

# FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

## Promoting Fisher-led Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in St. Vincent and the Grenadines 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Sandals Resorts Conference

The fisherfolk of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have partnered with the CNFO and Sandals Resorts International to build awareness of the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines) and the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) to link fishers' concerns to regional and Global fisheries policy provisions. This collaboration seeks to further articulate some direction for fisher-led implementation of fisheries policy in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with an initial focus on an advocacy drive to address fisher concerns. Additionally, the workshop looked at:

- Build awareness of the CNFO's Regional Code of Conduct.
- Fisheries value chain discussions
- Marketing of fish in SVG

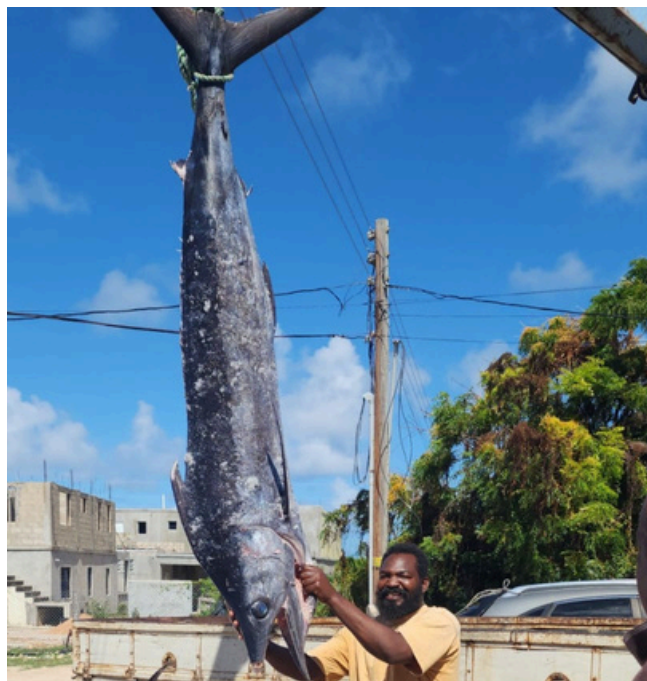
This partnership was arranged through a collaboration with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).



### Key messages:

- 1. Fisherfolk must be involved in fisheries management at all stages and levels, including in the Fisheries Advisory Committee.**
- 2. Information on fisheries management must be available to fishers well in advance of any new management measures, and fishers' participation is critical.**
- 3. Safety at sea, diversification, and disaster risk reduction are important elements to secure and enhance fisherfolk's livelihoods.**
- 4. IUU fishing affects all of us.**
- 5. Fishers seek to be responsible stewards of our fishery resources and should not be displaced or relocated without equitable reform or acceptable provisions.**

# STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



picture credit: Keith Fabian (Anguilla)

## ANGUILLA

The Anguilla Fisherfolk Association (AFFA) is actively pursuing the establishment of a fish processing plant in collaboration with the GoA - Government of Anguilla.

## BARBADOS

The month of June will see a hive of activity at landing sites across the island of Barbados as the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) celebrates the fishing industry.



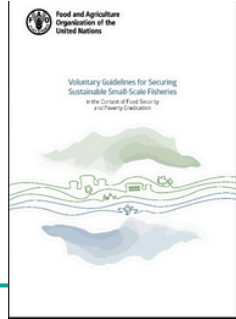
Picture Credit: Armando Ramirez (2024)

## BELIZE

The Belize Fisheries Department hereby informs all fishers and the public that the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) fishery closes at the close of business on May 25, 2025.

All conch fishing activities shall cease as of this date until the opening of the next fishing season on October 1, 2025.

# Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



## About SSF Guidelines

### Human well-being and ecosystem health

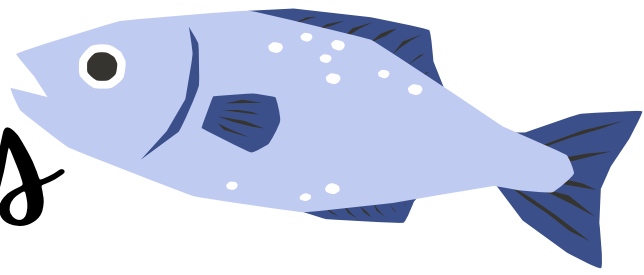
For a fishery to be sustainable, it is important to give attention to ensuring that the stocks of fish fished and the ecosystem they live in are kept healthy and resilient over time. Such efforts will need to take all who depend on fish for food and livelihood into account.

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) is a holistic approach to managing fisheries, looking at how fisheries affect and interact with society, economy, culture, and environment. The EAF is based on the idea that human well-being and ecosystem health are linked to one another.

### CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

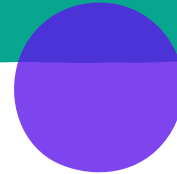
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and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

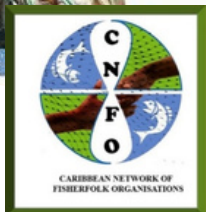
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.  
January 2024 and July 2026

## WHYHUNGER/CNFO

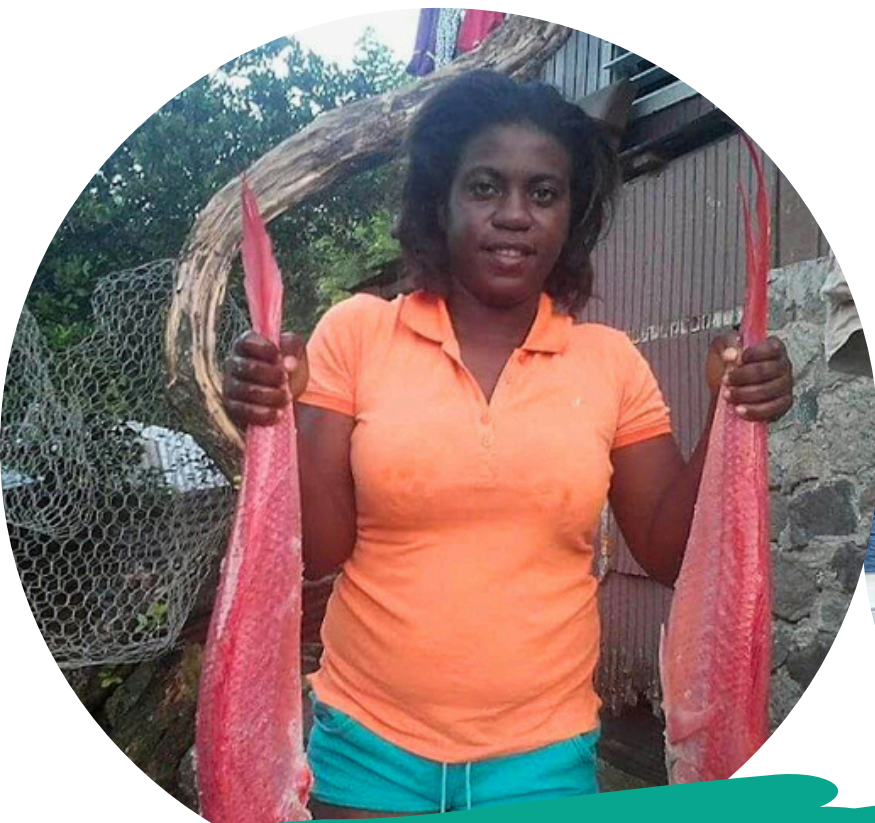
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

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/)**

# CNFO's Executive Committee

2024-2027

## 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

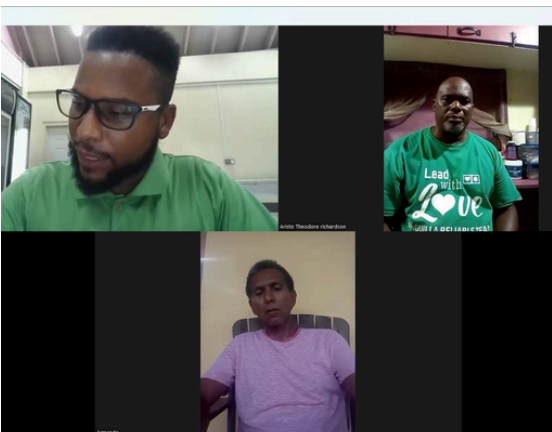
Nadine Nembhard, Belize (Administrative Officer)

Mitchell Lay, Antigua and Barbuda (Program Coordinator)

## EXECUTIVE UPDATES

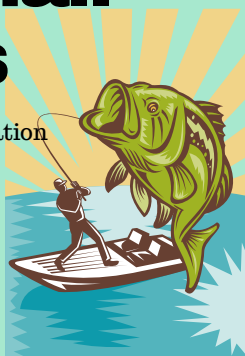
CNFO's Executive will be hosting a special meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to review a draft CNFO financial plan.

Fisherfolk Day Theme 29<sup>th</sup> June: "Catalyzing sustainable fisheries and responsible aquaculture action for people, ocean, and climate"



# 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**

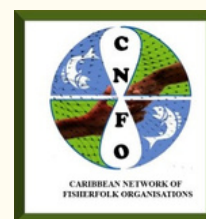
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**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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**cnfo\_cu@yahoo.com**

**<https://cnfo.fish/>**

# ALDEN MORRIS

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Photo credit: Fisherfolk First Organization

*The TCI National Fishing Association is a non-governmental organization established as a liaison between the Government and Fisherfolk. Their objective is to ensure sustainable livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities through collaboration, training, advocacy and promoting inclusion of fishers in decision-making processes impacting their lives. For more information, please call 649-342-1283 or whatsapp)*

Part 1/2: Meet Mr. Alden Morris aka "Soupy", the fearless fisherfolk of South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands. For over 30 years plus, he has braved the unpredictable waters to provide for his family and the communities.

Hailing from the island of Grand Turk, he migrated to the fishing community of South Caicos in the 90's where his love for the ocean and its bounty did not go unnoticed. From a young age, he learned the art of fishing from his father honing on key skills and techniques which has afforded him the opportunity to assist with scientific research, construction of fish pots and casitas (artificial habitat for lobsters), boat repairs and many other areas of the fishing industry. With every sunrise, he sets out facing the elements head-on, armed with his free-dive gear, lobster hooks, fishing tackle and a heart full of hope.

Like other fishermen around the islands, Soupy has faced many challenges in the industry, from harsh weather conditions associated with increasing impacts of climate change, to dwindling populations of marine species. Yet, through it all, he remains unwavering in his commitment to his craft.



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