

June 2014

Focusing on action & success



c-fish NEWS

The Newsletter for the Caribbean Fish
Sanctuary Partnership Initiative (C-FISH)



www.c-fish.org





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Front Cover: *Trysion Walters, BREDS Treasure Beach Foundation*

Back Cover: *Livingston Thompson, Bluefields Bay*
Photos by Brenda Berry



The Caribbean Fish Sanctuary Partnership Initiative (C-FISH)

Welcome to the 2nd edition of The Caribbean Fish Sanctuary Partnership (C-FISH) Newsletter. Much has happened in the past year with our work focusing on "Action and Success". We hope this newsletter will help you learn more about our work protecting & restoring coastal ecosystems & supporting livelihoods in vulnerable communities.

C-FISH is an innovative project devised by environmental not-for-profit The CARIBSAVE Partnership & is aimed at strengthening community-based fish sanctuaries and marine protected areas (MPAs) in 5 countries across the Caribbean starting with Jamaica, Grenada, St Lucia, & St Vincent & the Grenadines.

Scientists have known for some time that successful MPAs can generate significant environmental, social & economic benefits from sustainable fisheries to tourism to natural coastal defenses. This is part of a growing international focus on Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change (EbA) is rapidly being recognized as one of the most realistic & cost-effective strategies for small island developing states (SIDS), where the impacts of climate change can be reduced by strengthening the resilience & productivity of coastal ecosystems.

The long-term benefits of MPAs often come with short-term costs to vulnerable fishing communities. C-FISH's strategy is to work closely with these communities to develop programmes which include short-term economic incentives for locals. This includes programmes to build capacity for environmental management, support alternative livelihoods, & develop key linkages between conservation & livelihoods which improve financial & ecological sustainability.

Developing sustainable financing mechanisms for MPAs is critical for their long-term success. The CARIBSAVE Partnership has recently launched the C-FISH Fund with support from the Sandals Foundation, Virgin Holidays, the Travel Foundation & Royal Caribbean Cruises to help support Caribbean MPAs.

The main goals of the C-FISH Initiative are:

- To provide financial and technical support for the management of community-based MPAs.
- To promote public awareness of the environmental, social and economic benefits that MPAs can generate in Caribbean countries.
- To promote alternative livelihoods in fishing communities and build mutually beneficial linkages between the tourism and fisheries sectors.
- To facilitate stakeholder participation and to monitor the effectiveness of MPA management.

C-FISH is funded by UKaid (£2.1million) from the Department for International Development (DFID) through the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC). The CARIBSAVE Partnership is implementing the project on behalf of DFID & the CCCCC & has opened an office in Kingston to oversee this 4-year project.

UKaid is committed to supporting community-based MPAs because of the economic benefits they can provide to vulnerable communities & because they also increase the resilience of coastal ecosystems & rural livelihoods to the impacts of climate change.

Where We Work



The C-FISH Initiative is working with a number of community-based organization managing fish sanctuaries in the Caribbean. As of May 2014, 8 managing bodies are signed grantees to the C-FISH Initiative, covering 10 different protected areas:

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

- Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA), CARRIACOU, GRENADA
- Tobago Cays Marine Park, SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
- Point Sables Protected Area, ST. LUCIA

JAMAICA

- Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary
- Boscobel Fish Sanctuary
- Galleon St. Elizabeth Fish Sanctuary
- Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary
- Within Portland Bight Protected Area (3 Fish Sanctuaries)

SANDY ISLAND OYSTER BED



TOBAGO CAYS MARINE PARK



POINT SABLES PROTECTED AREA



BLUEFIELDS BAY FISH SANCTUARY



BOSCABEL FISH SANCTUARY



GALLEON, ST. ELIZABETH FISH SANCTUARY



ORACBESSA BAY FISH SANCTUARY



PORTLAND BIGHT PROTECTED AREA



Header: Sanctuary wardens, community fishers & international volunteers work together to conduct CLIF monitoring under the C-FISH Initiative.



