

Oceans Forum on trade-related aspects of SDG Goal 14 UNCTAD, FAO, Commonwealth Secretariat, ACP Group and IOI

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

Milton Haughton
Executive Director





Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

- ❑ 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

Source:
CLME project doc

Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin

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

WECAFC Members outside CARICOM and OSPESCA

Brazil

Colombia

Cuba

European Union

France

Guinee

Japan

Korea, Republic of

Mexico

Netherlands

Spain

United Kingdom

United States of America

Venezuela

CRFM

Antigua & Barbuda

Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

Dominica

Grenada

Guyana

Haiti

Jamaica

Saint Kitts & Nevis

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent & the
Grenadines

Suriname

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



High value Species Targeted:

Lobster, turtles, conch, shark-fins, sea cucumber, tuna snappers, groupers etc

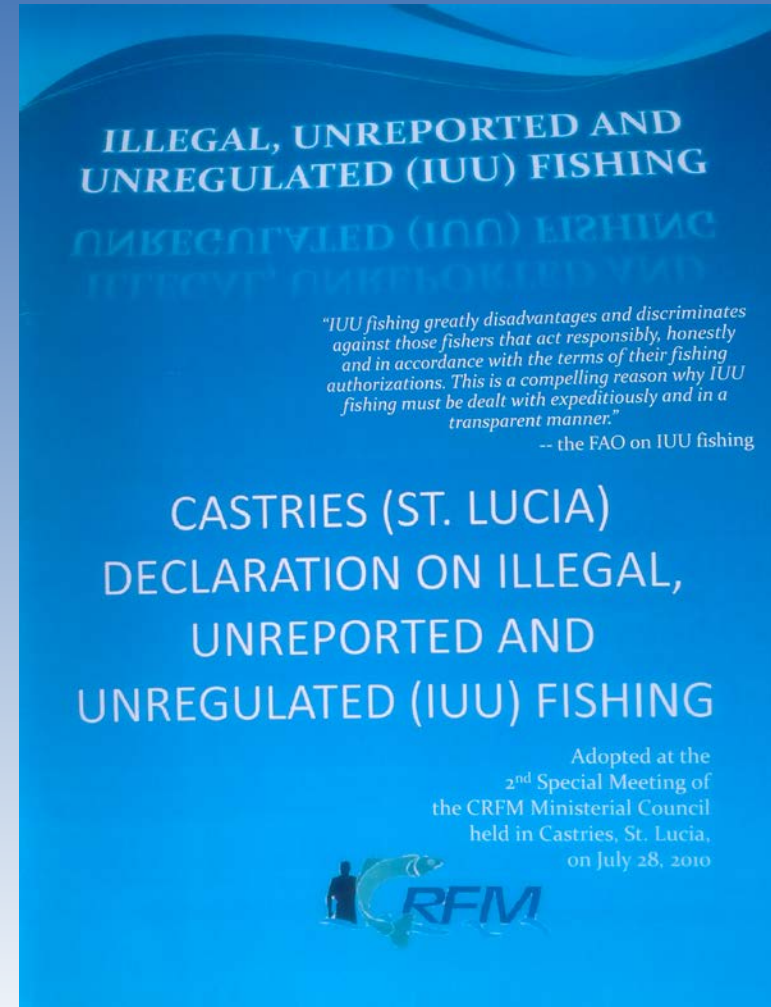


Global treaties: Fisheries governance

COUNTRY	UNCLOS	Fish Stocks Agreement	Compliance Agreement	Port States Agreement
Antigua & B	2/02/1989			
Bahamas	29/07/1983	16/01/1997		7/10/2016
Barbados	12/10/1993	22/09/2000	26/10/2000	2/2/2016
Belize	13/08/1983	14/07/2005	19/7/2005	
Dominica	24/10/1991			6/5/2016
Grenada	25/04/1991			17/6/2016
Guyana	16/11/1993			7/3/2016
Jamaica	21/03/1983			
St Kitts & N	7/01/1993		24/6/1994	9/12/2016
St Lucia	27/03/1985	9/08/1996	23/10/2002	
St Vincent &	1/10/1993	29/10/10		23/6/2016
Trinidad & T	25/4/1986	13/10/2006		

