

A Profile of Grenadine Marine Resource Users in the Marine Space-Use Information System (MarSIS)

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Background

The Grenadines is a transboundary island chain which lies on the Grenada Bank stretching some 120 km between two sovereign nations, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Grenada. Three quarters of the Grenada Bank is shallower than 50m and supports the most extensive coral reefs and related habitats in the south-eastern Caribbean. Marine-based activities are the mainstay of the Grenadine economy in which fishing and tourism are the major sources of employment.

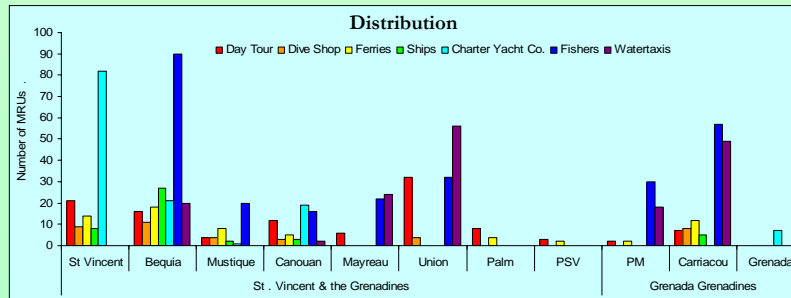
The area has been chosen as a site for the development of an integrated participatory transboundary marine space-use information system (MarSIS). MarSIS will aid marine planning by highlighting areas for special management attention such as: critical habitats; representative marine ecosystems; areas of high aesthetic value and cultural importance; areas important for livelihoods, fishing grounds and marine-based tourism; areas of highest human threat and space use conflict.

A stakeholder assessment, including government, marine resource users (MRUs) and communities is essential to understanding Grenadine marine space-use as well as for planning appropriate, equitable and transparent participation. This study briefly profiles Grenadine marine resource user stakeholders.

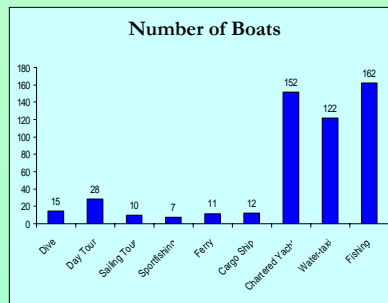
Methods

- ❖ Based on SocMon methodology
- ❖ Secondary data review (July 2005-March 2006)
- ❖ 57 Key informant interviews (May 2006)
- ❖ 444 Marine resource users surveyed (June-July 2005 & 2006)
- ❖ Surveys consisted of semi-structured open-ended questions for each MRU group

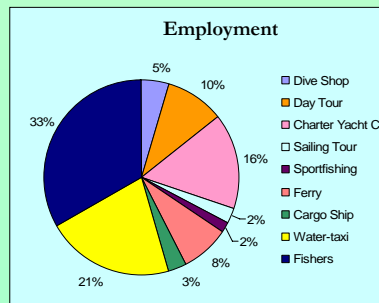
Demographic profile of Grenadine marine resource users



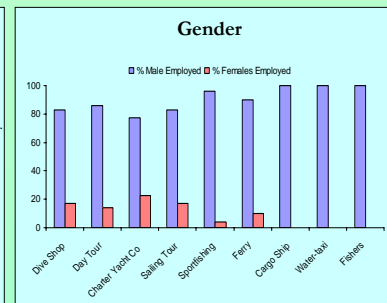
- ❖ A total of 826 Grenadine MRUs were identified across 11 islands
- ❖ The largest abundance and diversity of Grenadine MRUs was found in Bequia
- ❖ The islands of St. Vincent & the Grenadines have a larger number and diversity of MRUs than those of Grenada
- ❖ There are more MRUs operating in the Grenadines from mainland St. Vincent as compared to mainland Grenada



- ❖ There were a total of 519 MRU boats identified
- ❖ Many fishing boats are also water-taxis

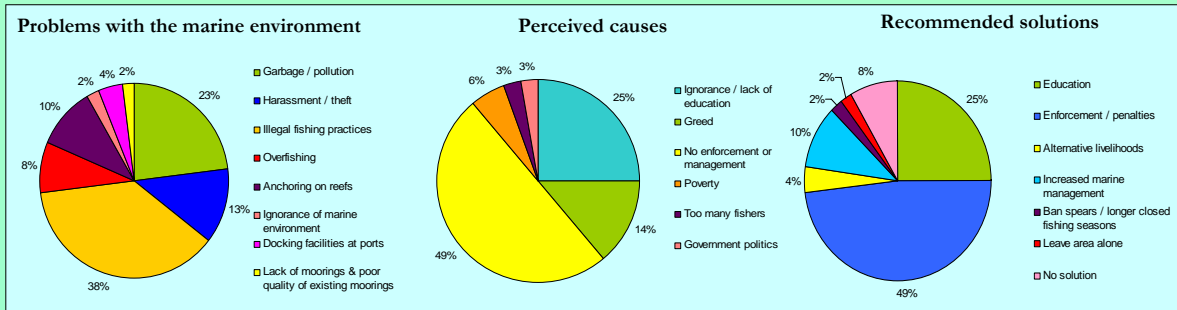


- ❖ Fishing, water-taxing and charter yacht companies provide the largest sources of employment for MRUs



- ❖ 91% of all MRUs are male
- ❖ Charter yacht companies employ the largest proportion of females

Perceptions of Grenadine Marine Resource Users



Conclusions

- ❖ The importance of marine resources to the livelihoods of the people of the Grenadines must not be underestimated
- ❖ The majority of MRUs believe that increased marine management is needed within the Grenadines
- ❖ Other marine resource stakeholders operating in the Grenadines (e.g. tourists, Martinique charter yacht companies, fish trading vessels) must be included in further MarSIS research initiatives



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