New Partnerships & Alliances

A key role of CARIBSAVE is to broker the creation of new functional partnerships between organisations that share common interests. Here are several new partnerships that have been established through efforts of the C-FISH Initiative:



The C-FISH Fund

CARIBSAVE is pleased to announce the launch of the C-FISH Fund as a new public-private partnership designed to provide sustainable financial support to community-based fish sanctuaries in the Caribbean. It will use innovative & "business-based" fund-raising mechanisms to invest in the resilience of Caribbean coastal communities & ecosystems.

The Fund will compliment & support other national & regional funds (e.g. the Regional Biodiversity Fund) that support marine conservation & coastal livelihoods in the Caribbean. The Board of the C-FISH Fund welcomes the participation of other businesses with an interest in supporting the Caribbean.



Above: The first C-FISH Fund Board Meeting was held in London, 2014. Board representatives include The CARIBSAVE Partnership, Virgin Holidays, The Travel Foundation, The Sandals Foundation & Royal Caribbean Cruises.

JAMAICA:

- **Sanctuary Manager:** Inilek Wilmot, the joint manager for Boscobel & Oracabessa fish sanctuaries was hired through C-FISH & has successfully strengthened the partnership & synergies between Oracabessa Foundation & St. Mary's Fishing Co-op and Sandals Foundation.
- **South West Friends of Fishers Alliance (SWEFFA).** Fishing stakeholders from 3 sanctuaries & 4 fishing communities have established this new alliance to "Support the development of fisheries management in Jamaica" through synergies, awareness activities & alternative livelihoods. C-FISH is supporting this alliance & currently acting as the Secretariat.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN:

- **Mooring Technical Advisory (TAC) Committee.** CARIBSAVE, SIOBMPA, CARILED, the Grenada Hotel & Tourism Association, and the Marine & Yachting Association of Grenada (MAYTAG) recently formed this committee to improve mooring facilities & options for visitors in the area, thereby providing sustainable financing for the MPA & opportunities for community development.

C-FISH FUND REVENUE GENERATING MECHANISMS:

- C-FISH craft products created by community artisans & sold in partner retail outlets.
- Donations & contributions from visitors, businesses & supporters
- Community-based tourism that benefits local communities & small businesses

BE PART OF THE SUCCESS STORY:

- Consider selling C-FISH crafts in your retail space
- Educate your customers & clients on fish sanctuaries
- Fund raise & support marine education
- Support jobs in local fishing communities & locally made products
- Donate to the C-FISH Fund
- Contact us for more information +(876) 632-3075; cfish@caribsave.org



Capacity Building

In the past year, funding & support provided through C-FISH has allowed sanctuaries to improve their management capacity for enforcement, monitoring & public awareness.

BLUEFIELDS BAY

- Patrol boat, warden supervisor, additional wardens

BOSCobel

- Sanctuary manager (shared with Oracabessa Bay)

GALLEON, ST. ELIZABETH

- Catamaran for wardens, enforcement equipment, sanctuary manager

ORACABESSA BAY

- Sanctuary manager (shared with Boscobel), administrative assistant, improved salaries for wardens, enforcement equipment

PORTLAND BIGHT

- Patrol boat, solar system for base station, stipend for volunteer fishers

SANDY ISLAND OYSTER BED

- Patrol boat, sanctuary manager, equipment for fishers

WHAT HAS THIS ACHIEVED?

- More regular, effective, economical & safe patrols
- Increased support of local livelihoods
- Improved relations between communities, managing bodies & marine police
- Improved awareness amongst visitors
- Improved working conditions for wardens
- Improved performance of sanctuary managers
- Commensurate income for wardens, warden supervisors, & volunteers
- Training for Information & Communications Technology (Computers, VHF Radios & GPS)

In 2014 & 2015, managing bodies will continue to improve their capacity for management with on-going support from C-FISH. This will include a wire mesh swap programme to help fishers adhere to the legal mesh size, new signage, training in SCUBA, remote cameras for enforcement & special underwater cable for the sanctuary boundary markers.

