

today for tomorrow - Sustainable fisheries development as an important national goal

TRANSFORMING FISHERIES

in Fisheries Complexes for Soufriere and Choiseul



Choiseul

The new Choiseul fisheries facility is scheduled to be opened this month. The facility comprises a new administrative building, an ice making plant with a capacity of over 1 ton per day and storage capacity of 2.2 tons, a workshop area, gear lockers, washroom facilities, fuel station, and a new fish market.

In addition, this facility also includes coastal sea defences (125 meters of breakwater and a 23 meter revetment), 116m of wharf space for the docking of fibreglass and other larger vessels, and an enclosed slipway and boat yard.

The project has also provided twenty 25-foot fibreglass reinforced pirogues, equipped with 85 Hp engines, available for fishers of the community. These vessels have been designed for the use of improved gear and methods and to derive enhanced catches.

(see page 7)

Minister for Agriculture
Fisheries - Sen. H.

A Mile in the Fishes

The following is statement by Minister of Forestry and Fisheries George, on the occasion of handing over of the facilities at Choiseul to the Government of Saint Lucia.

"In our current complex global environment, our natural resources are a key asset for our competitiveness in the international arena. We must carve out a unique niche within the global environment. Fisheries are increasingly important to the Agricultural sector and national development with improved livelihoods within the community. Fisheries also generate

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The fisheries facility is scheduled to be opened this month. The facility comprises a new administrative building, an ice making plant with a capacity of just over 1 ton per day, and a storage capacity of 1.5 tons.

This facility is also designed to allow for boat docking, gear lockers for fishers, washroom facilities, a new fish market.

(see page 8)



today for tomorrow - Sustainable fisheries development as an important national goal

Special issue of **NATIONWIDE** fisheries facilities to the government and people of St. Lucia. The Choiseul and Soufriere fisheries complexes

for sustainable country. The relative fisheries sector is relationship with other activities. Indeed, the sector is particularly dependent on fish and other seafood, embellishing the tourism for those visitors who seek other delights that truly reflect the local spirit and vibrant

in Catch

targeted initiatives of the Government of Saint Lucia. The Fisheries Development Project shows landings and the sector have both increased in the last decade.

The sector landed an estimated 525 tonnes captured by some 525 boats, averaging out of 17 fish boats around the coast. The sector has grown to over 1600 boats and more than 2100 fishers who employ over 1080 vessels.

But into Saint Lucia's economic zone, where fishing migrating tuna, snapper, as well as landing other delights such as the red snapper and flying

The sector continues to show strong economic particular relief and a living outside of our tourism centres.

The Choiseul and Soufriere facilities come to us as a product of the Coastal Fisheries Development Project. This project has a value of over EC\$37 Million and involved a period of simultaneous construction which took place over the past 15 months within the two communities.

The project symbolizes the exceptional partnership that has existed between the Governments of Saint Lucia and Japan; a partnership where, over the past 15 years, Saint Lucia has benefited from a number of significant infrastructural works, as well as an array of assistance in the form of improved gear and fishing vessels, fisheries training and technical expertise.

The impressive fisheries facilities now in place at Vieux Fort, Dennery, Castries and Gros Islet are testament to the significant benefits that have arisen out of the assistance offered to us by the Government and people of Japan.

The present project benefited from the expertise of ECOH Corporation as the consultant for the project, Mirai Construction Company Limited, formally known as Daito Kogyo, as the main contractors for the project, with many local companies benefiting from sub-contracts to provide important components of the overall project works.

I wish to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the people and Government of Saint Lucia, our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their continued commitment to assisting in the field of fisheries development here in Saint Lucia.



Civil works in preparation for the complex transformed the Ch

The establishment of the facilities in Soufriere and Choiseul represents a significant milestone in the development of the fisheries sector in Saint Lucia. In terms of short term benefits, over 190 people were employed during the 15 months of construction, 110 in Choiseul and 85 in Soufriere.

The completed project is now expected to catalyze the further development of fisheries along the southwest coast of Saint Lucia. The facilities will create new opportunities within these two coastal communities and allow for increased levels of productivity.

