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

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