



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

---

Release Date: December 2011

Programme No. 1323

Length: 4'31"

Language: English, French, Spanish, Russian

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: FISH KILLS

#### VIDEO

VISUALS OF SEA WATER

DISSOLVE TO DEAD FISH

DEAD FISH ON SHORE

BIRD FLYING AROUND

DRAGON ON-CAMERA

DRAGON FISHING WITH OTHER  
FISHERMEN

FISHERIES PORT/HARBOUR

GRAPHICS (BOAT/SEA BED)

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

*NATSOT – WAVES, BEAUTY SHOTS/MUSIC*

A puzzling sight on Trinidad & Tobago's southwestern coast – fishermen spotted thousands of dead fish littered along the beach front in late 2009...not even the birds ate the carcasses. (13.5")

As the evening tide rolled in, the fish - mostly sardines - washed up along the shoreline. (6")

DRAGON: (ENGLISH/VO) M

*"The whole beach side was just dead fish, the whole sea floating, stink."* (4.5")

##### NARRATION

Fishermen like 43-year-old Dragon suspect that they know what's to blame – the burgeoning oil and gas industry. (8.5")

Blasting for natural gas causes underground rock to fracture, releasing gas, forcing it back to the surface.

The industry is booming. (9")

MS. DRAGON FISHING WITH  
OTHER FISHERMEN

But this means little to Dragon and his community.  
They say it's affecting an already low fish stock and is  
putting the country's fishing industry in peril. (9.5")

DRAGON ON-CAMERA

DRAGON (ENGLISH/VO)

*"...about the last five years, we used to catch fish by  
400... 500 pounds. //Now, you can't catch 100 pounds  
of fish. "* (16.5")

3 FISHERMEN CARRYING THEIR  
CATCH OFF A BOAT

NARRATION

Dragon grew up by the seaside and is part of a group of  
one thousand fishermen who depend on the sea for  
their livelihood. // He supports a wife and two children.

DRAGON AT HOME WITH HIS  
FAMILY

(12")

DRAGON'S VOICE OVER HIM  
CLEANING FISH

DRAGON: (In English)

"Before we could feed the family; you could buy  
something for the home, fix the house." (2.5")

MARINE OIL RIGS

NARRATION

Besides blasting for gas, fishermen here also believe  
that leaking marine oil rigs contribute to the problem.  
(6.5")

DRAGON ON-CAMERA  
INLAY FOOTAGE OF GLASSY  
FILM ON WATER/ LEAKING  
DIESEL/OIL LEAK

DRAGON: (ENGLISH/VO)

*"...Twenty-two years I worked outside as a fisherman.  
In those years they didn't have oil in the water or the  
waste. "* (7")

FISHERMAN TRYING TO START  
HIS MOTOR BOAT

NARRATION

And with higher gas prices - 400 to 500 dollars per trip  
– Dragon and his friends say they're losing money.

(6.5")

BACHAN: (ENGLISH)

F

CAROLYN SEEPERSAD BACHAN  
ON-CAMERA

*"Livelihoods are very important to us. People's lives are very important to us and this is why recently we did have a decision to make whether to allow the shutdown or not of our particular platform."* (12")

NARRATION

INTRO OF MINISTER BACHAN

Former Minister of Trinidad & Tobago's Energy sector, Carolyn Seepersad Bachan, says that while she has no specific knowledge of why the beaches were packed with dead fish in 2009, accidents do happen. (12.5")

BACHAN: (ENGLISH)

BACHAN ON-CAMERA

*"Our state owned companies – they have some aged infrastructure so we have had several leaks."* (4")

NARRATION

LOW ANGLE SHOT OF OIL RIG

But she says the country is committed to ensure safety of the water and the fishing industry. (5")

BACHAN: (ENGLISH)

BACHAN ON-CAMERA

*"...If there is an issue we do not take a risk...we prefer to shut down. //And that has been happening currently throughout all of our operations. There are many areas we have shut down because of health and safety risks."* (11")

NARRATION

WS. ISLET

But even if this problem is solved, there's another challenge for local fishermen. They complain that deep sea trawling cuts into fishing grounds once available to them. (9.5")

DEEP SEA TRAWLING

TRAWLING/UNDERWATER SHOT	Fishing for shrimp, deep sea trawlers erode the sea bed, wreck nesting areas, and drive bands of fish to new feeding spots. (8")
NET LOAD OF FISH BEING HOIST INTO THE SHIP	If trawling continues at its current rate, the world's oceans, according to a UN report, may be completely stripped of fish in the next 40 years. (10")
CU. FISH GASPING FOR BREATH	
DRAGON FISHING WITH OTHER FISHERMEN	And for Dragon who spent his lifetime fishing, it would be a huge blow to his family. (5.5")
	<u>DRAGON:</u> (ENGLISH/VO)
DRAGON AT SEA	<i>"...the fish not staying; they're moving...that is a killer to the sea."</i> (3")
	<u>NARRATION</u>
A FISHERMAN ON HIS BOAT	Protecting the ocean and fish stocks worldwide will be on the agenda of the upcoming Rio +20 summit.
FISHING BOATS MOORED ON SHORE	But for now, Dragon and his buddies continue sailing the sea in search of fish. It's a matter of survival... that's all they know. (16.5")
UN LOGO	This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations. (4.5")