



StewardFish

Identifying suitable national intersectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs)



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**The University of the West Indies – Centre for Resource
Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES)**



Developing organizational capacity for ecosystem stewardship and livelihoods in
Caribbean small-scale fisheries
StewardFish Project

StewardFish

StewardFish is focused on empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) region.

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Abstract

The Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ SAP) proposes to achieve a regionally adopted long-term vision for a healthy marine environment that can sustain and provide benefits for human well-being and livelihoods. Through the CLME+ SAP, intersectoral governance arrangements such as National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs) have been identified as critical for ecosystem-based management (EBM) and ecosystem approach to fisheries.

The StewardFish project aims to empower fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels. StewardFish is being implemented within seven Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CFRM) Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. NICs within this context of StewardFish can be the supporting mechanisms for fisherfolk engagement and good governance.

Component 4 of the project is focused on good governance and learning for adaptation institutionalized among fisherfolk organisations. Activities under this component call for the identification of suitable NICs for the implementation of StewardFish. A multi-method approach utilizing primary and secondary sources was used to help in the identification of NICs in the seven countries. Information on NICs is still limited. Nevertheless, the most suitable arrangements for StewardFish was selected based on how much information was made available at time of this report. Although NICs or the closest similar arrangements have been identified for each country it is further recommended that, where and when possible, other governance arrangements, especially in the coastal and ocean marine sectors, be engaged.

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1. Introduction

In the Caribbean region, the fisheries sector is an important driver of economies and is critical to the sustainability of coastal communities and rural livelihoods. In 2013, countries bordering and/or located in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ region) adopted a 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ SAP). The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 strategies and 4 sub-strategies. SAP 1-3 focus on governance. The CLME+ SAP aims to contribute to the achievement of the regionally adopted long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of people of the region”.

1.1 National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs)

Output 1.2 of the CLME+ SAP identified interactive governance arrangements such as National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs) essential to successfully implementing and achieving ecosystem-based management (EBM) and an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF). In the CLME+ region NICs can be broad or narrow based on the scope and ecosystem approach being used. Examples of NICs include: Fisheries Advisory Committees or Councils (FAC), Ocean Governance Committees (OGC), sustainable development commissions, integrated coastal management institutions and climate change bodies. Other mechanisms and stakeholders in intersectoral coordination such as National Fisherfolk Organisations (NFOs) or major fisheries cooperatives and associations can be proxies and precursors where NICs are not fully operational.

NICs operate within the policy cycle and involves interactions across multiple scales, stakeholders, sectors and levels of governance (local, national, regional and international). A NIC can be considered as the operational arm of good and effective governance or policy processes. Monitoring and evaluating the performance of NICs may be a good indicator of the extent to which good governance is being achieved.

1.2 Features and functions

An ideal NIC is based on good governance principles¹ and should include (but not limited to) the following key features:

- a comprehensive inclusion of stakeholders;
- a supportive environment that encourages individuals to become champions and leaders;
- political, administrative and legal endorsement(s) with clear mandate(s);
- well-established reviewing processes for evaluating effectiveness and enhancing growth through adaptation;
- national multi-level integration of sectors; facilitate bilateral linkages between national and regional government processes; and
- a scope and mandate that can address specific tasks.

1.3 Good practices

The StewardFish project aims to empower fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels. Component 4 [of the project] addresses project management, monitoring and

¹ Mahon et al., 2012 in their governance assessment study of the CLME region identified 13 good governance principles within the context of resource management that can be used. A list of these principles is available in the appendix.

evaluation, and communication; the focus is on good governance and learning for adaptation institutionalized among fisherfolk organisations.

NICs within this context of StewardFish can be the supporting mechanisms for fisherfolk engagement and good governance. The current guidelines on NICs identifies good practices² that can be used to strengthen NICs in the CLME+ region. These guidelines can also be used as performance indicators for the further development of NIC guidelines and good practices, which directly contributes to project component activities 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 – identifying suitable NICs, lessons learned and best practices.

2. Method

StewardFish is being implemented within seven Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CFRM) Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A multi-method approach utilizing primary and secondary sources was used to help in the identification of NICs in the seven countries. This included: gathering and reviewing information and documents from online sources (case studies, articles and reports), personal communication and sharing of relevant documents via emails and phone calls and key informant interviews.