Management by Cooperatives

The fishermen of Choiseul and Soufriere, and their respective Cooperatives will benefit directly from the amenities that the Complex will provide: in each case, a Landing Ramp, Locker Rooms, a Work Shop, Wash Rooms, and office facilities which will come under management of the respective fishermen's cooperatives. Ice making and storage is also provided, along with a new fuel station, both of which hold particular revenue-generating opportunities for the cooperatives in question.

An improved Fish Retail Market will cater to the higher standards being demanded both by local public health authorities, the respective village and town councils, and the fish consumer, so that fish of an improved quality can now be provided on a day to day basis.

In the case of Choiseul, an otherwise precarious landing site has now been converted to a safe harbour that can benefit both fishers and other marine users, as the

considerable investment in a breakwater now provides a physical barricade to protect from strong waves a continually threatened community in the past

I appeal to the fishermen of Choiseul, to their respective village and town councils, and to the users of these important facilities, to make worthwhile use of the facilities in good condition. The Government and our Government have a degree of confidence to maintain these facilities for development necessary collaborative management.

All agencies and users of the facility must play their part in operation and maintenance of these facilities. Revitalize the use of these facilities to assist in maintaining operational standards for the user and the consumer.

My Ministry will continue to support programmes and projects for sustainable development in the sector and the enhancement of an important livelihood.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, Fisheries, therefore continue to explore strategic forms of technical assistance and other types of guidance to support the communities, so as to maximize the benefits for all."

t Lucia today is a business that has lous transformation odernization of this / has come about a provision of vital re, including the prawling fisheries ery and Vieux Fort.

have become the to total fish landings year, fish landings 1,604 tonnes with a on. According to the Social Review, there is employed in the 1,083 fishing vessels

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Fish Landing

s providing a shot in n to improve on their ultimate hope is that icant increase in fish ,” says parliamentary Walter Francois.

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RIES INFRASTRUCTURE

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community-based ees have been set up id maintenance of the . These committees a local town/village Lucia Fish Marketing i Fisheries Complex), ooperative, fishermen



Hon. Fergusson John
Parlaimantary Representative - Choiseul

Parliamentary representative for Choiseul, Hon. Ferguson John, says more persons are now likely to invest in fishing in the constituency because of the improved facilities. Choiseul currently ranks number four among the five leading fish landing sites on the island.

The west coast community accounted last year for 156.5 tonnes of fish, or 9.8 per cent of the island's total landings for the year. The other leading fishing centres are Castries and Gros Islet.

These fisheries facilities allow for:

- Safer storage of fishing vessels and gear
- Better gear maintenance facilities
- Higher sanitary standards for fish handling and marketing
- Decentralised operations of the main fish purchasing, cold storage and marketing institution i.e., the Saint Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation.
- More centralised supply of fish to the local consumer



Hon. Walter Francois
Parlaimantary Representative - Soufriere

Security of Fishing Boats

John sees several benefits from the complex. Fishing boats, for example, will now be safer as a result of the new harbour. It also will be a lot easier to keep them maintained.

He says the availability of cold storage facilities mean fishermen no longer will have to get rid of their catch whenever it gets late. And, most importantly, fishermen will be able to remain longer at sea as assistance to haul their boats to shore will be more readily available.

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Fishing is Soufriere's industry after agricu provides a livelihood fo dozen fishermen wh are engaged in near s the use of fish pots a

With the opening of tl scenic Soufriere wate to move up a notch to anticipation of this m already been receivin fishing techniques.

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“We have had a drift a by the younger p construction of the fac a keen interest in fis persons,” says Franc

The Soufriere facilit range of hitherto un comfortable surrou storage at sea, boat r and changing rooms, welcome fish marke



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In 1997, the Gros Islet fisheries facilities were upgraded. This upgrade included the re and boat facilities, restoration of fishing gear storage facilities, and construction of fi

Fisheries Division in the mid 1960s under the then Ministry of Agriculture. At the time, this Division comprised a single staff member.

In 1976, the Division was upgraded to a Unit and a few more staff members were added. Today, fisheries matters are addressed by the Department of Fisheries, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which superseded the Fisheries Division in the mid 1980s. The Department of Fisheries operates under the guidance of a Chief Fisheries Officer and comprises

approximately 40 support staff. The primary mission of the Department of Fisheries is to develop the fishing industry and ensure its sustainability by promoting increased production of marine and aquaculture products for self-sufficiency.

