



GRENADA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

---

**SENATE**

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 2025

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Table of Contents**

Attendance .....	3
Prayers.....	4
Announcements .....	4
Minutes.....	5
Motions.....	6
Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.....	7
Adjournment.....	56

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Attendance***

**PRESENT**

Madam President

Senator the Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams

*in the Chair*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Senator the Honourable Adrian Thomas      | - Minister for Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture   |
| Senator the Honourable David Evlyn Andrew | - Minister for Education   |
| Senator the Honourable Quinc Britton      | - Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture with Responsibility for Culture |
| Senator the Honourable Seville Francis    | - Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Youth and Sports  |
| Senator the Honourable Claudette Joseph   | - Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs   |
| Senator the Honourable Gloria Ann Thomas  | - Minister for Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs (Social Security)                            |
| Senator the Honourable Norland Cox        | - Opposition Member of the Senate (Deputy President)   |
| Senator the Honourable Dr. Myanna Charles | - Opposition Member of the Senate (Opposition Member)  |
| Senator the Honourable Dwight Hosford     | - Opposition Member of the Senate (Opposition Member)  |
| Senator the Honourable Mondy André Lewis  | - Member of the Senate (Labour Rep.)   |
| Senator the Honourable Salim Rahaman      | - Member of the Senate (Business Rep.)   |
| Senator the Honourable Roderick St. Clair | - Member of the Senate (Farmers Rep.)  |

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Prayers  
Announcements***

**The Sitting of the Senate began at 9:07 a.m.**

**(Senate Prayer was said)**

**Madam President:** Honourable Members, please join me in the Lord's Prayer.

**(The Lord's Prayer was said)**

**Madam President:** Pray be seated. Honourable Members, pleasant good morning, and welcome to everyone. I'm happy to see those of you who have been travelling and have returned.

**Deputy Clerk (Ag.):** Item 3 – Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation of a new Senator.  
Item 4 – Messages from Governor-General.  
Item 5 – Announcements by Madam President.

**Madam President:** Thank you, Madam. Brief announcement just to remind us that today should conclude the 30th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting is being held in Belém, Brazil, in our region. This is the year for Gulag to host, and we are hosting in Brazil. The conference has looked at the global stocktake on how we have crossed the 1.5 maximum line for carbon emissions and global temperature; a 1.5 line we fought hard to make sure that the world doesn't cross. Unfortunately, despite the Paris Agreement, we're way past that in an irregular fashion, but likely to become the norm. And the delegation of Grenada, led brilliantly by our very own veteran Dr. Spencer Thomas, has been fighting on three or four fronts for the global stocktake to be adequate, to meet our mitigation targets for the new adaptation plan for the climate finance goal, and for the continued recognition and support for small island developing states.

So, as they wrap up hopefully today, if not tomorrow, bear in mind that our future

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Announcements  
Minutes***

and the future of all the small island states are on the line with the decisions that come out of Belém. Bear in mind, Melissa, category five, which touched down in Jamaica, Haiti, the Turks and Caicos, and Cuba, can be averted if we are more ambitious in the future. So we pray that there is going to be more success and that Grenada continues to contribute to the highest ambition possible.

Since we are going to... I know we are going to debate a Bill on fisheries. I want to say that we have had a brilliant team, including our fisheries expert, our energy expert, water expert at the conference, and they've been really shining this past two weeks. So when they come home, pay attention to the updates and reports, and be grateful to them that they have representing us once again on the world stage.

And expect to welcome you back and to see that we are at the cusp of a very festive season. I thank you, and have concluded my announcements.

**Deputy Clerk (Ag.):** Item 6 – Confirmation of Minutes.

**Madam President:** Honourable Members, you have before you the Minutes of our last Sitting, and it is proposed to you that the confirmation of the Minutes of the proceedings of a Sitting of the Senate held here at the Parliament Building, here at Mt. Wheldale, in St. George's on Thursday, November 6, 2025, be read. I'm jumping the gun here. Honourable Senator Adrian Thomas, Leader of Government's Business, you have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Thank you very much, Madam President, and a pleasant morning to you on your staff, and a pleasant good morning to my fellow Senators.

Madam President, I rise, and I beg that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Building, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, be taken as read.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Minutes  
Motions***

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes taken as read.**

**Madam President:** Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Sitting of the Senate held at the Parliament Building, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's, on Thursday, 6th November, 2025, be confirmed.

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Minutes confirmed.**

**Deputy Clerk (Ag.):** Item 7 – Petitions.

Item 8 – Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select  
Committees.

Item 9 – Ministerial Statements.

Item 10 – Government notices.

Item 11 – Unofficial notices.

Item 12 – Questions.

Item 13 – Personal explanations.

Item 14 – Motions.

**Madam President:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Thank you, Madam President.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Motions***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**WHEREAS** debate on the Gracious Address delivered by the Governor-General on the occasion of the Ceremonial State Opening of the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament on Friday, 12th September 2025, was deferred to a date to be announced;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the debate on the said Address be further deferred to a date to be announced.

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Motion approved.**

**Deputy Clerk (Ag.):** Item 15 – Bills.

**Madam President:** Honourable Senator Adrian Thomas, Leader of Government's Business, you have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg to introduce for the first reading a Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**Clerk (Ag.):** A Bill which seeks to amend the Fisheries Act, CAP. 108 ("the principal Act") to enhance the regulation of the treatment of marine mammals within the waters of the State of Grenada, shortly entitled, Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**Madam President:** Honourable Senator Adrian Thomas, Leader of Government's Business.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg to move that the relevant Standing Order of the Senate be suspended to enable the Bill to be taken through all its stages at this Sitting.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Relevant Standing Order suspended.**

**Madam President:** Honourable Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I beg to move that the second reading of the Bill be taken at this time.

**Madam President:** Thank you.

**Question proposed.**

**Madam President:** Honourable Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, today we are here to debate a very important Bill, that speaks not only to the environmental responsibility that we have as a nation, but very importantly also, our economic survival, and we also have a global responsibility in regards to our credibility and the global market.

Madam President, somewhere around late August, early September 2024, the United States of America, through its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, better known as NOAA, issued a licence... Issued a notice, sorry, denying Grenada what is known as a comparability finding. It's a term that many of us may not be aware of in Grenada, but basically, Madam President, in layman's terms, this means the US has concluded that Grenadian laws do not provide adequate protection from marine mammals in our fisheries sector. I repeat that, in simple terms, it means that the US has concluded that the Grenadian laws do not provide adequate protection from marine mammals in our fisheries sector.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Madam President, as a result of this, a ban on the importation of Grenada fish and fish products into the United States is scheduled to be implemented on 1st January 2026. Madam President, in a nutshell, our fish and fish products can only be imported into the United States if our country has received a positive comparability finding. Madam President, the core requirement is that Grenada must demonstrate its regulatory programme for marine biology protection. We must put systems in place, and these must be comparable in effectiveness to the US programme, if we want to capitalise on the US market.

Madam President, this issue is calling on our country to either prohibit the intentional killing or serious injury of marine mammals during fishing operations. I have reliable certification procedures proving that exported products were not sourced from elsewhere, and other practices.

Madam President, Grenada as a nation depends heavily on the fishing sector for employment, export earnings, food security, and rural development. Madam President, this is no small matter and therefore, as a nation, we ought to take it seriously because I see it as a serious threat to our livelihood. But apart from that, Madam President, it is also a wake-up call, it is also a call for us to strengthen our legislation, modernise our systems, and most of all, Madam President, the time has come for us to start thinking about broadening our market alternatively.

Madam President, it's a golden opportunity for us to meet, rise to the occasion and move up to international standards. And in this day and age, wherever you go, whichever part of the world you go to, the slogan is "sustainability". And this is an industry that has served us for many centuries. Fishing is not happening today in Grenada. Fishing has always been there, but Madam President, we take it for granted, and we believe that things will remain as they are forever. It doesn't work like that.

