

**Commonwealth Fisheries Programme: Report of Caribbean Study Tour to St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize, 24 January – 4 February, 2009**

**1 Introduction**

This is the report of an intensive study tour, in three Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean, designed to learn from and share experience in innovative sustainable management of marine fish stocks. It was conducted by two persons each from St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize – the order in which the countries were visited – along with two from the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, London (see the list of participants at Annex 1 and the schedule at Annex 2).

The study tour was coordinated by the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) at London University. It formed part of a wider two year programme (2008-2010) with two other Commonwealth partners – the Commonwealth Foundation, an intergovernmental entity tasked to support civil society, and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), a nongovernmental body concerned for the environment.

The programme is funded by the Department for International Development (UK) and AusAid (Australia), and also includes case studies, meetings, a publication series, and a report to Commonwealth leaders, who will confer in Trinidad and Tobago in November, 2009. There are three parallel study tours in other regions, in the Indian Ocean, South Asia and South Pacific. Material on the programme is being published at [www.commonwealthfisheries.org](http://www.commonwealthfisheries.org).

The background to the Programme lies in the special geographical interest of the Commonwealth in the state of oceanic and inshore fish stocks, and widespread international concern about their decline with industrial and illegal over-fishing, and the impact this is having on protein and food intakes, especially in developing countries, and the economic consequences, especially in coastal zones. The Programme aims to raise Commonwealth awareness to: help stem the decline in stocks; promote sustainable management strategies; and support the long-term viability of traditional coastal fishing communities.

The purpose of the tours is therefore to study innovative approaches to optimising sustainable returns from fisheries, while examining any obstacles they face; and to report to Commonwealth governments, fishing communities and scientists on any policy adaptations that may be needed, given the significance of marine fisheries for coastal communities in particular. The findings of these study tours will be consolidated with the results of the case studies being undertaken by CHEC in Belize, Sierra Leone, Fiji and South Africa, and published in the 2009 report to Commonwealth leaders.

In addition to this purpose, the tours have the benefit of building capacity and a broader regional awareness among the selected participants, and hinting at other capacity-building measures that may be taken in future.

## 2 Key lessons learnt, by country

### A St Lucia

#### *I Government leadership*

Government leadership is relatively strong. In a country with a population of only some 160,000 there is a staff of 35 in the Fisheries Division, legislation is up-to-date, and some controls are effective. The sea urchin fishery has been closed indefinitely, and turtle fishing has only just resumed, but is limited to three months in the year. There are 26 marine protected areas (MPAs). Some 35% of fish consumed is imported. There has been considerable support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the provision of modernised landing sites with refrigeration, office space, net-mending and equipment repair shed and ice facility. The government has been subsidising fuel costs for fishers. However there are weaknesses in enforcement and surveillance at various levels. Cooperation between the Police Marine Unit and the Fisheries Division is not close, preventing the removal of dubious fishers, suspected of drug running, from registration. There is no vessel monitoring system (VMS). The commitments made by developers and hotel and tourist operators, given permission after environmental impact assessments, are not properly monitored.

#### *ii Soufriere Marine Management Association*

The Soufriere Marine Managed Area, stretching along a considerable area of sea and shoreline, has won international attention because it has characteristics which go further than most MPAs: it is financially self-sufficient ( 42% of the annual income comes from mooring fees ); it provides for six different priorities on different sections of coast – for fishers, for no-take marine reserves, for recreational use, for yacht mooring areas, for dive sites, and for multiple use; it is vigilant in monitoring infractions night and day, with rangers who possess arrest powers; it is managed by a stakeholder committee which includes government, fishers, tourism, yacht and dive interests; and it is the product of conciliation after conflict, especially between fishers and yacht and tourist interests, which was facilitated by a Caribbean-wide NGO, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute ( CANARI ). Its establishment in 1995 was not easy, and the SMMA was severely challenged two years later because one group of fishers – the potfish fishers – said they were not represented on the stakeholder management committee. The local authority is currently not represented. At one point fishers were subsidised for a year not to fish. However the opposition of fishers has diminished because, between 1995 and 2001, there was a large increase in their catch – returns doubled and for some species trebled. This is important because, in Castries fish market, the study team was told by those fishing with boats from the capital that there had been declines in catch.

