CONTRIBUTION 10.4

National Report on the Status of Fisheries and Aquaculture in BARBADOS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Barbados has a rich tradition of fishing with significant economic and cultural importance. An estimated 8,800 people are involved in the fisheries sector of Barbados[1]which accounts for approximately 8% of the workforce. Traditionally, flyingfish and dolphinfish by far dominated the species composition of the local fish catch. However the large-scale incursions of Sargassum into the region, that have for the last several years become annual events, significantly altered the catch rates of flyingfish and associated large pelagic species, especially dolphinfish, and thus altered the typical pattern of the species composition of the catch during the impacted fishing seasons/years.

The Fisheries Division continued to fulfill its mission towards the management and sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of Barbados for the benefit of our people, both present and future generations. During the pandemic, the operations of the division were significantly impacted resulting in the rescheduling of vessel inspection and the postponement of in-person training activities. Stakeholder consultations were held online in most instances and landing site visits were limited. Staff members pivoted and used Zoom and WhatsApp group chats to engage with clients and provide information and updates. The following initiatives were implemented during the reporting period.

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[1] CRFM, 2021. CRFM Statistics and Information Report – 2020. Belize City, Belize. 92pp.

The 2013 Fisheries Sector Management and Development Policy that sets out the principles and actions intended to guide and achieve effective management of the fisheries resources of Barbados and the sustainable development of the fisheries sector was reviewed and the process of updating it commenced. In October 2021 the cabinet of Barbados approved the draft 2021 Fisheries Management Regulations.

In keeping with recommendations made in "A Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Plan" (C-FIP) a product of an assessment of the local longline fishery under an OETS project entitled "Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies", Barbados is currently undertaking several follow-up studies. These will ultimately influence the practical use of circle hooks with respect to fish composition and fishing mortality, the viability of increasing the swordfish fishery, the training of fishers in the use of equipment to safely release protected non-target species from fishing lines, and the updating an economic valuation of the Barbados Longline Fishery.

A pilot program to install several anchored FADs equipped with satellite buoys to enhance the catchability of pelagic fish for coastal fishers around the island commenced in late 2021.

General activities including the registration of local commercial fishing vessels, updating the fisheries workers registry, and inspection of fishing vessels continued on an operational basis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Barbados is well known for its rich tradition of fishing with significant economic and cultural importance. An estimated 8,800 people are involved in the fisheries sector of Barbados (CRFM 2021), which accounts for approximately 8% of the workforce. There are approximately 30 fish landing sites around Barbados, and these are categorized based on the infrastructure present. The Primary landing sites are the seven fish markets, with the largest being the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex and the Berinda Cox market at Oistins. The five others are the Speightstown fish market, the Millie Ifill market at Weston, and the Paynes Bay, Consett bay and Tent Bay markets. The secondary landing sites are Pile Bay, which has been recently upgraded, Six Mens Bay with amenities for vendors, and the four fish sheds at Half Moon Fort, Fitts Village, Sand Pit at the Shallow Draught, and Martins Bay. The Tertiary landing sites are open beaches with no permanent infrastructure.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE BARBADOS FISHING AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES

2.1 Commercial Fisheries

It is estimated that around 8,800 people are involved in the Barbados fishing industry. The fish species most commonly landed at Barbados are listed in Table 1. Traditionally, flyingfish and dolphinfish by far dominated the local fish catch. However large-scale incursions of Sargassum into the region, that have for the last several years become annual events, have significantly altered the catch rates of flying fish and associated large pelagic species. These incursions have significantly reduced the island's overall catch, for example a mean of 2753t of fish were landed during the "non-sargassum" years over the period 1997 through 2021 compared with 1332t during the years of heavy sargassum inputs (2011-2012 and 2015 to present). Furthermore, the lowest catches of the key species, flyingfish and dolphinfish, ever recorded for the island since

