



Perspectives on the recommendations for the recovery of the region from COVID-19

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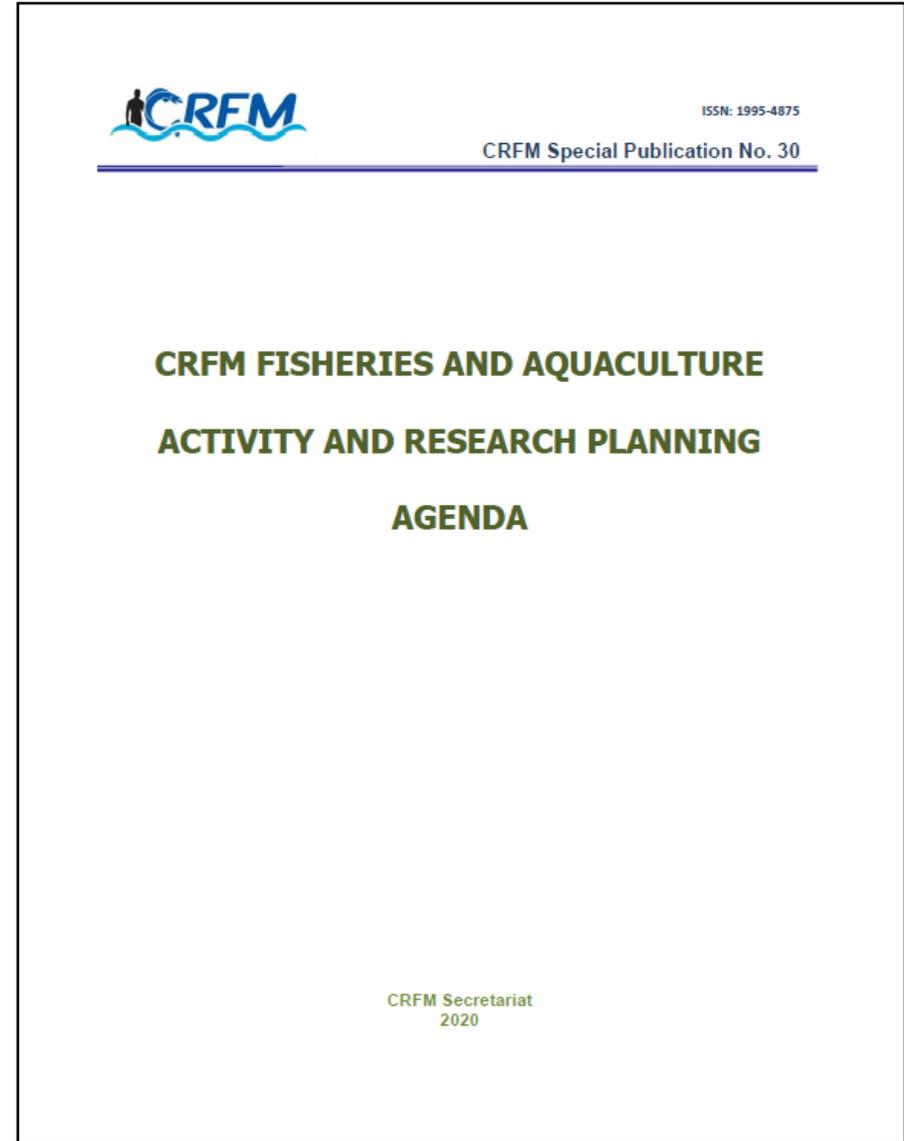
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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

Scientific research on the marine environment is key for improved governance and management of the ocean economy and its living resources.

- ***In this regard the CRFM Member Countries have an approved CRFM Fisheries and Aquaculture Activity and Research Planning Agenda that, once kept up to date, can help to provide direction to these research efforts***

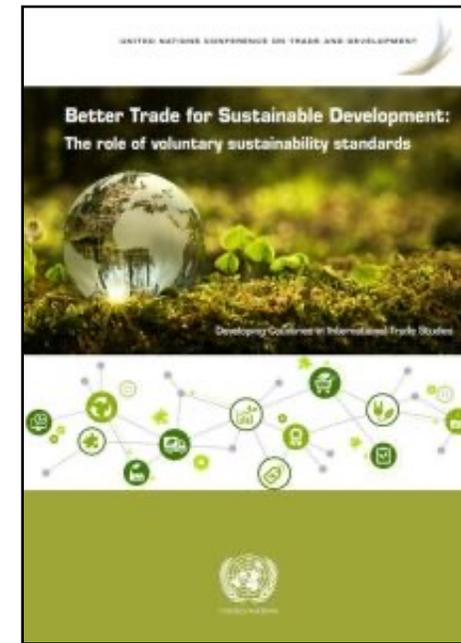


[https://www.crfm.int/images/CRFM Fisheries and Aquaculture Activity and Research Planning Agenda formatted 15 March 2021.pdf](https://www.crfm.int/images/CRFM_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Activity_and_Research_Planning_Agenda_formatted_15_March_2021.pdf)

