



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

# Promoting regional cooperation and common regulatory systems - the Caribbean Community Experience

Presented by

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## Greetings on behalf of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

**Mr. Milton Haughton**  
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# The Caribbean experience in promoting regional cooperation and common regulatory systems



## The case of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

(Towards building economic as well as ecosystem resilience)

# Genesis of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy

- In 2003, Government of Barbados proposed elaborating a Common Fisheries Regime
- Conference of Heads of Government endorsed the proposal
  - mandated the CARICOM Secretariat to begin work on preparing a common fisheries policy and regime (CFP&R) for the region



- CRFM Forum (of Chief Fisheries Officers and Directors of Fisheries) decided, in March 2003, that it was best placed to provide regional leadership for developing CFP&R.
- CRFM and CARICOM Secretariats coordinated and spearheaded preparation of the CFP&R
- Preparation was through a consultative process involving representatives of Member States and regional experts in fisheries, regional integration, and marine law and policy.



- technical work has been guided by regional policy makers
  - CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
  - CRFM Ministerial Council (comprising Ministers Responsible for Fisheries)





- A comprehensive draft Agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime was prepared and submitted to the COTED in October 2007



- In January 2009, the CRFM Ministerial Council, decided to separate the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Implementing Regime



- The Legal Affairs Committee (LAC), in November 2013, agreed to recommend the Agreement Establishing the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy to the Conference of Heads of Government for signature







- In October 2014, COTED confirmed CCCFP as the approved policy of the Caribbean Community, this notwithstanding (some may say: “whether or not!”) it’s not being signed as a formal inter-governmental agreement

# CCCFP in brief

- A comprehensive framework Agreement aimed at establishing a cooperative platform for the transformation of the fisheries sector to ensure a better and more secure future for present and future generations.



- Its aim is to create new opportunities for economic growth and prosperity, and bring greater security and hope to people who depend upon the region's living aquatic resources for their livelihoods.

Member States	MCF prod. + AC prod. (meat weight in mt) 2009	Total domestic exports of fish (meat weight in mt)2009	% of MCF prod. + AC prod. that was exported in 2009
Suriname	25 616	21 915	86
Belize	6 729	4 967	74
Guyana	42 348	20 831	49
Bahamas	9 025	2 738	30
Trinidad and Tobago	13 855	3 346	24
Turks and Caicos Islands	879	201	23
Grenada	2 374	510	22
Anguilla	493	46	9
St. Vincent and the Gren.	971	45	5
Jamaica	18 235	738	4
St. Kitts and Nevis	589	19	3
Antigua and Barbuda	1 833	50	3
Barbados	3 467	23	1
Dominica	704	0.44	0.1
St. Lucia	1 858	0.02	0.001
Haiti	16 560	0	0
Montserrat	37	0	0
Totals	145 574	55 430	

- It is in accordance with:
  - the mandate of Heads of Government,
  - relevant principles from the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas,
  - the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
    - associated instruments, such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

# Vision

effective cooperation and collaboration in the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of the fisheries resources and related ecosystems in the Caribbean region

- in order to secure the maximum benefits from fisheries resources
  - for the Caribbean peoples
  - for the Caribbean region as a whole.





# Goal

To establish appropriate measures for:

the conservation, management, sustainable utilisation and development of fisheries resources and related ecosystems

- the building of capacity amongst fishers and the optimisation of the social and economic returns from their fisheries;
- the promotion of competitive trade and stable market conditions, so as to realise the vision.



# Objectives

- promote the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture industries
- develop harmonised measures and operating procedures
- improve the welfare and livelihoods of fishers and fishing communities;
- prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing



- build the institutional capabilities
- integrate environmental, coastal and marine management considerations into policy
- transform the sector to be market-oriented, internationally-competitive and environmentally-sustainable
- strengthen, upgrade and modernise legislation;
- facilitate the establishment of a regime for SPS

# Fundamental Principles

- use of the best available scientific information, taking into account traditional knowledge
- application of internationally-recognised standards and approaches
- the level of fishing effort should not exceed that commensurate with the sustainable use of fisheries resources



- the participatory approach
- principles of good governance, accountability and transparency
  - including the equitable allocation of rights, obligations, responsibilities and benefits; and
- the principle of subsidiarity
  - the idea that a central authority should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level



# Scope

- development and management of fisheries and aquaculture
- conservation, sustainable development and management of fisheries resources and related ecosystems
- production, processing, marketing and trading of fishery and aquaculture products;
- welfare of fishers.



- within areas under the jurisdiction of Participating Parties
- on board fishing vessels flying the flag of a Participating Party
  - subject to the primary jurisdiction of the flag State when fishing takes place on the high seas
  - subject to jurisdiction of the coastal State when fishing takes place in the waters of a Third State
- to nationals of Participating Parties.

