

**Development Assistance to Artisanal
Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean:
Progress Report to Inter-American Foundation**

submitted by

Caribbean Conservation Association
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The goal of this project is to achieve optimum sustained benefits to the people of the Lesser Antilles through improved local use of indigenous living marine resources. The specific objective is to assist leading fishermen in the eastern Caribbean with self-help activities which will (a) solve current problems facing local fishing fleets, and (b) facilitate fisheries development leading to optimum local benefits through appropriate use and management of indigenous fishery resources.

On 14-16 November, 1984 a series of workshops was held in conjunction with the 37th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Cancun, Mexico. Fishermen from nine eastern Caribbean islands attended these workshops which included seminar presentations, at-sea fishing trials and plenary sessions to develop on-site follow-up activities needed to address current needs for fisheries improvement.

Seminars and demonstration presentations included:

Boats for Coastal Fisheries (Willard Burpee, Commercial Boat Works)

Electronics for Caribbean Fisheries (Robert Rich, Rich Electronics, Inc.)

Fish Aggregating Devices (Greg McIntosh, McIntosh Marine, Inc.)

Fishermen's Record Keeping (Gregg Waugh, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council)

Fishing Canoe Evolution (Tokuzo Fukamachi, Yamaha Motor Co.)

Gear for Caribbean Fisheries (Scott Lyons, Atlantic and Gulf Fishing Supply Corp.)

Producing Dry Salted and Smoked Fish Products (James Burnett-Herkes and Craig Trott, Bermuda Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Refrigeration for Small-Scale Fisheries (Denis Pommeret, Denis Pommeret Marine Refrigeration, Inc.)

Sail Assisted Fishing Craft (Frank Crane, Aquarian Research, Inc.)

Small Boat Safety and Navigation (Jack Keener, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium)

Squid Fishing Methods (Warren Rathjen, National Marine Fisheries Service)

At-sea fishing trials were hampered by bad weather which prevented gear-sets in productive areas. Despite this problem, construction and deployment of equipment for vertical and horizontal bottom longlining and shark fishing were demonstrated in sheltered bays by Alan Card (Bermuda fisherman) and Glenn Ulrich (South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resource Department) from vessels provided by the Instituto Nacional de Pesca (Mexico).

Plenary sessions addressed nine concerns identified by the fishermen participants:

1. The need for a fisheries information center controlled by GCFI to receive information from fishermen on catch and other areas, and to supply information on gear supply, boat equipment and design, etc.
2. The need for assistance in managing cooperatives, particularly information on how successful cooperatives function and site visits by representatives from such cooperatives.
3. The need for exchange of expertise on flying fish capture and processing techniques.
4. The need for information on fish aggregating devices and longlining.
5. The need for improved local understanding of navigational aids and techniques.
6. The need to involve fishermen with fisheries officers in making decisions affecting local fishing industries.
7. The need for assistance with developing marketing and distribution strategies throughout the region.
8. The need for assistance with supplies of gear and

electronics, particularly in obtaining favorable prices and credit arrangements.

9. The need for representation on the Board of Directors of GCFI.

The following activities were discussed and are proposed in response to these concerns:

1. Fishermen are to be provided with forms for submitting data to GCFI for collation, analysis and summary distribution to fishermen throughout the region. Manufacturers and suppliers of fishing equipment will be contacted to advise them of the interest of eastern Caribbean fishermen and to suggest individuals to whom product descriptions and ordering information should be sent. The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will be approached concerning the circulation of its newsletter to small island fishermen and the incorporation of a small island fisheries section in its newsletter.
2. On-site discussions will be held with cooperative members and representatives of relevant government agencies in Montserrat, Barbados, St. Kitts and St. Lucia to identify key problems which, if addressed, would stimulate interest and involvement in cooperative activity, and to determine necessary follow-up action.
3. Fishermen from Montserrat and St. Kitts will work with a Barbados fisherman who has volunteered to provide training in techniques for capturing flying fish. The same fisherman will subsequently work with the trainees to extend these techniques to other local fishermen. A similar exchange may also be arranged between St. Kitts and St. Lucia.
4. A session concerning FAD design and siting will be held as part of the 1985 GCFI program. On-site follow-up will be planned as part of this session, and information will be provided to representatives who attended the 1982 and 1984 fishermen's workshops.
5. Inquiries will be made concerning the status of proposed programs for regional training and extension to be carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (Trinidad), and the results will be communicated to the participants.
6. Discussions concerning mechanisms for involving fishermen in the decision-making process will be held in conjunction with the cooperative development activities described in (2) as well, as in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
7. Information will be gathered concerning estimated productive capacity of fishing areas in the eastern Caribbean, location

of potential markets, and preferred product forms for circulation to workshop participants.

8. Inquiries will be made of gear suppliers contacted pursuant to (1) to determine how preferential pricing may be secured, and what credit arrangements are possible.
9. Workshop participants elected Archibald Harding (Barbados fisherman) as their nominee for the GCFI Board of Directors. Approval of new board members is scheduled for early 1985.

It is anticipated that additional follow-up will be defined as the above activities are implemented, particularly in regard to cooperative development and on-site training. To maintain the momentum generated thus far, it is proposed to attempt completion of activities 1, 5, 7 and 8 by the end of January 1985. Site visits pursuant to activities 2 and 6 should begin in February 1985, and exchange-training involved with activity 3 should take place during March-June 1985. Activities 4 and 9 will be completed by the time of the 38th GCFI, to be held in Martinique during November 1985.