

- Development of under-exploited marine areas and under-utilised species;
- Alternative livelihoods in fisheries and aquaculture;
- Regularisation and control of aquaculture activities, including development and expansion of the culture of aquatic flora, fauna and indigenous species; and preventing the release of exotic species into the wild;
- Development of basic infrastructure for fisheries, including berthing and marketing facilities;
- Improvement in biosafety and fish sanitation standards;
- Training, technical assistance, and transfer of technology and knowledge from regional and international interest;
- Improved relationships between the stakeholders and management of fisheries to ensure transparency, accountability in the governance of the fisheries and support for fishers' organisations.

Improved relations with Fishers and other stakeholders of the Industry.

For further information, please contact:



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**Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture**

DRAFT NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

"The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) advocates the sustainable development and management of the Fisheries Sector. The GOJ strongly believes in the potential of the sector to contribute significantly to economic growth, social development and food security. However sustainability is the most important criterion of success. The National Fisheries Policy provides an important framework that seeks to promote and facilitate this mandate."

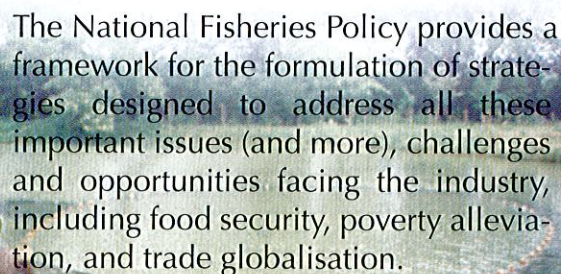


Why formulate a National Fisheries Policy?

The Fisheries Sector provides a means of livelihood for an estimated 200,000 Jamaicans, and has contributed significantly to economic growth; accounting for about 3% of GDP.

The most economically important species harvested are: reef fish, pelagics, conch (*highest foreign exchange earner in the fisheries sector*), lobster (*second highest foreign exchange earner in the fisheries sector*) and shrimp.

Unfortunately there has been a recorded decline in most harvested species due to environmental damage and severe fishing pressures. Given these concerns; monitoring, control, surveillance and the development of aquaculture activities are seen as very important components in the development and management of the fisheries resources.



The National Fisheries Policy provides a framework for the formulation of strategies designed to address all these important issues (and more), challenges and opportunities facing the industry, including food security, poverty alleviation, and trade globalisation.



Main goals of the National Fisheries Policy:


- Contribute to economic growth and reduction of poverty.
- Ensuring the management and sustainable development of the fisheries resources.
- Contribute to food security.

Successful Implementation!

With the assistance of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Fisheries Division used the participatory approach to develop the draft National Fisheries Policy. From the beginning of the process, a number of consultations were held with all major stakeholders (including fishers) with a view of securing their input and building consensus on the policy strategies. In addition, other relevant national and international instruments and policies were also used to guide the development of the draft Policy.

Some of the legal instruments are:

- The draft Fisheries Bill;
- National policies for the protection and preservation of the environment and biodiversity;

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- International conventions and treaties; and
 - FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

What does this mean for YOU?

The draft National Fisheries Policy provides the framework and support for building the capacity that will ensure improved management and delivery in the Fisheries Sector. As a result, there are a number of changes to look forward to.

Some of these include:

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- Improved service delivery as the institutional capacity within the Fisheries Sector is strengthened;
 - Improved licensing systems for all fishers– (capture fishers and fish farmers);
 - Improved management plans and strategies which will introduce zonation of marine capture fisheries and access limitations;
 - Increased monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement;
 - Improved research and data collection in marine and inland waters to be shared with the public;