

Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP)

The CCCFP is a binding treaty focusing on cooperation and collaboration of Caribbean people, fishermen and their governments in conserving, managing and sustainably utilising fisheries and related ecosystems. The strong regional fisheries policy supports the welfare and well-being of all Caribbean people.

Benefits of CCCFP

- Biodiversity protection in the regional marine environment
- Increased regional food and nutrition security
- Better research supporting fisheries development and management
- Greater income for fishers and wealth creation through social and economic development of the sector
- More investment opportunities in the fishing industry for CARICOM entrepreneurs
- Integrated regulation and enforcement to minimise any regional sectoral conflicts
- Increased regional market and economic competitiveness for the sector
- Unified standards for quality assurance and food safety
- Improved regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance to reduce illegal fishing
- Harmonised regional and national data and information systems for better data sharing and open access to all
- Recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area of sustainable development



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”. The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

The CRFM Secretariat worked closely with Chief Fisheries Officers, fisherfolk organisations and other stakeholders across the region to draft and implement the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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CARIBBEAN FISHERIES

*Our treasure,
our life*



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Protecting and preserving the resource

Fisheries all around the world, including the Caribbean Sea, are under pressure. Sadly, it is already proven in some areas that the sea can indeed run out of fish. There is only one Caribbean. It can't simply be traded in for a newer model when it wears out, so it is imperative that we take care of it. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) crafted the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) to promote recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area of sustainable development, so that the level of fishing effort should not exceed the level of sustainable use. Preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to preserve the livelihoods and welfare of fisherfolk are key elements of the policy. It strengthens, upgrades, harmonises and modernises fisheries legislation in the region and fosters better cooperation and information sharing at all levels.

Climate change is very real in the Caribbean, where fisherfolk are observing rising sea levels, increased storms and hurricanes, coastal erosion and changing, unpredictable weather and fish migration patterns, all of which adversely affect their livelihoods. To address this, the policy integrates environmental, coastal and marine management consideration into fisheries policies, safeguarding the fisheries and related ecosystems from threats and lessening impacts of climate change or natural disasters.

Creating jobs and increasing incomes

CRFM aims to help change the perception of the fishery sector, giving it the greater status that it deserves. The Secretariat encourages more product diversification, ending the over-exploitation of some species and beginning the pursuit of others that are either under- or unexploited. CRFM understands the need for fishers to invest, modernise, upgrade, innovate and improve their market positioning. With greater cooperation amongst fishers, they can add value by processing more of their catch in order to capture more of the profit. CRFM also encourages more business ventures in aquaculture.

The CARICOM region's perennial trade deficits can be shrunk as a better performing commercial fishing sector increases trade and export earnings. Certain articles of the CCCFP aim to help fishers meet ongoing challenges by expanding market and fisheries research and access to markets. Transforming the sector to become more market-oriented, internationally competitive and environmentally sustainable, based on the highest international standards of quality and sanitary conditions, will ensure its longevity.

Strengthening food and nutrition security

Caribbean people owe a substantial portion of their nutrition to the sea's bounty. Going fishing and enjoying the catch is woven into the very fabric of our culture and traditions. The sea also serves as something of a safety net for us in difficult times. If we are hungry, but have little cash on hand, we can go fishing. Small-scale fishers play a key role by creating more jobs and also ensuring food security and good nutrition across the region. Thus, it is imperative that we all take a structured, balanced approach, avoiding depletion of the stock while also assuring consistent supply to Caribbean markets. CCCFP harmonises sustainable fisheries management and post-harvest practices while promoting competitive trade and stable market conditions. It improves standards for quality assurance and seafood safety by requiring participating nations to establish protocols for sanitary and phytosanitary measures so that the seafood we consume is not only good for us, but is also of the highest quality.

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