



Blue Justice



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CRFM Management Report – PY 2021 / 2022

CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry

Belize City, Belize
(Electronic)
4 October 2021

CHAIRPERSON:

Honourable Saboto S. Caesar
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry,
Fisheries, Rural Transformation,
Industry and Labour
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

DATE AND VENUE:

via Go To Meeting
Belize City, Belize
4 October 2021

CRFM Secretariat, Belize
2021



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is grateful to all the Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, and other Member States' representatives who signed on to The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry (also known as the 'Copenhagen Declaration'). The CRFM acknowledges the strong expressions of interest and commitments from the Member States' representatives to work with our regional and international partners to address the very grave issues of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, which have been devastating the economies of the region.

The CRFM also acknowledges the support and collaboration it has enjoyed, especially over the past year, with regional partners (including the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security – CARICOM IMPACS, and the Regional Security System - RSS) as well as international partners (the Government of Norway, UNDP, FAO, and UNODC).

A special thanks is extended to the Government and people of Norway for the excellent cooperation that has been established with the region through the CRFM, as the Caribbean region seeks to renew its efforts in the fight against IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry.

ACNONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BJI – Blue Justice Initiative

CRFM - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

CARICOM- Caribbean Community

CARICOM IMPACS - the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security

CARIFORUM - Caribbean Forum of African Caribbean and Pacific States

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization

ILO- International Labour Organization

IOM - The International Organization for Migration

IUU - Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated

MAP - Marine Action Partnership

MC – Ministerial Council

MCS - Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

NOAA - the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration of the USA

NRO - Nordic Representation Office

OECS - Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

OSPESCA - the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (Spanish acronym)

PSMA - the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

RBDF - The Royal Bahamas Defence Force

RSS - Regional Security System

SDG - Sustainable Development Goal

SIDS - Small Island Developing States

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

VMS - Vessel Monitoring System

WTO - World Trade Organization

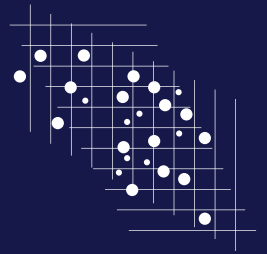
UNESCO - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

VHF - Very High Frequency

WECAFC - Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“We recognize the value of the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the global fishing industry that was done in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2018. It provides a solid framework for countries like ours in the Caribbean to work together with regional and international partners to better understand the problem, share information, and build the necessary legal, regulatory, monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement capacity to defeat and eradicate transnational organized crime and IUU fishing.”

-- Chair of CRFM Ministerial Council, Honourable Minister Saboto Caesar

At a high-level Ministerial Meeting convened on 4 October 2021, several Ministers from the Caribbean Community responsible for Fisheries, the Blue Economy and related matters delivered official statements endorsing [The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry](#) (also known as the ‘Copenhagen Declaration’) and signed the international cooperation instrument. They also affirmed their support for the Blue Justice Initiative, established by the Government of Norway to support implementation of the declaration.

At the meeting, organized by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), officials from the CARICOM Secretariat, the Government of Norway, as well as the UNDP’s Nordic

Representation Office addressed the Ministers.

This report captures the official remarks from the partners in the initiative, as well as the statements from the CRFM Member States. Statements submitted orally are included, as well as links to the video recordings of the statements from Member States and the recording of the entire proceedings.



Ministers from the CRFM Member States responsible for Fisheries, the Blue Economy and related matters meet with partners from the Government of Norway to take action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.

Through this milestone achievement, the CRFM and its Member States have embarked upon a course of firm action to utilize innovation and technology, through cross-border and inter-agency collaboration, to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, through targeted actions intended to



focus on agreed priority areas for mutual benefit.

The Government of Norway, through its representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, has reiterated its commitment to continued collaboration with the region, through immediate next steps that will enable Member States to chart a clear course for achieving tangible results in the near- and medium-term.

For more than a decade, the CRFM's chief policymaking body, the Ministerial Council, has been working arduously in partnership with other organs of the CRFM and its Member States to address the growing threat of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing. This Ministerial Meeting provided a forum for the Member States to renew their commitment and collaboration and more specifically, *to take action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.*

Chair of the Council, Honourable Minister Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, said: "We recognize the value of the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the global fishing industry that was done in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2018. It provides a solid framework for countries like ours in the Caribbean to work together with

regional and international partners to better understand the problem, share information, and build the necessary legal, regulatory, monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement capacity to defeat and eradicate transnational organized crime and IUU fishing."

Twelve (12) CRFM Member States—[The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and The Turks and Caicos Islands](#)—signed the Copenhagen Declaration on this occasion.

Following this Ministerial Meeting, the CRFM Secretariat will collaborate with the UNDP to convene a regional technical meeting with fisheries and security officials from Member States to map out the specific needs and to agree on at least one high-priority intervention that will benefit all CRFM Member States and that could be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative. This is pursuant to the CRFM Ministerial Council Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021.

The parties will work together to enhance collaboration with the Blue Justice Initiative, to strengthen the response of CRFM Member States to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry, and to leverage the opportunity for collaboration with other interested States and organizations through strategic interventions, using technology and innovations.



BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism recognizes that Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing is a major threat to fisheries resources in the Caribbean Region, undermining regional and national efforts to sustainably use, manage and protect fish stocks and marine ecosystems leading to the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities, including food security, livelihoods, exports and the realization of sustainable and inclusive blue economic growth of the region.

The CRFM emphasizes that there is growing concern over the increasing connection between IUU fishing and transnational organized criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking and trade in contraband goods, which use fishing as a cover; as well as document fraud and forgery, tax crimes, and money laundering.

It is against this backdrop that the CRFM, therefore, welcomes the opportunity to join forces with other partners in the fight against IUU fishing, through the signing of The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, first adopted on 15 October 2018 by 9 countries: Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka.

The Copenhagen Declaration has emerged as an important international framework for cooperation, capacity building, sharing of knowledge and coordination of action against IUU and transnational organized crime in fisheries. The declaration recognizes that "this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking."

Furthermore, it provides the political basis and framework for the Blue Justice Initiative, under which the Norwegian Government in cooperation with other interested countries and UN organizations (and especially the UNDP) seek to find effective and sustainable solutions against transnational organized crime to create a sustainable and fair blue economy free from fisheries crime.

To address transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry will also support the achievement of [SDG14](#) by building capacity that will assist states to uphold their international obligations to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU-fishing.

The Ministerial Council of the CRFM has been taking targeted policy action since 2010, when it adopted the [Castries \(St. Lucia\) Declaration on IUU Fishing](#). Since then, the CRFM has developed a [Regional Strategy on MCS to Combat IUU Fishing in the CARICOM-CARIFORUM Region](#). In 2019, the Ministerial Council endorsed the [Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU](#)

[Fishing in WECAFC Member Countries \(2019 - 2029\)](#). The Council had also approved joint actions in 2019, to be undertaken in collaboration with the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), in the wider context of the CRFM's strengthened collaboration with its Central American counterpart.

In December 2020, the former Chair of the CRFM Ministerial Council, Hon. Ezechiel Joseph, the then Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Saint Lucia, had articulated the region's position at a virtual High-Level International Blue Justice Conference that was convened by the Government of Norway, to promote and advance political support for the non-binding Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the fishing industry. Hon. Joseph delivered a [Statement to the Conference](#) on behalf of CARICOM / CRFM Member States, setting out the collective vision and regional action taken and planned, to combat IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.

At its Fifteenth Meeting held on 21 May 2021, the Ministerial Council of the CRFM followed-up on the undertaking given by CARICOM/CRFM Member States at the December 2020 High-level International Blue Justice Conference and affirmed the need for Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to improve understanding and knowledge of the problem, identify countermeasures, and build capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, in the region and globally. Following their deliberations on the issue, the CRFM Ministerial Council issued [Resolution No. MC 15\(6\) of 2021 expressing support for the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative](#), while encouraging Ministers Responsible for Fisheries to individually support the Copenhagen Declaration and convey their interest in cooperating and benefiting from the Blue Justice Initiative to the Blue Justice Secretariat based at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, which was established to support the [Declaration](#). The CRFM Ministerial Resolution also called for additional actions, the first of which was the convening of the Ministerial Meeting held on 4 October 2021.

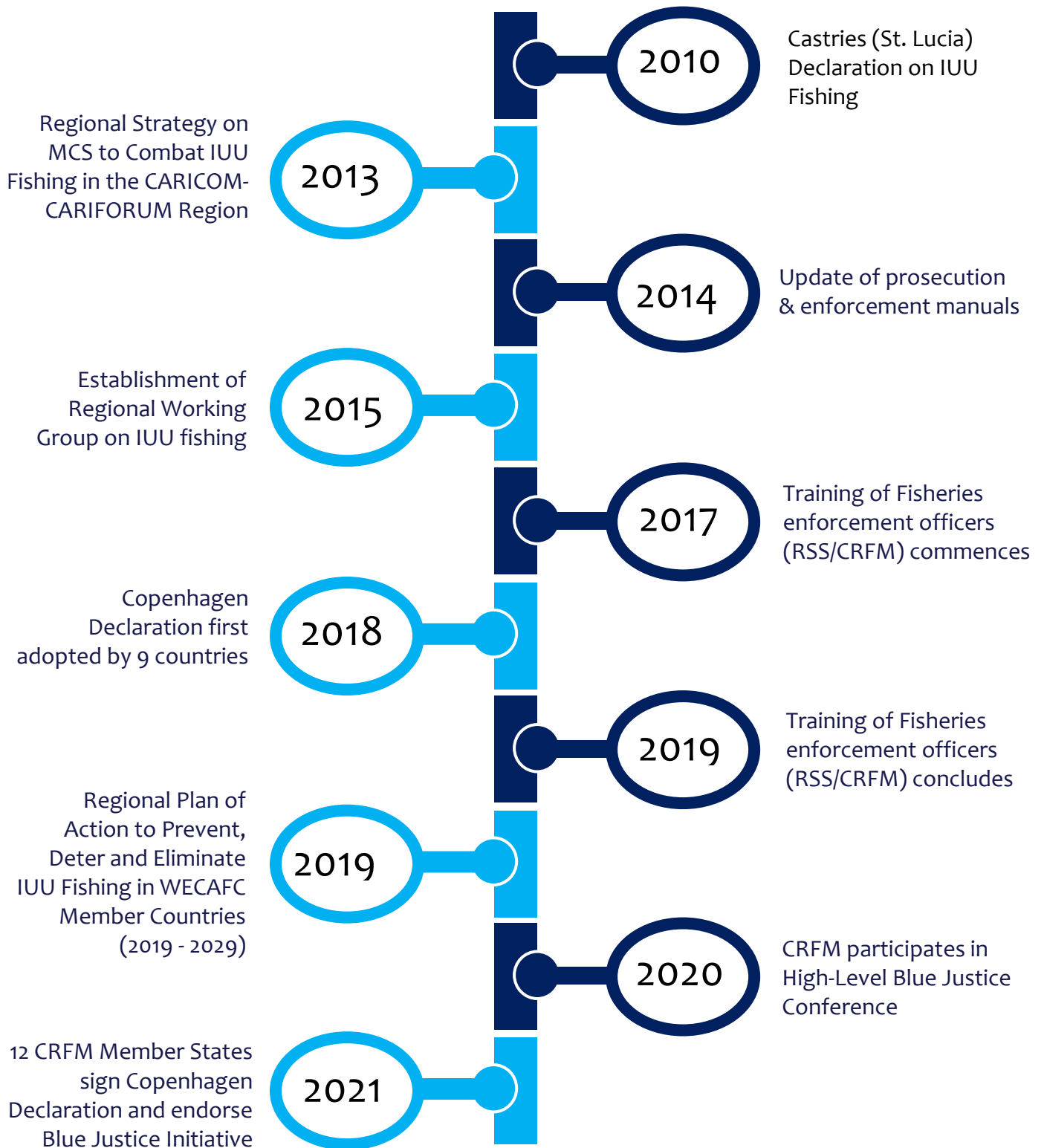


“ Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing is recognized as a major threat to fisheries resources globally and in the Caribbean region.

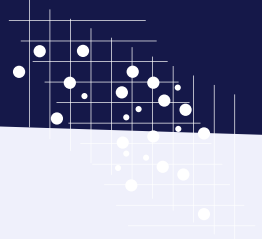
Available data indicate that IUU fishing accounts for up to 30% of the total global catch, valued at several billions of US dollars. ”

**Hon. Saboto Caesar, Chair,
CRFM Ministerial Council**

TIMELINE OF ACTIONS



INTRODUCTION



The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) convened a Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Fisheries and Blue Economic Growth to discuss illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime in the Fishing Industry via Zoom on 4 October 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to take action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.

The CRFM Secretariat had invited the Ministers from its Member States to deliver brief statements on IUU fishing and organized crime and to express their support for the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry by signing the document.

The Meeting was held during the 16th observance of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, and it was open to attendees of the regional event via a live stream.

The Ministers, senior officials and other Member States' representatives were joined by representatives of regional institutions and international development partners. (The List of Participants is at [Appendix I.](#))

Hon. Saboto Caesar, the Chair of the CRFM Ministerial Council, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, presided over the meeting. Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, delivered the Welcome Remarks. Remarks were also delivered by Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary, Minister of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway.

Following these remarks, Mr. Gunnar A. Stølsvik, Specialist Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Trade, Industry and

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

to take action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.

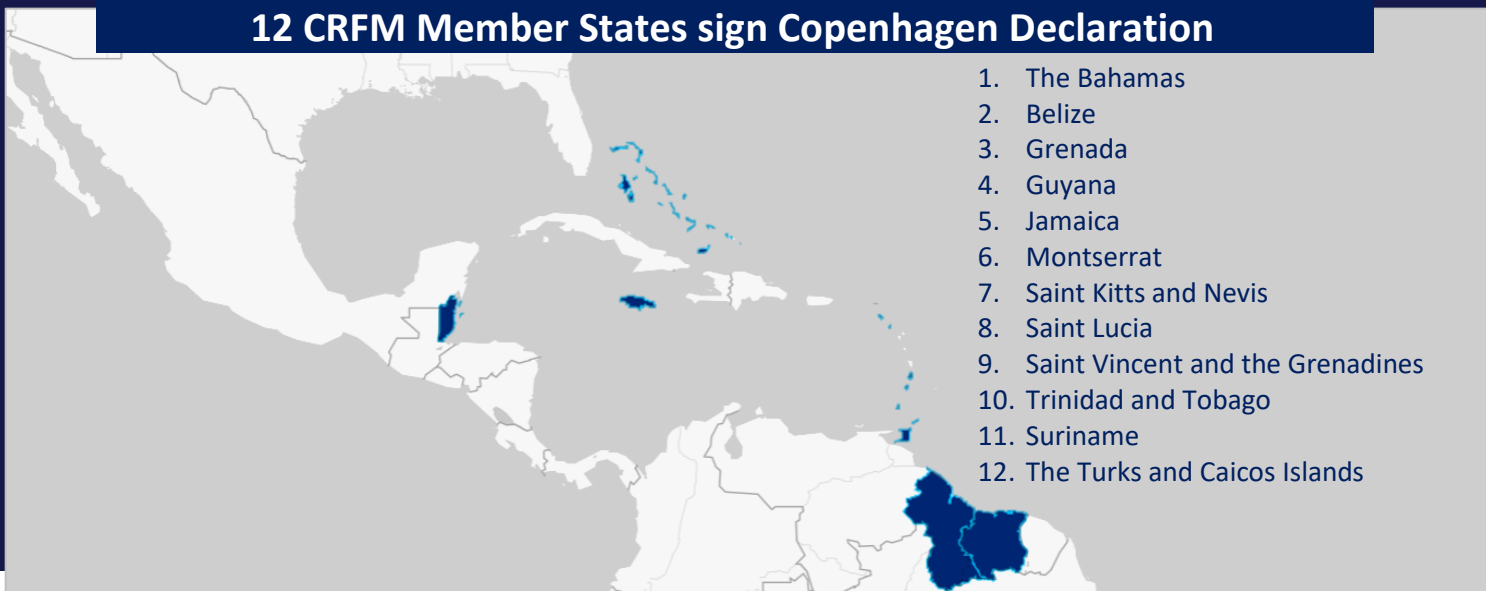
Fisheries, Norway, delivered a presentation on the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative. This was followed by a presentation on the “Blue Resilience Project” by Ms. Zazie Schafer, Acting Director, UNDP Nordic Representation Office (NRO), and a presentation on the CRFM Ministerial Resolution, No. MC 15(6) of 2021, by Mr. Milton Haughton, CRFM Executive Director.