And so, Madam President, the main purpose of this Bill is very clear; to update Grenada's fisheries legislation so that it meets international standards for the protection of marine mammals, and to prevent a potential ban that is carded for January 1, 2026, on the export of fish and fish products to the United States.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Madam President, the United States is one of Grenada's most lucrative markets, especially, and my good friend Senator Norland Cox will tell you what the exporting of tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, means to our brothers and sisters in Carriacou, and Petite Martinique and Grenada also. Madam President, hundreds of fisherfolk, processors, exporters, and their families will be affected by this potential ban.

Madam President, as I said before, this Bill is a serious matter of national economic interests, environmental responsibility, and global credibility. The need for legislative action is what the demand is. And this Administration, this Government, Madam President, feel that it has a responsibility to respond in the interests of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Madam President, without these corrective measures, without doing anything about this matter at this point, we could lose access to our biggest market at this point in time, until we find others.

Madam President, to do nothing about it, Grenada can face serious economic fallout in the rural communities. An economy we are trying to build. Madam President, without taking corrective actions, we could either suffer some level of reputational damage internationally. And therefore, this Bill is urgent, this Bill is essential, and this Bill, Madam President, when passed here today, will restore some level of confidence in the architects of this very important industry.

But Madam President, I would like to spend a couple of minutes on the economic impact on national interests. The fishing sector, Madam President, has provided hundreds of jobs, millions in export earnings, and obviously, foreign exchange is always great. Figures coming out of the Ministry of Fisheries indicate that the fish production in 2024, the record is there, £\$5.3 million valued at EC\$42.35 million. EC\$42.35 million, Madam President. Fish exported in 2024 shows a figure of £\$1.5 million valued at EC\$18.5 million.

I paused because I think we need to digest those figures. The number of fishing vessels registered with the ministry today is 990 vessels. If you put a value on that, you can see the level of investment, our Grenadian citizens, not the Government, the citizens invest in this industry. The number of fishers registered today is 4,000 fisherfolk, and they

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

provide employment of over 4,500 persons. Madam President, I was also privileged to get the figure that over EC\$5,000,000 is what the total investment in this very important industry means, Madam President.

So, failure to do nothing about the matter puts all these resources and all these activities at risk. I believe that passing this Bill, Madam President, Grenada will show some level of commitment to this very important industry and how responsible this Government is. And so, Madam President, with all this background, we have brought this very important Bill to the House, to the Senate. And this Bill, Madam President, Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeks to amend the Fisheries Act, CAP 108, the principal Act, to enhance the regulation of the treatment of marine mammals within the waters of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Madam President, this Bill contains four clauses. Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Bill. Clause 2, Madam President, provides for an amendment to section 2 of the principal Act to expand the definition of “fish” and also to insert two new definitions, “observer” and “marine mammal”.

Madam President, Part III of the principal Act, while it expounds on marine protected areas and conservation measures, there are provisions in this section, in this part of the principal Act that takes care of fishing priority areas, marine protected areas, permission to undertake fisheries research, leasing of land for aquaculture, prohibited fishing methods, unlawful use and possession of fishing gear. Madam President, the principal Act takes care of some of those areas, but there are no provisions in the principal Act for protecting marine mammals.

And therefore, clause 2 will take care of the insertion of marine mammals. Madam President, these changes will now align the Act with international standards and provide clarity for our regulations, because if we don't pass this Act, we cannot have regulations. The Minister will not be able to pass regulations in regards to marine mammals.

Clause 3, Madam President, provides for the insertion of a new section, section 28A of the principal Act, to establish the observer and monitoring system to improve the administration of the principal Act. Madam President, this new section, section 28A,

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

which deals with observer and monitoring systems, Madam President, will create the statutory basis for a National Observers Programme, and this programme, Madam President, is so important. The observer, when appointed, will be able to monitor fishing activities and record activities, incidental interactions with marine mammals, and capture very important data. Madam President, this will also verify compliance with the regulations. If you have regulations and you don't have observers and you don't have a monitoring system, then it may not be worth the while.

Madam President, under this section, marine mammals... Madam President, the Chief... Under this section, section 28A, the Chief Fisheries Officer... I'm reading from the amendment. Madam President, as presented to the House, "shall establish, plan and manage observer and monitoring programmes for the purpose of collecting and reporting reliable and accurate information for scientific, management and compliance purposes under the Act".

Section 28 (2), "for the purpose of this section, an observer shall exercise scientific, monitoring and any other relevant functions that may be on a fishing vessel or facility related to fisheries that have been granted a licence, permit or authorisation under this Act". Madam President, subsection (3), "a person who desires to be certified as an observer may apply in writing and any relevant functions that may be on... Sorry. I will take over subsection (3), Madam President. "A person who desires to be certified as an observer may apply in writing to the Chief Fisheries Officer, demonstrating that he or she has acquired training as a fisheries biological technician, including skills in gathering data on the fish that is caught or discarded by a commercial fishing vessel," and there are three other subsections, Madam President, that are so very important that we didn't have any system, and now we will have them.

Madam President, the last clause. Clause 4 provides for the amendment of section 40 of the principal Act. Madam President, this clause will be inserted as clause 4 (a) and 4 (b), so our new subsection, Madam President, will be inserted under provision 40 of the Principal Act. And basically, Madam President, it takes care of the regulatory powers which will be... Although the principal Acts give the Minister so much power already,

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

there is no power to make regulations regarding the protection of marine mammals.

Madam President, section 4 (b) will now take care of allowing the creation of offences with a penalty of up to EC\$100,000 or 12 months in prison. If you're making regulations, Madam President, don't have a penalty with it, then nobody will feel that you're serious. So, Madam President, this important clause must be registered in this piece of legislation.

As I speak, Madam President, of the four clauses the Ministry of Fisheries has almost completed or completed the draft regulations which will seek to prohibit intentional taking or injuring of marine mammals and contain others measures including; mandates that the Chief Fisheries Officer prepare a marines management plan which measures to guide commercial fishing in a manner that protects marine mammals. The anticipated enactments, Madam President, of the Bill and the regulations is intended to enable Grenada to reapply to NOAA for the lifting of the potential ban come the 1st January 2026.

In conclusion, Madam President, this Bill again is not about bureaucracy. It's not about making things difficult for our farmers. It's about protecting the livelihood of this very important nation, our people. It is about protecting our environment. If we don't have closed seasons for some of our animal species in Grenada, they might be wiped out by now, and we also have a responsibility, Madam President, for keeping Grenada on the competitive market.

I believe that the passage of this Bill is practical, it's necessary, and it's urgent, and I therefore urge every Member of this House to debate this Bill, discuss this Bill, and ultimately let us pass this Bill in the interest of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. I now commend this Bill to this Honourable House. Thank you.

**(Applause)**

**Madam President:** I thank the Leader of Government's Business in the Senate for the presentation of this Bill. The debate is open, gentlemen and ladies. From the fishing constituency, the... Senator Norland Cox, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique. Senator Cox, you have the floor, sir.

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, when you said fishing constituency, I saw Senator Quinc Britton watch me **(laughter)** in a kind of way, you know, so I caution Madam President. You know.

**Madam President:** Yes, and I take precaution and withdraw... Withdraw constituency... **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Yes.

**Madam President:** And the other "c"... The fishing community. **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Madam President, I think it's important and appropriate that I commence my contribution to this Bill by saying that I'm in support of this Bill.

This Bill really underscores a national issue that we have before us that we are trying to address. It's a Bill that will have a significant impact on livelihoods. While the Leader of Government's Business spoke a lot about the macroeconomic impacts, they're going to have some significant microeconomic impacts on rural communities and families, and I think that is something that we must pay attention to as well.