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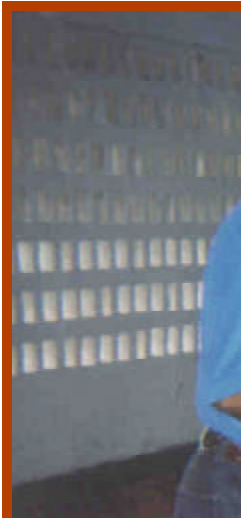
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include:

- Licence and pern
access to fishery
- Marine reserves

Department of Fisheries Units

1. The Resource Management Unit, which focuses on
 - implementation of management actions for selected resources and fisheries as outlined in the Fisheries Management Plan
 - administering a variety of licences and permits legally required under the fisheries legislation
 - data collection on fish landings, maintenance of accurate databases and distribution of related information to the public
2. The Extension Unit focuses on
 - dissemination of information to the fishing and coastal communities on various aspects of fisheries management, fisheries polices and procedures
 - improvement of fishing technology and methods
 - assisting with the resolution of conflict among coastal users, especially where this affects fishers
3. The Aquaculture Unit works towards the promotion of marine and freshwater aquaculture as an alternative source of fish protein for the domestic market.



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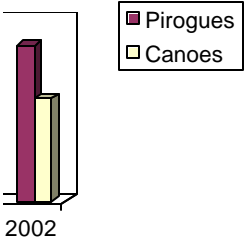
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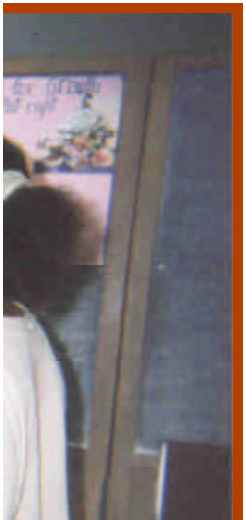
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Regulations No. 9 of 1994. In addition, the work programme of the Department is guided by a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), which, among other things, seeks to facilitate preservation of fragile ecosystems and habitats, sustainable use of fishery resources, and restoration of depleted resources.



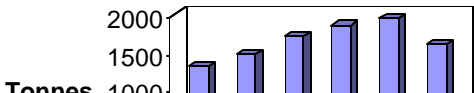
The use, by local fisher folk, of modern fishing vessels and technology has resulted in the increase in fish catch and landing.

Fisheries infrastructure has also improved, with most fishing communities now having fisheries port facilities where fishers have access to ice, storage facilities for their fishing equipment, and appropriate berthing areas.

Through the Extension Unit, fishers are being trained in longline fishing techniques and technology to more effectively target offshore species such as tunas, dolphinfish, wahoo and snappers.

The Department of Fisheries is actively promoting the deployment of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in an effort to increase fishermen's chances of a plentiful catch.

The Department of Fisheries engages in data collection on Saint Lucia's fisheries, which allows trends to be determined, and this assists in making appropriate decisions, relating to fishery resources and their use. Data indicate that the amount of fish landed on the island increased steadily up to 2001, with a small decrease evident in 2002 (**Figure 2**).



The Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA), a multiple use and zoned area established in 1995, demonstrates that fisheries management is just one part of a broader picture - integrated coastal zone management.

The success of the multi-stakeholder approach used for the SMMA shows that effective management is about the management of the **use** of resources, not the management of the resources themselves - a concept becoming more widely referred to as 'people management', as opposed to 'resource management'.

Under the SMMA, traditional nearshore fishing activities are able to co-exist together with the recreational activities such as SCUBA diving, snorkelling and yachting. This has been made possible through the establishment of zones along 11 km of the Soufriere coast. These zones are marine reserves, fishing priority areas, mooring areas for yachters, recreational areas (beaches), and multiple use areas.



challenges that face

The extent of the Excl of Saint Lucia is li proximity of Saint V Martinique to the no east and the Venezi west.

This in turn, limits the to national users. At Lucia lacks the re continued surveillance zone, facilitating some activities.

The continued threat of pollution, such as untreated liquid wa heavy rainfall, is nega of Saint Lucia's destroying habitats su sea grass beds. This biggest challenge maintenance of near ensuring continued resources.

To overcome these c a concerted effort at in management, giving to the fact that Saint L and much of what we our nearshore resourc space of time.

