



**ECONOMIC AND TRADE ASPECTS OF
FISHERIES AND COASTAL AND MARINE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTORS
IN BARBADOS**

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AHS	Effectively applied (tariff)
BFD	Barbados Fisheries Division
BARNUFO	Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations
BoP	Balance of payments
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CPC	Central Product Classification
CZMU	Coastal Zone Management Unit [Barbados]
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee [Barbados]
FTA	Free trade agreement
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GDP	Gross domestic product
MFN	Most-favoured-nation (tariff)
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
MMABE	Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy [Barbados]
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield
NTM	Non-tariff measure
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
TBT	Technical barrier to trade
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note

Reference to “dollar” and “\$” indicate United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. BBD means Barbados dollars. Use of a dash (–) between dates representing years, e.g. 2015–2017, signifies the full period involved, including the initial and final years. Data, decimals and percentages are rounded off, sometimes altering real totals.

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1. OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

The project “Evidence-based and policy coherent Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies” aims to support developing countries such as Barbados in realizing trade and economic benefits from the sustainable use of their marine resources within the framework of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This document presents detailed sectoral information on four ocean sectors in Barbados to facilitate the identification and informed selection of key sectors to be considered for the next phase of the project.

1.2. At a glance: Barbados fisheries and coastal and marine environmental services sectors

Previously, the now defunct Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (MAFFW) of Barbados had primary responsibility for

fisheries. Over the years, the country’s economic and environmental challenges, and the emergence of new and more potent threats related to climate change have made policy and regulatory changes more compelling. Barbados turned to the immense potential of its maritime space in providing opportunities that can be sustainably used to advance the economic interest of the country while at the same time protecting the environment. In 2018, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy (MMABE) was created with a view to consolidate the government’s approach in prioritizing the strategic and sustainable use of its EEZ (Humphrey, 2018) including, inter alia, managing the fisheries sector through the Barbados Fisheries Division (BFD). The MMABE Minister deals with issues such as management and technical measures for the fisheries sector of Barbados, legislation, vessel and fisher registration systems among other things through the advice of the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), a formal, national multistakeholder body established by the CARICOM Member States in the eastern Caribbean.

The Fisheries Act, 1993 (Cap 391) and the Fisheries

Box 1: Barbados political map



Source: Photo Credit: © Adobe Stock/ Peter Hermes Furian¹

Barbados is the eastern most Caribbean island surrounded by a very high exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to land territory ratio of 434:1.

The local fishing industry is one of an open access, multi-species, multi-gear nature (FAO, 2016).

It is comprised of six main fisheries:

- shallow shelf reef,
- deep slope,
- coastal pelagic,
- large pelagic,
- flying fish, and
- sea urchins.

Lobsters and conchs are of minimal importance and a fishing moratorium has been in effect for the sea turtle capture since 1998. In recent years, the sea urchin (sea egg) fishery has operated under a semi-permanent closed season.

(Management) Regulations, 1998 are the key legal authorities for the management and development of fisheries in the waters of Barbados. Updated draft management plans and draft fisheries policy which prescribes the development and implementation of individual fishery management plans for each fishery are currently under review.

At the industry level, the promotion of sustainable fisheries, proper governance, fisherfolk development and sanitary and phytosanitary standards are promoted by the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO).² As the umbrella fishing industry organization established in 1999, it serves as an alliance platform for the primary members which include five fisherfolk associations as well as two boat owners' associations, some members of which are presently inactive.

1.3. Fisheries sector

Fish and seafood are one of the most traded food items. Some 35 to 38 per cent of the world production enters international trade generating \$152 billion in 2017. Over 50 per cent of this trade originates in developing countries whose net trade income (export – import), valued at \$37 billion in 2013, is greater than the net income of most other agricultural commodities combined (UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP, 2018). CARICOM exports of fish and seafood have been estimated at \$400 million with a potential to get a bigger piece of the global export share, if appropriate food safety measures were put in place. (Jamaica Observer, 29 May 2016).

The word “fishery” may refer to the occupation, industry, or season for catching fish. It may also refer to the area of ocean where fish are caught, or the business of catching the fish. Generally, fishery is an activity leading to harvesting of fish. It may

Box 2: Barbados economic overview

Shelf area:
320 km²

Coastline:
95 km

Territorial land/EEZ ratio:
1/434

Marine water area (including EEZ):
estimated between 183'500 - 187'500 km²

GDP at current price:
\$4.355 billion

GDP per capita:
\$14,300

Agriculture value added:
\$ 5.8 per cent of GDP

Fisheries value added:
\$ 8 per cent of agriculture GDP

Source: FMP, Barbados Economic and Social Report, 2017

and best practices agreed.⁴ A more methodological approach refers to the application of the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) that integrates economic and social considerations (Figure 1). The United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA), 1995 prescribes its States Parties to establish limit reference points within the context of Articles 61 (3) and 119 (1)(a) of UNCLOS, 1982 that ensure “proper conservation

Figure 1: The maximum sustainable yield (MSY) concept based on Schaefer model of surplus production as a function of stock size



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