Madam President, I think this Bill is an important first step for us to address all the necessary requirements for us to get back to where we ought to be. Madam President, the presenter of the Bill spoke about the issue of comparability findings. I think it's important to just simplify for people to understand, because a lot of these have created some confusion out in the community, people having different understandings, different interpretations of what is before us. And basically, it's in a simple way.

What the Leader of Government's Business is saying is that if you want to export seafood or fish products to us, your fishermen have to abide by the same laws that our fishermen have to abide by. Basically, that is what they're saying and if you're a fisherman, meaning Grenadian fishermen.

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**Madam President:** Fisher people. **(Laughter)** There are men and women in fishing in Grenada.

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Well, Madam President, **(laughter)** you're forcing me to go biblical because when the Bible speaks about men, it means both men and women **(laughter)** but nonetheless. **(Laughter)** Madam President, I mean no intention, in any way to discredit the work that women do in the fishing sector, but I think everybody understands the context in which we speak, and this is presented. So, Madam President, for some comfort for the House, fisherfolk or persons involved in the fishing sector... **(Laughter)** I didn't realise I was so popular.

**Madam President:** Go into teaching. **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Norland Cox:** Madam President, it's something that we have to pay attention to. Basically, what they're saying is that we need to be up to speed, and I think in retrospect it creates some level of fairness for the sector, to say if you want to participate in the sector, you have to abide by the laws that our people who are involved in fishing for their livelihood do. So, I think that is what is before us. So in simple terms, that is what they are asking us to do.

But, Madam President, as you know, in the scope of things and where we are in terms of the growth and development of our fishing sector, changes continue to take place over time, and those requirements continue to move, and it forces us as a country to make adjustments. If you recall, Madam President, only a few years ago, we actually started the whole issue of long-line fishing, and it's basically a new technology in a sense. While Grenada's fisheries are much more modern than those of our small sister islands like St. Vincent and other countries, it shows that we still have a long way to go.

Basically, Madam President, what is before us is much more than this Bill today. What is before us is much more than regulations that are going to be developed as a result of this Bill. And I think it's important for us to bring those to bear. I think it's

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

important.

Madam President, when the Leader of Government's Business, the presenter of the Bill, spoke about the observer and the monitoring, it is a lot more complex than just what is contained in front of us. It basically means, Madam President, our fishing gear will have to change, meaning the particular type of hook that we normally use that may take up a mammal, a marine mammal, while we are hunting for tuna, which is the prime catch, it means that the fishing gear would have to change. I know some of the vessels have already complied. In terms of the hook, the hooks will have to change to minimise the impact, so if you want to catch a mammal, it could be easily released and returned.

It also means, Madam President, that there will have to be some form of monitoring while the fishing process is taking place. So there's a strong likelihood that the boats will have to be equipped with special cameras to monitor the fishing. It also means that the observer may, from time to time, have to go out at sea with one or two of the boats to monitor and to gather information. It also means that vessels will have to be monitored as to where they are fishing, where they are getting their catch, Madam President. So, all these, while not contained in this Bill, are what our fishing community will have to deal with going forward, Madam President. I think it's important to underscore that.

The reason why, Madam President, I'm saying this is because from my interaction with persons involved in the fishing sector, there is a lot of uncertainty, a lot of uncertainty, and it's important that we bring some clarity to this so that people know what to expect, what is expected of them.

I think Madam President, there's a great opportunity for the Government to also engage in getting our fishing community in terms of readiness from a mental standpoint, understanding what is before us and the importance of it. Sometimes, if we do not do that, if we don't prepare them when we implement, we start to have challenges, we set to have breaches, so I think there is a serious need for some issue of training in terms of people readiness to deal with the whole issue of compliance. Because if that is not done successfully, I'm afraid that we would not be able to achieve what we are seeking to do, as I said, this Bill is a first and necessary and important step, and we are very happy that

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

we are doing this today, but there is much more we have to get done.

Madam President, the mention was made of opportunities for alternative markets. I still think, yes, that is a viable concern, and that has always been a concern, not just in the fishing sector, but also in every sector. But, without saying that Madam President, whether we are looking for alternative markets, the whole issue of compliance, the whole issue of standards is ever present in the space right now in which countries trade. So what we are doing will only help us to find better markets. We already have compliance clearance to ship to the European Union, which is good, and so, if we get ourselves back in line for the United States to achieve that compliance, it will only add more assets for us to look for alternative markets. So I do agree, Madam President, there's a great opportunity for that.

Madam President, there is one thing I really want to underscore, and I think it's very important for us to underscore this, and I speak about it: the microeconomic impacts. What does this mean for us? Maybe Madam President, the mover of the Bill, on several occasions, has indicated a potential ban, and I would like some clarity. I think it's important, and the question is, does it mean by us passing this Bill... Does it mean that it is okay for us to export on or before 1st January? Does it mean that the ban will have to go into effect, and do we have to apply it then to get compliance?

I think it's important for us to understand that and not just for us here, but also for the fishing community. It's important, and it's fair for them to know what to expect and the reason why I'm saying this, Madam President, is because of the people who are going to be impacted who need to know how to prepare, and for how long to prepare. And let's just put it in context that one of the persons who may own a fish vessel may well have a mortgage for that vessel, and may have other financial commitments.

The question is, if they are now unable to export fish come 1st January, what happens to them? And that is the question they are asking themselves. What do we do? How long can I hold out? How long can my reserves support myself and my family or my business, until we get this? I think it's important, Madam President, that some clarity, some conservative time frame be looked at in terms of achieving and bringing some

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

comfort to persons who are going to be directly impacted by this.

So, while, yes, the economy may have the potential to lose millions of dollars on an annual basis, I still think it is far more grievous if families who are directly involved in the sector... The question is, Madam President, there might be some persons who may, if this ban goes into effect, I don't know, as the Leader said, "potential" persons may get out of this sector altogether. Some people may not.

One of the things that we observe is that when you have these things, these issues, people are unable to come back into the sector for obvious reasons. When you have, for example, a hurricane, some businesses don't come back, and this in itself is a significant impact on the businesses of the people involved in this. So, I am saying that we are very happy that this is the first and important step, but I think there is a clear opportunity for much more to be done in terms of readiness by the persons who are directly involved in the sector, and I'm saying this because of the interactions that I have been having with persons asking questions, some of which I cannot answer, so I could only give a conservative response. But I cannot answer, because the question is, are we going to see a ban come January, and that is, that is "the question, and if so, how long do we anticipate that it is going to be in place based on what we have to do, based on the steps, based on the procedures that we have to do to actually remove it and to get the clearance on what is going to happen?"

I think it's important for... and fair that there's some fairness for the persons involved in the sector to know what is happening, Madam President. I think that for me is the core of where we are today, and I am quite certain that the fishermen are very happy to hear that the Government and, of course, the Parliament are here passing this Bill, but I'm quite certain that they are far more concerned with what is going to happen, and I think that is something for the Government of day and the Ministry of Fisheries to really ponder.

So, Madam President, with these few contributions that I really want to again express my support for this Bill, but to say that we appreciate and, of course, welcome this initial step, but I think the greater part of the work is yet to be done. Thank you very

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

much, Madam President.

**Madam President:** I thank you, Senator Cox, on many levels, including fisherfolk, and I take it that the question you posed has been heard by the presenter, and in the course of time during this debate, I'm sure a reply is forthcoming, so fear not. I offer the floor to the gracious Senator from well, I say you are from St. Patrick, I don't know where in Grenada you reside (**laughter**), but I go to your roots. Senator Seville Francis, you have the floor, Madam.

**Sen. the Hon. Seville Francis:** Thank you, Madam President, and allow me to say a special, special good morning to everyone in this Honourable House today. Madam President, and a special good morning to our fisherfolk throughout our tri-island state.