Information on NICs is still limited. Further investigation and verification is needed in order to fully assess the composition and function of NICs (in all seven project countries). As a result, the most suitable arrangement was selected based on how much information was made available at the time. For each country a NIC was chosen based on: existence (being active); [limited] information describing scope and mandate, then interpreting how well aligned these might be for achieving StewardFish objectives; composition of the NIC based on membership and analysing if there was [apparent] engagement and representation of fisherfolk, particularly in decision-making along the fisheries value chain; and function.

3. Recommended NICs

Table 1 summarizes the current most suitable arrangement for strengthening leadership and governance of fisherfolk organizations in the 7 participating countries. More details on NICs in each country are provided in the appendix.

Table 1. Summary of NICs or close proxies identified as most suitable arrangements for StewardFish implementation capacity building, institutional strengthening and monitoring and evaluation in each of the 7 project countries.

Country	Most suitable arrangement, even if not a NIC	Scope or mandate	Composition/ Membership	Considerations for project management and evaluation (M&E)	Actions for project management and evaluation
Antigua and Barbuda	The Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen's Alliance	The goal is to represent its members and member organisations at the national level on all matters pertaining to the fishing industry of Antigua and Barbuda.	An umbrella organisation comprised of members from various cooperatives, associations, informal groups and businesses.	The Alliance, which operates on an ad hoc basis, could benefit from better leadership, M&E skills and institution strengthening. Furthermore, improving technical capacity for effectively engaging decision-making processes supports	Maintain and improve or establish a clear and direct mechanism for engaging with other stakeholders, particularly the recently formed National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC). For example, have a champion to or leadership represented on the NOGC.

² Compton et al., 2017 and 2019 (in review process) identified 10 good practices for success NICs within the CLME+ region. The 2017 good practices were reviewed by stakeholders adding some valuable context to the 2019 [updated] guidelines.

Country	Most suitable arrangement, even if not a NIC	Scope or mandate	Composition/ Membership	Considerations for project management and evaluation (M&E)	Actions for project management and evaluation
				good governance of resources.	
Barbados	Fisheries Advisory Committee	The FAC is responsible for the development, management and investment in fisheries.	In 2018, the FAC was revived and a new set of members were appointed. The President of Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations (BARNUFO) is on the current membership of the FAC.	Inter-sectoral stewardship could be more effective under the newly energized FAC, which could benefit from leadership and governance strengthening.	In light of the re-establishment of the FAC, coordination of time, efforts and strengthening leadership could benefit from having a fisherfolk sub-committee or working group. These sub structures would report directly to the FAC and focus on specific and critical tasks (e.g. flyingfish management).
Belize	Fisheries Advisory Council	Under the new Fisheries legislation the FAC has the responsibility to oversee and advise on the management of all fisheries, with emphasis being placed on using an ecosystem-based approach.	This new FAC will include representatives from a wide cross-section of organizations and individuals to advise the Minister on best practices for the sector.	In engaging a wide cross-section of stakeholders for achieving ecosystem-based management (EBM), the FAC would benefit from leadership and institutional strengthening, capacity building and project monitoring.	With new EBM legislation in place, the FAC should include representation from well-connected and established community-based and civil society fisher organizations such as the Belize Foundation of Fishers (BFF) and the Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association (BFCA). This could help to create champions in the various coastal communities and strengthen leadership among fisherfolk.
Guyana	Fisheries Advisory Committee	The FAC is mandated to consider and advise on all fisheries matters either autonomously or at the Minister's request.	The current FAC is comprised of 17 members who represent a cross section of stakeholders: government agencies, non-government entities (community-based and non-governmental organisations) and private sector. The president of the Guyana National Fisherfolk Association (GNFO) is a member of the FAC.	Fisheries cooperatives play an important role in the mobilisation of fisherfolk, management of landing sites and provision of fishing requisites. The current cooperatives structure is considered to be very weak. With representation on the FAC through the GNFO there is an opportunity to strengthen leadership and build fisherfolk capacity.	The FAC should work towards having a sub-committee of champions with representation from the various cooperatives. The individuals chosen would be responsible for lobbying on behalf of the cooperatives, for improving the leadership, structure and function of the cooperative system in Guyana.