A reform of marine fisheries and aquaculture governance is essential to develop a science- and evidence-based fisheries management and conservation regime

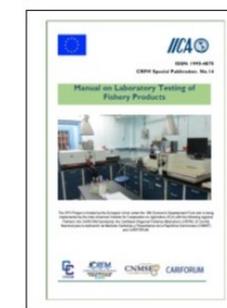
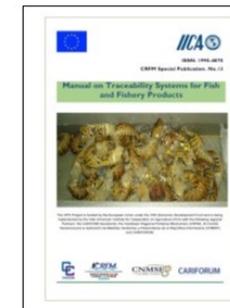
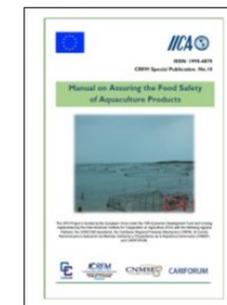
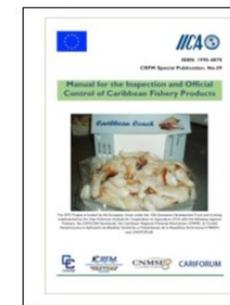
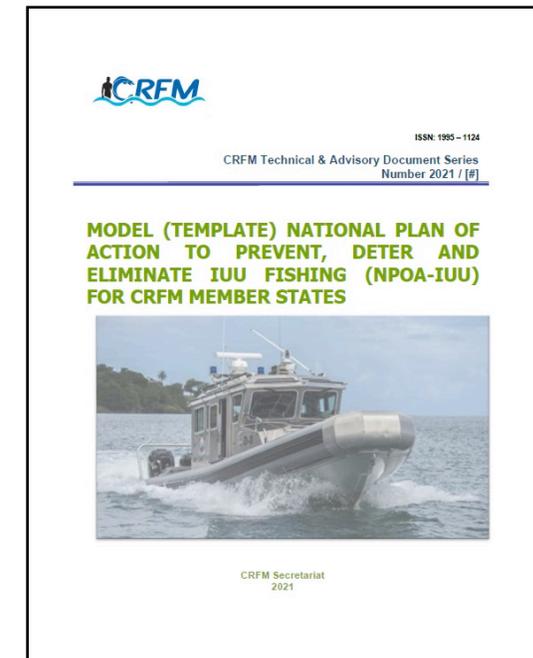
- ***As such, it is important to strengthen fisherfolk organizations for improved/effective participation in governance, with enhanced impacts on fisheries management processes at both the national and regional levels.***
- ***Fisheries governance should also/thus be made to benefit from strengthened national fisheries administrations, fisherfolk organisations and other supporting institutional frameworks, to collaborate and participate actively to promote small-scale fisheries interests in fisheries management and conservation processes at local, national, and regional levels.***
- ***In support of this, there would be need to Modernize the communications framework, ICT and other productivity tools available to effectively engage constituents and improve communication, decision-making and productivity; and Strengthen coordination and collaboration with CARICOM and other specialized Institutions***

- ***Consideration should also be given to whether or not countries would wish to subscribe to the UNCTAD Voluntary Sustainability Standards framework***



