

The Sea Cucumber Fishery in Jamaica



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Introduction

- There is no established (Authorized) fishery for sea cucumber presently in Jamaica.
- A legal regime to manage the fishery is currently being developed.



Historical Overview and Present Status of Sea Cucumber Fishery

- B & D Trawling authorized to engage in exploratory fishing of sea cucumbers in 2009 while others have been fishing from 2011.
- Close Season was effected on July 18, 2013 to September 30, 2013. However, no licence to fish sea cucumber has been granted since.
- Current stock status is unknown.



Characterization of the Fishery

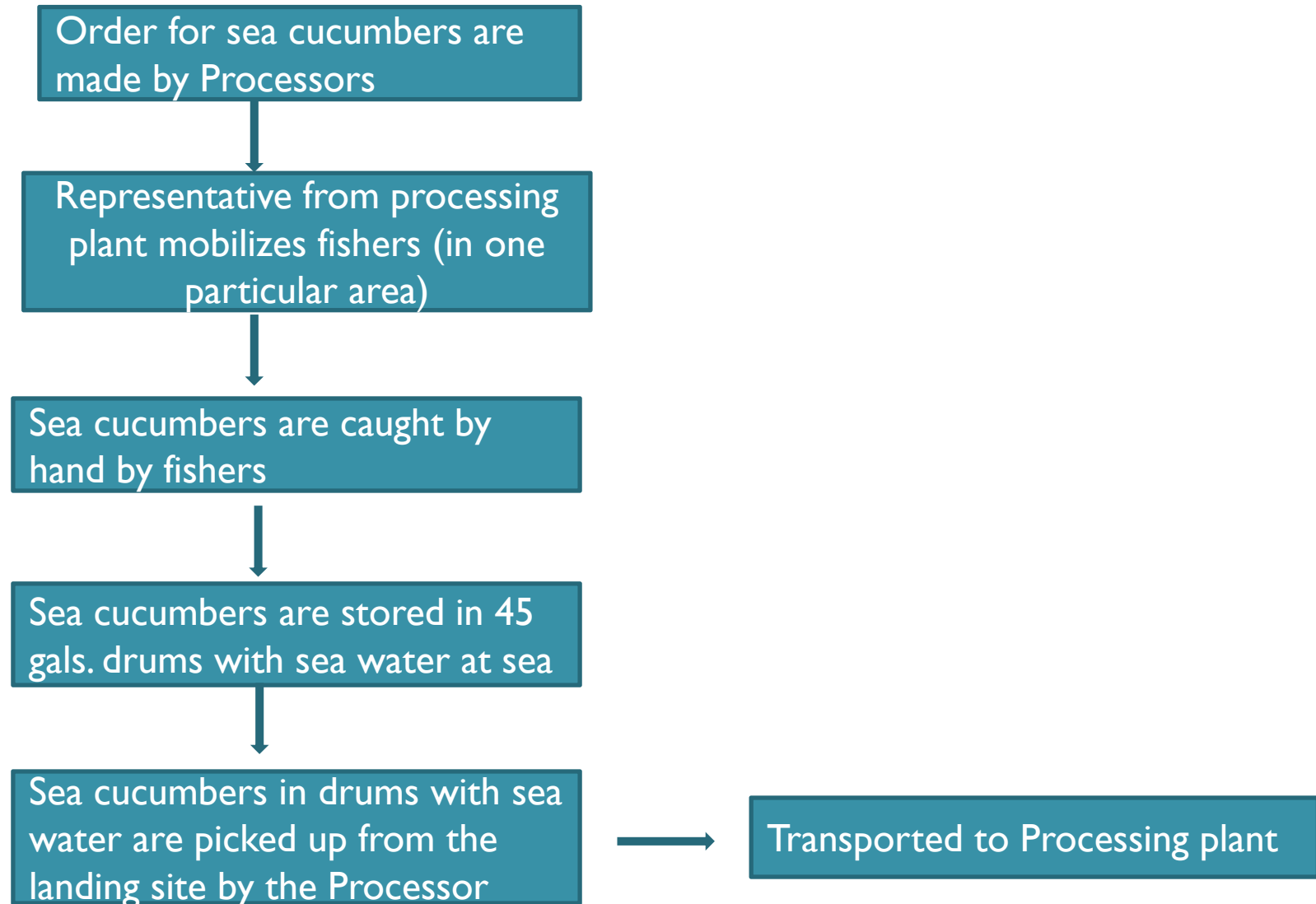
- The type of fishery is artisanal.
- Both SCUBA and free lung fishing techniques are employed.
- Fibreglass canoes with outboard engines measuring 28 ft are used

Characterization of the fishery

Key Sea Cucumber Species and Habitats exploited

Species	Common Name	Local name	Price (JM)	Habitat
<i>Actinopyga agassizzi</i>	Five toothed sea cucumber	Curry fish day special, cookie and cream	\$30	Coral reef and sea grass
<i>Astichopus multifidus</i>	Furry sea cucumber	Curry fish	\$30	Sand and sea grass
<i>Isostichopus badionotus</i>	Three rowed sea cucumber	Curry fish	\$30	Coral reef and sea grass
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkey dung sea cucumber	Elephant trunk	\$25	Coral reef and sea grass
<i>Holothuria floridana</i>	Florida sea cucumber	Red surf, flower fish	\$30	Coral reef

Overview of Fishery Operations





Main Fishing Areas

- Salt River, Clarendon
- Savanna-la-mar, Westmoreland
- Negril, Westmoreland
- Falmouth, Trelawny
- Ocho Rios, St. Ann

Fishermen counting sea cucumbers





Consultations

- Three meetings with sea cucumber fishers held:
 - Welcome, Clarendon (1)
 - Savanna-la-mar, Westmoreland (2)
- Estimated 35 divers were in attendance at both meetings.

Consultation in Savanna-la-mar



Consultation in Savanna-la-mar





Agreed Minimum Sizes to harvest

- Elephant trunk – 10 inches
- Curry fish – 5 inches
- Red surf – 5 inches



Agreed Minimum Sizes after drying

- Elephant trunk – 6 inches
- Curry fish – 2 inches
- Red surf – 3 inches



Outlook and Future Interventions

- Establish new Regulations.
- Establish a Sea cucumber management plan.
- Conduct a sea cucumber survey.



**Thank you for your
attention**