

Caribbean

fisherfolk in **EAF**

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Tylon Joseph

A young fisher driven to be a good steward for the environment

Tylon Joseph is a fisher, boat captain, and sustainable fisheries advocate living in Gouyave, Grenada. His efforts to promote an ecosystem approach to fisheries involve working with fishers in his hometown of Gouyave and throughout Grenada. He also volunteers with and works alongside other organisations, such as the Fisheries Division in Grenada, to promote sustainable development, conservation and protection of the fisheries sector.

Tylon, at 24 years old, is the Vice President of the Gouyave Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. He is considered a youth leader and is driven by his love for the environment and passion for seeing his hard work and labour contribute to the protection of fisheries resources. Trained in drone mapping and coral reef restoration, Tylon is keen to share his knowledge by assisting with hands-on training under programmes that focus on building the capacity of younger fishers.



Tylon believes that education, especially of younger fishers, is the best approach to ensuring an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

When fishers understand the importance of their ecosystem and how it is all connected, more people would become involved in EAF.

Sustainable fisheries operations

In Tylon's family-run fishing operations, fishing boats have been upgraded with the more environmentally friendly four-stroke engines as opposed to traditional two-stroke engines. This brings benefits in terms of **fuel efficiency, lower carbon emissions** and low vibration levels.



Top: Tylon (middle, stooping), along with a colleague, demonstrates to youth programme participants the process for establishing infrastructure required for a coral nursery under coral reef restoration work. Bottom: Tylon on board the Grenada Marine Protected Area vessel at sea, before doing some coral nursery work at sea (Credit: Tylon Joseph)

The family's fishing operations have moved away from traditional longline fishing methods to the trolling method that requires fewer materials such as hooks and monofilaments to fish. Using these methods **minimises waste** and is **more economical** since the cost of gear, materials and maintenance is less than that required to do longlining. Additionally, the family's operations primarily target yellowfin tuna. This **minimises impact** on species such as sailfish and marlin which have been decreasing in population over time, as both are commonly targeted in Grenada via the longlining method. These practices support the **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries** since they contribute to the socio-economic well-being of the fishers involved by reducing the costs associated with fishing. They also contribute to the ecosystem-well being of fisheries resources by reducing pressure on highly targeted fish species.



Tylon harvests christophine from his small-scale agriculture work. (Credit: Tylon Joseph)

Being from a fishing community, the environment has always been a part of Tylon's life. He is adamant that if his generation and generations to come do not use this resource wisely, there may not be anything left to protect in the future.

A supplemental livelihood with food security in mind

Aside from fishing, Tylon is also involved in small-scale agriculture, both as a **supplemental livelihood** and as a hobby. Tylon believes that if fisherfolk families diversify their livelihoods by getting involved in small-scale agriculture, this could provide a safety cushion in terms of **food and income security** for their households. By understanding the ecosystem and how it influences fisheries, Tylon is able to weigh his options when considering where to focus his efforts. During the months where tuna have not yet migrated into Grenada's waters, Tylon goes to his garden and focuses his efforts there. This is why he believes that **education is key**, as many fishers may continue to venture out to sea during this time and potentially waste their efforts.

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- Develop and enhance livelihoods based on sustainable use of coastal and marine resources
- Enhance communication to raise awareness and advocate for issues impacting the coastal and marine environment
- Implement an ecosystem approach to pelagic fisheries



Tylon participating in a Training of Trainers workshop to help in carrying out assessments in fishing communities in Grenada concerning climate change risks and adaptation. Tylon's presence as a facilitator at these workshops is a great way to ensure fishers feel comfortable and engage in activities, as they can identify and relate to Tylon as a fellow fisherman (Credit: CANARI)

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