

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations



Picture courtesy CNFO Executive Member Mr. Winsbert Harry, president of SVGNFO. Kingston Fish Market, SVG

Fisherfolk in St. Vincent and Grenadines Petitions government for Gas Rebate or Concession

At present with the high gas prices, SVG fisherfolk cannot meet their expenses and will eventually be forced to raise fish prices. Between January 2021 to present, gas prices in SVG have risen 8 times.

At the start of 2021, gas was XCD\$10.50 per gallon; gas prices are now XCD\$14.72 per gallon. These increases have direct impacts on the cost of fishing for fishers. For example, in June/July 2021 fishers were spending approximately EC\$460 in gas on a normal day trip, but with the continued increases in gas prices, fishers are now paying approximately EC\$690 per trip.

A gas rebate or concession from the government will help to reduce the cost of fishing for fishers and subsequently ensure that fishers can bring fish to market to be sold at a reasonable and affordable price for consumers. - submitted by Winsbert Harry

Intern working
with CNFO

Arnau Quinquillà will be working with the CNFO during the period January to March 2022. He is pursuing a Master's degree in Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University, Netherlands.



Happy New Year!

A year in review for the CNFO!

Over the last two years, CNFO members had to quickly adapt to the virtual world.

Certainly, it came with many challenges, however, we were able to push forward and accomplish much work in the year 2021. The Chairperson Mr. Adrian LaRoda of Bahamas is adamant to ensure that the mission of the CNFO is carried that is **To improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation, and capacity building.**

The CNFO continues to collaborate with regional and international partners such as Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), University of West Indies (UWI) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and the Transnational Institute (TNI). New relationships were forged, especially with WHYHUNGER. Additionally, the board is strengthening communications with the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Haiti fisherfolk.

CNFO executive leaders and members showed up and participated virtually at the Caribbean Fisheries Forum 2021, Regional and International launch of IYAF22, COFI, 11th MARE and the Sea Conference, GCFI, WorldFish - World Ocean Day, Sargassum Action group, and more.

Programs continue to run on the CNFO leadership Institute that was launched under the STEWARDFISH Project. Look out for much more training in 2022!!! Thank you for your continued support from the Chairperson of the CNFO Adrian LaRoda.

what a year it was!

SAINT LUCIA FISHERS AGGRIEVED OVER SECOND CLOSURE IN TWO YEARS OF MARKETING ENTITY



Picture courtesy news. mbcslu.com

The fishing community has once again woken up to the news of the closure of the Fish Marketing Agency. Questions are rife as to how many times the same horse can die.

In 2019, after much talk about breathing new life into the then entity, St Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation, a new entity emerged, Lucian Blue Ocean Seafoods. This, despite numerous consultations with stakeholders and a promise to develop a public-private partnership with the suppliers of the raw materials-the fishers- through their representative body, St Lucia Fisherfolk Co-operative Society Limited. The emergence of this new entity was met with great doubt, uncertainty and in some instances resistance by an industry that was left uninformed about what this new entity was about, who owned it, what their mandate was, etc.

A little over two and a half years into its operations, the local media was piling up with headlines of the closure of the entity an eventuality that created fear and despondence throughout the fishing community. Days later, the Management of the entity issues a press release explaining that they are closed only temporarily to allow for them to make a few changes that they dub necessary for the survival of the company amid trying times. "Contrary to unverified reports broadcasted in recent times, the closure took effect after all staff and our fisher partners were duly informed. Our decision was not without due thought process. Our staff and stakeholders have always been front and center of all of our operational decisions."

It is often said that fishers are not respected despite their contribution to food security, GDP, etc. and this new reality is an indication, to them that nothing has really changed. Despite the fact that the management of that LBOS claimed that they were in dialogue with the stakeholders, many fishers have indicated otherwise. The issues are too important to point fingers and play games. What is irrefutable is that the main stake, is and has continued to be left out of the equation and discussion and there is no time than now to change that reality. Vocal fisherwoman and boat owner Ms. Dannie James had taken to the airwaves to, on behalf of the fishing community, express her displeasure on the events. More fishers need to stand up and speak up.

