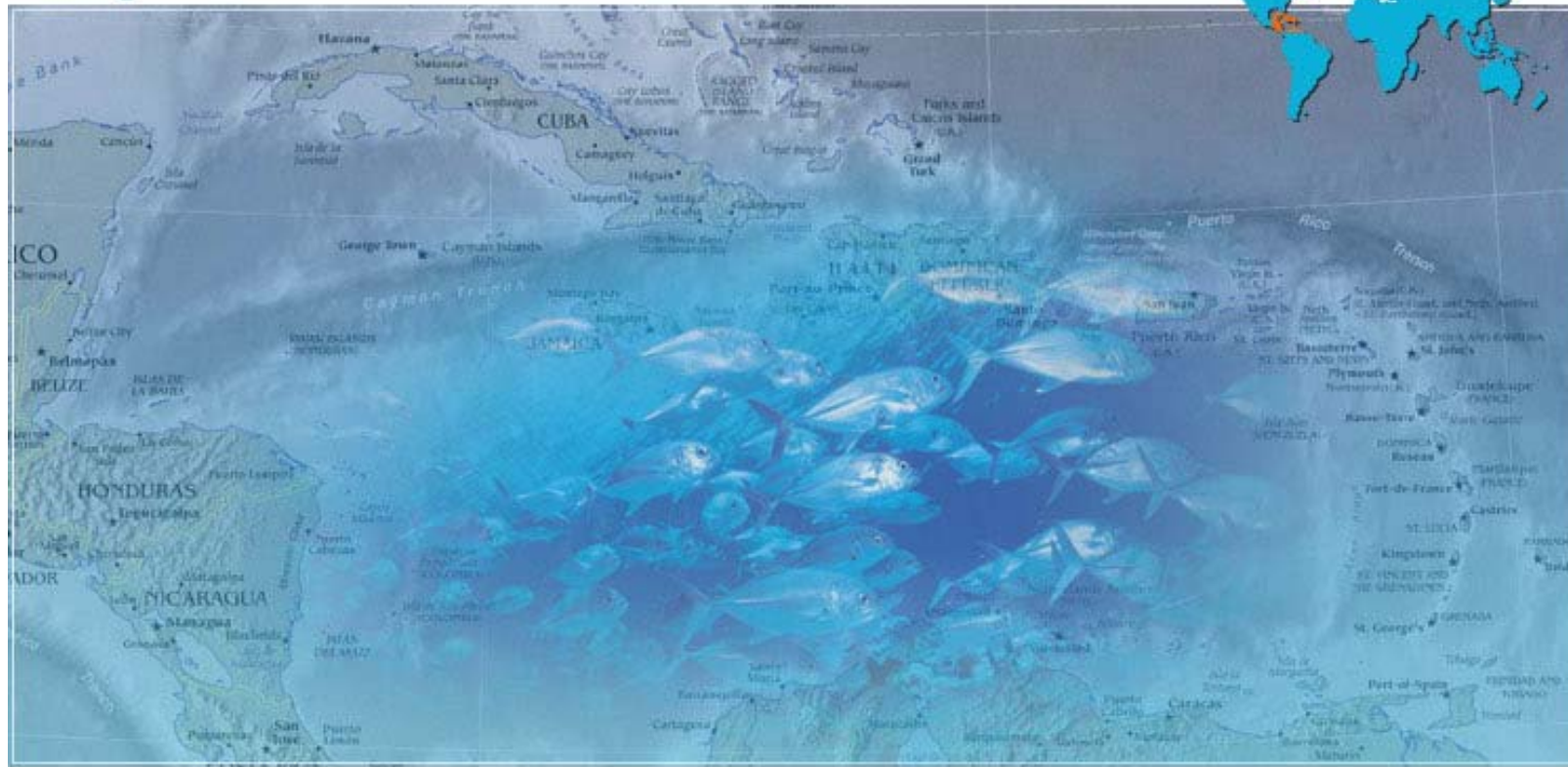




Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism



The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and IUU Fishing

CRFM 2003

- The objectives of CRFM are:
 - (a) the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States;
 - (b) the promotion and establishment of co-operative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;
 - (c) the provision of technical advisory and consultative services to fisheries divisions of Member States in the development, management and conservation of their marine and other aquatic resources

Membership

- The 15 CARICOM countries:
 - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
- Associate Members:
 - Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Turks and Caicos.

