

# Socio-economic Monitoring in Oistins, Barbados

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This US-NOAA funded project on *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* was developed to build capacity in socio-economic monitoring for fisheries and coastal management and to develop a sustainable SocMon site monitoring plan. Barbados, Dominica, Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent were the beneficiaries of the project. Training workshops were conducted to explain the SocMon Caribbean methodology for collecting and analyzing basic socio-economic data useful for coastal management. During this session, participants were encouraged to refer to the SocMon Caribbean guidelines and socio-economic manual reference material and each of the four phases of the SocMon Caribbean methodology: preparatory activities; planning and reconnaissance; field data collection and data analysis was described during the training process.

Oistins was selected as the study area for this project due to many reasons including the fact that it has been and continues to be primarily dominated by fishing while retaining its fisheries culture and community. The goal of the study was to monitor the impacts of present and proposed development in Oistins on its fisheries-based culture through: (1) Use of a stakeholder focused process to monitor socio-economic impacts of development, (2) Use of a stakeholder focused process to monitor cultural changes associated with socio-economic activities, (3) Use monitoring as a means of promoting interagency collaboration and exchange of information.

The methods of data collection included in the first instance key informant interviews with elders in the community. The results provided a picture of Oistins circa 1950 and its commercial activity at that time. The current situation in Oistins: its development and views of this impact on fishing culture were gleaned from a household survey. Information on household demographics, the views of Oistins dwellers on observed developments and their expectations for future development are also described.

Key informant interviews revealed that in the 1950s Oistins, below the ridge of Cane Vale, consisted mainly of domestic dwellings one building deep lining the main road from Cane Vale road to Scarborough. This community comprised chattel houses, rum shops, dry goods shops and the odd guest house. Persons living in the community may have been involved in fishing, tailoring, boat building and partly in supplying services to the civic centre and fishing community at that time and this continued until the early 1970s.

The impetus for the cultural activity in Oistins as described for the 1950s was every “bank holiday” in Barbados. This was the occasion for displays by the Tuk band (or drum and kettle) parades, hand or pond boat racing at Oistins along with fishing boat races, vendor tray races, fish frying and roasting on the beach. Big boat races also took place at other fishing sites such as Six Mens and Bridgetown. Food commonly sold at these times included the traditional pudding and souse, fried fish, cakes and cooked food.

A current picture of the community of Oistins through the fifty residents interviewed revealed that the majority of respondents (82%) have lived in Oistins for more than 5 years. Greater than one-third (36%) of the respondents stated they had lived in the area for over 50 years while 42% lived in Oistins for between 21 to 50 years. Only 4% resided in Oistins for between 6-10 years.

Of the 16 primary occupations noted by respondents as primary occupations within households, only 18% were within the fishing industry. These included occupations such as fishers, fish vendors, fish processors, fish market staff and traders. Householders surveyed provided six different income-generating fishery livelihoods that their relatives in Oistins are involved in. Most respondents had relatives who were fishermen (42%) and fish vendors (32%). While equal percentages had relatives who were boat owners and fish cleaners.

A large percentage of respondents have lived in Oistins for between 21 to over 50 years (78%) and as a result have first-hand knowledge of changes occurring. The main developments identified in order of popularity were the fish market, jetty and Bay Garden, followed by the Supermarket Complex, fast food chains, the police station and Welches and Miami Beach improvements.

The majority of the respondents (76%) agreed that livelihood conditions improved for the better as a result of the physical development of Oistins. However negative side to this change in livelihood was indicated due to the presence of arcade gambling.

The development was thought to have increased the amount of fish landed in the area, provided more employment at the market and encouraged the fishing community to give back to their customers during Fisherfolk week/Fisherman's Day. Now Oistins is considered to be much more than a fishing village. It is a town that attracts numerous visitors to the Bay Garden for the Oistins fish fry, particularly on Friday evenings.

When asked about the negative impacts of development, some residents felt they were left out of the development plans. Additional impacts included: encroachment of the Bay Garden on the space in eastern boatyard, resulting in its subsequent demise. It was thought that fisherfolk "do not live as good as in the past." It was also felt that noise (from marine engines etc.) has affected fish abundance in the area preventing fish from accumulating around the jetty.

When considering future development for the fisheries sector in Oistins, greater than half of those interviewed (68%) were unable to make any suggestions in this regard. Of those who responded, 11 improvements were suggested. The main improvements noted by the majority of respondents were an upgrade of the market (20%), while 13% each indicated improved boatyard security.

In general, the question regarding future tourism development was poorly answered. Attractions identified as being necessary for cultural development such as a museum or community centre showcasing historic Oistins and guided market tours were also viewed as tourist attractions.

For development recommendations other than those related to fisheries, tourism and culture, less than half (32%) of the respondents provided responses. A new and improved bus terminal was specified by the majority of respondents (38%) followed by improved roads. The need for proper drainage; a small fire station; longer polyclinic opening hours; pedestrian access; more stores and a gym for fishers were identified as key developmental improvements for the area.

The three activities which were highly recommended to be involved in or see while in Oistins were the Bay Garden on a Friday night, the Oistins Fish Festival, and Fisherman's Day activities. These were followed by viewing the fish boning competition and the Tuk Band of the fish festivals, or viewing sea turtles on the jetty.

Over half of the respondents (58%) interviewed thought the current Oistins Fish Festival reflects the true fishing culture of the area. Only 26% thought the festival does not reflect fishing culture. Of those who thought the latter, nearly all provided three reasons for their belief. The majority said the festival does not include many of the past activities which highlighted the fishing culture of Oistins. Most aspects of social and cultural activities carried out during fish festivals and holidays were identified as needing to be revived.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SocMon Caribbean

A US-NOAA funded project on *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* was developed to build capacity in socio-economic monitoring for fisheries and coastal management and to develop sustainable SocMon site monitoring projects. Barbados, Dominica, Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent were beneficiaries of the project. Training workshops were conducted in each country to explain the SocMon Caribbean methodology for collecting and analyzing basic socio-economic data useful for coastal management. During training, participants were encouraged to refer to the SocMon Caribbean guidelines and socio-economic manual reference material. Each of the four phases of the SocMon Caribbean methodology: preparatory activities; planning and reconnaissance; field data collection and data analysis was experienced during the training process.

## 1.2 Situation overview

Oistins was selected as the study area for this project due to many reasons including the fact that it has been and continues to be primarily dominated by fishing while retaining its fisheries culture and community. Oistins was formerly called Austin's Bay after the name of the owner of a plantation near the bay (after Lyon 1657) (Carrington et. al 2003)

Oistins also has a rich history with the potential for heritage tourism development since it was the site at which the Charter of Barbados was signed on 11 January 1652 at the Mermaid Tavern. The Articles of Agreement consisted of 23 clauses forming the agreement ending the war between Barbadian Royalists and British Parliamentary forces.

People live very close to the town with an intimate relationship between residents and the fishing area. The first Oistins fish market built by the Barbados government in 1950 consisted of a long covered concrete structure with verandah type overhang for interaction with customers. This was replaced in 1983 with the Oistins Fisheries Complex with facilities for the landing, processing and marketing of fish, and two bars/restaurants at the eastern end of the facility. The popularity of the initial bars and restaurants resulted in additional facilities being added incrementally over time creating the now popular Friday night Oistins Fish Fry that offers a truly Barbadian cultural dining experience with a street party setting for visitors and locals. The area of the Fish Fry to the east of the Fisheries Complex is now commonly referred to as the Bay Garden (Stantec Consulting 2006). There are tourism-related initiatives for further developing the area to include activities other than the major current tourist attraction of the Oistins Fish Fry Bay Garden activities. Such initiatives include the Barbados Marine Trust's (BMT) proposed sea turtle viewing activity and guided tours of the area. Additionally, the BMT recently launched a reef ball project with the objective of enhancing the reefs, marine life and fisheries of the area.

The development of Oistins as an economically vibrant and modern administrative community centre represents some of the goals set out in the Oistins Community Plan within the National Physical Development Plan of the Government of Barbados (Stantec Consulting 2006). Additionally, due to the significance of Oistins as an important community town centre on the south of the island, and the need to plan for developmental changes and potential growth within the central and wider area of Oistins a *Master Plan for development and infrastructure upgrades with the Oistins town central area* was prepared for the Government of Barbados



through the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. by Stantec Consulting (Stantec Consulting 2006).

### 1.3 Goals and objectives

Suggestions for the goal of SocMon study at Oistins included the following:

- Monitoring for development at Oistins
- Maintenance of fishing tradition
- Enhancement of the linkages between the Fisheries Division, Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO), the Oistins Fisherfolk Association (OFA) and other government agencies

During the SocMon training workshop, the goal and objectives for monitoring were refined to the following:

Goal	Objectives
Monitoring the impacts of present and proposed development in Oistins on its fisheries-based culture	Use of a stakeholder focused process to monitor socio-economic impacts of development
	Use of a stakeholder focused process to monitor cultural changes associated with socio-economic activities
	Use monitoring as a means of promoting inter-agency collaboration and exchange of information

### 1.4 Organization of the report

The report is divided into the five sections. Section 1 provides a background to the project including an overview of the study area and the goal and objectives for monitoring. Section 2 describes the methods of data collection and analysis. The results in Section 3 are divided into two sub-sections, *The Oistins situation circa 1950* and *The current situation in Oistins: Development and fishing culture*. In the former, the outcome of the key informant interviews regarding social and cultural activity in Oistins circa and post 1950 are recorded. The results of the household survey are presented in the section on *The current situation in Oistins: Development and fishing culture*. Information on household demographics, the views of Oistins dwellers on observed developments and their expectations for future development, as well as fishing culture are described.

## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 SocMon training

The first of five regional socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) training workshops for the US-NOAA funded project on *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* was held at the Fisheries Division Barbados 5-7 May 2008.

Representatives of the Fisheries Division and Markets Division of the Ministry of Agriculture,

Oistins Fisherfolk Association (OFA), Fisheries Advisory Committee, Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Statistical Department and a student of CERMES UWI were the recipients of the training.

The workshop objectives were to build capacity in socio-economic monitoring for the site and to develop a sustainable SocMon site monitoring plan for the chosen study area of Oistins town. See Pena (2008).

## 2.2 Preparatory activities

For the reconnaissance site visit participants were divided into two groups, each with a group leader. They looked at the physical developments in the area (anything being constructed or demolished), fishing related activities (location and distribution), and anything occurring in the area that would have to be monitored later. Photographs taken catalogued the area into:

- Residences
- Agricultural activity
- Commercial activity – Complexes and those on the roadside
- Civic centre
- Heritage site potential
- Fish market and boatyard
- Fish Fry Bay Garden
- Recreational beach activities

Participants spent Day 2 of the workshop completing the preparatory activities worksheet (see Pena 2008).