#### *iii Conservatism in the fishing industry*

There are some 2000 registered fishers in St. Lucia with an average age of 55 years. The Honourable Minister Ezechiel Joseph told the study team that one of the big challenges is how to bring more young people into the fishing industry. Encouragingly, training programmes for young fishers are oversubscribed. The government would like to move from canoes to bigger

boats, which could stay out at sea fishing for at least three days at a time, but this would represent a cultural shift and require considerable investment by fishers. At present there is little value added, in terms of breaded fish, although blue marlin could be good for the production of fish fingers. The government has a Development Bank which could help modernise the industry. One difficulty in introducing new methods lies in the fact that extension officers in the Fisheries Division are also enforcement officers, seen by fishers as both friend and foe.

#### *iv The impact of the illegal drugs business*

As elsewhere in the Caribbean, where territories lie across trans-shipment routes from South America to the US, there is a risk that legitimate fishers are confused with illegal transporters, fishers may be tempted sometimes to take drugs, and police enforcement of fisheries regulations is overtaken by the need to interdict drug runners. A claim by the Marine Police Unit that half of supposed “fishers” in the island are actually involved in crime was hotly denied by the Fisheries Division. However there is clearly a problem in weak police cooperation between St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines; where in some cases it can take seven years to bring an arrested fisher to court.

## **B Trinidad and Tobago**

### *i Women in fishing*

The role of women in fisheries is often underestimated, although they are often boat-owners (partly as a precaution against the premature death of a spouse), and may manage the business and marketing side of fishing. Trinidad has a Women in Fishing Association in Mayaro, which seeks to empower a coastal community by adding value to fish through different forms of processing. This NGO is the product of a co-management scheme, sponsored by the oil and gas industry, which did not achieve other ambitions.

### *ii The Buccoo Reef Trust, Tobago*

The trust, set up in 2004 with Local (CLICO) and Anglo-American funding, is linked to a Buccoo Reef Management Committee, with government and NGO participation, which is concerned with the health of an attractive reef and coastal area in Tobago. The trust is a scientific and educational enterprise which, for example, publishes a pocket guide to the sustainability of fish species for visitors to Tobago, discourages the destructive habit of “coral walking” and reaches over 2000 primary school students, half of whom have been taken to view the reef.

### *iii Institutions with special expertise in fisheries*

Trinidad and Tobago, thanks to its energy revenues and larger size, has collective resources for fisheries which go much beyond what is possible for smaller neighbours. Its institutional base includes: the Fisheries Division, Trinidad (FD), the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries, Tobago (DMR&F), the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI), the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) which is now part of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC), a parastatal. The CFTDI no longer trains as many from other Caribbean countries, as it did during the life of a Japanese aid project,

but it has pioneered several processed fish products, yet to be commercialised. The IMA advises the government, and is doing development work on aquaculture. The SIDC is not only doing business development, but has promoted fishing associations and fishing cooperation so that fishers' views can be heard, and they get a better return from their catch.

#### *iv Diplomacy*

Trinidad and Tobago has used the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to settle a maritime boundary arbitration with Barbados, and is involved in a slow negotiation over energy boundaries with Venezuela. There was some contention in the dispute with Barbados, which has large sea-going vessels while 80% of the Trinidad and Tobago catch is provided by artisanal near-shore fishers. Trinidad and Tobago suspected that Barbados was not only interested in fishing rights, but also in access to blocks with potential energy reserves; Barbados, which has a fondness for flying fish, was catching many of these off the coast of Tobago. Boundary delimitation with Grenada, Guyana and St Vincent and the Grenadines, likely to be less contentious, is not yet complete.