CRFM Guiding Principles

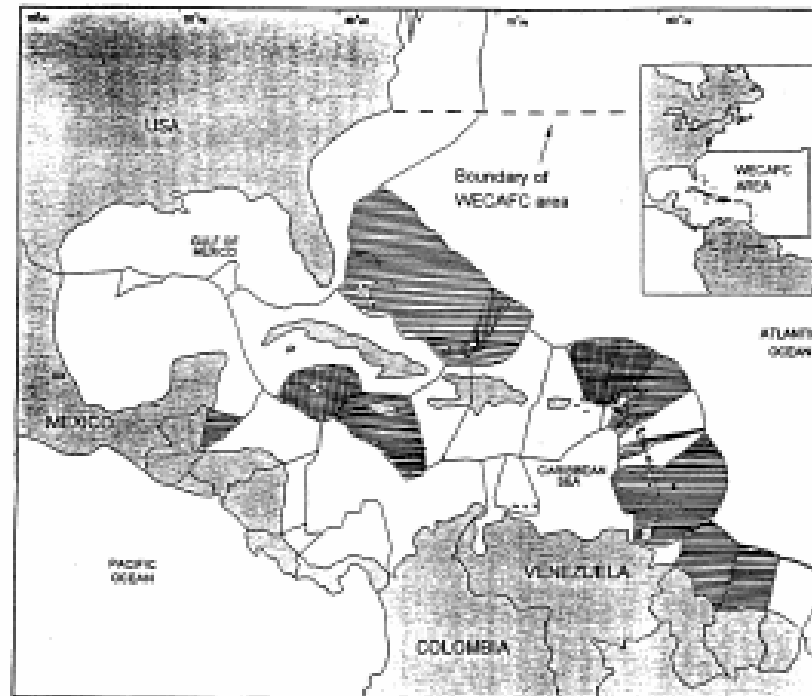
- (a) maintaining bio-diversity in the marine environment using the best available scientific approaches to management;
- (b) managing fishing capacity and fishing methods so as to facilitate resource sustainability;
- (c) encouraging the use of precautionary approaches to sustainable use and management of fisheries resources;
- (d) promoting awareness of responsible fisheries exploitation through education and training;
- (e) according due recognition to the contribution of small scale and industrial fisheries to employment, income and food security, nationally and regionally, and
- (f) promoting aquaculture as a means of enhancing employment opportunities and food security, nationally and regionally

Character of the Region



CRFM EEZs

The Approximate EEZs of the Caribbean Community Countries



(for illustrative purposes only, adapted from Farwick 1992)

- INDEPENDENT TERRITORIES (USA)
- DEPENDENT TERRITORIES (UK)

Character of the Fisheries

- Queen conch (which has been placed on the CITES threatened species list)
- Nassau grouper and sea urchin fisheries described as collapsed
- Spiny lobster overexploited
- Other fisheries considered threatened are shrimp, turtles, reef species and flying fish.
- Some tuna and billfish fully or over-exploited

TABLE 3-6: ANALYSIS OF FISHERS' EXPERIENCE WITH THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES

PERCENTAGE OF FISHERS RESPONDING

INDICATORS	ANTIGUA - BARBUDA	BELIZE		GUYANA	JAMAICA	ST. LUCIA		RANGE
1. Catch Weight Declined	48.6	49.0	18.9	36.2	64.0	36.3	40.6	18.9-64.0
2. Catch size declined.	14.3	29.4	5.7	17.8	17.3	15.0	13.5	5.7-29.4
3. Fish location changed.	48.6	26.5	39.6	15.6	30.0	23.8	2.2	2.2-48.6
4. Change of fishing grounds.	31.4	61.8	32.1	42.2	46.0	56.3	1.5	1.5-61.8

Source:

A socio-economic baseline survey of thirty fishing communities in twelve CARICOM countries by Peter Espeut for Caribbean Natural Resources Institute for the CFRAMP – December 1994.

Fisher Survey

- Source of problems in the fisheries
 - A large and increasing number of unlicensed fishers.
 - A large and increasing number of fishers.
 - Increased year round fishing activity.
 - The extensive use of inappropriate size mesh.
 - The increasing use of destructive gears

IUU Fishing

- Weak and ineffective legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for fisheries management,
- Large areas of ocean space relative to land, and
- Lack of financial and technical resources and adequate information have hampered the efforts of CR FM states to deter IUU fishing.

