

CRFM MEMBER COUNTRIES JOIN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST FISHERIES CRIME

Officially inaugurated in March 2003, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)—an inter-governmental organization with a mandate to promote the sustainable development of our marine living resources for the economic and social benefits of the Caribbean—has been leading the region's fight against fisheries crimes.

Since 2010, the CRFM, with its 17 Member States and regional and international development partners, has been taking a series of bold actions to address fisheries-related crimes.

CRFM Member States signed the Copenhagen Declaration *en bloc* in October 2021 and pledged support for the Blue Justice Initiative (BJI).



SURINAME



THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



MONTSERRAT



"The Copenhagen Declaration 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."

Hon. Saboto Caesar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, left

"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."

Milton Haughton, Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat, right



CRFM WORKING WITH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AGAINST FISHERIES CRIME USING TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL INNOVATION

The CRFM, the Regional Security System (RSS), and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), continue to strengthen Caribbean efforts to confront these challenges to achieve a sustainable and fair Blue Economy free from fisheries crime.

OUR ACTIONS

- ✓ Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing
- ✓ Regional Strategy to Combat IUU Fishing
- ✓ Prosecution & enforcement manuals
- ✓ Regional Working Group on IUU fishing
- ✓ Training of Fisheries enforcement officers
- ✓ Regional IUU Plan of Action for WECAFC Countries
- ✓ CRFM Member States sign Copenhagen Declaration
- ✓ Regional technical meeting on IUU fishing and transnational crime
- ✓ Partner with Norway and BJI to host side event at 2022 UN Ocean Conference
- ✓ Co-host Tradewinds 2022 side-event on IUU fishing
- ✓ Support establishment of Blue Justice Caribbean Hub in Jamaica
- ✓ Co-convenor of Blue Justice Conference 2023



The CRFM and the Regional Security System partnered with the US Coast Guard in Tradewinds 2022 to strengthen capacity to address fisheries crimes, with activities held in Belize, where the CRFM is headquartered.



Jamaica, a CRFM Member State, launched a new Multi-agency Fisheries Crime Coordinating Mechanism to combat organized crime in the fishing sector in November 2022, with support from the Blue Justice Initiative.

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CRFM MEMBER STATES

Anguilla | Antigua and Barbuda | The Bahamas | Barbados | Belize | Dominica | Grenada | Guyana | Haiti | Jamaica | Montserrat | St. Kitts and Nevis | St. Lucia | St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Suriname | Trinidad and Tobago | The Turks and Caicos Islands.



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