

Report of the Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) Fishers Forum:
Fisheries livelihoods: living for the work
67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
Rockley, Barbados, 3-7 November 2014



2014

Acknowledgements

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- Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) – fisherfolk organisation host
- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)
- CARIBSAVE and C-FISH
- Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of UWI
- IUCN Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) programme

Several other individuals and organizations, too numerous to mention, assisted with the GCFI activities as usual. We thank them all.

Cover photo features fisherfolk leaders on the field trip: Glaston White (Jamaica), Nadine Nembhard (Belize), Vernel Nicholls (Barbados) and Mitchell Lay (Antigua).

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1. Introduction

The 2014 Fishers Forum focused directly upon fisheries livelihoods along the entire value chain “from hook to cook”. The sub-title “living for the work” reminds us that, contrary to previous popular opinion, many people do not get involved in fisheries as an occupation of last resort. For them it is a preference and a good fit to their personalities, culture and social structure. They live for the work. On the other hand, it is becoming harder for many in the Gulf and Caribbean region to make ends meet at the enterprise, household and community levels from fisheries alone. People are living for the work just to survive under conditions of actual or near poverty. Small-scale fisheries are being marginalized.

The links from fisheries science and management to livelihoods and decent work are not always clear. We need to better understand livelihoods from the industry perspective. The 2014 Fishers Forum brought together leaders from industry, science and management to (a) exchange information and perspectives on fisheries livelihoods, (b) better understand how to make livelihoods sustainable for the benefit of the resources and the people, and (c) advance the process of policy and practice for sustainable livelihoods.

The Forum was designed to provide an opportunity to address livelihood issues by sharing experiences and views of leading fisherfolk from around the region. This was to allow GCFI members and the Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) initiative to develop practical actions to address identified issues in consultation with fishers and other stakeholders. We aim for fisherfolk to play an increasing role in the move towards sustainable resources and livelihoods throughout the Gulf and Caribbean as part of the GCFI F4F initiative.

2. Process

The 2014 Fishers Forum, as in previous years, was developed and implemented through a process of broad participation and partnership. The event consisted of an interactive forum in the main conference program, the presentation of the 2014 Gladding Memorial Award, a fishers’ field trip, and a planning session for F4F. F4F seeks travel sponsorship for fisherfolk to participate in the Fishers Forum.

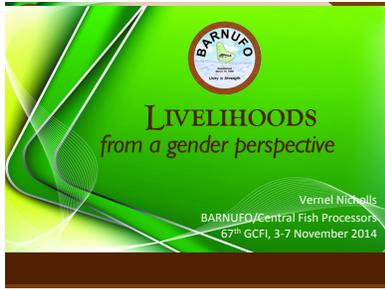
Outputs from the Forum included this report and other communications. The Forum was designed to maximize networking, interaction, and exchange between fishers across the Gulf and Caribbean, which in turn strengthens the network of individuals and organizations that transcend borders, languages, cultures and specific fisheries, thereby contributing to the stewardship of fisheries social-ecological systems from local to regional levels. The programme is in Appendix 1. The Forum field trip and the strategy session were integrated with an international FAO workshop on fisherfolk organisations.

3. Conference session

The Fishers Forum conference session was within the GCFI main programme on Monday 3 November starting at 1615 with Patrick McConney as Session Chairman (see Appendix). After a brief introduction of the Forum concept and acknowledgement of sponsors, he explained the theme “Fisheries livelihoods: living for the work” to be addressed by the five speakers as summarized below.

3.1 Fish processing and marketing in Barbados: a gender perspective

First up was Vernel Nicholls from the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) the local host fisherfolk organisation that assisted in planning the Fishers Forum. She provided an insider perspective on a cooperative comprising female fish workers as its members. Women’s work in the local fishing industry was highlighted. Achievements and challenges were described.



3.2 A leader's life: fisherfolk organizing and quality seafood

Mitchell Lay, is the Coordinator of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and a Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) winner based in Antigua and Barbuda. He linked the topics of seafood quality and fisherfolk organizing. Lay showed why organized fisherfolk can lead to improved products. His own experience with red snapper served as an example of the potential benefits.

