

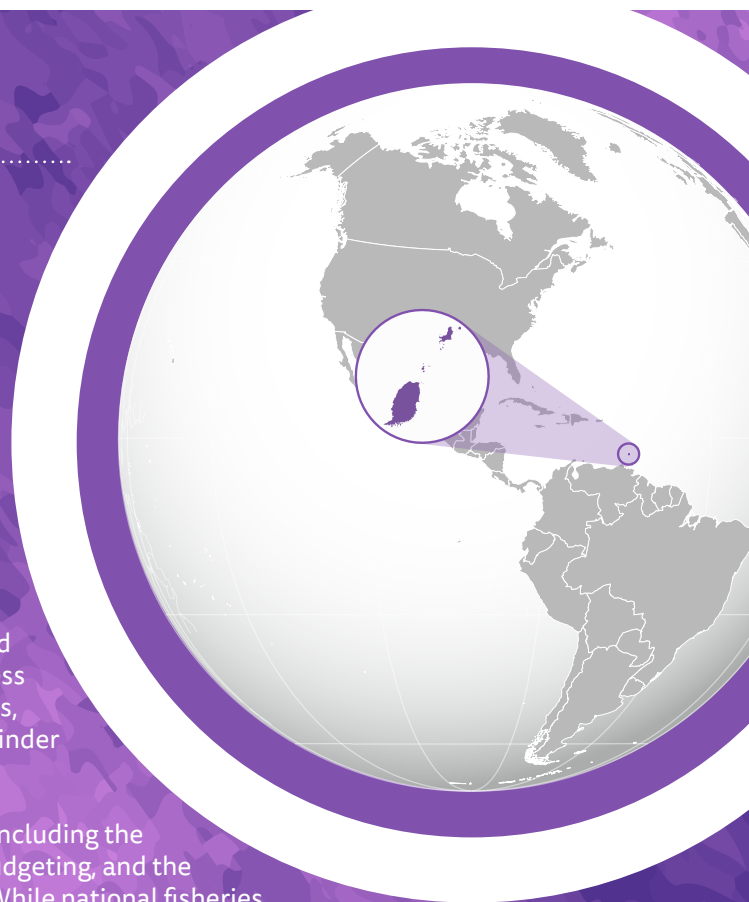
# Grenada

Grenada's multi-species fisheries are predominantly small-scale, supporting food security, livelihoods, and exports. Women contribute significantly to the sector, particularly to post-harvest processing and trade, as well as management, administration, financing, and harvesting. However, socio-cultural norms, limited formal recognition, and a lack of sex-disaggregated data have led to the undervaluation of women's contributions. Targeted efforts are underway to address these challenges.

Relative to the region, Grenada demonstrates high gender awareness, with strong female political representation and high educational attainment for women. However, women face higher unemployment than men and are overrepresented in informal, unpaid, or low-wage work, often with limited access to social protection. Structural inequalities, entrenched norms, limited gender data, and gender-based violence continue to hinder equitable development.

The Government of Grenada has taken steps to address this, including the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan, gender-responsive budgeting, and the integration of gender equality into national climate policies. While national fisheries policies do not explicitly address gender, regional policy shifts are helping advance the agenda, as needed for ensuring gender mainstreaming into national fisheries governance.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the role of seafood production in Grenada with a focus on gender dimensions, highlighting opportunities to strengthen gender equity and women's empowerment in the sector and beyond. It is part of a series meant to offer development agency employees, government agencies, NGOs, funders, and researchers with a snapshot of gender and fisheries to inform the planning and delivery of relevant activities these actors might be involved in or are in the process of developing.



## Fisheries production

### National data

Grenada's fisheries are small-scale, commercial, and multi-species in nature,<sup>1</sup> targeting a combination of large offshore pelagic species, notably yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), as well as reef fishes, lobster, and conch.<sup>2,3</sup> According to government approved-data reported to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), 1,857 tonnes (live weight) of aquatic animals were captured in 2022.<sup>4</sup> Two species made up over half of the reported catch: yellowfin tuna (957 tonnes; 51.5% of total) and red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus*; 110 tonnes; 5.9% of total).<sup>4</sup> For that same year, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) reported total domestic marine capture fish production (landed weight) as 2,470 tonnes.<sup>3</sup>

In 2022, Grenada's commercial capture fishery had 990 active vessels, down from 1,812 vessels in 2014.<sup>3</sup> The fleet consists primarily of pirogues, small open vessels, and long-liners. Grenada does not operate a high seas fishery.<sup>3</sup>

Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture remain small-scale and largely underdeveloped.<sup>5</sup> Inland freshwater fisheries are for subsistence use only, and many species show signs of over-exploitation.<sup>3</sup> In 2021, small-scale aquaculture for sea moss (*Eucheama isiforme* and *E. cottonii*) started to develop and produced 10 tonnes annually in both 2021 and 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### Sea Around Us data

The Sea Around Us<sup>a,b</sup> estimated total annual marine capture production for Grenada's fleets as follows:

- ▶ Marine subsistence<sup>c</sup> (2019) – 371 tonnes
- ▶ Marine commercial<sup>d</sup> (2019) – 1,960 tonnes by the industrial sector, with 1,338 tonnes caught within Grenada's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the remaining 622 tonnes caught in the EEZ of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Local artisanal fleets caught an additional 1,877 tonnes in Grenada's waters.

Foreign industrial fleets were responsible for capturing 129 tonnes in Grenada's EEZ in 2019.