Country	Most suitable arrangement, even if not a NIC	Scope or mandate	Composition/ Membership	Considerations for project management and evaluation (M&E)	Actions for project management and evaluation
Jamaica	Jamaica Fishermen Co-operative Union	The main focus is improving the social and economic welfare of its member stakeholder. It also plays an important role is assisting with the protection of the marine environment especially considering its perceived reach among fisherfolk and other marine stakeholders in Jamaica.	This Cooperative Union is an umbrella organisation for all co-operatives in Jamaica. Membership comprises of nine primary fishermen co-operatives and several hundred individual fishermen. Combined membership in the JFCU from these two sources is about 4,000 fisherfolk.	Strengthening leadership among fisherfolk leaders across cooperatives for improved representation and policy influence.	In light of recent changes within the fisheries sector (e.g. establishment of a National Fisheries Authority, a Fisheries Advisory Council and a appeals tribunal) and for effectively engaging in and contributing to an EBM and EAF, the Cooperative Union should seek to build its capacity in policy influence considering its appointment on the FAC.
Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Ltd.	An umbrella organization which brings together fisherfolk organizations from across Saint Lucia and operates under the Cooperative Act. Fisherfolk cooperatives play a critical role within the fisheries sector and includes the procurement and supply of inputs to its members.	There are currently nine Fishermen Cooperatives represented on the SLFCS. Each Cooperative is ran by a manager and board of directors. Members of SLFCS form the National Fisherfolk Organization (NFO).	Strengthening leadership among fisherfolk leaders across cooperatives for improved representation and policy influence.	Having no FAC in place the cooperative society should strongly consider engaging the Fisheries and Sustainable Development Departments to become members of, or active participants in, the ocean governance committee.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	National Fisherfolk Organisation	The NFO works closely with Fisheries Department to engage and collaborate on opportunities to build the capacity and awareness of fisherfolk.	Membership comprises of the Fishers Cooperatives, a Fish Vendors Cooperative, fishers from the Grenadines Islands and the Fisheries Department	Strengthening leadership within the NFO can lead to improved policy influence across other multi-stakeholder arrangements such as the newly established National Ocean Coordinating Committee (NOCC).	To improve policy influence and become more engaged in decision-making processes the NFO could request: 1) to be observers on the NOCC or 2) membership on the NOCC.

Although a suitable arrangement has been identified in each project country for supporting leadership and governance capacity, it is further recommended that, where and when possible, other arrangements should be engaged. The considerations and actions for project management and evaluation highlighted in Table 1, speaks to the need for continuous communication and interactions among stakeholders. Having: champions, fisherfolk leadership on high-level advisory and decisions-making bodies (e.g. FAC), fisherfolk sub-committees or other sub-structures (e.g. working groups), cultivates an enabling environment for capacity development, policy influence and interventions. In realizing the key features of NICs there needs to be full integration of multi-sector, multi-stakeholder exchanges. Functioning NICs promote and support

collaboration and overall institutional strengthening for good and effective governance in the implementation of EBM and EAF in the CLME+ region.

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5. Appendices

5.1 Thirteen good governance principles

PRINCIPLE	STATEMENT
Accountability	The persons/agencies responsible for the governance processes can be held responsible for their action/inaction
Adaptability	The process has ways of learning from its experiences and changing what it does
Appropriateness	Under normal conditions, this process seems like the right one for what it is trying to achieve
Capability	The human and financial resources needed for the process meet its responsibility are available.
Effectiveness	This process should succeed in leading to sustainable use of ecosystem resources and/or control harmful practices
Efficiency	This process makes good use of the money, time and human resources available and does not waste them.
Equity	Benefits and burdens that arise from this process are shared fairly, but not necessarily equally, among stakeholders
Inclusiveness	All those who will be affected by this process also have a say in how it works and are not excluded for any reason.
Integration	This process is well connected and coordinated with other related processes.
Legitimacy	The majority of people affected by this process see it as correct and support it, including the authority of leaders
Representativeness	The people involved in this process are accepted by all as being able to speak on behalf of the groups they represent
Responsiveness	When circumstances change this process can respond to the changes in what most think is a reasonable period of time
Transparency	The way that this process works and its outcomes are clearly known to stakeholders through information sharing

5.2 Antigua and Barbuda NIC profile

Country	Antigua and Barbuda
NIC (for EBM)	Active. The National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC) was established in 2014. The purpose of the Oceans Governance Committee (“the Committee”) shall be to provide advice to the Government of Antigua & Barbuda on the management of the various maritime zones – internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf – over which Antigua & Barbuda exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international and domestic law.