Fisherfolk Organising and Quality seafood

Fisher perspective
67th GCFI Barbados
Fishers Forum "Living for the Work"

By Mitchell Lay...professional small-scale fisher...Antigua and Barbuda

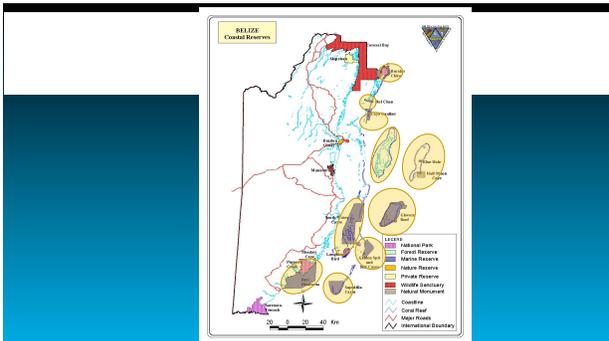
Organising Fisherfolk – Quality Fish Perspective

- Fishing is more than work
 - Art
 - Science
 - Business
 - Pleasure
- Critical to Caribbean countries
 - Sustainable development
 - Food and nutrition security
 - "Powerhouse Food"
 - Health
 - Poverty and Hunger



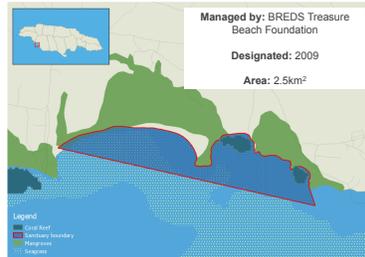
3.3 Fishers' livelihoods under managed access in Belize

Nadine Nembhard, Secretary of the CNFO, who is from Belize, presented on the on-going experiment with managed access in her country. The results, according to fisheries managers, have been positive and the schemes are due to be expanded to other areas and fisheries. She also addressed the emerging issue of ocean grabbing that is getting attention from fisherfolk organisations internationally.



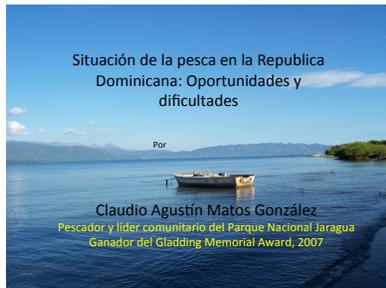
3.4 A livelihoods perspective on the Galleon Fish Sanctuary in Jamaica

Trysion Walters, a fisher warden from Jamaica, shared his perspective on the Galleon Fish Sanctuary which is one of the sites at which community-based co-management was being attempted along with support for sustainable fisheries livelihoods.



3.5 Fisheries livelihoods around the Jaragua National Park

Claudio González, from the Dominican Republic is another GMA winner. He spoke about relationships between fisheries livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. GMA winners serve as role models for the pursuit of sustainable fisheries and especially help to inspire young people to be stewards of the sea.



-La pesca es básicamente artesanal
 -Los principales recursos pesqueros son lambs (caracol), langosta, meros, pargos (chillos), carites, agujas, atunes y dorados
 -En el país faenan unos 11,000 pescadores artesanales



-Capacitación para que los pescadores entiendan que la pesca tiene que hacerse de manera ordenada respetando las regulaciones
 -Una mayor presencia en la zona de las autoridades de áreas protegidas para mayor protección de los recursos pesqueros.
 -Necesitamos atenciones medica en las zonas de pesca
 -Inclusión en los sistemas de seguridad social (seguro nacional de salud, seguro de vida)

3.6 Discussion and session close

Patrick McConney was the moderator for the closing discussion session. The speakers formed a panel and GCFI members asked questions of their presentations. All speakers acquitted themselves well and the importance of fisheries livelihoods, including the important roles that scientists and marine managers play, became better appreciated.

3.7 Fisheries for Fishers and Gladding Memorial Award: progress and plans

In the absence of a GMA winner, Mitchell Lay as GMA Chair informed the audience about the plans to improve and broaden the process for selecting the regional winner. A standard nomination form had been developed and would be widely circulated to gather a wider set of nominations. The GMA Committee has an evaluation process that should ensure that the selected nominee was well worthy of the award. Plans for the F4F initiative were shared, and Mitchell Lay made a case for members to support F4F/GMA in the implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines.

Read Hendon, the Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and long-time friend of fisherfolk initiatives at

GCFI made history when he pledged annual support of US\$2,500 for the GMA and challenged others to match or exceed this generosity. With an estimated need for \$65,000 per year to run all of the activities of the F4F this was a most welcome commitment that we hoped would catalyse new interest from donors.