## 2.3 SocMon team

The team's inaugural meeting took place in September 2008. The team comprised: Joyce Leslie (SocMon team leader), Chris Parker, Elvis Bryan, Fabian Hinds, Angela Watson, Felicia Corbin, Aisha Nalishebo and Clifton Ifill.

## 2.4 Secondary data

Photos of the Oistins main road as well as newspaper clippings relevant to the area were collected from the Archives department and the Barbados Public Library. Various project documents prepared for the Government of Barbados were also referenced.



## 2.5 Key informants

The SocMon team launched the Oistins project on 25 January in the Oistins Fish Fry Bay Garden Pavilion. A PowerPoint presentation outlining the project was presented to an audience of approximately 15 persons. Afterwards a group meeting with six key informants (including Stephen Cox, Lucille Clarke, Michel King, Joetta Prescod, Shirley Young, and David Douglas) described what the

Figure 1 Information gathering session at the Oistins SocMon project launch

district along Oistins main road looked like building by building when the first government market was built in 1950.

The persons and buildings identified served as a basis for key informant interviews. Those key informants visited included Lillian Yarde, David McKenzie and John Wiltshire. Unfortunately two persons died before recorded interviews took place: Lionel Callender and Berinda Cox thus a total of nine persons were key informants.

## **2.6 Survey of households**

Two enumeration districts (ED 236, ED 290) were identified as encompassing the study area for the household survey (Appendices 1 and 2). In the 2000 Barbados Census the total number of households in these districts amounted to 246. It was on this basis that the sample size of 50 householders was derived. The survey instrument is shown in Appendix 3.

## **2.7 Observation and other methods**

Key informant interviews were recorded electronically wherever possible and information gleaned was presented using Excel software and AutoCAD.

## **2.8 Data entry and analysis**

The questionnaire was coded and entered in SPSS software for analysis. Microsoft Excel was also used to augment graphs generated.

## **2.9 Communication for use**

An introductory brochure was produced for the launch of the project (Appendix 4) and a poster informing the public of the initiation of monitoring in the area was also produced (Appendix 5).

# **3 RESULTS**

## **3.1 The Oistins situation circa 1950**

The following information was obtained through a number of key informant interviews.

### **3.1.1 Site description: circa 1950**

The area of Oistins below the ridge of Cane Vale consisted mainly of domestic dwellings one building deep lining the main road from Cane Vale road to Scarborough. This community comprised chattel houses, rum shops, dry goods shops and the odd guest house (Figure 2). Persons living in the community may have been involved in fishing, tailoring, boat building as well as supplying services to the civic centre and fishing community at that time and up until the early 1970s.

PLAN OF OISTINS			circa 1950				
S W A M P	Pineer's	cH	O	wH	SEA ROCKS/ Scarborough's Great House (Miami Beach) (Current Library)		
		Shop	I	wB	District Hospital		
	Millington's	cH	S	wB	Infirmary (Old People's home)		
	Daniel's	cH	T				
	Jones'	cH	I		Salvation Army		
	Chase's	cH	N		Police Station		
	(now Rates & Taxes)	Ashby's	wH	S			
		T	U	N	N	E	L
		Police Stn	wB	M			
		Ms Rose's	Rum Shop	A		Boat Haul-up Fish Selling Area	
(now Hercules rum shop) (remains the same today)	Ms. Waithe	Variety Shop	I				
	Durham's	cH	N				
	Flemming's	Shop		wB	FISH MARKET		
	Moses /Ms Taylor	cH	R	cH	shop	Yarde's	
				O	shop	Branker's 2 stories	
	Ossie Callender	cH	A	cH	Lee's		
	Beverley	cH	D	cH	shop	Mtchell's	
	Greenidge's	General store		cH		Prescod's	
	Close Brotherin	Church		cH			
		T	U	N	N	E	L
OISTIN'S HILL ROAD							
	Mayflower Bar	boats haul up here		cH			
	Bentham's	cH			Ma. Batson/ Weekes/ sell shark oil		
	Bentham's	cH			Madam Ifill's Bay House		
(Radio room Tunnel)	T	U	N	N	E	L	
Collonade	Pearlie's	cH		shop	Ms. McCollin's		
	Barnett's	wH		shop	Collins'		
	Ms. Reid's	cH		cH	Ms Ifill		
	Ms. Niles	cH					
	Ms. Atkins	cH		cH	GUEST House	Diapee on Sea	
	Gerald	shop					
	Duncan Ashby	cH		cH	Sea Grape House		
(Grannies)	Ms. Lill	cH					
	Ms. Walcott	cH		cH	Archer's		
	Pinder's	cH		cH	Sweetee		
	Ms. Ifill (baby)	cH		cH	Tunt		
		stand pipe		cH	Ms. Callender	sell coal	
	Woodroffe	cH		cH	Dead boy		
	Ms. Bishop	cH		cH	Tidy		
	Ms. Lashley	cH		cH	Ashby's		
	Rudolph Knight	Shop		cH	Nelson's		
	Ms. Ruck	cH		cH	Browne		
	Ms. Gall	cH		cH	Allamby		
	Assa house	wH					

KEY  
cH= Chattel house  
wB= wall Building  
wH= wall house

Landmarks in Oistins

Figure 2 A schematic of the community along Oistins main road providing a picture of the persons and houses there during the 1950s

### 3.1.2 Traditional cultural activities circa 1950

The impetus for the cultural activity in Oistins was every “bank holiday” (public holiday) in Barbados. This was the central theme for the occasion for displays of this nature and took the form of Tuk band (or drum and kettle) parades, hand or pond boat racing at Oistins and the Aquatic Club, fishing boat races, vendor tray races, fish frying and roasting on the beach. Big boat races also took place at other fishing sites such as Six Mens and Bridgetown. Food commonly sold at these times included the traditional pudding and souse, fried fish, cakes and cooked food. The ‘Tilt Man’ leader of the Tuk Band, was a regular performer at such activities (Lillian Yarde, pers.com.). Some additional notes on traditional activities that occurred in Oistins at this time are addressed separately below.

Pond boat racing was a regular occurrence for boys and men during holidays in Barbados. Pond boats were highly crafted model boats with sails and were built by boat builders of the day including Ollie Ingram and Corlett Yarde from Kendal Hill and Oistins, respectively. In general, these “pond” boats were three feet long with calico sails and lead in the base of keel. Common pond boats of the day were ‘The Redhead’ ‘Blimp’ and ‘Fox’. The first two boats were built by Ollie Ingram, a fisherman from Kendal Hill, and the most successful racer. ‘The Fox’ was built by Corlet Yarde, a shipwright. It is said that the Redhead and the Blimp were



the fastest pond boats in Oistins races (David McKenzie pers. com.) (Figures 3 and 4). Key informants noted that these boats moved so fast, swimmers could not keep up with them. In general, row boats had to follow the pond boats and when it was time to change tack to port or starboard (against the wind or towards it) someone would jump from the row boat into the water and adjust or tack the pond boat towards the appropriate direction to stay on course. Typically the starting point of the pond boat races was Dover Beach and ended at Oistins Bay in area where the jetties are currently located. Persons would walk up the beach to end point of the race in Oistins.

**Figure 3 The Redhead**



**Figure 4 Sections of the Blimp**

As might be expected, Oistins was a town in which boat building occurred. It was carried out on the seafront on Mr. Corlett Yarde’s property. Mr. Yarde was trained by Da Ashby from Welches. Mr. Yarde worked at Blackwood Dock or the dry dock in Cavans Lane (Fontabelle) and did ship carpentry. The first sailboat Yarde built was the ‘Mayflower’ while another was ‘Destroyer’. In total Yarde built 13 sailboats and a seine boat. He trained fishing boat builders including his two sons Lincoln Ince and Reynold Kirton, also Hinkson Campbell, Eardley Seale and John Wiltshire. John Wiltshire from near Enterprise, became a prolific boat builder

in Oistins building his first launch in 1955 the 'Sea Hound'. Between that time and 1962 he built 21 launches and later in the 1970's he built over 22 iceboats.

Tuk band performances typically took place on bank holidays. In Oistins the Tuk band performers would play and dance along Maxwell coast road from Oistins.

Flyingfish was traditionally sold on bags at the side of the road in front of the area where the boats landed or hauled up. Alternatively it was sold in Corlett Yarde's market stall. The selling price was ten for the bit (one cent per fish). In some instances, any fish not sold was given the Almshouse (place of residence for the poor or old). Flyingfish were caught by dip nets. After the fish was sold, a fisherman's payment was determined after the expenses and grub money was taken out, the rest was split, half for owner and half for the crew (usually a two man crew).

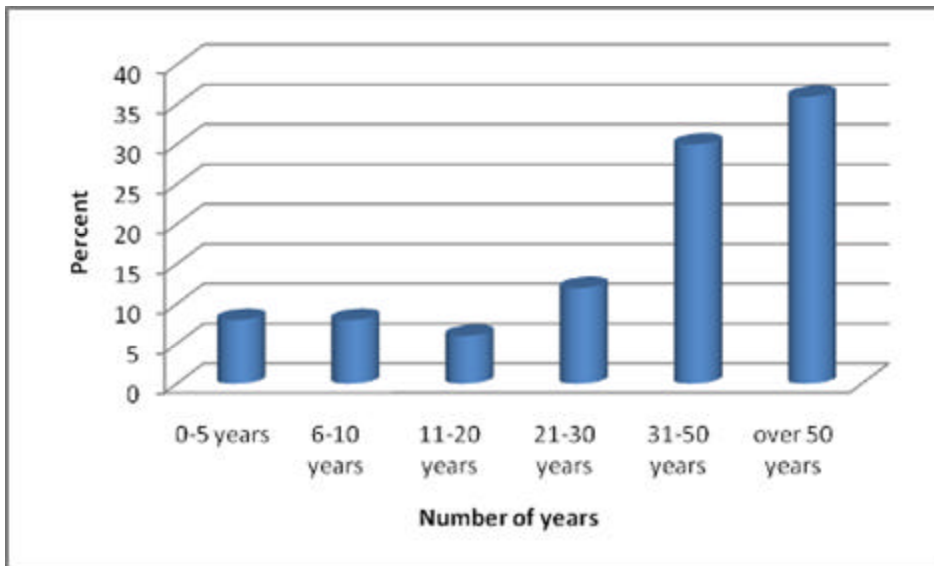
Flyingfish and sharks were preserved by drying the fish on pailings (fences/enclosures made generally of galvanised roofing sheets). Shark oil was also quite popular and in high demand, thought to be an important nutritional preventative treatment for tuberculosis. The following recipe for shark oil production was given: cut liver in pieces, rinse, put in the sun for 1 day (optional), boil liver in buck pot (large cooking pot) with bay leaves and lime leaves, and rinse. Remove the gall bladder and cut into pieces. Place the pieces in the sun for one day to dry. Once dried, place the liver pieces in a buck pot with bay leaves, spice, lime leaves and boiled, dipping out the oil until the liver was dry. Transfer oil to a fresh buck pot, add fresh bay and lime leaves and hard spices, boil on slow heat until rawness is removed, cool, strain with muslin and bottle for sale.