NIC (for EAF)	<p>Inactive.</p> <p>There used to be a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) which was established in 1985. The FAC was in place for 10 years.</p> <p>Between 1985 and 1990, there were issues with finding legitimate representation of professional fisherfolks; the local cooperatives or associations lacked sufficient membership to legitimise their views as the views of the majority of fisherfolks.</p> <p>The FAC functioned until the last set of appointments expired on 31 December 1995. Inadequate political will has been cited as the underlying reason for the FAC not being re-established despite several attempts by the Chief Fisheries Officer and various fisherfolks organisation.</p>
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	<p>Active.</p> <p>Some of the most important fishery organisations include the Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen’s Alliance, Barbuda Fishermen’s Cooperative, the Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen’s Cooperative Society Limited, the Antigua and Barbuda Spear Fishers Association and the Spear Fishers Association of Antigua.</p>
Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>The Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen’s Alliance, an umbrella organisation comprised of members from various cooperatives, associations, informal groups and businesses. It is an intersectoral, multi-stakeholder entity whose goal is to represent its members and member organisations at the national level on all matters pertaining to the fishing industry of Antigua and Barbuda. Representation for Antigua and Barbuda on the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organization (CNFO) is through the Alliance.</p>
- Stakeholders (the Alliance)	
<p>In January of 1997, members from the Concerned Fishermen of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen’s Association, the St. John’s Fishermen’s Co-operative, the Antigua and Barbuda Sports Fishing Association, the Antigua Commercial Fishing Divers, and various SCUBA dive shops, united under a voluntary organisation called the Antigua and Barbuda Fishermen’s Alliance.</p>	
- Stakeholder participation support	
<p>Monitoring is needed as to determine if there will be any form of fisherfolk representation on the NOGC as they are not in the committee composition template provided by the OECS Commission.</p>	
- Documentation processes	
<p>Not clear. More information needed.</p>	
- Remarks	
<p>The Alliance works closely with and for the benefit of fisherfolk.</p>	

5.3 Barbados NIC profile

Country	Barbados
NIC (for EBM)	<p>Active.</p> <p>- National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) is chaired by the</p>

	<p>Ministry of Environment and Drainage (MED) and comprises of the representatives of government ministries, non-governmental organisations and private sector agencies listed below. The MED may co-opt other members as appropriate. The Government of Barbados (after signing the Paris Agreement in April 2016) has communicated its focus on building resilience to climate change across diverse sectors as well as reducing its level of contributions to global GHG emissions. Through the NCCC consultations on medium to long range planning against current and future contributions to the Paris Agreement have commenced including the identification of supporting Implementation strategies.</p>
NIC (for EAF)	<p>Active</p> <p>The Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) was established in 1995 under the 1993 Fisheries Act of the government of Barbados. The FAC is responsible for the development, management and investment in fisheries. The multi-stakeholder committee has struggled over the years to define and meet its mandate.</p> <p>The FAC though active, fell into a state of dormancy; they no longer hosted meetings regularly. When the FAC was in its prime, meetings were held monthly, and appointments to the FAC was every three years. The decline in activity of the FAC has been attributed to existing gaps in management and operations: process for identifying new members; administrative processes (e.g. having a secretary); having champions and leadership (chairperson); opportunities for policy influence, implementation of policies, the organisations visibility and transparency.</p> <p>In July 2018, the FAC was revived and a new set of members were appointed to serve a three-year term (until June 2021).</p>
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	<p>Active.</p> <p>In Barbados fisheries workers may be represented by the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations (BARNUFO). This is a national non-profit organisation whose members originally comprised only primary (local) level site-based fisherfolk groups in Barbados, but is now open to individual fisherfolk and others.</p>
Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>BARNUFO was formed in 1999. The aim was for this national body in fisherfolk governance to strengthen the capacities of its local level organisation members. Its evolution illustrates the complexities of capacity development at organisation and individual levels.</p> <p>BARNUFO comprises primarily of (local) fisherfolk groups, but is also open to any individual. BARNUFO is a member of the tertiary level Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).</p>
- Stakeholders	

