

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

36th Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

Committee on Fisheries, COFI36. The thirty-sixth session, was held from 8-12 July 2024 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The session was convened in a hybrid modality. The session was webcast

<http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6629/icode/>

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI), is a subsidiary body of the FAO Council, that was established by the FAO Conference in 1965. The 36th session was attended by 110 Members of the Committee, plus other official participants. Representing the CNFO were Mitchell Lay and Nadine Nembhard.

Link to International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty news:

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/0dd8c277-c694-498f-aa6d-1f515c0295b0>



When you talk about small-scale fisheries, you talk about more than 500 million people, supporting food security and nutrition all over the world.

But we, small-scale fishing communities, at this point in history are threatened by other actors: we face threat by industrial activities, pollution, land and ocean grabbing, blue economy false solutions.

Our comrades in Palestine are experiencing the loss of access to water, they're attacked almost every day and their lives are constantly put at risk.

Climate change and climate disasters are another huge cause of vulnerability for us, the fishers. We have to respond, and we can do it by holding us together and building solidarity, but also by engaging in political battle to see our rights finally protected by law.

The main recommendation coming out from this summit is that SSF must be on the agenda. Not only on the #COFI agenda, but also at the national level. It has to be on the agenda... - (Mitchell Lay @ SSF SUMMIT 2024)

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



Photo Credit: provided by Winsbert Harry

ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES

Hurricane Beryl (June/July 2024), which struck the Caribbean region, has had a devastating impact on the fishing communities of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The local fisherfolk, who rely heavily on their catch for sustenance and income, have faced significant losses due to damage to boats, fishing gear, and infrastructure. WHYHUNGER supported the NFO with a small grant to purchase equipment.

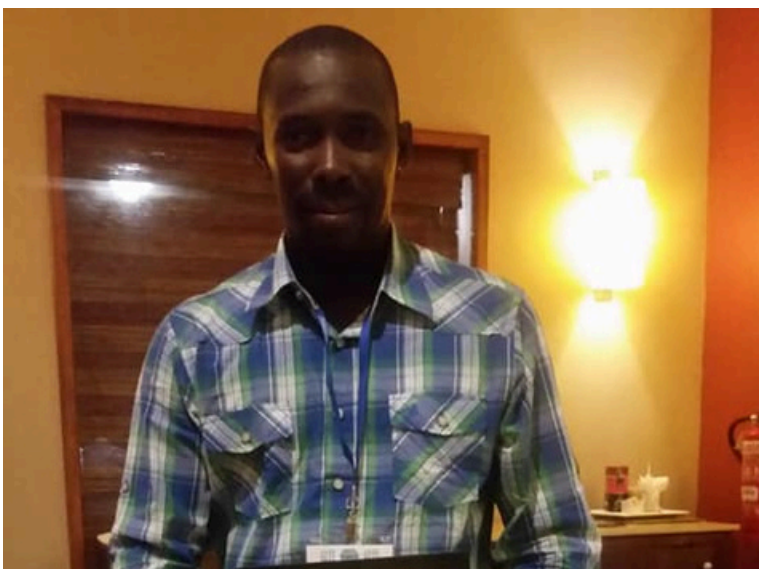
A safety at sea training commenced on the 23rd of September 2024 at the Fisheries Conference in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge and preparedness to tackle challenges faced at sea.



Responding to the announcement that the Government may have to import fish, the President of the National Fisherfolk Organization- Winsbert Harry, expressed his disagreement with such a move.

While he acknowledges that low catch rates have been an ongoing issue, he believes more can be done to support local fishermen in increasing their catch. (SVG TV)

<https://www.facebook.com/svgtv/videos/1590055901910416>



STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



MONTSERRAT

John Lee, an experienced fisher of Montserrat, set out alone on a white 23 feet fishing vessel, named the MV Optimum, at about 6.30am on 28 August. He was expected back to the island later that day, but has not been seen since. Extensive search was carried out to find him. He is still not found.

The Fisheries Department of Montserrat had a safety at sea training on the 28th August 2024 for the fisherfolk. Additionally, they issued some hand held radios to local fishers.

The Ministry of Agriculture discussed essential topics like safety at sea, radio operations, vessel registration, and port regulations.



