



**Project TCP/BHA/3703
Rebuilding fisheries livelihoods in Abaco and Grand
Bahama islands following Hurricane Dorian**

**Stakeholder Meeting: Investment Plan for the Development of Climate
Resilient Fisheries Infrastructure in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands
Thursday 25 November 2021 (10am)**

Zoom Meeting

<https://fao.zoom.us/j/99247379988>

Meeting ID: 992 4737 9988

Passcode: fisheries

Prospectus & Programme

Background

The fisheries sector plays an important role in the Bahamian economy. It provides food, employment and foreign currency earnings. The commercial fisheries sector supplies 29 kg/capita/year of fish and fishery products to the population, generates about USD 80 million annually in export earnings and provides full-time employment to 9,300 commercial fishers and a few hundred more in vessel maintenance, fish processing, retail and trade.

In early September 2019, Hurricane Dorian impacted Grand Bahama and Abaco for approximately 68 hours. Hurricane Dorian, a category 5 hurricane was the strongest hurricane in modern records to ever hit the archipelago. It devastated the islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama and the surrounding Cays.

Hurricane Dorian was the most damaging hurricane the Bahamas had ever seen and the costliest event on record for the country. The damages of the hurricane are estimated to have cost USD 3.4 billion (which is equal to more than a quarter of the country's GDP), with hundreds dead or missing and with impacts on the economy that will last for years. A Post Disaster Damage and Needs Assessment of the Fisheries Sector in the Bahamas estimated that Dorian's damages to the fishing fleet were USD 4.9 million, fishing gears (mainly condo's) USD 8.6 million, buying stations USD 1 million, and processing plants USD 7.2 million. In total, the damages to the fishery sector sum up to USD 21.7 million.

The Bahamian Government requested FAO technical support in "Rebuilding fisheries livelihoods in Abaco and Grand Bahama islands following Hurricane Dorian". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and maritime transport issues, assistance was delayed. However, in

2021 lobster condos were distributed to affected fishers, as well as some outboard motor spare parts and freezers. Fish pot construction materials were purchased and distributed in November 2021. Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and FAO also carried out a fishery infrastructure inventory and prepared a draft Investment Plan for the Development of Climate Resilient Fisheries Infrastructure in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands.

This draft plan was prepared to support:

- 1) Rebuilding and repairing of damaged and destroyed fisheries infrastructure.
- 2) Making the Bahamian fisheries sector more resilient to future hurricanes and other natural disasters.
- 3) Identify what fishery infrastructure (fish buying houses, landing sites, jetties, piers, slipways) need investment and estimate the costs and benefits of such investments.

The goals of the stakeholder meeting on 25 November 2021 are:

- 1) Create awareness among key stakeholders on the state of the fishery infrastructure on Grand Bahama and Abaco.
- 2) Present and discuss the draft Investment Plan for the Development of Climate Resilient Fisheries Infrastructure in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands.
- 3) Discuss the next steps for finalizing the plan and finding investors.

Programme – 25 November 2021 (10 AM to 12.15):

10.00 -10.10	Welcome by FAO - Mr Crispim Moreira
10.10 -10.20	Introduction of Participants
10.20 -10.30	Short introduction to the project – Mr Raymon van Anrooy
10.30 -10.45	Fishery Infrastructure Inventory – Mr Jo Sciortino
10.45 -11.00	Draft Investment Plan for the Development of Climate Resilient Fisheries Infrastructure - Mr Jo Sciortino
11.00 -11.10	Remarks by Hon. Minister Clay Glenford Sweeting
11.10 -11.40	Discussion – Questions & Answers
11.40 -11.50	Next steps – moderated discussion – Mr Raymon van Anrooy
11.50 -11.55	Closing words – Mr Gregory Bethel

Moderators: Ms Tamanji Bethel and Ms Jeri Leah Kelly

Expected outputs:

- Increase in awareness on the state of the fishery infrastructure on Grand Bahama and Abaco islands.
- Stakeholder inputs to the draft Investment Plan for the Development of Climate Resilient Fisheries Infrastructure in Grand Bahama and Abaco islands
- Agreement on the next steps.

Participation:

Relevant stakeholders representing public and private sectors, fishers, fish wholesalers, exports/importers, fish retailers, NGO's, government agencies, financial institutions, etc.

Process:

- The draft plan will be shared online (with an option to download) with confirmed participants two days before the stakeholder meeting.
- The finalized plan will be submitted formally to the Minister for Agriculture and Marine Resources in January 2022. It will also be shared with all participants in the stakeholder meeting.

Registration:

Please register for the Stakeholder meeting by writing to Ms Tamanji Bethel at: Tamanji.Bethel@fao.org

For more information, please contact:

Mr Raymon van Anrooy at: Raymon.vanAnrooy@fao.org