Thirteen primary fisherfolk organizations plus one secondary body are registered with BARNUFO ³ , but few are active. BARNUFO is a member of the FAC. The organization develops linkages with other organizations to access technical assistance and capacity building.
- Stakeholder participation support
Throughout the years as the number of functioning organisation members declined it became difficult to host meetings or elect officers. In 2002, BARNUFO’s governance was examined in terms of membership and leadership, and constitutional amendments proposed. The amendments to the constitution resulted in revisions to the categories of membership. The number of delegates were changed allowing for the development of greater internal and network capacity, to include the fishing industry, non-fishery individuals and sponsors, and to have a larger pool of members. The changes were also designed to retain power in the hands of fisherfolk. Partly addressed, was also issues related to leadership. There is still a need for capacity building as regular external assistance is required to execute activities.
- Documentation processes
Not clear. More information needed.
- Remarks
BARNUFO may work closely with and for the benefit of fisherfolk but its membership is small.

5.4 Belize NIC profile

Country	Belize
NIC (for EBM)	<p>Active.</p> <p>The Coastal Zone Advisory Council is charged with advising the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Authority and Institute on technical and other related matters. Additionally, the Advisory Council could be asked to assist with formulating draft policies plans and programmes relating to coastal zone management.</p> <p>The CZM Advisory Council also plays an important role in facilitating and encouraging the sharing of information among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions with regard to coastal zone matters. As well, it is charged with reviewing the Coastal Zone Management Plan.</p> <p>Within the purview of the CZM Authority and Institute and the Advisory Council are the Coastal Advisory Committees (CACs). The establishment of CACs throughout Belize’s coastal area is intended to foster partnerships between stakeholders and the CZM Authority and Institute in the coastal management process. CACs act both as a channel and a catalyst for comments and observations on coastal issues, therefore its membership is proposed as representing a comprehensive range of interests: local municipalities (village, town and city), local and national NGOs, local and national producer’s and user’s associations, interested key individuals, and government officers.</p>

³ McConney, P., B. Simmons, V. Nicholls and R. P. Medeiros. 2017. Building the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations. Maritime Studies 16: 19.

	<p>The Coastal Zone Advisory Council coordinates the approval and management of the CACs.</p>
<p>NIC (for EAF)</p>	<p>Active. Belize’s Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) has been a powerful force in the country’s fisheries development since it was established along with the Fisheries Department in 1965. The FAB has persisted over the years without being legally institutionalised. Despite this longevity, the FAB is not well documented.</p> <p>The FAB comprises of a group of people (from all the fisheries cooperatives, associations, government and private sector) who are either involved or interested in the fisheries sector; it is the primary advisory body to the Minister responsible for Fisheries. Even though the FAB is not a legally constituted entity, its primary function is to review and consider all fisheries related matters and make recommendations to the Minister responsible for Fisheries. Resolution of disputes and review of the management systems in place are done through the FAB.</p> <p>There seems to be existing challenges integrating fisheries into coastal management; The CZMAI grew out of the Fisheries Department, but it does not have a seat on the FAB.</p> <p>In efforts to establish national fishing rights for small-scale fishers, the Belize Senate on 20 January, 2020 formalized the adoption of an EBM approach. The legislation created a Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) in order to allow fisherfolk more active participation in decision-making, especially regarding the enforcement of fishing laws, licensing, data collection, and the co-management of marine reserves.</p> <p>The FAC will also oversee the Managed Access program - a rights-based management initiative, which was established in 2016 and came into effect in 2017.</p>
<p>Other related [fisheries] arrangements</p>	<p>Active. The Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association Ltd (BFCA) was designed to provide education, legal and technical services to its members. Over the years the BFCA has worked on increasing its capability to improve the capacity of its fisherfolk members.</p> <p>The Belize Federation of Fishers (BFF) is primarily a conservation organization of and for all commercial fishers working in Belize. The BFF is the umbrella organization for most commercial fisher associations and has been recognized as the voice for the commercial fishers. The goal is to educate, advocate and build capacity.</p>
<p>Suitable for fisherfolk engagement</p>	<p>FAC was recently constituted under new fisheries legislation with a focus on ecosystem-based management. The council is expected to fully engage its constituents and stakeholders, building capacities and giving fisherfolk the opportunity to actively</p>