NEW

New Chief Fisheries Officer

Since September 2024 Mr. Dan Edwards is the new Chief Fisheries Officer for Montserrat.

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



Photo Credit: provided by Armando Ramirez

BELIZE

Fishers from Southern Belize along with TIDE attended a trigo meeting in Puerto Cortes Honduras to continue discussions on the threats and opportunities within the 3 Countries (Belize, Honduras and Guatemala).

GUYANA

Pamashwar Jainarine of Guyana attended the Blue Food Forum, 12-13 September 2024, Tanzania. FISH4ACP hosted a global forum on aquatic food value chains, examining how they can help transform food systems and contribute to feed a growing population



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

On August 18, 2024 the Castara Fisherfolk Association of Tobago (Trinidad and Tobago) hosted a Sports and Family Day. Breakfast was free and there were plenty giveaways and prizes to be won.

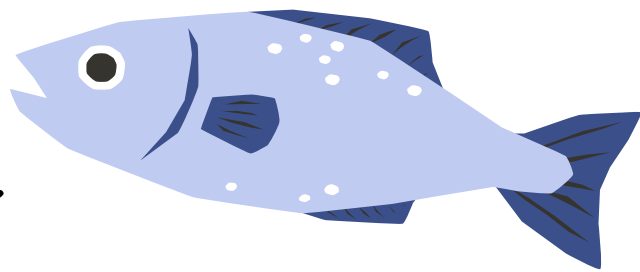
CASTARA FISHERMAN FETE 2024

SPONSORED BY:

- NIICB
- TECU Credit Union
- NP
- SUZUKI
- CORSA MARINE LIMITED
- MERCURY GO BOLDLY

Area Representative
Honourable Farley Augustine

Projects



CSFUND/TIDES

January 9, 2024 Tides Foundation, on the recommendation of CSFund, gave the CNFO a grant of USD\$60,000.00. This grant is for the CNFO's Just Transitions. The grant period is from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026



PADF/USAID

On July 30, 2024, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) awarded CNFO a USD\$250,000 grant to implement a project entitled "USAID Caribbean Sustainable Ecosystems Activity." The grant period is from July 30, 2024, to September 30, 2027.




SSF Guidelines

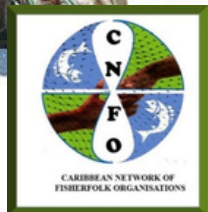
10th

Anniversary

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ON SSF GUIDELINES

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are the first international instrument dedicated entirely to the immensely important small-scale fisheries sector.





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/)



World Forum of Fisher Peoples

8th General Assembly

14th - 21st November 2024

WFFP ASSEMBLIES

During the days of 14th and 15th November there will be special assemblies dedicated for youths, women and indigenous peoples and inland fisheries.

THEMES

- Food Sovereignty – ‘the solution we want’
- The Climate Crisis – “the collective attempt to survive all organisms”
- Ocean Grabbing – ‘the threat we struggle against’

CONTINENTAL FORA

At the General Assembly members will get a chance to meet at the regional level on 20th November 2024. The CNFO delegation will meet in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) continental fora.

QUESTIONS

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LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY



THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOOK PLACE IN NEW DELHI, INDIA, FROM NOVEMBER 17 TO 21, 2017.



IN MEMORY OF JOSLYN LEEQUAY

31 ST OCT 1945 - 17 TH AUG 2024

Joslyn LeeQuay was an Executive Member of the Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF), a Board member of the CNFO, a Retired Principal, and a Former member of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute. Mr. LeeQuay has been involved in the fishing industry for many years. His experience in education has proven beneficial for supporting training programs for fisherfolk.

He has also worked as a consultant to the Seafood Industries Development Company in supporting fisherfolk organisations. Joslyn has represented CNFO in Rwanda and presented a video on 'The use of ICT in the Small Scale fisheries in the Caribbean'. He has also traveled to South Africa to attend the general assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), India, and Brazil to attend a meeting on the implementation of the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines.



- 17th Sept - 12th Nov CNFO Leadership Institute (Online)
- 7-11 Oct Caribbean Week of Agriculture (SVG)
- 4th Nov - 8th Nov GCFI77 (Guadeloupe)
- 14th Nov to 21st Nov World Forum of Fisher Peoples 8th General Assembly (Brazil)
- 21st Nov International Fisheries Day

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