catch records have been kept from the late 1940's were reported for the last three years under review (2019 through 2021). Mean values for the three years of 201 tonnes of flyingfish and 152 tonnes of dolphinfish, representing 15% and 33% of the mean catches of these two species respectively for the "non-sargassum" years over the period 1997 through 2021. In addition, although these two species are still the main contributors to the island's total annual catches, the catch composition pattern has changed with flying fish now only comprising just over half (35%) of the typical "65%" of the total catch that obtained in non-sargassum years, with other formerly marginal contributors such as carangids becoming more notable components of the catch (i.e. 0.6% in non-sargassum years to around 5% in sargassum-event years. These trends in catch compostion are shown in figure 1.

The season for flyingfish and associated large pelagics (dolphinfish, kingfish) extends during the months of November of one year to June of the following year. During the intervening period (July through October) some fishermen traditionally turned to harvesting nearshore species such as the coastal pelgagics (mainly with seine nets), demersal reef species such as snappers (often taken with multi-hook deep set lines) and assorted reef species referred to as "potfish" because they are taken in wire mesh traps called fishpots. Fishing for the highly migratory species including the tunas and billfish primarily by the longliner fleet is conducted year-round as there is no noticeable seasonality in the landings of these species. It should be noted that included in the Carangid group is the almaco jack (*Seriola rivoliana*), locally referred to as amberfish, which has markedly increased in abundance with increased Sargassum mats, has become very popular in the local market and as such has become a popular target species of local fishers. Boneless almaco jack fillets are now marketed and sold by the pack.

Another traditional fishery of Barbados is for the white sea urchin locally referred to as 'sea egg' (*Tripneustes ventricosus*). For over forty years the sea egg fishery has suffered from long term stock depletions that resulted in multiyear closures of the fishery in 1987-1989; 1998-2001 and 2005-to present (except 2015, 2016 and 2019) aimed at allowing stock recovery. The most significant improvement in stock abundance was following the 1998-2001 moratorium. High levels of illegal harvesting of seaeggs during both the regular annual closed seasons, in years when a fishing season was allowed, and then throughout the moratoria years, is considered as the primary obstacle to any consistent recovery of the stock and establishment of a sustainable fishery. Despite suboptimal stock abundances, month-long fishing seasons were allowed for sea eggs in 2015 and 2016 and 2019.

A small fishery for lionfish exists in Barbados furnishing a limited market comprising a small number of local restaurants and the public that buy the fish at fish landing sites such as Pile Bay.

2.2 Commercial fishing fleet of Barbados

The vessels comprising the Barbados commercial fishing fleet are typically divided into the following 4 main categories.

"Moses" are undecked vessels that are restricted to taking fish species within the nearshore zone such as demersals and coastal pelagics. Trip length is restricted to a few hours during day or night depending on the species targeted, and a fishing area within a few miles from shore. Moses

are primarily used in the capture of demersals, coastal pelagics and non-piscine species, and occasionally large pelagics (see table 1 for respective gears used). It should be noted that some Moses are not used directly in fishing but as tenders for other fishing vessels. In 2021, the Barbados registered fishing fleet included 690 Moses of an average length of 5.2M. Oars are used as the method of propulsion in some rare cases but outboard motors with an average of 44HP are more commonly used.

Dayboats or Launches are decked vessels that do not carry iceholds and fish primarily for flying fish using gill and dip nets, and for associated large pelagics, dolphinfish and wahoo, using single-hook hand or trolling lines during the pelagic season. During the off-season for pelagics these vessels may target demerals. Fishing trips are limited to less than one day in duration and to within a few miles from shore. In 2021, the Barbados registered fishing fleet included 148 dayboats with a mean overall length of 7.4M (average of 97 HP inboard engines). Some of the very small dayboats use outboard engines, however.

