

# FisherFolk Net

## Hurricane Dorian Hits the Northwest Bahamas — Adrian LaRoda

Report from CNFO member Mr. Adrian LaRoda- The September 2019 Hurricane Dorian caused extensive flooding that damaged homes and infrastructure on the northwest islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama in the Bahamas.



The Bahamas Commercial Fishers Alliance (BCFA) collaborated with the Department of Marine Resources (Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry) to complete a hurricane assessment. The estimated lost to the fishing industry quantifies to about USD\$9M. This includes the loss of a major seafood plant on the island of Abaco, which was most impacted by the storm. Most of the vessels impacted were those who supplied directly to that fishing plant. Fortunately, small-scale fishers were not severely impacted by the storm because they were able to pull the boats out of the water.

However, on the island of Grand Bahama there was significant lost to fishers on that island in terms of vessels etc.



To validate the operators that were operating leading up to the storm, the government will use the landing certificates. This will prove that the fisher was still operating up to the time of the hurricane. It is expected that those fishers who were operational will qualify for any assistance that will be given by the government and others.

Fishers have complained about losing personal property, these persons are being dealt with on a case by case basis. There is a fisheries fund that the government has been contributing to over the past 30 years. BCFA works with the government to access those funds during hurricane and storms.



There were non-refundable small grants given to about 11,000 small-scale fisherfolks after hurricane Mathew. This is a social component of what the government is doing. The BCFA is hoping that this assistance will be given again to the fisherfolks to get back on their feet. It is expected that as much people that can be accommodated will be.

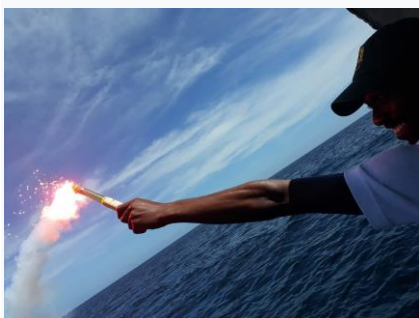


*All photographs courtesy Dr. Iris Monnereau Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) (social media communications).  
Article written by Bahamas Commercial Fishers Alliance.*

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN FISHERIES SECTOR PROJECT (CC4FISH)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## CC4FISH project countries to receive ICT training for safety at Sea



Grenada

*Pictures courtesy the training facilitators*

September 2019. Over 15 participants were in attendance at a two-day training under the CC4FISH project in **GRENADA**. The training was facilitated by Caribbean ICT Research Programme CIRP of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago and Fisheries Division Grenada.

Dr. Kim Mallalieu of CIRP focused on Very High Frequency (VHF) radios, Global Positioning System (GPS) and cellphones.

The **TOBAGO** group of Trinidad and Tobago training offered a number of superb recommendations. Among them is a recommendation for the development of an emergency communications plan for small-scale fisheries. This can go in

alignment to CRFM's model national disaster risk management plans and other key artefacts.



Tobago participants

## SARGASSUM CHALLENGE SAINT LUCIA

Mobilising communities at risk Sargassum is a seaweed (Sargassum fluitans and Sargassum natans) that is causing a great deal of concern especially along the east coast of the Caribbean Islands, as well as some States in North America.



*Pictures and article from Saint Lucia CC4FISH facebook page*  
<https://www.facebook.com/CC4FISH758/>

The excessive growth and influx of Sargassum on beaches and in bays is believed to be as a result of high ocean temperatures and excessive nutrients in the water as a result of outflows from

large rivers off the South American continent.

The CC4FISH project aims to assist communities most impacted by this climate related phenomenon to manage the adverse impacts. In 2017, under the CC4FISH project, a draft National Sargassum Management Plan (SMP) was developed. The plan proposes realistic approaches to dealing with various intensities of Sargassum influxes on Saint Lucia's beaches. The plan calls for community residents to work together to clean up the beaches.



In February and March 2018 the Department of Fisheries held consultations with fishers and other residents in the communities of Dennery, Praslin, Micoud and Savannes Bay and their environs to discuss the impacts that the Sargassum was having on their livelihoods, to review the proposed management plan and to help identify methods to reduce the build-up and costs of clean-up of Sargassum on the beaches and bays, especially those most utilized by fisher folk. In November 2018 under the CC4FISH project, beach clean-up equipment was acquired and handed over to various communities to support community-based clean-up initiatives.