The lack of resources hampers the Depa conduct appropriate data on a regular bas insufficient informatio many fisheries resou pressures acting c response to manager effectively guide mar and decision makers

Ultimately, effectiv fisheries resources satisfactory benefits biodiversity conserv and social benefits) future generations - a along with the rest c desperately to achiev

a floating apparatus, with a buoy attached to a: (1) 2) flag; and (3) radar beacon to make the FAD visible at night to sea faring vessels. This allows for easy

in place through the use of meters of rope, chain or truck tires or drums suspended approximately 60 feet above the seafloor. Kites, coconut husks or seaweed is attached to the vertical attractant, which in turn attract smaller fish, which in turn attract larger ones and dolphin fish. When in the vicinity of these larger fish, fishers are able to catch them.

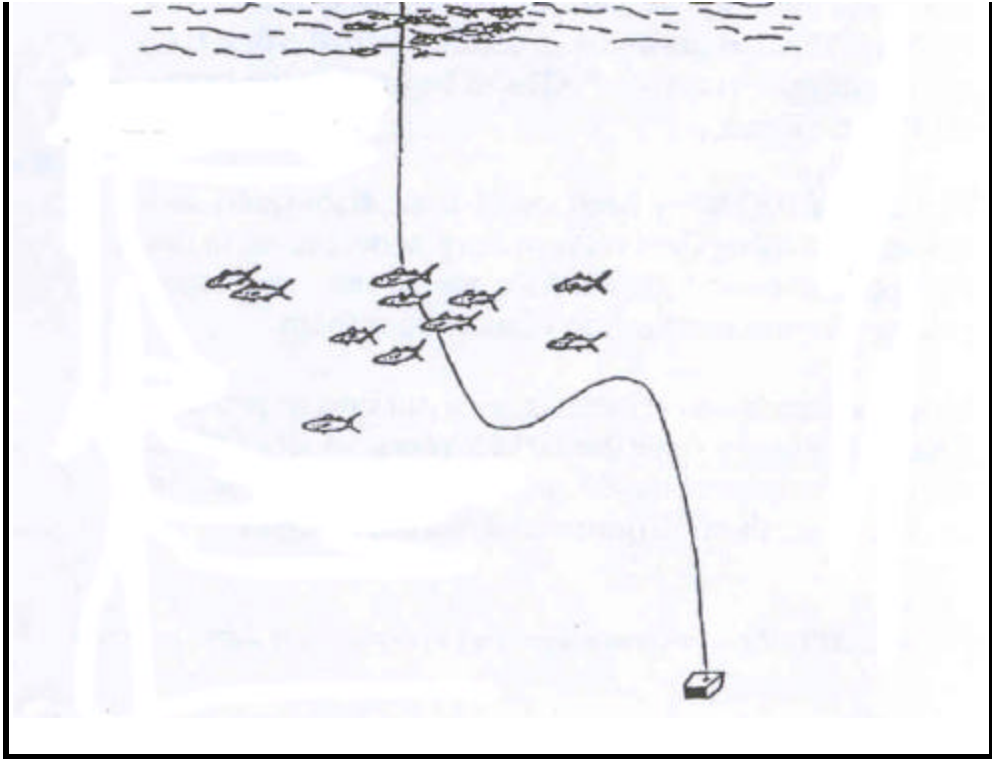
FADs
catch during the "low" tide, resulting in increased

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Over the last decade, the DOF, in collaboration with fishing communities have deployed several FADs in waters adjacent to fishing communities.

In addition, the DOF staff conducted a number of awareness and sensitization programmes within the major fishing communities to sensitize fishers as to the benefits of the FADs, and highlight certain practices that they should not engage in while fishing near the FAD. For example, fishers should not tie their boats to the FAD

in order to fish, as the added weight may cause the anchor line to break and lead to the loss of the FAD.

Recently, the Department of Fisheries has embarked on an initiative to deploy a FAD offshore every fishing community on the island. To date, four FADs have been deployed that will benefit the fishers of Anse La Raye, Canaries, Dennery, Micoud, Soufriere, and Vieux Fort. Fishers from Gros Islet and Castries will benefit from the next phase of the FAD program.

Vieux Fort. I Gros Islet a will benefit fi phase of th gram.



