

# FisherFolk Net

## Montserrat Fisherfolks, Waitt Foundation, MPAs. Necessary or NGO driven?



*Montserrat Fishers discussing livelihoods sustainability and food security with the CNFO*

- CNFO Editorial Staff

One of Waitt Institute's rationale for strong protection of Montserrat's Marine Environment is that Montserrat has committed to protecting 10-30% of its waters as no-take marine reserves in line with international targets.

This commitment is voluntary and therefore subject to the realities that exist at the local level. Realities that include island goals and objectives, as well as other internal goals such as the SDGs, related to sustainable fisheries livelihoods, food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and many others.

Additionally, the fishing effort is SSF and multi-gear, multi-species, with the number of fishers being too small to effectively overfish the available resources in the existing context.

No-take areas could negatively impact ecosystems that are not protected, as they cause fishing effort to be focused in fishing areas which are diminished. The fishing practice of rotating fishing grounds, as fishers do on a dynamic basis, is arguably more effective in maintaining ecosystem health than putting no-take zones. Montserrat is also committed to the CRFM

and the CCCFP as well as the SSF Guidelines and has management measures that promote ecosystem health and sustainable fisheries.

Research has shown that in many cases, no-take areas have not yielded the kind of benefits sought, and thus are not practical or necessary in all contexts. No-Take is not a miracle cure for ecosystem health or recovery. Perhaps a look at tackling climate change drivers, coastal development, and marine pollution could be much more effective in tackling ecosystem degradation in the case on Montserrat.

No-take areas take away fishing grounds from fishers, resulting in several negative impacts such as a reduction in fishing activity, clear example in Barbuda, reduction in available local seafood and an increased dependence on external sources for livelihoods and food. Responsible management can support fish to eat now, medium term and long term, while protecting livelihoods.

We look forward for updates from the Montserrat fishers following their January 2019 meeting with Waitt Foundation and the Blue Halo initiative.

***Let those who will be impacted have a voice!***

# Guyana: A Major Oil Spill is too much to contemplate

- Jainarine Pamashwar

On January 9, 2019 a team from the oil giant Exxon Mobil held a sensitization seminar at the Upper Corentyne Fishermen's Co-op Society, a major landing site in Guyana and one of the better managed co-operatives in the country. This seminar was asked for by the President of the Guyana National Fisherfolk Organisation for it was felt that fishers would be directly impacted by oil exploration and extraction and in the event of an oil spill fishers would be first to observe and should be aware of what to do or not. As many would have known by now Guyana is on the verge of becoming a major oil country by the year 2020, reserves of oil totalling over 5 billion barrels have been discovered and there are ongoing surveys being done in expectation of more oil being found.

Whilst this news is being welcomed, the fisherfolks are a bit concerned for they fear with the commencement of drilling and extraction there is a real threat to their existence if there were to be a major oil spill. Their concerns were raised with the oil companies and they were given the assurance that all the necessary precautions and safety measures are going to be in place to prevent incidence of oil spills.

This seminar would be the first of many to be conducted by the oil companies to demonstrate to



Participants of workshop held at Upper Corentyne Fishermen's Co-op, Guyana

the fishers and members of the public what would be the response and actions taken if there were to be a major oil spill.

participants were assured seafoods would not be contaminated. Whilst it was stressed that the response would be rapid in the event of an oil spill, we the fisherfolk and the team from Exxon Mobil hope and pray that none of the measures discussed and the equipment on display would have to be used, for the devastation of a major oil spill on marine life is too much to contemplate.

“Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)” project mentors met in Saint Lucia Jan 28 – Feb 1, 2019. This 2<sup>nd</sup> mentor workshop aim was to share experiences and learn how to better support targeted civil society organisations in 10 Caribbean countries to be strong, effective and sustainable organisations. Glaston White of the CNFO participated in this workshop.

## ANGUILLA NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## Mentorship

By Glaston White



(Picture taken from Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) facebook page)



Anguilla Fisher Folk Association (AFFA) 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting held Jan 30, 2019.

Aristo Richardson- President  
Samuel Webster -Vice President  
Leslie Richardson - Treasurer  
Talitha Bazil- Secretary

Congratulations!!!!