Madam President, I must, before I proceed with my presentation, thank the Honourable Norland Cox for his contribution and the recommendations that he provided. Madam President, I think it is fair, I think it is just, and I think the right questions are being asked, but I have one response to that, and it is as he rightfully articulated, it's a process, it's a step in the right direction, and so after this amendment to this Bill, we will do. I know that our Honourable Minister with responsibility for the fishing industry is working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that this ban does not come into full effect. So we can rest assured that what needs to be done is being done to ensure that there aren't greater penalties for the lack thereof to this amendment, Madam President.

Madam President, this amendment to us or this amendment before us this morning may come at a time that I would consider to be unfortunate, but as I often say, there is no better time than the present to make amends for what no longer serves the development of our people.

Madam President, this Bill, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeks to strengthen an existing framework, an existing framework that serves for the protection and management of our marine life, but particularly, Madam President, our marine mammals, while ensuring that we strike that balance between the livelihood of our

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

fisherfolk and the sustainability of our ecosystem.

Madam President, before I proceed further, I also wish to pause to recognise the tremendous contributions that our fisherfolk make to our beloved island, Madam President. Madam President, allow me to speak directly to our fishermen and our fisherwomen, the heartbeat of our coastal communities. I know that this conversation and the uncertainty surrounding possible restrictions have caused anxiety and unrest, and I hear it, and I've seen it, Madam President. I sat here this morning, and I started drafting an apology on behalf of those of us who are serving the fisherfolk of our nation, Madam President.

The fear that your way of life might have been disrupted is real, and it deserves to be acknowledged. I offer a sincere apology to those who may have felt the emotional weight of this process. You should not have had to endure that distress, but please be assured that we are here today precisely because we are working assiduously to fix it. We are not here to penalise our fisherfolk. We are here to protect them by ensuring that Grenada's fishing industry continues to thrive legally, more importantly, sustainably and competitively both now and in the decades ahead.

Madam President, fishing in Grenada is more than an occupation. It is a heritage, Madam President, because we have a generation of fisherfolk, and I see it's a business that would never go out of style, Madam President. It's not one that AI can take over just like that. It is one that is needed and forever will remain Madam President. It feeds our nation, it sustains our families, and it contributes meaningfully to our economy and GDP. And I think the Honourable Leader of Government's Business, in his statistics, showed how lucrative and credible this industry is. In many communities, the ocean is both a pantry and a pay cheque.

Madam President, but we must also recognise that the ocean is not an infinite source; sustainability is now the most valuable currency in the global fisheries industry. Countries that demonstrate responsible fishing practices and strong conservation standards are the ones that will continue to access lucrative export markets and international support. And, Madam President, I would love for our beloved Grenada,

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Carriacou and Petite Martinique to be part of the statistics that show that we have a lucrative export market and international support.

Madam President, the modernisation of our approach through this amendment introduces a system for scientific observation and monitoring. And essentially, what we're saying is that going forward, we should not have to guess how our fishing industry is contributing, Madam President. What we're doing through this modernisation is also empowering train observers to collect real-time data.

And we know that data is one of the things, as well as statistics, we cry over and over because we cannot find statistics to help us form policy or legislation, Madam President, that best serves our people. So, this modernisation will help us to do just that, to collect the real-time data on marine activity, the fish catches, and the marine mammal interactions. And I can see, Madam President, how something like that can go beyond just the surface of what it is intended to do.

This is not just about us creating policy or policy directives, but I see it as a partnership, Madam President. I see this as a partnership between science and the industry. Madam President, I see this as a partnership between the fisherfolk and the Government. Madam President, I see this as a sure way to ensure that the decisions we make about the sea are guided by data, not guesswork, because we often think that the sea is an infinite source. Right?

Madam President, by recognising marine mammals under the Act, we are aligning Grenada with international conservation efforts and standards, and giving our minister, whomever it may be, the authority to regulate and protect our marine life and maintain balance in the sector.

Madam President, you know, oftentimes we say that our fisherfolk makes a lot of money, but sometimes we can't see it. Right? Again, because we think that it's an infinite source, but Madam President, I think by modernising this approach, we're also going to be teaching our fisherfolk how to see and to value the industry that they are a part of. And as also articulated by our Leader of Government's Business, it gives us an opportunity to expand our horizons and not just look for one specific area or region for

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

export. But to see... I think this opportunity really took us out of the comfort zone that we're in, to now see how far we can expand or to see where else we can export.

The conversations that came up because of that, I think, were really overdue, and although it came as an unfortunate time, I think it is best that it started at some point rather than never being started at all.

Madam President, the penalties that are outlined in the amendment are not meant to punish anyone indiscriminately, but what they seek to do is to uphold accountability and safeguard the sustainability of all of our resources. Madam President, in essence, this Bill is about balance—balance between protection and prospective prosperity between conservation and continuation, Madam President, and it reflects that our Government is willing to listen, to act and to course correct when necessary.

So, while this amendment, Madam President, may have arisen from challenging circumstances, it presents us with an opportunity to lead differently, to make policy not just out of reaction but with reflection and reform, more importantly.

Madam President, in closing, I lend my support fully to this Bill, not only because it is a correction in our legislation, but it's because it demonstrates compassion and care for those who depend on the sea for survival. May this amendment mark a renewed chapter in our fisheries sector, Madam President, one where our fishers are empowered, our oceans are respected, and our children inherit both an economy and an environment that are thriving. Madam President, I thank you. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator Seville Francis. Thank you very much. Senator Adrian Thomas. You have the floor, Senator. Will you wait a bit? **(Inaudible comment by a Senator)** Error. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Mondy André Lewis. You have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Mondy André Lewis:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I, too, wish to stand in support of this Bill for a number of reasons so profoundly advanced by Senator Norland Cox, Leader of Government's Business, and to some extent as

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

advanced by Senator Francis.

I, too, would like some specific answers as to the issue of whether this ban will be coming into effect, whether or not we have an opportunity now to prevent this ban, because I heard the use of the term “potential”, and why am I belabouring this? Our fisherfolk need to have certainty because this is not a simple matter. This is a matter that impacts their livelihood and impacts the community, because it extends beyond just the fisherfolk. It extends to their families. It extends to businesses. It extends to the whole nation, and therefore, even in the midst of a crisis or in facing crises when you have concrete information, it allows you to be better prepared or to be able to handle this issue, so it is important to know that.

Also, it is important for us to know, if the answer to the question is, we are not yet in a position or we will not be in a position to prevent the ban from coming into effect from January 1, 2026, give us a time frame as to when we see, that based on all that we have to do, to be able to give some idea as to when these things are possible. We would expect that while we work within these halls to get the necessary legislative processes in place, there will be what we call behind-the-scenes or outside this place, diplomatic discussions taking place, so that we can give an idea to the US, we are speaking of the US, in particular, yes, as to what we are doing. I'm trying to soften the ground as much as possible so that we can know that once we do A, B, C or D, we can get this ban, if it comes into effect, lifted by February or March, something that allows us to be able to work towards this.

I know it is said that this ban, or potential ban, presents an opportunity for us to do things better, to do things that we ought to have been doing, but it is rather unfortunate. The aspect of alternative markets ought not to be driven by what we are facing now. The aspect that Senator Cox addressed, and it is not just the fishing industry... We are dealing specifically with the fishing industry, but I hope that we are not reactive, looking for better ways and means of advancing nationally and locally, issues that we deal with every day, given the importance of the fishing industry to us.

What I am also not clear on is whether or not the standards that we are now putting

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

into legislation to demonstrate to the rest of the world and to the US that we have legislation in place... My understanding, even based on the contribution from the Leader of Government's Business, is that most of the practices that we are involved in, we may not be directly involved in a number of the things here that we have to put legislation to avoid, but we need to demonstrate that we have that legislation.