### **3.2 Household surveys: The current situation in Oistins**

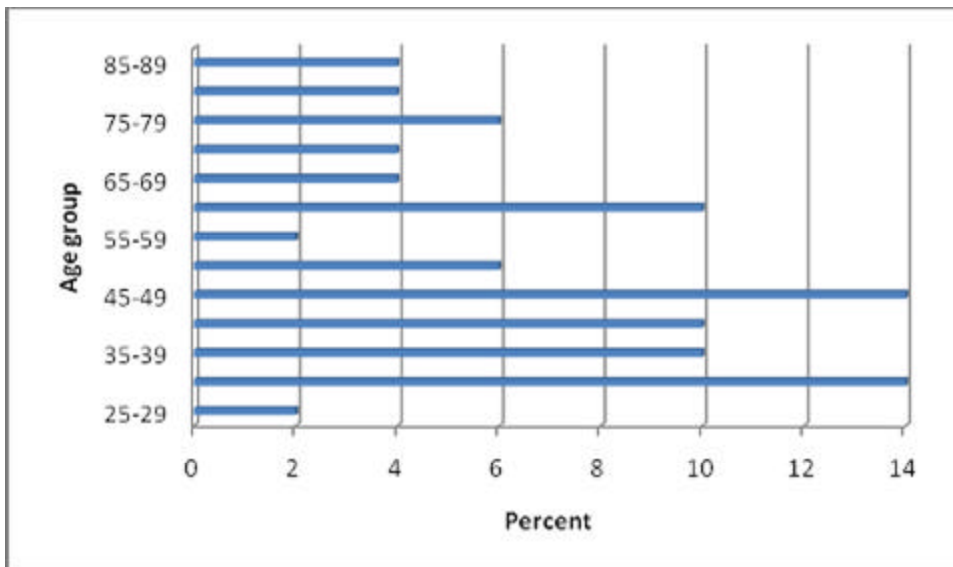
#### **3.2.1 Household demographics**

The sample of 50 households involved interviewing 35 females (70%) and 15 (30%) males. Interviewees were first asked if they were head of the household or their relationship to the person in charge. Relationship to head of the household were as follows: 76% or 38 respondents were head of the household, 6% or 3 respondents were the spouse of the head of the household and 18% or 9 respondents were the sons of the head of the household.

The majority of respondents (82%) have lived in Oistins for more than 5 years (between 6 to over 50 years). Greater than one-third (36%) of the respondents stated they had lived in the area for over 50 years while 42% lived in Oistins for between 21 to 50 years. Only 4% resided in Oistins for between 6-10 years (Figure 5).



**Figure 5** Number of years resident in Oistins



**Figure 6** Age groups of respondents interviewed

The majority of households surveyed (24%) comprised two persons. An equal percentage of households consisted of either 1 or 4 persons (14%); 3, 5, or 6 persons (12%); 7 to 8 persons (4%); and 14 and 17 members (2%) (Figure 7).

Of the 16 primary occupations noted by respondents as primary occupations within households, only 18% were within the fishing industry (Figures 8 and 9). These included occupations such as fishers, fish vendors, fish processors, fish market staff and traders.

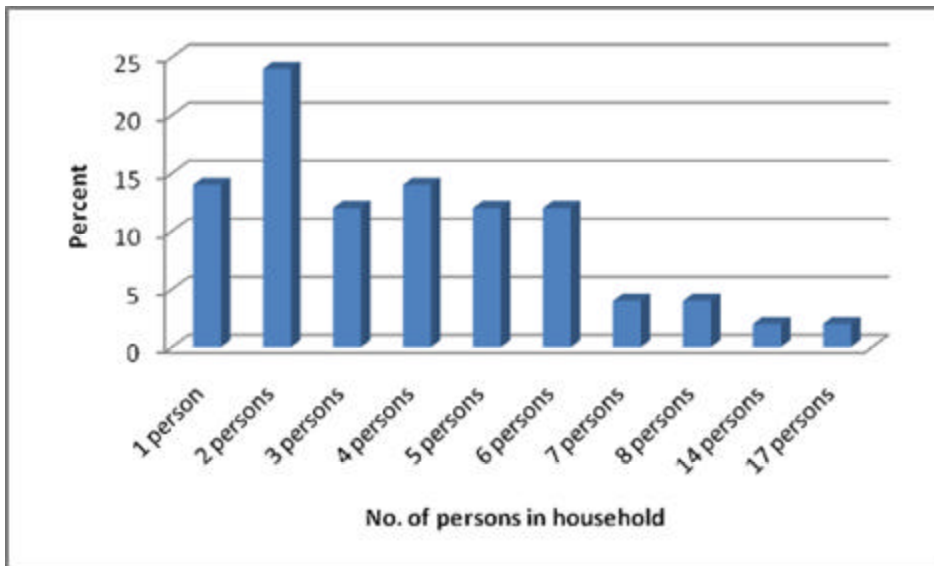


Figure 7 Household size

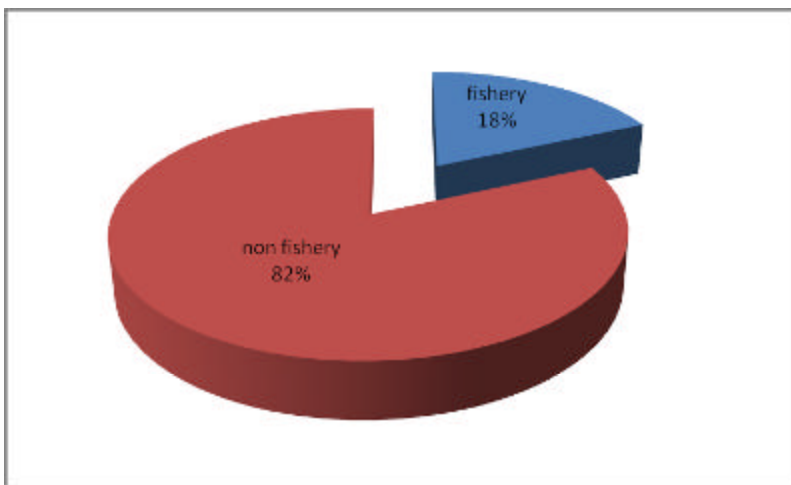


Figure 8 Fishery versus non-fishery related household occupations

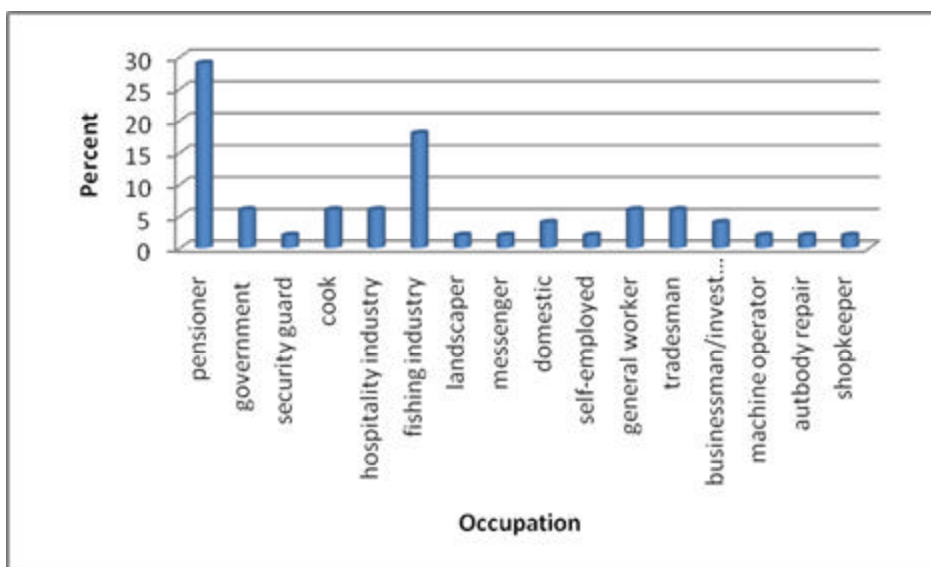
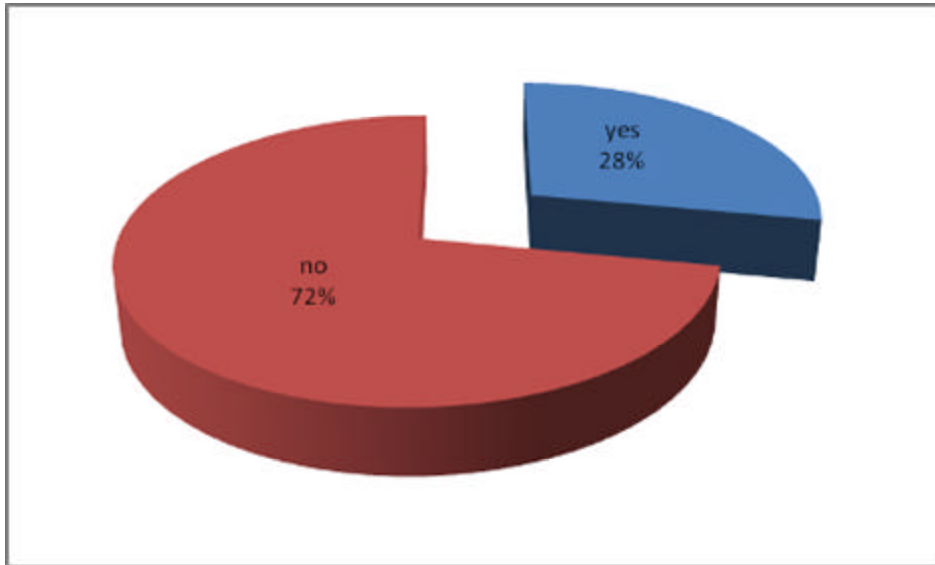