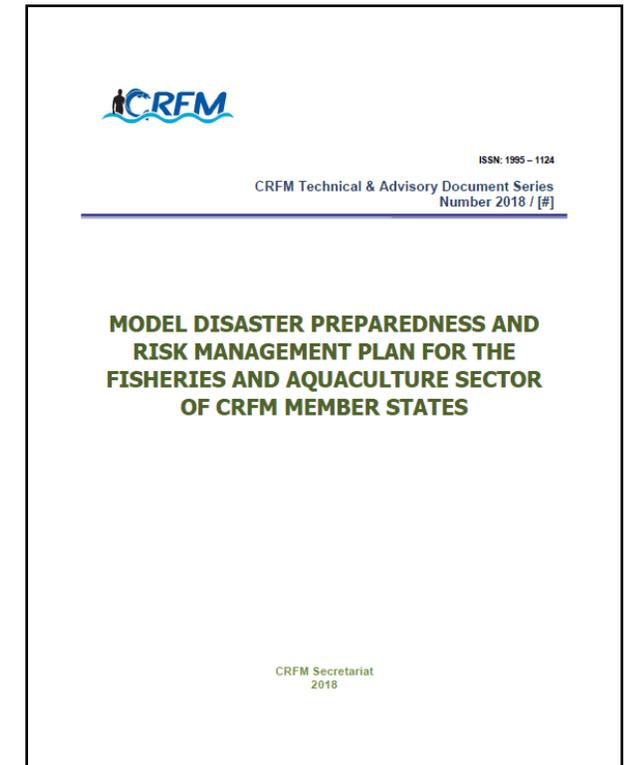
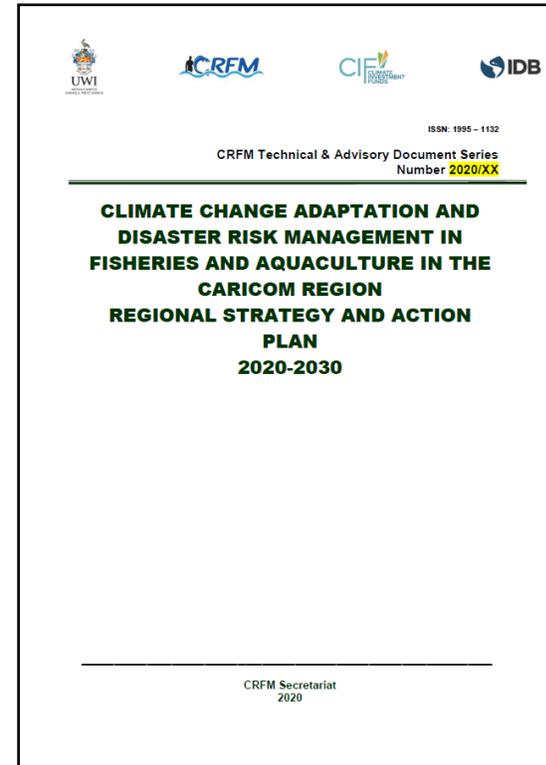
MCS to combat IUU fishing, and to promote transparent and predictable markets that incentivize sustainability instruments such as traceability, certification, eco-labelling, social and environmental responsibility.

- ***This would mean, Improving capacities for national and regional monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement to combat IUU fishing and organized crime in the fisheries sector***
 - ***in keeping with the WECAFC Regional Plan of Action to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing***
- ***This would need to be supported by implementation of regulations, guidelines and protocols on Good Fish and Fishery Product Hygiene Practices in private sector companies.***



Transparent and effective consultative processes with stakeholders should promote effective co-management schemes that can transform fishers from being passive users into active and responsible stewards of the marine space and resources.

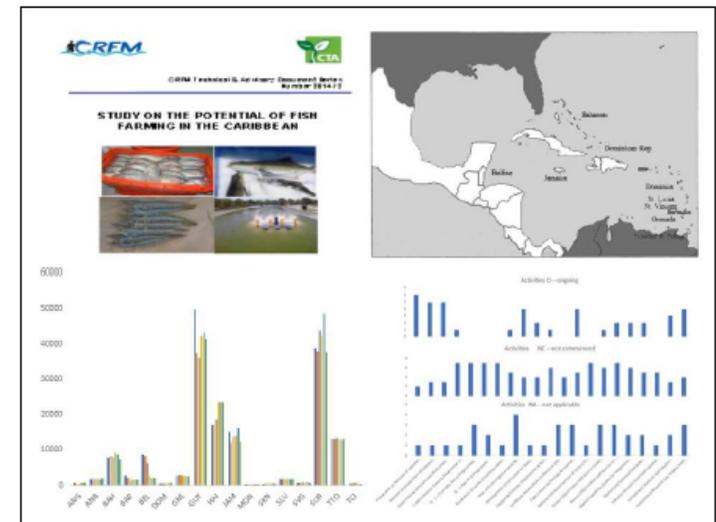
- ***This as well as putting in place schemes supporting quick recovery of the fisheries sector after extreme events***