#### *v Fishers' organisation*

Fishers, whom the study team met in both Tobago and Trinidad, felt that their views are still not heard on crucial issues – especially when there are substantial offshore energy developments. Seismic drilling, as well as the extraction of oil and gas, upset fisheries and limit access. While the desire of fishers' leaders to meet the relevant Minister on a monthly basis might be unrealistic, they felt that government and companies were reluctant to accommodate their views. The case of a proposal to build a steel mill at Claxton Bay, which will lead to the removal of a mangrove community/ fish nursery and disrupt the livelihood of a traditional fishing community, had led to particular anger. Fishers in Tobago also thought they were getting insufficient help in meeting European Union quality standards for the export of fish.

#### *vi Outdated legislation*

The current legislation governing fisheries dates from 1916, a colonial era when attitudes to depletion and environmental management were quite different. Although officials have prepared a Marine Fisheries Management Bill this has not received priority in the government's legislative programme. The lack of modern legislation has made it more difficult for the Fisheries Division to manage what has been an open access fishery, net sizes and the depletion of stocks where certain species – for instance kingfish, snapper and yellow fin tuna – are fully or over-exploited. Unlike some of its neighbours, however, Trinidad and Tobago passed an EEZ Act in 1986. Under its twin-island arrangements, the Tobago House of Assembly manages Tobago fisheries. Honourable Hilton Sandy, the responsible elected Secretary, told the study team that he lacked good advice on fisheries and stocks, and was uncertain as to whether there should be curbs on fishing, or the industry should be expanded.

## **C Belize**

### *I Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*

Belize is in the forefront of world efforts, promoted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2003, to develop a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard marine fish stocks and threatened reefs and coastlines. Its first MPA, at Hol Chan not far offshore from Belize City, was declared in 1987 and it is currently estimated by the World Conservation Society that 20% of the coastline has MPA status, with 2% managed as no-take zones. The Barrier Reef system, the world's second largest, has seven MPAs. This strategy is strongly supported not only by the government, which supplies two rangers for each MPA, but by Belizean and overseas NGOs who fund-raise to have more effective management of reserves. The Geneva-based Oak Foundation has invested heavily in marine resources in Belize. TIDE, the Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment operated from Punta Gorda in southern Belize, co-manages The Port Honduras Marine Reserve, an MPA in that area with fisher participation. Belize helps to fund its conservation by charging a conservation tax on hotel visitors and a head tax on cruise ship visitors. The MPA programme is not without critics as fishers at Caye Caulker, for example, said that they were not always consulted on the adjustment of MPA boundaries, and believed that these were sometimes set to suit divers, snorkelers and focused on revenue generation, rather than the needs of spawning and fish. A Marine Reserves Act was passed in 2007. An attempt to harmonise the management regimes of MPAs, scheduled for September 2008, had not been concluded by February 2009.

### *ii Poaching and IUU fishing*

It is estimated that Belize loses around US\$10M in illegal poaching of fish. Much of this takes place in southern Belize, where Guatemalan and Honduran fishers take stock from Belizean waters. In 2008 there were 85 poachers arrested of whom 67 were convicted and fined, though most of these were Belizean citizens. The situation in southern Belize is complicated by the fact that there is an ongoing Guatemalan territorial claim, which leads many Guatemalan fishers to consider the waters theirs, and Guatemalans may have dual Guatemalan-Belizean citizenship. Although it is on the CITES at-risk list, conch is relatively plentiful and Belize produces 500,000 – 600,000 lb a year, worth up to B\$5.2M.

### *iii Fishers' organisation*

The organisation of fishers in Belize presents both positive and negative features. Positive features include the fact that many are organised in two large cooperatives (the National and Northern Fishing Coops) which market lobsters and other fish meeting quality standards in the United States and Belize itself. This enables the fishers to cut out some middlemen. It may be pertinent to note that due to uncertainties in supply it is not feasible to have direct contracts with US restaurant chains. One negative feature is that there is no unified umbrella fishing association for the whole of Belize, which makes it difficult for Belize fishers to negotiate with neighbouring fishing associations in Central America. Belize belongs to OSPESCA, the Central American Integration System's regional unit for fisheries and aquaculture. OSPESCA published a Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy for the Central American Isthmus in 2005.

