

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

Conference of the Ocean People Defying Colonial Capitalism: Uniting for the Future of Earth & Oceans 8 June (Ocean Day) – 9 June 2025

The Second Conference of the Ocean Peoples (C-OP2) is a global political summit organised by the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) on 8 and 9 June 2025, online.

Organised by and for fisher peoples from more than 50 countries, C-OP2 brought together over 300 participants, including Indigenous communities, coastal and inland fishers, seafood gatherers, fisherwomen's movements, UN rapporteurs, academics, and solidarity networks. Together, they exposed and resisted the ongoing assault on our waters, while asserting the demands and political vision of ocean peoples.

C-OP2 builds on the legacy of the first conference in 2022, which you can revisit at <http://blueeconomytribunal.org/c-op-home>. "Today, we renew that spirit with greater urgency—at a time when imperialism, authoritarianism, and militarised climate governance are accelerating violence, hunger, displacement, and ecological loss for our communities."



Quotes from Speech by Ramakrishna Tandel, Chairperson, National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), India

Delivered at the 2nd Conference of the Ocean Peoples Assembly (C-OP2) on the occasion of World Ocean Day – 8th June 2025

"Since the late 1970s, NFF has resisted destructive state policies that favour industrial and mechanized fishing. "

"Comrades, our demand is clear. We want law, not welfare. We want justice, not charity. Fisher Rights legislation is the goal of NFF. We are training our youth and women leaders not only to resist destruction, but to imagine and lead an alternative future. One where the sea is not for sale. One where fishers are not prisoners of development. One where the coast belongs to the people who protect it."

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR

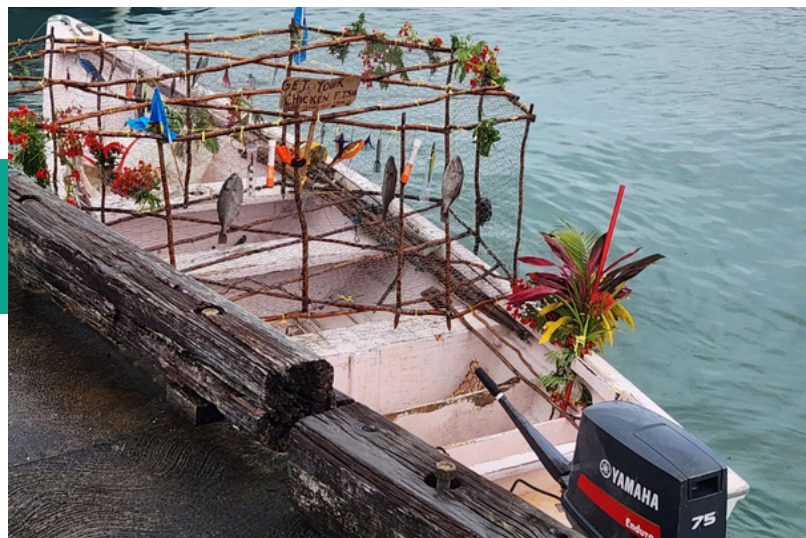


picture credit: Paula Jacobs

BELIZE

Sea level rise and erosion in Punta Negra, Belize.

Erosion has been a persistent problem, intensifying over the last five years, and has impacted over 10 miles of coastline, reducing the beach by up to 60 feet in some areas.



SAINT LUCIA

On the occasion of Fishermen's Feast, on behalf of the Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Co-operative Society Limited, I take this opportunity to extend warm wishes to all Fisherfolk. - Hanisen St Rose
President- Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Co-operative Society Limited.



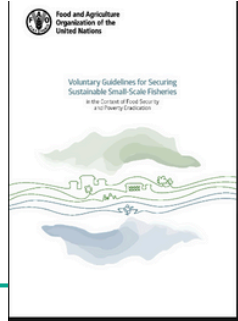
Picture Credit: Earl George

DOMINICA

A service was held at Newtown Fatima Church, bringing together members of the Newtown Co-operative to celebrate Fisherfolk Day on 29th June 2025.

The theme for this year's Fisherfolk Day was "Catalyzing sustainable fisheries and responsible aquaculture action for people, ocean, and climate."

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



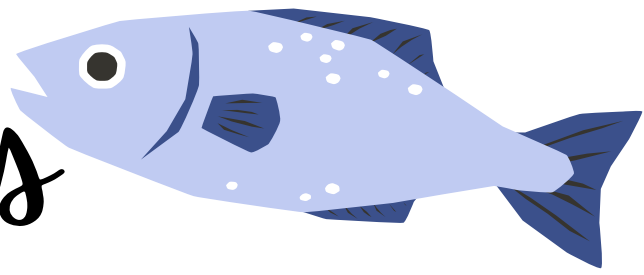
About SSF Guidelines Participatory management

Small-scale fishing communities can play an important role in managing, restoring, conserving, and protecting aquatic resources and ecosystems. States and government institutions can empower and support fishing communities to engage in such participatory management – also called co-management – of fisheries resources together with government institutions and other groups.

CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

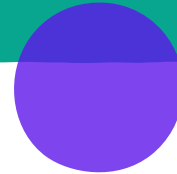
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and 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.

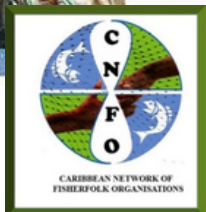
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

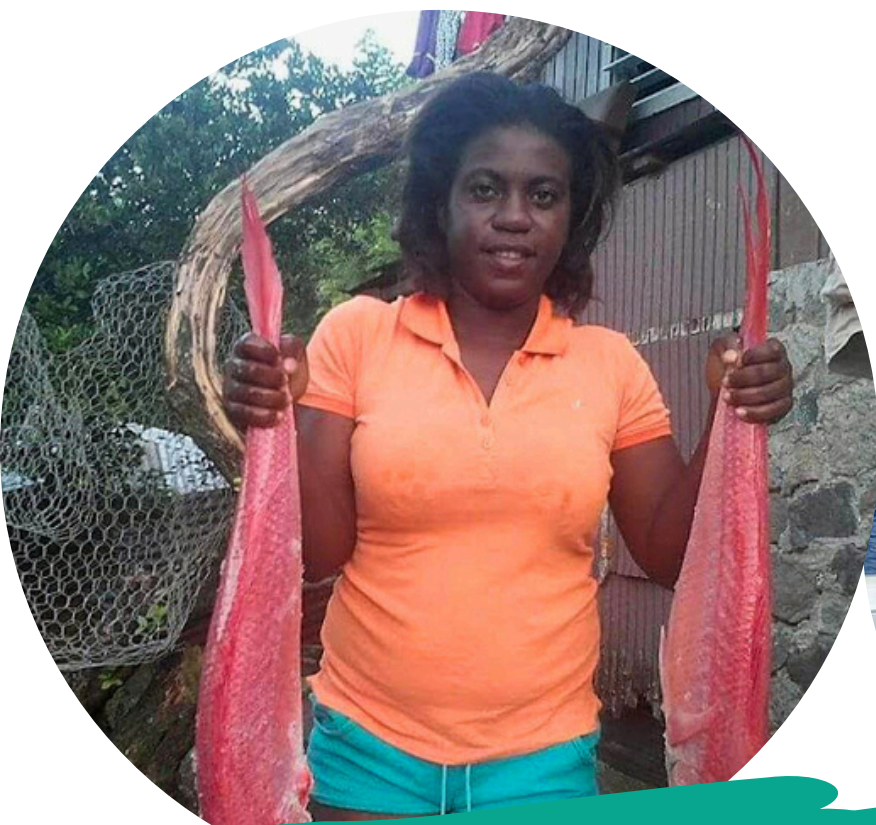
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

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 and Board sending sympathies:

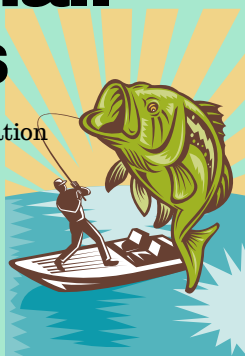
"We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Henderson Inniss. His contribution to the fishing community leaves a lasting legacy. May his memory be a blessing."

September 1st, 1960–June 19th, 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**

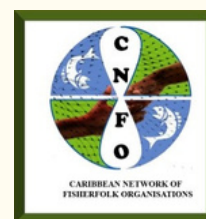
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**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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ALDEN MORRIS



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 2/2: Meet Mr. Alden Morris aka "Soupy", the fearless fisherfolk of South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands. He understands the fragile balance between taking from the sea and preserving its resources for future generations. We salute you Mr. Morris and encourage you to continue to lead by example, inspiring others to do the same.

Despite the struggles, Soupy's optimism shines through. His infectious smile and unwavering spirit are a testament to his resilience. He has not only managed to provide for his family and pay monthly expenses, but he has also become a pillar of the community. His knowledge and expertise are credible, and has given him the respect of seasoned fishermen (commercial, sports & leisure), who see him as a mentor and a role model.

So the next time you're in South Caicos, keep an eye out for Soupy. Talk to him, learn from him, and let his optimistic outlook on life and the sea inspire you. Because in a world full of chaos and uncertainties, we can all learn a thing or two from this fearless and humble fisherman of South Caicos.



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