

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

Promoting Fisher-led Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Turks and Caicos

Turks & Caicos Islands National Fishing Association, with The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the CSFUND, TIDES, is implementing a three-year project 2024-2026, "Promoting fisher-led implementation of SSF Guidelines in the Caribbean Region". Other partners to this workshop are Turks & Caicos National Trust, Grand Turk Fishing Association, and Providenciales Fishing Association. Collaborative partners include the South, North & Middle Caicos Fishers. The workshop was held on the 10th – 11th April 2025 at the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) conference room.



The objectives of this meeting are:

- **Build awareness and understanding of regional and global fisheries policy, namely the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), and the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (SSF).**
- **Develop draft advocacy plans for fishers to address major concerns.**
- **Develop draft plans for fisher-led implementation of the SSF guidelines.**
- **Build awareness of the CNFO's Regional Code of Conduct.**

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



picture courtesy fisher in Barbados

BARBADOS

Nine months after Hurricane Beryl decimated hundreds of fishing boats, over 60 vessels still have to be repaired. Similarly, the breakwater at the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex which was damaged also has to be repaired, says Chief Fisheries Officer Dr Shelly-Ann Cox. <https://nationnews.com/2025/04/19/over-60-boats-still-need-repairs/>



Pic credit: <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/at-the-dock-in-island-harbour-anguilla-ola-allen.html>

At the Dock in Island Harbour Anguilla is a photograph by Ola Allen which was uploaded on February 27th, 2019.

ANGUILLA

The Honourable Minister MSIE, Mrs. Quincia Gumbs-Marie, has been advancing efforts to build the first fish processing plant in Island Harbour, which will be a major step in bolstering the island's food security ambitions.

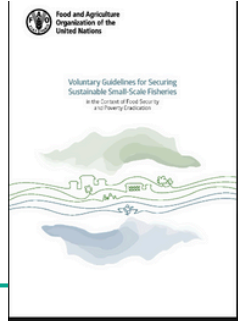


<https://flickr.com/photos/teletypeturtle/477475395>

DOMINICA

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved new financing to support the Commonwealth of Dominica in its efforts to strengthen domestic revenue mobilization, enhance financial sector resilience, and promote biodiversity conservation and disaster preparedness in support of better opportunities for its people. This Development Policy Credit comprises an envelope of US\$ 24 million.

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



About SSF Guidelines

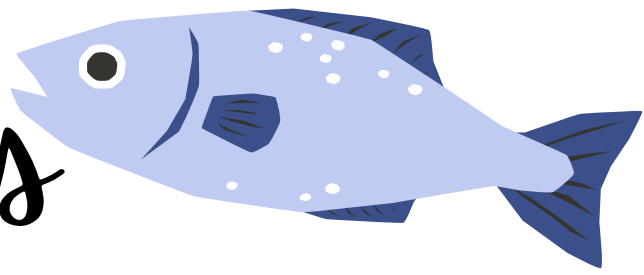
Responsible governance of tenure

The SSF Guidelines advise that small-scale fishing communities should have secure, equitable and socio-culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources, fishing areas and adjacent land and forests. Special attention should be given to tenure rights of women and the customary rights to aquatic resources and land of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

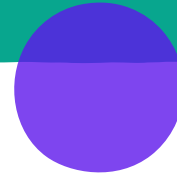
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and 22nd September 2022). (FAO supported)
- **Turks and Caicos SSF Guidelines Workshop April 10-11, 2025. (Collaboration CSFUND/TIDES, Fisherfolk Organisations and national partners)**
- Upcoming St. Vincent and Grenadines SSF Guidelines Workshop May 12-13, 2025. (Collaboration PADF, CRFM, CSFUND, National Fisherfolk Organisations, National partners and **Sandals Resorts International**)

Project Updates



CSFUND/TIDES FOUNDATION

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



RAG-LAC

Regional Advisory Groups (RAG) were created in 2020 to ensure a coherent implementation of policies, strategies and actions in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation at the regional level. The CNFO is a member of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.