So my question is, whether or not the standards that we are putting in the legislation and will come up through regulations, are they for every single fisherfolk? So whether or not you have a boat that is 15 feet, right, whether or not how far you go out, yes, and the monitoring and everything, the equipment of the boat and everything have to be acquired... So be it whether or not you are in Marquis or in St. Mark or Gouyave or Petite Martinique, and understanding that Petite Martinique and Carriacou are more involved in what we call a long-line fishing, yes, whether or not every single person who is involved in fishing regardless of their scale, large scale or small scale, has to meet or has to be guided by those regulations. That would be important for me too, because people will be asking, because we speak about those things inside here. Yes?

A point raised by Senator Cox that I wish to go a bit deeper into... We must admit. He didn't make that point. I'm making that point, and then piggybacking on some of the things that he raised. I think we all could agree. I must admit that the ban that we are facing was not brought upon us by the fisherfolk, yes, but they are the ones who will be most directly impacted, and the nation as a whole. Therefore, because it was not brought about by some fault of theirs or something that they did not do, what systems are we putting in place, or what discussions are we having in place to have a discussion with them as to see how they will be impacted and what system can be put in place to assist them?

We are speaking about real families. We are speaking about people who may be impacted by their education, their schooling. Just as how the rural economy and the collapse of the agriculture has impacted many of the rural colleagues at all levels recognising that agriculture, cocoa, nutmeg, banana were used to send many of us to school, and with the collapse of that industry how it has impacted with the urban drift, the

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

drift from the rural economy, from the rural area down to the to the south, in particular, if one may say, and the impact that has had.

We need to, as of this moment, if we have not yet started to do so, seriously engage the community, the fishing community, and it therefore calls upon us as a state to be extremely more prudent in how we use whatever little resources that we have. So we have to prioritise where we spend our money, and what we spend our money on.

This is not a case of speaking about handouts. This is not a case about speaking about, people are depending and looking towards the Government for help, but if we accept, and we must accept these challenges that are coming, and not just coming, that is here... Psychologically, one can also understand from now what the fisherfolk and the wider community that depends on them would be going through. The aspect of uncertainty...

Therefore, we have that duty, and I'm saying we collectively, as a state and as organisations, to understand the size of the fishing community, as the Leader of Government's Business spoke about, shows that it has serious potential for negative implications. I know resources are scarce, especially in this particular period, but we owe it to that community to give whatever assistance can be given.

Not from just being... In terms of empathy. Empathy will come in when one can also say that there's a contributing factor by the person who is impacted, but in this case, in my humble view, this was not brought upon by the fisherfolk because they went out there, and they were reckless or careless. I'm not saying that anyone is saying this, but I'm saying that that should serve as an added incentive for us in terms of our duties and responsibilities. I remain confident that we can address these matters because, as I've said, we have demonstrated over the past that when we are faced with challenges, we can take decisive actions. I remain convinced about that.

Just in direct relation to the Bill itself... Section 4. Just a question. I think, under the amendments to section 40. In Senator Francis's contribution, she may have provided an answer, but as much as I respect your view and matter, it would also be good for me to ask the question so that those who are more endowed than we are can answer.

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

Under the aspect of the fine, under 4 (b), “(4) there may be attached to regulations made under this section a fine of E\$100,000 or imprisonment for 12 months”. So my question is whether or not it is a fixed EC\$100,000 or it can vary because there might be... **(Inaudible comment by a Senator)** It varies? So I accept that. Just been told it varies...

And the aspect “may here” carries the weight of shall, I'm taking it, meaning that it is not optional. In other words, I am asking that “may” here... So, in other words, it's not up to the Minister to determine whether or not there should be a penalty. There will be a penalty, but it is up to... And you can also be imprisoned. Right? So I'm taking that “may” here carries the weight of shall, that there will be penalties. Once you violate, it is expected that there will be some level of penalty, one wouldn't want to say punishment, but there will be some level of penalty to experience some level of enforcement.

That, Madam President, is my contribution, and to extend labour's solidarity to the fishing industry on this matter, and to repeat once again our support for the Bill, and solidarity. Thank you very much, Madam President. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** I thank you, Senator Lewis, and the floor is offered to Senator David Andrew. You have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. David Andrew:** Thank you very much, Madam President. Good morning to you, good morning to all of my colleagues in the Chamber and to everyone following this broadcast through whatever platform or means you're doing this. This very important amendment today, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025. A Bill that I would say, Madam President, is very timely, but very long overdue.

I say it's very timely because it's time sensitive, given the potential impact it could have on Grenada's economy, but it's long overdue because this was first brought... The misalignment in legislation was first brought to the attention of the then-Grenadian Government in 2018, and in 2025, of course, we received final notice that the actions were going to be taken because this had been brought to the attention of the Government

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

since 2018 and not addressed, as far as I understand.

Madam President, quickly answering a couple of the questions because... Are we going to see a ban in January? The reality is there's no way we could give a concise answer. What we know is that it was brought to our attention, gaps were identified, and the Government of Grenada is treating the areas that it can treat. That is why we are here. That is why we are making sure the legislation is aligned with NOAA's legislation to ensure that we are in compliance and that our fishermen and women, our fisherfolk, cannot be denied the opportunity to ply their trade and export to the United States.

Our agencies, in fact, Foreign Affairs... I'm aware that our Ambassador in the United States, the Ministry of the Blue Economy are all in touch and engaging with NOAA so that we can have final updates as to what the timelines could be, if we'd have to reapply, but I know that process is ongoing so as soon as we have that information will be more than happy to make it available to the public. As it is, we do not yet have it, but I can tell you we are engaging every process necessary to ensure that we have the best responses to reliably conform to our citizens, so the Government is doing its part.

Madam President, the question was asked. Well, I think Senator André talked about... He referred to the... He made the statement that he hopes it's not a crisis that is driving the improvements and the response. Well, the truth is, we don't often have control over those situations when they come, but I think our response... There's one quote that says, "Life is 10% what happens and 90% how you respond to it".

And so when the situations come about, sometimes we don't have control, but I think if we take a gauge on how responsibly and how responsibly the response comes, then we could be in a good place, and with every crisis, and I'm sure you know my colleague, there is an opportunity for some gain, some benefit. We can go back in history and talk about several crises that probably presented themselves and the benefits that came out afterwards, but we don't need to go there. But I'm saying, and I'm seconding the statement by my colleague Senator Francis, that out of this crisis, we have several potential opportunities.

And the final thing I'll mention is, I know that there has been and there is ongoing

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

engagement of the fisherfolk. Even at the level of the Cabinet, we had some of the major fisherfolk stakeholders engage with the Cabinet, expressing how this is likely to impact them, so that we had a first-hand understanding of what this potential situation could result in for them. Right. So we have been engaging, and I know there's continuous or continual engagement with the fishing community to ensure that we respond appropriately.

Madam President, to the Bill a little bit. So this Bill seeks to create legislative alignment with the Grenada Fisheries Bill in respect to marine mammals and those of the United States. We have to accept the reality, Madam President, that Grenada was far behind. Outside of the potential ban, and I'll address it from that area as well, but Grenada's legislation was far behind in treating with those marine mammals.

Many of our marine mammals are in danger, and some of them are critically so, and to have had legislation that doesn't expressly protect those and dangerous species is far less than ideal, and so this provides the opportunity to upgrade. It provides the opportunity to address a long-standing and outstanding issue of the protection of our marine mammals, and by extension increases the sustainability of the fishing sector, because if we indiscriminately treat with marine mammals, if we indiscriminately treat with the precious resources of the Blue Economy, the sustainability of that sector can be threatened, and so this legislation alignment seeks to support that.

