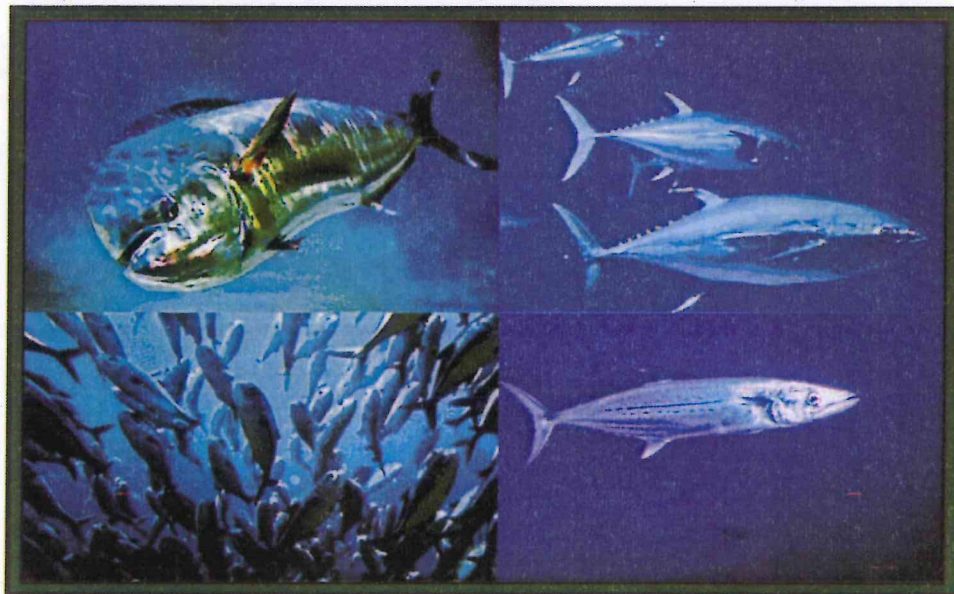


The Large Pelagic Fishery



The Large Pelagic Fishery Case study is part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, which was initiated in response to concerns from Member States about over-fishing, the increasing threat of pollution, and habitat degradation. The Project allows the Caribbean countries to work together to improve management of their shared marine resources.

A major aim of the CLME Project is to develop a regional programme called the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The SAP is a shared understanding and agreement among countries for achieving ecosystem-based governance and management of the region's fisheries. In order to create this programme, information on the state of governance and management for each fishery must be gathered.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries

Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat is leading the development of this programme for the large pelagic fishery, taking into account the need for an ecosystem-based approach while being precautionary.

Stakeholders were visited in Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Martinique, and Trinidad and Tobago to get their views on the current situation and to gather information to guide the way forward. In this way, current policy, legal and institutional, and cooperative management arrangements were evaluated in order to determine weaknesses, limitations and areas that needed reform.

Based on these reviews, the CRFM will assist the countries in developing recommendations for improved governance and management of the large pelagic fishery, which will be used to develop the Strategic Action Plan.

Some Quick Facts

- 1) There are two types of large pelagic fish: a) species that migrate within the CLME, such as blackfin & bullet tuna, dolphinfish, wahoo, cero & king mackerels, and b) species that migrate over long distances beyond the CLME. These include billfishes, swordfish & sharks, as well as the large tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna).
- 2) Being large, and constantly on the move, these fish are harvested by all Caribbean nations, as well as by distant water fleets of other nations.
- 3) All species are of great nutritional and commercial value, and some are of recreational value in the Caribbean. Several major species are considered to be fully or overexploited.
- 4) The best available scientific assessments show that several large pelagic species are overfished.



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If we work cooperatively, we can sustain this fishery for future generations.



The Flyingfish Fishery



The Flyingfish Fishery Case Study is part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, which was initiated in response to concerns from Member States about over-fishing, the increasing threat of pollution, and habitat degradation. The Project allows the Caribbean countries to work together to improve management of their shared marine resources.

A major aim of the CLME Project is to develop a regional programme called the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The SAP is a shared understanding and agreement among countries for achieving ecosystem-based governance and management of the region's fisheries. In order to create this programme, information on the state of governance and management for each fishery must be gathered.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat is leading the development of this programme for the flyingfish fishery, taking into account the need for an ecosystem-based approach while being precautionary.

Stakeholders were visited in Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Martinique, and Trinidad and Tobago to get their views on the current situation and to gather information to guide the way forward. In this way, current policy, legal and institutional, and cooperative management arrangements were evaluated in order to determine weaknesses, limitations and areas that needed reform.

Based on these reviews, the CRFM will assist the countries in developing recommendations for improved governance and management of the large pelagic fishery, which will be used to develop the Strategic Action Plan.



Some Quick Facts

- 1) The fourwing flyingfish is considered to be the most important small pelagic fishery in the Eastern Caribbean.
- 2) It is a shared resource, and is largely exploited in Barbados, Dominica, Martinique, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- 3) It supports many small-scale fishers in the region in terms of employment, food security and supply for bait for other fisheries.
- 4) In Barbados alone, the annual value of flyingfish catch is about 15 million USD.

Information suggests that currently the flyingfish fishery is not over-fished. However, in order to keep the fishery sustainable, improvements in data collection, decision-making, and the overall management of the fishery are needed.



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