Above: Community members in the Pointe Sables Environmental Protection Area, St. Lucia.

Education & Awareness

ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

CARIBSAVE recently provided funding to the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) to coordinate & implement activities to improve the awareness of enforcement personnel in relation fisheries laws & regulations. Participants included the Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fire Brigade, & Jamaica Customs, as well as the Fisheries Division, Jamaica Fish Sanctuary Network (JFSN), National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA), & Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union (JFCU). CARIBSAVE also helped JET implement an awareness week on the Pedro Cays focused at sensitizing the resident community of fishers on fish conservation & sanctuaries.



TRAINING & EQUIPMENT FOR FISHERS IN "SAFETY AT SEA"

Sandy Island/Oyster Bed (MPA) in conjunction with the Ministry of Carriacou & Petite Martinique Affairs, Grenada Coast Guard & CARIBSAVE conducted a 'Safety at Sea Training' for fishers with the use of GPS & VHF radio. CARIBSAVE provided handheld

GPS & VHF radios & other safety equipment to 17 fishermen from Carriacou. The goals of the training workshop were to introduce & explain safety at sea, emergency communication methods, & the operation of VHF & GPS. The importance of this safety equipment cannot be overstated—see page 17 for Jodi Placid's amazing story.

66th GCFI CONFERENCE

CARIBSAVE participated in the 66th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference (Nov 2013) under the theme "Natural & Artificial Reef Fisheries, Research, & Conservation" through the presentation of 3 posters & the film 'Caribbean Fish Sanctuaries'.



Above: Participants in "Safety at Sea" Training, Carriacou

Left: Fisher from Pedro Cays receives equipment as part of JET's Environmental Awareness Week

Right: CARIBSAVE members participating in GCFI's 66th Annual Conference.



Faces of Fishing



Header: 1 fishing boat typically supports 2-3 fishers, and is always a point of interest to those on the beach.

Clockwise from top left: Women play a significant role in spin-off fishing activities; A mother in Carriacou carrying home fish for the family's next meal; Fisher in Galleon, St. Elizabeth paints a boat with inspirational names.



Under the Sea

Header: A school of Bermuda Chub.

Clockwise from bottom left: Parrotfish play an important role in reef health & are one of the species that benefit from sanctuaries; Coral gardening in the Oracabessa fish sanctuary provides local jobs & increases reef resilience; Artificial reef enhances the Bluefields fish sanctuary by creating well needed shelter for reef fish.





C-FISH in Action



Header: Wardens, fishers, CARIBSAVE, & the Travel Foundation on site in Galleon, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica assessing feasibility of tourism in the area.

Clockwise from top left: Pilot mangrove replanting (pilot) in Portland Bight, as part of Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change; C-FISH hands over supplies needed for monitoring fish population (CLIF method) to representative from C-CAM; Local Community-based Assessors (CBAs) being trained to conduct C-FISH socio-economic surveys; Supported artisans from Bluefields Bay at Christmas Craft Fair



C-FISH Boats

Header: The C-FISH funded, locally-built observation platform for Galleon, St. Elizabeth in use. The boat was christened "Tomorrow" by the wardens.

Clockwise from left: Wardens and marine police utilize the C-FISH funded patrol boat to enforce sanctuary laws; 2 wardens express how their new C-FISH funded patrol boat has made enforcement of the Portland Bight sanctuaries easier; Locals construct a patrol boat for SIOBMPA, Carriacou through C-FISH funding.



Header: Wardens from Galleon, St. Elizabeth perform CLIF Monitoring in their sanctuary.