Iceboats are also decked vessels that are built along the same hull lines of dayboats but are generally larger and carry ice holds for storing the catch at sea. These vessels mainly target the same species as dayboats using the same gears during the pelagic season, fish further afield and stay at sea usually less than 7 days. Iceaboats rarely engage in nearshore fisheries. In 2021, the Barbados registered fishing fleet included 156 iceboats with a mean overall length of 10.9m. Inboard engines with an average of 208 HP are used.

Longliners also carry iceholds but primarily use longline gear to target large, highly-migratory pelagic species such as tunas and billfishes. However, longliners also typically carry gill nets for the capture of flying fish and will also land these species if hold space is available. The number of hooks used by each vessel per set ranges between 200 and 750 with each vessel making between 6 to 10 sets per trip. In 2021, the Barbados registered fishing fleet included 41 longliners with a mean overall length of 13.6m powered by inboard engines with an average of 335 HP. Longliner trips vary in length up to a maximum of around 2 weeks but rarely exceed 10 days.

2.3 Recreational fisheries

In addition to what can be considered the dedicated commercial fishing fleet, a significant recreational fishing fleet (estimated at around 29 in 2007) has existed for many years in Barbados. Most of these vessels operate as charter vessels that target large pelagic species using rod and reel gears. Fishing trips are usually less than 1 day in duration. The sportfishing community is organised under the The Barbados Game Fishing Association banner. This association hosts annual international billfish tournaments where they promote the catch and release method.

Finally, a diverse group of fishers who do not primarily fish from vessels also operate in Barbados. This shore-based group of fishers includes part-time anglers, cast-net fishermen and spear-fishermen.

2.4 Aquaculture

There is currently one commercial-scale aquaculture enterprise in Barbados that produces Red Tilapia for the local hotel and restaurant industry. There are also some small-scale operations involved in the rearing of *Tilapia* sp. primarily in pools or ponds with some in aquaponic arrangements.

2.5 Value added products

Although a sizeable portion of the fish catches landed at the landings sites are purchased directly by local householders, a significant portion is taken by local commercial fish processing companies to produce a variety of value-added products including minced fish, fish sausages and burgers. At least 8 commerical fish processors currently operate in Barbados. Mahon et al (2007) estimated a value-added figure of around 2.6 times the value of the locally landed fish, ranging from zero for sea-egg roe (fishery currently suspended) to 7.4 times for flyingfish.

3. STATISTICS, RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

3.1 Statistics

The bulk of the island's fish catch is landed at the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex and the Berinda Cox Fish Market at Oistins. Tolls are charged for use of the markets and these are calculated on the basis of the type and respective weights of the fish. These toll records are the primary source of the data on quantities and types of fish landed at these markets. Fish landing statistics at the fish sheds (secondary sites) are recorded by the caretakers assigned to these sites.

Bridgetown with its fishing harbour and Oistins with its jetty, are the only two sites that provide the necessary docking facilities and other amenities such as on-shore ice-making and dispensing facilities and onshore freezing facilities to store the catch, that are needed for the operation of longliners and iceboats. As large pelagic species are only occasionally landed by the smaller vessels such as dayboats, it is considered that landings of these large pelagic species are comprehensively covered. Additionally as the majority of flying fish and associated large pelagic species are landed by the iceboat fleet which mainly operate from market sites, the vast majority (around 80%) of the catches of these species pass through the monitored markets and sheds. On the other hand it is estimated that less than 50% of landings of demersal species pass through the markets and sheds. Raising factors based on these shortfalls in the statitsics are used to calculate the final total landings reported for each fish group.

Initially, the Barbados Fisheries Division maintained computerized records of fish landing statistics using the Caribbean Fisheries Information System (CARIFIS) in conjunction with a custom-designed vessel and fisher registration database programme (Fisheries Information System for Barbados- FISBARB) developed in-house by the Barbados Fisheries Division. The two databases are linked via unique hull numbers assigned to the vessels, accurately linking contemporaneous vessel information with catch records. However, by 2014 the CARIFIS system, which for sometime had become obsolete and was only usable on an out-of date operating platform, crashed and, without any technical support available to restore its functionality, its use was abandoned. Landings data are currently maintained in an Excel format linked to the FISBARB database.

