

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

Caribbean Fisherwomen Shine at World Forum of Fisher Peoples First Global Fisherwoman's Assembly in Thailand

HAT YAI, THAILAND – Eight Women leaders from the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) played a pivotal role at the inaugural World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) 1st Global Fisherwoman's Assembly held here from August 7-17. The delegation, attending the open sessions from August 13-16, brought a powerful Caribbean voice to the global stage.

Throughout the event, delegates engaged in critical discussions about the challenges facing fisherwomen, including the impacts of industrialization, coastal development, and climate change. A key session was dedicated to formulating a policy on harassment and discrimination, with participants discussing whether to create a general policy or one focused specifically on sexual harassment.



picture credit: CNFO

Poem: Sisters of the Caribbean Sea (Partial poem)

Across the waters we
journeyed far, From islands
where the waves are our
guiding star, To Thailand's
shores we came to stand, With
hearts like anchors, hand in
hand.

Susan of Anguilla, coral crown
so fair, Knows the quiet coves
where fishers share The
wisdom passed from tide to
tide, A legacy the waves still
guide.

Sharese of the Bahamas,
where turquoise gleams,
Where conch shells whisper
ancient dreams, Brings the
rhythms of Junkanoo's beat,
And the stories the ocean
repeats.

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Frigate Fishing recently hosted a Kingfish Fishing Tournament in August 2025, right in the beautiful village of Castara!

This exciting event was the vision of Mr. Hollis Walker, proud Castara native and owner of Frigate Fishing — with great support from Ms. Ayaana Winchester and inspiration from his uncle, Mr. Junior Quashie board member of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).

DOMINICA

On August 2nd, a fishing trip off San Sauveur turned tragic when Captain Aaron Chalemger fell overboard due to a wave and subsequently submerged after reporting cramps. Co-fisherman Hendricks Eustace, after disabling the boat's engine, swam to shore overnight following the incident. Eustace is currently receiving medical attention, while the search for Chalemger continues.



Aaron Challenger
(dominicanewsonline.com)

TURKS AND CAICOS

Summer in Turks and Caicos saw fishing tournaments.

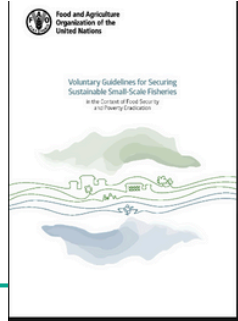
LOBSTER SEASON:

Lobster season in Turks and Caicos is a highly anticipated event every year. The season typically runs from August 1 through March 31, sometimes varying slightly each year.



Picture Credit: Michelle Gardiner

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



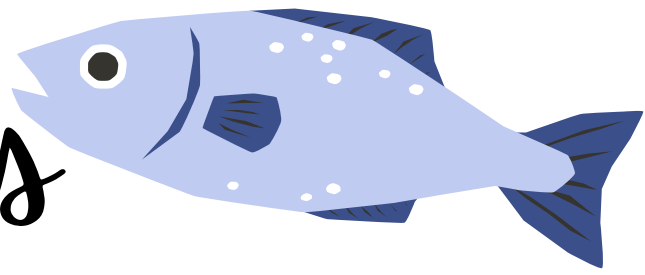
About SSF Guidelines Participatory management

The SSF Guidelines also provide guidance on the need for sustainable fishing practices that do the least harm to the environment and the fish. States are encouraged to prevent and stop all illegal and destructive fishing practices, avoid overfishing, and put in place systems for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Small-scale fishers are, in turn, encouraged to support and uphold such MCS systems.

CNFO & SSF Guidelines:

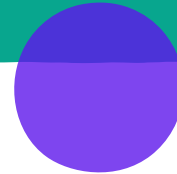
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and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

The first ALG meeting was held on Thursday, 7 August 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for 2nd October 2025.

Learning Exchange in Saint Lucia, 17th to 20th November 2025.

