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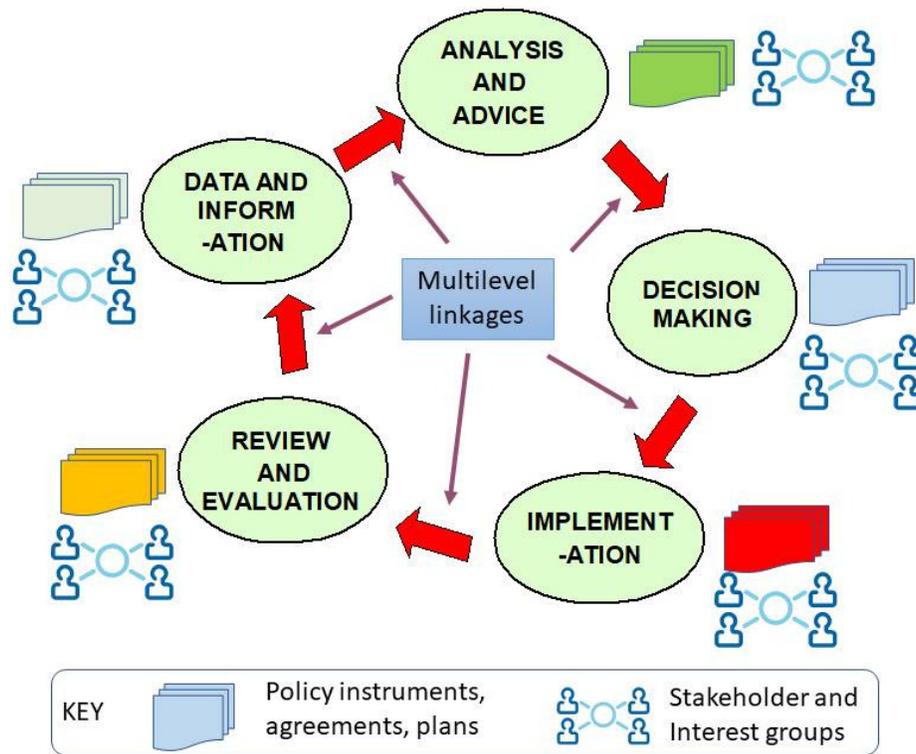
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From Policy to Practice: Managing the Flyingfish Fishery in the Eastern Caribbean

The Policy Cycle

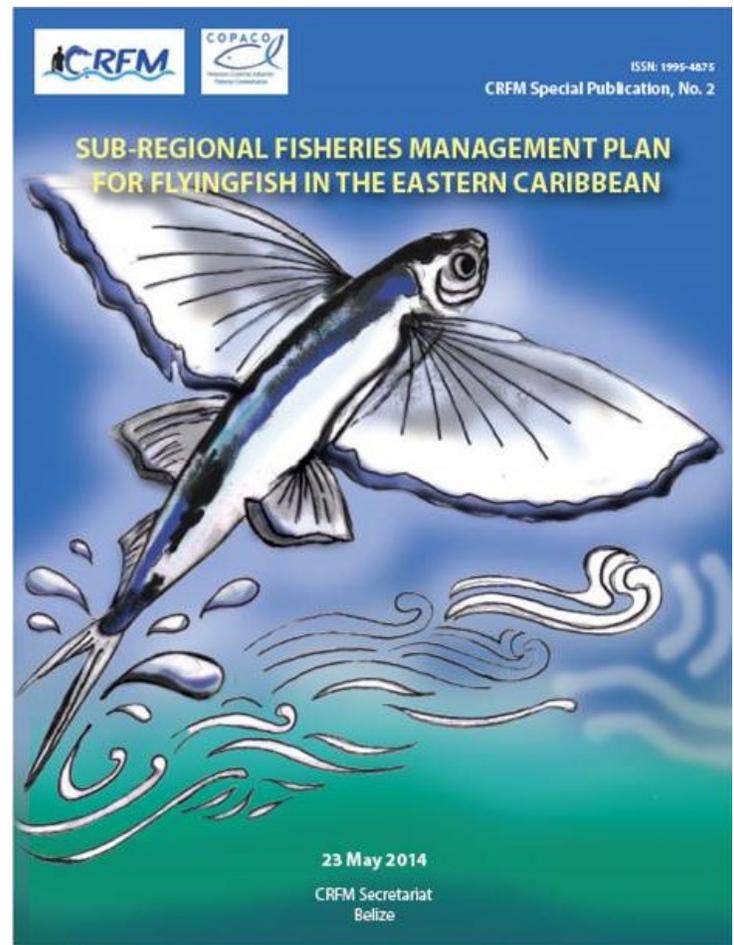
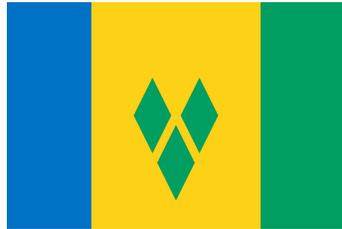
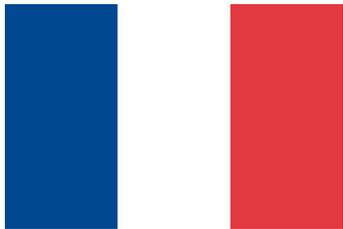
The policy cycle is fundamental to governance. It is a continuous process of reviewing and revising policies based on implementation and evaluation. In its simplest form the policy cycle is divided into 5 stages: data and information; analysis and advice; decision making; implementation; review and evaluation.