The highlight of the meeting was the official endorsement of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative by several CRFM Member States, which were invited to make their interventions and sign the Copenhagen Declaration. (The Agenda appears at [Appendix II](#) and the Declaration at [Appendix III](#).)

Oral and/or written statements were delivered by representatives of [twelve \(12\) CRFM Member States](#): The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Following the delivery of oral statements by Member States, Mr. Milton Haughton detailed the follow-up actions to be taken by the CRFM to advance the process. The CRFM intends to continue strengthening its collaboration with its regional and international partners, to turn the tide of unlawfulness in the fishing industry and the depletion and degradation of ocean resources. The CRFM also intends to develop and sustainably use the available resources to maximize opportunities available for social and economic progress of the countries and for the benefit of the people across the Caribbean Community.

12 CRFM Member States sign Copenhagen Declaration



1. The Bahamas
2. Belize
3. Grenada
4. Guyana
5. Jamaica
6. Montserrat
7. Saint Kitts and Nevis
8. Saint Lucia
9. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
10. Trinidad and Tobago
11. Suriname
12. The Turks and Caicos Islands



CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Saboto Caesar,
Chairman of the CRFM Ministerial Council
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural
Transformation, Industry and Labour,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



- Hon. Ministers and Permanent Secretaries from the CRFM Member States
- Ms. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM
- Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway
- Mr. Gunnar Stølvik, Specialist Director, Fisheries Department, Norway
- Ms. Zazie Schafer, Acting Director, UNDP Nordic Representation Office, Denmark
- Dr. Renata Clarke, FAO Regional Coordinator
- Ms. Birgit Gerstenberg, UN Resident Coordinator, El Salvador and Belize
- Mr. Milton Haughton, CRFM Executive Director
- CEOs of other CARICOM Institutions
- Representatives from UNODC in Austria
- Ambassadors, delegates, specially invited guests, partners and colleagues

Good morning.

On behalf of the CRFM, I would like to welcome you to this High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry.

Please permit me to extend a very special welcome and congratulations to the Honourable Clay Sweeting from The Bahamas and the Honourable Alfred Prospere from Saint Lucia on their recent success at the polls. Special welcome also to the Honourable Audley Shaw of Jamaica who very recently took over, once again, the portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Jamaica.

Ministers and delegates, this is indeed a very important event being held as part of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2021, which is being celebrated under the general theme: “*Transforming our Food Systems*”.

The overall aim of this year’s CWA celebration is to increase economic activity and food security in the region and to achieve a healthier Caribbean.

Our meeting this morning is focused specifically on the ocean and marine resources and fishing industries operating in the vast expanse of ocean space that is under our sovereignty and jurisdiction, and therefore under our responsibility to develop, use, manage and protect for the benefit of our people and economic development of our countries.

For the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean with very limited land space and natural resources, the coastal and marine resources and the fish are very important for food security and nutrition, livelihoods, income, and foreign exchange.

These are indeed very valuable natural assets that we have to develop, utilize and protect for future generations.

This meeting provides a distinctive opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of some of the critical issues and challenges affecting the fisheries sector, and the importance and benefits of effectively combatting and eradicating IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is recognized as a major threat to fisheries resources globally and in the Caribbean region.

Available data indicate that IUU fishing accounts for up to 30% of the total global catch, valued at several billions of US dollars.

IUU operators who unlawfully conduct fishing and associated activities along the fish and seafood supply chain undermine national and regional investments to sustainably develop, utilize, manage, and protect fish stocks.

Such unlawful activity will eventually negatively impact local fish catches, the availability of fish for local consumption, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, exports earnings and economic growth and resilience of our countries.

In addition to IUU fishing, we now also have to pay careful attention to the problem of transnational organized criminal networks that are using fishing as a cover for their illegal activities.

There is a growing body of evidence showing that drug traffickers, human traffickers, small arms traffickers, and traders in contraband goods, among others, are using fishing as a cover to conduct their nefarious activities.

This is why at this time, there is so much attention being given at national, regional and global levels to the subject of IUU [fishing] and organized crime in the fisheries sector.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 addresses, among other things, the importance of deterring and eradicating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

A primary aim of the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies at the WTO, is the prohibition of subsidies to vessels that are engaged in IUU [fishing], recognizing that the provision of such subsidies is a major driver of IUU fishing.

At the regional level there have been significant efforts made over the past 10 years to address IUU fishing and organized crime. The subject has been a regular discussion point at meetings of the CRFM, FAO/WECAFC and UNODC.

It is, however, a very difficult problem. While progress has been made in addressing and strengthening the foundation and frameworks for tackling the problem, it is clear that much more needs to be done.

The purpose of this Ministerial Meeting is to take concrete action to strengthen regional and international cooperation at the political and technical levels to combat and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector in the region.

We are very grateful for the leadership and support being provided by the Government of Norway in tackling this problem, including through the Blue Justice Initiative and the Blue Resilience Project.

We recognize the value of “*The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry*” that was done at Copenhagen, Denmark in October 2018.

It provides a solid framework for countries like ours in the Caribbean to work together with regional and international partners to better understand the problem, share information and build the necessary legal, regulatory, monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement capacity to defeat and eradicate transnational organized crime and IUU fishing.

We have reviewed the Declaration, and the 15th Regular Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM endorsed it in May of this year.

We have convened this meeting to provide an opportunity for several CRFM/CARICOM States to formally express our support by signing the Declaration.

Welcome, and I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful meeting.

Thank you!

I will now invite Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary General of CARICOM, to bring Welcome Remarks.



CARICOM SECRETARIAT REMARKS

Mr. Joseph Cox,
Assistant Secretary-General,
CARICOM Secretariat



This meeting marks an important milestone in the quest for deep and meaningful cooperation in the sustainable development of our fisheries resources and the blue economy. The security of the ocean space and its resource is a critical pillar, and in this regard the issue of IUU fishing globally and within this region is one that has long been recognized by our leaders, since it has far-reaching effects on ecosystem health and integrity, human rights, and international relations. IUU fishing is also of major concern for the region since it undermines efforts to conserve and sustainably manage fisheries, and furthermore jeopardizes food security, livelihoods and income from fisheries.

Article 60 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas—an article dedicated entirely to fisheries management—commits Member States of the Caribbean Community to collaborate with each other in ongoing surveillance of their Exclusive Economic Zones. The Caribbean Community has, therefore, invested in institutions such as the CRFM and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) to both provide for collective management of our living marine resources and to bolster regional capacity in security matters. In so doing, we have strengthened our ability to combat the scourge of IUU fishing and organized crime that is part of that phenomenon.

In 2010, our Heads of Government issued the Castries Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, in which they expressed their determination to work together and with other stakeholders, including regional and other multilateral partners, to identify, prevent, deter and eliminate, IUU fishing within the Caribbean and globally. Among other things, the Castries Declaration committed the region to adopt, review and revise relevant legislation and

regulations regarding compliance with fisheries management measures, and to provide sanctions of sufficient gravity, to deprive offenders of the benefits that accrue from their illegal activities, and to deter further IUU fishing.

Honourable Ministers, in May of this year, we adopted a resolution in support of the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, and the Blue Justice Initiative—both of which provide for international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry constitutes a serious threat to the security and sustainable use of the region's living marine resources and marine biodiversity, and it jeopardizes food security and blue economic development of the countries in the region. We should also ensure that we jealously guard our right to prosecute transnational illegal fishing, according to our laws and administrative procedures and not to have these rights abridged in any way.

I raise this issue because in at least one international forum, there have been disconcerting proposals that, if implemented, could cast a shadow over the legitimacy of our IUU enforcement actions. At this meeting, Honourable Ministers, your actions will set the stage for future action across this region, in collaboration with the Blue Justice Initiative launched by the Norwegian government in 2019 in support of the Copenhagen Declaration.

We, therefore, heartily thank the Government of Norway and the United Nations Development Programme for their vision and leadership in promoting enhanced international cooperation to tackle IUU issues. I also wish to warmly thank the Executive Director and staff of the CRFM Secretariat for coordinating and mobilizing stakeholders in the region for this important initiative.

We very much welcome new partnerships as a means of exchanging knowledge and experiences, while helping us to build technical and technological capacity to improve maritime security. As we seek to rejuvenate our economies, strengthen food systems, and improve the nutrition of our populations, we must continue to arm ourselves to confront the

multitude of many constraints facing small economies, including climate change and sustainable financing for development.

In closing, I wish to pledge the full support of the CARICOM Secretariat for the success of this important initiative. The region is strongest when it leverages its collective resources and intellect, as we have done in many multilateral endeavours, and we will continue to play our part to ensure the success of this and other programmes in the area of fisheries management.

With that, I thank you!



GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY'S REMARKS

Ms. Trine Danielsen,
State Secretary,
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries,
Norway



Your excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear all,

A heartfelt greeting to all the Ministers, the CRFM and CARICOM Secretariat, UNDP, UNODC and the Norwegian Ambassador in Havana which covers this region; and of course, everybody who is following this online event!

The last two years have been challenging for us all, and in the coming years, we will try to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Actually, last year, the first thing I did before COVID-19 broke out was to go sailing in the Caribbean islands, in your beautiful, blue oceans. I was so lucky to be able to taste some of your exotic dishes. It was fantastic!

Now, we must make a stronger effort to build a better ocean, to become more resilient, more just and more sustainable. The fishing industry has an important role for us all. We also know from research that the global fishing industry is under threat from transnational organized crime. This relates not only to illegal fishing, economic crime and corruption, but also crimes against the dignity to which all humans are entitled. Unfortunately, there is evidence of modern slavery in the global fishing industry, which was also mentioned earlier today. We cannot accept that people are treated like slaves. We cannot accept that fishing companies have to compete in a market with corruption and economic crime. We cannot accept that criminals are fishing illegally, at the expense of livelihoods of coastal populations. This leads

to even more poverty. Finally, we cannot accept that these criminals will not pay taxes and duties—income that we need to build better and more resilient countries and communities.

This is precisely why the Blue Justice Initiative was launched—to work towards a more sustainable and more fair blue economy, free from fisheries crime. This important cooperation which we are now discussing is crucial if we want and if we are going to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Blue Justice Initiative is based on the International Declaration against Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, which was adopted in Copenhagen in 2018. Through this initiative, the Norwegian government supports capacity building that addresses the challenges described in the declaration—key issues like governance, inter-agency cooperation, fisheries law enforcement, inter-governmental communication, investigation techniques, and human trafficking in the fishing industry, which are all addressed through the initiative. We need to recognize all these issues, and we need more international cooperation—as has been mentioned.

The Blue Justice Initiative is our contribution, and we are humbled by the collective adoption of the CRFM Resolution of 21 May 2021. That you today are ready to formally support the Copenhagen Declaration makes this a day to remember! With your adoption of the declaration, it has approximately the support of twenty-five percent of the states in the world. If we work together, towards building a blue economy free from fisheries crimes, I am sure that we will be able to do it for the future generations! We hope to share knowledge and experience with you all.

Thank you for your attention!

OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE 2019



The conversation began in
Oslo, Norway in October 2019.

Above and bottom left, CRFM Executive Director, Mr. Milton Haughton, at Our Ocean Conference 2019



Photos: #OurOcean



THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION AND THE BLUE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Mr. Gunnar A. Stølsvik - Specialist Director, Fisheries Department;
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway

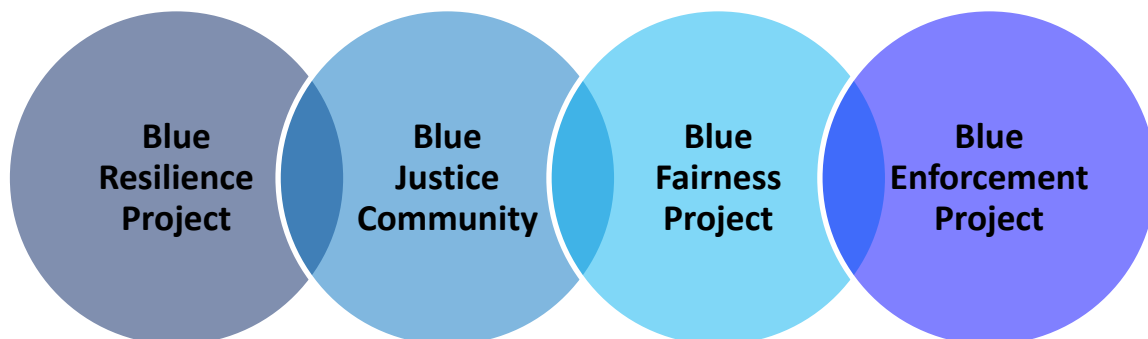
The [Blue Justice Initiative](#) was launched during the “Our Ocean” Conference held in Oslo, Norway, on 23-24 October 2019. During that event, the Norwegian Government invited several of the Member States that were present at the CRFM Ministerial Meeting of 4 October 2021, to a luncheon to discuss fisheries crime and the declaration. This CRFM Ministerial Meeting was the first major milestone to have been reached since the “Our Ocean” Conference of 2019.



BLUE JUSTICE VISION

The [Blue Justice Initiative](#) seeks to assist developing countries to operationalize the Copenhagen Declaration through a series of initiatives which together work to fulfil the vision of the initiative: *Towards a sustainable and fair blue economy free from fisheries crime.*

THESE INITIATIVES ARE THE:



The Blue Resilience Project

The [Blue Resilience Project](#) is being implemented by the UNDP. It focuses on addressing governance issues through knowledge-based learning that supports interagency cooperation on themes such as fisheries, tax, labour, and the police in developing countries to address fisheries crime more effectively.

The Blue Justice Community

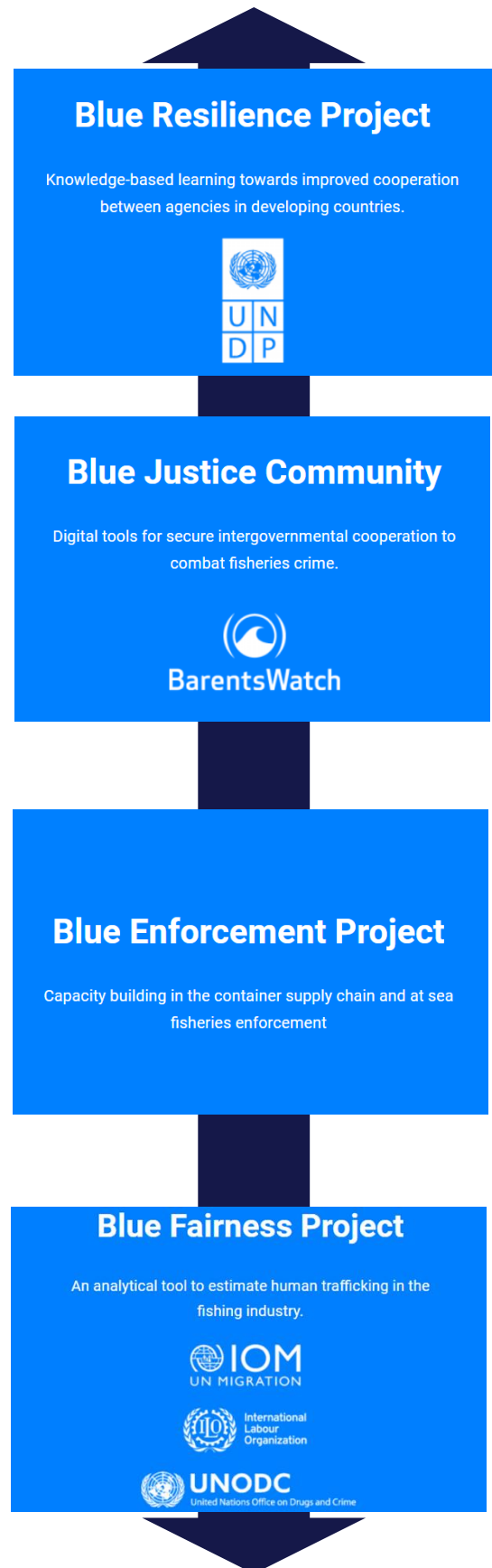
The UNDP is the administrator of the [Blue Justice Community](#) – a platform that provides digital tools for secure intergovernmental cooperation to combat fisheries crime. The goals of the Community are to build trust, support effective communication, promote cross-border and interagency cooperation, and adapt to the needs of governments in a changing world.

