

## Why this project

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Fishing is an important recreational, commercial, and cultural activity in the Caribbean, and most locals have been exposed to fishing activities at one time or another. The Caribbean spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, supports one of the most valuable fisheries to the region, including Anguilla.

The mission of the Anguilla Fisheries Department is to manage and regulate the use of Anguilla's fisheries in a sustainable manner, to make sure the current and future generations of Anguilla can keep benefitting from the seafood on its doorstep.

The Department is using this project in collaboration with Cefas (UK) and other Caribbean states in order to ensure long term sustainability for the spiny lobster fisheries.

Fisheries affect people as well as fish! Collaboration between fishers, managers and scientists is the best way to make the right management decisions!



## Project funding

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This study is part of the project '*Regional collaboration to achieve sustainable Caribbean fisheries management*', funded by Darwin Initiative (United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office)



## Project partners

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- Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Anguilla
- Conservation and Fisheries Department, Government of the British Virgin Islands
- Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, Turks and Caicos Islands

## Contact us

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For any questions or comments regarding this study, please contact the project coordinator:

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# Regional collaboration to ensure a sustainable spiny lobster fishery in Anguilla



## Activities

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- **Data collection:**

Camera survey: A video survey of the Anguilla bank will be made to better understand how the bank is used by both lobsters and the fishery.

Fisher interviews: We will interview fishers to understand the social and economic importance of the lobster fishery in Anguilla, the historic development of the fishery, and its future directions.

Catch sampling: Assessing the state of the stocks needs data. We will design and implement a program to routinely collect data on the fishery (size of animals, level of fishing effort, etc).

- **Sustainable exploitation and management:**

The fisheries Department is responsible for ensuring the fishery is operating in a sustainable way, promoting fishing activities that preserve the good status of the marine ecosystems and enhance social and economic development.

The data collected by the project will be used to conduct stock assessments to help guide the decisions of fishery managers.

The Department is also looking for ways to get the fishing industry involved in making management decisions, in order to take into account the local knowledge and the socio-economic needs of the sector.

- **Regional collaboration:**

The project will organise 3 workshops involving government and fishery representation from Anguilla, Turks and Caicos, and the Virgin Islands to exchange knowledge, learn from the experiences of each other, and facilitate the development of regional collaboration.