Figure 9 Primary household occupations

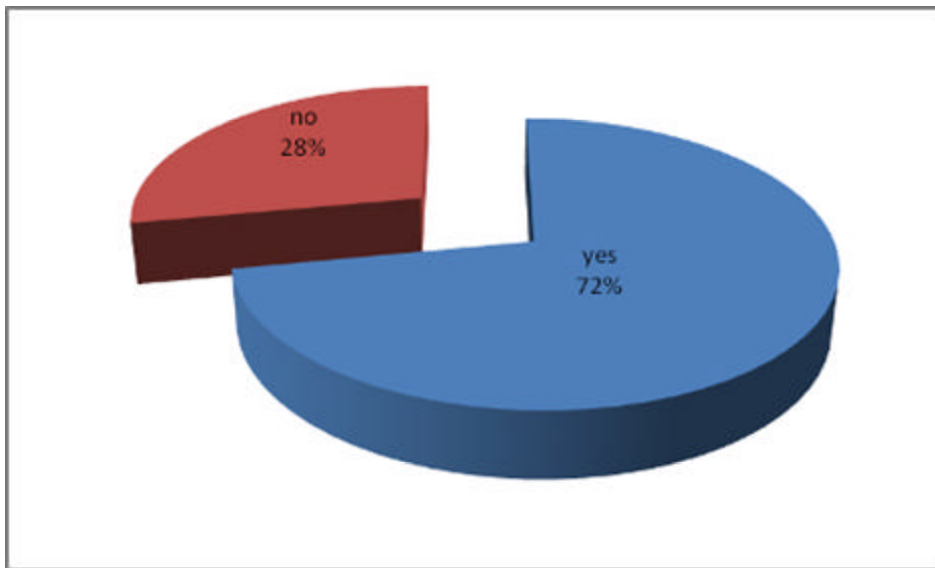


The overwhelming majority of primary occupations within households are not linked to the fishing industry (Figure 10). Of the respondents categorised during questionnaire coding as having no obvious fishery occupations, one of three cooks worked in the Fish Fry Bay Garden at Oistins; one of 14 pensioners was linked to the industry as a boat builder; the only self-employed respondent worked in a stall in the Fish Fry Bay Garden; one out of the three general workers was a part-time fish vendor; and one out of the two businessmen owned a stall in the Bay Garden.



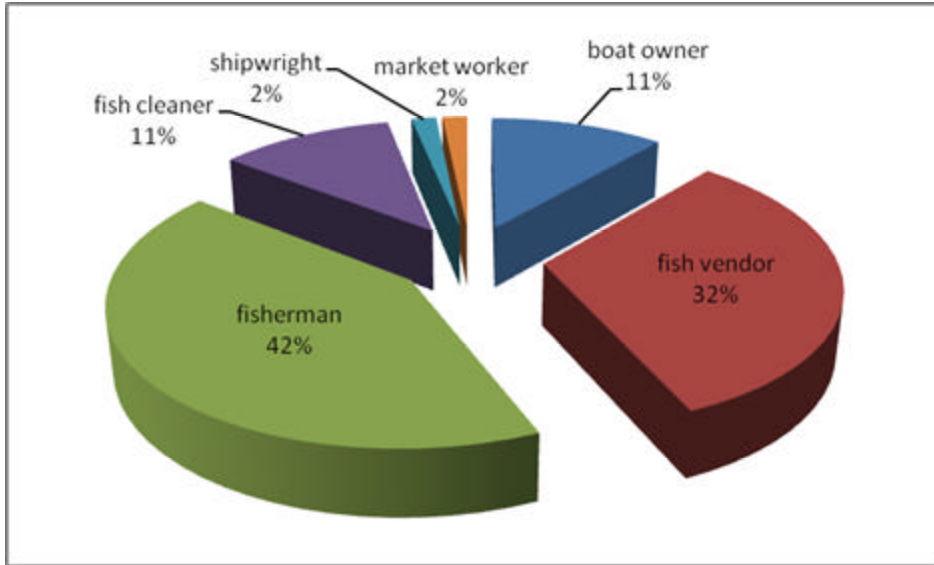
**Figure 10 Linkage of primary household occupations to the fishing industry**

The majority of respondents (72%) have relatives in Oistins earning an income from the fishing industry.



**Figure 11 Respondents who have relatives in Oistins earning income from the fishing industry**

Householders surveyed provided six different income-generating fishery livelihoods that their relatives in Oistins are involved in. Most respondents had relatives who were fishermen (42%) and fish vendors (32%) while equal percentages had relatives who were boat owners and fish cleaners (11% in both cases). A small percentage of relatives were shipwrights and market workers (2% in both cases) (Figure 12).



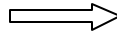
**Figure 12 Types of income generating livelihoods of relatives of householders surveyed**

The majority of respondents noted that other household members or relatives living in Oistins were not involved in marine livelihoods other than those related to fishing. Of the two respondents who noted the contrary, one indicated spear fishing as alternative marine livelihood and the other provided no response.

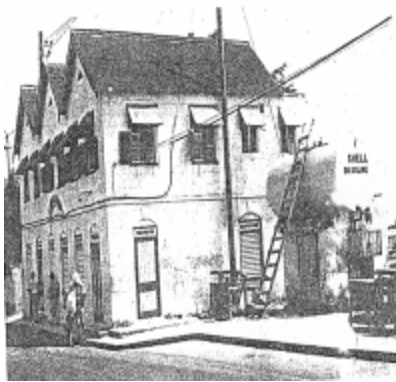
### 3.2.2 Development in Oistins

The following are views of Oistins residents on observed development in the area and their expectations for future development. A large percentage of respondents have lived in Oistins for between 21 to over 50 years (78%) and as a result have first-hand knowledge of changes occurring. The main developments identified in order of popularity were the fish market, jetty and Bay Garden, followed by the Supermarket Complex, fast food chains, the police station and Welches and Miami beach improvements, polyclinic, post office, sewage project, ice plant, service (petrol) stations, the extended boatyard, improved boats, road and housing improvements, doctor offices, drug store, and parking facilities. The district hospital, Salvation Army and maternity ward of yesteryear were mentioned. This is in contrast to the description of Oistins in the 1950s. This information is best seen in the following photos (Figures 13 and 14).

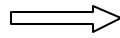
District hospital built 1900  
Demolished 2008



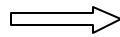
Polyclinic 1983



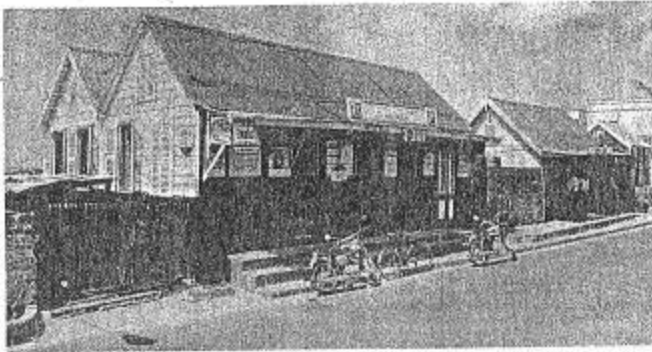
Police Station 1950  
Rebuilt in 1983 with  
Magistrates Court



Fish Market 1950  
Rebuilt in 1983



**Figure 13 Public sector development in Oistins**



McCollin's Bar & Grocery (L) & Venus Bar (R) where the male population meet for a grog.

Circa 1950



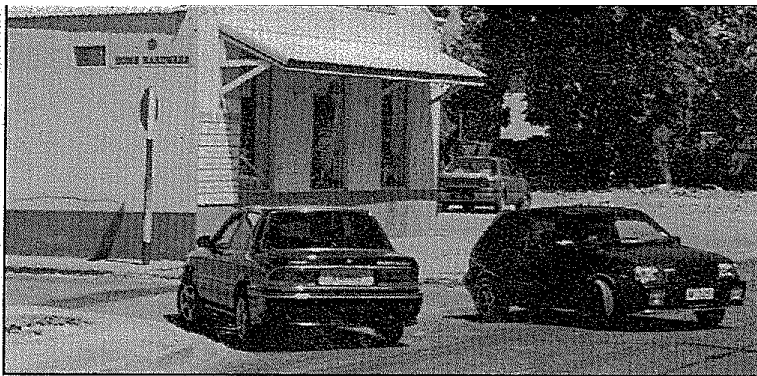
The General Store on the beach

Circa 1973



Mackie's Shopping Plaza

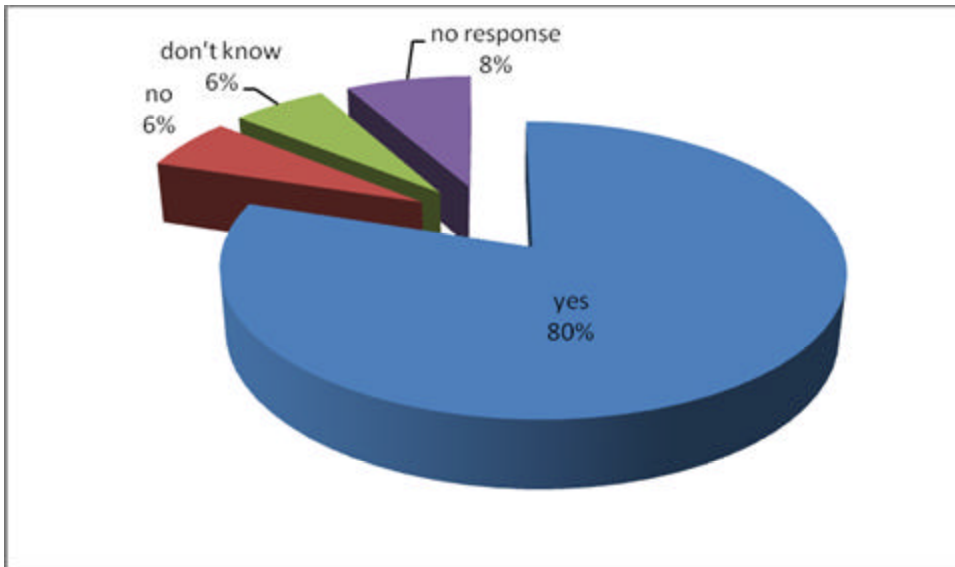
Circa 1978



M&C Home Hardware, once the Closed Brethren Church. The empty lot was occupied by the Greenidge general store, a social meeting point in Oistins.