#### *iv Aquaculture*

Demand for fish has increased rapidly, not only as a result of population increase. Milton Haughton, the Deputy Executive Director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, estimates that between 1962 and 2006 the per capita consumption of fish in the Caribbean region doubled. This has led to an increased interest in aquaculture in the region, to meet demand and safeguard marine stocks. The National Fishing Cooperative, for instance, is investing in aquaculture in Belize, recognising that there has been a decline in capture fishing. However in one year recently there had been a collapse in aquaculture turnover from B\$100M to B\$19M, and there is a lack of sustainability in the industry.

#### *v Conflicts between tourism development and marine fisheries*

Belize is seeking to devise a system of tourism zones and has received a grant of US\$13.5M, much of which will be used to prepare a national tourism master plan by 2011. The aim is to designate around seven zones by 2012, and the first two will be in San Pedro, offshore, and Belize City. The effect may be to reduce effluent and damage to fisheries, including the anchoring of cruise ships in inappropriate places. Although a number of fishers also act as tour guides there are still conflicts between the tourism and fishing industries. Full-time fishers have a less predictable income than tour guides and consider their rights should have preference. Although fishing produces 4% of Belize gross domestic product and is the fourth largest industry in the country, many fishers and environmentalists consider that tourism gets priority in government economic planning. Statistics published by CARICOM state that the GDP contribution was 7.2% in 2001, which suggests a declining importance in this decade. Fishers can get excluded from good fishing areas by the number of tour boats.

### **3 Significant or innovative approaches**

The following approaches seemed to be of particular significance.

#### *1 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*

Marine Protected Areas are being promoted throughout the world as a means of supporting nearshore fish stocks, preventing depletion and allowing for restocking. The study tour team noted two features in its Caribbean visits which deserve comment. The first was the comprehensiveness and financial independence of the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) in St Lucia. In many countries the financial support for MPAs is either short-term or insufficient, especially where it depends on external or NGO funding. By linking the Soufriere operation to the popularity of the St Lucian coast for yachters and divers the SMMA has secured an autonomous income; whether this will be sufficient for a recent extension of the management zone is still unclear. The comprehensive stakeholder involvement in management is obviously crucial, and it took time to bring in the different groups of fishers, so that all felt ownership. The second feature of note was in Belize, where the country is seeking to integrate MPAs with a tourism strategy which capitalises on its attractive barrier reef. The Belize Tourist Board is promoting sustainable ecotourism, and the Ministry of Tourism has a Going Green Policy which targets tour guides and hoteliers

### *ii Product development*

The CFTDI in Chaguaramas, Trinidad, demonstrated some exciting processed fish products – smoked fish, sauces and many others. Many of these are the result of a Japanese collaboration, and the fact that Trinidadians have been trained in the processed fish industry in Japan. They raise the prospect of added value, new domestic and export markets, and the utilisation of fish species that are not currently popular (under-utilized species). Some of the processes would be well-adapted to small-scale development by fisher families and fishing cooperatives. While there are issues related to commercialisation and marketing, the fact that a government-funded institution has pioneered these products is significant.