Madam President, I want us to recognise that apart from treating with the endangered species, this is very timely because a potential ban on Grenada's fishing sector will have an immensely great economic impact. I think lots of people are echoing that. We know for a fact that fishing alone contributes, as the 2023 Estimates indicated, approximately 1.3 % of the gross domestic product of Grenada. Somebody might say, well, that's small, but that's thousands of families, individuals being positively impacted. This contributes approximately over EC\$50 million to the sector and the economy, and it has been consistent over decades generally.

Madam President, this does not even talk about the uncaptured elements and undertakings in the fishing sector that are not captured in a way that can be computed

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

and calculated as a part of GDP. There are a lot of informal undertakings in the fishing sector that are not captured. In fact, that's one of the things the Minister in the "Other Place" for Fisheries and Agriculture needs to look into so that we can more reliably capture those informal sectors in the fishing area, in the fishing division that contribute to GDP. So I'm saying that the GDP could even be greater than what is really accounted for in these figures, and so lots of people will be affected.

The legislation seeks to strengthen monitoring systems and improve reporting, and that is critical; it might also mean improving the equipment, and I was happy to hear in the "Other Place" the Minister for the Environment talk about efforts they had undertaken to upgrade the gear for fisherfolk. I know there was training, for instance, organised by the Fisheries Department for young fishermen and sea captains. In fact, some of the fishermen from the electoral district in which I reside, Soubise, benefited from that training. They personally mentioned so to me, and I know there were distribution of certain safety gear, so we're heading in the right direction, and I do agree with Senator Cox, that there might be quite a bit more to do to strengthen the monetary capabilities, and the abilities of our fisherfolk to remain safe and to be able to record the catches and all of those things that might be necessary to be in compliance with the legislation.

Madam President, this legislation comes at a time when, if we don't treat with it, we will not avert a potential ban, and we are confident that as we, as a Government, responsibly continue to do what is required of us to align our legislation and to put all the structures in place for monitoring, for recording and for being able to observe to report appropriately that we will eventually avert the consequences of that ban. We are happy at this point that as a Government we are doing what is required, and so I give my full, unequivocal support to this Bill, this Amendment as presented by the Leader of Government's Business. I thank you very much. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator Andrew. The Representative for Fishers in the Senate, Senator, is it you? **(Inaudible comment by a Senator)** No? It's Senator... Who? Listen people. Senator Rahman, Representative for Business in the Senate.

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** Thank you very much, Madam President. God willing, I will be brief. On behalf of the business sector, on behalf of business, I, too, stand to give support to this very important Bill, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**Madam President:** And I know you will... Pardon the interruption. I know you will do as you normally do—speak on the Bill.

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** I try to.

**Madam President:** Give us a treaty.

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** So, Madam President, from a private sector standpoint, the US market is the market. It is not the only market, and we know that diversification is important for every sector, but the fact is that it is our best market and has been a win-win for us all for business, for fishermen, and for the US market.

Madam President, lands and nations have clearly defined and observable boundaries, but oceans and seas do not, and by extension, sea mammals go wherever God Almighty wills for them to go, and this is why it is important to have one standard across the board as it relates to this issue.

Madam President, as we understand it, suspension by NOAA is the result of years of failing to come up to speed and to meet the standards that have been required for a long time. Madam President, as we also understand, this ban takes effect January 1, 2026. Madam President, what we are doing here today and what the task force and related Ministries have been doing is to make sure that we are ready before that ban comes into effect.

We heard this morning from the Leader of Government's Business that about 4,000 fisherfolk are self-employed directly in this industry. Madam President, that figure can be multiplied by at least four when you factor in their dependence, family members and so forth (**applause**), and that number can be further multiplied to our entire society.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

In short, everyone who consumes seafood knows how important this sector is.

Madam President, when we think about the economic impact and spin-off of spending within the local community, the fishing industry is critical to the local community, whether it is in Carriacou, Petite Martinique, Marquis, Woburn, Calliste, Gouyave, Victoria, or Sauteurs, where spending is concerned. We therefore offer two suggestions for consideration.

While the Government cannot subsidise every important industry, the question is what the Government can or is willing to do, let us say, after 30 days or 60 days, God forbid, has elapsed if it has not been resolved? That needs to be thought of, and the recommendation is that the Government needs to be prepared for different scenarios.

Secondly, we understand that there will be a digital vessel monitoring system, so in addition to strengthening data collection, in light of the heavy military presence in our region, this digital system and this digital ID can be shared with the US military to remove or reduce any risk for fishermen while out at sea so they will know who we are, we have our people out there and so that they are not a target by any mistake.

So I think that those two suggestions are what we would like to share this morning. I, we, fully support this Bill and commend the Government for their speedy and hard work with the task force and so forth with regard to this issue. I thank you. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator Rahaman. Senator Gloria Thomas. You have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Gloria Thomas:** Thank you, Madam President. Pleasant, good morning to everyone in this Honourable House.

I stand to add my voice to the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and to give my full support to the said Bill. I believe that this Bill is a very important Bill for us here in this House, and the country as a whole, because this Bill seeks to strengthen Grenada's fishery sector by improving sustainability, protecting marine life and then safeguarding international trade opportunities.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Madam President, Honourable Members, today we are called upon to make a decision that will shape the future of Grenada's fishery sector, a decision that will affect the livelihood of our people and the health of the marine environment.

The Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, is not a technical adjustment. It is a safeguard for our economy, our sovereignty and our responsibility to the future of this country, the future generations. Grenada's fisheries are the lifeblood of thousands of families. It puts food on our tables and income in our communities. Without this amendment, we risk losing access to vital export markets, especially in the USA. Honourable Members, can we afford to jeopardise millions in trade revenue that depends on it? This deal ensures compliance with international standards, keeping our doors open to Global Markets.

Madam President, for too long, illegal and unreported fishing has undermined our sector. By establishing a formal observer system, we can introduce transparency and oversight. Observers will monitor vessels, record practices and ensure that Grenadian fisheries are beyond reproach. This is not bureaucracy; it is accountability.

The amendment empowers the Minister to regulate the protection of marine mammals. These creatures are very much part of our ecosystem. They are symbols of our natural heritage. Protecting them is a moral duty and a global expectation. With this Bill, Grenada stands tall as a responsible steward of the ocean.

Madam President, the world is watching. Our compliance with NOAA standards is not optional. It is essential. By passing this Bill, Grenada demonstrates that we are serious about sustainable fisheries management. We strengthen our reputation. We attract investment, and we secure our place in international negotiations. This amendment is more than fishing. It is about jobs. It is about trade. It is about transparency, and our duty to protect the environment. It is about ensuring that Grenada's Blue Economy thrives in the decade to come.

Madam President, I want to urge us to support this Bill because by aligning with the global sustainability standards, Grenada strengthens its reputation as a responsible fishing nation, which can attract investment and partnership in the Blue Economy.

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Madam President, let us not falter. Let us pass the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with conviction, with unity and with pride.

In short, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill protects the marine ecosystem, strengthens enforcement, ensures Grenada's compliance with international standards, and secures the economic future of its fishing industry. I now pledge my support to the Bill again. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you very much, Senator Gloria Thomas. Dr. Charles. I offer the floor to Dr. Myanna Charles. Senator, you have the floor.

**Sen. the Hon. Dr. Myanna Charles:** Thank you, Madam President. A pleasant good morning to my colleagues here today. I want to start, Madam President, by acknowledging that this Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, is a necessary step, and I rise today in support of this Bill, and I hope to see more for this crucial sector going forward.

And, you know, this morning I stand with our fisherfolk. I hail from St. Mark, you know, where fishing is a significant part of our communities. I stand with our vendors, our processes and others in supporting any measure that strengthens the future of this sector and helps safeguard the livelihoods of thousands that depend on it. And by establishing a monitoring programme and defining marine mammals in our law, the Bill moves closer to the standards that are required.