Maintenance

Maintenance and management are currently being undertaken. However, the plan is for the DOF to perform this role. Other fishing communities are not involved in this extension officers in F. The DOF is also investigating the cost of FADs by comparing them with readily available floats [floatation] used by deep-sea fishers. They agree that the FA has achieved favourable results and the two will continue to work under this and other

MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

RESERVES

Reserves are one of the most valuable resources available for marine management. Presently, there are no reserves exist in Saint Lucia. The coral reef Marine Reserve along the West Coast, around Soufriere, and Anse la Raye. Marine Fishing Priority Areas (MFPAs) are among the components of the Management Area (CAMMA).

Coral reef from fishing and fishery management of Marine Reserve as one of the best



young than a one-pound grouper. Large fish are now being appreciated by fishermen of the island. There are many other

fisheries facilities.

FISHERMEN'S SOCIETY TED g Co-Operative)

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With the establishment of a more modern fisheries facility, the Co-operative will seek to encourage fishers to:-

- move away from the traditional dug-out canoe into the more modernised, stable fibreglass reinforced fishing pirogue and possibly in the near future, into small long liners;
- assist fishers to modernize their technology and skills to result in higher fish landings and reduce the need for importation of fish and fish products;
- encourage more fishers to engage in offshore fishing, so as to decrease the pressure on nearshore resources;
- continue to serve its members in an efficient and productive manner;
- develop programmes which will assist fisher folk to improve their socio-economic well-being;
- foster closer working relations with the Department of Fisheries and allied agencies in executing their respective work programmes;
- play a leading role in the management of the newly established fisheries facility, making it financially viable.
- assist in negotiations and arrangements with the Saint Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation and others;
- source and supply appropriate fishing gear and other equipment, including safety equipment;
- serve a lead role in negotiations with government agencies, non-governmental organisations and local and regional organizations;
- encourage a higher level of participation and involvement by fishermen;
- provide greater benefits to members e.g. insurances (life, vessels, gear and tackle) and pension. ■

SOCIETY LIMITED

The Soufriere Fishermen's Cooperative Society Limited is small, but generally well-organised. Registered in 1977, the Cooperative has grown from 40 to 104 members and is run by a seven-member Board of Directors.

The Cooperative is committed to improving the welfare of its members, by assisting in the development of more efficient methods of fishing, processing, storing and marketing of fish and other sea products. The new fisheries facility will help strengthen this commitment. In addition, the number of persons patronising the facility is expected to increase as a result of the establishment of a new jetty.

The Cooperative continues to make significant strides, from selling only petrol following its inception, to now offering a wider range of products, including fuel, oil, bait, seine, fillets, thread, line, rope, cooking gas and ice. Further improvements in the stock of material and equipment available for sale are expected, when the Cooperative is housed in the new, spacious fisheries facility.

The Cooperative has also identified the need for a three-thousand gallon fuel tank to meet the needs of its customers. Presently, there is only one tank and this is not sufficient for servicing the various clients of the Cooperative.

The installation of a large tank is one of the first initiatives that the Cooperative intends to undertake once it is relocated to the new fisheries facility. There is also a great demand for other fuel such as kerosene and diesel. Efforts are being made to meet this demand in the near future.

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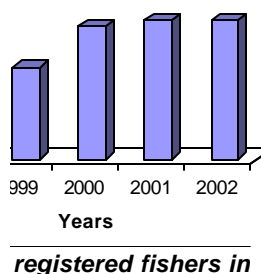
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EUL FISHERY - A GOOD FUTURE

quiet fishing village, is located on the southwestern coast of St.
i Choiseul fishers and 74 fishing boats are registered with the
ries [DOF]. The number of both fishers and fishing vessels has
rom 125 fishers and 54 fishing boats in 1998 (Figures 1 and 2).



Traditionally, fishers from Choiseul have targeted near-shore demersal species [i.e., reef fish using fish traps and hand lines], coastal pelagic resources [e.g., sardines, jacks, robins, ballyhoo and herrings using beach-seines and fillet-balahoo nets], offshore pelagic [flying fish, dolphin fish, tunas, wahoo] and deep-water demersal [e.g., snappers and groupers] species.