We implore the new administration under the leadership of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Food Security, Hon. Alfred Prospero to ensure that the needs of the fisher, their voice and their needs are not left behind hastily as the decisions are taken that will directly affect their livelihoods. Perhaps this is a time when regional integration and partnerships have to take effect in areas such as marketing as we cannot continue to be at the disposal and mercy of the political directorate or private entities who come with their own corporate agenda. The fishing industry is too important to continue to be taken for granted but it is really up to us as the players within the industry to do better, to be better and to demand better from the authorities. For now, the St Lucia Fisherfolk Co-operative Society will continue to make representation on behalf of those they serve to see to it that this matter is addressed in a manner that is most beneficial to the development and sustainability of the sector. We are hopeful that the need to give a seat at the table to the fisher, through its representative body, is recognized NOW. Submitted by Kaygianna Chalery

TWO CNFO YOUTH MEMBERS ATTENDING WFFP VIRTUAL YOUTH TRAINING

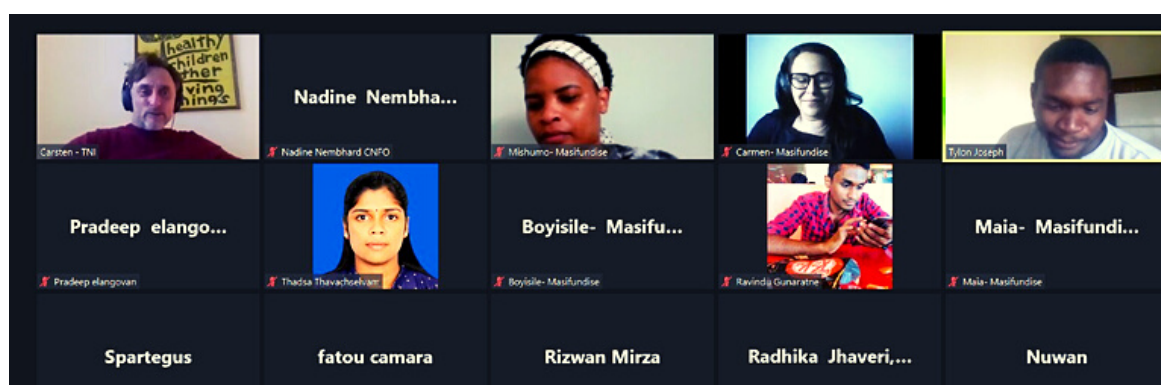
Masifundise and Transnational Institute (TNI) hosted a Youth Training programme, which is designed to support and empower the Youths of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). The training consists of 5 modules and started on 2nd December 2022. Tylon Joseph (Grenada), Devon Stephen and Kagianna Charlery (Saint Lucia), and Nadine Nembhard (Belize) registered for the training.

- Module one: small-scale fisheries in a big picture context
- Module two: the solutions from the ground
- Module three: Climate Change
- Module four: The SSF Guidelines
- Module five: the way forward? What will WFFP youth do?

“Fisher-led Implementation of the SSF Guidelines”

CNFO/FAO project
from 30th Nov 2021
to 30th Dec 2022.

- Three national training workshops.
- Strategies to implement the SSF guidelines
- Representation at regional and international level
- Promoting IYAFA



STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR

hasent hit the news as far as I can tell,

M/Y Utopia IV superyacht and Bahamian Fuel tanker collide at night, fuel tanker sinks!!

