

Operationalising the Caribbean Sea Commission

Role of Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in Regional Governance

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Purpose

- Overview of the Fisheries
- Issues and challenges
- What is the CRFM?
- What are its Mandate and functions?
- What can it offer?

Issues & threats affecting Fisheries

- Climate change and sea level rise
- Pollution, habitat loss & degradation
- Endangered/threatened species
- Impact from Agriculture & growing tourism
- Over-exploitation of marine resources
- Illegal unreported and unregulated fishing
- Growing global demand for seafood and trade
- International maritime transportation
- Maritime boundary delimitation
- Inadequate governance frameworks



Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin

Source:
CLME project doc

Challenge of Shared Resource

1. Biological & ecological factors –
 - Semi-enclosed sea
 - highly migratory, straddling or shared otherwise
 - cannot be managed, and used sustainably unless countries cooperate and harmonise their actions
2. Legal Obligations to cooperate
 - UNCLOS (Art 63,64, 123), MARPOL
3. Most Caribbean stocks are shared
4. Regional cooperation is vitally important
5. Tension between principle of cooperation v doctrine of state sovereignty

What is the CRFM?

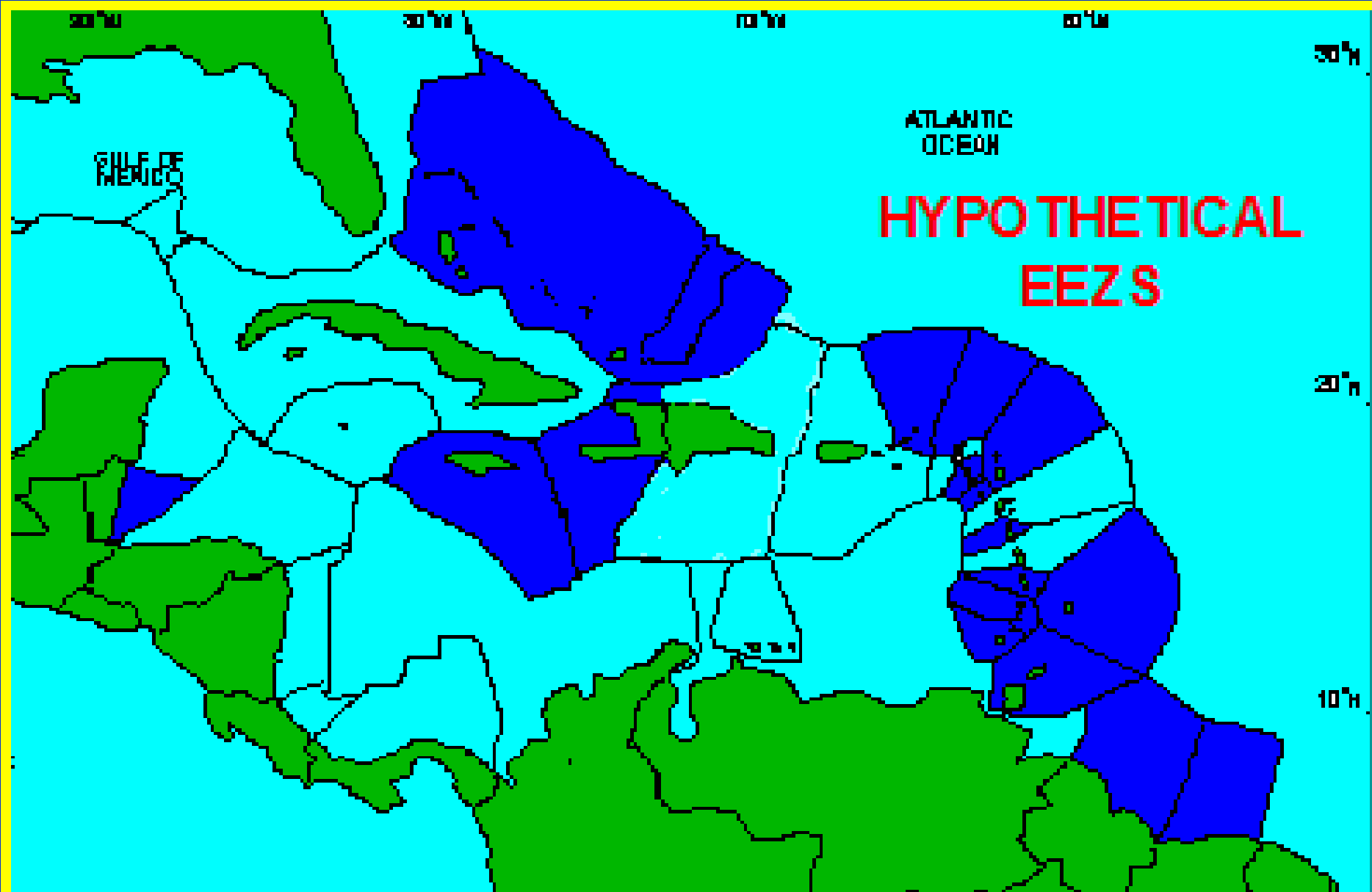
- Inter-governmental fisheries science and management body
- Established by treaty 2002
 - successor to CFRAMP Project (1992-2002)
- General Objective:
 - contribute to sustainable development, conservation & management of fishery resources through cooperation & consultation
- Headquarters in Belize City
- Financing – mainly by Member States



