

# CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM) SECRETARIAT



P.O. Box 642, Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize, C.A.  
Tel: 501-223-4443 Fax: 501-223-4446  
e-mail: [secretariat@crfm.net](mailto:secretariat@crfm.net)

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## Information Note

### CRFM/CNFO/CTA Workshop on Regional Fisheries Policies Georgetown, Guyana, 07-08 October 2013

#### 1.0 Introduction

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is a regional fisheries body that was inaugurated on 26 March 2003, to promote and facilitate sustainable utilization, conservation and management of the Region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the people of the region.

The mandate of the CRFM includes ensuring food security through sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM Region. The CRFM therefore has an obligation to promote the development and implementation of policies and programmes and capacity building activities to support fisheries policy makers, managers and other stakeholders with the issues and challenges that are facing them as they work to improve the contribution of the sector to the region's social and economic development.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector makes important contributions to the economic and social development of the CARICOM States in terms of food supply and food and nutrition security, employment generation, foreign currency earnings and coastal development. Fish and shellfish are harvested mainly from the coastal waters, with a small but increasingly important contribution coming from aquaculture production. In 2010, total fishery production from domestic fisheries was 161,000 mt of which approximately 11,000 mt came from aquaculture production. Annual per capita consumption of fish and fishery products is high in most CARICOM States ranging from 77 kg in Antigua and Barbuda at the higher end, to 15 kg in Trinidad and Tobago, and only 3 kg in Haiti. Fisheries and aquaculture are important to the lives of most people in the region for quality animal protein, essential fatty acids, vitamins and minerals, and micronutrients.

Fishers, fish farmers and their communities and the resource systems are, however, vulnerable to numerous hazards and threats, as well as inadequate governance and management systems. If the current benefits which flow to communities and Member States from fisheries and aquaculture are to continue and grow on a sustainable basis to realize the full potential of the sector, then it is essential that appropriate policies, strategies, action plans and institutional capacity are developed to deal with the increasing threats and challenges and promote the sustainable development of the sector.

Against the above the CRFM Ministerial Council (and its Sub-Committee on the Flyingfish Fishery) comprising ministers responsible for fisheries (and their advisors) of CRFM States will meet during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) to make policy decisions and provide guidance on current issues affecting the sector. The Council will, among other things, be asked to approve the First Regional Management Plan for the Flyingfish Fisheries, consider proposals to strengthen fisheries relations with the French Islands in the Region, and provide guidance on the development of the CRFM Biennial Work Plan for April 2014- March 2016. The Council provides policy-direction and has overall responsibility for management of the CRFM including approval of budgets, fisheries cooperative agreements and related decision-making.

In addition, the CRFM Secretariat and CTA, in collaboration with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) will be holding a 2-day workshop on regional fisheries policies during the CWA.

## **2.0 Objective**

The objective of the workshop is to develop policy recommendations to be presented by a CNFO representative at the Meeting of The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu in the Wider Caribbean.

## **3.0 Schedule**

Date: 07 – 08 October 2013

Location: Georgetown, Guyana

## **4.0 Target Participants**

Participants at the Workshop would be representatives of:

- CNFO,
- National Fisherfolk Organizations (NFOs),
- National Fisheries Administrations from CRFM Member States,
- Civil Society e.g. CANARI and TNC, and
- Regional/International Institutions such as FAO, UWI, UG, CARICOM, OECS.

The CRFM Secretariat will cover the cost of travel, accommodation and living expenses for the participants.

## **5.0 Structure of the Workshop**

A draft agenda is provided in the appendix to this information note.

## **6.0 Security**

- Participants should exercise due care and attention to their surroundings to ensure that their safety is maintained throughout their stay.
- The hotel normally has security on and around the property.
- Participants should check their rooms to ensure that sufficient safety facilities are available and properly functioning (door locks, door chains, telephone, windows, etc.).
- Be wary of people hanging around outside the hotel.
- If you note anything / anyone suspicious, you are asked to kindly notify the hotel, and advise the CRFM Secretariat representative.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Mr. Milton Haughton  
Executive Director  
Caribbean Regional Fisheries  
Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat  
Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City  
Belize  
Tel.: (501) 223-4443  
Fax: (501) 223-4446  
Email: [milton.haughton@crfm.net](mailto:milton.haughton@crfm.net)

or Dr. Susan Singh-Renton  
Deputy Executive Director  
Caribbean Regional Fisheries  
Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat  
Top Floor, Corea's Building  
Halifax Street, Kingstown  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Tel.: (784) 457-3474  
Fax: (784) 457-3475  
Email: [susan.singhrenton@crfm.net](mailto:susan.singhrenton@crfm.net)