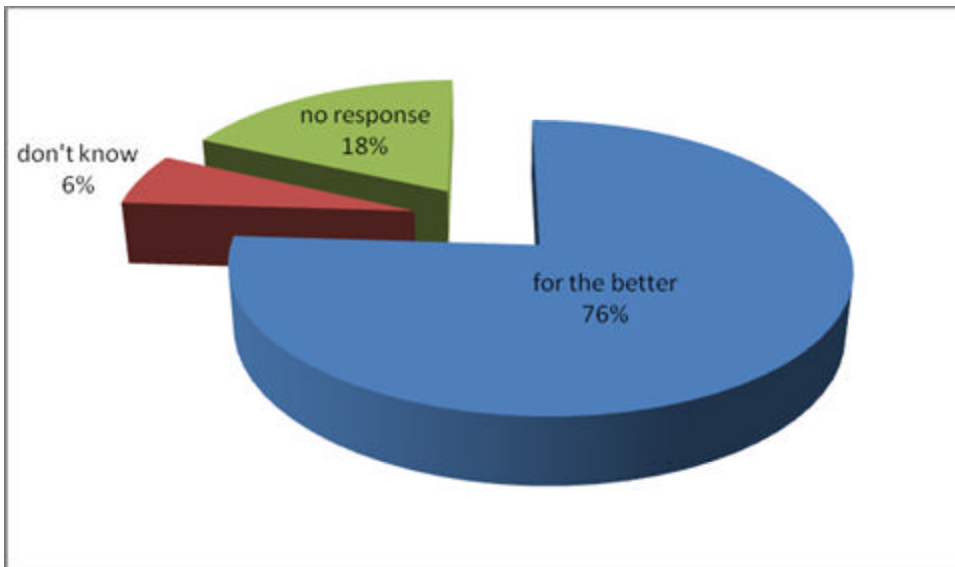
### *Effects of development in Oistins*

The overwhelming majority of respondents (80%) thought that the major physical developments in Oistins changed livelihoods in the area (Figure 15), while a few disagreed, were unsure or did not respond.



**Figure 15 Major physical developments in Oistins have affected livelihoods**

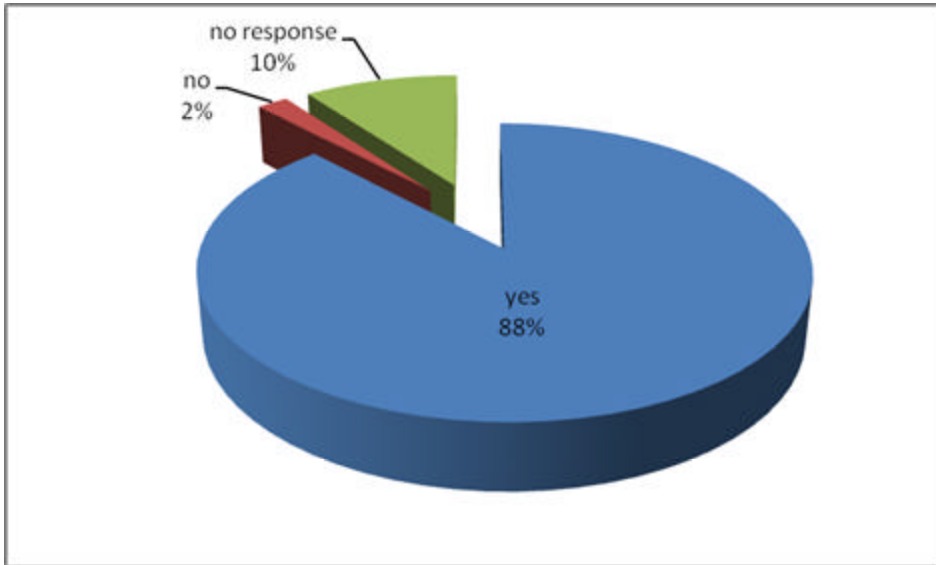
The majority of the respondents (76%) agreed that livelihood conditions improved for the better as a result of the physical development of Oistins (Figure 16). However at least one respondent also indicated there was a negative side to this change in livelihood with the presence of arcade gambling.



**Figure 16 Type of livelihood change as a result of development**

The development was thought to have increased the amount of fish landed in the area, provided more employment at the market and encouraged the fishing community to give back to their customers during Fisherfolk week/Fisherman's Day. Now Oistins is considered to be much more than a fishing village. It is a town that attracts numerous visitors to the Bay Garden for the Oistins Fish Fry, particularly on Friday evenings.

The overwhelming majority of persons (88%) interviewed believed that the fish market has contributed to sustainable livelihoods over the years (Figure 17). Only one respondent felt that the fish market has not contributed to the livelihood of persons.

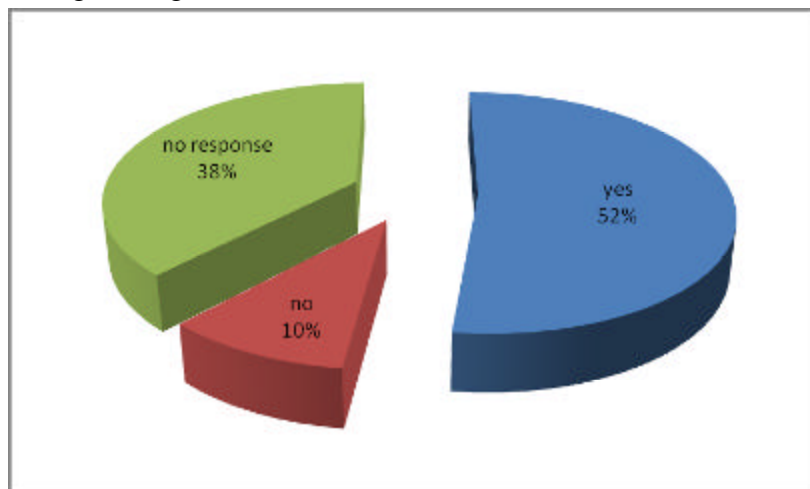


**Figure 17 Belief that the fish market has contributed to sustainable livelihoods**

When asked about the negative impacts of development, respondents noted that some residents felt they were left out of the development plans. Additional impacts included encroachment of the Bay Garden on the space in eastern boatyard, resulting in its subsequent demise and disunity in fisherfolk. It was thought that fisherfolk “do not live as good as in the past.” It was also felt that noise (from marine engines etc.) has affected fish abundance in the area preventing fish from accumulating around the jetty.

*The need for further development: Fisheries and tourism*

Respondents believe that future physical development of Oistins is necessary with 52% stating so (Figure 18).

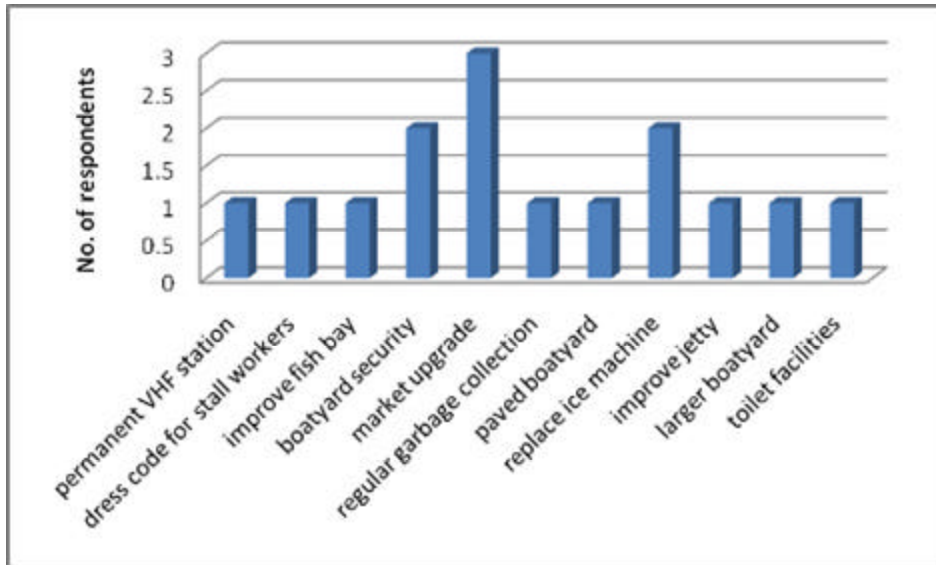


**Figure 18 Necessity for further development of Oistins**



## Fisheries development

When considering future development for the fisheries sector in Oistins, greater than half of those interviewed (68%) were unable to make any suggestions in this regard. Of the 30% who responded, 11 improvements were suggested. The main improvements noted by the majority of respondents were an upgrade of the market (20%), while 13% each indicated that improved boatyard security and a new ice machine were needed (Figure 19).



**Figure 19** Perceived necessary developments to the Oistins fisheries sector

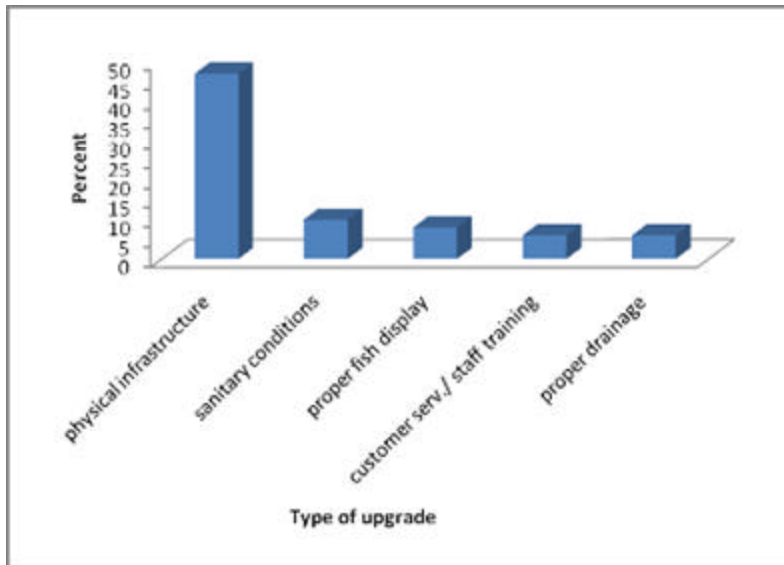
**Table 1** Type of upgrades people would like to see in the future at Oistins fish market and complex

Type of upgrade	% responses
Proper drainage	6.3
Achieve/apply international standards	3.8
Maintained/improved sanitary conditions	10.1
Improve/repair physical infrastructure	46.8
Proper fish display	7.6
Remove unlicensed persons	1.3
Improved customer service and staff training	6.3
Enhanced security for boatyard and in general	3.8
Activities throughout the week	1.3
Removal of vagrants from market	1.3
More bathroom access	1.3
Easier access for diesel	2.5
Maintain grease traps	1.3
Increase electrical supply	1.3
Remove derelict boats	1.3
Improve Sunday market facilities	1.3
Water sports activity on beach	1.3
Engineer calmer bay	1.3

Generally 70% of respondents thought the fish market and the fishing facilities at Oistins need to be upgraded, whereas 6% believe there is no need for upgrades. Twenty-four percent of respondents did not answer this question. Those respondents who thought the Oistins fish market and facilities were due for an upgrade, provided 18 different types of upgrades or improvements they felt were necessary (Table 1).