Priority Listing of Problems in Addressing IUU Fishing in the Region (by country)

Issue	Antigua and Barbuda	Bahamas	Barbados	Belize	Cuba	Dominican Republic	Grenada	Haiti	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago	Average	Rank
Fishing unauthorized species/undersized species	10	2	11	1	3	3	5	1	8	2	2	3	2	10	4.5	1
Inadequate MCS	2	3	3	2	12	1	1	10	10	5	3	2	7	3	4.6	2
Encroachment by foreign fishing vessels	1	1	5	3	14	9	2	9	1	8	1	1	12	2	4.9	3
Unauthorized fishing in closed areas/seasons	11	8	2	4	5	2	3	5	5	9	5	5	9	9	5.9	4
Use of prohibited gears and fishing methods	13	7	9	7	1	6	11	6	6	1	8	4	10	6	6.8	5
Inadequate legislation for IUU fishing/MCS	3	6	8	13	11	5	6	11	3	6	13	8	11	1	7.5	6
Unreporting/misreporting of catches	6	12	1	11	13	4	12	4	7	3	7	11	4	12	7.6	7
Lack of coordination/communications between agencies in national administrations	5	4	4	12	10	8	7	14	9	4	10	10	8	4	7.8	8
Use of unauthorized gears	8	11	10	8	4	7	10	7	12	10	4	7	5	7	7.9	9
Fishing by unregistered/unlicensed vessels	4	10	14	9	2	12	4	3	4	7	12	14	3	14	8.0	10
Lack of subregional cooperation on IUU fishing issues	7	5	6	6	8	11	9	13	11	12	6	9	6	5	8.1	11
Unauthorized fishing in management zones	12	9	12	5	7	10	13	8	13	n/a	9	6	1	8	8.7	12
Fishing endangered species	14	14	7	10	6	13	8	2	2	n/a	11	12	14	11	9.5	13
Use of unseaworthy vessels	9	13	13	14	9	14	14	12	14	11	14	13	13	13	12.6	14

CRFM Measures to start addressing IUU Fisheries

- Adoption by member States of the FAO Code of Conduct
- Adoption of the FAO International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU)
- More regional cooperation and regional pressure on states that are contributing to the problems
- Development of a Draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for CRFM Member States

IUU Fishing and Open Registries

- . Belize, Honduras, Panama, and St Vincent and the Grenadines collectively have had over 1,000 of these fishing vessels on their registers in the past decade.
- Between 1997-2001, the number of fishing vessels on Belize's register increased by 332% to 481 vessels

Table 1. Numbers, average tonnage and average age of fishing vessels registered to 14 countries with open registries 1999-2003. Source Lloyd's Register of Shipping

Year	Flag State	Total Vessels	Total Tonnage	Average Tonnage	Average Age
1999	BELIZE	409	348892	853	23.4
	BOLIVIA	1	232	232	52
	CAMBODIA	6	6547	1091.2	22.3
	CYPRUS	46	103573	2251.6	19.1
	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	56	30984	553.3	18.8
	GEORGIA	29	10792	372.1	20.9
	HONDURAS	416	175387	421.6	25.9
	MARSHALL ISLANDS	11	18701	1700.1	20.2
	MAURITIUS	22	7591	345	30
	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	18	17481	971.2	25.4
	PANAMA	224	169679	757.5	31.6
	ST. VINCENT	110	81956	745.1	23.7
	SIERRA LEONE	34	9750	286.8	28.7
	VANUATU	34	50609	1488.5	21.9

