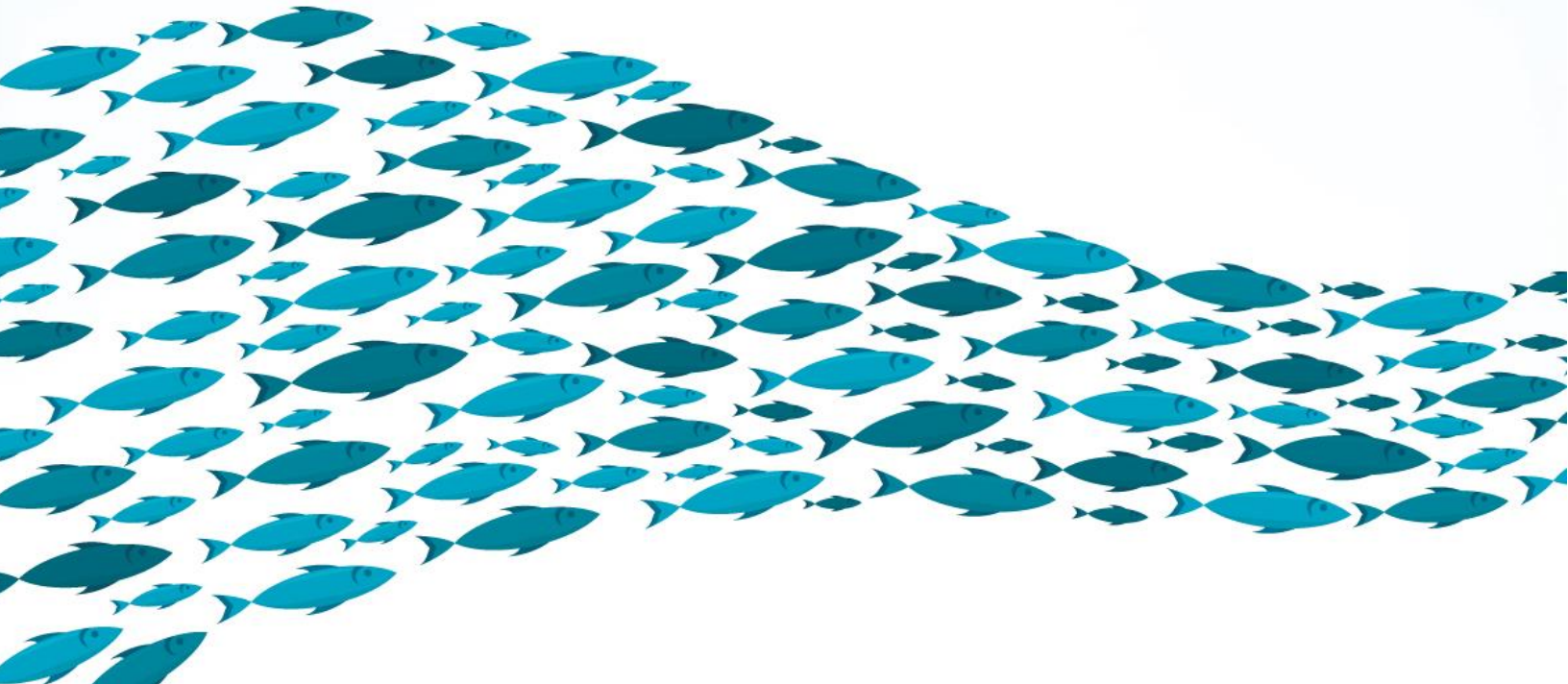
PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (NO. 2) BILL, 2020

INTERIM REPORT

FIRST SESSION (2020/2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT



Committee Mandate

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Monday November 9, 2020 and of the Senate on Tuesday November 17, 2020, a Joint Select Committee was established to consider the Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020.

