

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

CNFO 2023-2024

During this year a lot of effort was placed into strengthening existing and developing new relationships. The CNFO was able to collaborate with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), and the DOAF within the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the Government of the Virgin Islands under the Darwin Plus-funded project "Capacity building in fisheries evidence, networks and management in the Virgin Islands". **This collaboration was a significant achievement for the CNFO as it placed us in a position to build linkages with the fisherfolk in the Virgin Islands.**

In 2024, we anticipate a high utilization of the CNFO Leadership Institute as it celebrates its 5th Anniversary. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), are partnering to implement the four-year project in the region. This initiative is titled "BE-CLME+: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus". **Under this project, The CNFO shall conduct training sessions on the SSF Guidelines and the CARICOM Regional Protocol on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy in the context of seafood value chains through the CNFO's Leadership Institute Platform. This plus much more. Stay tuned!**

Finally, we would like to announce that the CNFO will be hosting its **3rd General Assembly on 29th February 2024**. As we continue to grow as an organisation we encourage members to support the CNFO by promoting the CNFO's Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries as well as promoting the CNFO's leadership Institute. We thank fishers for their work and contributions to human well-being, economic activity, and ecological integrity. We also look forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).



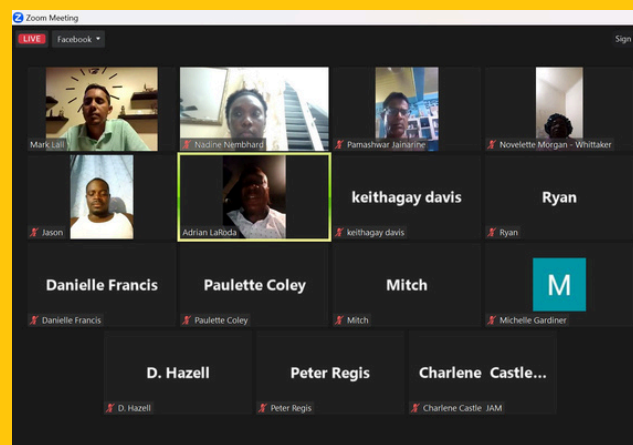
CNFO CHAIRPERSON
MR. ADRIAN LARODA
BAHAMAS

CNFO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2023

On 1st April 2020, the CNFO launched its #Leadership Institute to provide leadership development that is relevant to fisherfolk organisations.

This year, 52 persons (29 female and 23 male) registered to participate in the 4th annual 9-module sessions that lasted from 10th October to 5th December 2023.

Congratulations to everyone who completed the modules. We look forward to hosting next year's sessions celebrating our 5th anniversary of the #CNFO Leadership Institute.



BOOMING OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN GUYANA POSES GRAVE RISKS TO FISHERS AND NATURE

By Arnau Quinquilla Capdevila

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), the Guyana National Fisherfolk Organization (GNFO), and the Transnational Institute (TNI) have recently published a joint report on the oil industry in Guyana. It focuses on the threats posed by the oil industry to small-scale fishers, coastal communities, and the environment. Three aspects of the report stand out.

First, fishing grounds are being grabbed as the oil industry drills the seabed and extracts oil and gas. In the context of declining catches, the oil industry is contributing to the disruption of the livelihoods of fishers while offering no alternative employment. The Guyanese government's response to declining catches has been to expand aquaculture, disregarding the fact that its expansion does not reduce pressure on marine life and has serious environmental impacts, such as the escape of aquaculture species, the spread of disease, and the emission of pollutants.

Second, the oil industry damages the marine environment through the production of seismic noise, oil spills, the discharge of ballast water (used to keep vessels in trim), and changes in ocean conditions caused by climate change. Oil activities can lead to the migration of marine species to other territories, which can ultimately reduce the catches of small-scale fishers.

Finally, climate change is seriously affecting the ocean, driving up the water's temperature and acidity lowering oxygen levels, and causing a decline in the growth, reproduction, and survival rates of marine species. The result is the disruption of fishers' livelihoods and the displacement of coastal communities due to rising sea levels. Reversing this situation requires the immediate phase-out of fossil fuels, accompanied by the full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF guidelines), the payment of climate reparations, and the provision of technology and finance for adaptation and mitigation by the countries most responsible for the climate crisis.

Full report available at <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/an-ocean-drowning-in-capital>.



STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



Photo Credit: CANARI <https://rb.gy/fah3u9>

BARBADOS

From July 19–21, 2023 four fisherfolk representatives and one Representative from the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DOAF) participated in a three-day fisherfolk peer learning exchange to Barbados.

It was part of capacity-building efforts by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the CNFO under the Darwin Plus-funded project “Capacity building in fisheries evidence, networks and management in the Virgin Islands”. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is implementing the project in partnership with CANARI and DOAF within the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the Government of the Virgin Islands.



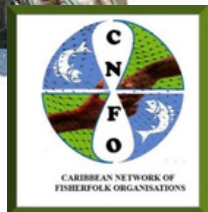
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES

Mr. Winsbert Harry, the Chair of the National Fisherfolk Organisation in SVG reported that in December 2023, the first installment of the vessel monitoring system for fishing boats in SVG to support safety at sea. The project is being implemented by SVG National Trust.

BELIZE

Mr. Sydney Fuller, a fisher in Belize has assisted the CNFO in completing an assessment of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). On the topic of gender, he stated “The concepts of gender equity and equality will become more prevalent in our discussions to bring more awareness and understanding of their importance to small-scale fisheries.”





CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE 25% BY 2025 REDUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY FOOD BILL



CNFO/CRFM SSF ACTION PLAN LINK:

[HTTPS://CNFO.FISH/CNFO-CRFM-SMALL-SCALE-FISHERIES-ACTION-PLAN-2023-2025/](https://cnfo.fish/cnfo-crfm-small-scale-fisheries-action-plan-2023-2025/)



SHAWN TAYLOR

Born in St. Elizabeth Jamaica on 2nd February 1969. First child for my parents of five children.

Started school at the tender age of 4 at Sandy Bank Basic. Then Sandy Bank primary school at age 6. Followed by Newell Secondary at age 12.

Ventured out to Sea at age 18 to the Pedro Cays. Started a family at age 20 which produced 3 children. At age 24, was introduced to the Cooperative movement. Start serving at age 27 at Treasure Beach Fisherfolk Coop

At about age 30 Started to serve at the Jamaica Fisherman Cooperative Union (JFCU). In 2017 went to Caribbean Maritime University to do a course in Seamanship.

Presently the Chairman of the JFCU and Treasure Beach Fisherfolk. This is my third time as Chairman at JFCU.



- 29th February 2024, CNFO 3rd General Assembly. (Virtually)
- February 12th and 13th 2024, 8th global meeting of the Farmers' Forum in IFAD HQ (Rome)
- 27 - 30 May 2024, 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
- 8th to 12th July 2024, 36th Session Committee on Fisheries COFI, Rome Italy
- 17th Sept - 12th November CNFO Leadership Training

+1-501-524-5364

cnfo_cu@yahoo.com

Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City,
Belize