



FISH  
FOREVER

rare

A man wearing a yellow polo shirt, light-colored cargo shorts, a dark cap, and a watch stands in a wooden boat in the ocean. The boat is filled with red fishing nets and other gear. The water is clear and blue, with a white wave visible in the distance.

# Rare in the Mesoamerican Reef



# Fish Forever Global Goals

Fish Forever is Rare's community-led solution to revitalize coastal marine habitats, including coral reefs and mangrove forests, protect biodiversity, and boost fishing communities' livelihoods around the world. The program balances habitat conservation with human use and puts fishers at the center of the solution.

<b>10</b> countries	<b>100</b> partners	<b>1,000,000</b> fishers engaged	<b>500</b> local governments committed	<b>125,000</b> mi <sup>2</sup> of coastal seas managed
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## Coastal Fisheries in the Mesoamerican Reef

Coastal seas are the beating heart of the ocean. The Mesoamerican Reef region's coastal waters sustain millions of people and an economy heavily dependent on local fisheries for food and jobs. However, coastal overfishing and destructive fishing techniques are diminishing fish catches and destroying marine habitats. Climate change is worsening this issue, making future fishing conditions—and life for coastal communities on the front lines of climate impacts—uncertain.

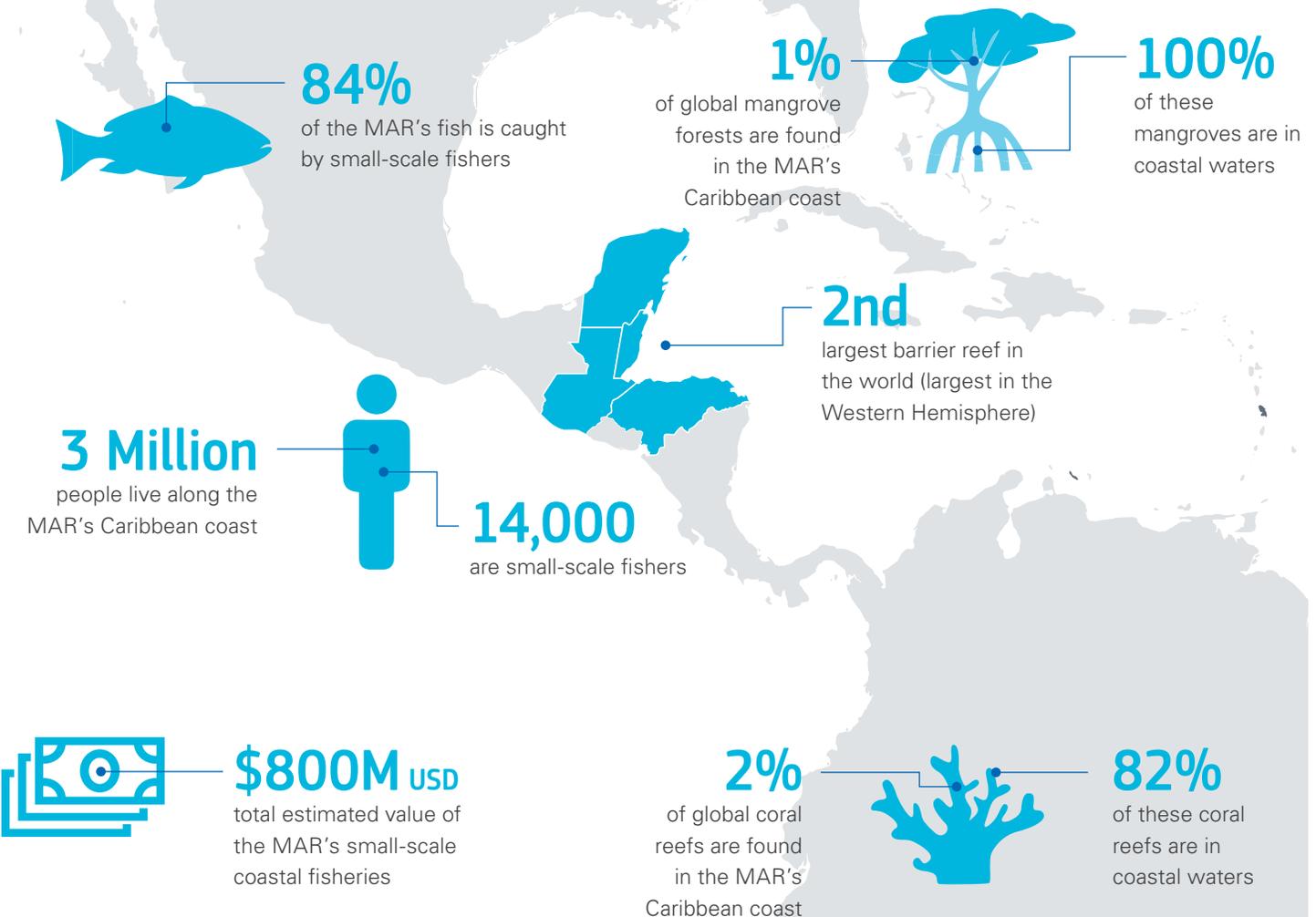




Photo: Jason Houston

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**I feel proud, above all, of being able to demonstrate, factually, that we are really fishing in a sustainable way.”**

– MAR Fisher

## The Program

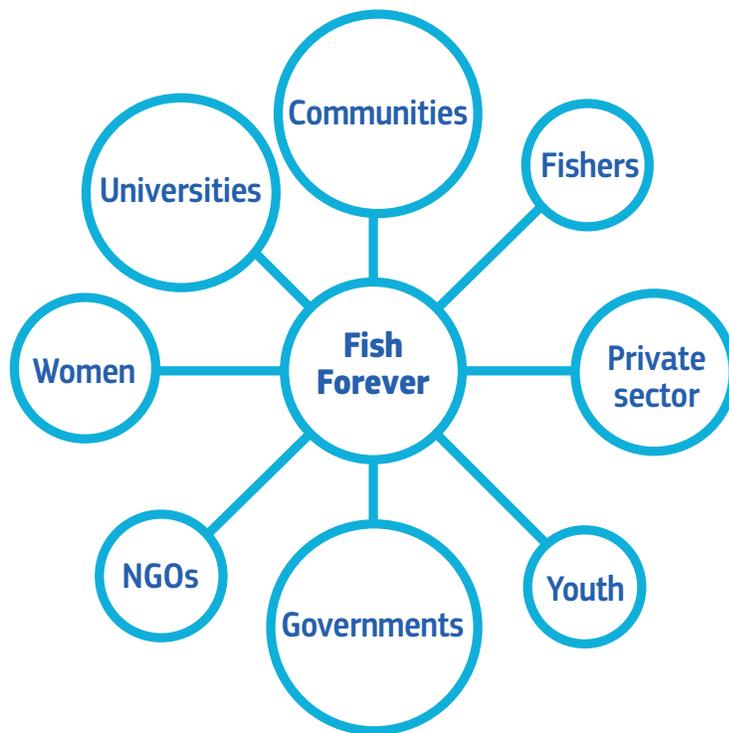