### *iii Regionalism*

The Caribbean region, particularly English-speaking Commonwealth states in membership of the CARICOM community, has a strong regional identity expressed in culture institutions such as CARICOM and the University of the West Indies, as well as, sport. In 2006 CARICOM introduced a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), designed to deepen a process of economic integration. This is intended to have a regional fishery policy as a sub-sector within its planned agricultural cooperation. Four years prior to this, and following a Canadian-funded programme (CFRAMP), a Caribbean Regional Fisheries Management Secretariat was established in Belize. In principle therefore, the region is well-advanced in global terms in seeking to manage its fisheries. Institutions such as the CFTDI, although it now mostly takes students from Trinidad and Tobago, can provide training and support on a regional basis. However Mr Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat, told the study team that progress has been disappointing in reality due to a number of reasons, including lack of resources, the absence of strong regional champions for fisheries, and quarrels over a proposal for a common fisheries zone. Governments had now decided to set aside the proposal for a common fisheries zone, as it was too contentious, but this made the achievement of a regional strategy for fisheries both difficult and unreal.

## **4 Challenges**

### *i Ecological*

The team observed a variety of ecological challenges to fisheries in the three study tour countries. There were problems of sedimentation, sewage and other types of land-based damage and pollution, including sand-mining on the northern coast of St Lucia. Off Trinidad and Tobago, there were particular problems arising from oil and gas exploitation; both drilling and seismic surveying can prevent fishers from using certain areas, or upset fish patterns. Overfishing or destructive practices including the taking of undersized fish can prevent the recruitment, spawning and replacement of stocks. Experts in the region are beginning to analyse the impact of climate change on fisheries; this could lead to sea level rise, which might inundate low-lying islands such as those close to Belize City, worsen the impact of hurricanes and extreme weather, and lead to new patterns of species migration.

### *ii Economic*

The key economic challenge facing fisheries in the region is that it tends to be discounted in official circles because its measured contribution to gross domestic product is small and, with certain exceptions such as the lobster exports from Belize, it is not bringing in much hard currency. Hence fishers' interests take second place to the perceived development claims of tourism, energy and other industries. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is in the process of reviewing its environmental impact assessment (EIA) strategy; but many we spoke to on the study tour said they thought that EIAs tend to underrate the significance of marine fishing, and the developers, post-EIA agreements are not adequately monitored to limit adverse impacts. A more balanced approach to development would see economic value in fishing as assisting in national food security, and in linking fisheries to tourism. Honourable Arnold Piggott, the Minister responsible for agriculture and fisheries in Trinidad, said that he was investing in 12 modern fish landing sites on the island not only to help fishers, but to provide a new attraction for tourists. In Trinidad and Tobago the National Fisheries Company, which deals in high sea pelagic species, has been sold to a Taiwanese concern; potential government revenue has been lost. It is difficult to assess how much IUU fishing takes place in the region – although estimates have been provided for Belize – but the high priority given to drug interdiction has overtaken IUU concern for law enforcement authorities. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), which can track boats doing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, but are expensive for small states, are not installed in any of the three countries visited.

### *iii Sociocultural*

The team was made aware of several challenges of a sociocultural nature. Nearshore fishers are not easily persuaded, for family reasons, to go away to fish for three days at a time in bigger boats to more distant waters. In Belize, where fishers in tourist zones are often part-time tour guides, there can be friction with those who prefer to be full-time fishers. The degree of organisation of fishers is also uneven, with the Belize fishers organised in cooperatives which export lobster tails and fillets, but without a national organisation which can negotiate with other Central American fisher bodies. In Trinidad and Tobago we were told that fishers lack a strong public voice. Initial work on developing community-based co-management in communities from Ortoire to Guayaguayare has not yet been fully realised in practice. Many highly educated fishers are rare in this region, as elsewhere, which puts fishers at a disadvantage in negotiation with governments and NGOs. Whereas Belize is giving priority to ecological tourism the same is much less developed in St Lucia, in spite of the World Heritage recognition for the beautiful area around Soufriere and the two Piton mountains. It was significant that Mr Hubert Emmanuel, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests looks forward on retirement to establishing a powerful NGO which can galvanise public opinion and media interest in the St Lucian environment.