	<p>participate in the governance of its fisheries and other living marine resources.</p> <p>BFCA was formed in 1970 and is focused on improving opportunities for development and management of fisheries, especially as it concerns fisherfolk. Throughout its years of existence, the BFCA has spent most of its resources on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering, strengthening and maintaining closer cooperation among the cooperatives; • Providing information to member societies pertaining to anything that affected the industry especially efforts that threatened the protected interest among the producers and their relative control over commercial fishery; • Keeping watch over the fisheries laws and regulations and influencing changes for the protection and preservation of the industry; and • Assisting the cooperatives in areas that would enhance their productivity and survival. <p>The BFCA is a member of the CNFO.</p> <p>BFF was registered in 2011 and incorporated in 2013. As part of its structure, the Federation’s membership includes stakeholders from fisherman associations, cooperatives and individuals who are either citizen or permanent residents of Belize, and are full time fishermen.</p> <p>The BFF provides a united voice and point of action for issues and concerns related to all marine resources. They work very closely with all fishing communities throughout Belize.</p> <p>There is an Executive Managing Committee (EMC) that is comprised of at least sixteen voting members, a Director as an ex-officio and a Secretary. The EMC at times solicit consultants to provide technical and management advice in addition to its two advisers. The EMC has representation from every fishing community in the country, with each representative having one vote.</p>
- Stakeholders	
	There is a BFF EMC registry available on their website
- Stakeholder participation support	
	There appears to be good participation and support for the BFF vs. BCFA , however, further and specific verification is needed.
- Documentation processes	
	Not clear. More information needed.
- Remarks	
	The BFCA and BFF both work closely with and for the benefit of fisherfolk. However, there are reports of some existing tension between the two organizations regarding diverging opinions on issues and representation.

5.5 Guyana NIC profile

Country	Guyana
NIC (for EBM)	<p>Active. A Coastal Zone Management Committee was established in 2019 under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guyana. It appears that the committee had not as yet convened its first meeting. Information on this committee's legal status, membership and function is unavailable at this time.</p>
NIC (for EAF)	<p>Active. Provisions for a Fisheries Advisory Committee were made in the 2002 Fisheries Act which eventually resulted in the establishment of a FAC in 2007. Since 2007, the FAC has cycled through periods of inactivity.</p> <p>The FAC is currently active and has maintained a relatively active status since 2010. There are 17 members who represent a cross section of stakeholders: government agencies, non-government entities (community-based and non-governmental organisations) and private sector.</p> <p>FAC considers and advise on all fisheries matters either autonomously or at the Minister's request. Members are appointed [by the Minister] to serve 2-year terms. FAC meetings are held at least once a month (sources indicate they usually meet on a 3rd Sunday or 2nd Tuesday in a central location) or when deemed necessary. Meeting minutes are not publicly shared</p>
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	<p>Active. There is the Seabob Working Group which was established in 2012. It is a Ministerial appointed committee with responsibility for providing support to the FAC, specifically on matters related to the seabob fishery and in maintaining Guyana's Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.</p> <p>There is also the Guyana National Fisherfolk Organisation (GNFO), which was established to help build fisherfolk capacity and aid in the development and management Guyana's fisheries sector.</p>
Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>FAC is mandated to consider and advise on all fisheries matters and engages its stakeholders through various committee in which its [executive] members are a part of (e.g. Seabob Working Group, GNFO and the Guyana Association of Trawler Owners and Seafood Operators). How well the FAC functions has been linked to its leadership. The current appointed chairman (according to stakeholders) has the ability to mobilize members and is persistent in ensuring that the committee meets its mandate.</p> <p>GNFO was formed between 2007-2008 and is focused on improving opportunities for development and management of fisheries, especially as it concerns fisherfolk.</p> <p>The fisheries co-operative societies play an important role when it comes to the mobilisation of fisherfolk, the management of landing sites and provision of fishing requisites. The membership of the</p>

	GNFO comprises members (mostly from among the cooperative leadership) from across the various cooperatives in Guyana. The GNFO is a member of the CNFO and has membership on the FAC.
- Stakeholders	
More information needed.	
- Stakeholder participation support	
Inclusivity and mobilisation of fisherfolk across Guyana seems to be a concern, however, further and specific verification is needed.	
- Documentation processes	
Not clear. More information needed.	
- Remarks	
The president of the GNFO is currently a member of the FAC.	