In 1989, an improved fisheries facility was first constructed at this location through Japanese Grant Aid. However, it did not provide sheltered docking for fishing boats, which discouraged persons in this community from purchasing fiberglass boats, since it was less damaging to haul a canoe up the stony beach during times of rough seas.

Over the years, the sea breeze contributed to the deterioration of the old facility, making it necessary for the construction of this modern facility.

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Fisheries data for Choiseul has shown a

The new facility includes locker rooms for

Officer Vaughn Charles says the new fisheries improve quality of fish offered to the consumers.

The higher structural and operational standards allowed for by the particular design as well as the use of specific high-quality materials within the two project sites, facilitates compliance with the best international standards and will enable fish products from either of these two communities to meet the standards required by the European Community or those that embrace Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirements.

To achieve such quality in operation, however, fishers and vendors will need to apply the proper procedures and quality control measures in the catching, preparation and sale of their fish. Thus, the availability of ice for use during fishing trips and an adequate water supply and clean operational spaces for use during the preparation and sale of fish are important benefits provided within these two new facilities.

It is important to note that the above requirements have become part of an improved service offered by local hotels, restaurants and indeed by the local tourism industry, as now demanded within the global tourism market.

The Department of Fisheries will continue to work closely with those involved in the management and use of the Soufriere and Choiseul facilities, lending whatever technical and logistical support may be required to facilitate the continued advancement and transition of these two west coast fishing communities.

Presently Soufriere has a registered fisher population of 154 operating out of some 136 fishing boats. The number of fishers and fishing boats has increased gradually from 149 and 114 respectively in 1998 (Figures 1 and 2). However, many more people are associated with fishing activities as a part-time source of income, as the fishing sector absorbs many people when there are downturns experienced within the tourism or industrial sectors.

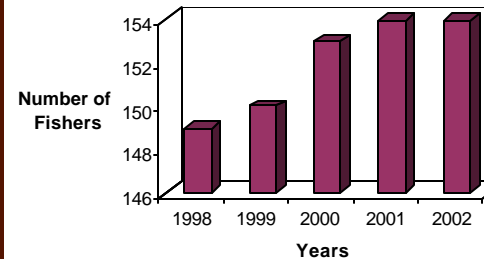


Figure 1: Number of registered fishers in Soufriere 1998-2002

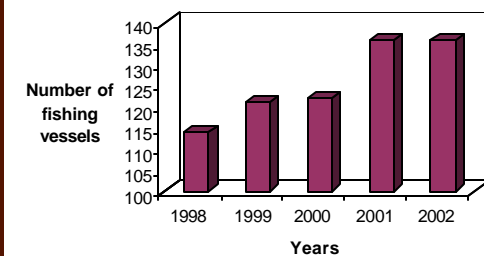


Figure 2: Number of registered fishing vessels in Soufriere 1998-2002

Fishers of Soufriere have traditionally used both nearshore and offshore marine resources. Offshore fishing was limited, however, because of the considerable distance between the fishing banks and the town of Soufriere, which

The nearshore fishing involved the use of bottle hand lines, beach-sein nets to harvest demersal and small coastal pelagic fish. The offshore fishing use of the trolling fish such as do wahoo, and the use of gill fish.

In 1995, Soufriere saw the establishment of the Soufriere Management Area (SMA). This new entity was a determination to minimize the impact of tourism amongst users of the environment. This objective largely achieved, and it has won international awards for its many successes.

Upon completion of the Soufriere Fisheries Project, the fishers of Soufriere will have their counterparts in other communities. They now have an improved service which includes locker rooms, equipment storage, a machine, retail outlet and a workshop. A landing/docking area located within one generation.

The Soufriere Fisheries Project collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporation has the opportunity to provide better services to its members, the fishers of Soufriere. This is for the Co-operative measures to best manage the resources and ensure that all stakeholders benefit from the fishing industry through optimal use of

Officer - Vaughn Charles

The new fisheries facilities now in Soufriere will provide communities with their own processing and repositioning producers and suppliers in the fisheries sector. The new Soufriere and Choiseul landings both in the west coast. The challenge is now to provide the Fishermen's own community-based facilities in the village and town to optimum use of the facilities provided by these new facilities.



VERY

ure are an integral part of fisheries in St. Lucia. The new fisheries facilities were built in 2004. This included land reclamation of a breakwater, a workshop to