

# FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

## Together, we rise. Together, we resist. Together, we shape the future!

Congratulations to the women for putting together this forum, where, just as we did in Brazil, we can come together as women to talk about common issues and how we can overcome them.

Body

I daresay that the support role is just as important as the extraction. Most women fall there as vendor and the domestic support role. We have to continue realizing and recognizing the important role that women play.

Caribbean women, women in most of the CNFO member states, are very involved in the fishing sector as there are few to no barriers to entry. Women are boat owners, fishers, and vendors, although in the minority. Most of our fishing is still done in small vessels that do not have toilet facilities, for example, making it difficult for women to function in, and tradition has it that men are the dominant ones in the sector at that level. However, women are in management and leadership roles. I can identify two examples: in Barbados and Saint Lucia, the Chief Fisheries Officers are both women, and the cooperatives and associations are dominated by women. The tackle and lure shops are predominantly women, extension officers. So there is a platform for women to be actively involved in the fishing sector.

We have a responsibility as women to ensure that we leave an enviable footprint behind for the incoming generation and to make space for those behind us.

We know that it's not the same in all WFFP jurisdictions, but we are willing and open to sharing our stories of resilience and courage to encourage other women all over the world to get to the point where they can actively partake alongside the men. (Speech by Kaygianna Toussaint Charlery on IWD25)

### The World Forum of Fisher Peoples International Women's Day Celebration 2025

On 20th March 2025, the WFFP celebrated IWD with an online event. Ms. Kayginana Toussaint Charely spoke on behalf of Caribbean women.

- ◆ Key Discussions:
- ✿ Fisherwomen's role in sustaining life and livelihoods
- 🌊 Challenges of the 'Blue Economy' and resisting ocean privatization
- 💪 Reclaiming our waters: collective action for justice
- 🤝 Stories of strength, solidarity, and resistance



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrgemEVBkpc>

# STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



*Mr. Adrian LaRoda*

## BAHAMAS

President of The Bahamas Commercial Fishers Alliance Adrian LaRoda expects the cost of exported seafood from The Bahamas to the US to increase by as much as 30 percent because of a 10 percent tariff imposed on exported Bahamian goods to the US.



Pic credit: <https://www.dom767.com/dompedia/dublanc/>

## DOMINICA

Dublanc, a fishing village in Dominica, has rehabilitated the office building, locker rooms, and finished an ice machine facility at the fishing landing site. The initiative is part of the Dominica Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (DEALCRP)

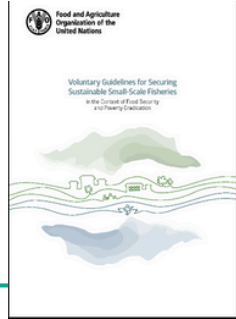


*A seabob vendor of the Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara (ECD), market (Photo: FAO, April 2023)*

## GUYANA

A new initiative has been launched to revitalise the cooperative societies within Guyana's artisanal fisheries sector. The project is spearheaded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Union Delegation to Guyana, and the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture.

# Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



## About SSF Guidelines

### Tenure rights in small-scale fisheries

Small-scale fishers need secure and stable access to fishing grounds. They also need access to other resources like land so they can bring fish ashore, have a place to process fish, and, not least, have a place to live.

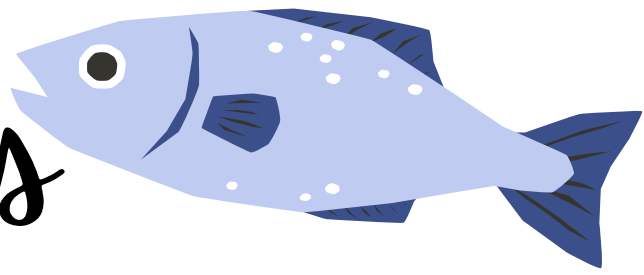
Without recognized rights, there is the risk that competing economic interests from other users of the water and land, such as tourism, power production, industrial fishing or other interests can push small-scale fishing communities aside.

<https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

## CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

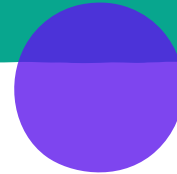
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and 22nd September 2022). (FAO supported)
- Another three members will develop an advocacy campaign between 2025 and 2026. (**Turks and Caicos April 10-11, 2025; St. Vincent and Grenadines May 2025**)
- CNFO's Program Coordinator participated in the ICSF-FSSF Sri Lanka Workshop on Strengthening Collaboration and Capacity-Building in Small-Scale Fisheries, 24-26 February 2025.

# 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

The RAG LAC Project aligns with the objectives of the SSF Guidelines. This project aims to enhance the livelihoods of small-scale fishers in Latin America and the Caribbean. If you would like to financially support the advisory's group, contact the CNFO office.