### *iv Institutional*

Fisheries do not have a high political or administrative priority in any of the three countries of the study, and the relative weakness of CARICOM in this field means that regional leadership is uncertain. A meeting of CARICOM Fisheries Ministers in St Vincent and the Grenadines in early January, 2009,

was unusual; but could lead to more progress at a regional level. Fisheries Divisions concerned with both marine capture and aquaculture, are part of Ministries of Agriculture; the situation of the Seafood Industry Development Company in Trinidad and Tobago, which comes under the Ministry of Trade and Development, is an exception.

## **5 Recommended strategies and future actions**

### *I Caribbean*

CARICOM needs to ensure that the sustainable management of marine fisheries forms part of a balanced development strategy for the region. Even in Trinidad and Tobago, with its valuable oil and gas sector, current estimates suggest that production and revenue may peak by 2015. The national 20/20 development plan, aiming for First World developed status by 2020, should be reviewed to ensure that marine fisheries play a part in food security and exports of processed products. The region's edible species are also a tourism resource, and there is now much experience in how to reconcile fishing and tourist interests. CARICOM should designate one member state (country) to lead on fishery issues; the obvious one, in view of its current output and potential, could be Guyana. Unfortunately Guyana was not represented at the recent meeting in St Vincent and the Grenadines. CARICOM should also devise a strategy for the increased monitoring and surveillance of fishing regulations, and the installation of VMS to cover the region. Patrol boats, including those of France, the UK and the United States, should be required to arrest boats carrying out illegal fishing, as well as, running drugs. CARICOM should also coordinate a review of fisheries legislation in member countries, encouraging harmonisation where that is sensible – e.g. closed seasons in adjoining territories – and the updating of outdated laws. The Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) should be regionally funded to provide more places for students from the wider region, especially the smaller territories. Specialist bodies, including the Institute for Marine Affairs, should advise CARICOM, as well as, individual governments on how best to promote the long-term interests of small-scale fishers. CARICOM, academics and NGOs working on fisheries in the region, should review the impact and operation of MPAs.

### *ii Belize*

The government should consider providing financial support to the fishing and processing industries, given that lobster prices roughly halved between 2008 and 2009. It should review its open access fishery, as there is a risk of excessive numbers entering the industry due to employment problems elsewhere; there is evidence of reduction in conch and lobster catches, and it should consider a move to a rights-based fishery. It should improve monitoring and surveillance, particularly in Southern Belize, to reduce illegal fishing. Legislation on net types and sizes may reduce poaching. The government should go ahead with its plans to strengthen legislation to protect mangroves, and ensure that its tourism strategy preserves marine fisheries, and supports the co-management of marine reserves. Working with the private sector it should seek to reverse the sharp decline in the aquaculture sub-sector. Given the commitment to ecotourism, it should increase staffing in the Environment Department and Fisheries Division.

### *iii St Lucia*

Building a greater civil society and media awareness of the significance of marine fisheries and the marine environment should be a high priority. Government policies and spending are unlikely to change without a greater public awareness of needs and possibilities, and a culture of accountability. The exemplary work of the Soufriere Marine Management Association should be a learning resource for the whole country, even though it may not be possible to replicate it for the entire coastline. There is a need for closer cooperation between the Fisheries Division and the Marine Police Unit; this will improve observance of fishing laws, as well as, clamping down on illicit use of fishing boats for the drugs trade. National planning – such as the National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan, and the National Environment Policy and Plan – needs to take full account of the role of fishing and the marine habitat. Land-based developers whose plans impact on the sea must be held to their environmental obligations. Fishery extension officers should not be required to both advise fishers on improved techniques, and to enforce regulations. A separate unit should be set up for enforcement.