The Blue Enforcement Project

The [Blue Enforcement Project](#) is a joint project between two different programs of UNODC. It is the Container Control Programme through which training is delivered to Customs officers, Fisheries authorities, and other relevant authorities that cooperate in addressing illicit trade flows of fish across borders. The first phase is being implemented this year, and the second will be implemented in 2022. The focus is on the Indian Ocean (Sri Lanka and the Maldives).

The Blue Fairness Project

The [Blue Fairness Project](#) provides an analytical tool, through cooperation between ILO, UNODC and IOM. The project aims to develop good baseline studies on modern slavery in the fishing industry, such as human trafficking, which remains an important issue in this industry as well as others around the world.



The International Blue Justice Tracking Center

The International Blue Justice Tracking Center is owned by the Norwegian Government but administered by UNDP through the Blue Resilience Project. It is a secure communication platform built upon the experiences of Norway, using its own technology. Through the collaborative efforts of the Norwegian National Coastal Administration and the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate, analysts can assist developing countries with analysing the movement of vessels that could be involved in fisheries crimes.



The operations room of the International Blue Justice Tracking Center established in the Arctic town of Vardø

Benefits of the service:

- Government officials can be registered and cooperate internally and across borders;
- Information can be shared more securely than via e-mail;
- The platform may provide more stability;
- Capacity building activities are included, such as lectures and learning materials;

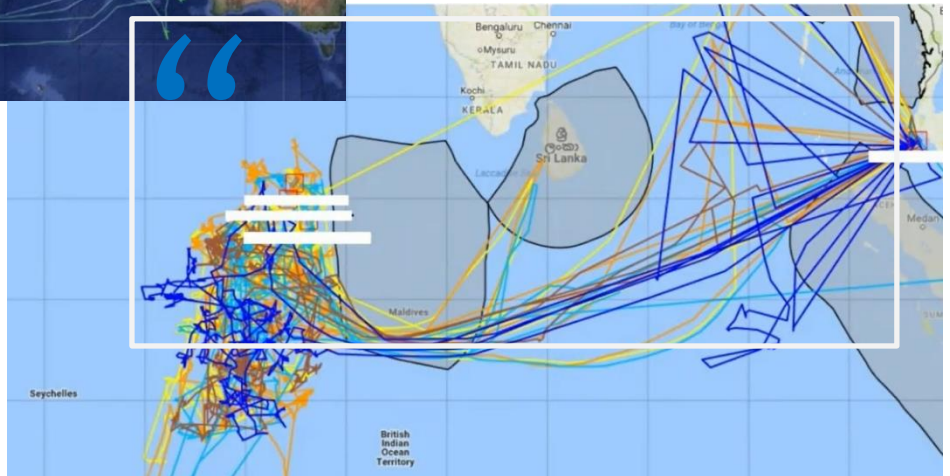
Nexus with the Blue Justice Community

The Blue Justice International Tracking Center, established in July 2021, a few months prior to the CRFM Ministerial Meeting, has been expanded to also serve the Blue Justice Community. Information may be shared across borders using the digital platform. An example is a map



generated by the tracking centre which shows the movement of tuna vessels throughout 2020. The analysis products could be useful for threat analysis and to study the global movements of vessels of interest for the region or for individual Member States.

The center will provide tracking services to developing countries. Here, the center was able to develop a map with tracks showing the paths taken for tuna fishing.



Another map showing vessel tracks

The available historical data go back many years, enabling analysts to create a visualization of movements over time. The data may allow analysts to identify ports that may be used for illegal activities, and this information may provide the evidence base for future international cooperation.

Historical data go back many years... enabling analysts to create visualizations [like these maps] of vessel movements over time. ””

CRFM Member States interested in collaborating and/or obtaining information from the digital platform are invited to contact the UNDP, which is the administrator.

One Ocean Expedition



The [One Ocean Expedition](#) is an initiative being implemented under the UNESCO / United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and the Blue Justice Initiative is onboard with this initiative. The Norwegian vessel [Statsraad Lehmkuhl](#) was making its way towards the Caribbean, and Blue Justice activities were being planned for Jamaica and possibly for The Bahamas.

An Invitation for Continued Collaboration

CRFM Member States were invited to continue the engagement and collaboration, and to connect with counterparts in Norway to further the dialogue and build upon the progress made, for the benefit of the region and the individual Member States.

(The PowerPoint Presentation appears at [Appendix IV](#).)



THE “BLUE RESILIENCE PROJECT”

Ms. Zazie Schafer, Acting Director,
UNDP Nordic Representation Office (NRO)

— Your Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen



Dear all:

Thank you very much to the CRFM Ministerial Council and Secretariat for the invitation to address this important event today on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme.

As the lead UN development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in supporting countries to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through its presence in over 170 countries and territories globally.

The 17 inter-related SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Central to realizing the SDGs are effective governance structures that are conducive to sustainable development and that promote resilience and the ability to sustain progress.

This is captured by the SDG 16 goal of: ‘peace, justice and strong institutions’.

The oceans, specifically the marine fisheries sector, are recognized as a vital source of food, livelihoods and jobs for millions globally.

This is particularly so for Large Ocean Nations and during the challenging times of COVID. So, it is crucial that the ocean and its resources are used sustainably.

Many of the UN SDGs, in addition to SDG 16, are in support of this objective.

Evidence shows, however, that criminal networks operating in the marine fisheries sector are increasing their activities.

Their actions negatively impact on food security, livelihoods, and the rule of law.

And they thus directly threaten the achievement of all of these SDGs.

UNDP recognizes the value of effective governance in responding to these threats.

This is why we launched the Blue Resilience Project under Norway's Blue Justice Initiative.

The Copenhagen Declaration—support thereof being the reason for this celebratory event—is the policy backbone of our project.

Blue Resilience supports countries in governance responses to addressing fisheries crime. It does so by strengthening capacity for effective institutional cooperation.

Towards this, we engage, along with the BJI Secretariat, in focused Country Dialogues to understand country needs.

We are currently developing a learning journey on institutional cooperation, in conjunction with national partners, drawing on our empirical research in this area.

This year we will commence piloting elements of the learning journey in close cooperation with our local UNDP offices.

UNDP also administers the Blue Justice Community, a secure online platform to foster cooperation between government institutions in addressing fisheries crime.

And finally, we are proud to support the One Ocean Expedition 'Lehmkuhl' on its global circumnavigation under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It will call at the ports of many countries supporting the Copenhagen Declaration, including in the Caribbean and Pacific, and the BJI and UNDP will engage in awareness raising on fisheries crime along the route.

To close, UNDP is committed to continue to support capacity building efforts to address fisheries crime towards realizing the UN SDGs, in synergy with the BJI Secretariat and other partners under the Blue Justice Initiative.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Norway for its continuing support to UNDP in the area of addressing fisheries crime and beyond.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the Member States of CARICOM signing on to the Copenhagen Declaration today, and to assure you that we at UNDP are committed to supporting you in implementing the Declaration.

Finally, we wish you all the best and every success in this important endeavour.

Thank you.

THE CRFM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION, NO. MC 15(6) OF 2021

**REGARDING THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION ON
TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE GLOBAL
FISHING INDUSTRY AND THE BLUE JUSTICE INITIATIVE**



Mr. Milton Haughton,
Executive Director,
CRFM Secretariat

- Mr. Chairman, Hon Saboto Caesar,
- Hon Ministers & Heads of Delegation
- Our Special Guest - Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary & Deputy Minister, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Fisheries of Norway and other members of the delegation of Norway
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

Protocol having been established, it is my pleasure to say a few words about the **CRFM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON IUU FISHING AND ORGANIZED CRIME.**

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM, which was held on 21 May 2021, followed-up on the undertaking given by CARICOM Member States at the December 2020 High-level International Blue Justice Conference.

After considering the issues, the Council adopted Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021, entitled “RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION ON TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE GLOBAL FISHING INDUSTRY AND THE BLUE JUSTICE INITIATIVE”. (A copy of the Resolution appears at [Appendix V.](#))

The Resolution contains 10 preambular clauses setting out in clear terms, the serious nature, scope and the environmental, ecological, economic and social impacts of IUU fishing and transnational organized crime being experienced in the region at this time

The preamble starts by RECOGNISING the important role of fisheries in the CARICOM region and the significant contribution they make to food and nutrition security, employment, and the economic and social well-being of the people of the region;

“ This Resolution is indeed a clear and unequivocal expression of the gravity of the problem IUU fishing and transnational organized crime, and the determination of CARICOM States to intensify efforts to eradicate this scourge.

”

It then sets out the serious issues and profound impacts that IUU fishing and organized crime are having... not only on the sustainability of the fisheries resources and marine ecosystems, but also on livelihoods, food security, social and economic wellbeing, and general security of the people of the region.

The preamble continues by citing some of the previous policy actions taken by CRFM States to counter the problem, including the establishment of the CRFM in 2002, the adoption of the Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing in 2010, and the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy in 2014.

It then recognizes the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative as important non-binding international frameworks for cooperation among States to prevent and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

The preamble ends by recognizing the urgent need for CRFM Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to improve understanding and knowledge of the problem, identify countermeasures, and build capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, in the region and globally.

The operative clauses of the **Resolution welcome and express** support for the *Copenhagen Declaration* and the Blue Justice Initiative.

It then goes on to encourage and exhort Ministers Responsible for Fisheries and Blue Economic Growth to **individually support** the Copenhagen Declaration and convey their interest in cooperating and benefiting from the Blue Justice Initiative.

The Resolution sets out the **next immediate steps** agreed upon by the Ministerial Council to implement and realize the intent of the Copenhagen Declaration including:

- i. Convening a high-level, virtual ministerial meeting of CRFM Member States, at which Ministers wishing to do so, would deliver brief statements on the subject of IUU fishing and organized crime in the fisheries sector and sign the Copenhagen Declaration;
- ii. Following the signing, the CRFM should seek to convene, in collaboration with UNDP, a regional technical meeting of fisheries and security officials from CARICOM/CRFM Member States to map out the specific needs and to agree on at least one high-priority intervention that will benefit all CRFM Member States and that could be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative or the Blue Resilience Project; and
- iii. collaborate with the Blue Justice Initiative to **strengthen the response** of CRFM Member States to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry, and to leverage the opportunity for collaboration with other interested States and organizations through strategic interventions, using technology and innovations.

The Final clauses of the Resolution recognize the importance of past and ongoing support and collaboration among and between the CRFM Member States and the Secretariat, as well as regional institutions, such as CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the

Regional Security System (RSS), and UN Agencies, such as UNODC and FAO/WECAFC – to address the challenges of IUU fishing and organized crime in the region.

In concluding, this Resolution is indeed a clear and unequivocal expression of the gravity of the problem of IUU fishing and transnational organized crime, and the determination of CARICOM States to intensify efforts to eradicate this scourge.

It is also an expression of our interest in working collectively with likeminded States to solve the problem, recognizing the importance of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative as instruments that can support and help us in our efforts as we move forward.

Thank you very much.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

*Statements by Ministers from CRFM Member States &
Signing of the Declaration by each country*



Above: Authorities in Jamaica confiscate products (shark fins and lobster tails) taken by IUU vessels in their territorial waters

Twelve (12)

CRFM Member States denounce IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry



THE BAHAMAS

Honourable Clay Sweeting
Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources
and Family Island Affairs



Pleasant Good morning, Mister Chairman,
Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Guests!

I wish to thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak to you and my colleague Ministers of the Council and others for a few minutes to indicate and highlight the Bahamas' position on the question of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and transnational organized crime in the fisheries sector.

I wish to take this opportunity to emphatically state that the Government of the Bahamas is opposed to IUU fishing and organized crime. As you may be aware, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has a shallow water area of 100,000 square nautical miles, consisting of approximately 3,000 small islands and cays. The islands and cays are spread over a large area and are located on 16 plateaus separated from each other and from Florida, Cuba and Hispaniola by depths of 200 to 2,000 fathoms. The Bahamian Fishing Industry is confined to the shallow plateaus and is notable for its diversity of species and quality of water rather than for high production, although standing stock and potential yield estimates compare favorably with estimates for

comparable fishing groups throughout the Caribbean.

Fishing has always been an integral part of the Bahamian way of life. From an economic and cultural perspective, the commercial fishing industry contributes just about 1% to the GDP and employs thousands of fishers who took to the industry as a main means of livelihood.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reports that fisheries production in the whole Caribbean region has declined by 40% over the last two decades, that 55% of commercially harvested fisheries stocks are overexploited or depleted, and 40% of stocks are fully exploited. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing compounds this problem.

“
IUU fishing undermines efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks in all capture fisheries. When confronted with IUU fishing, national and regional fisheries management organizations can fail to achieve management goals.”

IUU fishing undermines efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks in all capture fisheries. When confronted with IUU fishing, national and regional fisheries management organizations can fail to achieve management goals. This situation leads to the loss of both short and long term social and economic opportunities and to negative impacts on food security and environmental protection. IUU fishing can lead to the collapse of a fishery or seriously impair efforts to rebuild stocks that have already been depleted.

Accession to international instruments addressing IUU fishing had not been achieved, due to a lack of political will, priority capacity and resources to ratify or accede to and implement them. I am advised that in CARICOM Countries, IUU fishing is estimated at between 17% and 20% of annual catch and the vast majority of the governments in the region consider IUU fishing to be a threat to the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

In The Bahamas today, IUU fishing—including foreign and domestic poaching—is widespread and poses a myriad of threats to the ocean, the fishing industry and communities throughout the country. In southeastern Bahamas, we are faced with poaching mainly from persons from the Dominican Republic fishing on a commercial basis, and in the northwestern part of the country, foreign sport fishers are going over their bag limits.

In 2014, the Government of the Bahamas invested in excess of 232 million dollars on the acquisition and purchase of eight (8) vessels for The Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF), to redouble efforts to protect

its borders and Exclusive Economic Zone. Four (4) of the vessels are for blue-water and deep-water patrols, and they can operate within a range of more than 2,000 nautical miles at top speed of more than 20 knots. The remaining four (4) vessels are specifically designed for operation in the coastal waters and shallow banks. In addition to the new RBDF fleet, improvements have been made in marine access to Matthew Town in Great Inagua Island and Gun Point at Ragged Island Point—two of the most southeastern points in the southeast of The Bahamas and near to the fishing grounds. Marine access in Bimini and Grand Bahama in the northwest of The Bahamas has also been added, to ensure that the northern borders of The Bahamas are as protected as the southern borders.

To further shore up our enforcement presence and to assist the Department of Marine Resources in combating IUU fishing, we have acquired and purchased 5 inshore marine patrol crafts at a cost of just over \$800,000 over the last 4 years.

In 2016, The Bahamas adopted the FAO's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). As we are all aware, the main function of the agreement is to prevent IUU fishing through the adoption and implementation of effective Port State Measures as a means of ensuring the long-term conservation and the sustainable use of living marine resources. The agreement entered into force on 5 June 2016 and is an important tool for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, which is to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the request of my ministry in 2018, the FAO—together with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration of the USA (NOAA)—provided technical assistance to conduct a needs assessment of The Bahamas' capacity to implement the PSMA, complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing and to accordingly formulate a national strategy and roadmap to gradually fulfill these respective requirements. The work is currently ongoing.

