



FOOD SECURITY

REGIONAL TALKS ON FOOD SECURITY
AHEAD OF GLOBAL UN SUMMIT

OCEAN CRISIS

ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO
ADDRESS THE OCEAN CRISIS

GREEN RECOVERY

ECLAC AND PARTNERS DISCUSS
BIODIVERSITY TOWARDS GREEN
RECOVERY

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About us

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this newsletter.

International Days

4 June

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June

World Environment Day

8 June

World Oceans Day

20 June

World Refugee Day

Upcoming Events

6 July

Regional Integration for Economic Recovery

14 July

Reclaiming Industrial Policy for Latin American Development

15 July

2021 HLPF official side event:
"Empowering people to protect the planet in a COVID-19 context: the contribution of SDG 16 and environmental access rights to sustainable and resilient recovery"

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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Jun 14

Labor markets in #LatinAmerica and the #Caribbean will be slow to recover from the severe impact of the #COVID19 pandemic in 2020. More information at: <https://bit.ly/3pWIIqb>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Jun 8

The dependence of Caribbean economies on coastal and marine resources is among the highest in the world.
- Diane Quarless, Director of ECLAC Caribbean.
More:



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Jun 8

Today is International Oceans Day!
Learn more about #ECLAC's work in small island developing States and Ocean Management here: <https://bit.ly/3wHb2Po>



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REGIONAL TALKS ON FOOD SECURITY AHEAD OF GLOBAL UN SUMMIT

Food security, climate resilience, and financing were the primary areas of focus for stakeholders across the Caribbean, when they convened for a Regional Food Systems Dialogue on 28 May 2021. The regional forum was a precursor to the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit, to be held in September as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The ideas, solutions, and action plans arising from this dialogue will feed into the Global forum, as well as a pre-Summit event held in July in Rome, to ensure that the voice of the Caribbean is heard.

Key stakeholders who partnered to convene the forerunner event were UN Resident Coordinators, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Member States' views on key aspects of the subregion's food systems challenges, along with regional-level proposals that should be highlighted in the international fora, formed part of the main discussions.

The forum featured an interactive session with stakeholders, including farmers groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and civil society. Discussions also promoted knowledge transfer and the sharing of best practices critical to the welfare of Caribbean SIDS. Suggestions were made on improving productivity, along with opportunities and constraints in agriculture forestry and fisheries.

With respect to climate resilience, focus was on the commitment to set the economies of the subregion on a low-carbon development path, with climate-smart production processes and digitized data to anticipate threats, manage risks and support shock responsiveness. ■



CCRIF MEMBER COUNTRIES RENEW RISK INSURANCE POLICIES

Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) is pleased to announce that its member governments have renewed their parametric insurance coverage for tropical cyclones, excess rainfall, earthquakes, and the fisheries sector ahead of the upcoming 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

