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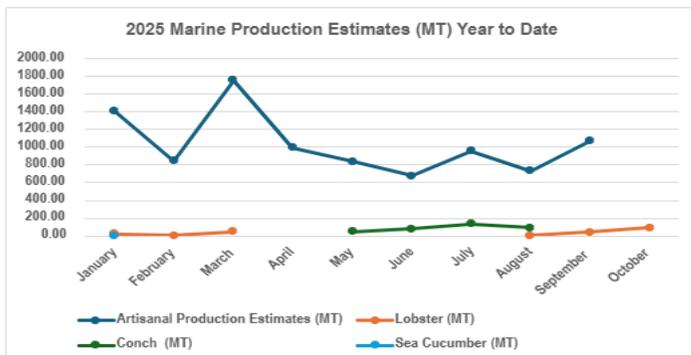
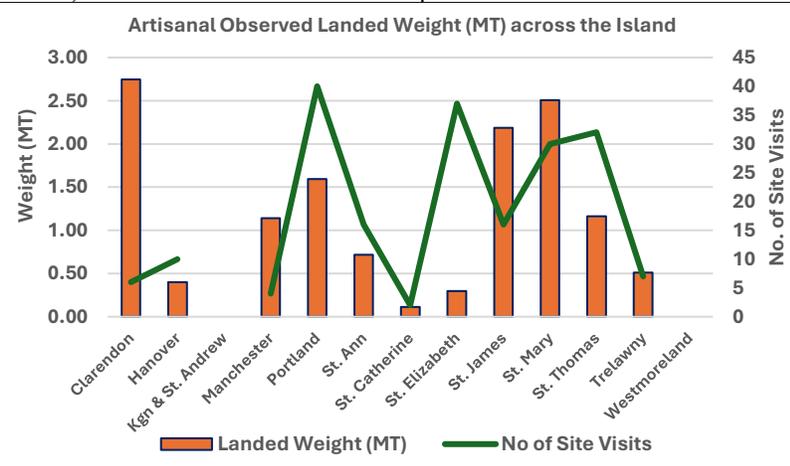
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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Before Hurricane Melissa made landfall on October 28, 2025, the National Fisheries Authority conducted 211 site visits across 78 fishing beaches. Most of the observed artisanal catch—59% or 7.92 MT—came from 51 beaches on the northern shelf, while the southern shelf accounted for 41% or 5.46 MT across 92 beaches, for a total of 13.38 MT. Finfish landings were mainly snappers, jacks, parrotfish, groupers, and marlins.

Fishing activity dropped prior to the hurricane as fishers followed official advisories and secured boats and equipment. This decline continued afterward due to severe losses of vessels and gear, which limited their ability to resume operations. Damage assessments conducted by the National Fisheries Authority revealed losses of pots in the eastern region and widespread destruction of boats, gear sheds, and homes in the hardest-hit parishes.



DAMAGES FROM HURRICANE MELISSA





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Statistics for Licensing & Registration Unit			
Fisherman Licence & IDs			
Categories	Renewals	New	Total
Artisanal	441	145	586
Recreational	11	14	25
Industrial	0	1	1
Vendor	0	7	7
Riverine	0	0	0
Authorization	0	0	0
Aquaculture	1	0	1
TOTAL	453	167	620
Vessels			
Categories Vessels	Renewals	New	Total
Artisanal	68	10	78
Recreational	0	1	1
Industrial	0	0	0
Cay Boat Licence	0	0	0
Sport Charter	1	1	2
TOTAL	69	12	81

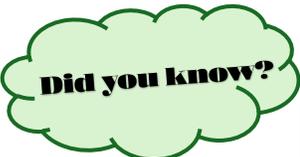
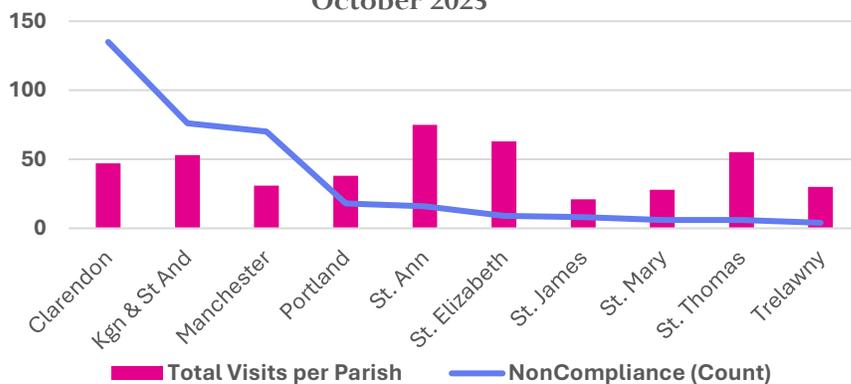
Q2 (JULY – SEPTEMBER) AQUACULTURE HAPPENINGS

The aquaculture programme recorded mixed results this quarter, with overall fish production reaching 146.21 MT; a total of 90,666 tilapia seedstock produced, and 222.8 hectares of aquaculture ponds were active in production. Prawn post larvae output was strong at 151,094 individuals, while support was provided to two mariculture sites. Training activities initially targeted 40 fishers; however, participation exceeded this goal, with 58 individuals completing various capacity-building activities. This included 22 fishers who participated in training for sea moss production.

ONBOARD WITH COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Unit conducted 441 inspections in the month of October. Compared to September which had an average of 72% compliance rates of persons observed fishing, October showed a marginal increase with an overall average of 80%. This reflects fishers who have on their person fishing licences, fishing identification cards and boat licences.

Instances of Non-Compliance (Count)
October 2025



Fishery Inspectors have the legal right to inspect your fishing documents and vessel. To hinder them from doing so is an offense under the Fisheries Act 2018.

Hurricane Melissa was historic because it became one of the most intense Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded. It was the strongest hurricane to make landfall in Jamaica with maximum sustained winds of 297 km/hr. Source: Jonathan Erdman, *Hurricane Melissa Tied Record Strongest Atlantic Basin Landfall in Nearly 100 Years* (Weather.com, October 29, 2025).