# Areas covered by the CCCFP

Access to Fisheries Resources



Fisheries Sector Development



Statistics and Research



Conservation and Management



Registration and Licensing



**Inspection, Enforcement and Sanctions**



**Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Rights**



**Dissemination of Information**



**Public Awareness**



**Marketing and Trade of Fisheries Resources**



Pursuant to this, the CRFM has been utilising the CCCFP as a mandate/framework to develop a number of regional cooperation and regulatory initiatives, including *inter alia*:

- a Fisheries Management Plan for the Flyingfish Fishery;
- priority plans and targets for Working Groups;
- an action plan for aquaculture development;
- a regional Declaration on the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster;
- a CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan;
- a draft Fisheries Management plan for the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);
- Regional workshop on Blue Growth
- Regional (Castries, 2013) Declaration on IUU fishing; and,
- establishment of a (regional) working group on IUU fishing

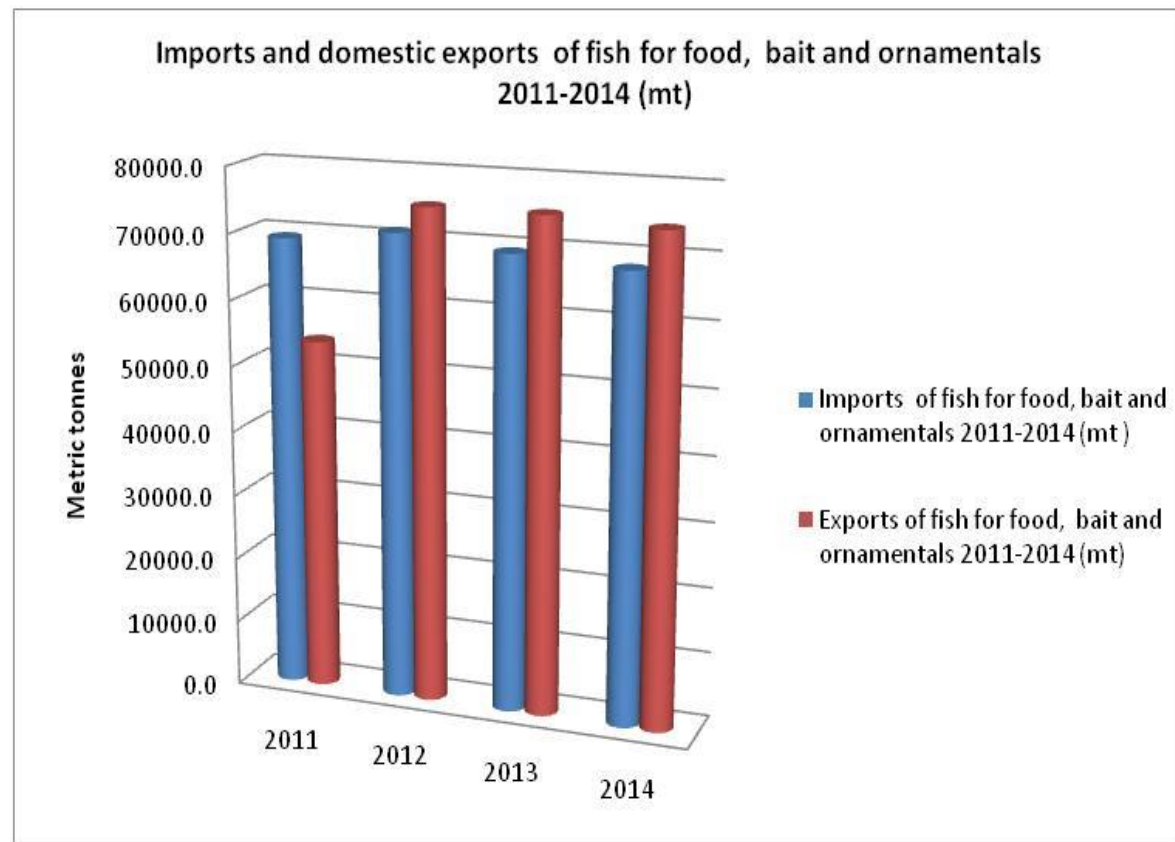


# We have tended to focus on stocks and ecosystems, but for Caribbean SIDS resilience is also about economic resilience

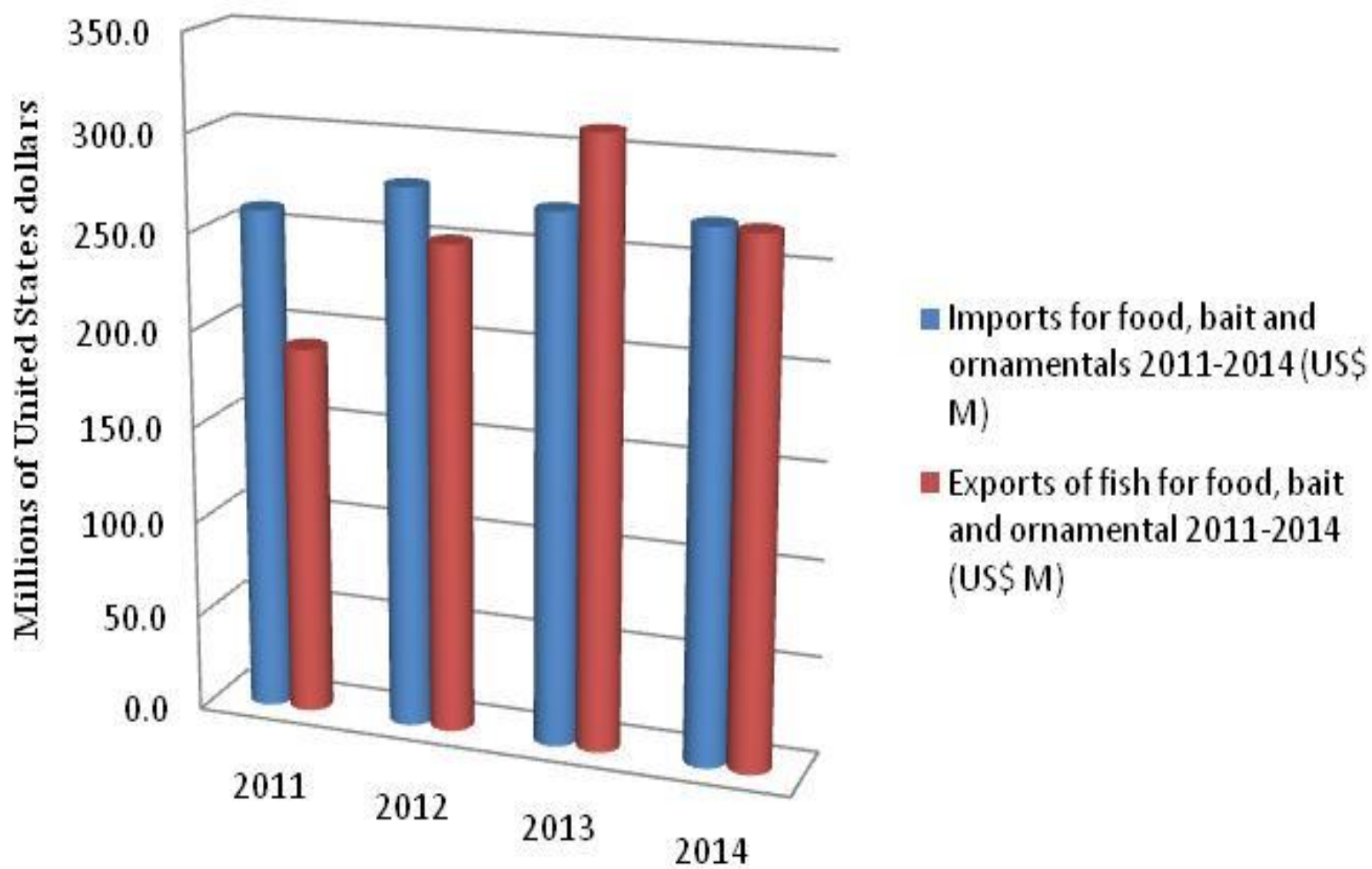
That means trade in goods and services is important

That means food security is important

That means sanitary standards are important



Value (US\$M) of imports and exports of fish for food, ornamental and bait for the CRFM region 2011-2014



At the other end of the value chain, these may be considered as important as ecosystem conservation, especially in the context of developing States' **economic** resilience

In this regard the CRFM is currently in the process of developing regional legal, coordination and environmental monitoring frameworks for SPS in fisheries and aquaculture

# Lesson learned (?)

**Promoting regional cooperation and common regulatory systems (also for building economic resilience) requires:**

- **Understanding of similarities**
- **Understanding of differences**
- **Mandated framework for collaboration**
- **Political will at all levels (policy making; decision making; “ground level”)**
- **Supportive partners**
- **\$\$\$\$\$**
- **Time**

A photograph of a harbor or marina. Numerous small, light-colored motorboats with outboard engines are docked along a concrete pier. In the foreground, two swans are swimming in the water. People are visible on the boats and on the pier in the background. The water is calm, reflecting the boats and the sky.

Thank you  
for your attention

*Questions anyone??*

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