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Fish IN

Newsletter of the Seafood Industry of Trinidad and Tobago



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SIDC Launches ... Ice It...! Ice It...! Ice It...! Campaign







On March 5th 2009, the SIDC launched a campaign to promote the increased use of ice in the sale and storage of fresh (chilled) seafood. The objective of the campaign is to create awareness among consumers of the necessity of purchasing seafood stored and retailed on ice and the dangers of not doing so.

Ice is important in maintaining seafood quality and provides a measure of assurance with respect to food safety. There are several benefits that can be easily identified if seafood is stored and retailed on ice, chief among which is the appearance and quality of the seafood. The presence of ice on seafood at the point of sale however, is viewed with some suspicion by consumers. There is therefore a need for greater public awareness among consumers with regards to the importance of using ice in the handling, sale and storage of seafood. It is important that consumers understand that wherever seafood is purchased, it must be stored and displayed on ice, in an environment that is clean and sanitary.

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On our website you will find useful information on Doing Business, Best Practices, Sector Profiles and lots more.

You can also view our Strategic Plan, developments with TTUF and the electronic version of this newsletter. So log on TODAY! @



TTUF Elections

The executive and members of Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF) convened their 2nd Annual General Meeting on February 28th, 2009 at the office of the Seafood Industry Development Company, #25 Caroni Savannah Road, Durham Village, Chaguanas. Elections were held to appoint two members to the executive of TTUF.

Mrs. Sherene Arjoon and Mr. Charles James have now joined the executive. The Chairman's Report detailing the year's activities was given by Mr Emile Louis and the financial report was presented by Ms Bernadette Fonrose. The finance committee headed by Mrs. Bernadette Fonrose was given the directive by the general membership to engage in fund raising activities.



Getting TTUF in Grenada!

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) hosted their first Fishers Exchange entitled "Caribbean Fishers collaborating on suitable gear and techniques that will contribute to sustainable fisheries" on April 1st-3rd, 2009 in Gouyave, Grenada. This workshop was attended by fisherfolk from CARICOM countries and focused on sharing knowledge and taking decisions on the sustainability of fishing in the Caribbean region and on the responsible use of fishing gear.

The Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF) sponsored the participation of Mr. Azard Mohammed of Blue River/Bamboo/ Cunupia Fishing Association in Trinidad and Mr. Junior Quashie of Castara Fishing Association in Tobago. Funding for this programme was provided by Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, United Nations Environment Programme and the Swedish International Development Agency. The Grenada Fisheries Division and UWI-CERMES also participated in this exchange.

This historic regional exchange allowed fishers an opportunity to exchange ideas and technology on the most suitable fishing methods for sustainable fisheries and encouraged an Ecosystem Based Approach to Fisheries. Fisherfolk presented techniques for improving catches of lobster, reef fish, deep snapper and pelagic fisheries in the Caribbean region. Discussions included fishing with lobster shade or casitas, spear fishing, pole fishing and the use of fish aggregating devices (FADS).

The participants indicated that the Exchange was very useful. They said that they would be implementing some of the new fishing techniques they learned.





Feature Recipe

Those who eat the Cascadura will, the native legend says, wheresoever they may wander, end their days in Trinidad
Selvon, S (1957) Johnson and the Cascadura.

Curried Cascadura

INGREDIENTS

10 Cascadura
227 g (½ lb) cooked pigeon peas
60 g (4 tbsp) curry powder
15 g (1 tbsp) saffron powder
75 ml (1cup) coconut milk
1 small onion, minced
2 cloves of garlic, crushed
juice of 1 lime
1 cup, 4 tbsp water
1 hot pepper

GREEN SEASONING
1 chives stalk
1 bundle chadon beni
1 celery
3 pimentos
4 cloves of garlic
salt, to taste

METHOD

Cut open belly of Cascadura and remove entrails and gills.Wash well with a mixture of lime juice and water. Blend all the green seasoning ingredients with 2 tablespoons water. Season Cascadura well with green seasoning and salt, and marinate for an hour. Mix some of the green seasoning with the peas. Stuff the belly cavity of the fish with peas mixture.