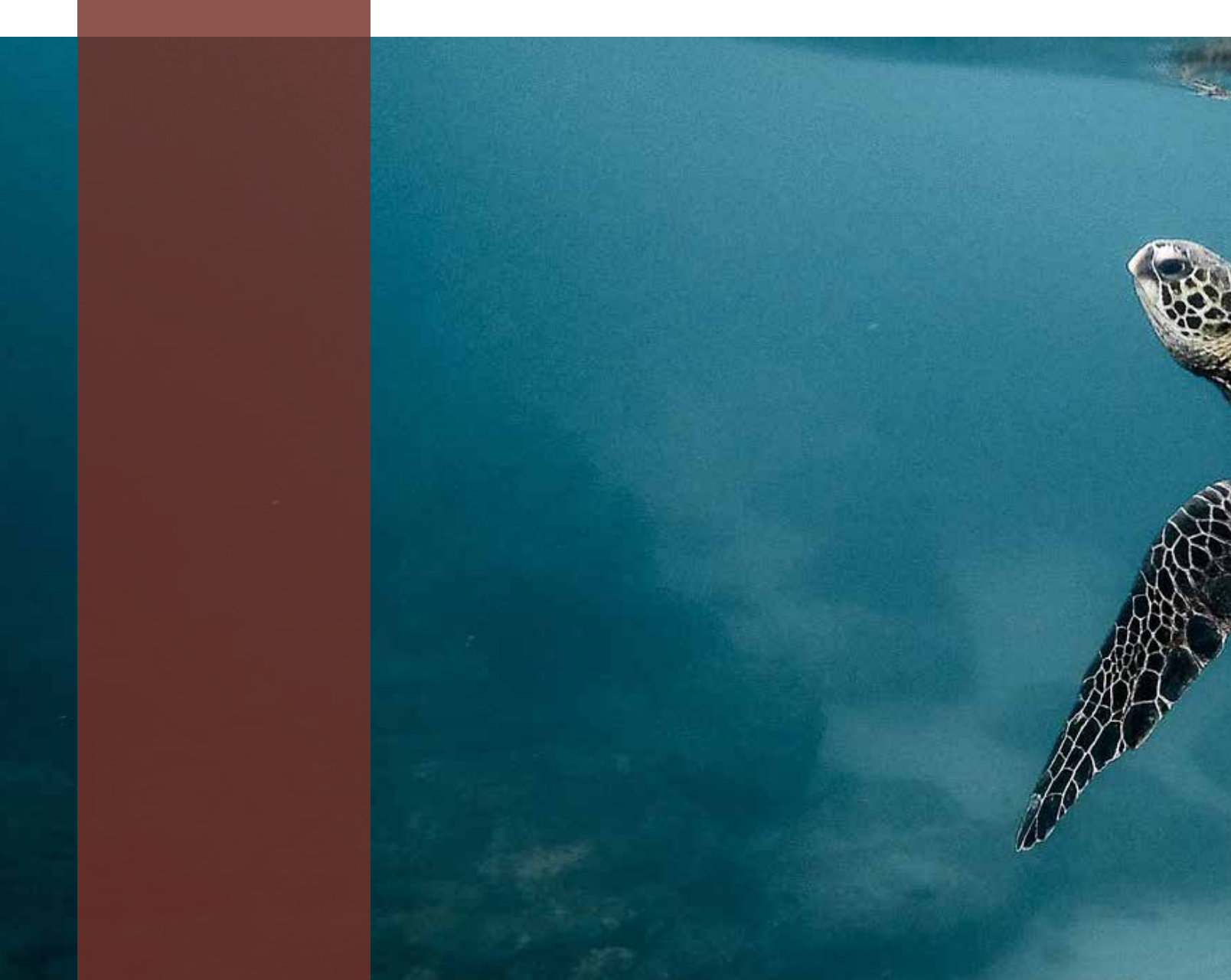
This is the second year in a row that members have ceded over US\$1 billion in risk to CCRIF. The Facility's first non-government member, ANGLEC – Anguilla's electric utility company – not only renewed but increased its coverage. ANGLEC joined CCRIF in 2020, purchasing the newest product that offers coverage for electric transmission and distribution systems.

CCRIF started operations in 2007 with 16 Caribbean member governments and just under US\$500 million in coverage for tropical cyclones and earthquakes. Fourteen years

later, CCRIF now offers five parametric insurance products to 23 members (19 Caribbean governments, 3 Central American governments and 1 electric utility).

CCRIF's members continue to grapple with the socioeconomic challenges brought about by COVID-19 and are well aware that a natural disaster can further impact their recovery, which is being projected to be slow and may last until 2024 by some estimates. The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, although it does not anticipate the historic level of storm activity that occurred in 2020.

As the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins, CCRIF's members are assured that they are covered for another year against tropical cyclones and excess rainfall events—and against earthquakes as well. ■



Actionable solutions needed to
ADDRESS THE OCEAN CRISIS



Photo courtesy Pixabay.

A high-level debate on oceans was convened by the United Nations on 1 June 2021; a precursor to the Second Ocean conference. This meeting had been scheduled to convene during 2021 and was postponed because of COVID-19. The organizers therefore considered that the high-level virtual debate ad interim offered an invaluable opportunity to have a focused discussion on the important role science could play in preserving and managing the oceans and its resources, while at the same time keeping ocean related issues on the front burner.

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Actionable solutions needed to address the ocean crisis

by Elizabeth Thorne

During the debate it was unanimously agreed that saving and securing the oceans and its resources was critical to the survival of all life on Earth. The health of the oceans was intrinsically linked to a healthy planet. Notably, coastal and marine ecosystems provide ecosystem services to the planet, they provide food, support livelihoods, and serve as coastal protection.

The value of the oceans and its resources were further endorsed by the economic value of the blue economy earning more than US \$1.5 trillion annually. However, the significance of the marine environment goes beyond its economic value, beauty and the enjoyment, as it secures the overall well-being and resilience of

present and future generations.