Now, as I support this Bill, I want to raise an important observation, and that observation is whether the legislation before us fully addresses the main concerns raised by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the very concerns that have resulted in a potential ban that is carded for January 2026, as I understand it.

The Bill, based on my understanding, creates a framework for monitoring and data collection, but it doesn't appear in itself to include a clear prohibition on the intentional harming of marine mammals, which, based on my understanding, NOAA identified as a co-gap in our existing legislation. And I just hope that my colleagues on the "Other Side" can provide clarity in this regard, or at least urgently attend to this matter in the

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

regulations, considering the time constraint at this stage, as they may have additional information on the accompanying regulations or measures intended to address this important requirement.

Additionally, Madam President, I know that the Bill places considerable authority in the hands of select individuals to develop and manage this monitoring system. While this is understandable, it is a complex, you know, as Senator Cox would have highlighted and costly process and underscores the need for clear standards, accountability and transparency for the administrators and executives so that both fisherfolk and the wider public can have confidence in how these powers will be exercised, as well as how it will impact them. As it stands now, a lot of people are still uncertain as to how this may impact them, their livelihoods and their families.

And in concluding my brief remarks, you know, I just want to say that we must be certain that what we pass here today will truly meet the standard required to protect our fishing sector, which is a very important sector, as highlighted by many of my colleagues.

Now, my call is a constructive one as our fisherfolk cannot afford the uncertainty because there is still some uncertainty looming out there, and it is our duty to ensure that every measure that we approve in this Honourable House provides clarity, first and foremost, compliance, and a clear pathway and timeline for the sector stability and growth going forward. With this, Madam President, I conclude my contribution and again, lend my support to this important Bill. Thank you. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** I thank you, Senator Charles. Thank you. I offer the floor to Senator Claudette Joseph. Senator, you have the floor, madam.

**Sen. the Hon. Claudette Joseph:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise to present some remarks in this debate, and these remarks, Madam President, will be supportive of the Bill before this Honourable House.

Madam President, I note, with approval... So, the mic is not on? Sorry about that, Madam President. I was saying, I note with approval, the contributions of all of the

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

Members of this Honourable House who have spoken or contributed so far, and I also know that everyone appreciates the significance of this matter and the urgency with which we must act, so that the over 990 registered vessels, the owners and operators of over 990 registered fishing vessels, are not adversely affected and the over 4000 registered fishers.

Of course, the Leader of Government's Business gave these statistics, but he didn't give the statistics in relation to the ancillary people, the people who benefit from the industry, the vendors and, of course, the ultimate consumers. The vendors in particular stand to be adversely affected in a serious way, which will trickle down in a negative way on our economy if we do not come up to standard as required by NOAA.

Madam President, I know that these matters, these requirements for us to update our legislation were communicated to our Government as far back as 2015 or 2016, and so, collectively, we all must take responsibility for the inordinate delay in treating with this matter and trust that this step that we are going to take today will aid in the avoidance of the of the ban which is set to come into force on January 1, if these remedial matters are not in place. Updating the legislation, Madam President, is just one of the steps that we must take to avoid the ban coming into automatic effect.

Madam President, this is required legislatively because we have a Fisheries Act, which is dated and has not been upgraded over time, even when we were encouraged to do so, as far back as 2015, and so the Act goes back to 1986. We will appreciate from a global standpoint matters of protecting the natural ecosystems, the oceans and the creatures that form the ecosystem or that are part of the ecosystem. Those perhaps were not as prominently focused on back then as they are today—those who are not necessarily matters of international significance as they are today.

So, in a sense, we did not move with the times in keeping our legislation current; hence, Madam President, we are now required to amend our legislation to make specific provisions for the protection of sea mammals, and those are listed in the legislation. The regulations that will accompany the legislation and will come into force together with the legislation go into some detail. The regulations are not before this Honourable House

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

because they are not required to be before the Honourable House, but, Madam President, I would just mention a few aspects of the regulations that I hope will answer some of the questions that are understandably posed by other Members of this House who might not have had sight of the regulations.

So, the regulations will, in Part II, provide for the protection of marine mammals, and there will be provisions in there prohibiting the intentional taking or injuring of marine mammals. There will be regulations relating to the sale of marine mammals or the prohibition of sub-sale. There will be requirements in the regulations for marine mammals that are caught accidentally or entangled while fishing, requirements for them to be returned safely to the ocean and, of course, reporting requirements also accompany the return. So it is not just returning them, but sighting accidental catching of the mammals, and so it is to be reported. So there is a whole section there treating with reporting of incidental catch and interactions with marine mammals.

The Fisheries Division, through the officer, may request of fishermen, for example, returning from fishing or farming, relating to the approximate proximity of fishing vessels and any deployed fishing gear, the species observed, if identifiable, the number of individuals for each species, the location where each specie were observed and the number of individuals at each location. So, matters like these, Madam President, will allow us not only to protect but also to track and keep account of the population and varieties of marine mammals in our space. So that's basically an upgrade in our legislation.

Of course, the capacity for our fishers to do these things as now will be required by law will mean that they will have to get upgraded equipment, and even the Fisheries Division will also have to be upgraded in their equipment, and the processes will use more scientific methods. So that's why I said what we are doing here today is only one aspect of the steps we must take in order to come into compliance with the NOAA requirements and to allow for our people, the fisherman, the vendors, the exporters, everybody who's affected, to allow for them to avert this automatic ban.

We have been working overtime, Madam President, because as we worked on

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

these regulations and on the amendment to the legislation, the team at the Blue Economy has been across ministries, all the relevant ministries, coming together, and they have been working assiduously to ensure that not only this requirement is met, but all the other requirements in terms of acquiring and being conversant with the equipment and new processes that are required.

So we want to assure the nation, we want to assure the people in this industry that we understand the gravity of the situation, and we understand how severe the impact will be if the ban comes into effect, and we are doing all in our power to ensure that that does not happen. We recognise the over EC\$500 million that represents annual investment in the fishing sector, and so we don't think that lightly. So, we want to assure our people that we are doing our best and all within our power to make sure that we avert this ban.

And so, Madam President, I thank my colleagues in this Honourable House, representing a cross-section of our people, who have all supported this Bill today. This is what we need to have more of: working together, supporting Bills that come before this Honourable House that will directly impact people and improve their lives. So, I commend wholeheartedly, Madam President, this Bill to this Honourable House. Thank you.

**(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator Joseph. Thank you. Senator Dwight Horsford. You have the floor, Senator.

**Sen. the Hon. Dwight Horsford:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I offer my compliments of the season to your good self, the staff, and my colleagues in this Chamber.

Madam President, I rise to lend my voice to the chorus of support for this amendment initiative to the Fisheries Act. I think it is undoubtedly of critical importance, but particularly at this time with a looming ban upon us, and certainly as many of our fisherfolk already find it very difficult to make a dollar in the present environment.

Madam President, this particular Chamber, consistent with its historic reputation

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

and purpose, is a place of sobriety. I think continuing with that high tradition, I must make very brief observations in relation to this Bill and the commentary of my distinguished colleagues in what will shortly follow.

Madam President, the urgency for this enactment, I think, is well known, and we must put it into proper context. When one is in leadership, responsibility is yours, and it must be undertaken in a mature fashion. I mean, there will be an opportunity for dissembling remarks and political jobs in another place, and at another time, but certainly so far as the very critical nature of this Bill is concerned for the lives of fisherfolk, I have just a small difficulty with certain dissembling remarks. So, let me just, as I said, put them into context.

