

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

20th Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). Montego Bay, Jamaica, July 8-10, 2025

Small-Scale Fishers Spotlight Opportunities in Waste-to-Value Solutions

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), represented by Nadine Nembhard, delivered an intervention in support of regional by-products management efforts, reporting on a Barbados initiative that reuses fish waste for fertilizer and silage through FAO support. CNFO called on countries to “consider how such strategic, cross-sectoral partnerships can be replicated across our region to turn fish waste into economic opportunity, enhance food security, and empower our fisherfolk, particularly women, thereby fostering a more resilient and sustainable fishing industry.”

At the session, delegates also reviewed the financial and administrative affairs of the Commission, elected new leadership, and adopted the updated 2025–2027 work plan. The chairmanship, previously held over the last intersessional period by CARICOM countries under the leadership of Hon. Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining of Jamaica, was officially passed on.



picture credit: WECAFC

The Twentieth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the largest regional fishery body of Latin America and the Caribbean under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), officially opened on July 8, 2025, in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Marking the largest-attended biennial session in nearly a decade, this year's hybrid gathering brings together over 120 participants – 26 members of the Commission, alongside 11 international and regional partner organizations.

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



DOMINICA

On Saturday, July 5th, 2025, in Dominica, the first-ever Cooperative Awards Ceremony, under the powerful theme: “Celebrating Volunteerism”, as part of the global observance of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.

Mr. Olujide Obonyo also received an award for long service as a cooperative member. He served at Soufriere Fishermen’s Cooperative Society Limited as a cooperative member. He also served on the National Fisherfolk Organisation (Nafcoop) Board.

GUYANA

Mr. Mitchell Lay, CNFO Program Coordinator, and Mr. Pamashwar Jainarine, CNFO’s board member for Guyana, attended the Regional Consultation for the Member States of CARICOM on the Draft CARICOM Ocean Governance Policy, held on July 22–23, 2025, at the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Center, Georgetown, Guyana.



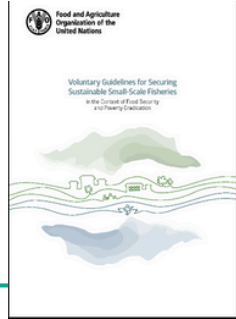
ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Big thanks to the CNFO and WhyHunger for supporting the national fisherfolk football team. This is part of bringing fishers together from different fishing communities to play football together and share Information. Women are also included on the football teams. A message from Mr. Winsbert Harry, President of the National Fisherfolk Organisation in SVG.



Picture Credit: Winsbert Harry

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



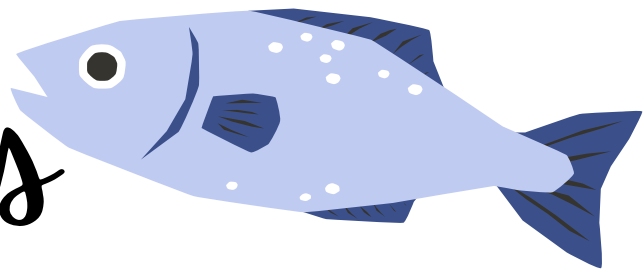
About SSF Guidelines Participatory management

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:

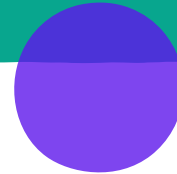
- Developing and implementing an advocacy campaign to address identified fisheries challenges in three CNFO member states, in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines (Anguilla 8th, 10th, and 15th March 2022); (Jamaica 13th, 16th, and 30th June 2022); and St. Kitts and Nevis 24th, 25th August and 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). On 19th August there will be a second workshop with the fisherfolk in SVG, hosted by Sandals 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.

The first ALG meeting was held on Thursday, 7 August 2025.