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## Fish consumption

Apparent fish consumption<sup>e</sup> was estimated at around 30.34 kg per capita per year (2022),<sup>8</sup> which is among the highest in the Caribbean and the Americas.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, pelagic species accounted for almost half of total consumption, followed by demersal fish.<sup>1</sup>

While locally caught fish are often sold fresh or fresh on ice, imported cured herring and saltfish remain dietary staples throughout Grenada and much of the Caribbean and reflect the colonial influences on the region.<sup>1</sup>

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## Economic contribution to GDP

In 2020, the fisheries sector contributed 0.94% of GDP (current prices at time of writing),<sup>3</sup> down from 1.61% in 2012.<sup>3</sup> Between 2018 and 2022, Grenada's average fish exports totaled 0.67 thousand tonnes, with an average value of USD 3.02 million.<sup>3</sup>

Grenada is self-sufficient in fish products and a net exporter, primarily exporting high-value yellowfin tuna to the United States, while importing lower-value fish products.<sup>1</sup>

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## Employment contribution (all)

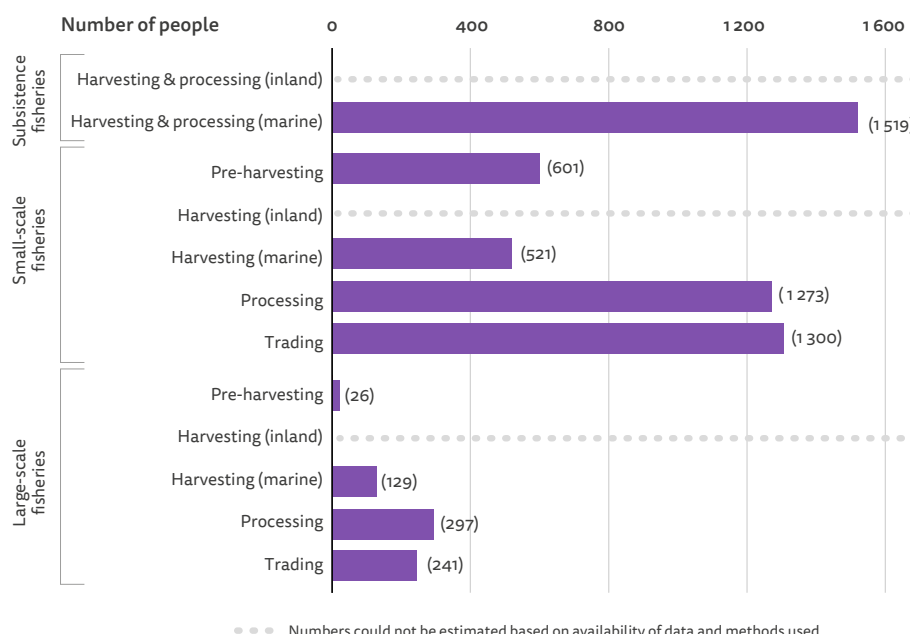
### National data

In 2022, national estimates indicated that 13,308 people were engaged in the fisheries sector, representing 22.6% of the country's total labour force.<sup>3</sup> Of these, 3,327 people were estimated to be directly employed in marine commercial capture fisheries (up from 2,875 in 2021).<sup>3</sup> Employment statistics for the wider fisheries sector (i.e., marketing, transport, boat building, etc.) are unavailable, though estimates range from 400 (2018)<sup>1</sup> to 9,981 people (2022).<sup>3</sup> No employment data exists for the nascent small-scale aquaculture industry.<sup>3</sup>

### Illuminating Hidden Harvests estimates

The Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) Initiative<sup>9,f</sup> estimated that a total of 5,906 individuals<sup>g</sup> engage in the fisheries sector (2022), including in pre- and post-harvest as well as subsistence<sup>h</sup> fishing activities. Most individuals are involved in the marine small-scale fisheries (SSF)<sup>i</sup> sub-sector (see figure

below). The IHH Initiative also estimates that in 2022, approximately 23,999 people depended, at least partly, on fisheries or subsistence fishing: 15,320 in SSF, 6,106 in subsistence fisheries, and 2,573 in large scale fisheries (LSF).<sup>j</sup>



## Employment contribution (women)

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“Women account for 51% of the total number of people engaged in subsistence fisheries.”

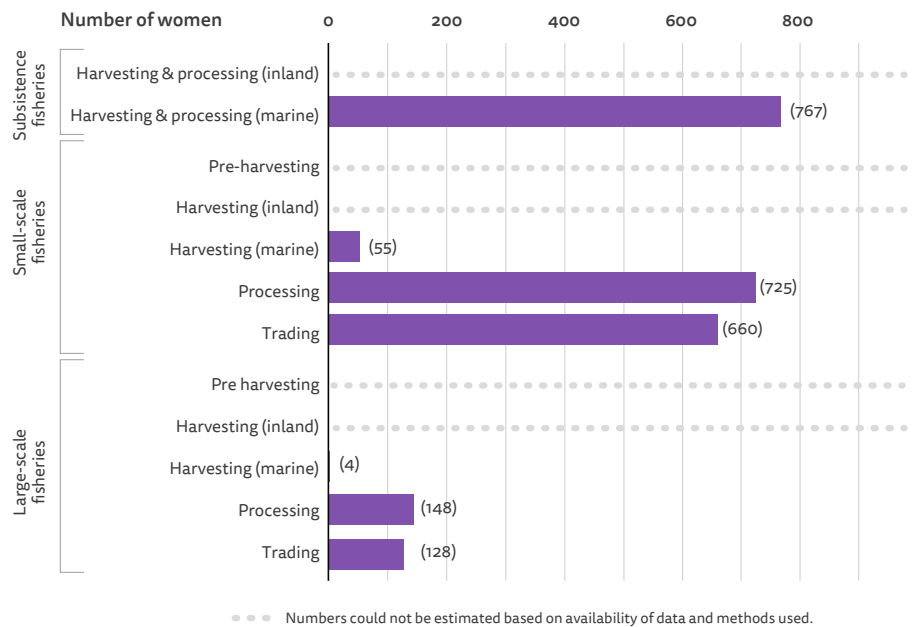
### National data

Women are not officially recorded as fish workers and remain under-represented in government data.<sup>12</sup> Of the 3,133 commercial fishers recorded in 2022, 194 (6%) were female.<sup>3</sup> In the Queen Conch (*Aliger/Eubatus/Strombus gigas*) fishery, women comprised 0.5% of fishers and were otherwise involved in purchasing and selling conch.<sup>13</sup>