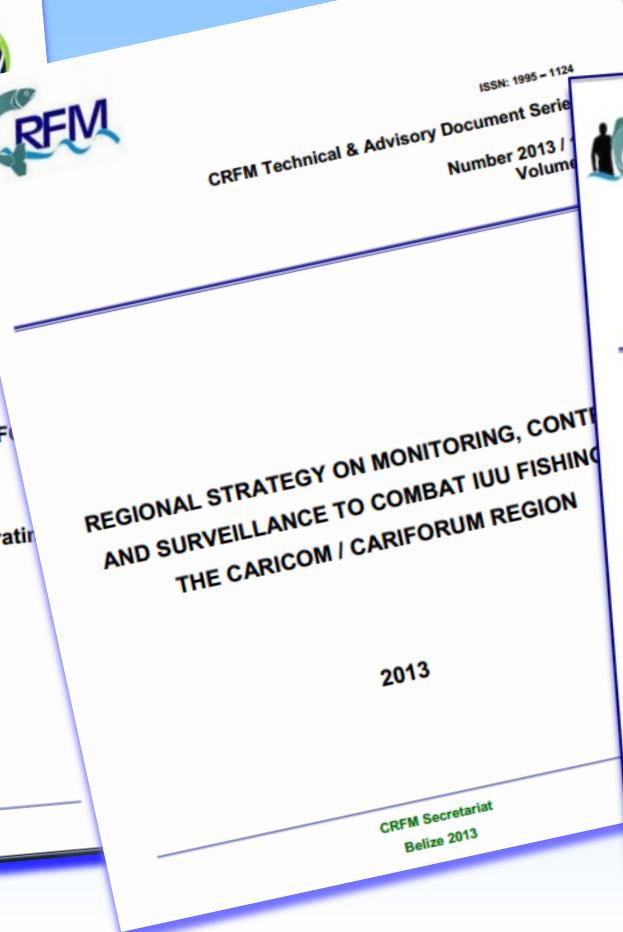
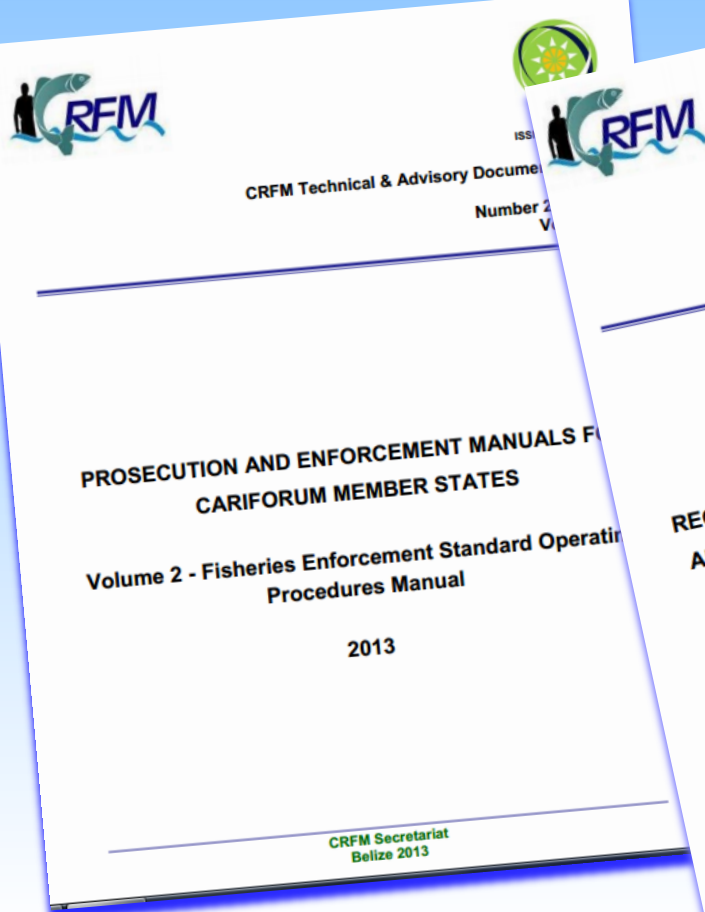
Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing

- 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

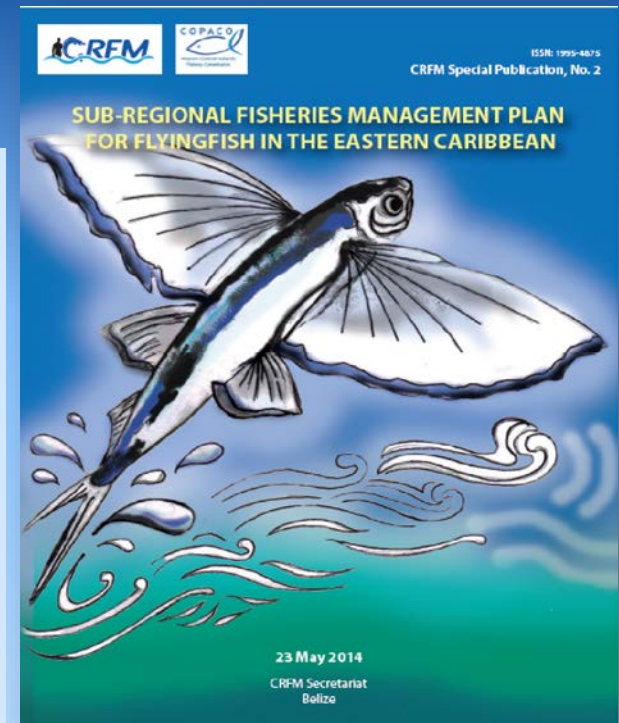
Jamaica

- 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**



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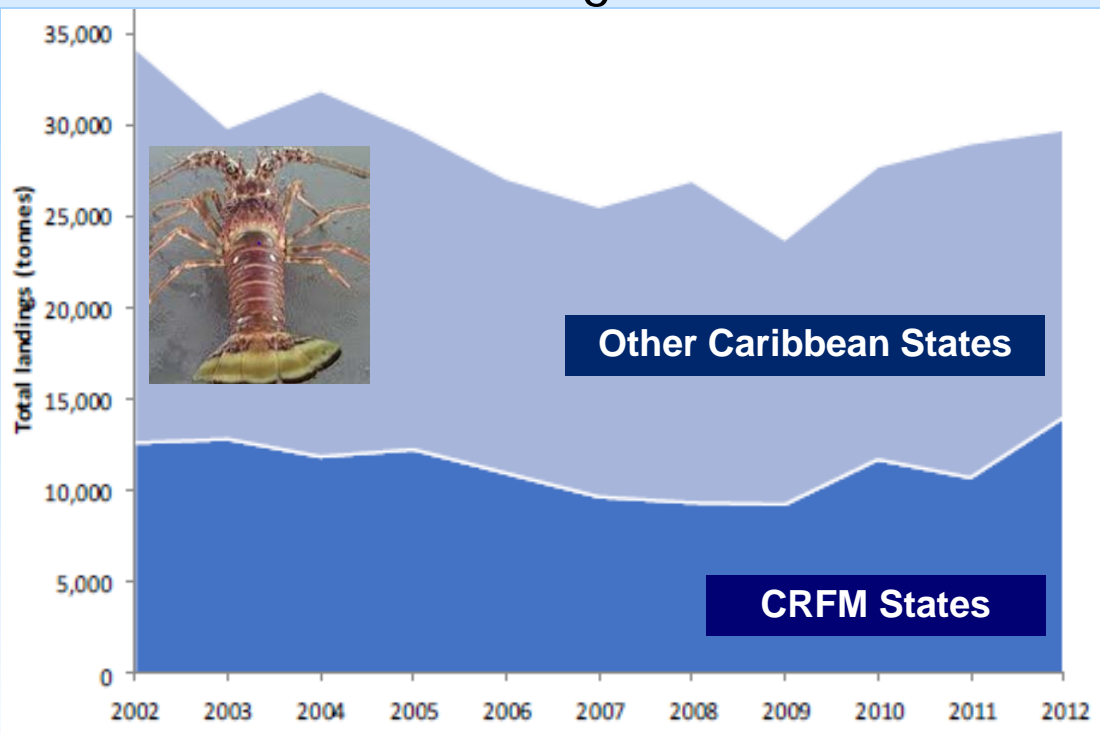
**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (2014-2015):
Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan
for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean**

