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and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

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**Report on the work of the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution  
and Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) 2023-2025**

*This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.*

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## **Report on the work of the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) 2023-2025**

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The Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) represents a partnership for national and regional organizations, governments, research, and technical agencies and individuals, that work together to reduce the quality and impact of marine litter in coastal zones of the Wider Caribbean Region. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) is currently the co-host of GPML-Caribe together with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

1. **Fisher led ALDFG Awareness Program Expansion:** This community-based outreach program focused on raising awareness on abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) was initially piloted using Gladding Memorial Award Winners in Grenada and St Vincent and The Grenadines. The Gladding Memorial Award recognizes fishers with an enduring vision for the sustainable and wise use of marine resources and is awarded annually by GCFI. This work in 2023 built on this previous fisher led education schemes conducted in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by employing fishers who are well-respected leaders within their communities in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. Using their authority as champions within their local fishing communities, these fishers educated their peers, students and other community members about ALDFG, and what can be done to reduce fishing gear impacts using communication products previously designed by the GCFI and GGGI through support from a previous grant from the Ghost Gear Fund from the Government of Canada. These fishers used a variety of methods to engage with communities including small, targeted focus groups, larger sessions with cooperatives and general one on one engagement. Visits were also made to local schools and relevant civil society organisations. In 2024, with funding from the Builders Initiative, this work was expanded to The Bahamas (New Providence, Andros, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Acklins Island and Mayaguana).
2. **Development of ALDFG communication products targeted to policy makers:** Building off the success generated from the communication products targeted towards fishers, additional products were created to target policy makers, another important sector that isn't often engaged through awareness efforts. A consultant with a specialty in ALDFG governance in the Caribbean (Dr. Tricia Lovell of Antigua and Barbuda) was hired to prepare a short policy brief and graphic designers assisted in creating a visually attractive product suited to the audience. An in-depth policy brief which provided the necessary background information to inform policy makers was complemented by a one pager which summarized key challenges and recommendations. A dissemination plan to ensure successful implementation was also developed.
3. **Virtual Workshop focused on applications of end-of-life fishing gear:** The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI), in association with the GCFI, convened a cross-sectoral workshop focused on solutions for end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear in the Caribbean region. This workshop built off the 2021 Cross-sectoral Caribbean-focused solutions workshop which showcased regionally relevant case studies of ALDFG prevention, mitigation, and remediation and provided training on the GGGI Best Practice

Framework for the Management of Fishing Gear (C-BPF). The workshop consisted of a series of presentations, including an introduction to the ALDFG issue, ongoing work in the Caribbean and an introduction to the Regional Action Plan that the GGGI created in 2022 as a guide to ALDFG prevention and mitigation in the Caribbean region. This was complemented by open discussions and case studies from around the world on innovative options for end of life fishing gear disposal. There was great interest in this virtual workshop with 82 registrants for the workshop and 69 participants who attended at its peak.

4. **Implementation of Regional Action Plan for ALDFG:** In collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), effort has been placed on creating action towards managing ALDFG in the region. In addition to various webinars in 2024 and 2025 to raise awareness of the issue, the Regional Action Plan was also endorsed by member states of the CRFM and efforts have been made to receive feedback from stakeholders to refine the ALDFG Action Plan based on regional needs.
5. **Development of the Plastic Camp Manual:** This work was led by Dr. Kristal Ambrose, founder of The Bahamas Plastic Movement (BPM). A flagship program of BPM is the Plastic Pollution Education and Ocean Conservation Summer Camp, known as Plastic Camp. This groundbreaking initiative, the first of its kind in The Bahamas, is a transformative, tuition-free, 5-6 day intensive program based in South Eleuthera. The camp engages Bahamian youth in understanding plastic pollution's harmful impacts on the marine environment while equipping them to take action through a dynamic and hands-on approach. The development of this manual will enable educators, community leaders and environmental advocates to develop similar efforts in their own communities. It offers a detailed guide of the activities and lessons that have been successfully implemented at Plastic Camps. The manual was officially launched on Earth Day (April 22, 2025) and is accessible for download via <https://www.bahamasplasticmovement.org/freemanual>