The top five upgrades people would like to see in the future at the fish market were classified according to improvements to and/or repair of the existing physical structure of the market; the maintenance or improvement of sanitary conditions of the market; display of fish in an appropriate manner on ice; improvements in customer service and training for markets staff and proper drainage for the facility as currently people feel there is too

much water on the market floor (Figure 19).



**Figure 19 Types of upgrades people would like to see at the Oistins fish market**

In general, the overwhelming majority of responses (47%) related to improving or repairing the physical infrastructure of the fish market. These improvements or repairs were varied and are listed in Box 1 below.

**Box 1 Types of improvements or repairs to physical infrastructure at the Oistins fish market**

- Processing halls need to be improved for fish processing
- Relocation and expansion of boning hall
- Better fish storage (on ice) and more fish storage space
- Ice machine needs to be repaired or new one purchased
- Upgrade, expand and increase number of vending stalls
- Lockers should be for all users of market
- Better changing rooms for staff, bathroom and changing rooms for vendors. Changing rooms need showers.
- More bathroom facilities needed
- Lunch facilities for workers (vendors and boners)
- Develop jetty so boats can dock without having to step down, to facilitate off- loading. Extend jetty to an 'L' shape to facilitate offloading of 17foot boats . Add tyres for fendering
- Boatyard amenities need to be improved – expand, pave surface to control dust, build covered area for repairs and outfit with water supply
- Additional parking for customers

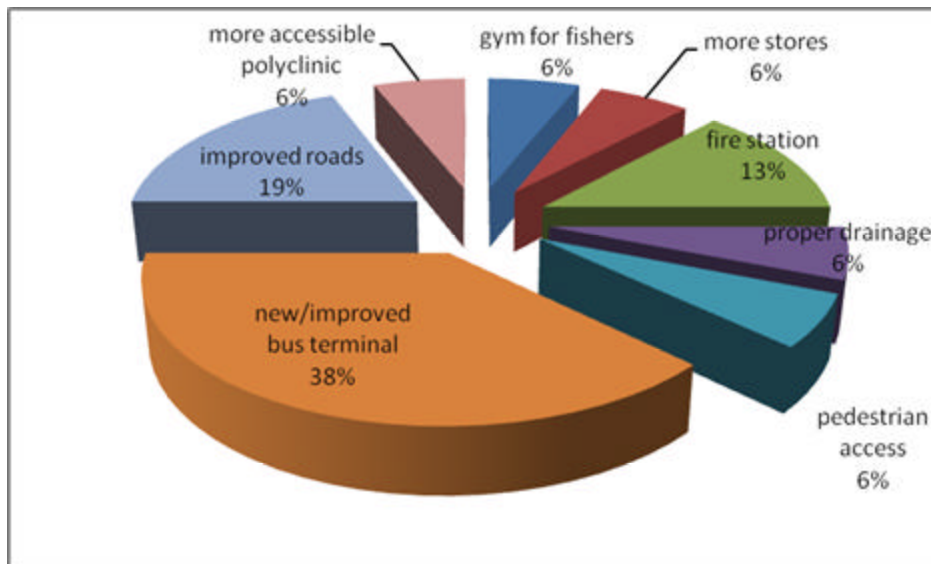


### Tourism development

In general, the question regarding future tourism development was poorly answered with seven individuals providing one suggestion each. Attractions identified as being necessary for cultural development (see section 3.2.3) such as a museum or community centre showcasing historic Oistins and guided market tours were also viewed as tourist attractions. In addition, a water festival was seen as a developmental need. In terms, of infrastructure, one respondent noted that the Bay Garden facilities should be improved with additional seating required for visitors, while a boardwalk was suggested by another. The development of more apartments to accommodate tourists and a beauty salon were put on the future development list.

### Other developments/improvements

When asked to specify types of development other than those related to fisheries, tourism and culture, less than half (32%) of the respondents provided responses. A new and improved bus terminal was specified by the majority of respondents (38%) followed by improved roads (Figure 20). The need for proper drainage; a small fire station; longer polyclinic opening hours; pedestrian access; more stores and a gym for fishers were identified as key developmental improvements for the area.



**Figure 20 Other development thought to be needed in Oistins**

Sanitation was also the focus of suggested improvements. Respondents noted that standards of sanitation need to be improved with frequent cleaning of stalls implemented and attention paid to grease traps. Respondents also noted that fish needed to be displayed properly for sale in ice and not just on the bare counter tops of stalls. Improvements in customer service and the need for staff training were highlighted. Respondents noted the need for good customer service in the market. They noted that vendors should be polite and pleasant to customers and should desist from using abusive language in the area.

### 3.2.3 Oistins fishing culture

Over the years the fishing industry has seen the change from sail boats to motorised launches and the new development of ice boats (in 1970). This latter development facilitated longer fishing trips. This improvement came with the upgrading of the Oistins Market in 1983 into a fisheries complex with boatyard and jetty facilitating the off-loading of catches. Additionally, an ice plant was built to supply vessels. The photos below (Figure 21) exemplify the change in work clothing/protective gear worn at the Fish Market. The introduction to market users of the concepts of a quality management system, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACP) was mentioned. With all these positive changes the negative observed was lack of unity among fisherfolk. The improvement of the sanitary conditions under which fish is handled, processed and sold was a key point made regarding changes in fishing culture since in the past fish was sold on bags on the ground or fish sellers walked the street with fish on wooden trays.



**Figure 21 L to R: Vendor work clothing/protective gear around 1950 and 2007, respectively, at the Oistins fish market**

#### *Must see or must do fisheries culture*

The three activities which were highly recommended to be involved in or see while in Oistins were the Bay Garden on a Friday night, the Oistins Fish Festival, and Fisherman's Day activities. These were followed by viewing the fish boning competition and the Tuk Band of the fish festivals, or viewing sea turtles on the jetty. A tour of the fish market, a fishing trip on a day boat, experiencing rum shop culture and craft as well as shopping at Super Centre were included as activities.

#### *Fishing culture as depicted by the Oistins Fish Festival*

Over half of the respondents (58%) interviewed thought the current Oistins Fish Festival reflects the true fishing culture of the area. Only 26% thought the festival does not reflect fishing culture. Of those who thought the latter, nearly all (12 out of 13 respondents) provided three reasons for their belief. The majority (58%) said the festival does not include many of the past activities which highlighted the fishing culture of Oistins. Respondents noted that only fish boning, fish skinning and the greasy pole competition were highlights of the festival but activities such as net throwing, vendor tray racing and boat racing are no longer included in the event's activities. One-third (33%) of the respondents felt that the emphasis of the festival has now shifted towards profit-making and entertainment and away from the focus on fish and the associated fishing culture of

Oistins. One person even noted that they felt that Fisherman’s Day was now a better event culturally than the Oistins Fish Festival. Only one person (8%) thought the festival did not depict the true culture of the area due to poor organisation of the event (Figure 22).

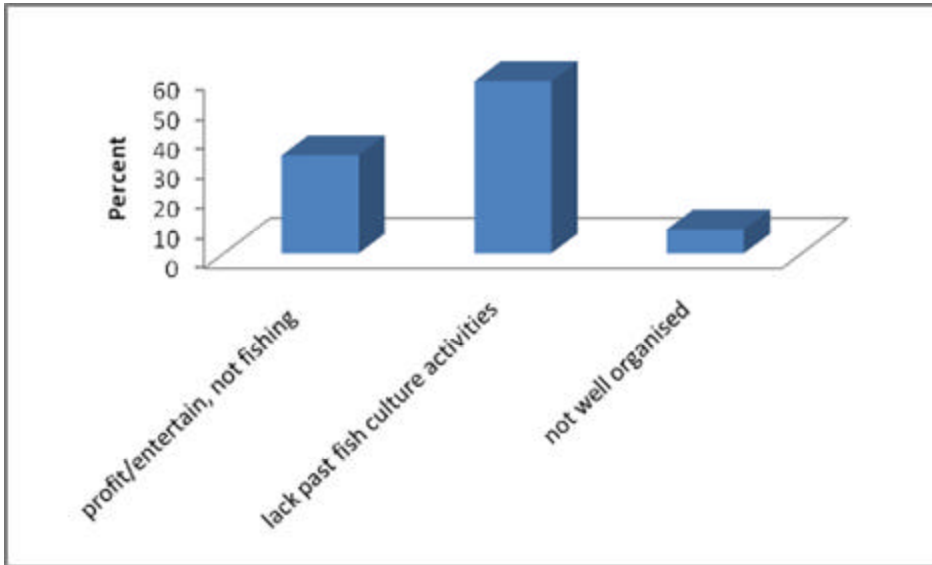
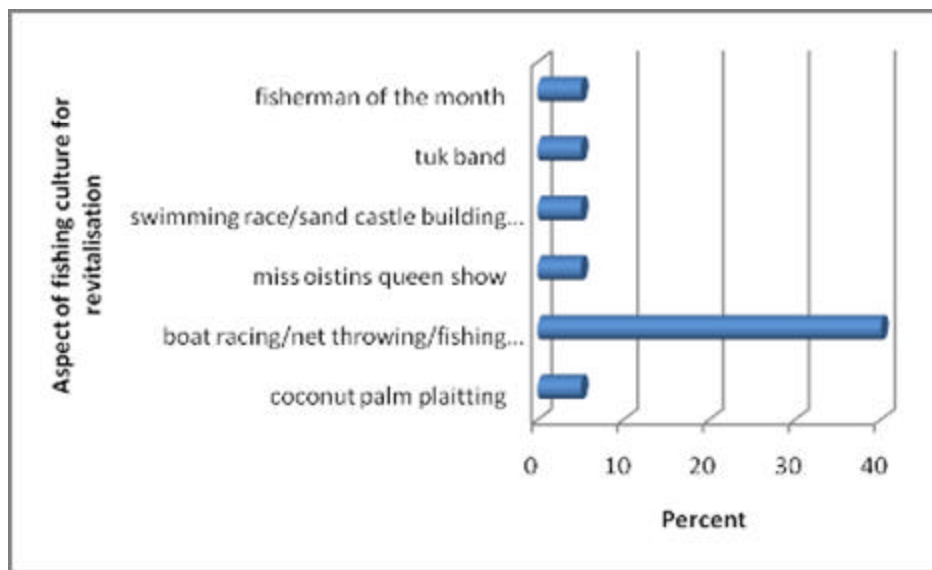


Figure 22 Reasons why the Oistins fish festival does not depict fishing culture

*Aspects of fishing culture that need reviving and further cultural development*

Most aspects of social and cultural activities carried out during fish festivals and holidays were identified as needing to be revived and included boat racing, net throwing and fishing competitions (40%); the Miss Oistins Queen Show (5%); Tuk band involvement (5%); swimming races and sand castle building for children; fisherman of the month



award (5%) and coconut palm plaiting (5%) (Figure 23).

