



CWA Technical Seminars CRFM Concept Note

Title: Caribbean Small Scale Fisheries & Aquaculture Forum

Date and Time: Tuesday, 8 October 2024 | 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. AST

Venue: University of the West Indies Open Campus, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines & Online

Room: Video Conferencing Room.

Background/ Introduction

1. Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in CARICOM/CRFM States make a valuable contribution to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, employment and income generation, economic growth, and social stability. They provide livelihood security for members of society, including women and youth.
2. The purpose of the **Caribbean Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum** is to highlight the critical role of the sector in contributing to the region's social, economic, environmental, and climate resilience.
3. This session also seeks to provide an update on the implementation status of the [CNFO/CRFM Small-Scale Fisheries Action Plan 2023-2025: Contributing to Achieving the 25% Reduction by 2025 in the Caribbean Community Food Import Bill](#). It will focus on challenges and opportunities in improving the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture (SSF/A) to reducing the region's food import bill.
4. The session will also highlight the role of insurance in increasing the resilience of the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector and protecting livelihoods.
5. Under the CARICOM Agri-Food Systems Strategy, fish is one of the commodities being targeted for increased regional production. The CNFO/CRFM Small-Scale Fisheries Action Plan (2023-2025) aims to address challenges and seize opportunities to make a significant contribution to the CARICOM Heads of Government commitment to reducing the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025 within the context of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy ([CCCCFP](#)) and its supporting protocols, as well as the [CRFM Strategic Plan 2022 – 2030](#). The Plan is well aligned with the Protocol to the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy on Aquatic Foods as a Strategic

Updated 4 October 2024

Resource for Food and Nutrition Security, which was adopted by the 17th Regular Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council in 2023.

6. Towards building resilience in the Caribbean fisheries and aquaculture sector, it is well recognised that there is a need to prioritize efforts to provide improved access to financing and adequate insurance instruments and coverage to protect all interests in the sector. This is especially due to the impacts of accelerated climate change, extreme weather events, rising surface and sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and intense and reduced rainfall on the sector.
7. In 2019, CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) and CRFM signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#), to provide a framework for enhancing the capacity for disaster risk management and resilience in the wider Caribbean Region, with specific emphasis on the fisheries and aquaculture (including mariculture) sector.
8. The MOU focuses on collaboration through [the Caribbean Oceans and Aquaculture Sustainability \(COAST\) initiative](#) with other partners to reduce the risk that climate change poses to food and nutrition security in the Caribbean, and to mitigate climate change impacts on sustainable food production and food sovereignty.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Forum are to:

- Provide a space for small-scale fishers to engage with CRFM, Member States' representatives, other stakeholders, and partners in matters of key importance to the sector, surrounding the central themes of climate change, food security, and sustainable livelihoods, including the potential future roles of fishers in harvesting Sargassum.
- Raise awareness about the CNFO/CRFM Small-Scale Fisheries Action Plan aimed at contributing to CARICOM's 25 X 2025 vision, and the challenges and opportunities with achieving its objectives of:
 - o contributing to food security and food sovereignty;
 - o strengthening/developing sustainable and resilient small-scale fisheries value chains;
 - o mainstreaming gender along the fisheries value chain, and creating opportunities for the participation of women and youth; and
 - o improving livelihood opportunities along the value chains by increasing access to financing and facilitating capacity building.
- Promote insurance as a means of improving climate resilience in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, highlighting the COAST initiative.

Target Audience

Fisherfolk, CRFM Member States, Policymakers, Fisheries Divisions/Departments, National Fisherfolk Organizations, Insurance Agencies, Development Partners, Civil Society, Academia

Forum Agenda

Chair: Dr. Sandra Grant, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat

1:30 - 1:35	Welcome (5 mins)	Mr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat
1:35 - 1:40	Opening of the Forum (5 mins)	Hon. Saboto Caesar Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
1:40 - 2:20	Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Overview	
	(i) Regional Overview of the Caribbean's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (10 mins)	Mrs. June Masters, Statistics and Information Analyst, CRFM Secretariat
	(ii) National Overview of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector - The Way Forward (10 mins)	Mr. Kris Isaacs, Senior Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	(iii) Forging a new path for Aquaculture Development in the Caribbean (10 mins)	Dr. Mohammed Diop Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean - SLC, UN FAO
	(iv) Q & A (10 mins)	Chair
2:20 – 3:30	Improving Climate Resilience in the Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture through Insurance, Highlighting Impacts of Hurricane Beryl on the Fisheries Sector and Food Security	
	(i) a. Experiences & Lessons Learned from Hurricane Beryl in Disaster Risk Resilience in Grenada (15 mins)	Mr. Justin Rennie, Technical Specialist / Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division

	(i) b. Experiences & Lessons Learned from Hurricane Beryl in Disaster Risk Resilience in Barbados (15 mins)	Dr. Shelly-Ann Cox, Chief Fisheries Officer, Barbados Fisheries Division
	(ii) Risk Insurance & Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture (15 mins)	Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel Lead consultant, CCRIF SPC Technical Assistance & Corporate Communications
	(iii) Moderated Discussion (25 mins)	Chair
3:30-4:00	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 5:00	Strengthening and Organising Caribbean Fisherfolk Organisations & Implementing the CNFO/CRFM Small-scale Fisheries Action Plan	
	(i) Implementation Status of the CNFO/CRFM Small-Scale Fisheries Action Plan 2023-2025- Challenges & Opportunities (15 mins)	Mr. Winsbert Harry, President, National Fisherfolk Organisation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	(ii) Strategic Approaches for Enhancing the Capacities and Impacts of National and Regional Caribbean Fisherfolk Organizations (15 mins)	Dr. Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), the University of the West Indies
	(iii) Moderated Discussion & Wrap up (30 mins)	Mr. Kris Isaacs, Senior Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
5:00 – 5:30	Photos	

Register [here](#) to attend.