5.6 Jamaica NIC profile

Country	Jamaica
NIC (for EBM)	Active. The National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management (NCOCZM) is multi-agency Council, chaired by the Senator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. The Council is tasked with, among other things, formulating marine sector policies and sensitizing the public to the importance of the marine sector to the sustainable development of Jamaica.
NIC (for EAF)	Active. There was a National Fishery Advisory Council (FAC), but it no longer functions. The FAC was never incorporated in law, but provisions for the establishment of a new FAC was made in the Fisheries Bill, 2018. The new Fisheries Act was passed in the Senate on 12 October 2018. The Bill, replaces the Fishing Industry Act of 1975, one of the main features of the Act is the formation of the various administrative bodies which will include: a new national fisheries authority, the national fisheries advisory council, and the appeals tribunal.
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	Active. The Jamaica Fishermen Co-operative Union (JFCU) first started in 1942 as an umbrella organisation for all co-operatives in Jamaica. The JFCU is committed to improving the overall wellbeing of its member stakeholders by utilizing their united funds and efforts. The immediate objectives of JFCU includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing membership - Providing for the welfare and training of its members - Providing a range of commercial fishing equipment at competitive prices - Working with members to develop the fishing industry while protecting and preserving the marine environment

Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>JFCU plays an important part in the protection of the marine environment especially considering its reach among fisherfolk and other marine stakeholders in Jamaica.</p> <p>The JFCU is a member of the CNFO and the FAC.</p>
- Stakeholders	
Today, the JFCU has a membership comprising of nine primary fishermen co-operatives and several hundred individual fishermen. Combined membership in the JFCU from these two sources is about 4,000 fisherfolk.	
- Stakeholder participation support	
JFCU members participate in various training activities to improve capacity	
- Documentation processes	
Although the JFCU has a website with good source of information about the organization, it is still not clear how it functions; processes and any documents produced do not seem to be accessible via the website. More information needed.	
- Remarks	
The JFCU has representation on the recently appointed Fisheries Advisory Council.	

5.6 Saint Lucia NIC profile

Country	Saint Lucia
NIC (for EBM)	<p>Active.</p> <p>The National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was established in 1998 by Cabinet. It is an interagency coordinating mechanism to facilitate climate change adaptation and comprises a number of public and private sector agencies, and co-opts agencies or individuals as is needed. Over the years, the NCCC has helped to guide national efforts relating to: climate change adaptation and building resilience; national climate change action plans and mitigation strategies; and education, training and public awareness.</p> <p>A National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC) is being established under the coordination of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) . The NOGC will be transiting from the former Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee (CZMAC). The CZMAC was responsible for advising institutional, legislative and policy issues related to coastal zone management. The scope will now be extended and focused on ocean governance as the new NOGC. Key stakeholders and alternates (mainly across government agencies) have been identified. The NOGC is yet to officially convene, however, members have met more informally to discuss matters relevant to ocean governance.</p> <p>There is a Sargassum Committee which is a cabinet appointed intersectoral entity. The leading agency for this committee is the Fisheries Department. However, information on the committee is very limited and needs verification.</p> <p>There are the Biodiversity and Biosafety Committees, however, both are unofficial until the biodiversity and biosafety legislation are approved. The committees comprise of multiple agencies,</p>