Unfortunately, current trends show that human activities are exerting many pressures on the marine environment, for example, over one-third of the global fish stock is under stress, ocean acidification is at critical levels and increasing volumes of plastic waste enter the ocean annually, all signaling an ocean crisis. However, confidence remains high that the application of ocean science can provide workable solutions, with appropriate financial investment.

Scientific research, capacity building, indigenous and traditional knowledge are all deemed necessary to craft a new paradigm in ocean management. It is against this background that the second ocean conference was

scheduled, as a forum to facilitate the promotion of sustainable development, harmonizing the dynamic between people and nature sustaining all life on Earth. It was viewed as an opportunity for leveraging scientific innovation and partnership while setting a course towards sustainable oceans by 2030.

Currently, the management of the ocean and its resources are divided into defined spaces under national jurisdiction and beyond, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, the ocean in its functioning knows no boundaries; ecologically there is no border. Therefore, acidification and pollution affect the entire marine environment and as such, the management of



Photo courtesy Pixabay.

“ *Transitioning into the blue economy will require substantial financing and the development of more robust Public Private Partnership (PPPs).* ”

the marine environment should extend beyond these boundaries. This reality inspires the call for collaboration among stakeholders in the management of oceans and their resources beyond the areas of national jurisdiction.

The deliberations of the meeting noted the size and potential of the ocean economy. Traditionally the ocean economy focused on transportation, offshore energy, extraction, tourism, minerals and fisheries. However it also offers scope for development of initiatives in the context of tidal energy, low carbon shipping, carbon markets, carbon dioxide fixation and eco-tourism.

The discussions emphasized that proper protection of these ecosystems was critical. For example, increasing the percentage of marine protected areas (MPA) could support biodiversity and

ultimately increase carbon capture, a valued feature for combatting climate change. There are also numerous benefits and services which are provided by the ocean and coastal ecosystems. These include the use of nature-based solutions in the restoration of mangroves and other coastal wetlands, critical to maintaining ocean health. The acknowledgement of spatial management is also an important tool that could unlock new gains for the blue economy, providing an opportunity to build back better.

Transitioning into the blue economy will require substantial financing and the development of more robust Public Private Partnership (PPPs). The ocean or blue economy is everyone's business. Youth, in particular, should be encouraged to become more active in ocean issues, as the new generation of leaders.

All Member States were encouraged to conduct financial needs assessments related to the conservation and management of ocean resources. Emphasis was placed on the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Many participants recognized and called for the world's support in protecting SIDS and their livelihoods.

As the debate drew to its conclusion, the international community acknowledged the need to fully engage SIDS in the discourse on ocean issues. They also underscored the need to address climate change, thereby contributing to temperature regulation and ensuring ocean sustainability. ■



PRIORITIZATION OF THE BLUE ECONOMY NEEDED, TO STRENGTHEN THE REGION'S COVID-19 RECOVERY AGENDA

The newly elected chair of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Honorable Saboto S. Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry and Fisheries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), has urged fellow ministers responsible for Fisheries across the Caribbean to prioritize the Blue Economy, in order to strengthen the region's COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The Ministerial Council has had to meet virtually since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this has not stopped them from making progress in steering the fisheries and aquaculture sector forward, with carefully designed policies and plans.

Minister Caesar, who was elected as chair of the CRFM Ministerial Council on 21 May 2021, succeeding Minister Ezechiel Joseph of Saint Lucia, has assumed leadership at a time when his own government is striving to overcome the challenges brought by the recent eruption of La Soufrière volcano in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic and the volcano, SVG stood out among the countries registering improvements in the trade of its fisheries commodities. Although some CRFM Member States have been seeing declining exports made worse by a growing import bill to meet domestic demand for fish and fishery products, SVG continued to register growth in trade for 2019 and 2020.

During the meeting, the Ministers received updates on the status of and trends in fisheries and aquaculture. The evidence provided demonstrated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on activities in the fisheries sector, including on production, as well as on exports and imports of fish and fishery products.

These impacts were documented in greater detail in regional assessments which the CRFM Secretariat conducted during 2020 and 2021, aimed at providing information to support the reorientation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Member States will convene follow-up meetings to advance post-COVID-19 response and recovery, in

line with the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Action Plan and Risk Management Framework.

The CRFM is involved in several initiatives to help Member States address the myriad challenges that confront them, and these initiatives have integrated elements to address and mitigate COVID-19 impacts, as well as a prior mandate of the Ministerial Council to address gender, youth, and decent work in all CRFM policies, protocols, programmes, and plans.