CANARI PROJECT

Promoting the ecosystem approach to fisheries in Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

A Stewardship Action Learning Group (ALG) is to be established and facilitated through the CNFO's Leadership Institute.

There will be a fisher learning exchange in 2025 and another in 2026.

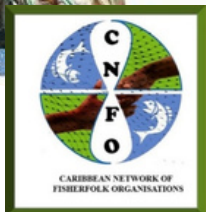
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

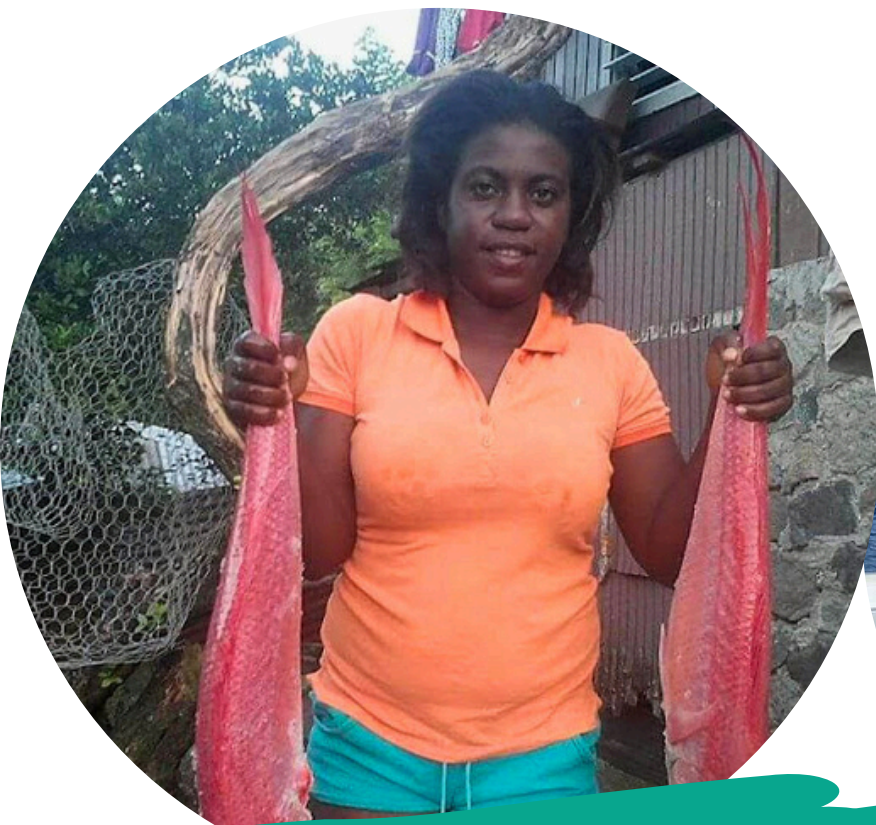
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

Build Awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).





CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE 25% BY 2030 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/)

26th CNFO Executive Committee Meeting

26TH CNFO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING DATE: 28TH APRIL 2025 ON ZOOM
TIME: 7:45 P.M ECT TO 10:00 ECT P.M

CNFO Executive Committee

Mr. Devon Stephen, Saint Lucia (Chair)

Mr. Earl George, Dominica (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Aristo Richardson, Anguilla (General Secretary)

Mr. Armando Ramirez, Belize (Treasurer)

Ms. Vernel Nicholls, Barbados (Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Oscar Talbot, Turks and Caicos (Organizational Liaison Officer)

Mr. Mark Lall, Suriname (Fisheries Liaison Officer)