Women were reported to own approximately 30 registered vessels in 2019.<sup>14</sup> At time of writing, 216 women were registered across various roles in the Fisheries Division database, including as fish vendors, vessel crew, fishing vessel owners, and sea moss farmers.<sup>k</sup> Women are also active in fish processing plants as managers, administrators, sales representatives, accountants, and quality control specialists, as well as in fisheries administration and management as fisheries officers, marine biologists, fish market supervisors and data clerks.<sup>l</sup>

### Illuminating Hidden Harvests estimates

The IHH Initiative<sup>9,m</sup> estimated that a total of 2,488 women are active in fisheries value chains (2022), with the SSF sector<sup>n</sup> providing the greatest source of livelihoods for women (see figure below). Women account for 51% of the total number of people engaged in subsistence fisheries<sup>o</sup> (harvesting and processing) and they represent 57% and 51% of individuals engaged in the processing and trading activities of SSF, respectively. In LSF, women make up 50% of those engaged in processing and 53% of those engaged in trading activities.



Women’s involvement in harvesting itself remains minimal,<sup>15</sup> and cultural norms have often discouraged women from going to sea.<sup>p</sup> In 2004, only seven out of 200 longline fishers were women.<sup>15</sup> Where they do fish, women are typically involved in line fishing and beach seining.<sup>15</sup> However, their role in the beach seine fishery remains poorly documented, with some studies suggesting that their participation is confined to post-harvest activities, with no decision-making authority over access rights or how and where the fish is processed and sold.<sup>16</sup>

**“Women contribute to fisheries predominantly as fish handlers, processors, vendors, and financiers.”**

Women contribute to fisheries predominantly as fish handlers, processors, vendors, and financiers.<sup>12,15</sup> Processing involves cold storage and filleting for (re)sale/export, as well as corning (a process that involves salt marinating and then drying the fish), salting, and smoking.<sup>9</sup> Many fish vendors – locally called “higglers” or market women – run micro-businesses that link fishers to consumers.<sup>r</sup> Some also invest in boats and gear as financial partners, or support operations through gear repair.<sup>5</sup> By acting as co-owners and financiers and/or setting prices and determining what they are willing to pay for products,<sup>16</sup> women exert informal control within fisheries supply chains.<sup>t</sup>

Opportunities for women to engage in fisheries can also shift alongside wider fishery dynamics. For example, during the expansion of the white sea urchin (*Tripneustes ventricosus*) fishery in the 1980s and early 1990s, and prior to its closure in 1995, women and youth worked as “breakers,” harvesting the roe and cooking it for local and export markets.<sup>17</sup>

Despite these contributions, the lack of formal recognition as “fishers” limits women’s visibility in government data and sectoral decision-making.<sup>12,15,u</sup> Fishing remains male-dominated,<sup>18</sup> with gendered division of labour - similar to agriculture and tourism - leaving women employed in lower income-earning occupations.<sup>12</sup>

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## Social considerations

Grenada ranks relatively high in gender inclusion and awareness compared to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (see *Women's rights and political empowerment* section). However, persistent social-cultural norms, a lack of gender-disaggregated data, and structural barriers continue to hinder further progress.<sup>18-20</sup>

Traditional gender norms cast men as breadwinners and protectors, and women as home-makers and care givers within the domestic sphere, roles reinforced by cultural beliefs surrounding masculinity and femininity.<sup>18,19</sup> These stereotypes remain embedded in social customs, norms, and behaviors, and can restrict the opportunities and agency of both women and men.<sup>18</sup> At the same time, positive shifts are emerging, including greater recognition of men's domestic contributions and women's leadership in business.<sup>18</sup> In this context, religious institutions and the media play an important role - both in reinforcing and challenging prevailing gender and socio-cultural norms.<sup>18</sup>

### Education

Women and girls tend to outperform their male counterparts in education: In 2023, 53% of women (aged 25 and older) and 47% of men completed upper secondary education.<sup>21</sup> However, prevailing social-cultural norms, institutional rigidity, and a lack of female role models are contributing factors to gender-stereotyped subject choices at the secondary and tertiary levels.<sup>18</sup>

Teenage pregnancy is a major reason girls leave school. In 2020, it accounted for 19.4% of all female school dropouts.<sup>18</sup> The adolescent birth rate for 15 to 19-year-olds was 30 per 1000 (2017-2023)<sup>21</sup> – much lower than the regional average of 60.3 per 1000 (2022).<sup>18</sup> However, the rate is disproportionately high among low-income groups: in 2008, 57.8% of women in the lowest income quintile had their first child as teenagers, compared to 25% in the highest quintile.<sup>18,19</sup> The Government has acknowledged that the education system's response to school-aged pregnancy remains inadequate, and that stigma surrounding teenage pregnancy persists.<sup>22</sup>

### Labour force dynamics

Women appear to face particular challenges in the transition from school to work.<sup>18</sup> In 2020, women's labour force participation stood at 61.1%, higher than the regional average (47.7%), but still below that of men (73%).<sup>18</sup> This gap reinforces women's economic dependence on men.<sup>19</sup> Women are over-represented among unpaid family workers<sup>18</sup> and spend 131.8 minutes more per day on unpaid care work than men.<sup>22</sup> Gendered roles also shape reasons for economic inactivity: women most commonly cite family responsibilities, while for men, it is illness or disability.<sup>18</sup> The latter is linked to high rates of noncommunicable and chronic diseases, particularly among men.<sup>18</sup>

Female entrepreneurship is relatively high in Grenada: In 2010, 57% of firms across the country had at least one woman among their owners – well above the LAC average of 31%.<sup>18</sup> However, the quality of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities available for women remains low.<sup>18</sup> Despite education and experience, gender-based wage discrimination persists,<sup>18</sup> and interrupted employment due to caregiving – combined with women's higher rates of unemployment – contribute to women's lower social insurance benefits and greater financial insecurity.<sup>18</sup>

