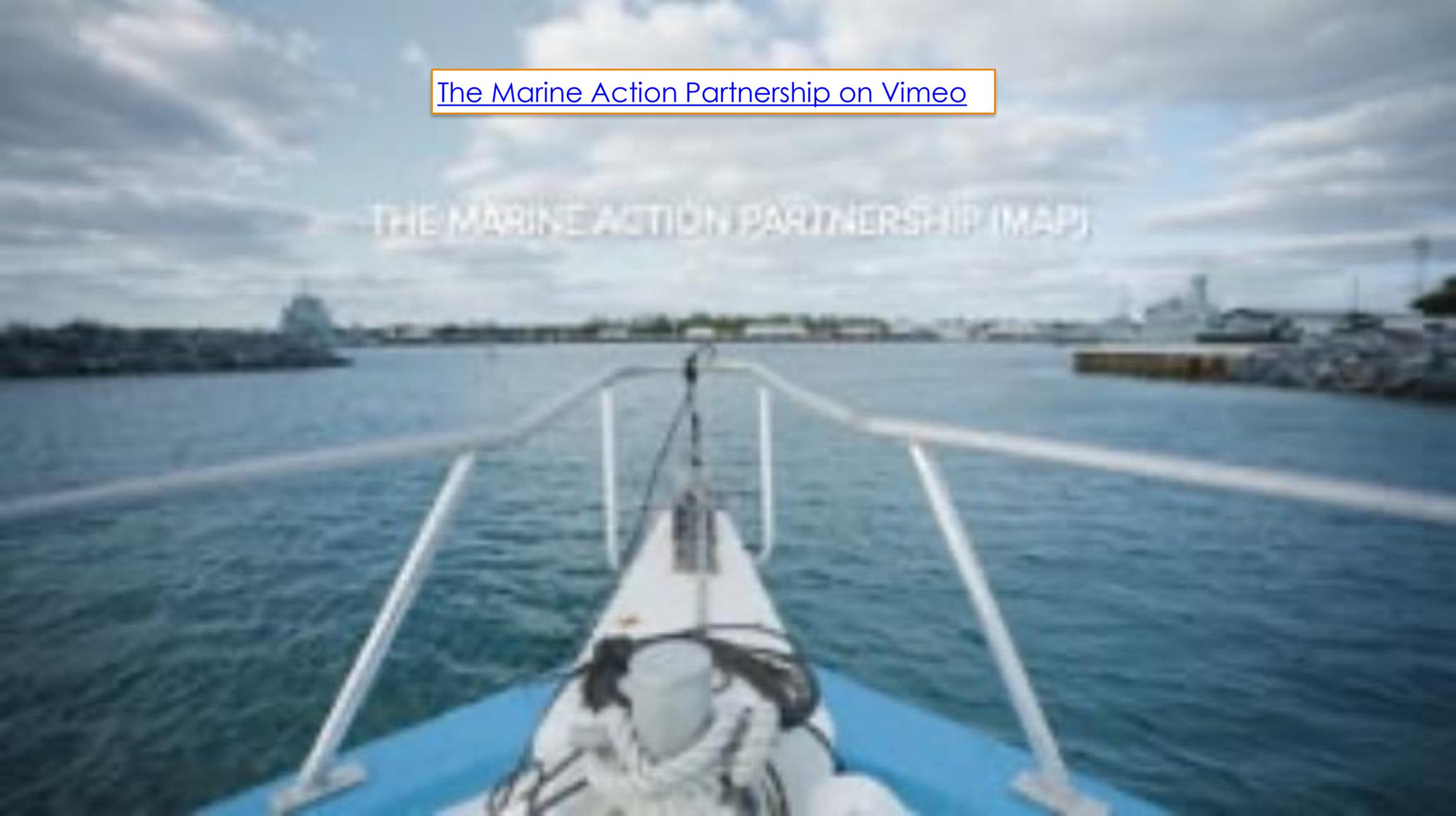


[The Marine Action Partnership on Vimeo](#)

THE MARINE ACTION PARTNERSHIP (MAP)



THE ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE



Bahamas approach to IUUF

By: William Sturup, Cdr. RBDF

GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT



- 180,000 sq. miles of water
- 700 Islands, cays and rocks
- Within 50nm off the United States, 50nm off Cuba and 80nm off Haiti.
- Collectively, our islands constitute the second longest coastline in the region - a length of some 2,000 miles.