Heat oil, add curry and saffron powder mixed with 2 tablespoons of the water, then fry for 1 minute. Add onion, garlic and hot pepper. Add fish to pot, simmer until curry mixture dries out. Add 1 cup water and milk. Cook, simmering for approximately 15 minutes, taste and adjust with salt if necessary. Serve with rice or roti.

Courtesy Natasha Bhall, Chaguanas

Administrative Training

The staff of the SIDC convened a workshop for the secretaries of six Fishing Associations/ Cooperatives in Trinidad on March 27th, 2009. The objective of the exercise was to build capacity and strengthen the skills of the Secretaries of the various Organizations. Topics discussed included the following:

- ✓ The role of the Secretary in an Organization
- ✓ Duties of the Secretary
- ✓ Preparing for a Meeting
- ✓ Writing Minutes
- ✓ Writing Memos, Letters and Reports

Executive members with the responsibility of recording minutes and keeping records of their executive meetings were reminded of the importance of their role and the need for proper records. It was agreed that SIDC would provide additional training with other organizations that could not attend this session.



Importing Commercial Fishing Vessels



Guidelines for the importation of commercial fishing vessels

1. Registered fishermen must submit a letter to the Director of Fisheries informing of their intention to import a vessel, specifying the type of fishing vessel
2. The Applicant must also provide the following information: bill of sale of the vessel or purchase agreement, certificate of documentation or Registry certificate, recent marine survey report, specifications of vessel (including photos) and valid Fishermen's certificate.
3. Upon receipt of all valid documents, a letter (recommending applicant for a Minister's Licence) from the Fisheries Division is sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
4. The applicant returns with the approved licence to the Fisheries Division, in order to get his vessel registered and to apply for VAT and duty exemption

Ministry of Trade & Industry
Nicholas Court, POS
Phone:
1-868-623-2931
email: minti@trinidad.net



IMPORTING FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS

A substantial amount of raw material for processing operations is imported either through the purchase of "by catch" from tuna transshipment operations based in Trinidad or from direct importation of fish from within CARICOM or outside the region. Fish is imported from as far as Argentina, China and India for processing.

Guidelines for the importation of chilled/frozen seafood for commercial purposes

1. The Applicant must obtain import license forms (quadruplicate) from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and submit completed forms (including BIR number) to the Fisheries Division for recommendation
2. Applicant takes recommended form to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for processing
3. License is awarded and is valid for one year
4. Copies of all shipping documents must be submitted to the Fisheries Division prior to approval of any additional licence
5. Products imported from Non-Caricom countries generally attracts a duty of approximately 40%.



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6028



Two one thousand gallon water tanks for fisherfolk operating at the Morne Diablo Fishing Center were installed with the support of the SIDC. Fisherfolk of Morne Diablo complained that they had neither water nor electricity at the Morne Diablo Fishing Center. The SIDC held discussions with the fisherfolk and the Regional Corporation on the possibility of providing water and electricity at the Fish Landing Facilities. The Regional Corporation provided material and labour for the construction of a tank stand and the SIDC provided two one thousand gallon tanks and associated plumbing fixtures to supply two taps at the Morne Diablo Fishing Center. The Regional Corporation also agreed to fill the water tanks weekly. Water is now available at the Morne Diablo Fishing Center. The SIDC has also agreed to provide two solar powered security lights at the facility and will partner with the Community Development Fund to place the fixtures at the Facility. This will improve security at the site and allow fisherfolk to improve the efficiency of their operations.





A one week training course in boat engine maintenance was sponsored by the SIDC and held at the Claxton Bay Fishing Centre from April 20 to April 24th, 2009. Eighteen fisherfolk from various landing sites completed the course conducted by the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI).