Committee Membership

Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Chairman
Mr. Stephen Mc Clashie, MP	Member
Mr. Kennedy Richards, MP	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	Member
Mr. Brian Manning, MP	Member
Mr. Ravi Ratiram, MP	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	Member
Mr. Franklin Khan	Member
Mr. Damian Lyder	Member
Ms. Yokymma Bethelmy	Member
Dr. Varma Deyalsingh	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche, Senior Legal Officer	Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein, Legal Officer I	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Temika Jackson, Legal Research Officer	Research Support
Mrs. Susannah Gittens, Business Operations Assistant II	Administrative Support

Contact

The Secretary
Joint Select Committee Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020
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Date Laid in HOR:

Date Laid in Senate:

HOR Paper No.:

Senate Paper No.:

PARL No.: 14/3/85

CHAIRMANSHIP

1. At its First Meeting on Wednesday November 18, 2020, your Committee elected Mr. Clarence Rambharat to be its Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order 97(3) of the House of Representatives and Standing Order 87(3) of the Senate.

MEETINGS

2. Since its appointment, your Committee has held two (2) meetings on the following dates:
   - Wednesday November 18, 2020; and
   - Wednesday November 25, 2020.

3. The Minutes of the Meetings are attached at **Appendix I**.

WORK TO DATE

4. During preliminary discussions, your Committee agreed that in an effort to ensure public engagement in the Committee's process, a call for written submissions from the public would be published on the Parliament Channel 11, Parliament's social media platforms and the daily newspapers. The Committee agreed to a deadline of Sunday December 20, 2020 for the receipt of submissions from the public.

5. In addition, your Committee agreed to request submissions from the following stakeholders:

   - Government Organisations;
   - Foreign Organisations;
   - Processors/Exporters;
   - Port Operators;
   - Shipping Agents/Brokers;
   - Other Organisations; and
   - Fisher Organisations.

6. The List of Stakeholders is attached at **Appendix II**.

7. The Committee agreed to a deadline of Wednesday December 16, 2020 for the receipt of submissions from stakeholders.

8. Additionally, the following technocrats were invited to the second meeting and delivered a presentation on the Bill to the Committee titled ***Modernizing of Fisheries Management in Trinidad and Tobago***:

   Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries

   - Ms. Natasha Hosein - Legal Officer
   - Ms. Nerissa Lucky - Director of Fisheries (Ag)

- Ms. Elizabeth Mohammed - Senior Fisheries Officer
- Ms. Sarika Maharaj - Co-ordinator, Fisheries Inspectorate
- Ms. Lara Ferreira - Fisheries Officer
- Ms. Louanna Martin - Fisheries Officer

Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel

- Ms. Stacy-Lee Daniell - Parliamentary Counsel II (Ag)
- Ms. Yolande Wilkinson - Parliamentary Counsel II (Ag)
- Ms. Jonêtta Jeet Ramsahai - Assistant Chief Parliamentary Counsel

Law Reform Commission

- Ms. Phoebe Ann Edwards - Secretary Law Reform Commission

REPORT

9. The Committee wishes to report that it has not concluded its consideration of the Bill. Consequently, the Committee is unable to submit its final report by the deadline of December 31, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Committee therefore recommends that it be granted a further period of seven (7) months to complete its work and to submit a final report to the Parliament by July 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.
Mr. Clarence Rambharat
Chairman
December 11, 2020

Appendix I
Attendance Record and
Minutes of Meetings

ATTENDANCE RECORD

JSC on the Fisheries Management (No 2) Bill, 2020
First Session (2020/2021) Twelfth Parliament

Meetings	Mr. Stephen McClashie	Mr. Kennedy Richards	Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe	Mr. Brian Manning	Mr. Ravi Ratiram	Mr. Rushton Paray	Mr. Franklin Khan	Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Ms. Yokymma Bethelmy	Mr. Damien Lyder	Dr. Varma Deyalsingh	Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy
First Meeting 17.11.20	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Second Meeting 25.11.2020	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓

PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (NO. 2) BILL, 2020

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AT 11:00 A.M.

PRESENT

Mrs. Christine Kangaloo	-	President of the Senate

Committee Members present

Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member
Ms. Yokymma Bethelmy	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member
Dr. Varma Deyalsingh	-	Member
Mr. Damian Lyder	-	Member
Mr. Stephen Mc Clashie, MP	-	Member
Mr. Brian Manning, MP	-	Member
Mr. Ravi Ratiram, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member
Mr. Kennedy Richards, MP	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Assistant Secretary

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Franklin Khan	-	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the President of the Senate at 11:02 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

2.1 The President of the Senate informed Members that Ms. Chantal La Roche would serve the Committee as Secretary and Mr. Kaleem Hosein as Assistant Secretary.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3.1 The President of the Senate advised that her role was to facilitate the election of a Chairman and invited nominations.