At the recent meeting, the Ministers also approved the Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries for the CRFM countries, which the CRFM developed through a recently concluded project funded by Global Affairs Canada in collaboration with a UNDP/ GEF supported Flyingfish Sub-project of the CLME+ Project.

The Ministers also welcomed and expressed their support for the Copenhagen Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime in the Global Fishing Industry and the



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Blue Justice Initiative established with Norwegian support, to help countries (particularly developing countries) to work together and build their capacity to prevent, deter and eradicate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and transnational organized crime in the global fishing industry.

The Region's Fisheries Ministers are due to meet again in October 2021 for their 11th Special Meeting, when they are expected to, among other things, consider a Resource Mobilization Strategy, a Remote Work Policy and the Third CRFM Strategic Plan, to chart the way forward for the next 8 years (2022-2030).

The CRFM has committed to involving stakeholders from all 17 Member States and international development partners in crafting a plan that will give life to the collective vision and aspiration of the people across the subregion. ■

Experts and organizations at the forefront of advancing the global agenda on biodiversity as a catalyst for a Green and Fair Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), met virtually recently to discuss the economic, environmental and social implications of such a strategy.

ECLAC, together with the United Kingdom's thinktank in Latin America, the Canning House, the UN Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Dasgupta Review organized the event, which addressed a holistic approach to biodiversity, drawing on the three core, interdependent pillars of sustainable development.

With negotiations advancing ahead of the CBD COP15 in China and the UNFCCC COP26 in the United Kingdom at the end of this year, countries are steadily aligning their commitments to building back better, along green and blue modes of recovery.

Nevertheless, a significant gap in understanding and appreciation of the role that biodiversity plays in promoting human well-being, national security, job creation, and in assuring fair, green and sustainable development, remains to be filled.

The meeting provided key insight into the regional experience, with participants sharing examples of success, obstacles, and nature-based solutions and opportunities. With a view towards securing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda in a post COVID 19 era, it called for the LAC region to take an holistic economic, social and environmental systems approach to biodiversity.

ECLAC proposed progressive structural change based on a big environmental push. ECLAC is conducting a study in the LAC region of 10 current initiatives in biodiversity mainstreaming. The study will identify obstacles and opportunities for the potential scaling up of these initiatives. ■



GUADELOUPE IS NOW OPEN FOR TOURISM

The French Caribbean archipelago of Guadeloupe has officially reopened for tourism from the United States. The chain of islands in the Eastern Caribbean is welcoming travelers who show proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival in Guadeloupe.

Alternately, travelers can show proof of a negative antigen test received within 48 hours of arrival in Guadeloupe.

Vaccinated travelers will not need to quarantine and can immediately begin enjoying Guadeloupe; they'll need to show proof of full vaccination — meaning that it's been more than two weeks since their final vaccine dose.

Unvaccinated travelers, however, will need to self-quarantine for seven days, with all travelers aged 11 years or older presenting a negative PCR test or antigen test taken within 72 hours of travel.

The reopening applies to all of Guadeloupe's islands: Basse-Terre, Grande-Terre, Les Saintes, Marie Galante (a mecca for Caribbean rum) and La Desirade.

This opening comes as another French Caribbean destination, Martinique, already opened its doors to increasing tourism traffic. ■



LABOUR MARKETS IN THE REGION WILL BE SLOW TO RECOVER FROM THE SEVERE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN 2020

A new ECLAC-ILO joint publication warns that in order to reduce the high unemployment rates during the pandemic, employment policies will need to address the needs and concerns of the most vulnerable groups in particular. The joint publication, entitled *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, analyzes the impact of the crisis prompted by COVID-19 on the main labour market indicators in 2020.

Regional GDP in 2020 experienced a -7.1% contraction, the biggest in a century, producing in turn a drop in employment and an increase in the unemployment rate, which reached 10.5% on average that same year. The GDP growth rate in 2020 among ECLAC Caribbean Member States stood at -8.7%.

According to the document, the biggest effects were seen in the second quarter of last year, when governments implemented measures aimed at containing the pandemic. These measures produced a sharp drop in economic activity, employment, and in the number of hours worked.



Furthermore, many workers, particularly in the informal economy, encountered great difficulty in continuing their productive tasks and were forced to withdraw from the market, thus reducing their income earning capacity for their households. The suspension of care services and schools also gave rise to increased workload inside homes, typically unevenly distributed towards greater responsibility for women as the principal caregivers.

Starting in the third quarter of 2020, workers began returning to work and a gradual increase in employment was observed. However, the year ended with lower levels of labour participation and with levels of unemployment than that which existed before the pandemic.