Fisherfolk indicated that the course was very useful. They indicated that on many occasions they lost revenue and could not fish while they sought to have their engines repaired. They said that the course would allow them to "trouble shoot" should they have difficulty with their engines. This would save them a lot of time and money since they would now be able to repair their engines very quickly and return to the business of fishing.



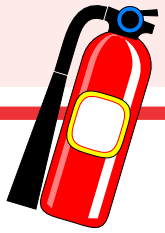
Risk assessments aimed at identifying health and safety hazards that could result in death or serious injury to fisherfolk were conducted by the SIDC at 16 fish landing sites located throughout Trinidad.

The company's Health and Safety coordinator assessed the operations at landing sites and provided recommendations on applicable health and safety management systems. It was found, that the improper handling, storage, transportation and use of fuel (and other flammable/ explosive substances) by fisher folk pose a serious fire hazard at most sites. These flammable substances must be stored in proper containers and stored in a well ventilated room.

Other issues of concern identified at some landing sites included the following:

- Limited use of Personal Floatation Devices – Risk of drowning
- Poor housekeeping – Improper storage of fishing equipment and garbage
- Limited Welfare Facilities - Inadequate toilets, no potable drinking water

The main recommendation for improving health and safety conditions and practices is the immediate implementation of a proper Safety Management System. Risks can be suitably controlled by employing measures which are cost effective, practical and easy to implement.





Memorandum of Agreement between the SIDC and the IMA

The Seafood Industry Development Company is partnering with the Institute of Marine Affairs to promote the development of a commercial aquaculture industry in Trinidad and Tobago. Both organizations have agreed to implement a pilot commercial tank based production system for Tilapia.

On March 24th, 2009 a "Collaboration and Cooperation Agreement" was signed by the Chairman of the Seafood Industry Development Company, Mr. Bruno Maharaj and Commodore Anthony Franklin, Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs (I.M.A.) This Agreement outlines the terms and conditions for the two year pilot intensive tank based production system for Tilapia.

The SIDC will finance the project with the IMA providing the site, logistics and technical assistance. The production system developed will serve as a model and will be used to promote local and foreign investment in commercial Aquaculture in Trinidad and Tobago.

The parties have agreed to establish a Project Oversight Team to provide guidance for the management, development and the execution of the Project.



Developing Small Scale Aquaculture Production Models



A meeting of stakeholders of the Aquaculture Industry was convened by the SIDC on December 2nd, 2008. The objective of this meeting was to provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss a coordinated approach for commercializing and developing a sustainable and profitable Aquaculture industry in Trinidad & Tobago.

Stakeholders generally agreed that in the short term, a small scale production model should be developed that could be implemented and used as a demonstration model for potential farmers/ investors. In this regard, a technical sub-committee was established to look at various small scale production models and agree on the design for a simple, practical system that could be modified to suit varying scales of operation and whose technology could be easily transferred to farmers and potential investors.

The Technical Sub-committee comprised representatives of the University of the West Indies, the Institute of Marine Affairs, Fisheries Division, AquaTT and the Seafood Industry Development Company. The criteria and parameters used in designing the models included the following: Profitability, Simplicity, Efficiency and Effectiveness of the system; Cost and Availability of materials and components locally; Ease of understanding the system design and technology employed; Ease of management and maintenance/ technology transfer; Expandability and Security.

Other parameters considered in the system design also included but were not limited to the following:

Availability of space (back yard area of approx 20x 50 ft); Cost of production per pound of fish; Availability of technical expertise for assistance to investors; Viability of similar systems in existence; Feed conversion ratio; Expected Mortality; Labour requirements; Effectiveness as a demonstration model/ extension model; Portability/ Transferability of the system; Environmental concerns.

Two "green water re-circulating tanks based models" were proposed and it was agreed that agencies would locate funding to field test these models and use the commercially viable ones for demonstration and training.

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