3.2 Mr. Rushton Paray nominated Mr. Clarence Rambharat for the chairmanship and this nomination was seconded by Mr. Damian Lyder.

3.3 There being no further nominations, Mr. Clarence Rambharat was declared Chairman. The President of the Senate wished the Members productive and cooperative deliberations.

(The President of the Senate exited the meeting and Mr. Rambharat assumed his role as Chairman)

3.4 The Chairman thanked Members for electing him to serve as the Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

4.1 The Chairman informed Members that Mr. Franklin Khan had asked to be excused from the meeting.

QUORUM

5.1 It was agreed that pursuant to the Standing Orders, the quorum for meetings would be three (3) persons, inclusive of the Chairman with representation from each House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee's mandate to consider and report on the Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020, and of its reporting deadline of December 31, 2020.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

7.1 Following a brief explanation of the general purpose of the Bill, the Chairman advised that attorneys from the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and technocrats

from the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries would be invited to deliver a presentation to the Committee to provide an overview of the Bill.

7.2 The Chairman directed the Secretariat to circulate a preliminary list of stakeholders to Members for their concurrence and comment.

7.3 Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the Committee's Second and Third meetings would be held as follows:

- Second Meeting-Wednesday 25 November, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Third Meeting-Wednesday 2 December, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 The Chairman advised that all Members will be issued a State-issued iPad Pro tablet device. Members were also informed that all parliamentary documents will be uploaded into the web-based e-repository from which Members will have access to supporting documents.

ADJOURNMENT

9.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to Wednesday November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

9.2 The adjournment was taken at 11:18 a.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 18, 2020

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (NO. 2) BILL, 2020

[UNCONFIRMED] MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Chairman
Ms. Yokymma Bethelmy	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member
Mr. Damian Lyder	-	Member
Mr. Stephen Mc Clashie, MP	-	Member
Mr. Brian Manning, MP	-	Member
Mr. Ravi Ratiram, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member
Mr. Kennedy Richards, MP	-	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Temika Jackson	-	Legal Research Officer

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Franklin Khan	-	Member *[Excused]*
Dr. Varma Deyalsingh	-	Member *[Excused]*

COMMENCEMENT

1.2 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:01 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

2.1 The Chairman will advise that the following Members asked to be excused from the meeting:

- Mr. Franklin Khan *[conflicting meeting]*
- Dr. Varma Deyalsingh *[conflicting JSC Meeting]*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

3.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the First Meeting held on Wednesday November 18, 2020.

3.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting was moved by Mr. Rushton Paray and seconded by Ms. Yokymma Bethelmy.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Per item **7.1** the Chairman advised that the technocrats from the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel were present to make their presentation on the Bill.

4.2 Representing the ***Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries*** were:

Ms. Natasha Hosein	-	Legal Officer - MALF
Ms. Nerissa Lucky	-	Director of Fisheries (Ag)
Ms. Elizabeth Mohammed	-	Senior Fisheries Officer
Ms. Sarika Maharaj	-	Co-ordinator, Fisheries Inspectorate
Ms. Lara Ferreira	-	Fisheries Officer
Ms. Louanna Martin	-	Fisheries Officer

4.3 Representing the ***Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel*** were:

Ms. Stacy-Lee Daniell	-	Parliamentary Counsel II (Ag)
Ms. Yolande Wilkinson	-	Parliamentary Counsel II (Ag)
Ms. Jonêtta Jeet Ramsahai	-	Assistant Chief Parliamentary Counsel

4.4 Representing the ***Law Reform Commission***:

Ms. Phoebe Ann Edwards	-	Secretary Law Reform Commission

4.5 The presentation titled ***"Modernizing Fisheries Management in Trinidad and Tobago"*** delivered by Ms. Elizabeth Mohammed, Senior Fisheries Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries, addressed the following issues *inter alia*:-

- Need for the Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020 due to the outdated 1916 Fisheries Act currently in effect;
- Historical and recent efforts in the development of new Fisheries Management Legislation;

- Purpose of the Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020;
- Consequential amendments to other pieces of existing Legislation;
- Policy for Fisheries Management in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Relevant International Agreements and Conventions;
- Comparative Legislation similar to the Fisheries Management (No. 2) Bill, 2020;
- Legal Basis for the required Special Majority;
- Benefits and Trade-offs to Stakeholders; and
- Key Elements of the Bill.

