

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Field Observation| What is Sargassum?| Cold Days of February| Percentage Rate landed per shelf| Fin-Fish Production Estimate| Top species group– Northern Shelf| Top species group– Southern Shelf| Observed weight (MT) landed across the Island| Non Fin-fish Species|

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### Field Observation– Finfish Species.

February was a highly active month, with a total of 234 site visits conducted, 118 across the North Coast and 116 along the South Coast, indicating a balanced distribution of field efforts. Across all parishes, the total observed landed weight amounted to 8.54 metric tonnes (MT). The Southern Shelf accounted for the larger share at 5.55 MT, while the Northern Shelf contributed 2.99 MT. Among all parishes, St. Thomas recorded the highest observed landed weight at 1.92 MT, making it the leading contributor for the month.

### What is Sargassum?

*Sargassum* is a type of brown algae that floats on the surface of the ocean; unlike seaweeds that grow on the ocean floor. *Sargassum* stays on top of the water using little gas-filled berries (*pneumatocysts*) that help it float. In the open ocean, this plant acts as a home to many marine species, a food hub for offshore species, and keeps the ocean healthy by producing oxygen. It is washed ashore every year, and it is a natural and important part of the coastal ecosystem.

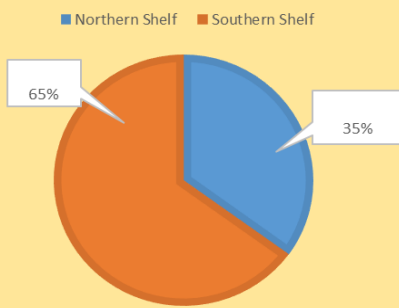
Source: Oceana

### The Cold Days of February 2026

A trough over the western Caribbean generated a cold front that affected the country. This system brought cooler temperatures, ranging from 15°C to 21°C. As marine conditions worsened due to the system's persistence, there were overnight reports of Sargassum washing up along several beaches.

Source: Caribbean National Weekly and Jamaica Observer

### PERCENTAGE RATE FOR OBSERVED FISH LANDED PER SHELF



### Finfish Production Estimate

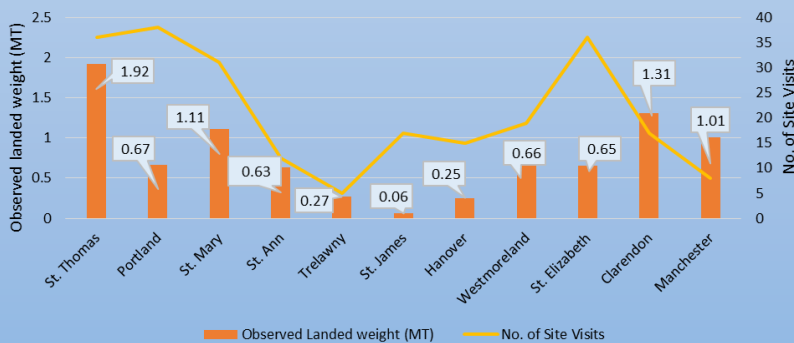
The Marine artisanal Production for the month of February was estimated at 429.10 MT, valued at USD \$6.2M..

Mixed-fish represents the combined variety of fish weighed together and unable to be disaggregated.

### Top species group by weight (MT) - Northern Shelf

Fish Type	Weight (MT)
Tuna	0.40
Parrotfish	0.29
Snapper	0.21
Lobster (Caribbean Spiny)	0.15
Jack	0.12
Mixed-Fish	0.15

### Artisanal observed landed weight (MT) across the Island



### Top species group by weight (MT) - Southern Shelf

Fish Type	Weight (MT)
Lobster (Caribbean Spiny)	1.18
Snapper	0.66
Doctorfish	0.33
Parrotfish	0.21
Grunt	0.19
Mixed-fish	0.79

### Non Finfish Species

Lobster	Thirty-two (32) landings, 14.74 MT
Sea Cucumber	No landings
Conch	Close season in effect



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**Licensing Statistics**

**Fisher Licence & IDs**

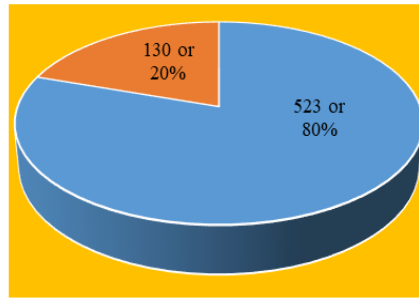
Categories	Renewals	New
Artisanal	592	161
Recreational	12	14
Industrial	1	-
Aquaculture	6	7
Tournaments	-	1
Temporary Permits	-	1
Vendor	1	3
Cay Permits	36	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>241</b>

Vessels		
Categories	Renewals	New
Artisanal	105	23
Recreational	-	3
Cay boat License	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>26</b>

**Compliance Statistics**

Fisher Compliance rate



■ Compliant Fisher ■ Non Compliant Fisher

Vessel Compliance Rate



■ Compliant Vessels ■ Non-Compliant Vessels

**A Complimentary February**

February 13, 2026, The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Mining through The National Fisheries Authority launched Phase 2 of the Hurricane Mellisa Recovery Programme at the River Bay fishing beach in St. James. At the launch, four(4) boats and engines were provided to young fishers under the Fisheries Production Incentive Program. In addition, 18 recipients from St. James received vouchers totaling \$7.2 million dollars.



On February 10, 2026, The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), handed over two(2) Solar Containerized Units, each valued US \$30,000. With the delivery of the two solutions, fishers in Parottee and Galleon can now secure cold storage to preserve their post-harvest catch, reduce post-harvest losses and boost income (Parottee and Galleon).



Source: National Fisheries Authority Instagram and JIS

The National Fisheries Authority in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted Post Harvest training workshops across the island at selected fishing beaches. At the end of those sessions, fishers were equipped to safely catch, store and provide fish for the demands.



Source: National Fisheries Authority.

A Pelagic Fishing Workshop was held on February 17 and 19, 2026 at the Alligator Head Foundation in Portland in partnership with the National Fisheries Authority. This workshop aimed at informing fishers on the purpose and benefits of Fish Aggregative Devices (FADs) and use of Long-Line Technologies. Fishers were also taught important techniques, such as how to correctly tie ropes and attach attractors to the mother rope.



On February 10, 2026, the 4H Foundation donated two(2) engines to the Galleon fishing beach with the aim to strengthen cooperatives and raising fish sanitation awareness. Source: National Fisheries Authority