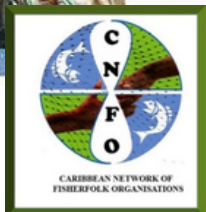
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

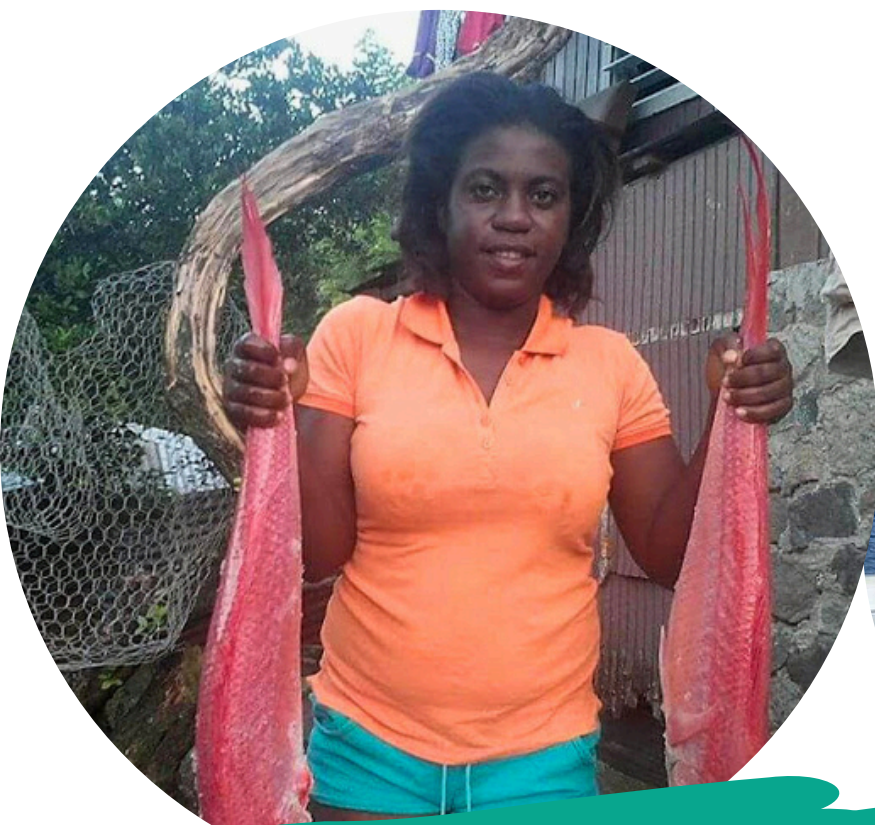
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

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

Caribbean Week of Agriculture



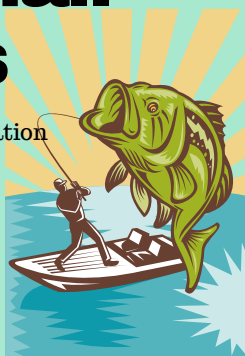
29th September – 3rd October 2025.

The CRFM Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel St. Kitts and Nevis. The forum is scheduled to run from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., with a break included.

This event is organized by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and partners.

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**

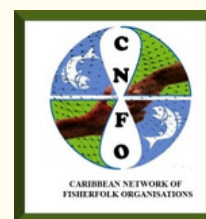
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**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.



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Ms. Ronita Ollivierre

RONITA OLLIVIERRE

Ronita Ollivierre hails from Lapompe, Bequia, in the Grenadines of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. She comes from a proud island community deeply rooted in the traditions of fishing, seamoss cultivation, and seafaring. Growing up in a fishing family, Ronita has always been connected to the sea and the livelihoods it sustains, both culturally and economically.

Ronita's journey is one of resilience. Balancing family responsibilities, economic challenges, and health struggles, she continues to show determination and commitment to her community. She represents the voice of Bequia fisherfolk championing their rights, sharing their stories, and reminding the wider Caribbean that the fishing sector is not only an industry but also a way of life.

Over the years, she has established herself as an advocate for sustainable fishing practices, responsible seamoss farming, and community-led development. Passionate about preserving marine resources for future generations, Ronita has been involved in initiatives that highlight the importance of fisheries to food security, tourism, and cultural heritage across the Caribbean.

Her leadership extends beyond the shorelines of Bequia. Ronita actively participates in dialogues on women in fisheries, youth empowerment, and the role of fisherfolk in national development. She emphasizes education, innovation, and collaboration as vital tools for strengthening small-scale fisheries and improving the lives of fishing families.



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