

# FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

## CNFO 7-Member Executive 2024-2027

CNFO held its 3rd General Assembly virtually on 29th February 2024.

Mr. Terrence Phillips was the Presiding Officer. Mr. Phillips has worked in fisheries at the national and regional levels in the Caribbean over the last 30 years. He has worked with fisherfolk and their organisations for most of these years, with his last engagement being with the implementation of the FAO GEF StewardFish project. At present, he is operating as a fisheries consultant.

At this meeting, the election of the Executive was held and Mr. Devon Stephen of Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Limited was elected Chair.

Consequently, the first meeting of the Executive was held on 7th March 2024 where the Executive members decided on the other positions.

The first CNFO General Assembly was held face-to-face at the Blue Horizon Hotel in Barbados on 20 October 2016.



CNFO CHAIRPERSON  
MR. DEVON STEPHEN  
SAINT LUCIA

1. Mr. Devon Stephen, Saint Lucia  
Fisherfolk Cooperative Society  
Limited  
Chairperson
2. Mr. Earl George, Dominica  
National Association of Fisherfolk  
Cooperative  
Deputy Chairperson
3. Mr. Aristo Richardson, Anguilla  
Fisherfolk Association  
Secretary General
4. Mr. Armando Ramirez, Belize  
Fishermen Cooperative  
Association  
Treasurer
5. Ms. Vernel Nicholls, Barbados  
National Union of Fisherfolk  
Organisation  
Public Relations Officer
6. Mr. Mark Lall, National  
Fisherfolk Organisation of  
Suriname  
Fisheries Liaison officer
7. Mr. Oscar Talbot, Turks and  
Caicos Fishing Cooperative Inc.  
Organisational Liaison Officer

# GUYANESE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY TAKES THE LION'S SHARE OF BENEFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF PEOPLE 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 [<https://www.tni.org/en/publication/an-ocean-drowning-in-capital>] 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. This second article on the report looks at the unequal distribution of benefits and burdens of oil and gas extraction.

Three oil companies currently operate in Guyanese waters: ExxonMobil (US), Hess Corporation (US) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) (China). As of today, these companies run three oil production platforms, a number that could grow to 10 by 2030.

ExxonMobil is owned by a large and diverse group of companies and individuals. The largest owners of ExxonMobil are investment management companies, such as Vanguard Group (US) or BlackRock (US). Banks also play a key role in the investment and ownership of the industry. ExxonMobil's largest owners include several banks, such as JPMorgan Chase & Co. (US) or Norges Bank (Norway). In practice, no individual or company owns more than 50% of ExxonMobil and effectively controls it (neither in Hess' case).

In the previous newsletter, we saw that fishing grounds have been grabbed by exploration vessels and oil production platforms, which disturb the marine environment. This damage is caused by the same industry that is largely responsible for the climate breakdown, and which seems bent on building the highway to climate hell.

According to the contract between the oil companies and the state of Guyana, ExxonMobil, Hess and CNOOC will get 85.5% of total profits until they recoup their initial investments. This means that the Guyanese people, especially fishing and coastal communities, are exposed to great threats for only 14.5% of the industry's profits, while foreign oil companies takes the lion's share.



# STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



*Photo Credit: provided by Sheldon Carty*

## MONTSERRAT

Fisherfolk in Montserrat is in dire need of a dedicated slipway and wharf. Most fishers use the merchant Port, the only wharf on the island. Since this is the only wharf on island, when merchant vessels and cruise ships, yachts and so forth are in there are issues .



## BAHAMAS

Bahamas Commercial Fishers Alliance, President Mr. Adrian LaRoda; and Ms. Sharease Cephas along with Bahamas Development Bank, Ms. Tamika McFall travelled to Belize from the 17th to 21st June 2024 on a fishers learning exchange.

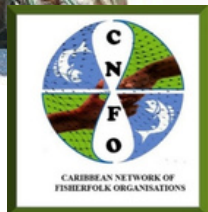
## BELIZE

There is the newly-elected executive National Women in Fisheries Association.

Elections for the seven members were held Monday, June 17 during the 7th annual Women in Fisheries Forum.

For more information visit WCS Belize facebook page.





# 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/)**



# JUNIOR QUASHIE

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Junior Quashie is from Tobago. He has been a fisherfolk for 42 years. He has been the president of the Castara Fisherfolk Association for the past 15 years and the Vice President of the All Tobago Fisher Association for the past 8 years.

*Junior Quashie - I thank God for life every day.*

He has passed on his knowledge and skills to his son who is also a fisherman. His passion for fishing is also evident in his participation in fishing tournaments and he has competed in the Grenada International Game Fishing tournament for 3 years. Junior is well known for his leadership and passion for advancing the fishing industry in Tobago.



- 8th to 12th July 2024, 36th Session Committee on Fisheries COFI, Rome Italy
- 17th Sept - 12th Nov CNFO Leadership Training
- 4th Nov - 8th Nov GCFI77
- 14th Nov to 21st Nov World Forum of Fisher Peoples 8th General Assembly
- 21st Nov International Fisheries Day

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