The Fisheries Division undertakes a dockside data collection program, primarily targeting the longline fleet and landings of large pelagic species of interest to ICCAT. This includes the collection of detailed information on sampled fishing trips such as fishing effort (e.g. number of hooks and sets), fishing location and species composition, through interviewing vessel captains at the end of the respective fishing trips. In addition length and weight measurements are taken from samples of the catch.

3.2 Research

Against the backdrop of the restrictions imposed for the management of the pandemic, from 2020 to present, the only field research project conducted was the collection of Sargassum samples for analysis of heavy metal contamination under the CRFM/New Zealand Sargassum project.

3.3 Resource assessments

Annual field assessments of the sea-egg stock have been conducted by the Barbados Fisheries Division in collaboration with local sea-egg divers since 2001. Barbados continues to participate in the work of the Scientific Working Groups of the WECAFC especially those pertaining to species or fisheries of concern to the island.

4. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

4.1 Policy

Barbados' Fisheries Sector Management and Development Policy (2013) – The policy sets out the principles and actions intended to guide and achieve effective management of the fisheries resources of Barbados and the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. Detailed actions based on the policy for the management and development of individual fisheries will be identified in Individual Fishery Management Plans.

With technical support from the FAO, the Fisheries Division undertook to update the 2013 Fisheries Sector Management and Development Policy. To this end, consultations with fisheries stakeholders led by the Chief Fisheries Officer commenced in the 1st quarter 2020. Completion of the policy document, with the CCCP framework and content in mind, is planned for the first half of 2022.

Draft national management plans for flyingfish, longliner large-pelagics and sea egg fisheries are to be updated during 2022.

4.2 Legislation

The principal legislation related to the management of fisheries in Barbados is the Fisheries Act (1993) and the associated Fisheries (Management) Regulations (1998). Following is a summary of the legislation currently in force.

Fisheries Act (1993, amended 2000)- sections include: formulating and reviewing fisheries management and development schemes; the establishment of a fisheries advisory committee; fisheries access agreements; local and foreign fishing licensing; sport fishing; registration of fishing vessels; construction and alteration of fishing vessels; fisheries research; fisheries enforcement and the obligation to supply information. The Act also specifies conservation measures such as prohibiting the use of any explosive, poison or other noxious substance; provision of closed seasons, gear restrictions, creation of marine reserves. The Act gives the Minister responsible for fisheries the authority to create new regulations for the management of fisheries as and when necessary.

Fisheries (Management) Regulations (1998) sections include:- mesh size restrictions for seine nets (3.81cm, stretched mesh, minimum size) and fish traps (3.18 cm at narrowest point); the mandatory installation of escape panels and identification marks on fish traps; prohibitions against the use of trammel nets and other entangling nets; prohibitions against the capture of lobsters carrying eggs or removing the eggs from lobsters (scrubbing); prohibitions against the capture, possession or sale of marine turtles, turtle eggs and turtle parts; bans on the use of SCUBA for harvesting sea eggs; regulations for the sea egg fishery through the designation of closed seasons and closed areas by the Minister responsible for fisheries; prohibitions against landing tunas of less than 3.2 kg live weight; stipulations that aquatic flora or fish to be used for ornamental purposes may only be fished with the written permission of the Chief Fisheries Officer; and stipulations that corals may not be damaged or destroyed and cannot be fished without the written permission of the Chief Fisheries Officer. The maximum penalties for breaking of any these regulations are a fine of $50,000 and/or two years imprisonment.