Half of all households in Grenada are headed by women, as a consequence of economic out-migration and other factors.<sup>18</sup> This is significant as economic vulnerability is particularly pronounced for women with dependents and compounded by limited access to social protection.<sup>18</sup> From

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2018-2019, 54% of poor households were headed by women, with single mothers facing significant barriers to productive employment. In contrast, female-headed households without children had the lowest poverty rate (2.4%).<sup>18</sup> For men and women, the highest numbers of working poor are engaged in services, construction, agriculture and fishing sectors – sectors with limited protections and low-income security.<sup>19</sup>

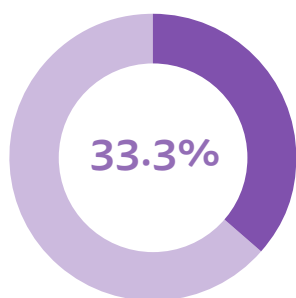
In 2023, 63% of Grenada’s population lived in rural areas<sup>21</sup> where many women depend on small-scale subsistence farming.<sup>18</sup> While laws do not formally discriminate by gender in property or inheritance rights, land ownership remains highly unequal: Men own 77% of the land, and only 22% of registered farmers are women.<sup>18</sup> This limits women’s access to agricultural resources, including insurance against extreme weather events.<sup>18</sup> Government and agricultural agencies have historically shown limited awareness of gender dynamics in agriculture, further restricting women’s access to support and services.<sup>19</sup>

### Women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services

Of women aged 15-49 who wanted to avoid pregnancy in Grenada in 2019, 24% were not able to meet this need through modern contraception,<sup>23</sup> with differences between rural (34% of women wishing to avoid pregnancy) and urban areas (21%).<sup>23</sup> Abortion is permitted where pregnancy poses a risk to the person’s health,<sup>24</sup> but is otherwise criminalised under the *Criminal Code*.<sup>25</sup> Sanctions can be brought against abortion providers, anyone who assists, and the person carrying the pregnancy.<sup>25</sup> Recommendations following the 2025 Universal Period Review of Grenada, included the legalisation of abortion; the adoption of a Reproductive Rights Health Policy to ensure impactful, sustainable, equitable action on reproductive health; and the provision of comprehensive sexual education in schools.<sup>26</sup>

“Abortion is permitted where pregnancy poses a risk to the person’s health, but is otherwise criminalised under the Criminal Code.”

## Women’s rights and political empowerment



Percentage of women in the House of Representatives after 2022 election.

Under the *Constitution of Grenada 1973* (reinstated 1991, revised 1992), all individuals are guaranteed equal rights and freedoms regardless of sex.<sup>27</sup> Universal suffrage was granted in 1951 under British colonial rule and reaffirmed at independence in 1974.<sup>28</sup>

### Political representation

While Grenada has no electoral quota for women in politics,<sup>28</sup> it stands out as one of five Caribbean countries where women hold the highest executive positions.<sup>29</sup> Following the 2022 elections, 33.3% (5 out of 16) of the House of Representatives and 30.8% (4 out of 13) of the Senate were women. This marks a slight decrease from 47% in 2018,<sup>30</sup> when Grenada held the highest female parliamentary participation in the Caribbean.<sup>29</sup> At time of writing, senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima D. Williams serves as President of the Senate,<sup>31</sup> and Her Excellency Dame Cécile Ellen Fleurette La Grenade holds the position of governor-general.<sup>32</sup> Grenada has a long history of women in governance.<sup>28</sup> In 1968, Dame Hilda Bynoe became the first female governor in the British Commonwealth and first Grenadian to hold the post.<sup>33</sup> In 1990, Honourable Margaret Neckles was elected as the country’s first female President of the Senate.<sup>34</sup>

The Ministry of Social Development, Housing, and Community Empowerment is responsible for overseeing Grenada’s *Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (2014-2024)* (GEPAP),<sup>19,29</sup> the country’s most comprehensive policy to advance women’s rights.<sup>35</sup> Under GEPAP, gender-responsive budgeting was introduced in 2023, requiring gender considerations in public programmes and policies (e.g., gender-disaggregated impacts of programmes and projects).<sup>36</sup> The GEPAP also led to the establishment of a national gender machinery, comprising the Division of Gender and Family Affairs and designated gender focal points across ministries.<sup>v</sup> In 2022,

Gender Affairs was incorporated into the Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing, and Gender Affairs as recommended in the cabinet approved GEPAP.<sup>w</sup> As in most Caribbean countries, gender affairs are managed at the ministry or vice-ministry level, meaning Grenada maintains a low-level gender machinery in institutional terms.<sup>29</sup>

Grenada's commitment to gender equality is also embedded in its *National Sustainable Development Plan (2020-2035)*, which aims to establish a gender-sensitive society through the transformation of its education sector, economic empowerment, and addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV).<sup>37</sup>

“... data scarcity remains a challenge.”

“The Government of Grenada acknowledged these limitations [...] and has actively committed to improving sex-disaggregated data collection and developing policy mechanisms to address these gaps.”