Fish Forever in the Mesoamerican Reef works with fishing communities and municipal governments to build and strengthen coastal fisheries management across the Caribbean coasts of Honduras, Guatemala, Belize and Mexico. The program works to:

- Establish managed access areas that provide fishing communities clear rights to fish in certain areas
- Create networks of fully-protected and community-led no-take marine reserves to replenish and sustain fish populations and protect critical habitat
- Build community engagement and effective management bodies to support local decision-making
- Enable fishers to adopt more sustainable and better-regulated fishing behaviors (e.g., become a registered fisher; record fish catch; respect fishing regulations; and participate in fisheries management)
- Collect, disseminate and help fishing communities use data for decision-making
- Advance coastal fishing communities' inclusion in financial and market opportunities to increase household resilience
- Enact policy and unlock financing to promote and sustain this community-based management approach

# The Network of Impact

Fish Forever in the Mesoamerican Reef has developed a strong partnership network to turn local change into national impact.

This partnership among Rare, local communities, governments and a broad range of partners leads to more abundant marine life, healthier coastal habitats, improved fish abundance, greater social equity, and more resilience to external impacts—especially those related to climate change.



**Fisher participation and self-regulation is the best strategy to protect and manage natural resources. It's a success story when conservationists and fishers are working together."**

– **Marco Cerezo**  
General Director, FUNDAECO

Rare inspires change so people and nature thrive