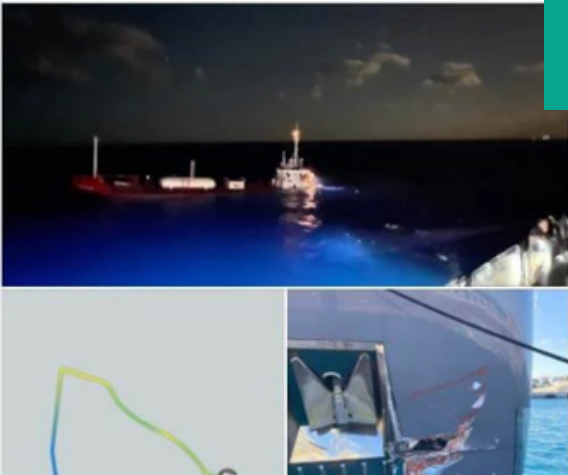


Photo Credit Merchant Marine Updates by CompMan

BAHAMAS

A Belizean-registered commodities tanker operating in the Bahamas sank after it was “rear-ended by a 207-foot superyacht,” according to its operators Maritime Management of Miami. (Dec 26, 2021)

<https://power-yachts.com/product-tanker-sinks-in-the-bahamas-after-being-hit-by-luxury-yacht/>

GUYANA

In Oct 2021 there was an oil and gas public scoping meeting with Fisherfolk and members of the public and ExxonMobil on the potential environmental impacts on the proposed gas to shore pipeline project due to begin early next year.

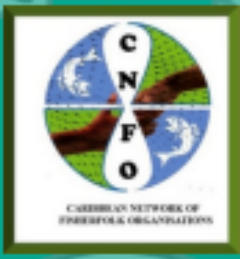


MONTSERRAT

The Fisheries Department within the Ministry of Agriculture, Housing, Land and Environment conducted a series of workshops in November 2021 about Safety at Sea for the local fishing and mariner community. Participants were awarded a certificate and a life jacket



Photo Credit: 664Connect Media



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



IYAF 2022

CELEBRATING THE INVALUABLE
CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE AQUATIC
FOOD HARVESTERS AND PRODUCERS.

- *SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*
- *FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY*
- *LIVELIHOODS & POVERTY REDUCTION*
- *WAY OF LIFE, CULTURE AND TRADITION*

CNFO_CU@YAHOO.COM 501-624-5364 [HTTPS://CNFO.FISH](https://cnfo.fish)



COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING
SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND
POVERTY ERADICATION (SSF GUIDELINES) AND THE THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY



CARIBBEAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES ARE CRITICAL TO CARIBBEAN LIFE GUIDANCE TO SUSTAINING CARIBBEAN FISHERIES IS FOUND IN



Food Security



Healthy



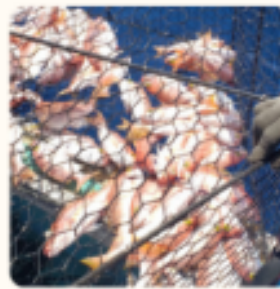
Livelihoods



Identity



Way of Life



The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

SECURING CARIBBEAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

SSF GUIDELINES

CCCFP



human rights
gender equity
value chains, post harvest and trade
economic, social and environmental sustainability
governance of tenure
consultation and participation
disaster risk and climate change

unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)





MRS. PAULETTE COLEY

From Old Harbour Bay in the parish of St. Catherine Jamaica .

- Justice of the Peace.
- National Volunteer for Jamaica.
- Disaster Risk Management first Responder.
- Trained First Aider
- Director on the Board at the Old Harbour Bay Fisherman's Cooperative
- Secretary for the JFCU Environment and Climate Change Committee.
- Ladies ministry President.
- A Trained Life Skills Facilitator.

Projects:

- Preparations for the Ocean Economy Peoples Tribunal Process in Latin American and the Caribbean.
- Promoting fisher-led Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Caribbean Region.
- Support to the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) administrative functions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

CNFO Office opens 3th Jan 2022.

WFFP General Membership Meeting 18th Jan 2022

Leadership Training under CNFO Leadership Institute Starting August 2022

C/O CRFM SECRETARIAT,
PRINCESS MARGARET DRIVE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

TEL: 501-223-4443 EXT 225 EMAIL: CNFO_CU@YAHOO.COM

FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CNFO17

TWITTER: @FISHERFOLKNETWORK INSTAGRAM: CNFO17

SUBSCRIBE TO YAHOOGROUP: FISHERFOLK_NETWORK-

SUBSCRIBE@YAHOOGROUPS.COM

WEBSITE: HTTPS://CNFO.FISH/