## Fishermen's agreement on seasoning for Red Fish and establishing a fishermen's organization

Saba, August 20th 2016

In order to sustain Red Fish species on Saba and contribute to a healthier marine ecosystem, on the fishermen meeting of August 20<sup>th</sup> 2016, Saban fishermen have agreed upon the following:

- 1. To establish a **fishermen's organisation** –starting its development in August 2016– aiming to be officially formed before the end of 2016.
- 2. To establish a **closed season for Red Fish** for 6 months for the entire Saba Bank from the 1st of April 2017 until the 30st of September 2017, after which leaving room for reflection and adaptation of the seasoning system for the next years based on the results of the seasoning system of 2017.
- 3. To set a **trap limit** of 25 Red Fish traps from the 1st of October 2017 until the next agreed upon closed season.
- 4. To allow a **maximum of 4 vertical longlines** for Red Fish per fishing boat during closed season for Red Fish.
- 5. To not intentionally catch sharks and to throw unintentionally caught sharks back alive -when using traps, longlines and FADs and/or other methods- as they keep the marine ecosystem healthy.
- 6. To use **bigger mesh sizes**: all fishermen will use 2 inch square mesh wire for at least the doors of the Red Fish traps.
- 7. To, in cooperation with the government and the coast guard, arrange **patrolling** for illegal fishing, meaning breaking the above mentioned rules, for foreign as well as local boats.

## Fishermen's agreement

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