## Belize Fishermen Cooperative (BFCA) Sits on Gill Net Taskforce

- Sydney Fuller



L-R Daniel Dawson (Chair BFCA), Sydney Fuller (ED BFCA) & Armando Ramirez (Treasurer BFCA)- Picture credit: Channel 5 Belize News

The BFCA unequivocally state that gill net use in Belize is done responsibly by fisherfolks, there is no wanton waste and there is no indiscriminate killing of non-target species. When compared to “Catch & Release”; where the survival rate of a catch and release fish is minimal. This is done all in the name of tourism dollars. The boats associated to the tourism industry has killed more manatees than any gill net in the last 10 years (there is

## FISHERFOLKS JOIN THE NEWSGROUP

Send a whatsapp message to +501-624-5364 and make the request. Currently 79 people mainly fishers from CNFO member countries share real time news updates, weather conditions and more.



sufficient information to corroborate this statement) Therefore, the BFCA completely rejects any proposal to phase-out/ban gill net use in Belize.

After stating its position and requesting to be a member of the gill net taskforce, the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development invited the BFCA to sit as a member of the gill net taskforce. The taskforce is comprised of government agencies, non-government organisations, private sectors and fishermen to recommend and develop improved measures to reduce harmful effects of gillnets on marine life. The BFCA attended their first meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## Value Added Training in Suriname

- Mark Lall

Fishermen, fish processors and members of the Fisheries Collective have learned to analyze the fish value chain and to look for value-added activities to improve income and their position in the value chain. The four-day training course in which the participants were trained was practical.

Mark Lall, secretary of the Visserscollectief says that the seventeen participants have learned more than they had expected. Before the training there were some doubts about the level of difficulty, since the fishermen are generally low skilled. Lall says that the fishermen were able to bring up the problems they are experiencing. During the

training, solution models were searched for the problems.

The training has responded to the need for the fishermen's collective for further training in techniques and skills on analyzing value chains and identifying commercially viable market solutions. Attention was also paid to gender equality during the training that was held from 14 to 17 January.

The participants have experienced the training very positively. Lall says that help does not always have to come from the government. The training was provided by Mark Bos and Jenna Wijngaarde of the Dutch Q Point BV and the Capricorn Project in Suriname. It has been agreed that there will be a follow-up training.



Suriname Workshop Participants

## CANARI: Climate Change: Anguilla and Montserrat Project (April 2017 – March 2020)

Anguilla and Montserrat fishers were treated to a workshop from the CANARI Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries Project. It is funded by the Darwin Plus and is aimed at mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) into fisheries governance and management using an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

# PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## STEARDFISH:

*The Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish)* project was launched in September 2018, with the convening of the Inception Workshop, in Barbados, and finalization of the project work plan. In 2019, activities aimed at developing organizational capacity for fisheries governance, enhancing ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability and securing sustainable livelihoods for food and nutrition security will begin in the seven project countries.

More information: <https://www.thegef.org/project/developing-organizational-capacity-ecosystem-stewardship-and-livelihoods-caribbean-small>

## CC4FISH:

*Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH)* project continues into 2019. This year the CNFO Program Coordinator Mr. Mitchell Lay is expected to visit each country and host national level meetings. Project countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

## PISCES:

*Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)*. FFOs, CBOs and NGOs will be supported via mentoring and coaching to apply for **small grants** (ranging from EUR5,000 to EUR10,000) and deliver projects provided.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- International Women's Day 2019. 8 March 2019. Theme: "Balance for Better"
- Caribbean Fisheries Forum, St. Kitts and Nevis 20-21 March 2019
- Understanding the Intersection between Gender and Climate Change, Commonwealth Foundation, Jamaica, February 2019
- Caribbean Fisherfolk Day 29 June
- UN Oceans Conference 2020
- International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

**Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations**

**C/O CRFM Secretariat, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, BELIZE**

**Tel: 501-223-4443 Ext 225 Email: [cnfo\\_cu@yahoo.com](mailto:cnfo_cu@yahoo.com) Website: <http://cirp.org.tt/cnfo/>**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CNF017](http://www.facebook.com/CNF017) Twitter: @fisherfolknetwork Instagram: CNF017**

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