“Given the depth of the impact of the crisis in the region’s labour markets in 2020, countries must implement policies that stimulate job creation, particularly among the most vulnerable groups such as young people and women,” Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC’s Executive Secretary, and Vinícius Pinheiro, the ILO’s Regional Director for Latin America and the

Caribbean, stated in the publication’s foreword. The two officials also stressed the importance of regulating new forms of hiring through digital platforms.

According to the report, the contraction in employment in 2020 was much more pronounced in sectors such as the hotel industry, construction, trade and transportation, which together account for around 40% of regional employment. At the same time, industrial and other services also experienced contractions, while in the agricultural sector there were comparatively fewer job losses.

Both UN organizations emphasize that it is essential to think about strategies that lay the foundation for a return to the job market with better labour conditions for all workers. This entails shoring up employment recovery in the most seriously impacted sectors, improving institutional aspects regarding health and job safety, formalizing workers, promoting women’s labour inclusion, and adequately regulating new work modalities.

ECLAC and the ILO also examine key

aspects of decent work for workers mediated by digital platforms. During the pandemic, these workers constituted a very important source of employment due to the need to reduce personal contact and maintain the dispatch of essential goods. However, evidence suggests that this work modality is characterized by instability, long workdays, the absence of socio-labour protection, and a lack of options for dialogue and representation.

The report emphasizes the need to design adequate regulatory frameworks to establish and protect social and labour rights for these new and expanding forms of work. ■



CALL FOR CITIZENS TO PROPOSE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO FACILITATE BARBADOS TRANSITION TO REPUBLIC STATUS

Barbadians at home and in the Diaspora are being invited to submit their suggestions for the new constitution to the Republican Status Transition Advisory Committee, as the island prepares to assume new status as a republic. Submissions can be made in written, audio and/or video formats, in keeping with the committee's mandate to engage members of the public in this historic effort.

The committee has been mandated by the Cabinet of Barbados to review previous work done on the subject, including the 1979 report by the commission headed by Sir Mencea Cox and the 1998 report led by Sir Henry Forde. The committee will also consult widely with citizens and national organizations, with a view to presenting its final report to the Cabinet of Barbados by 30 September 2021.

Citizens, both on island and in the Diaspora, can also look forward to a series of public meetings to discuss the new constitution. Furthermore, the public has been reminded that, where

physical attendance is facilitated, all COVID-19 protocols will be observed.

The committee was established in 2021 to oversee the conversion of Barbados system of governance from a monarchical system to a republic. Chaired by economist and former Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Dr. Marion Williams, it will discuss the responsibilities, rights and expectations of Barbadians, including the younger generation and persons in the Diaspora. The committee will also address the issue of individual freedoms and will seek to uphold the values of religious, spiritual and racial tolerance on the island.

Submissions, including audio and video clips under 10 minutes, can be emailed to republicconsultations@barbados.gov.bb or posted to The Republican Status Transition Advisory Committee, Cabinet Office, Government Headquarters, Bay Street, St. Michael. ■

Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo

Level: Easy

Total: 25 min

Active: 25 min

Yield: 4 servings

What you will need:

Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- 12 ounces fettuccine
- Olive oil, for tossing
- 3/4 pound large shrimp (about 16), peeled and deveined, tails removed
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 pinches freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 1/2 cups freshly grated parmesan cheese

How to Make it:

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil, and salt generously. Add the pasta, and boil according to package directions until al dente, tender but still slightly firm. Strain, and toss with a splash of oil.
2. Meanwhile, arrange the shrimp in a single layer on a large pie pan or paper plate, and pat them with a paper towel until completely dry. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat a large skillet over medium heat, and add 2 tablespoons of the butter.
4. When the butter melts, raise the heat to medium-high, and invert the plate of shrimp over the skillet so the shrimp fall into the pan all at once. Cook the shrimp, without moving them, until the underside is pink, 1 to 2 minutes. Flip the shrimp, and cook until fully pink and cooked through, about 2 minutes more.
5. Transfer the shrimp to a bowl.
6. Reduce the heat to medium, and add the remaining 6 tablespoons butter. Scrape the bottom of the skillet with a wooden spoon to release any browned bits.
7. When the butter has mostly melted, whisk in the cream and nutmeg and bring to a simmer, then cook for 2 minutes.
8. Lower the heat to keep the sauce warm.
9. Whisk the cheese into the sauce. Add the shrimp and cooked pasta, and toss well. Season with salt and pepper.
10. Serve hot in heated bowls.



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