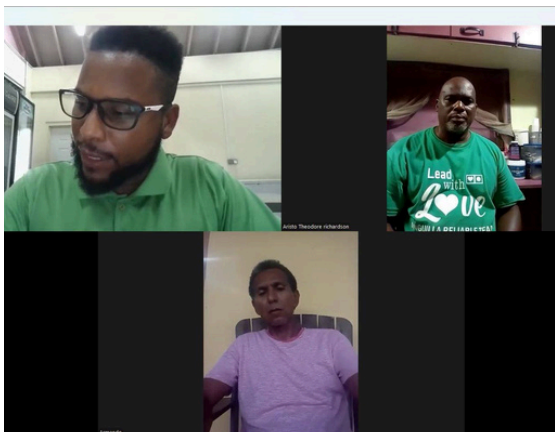
Staff

Nadine Nembhard, Belize (Administrative Officer)

Mitchell Lay, Antigua and Barbuda (Program Coordinator)

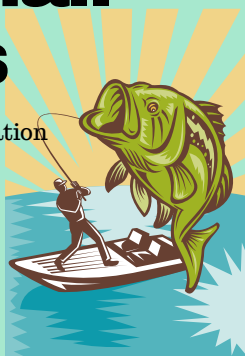
EXECUTIVE UPDATES

The Executive considered a membership application for the Tortola Fisherfolk representing the Virgin Islands. Currently, the CNFO is made up of 16 active members from CARICOM.



Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



GOVERNANCE OF TENURE

Secure equitable tenure rights to fishery resources and coastal land. Sustainable resource management including co-management.

Social development, employment and decent work

Address issues such as education, health services, financial services, social protection, public infrastructure, and other public services.

Health and safety; measures to improve safety at sea.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade

Involve post-harvest actors in the decision-making process. Stress the role of women. Infrastructure and technology investments, value-added activities, and post-harvest loss and waste reduction.

Gender equality

Improve gender equality in the entire value chain. Equal participation of women in decision-making, mainstreaming gender issues.



DISASTER RISK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Develop policies, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and emergency response and disaster preparedness.



Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small- Scale Fisheries

in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



RAISING AWARENESS: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND OUTREACH

Communication materials on SSF Guidelines, implementation guides, translation into local languages, promotion and awareness-raising



**Empowering stakeholders:
capacity development and
institutional strengthening**

Effective participation and fair representation in governance and development. Capacity development (technical skills, organizations skills, business development)

**Supporting implementation:
program management,
collaboration and management**

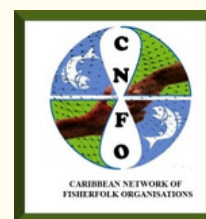
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**Strengthening the science-policy
interface: sharing of knowledge
and supporting policy reform**

A strengthened knowledge base that informs a policy reform within a human rights context.

Good practices need to be identified and shared. Case Studies, technical support, and assistance for review and revisions of policy and legal framework.



CNFO CONTACT:

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<https://cnfo.fish/>

VERONICA TUN



Born for the Sea

My name is Veronica Tun, and I am a proud fisherwoman from Dangriga Town, Belize. The sea is my home, my strength, and my way of life. For 21 years, I have risen with the sun, feeling the salt breeze as I head out on the water, casting my fishing line with patience and skill. Fishing isn't just my job—it's my passion, my tradition, and my future.

Every time I push off from shore, I feel the pull of the ocean. The rhythm of the waves, the quiet patience of waiting for a catch, and the thrill when the line tightens remind me why I love what I do. Fishing is more than just work; it's a deep connection to the water, a test of skill and endurance, and a source of pride.

The sea has shaped me into the person I am today. From the early morning breeze to the long hours of dedication, every part of this journey fills me with purpose. Fishing is not just about making a living; it's about respecting the ocean, understanding its ways, and embracing every challenge it brings. No matter how rough the waters get, I will always return to the sea—it's where I belong.



- St. Vincent and Grenadines workshop under PADF/Sandal Resorts International collaboration, May 2025
- Gender and Fisheries in the Caribbean, Panama, May
- Fisherfolk Day 29th June 2025
- 78th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Colombia from 27 – 31 October, 2025



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