Under a new initiative, entitled the Marine Action Partnership (MAP) for sustainable fisheries, there is a multi-year partnership that coordinates and enhances the efforts of conservation organizations and government agencies to improve marine resource management through effective collaboration with fisheries communities and other stakeholders. The MAP aims to expand the capacity of government agencies and marine protected areas managers to enforce fisheries laws and regulations, and to strengthen the capacity of fishers and the broader industry to adhere to them, with the goal of markedly increasing overall compliance by 2025.

The main outcomes of the MAP are: (i) to sustain livelihoods for Bahamian fishers and their families, (ii) reduce foreign and domestic poaching, (iii) increase consumer awareness of fisheries laws, regulations and compliance, (iv) establish collaboration pathways between law enforcement agencies and fisheries stakeholders and (5) conserve biodiversity of species.

In addition to the MAP, my Department of Marine Resources is presently engaged in a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) pilot

project. The goal of the VMS project is to develop a white paper that will inform the Bahamas Government of potential vessel monitoring systems that can be used by Bahamian vessels to combat and help fight against illegal fishing, improve enforcement and monitoring of at-sea activities, and enhance search and rescue measures.

The benefits of the VMS are: (i) combat illegal fishing, as the VMS is able to track licensed fishing vessels, identify those vessel not registered, and enhance compliance; (ii) improve monitoring and management of at-sea activities, as the information will help with assessing vessel movements, general identification of where fishing activities are taking place, and the identification of key areas that require increased monitoring and management; and (iii) enhance search and rescue measures, improve emergency response time and accuracy in identifying where distressed vessels are located. The pilot project is in two stages: The first involves testing several VMS options to determine which would be best suited for stage 2, which will be the pilot study. A VMS has been selected, and it is being installed on 12 small and 12 large fishing vessels throughout The Bahamas. The second stage of the pilot project is to begin in earnest this week.

In December 2020, the new Fisheries Act of 2020, was passed into law replacing the old act of 1977. The new act is futuristic in addressing matters related to the sustainable use, sustainable development and management of fisheries resources and the marine environment. The new act will ensure that The Bahamas fulfills its obligations to the global and regional community being a signatory to a number of

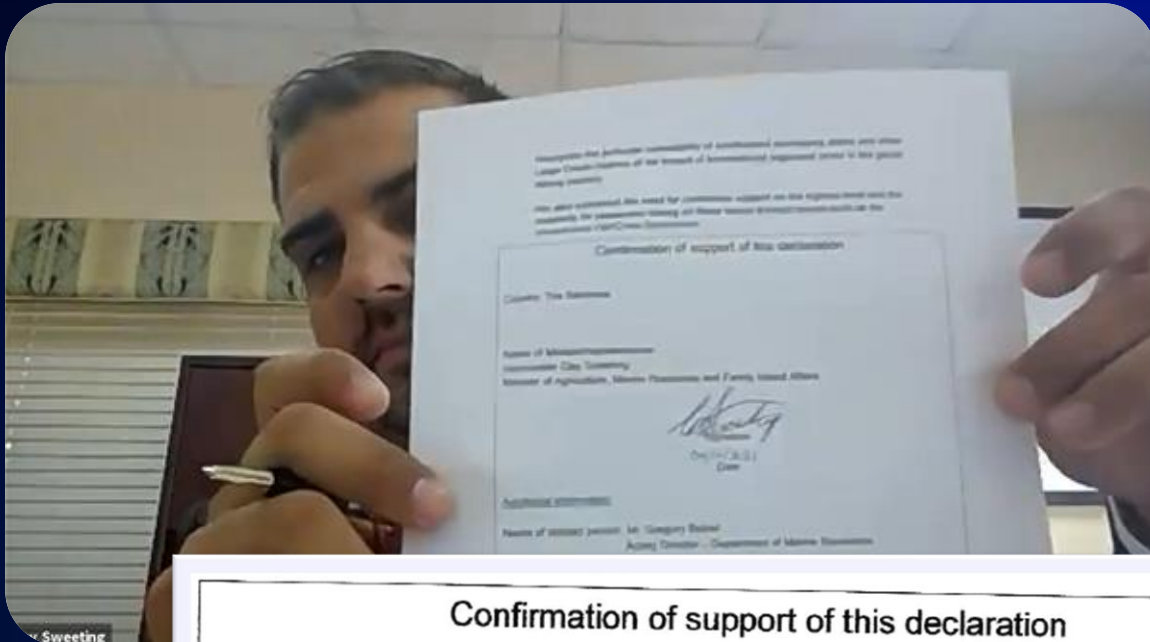
international conventions. I take this opportunity to also note that currently the Department of Marine Resources along with other enforcement agencies and stakeholders are drafting new subsidiary legislation—the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Regulations—to fill the many gaps that had been observed in overall fisheries management. It is intended that this new subsidiary legislation will come into force by the beginning of 2022.

In closing, I wish to touch briefly on organized crime by way of or on the seas. The Bahamas is not a significant drug producing country but remains a transit point for illegal drugs bound for the United States and other international markets, as well as [a conduit for] illegal immigration.

The Bahamas' close proximity to the coast of Florida, USA, as well as its location on the Caribbean transshipment routes make it a natural conduit for drug smuggling and illegal migration, mainly by Haitian nationals bound for Florida, USA. The Bahamas' many islands and cays—the vast majority of which are uninhabited—provide near ideal conditions for smuggling. Smugglers readily

blend in among numerous pleasure crafts traveling along The Bahamas archipelago, which cover nearly 100,000 square nautical miles. I am happy to report that little to none of these activities have been associated with the fishing industry in The Bahamas. Furthermore, the US signed a comprehensive agreement with The Bahamas in 2004 that continues to enable cooperation in counter narcotics and migrant interdiction operations in and around Bahamas' territorial waters, including through the use of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force ship riders aboard US Coast Guard vessels.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you once again for affording me the opportunity to speak to this pressing issue on IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry. I wish to inform of my government's continued support for the work of the Council, and we will continue to build on the relationship already established by my predecessors. I pledge The Bahamas' support for the Copenhagen Declaration on transnational organized crime and the Blue Justice Initiative, and I look forward to a productive and constructive meeting today.



Sweeting
20844304

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: The Bahamas

Name of Minister/representative:

Honourable Clay Sweeting

Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs



Signature

04/10/2021
Date

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mr. Gregory Bethel

Acting Director – Department of Marine Resources

Phone and email address: Tel: 393-1777 / 424-0523 Email: gregorybethel@bahamas.gov.bs



BELIZE

Honourable Andre Perez
Minister of The Blue Economy and Civil Aviation



Protocol having been established,
Ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good morning.

Greetings from the people and Government of Belize!

As the Minister for Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, I am pleased to be a part of this very important meeting which focuses on IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.

“ My Government is committed to the fight against IUU fishing and recognizes that we must continue to actively identify and implement tangible and effective actions collectively from a regional and international level to curb these illicit activities.”

Central to the sustainable management of our fisheries resources is the combatting of IUU fishing. IUU fishing undermines the advancements we have achieved in strengthening fisheries management, as well as negatively affects our economic development and the social well-being of our people, particularly coastal communities.

I am heartened that today’s meeting is focused on CARICOM efforts in combatting IUU fishing and the “**International Declaration against Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry**” (Copenhagen

Declaration)”. My Government is committed to the fight against IUU fishing and recognizes that we must continue to actively identify and implement tangible and effective actions collectively, from a regional and international level, to curb these illicit activities. The Copenhagen Declaration complements the 2010 Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing which provides the CRFM Member States with a roadmap for a harmonized, multipronged approach to combat IUU fishing.

In the Caribbean Region, the fishing industry produces 161,000 metric tons and employs approximately 182,000 persons with direct export earnings amounting to US\$270 - 300 million. In Belize, our small-scale fishing industry is valued at 25 million US dollars, with 3, 500 fishers and approximately 4% of its population being direct beneficiaries of this sector.

Belize has become a leader in the sustainable use, science-based management, and conservation of our commercially important and highly valuable fish stocks (such as the spiny lobster and queen conch), coral reefs, and marine ecosystems. In fact, Belize has

already designated 23.5% of our territorial waters as marine protected area and in 2020, adopted a modernized and robust Fisheries Resources Act to create the requisite legislative framework for sustainable fisheries. IUU fishing, however, continues to present the threat of undermining our success and efforts to ensure viable and productive resources for the benefit of our people.

The COVID-19 pandemic's devastating impacts on our economies and the increasing threat to our resources by climate change and climate variability make the fight against IUU fishing even more urgent and critical. Belize has seen the redirection of the workforce who have been displaced from other economic sectors such as tourism, to fisheries. We have also seen the desperation caused by the pandemic resulting in more occurrence of transboundary illegal activities supported by locals. My Ministry, along with its partners, has had to become innovative and employed technology in the monitoring and control of our local fleet. In fact, Belize is one of the few countries in the region that is piloting the use of Mobile Transceiver Units on our small-scale fishing fleet as a tool to combat IUU fishing. We are hopeful that our local efforts can provide effective examples and tools for our neighboring countries to improve the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing operations.

At the political level, Belize has adopted important regional instruments to fight IUU fishing, including the OSPESCA Regional Strategy to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Territorial Waters and Fishing Communities of Central America (2018); the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

(WECAFC) - FAO Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in WECAFC Member Countries (2019-2029); and as mentioned earlier the 2010 Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU Fishing for CRFM Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Belize's ocean space—and particularly the Belize Barrier Reef and associated ecosystems—contributes significantly to food security, livelihoods, and social and economic

My Ministry is currently in the process of formulating our five-year strategy and plan for *Belize's Blue Economy*, and effective strategies to combat IUU fishing and organized crime associated with the fishing industry.

development. As the Minister of the newly established and innovative Ministry of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, I have been tasked with leading the efforts to increase Belize's GDP through a thriving Blue Economy Development pathway. The success of this Development pathway can only be accomplished through harmonized and socially just innovations ... supported by a robust, science-based management regime of our aquatic resources and space to improve the livelihood of all Belizeans. My Ministry is currently in the process of formulating our five-year strategy and plan for Belize's Blue Economy, and effective strategies to combat IUU fishing and organized crime associated with the fishing industry.

Belize supported the Resolution of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, to support the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and the Blue Justice Initiative. My government affirms its commitment and collaboration with the Blue Justice Initiative to strengthen the response of CRFM Member States to combat IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the

Norwegian Government, other cooperating countries, and UN organizations for their kind assistance in our quest for solutions against IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry. We look forward to working closely with our neighbors and other SIDS member states to identify opportunities and strategic interventions through the Blue Justice Initiative, to help us to reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in our waters.

Thank you.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

His Excellency the Prime Minister of Belize has expressed his support for the need to address this issue at the highest level and his necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the International FishCrime Symposium.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Belize

Name of Minister: Honourable Andre Perez
Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

Signature: 

Date: October 4, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Honourable Andre Perez


Phone and email address: +501-2232768; andre.perez@blueeconomy.gov.bz

1. Belize, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Mauritius, Mexico, Palau, Solomon Islands and St. Lucia supported the declaration on 13 October 2019 on the occasion of the High Level Meeting for an International Organized Fisheries Crime and the all international FishCrime Symposium convened by the Australian Government. Support has subsequently been given by Liberia (20 February 2020) and the Government of Belize (20 February 2021).

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Belize

Name of Minister: Honourable Andre Perez
Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

Signature: 

Date: October 4, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Honourable Andre Perez

Phone and email address: +501-2232768; andre.perez@blueeconomy.gov.bz



GRENADA

Mr. Michael Stephens
Permanent Secretary, responsible for Fisheries and Cooperatives, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives



Hon. Yolanda Bain-Horsford, Minister of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Cooperatives (right), and Mr. Michael Stephens, Permanent Secretary (Official Ministry Photo)

Perspective on IUU Fishing and Organized Crime

Grenada is categorically against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and all criminal activity associated with fishing. It is based on the above that Grenada unequivocally supports the declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Within the past few years, there has been an increase in reported sightings of foreign fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices within Grenadian waters by the local fishing fleet. Consequently, IUU fishing continues to be an area of concern for the Government of Grenada especially as it relates to these activities within Grenada’s jurisdictional waters. IUU

fishing has the potential to significantly impact on the marine environment, fisheries and fisher livelihoods.

In an effort to address the growing concerns of IUU fishing within Grenada’s territorial waters, actions have been taken to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities in collaboration with the Grenada Coast Guard. Actions under this enhanced MCS initiative include increased patrols as well as enhanced ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communication via a new VHF repeater system. Additionally, there have been protocols established for the reporting, documentation, investigation and response to IUU fishing so as to combat the threats posed by this practice within Grenadian territorial waters.

Grenada will continue to support all strategies geared at preventing IUU fishing and organized crime.

“ In an effort to address the growing concerns of IUU Fishing within Grenada’s territorial waters, actions have been taken to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities in collaboration with the Grenada Coast Guard. ”

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Grenada

Name of Minister/representative: Hon. Yolande Bain-Horsford
Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts Fisheries and Cooperatives

Signature 

Date 4th October 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mr Michael Stephen

Phone and email address:4735345356

E-mail: ps@mofc.gov.gd



GUYANA

Ms. Delma Nedd
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture



Greetings from Guyana.

My name is Delma Nedd, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

My sincere apologies on behalf of the Hon. Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture, Guyana, who cannot be here this morning, due to his prior engagement. I now read his statement:

Regional Level

As a region, the Caribbean is heavily dependent on the vast marine resources, of which fisheries is a fundamental economic and social contributor to the national development of most states. Fishing as a practice is enshrined in the Caribbean culture, having direct linkages to our forefathers and their early entrepreneurial exploits. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 14.4 in particular, outlines the need to effectively regulate fish harvesting, end overfishing, eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and forms the basis from

which many legislative policies and fisheries-specific programmes have been developed.

National Level

To this end, Guyana has taken the position, to develop and adopt several stringent monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures, rooted in science and technology. Moreover, as a leading regional producer of fish and fish products, it is important that we demonstrate our stewardship and commitment to the principles of sustainable development, transparency, and compliance with international arrangements, aimed at preserving this most important protein source, which is critical for food security. Guyana is therefore committed to improving transboundary fisheries relations and management with neighboring states, evidenced through our most recent engagement with Suriname, to legitimize fishing practices which occur near the established maritime boundary. This is one in a series of actions to be taken by the

“Despite the emerging challenge we collectively face as a consequence of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still need for the CRFM Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to build capacity in order to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing.”

Report of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry, 4 October 2021

Government of Guyana, as it addresses IUU fishing, which is estimated to account for one in every three fish caught in the coastal waters of a developing country.

Closing:


In closing, it is important for Guyana to express our determination and solidarity in working together to prevent and eradicate IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing

industry in the region and support the International Declaration against Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry. Despite the emerging challenges we collectively face as a consequence of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still need for the CRFM Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to build capacity, in order to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: **GUYANA**

Name of Minister/representative:

Signature 
Date **October 4, 2021**

Additional information:

Name of contact person: **DENZIL ROBERTS**

Phone and email address: **fisherisguyana@gmail.com 592-641-9331**



JAMAICA

Honourable Audley Shaw, **CD, MP**
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Salutations:

- Hon. Saboto Caesar, Chairman of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Ministerial Council;
- Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General for Trade and Economic Integration at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat;
- Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries in Norway and other members of her delegation;
- Fellow ministers

Ladies and gentlemen; good morning.

Mr. Chairman,

Firstly, let me begin by saying that the Government of Jamaica thanks and commends the CRFM for its contribution to building the capacity of both the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and our stakeholders such as fishers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting fisher organizations.

This support has mainly been through training at institutions such as the International Oceans Institute based in Canada; the United Nations University - Fisheries Training Programme based in Iceland; and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Professional Development Program based at the University of Florida. There have also been other support



Photo: OPM
Jamaica

activities through the StewardFish project and activities supported by the Government of Japan.

