

## Presentation SDG14 9March2022

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Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations

### **Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations:**

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) is a network of fisherfolk organizations, operating in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) representing 17 country's national fishers organizations, primary and sub primary organizations.

CNFO is committed to the realization of profitable and sustainable fisheries (that are mainly owned and governed by fisherfolk), which:

- promote effective ecosystem based management of fisheries resources,
- secure livelihoods,
- contribute to food security for Caribbean communities and
- increase their resilience to risk including climate change.

The general overarching aim of CNFO is to improve the livelihoods of Caribbean fishing communities, while promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and contribute to food and nutrition security, and economic and social developments.

The three areas of strategic focus from which the aims and objectives are developed include:

- Capacity building
- Policy advocacy
- Policy engagement

### **Challenges to Small Scale Fisheries (SSF):**

Today our contribution to this forum will be brief, focusing on Small-scale fisheries in *ocean governance*. Small scale fisheries (SSF) is an important source of livelihoods particularly among developing coastal populations and employ more than 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish workers. However, these fisheries face growing threats such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, competition with industrial fleets, water pollution, destruction of fish habitats and demand for land in coastal areas, marine spatial planning and climate change.

Added to visible threats are the limited capacity of many governments to develop and support management models that suit the multispecies character of small-scale fisheries.

I will highlight three specific threats.

*IUU fishing* accounts for an estimated \$300M annually in loss revenue for fishers in Caribbean country's EEZs. IUU fishing threatens food security, harms legitimate fishing activities and livelihoods, jeopardizes food and economic security, benefits transnational crime, manipulates markets and undermines efforts to implement sustainable fisheries policies.

*Climate change*. Avoiding the need to dive deeper into this specific issue, we are well aware of the effects of climate change on our industry and livelihoods. Climate and biodiversity are often treated as separate events, occurring in parallel. But in reality, the two feed into one another, and we cannot solve the crisis in climate without also tackling biodiversity loss driven by industrial-scale fishing.

*Marine spatial planning*. We accept and agree there are benefits in MSP however there is a greater need for a common language surrounding this issue. The disadvantages need to be properly balanced encompassing indigenous human and social dimensions as in many instances there appear to be private sector influence in the distribution of marine and coastal spaces. This concept will not only have long term negative impacts on nutritional marine resources, but for those who live adjacent to the marine environment and who rely on it for their holistic wellbeing.

## CNFO Member Countries:



CNFO the regional fisherfolk organization in the Caribbean and is actively involved in projects that bring organizational skills to Caribbean NFO's and actively engages through

- The monthly CNFO news Letter
- The CNFO whatsapp chat group
- Fisher exchanges
- Fisher leader training
- NFO mentorship training

Through our partnership and collaboration with the CRFM we developed a *Common Fisheries Policy* for SSF's

Another success is the CNFO Learning Institute where we completed 8 training modules facilitating CNFO members and non members in topics such as,

- Exploring leadership
- Working with groups
- Facilitating the development of group visions, mission and goals
- Advocacy, representation, negotiating and conflict resolution
- Relationship management
- Communications and networking
- Institutional identity and integrity
- Administration and operations.

### End:

Thank you for your invitation and we look forward to other participation and collaboration on projects supporting global fisheries.

(Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations), (FAO, 2016b), (Armitage et al., 2007a; Berkes, 2009), (Costanza et al., 1998; Gutiérrez et al., 2011; Jentoft, 1989; Muñoz-Erickson et al., 2010; Pinkerton, 1989), (Worm et al., 2009), (Oldekop et al., 2016), Marine Policy Document 2021, Greenpeace 2020