Despite these efforts, data scarcity remains a challenge. Grenada has adopted 33 gender-specific indicators set by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),<sup>29</sup> but in 2020, only 17.1% of required data were available.<sup>38</sup> Key data gaps include unpaid care and domestic work and key labour market indicators (e.g., gender pay gap).<sup>38</sup> A lack of comparable methodologies for regular monitoring were reported for data on gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women's access to assets, and gender and the environment.<sup>38</sup> The Government of Grenada acknowledged these limitations in its 2022 Voluntary National Review of progress towards the SDGs and has actively committed to improving sex-disaggregated data collection and developing policy mechanisms to address these gaps.<sup>22</sup>

### Gender-based violence

Efforts to eliminate GBV are guided by the National Strategic Action Plan to Reduce Gender Based Violence (2013–2018).<sup>29</sup> While UN Women reports that Grenada performs well compared to other countries globally, GBV remains a key issue of concern.<sup>38</sup> Data on the true extent of GBV are scarce,<sup>18,x</sup> but a survey from 2020 showed that over the course of their lifetimes, 1 in every 4 women had experienced physical violence, nearly 1 in 10 women had experienced sexual violence, and around 3 in 10 women had experienced emotional abuse from an intimate partner.<sup>39</sup> Challenges to effectively addressing GBV include weak coordination among responsible institutions; limited access to social safety nets that would reduce women's dependency on men; inadequate accountability mechanisms for perpetrators; social norms that limit widespread recognition of GBV as a societal issue and the need to prevent it; underdeveloped systems for data collection; and a lack of legislation against sexual harassment, victim protection, or media portrayals of the use of violence against women and girls.<sup>37</sup> The Government has committed to eradicate GBV and has adopted a multi-pronged strategy focused on prevention, protection, support and punishment and rehabilitation of perpetrators.<sup>22</sup> In 2023, the country launched GrenadaInfoSAFE, a digital platform aimed to strengthen data collection and analysis related to GBV.<sup>40</sup>

### Advances in gender and fisheries governance

Grenada's current fisheries legislation does not yet explicitly mandate gender equity (see section on *Gender in fisheries governance*), but the national and regional policy environment is increasingly responsive to gender issues.<sup>y</sup> At the national level, the GEPAP provides a guiding framework to ministries, including the Fisheries Division, to support gender mainstreaming,<sup>19</sup> whilst the *National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2017-2021)*<sup>41</sup> and *National Climate Change Policy for Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique (2017-2021)*<sup>42</sup> recognise gender equality as a guiding principle. Regionally, through its membership in bodies such as the CRFM, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and CARICOM, Grenada has endorsed the *Updated Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) (2024)*, which emphasises “gender equality, equity, and human rights-based approaches” (p.20).<sup>43</sup> In 2018, the CRFM Ministerial Council

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issued a policy statement “that international and national norms regarding issues pertaining to gender, youth, and decent work be adhered to and be incorporated into all CRFM policies, protocols, programmes, and plans.”<sup>44</sup> At the time of writing, a draft policy on sexual discrimination, exploitation, and abuse was under review by CRFM’s governing bodies.

## Key frameworks promoting gender equality and their ratification status<sup>z</sup>

- ✓ Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed in 1980 and ratified in 1990.<sup>45</sup> Grenada submitted its combined first through fifth period reports in 2010 (three years late).<sup>45</sup> For its sixth through eighth submission, Grenada has opted to report under CEDAW’s optional simplified reporting procedure. In the simplified reporting procedure, the process is commenced by the Treaty Body preparing a list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR).<sup>aa</sup>
- ✗ Grenada has not signed on to CEDAW’s Optional Protocol.<sup>45</sup>
- ✓ Beijing Platform for Action. Grenada submitted its progress report as part of Beijing +25 in 2019.<sup>30</sup> In 2024, the Government submitted an implementation status update as part of the Beijing +30 process,<sup>47</sup> and will honour its commitment to reporting to advance the gender agenda.<sup>ab</sup>
- ✓ Grenada deposited its instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belém do Pará, in 2001.<sup>48</sup>

## Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)

SIGI<sup>ac</sup> values range from 0 for no discrimination to 100 for very high discrimination,<sup>ad</sup> with higher SIGI values denoting higher inequality. “-” indicates no value was available for that indicator.

Given that data are missing across several dimensions of the index, no overall aggregated value is available for Grenada.

Year	Total aggregated index value (Category)	Discrimination in the family	Restricted physical integrity	Restricted access to productive & financial resources	Restricted civil liberties
2019 <sup>50</sup>	-	53.7 (high)	-	-	-
2023 <sup>49</sup>	-	8 (very low)	-	-	-

## Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The GII<sup>ae</sup> does not include data for Grenada.

## Gender in fisheries governance<sup>af</sup>

Thirteen fisheries governance documents<sup>ag</sup> were reviewed. While none reference women or gender explicitly, six use she/her pronouns. The use of feminine pronouns suggests recognition that women can occupy roles across leadership, regulatory, and operational levels of the sector.

The **Fish and Fishery Products Regulations (1999)** uses gendered pronouns inclusive of women when referring to the Minister or Chief

Fisheries Officer, the owner of fish, and a fish inspector. The **Fisheries (Marine Protected Areas) Regulations (2001)** applies them to a warden and an applicant for a dive vessel permit. The **Fisheries Loans Act (1956)** and accompanying **Fisheries Loans Regulations (1956)** include “he or she” and “him or her” in reference to the Chief Technical Officer (Extension) and boat owners. The **Fisheries Regulations (1987)** uses she/her pronouns to refer to the head of a government department, the Chief Fisheries Officer, fishing captains and crew members, and authorised officers. The **Grenada Fisheries Act (1986)** uses these pronouns across a range of roles, including the Minister of Fisheries, Chief Fisheries Officer, authorised officers, fishing licensees, and individuals subject to compliance or enforcement actions.

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## Threats and drivers of change in fisheries

Several key threats to and drivers of change in Grenada’s coastal ecosystems and encouraging examples of how these may be addressed are outlined below. Threats and drivers of change to fisheries may have specific gender dimensions associated with them making gender integration necessary in efforts to improve adaptation and foster resilience in the face of change.