Mr. Chairman, the fisheries sector in Jamaica represents a key renewable natural resource and provides a source of livelihood for thousands of Jamaicans, as well as a source of export earnings for our country.

“

The scourge of poaching, especially by foreign fishers from regional countries, has cost Jamaica billions of dollars in lost earnings and has prevented thousands of Jamaicans from accessing gainful employment. ”

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, therefore, has the potential of resulting in overexploitation and eventual collapse of important fisheries, thereby exacerbating poverty and threatening the livelihood of some of the most vulnerable citizens of our country.

Mr. Chairman: The scourge of poaching, especially by foreign fishers from regional countries, has cost Jamaica billions of dollars in lost earnings and has prevented thousands of Jamaicans from accessing gainful employment.

IMPACT ON QUEEN CONCH FISHING

As it relates to queen conch fishing, it is estimated that over the last 20 years (since the year 2000), Jamaica has lost at least US\$284 million due to foreign IUU fishing.

This figure, Mr. Chairman, is a conservative estimate of illegal foreign motor fishing vessels caught in Jamaican waters and an extrapolation of the estimated average rate of poaching.

IUU fishing by foreign poachers has also been identified as the major cause of the decline of our queen conch population on the Pedro Bank, leading to the closure of the fishery for 2 years, from February 1, 2019, to March 31, 2021.

The closure of the queen conch fishery possibly resulted in annual losses of approximately US\$6 million in direct export earnings and loss of jobs for some 5,500 Jamaicans. The multiplier effect resulting from the loss of jobs and export earnings may be as much as US\$20 million during the

As it relates to queen conch fishing, it is estimated that over the last 20 years (since the year 2000), Jamaica has lost at least US\$284 million due to foreign IUU fishing.

2-year period.

In addition, [there has been] loss of the annual levy of approximately J\$64 million that is collected pursuant to the Conch Levy Act. This loss has negatively impacted ongoing projects being funded by the conch levy, valued in excess of J\$100 million.

Mr. Chairman, there are also signs of serious problems with our reef and reef-associated finfish, spiny lobster and sea cucumber resources.

- Our spiny lobsters are heavily targeted by foreign poachers. Spiny lobsters constitute another important export resource for Jamaica, earning some US\$6 million annually and directly employing about 4,000 Jamaicans.
- Another critical dimension of the problem is the harvesting of juvenile and pregnant fish. Such practices significantly reduce the population's ability to replenish itself. Estimates based on an analysis of the catch of spiny lobsters from illegal foreign fishing vessels apprehended indicate that berried spiny lobsters constitute an average of 10% of their catch. If these eggs were allowed to hatch, spiny lobster valued approximately US\$2.5

billion within 3 to 4 years of birth would be available to the Jamaican spiny lobster fishery.

We have also found that species such as sea cucumbers that were considered unutilized or underutilized have been impacted by illegal fishing for some time.

We welcome the Copenhagen Declaration as well as the Blue Justice Initiative that was launched by the Norwegian government in 2019, which provide a non-binding international framework for cooperation among states to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

LINK TO ORGANISED CRIME

Mr. Chairman, while it has been widely documented and accepted that IUU fishing negatively impacts fish stocks and ecosystems, there is a growing concern regarding its broad socio-environmental and transnational criminal dimensions.

These transcend not only direct fishing but fishing-related practices in which illegal and illicit activities, such as human and drug trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion, among others, are surreptitiously carried out under the guise of legitimate fishing operations.

In that regard, we welcome the Copenhagen Declaration as well as the Blue Justice Initiative that was launched by the Norwegian government in 2019, which provide a non-binding international framework for cooperation among states to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

It is, however, prudent that in addressing IUU fishing each country starts with developing and implementing sound governance and fisheries management practices inclusive of appropriate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) arrangements.

Jamaica is committed to ensuring that its laws, rules and regulations applicable to fisheries are adhered to through enforcement of our Fisheries Act and Regulations, to include control of access to the 200 nautical miles of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Jamaica.

Information sharing and data sharing with regional neighbors is, however, essential for an effective vessel monitoring system programme.

Mr. Chairman, there is no simple, single or short-term solution to IUU fishing as it is not just an issue for the fisheries sector. Successful responses will therefore require:

- Holistic and integrated policies linked to the drivers for IUU fishing;
- Independent action by states;
- Bilateral action, particularly by adjacent states, and multilateral action; and
- Greater commitment to and implementation of internationally

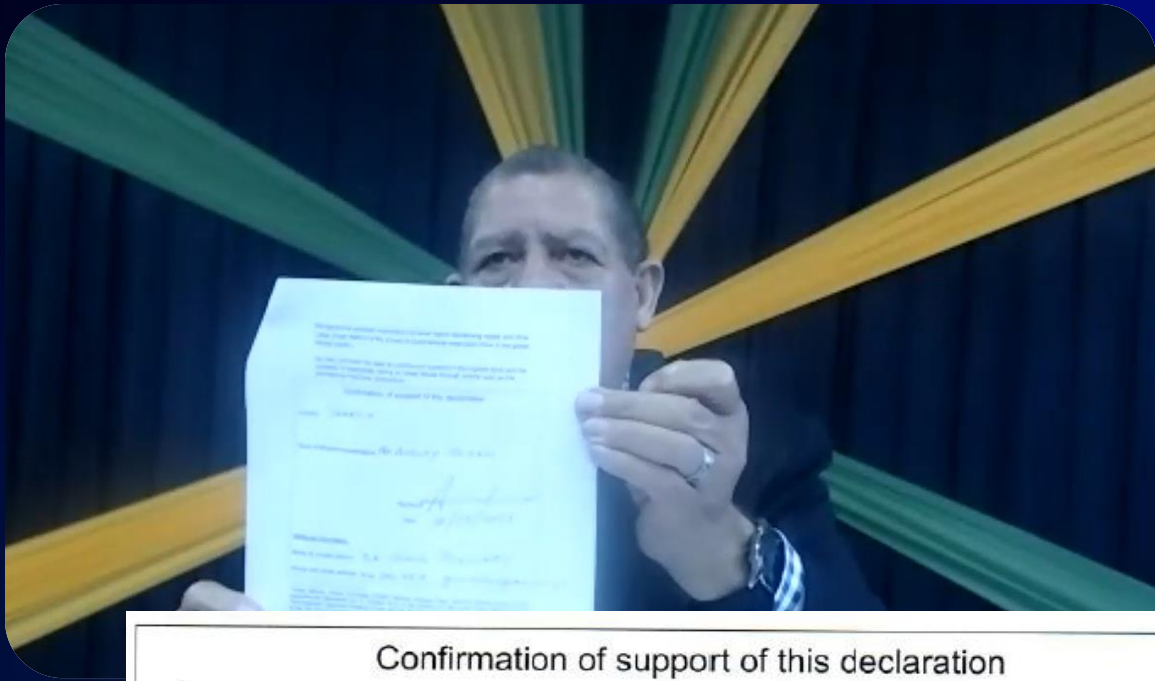
recognized benchmarks for fisheries management and MCS arrangements.

At the regional level, we will employ a comprehensive strategy of advocacy and diplomacy through the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the FAO West Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing as well as existing mechanisms to curtail the trade of illegally

caught fish and fish products.

The ultimate objective of the advocacy and diplomacy will be to achieve meaningful collaboration and cooperation amongst fish-producing countries; between producing countries and importing countries; and between fish-producing countries and the flag state of foreign poachers.

Thank you.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: JAMAICA

Name of Minister/representative: Hon AUDLEY SHAW

Signature

Date

4/10/2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: DR. GAVIN BELLAMY

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MONTSERRAT

Hon. Crenston Buffonge
Minister of Agriculture, Lands,
Housing and the Environment

Chair, please permit me to adopt the protocols already established to address this timely deliberation.

The Government of Montserrat is excited to endorse the efforts by the Government of Norway, CARICOM through the CRFM, and other development partners to address this critical issue.



We consider illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a major threat to our fisheries and ocean resources. IUU fishing leads to the loss of both social and economic opportunities, [and has] negative effects on food security and environmental protection. This also prevents governments from achieving their nationally and regionally agreed-upon fisheries and ocean management goals and objectives.

There are concerns about the links between IUU fishing and other forms of maritime crime, as well as organized criminal activities associated with fishing, which use fishing as a cover, including drug and human trafficking and trading in contraband goods.

There are several IUU fishing activities in our sub-region; IUU fishing and connected maritime criminal activities must be dealt with because they can contribute to the permanent collapse of our fisheries.

It is a well-established principle in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that suggests co-operation between States

on issues pertaining to the conservation and management of our fisheries resources. Furthermore, as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, the Government of Montserrat supports all efforts to combat IUU fishing.

For these reasons, the fight against IUU fishing and associated maritime criminal activities must be seen as a high priority; especially given the impacts on the sustainable development of our country.

The devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the negative impacts of severe weather systems arising from climate

“

As a Small Island Developing State with many resource limitations, the Government of Montserrat looks forward to any and all available support to help resolve the challenges we face in dealing with criminal elements that target developing states because of their lack of resources to combat IUU fishing and related maritime crime.”

change, have reiterated the urgency of safeguarding our limited marine resources to contribute to food security, protect the livelihoods of legitimate fishers, and protect future social and economic benefits.

We recognize that IUU fishing and related maritime crime often involve transnational organized criminal elements, needing inter-governmental cooperation for their prevention, deterrence, and elimination. In this regard, we recognize and acknowledge the value of the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry.

As a Small Island Developing State with many resource limitations, the Government of Montserrat looks forward to any and all available support to help resolve the challenges we face in dealing with criminal elements that target developing states because of their lack of resources to combat IUU fishing and related maritime crimes.

Once again, we do appreciate the support of the Norwegian Government, CARICOM through our Honorable Ministers, and development partners in charting the way forward to ensure that our ocean resources remain sustainable for future generations.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: MONTSERRAT

Name of Minister/representative: CRENTSON BUFFONGE

Signature 
Date 04-10-2021

Additional information:

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SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Mr. Ron Dublin-Collins
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis' ongoing efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities has been at the forefront of our national plan where our commitment to eradicate IUU fishing was reflected by the adoption of a National Plan of Action-IUU in 2015.

Efforts were also highlighted in 2016 with the passing of our Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Resources Act, where we addressed the requirements for both our national and high seas fishing vessels.



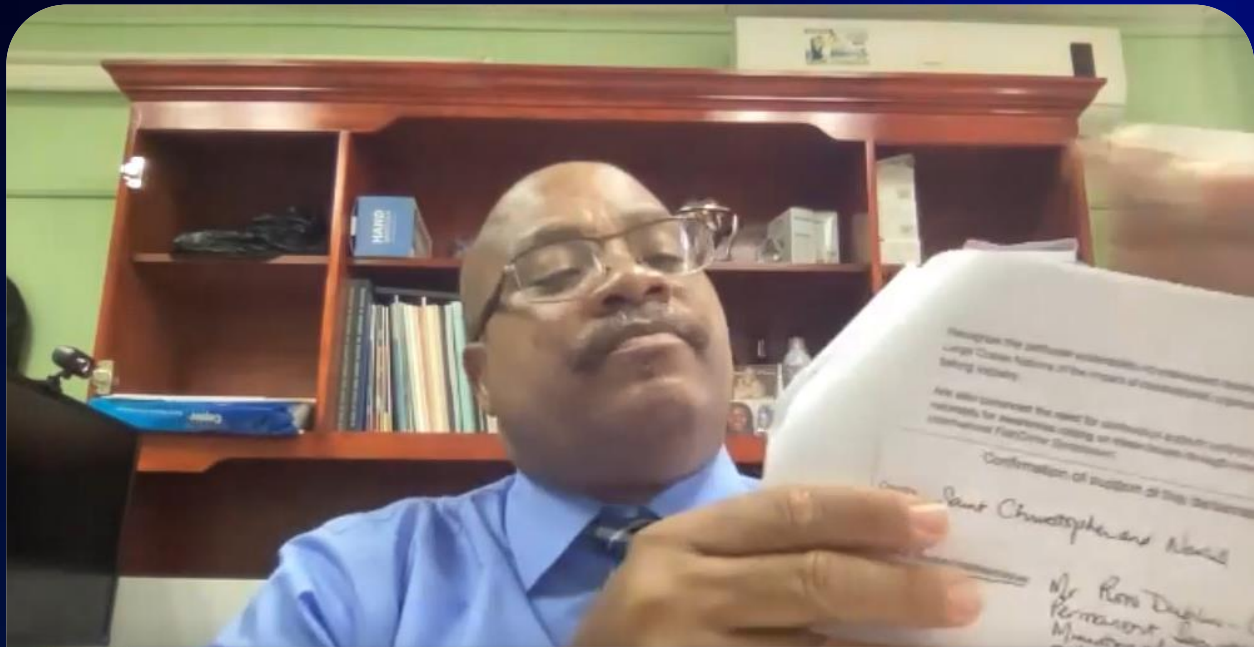
Photo: St. Kitts and Nevis
Information Service

We cannot allow these illegal actions of fishers to undermine the resources upon which our countries are so dependent. A multi-pronged approach is therefore needed at the international, regional, and national levels which ensures the safe operations of fishing vessels and fishers, thereby creating good fishing environments.

This International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry is welcomed, as it encourages us to take a more proactive approach to combat and deter IUU fishing; and although we as sovereign nations may have differing national interests, we can agree that the impacts of IUU fishing activities can be felt in the social, economic and ecological spheres of any country. St. Kitts and Nevis, therefore, express our solidarity in working together to prevent, deter and eradicate IUU fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.

“ [A]lthough we as sovereign nations may have differing national interests, we can agree that the impacts of IUU fishing activities can be felt in the social, economic and ecological spheres of any country. ”

We believe that at the heart of combating IUU fishing is developing and implementing effective monitoring, control, and surveillance measures; hence, our commitment to working together against crimes committed transnationally. It is through such cooperation where we can safeguard against our vessels engaging in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of local and international conservation and management measures.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Saint Christopher and Nevis

Name of Minister/representative: Mr Row Dublin-Collins
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Marine Resources

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Date 04 October, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:





SAINT LUCIA

Honourable Alfred Prosperé
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural
Development

The Government of Saint Lucia stands in solidarity with Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) members and other countries on a zero tolerance position with respect to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime. Illegality and criminality in any context, form or geographical location is simply wrong and unacceptable.



IUU fishing itself has detrimental effects on the livelihoods of legitimate fishers, ecosystems, and fish stocks [and] threatens our food security. Beyond this, IUU fishing also has ties to organised criminal activities, such as human trafficking, drugs and weapons smuggling—which threaten legitimate fishers’ livelihoods and our national and regional security.

