Saint Lucia Country Presentation: Summary Updates

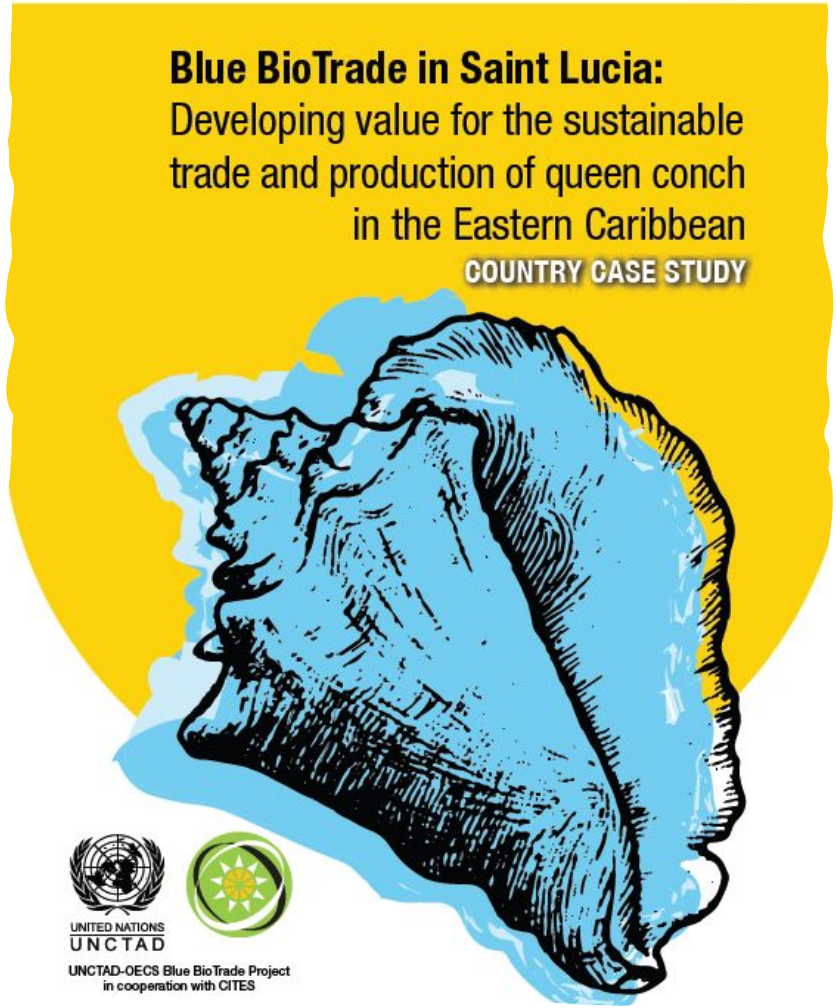
Seafood Value Chains

BE:CLME+ Project Inception Meeting

Thursday 28th September 2023

Panama City, Panama

Queen Conch



- Country Case Study published in 2022 under the Blue BioTrade Project entitled “Blue BioTrade in Saint Lucia: Developing value for the sustainable trade and production of queen conch in the Eastern Caribbean”

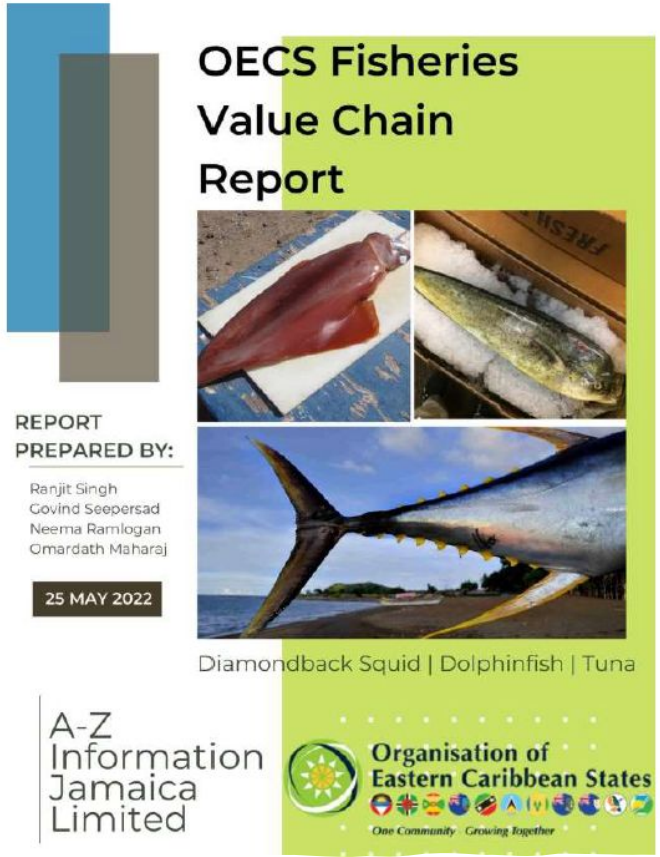
Main findings:

- Currently only approx. 40 conch fishers, however this decade has seen a 73% increase in avg. landings compared to the previous decade (2000-2010)
- Considering both domestic production and imports, the market for unprocessed conch meat is estimated to be worth approximately $1.35 million per year
- Need for stock assessments; stakeholder interest in further regulation through a closed fishery

Seamoss

- Seamoss Value Chain Analysis & Market Assessment entitled [Seamoss Value Chain Analysis and Market Assessment for the development of a Marketing Plan and Strategy Project Title Development of the *Kappaphycus alvarezii* (Seamoss) sub-sector in Saint Lucia through Value-adding, Marketing and Promoting of Seamoss products]" was conducted in 2016 (funded by FAO & implemented by MOA)
- Several recommendations were made, including regarding Administrative and Finance Infrastructure, Human Resource Management, Product and Technology Development and Sales and Marketing, to name a few.
- The DOF/MOA is currently exploring regulation of the industry through registration of seamoss producers and stakeholder meetings to consider zoning of seamoss farms in Savannes Bay, Vieux Fort to reduce encroachment on recreational spaces as well as interest in developing co-management strategies for the area.
- DOF recognizes that the VC is dynamic, due to the changing social, economical, technological and ecological situation. Therefore, a more recent VCA is needed.

Diamondback Squid, Tuna, Dolphinfish



- OECS Fisheries Value Chain Analysis and Report for Diamondback Squid, Tuna, Dolphinfish was published in 2022

Main findings:

- Dolphinfish (Mahi mahi) and DBS are considered underexploited fisheries and recommended as income-boosters for fisherfolk, however comprehensive stock assessments are needed to ensure sustainability, particularly for Dolphinfish
- Tuna species are not adequately captured in catch and landings data currently, and there is a need for comprehensive stock assessments and further exploration of post-harvest value chain development.