Policy Cycle Stages for the flyingfish fisheries

Stages & Stakeholders of the Policy Cycle

-  **Data and Information:** Fisheries authorities, fishing industry enterprises, fisherfolk organisations, non-governmental organisations, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Management (CRFM) Secretariat, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), University of the West Indies (UWI) and other research agencies are involved in the collection and management of data and information for reporting on the flyingfish fishery from the sub-regional to local levels.
-  **Analysis and advice:** Various CRFM and WECAFC Working Groups, CRFM Caribbean Fisheries Forum, Fisheries Advisory Committees (FACs), National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs), fisheries authorities, fisherfolk organisations, maritime administrations, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, Foreign Affairs and Legal Affairs ministries, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), UWI and other agencies at the science-policy interface undertake analyses and provide advice for managing the flyingfish fishery at sub-regional and national levels.
-  **Decision Making:** CRFM Ministerial Sub--committee on Flyingfish, CRFM Ministerial Council, Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) of Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and WECAFC make binding and non-binding decisions on the management of the flyingfish fishery at the subregional and national levels.
-  **Implementation:** Fisheries authorities, fisherfolk organisations, UWI and other research agencies, CRFM Secretariat, and Coast Guards are charged with the implementation of the decisions made at the sub-regional and national levels.
-  **Review and Evaluation:** CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish, CRFM Secretariat, CRFM Caribbean Fisheries Forum, CRFM Ministerial Sub--committee on Flyingfish, FACs and NICs undertake review and evaluation of the implementation of the decisions made on the management of the flyinfish fishery at the sub-regional and national levels. .



The Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan

What is the sub-regional fisheries management plan (FMP)?

The sub-regional FMP for the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean is the first regional fisheries management plan in the Eastern Caribbean. This non-binding plan was drafted through extensive stakeholder consultations at both the sub-regional and national levels, with consultations (including public hearings, public posting of management plans and comment periods and reviews by Fisheries Advisory Committees having been held in Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago).

The implementation of the sub-regional FMP was agreed to by six CRFM member states i.e. Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

What is the purpose of the sub-regional FMP?

A number of issues currently exist which delay the development and management of the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean. These issues include poor local, national and regional management of the fishery; irresponsible fishing practices and land-based human activities which adversely affect the health of the marine ecosystem that supports the flyingfish fishery;. Some flyingfish fishers and their families are vulnerable to poverty and difficult livelihoods when flyingfish are not available.

What is the purpose of the sub-regional FMP? (continued)

To address these issues, the sub-regional FMP has four objectives:

- To assist flyingfish stakeholders to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)
- To conserve the shared flyingfish stock through the use of sustainable fishing practices
- To ensure the long-term sustainability of the flyingfish stock and in so doing, improve the lives of those whose livelihoods depend on the management of the stock.
- To protect and maintain the health of the marine ecosystem that supports the flyingfish fishery

Bridging the Divide: From Issue to Action

To bridge the gap between the issues which hinder the development and management of the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean, and the objectives of the FMP, several actions must be taken at the national, sub-regional and international levels through linked policy cycles and the use of governance arrangements such as FACs and NICs.

Nationally

- Monitoring catch levels in real time, and timely reporting to the CRFM Secretariat;
- Improving monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement mechanisms for flyingfish fisheries and ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;
- Implementing national programmes to build stakeholder awareness on the management measures to be implemented and related legislation and enforcement measures;
- Instituting national training and public awareness programmes to strengthen fisherfolk participation in the management process;

Sub-regionally

- Improving and coordinating data collection and analysis in the sub-region;
- Prioritising the development of a protocol on improving and coordinating fisheries management legislation, to address specifically flyingfish vessel licensing and registration systems in the sub-region;
- Establishing a sub-regional flyingfish catch and effort database to be managed by the CRFM Secretariat;
- Establishing a sub-regional flyingfish vessel registry and database to be managed by the CRFM Secretariat;
- Prioritising the development of a protocol on data and information sharing;

Internationally

- Formalising the relationship between the CRFM and France to ensure France's involvement in the management process as far as the flyingfish fishery in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of its Departments in the region are concerned.

Why implement the sub-regional FMP?

The flyingfish fishery is important to the Caribbean region for several reasons. Fishers, vendors and processors rely on the fishery for their livelihoods, others rely on it as a food source, and the flyingfish also holds substantial cultural significance in the island of Barbados.

**Sub-Regional Fishery Management Plan
for Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish
Why is it needed?**

- Unmanaged access leads to competition, conflict and collapse



Source: Oxenford, 2013

As such, the implementation of the sub-regional FMP to ensure the sustainable management of the flyingfish stock and the continued health of the ecosystem which supports the fishery is a must.

Advantages

- Reduction and or elimination of sea and land based human activities which negatively impact the ecosystem
- Reduction and or elimination of irresponsible fishing practices
- Fishers may be given access to all fishing areas which share the flyingfish stock in the sub-region
- Reduction of surpluses of flyingfish on local markets due to clustered landings and poor distribution

Call to Action

Governments and all stakeholders of the flyingfish fishery should be encouraged to prioritise the implementation of the sub-regional FMP, locally, nationally and at the sub-regional level. This will lead to improved livelihoods, stronger national intersectoral linkages and increased opportunities for external trade. Taking steps to ensure the long term sustainability of the flyingfish fishery must be done to provide continued access to flyingfish for all stakeholders for generations to come.



Questions?

Comments?

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