Caribbean experience on the implementation of fishery management plans and fighting IUU fishing

Milton Haughton
Executive Director
CARICOM Specialized Agency (RFB)

Established 2002

17 Member States + observers

Located in Belize City & St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Funding: US$960,000 (Members) + donor
Presentation Overview

- Overview of Caribbean Fisheries
- Framework for Governance and management
  - Regional Cooperation
  - Common Fisheries Policy
  - Castries Declaration on IUU
  - Regional Strategy on MCS
  - Fisheries Management Plans
• 45 States & Territories
• Semi-enclosed sea
• Shared resources
• Overlapping boundaries
Strategically Important

- Strategically important for sustained economic opportunities, food & nutrition security, employment, and social well-being of especially rural communities
- Production (domestic) 161,000 MT
- Export earnings USD 350-400 million
- 25,000 fishing boats
- Per capita consumption ~ 32kg
Challenges

- Numerous challenges for sustainability, trade competitiveness and modernization
- Some fish stocks fully or over exploited, other under-exploited - not making optimum contribution to economic development
- Caribbean sea – semi-enclosed – shared stocks
- Capacity for effective fisheries management varies significantly among States
- Inadequate governance & management:
  - overfishing
  - degradation of essential habitats / ecosystems
  - IUU fishing
Key Priorities Areas

- Strengthening fisheries management:
  - Effectively regulate capacity & harvesting,
  - Prevent overfishing & ensure stocks are within biologically sustainable limits, and resilient;
  - Improve evidence -based decision-making
  - Combat IUU fishing
  - Improve trade capacity & competitiveness

- Shared resource – **regional cooperation imperative**

- 4 Regional Fisheries Bodies:
  - ICCAT
  - FAO/WECAFC
  - CRFM - Caribbean Community Integration
  - OSPESCA (Central American Economic Integration System (SICA))
## Fisheries Governance Framework in Caribbean

### FAO/WECAFC Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WECAFC Members outside CARICOM and OSPESCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CRFM

| Antigua & Barbuda                         |
| Bahamas                                   |
| Barbados                                  |
| Belize                                    |
| Dominica                                  |
| Grenada                                   |
| Guyana                                    |
| Haiti                                     |
| Jamaica                                   |
| Saint Kitts & Nevis                       |
| Saint Lucia                               |
| Saint Vincent & the Grenadines            |
| Trinidad and Tobago                       |

### OSPESCA

| Belize                                    |
| Costa Rica                                |
| Dominican Republic                        |
| Guatemala                                 |
| Honduras                                  |
| Nicaragua                                 |
| Panama                                    |

### UK:

| Anguilla                                  |
| BVI                                       |
| Montserrat                                |
Fisheries Management Framework

CRFM & OSPESCA carry out internal review of analysis and working group advice or recommendations and amend and approve for their members.

CRFM and/or OSPESCA decisions are passed to WECAFC for discussion and final review and approval at regional level.

**CRFM**
Advice and Recommendations at CARICOM level

**OSPESCA**
Advice and Recommendations at SICA level

**WECAFC**
Advice and Recommendations at Regional level

**Working groups:**
- Joint or stand alone WGs
- Collect scientific information, expert members carry out analysis (involvement of key private sector stakeholders and NGOs)
- Species or fisheries based or thematic (e.g. IUU Working Group)
Caribbean Community
Common Fisheries Policy

- Principles & standards for sustainable fisheries & trade
- Prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing
- Strengthen, harmonise & modernize legislation
- Protect & conserve fish stocks & ecosystems
IUU Fishing in the Caribbean

- Significant, persistent & growing
- Causing economic & ecological damage & undermine conservation & management efforts
- IUU fishing by nationals
- Illegal fishing by foreign vessels
  - Neighbouring Coastal States
  - Distant Water Fishing Nations

Cause:
- Fleet Overcapacity
- Inadequate management & control
  Including sanctions
- Greed – profit to be made

Source: mission-blue.org
High value Species Targeted:
Lobster, turtles, conch, shark-fins, sea cucumber, tuna, snappers, groupers etc
# Global treaties: Fisheries governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>UNCLOS</th>
<th>Fish Stocks Agreement</th>
<th>Compliance Agreement</th>
<th>Port States Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua &amp; B</td>
<td>2/02/1989</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>13/08/1983</td>
<td>14/07/2005</td>
<td>19/7/2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>21/03/1983</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent &amp;</td>
<td>1/10/1993</td>
<td>29/10/10</td>
<td></td>
<td>23/6/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing

- Roadmap for closer cooperation and concerted action in fighting IUU Fishing
- Preamble + Body of the Declaration:
  - 7 sections
  - 28 specific actions
- Adopted by Ministerial Council in June 2010
Regional MCS Strategy

Development of Regional Strategy on MCS to combat IUU fishing. Include initiative to strengthen capacity of enforcement personnel.
Shared Responsibility: KEY Implementing partners

CARICOM REGIONAL LEVEL

● Implementing Agency for Crime & Security (IMPACS)
● Regional Security System (RSS)
● CRFM

National Systems

● Police
● Coast Guards
● Fisheries Dept - enforcement Unit (Belize)
● Fishers / Civil Society Organisations
Implementation: Recent National Measures

**Bahamas**
- US$232 m investment in 9 patrol vessels – MCS
- Upgrading legislation- increase fines/sanction
- Trade related measures – cooperation with USA & use of the Lacy Act

**Jamaica**
- Fishing Industry (Amendment) Act 2015 (Dec)
- Broaden scope of the law
- Sanctions increased
- 2 new Patrol vessels commissioned
  March 2017
Flyingfish Management Plan

- Very Important small pelagic fishery
- Stable fisheries – not overfished but many challenges for long-term
- 7 States (Barbados, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent/ Grenadines, Martinique)
- FMP developed over several years
- Adopted 2014 by CRFM Council
- FMP implemented by States
- 1st review of implementation (2016)
- CLME+ Project funding supporting implementation e.g. evidence-base, catch documentation & traceability
Management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster

- Most important commercial species – highly traded, IUU fishing
- OSPESCA Management Regulations -OSP-02-09
- CRFM - St. Georges Declaration on Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (P. argus)
- Joint WECAFC Regional Lobster FMP
Other Fisheries Management Plans and Instruments

- Joint Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management Plan –
  - Highly traded
  - CITES (Appendix II)
  - Stocks recovering
- FAD Fisheries Management Plan
- Blackfin Tuna Fisheries Management Plan (Draft)
1. Rapid strengthening of policy and capacity
2. We now seeing positive response
3. Increase public awareness about extent of problem and harm being done - include policy makers & judiciary
4. Transnational illegal fishing and trade in fish and fishery products involving organized criminal groups should be treated as serious crime
5. Penalties should be commensurate with other serious crime
6. Consider violations along the value chain: e.g. prep, handling, selling, documentation
7. Develop and apply trade related measures including Lacy Act type legislation
Conclusions – Fisheries Management

- Also seeing positive impacts e.g. Queen Conch
- Develop and implement ecosystem-based FMP for all commercial stocks
- Strengthen governance framework for conservation & management including legislative base, institutional arrangements, stakeholder participation
- Harmonised measures for shared species
- Improve basic data and scientific knowledge to strengthen evidence based decisions
- Improve public awareness & involvement
- Capacity building to achieve above
THANK YOU

- www.youtube.com/TheCRFM
- www.facebook.com/CarFisheries
- www.twitter.com/CaribFisheries