We describe the experiences and lessons learned from our joint trip to fishing communities and marine protected areas in Belize and Mexico, from 30 May to 9 June 2007. We visited fishing cooperatives in Punta Allen (Mexico) and Belize City (Belize). We visited the marine reserves of Hol Chan, Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes, and Laughing Bird Cay National Park, in Belize, as well as the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve, in Mexico. We witnessed snapper spawning and whale shark aggregations at Gladden Spit. Along the trip, we stayed in fishing villages, increasing our opportunities to exchange experiences with fishers and their families. We observed the design and construction of “casitas” in 5 different locations, which are used for lobster captures. We learned a great deal about the biology and sustainable management of spawning aggregations and spiny lobster. Also, we met with sport fishing guides and visited sport fishing lodges. Now, we are sharing our experiences with fellow fishermen and marine protected areas managers in our home countries. We are grateful to the United Nations Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP), who funded the trip through a grant called “Sustainable management of multi-species reef fish spawning aggregations: exchanging fisher experiences”. We were accompanied by Juan M. Posada (Univ. Simón Bolivar and Fundación Científica Los Roques, Venezuela), Lindsay Garbutt (Friends of Nature, Belize, and Will Heyman, Texas A&M University, USA), who served as organizers and guides through the entire trip.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable fishing, fisher exchange, Belize, Mexico, Antigua, Barbuda, Venezuela
reduce the financial pressure to fish more frequently. Mr. Samuel acknowledged that some alternatives for income generation would be a necessity for fishers in Antigua and Barbuda if they were ever to be asked to reduce the fishing pressure as part of any conservation or sustainability effort. He was particularly impressed with Mr. Eloy Cuevas, a Belizean Garifuna fisher from Monkey River, Belize who was also a highly successful fly fisher guide. Mr. Samuel expressed interest in inviting Mr. Cuevas to Antigua as a speaker so he can share his experiences and ideas with the local fishers.

The trip also included a dive at Gladden Spit, a well-known reef spot in a marine protected area in Belize, where the visiting fishers witnessed a spawning aggregation of snappers as well as the feeding of whale sharks on the fish spawn. This was the experience of a lifetime for a diver like Mr. Samuel, who like the other visiting fishers, had never seen so many large and mature fish at one time. Watching local fishers recording the weight and sex of every fish taken helped Mr. Samuel see the importance of monitoring a resource and saw that fishers can handle many of the managing responsibilities that are critical to sustainable fishing practices.

When Mr. Samuel commented about how this experience changed his life, he spoke of the challenges facing his home country of Antigua and Barbuda. These challenges included chronic over-fishing, little or no monitoring of the fishing grounds by the government or other stakeholders, and the common use of nets in sensitive areas with corals. He expressed the need for education—experiences like he had in Mexico and Belize—so that other fishers can have the opportunity to learn from fishers like themselves who are successful in managing their resources. He also acknowledged that fishers and scientists must work creatively together and help each other in their efforts to reduce the global trend of diminishing fish stocks.
KEYWORDS: Sustainable fishing, fisher exchange Belize, Mexico, Antigua, Barbuda, Venezuela. Intercambio de Experiencias entre Pescadores de Antigua, Barbuda, Venezuela, Belize y México. Se describe la experiencia y lecciones aprendidas en nuestro viaje a las comunidades pesqueras y Áreas marinas protegidas de Belice y México, entre Mayo 30 y Junio 9 de 2007. He expressed the need for education-experiences like he had in Mexico and Belize—so that other fishers can have the opportunity to learn from fishers like themselves who are successful in managing their resources. He also acknowledged that fishers and scientists must work creatively together and help each other in their efforts to reduce the global trend of diminishing fish stocks. Here you have the comparison between Afghanistan Albania Algeria Andorra Angola Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Armenia Australia Austria Azerbaijan Bahamas Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belgium Belize Benin Bhutan Bolivia Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Brunei Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burma - Myanmar Burundi Cambodia Cameroon Canada Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Chile China Colombia Comoros Costa Rica Croatia Cuba Cyprus Czech Republic Democratic Republic of the Congo Denmark Djibouti Dominica. Antigua and Barbuda and Belize living comparison. Explore similarities and differences. Belize was the site of several Mayan city states until their decline at the end of the first millennium A.D. The British and Spanish disputed the region in the 17th and 18th centuries; it formally became the colony of British Honduras in 1854. Territorial disputes between the UK and Guatemala delayed the independence of Belize. If you lived in Belize instead of Antigua and Barbuda, you would: Health. live 7.8 years less. In Antigua and Barbuda, the average life expectancy is 77 years (75 years for men, 79 years for women). In Belize, that number is 69 years (67 years for men, 71 years for women). be 27.5% more likely to be obese. In Antigua and Barbuda, 18.9% of adults are obese. Antigua & Barbuda General Health Risks: Coronavirus COVID-19. COVID-19 has been confirmed in Antigua & Barbuda. See Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases for up-to-date details. Note that this country may enforce travel restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You can view current travel restrictions and entry requirements here. Travellers should also refer to their airline and the embassy of their destination for additional details. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience trouble breathing, persistent chest pain or pressure, blue lips or face, or confusion. Prevention. There is currently no vaccine or medication approved for COVID-19 prevention or treatment. CARICOM is made up of the following member States: Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The Community also includes the following associate members: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Gulf of Mexico in the North, the Caribbean Sea and the Guiana-Brazil shelf off the coast of South America. 4CARSEA. Virgin Islands Antigua and Barbuda St. Martin/St. Marten. St. Kitts & Nevis. Montserrat.