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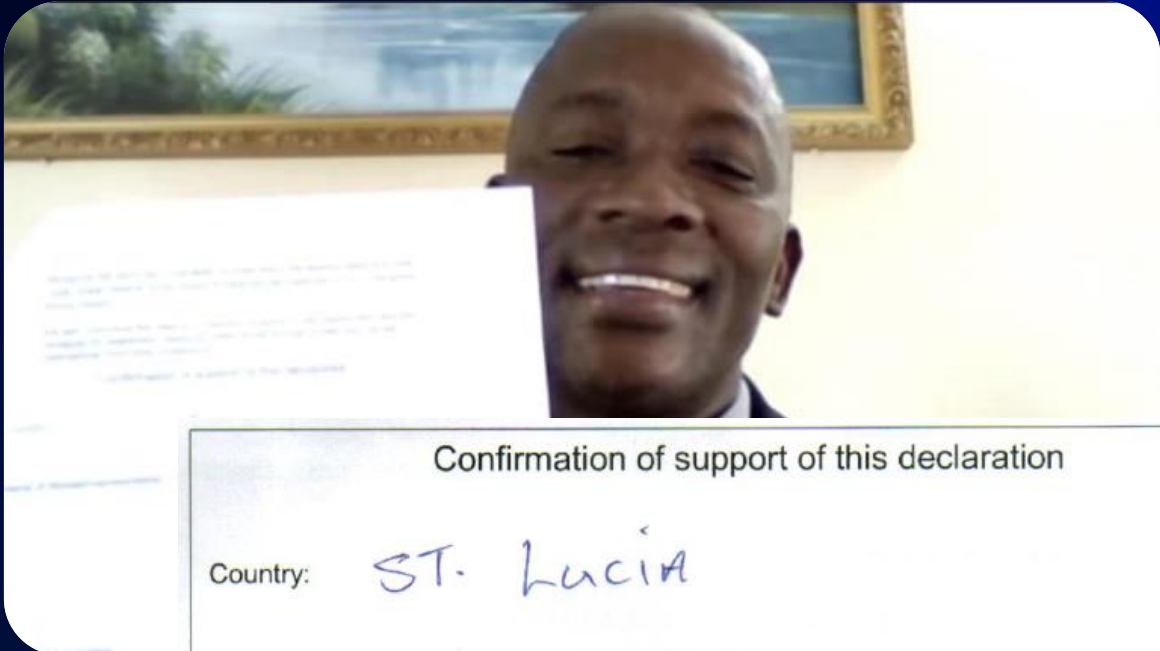
The vast expanse of ocean surrounding Small Island Developing States and a lack of naval capacity for enforcement make it difficult to monitor IUU fishing.”

The increasing presence of maritime crime is of grave concern and even more so as those elements have become better organized. The vast expanse of ocean surrounding Small Island Developing States and a lack of naval capacity for enforcement make it difficult to monitor IUU fishing. Saint Lucia, therefore, supports all reasonable, legal and practical efforts to reduce and minimize the incidence of IUU fishing and associated crimes.

Further to our endorsement at the International Blue Justice Conference, we pledge our commitment and continued support to this cause by expressing our intention to become signatory to the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Crime in the Global Fishing Industry.

It is my hope that our collaborative efforts and harmonising of our political commitment against IUU fishing and transnational crime will begin to pave the way forward for tangible actions that will combat IUU fishing and transnational organised crime.

I thank you.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: ST. Lucia

Name of Minister/representative: ALFRED PAUL Prospero

Signature

Date 4/10/2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Hon. Saboto S. Caesar
Minister of Agriculture, Rural Transformation,
Forestry and Fisheries

On behalf of the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I would like to thank the Government and people of Norway for their contribution in making this Declaration and journey a reality.



“ We see this as the formal part of a very important journey, and we will be working together with other international organizations.”

We are entering into a very important global conversation, and in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, we understand and appreciate the need to redouble our efforts as a nation, working within the context of the OECS and CARICOM, to ensure that we rid our region of the resultant vagaries of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry definitely is an issue of foremost importance, and again, the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stand firm and in a very resolute manner to ensure that all the

international protocols and the requisite systems are in place to ensure that we fulfill our duties as a sovereign country.

That being said, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has signed the declaration and my signature is hereby affixed to the document. We see this as the formal part of a very important journey, and we will be working together with other international organizations. We have done excellent work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the CRFM will continue to do excellent work.

We have a region to transform and a world to change! Let us do it together!

Again, all the best to the partnership!



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Name of Minister/representative: Hon Saboto Scofield Caesar



Signature _____

Date: 7th October, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Hon. Saboto S. Caesar

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E-mail: minisecpe@gmail.com/minisecpec2@gmail.com



SURINAME

Mrs. Parveen S. Amritpersad
Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries



Photo: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Suriname

Honorable Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, including our colleagues from Norway and other representatives:

I am honored to deliver to you this short statement on behalf of the Government of Suriname:

As part of the Caribbean region our country has suffered in the past and is still suffering from the adverse effects of IUU fishing and the various types of transnational and organized crime that accompany it.

We are glad that earlier this year, we were able to validate and commit to our new Fisheries Management Plan 2021-2025 together with the stakeholders. Among others, our Fisheries Management Plan is based on the principle of best available knowledge. However, we are forced to apply a precautionary approach due to our lack of certainty about the actual fishing pressure in many of the fisheries segments.

Based on reports by fishermen and observations of our fisheries inspectors, we have made a rough estimate of 40% extra fishing pressure due to IUU fishing. Again we are not sure about the size of IUU fishing, but it is clear that IUU fishing contributes strongly to the uncertainty and thereby jeopardizes our collective efforts

towards sustainable management of our fisheries sector and the benefits from this very important sector for our people—not to mention the loss of property and even lives at the hand of the perpetrators who often operate across borders.

On a national level, steps have been taken, with the help of FAO and together with all the relevant authorities, to develop a roadmap towards the implementation of the PSMA and other measures in our effort to minimize IUU fishing and related activities. At this point, we can say that we are making some progress, although this is not an easy undertaking, as it involves close collaboration and capacity building of different agencies and stakeholders.

My colleagues, we are aware that this is even more the case in the regional and international context. Our countries need close collaboration, capacity building and technical assistance if we are to succeed in

“ Our countries need close collaboration, capacity building and technical assistance if we are to succeed in the fight against IUU fishing and transnational organized crime. ”

the fight against IUU fishing and transnational organized crime. Therefore, we are pleased to give our support to the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, the Blue Justice Initiative and the Blue Economy objective.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon other countries

which have not yet done so to give their support as well. Thank you very much.

The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

Ing. Parmanand Sewdien



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: The Republic of Suriname

Name of Minister/representative: Ing. Parmanand Sewdien

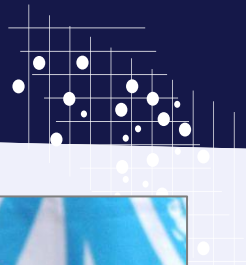
Signature

Date: October 4th 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mrs. Mr. Parveen Amritpersad

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parveenamritpersad@gmail.com



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Susan Shurland
Permanent Secretary (ag.)
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries



Photo: The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

Good day Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, all Members, Norway representatives, guests, ladies and gentlemen! On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago, Senator Clarence Rambharat, it is indeed an honour to address this esteemed forum on this significant occasion.

Trinidad and Tobago, by virtue of its geographic location and comparatively easy access to South American, US and European markets, has long been identified as a strategic Caribbean hub for illicit trade in goods and commodities. Very preliminary data collected by the Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago suggest that foreign

fish passing through the ports of Trinidad and Tobago are known to far exceed the 185,000 tonnes collected for tuna and tuna-like species alone in 2020. This translates to significant movement of financial resources lending itself to the use of the fishing sector as a cover for other illicit activities.

In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago is currently seeking to update our legislation and implement measures to address our international obligations as a Flag, Port, Coastal and Market State. A

new Fisheries Management Bill was laid in Parliament in October 2020 and over a year earlier, Trinidad and Tobago signed onto the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (PSMA), in August 2019.

It is a widely known fact that organised crime denies States of valuable revenue, while at the same time it also undermines the rule of law and threatens the moral fabric of countries' economies.

Organised crime within the fishing industry is an ongoing threat to sustainable development and a sustainable blue economy, especially to the attainment of the SDGs. By all accounts, and as a result of criminal acts, the livelihoods of all those who directly depend on the fishing industry are threatened: those in the local fishing industry, its communities, persons who rely on fish stocks at both the regional and national levels and most importantly, organised crime threatens global food security.

“ It is a widely known fact that organised crime denies States of valuable revenue, while at the same time it also undermines the rule of law and threatens the moral fabric of countries' economies. ”

IUU fishing and transnational organised crime are activities of grave and detrimental consequence in the fishing industry, as they go beyond both regional and local jurisdictions, disrupting the entire value chain. Some common forms include: illegal fishing, seafood and document fraud, tax crime, money laundering, forced labour and use of fishing vessels to smuggle migrants, as well as trafficking of persons, fuel, drugs and weapons.

While there have been some actions taken to mitigate the destructive impact of transnational organised crime in the sector, there is still a need for an effective, coordinated and comprehensive response to address this perennial issue which has tainted the image of the fishing industry. In this regard, any strategic approach to resolve this issue must have the involvement of all stakeholders, as they will be able to establish the required legal framework to enable the system to become transparent in its operations.

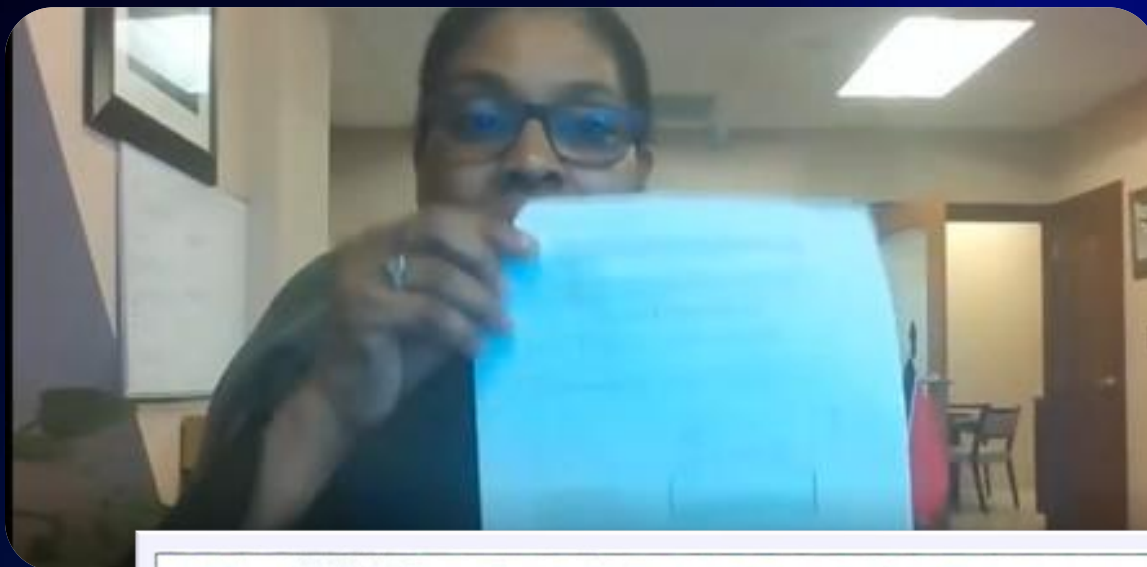
The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries remains committed and vigilant in its efforts with this ongoing battle. We will continue to persevere with due diligence in the management of our various fishing ports and maritime borders. The clear and present danger we face with fish crimes are not insurmountable, but in order for countries to

achieve a blue economy status, there must be collaboration and meaningful dialogue from all sides which will then translate to long term solutions.

Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the Copenhagen Declaration, as it promotes and provides a platform for cooperation among relevant governmental agencies at the national, regional and international levels to “prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.” We are also deeply appreciative of the fact that special focus has been placed on the small island states that are vulnerable.

I am pleased to announce today that Trinidad and Tobago endorses and has signed the International Declaration on transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry, along with other CARICOM Member States, as another signal of its commitment to battling transnational organised crime in the region and worldwide.

On behalf of Hon. Minister Rambharat and Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries colleagues, I thank the CRFM and CARICOM for this opportunity to address you, and the Norwegian Government for its support, and wish everyone continued success and good health.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Name of Minister/representative: CLARENCE RAMBHARAT


Signature

Date 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:

HONOURABLE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND & FISHERIES



THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Hon. Josephine Olivia Connolly
Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage,
Religious Affairs and the Environment,
The Turks and Caicos Islands

Good day ladies and gentlemen! Protocol has been established. My name is Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage, Religious Affairs and the Environment. It is a pleasure to address you on the occasion of the Special CRFM Ministerial Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands' fisheries industry.



Official Photo

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) “beautiful by nature”, is one of fourteen overseas territories of the United Kingdom. It is an archipelago consisting of 40 low-lying islands, on the south-eastern periphery of The Bahamas, and north of the island of Hispaniola. The islands include eight large cays (keys) and numerous smaller cays, islets, reefs, banks, and rocks. The Turks group is composed of Grand Turk Island, Salt Cay, and lesser cays. The Caicos group lies west-northwest of the Turks and is separated from them by a 22-mile long, 2,100-metre deep marine trench called the Turks Island Passage, or “the Wall.” The Caicos group consists of six principal islands—South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales, and West Caicos—and several cays.

Fishery has always been an important resource to the social and economic well-being of the people of TCI, and no doubt it will continue into the foreseeable future. It provides local employment and income generation. While its importance remains

high, the production rates are decreasing due to the foreign advancement in technology and harmful gear, along with increasing consumption demands. While there are still some healthy fish populations in the TCI, the challenge is the ability to manage the fisheries resources whereby it could be sustainably exploited by the Turks and Caicos Islands people, while simultaneously ensuring maximum economic returns for the users.

The fishing industry in TCI focuses primarily on the main exploited fisheries resources, including lobster, conch, finfish, and to a small extent turtles. The local lobster and conch fisheries are centred around a well-organized processing sector where all participants are required to be licensed. Spiny lobster and queen

“
Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been a major threat to fisheries resources in the Turks and Caicos Islands... Over the past 5 years, there have been a total of 55 prosecutions, including 15 [of] poachers; 134 persons and 34 vessels captured and seized.”

conch are the two main commercial fisheries of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Coastal reef and deepslope fishes such as snappers and groupers are also fished, but these are targeted for the local market. The conch and lobster fishery are characterised by high fluctuations in landings, but more recently observed as declining. Quotas have been set for local consumption and exportation of the queen conch fishery. Recently, a pilot project was initiated on visual surveys to review the stock assessment of the queen conch and provide management recommendations. The results indicated that there is a very limited number of adult conch on the Caicos Bank.

The TCI Government, in our efforts to achieve our goal relating to food security and SDG 14, realized the steady decline of the fisheries resources due to overfishing, use of illegal gear, climate and most of all poaching. The current measures to protect our fisheries industry are insufficient to curb the rate of depletion as we are challenged by our lack of capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been a major threat to fisheries resources in the Turks and Caicos Islands as it relates to the conservation of our marine biodiversity and management of fish stocks. It impacts the sustainability of fisheries, the livelihoods of fishers and coastal communities, and the protection of marine ecosystems. IUU fishing leads to the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and has negative effects on food security and environmental protection. IUU fishing in the

TCI mainly involves foreign vessels from our neighbouring islands of Dominican Republic and Haiti; where use of prohibited gear, unauthorised capture of protected species, catches of excessive quantities, fishing during closed seasons, etc. threaten the sustainability of aquatic living resources and damage fragile habitats, such as coral reefs. Over the past 5 years, there have been a total of 55 prosecutions, including 15 [of] poachers; 134 persons and 34 vessels captured and seized.

In this regard, TCI in our effort to protect the existing stocks is in the process of:

- i. amending regulations to provide stiffer penalties for illegal noxious substance use, poaching, and the catching of prohibited species and undersized marine animals;
- ii. employing technology to monitor IUU fishing and apprehend foreign vessels;
- iii. mandatory confiscation of all foreign vessels caught within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

TCI is committed and it supports the Declaration and the efforts in eradicating IUU fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry. TCI stands ready to cooperate with other Member States to find sustainable solutions... [to address] IUU fishing and transnational organized crime, and to create a sustainable and fair blue economy for present and future generations.

Thank you.



Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Turks and Caicos Islands

Name of Minister/representative: Hon. Josephine Olivia Connolly
Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage, Religious Affairs and the Environment

Signature

J. Connolly

Date

7th October 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Thecla S. Joseph: Director,
Fisheries and Marine Resource Management

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VIDEO GALLERY



A full playlist of videos capturing the proceedings of this meeting, including shorter video clips of the remarks and statements delivered at the meeting are available on the CRFM's YouTube Channel.



