a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted relationship between gender and climate change in Caribbean society was undertaken. Less than a year after the Caribbean was hit by two devastating hurricanes, the Foundation in partnership with the UNDP’s Global Environmental Facility, convened an exploratory discussion with more than 40 civil society colleagues from all Caribbean Commonwealth countries in June 2018. Participants in the first phase of this process understood that climate change impacts women, marginalised people and communities more significantly than others. This second conversation focused on the development of a guidance tool for civil society organisations to be used for gender mainstreaming and to sharpen the gender lens of the participants.

More information on project <https://commonwealthfoundation.com/events/understanding-the-intersection-between-gender-and-climate-change/>:



## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CLME+ C-SAP?

### *Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ C-SAP)*

The CNFO through a partnership with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) will be conducting some learning circles with its board members to support the promotion and endorsement of the 2018-2030 Civil Society Action Programme.

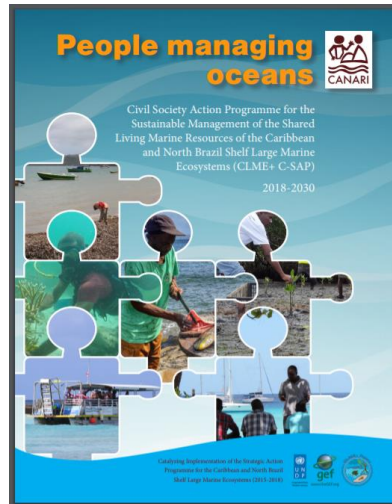
Board members are expected to participate in three different online sessions in June 2019.

## 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.



To learn more about the C-SAP “People Managing Oceans” visit the CANARI website: <http://www.canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/csap-booklet-english.pdf>



## FLYINGFISH CONSULTATION

The CNFO participated in the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat flying fish consultation in Eastern Caribbean. The regional consultation took place in Saint Lucia May 23-24, 2019. Mr. Roderick Skeete of Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations (BARNUFO) participated in this event.



Picture courtesy BARNUFO. President of BARNUFO Ms. Vernel Nicholls and Minister of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy Hon Kirk Humphrey promoting World food safety day.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 fishers attended a panel discussion in St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Methodist Church Conference Room. The objective of the meeting was to discuss a regional security system on the impact of climate change.



Picture from Winsbert Harry, CNFO member.

## CLOSURE OF THE MARKET IN SAINT LUCIA

On May 29, 2019 fisherfolk leaders planned a press conference to speak on behalf of the fishing community who continue to be negatively impacted by the closure of the St. Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation Ltd. (SLFMC). They explained that there is no information on the future of the corporation. Since May 1, 2019 the market reopened but the fisherfolks are not aware of who is running it. We will keep our readers updated.



Picture courtesy MBC Television station in Castries, Saint Lucia.

L-R Devon Stephen (Choiseul Fishermen's Cooperative), Dannie James (Goodwill Fishermen's Cooperative) & Thaddeus Augustine (Castries Fishermen's Cooperative)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**FISHERFOLK MONTH 2019**  
 "Gender equity and ocean health: supporting access to markets for small-scale fishers"

**26 May** Fisherfolk Month Opening Ceremony at Sarteneja Fishers' Fair

**6-7 June** Women in Fisheries Forum 3

**12-14 June** Boat-to-Boat at Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMAR)

**17-19 June** Boat-to-Boat at Glover's Reef Marine Reserve

**2 June** Fisherfolk Month Church Service

**12 June** Blessing of the Boats and Fishers by Northern/National Fishermen Cooperative

**12-17 June** Boat-to-Boat at South Water Caye Marine Reserve

**28 June** Fisher of the Year Award Ceremony

Logos: BELIZE AUDUBON SOCIETY, EDF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, CRFM, The Nature Conservancy, SACS, Wildlife Conservation Society, SEA BELIZE SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION, Punta Fuego, BELIZE FISHERIES, MCCAIP, ADAPTATION FUND, WORLD BANK GROUP, TIDE, BELIZE FISHERIES SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR OUR FUTURE.

Example of Events in Celebration of Caribbean Fisherfolk Day June 29, 2019. Above is the calendar of events from Belize. In next month issue we hope to share more on the festivities from around the region.

- MARE Academic Conference "People and the Sea", June 24-28, 2019, Amsterdam
- 17<sup>th</sup> Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), July 15-18, 2019, Florida
- Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) training, July 24-26, Barbados
- "Mobilizing indigenous and local knowledge solutions: addressing climate impacts and vulnerabilities", September 3-5, 2019, Guyana
- 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries institute Conference, November 4-8, 2019, Dominican Republic
- International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

### Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

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