## CRFM/OSPESCA Joint High-Level Ministerial Meeting



On October 2, 2019 the CNFO was invited to participate in a joint high-level meeting aimed at solidifying partnerships at the political level, as well as setting our priority areas for attention and mutual cooperation. The meeting took place at the Belize Biltmore Plaza, Belize City, Belize.

Nadine Nembhard of the CNFO Belize office attended the CRFM/OSPESCA joint high-level meeting and treated over 80 fishers of the CNFO to participate virtually via messages. Fishers were able to make comments on the agenda items which she presented to the floor on their behalf.

## Number 66 Fishermen's Co-op introducing scientific ways of fishing



Mr. Jainarine Pamashwar

Oct 6, 2019. In Guyana, the Number 66 Fishermen's Co-op

Society is using science and ICT in fishing. This is being done with the use of water-testing devices to test the acidity of the water, the amount of oxygen present in the water and its solidity. Fisherfolks will also receive Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Chairman Pamashwar Jainarine said that fish catch is on the decline and fishers are spending more days out at sea. "We do not have any data to show whether we have been over-fishing. Jainarine also stated that "The handheld device will help fishers to operate in a more efficient manner. It will help them to save fuel. Another benefit of the GPS is in the case of a boat having difficulty at sea, another boat will be able to rescue them quickly by knowing the exact position of the boat." A total of 30 kits and 30 GPS were given to the fisher-folk.

## WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES (WFFP) ANNUAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SRI LANKA

With support from Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et Pour le Développement (CCFD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the days of 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November members of the WFFP CC met in Sri Lanka for its usual annual planning meeting.

- **SSF Guidelines:** Fisherfolks of the world must maintain ownership

of Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and take lead in its implementation.

- **General Assembly:** The WFFP has commenced planning of its General Assembly to be held in November 2020, Brazil. A committee has been set up to take this action forward including fundraising.
- **User Rights:** The very existence of fishing communities and cultures are being squeezed in-between extractivist and energy projects, destruction of nature, tourism, commodity trade (shipping, ports, rails) and other sectors. Fishing communities is under threat.



## STEWARDFISH NEWS

CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF FISHERFOLK ORGANISATIONS

COMING IN 2020!

CNFO VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Monthly one (1) hour online sessions in English!

PARTNERING WITH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) STEWARDFISH PROJECT

All fisherfolk of the Caribbean are welcome to register!

## Spotlight on Mr. Sean Walker

### Gouyave Fishermen Cooperative, Grenada



Sean Walker, a bona-fide fisherman, was born, raised and resides in Gouyave, St. John's: the fishing capital of Grenada. He is highly motivated and a dedicated fisher with good leadership qualities and good interactive skills. He is an active member of the Gouyave Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd and is a lead fisher supporting and promoting conservation and sustainable practices by fishers and other stakeholders. As a volunteer, he participated in a Climate Change Adaptation community awareness program in 2018.

Sean has 18+ years record of fishing experience in both inshore and deep-sea fishing techniques; he is the owner and captain of a fishing vessel targeting mainly yellowfin tuna. Sean, after attending primary school, graduated from the New Life Organisation (NEWLO), a Life Skills and Vocational Training Centre for Youth. As a Fisher, he participated at various Fisheries workshops and training sessions and is the holder of many local certificates. He is also certified by the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (Trinidad) in several disciplines. Sean is a trained MPA ranger.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Under the Climate Change Adaptation for Eastern Caribbean Fisheries (CC4FISH) Project the CNFO will be hosting 7 national meetings:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019, St. Kitts and Nevis
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019, Antigua and Barbuda
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019, St. Vincent and Grenadines
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2019, Saint Lucia
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019, Grenada
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019, Dominica
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019, Trinidad and Tobago
- International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability, Rome, 18-21 November 2019.
- CARIFORM-EU Consultative Committee Meeting, Brussels, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Regional NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Dialogue in the Caribbean on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Coastal Communities, Barbados, 26-28 November.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 WORLD FISHERIES DAY "Coastal, Inland and Marine Governance Rights to Fishing Communities" .

**Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations**

**C/O CRFM Secretariat, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, BELIZE**

**Tel: 501-223-4443 Ext 225 Email: [cnfo\\_cu@yahoo.com](mailto:cnfo_cu@yahoo.com) Website: <https://cnfo.fish/>**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CNF017](https://www.facebook.com/CNF017) Twitter: @fisherfolknetwork Instagram: CNF017**

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