### **Risks associated with the over-exploitation of fishery resources:**

Grenadian fisheries are diverse, targeting large and small pelagics, demersal species (including reef fish and deep-water snapper) and some high-value vulnerable fisheries (lobster, conch, and turtle).<sup>1</sup> Yellowfin tuna are the principle fishery resource, caught offshore by the long-lining fleet.<sup>ah</sup> According to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) 2024-2025 assessment, there is a 58% probability that yellowfin tuna were not overexploited or overfished in 2022.<sup>51</sup> However, the total allowable catch for yellowfin tuna had been consistently exceeded over the last five years, raising concerns that stocks may become overfished.<sup>51</sup> The potential introduction of country-level quotas for yellowfin tuna could help protect stocks, but may also, alongside climate change, affect fisheries dependent livelihoods.<sup>2</sup> Demersal resources in the fishing area to the north of Grenada are already exploited beyond maximum sustainable yield.<sup>1</sup>

**Illegal fishing by foreign vessels:** Landings of yellowfin tuna increased following the introduction of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).<sup>1</sup> Initially sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, FADs are now owned by local fisher associations, who informally enforce ownership, purportedly reducing conflict among fishers.<sup>52,53</sup> However, these FADs have been targeted by illegal foreign vessels entering Grenada’s EEZ, competing with local fishers.<sup>52,54</sup> In 2022, leaders of the OECS called for international action to address the issue.<sup>54</sup>

**Data collection challenges:** It is estimated that only 75% of vessels are registered and that an unknown portion of the demersal catch is sold directly to local consumers and tourism establishments and therefore unreported.<sup>14,56</sup> Additionally, recorded landings are often aggregated, making it difficult to assess individual species status.<sup>56</sup> To address these gaps, the Fisheries Division applies a fixed raising factor to recorded data to estimate actual landings, but this has not been updated since 1978.<sup>56</sup> Major data gaps also exist for the dive fishery that targets lobster and conch, mainly along the south coast, as these catches are sold directly to hotels/restaurants, or exported.<sup>56</sup>

**Climate risks:** Of the 182 countries assessed in the Global Climate Risk Index (2018),<sup>ai</sup> Grenada ranked among the top 2% for GDP losses from climate-related natural disasters and in the top 5% for climate-related disaster fatalities.<sup>58</sup> Since the 1970s, hurricanes have increased in duration and intensity, a trend which is likely to continue.<sup>59</sup> Sea level rise also

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increases the risk of coastal inundation.<sup>59</sup> Caribbean Sea levels have already risen by around 20cm since the 1900s and are further projected to increase by 26 to 82cm by 2100, relative to 1986-2005.<sup>59</sup> Though fishing communities are among the hardest hit by hurricanes, severe weather events and coastal flooding, fisheries can play an important part in disaster response as they can rapidly provide food to affected populations.<sup>14</sup> To enhance recovery efforts, Grenada is part of a trial for an innovative climate risk insurance mechanism (COAST) designed to enable rapid recovery of fisheries after disasters.<sup>14</sup> However, limited knowledge and data remain important barriers to effective climate adaptation and resilience across the region.<sup>59</sup> Grenada is also increasingly vulnerable to droughts,<sup>41</sup> and water scarcity often disproportionately affects women and girls who must spend more time securing household water.<sup>60</sup>

**Climate change impacts on fisheries and the fisheries sector:** Impacts include increasingly dangerous sea conditions, storm damage to vessels and infrastructure, reduced fish abundance, changes in fish distribution, degraded habitats, reduced income and employment, and reduced fish supply for trade, export and local food consumption.<sup>59</sup> Gendered roles within the fisheries sector mean that men and women are differentially affected: Whilst men face greater physical risks from increased storminess, disruptions to fish supply impact female vendors and processors.<sup>61</sup> Women, on average, have fewer assets than men and are therefore less able to recover from income disruption or extreme events.<sup>aj</sup> Moreover, women typically have increased caregiving responsibilities in post-disaster recovery<sup>60</sup> and are less likely to have insurance for fish processing equipment.<sup>ak</sup> There are positive examples of gender-sensitive recovery efforts however: Fish markets that were rebuilt after Hurricane Ivan (2004) were constructed to be hurricane-resistant and insured by the Government. After subsequent storms, fish vending, which is primarily done by women, could resume sooner, and women vendors had a safer place to work.<sup>al</sup>

**Degradation of coastal habitats:** Coral reefs, coastal lagoons, seagrass beds, and mangroves are at risk from climate change, notably rising sea surface temperatures and sea levels.<sup>42</sup> These risks are exacerbated by poorly or uncontrolled exploitation of coral reefs, illegal sanding mining on beaches,<sup>am</sup> mangrove harvesting, coastal development in sensitive areas, and pollution.<sup>41,42</sup> As these habitats underpin the diversity and abundance of key fishery species in Grenada, this has knock-on effects for fisheries productivity and livelihoods.<sup>41,62</sup>

**Invasive species:** Invasive species such as *Sargassum sp.* and lionfish (*Pterois volitans* and *P. miles*), also pose significant problems to fisheries. Some species of *Sargassum* form algal mats, which can promote coral bleaching, reduce visibility for fishers, damage fishing equipment and vessels,<sup>63,64</sup> and impact beach access and tourism.<sup>65</sup> As a consequence, *Sargassum* reduces the availability of fish for female fish vendors to sell and can result in less demand for fish products from tourism establishments.<sup>61</sup> Women's work in shellfish cleaning or sea moss farming is also impacted by algal mats smothering coastal resources, which further contributes to reducing women's income.<sup>an</sup> Lionfish populations increased rapidly in the region between 2004 and 2010 and pose a significant threat to native reef species and coral reef systems, with implications for target fishery species.<sup>66</sup>

“Women, on average, have fewer assets than men and are therefore less able to recover from income disruption or extreme events.”

“Invasive species such as *Sargassum sp.* and lionfish, also pose significant problems to fisheries.”

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## Gender in ODA allocation for fisheries<sup>a0</sup>

Between 2012 and 2022, Grenada received a total of USD 5.68 million in fisheries Official Development Assistance (ODA),<sup>a0</sup> of which 1% (USD 0.06 million) was allocated to gender equality focused projects (i.e., tagged with gender markers 1 or 2). No gender-focused financing for Grenada scored as 'Principal' (gender marker 2). Fisheries aid to Grenada represents 6%

of fisheries aid to the Central American and Caribbean subregion, whilst gender-equality focused fisheries aid represents <1% of gender-equality focused fisheries aid to the region.