Draft New Fisheries Regulations (2021) - Following wide consultative review by government and industry stakeholders the Draft 2021 Fisheries Management Regulations were approved by the Cabinet of Barbados in October 2021 and were submitted for legal drafting. These comprehensive regulations are designed to provide a sound legislative framework that will address issues including:-

Facilitate rehabilitation or rebuilding of coastal and oceanic resources of Barbados; prohibiting, restricting use, or altering fishing gear and fishing gear techniques to reduce deleterious impacts on marine habitats and both target and non-target species; generally improving the collection of accurate fisheries data and information and preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

To this end a number of the regulations from the suite of 1998 regulations, along with necessary strengthening amendments in some cases, as well as a number of novel regulations, comprise the new 2021 draft Regulations. In this context, the regulations significantly increase protection from fishing for a wider range of internationally recognized endangered, vulnerable or threatened species, by either completely banning harvest and retention (e.g. all cetaceans, sea turtles and certain shark species) or, depending on the conservation status of the species and in keeping with international guidelines and regulations in the case of incidental capture, allowing the retention and landing of a limited number of dead at haul-back. Importantly the regulations mandate the release of live catches of the protected species in a manner to increase post-release survival.

The 2021 regulations also set minimum size restrictions and seasonal closures for a number of species as per accepted management recommendations; mandate improved catch and effort and other fishing trip information recording and reporting including for non-target incidental catches and discards by both the commercial and recreational fishing fleets; and mandating the participation of both commercial and recreational fishing vessels in observer, including electronic monitoring, programmes.

The regulations also mandate licensing of participants and fishing gear in certain fisheries, such licenses being issued with attached conditions.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of fisheries, the regulations are structured such that they may be altered in a timely manner as necessary to continually ensure effective management. This includes the facility to introduce management regulations for any species, gear, fishing method etc. in additon to other novel management measures as required.

5. INDUSTRY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 Longline Fishery Value Chain

Barbados is involved in the project "Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies" (OETS project), seeking SIDS to realize economic benefits from trade in sustainable fishery products. Published reports under this project include "The Legal and Institutional Framework Governing Ocean-Based Economic Sectors in Barbados" and "A Preliminary assessment of the Longline fishery". The latter made recommendations on the enhanced management of this fishery, through "A Comprehensive fishery Improvement Plan" FIP. Some of the management measures are addressed in the draft 2021 Fisheries Management Regulations.

Elements of the C-FIP are being addressed in follow-up studies including: exploration of both local and export market potential for Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*); an experimental fishing exercise to identify the best fishing techniques and associated costs for Swordfish harvesting; an assessment of the impact of circle hooks on catch composition and a comparison of the rate of live vs. dead capture of all large pelagic species at haul-back taken by local longline gear; training of fishers in the use of equipment to release protected species from fishing gear; and an update the 2008-2010 study "Economic Valuation of the Barbados Longline Fishery - Landings, Costs, Net Profit and Return on Investment".

The Swordfish Market Analysis report has been published and is available at the following link: https://unctad.org/publication/swordfish-market-analysis-report-barbados

5.2 Introduction of Fish Aggregating Devices

A program involving the installation of moored FADs to enhance the catchability of pelagic fish for coastal fishers around the island commenced in late 2021. By the end of 2022, 8 of the 17 proposed FADs were installed at various points around island with the exception of the East Coast. The FADs are fitted with satellite buoys to monitor key oceanographic parameters and fish assemblages at the FADs. The satellite buoys will also be used to track the FAD to facilitate its recovery if it breaks away from its mooring.

Technical expertise and support will be required, and experience will be gleaned from the CRFM (2015) Draft Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean (Stakeholder Working Document).

5.3 Aquaculture

Although the FAO Aquaculture project "*Towards a Caribbean Blue Revolution*" (TCP/SLC/3601) has ended, some of the targets are now still being met. Training was conducted in person and online with practical training at the demonstration aquaponics farm. Forty-six (46) people have so far benefitted from this training. However, it became necessary in 2021 to relocate the aquaponics farm and once this is completed the training will be resumed. A commitment has been made to train several secondary school teachers.

6. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Barbados has been a contracting party to the ICCAT since 2000 and to the extent possible, Barbados complies with the management recommendations of ICCAT. The 2021 draft fisheries management regulations of Barbados include regulations directly pertaining to species managed by ICCAT as well as the protection and conservation of other recognized species of concern. It should be noted that the studies under the longline fishery C-FIP pertaining to the utility of circle hooks in the fishery and the provision of training in the use of equipment to release protected species from fishing gear are both important practical conservation activities.

7. UPCOMING PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

Future developments earmarked for 2023 are listed below:

- Youth engagements including an Open Day;
- Remarking of Barbadian Vessels to meet international standard specifications;
- Rebranding and launch of a new website for the Fisheries Division;
- Presentation of the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Suite of Laws to Cabinet to support regulatory reform;
- Development of a state-of-the-art Fisheries Information System to support for evidence based decision-making and monitoring, control, and surveillance;
- Training programmes in Wooden Boat building and repair techniques, Fishing Vessel Operations (NVQ), and Aquaponics;
- Infrastructure upgrades and asset care management for the Division's office building, vehicle fleet and fish landing facilities around the island;
- Piloting an e-traceability system to support access to premium export markets for yellowfin tuna; and
- Revitalisation of fisherfolk organisations and the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) to support co-management of fisheries resources.

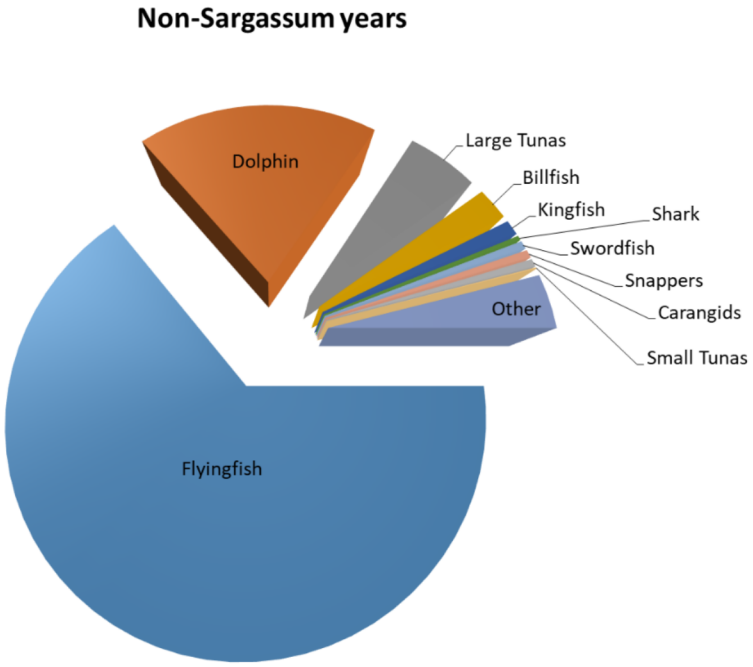
Table 1. Fish species (common, local and scientific names) landed in Barbados and the gears typically used in their capture.