4.6 Per item **7.2** the Chairman advised Members that the Secretariat would update the existing List of Stakeholders to include stakeholders proposed by Members.

DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD

Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to a deadline for the receipt of all stakeholder written submissions of **December 16, 2020**. The Committee also agreed that upon receipt and review of the submissions, a decision would be made on which stakeholders would be invited to discuss their submissions with the Committee.

Public Engagement

5.3 The Committee discussed the issue of public engagement and widely circulating the Bill for soliciting of responses and submissions from the general public. It was agreed that:-

(i) an advertisement will be placed in the daily newspapers to invite submissions from the general public on the Bill;
(ii) a feature on the Bill to be posted on all of Parliament's social media platforms, specifically on YouTube and the Parliament Channel 11; and
(iii) a summary document of the Bill i.e. Bill Essentials will be published on the Parliament's social media platforms and Parliament website.

5.4 The Committee agreed to a deadline for the receipt of submissions from the public of **December 20, 2020**.

ADJOURNMENT

6.1 There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to a date to be fixed in January, 2021.

6.2 The adjournment was taken at 12:00 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 27, 2020

Appendix II
LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION
GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS		
Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul	Ministry of Finance	Permanent Secretary
Ms. Kathy-Ann Yearwood-Matthews	Ministry of Finance	Comptroller of Customs and Excise Division
Ms. Rita Toussaint	Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs	Permanent Secretary
Mr. Asif Ali	Ministry of Health	Permanent Secretary
Mr. Neil Rampersad	Ministry of Health	Chief Public Health Inspector
Mr. Farz Khan	Ministry of Health	Chief Chemist and Director Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division
Mr. Gary Joseph	Ministry of National Security	Acting Permanent Secretary
Captain Don Polo	Ministry of National Security - Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard	Commanding Officer
Ms. Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews	Ministry of National Security	Chief Immigrations Officer
Ms. Joanne Deoraj	Ministry of Planning	Permanent Secretary
Mr. Hayden Romano	Ministry of Planning - Environmental Management Authority	Managing Director
Ms. Rahanna Juman	Ministry of Planning - Institute of Marine Affairs	Acting Director
Ms. Frances Seignoret and Ms. Ayleen Alleyne-Ovid (Ag)	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Permanent Secretary
Ms. Sandra Peter- Sarabjit	Ministry of Trade and Industry - Trade Licence Unit	Chief Trade Officer
Ms. Sonia Francis - Yearwood	Ministry of Works and Transport	Permanent Secretary
Mr. Ronald Alfred	Ministry of Works and Transport - Maritime Services Division	Director
Ms. Bernadette Solomon-Koroma	Tobago House of Assembly	Chief Administrator
Ms. Valini Samaroo	Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries	Administrator

Ms. Cherryle-Ann Solomon	Public Health Services Department - Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development	Administrator
Mr. Paul Gabbadon	Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI)	Chairman
FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS		
Mr. Milton Haughton	Secretariat - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	Executive Director
Ms. Olalla Lopez-Alvarez	European Union Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EC DG MARE)	
PROCESSORS/EXPORTERS		
Mr. Edward Lokai	Export Etcetera	
Ms. Shelly Silva	Silva Hooks Exports Company Ltd.	
Mr. Gregorio Gonzales	Tri Fish Ice and Cold Storage Limited	
Mr. Philip Ksarjian	Land, Ice and Fish	Managing Director
Mr. David Lanser	Trinidad Seafoods Limited	Manager
Mr. Richard Tywang	Dockside Food Company Limited	Managing Director
Mr. Anthony Byer	Seafood Enterprises	Managing Director
Mr. Roy Jacob	Jacob's Fishing Enterprises Limited	
Mr. Sunil Barton	Chenseya Fishing Services	
PORT OPERATORS		
Mr. Alan Chang	National Fisheries Ltd.	Director
Ms. Trudy Gill-Condon	Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago	
Mr. John Lanser	Tropical Marine	Managing Director
SHIPPING AGENTS/BROKERS		
Ms. Pamela Dipnarine-Ramlogan	SESKO Ltd	

