

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRFM AND NORWAY COLLABORATE TO HOST HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT AT UN OCEANS CONFERENCE 2022

**CRFM Executive Director to chair panel during high-level side event on
[International and Caribbean efforts to address organised crime in the fishing industry](#)**

Belize City, Friday, 24 June 2022 (CRFM)—The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the CARICOM institution designated as the region’s intergovernmental organization responsible for fisheries development and management, is partnering with Norway, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Blue Resilience Project, to host a high-level side event addressing organized crime in the global fisheries industry at the [UN Oceans Conference 2022](#). The side event will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on Wednesday, 29 June.

During the high-level side event, which will highlight international and regional measures to address fisheries crime towards reducing food security threats with innovative digital tools and inter-agency capacity support, CRFM’s Executive Director, Mr. Milton Haughton, will chair a panel on CARICOM’s regional instruments to address fisheries crime. This event advances the efforts of partners to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, while protecting food security, employment, and the blue economy.

Hon. Parnell Charles, Jr, MP - Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica; Hon. Andre Perez - Minister of the Blue Economy & Civil Aviation, Belize; and Hon. Saboto Caesar - Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, will join in this discussion on fisheries enforcement and the international and regional instruments to cooperatively tackle organized crime in the global fishing industry. Also joining the panel will be Ms. Emma Witbooi, Project Manager of Blue Resilience, UNDP; and Mr. Gunnar A. Stølsvik, Specialist Director, Fisheries Department at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries.

This is the first time the CRFM is collaborating with Norway to raise the profile of this issue at the UN Oceans Conference, and it serves to strengthen the alliance which began to be forged after the CRFM and its Member States endorsed the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry (also known as ‘the Copenhagen Declaration’) and affirmed their support for the Blue Justice Initiative. Belize, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are among the [12 CRFM Member States which signed the Copenhagen Declaration in October 2021](#).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Website & Registration Link: <https://bluejustice.org/un-ocean-conference-2022/>

Live stream link: <https://app.livecasts.eu/international-and-caribbean-efforts-to-address-organised-crime-in-the-fishing-industry/program>

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022

Time: 15:45-17:15 CET (equivalent to 8:45 a.m. in Belize, 9:45 a.m. in Jamaica, and 10:45 a.m. in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.)

Follow event on the CRFM's Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/CarFisheries>

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Part 1: INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- Welcome address (10 MINS)
Mr. Bjørnar Selnes Skjæran – Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy
- Introduction to the International Declaration against Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and the Norwegian Blue Justice Initiative (15 MINS)
Mr. Gunnar Stølsvik – Specialist Director, Fisheries Department, Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

Part 2: CARIBBEAN INSTRUMENTS

Panel: CARICOM: Regional instruments to address fisheries crime (40-45 MINS)

Chair: Mr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director Caricom Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Chair: Opening Remarks

Hon. Parnell Charles, Jr. – Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, [Jamaica](#)

Hon. Andre Perez – Minister of the Blue Economy & Civil Aviation, [Belize](#)

Hon. Saboto Caesar – Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour, [Saint Vincent & the Grenadines](#)

Emma Witbooi – Project Manager, [UNDP Blue Resilience](#)

Closing remarks (10 MINS)

Mr. Joseph Cox – [CARICOM](#) Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Olav Norheim – Deputy Director General, [Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries](#)

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ABOUT THE CRFM:

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2003 in Belize City, Belize, where it is headquartered, following the signing of the “Agreement Establishing the CRFM” on 4 February 2002. It is an inter-governmental organization whose mission is “to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region.”

CRFM social media links:

You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCRFM>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarFisheries>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CaribFisheries>

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