Of the ODA screened for gender markers, gender-equality focused financing for fishing in Grenada came from Canada (80%) and Australia (20%).



## Examples of programmes or initiatives aiming to advance gender equality in fisheries

In 2024, the Government of Canada funded the **Sustainable Technologies for Adaptation and Resilience in Fisheries project (STAR-Fish)**. Inter alia, this four-year project will apply gender-responsive strategies to enhance national capacities for mainstreaming renewable energy in the Caribbean fisheries and aquaculture sectors of eight ODA-eligible Caribbean countries, including Grenada.<sup>67</sup>

In 2024, the National Training Agency funded the **St. Mark's Women in Action Inc.** to provide training in fish handling and processing to 10 local women, thereby increasing female entrepreneurship and increasing the supply of locally processed fish.<sup>68,69</sup>

The **EnGenDER project** (Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate, and Environmental Resilience 2020-2022), led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by Global Affairs Canada and the United Kingdom Government, aimed to enhance gender-responsive climate and disaster resilience in the Caribbean.<sup>70</sup> For Grenada, the project produced gender-responsive adaptation recommendations for fisheries (e.g., ensuring female fish vendors are included in early warning systems for storms).<sup>69</sup> The government, with assistance from the FAO, has already followed up on some of these recommendations, for example exploring climate-smart fish processing techniques, such as solar fish dryers, that could benefit women processors.<sup>68</sup> More women are also being trained as part of community emergency response teams in coastal villages.<sup>65</sup>

The **Climate Change Adaptation of the fisheries sector in the Eastern Caribbean (CC4FISH)** project (2017-2020), with support from the Windward Island Research & Education Foundation, Ministry of Fisheries, and FAO provided training for fisherfolk on "smart fishing" techniques and safety. Through CC4FISH, "The Fishing Vessel Captains' Training" was delivered to over 300 fishers, of which nine were women. At the vessel captains' graduation, the fisheries minister at the time, Minister Bain Horsford, highlighted the need to address gender inequality in fisheries.<sup>71,72</sup> CC4FISH also provided support for fish value chain development, the Marine Managed Area Management Plan, and sea moss farming. The upcoming CC4FISH 2 project (2025-2030) will focus on improved resilience of the fisheries sector in Grenada.<sup>73</sup>

*"As a result of the project, Grenada's Fisheries Division, with technical support from the FAO, has begun updating its fisher registration system to capture sex-disaggregated data on fishers."*

The **Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Fisheries in the Caribbean** project (2019-2020) implemented by the CRFM, with support from Global Affairs Canada, worked directly with Grenada to conduct gender analyses of the fisheries sector, and develop action plans for gender mainstreaming.<sup>74</sup> Fisheries officers and stakeholders received capacity-building on topics like gender analysis, and a draft national action plan was formulated. As a result of the project, Grenada's Fisheries Division, with technical support from the FAO, has begun updating its fisher registration system to capture

sex-disaggregated data on fishers. The CRFM project also facilitated policy dialogues where Grenadian representatives contributed to the drafting of a regional gender mainstreaming protocol.<sup>at</sup>

In 2019, the **Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions (CATS) Programme**, through Carriacou Fisher Folks Inc., provided support for the training of 25 fishing sector practitioners in the responsible management of their FAD fish stock. The training focused on collaborative data collection and management and the development of a fee structure and protocol. Five participants were women, one of whom was registered as a full-time fisher with over 20 years of fishing experience.<sup>75</sup>

In 2018, women from Grenada participated in the **Eight Shells** learning exchange in Costa Rica, which worked to empower women by building networks, sharing knowledge, skills and success stories, and highlighting women's contributions to fisheries.<sup>76</sup>

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## Acknowledgements

This project was supported by the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance and funded by the UK through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change, and the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the organisations listed above.

Ce projet a été soutenu par l'Alliance d'Action contre les Risques et la Résilience des Océans et financé par le Royaume-Uni, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales, le gouvernement du Canada, par l'intermédiaire du ministère fédéral de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique, et le Département d'État des États-Unis. Les opinions, constatations et conclusions énoncées dans ce rapport sont celles des auteurs et ne reflètent pas nécessairement celles des organisations mentionnées ci-dessus.

**Layout and graphics:** Jerker Lokrantz/Azote

**Cite this fact sheet as:** Woodhead A.J., Wabnitz C.C.C., et al. (2025) Gender and Fisheries – Grenada. Country Fact Sheet. Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA).

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Top left photo: Women fish inspectors conducting a fishing vessel inspection in Carenage, St George's, Grenada. Photo credit: Lisa Chetram. Top right photo: Fishing vessel inspectors in Grand Mal jetty, St. George's. Photo credit: Lisa Chetram. Bottom photo: Participants at training workshop in fish handling and processing at Victoria Fish Market, St Mark's. Photo credit: Lisa Chetram.

