

CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Program

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ABSTRACT

The CARICOM Fisheries resource assessment and Management Program is a regional program designed to be impleted over eight years through the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). The overall goal of the Program is to promote the management and conservation of fisheries resources of CARICOM countries and to permit the exploitation of these resources on the basis of sustainable yield. The purpose of the Program is to enhance the basic information and institutional capacity necessary to manage and develop fishery resources in the Caribbean Region.

Funding is provided by the International Center for Ocean Development (\$2.8 CDN); the Canadian International Development Agency (\$15.0 CDN); the Caribbean Community and Common Market (\$2.2M CDN). The International Center for Ocean Development also acts as the Executing Agency.

Countries and territories participating in the Program include: Belize, Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana.

Delivery of the Program is through the CARICOM Fisheries Management Unit, located in Belize City, Belize, and Resource Assessment Units located in St. Vincent, Trinidad and Belize.

This Program is designed to:

- 1) strengthen fisheries management structures and improve management capabilities and technical expertise within CARICOM through training and advisory assistance,
- 2) provide information of fishery resource abundance and availability for management purposes within CARICOM
- 3) define and establish a suitable regional fisheries management advisory mechanism.

There are a number of linked activities which are divided into four major Projects; 1) National Fishery Management Systems; 2) Training; 3) Fisheries Management Information (resource assessment; and 4) Regional Fisheries Management Mechanisms.

Each of these projects relates to a specific activity areas as outlined in the following:

- National Fishery Management Systems-development of fishery management plans, data systems, community participation and education, licensing and registration, national management mechanisms.
- Training-fellowships, attachments, short courses.
- Fisheries Management Information (resource assessment)- large pelagics, reef fishes, slope/bank fishes, coastal pelagics, flying fish, shrimp, groundfish, lobster, and conch.

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Regional Fisheries Management Mechanisms-identification of options and development of mechanisms to address cooperative regional management of fishery resources and provide technical, advisory and consultative services.