Current CRFM Member States

1	Anguilla	10	Haiti
2	Antigua and Barbuda	11	Montserrat
3	Bahamas	12	St. Lucia
4	Belize	13	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
5	Barbados	14	St. Kitts and Nevis
6	Dominica	15	Trinidad and Tobago
7	Grenada	16	Turks and Caicos Islands
8	Guyana	17	Suriname
9	Jamaica	18	OBSERVERS (UWI, CNFO, FAO,OTN, CARISEC, OECS)

CRFM Member States



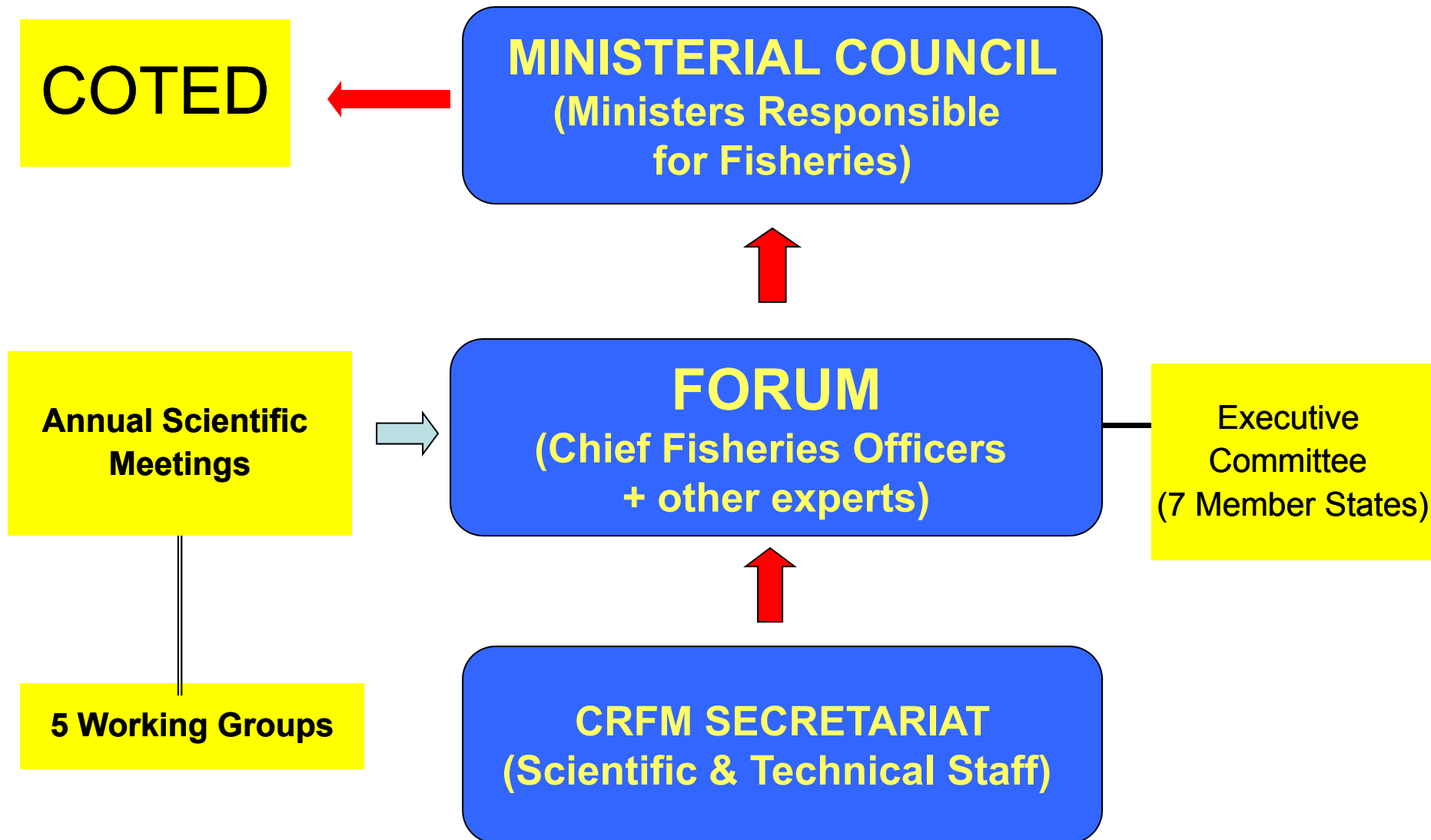
CRFM Objectives (Article 4)

