

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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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

[cnfo\\_cu@yahoo.com](mailto:cnfo_cu@yahoo.com), [www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo](http://www.cirp.org.tt/cnfo), facebook

## Food in Caribbean societies



## Livelihoods in Caribbean fisheries