February 2016
CRFM Secretariat
Belize



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



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO
IMPLEMENTING
THE ST. GEORGE'S DECLARATION
ON
CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT
AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF
THE CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
(*PANULIRUS ARGUS*)

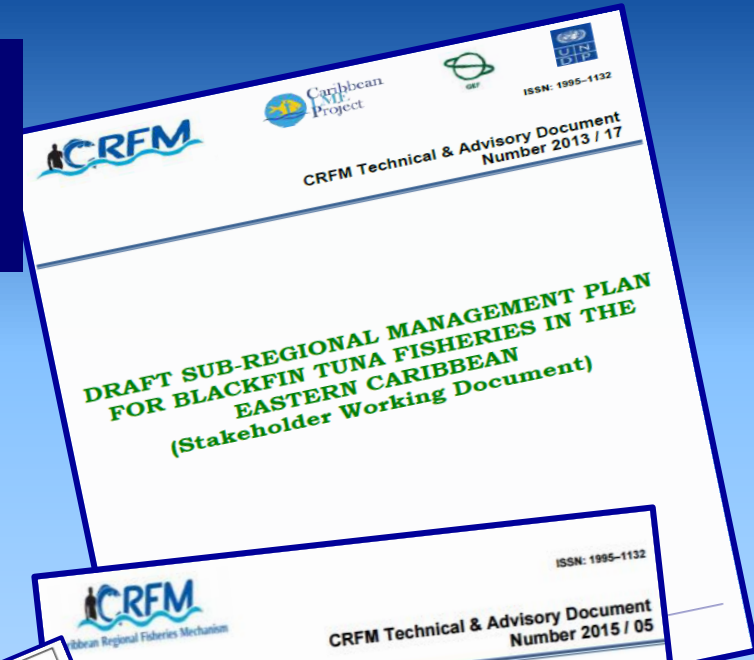
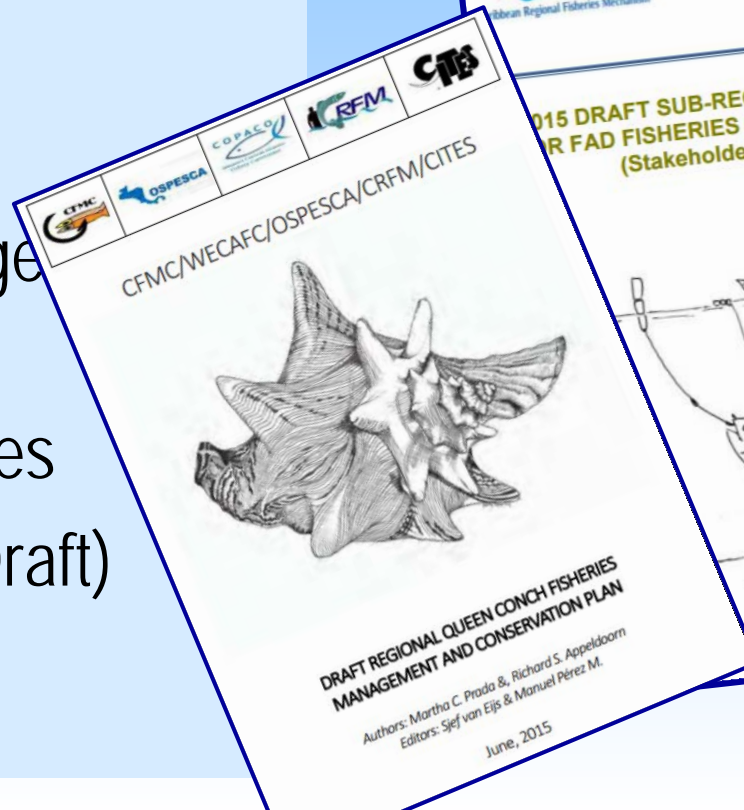



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

CRFM Secretariat
Belize
www.crfm.net
2017

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)



Conclusions -IUU

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 Lacey 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



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



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