IUUF PRESSURES

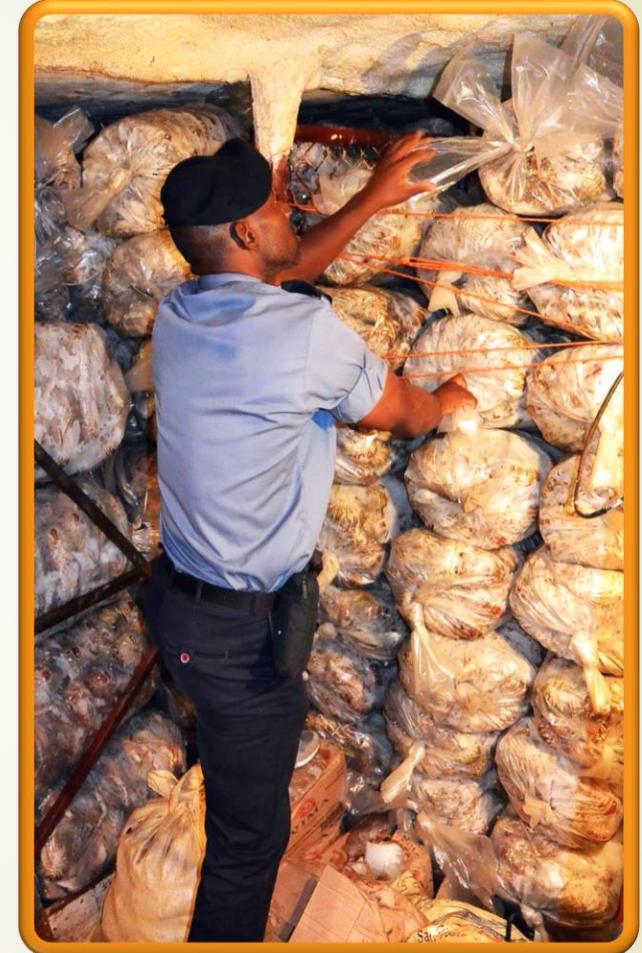
- Bahamian fishing fleet
- Dominican Republic commercial fleet
- American recreational and commercial fishing vessels
- Other dark vessels foreign distant fleets.



IMPACT OF IUUF



- Reduced revenue from exports.
- Depleted conch, fish and lobster stocks.
- Adverse effects on our culture and local food supply.





IMPACT OF IUUF

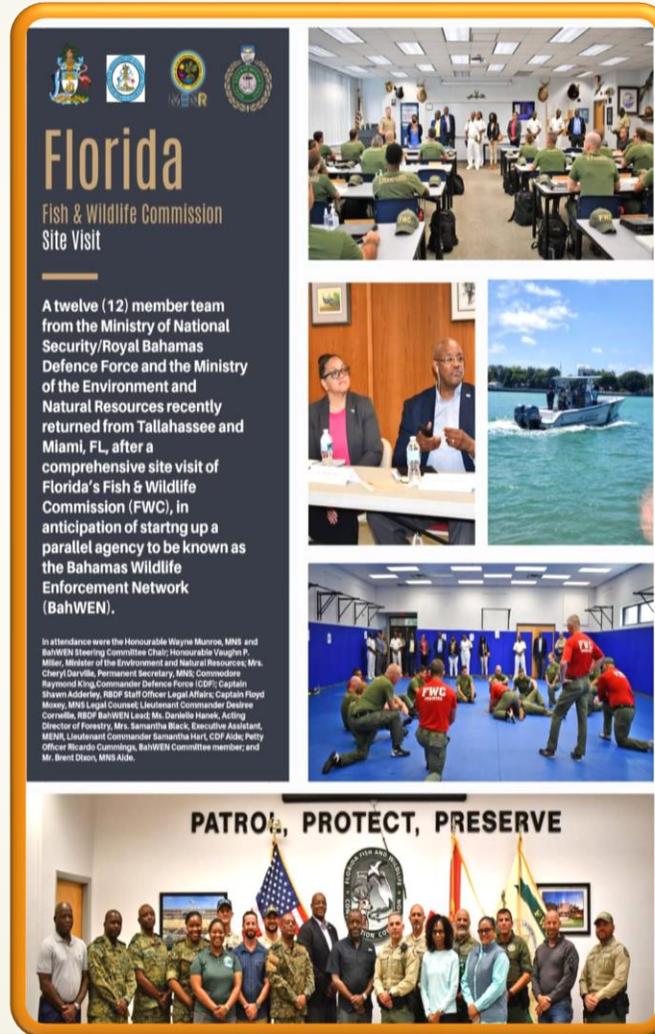


- Hostility between nations.
- Life threatening encounters at sea.



INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

- WildAid
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement
- United States Coast Guard
- Bahamas Wildlife Enforcement Network
- Bahamas Immigration
- Dept. Of Marine Resources
- Bahamas Customs
- Royal Bahamas Police Force
- Royal Bahamas Defence Force



Florida
Fish & Wildlife Commission
Site Visit

A twelve (12) member team from the Ministry of National Security/Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources recently returned from Tallahassee and Miami, FL, after a comprehensive site visit of Florida's Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC), in anticipation of starting up a parallel agency to be known as the Bahamas Wildlife Enforcement Network (BahWEN).

In attendance were the Honourable Wayne Murray, MMB and BahWEN Steering Committee Chair; Honourable Vaughn P. Miller, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources; Mrs. Cheryl DeVillia, Permanent Secretary, MNS; Commodore Raymond King, Commander Defence Force (CDF); Captain Shawn Adderley, RBDF Staff Officer Legal Affairs; Captain Floyd Honey, MNS Legal Counsel; Lieutenant Commander Denise Corneille, RBDF BahWEN Lead; Ms. Danielle Hanak, Acting Director of Forestry; Mrs. Samantha Black, Executive Assistant, MNS; Lieutenant Commander Samantha Hart, CDF Aide; Petty Officer Ricardo Cummings, BahWEN Committee member; and Mr. Brent Dixon, MNS Aide.

PATROL, PROTECT, PRESERVE





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Operation Dragnet 10 – 30 June, 2023



- Table Top Exercise April 2023

- Successful prosecution (Lacey act Fla USA, May 2021)





CONCLUSION

- The Bahamas' Maritime domain is vast, which presents a huge challenge
- The Bahamas through (MAP) has leveraged collaboration and cooperation both local and international.
- The Bahamas has reaped huge dividends from these partnerships. We are pleased, but not satisfied!





ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE MARINE SUPPORT SERVICES BRANCH

Combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing

History of the RBPF Marine UNIT

Prior to 1973

R.B.P.F. which was formed on February 20, 1840.
the only Law Enforcement agency responsible for Law and Order in the Bahamas

1958

In 1958 the RBPF received its first vessel called Sea Lion and began limited patrols of Nassau Harbour

1971

In 1971 the Police Marine Division received four (4) 60 foot Mark I Keith Nelson type vessels- Acklins, Andros, San Salvador and Eleuthera were commissioned

1980 the RBDF was birth from the RBPF headed by the late ACP Lawrence Major and the late DSP Leon Smith



The role of the Marine Branch

(dual roles)

- Primary functions OPBAT drug interdiction
- Assist RBDF with counter migrant operations
- Harbor patrols
- Assist other Police station or Departments in investigations throughout the Bahamas
- Assist Port Authority, Customs and Immigration D.M.R in maritime concerns (search and rescue) fisheries act

First Search Warrant for Open Source Information
(December 2022).





First Search Warrant for Open Source Information (December 2022).

Stated Case

- One particular violator involved in the egregious overharvest of marine resources (photo above one of 4 events) was identified as a candidate for employing new investigative skills taught by WildAid during training. The first-ever information preservation order and search warrant were served for a U.S.-based social media account that depicted evidence of multiple fisheries crimes committed while the suspect was in The Bahamas. WildAid facilitated an investigative task force involving Immigration, Police, and Fisheries officers who pursued this post-event case. While common for other crimes, investigating poaching post-event is rare. Confidence that the same strategies and skills to address general criminal activity can also be applied to fisheries that is increasing. Other cases are being pursued with WildAid's guidance.

