

# SARGCOOP

## WORK PACKAGE : CARIBBEAN SARGASSUM FORUM

13 JANUARY 2023 WEBINAR :  
« ANTICIPATING AND MEASURING THE IMPACT »

State of Knowledge on Monitoring the Impact of Sargassum on CARICOM Fisheries

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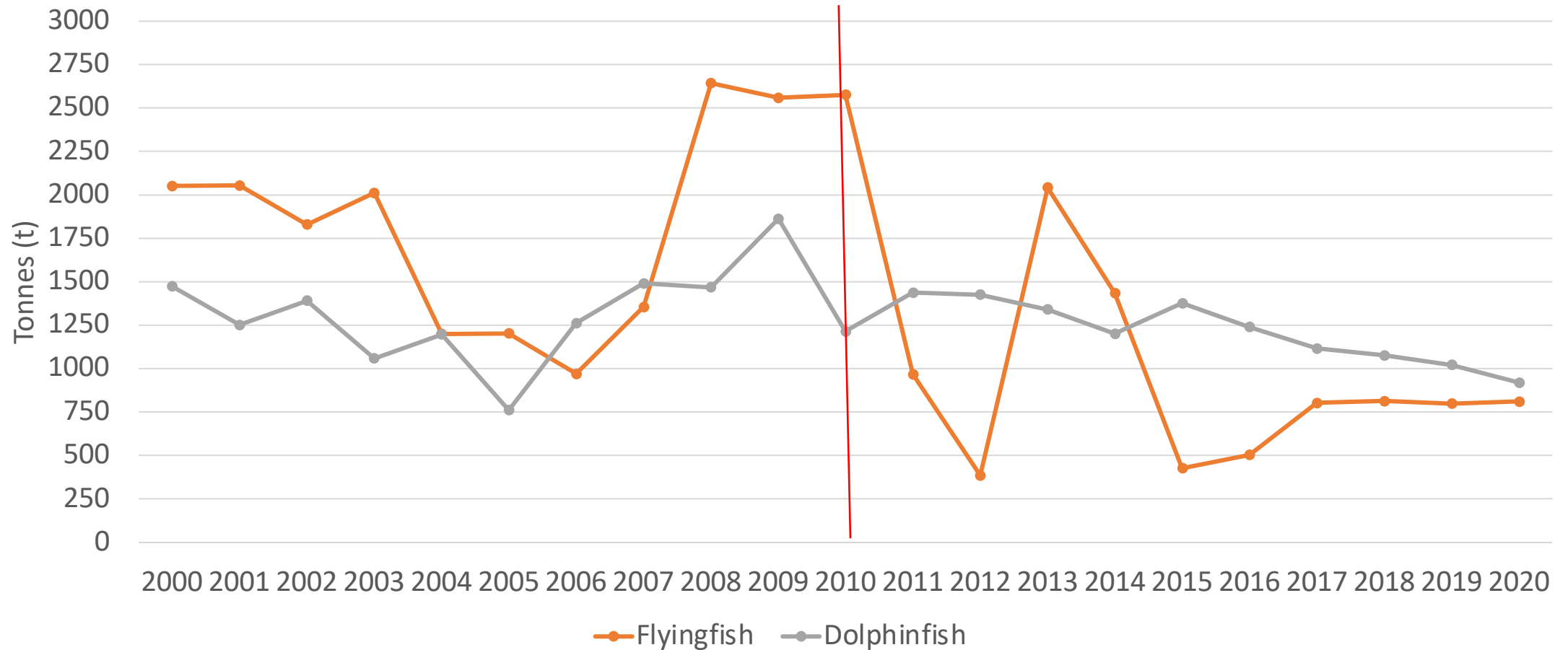
# Effects of Sargassum Influxes on Fisheries Sector

- Fishing Operations
  - Increased travel times to fishing grounds
  - Relocation of fishing operations and reduced number of fishing days
  - Gear entanglement and damage; engine damage and impeded passage
- Catches
  - Reduction in catches of key commercial fisheries species such as flyingfish and adult dolphinfish
  - Increased juvenile dolphinfish catches during influxes which could affect the future sustainability of the population
  - Changes in the availability and distribution of coastal and pelagic fisheries resources and catch composition
- Fish prices
  - Increase in fish prices
- Fishing communities
  - Disruptions to coastal fishing communities
- Livelihoods
  - Loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities to fishers and fisherfolk



# Effects of Sargassum Influxes on Fisheries Production

Capture production of flyingfish and dolphinfish in CRFM Member Sates from 2000-2020 (Source :FAO,2022)



# CRFM Responses to Saragassum

2016

10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council approved the Model Protocol for the Management of Extreme Accumulations of Sargassum on the Coasts of CRFM Member States & Recommended Precautionary Approach to Management of the Regional Dolphinfish Fishery



2019

Fact-Finding Survey completed in collaboration with JICA to determine the extent of the Sargassum impacts on the fisheries sector in Member States



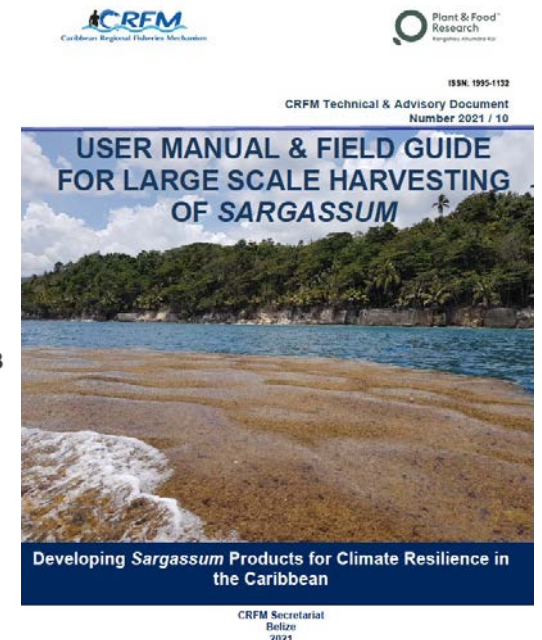
2020

14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council Meeting approved the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARCIOM Region, Regional Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030



2021

15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Council Resolution on “Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean” project



# Fisheries Management Resources

- CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (established since the 17th Session of WECAFC)
- Recommended Precautionary Approach to Management of the Regional Dolphinfish Fishery
  - The capture, landing, possession, sale or purchase of the following sizes of dolphinfish should be prohibited:
    - 6 lbs (2.7 kilos) or less; or
    - 25 inches (65 cm) Fork Length or less



# Gaps to be filled to contribute to monitoring the long-term impacts of Sargassum

- Economic evaluation of the impacts of Sargassum on the fisheries sector throughout the entire value chains for dolphinfish and flyingfish
- Identification of opportunities available to the sector to support marketing and value addition of the species that are now available in greater quantities, e.g. amberfish
- Monitoring of dolphinfish landings for size and enforcement of the precautionary size limits
- Improved fisheries catch and effort, biological data collection
- Improved fisheries socio-economic data collection
- Socio-economic assessment of the impacts of Sargassum influxes on the fisheries sector
- Regional fish stock assessments for flyingfish and dolphinfish
- Assessment of damage to fishing land sites infrastructure associated with influxes
- Long-term monitoring and assessments of nearshore coastal habitats including mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs

# References

- FAO. 2022. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global capture production 1950-2020 (FishStatJ). In: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division [online]. Rome. Updated 2022. [www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/fishstatj/en](http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/fishstatj/en)

# Thank You!

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