- a) *Efficient management & sustainable development of marine & other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States;*
- b) *Promotion & establishment of co-operative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;*
- c) *Provision of technical advisory and consultative services*

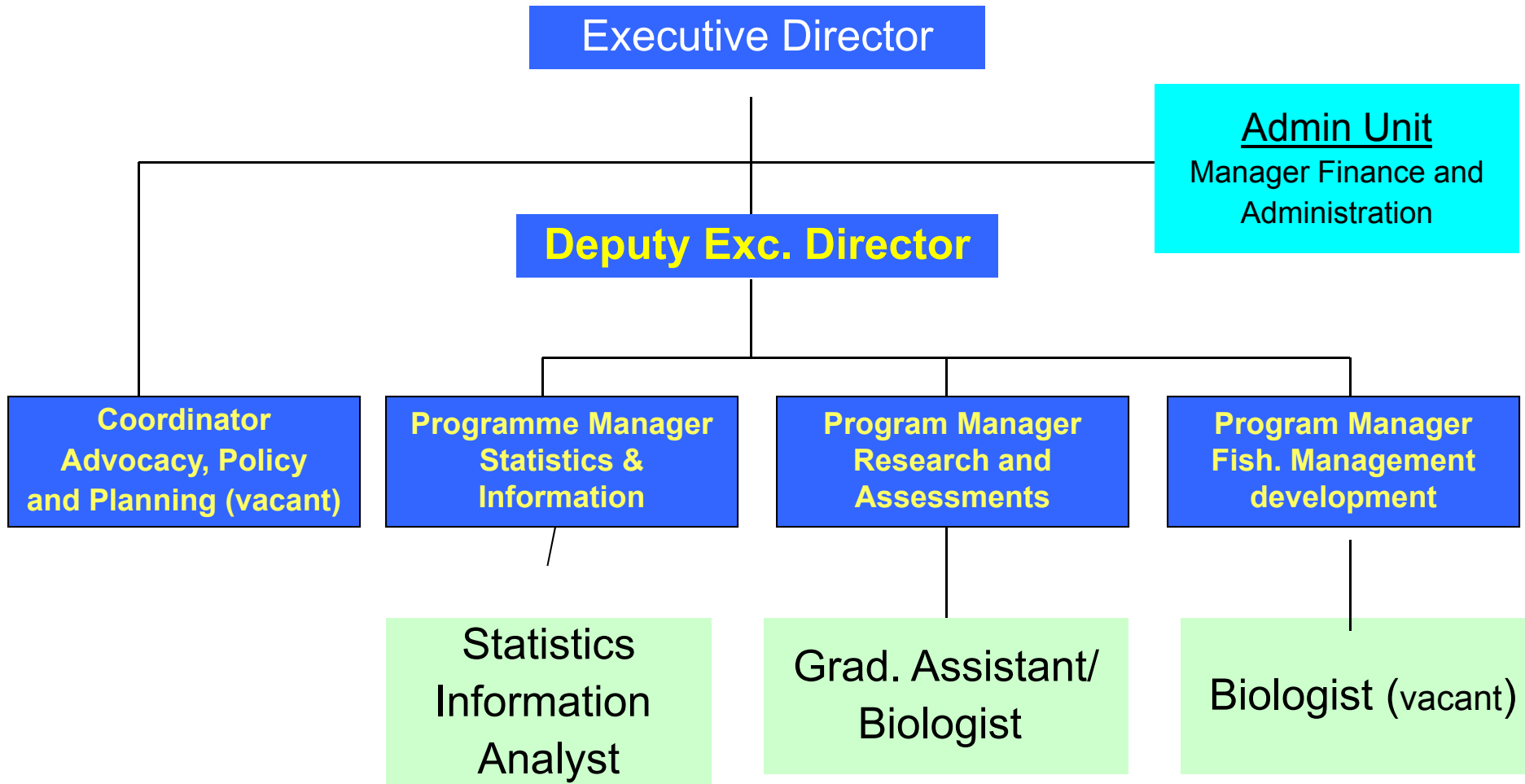
CRFM: *GENERAL PRINCIPLES (Art 5)*

- 1. Maintaining bio-diversity & use of best available scientific approach*
- 2. Managing fishing capacity & fishing methods*
- 3. encouraging precautionary approaches*
- 4. Promoting responsible fisheries*
- 5. Due recognition to contribution of smallscale and industrial fisheries*
- 6. Promoting aquaculture for employment & food security*

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM)



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Mandate of the Ministerial Council

DETERMINE POLICY:

- a) promote the efficient management, conservation and development of shared, straddling and highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources of the Caribbean Region through attainment of competence over the resources and through co-operation with competent organisations as the case may be;
- b) develop and maintain relations with national, sub-regional and regional institutions and bodies and international institutions and organisations the work of which have an impact on the fisheries within the Region;

Mandate of the Ministerial Council (cont'd)

DETERMINE POLICY:

- (d) promote and support programmes to establish, facilitate and strengthen fisheries research, including acquisition and sharing of relevant data...;
- (e) promote...technical co-operation, including technology transfer, information exchange and networking among States of the Caribbean Region and beyond;
- (f) encourage co-operation among Member States to avoid disputes or resolve them in a peaceful manner
- (g) support efforts aimed at ensuring safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions for fishers and fish workers

Mandate of the Forum

DETERMINE TECHNICAL & SCIENTIFIC WORK:

- (a) promote protection and rehabilitation of habitats and the environment;
- (b) encourage post-harvest practices that maintain nutritional value and quality;
- (c) encourage establishment of effective mechanisms for monitoring, control and surveillance;
- (d) recommend to Council, arrangements for sustainable fisheries management and development;