WILDAID
MARINE PROGRAM

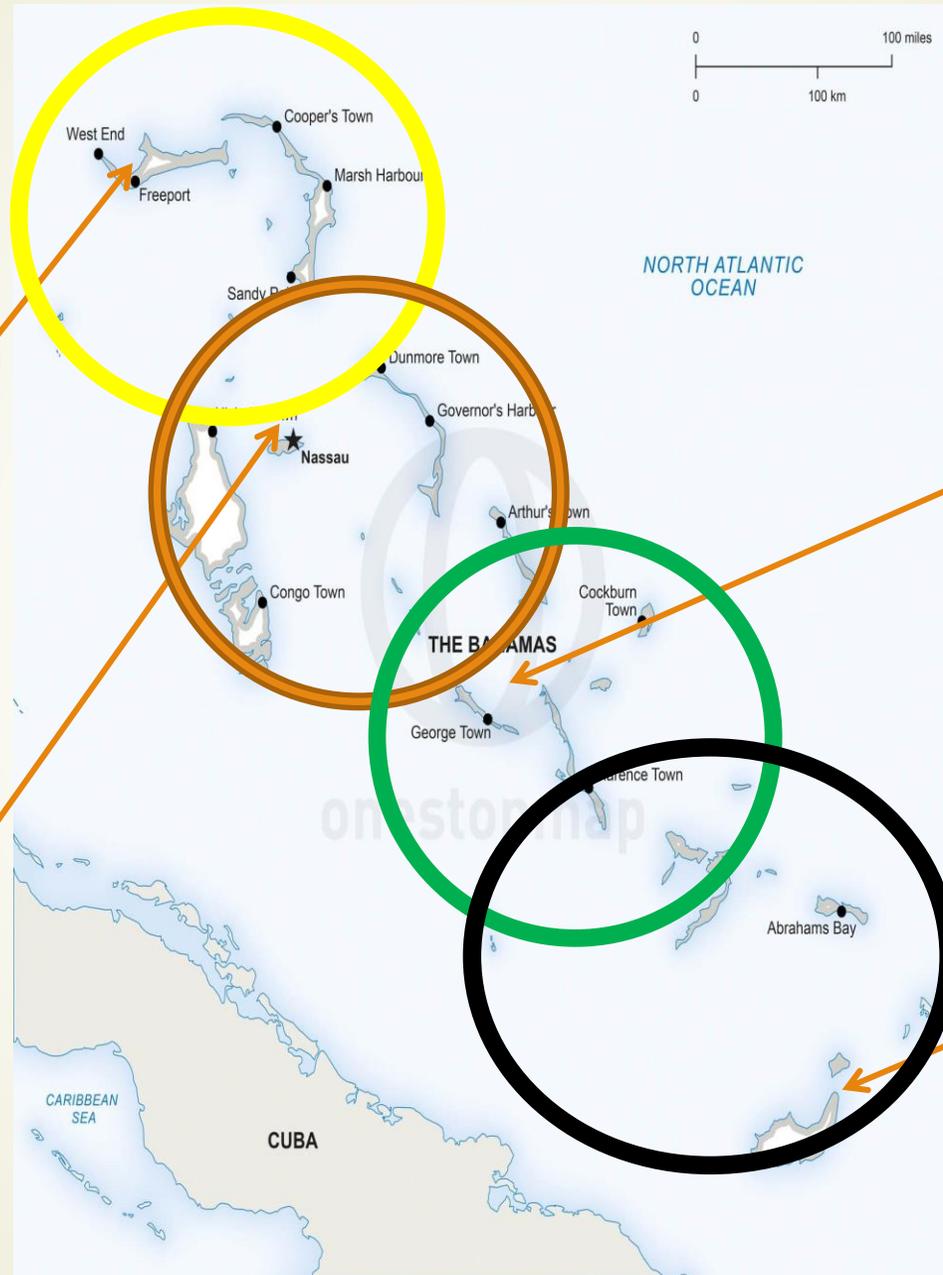


**WILDAID AND ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH
BAHAMIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL,
UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED
FISHING WITHIN BAHAMIAN
WATERS**





<u>Smaller vessels in</u>	
Bimini	1
Abaco	1
Andros	1
New Providence	1





Training Event

- WildAid partnered with the Defence Force and BAWHEN lead to facilitate a week-long in-country training event for the members of BAHWEN and supporting agencies;
- Dept. of Marine Resources, Police, Defence Force, Department of Forestry, Customs, BNT
- To include training in report writing, vessel boarding tactics, CITES, evidence collection, and applicable laws. WildAid personnel were involved in developing the training itinerary, curriculum, providing instruction, and putting skills into action through staged field scenarios with actors. Students were instructed to write police and intelligence reports after the field scenarios.
- Class evaluations were very positive, with requests for future training, especially in advanced investigative techniques



Purpose

- Whole government response to fisheries crime
- POLICE
- RBDF
- CUSTOMS
- Roles enforcement, detection, prosecution, and evidence preservation

- Also to introduce U.S counterparts for a network and comradery
- Coordinate multiple jurisdictional involvements
- In potential fisheries crimes, design protocol increases network, communications

Conclusion

- The Marine Support Services Branch will Continuously and Strategically protect our borders, with the help of other law enforcement agencies and Partners



Police Marine Unit



Thank You