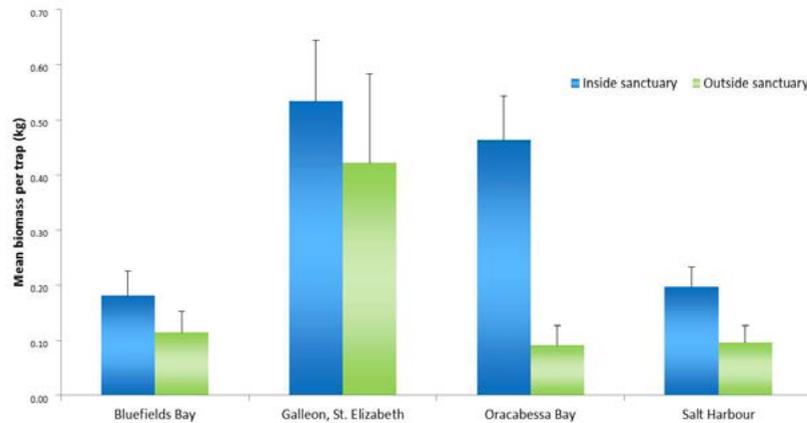


Monitoring Programmes

Data collection on the ecological & socio-economic impacts of the fish sanctuaries is essential not only for monitoring the effectiveness of management, but also for providing empirical evidence of their success stories. C-FISH is responsible for implementing the following:

COMMUNITY-BASED LIVE FISH (CLIF) MONITORING

This method was designed to collect fish biomass data inside & outside sanctuaries & to encourage local stakeholders (fishers, wardens & community members) to participate in monitoring & MPA management. Data has been collected in 7 of the C-FISH grantee sanctuaries for Year 1 & 2, & will continue for Year 3 & 4. The figure (bottom left) shows preliminary results for Year 1. The latest version of the CLIF Manual can be downloaded from our Resources page on the website.



Header: Many women have livelihoods in fishing spin-off industries such as fish cleaning & are dependent on fishing as well.

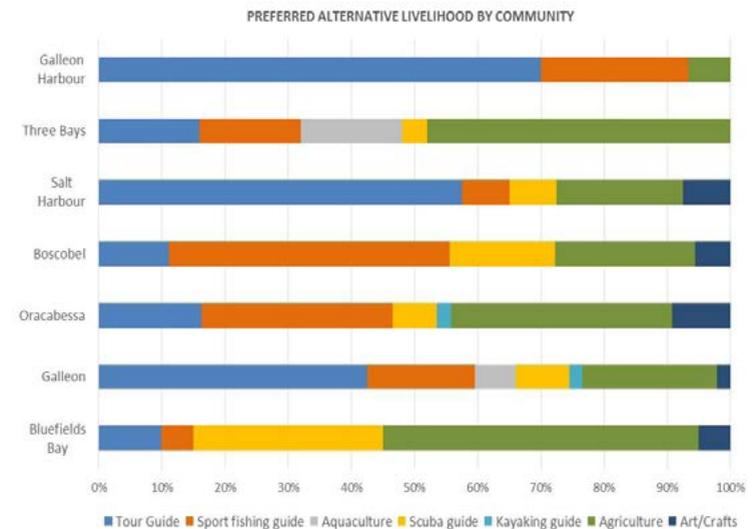


AQUACAM RESEARCH PROGRAMME

This partnership between CARIBSAVE, The University of the West Indies, The University of Catania & TechWorks Marine, aims to develop new technology for monitoring live reef fish using underwater video cameras & automated computer vision software. Research is being implemented at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Jamaica & focuses on testing various monitoring methodologies for reef fish. The specialized equipment should be shipped to Jamaica in mid-2014 to be deployed & tested in the Discovery Bay fish sanctuary.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEYS

Overfishing negatively impacts fishers & their communities by affecting food security, job security & by extension crime. Communities can benefit from effectively managed fish sanctuaries through increased fish stocks, as well as as tourism towards improved livelihoods. As part of the C-FISH Initiative, socio-economic surveys were collected in grantee sanctuaries for Year 1 & 2 by locals trained as Community-Based Assessors (CBAs) (See figure bottom left). This data collection will continue in Years 3 & 4.



Header: Conservation efforts today will benefit the generation coming after us.