Figure 23 Aspects of fishing culture that should be revived

Furthermore, the Tuk band, stilt walking and limbo dancing were identified as needing further cultural development. Additionally, a fishing museum, an upgrade of the library, guided tours of the market and surrounding areas and a sports complex/community centre were suggested as needing further development to add life to Oistins. It was also felt that more nightly cultural activities are needed in the Bay Garden and a dance house to encourage night life.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **4.1 Monitoring socio-economic impacts of development**

In general the majority of households interviewed (38%) in Oistins comprise one to four persons. Additionally, large numbers of persons have lived in the area permanently for between 5-50 years, with the overwhelming majority having residing there for over 50 years. This data indicates a strong residential character of Oistins as well as close-knit community relations. These SocMon results are corroborated by the 2000 Population and Housing Census and the Social Impact Assessment: Relocation of Oistins Civic Centre (Barbados Statistical Service 2002; AXYS Environmental Consulting (Bdos) Inc. and Jacques Whitford Inc. 2006).

Although Oistins has traditionally been known for its strong fisheries sector, surprisingly only a minority of persons surveyed have fishery-related primary occupations. Even when pensioners are excluded, greater than half of the respondents work outside the fishing sector. This may indicate a shift away from fishery-related occupations to other occupations; may indicate that persons working in Oistins in the fisheries sector may come from outside the area or may be due simply to the sample size and distribution of sampling in this project. However, although the majority of persons surveyed stated that they were not involved in the fisheries sector in Oistins, the majority of them (72%) stated that they had relatives in Oistins earning an income from the fishing industry as fishermen, fish vendors, fish cleaners, boat owners and builders and market staff. This still indicates the importance of the sector in making a living.

One of the shortcomings of the project was not targeting workers or users of the fisheries complex to ascertain to what extent they live in the Oistins community as both “communities” need to be monitored to see the linkages.

A number of important physical developments have occurred within and outside of the central Oistins town area over the past 30-40 years, all having some degree of impact on the Oistins central area. This development has included the construction and expansion of the Fisheries Complex in the early 1980s; the construction of the ABC Highway in the late 1980s resulting in altered traffic patterns and reduction in local traffic flows in Oistins; the construction of a fuel transfer station by the Barbados National Terminal Corporation Ltd. (BNTCL) to facilitate the transfer of fuel from tankers to the national fuel terminal; expansion of commercial and retail operations of Southern Plaza; the replacement of small local businesses with large business chains such as Chefette Restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Courts etc. (Stantec Consulting 2006) and upgrade of the Fish Fry and Bay Garden in 2007. Of these, the expansion of the Fisheries Complex and its accompanying land reclamation has been the most significant physical change to occur within Oistins within recent time (Stantec Consulting 2006).

This objective for the study could perhaps have been better achieved by determining changes in income and livelihoods, if any, with the rebuilding and expansion of the Fisheries Complex. Certainly, only a small proportion of respondents earn a living directly from the fisheries sector in Oistins. Additionally, with the construction of the ABC Highway, Oistins experienced altered traffic patterns and reduced traffic flow. Therefore a survey of the small businesses in the area to determine profits or losses accompanying this change in traffic would have been beneficial at determining socio-economic changes in the area. Comparison of people's income due to the recent upgrade of the Bay Garden would also have been interesting. Stall owners and craft people should have been targeted for this information.

Generally respondents feel that further future development (physical, tourism and cultural) of Oistins is necessary. Suggested physical upgrades to the physical infrastructure of Oistins specifically to that of the Fisheries Complex are numerous and include another upgrade of the market and its facilities, enhanced security for the boatyard and Complex in general, and replacement of the ice machine.

Other types of development thought to be needed by respondents are community infrastructural changes in the central area in Oistins. At the top of the list was a new and improved bus terminal and improved roads. Works such as these are goals and the main elements of both the Oistins Community Plan and the proposed Master Plan for the Oistins Central Area and Bay Garden (Stantec Consulting 2006). Therefore any future physical developments should be guided by these Plans.

In terms of further development of the area for tourism, interest in this area seemed to be minimal with only 14% of respondents indicating the need for additional tourist attractions such as a museum or historic community centre; guided market tours and the introduction of an Oistins water festival. Physical development for tourism included additional Bay Garden seating, a boardwalk and development of more apartments for visitors. The low response rate to this question regarding tourism development in the area should be further investigated to determine people's perceptions and attitudes towards increased tourism in the area. Reasons for the large percentage of non-responses could be varied and may include for example that people feel the current tourist attractions, in particular, the Oistins Fish Fry, is adequate and needs no further improvement. Additionally, people from Oistins might think that the town has reached its carrying capacity for tourism. Alternatively, it could just be the case that respondents simply had no ideas for what is needed to attract more tourists to the area.

The effects of development on Oistins seem to be regarded for the most part in a positive light by respondents. However some respondents did note that that the Bay Garden encroached on one of the boatyards resulting in its subsequent removal and has contributed to disunity among fisherfolk.

#### **4.2 Cultural changes associated with socio-economic activities**

Although nearly 60% of respondents thought the current Oistins Fish Festival reflects the true fishing culture of the area, many feel that it lacks or no longer highlights, many aspects of the past fishing culture of the area such as boat racing, net throwing and vendor tray races. It was also believed by one-third of the respondents that the emphasis of the Festival is more geared towards profit-making and entertainment rather than

focusing on fishing and the Oistins fishing culture. Respondents indicated numerous aspects of cultural activities that should be revitalised in the future. This study has therefore provided baseline information on people's opinions of the current Fish Festival and provides a guide to the Festival Committee and OFA regarding what people want to see. The revitalisation of traditional fishing culture activities will only help to make the Oistins Fish Festival more authentic and indigenous. Improving Fisherman's Day activities is also necessary.

There is potential for people in Oistins to engage in alternative livelihoods focused on highlighting the fishing and social culture of the area. Respondents recommended that a tour of the fish market, a fishing trip on a day boat as well as exposure to rum shop culture could be regarded as activities for tourists and locals to do or see. It should be noted that there are at least two buildings which date back at least 50 years, such as Hercules shop (rum shop) and Scarborough House (Oistins Library) which would make interesting stops on guided tours.

### **4.3 Promotion of interagency collaboration and information exchange**

Enumeration or site demographic data from the Statistical Department laid the basis for the survey process. It also further sensitised this department to the need for liaising with the Ministry of Agriculture not only for large projects but smaller ones, and allowed networking. However, during the project process, changes were made to the liaison, which slowed down the flow of information. The Oistins Fisherfolk Association (OFA) facilitated the management of project funds as well as assisted in the identification of key informants. This led to a better working relationship with some members of the Executive.

The observations made by visitors to the status of the fish market infrastructure, the sanitary conditions existing there and the recommended improvements should be noted by both Markets Division and Fisheries Division. Several government agencies other than Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture can benefit from reading this report including Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., Town Planning Department, and agencies behind the driving force of development to give insight to managing and monitoring change. The underlying theme to be reinforced is consultation/meetings (town hall meetings) with the stakeholder community to inform of upcoming projects and giving community dwellers the first opportunity for obtaining/improving their livelihood through business opportunities.

This report and any further outputs will be shared with the Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) to enhance its proposal for guided tours of Oistins to improve and diversify livelihoods in the area. Information on ideas for further tourism development, and further cultural development and revival will be beneficial in implementing projects or programmes to attract both tourists and locals to Oistins.

There was favourable interagency collaboration especially with Markets Division and OFA. An overwhelming interest has been generated about the history of fishing in Oistins and the prospects for its further development. There will be opportunities for further monitoring and interagency collaboration for optimal development of the area once a number of proposed projects are implemented. These include the proposal for

redevelopment of the Civic Centre (which houses several government services as Police Station, Magistrate Court, Public Library, and Polyclinic) (S. B. Testing 2006), plans for the Oistins Fish Market upgrade and development of boatyard areas (in the medium-term Strategic Plan for the Agricultural sector; APU 2008), and more recently the specific upgrade of the Oistins boatyard.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MONITORING**

There are several activities that can be monitored and so contribute to an understanding of their contribution to the economic activity in Oistins and to persons' livelihood. These include the monitoring of changes in users of the fish market and the dependence of their livelihood on fisheries; the contribution of the Fish Fry Bay to livelihood of business persons there; and the occurrence of occasional vendors of the area (specifically week-end vendors) and how this activity contributes to their livelihoods.