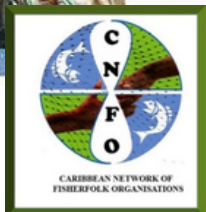
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

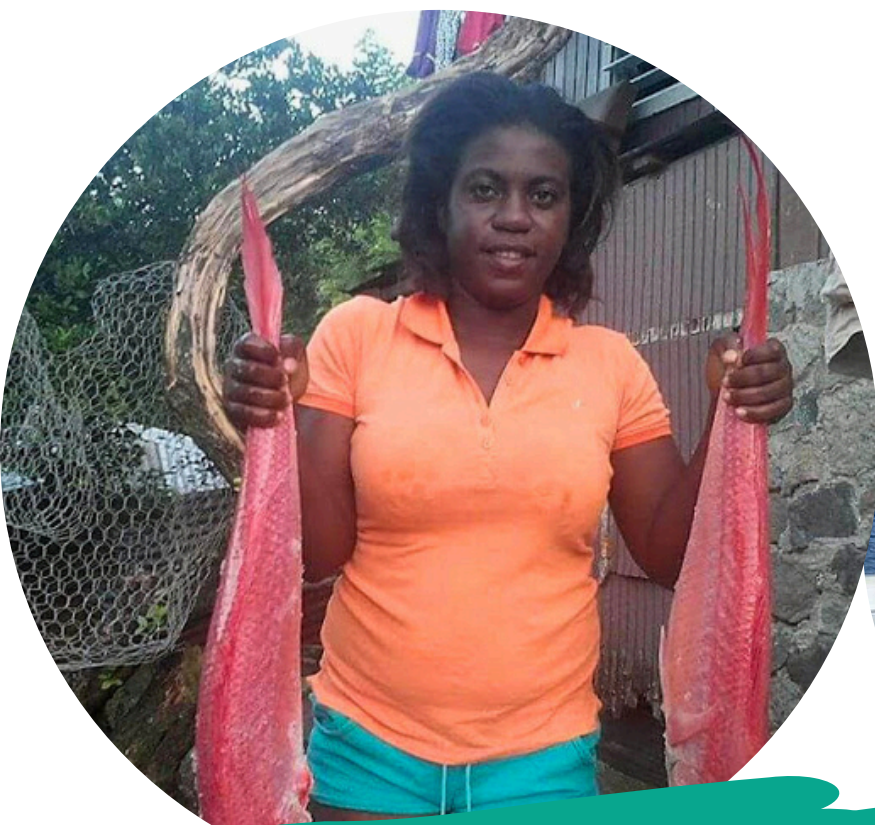
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

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

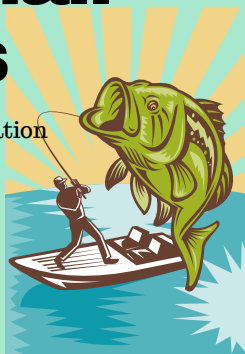


Caribbean Week of Agriculture hosted by St. Kitts was launched on Tuesday, July 15th, 2025. We inform our members that CWA will be held in St. Kitts between:

29th September – 3rd October 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.



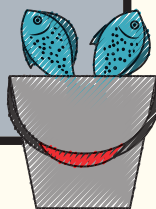
Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small- Scale Fisheries

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**

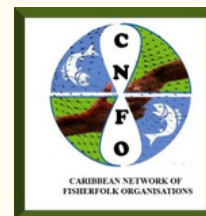
Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



**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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Ms. Danette and her son

In the heart of Belize, within the small coastal community of Monkey River Village, stands Danette Arlene Young, a 45-year-old dedicated community leader, cook, fisherwoman, and mom. She is a formidable force, actively shaping the future of her village, which is currently grappling with severe erosion challenges.

DANETTE ARLENE YOUNG

Danette, serving her second term as the Vice-Chairlady of her village, demonstrates an unwavering commitment to local governance and development. Beyond her official role, Danette is also the president of a women's group comprising 15 members.

Her background: a high school graduate, she has also completed multiple short courses in small business management, tour guide, and related fields.

Danette is currently operating her own business: a butterfly farm. This venture beautifully blends environmental stewardship with entrepreneurship, showcasing a sustainable approach to economic growth within her community.

Ultimately, Danette Arlene Young remains driven by her vision of a resilient, empowered Monkey River Village where women lead with strength, creativity, and confidence. She is a leader committed to overcoming challenges and building a brighter, more independent future for her community.



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