## Endnotes

- a Marine fisheries statistics are derived from catch reconstruction under the Sea Around Us - <http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez>. The approach utilized builds on national statistics and accounts for discards as well as sectoral catch data that often is not included in official datasets (e.g., artisanal or recreational catches). The Sea Around Us data is also utilized here as a consistent frame of reference for and to facilitate comparison across the set of countries for which fact sheets were developed as part of this project. Sea Around Us data are distinguished according to the following categories: large-scale (i.e., industrial) and small-scale (i.e., artisanal, subsistence and recreational) fisheries catches. Recreational catches were not considered here.
- b For government approved data, see the FAO statistics reported in the sub-section on National Data above.
- c "Marine subsistence" is used by the Sea Around Us to refer to the amount of annual marine capture production landed by the subsistence sector. This consists of fisheries conducted by women and/or noncommercial fishers for consumption by one's family, and where applicable, the fraction of the commercial catch that is given to crew or the community (mainly from small-scale fisheries).<sup>6</sup>
- d "Marine commercial" is used by the Sea Around Us to refer to the amount of annual marine capture production landed by commercial fisheries. These are fisheries whose landed catch is sold commercially (as opposed to being consumed and/or given away to the crew) and encompass both the industrial (large-scale) and artisanal (small-scale) sectors.<sup>6</sup>
- e The term "apparent" refers to the average food available for consumption, which for several reasons (for example, waste at the household level), is not equal to average food intake or average food consumption. The amount is calculated as production + imports - exports - non-food uses, +/- stocks variations and divided by number of people partaking of it.<sup>7</sup>
- f The Illuminating Hidden Harvests estimates are utilized here as a consistent frame of reference for and to facilitate comparison across the set of countries for which fact sheets were developed as part of this project (visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to access all the fact sheets).
- g Estimates calculated based on labour force surveys and Income Expenditure Surveys as part of the Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) project.
- h Subsistence fisheries activities, also referred to as "working for own consumption", are defined by the IHH as activities that individuals of any sex and age carried out at least once over the last 12 months in order to produce and process fish for their own final use, with no transaction occurring in the marketplace. By definition, they are considered here as small-scale fisheries (Table 2.1).<sup>10</sup>
- i Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) are distinguished from Large Scale Fisheries (LSF) according to a characterisation matrix that distinguishes between fisheries according to gear use, vessel characteristics, fishing operations, types of storage and preservation of catch, employment/labour, and use of catch. The characterisation matrix allows for a standardised approach to classify and characterize fisheries at the global and regional level, allowing for high levels of variation between fisheries. SSF generally includes low-technology, low-capital, labour-intensive fishing practices. Often, the term artisanal is used to refer to small-scale fisheries. In the context of the IHH work, the term small-scale fisheries refers to the whole value chain of pre-harvest, harvesting and post-harvest activities, including subsistence fisheries and excluding recreational fisheries.<sup>11</sup>
- j According to IHH estimates, 232,760 people belong to a household where at least one person engages in fisheries or in subsistence fishing.
- k Details provided by Grenada Fisheries Division (7th May 2025).
- l Details provided by Grenada Fisheries Division (7th May 2025).
- m The Illuminating Hidden Harvests estimates are utilized here as a consistent frame of reference for and to facilitate comparison across the set of countries for which fact sheets were developed as part of this project (visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to access all the fact sheets).
- n Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) are distinguished from Large Scale Fisheries (LSF) according to a characterisation matrix that distinguishes between fisheries according to gear use, vessel characteristics, fishing operations, types of storage and preservation of catch, employment/labour, and use of catch. The characterisation matrix allows for a standardised approach to classify and characterize fisheries at the global and regional level, allowing for high levels of variation between fisheries. SSF generally includes low-technology, low-capital, labour-intensive fishing practices. Often, the term artisanal is used to refer to small-scale fisheries. In the context of the IHH work, the term small-scale fisheries refers to the whole value chain of pre-harvest, harvesting and post-harvest activities, including subsistence fisheries and excluding recreational fisheries.<sup>11</sup>
- o Subsistence fisheries activities, also referred to as "working for own consumption", are defined by the IHH as activities that individuals of any sex and age carried out at least once over the last 12 months in order to produce and process fish for their own final use, with no transaction occurring in the marketplace. By definition, they are considered here as small-scale fisheries (Table 2.1).<sup>10</sup>
- p Co-author contribution.
- q Co-authors contributions.
- r Co-author contribution.
- s Co-author contribution.
- t Co-author contribution.
- u Co-author contribution.
- v Co-author contribution.
- w Co-author contribution.
- x GBV can affect both men and women, with GBV against men even less well represented in the data (co-author contribution).
- y Co-author contribution.
- z Visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to read summaries of key conventions/policies, as well as additional information about key indicators used in this factsheet.
- aa "Some Treaty Bodies offer a new optional simplified reporting procedure to deal with the backlog of reviews and the delay in State reporting. In the simplified reporting procedure, the process is commenced by the Treaty Body preparing a list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR) before a State submits its report. Under the simplified reporting procedure, the State party's response to the LOIPR constitutes the State report to be reviewed under that particular treaty. The aim of this procedure is to streamline the reporting process by removing the need for States both to submit a report and then respond to a list of issues and questions. It also importantly encourages States to produce more focused reports that respond to their reporting obligations under a particular treaty."<sup>46</sup>
- ab Co-author contribution.
- ac Visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to read summaries of key conventions/policies, as well as additional information about key indicators used in this factsheet.
- ad Countries are classified into five groups according to their SIGI score: (1) very low level of discrimination (0 < SIGI < 20); (2) low level of discrimination (20 < SIGI < 30); (3) medium level of discrimination (30 < SIGI < 40); (4) high level of discrimination (40 < SIGI < 50); and (5) very high level of discrimination (50 < SIGI < 100).<sup>49</sup>
- ae Visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to read summaries of key conventions/policies, as well as additional information about key indicators used in this factsheet.
- af Visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to read summaries of key conventions/policies, as well as additional information about key indicators used in this factsheet.
- ag Sourced from the databases FAO LEX, ECO LEX, and SSF LEX. Fisheries governance documents include fisheries policies, laws, acts, plans, strategies, and regulations. A database of all reviewed governance documents can be found here: [10.5281/zenodo.15098510](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15098510).
- ah Co-author contribution.
- ai "The Global Climate Risk Index 2018 analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)."<sup>57</sup>

- aj Co-author contribution.
- ak Co-author contribution.
- al Co-author contribution.
- am Co-author contribution.
- an Co-author contribution.
- ao Visit <https://oceanrisk.earth/> to read summaries of key conventions/policies, as well as additional information about key indicators used in this factsheet.
- ap Different from OECD standard methods, this is measured in disbursements from DAC countries (including EU Institutions) to recipient countries. This captures the amount of money given, as opposed to the amount of money committed. Original data was downloaded on 17th June 2024.
- aq Co-author contribution.
- ar Co-author contribution.
- as Co-author contribution.
- at Co-author contribution.

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