Chairman's Remarks at CRFM Ministerial Meeting

TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



CARICOM Secretariat's Remarks at CRFM Ministerial Meeting

TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



Norway State Secretary's Remarks at CRFM Ministerial Meeting

TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



UNDP NRO's Remarks at CRFM Ministerial Meeting

















TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



Executive Director's Remarks at CRFM Ministerial Meeting



TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism





-  **THE BAHAMAS: Statement and Signing of the Copenhagen Declaration**
TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism  [PLAY](#)
-  **BELIZE: Statement and Signing of the Copenhagen Declaration**
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-  **GUYANA: Statement on the Copenhagen Declaration**
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-  **JAMAICA: Statement and Signing of the Copenhagen Declaration**
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-  **MONTSERRAT: Statement and Signing of the Copenhagen Declaration**
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-  **SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS: Statement and Signing of the Copenhagen Declaration**
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-  **SAINT LUCIA: Statement on IUU Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime**
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-  **SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: Statement on Copenhagen Declaration and Signing of Declaration**
TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism  [PLAY](#)

☰  **SURINAME: Statement on the Copenhagen Declaration**
TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism 

☰  **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Statement on the Copenhagen Declaration**
TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism 

☰  **Blue Justice Conference 2020 - Ezekiel Joseph**
Blue Justice 

☰  **CRFM Ministerial Meeting on IUU Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime**
TheCRFM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism 



NEXT STEPS

The following are the next steps that the CRFM plans to pursue following the Ministerial Meeting:

The *Report of the Ministerial Meeting on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry* will be prepared, documenting the proceedings. It will include the Official Statements delivered by Member States, as well as photos and documentation on the signed declarations.

The CRFM Secretariat will organize and convene a workshop for technical officials from the Fisheries Departments/Divisions (or other relevant Fisheries authorities) in CRFM Member States, along with maritime security personnel, to map out the immediate needs and identify, as directed by the CRFM Ministerial Council in CRFM Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021, at least one high priority intervention that would benefit everyone and that could be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative.

The CRFM Secretariat will follow up with the UNDP NRO and colleagues from Norway to organize the technical meeting for early 2022.

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Annotated Agenda

ITEM 1	Welcome Remarks by Chairman of the CRFM Ministerial Council (Chairman of the Meeting) <i>Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>	10:30a.m. – 10:35a.m.
ITEM 2	Welcome Remarks by CARICOM Secretariat <i>Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat</i>	10:35a.m. – 10:40a.m.
ITEM 3	Remarks by Government of Norway <i>Ms. Trine Danielsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway</i>	10:40a.m. – 10:50a.m.
ITEM 4	Presentation on the Copenhagen Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative <i>Mr. Gunnar A. Stølsvik, Specialist Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway</i>	10:50a.m. – 11:00a.m.
ITEM 5	Presentation on the “Blue Resilience Project” <i>Ms. Zazie Schafer, Acting Director, UNDP Nordic Representation Office (NRO)</i>	11:00a.m. – 11:05a.m.
ITEM 6	Presentation of the CRFM Ministerial Council Resolution No. MC 15(6) of 2021 <i>Mr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat</i>	11:05a.m. – 11:10a.m.
ITEM 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by Ministers from CRFM Member States on IUU fishing and organized crime • Signing of the Declaration by each country 	11:10a.m. – 12:25p.m.
ITEM 8	Next Steps and Closing Remarks by the Chairman	12:25p.m. – 12:30 pm

The Copenhagen Declaration

Below is the international declaration which the CRFM Member States were invited to sign. The signed instruments appear immediately after this template.

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country:

Name of Minister/representative:

Signature

Date

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

SIGNED DECLARATIONS

from CRFM Member States

THE BAHAMAS

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomè and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017 ².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on “Life Below Water” and Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.”

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: The Bahamas

Name of Minister/representative:

Honourable Clay Sweeting

Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs



Signature

04/10/2021
Date

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mr. Gregory Bethel

Acting Director – Department of Marine Resources

Phone and email address: Tel: 393-1777 / 424-0523 Email: gregorybethel@bahamas.gov.bs

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

BELIZE

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Belize

Name of Minister: Honourable Andre Perez
Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

Signature: 

Date: October 4, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Honourable Andre Perez

Phone and email address: +501-2232768; andre.perez@blueeconomy.gov.bz

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

GRENADA

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017 ².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Grenada

Name of Minister/representative: Hon. Yolande Bain-Horsford
Minister for Sports, Culture and the Arts Fisheries and Cooperatives

Signature 

Date 4th October 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mr Michael Stephen

Phone and email address: 4735345356

E-mail: ps@mofc.gov.gd

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime and the 4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

GUYANA

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Report of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry, 4 October 2021

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: GUYANA

Name of Minister/representative:

Signature 
Date 


Additional information:

Name of contact person: DENZIL ROBERTS

Phone and email address: fisheriesguyana@gmail.com 592-641-9331

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

JAMAICA

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Report of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry, 4 October 2021


Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: JAMAICA

Name of Minister/representative: Hon AUDLEY SHAW

Signature: 

Date: 4/10/2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: DR. GAVIN BELLAMY

Phone and email address: 876 282-7717 gavin.bellamy@maa.gov.jm

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_171703449.pdf

MONTSERAT

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017 ².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Report of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry, 4 October 2021


Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: MONTSERRAT

Name of Minister/representative: CREWSTON BUFFONGE

Signature 

Date 04-10-2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: CREWSTON BUFFONGE, ALWYN PONTEEN

Phone and email address: 664-491-2075 buffonge.c@gov.ms
4P669929@myport.g.c.uk.

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Saint Christopher and Nevis

Name of Minister/representative: Mr Row Dublin Collins
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Marine Resources

Signature: 

Date: 04 October, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:



¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime and the 4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

SAINT LUCIA

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomè and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017 ².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: ST. LUCIA

Name of Minister/representative: ALFREDO PAUL PROSPERE


Signature

Date 4/10/2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on “Life Below Water” and Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.”

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Report of the CRFM Ministerial Council Meeting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Transnational Organized Crime in the Fishing Industry, 4 October 2021

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Name of Minister/representative: Hon Saboto Scofield Caesar



Signature _____

Date: 7th October, 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Hon. Saboto S. Caesar

Phone and email address: 784 4562349/784 528 6201

E-mail: minisecpe@gmail.com/minisecpec2@gmail.com

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime and the 4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_28/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

SURINAME

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomè and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: The Republic of Suriname

Name of Minister/representative: Ing. Parmanand Sewdien



Signature

Date: October 4th 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Mrs. Mr. Parveen Amritpersad

Phone and email address: 597-8637090 / 597-472233
parveenamritpersad@gmail.com

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Name of Minister/representative: CLARENCE RAMSARAT


Signature

Date 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person:

Phone and email address:

HONOURABLE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND & FISHERIES

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf

THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The international declaration on transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry

We, the Ministers of Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Ghana, Greenland, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Scotland, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Uruguay¹;

Encourages other Ministers to support this non-legally binding declaration.

Notes the recommendations and the outcome of the *2nd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime* held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia 10. – 11. October 2016 which was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the occasion of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-sixth session in Vienna 22. – 26. May 2017².

Recognize that our countries are dependent on the sea and its resources and the opportunities it holds for the economy, food and well-being of our population and we are determined to support a healthy and thriving fishing industry that is based on fair competition and the sustainable use of the ocean.

Are committed to work towards the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in relation to Goal 14 on "Life Below Water" and Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions."

Are convinced that there is a need for the world community to recognize the existence of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and that this activity has a serious effect on the economy, distorts markets, harms the environment and undermines human rights.

Recognize that this transnational activity includes crimes committed through the whole fisheries supply and value chain which includes illegal fishing, corruption, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, document fraud and human trafficking.

Recognize further the inter-continental flow of illegal fish products, illicit money and human trafficking victims in transnational organized crime cases in the global fishing industry and that all regions of the world need to cooperate when investigating such acts

Are convinced that inter-agency cooperation between relevant governmental agencies is essential at a national, regional and international level in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry,

Are also convinced that there is a need for international cooperation and that developing countries are particularly affected.

bolc.

Recognize the particular vulnerability of small-island developing states and other Large Ocean Nations of the impact of transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

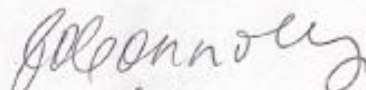
Are also convinced the need for continuous support on the highest level and the necessity for awareness raising on these issues through events such as the *International FishCrime Symposium*.

Confirmation of support of this declaration

Country: Turks and Caicos Islands

Name of Minister/representative: Hon. Josephine Olivia Connolly
Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage, Religious Affairs and the Environment

Signature



Date

7th October 2021

Additional information:

Name of contact person: Thecla S. Joseph: Director,
Fisheries and Marine Resource Management

Phone and email address: 1(649) 338 4182/342 482

E-mail: tsjoseph@gov.tc

¹ Faroe Islands, Ghana, Indonesia, Kiribati, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka supported the declaration on 15. October 2018 on the occasion of the *Large Ocean Nations Forum on Transnational Organized Fisheries Crime* and the *4th International FishCrime Symposium* convened at the UN City in Copenhagen. Support has subsequently been given by Ministers of: Timor Leste (17. December 2018), Mozambique (24. January 2019), Benin (19. February 2019), Liberia (20. February 2019), Greenland (25. February 2019), Maldives (16. April 2019), Chile (21. August 2019), Marshall Islands (30. August 2019), South Africa (22. October 2019), Nauru (24. October 2019), Myanmar (24. October 2019), São Tomé and Príncipe (24. October 2019), Mexico (24. October 2019), Fiji (24. October 2019), Philippines (11. November 2019), Costa Rica (13. November 2019), Scotland (25. November 2019), Iceland (27. November 2019), Seychelles (24. February 2020), Panama (3. December 2020), Nicaragua (3. December 2020), Uruguay (10. December 2020), Honduras (21. December 2020), Colombia (25. February 2021), Cape Verde Islands (29. March 2021), Brazil (22. April 2021)

² Document reference E/CN.15/2017/CRP.3 and accessible on:
http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/E_CN15_2017_CRP3_e_V1703449.pdf



APPENDIX IV

PRESENTATION ON THE BLUE JUSTICE INITIATIVE



Norwegian Ministry of Trade,
Industry and Fisheries

The Blue Justice Initiative

Gunnar Stølsvik, Specialist Director



Launched during Our Ocean in Oslo in 2019




Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

What is the Blue Justice Initiative?

- The Blue Justice Initiative sets out to assist developing countries to operationalise the Copenhagen Declaration.
- The initiative supports a number of projects which together works towards fulfilling the vision of the initiative which is:

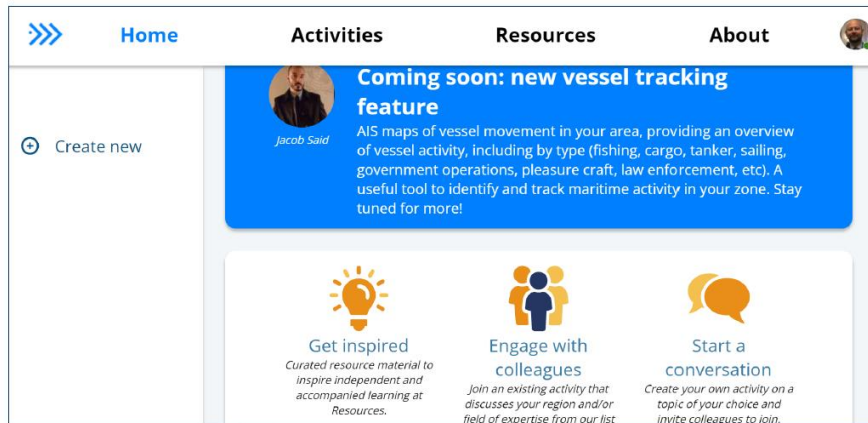
Towards a sustainable and fair blue economy free from fisheries crime

 Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

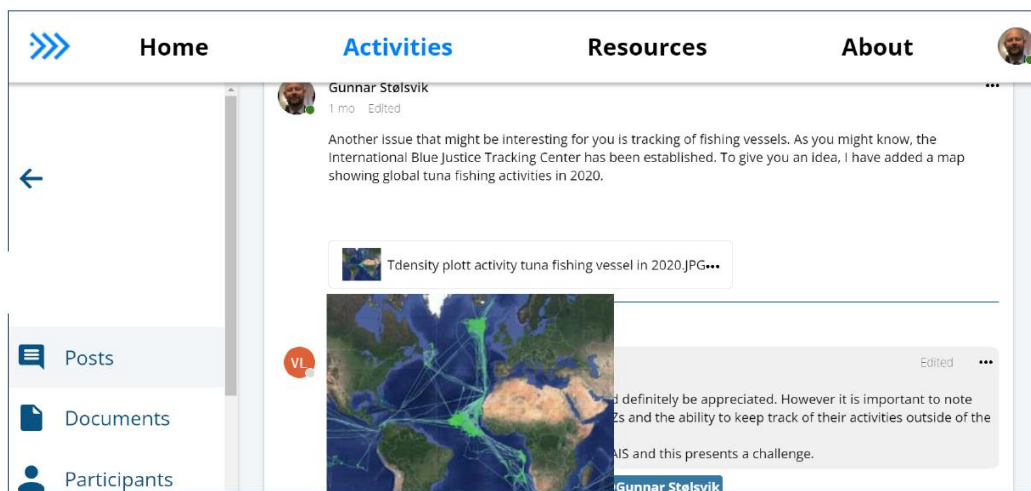
Towards a sustainable and fair blue economy free from fisheries crime



Digital portal – Blue Justice Community



Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries



Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

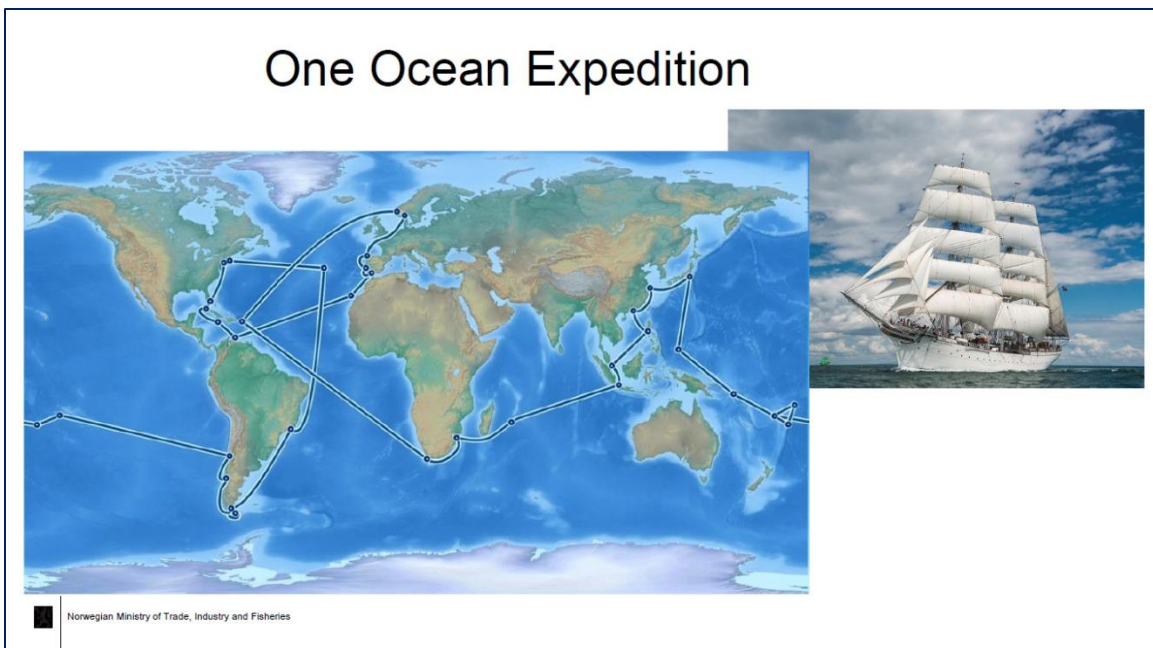
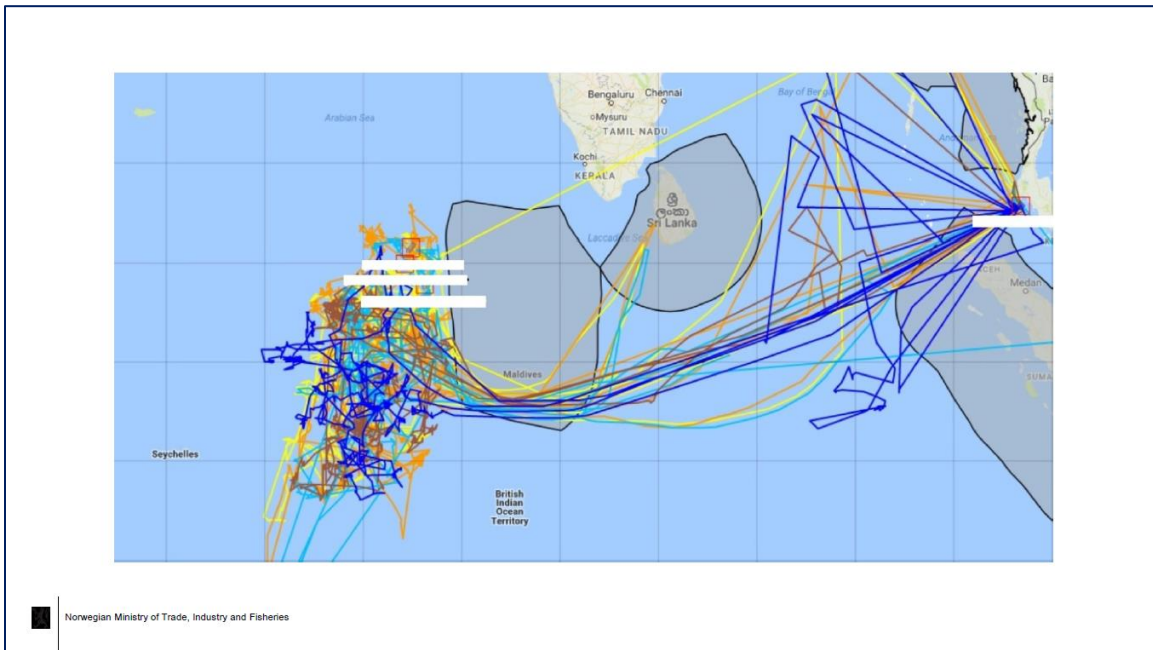
Blue Justice International Tracking Center