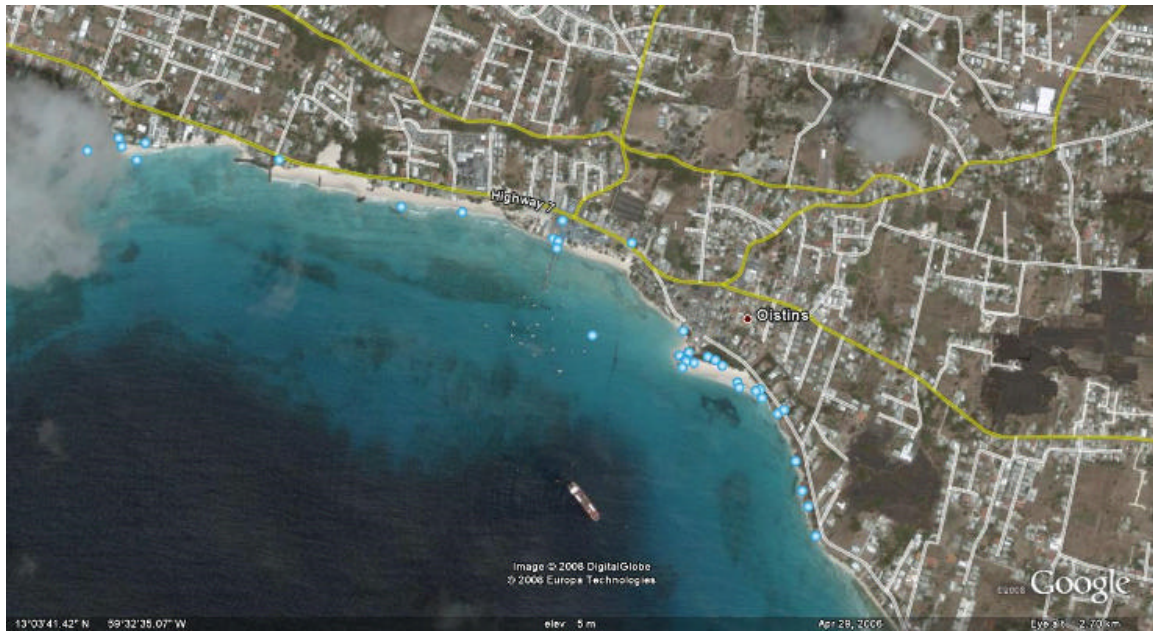
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## 7 APPENDICES

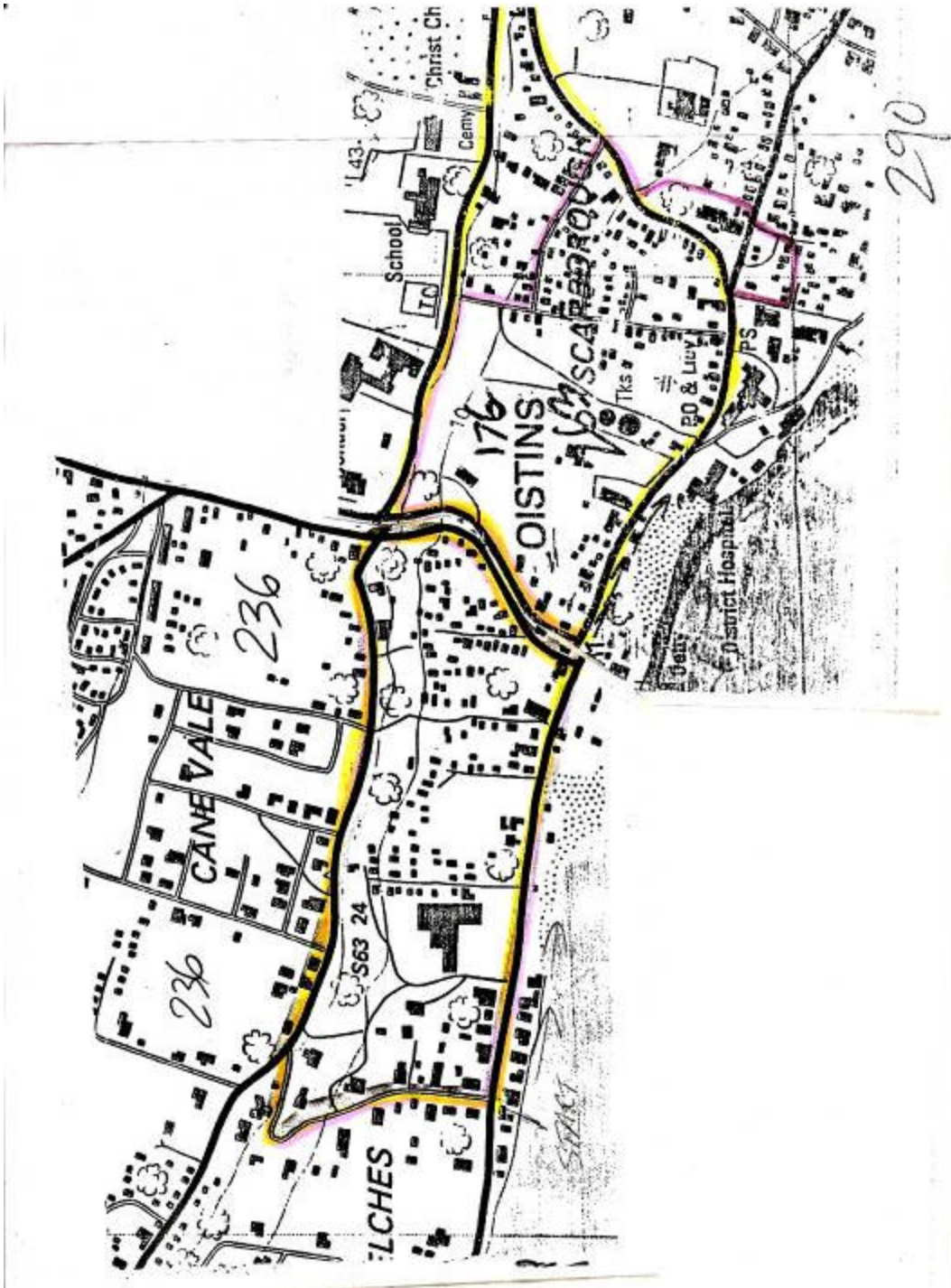
### *Appendix 1: Map of Oistins*





Appendix 2: Map of study area

Proposed survey study area (outlined in yellow and pink) showing Boundaries



*Appendix 3: Household survey*

**QUESTIONNAIRE NUMBER:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**INTERVIEWER'S ID:**

**DISTRICT:**

**CODE:**

**INTRODUCTION**

To learn how coastal and marine resources are meeting the economic and social needs of the community that live nearby, this survey is being conducted. Oistins has been chosen as a vibrant fishing community. Fisheries Division, Markets Division, Coastal Zone Management Unit, Oistins Fisherfolk Association, and the Fisheries Advisory Committee have representatives on the team conducting the survey. The goal is to monitor the impacts of present and proposed development in Oistins on its fisheries based culture. Your answers will be kept confidential. Questions will take no more than 20 minutes of your time

**Links to Area**

1. How long have you been living in the Oistins area?  
 0-5yrs  6-10 yrs  11-20yrs  21-30 yrs  31-50 years  over 51 years
2. Have you lived outside the Oistins area?  Yes  No
3. If Yes, Where (in or outside of Barbados)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What Time period?(year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Livelihood**

5. How many persons are living in your household?  
 # Children under 16 years  Male  Female  
 # Adults  Male  Female

6. What occupations bring income into the household? Please rank most important 1<sup>st</sup>(1) & State if linked to the Fishing industry

	Occupation	Rank	Linkage with fishing industry Y/N – If Yes How
1			<input type="checkbox"/> y <input type="checkbox"/> N
2			<input type="checkbox"/> y <input type="checkbox"/> N
3			<input type="checkbox"/> y <input type="checkbox"/> N
4			<input type="checkbox"/> y <input type="checkbox"/> N
5			<input type="checkbox"/> y <input type="checkbox"/> N

7. Do you have relatives in Oistins earning an income from the fishing industry?  
[ ] Yes [ ] No

8. If Yes List

	Relationship	Occupation
1		
2		
3		

9. Are any members of the household or relatives in Oistins involved in marine livelihoods other than those related to fishing? [ ] Yes [ ] No

10. If Yes List Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Development**

11. During your time living in Oistins what major physical developments have taken place?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Has this changed livelihoods in the area? [ ] Yes [ ] No

13. If so [ ] better or [ ] worse?

14. During your time living in Oistins what, if any, major changes in fishing **culture** were observed?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. During your time living in Oistins how have major physical developments affected fishing culture?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Culture

16. What activities do you identify as highlighting the fisheries culture of Oistins, that you would recommend as a must see/must do by locals or visitors to Oistins? LIST 3 top activities:

DO NOT PROMPT

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

Tuck band  Fish boning competition  Boat Building  Net Mending

Hand boat racing  Oistins Fish Festival  Fisherman's Day Activities

17. Do you think the Oistins Fish Festival depicts our true fishing culture?  Yes  No

18. If No, why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. What, if any aspects of fishing culture need to be revived?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Future Physical Development

20. Is any further physical development needed at Oistins?  Yes  No

21. If Yes please specify the type of development:

fisheries

\_\_\_\_\_

cultural

\_\_\_\_\_

tourism

\_\_\_\_\_

Other

\_\_\_\_\_

22. Do you believe that the fish market has contributed to sustainable livelihoods over the years?  Yes  No



23. Do you think the fish market and fishing facilities at Oistins need to be up-graded?

Yes  No

24. If yes, what would you like to see at the fish market and complex for the future?

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**GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS of RESPONDENT**

26. Sex of respondent (observed)  Male  Female

27. Age Range  20-24  25-29  30-34  35-39  40-44  
 45-49  50-54  55-59  60-64  65-69  70-74  
 75-79  >80

28. What is your relationship to the head of the household?

head of household  wife/husband of head  
 common-law partner of head  other specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

29. What is the last school attended?

Primary  Secondary  College/Polytechnic  University

**Why Community  
Involvement is  
Important**



This study will help you to better appreciate your community history as well as encourage you to actively participate in development projects that occur in your community that can benefit you

**Contact us the Project  
Team**

We welcome you to contact us if you have old photos or documents on the Old Oistins

Tel. 426 – 3745 Joyce  
Leslie  
Fisheries Division

Tel. 420 – 4545 Elvis  
Bryan  
Oistins Market

Tel. 428 – 1343 Clifton  
Ifill or Shirley Young

Oistins Fisherfolk  
Organisation

# Oistins Town Old & New

Fisheries  
Social & Economic Monitoring  
Study  
“The Oistins SocMon Project”

Launch Sunday 25 January 2009  
Oistins Fish Fry Bay Pavilion  
4 p.m.

Educate your Community on  
its History & Culture of  
The last 50 years

**Get Involved!  
Tell Your Story**



FISHERIES DIVISION 2009

**Question**

What is “Oistins SocMon”?

**Answer**

A social and economic study of the Oistins area



**Question**

What part of Oistins is the study area?

**Answer**

From Cane Vale to Scarborough



**Question**

Purpose of the Study?

**Answer**

To document and educate on the cultural aspects of Oistins

To identify the change that has taken place over the last 50 years



To involve persons **living** and **working** in the Oistins area to actively participate in the information gathering

To identify to what extent the fisheries and marine resources in the area meet people’s needs



Appendix 5: Poster for raising awareness about the Fisheries SocMon project

**OISTINS**  
**Then & Now**

**SOCMON**  
**(Social Monitoring)**

**What is it?**  
**A study on the social, environmental  
and economic change taking place in Oistins**

**SOCMON STUDY Get Involved:**  
**Tell us the Oistins Story**