### *iv Trinidad and Tobago*

The government needs to give a higher priority to food security and environmental issues, recognising that its oil and gas wealth is ephemeral. For instance, the policy of “no net loss”, applied to the replacement of mangroves which have been cut down, does not appear to be enforced. Trinidad and Tobago need urgently to update the 1916 fishery legislation. A strategy of greater investment in fisheries, fish processing and aquaculture would be an intelligent use of present revenue. A full assessment of the socioeconomic value of fisheries, including their contribution to food security, protein intake and community cohesion is required; current estimates that they provide only 0.1% of GDP are misleading, given a contribution of US\$16M to GDP, annual fish landings worth some US\$26M and annual exports worth some US\$10M, using latest Fishery Division statistics available in 2009. In this connection it will be important for officials to listen to the concerns of fishers themselves. Even if a monthly Ministerial meeting with a committee representing country-wide fishers is unrealistic it would be appropriate for there to be annual consultation at this level. Fisher folk should be more involved in major marine and coastal developments which are likely to affect their livelihood.

In Tobago, the Tobago House of Assembly government should work more closely with the Buccoo Reef Trust, and involve it in managing a marine protected area; the trust should share its scientific assessment of exploited species with fishers and administrators.

### *v The Commonwealth*

It is recommended that Commonwealth Heads of Government call for enhanced international cooperation to prevent the theft and depletion of marine fish stocks; that the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation organise a Commonwealth conference in conjunction with FAO to examine practical policies, and the scope for a new international instrument, which would stem the depletion of commercial deep sea stocks such as tuna, as well as inshore and reef fish and crustaceans on which coastal communities depend for their food and livelihood; that Commonwealth agencies promote an annual survey of the state of the world's marine

fisheries, given the special Commonwealth concern and expertise; that Commonwealth agencies promote a network of academic, private sector and non-governmental experts to supplement the work of governments in combating depletion of fish stocks, promoting sustainability strategies, and the long-term viability of coastal communities; that the Commonwealth should create a carefully-designed Fisheries Fund to support initiatives in traditional fishing communities; that Commonwealth donors should earmark support for small island states for scholarships, EEZ surveillance, and boundary delimitation ( where the Commonwealth Secretariat assisted Dominica in boundary delimitation with France ); that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation provides for capacity-building for small-scale fishers in the areas of organisation, marketing and low-cost refrigeration and transport; that Commonwealth agencies examine the experience of MPAs and recommend how they can achieve long-term financial and managerial viability; that the work and impact of the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme be assessed after the Commonwealth Heads' Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 with a view to carrying forward the decisions of Heads and utilising the extensive findings from the Programme.

## **Annexe 1**

### ***Biographies of participants***

**Sonia Cazaubon** is currently working as a project officer for the Soufriere Marina Management Area in St. Lucia. (<http://www.smma.org.lc/>)

**Laudiana LeMontagne** is currently working as a ranger for the Soufriere Marina Management Area in St. Lucia. (<http://www.smma.org.lc/>)

**Dr. Arthur Potts** is currently working at the Institute of Marine Affairs (University of Trinidad and Tobago) in Trinidad. His previous posts include Director of Marine Resources and Fisheries (Division of Agriculture Land and Marketing-Tobago House of Assembly). (<http://www.ima.gov.tt/>)

**Mrs. Nerissa Lucky** is an industry specialist at the Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC) in Trinidad. (<http://www.sidctt.com/>)

**Mrs. Celia Mahung**, is executive Director of the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). She has represented TIDE at international meetings on sustainable development and has participated in fund-raising seminars as well as several leadership training sessions for TIDE's Board of Directors. (<http://www.tidebelize.org/index.html>)

**Armando Ramirez** is a fisherman from the Punta Gorda in Southern Belize and is also the Chairman for the Rio Grande Co-operative.

**Richard Bourne**, study tour leader, was first Head of the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, 1999-2005 and has been involved in a succession of Commonwealth activities since 1982, when he was Deputy Director of the former Commonwealth Institute, Kensington; he was first Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, 1990-2 and Director of the Commonwealth Non-Governmental Office for South Africa and Mozambique (1995-7).

**Homera Cheema** is projects co-ordinator at the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit and is the study tour co-ordinator of the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme study tour series.

