



For Immediate Release

Promoting stakeholder participation in the management of the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish fishery

Port of Spain, May 21, 2018 - In the Eastern Caribbean, flyingfish is more than food, it fuels livelihoods. The flyingfish fishery contributes, at varying levels, to the economies of the southern Lesser Antilles islands of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. In order to maintain these benefits, more effective engagement of key stakeholders is required in the management of the fisheries at the national and regional levels.

As part of a two-year initiative, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) are supporting the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in the implementation of a technical assistance project aimed at enhancing stakeholder awareness and participation in flyingfish fishery governance and management. This involves creating awareness and improving stakeholders' knowledge about the implementation of the *Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Caribbean*, using an ecosystem based approach, and mechanisms for participation in the management of the fisheries at the national and regional levels.



Workshop participants in St. Vincent and the Grenadines engaged in a working group exercise

From April 24 to May 4, CANARI and UWI-CERMES facilitated national consultations with key flyingfish fishery stakeholders in four focus Eastern Caribbean countries - Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the

Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Participants included fisherfolk and representatives of national fisherfolk organisations, civil society organisations with an interest in marine conservation and livelihoods, Fisheries authorities and ministries and state agencies responsible for foreign affairs, sustainable development, marine management, fish marketing, cooperative development and national security in the respective countries.

The purpose of the one-day consultations was to build stakeholders' appreciation of the application of an ecosystem based approach to the management of the flyingfish fisheries, and the roles that consultative bodies, such as a fisheries advisory committee (FAC) or national intersectoral coordination mechanism (NIC), could play in facilitating participatory fisheries governance and management. At the Tobago consultation, given the challenges articulated by key stakeholders, CANARI also facilitated a participatory problem analysis session, which highlighted the need for the establishment of a consultative mechanism for improved management of the fishery; improved enforcement to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and enhanced arrangements for fisheries related information management and reporting.

These consultations followed a first round of consultations that were held in the four focus countries in December 2017, which assisted in raising stakeholders' awareness of the *Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Caribbean*, and identifying the needed capacities for effective participatory governance and management of the flyingfish fishery in each country.

CANARI and UWI-CERMES will be facilitating a final round of knowledge and awareness building consultations in the four targeted countries before the end of 2018.

About the project: The two-year (February 2017 – May 2019) “Enhancing stakeholder participation in sub-regional management of flyingfish fisheries” project is targeting stakeholders in the countries of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The project is aimed at enhancing stakeholder education and participation in flyingfish fishery governance and management. The project is being implemented by CANARI in partnership with UWI-CERMES under contract to the CRFM, as part of the UNDP GEF funded project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ Project)”.

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional, technical, non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.

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For further information: Please see <http://www.canari.org/enhancing-stakeholder-participation-in-management-of-the-flyingfish-fishery> or contact Terrence Phillips at terrence@canari.org or call: 1-868-638-6062