- (e) recommend for approval by the Council, co-operative and other arrangements relating to fisheries;

Annual Scientific Meetings

- Annual Scientific Meetings (2 weeks)
- Compile and analyze available statistics
- Conduct assessments to determine state of various fish stocks & provide management advice
- The working groups:
 1. Large Pelagic Fisheries;
 2. Small Coastal Pelagic (includes flyingfish)
 3. Reef and Slope Fisheries ;
 4. Conch and Lobster
 5. Shrimp and Groundfish

Work of the CRFM

- Contributes significantly to all aspects of fisheries management planning and decision-making in its Member States, including :
 - data collection, analysis, research, & dissemination of scientific and technical information
 - preparation of fisheries policies & management plans
 - strengthening capacity (human & institutional)
 - Mobilizing resources
 - Representing interest of states
- Recent initiatives - Common Fisheries Policy
 - IUU Declaration

CRFM

- RFMO or Advisory Bodies ?
 - depending on mandate and function
- RFMO:
 - ‘intergovernmental fisheries organisations or arrangements....., that have the competence to establish fishery conservation and management measures.’
- CRFM has the power to establish conservation and management measures
- States prefer an advisory role

Donor Funded Projects

- 1. Master Plan for sustainable fisheries (Japan)**
- 2. Strengthening fisheries management in ACP states (ACP Fish II) – (EU-ACP)**
- 3. Improve compliance with EU commission sanitary standards in fisheries sector (EU-ACP)**
- 4. Diagnostic study to assess poverty (Spain)**
- 5. Development of Caribbean network of fisher folk organizations (CTA)**
- 6. Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF)**
- 7. Leadership Development & Stock assessment training (Iceland)**

What do we have to offer?

- Forum for policy discussion & decision-making
- Collection, storage, analysis, distribution of statistical data and information
- Coordination scientific research and stock assessment studies
- Advice for conservation, sustainable use
- Expertise in various disciplines re fisheries
- Represent Members States at meetings
- Capacity building & training
- Platform for improved governance

Conclusion

- As ecosystems and fish stocks continue to decline the need for good governance, and effective management and conservation is becoming more urgent
- CRFM Website: www.caricom-fisheries.com
- [2009 Scientific Rep Vol 1.pdf](#)