Alternative Livelihoods

Alternative or supplementary forms of livelihood provide benefits through reduced fishing pressure & additional sources of income for community members.

■ The **C-FISH CRAFT PROGRAMME**, is a partnership with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation & Sandals Foundation. It aims to support livelihoods, to contribute to the C-FISH Fund & to improve public awareness of the sanctuaries & fisheries management. The communities of Bluefields Bay, Oracabessa Bay, Boscobel & Treasure Beach (Jamaica) were targeted for this programme which involves product development, access to markets & networking.

■ **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM** through sanctuary related activities is currently being explored through a partnership with The Travel Foundation. Each sanctuary offers different cultural, historical & ecological activities for visitors to experience. A recently conducted Feasibility Study provided insight into the opportunities & challenges for potential tours into Jamaica's fish sanctuaries. These tours would offer alternative sources of income for community members, as well as income to the C-FISH Fund.

■ The **TOBAGO CAYS MARINE PARK (TCMP)** offers a source of income through tourism & vending. To assist in the development of alternative livelihoods that would benefit surrounding communities, two 1-day workshops were held on Union Island & Mayreau with fishers & tourism operators. Training in boat building & engine repairs, sport fishing & a fishing co-operative were identified as priority needs. CARIBSAVE will use these findings to guide our alternative livelihood programme.



Special Features & Highlights

EQUIPMENT SAVES LIVES

Fisherman Jodi Placid of Carriacou expresses his gratitude to the Saint Vincent Coast Guard & the captain & crew of the fishing Trawler "Morning Mist" of Petite Martinique who effected a rescue after his fishing vessel became swamped during rough seas.

On the morning of January 15 2014, Jodi together with Regan Stephan & Kieron Walters were fishing approximately 20 nautical miles east of Carriacou. The vessel started to take on water in rough seas & was flooded within 2 minutes. He was able to make 1 phone call to alert the boat owner in Carriacou before drifting out of phone range.

Jodi used a VHF radio to send out distress calls & was able to use his GPS to pinpoint their exact location. He was rescued after drifting 5 hours at sea.

When asked about his ordeal Jodi reflects, "I am thankful for this GPS & VHF radio, without this equipment I would not be here today! The safety at sea training received from Grenada Coast Guard Corporal Dexter Roberts on December 18th was the refresher that saved my life." After his ordeal, his advice to other fishers is, "learn to use your navigation & communications equipment. Never leave home without them it may determine whether you live or die out there."

Jodi is one of 17 fishers in Carriacou who received GPS & VHF radios as part of the livelihood component of the C-FISH Initiative. He attended the Safety Training workshop that was held at the fishing village of L'Estere in Carriacou.

The goals & objectives of this training workshop was to introduce safety at sea, emergency communication methods, VHF technology, VHF marine transceiver & phonetic alphabet, VHF Radio Communication Procedures, GPS Technology, Operating the Garmin GPS 72H Handheld Receiver, Navigating with a GPS Unit & Simulation Exercise. In the photo below, Jodi Placid receives this equipment from Grenada Coast Guard Officer, Corporal Dexter Roberts, who facilitated the "Safety at Sea" Training.





The C-FISH Team



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PARTNERS OF C-FISH

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- Virgin Holidays Limited
- Sandals Foundation
- The Travel Foundation
- The Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum
- The Nature Conservancy
- UNEP: The Caribbean Environment Programme
- University of the West Indies
- Fisheries Division, Government of Jamaica



"Supporting and enhancing the livelihoods, environments and economies around the world"

The INTASAVE Partnership & CARIBSAVE is a global not-for-profit organisation with offices and operations in South Africa, Kenya, China, Asia, the UK and the Caribbean (CARIBSAVE). CARIBSAVE is a regional not-for-profit organisation with its Headquarters in Barbados, an office in Jamaica and operational staff across the Caribbean. CARIBSAVE was originally formed in 2007 as a partnership initiative between Caribbean regional organisations and the University of Oxford, before becoming an independent not-for-profit entity.

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