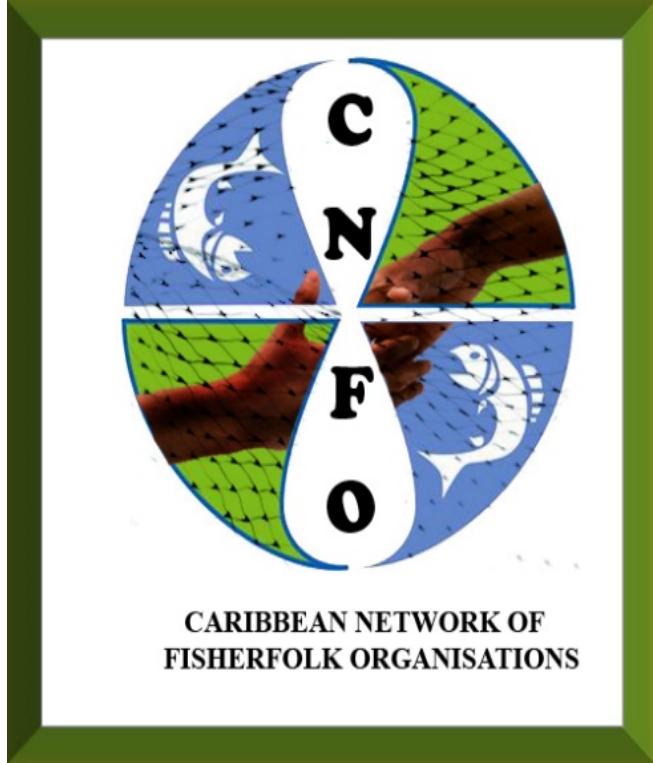


2nd Sargassum Symposium, UWI Barbados

Socio-economic impacts of sargassum on
fisheries.

CNFO - 2018

Caribbean fishers and their organisations networking within CRFM member states



Members:

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti (limited)
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- St. Kitts / Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos

CNFO's Mission and Caribbean Fisheries

Mission

“To improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation and capacity building”

Caribbean Fisheries – 2015 estimates available to CRFM states

- People in marine capture fisheries direct production est at 115, 582.
- Fishing vessels 32,906
- Fisheries production 141,574 mt

Sargassum and the Caribbean Region

- Major sargassum influxes in the region in 2011, 2014/2015, 2018
- Fisheries sector impacted – CERMES Technical report 81 in 2017 on Socio-economic impacts of Sargassum influx events on the fishery sector of Barbados.

Focus of this discussion:

- 1. Sharing the voices of fishers in Antigua and Barbuda on sargassum impacts.**
- 2. Linking issues to coping actions, and exploring solutions**

Fisher interviews on impacts of sargassum

- Fishers interviewed in Antigua
 - 4 Fishers from north eastern areas (Parham fisheries complex)
 - 1 FAD fisher
 - 1 fisher from eastern areas (Wilikies)
 - 1 fisher from English Harbour
 - 4 fishers from southern area (Urlings fisheries complex)
 - 1 fisher from Barbuda
- Types of fishing activities covered included traps, lines, deep slope, trolling, spearfishing, nets and scuba diving for conch and lobster.

Clogged gear –Nets, lines traps, baskets

Fishing grounds - Inaccessible.

Damaged

Engine issues:

Ventilation

Overheating

Internal damage

Vibration

Increase costs of fishing

Fuel and time

Landing site

Water quality and relocation

Socio-economic impacts summary

- Increase in fuel costs (FAD fisher cites 20%).
- Reduction in fishing days/effort.
- Increased working time for same fishing effort.
- Increase in maintenance costs

Bottom Line: Frustration

Less fish (food)

Less income



Coping with impacts

- Clear clogged gear at regular intervals.
- Work between and around patches of weed
- Operate boat cautiously, stop and clear weed when ventilation occurs.
- Change fishing method/grounds
- Prayer

Promoting solutions

- **Design weed extrusion gear**
- **Develop water intake strainers to reduce overheating.**
- **Promote collaborative fisheries management (co-management) that is responsive.**

Thank you!!

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