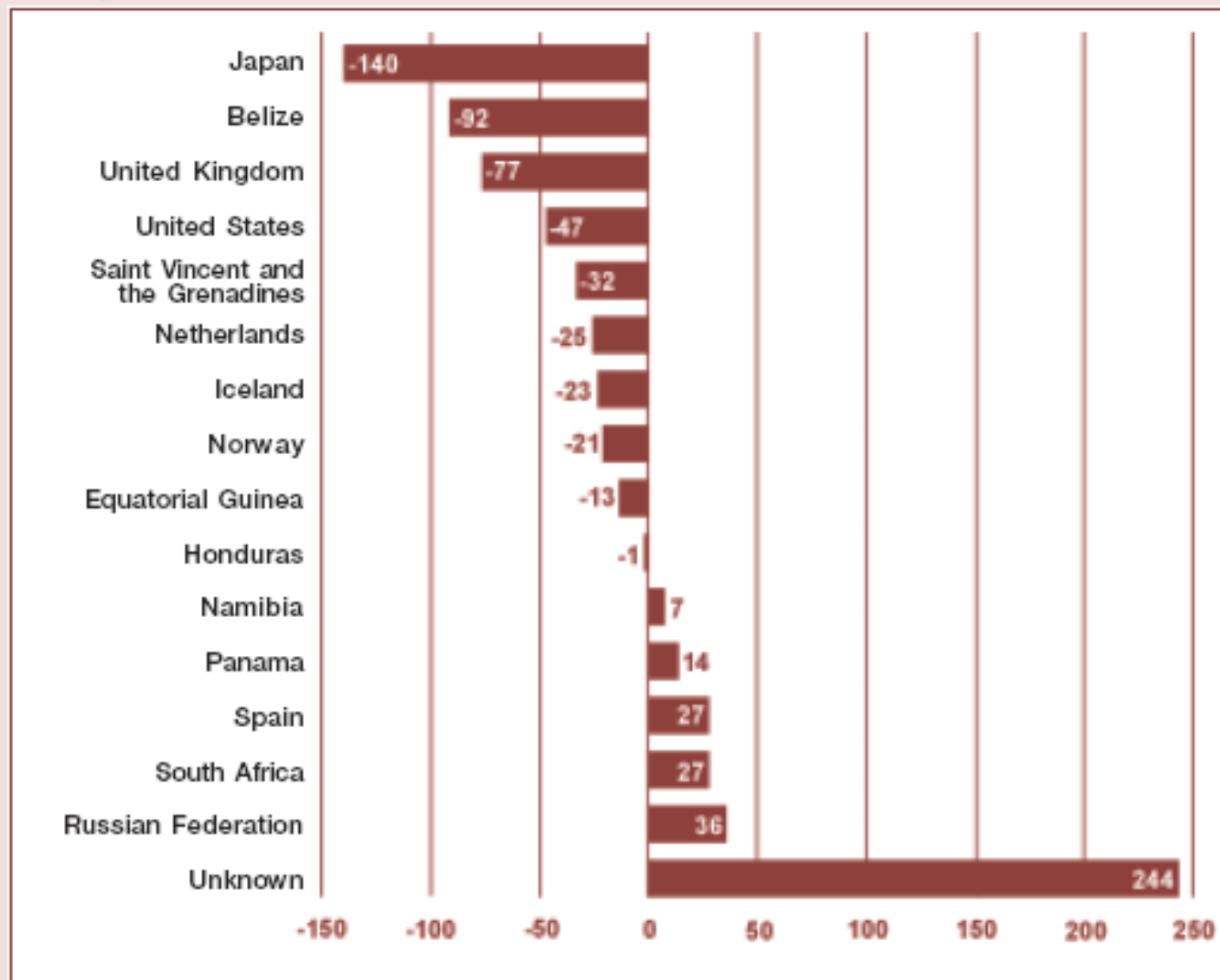
Table 1. Numbers, average tonnage and average age of fishing vessels registered to 14 countries with open registries 1999-2003. Source Lloyd's Register of Shipping

2001	BELIZE	455	349381	767.9	22.8
	BOLIVIA	11	7935	721.4	16
	CAMBODIA	16	17336	1083.5	22.6
	CYPRUS	51	108826	2133.8	19.6
	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	51	28088	550.7	18.4
	GEORGIA	39	25338	649.7	23.3
	HONDURAS	313	125975	402.5	26.2
	MARSHALL ISLANDS	11	13289	1208.1	19.4
	MAURITIUS	23	7860	341.7	30.1
	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	24	28131	1172.1	20.6
	PANAMA	198	149070	752.9	30
	ST. VINCENT	101	154787	1532.5	23.8
	SIERRA LEONE	30	8953	298.4	28.7
	VANUATU	46	116870	2540.7	15
2003	BELIZE	279	258681	933.9	22
	BOLIVIA	24	21399	891.6	20
	CAMBODIA	43	39224	912.2	20
	CYPRUS	41	92405	2253.8	18.2
	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	41	24351	593.9	18.5
	GEORGIA	53	24080	454.3	18.8
	HONDURAS	507	178802	352.7	23.2
	MARSHALL ISLANDS	14	16081	1148.6	13.6
	MAURITIUS	26	10676	410.6	28
	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	21	18100	861.9	20.5
	PANAMA	205	130512	636.6	27.9
	ST. VINCENT	86	117161	1362.3	23.7
	SIERRA LEONE	35	10185	291	26.2
	VANUATU	64	93380	1459.1	7.5

