

Small-scale fisheries communities and Aichi
Target 11: Achieving conservation, sustainable
livelihoods and food security in MPAs and other
effective area-based measures (OEABMs)

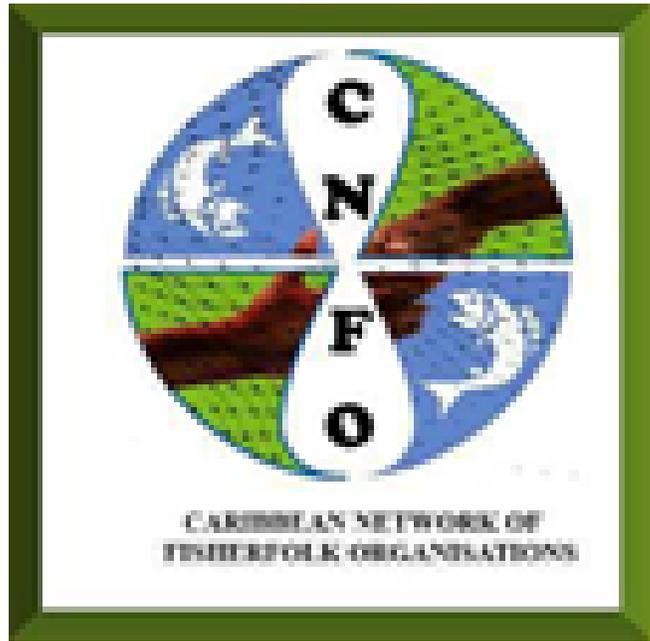
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Cancun, Mexico

M. Lay

Challenges in ensuring effective participation and equitable MPA outcomes: experiences from the Caribbean

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



Some notes on MPAs/MMAs/OEABMs

In the Caribbean marine space these:

- Impact resource availability in respect of SS fishers

- Have significant livelihood impact

- Reduce availability of fresh seafood

- Disrupts/impacts other resource management measures

- Increase tourism related activities

- Benefits/protects corporate business interests

Participation challenges

- Policy and management in relation to MPAs/MMAs/OEABM
 - Policy sometimes shaped outside fisheries sector, (OECS ocean governance)
 - Management has limited inclusion of SS fisheries actors' knowledge, experiences, skills and interest.
- Consultation only a buzz word, not meaningful or impacting
 - Issue of co-optation, selective information sharing
 - Disregard for fishers own management knowledge/practices
 - Proponents sometimes less than transparent
- Research and information
 - Tailored, selective and limited research

Participation challenges

- Capacity issues
 - In SS fishing communities
 - Knowledge and resource based capacity issues
 - Financial and livelihood realities
 - Organisational/representation issues
 - In Management authorities and NGOs
 - Embracing other realities as having merit, MPAs/MMAs/OEABM only one option
 - Negotiation and consensus
- Facilitation a key area
 - Capacity development for all stakeholders
 - Shared decision-making processes

Experiences from recent activities

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Fishers have concerns regarding representation on management board
 - Fishers strongly recommend boundary review.
 - Fishers identify resources which could enhance livelihoods while being sustainably utilised. Pelagic and transient fisheries resources.
 - Lack of strong fisher organisations
- Belize
 - Fishers' cooperative weakened and died after MPA setup and expansion
 - Tourism bloomed and some former fishers benefitted with new livelihoods
 - Tourism did not provide livelihoods for some displaced fishers
 - MPAs are multiple use areas, means to protect marine space for communities

Experiences from recent activities

- Belize

- Small fishing communities suffer serious negative impact from MPA management measures.
- Fishing communities were keen to have good information.
- NGOs play a significant role, but have different agenda to SS fishers
- Voice of the SS fishing community should be included
- SS fishers need to unite, need for some facilitative process.

- Barbuda

- Consultations not meaningful. Fishers concerns not reflected
- Research and information tailored towards co-opting policy makers
- Some fishers give up fishing activities due to stringent measures

Experiences from recent activities

- Barbuda
 - MPAs placed additional and more onerous measures on fishers, adding to national fisheries management measures.
 - Manifold increase in corporate and big business proposals for coastal development projects, mostly tourism related, after measures were put in place.
 - Policy makers disregard for voice of fishers.

Key lessons

- Fishers not opposed to MPAs/MMAs/OEABMs, but desire to be part of the process, being the stakeholder group most impacted.
- Good information and transparency, including from fishers, important ingredient
- Capacity issues require some attention, across stakeholder lines
- Facilitating capacity development and shared decision making could promote equitable outcomes

Thank you

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Food in Caribbean societies



Livelihoods in Caribbean fisheries