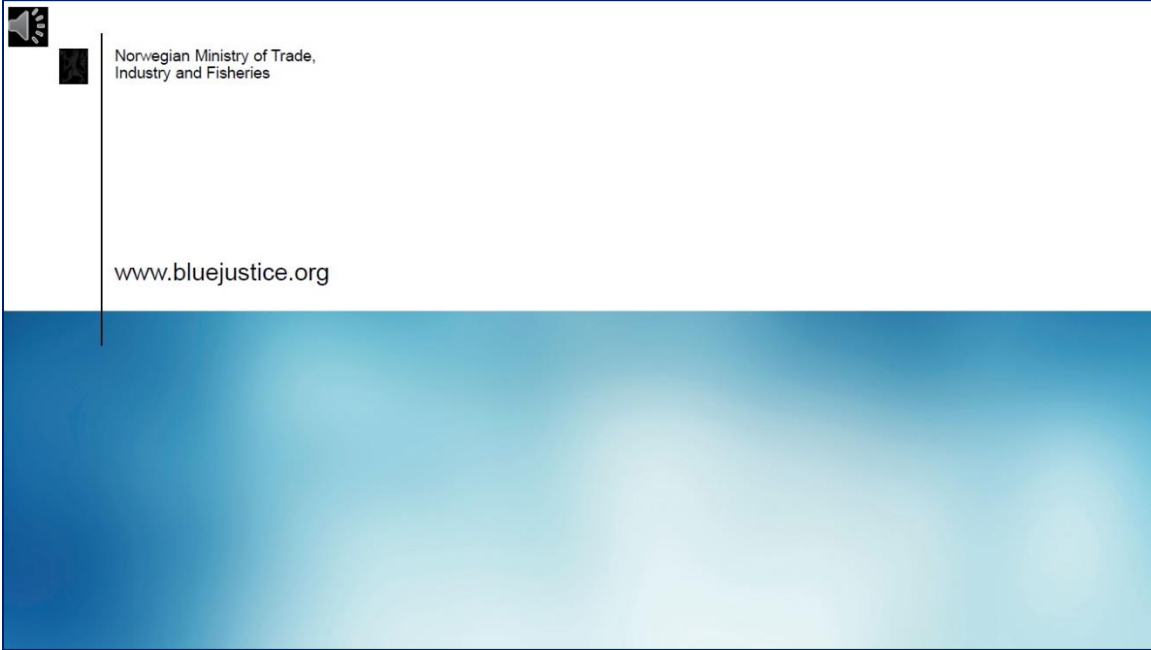


Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries



Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries





**CRFM Ministerial Council Resolution
No. MC 15(6) of 2021**



**CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

21 May 2021

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
Friday, 21 May 2021

Honourable Saboto Caesar
Chairman, CRFM Ministerial Council
(Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

2021 CRFM MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE

Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism was held virtually on Friday, 21 May 2021

At the Meeting each of the Resolutions presented in this document was duly proposed and, following discussion, was passed by consensus in accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement Establishing the CRFM and Rule 24(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

SIGNED BY

Honourable Saboto Caesar
Chairman, CRFM Ministerial Council
(Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Resolution No. MC 15 (6) of 2021

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION ON TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE GLOBAL FISHING INDUSTRY AND THE BLUE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The **MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**:

RECOGNISING the important role of fisheries in the CARICOM region and its significant contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, economic and the social well-being of the people of the region;

NOTING with concern that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry constitute a serious threat to the security and sustainable use of the living marine resources and marine biodiversity, while undermining regional and national efforts to improve management and governance of the resources, and therefore jeopardize the food security and blue economic development of the countries of the region;

AWARE OF the strong link between illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime globally;

RECALLING that one of the objectives of the CRFM is to promote the effective management and sustainable development of the living marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdiction of Member States and an objective of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy is to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including by promoting the establishment and maintenance of effective monitoring, control, and surveillance systems;

RECALLING ALSO the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing which was adopted by the Second Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council on 28 July 2010, establishing a regional cooperative framework to prevent, deter and eradicate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the CARICOM Member States;

RECOGNIZING the need for enhanced cooperation among States and interested international organizations to continue to develop and implement effective measures and cooperative frameworks, consistent with international law, to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, and the critical need for technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity building of CRFM States to improve monitoring, control and surveillance systems and deter, prevent and eradicate such unlawful and criminal activities;

NOTING the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry which provides a non-binding international framework for cooperation among States in order to prevent, combat and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the Blue Justice Initiative, which aims to support countries affected to cooperate to, *inter alia*, improve knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of the problem, identify appropriate countermeasures, and support developing countries to establish partnerships, build capacity and implement countermeasures to deter, prevent and eradicate transnational organized fisheries crime;

RECALLING the High-Level Political Blue Justice Conference that was held in December 2020 and the Statement that was delivered on behalf of the CARICOM / CRFM Member States by the then Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM, the Honourable Ezechiele Joseph of Saint Lucia; and

RECOGNIZING the need for the CRFM Member States to cooperate with other affected countries to improve understanding and knowledge of the problem, identify countermeasures, and build capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, in the region and globally.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism hereby:

EMPHASIZES once again its serious concern that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related transnational organized crime in global fisheries constitute one of the greatest threats to fish stocks and marine ecosystems and continue to have serious and major implications for the conservation and management of ocean resources, as well as the food security and blue economic growth of many States, particularly Small Island Developing States;

WELCOMES the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and notes that it is a non-binding international framework for cooperation among States in order to prevent, deter and eradicate transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry;

ALSO WELCOMES the Blue Justice Initiative, which is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist with implementation of the Declaration by, *inter alia*, supporting developing countries to improve knowledge and understanding of the problem, establish partnerships, build capacity and implement countermeasures to deter, prevent and eradicate transnational organized crime in the fishing industry;

ACKNOWLEDGES the value of the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and the supporting Blue Justice Initiative as frameworks for international and regional cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and the opportunities available to support and strengthen CRFM Member States efforts in addressing these issues in the Caribbean region;

SUPPORTS the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and **ENCOURAGES** Ministers Responsible for Fisheries of CRFM Member States to individually support the Declaration and convey their interest in cooperating and benefiting from the Blue Justice Initiative to the Blue Justice Secretariat based at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries which was established to support the Declaration;

REQUESTS that the CRFM Secretariat convey the Council's decision to support the Declaration to the Blue Justice Secretariat based at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries;

AGREES on the next steps for supporting and implementing the Declaration:

- (i) Convene a high-level, virtual ministerial conference of CRFM Member States in August or September 2021, at which Ministers wishing to do so would sign and deliver brief statements in support of the Declaration; The Minister Responsible for Fisheries of Norway would be invited to participate;
- (ii) Convene a regional technical meeting with fisheries and security officials from Member States to map out the specific needs and to agree on at least one high-priority intervention that will benefit all CRFM Member States and that could be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative; and
- (iii) Collaborate with the Blue Justice Initiative to strengthen the response of CRFM Member States to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry, and to leverage the opportunity for collaboration with other interested States and organisations through strategic interventions, using technology and innovations;

AGREES that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry should be a standing item on the agenda of future Ministerial Council meetings, to keep the Council informed of the progress made and to seek their guidance and continued collaboration in advancing progress on addressing the issue;

NOTES the updates provided by the CRFM Secretariat on recent and ongoing efforts to address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry, including the Secretariat's engagement with UNODC and US AID virtual sessions that included representatives from CRFM Member States, CARICOM IMPACS, and the Regional Security System; and

NOTES FURTHER that the recent meeting of the Joint Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (a joint CRFM / WECAFC / OSPESCA Working Group) had considered the results of a study on Member States' readiness to implement the Regional Plan of Action on IUU Fishing, which could provide a point of departure for the prioritisation of interventions in support of a regional approach to dealing with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and organized crime in the fishing industry.

Signed: 
Honourable Saboto Caesar
Chairman, CRFM Ministerial Council

Date: 31st May, 2021

PRESS RELEASES

CARICOM States sign International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry

Belize City, Friday, 8 October 2021 (CRFM PRESS RELEASE)—The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), an inter-governmental organization of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), announced this week that several of its Member States in the CARICOM region had signed The International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry, also known as the ‘Copenhagen Declaration’. The countries simultaneously affirmed their resolute support to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) Fishing and transnational organized crime in the fishing industry by supporting the Declaration and the Blue Justice Initiative. The Initiative will help to strengthen cooperation among countries and build capacity to address transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry and to combat IUU Fishing.

Speaking at a regional meeting of CARICOM Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Blue Economic Growth on Monday, 4 October 2021, Hon. Saboto S. Caesar, Chair of the CRFM Ministerial Council, and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labor, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, described the situation as “a very difficult problem,” adding that much needs to be done to tackle this growing threat that has been undermining the progress of the region.

“Available data indicate that IUU fishing accounts for up to 30% of the total global catch, valued at several billions of US dollars...,” Minister Caesar said, adding that “There is a growing body of evidence showing that drug traffickers, human traffickers, small arms traffickers, and traders in contraband goods, among others, are using fishing as a cover to conduct their nefarious activities.”

Minister Caesar said that the CRFM Member States are very grateful for the support and leadership being provided by the Government of Norway in tackling the problem, through efforts such as the Blue Justice Initiative and the Blue Resilience Project.

“We recognize the value of the International Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the global fishing industry that was done in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2018. It provides a solid framework for countries like ours in the Caribbean to work together with regional and international partners to better understand the problem, share information, and build the necessary legal, regulatory, monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement capacity to defeat and eradicate transnational organized crime and IUU fishing,” Minister Caesar said.

The CRFM Ministerial Meeting was convened during the 16th Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture to provide an opportunity for Caribbean countries to formally express their support by signing the declaration. Even ahead of the meeting with representatives from the Government of Norway, the CARICOM Secretariat, and other regional and international development partners, CRFM Member States began to express their resounding support for the instruments, and the Ministerial Council issued a resolution after its 15th Meeting held in May 2021, setting the stage for this week’s milestones.

Member States have attested to the monumental cost of IUU fishing to the region. Hon. Audley Shaw, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica, detailed the quantifiable cost on Jamaica’s economy, which has lost billions of Jamaica dollars in earnings as well as thousands of jobs. The devastation caused by IUU fishing forced a 2-year moratorium on the queen conch fishery, implemented from 1 February 2019 to 31 March 2021, to allow the fishery time to recover.

“As it relates to queen conch fishing, it is estimated that over the last 20 years (since the year 2000), Jamaica has lost at least US\$284 million due to foreign IUU fishing,” said Minister Shaw, who provided a conservative estimate based on illegal foreign motor fishing vessels caught in Jamaican waters and an extrapolation of the estimated average rate of poaching.

“The closure of the queen conch fishery possibly resulted in annual losses of approximately US\$6 million in direct export earnings and loss of jobs for some 5,500 Jamaicans. The multiplier effect, resulting from the loss of jobs and export earnings may be as much as US\$20 million during the 2-year period,” Minister Shaw added.

Jamaica was one of the 12 CRFM Member States which signed the Copenhagen Declaration *en bloc* this week and simultaneously endorsed the Blue Justice Initiative. As of Friday, 8 October 2021, 12 CRFM Member States had deposited signed instruments with the CRFM Secretariat in Belize City, Belize. Those Member States are The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Turks and Caicos Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago.

“We need to continue to strengthen our collaboration, and I think we will begin to turn the tide on this very difficult issue that we are dealing with—of unlawfulness in the fishing industry and the depletion and degradation of our resources—and to sustainably use and develop these resources for the benefit of our people,” CRFM Executive Director, Mr. Milton Haughton, said, in addressing the Ministers.

Mr. Haughton added that going forward, the CRFM Secretariat will be collaborating with the UNDP and officials from Norway to organize a regional workshop involving technical officials from the Fisheries Departments and Maritime Security Agencies from Member States and Regional Institutions, to map out future needs and identify at least one high priority intervention to be supported under the Blue Justice Initiative.

“This is exciting! I want to take this opportunity to thank all the countries, the Ministers, and the Permanent Secretaries, that signed on to the declaration ... I also want to thank our colleagues from Norway, UNDP, FAO, UNODC, as well as our regional partners: CARICOM IMPACS and the Regional Security System (RSS) for the excellent support and collaboration,” the CRFM Executive Director said in closing the meeting.

Great international support for Norwegian initiative against fishing crime

Solberg Government, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Norway
[Press release](#) | Date: 05.10.2021

Norway has been the driving force behind international cooperation against fishing crime. Twelve Caribbean ... states have now joined the work, which has the support of more than a quarter of the world's port nations.

In 2018, Norway initiated an international declaration against fishing crime. The declaration forms the basis for partnerships with a number of states, most of which are developing countries.

Fighting fishing crime is a high priority and is an important part of the government's maritime initiative. The fact that 48 countries now support this initiative gives good reason for optimism, says Prime Minister Erna Solberg.

Major consequences

This week, 12 Caribbean ... states joined the initiative, at a digital meeting in which State Secretary Trine Danielsen in the Ministry of Trade and Fisheries participated.

It was frightening to hear how big the consequences of fishing crime are in the Caribbean and how this problem leads to poverty, insecurity and lost income. The Caribbean ministers, like us, take the problems seriously, says Danielsen.

The government has launched the Blue Justice initiative, which will support the declaration with technology, knowledge and training in the fight against fishing crime. And this year, an international tracking center was established in Vardø.

We must become better at cooperation both across national borders and subject areas. International fisheries crime concerns us all, but we know that developing countries are vulnerable and lose large resources and potential income every year as a result. I urge more countries to follow through and sign the declaration, says Minister of Fisheries and Seafood Odd Emil Ingebrigtsen.

Towards Sustainable Development of Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean



The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”. The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and The Turks and Caicos Islands.

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