

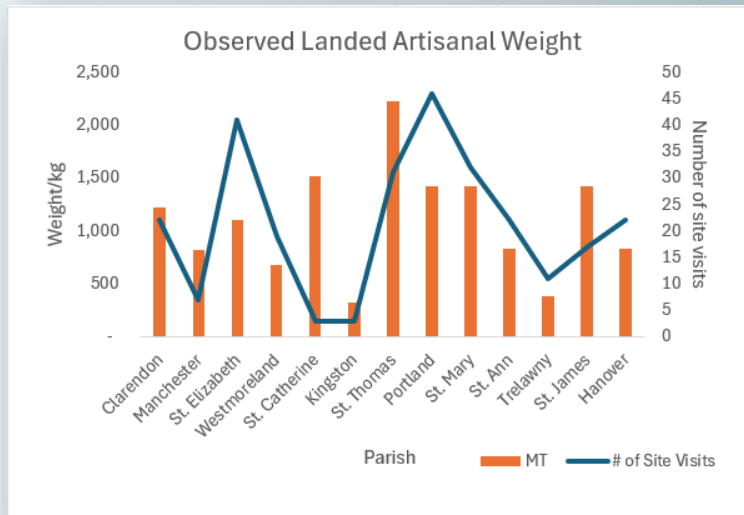
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STATS | QUEEN CONCH HARVEST-
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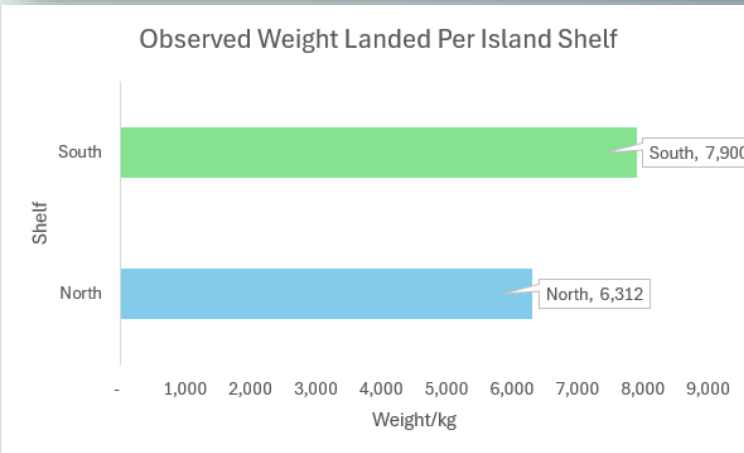
The Marine artisanal production for the month of March was estimated at 1,290.15 MT valued at US \$18.6m USD*

*preliminary values, subject to change

Field Observation – Finfish Species

During the month of March, a total of 276 site visits were conducted, with 126 being completed on the North Shelf and 150 completed on the South Shelf.

The total observed weight recorded was 14.21 metric tonnes (MT) across all parishes. 6.31 MT was landed on the North Shelf, while 7.90 MT was landed on the South Shelf. St. Thomas emerged as the leading parish in terms of total observed landed weight, recording 2.23(MT), the highest volume among all parishes for the period.



Top 5 Fish Types Per Shelf

North Shelf		South Shelf	
Fish Type	Weight/kg	Fish Type	Weight/kg
PARROTFISH	1,068	HERRING	1,338
SNAPPER	599	CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER	1,223
TUNA	239	SNAPPER	903
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER	210	PARROTFISH	361
BIGEYE SCAD	183	JACK	229



Sea Cucumber Close Season

The close season for sea cucumber harvesting from the Pedro Bank will run from March 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026; the season remains closed on the island shelf.

Sea cucumbers are marine animals related to starfish and sea urchins. They have a cylindrical body resembling cucumbers and are found on the sea floor often in shallow waters. These animals are ecologically important as they recycle nutrients within their environment. Being caught in possession of, fishing for or selling sea cucumbers during the close season can lead to up to 2 years imprisonment or being fined up to three million dollars.

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LICENSING STATISTICS

Fisher Licence & IDs = 814

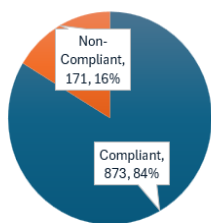
Categories	Renewals	New
Aquaculture	3	4
Artisanal	494	131
Cay Permits	0	14
Crew Permit	0	84
Industrial	28	8
Recreational	19	19
Sea Moss	0	0
Temporary Permits	0	7
Vendor	0	3
Total	544	270

Vessels= 108

Categories	Renewals	New
Artisanal	80	21
Carrier Vessel	1	0
Cay Boat Licence	0	0
Industrial	0	2
Recreational	3	0
Sport Charter	1	0
Total	85	23

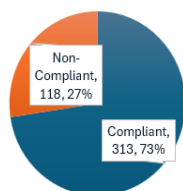
COMPLIANCE STATISTICS

Rate of Fisher Compliance



■ Compliant ■ Non-Compliant

Rate of Fishing Vessel Compliance



■ Compliant ■ Non-Compliant

QUEEN CONCH HARVESTING SEASON



March 1 officially marks the opening of the Queen conch harvesting season. The application period for licences to fish for conch for both artisanal and industrial fishers ran from January 1st to January 30th. The harvesting season

will run from March 1st until the close season is announced by the Minister and published in the Gazette. These measures are part of the strict management plan instituted by the NFA to manage the fishing of these animals as their international trade is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



As a part of the rebuilding of the fisheries sector, the National Fisheries Authority in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted a

post-harvest training programme with fishers and fisher vendors across six fishing beaches to help develop skills that would preserve the quality of fresh fish and increase the quality of product being provided to the customer. March 25th and 26th fishers and fish vendors from Greenwich Town fishing beach, Kingston Fishing Complex and Hunt's Bay fishing beach were presented with stainless steel tables and other tools to support post harvest practices. Source: NFA