## **Annexe 2**

### ***Schedule***

<b>Country</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Programme item</b>	<b>People met with</b>
St. Lucia	24/01/09	1	Introductory session convened by CPSU with presentation from Ms. Sarita Williams-Peter (Fisheries Division-Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and with workshops discussing the aims and objectives of the study tour	<i>Ms. Sarita Williams-Peter</i> (Fisheries Division-Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
St. Lucia	24/01/09	1	Visit to fish co-operative at the Fish Complex in Castries	Guided by <i>Ms. Sarita Williams-Peter</i>
St. Lucia	25/01/09	2	Field Trip to Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA).  -Introduction by Mr. Kai Wulf -Boat trip to 11km area -Tour of landing site -Screening of SMMA tourist video	Director of SMMA <i>Mr. Kai Wulf</i> and SMMA staff
St. Lucia	26/01/09	3	Consultation: Presentation by key staff of Fisheries Division followed by Q and A session	Permanent Secretary responsible for Fisheries, <i>Hubert Emmanuel</i>
Trinidad	28/01/09	1	Presentation on the fisheries of Trinidad by officials of the Fisheries Division	Presentation by Fisheries Department staff giving an in-depth overview of fisheries in Trinidad: <i>Elizabeth Mohamed</i> Acting Director of Fisheries <i>Louanna Martin</i>

				Acting Senior Fisheries Officer <i>Harnarine Lalla</i> Fisheries Officer <i>Lara Ferreira</i> Fisheries Officer (Research and Data Collection) <i>Michelle Picou-Gill</i> Fisheries Officer
Tanzania	28/01/09	1	Caribbean Fisheries Training Development Institute	Tour and background talk by Director <i>Ms. Tullia Ible</i>
Trinidad	28/01/09	1	Tour and background of Institute of Marine Affairs	Led by Director of IMA <i>Commodore Franklin and Paul Gabbon</i>
Trinidad	29/01/09	2	Day trip to Tobago: Meeting with Secretary of Land, fisheries	Honourable Secretary <i>Hilton Sandy</i>
Trinidad	29/01/09	2	Visit to Buccoo Reef office and tour of Buccoo Reef area	Director of Buccoo Reef <i>Richard Langton</i>
Trinidad	30/01/09	3	Courtesy Call	<i>H.E. Eric Jenkinson</i> British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago
Trinidad	30/01/09	3	Courtesy Call	<i>H. E. Phiip Kentwell</i> Australian High Commissioner to Trinidad
Trinidad	30/01/09	3	Presentation by Seafood Industry Development Company  Meeting with (Trinidad and Tobago Unified Fisher-folk) TTUF FisherFolk group	Director, <i>Dr Doon Ramsaroop</i>
Trinidad	30/01/09	1	Courtesy Call/Closed Meeting	Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, <i>Honourable Arnold A. Piggott</i>

Belize	2/02/09	1	Consultation at the Fisheries Division and visits to fish processing plants and donor agencies	<i>Beverley Wade</i> , Fisheries Administrator; <i>Milton Haughton</i> , Deputy Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism; <i>Paul Lane</i> , British High Commission; <i>James Azueta</i> , Fisheries Division; <i>Imani Morrison</i> , Oak Foundation; <i>Omar Gale</i> , UNOPS/COMPACT
Belize	3/02/09	2	Field Trip to Caye Caulker and Hol Chan MPA	
Belize	4/02/09	3	Stakeholder meeting followed by Question and Answer session	<i>Janet Gibson</i> , Wildlife Conservation Society; <i>Laura Esquivel</i> , Belize Tourist Board; <i>James Azueta</i> , Fisheries Division
Belize	4/02/09	3	Overall evaluation of Caribbean study tour producing recommendations, plus press conference	<i>Study Tour Team</i> , with <i>Richard Bourne</i> and <i>Sandra Grant</i>

*The Commonwealth Fisheries Programme is being conducted over two years to provide civil society perspectives on the challenges facing marine fish stocks, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the author(s) and should in no way be attributed to the institutions to which he/she is affiliated or the funders of this programme including the Commonwealth Foundation, DfID and AusAID.*