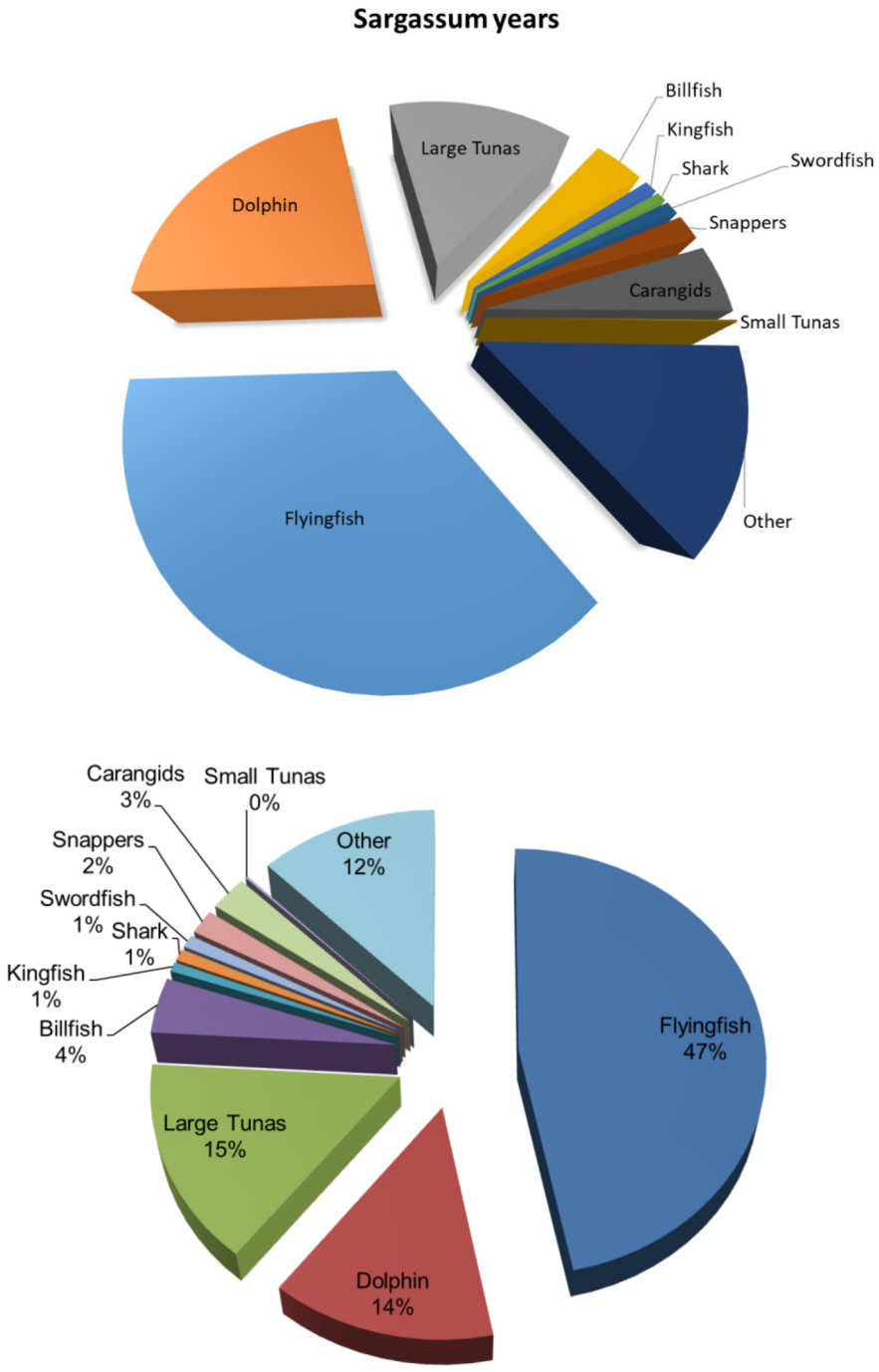
Grouping for catch reporting	Species common name and (local name)	Scientific name	Gear used
Flying fish	Four-wing flying fish	*Hirundicthys affinis*	Gillnet, dip net, guineaman line
	Margined flyingfish (guineaman)	*Cypselurus cyanopterus*	
Dolphin	Common dolphinfish	*Coryphaena hippurus*	Hand line, troll line, horizontal surface longline.
	Pompano (pan dolphin)	*C. equisetis*	
Kingfish	Wahoo (kingfish)	*Acanthocybium solandri*	
	Mackerels	*Scomberomous* spp.	
Tuna	Yellowfin (albacore)	*Thunnus albacares*	
	Bigeye	*T. obesus*	
	Albacore (dog tuna)	T. alalunga	
Billfish	Blue marlin	*Makaira nigricans*	
	White marlin	*Terapturus albidus*	
	Sailfish	*Istiophorus albidus*	
Swordfish	Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*	
Sharks	Blue (blue peter)	*Prionace glauca*	
	Silky shark (smooth skin)	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	
Carangids	Black jack	*Caranx lugubris*	Seine net, occasionally hand line, troll line or fish pot
	Horse eye jack	*C. latus*	
	Bar jack	*C. ruber*	
	Greater amberjack	*Seriola dumerili*	
	Crevalle jack (cavally)	*C. hippos*	
	Big-eye scad (john, robin)	*Selar crumenopthalmus*	Seine net, dip net
	Round scad (robin, john)	*Decapterus punctatus*	
	Almaco jack (amberfish)	*Seriola rivoliana*	Hand line
Bonita	Bonito	*Sarda sarda*	Hand line, troll line,
	Blackfin tuna	*Thunnus atlanticus*	