	<p>government, private sector and non-government organisations. The biosafety committee is further subdivided into subcommittees for risk assessment, public education, administration and legislation, according to need and the skills of the members. Both committees have the power to co-opt additional skillsets as needed.</p> <p>In response to spills within the ocean and marine environs, the Oil Pollution Action Committee (OPAC) was activated. This committee is chaired by the Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority (SLASPA) and includes representatives from the police force, fire service, various government departments and agencies, and oil companies. The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has a National Oil Spill Committee.</p>
NIC (for EAF)	<p>Not established.</p> <p>The Fisheries Act of 1984, which is currently under revision makes provisions for a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC). There is presently no FAC, and no indication if one will be established soon.</p>
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	<p>Active.</p> <p>The Saint Lucia Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Ltd. (SLFCS), is made up of representatives from all the fishers cooperatives, with members from one being the Chair. The SLFCS represents the interests of stakeholders within the fishing sector.</p>
Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>SLFCS is an umbrella organization which brings together fisherfolk from across the various cooperatives in Saint Lucia.</p> <p>The fisherfolk cooperatives play a critical role within the fisheries sector and includes the procurement and supply of inputs to its members.</p> <p>The SLFCS is a member of the CNFO. Members of the SLFCS make up the National Fisherfolk Organisation (NFO).</p>
- Stakeholders	
<p>There are currently nine Fishers Cooperatives represented on the SLFCS: (1) Gros Islet, (2) Castries, (3) Anse la Raye/Canaries, (4) Soufriere, (5) Choiseul, (6) Laborie, (7) Goodwill/Vieux Fort, (8) East Coast/Micoud, and (9) Dennery. Each Cooperative is run by a manager and board of directors. It should be noted that the co-operatives are guided by legislation (i.e. The Cooperative Societies Act of 1999) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Cooperatives. A range of technical assistance is provided from the Fisheries Department to these cooperatives as key partners in the development of the fisheries sector.</p>	
- Stakeholder participation support	
<p>SLFCS members participate in various training activities to improve capacity.</p>	
- Documentation processes	
<p>Not clear. More information is needed.</p>	
- Remarks	
<p>The SLFCS works closely with and for the benefit of fisherfolk. Although members of the SLFCS and NFO have been invited to participate in meetings and consultations with a proposed NOGC, they have not been appointed as members.</p>	

5.7 St. Vincent and the Grenadines NIC profile

Country	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
NIC (for EBM)	<p>Active.</p> <p>There is a newly formed National Ocean Coordinating Committee</p>

	<p>(NOCC), which convened its first meeting on 19 September, 2019. The NOCC was established upon the approval of the National Ocean Policy (approved August, 2019). The Policy makes provisions for the establishment and implementation of coordinated institutional arrangements for integrated marine management across relevant sectors through partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society. Further to that the Policy also outlines the responsibilities of the NOCC, which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversee coordination, monitor and evaluation of the implementation of the National Ocean Policy with other cross-cutting strategies, planning instruments and programmes; • oversee implementation and monitoring of government-approved cross-cutting actions, measures and policies relevant to the NOP; • support investments in marine-related activities that sustainably utilises the country's marine resources and assets; and, • facilitate the participation of public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations and civil society in the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. <p>Other national committees include the: Sargassum Task Force (established in 2015), the Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Task Force, Port Modernization Committee. There is limited information on these committees and their make up and function.</p>
NIC (for EAF)	<p>Not established.</p> <p>The Fisheries Act of 1986 makes provisions for a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC). There is presently no FAC and no indication if one will be established soon.</p>
Other related [fisheries] arrangements	<p>Active.</p> <p>There is a National Fisherfolk Organisation (NFO) that was formed a few years ago in order to build the capacity of fisherfolk in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The NFO works closely with the Fisheries Department to engage and collaborate on opportunities to build the capacity and awareness of fisherfolk.</p>
Suitable for fisherfolk engagement	<p>NFO is an umbrella body that is specifically responsible for the development and capacity building of all fishers cooperatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The management of the respective cooperatives is done by a team of members who comprise the board of directors who are duly elected at annual general meeting.</p> <p>The NFO has membership on the CNFO but not a member of the NOCC.</p>
- Stakeholders	
<p>There are currently three functional Fishermen Cooperatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; namely, (1) Goodwill Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd., (2) Calliaqua Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Ltd., and (3) the Barrouallie Fisheries Development Cooperative Society Ltd. All three are represented on the NFO. Other stakeholders include the Fish Vendors Cooperative, Fishers from the Grenadines Islands and the Fisheries Department.</p>	
- Stakeholder participation support	

NFO members participate in various training activities to improve capacity. NFO meetings are usually held on a monthly basis to ensure members and by extension fisherfolk throughout the country are informed of developments within the sector.
- Documentation processes
Not clear. More information is needed.
- Remarks
The NFO works closely with and for the benefit of fisherfolk.