Mr. Derek Telfer	Acclaim Freight	CEO
OTHER ORGANISATIONS		
Mr. Stefan Granderson	Aqua-TT	President
Ms. Patricia Turpin	Environment Tobago	Vice President
Ms. Mia Persad-Douglas	Ocean Experience Ltd.	Director
Aljoscha Wothke	Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville	Director
FISHER ORGANISATIONS		
Mr. Ackbar Benjamin	Erin Fishing Cooperative Limited	President
Mr. Alvin La Borde	La Brea Fishing Association	President
Mr. Anderson Zoe	Matelot Kingfisher's Association	President
Ms. Aneesa Mohammed	Icacos Fisherfolk United	Secretary
Mr. Anthony Jackson	Cocorite Fishing Association	President
Mr. Azard Mohammed	Blue River /Bamboo /Cunupia Fishing Association	President
Mr. Baldath Samaroo	Icacos Fisherfolk Limited	President
Ms. Bernadette Fonrose	Women in Fishing Association Guayaguayare, Ortoire and Mayaro Fisherfolk Association (GOMFA)	Secretary President
	The Boat Owners and Fishermen's Association	President
Mr. Christopher John	Orange Valley Pirogue Association	President
Mr. Clement Charles	Otaheite Vendors Association	President
Mr. Dave A. Seeram	Charlieville/Felicity Fishing Association	Secretary
Mr. Dennis Sammy	Future Fishers (NGO)	Secretary
Mr. Dexter Black	Blanchisseuse Fisherfolk and Marine Association	President

Ms. Dianne Christian	Cocorite Fishing Association	Vice President
Mr. Don Miguel Pavy	Cumana Fishing Association	President
Mr. Esook Ali	Icacos Fishing Association	President
Mr. Bryan Lezama	Guayaguayare, Ortoire and Mayaro Fisherfolk Association (GOMFA)	Representative
Mr. Francis Gomez	Alcan Bay Fishing Association	President
Mr. Gary Edwards	Icacos United Fishermen	President
Mr. Gary Aboud	Fisherman and Friends of the Sea (NGO)	Corporate Secretary
Mr. Ian Maharaj	Trinidad and Tobago Industrial Fishing Association	Vice President
Mr. Imtiaz Khan	Carli Bay Fishing Association	President
Mr. Jason Castillo	Las Cuevas Fishing Association	President
Ms. Joslyn Lee Quay	Trinidad and Tobago United Fishers	President
Mr. Junior Quashie	All Tobago Fisherfolk Association	President
Mr. Kelvin Deonarine	Morne Diablo Fishing Association	President
Mr. Kelvin Rajkumar	Brickfield Fishing Association Limited	President
Mr. Kempis Miller	Toco Fishing Association	President
Mr. Kishore Boodram	Claxton Bay Fishing Association Ltd.	President
Mr. Lawrence Toussaint	Grand Chemin Fishing Association	President
Mr. Leon Joseph	Moruga/La Rufin Fishing Asscociation	President
Mr. Lewis Padarath	Cedros Fishing Cooperative	Representative
Mr. Marcus Serrant	Almoorings Fishing Cooperative Society Ltd.	
Ms. Marylin Sheppard	Trinidad and Tobago Game Fishing Association	President

Ms. Ava Casimir-Gray	South East Fishing Association	President
Mr. Nathaniel Rodney	Marabella Fishing Association	President
Mr. Nicholas Alexander	Grand Riviere Fisherman's Association	President
Ms. Paula Buckmire	Fullerton Fishfolk Association	President
Mr. Rajpati Ramnath	Morne Diablo Fishing Community	
Mr. Robert Millington	Carenage Fisher Folk Association	President
Mr. Salim Gool	San Fernando Cooperative Society Limited	President
Mr. Shaffie Mohommed	Orange Valley Fishing Association Limited	President
Mr. Shawn O'Brien	Maracas Bay Fishing Association	
Ms. Shelly Silva	Trinidad and Tobago Long Liner's Association	President
Mr. Suresh Seepersad	Dow Village/ South Oropouche Fishing Association	President
Mr. Vianney Honora	Mayaro Fishing Crew Association	President
Mr. Winston Sonachan	Orange Valley Fish Vendors Association	President