

# The Caribbean Technical Cooperation Network in Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

## Establishment

The Caribbean Technical Cooperation Network in Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture was established by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC) in 1984 based on the TCDC (Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries) concept. This was done at the request of the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Suriname during a workshop on artisanal fisheries training held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 1983. The workshop recommended that the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute in Trinidad be the sub-regional coordinator for the network in artisanal fisheries and that the Inland Fisheries Unit (of Jamaica) be the sub-regional coordinator in aquaculture. The recommendations were accepted and are being implemented by FAO/RLAC. The Regional Fisheries Officer based in Trinidad and Tobago serves as technical secretary and coordinator for the network.

## Objective

The network aims to use the TCDC concept to foster and promote artisanal

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fisheries development (with emphasis on training) in the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Suriname.

## Participating Countries

The Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Christopher/Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have officially endorsed the establishment of the Network and designated their Fisheries Division/Department/Unit as the focal point. According to FAO procedures, government endorsement is necessary for formal accreditation to the network. Membership is open to the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Suriname and cooperating institutions in these countries.

## Activities

Activities implemented during the period October 1985 to December 1986 included extension courses and training on the techniques of flying fish harvesting and deboning, snapper fishing and tuna fishing. A number of activities have been programmed for 1987, the highlight of which is the strengthening of the capability of the Inland Fisheries Unit of Jamaica to offer training courses in aquaculture. Two regional courses for aquaculture extension officers and fish farmers are scheduled.

## Publications

The *Network News*, published tri-annually, serves as a mechanism for exchange of information on the network, provides news on present and future activities carried out by members and cooperating institutions and gives general information of interest to persons and institutions working in artisanal fisheries and aquaculture development in the sub-region. The first occasional technical paper is being prepared for printing. ●

## Network of Tropical Fisheries Scientists

The launching of the Network of Tropical Fisheries Scientists (NTFS) as an ICLARM project was first announced at the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission's (IPFC) Standing Committee on Resources Research and Development (SCORRAD) meeting in Sydney in April 1982. The move was initiated by ICLARM in order to enhance communication between fishery scientists working on aspects of management-oriented research specifically on the scientific aspects of assessment, conservation and management of tropical stocks.

The network started in 1982 with 60 members from 18 countries. Today, after five years, the figures have markedly increased with members totalling 700 from over 80 countries. More and more scientists have been kept aware of the current developments in stock assessment methodologies primarily through the aid

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of Fishbyte, the network's official newsletter. Of equal importance in the area of communication is the distribution of manuals, published and unpublished reports and scientific papers to interested members, free of charge. Consultations regarding data analysis have also been an important feature of the network. Scientists either come and train at ICLARM or senior scientists, notably Dr. Daniel Pauly and Dr. John Munro, provide consultancy services to institutions concerned.

From the list of scientists involved in the network, several modules were developed to serve as core groups, with training and scientific support provided by ICLARM and cooperative donor agencies. Basic equipment such as micro-

computers and calculators have been provided. There have so far been three modules - in Peru, Zambia and Indonesia.

Membership is on an individual basis. Interested applicants may write to Dr. D. Pauly, Director of the Resource Assessment and Management Program; Dr. J. Munro, Editor of Fishbyte; or, Ms. A. Cruz, network secretary.

The network was initially funded by ICLARM but FAO offered to fund the project from 1983 onwards. Today, more agencies seem to be convinced about the importance of the network by signifying their concern to provide some funding. A new donor agency is the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD). Hopefully, the funding constraints attendant to increasing membership (not to mention escalating costs of printing and mailing) shall be cushioned by this additional funding. ●