A. IMPORT BANS (YEAR OF ENTRY INTO FORCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS)

	Bluefin (BFT Action Plan)		Swordfish (SWO Action Plan)		Bigeye (1998 UU Resolution)	
Belize	1997 – 2003 #	Rec 96/11 Rec 02/16	2000 – 2003 #	Rec 99/8 Rec 02/16	2001 - 2003 #	Rec 00/15 Rec 02/16
Bolivia					2003 -	Rec 02/17
Cambodia					2001 -	Rec 00/15
Equatorial Guinea *	2000 -	Rec 99/10			2001 -	Rec 00/16
Honduras *	1997 - 2002	Rec 96/11 Rec 01/15	2000 - 2002	Rec 99/8 Rec 01/15	2001 - 2003	Rec 00/15 Rec 02/18
Panama *	1998 - 2000	Rec 96/12 Rec 99/9				
Saint Vincent					2001 - 2003 #	Rec 01/14 Rec 02/20
Sierra Leone	2003 -	Rec 02/19	2003 -	Rec 02/19	2003 -	Rec 02/19

Change in numbers of fishing vessels of 100 GT and above in selected fleets, 2002-03



Flag state	Total vessels	Total tonnage	Average tonnage	Average age
Belize	241	259,119	1075.2	22
Bolivia	16	16,824	1051.5	26
Cambodia	47	27,773	590.9	27
Cyprus	27	66,483	2462.3	22
Equatorial Guinea	39	21,636	554.8	22
Georgia	60	45,765	762.6	22
Honduras	416	158,842	381.8	24
Marshall Islands	7	11,434	1633.4	17
Mauritius	24	9,632	401.3	30
Netherlands Antilles	20	8,294	414.7	24
Panama	222	134,286	604.9	30
St. Vincent	74	97,893	1322.9	26
Sierra Leone	27	8,679	321.4	29
Vanuatu	47	118,298	2517	11
Totals	1,267	963,313	760.3	28

Table from Gianni and Simpson (2005) based on information derived from Lloyd's Register. As the authors note, information on Lloyd's Register should not necessarily be considered up to date as there are often delays in registering the transfer of flag from one country to another. Information on the flag, ownership and overall numbers of fishing vessels flagged to one or other of these countries may well change rapidly over time. Further, not all the vessels included on this list are necessarily IUU vessels.

Source: *High Seas Task Force (2006). Closing the net: Stopping illegal fishing on the high seas.* Governments of Australia, Canada, Chile, Namibia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, WWF, IUCN and the Earth Institute at Columbia University at 38.

Efforts by Belize

- Strengthening authority to de-register vessels.
- De-registered 668 vessels in 2001 (not all fishing vessels)
- Enacted a High Sea Fishing Act
 - Mandatory licensing of high seas vessels
 - Vessels monitoring systems.
 - Requiring compliance with RFMO regulations.

Draft Common Fisheries Policy on Open Registers and IUU Fishing

- **12.2** A Participating State that operates an open register for fishing vessels from Third States shall, *inter alia*, comply with the following conditions pertaining to fishing vessels authorised to fly their flag, which are aimed at securing the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing:
 - (a) Ensure that there is a genuine link between the State and the vessel by, *inter alia*, effectively exercising its jurisdiction and control in administrative, technical, resource management, and social matters;
 - (b) Ensure strict compliance with conservation measures, whether general or specific, arising from this Agreement or from actions of the Implementing Agencies or from competent international or regional fisheries management organisation pertaining to the target species, or area or ecosystems on which the vessel operates;
 - (c) Maintain a detailed register from which the owners and operators, and a resident agent of the owner of the vessel can be readily identified;
 - (d) Any vessel in violation of obligations at Section 12.2 (b) should be de-registered forthwith;
 - (e) Establish and maintain vessel monitoring systems to continuously monitor the position, movement and activity of such vessels;
 - (f) Establish and maintain onboard observer programme to monitor the operation of such vessels and collect data and information on the catch.

Final thoughts

- First, there is a sense of outrage across the region regarding the perceived high levels of IUU fishing taking place and the losses being suffered by our member states in consequence, including the undermining of management efforts. Not enough attention is being given to IUU fishing in the coastal waters and EEZ - these are the areas of greater concern to our states. It is both an internal and external problem

- Second, there is a recognition of the profound challenges facing the countries due to their limited financial resources, assets for MCS and weak laws to effectively deter or eliminate IUU fishing. Frankly, there is a deep sense of powerlessness. A good example to illustrate the above points is the queen conch fisheries in Jamaica. In 2003 annual TAC was estimated at approximately 1000 t. The government however felt compelled to set the catch quota at approximately 500 t because IUU fishing by foreign vessels, primarily Hondurans, was estimated at about 500 t.

- Third, we feel that despite the rhetoric regarding recognition of the special situation and needs of small island developing states and developing states generally at the international level and by more developed countries, there is actually very little genuine interest and practical support forthcoming to combat IUU fishing in our region



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

