

Management of large pelagic fisheries in CARICOM countries



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Preparation of this document

This technical paper was prepared to facilitate broad communication of the results of the Technical Cooperation Programme project it reports upon. At the project's conclusion it became evident that both its process and substance could be useful to countries in other regions of the world, particularly those with small island developing states.

The paper compiles and reviews information from a wide range of sources. The information was made available to the project through the efforts of many individuals, in particular fishers of large pelagics and the staff of the fisheries divisions in CARICOM countries. Their interest and efforts are very much appreciated.

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Abstract

Large pelagic fish are important to the small-scale, commercial and recreational fisheries in many Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. They are seen as an area with potential for growth. As most are transboundary, their management requires collaboration among countries in the context of international fisheries agreements. The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme project described in this report (TCP/RLA/0070) sought to assist CARICOM countries in formulating an approach to the development and management of large pelagic fisheries. The approach involved two thrusts, addressing each group of large pelagics: oceanic and coastal. For oceanic species, the need for and modes of direct involvement in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) were identified and explored. For coastal large pelagic species, largely within the western central Atlantic, the need for a regional arrangement emerged. This could be a subsidiary of ICCAT, or a separate entity with close collaboration if ICCAT is willing to delegate its responsibility for coastal species.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), recently established by CARICOM, can play a key role in both thrusts. For oceanic species, it can coordinate and provide technical support for member-country participation in ICCAT. It can also explore possible approaches to collective representation. For coastal species, the CRFM can take the lead in establishing the regional arrangement and in pursuing the linkages – among CARICOM members, other regional fishing countries and distant water fishing countries – that will be essential for such an arrangement to succeed.

In developing the approach to management of large pelagics, the project compiled and reviewed a wide range of material on large pelagic fisheries in the Caribbean. This included status of resources, fishery harvest and post-harvest sectors, status of national and regional management initiatives and the extent to which countries are engaged in international management activities such as those undertaken by ICCAT.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACP-EU	Africa/Caribbean/Pacific-European Union
ANT	Antigua and Barbuda
BAR	Barbados
BB	Baitboat
BHA	Bahamas
BZE	Belize
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEVIHAS	CEVIHAS Complex (Centrale Voor Vissershavens in Suriname [CEVIHAS N.V.]
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme
CFTDI	Caribbean Fisheries Training & Development Institute
CFU	CARICOM Fisheries Unit
CPUE	Catch per Unit of Effort
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DKI	Decked Inboard – Troll, Gillnets
DMI	Dominica
DWF	Distant Water Fleet
DWFS	Distant Water Fishing States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FG	Fibreglass
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLM	Generalized Linear Model
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRN	Grenada
GRP	Glassfibre-Reinforced Plastic
GUY	Guyana
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs (Smithsonian)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IPOA-IUU	International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
JAM	Jamaica
JV	Joint Venture
LL	Longline
LLL	Longliner – Large (>15 metres)
LLM	Longliner – Medium (7–15 metres)
LOSC	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982
LP	Large Pelagic
LPWG	Working Group on Large Pelagic Fish Resources (CFU)
LRS	Licensing and Registration System (software package)
MAC	Monitoring and Advisory Committee (Trinidad)
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
N	Number
NA	Not Applicable
NAFO	North Atlantic Fishery Organization
NE	Nevis
nei	Not Elsewhere Included
NFC	National Fisheries Company Ltd (Trinidad)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIS	National Social Insurance
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (within NOAA)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (United States Department of Commerce)
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OOL	Open Outboard – Troll, Longline
OON	Open Outboard – Gillnets
PS	Purse Seine
PSG	Large Purse Seine
PSM	Medium Purse Seine
PSS	Small Purse Seine
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organization
RFO	Regional Fisheries Organization
RWG	Regional Working Group
SCRS	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (ICCAT)
SK	Saint Kitts
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

SSS	Social Security System
STK	Saint Kitts and Nevis
STL	Saint Lucia
STV	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
SUR	Suriname
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TIP	Trip Interview Program (data-collection software package)
TO	Tobago
TR	Trinidad
TRI	Trinidad and Tobago
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
US	United States (adjective)
USA	United States of America
USSR	Former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAT	Value-Added Tax
VPA	Virtual Population Analysis
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (FAO)