## CANARI PROJECT

Promoting the ecosystem approach to fisheries

Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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

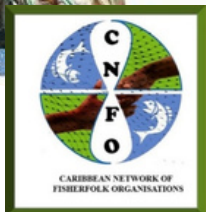
## WHYHUNGER/CNFO

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

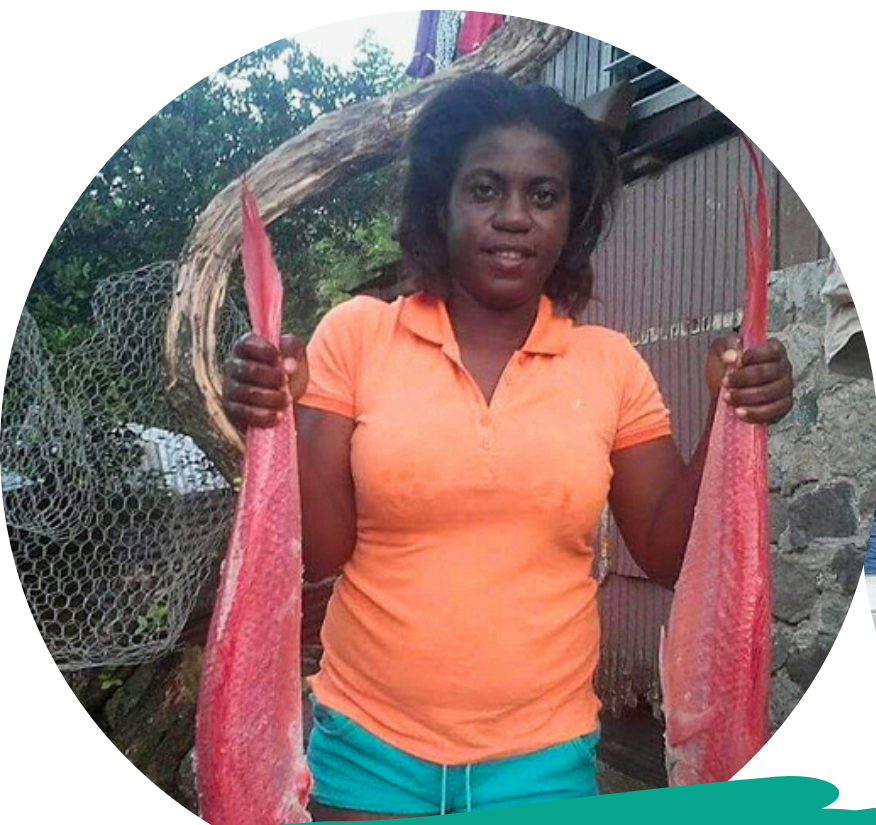
Build Awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).







# 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/)**

# Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

## 23RD MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN FISHERIES FORUM, 25 - 27 MARCH 2025 (ELECTRONIC MEETING)

- Several Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), as well as representatives of regional and international observer organizations, including the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), met from Wednesday, 25-27 March 2025, to deliberate on developments in fisheries and aquaculture.
- The CRFM convened this 23rd Regular Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum to receive technical inputs from national fisheries authorities across the Caribbean, as well as key stakeholders and partners, in addressing the priorities of the sector.

## CNFO/CRFM UPDATES

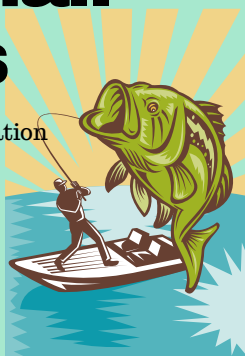


The CNFO asked that at the next Ministerial Council, the Ministers responsible for fisheries consider the CNFO/CRFM Small-scale Fisheries Action Plan 2023 – 2025: Contributing to Achieving the 25% Reduction in the Caribbean Community Food Bill by 2025.



# 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**

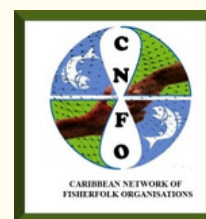
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**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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# KAYGIANNA TOUSSAINT CHARLERY

Meet Senator Kaygianna Toussaint Charlery. Operations Manager of the Goodwill Fishermen's Cooperative a post which she has served in for over a decade, and Administrative Assistant of the Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Limited.

Kaygianna is constantly advocating for change in the fishing sector, and she gives voice to both the plight and achievements of the fishing sector in her beloved island of Saint Lucia.

At every given opportunity to continue to comment on the contribution that the fishing sector makes to the country's economy, both informally and formally, and pushes sure greater recognition of the Fisher by the Fisher him/ herself and by the powers that be. " Fishers have to first respect themselves and recognize that they are valuable, especially when it comes to food security in our small islands". It is her belief that fishers should come together to advocate for collective recognition and change.



- **Turks and Caicos workshop under CSFUND/TIDES project April 10-11, 2025**
- **St. Vincent and Grenadines workshop under PADF/Sandal Resorts International collaboration, May 2025**
- **Fisherfolk Day 29th June 2025**
- **78th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Colombia from 27 – 31 October, 2025**



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