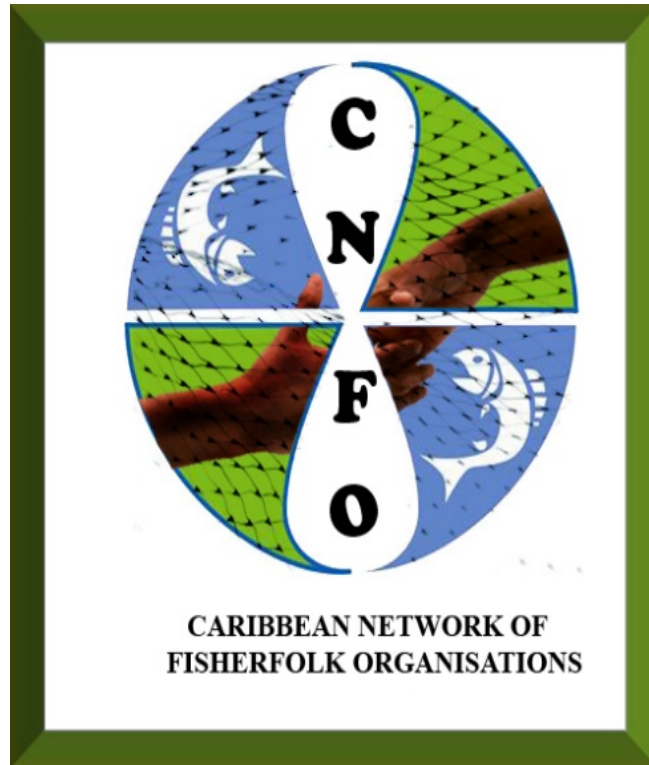


# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sargassum Symposium, UWI Barbados

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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