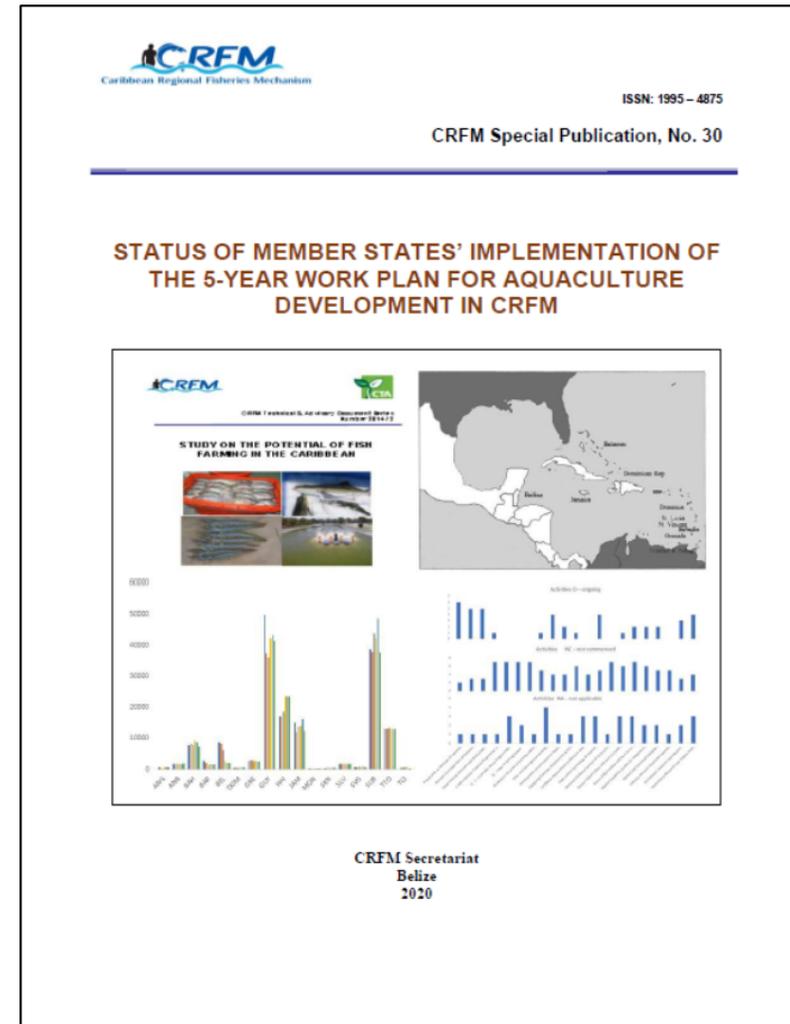
In order to diversify income streams and increase resilience in the maritime sector, Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica should consider assessing their real potential and opportunities to attract private investment in sustainable marine aquaculture; as well as institutional and scientific capabilities and the opportunities to upgrade them to address technical and aquatic animal health aspects of aquaculture.

- In this regard, countries should consider supporting development of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture as a source of food and livelihoods and further implementation of the Aquaculture Plan of Action, including through support to the implementation of best aquaculture practices and adoption of new and emerging technologies.***

**STATUS OF MEMBER STATES' IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 5-YEAR WORK PLAN FOR AQUACULTURE
DEVELOPMENT IN CRFM**