Grouping for catch reporting	Species common name and (local name)	Scientific name	Gear used
	Skipjack tuna	*Katsumonus pelamis*	blow goat line
	Frigate mackerel (blowgoat)	*Auxis rochei*	
	Barracuda (baracouta)	*Sphyraena barracuda*	Hand line, troll line, guineaman line
Not recorded	Garfish	*Tylosurus* spp.	
Baitfish (not recorded)	Herrings	*Clupeidae* spp.	Cast net, dip net
	Anchovies (fry, fray)	*Engraulidae* spp.	
	Silversides	*Atherinidae* spp.	
	Ballyhoo	*Hemiramphus* spp.	
Snappers	Queen (brim, bream, redfish)	*Etelis oculatus*	Hand line, brim line, pillar stick, fish pot
	Vermillion snapper	*Rhomboplites aurorubens*	
	Silk (yellow eye)	*Lutjanus vivanus*	
AOV	Big-eye (goggle eye)	*Priacanthus arenatus*	
Pot-fish	Parrotfish (chubs)	*Scaridae* spp. *Sparisoma* spp.	Fish pot, spear gun and hand line
	Surgeonfish (barbers)	*Acanthurus* spp.	
	Grunts	*Haemulon* spp.	
	Squirrelfish (cooks)	*Holocentrus* spp. *Sargocentron* spp.	
	Triggerfishes	*Balistes* sp.	
	Various snappers	*Lutjanidae* sp.	
	Graysby (ningning)	*Cephalopholis cruentatus*	
	Coney (velvet)	*C. fulvus*	
Not recorded	White sea urchin (sea egg)	Tripneustes ventricosus	Hand or rake
Conch (not recorded)	Queen conch	Strombus gigas	Hand
	West Indian fighting conch	S. pugilis	
	Milk conch	*S. costatus*	

Grouping for catch reporting	Species common name and (local name)	Scientific name	Gear used
Lobster (not recorded)	Caribbean spiny lobster	*Panulirus argus*	Spear gun, hand spear (grain), fish pot, hand
	Spotted spiny lobster	*P. guttatus*	
AOV (turpit now reported separately at some sites)	Rough triggerfish (turpit)	*Canthidermis maculata*	Dip net
	Ocean triggerfish (turpit)	*C. sufflamen*	
	Rainbow runner (tabio)	*Elagatis bipinnulata*	Hand line, troll line
	Atlantic tripletail (conkey leaf, congalee)	*Lobotes surinamensis*	
Lionfish	Red lionfish (lionfish)	*Pterois volitans*	Spear gun, fish pot,

Figures





Top: Species composition of total annual catch in years other than those with very high *Sargassum* sp. incursions (2001-2021 except 2011-2012 and 2015 through 2021).

Middle: Species composition of total annual catch in years coincident with mass Sargassum sp. incursions into region 2011-2012 and 2015 through 2021.