

APPENDIX C

Conclusions and Recommendations**from the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean**

The Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean: Achieving Improved Fisheries Management and Utilization in the Wider Caribbean Region, was held at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados in the period 6-9 December 2011. The workshop was co-organized by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

The workshop was attended by participants from:

Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and the United States of America (USA), as well as the following organizations: Barbados Boat Owners & Fishers Association (BOFA), Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organization (BARNUFO), Bellairs Research Institute, CARIBSAVE, Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI), Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), CLME, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), CRFM, Fisheries Advisory Committee of Barbados (FAC), FAO, NOAA, OECS-ESDU, SICA/OSPESCA, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WECAFC and WWF-Guianas.

Conclusions

The workshop recognized the important contribution of fisheries to the social and economic development and food and nutrition security in the Caribbean Region and the need to strengthen existing frameworks by implementing relevant provisions of the CCRF to ensure long-term sustainable use of these valuable resources. The workshop also noted with respect to the implementation of the CCRF in the Caribbean Region, that the following regional constraints and solutions require attention from all stakeholders:

Constraints	Solutions
Limited human, technical and financial resources	Increase access to human and budgetary resources for fisheries (through increasing awareness on the socio-economic and ecological value of fisheries) and promote further collaboration and technology transfer among countries in the region
Incomplete and outdated policy and legislative frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture	Align policy and legislative frameworks (under development) with the CCRF and its technical guidelines and a common regional policy framework
Institutional weaknesses of fisheries authorities and other relevant stakeholders	
Low overall priority given to fisheries and	Increase commitment and political will for

ocean resource management and development	development of more sustainable practices in the fisheries sector and responsible fisheries management processes
Uncoordinated research efforts and access to information on responsible fisheries and its management	Increase collaboration between regional and international fisheries bodies (CRFM, WECAFC, OSPESCA, ICCAT) and others (CITES, OECS, UNEP, FAO) to avoid overlap and focus on consolidating efforts, and establish regional priorities for research
Inadequate/insufficient Monitoring Control and Surveillance arrangements	Mainstream fisheries management, in line with the CCRF, in existing MCS programmes of related sectors (customs, navy, coast guard, port authorities, trade and tourism).
Lack of awareness of the CCRF among Fisheries Authorities staff and other sector stakeholders, including fisheries policy makers	Communicate better the practical and economical benefits of implementing the CCRF and establish cross-sectoral linkages to further awareness
Lack of attention paid to the CCRF in fisheries management.	Develop & implement strategies to incorporate the CCRF's objectives into existing fisheries policies, laws, management plans and activities
Limited participation (and implementation) of Caribbean States in existing international fisheries instruments such as the UNFSA and Compliance Agreement	Review and ratify, accede or accept and implement relevant international fisheries treaties such as UNFSA, Compliance Agreement and Port States Agreement

The workshop also recognized that:

- The Caribbean countries and regional organizations have made major efforts in the implementation and monitoring of the CCRF; such efforts have been successful in many cases and deserve recognition.
- The CCRF is highly regarded and being used as main framework for fisheries policy development and planning at regional level, as demonstrated in important recent initiatives such as the formulation of Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.
- The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) is highly relevant to fisheries in the region, which requires additional capacity building and awareness raising.
- Governance of the sector is taking place at different levels and is complicated in terms of the number and wide variety of authorities and stakeholders involved.
- In context of the International Plan of Action for the conservation and management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) it was regarded that the eastern Caribbean sharks are generally caught within a multi-species, multi-gear fishery, often untargeted. Nevertheless, it is important to note that shark catches are not discarded as they are sold and consumed, without waste, by the locals.

Recommendations

In recognition of above conclusions and the intensive discussions that took place at the workshop, the regional workshop participants endorsed the following recommendations:

To Governments in the Caribbean Region:

- Increase commitment to the sustainable management of fisheries and follow-up on the implementation of binding /non-binding fisheries instruments.
- Fishery and aquaculture legal and policy frameworks that are being developed should be based on the principles and consistent with the objectives of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, whilst being in line with the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and the St Lucia Declaration on IUU fishing.
- The absence of updated legal frameworks should not delay efforts to promote the implementation of the CCRF.
- Governments (including Fisheries authorities) should be mindful of the international binding and non-binding agreements related to fisheries and work towards their adoption and implementation, as appropriate; the latter may be converted into a binding nature at regional level to ensure and enhance their effectiveness.
- Political will for and commitment to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, its ancillary instruments and other relevant international agreements and conventions, be increased in the region.
- Linkages and collaboration be improved between the fisheries sector and other sectors in terms of implementation of certain aspects of the CCRF, such as the integration of fisheries into coastal zone management.
- Linkages and collaboration be strengthened among fisheries authorities and other government ministries and departments to improve a general understanding of the CCRF and facilitate its implementation.
- Fisherfolk organizations, in particular those of small-scale fishers, at local, national and regional level be strengthened in order to become true partners in the implementation of the CCRF and responsible fisheries management in general.
- Efforts be made to better document the features and contributions of the small-scale fisheries sector in the region, capturing in particular the socio-economic aspects.
- Efforts be increased by fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to mainstream fisheries into national poverty reduction and development plans, strategies and programmes.
- Fisheries Authorities should aim to incorporate the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), including adaptive management concepts in the management of their fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Special attention should be given to valuing traditional fisheries knowledge in the EAF processes.
- NPOAs-Sharks be developed in Caribbean countries that catch substantial quantities of sharks in their fisheries and that all Caribbean countries improve their data collection on shark catches and landings, as well as the skills to identify different species, in line with the FAO Technical Guidelines on the IPOA sharks and ICCAT recommendations.
- The precautionary approach be applied for deep sea sharks fisheries, in order to avoid fishing to depletion of stocks we do not know enough about as yet.
- Priority be given to certain social-economic and ecological objectives in the region, as resources are limited.

To Others (International and Regional Organizations as well as NGOs):

- That FAO supports, through relevant national and regional bodies, fisherfolk representatives and other regional stakeholders in regional processes to develop the SSF guidelines and in the implementation of the guidelines afterwards.
- That FAO considers feedback on specific tools of the EAF toolbox and makes efforts to add examples of how tools are used by countries and projects for information.
- That biennial monitoring of the CCRF implementation in the Caribbean Region should be continued by the FAO Secretariat in close cooperation with the WECAFC secretariat and the countries in the region, to report on specific developments in the region.
- The role of national, regional and international NGO's (e.g. TNC, WWF, IUCN, CARIBSAVE, CANARI, CERMES, CNFO) in the implementation of the CCRF should be increased through better use of their relationships with fisherfolk communities and media, as well as involving these organizations in awareness raising and capacity building efforts in the region.
- CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC and OECS collaborate more closely on the implementation of the CCRF, by organizing joint capacity building activities that target their constituency and by regularly sharing information, including on best practices and successful experiences.
- CLME, ACP Fish II and other projects and programmes active in the region adopt the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the precautionary approach in their activities and ensure that policies, strategies, plans and legal frameworks developed with support of these projects adhere to the principles of the CCRF.
- Awareness raising and information campaigns for consumers, including in particular the tourism sector, should be conducted to sensitize the regional market on issues related to sustainable fisheries.