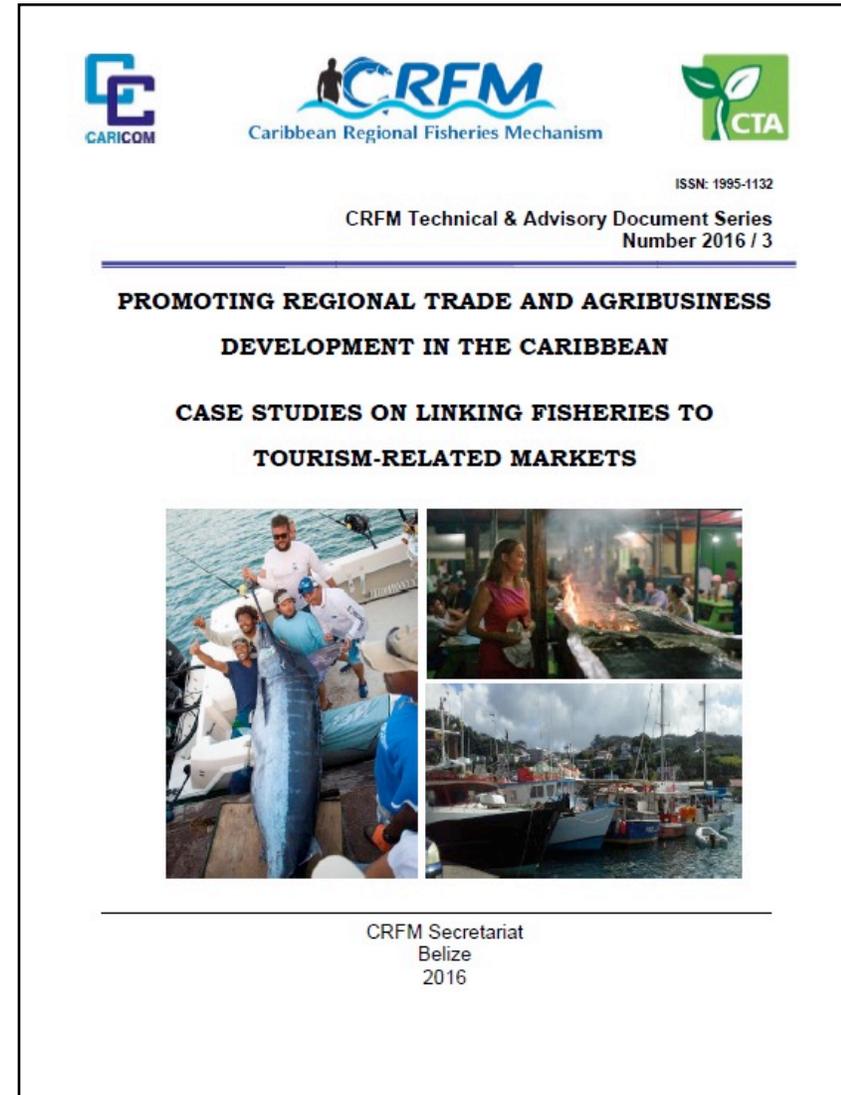
- ***provision of technical guidance on small-scale aquaculture, including mariculture and aquaponics, to improve profitability and sustainability of these operations.***
- ***strengthening small, medium, and micro fisheries and aquaculture enterprises in business planning and financial planning and management***
- ***ensuring that CRFM Member States and stakeholders have access to formal fisheries and aquaculture education programmes designed and implemented at national and regional levels through strengthened fisheries extension services.***



Attracting private investors in marine aquaculture requires an enabling environment, supporting policies and services, and incentives that provide assurance and capacity to manage the risks of natural disasters and aquatic animal diseases

Tourism-dependent small States should re-assess the approach to coastal and marine tourism that has prevailed so far.

- ***There would be need to look more closely at the linkages between (say) fisheries and tourism, mindful of the potential already identified by CRFM (being careful not to make the mistake of trying to convert fishers to tour guides)***



[https://www.crfm.int/images/CRFM Tech Adv Doc No 2016-3 Caribbean Case Studies on Tourism Fisheries 18 April 2016.pdf](https://www.crfm.int/images/CRFM_Tech_Adv_Doc_No_2016-3_Caribbean_Case_Studies_on_Tourism_Fisheries_18_April_2016.pdf)

Consider investing in digitalization to upgrade infrastructure and skills, in order to consolidate competitiveness and access to lucrative markets.

Policies should be updated to break barriers, ensure cybersecurity, address the adverse effects of the digital divide, and create capacities to benefit from technologies and digitalization, not least for coastal communities.

- ***There is definitely a need to modernize the communications framework, ICT and other productivity tools available to effectively engage constituents and improve communication, decision-making and productivity***

Integrating in a coherent manner, across sectors and institutions, post COVID-19 policy goals and governance frameworks, to embrace their commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD) and its goals related to the ocean economy.

- ***It is good to recognise/acknowledge the interrelationships between achievement of the 2030 ASD and the COVID-19 pandemic responses, which should be addressed in a complementary manner, integrating actions to tackle emergency, support recovery and achieve the SDGs.***



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- ***increase in the use of renewable energy and energy efficient harvesting, processing, and cold storage systems, thus reducing the region's reliance on fossil fuels in fisheries and aquaculture***
- ***promoting sustained access to and provision of national, regional, and international climate change finance***
- ***creating an effective enabling environment and systems for averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage from climate change, natural disasters and external shocks.***

CRFM Secretariat stands ready to assist Countries in implementing the recommendations as they are all consistent with our 2022-2030 Strategic Plan which is going through the last of its approval stages





***Thank you for
your kind attention***