



Biodiversity in the deep blue:

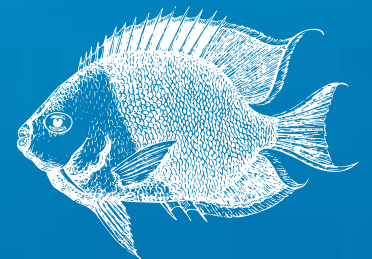
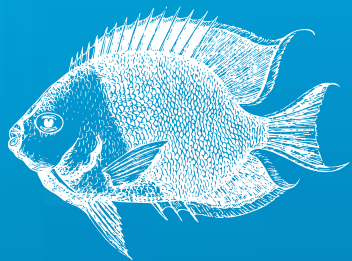
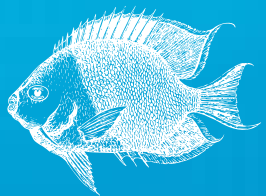
How can we manage shared
biodiversity in international waters?

What Caribbean
stakeholders need to know
about an important global
agreement...



Every country with a coast has territory in the ocean that belongs to that country, known as its national waters.

The ocean beyond this is known as international waters or the high seas and is not owned by any nation –
it belongs to us all!



This area covers **64%** of the ocean's surface and the ecosystems, species and genes that make up the biodiversity in these waters bring many benefits to our planet – and to humans.

A new international agreement is in the works to promote protection and responsible use of the biodiversity in international waters, called the

**Biodiversity
Beyond
National
Jurisdiction**

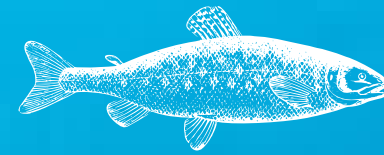


BBNJ

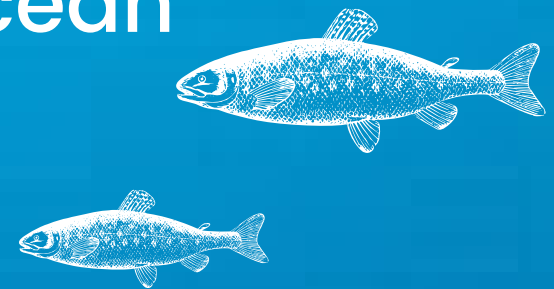
Agreement

This looks at four main topics...

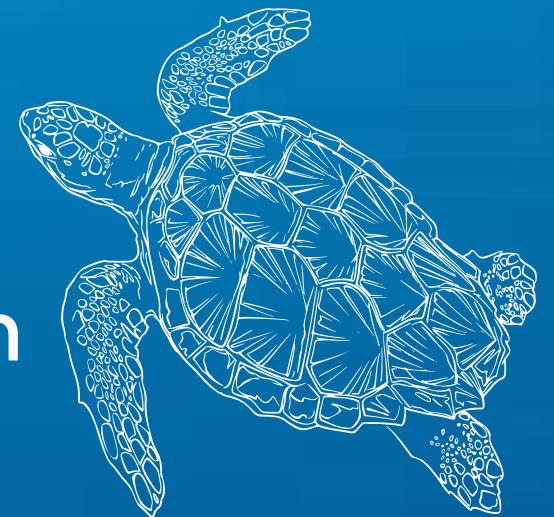
1 Managing ocean areas



2 Sharing benefits from ocean genetic resources



3 Assessing impacts on ocean environments



4 Building capacity for ocean management and use

Managing ocean areas:

- We can use spatial tools to plan how different areas of the ocean can be used and protected, such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- People need to be involved in the process of deciding what ocean areas need to be managed and how they should be managed.
- The BBNJ Agreement will focus on how these spatial tools are used to ensure sustainable use and protection of biodiversity in international waters.



Sharing benefits from ocean genetic resources:

- All marine animals, plants and other organisms have genetic resources which may be valuable to humans.
- Marine bioprospecting is the search for genetic resources which may be new and unique and have potential for commercial use.
- The BBNJ Agreement will focus on defining what these resources are and how nations can share the benefits from them.



Assessing impacts on ocean environments:

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are tools that are used to determine the possible environmental impacts of human actions.
- EIAs also look at the social, economic, cultural and human health impacts – both positive and negative – of human actions.



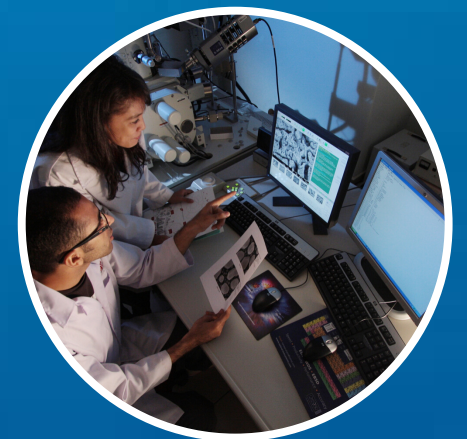
Assessing impacts on ocean environments:

- Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) take a bigger picture view and look at the options for the best use of a wider area taking into consideration environmental and social impacts of human actions.
- The BBNJ Agreement will focus on how EIAs and SEAs can be used to ensure human actions don't compromise the health of the ocean, and how people need to be involved in the decisions.



Building capacity for ocean management:

- Developing nations have limited resources so are less able to access and benefit from the open ocean.
- They also face challenges in ensuring that oceans are used sustainably.
- The BBNJ Agreement will focus on how countries share technology, knowledge and experience to improve opportunities for all nations to benefit from the ocean.



What happens in international waters affects all of us –

it affects the biodiversity and health of our national waters, livelihoods of coastal communities and economic sectors such as tourism and shipping.



CARICOM stakeholders from government, private sector, communities, civil society, academia and regional agencies have rights, responsibilities and interests in the sustainable use and protection of biodiversity in international waters.



Get aware!
Get information:
<https://www.un.org/bbnj/>



Get involved!
Contact CANARI : info@canari.org

Special thanks to the Oak Foundation for to CANARI to assist CARICOM negotiators with engagement of CARICOM stakeholders.