4. Fishers field trip

The Fishers Field Trip is a favourite GCFI event of not only fisherfolk, but also others (such as scientists, students, managers) who do applied fisheries research or work around fishing facilities. It is designed primarily for fishers attending GCFI to get to know more about fishing in the host country and to interact with fisherfolk there to share information, fellowship and culture. This year the field trip was on Tuesday 4 November and organised mainly by BARNUFO along with the fisherfolk at the Conset Bay fish landing site. Since the participants in the FAO workshop on fisherfolk organisations joined the field trip there were about 60 people, including a small contingent of local fisherfolk, transported in two buses.



The first stop was the Bridgetown fishing harbour and public market, the largest landing site in Barbados. Vernel Nicholls and Patrick McConney gave two groups a guided tour of the facilities. The next stop was at Tent Bay on the east coast of the island to appreciate the spectacular scenery and also the challenges faced by fishers on the windward coasts of the Caribbean in terms of sea state, mooring and facilities. At the last stop the participants experienced local hospitality and seafood delicacies courtesy of the Conset Bay fisherfolk. There was food, drink and a lively exchange of fisheries information amongst persons from over a dozen different countries. Sponsorship from the Barbados Tourism Authority was well invested.

5. F4F discussion



The GCFI F4F Initiative implementation discussion was held on Wednesday 5 November in the form of a small group of fisherfolk leaders (who were in the FAO workshop on fisherfolk organisations) interacting with colleagues from around the world who had written case studies on collective action in fisheries. The aim of the brief session was to obtain input from international colleagues on the GCFI F4F initiative based on what they had experienced at the Fishers Forum events. CNFO Coordinator Mitchell Lay led the short discussion, the main point from which was that the SSF Guidelines could be a useful rallying point around which to organise additional activities and gather support across the region. Those attending appreciated the challenges faced by the GCFI F4F initiative in mobilising collective action with scarce financial and other resources.

6. Oistins excursion

In the evening on Thursday 6 November all conference participants were invited to enjoy food, beverage and cultural experience in an 'Oistins excursion'. Visiting fisherfolk had an opportunity to learn more about Oistins fishing, and how value was added to seafood by the "fish fry bay garden" (with mainly grilled food) in which fish meals were prepared and served to both locals and tourists in a simple casual setting of the fish market and a wide selection of food stalls. Oistins enterprises had enhanced the household incomes of several fisherfolk families and helped to identify Barbados as a destination with good seafood. It was an enjoyable evening for all, and an opportunity for the conference to contribute to fisheries livelihoods.

Appendix

Fishers Forum Programme

Monday 3 November, 1615-1800: Fishers Forum conference session and Gladding Memorial Award

Time	Session theme: <i>Fisheries livelihoods: living for the work</i>
1615	Introduction to F4F and the 2014 Fishers Forum theme - Patrick McConney, Session Chairman
1620	Fish processing and marketing in Barbados: a gender perspective – Vernel Nicholls, Barbados
1630	A leader’s life: fisherfolk organizing and quality seafood - Mitchell Lay, Antigua and Barbuda
1640	Fishers’ livelihoods under managed access in Belize – Nadine Nembhard, Belize
1650	A livelihoods perspective on the Galleon Fish Sanctuary in Jamaica – Trysion Walters, Jamaica
1700	Fisheries livelihoods around the Jaragua National Park - Claudio González, Dominican Republic
1710	Discussion and session close - Patrick McConney/Terrence Phillips, Moderator
1740	Fisheries for Fishers and Gladding Memorial Award: progress and plans - Mitchell Lay, GMA Chair
1800	Close

Tuesday 4 November, 1400 – 1800: Fishers Field Trip

Fisherfolk and other specially invited guests will tour by bus to view and visit commercial fish landing activities and sites with particular emphasis on livelihoods and their relationships with other economic sectors (e.g. tourism). The field trip ends at scenic Conset Bay to provide an opportunity for participants from elsewhere to interact with fisherfolk from Barbados in an informal visual and discussion session, fostering information exchange and sharing of perspectives on livelihoods. Then we return by bus.

Wednesday 5 November, 0830-0900: F4F discussion

Integrated with the *FAO Workshop on Strengthening organizations and collective action in fisheries: Towards the formulation of a capacity development programme*, select fisherfolk will discuss the F4F Initiative with a set of international fisheries experts on collective action and capacity development.

Thursday 6 November, 1830-until: ‘Oistins excursion’

All conference participants will be invited to enjoy food, beverage and cultural experience in an ‘Oistins excursion’. Visiting fisherfolk and friends will be given an opportunity to learn more about Oistins fishing