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On Tuesday, October 28th, Jamaica endured one of the most punishing natural disasters in our modern history. Hurricane Melissa made landfall near New Hope in Westmoreland as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 185 mph and a minimum central pressure of 892 millibars. Hurricane Melissa devastated Jamaica’s fishery sector, causing an estimated \$5.7 billion in damages, destroying about 45% of the fleet (3,280 vessels), crippling supply chains, and devastating livelihoods, especially in St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, and Manchester, prompting emergency relief such as fee waivers and equipment distribution.

**Newsletter highlights**

**April to July 2025**

JDF-NFA Labour Day Project– May 23, 2025 @ St. Ann’s Bay Beach.

Polychaete worm sighting in Discovery Bay—April 2025.

Top sellers for the Ornament industry — Angelfish, cichlids, goldfish, Koi, Guppy and Molly—April 2025

Another Sanctuary— Grange Pen Fishing beach St. James— May 2025

International Fisherman’s Day - June 25, 2025 held at the Alligator Head Foundation

41 individuals were trained in Aquaculture production techniques— June 2025

Launch of the in-house Post-larval Prawn Production at Twickenham Park—July 2025.

287.9 hectares of land dedicated to Aquaculture farming, where 235 hectares actively engaged in production– July 2025.

Mixed-Fish is a collective term for various fish species without separating or recording their individual weight

**APRIL to JULY**

**Fisher Licences & IDs.**  
Renewed: 1543  
New: 695

**Vessels**  
Renewed: 730  
New: 326

Irish moss is a valued superfood rich in iodine and antioxidants that support thyroid health. (30 lbs. wet sea moss = 1 lb. dried Sea Moss)

Licensing Statistics		
Fisher Licence & IDs		
Categories	Renewals	New
Artisanal	339	100
Recreational	15	13
Vendor	10	4
Aquaculture	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>118</b>
Vessels		
Artisanal	43	5
Recreational	4	2
Industrial	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7</b>

Compliance Statistics		
Categories	Amount	Percentage
Fishers		
Compliant	195	92
Non-Compliant	17	8
Vessels		
Compliant	84	88
Non-Complaint	11	12
Others		
Targeted Enforcements		6
Sea Patrols		5
Site Visits		402

**Newsletter highlights (August to November 2025)**

At Twickenham Park, prawn post-larvae (PL) was available for sale in August at \$8per PL.

**In a conch shell:** The 2025 conch season yielded a total landed weight of 354.90 MT, valued at US \$5,058,727.65. The season was declared closed August 30, 2025 to February 28, 2026 by Min. Floyd Green.

<b>AUG. to NOV.</b>	5 of 20 boats and engines were distributed in August
<b>Fisher Licences &amp; IDs</b> Renewed: 1873 New: 894	The Denbigh Agricultural Show August 1-3, 2025 was a success.
<b>Vessels</b> Renewed: 414 New: 13	Marine Cage Culture of Red Snapper funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization was launched at Bowden Harbour in St. Thomas in September 2025

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**Notable November**



World Fisheries Day celebrated annually across the world on November 21. This is to highlight the importance of sustainable stock of fisheries in the world. Source (Internationaldays.org)

November is designated as Eat Jamaican Month and is celebrated annually on November 25. Source (NFA)



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## Field Observation

### Finfish Artisanal Sector

A total of 13.06 MT of finfish were landed across the island in November, based on 227 site visits across 71 landing sites. St. Thomas recorded the highest landings at 3.44 MT, followed by St. Mary (2.49 MT), Clarendon (2.27 MT), St. James (1.58 MT), and Portland (1.09 MT), rounding out the top five parishes. Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth remain on the path to recovery following the devastation caused by Category 5 Hurricane Mellissa; as a result, no catch was recorded in these parishes.

#### Top species landed by weight (MT): Northern Shelf

Fish Type	Weight (MT)
Mixed-fish	2.83
Snappers	1.07
Dolphinfish	0.90
Tunas	0.62
Jacks	0.48
Marlin (Blue)	0.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.29</b>

#### Top species landed weight (MT): Southern Shelf

Fish Type	Weight (MT)
Mixed-fish	3.48
Snappers	0.51
Parrotfishes	0.50
Lobster Spiny Caribbean spiny	0.22
Doctorfish	0.16
Barracudas	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

Observed landed weight (MT) across the # of sites visited by Parishes.



### Snippets - Resilience of the National Fisheries Authority and Partners.

**NEWS**  
National Fisheries Authority delivers 300 relief packages to fisherfolk  
@nationwide90fm

**The National Fisheries Authority's RELIEF FOR AFFECTED FISHERS**

For fishers within the areas that were significantly impacted, the licence and registration fees will be waived for a period of 6 months (November 12, 2025 to May 11, 2026). These areas include:

- Clarendon
- Manchester
- St. Elizabeth
- Westmoreland
- Hanover
- St. James
- Trelawny
- St. Ann

The relief applies to both individual and vessel licence fees, as well as inspection fees for Artisanal Commercial Fishing activity only.

The National Fisheries Authority growing stronger through adversities.