What is the context? I heard from my friends opposite that this requirement was upon a former Government since 2015. One said 2015, one said 2018, what is the situation? The NOAA requirements existed in 2015, but were not enforced by the United States in 2015. The requirement for the protection of mammalian marine life began active enforcement by the United States in or around 2018 when a notice was received in Grenada around that time.

Extension was given, of course, for compliance because of the COVID-19 experience, the ubiquitous COVID-19 pandemic and the extension period was between 2022 and 2025. **(Inaudible comment by a Senator)** 20... That's right, man! I know! That's why I sat quietly. 2022 and 2025, and so we are undertaking it now... Of course, we have to, and we support it, the assessments having been done, but this issue is more about our fisherfolk than any petty political job.

That's a real issue here, you know, because as my distinguished friends, particularly my Senatorial companion to the left, and extreme right, and even the Leader of Government's Business, articulated, it is of critical importance to the fisherfolk because they are the ones who feel it. They are the ones who are feeling it now, Madam President. And so let us, hopefully, because of Christmas too, have sober perspectives about what we're undertaking in the people's name. So, we support it, but the context must be clearly understood.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

There is another important aspect, Madam President. My distinguished friend to the right pointed out something very crucial. It's not just crucial to the enforcement of regulations that are being contemplated now, but vital to the sustainability of the conservation area and conservation mammalian species, and what is that? That is an effective prohibition.

Now, my learned and distinguished friend, the Attorney General, in her contribution, which I am pleased to hear, and much of it certainly rings well with me, Madam President, because what she describes is going to be contained in the regulations, I think, will move things around a little bit more seriously. But, I think what my distinguished friend, Senator Charles, indicated must not be glossed over because it is all well and good to have a mechanism for addressing the reporting of incidents, but there must be strong enforcement in relation to prohibition.

I understand the technological intervention of the monitoring system will assist that, but I think some sober and very profound consideration—there must be pause to consider what my friend has raised here in relation to the prevention approach or the prohibition approach, to our regulatory design. So, Madam President, with these humble few contributions I wish to leave at the table here, my support for the passage of this Bill, and I thank you and my colleagues also for allowing me the opportunity to offer these remarks.

**(Applause)**

**Madam President:** And I thank you, Senator Horsford. I thank you. I offer the floor to our final, first-time contributor...

**(Inaudible comment by Senator Roderick St. Clair)**

**Madam President:** ...Senator Roderick St. Clair.

**(Inaudible comment by Senator)**

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

**Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

**(Laughter)**

**Madam President:** Not inviting a second round. **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** Thank you, Madam President, and I... as I rise, I want to, of course, give greetings to yourself, your staff, of course, all Members of this Chamber on both sides of the Chamber, of course, our listening public, and most importantly, why we came here today; half a million... half a billion dollars investment in an industry, and we came here to discuss only one Bill, and that alone we came here to discuss. At least the fishermen may want to say, as the calypso singer says, "Put some respect to their name," and I think that is what's happening today, that only one Bill, to discuss their matters only, and I trust that they are following and listening anxiously on this matter.

Madam President, I've been trying to figure out where to start because I was almost looked up on to speak second on "This Side", and then I realised the rest of the Members did do justice in their contributions, and I appreciated that to leave me, in this moment, to speak in this regard; I thank you for that honour. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** So, Senator, you may want to figure out where to end.

**(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** **(Laughter)** Yes, so, this is a serious matter, Madam President. Of course, when this matter came to light, I was called by... about two media houses, "Senator, Senator, we want you to speak on this". I said, "Well, what is this about?" And then I myself even reflect and said, "I should've myself, been also monitoring this myself, as the person in the Sector;" but sometimes those things happen too, not only the Government as an individual, and even the fisherfolk themselves, may not even be aware, and they say well they need to organise so they can monitor what's

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

going on, and be independent, and they must manage their business, I don't hear nobody saying that today. If they want to manage their business, they have to know about those things.

So, when I was called, I said, "Well, do you know what the subject is?" "No, no, no, Grenada, the fishermen, they're banned, they can't export," I said, "Well, you can't go and use items like that." So, I went and did my research, and quickly, I started discovering what was happening, and I actually shared some of the information with the News entities, and I trust that they would've used it wisely. I didn't speak on the matter until the Government spoke because I thought it was a National issue that they needed to speak and say what they know, because I don't know what they know. It's just coming to life now, a lot of things that they know that we didn't know, since 2018, 2015, information is coming out.

What I discovered, though, Madam President, through my research on Google, is that sometime in 2008, there was a petition, the same petition that is on our Order Paper, but in Grenada, we don't know how to petition; we only **(laughter)** go on the TV and radio and make noise. The Parliamentary process caters for that, and there was a petition in 2008, Madam President, if you permit me, and this was submitted to the Homeland Security, right? From the centre of Biological Diversity and the Turtle Island Restoration Network, big conservation groups, thousands of Members.

They petitioned their Government, sometime around the 5th of March, 2008, and it was very clear, if I may just read an excerpt, Madam President, of the specific petitioning and what it says, because this is why we're here today. If this petition had not been put forward, and if the Members of Congress and the Senate in those different areas in the US had not paid heed to that and listened to their citizens, we would not be here today. The question is, what are our citizens doing? What are we doing about a lot of issues that are confronting us today, that we're just remaining silent and only talking on the radio?

So, I want to also use this opportunity, Madam President, as an opportunity for learning, learning how the governance system works, or the legislator works, and giving persons an opportunity to understand that they do have a voice, everything don't have to

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

go in the Court House, some of the stuff can come right inside here where we can deal with it because when it is in the Court House, it's still not sustainable. We can get the Attorney General and Dwight Horsford to tell you that, 10 years after things could be repealed, modified, due to new ideas that justices would use in the process of judgment.

So, it says, Madam President, "The Senator, for Biological Diversity and Turtle Island Restoration Network, is writing to request that the Secretaries of Homeland Security, the Treasury, and Commerce, carry out a non-discretionary duty imposed by section 101 (a) (b), of the Marine Mammals Protection Act, MMPA, 16 USC 137A2". Here comes the narrative, "To ban the importation of commercial fish of fish products that have been caught with Commercial Fishing Technology, which results in incidental kills, or incidental serious injuries of Marine Mammals, in excess of the United States standards". What is this standard? I haven't heard what the US standard (**laughter**) is up to now; is it 40, is it 50, is it three per million? I haven't heard that up to now, but we are approving a Bill.

The question is, you need to know the standard, but I'm not going there yet. (**Laughter**) "Contrary to MMPA requirements, the Secretaries have failed, so the people... these conservation groups are saying and putting it to the Secretaries", and it's a whole long document because they have all the scientific studies to show, "... have failed to obtain reasonable proof from countries exporting swordfish, swordfish-products to the US, regarding the impacts of the Commercial Swordfish Fishing Technology and Marine Mammals. Therefore, petitioners requested that Secretaries ban the importation of Swordfish from any and all Countries that have not satisfied the MMPA Section 101 (a) and (b) requirements".

Madam President, this all started with swordfish, but as the process went about, and the debate went along, other conservation groups joined on and the marine mammal part came into it; that is how all of this came about, and sometime in 2010, there was a whole series of discussion back and forth on consultation by the famous NOAA, and of course, it took us to the final rule in 2015... 2016, so in January 2017, this thing came into full effect. So, Senator Horsford continued to... the other part, which I wouldn't go into

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

because he brought us that part, and I was so happy that he did that because it means he was researching, but I said, I'm not bothering with him **(laughter)** because he didn't know the piece before, so...

**(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Rodrick St. Clair:** ... I would help him there. You see how things change perspectives?

So, I say all of this to say, Madam President, that... I heard my goodly friend on the next side, Senator David Andrew, spoke about... He used a word, timely and long overdue, so I'm trying to figure out that timely and long overdue, Madam President, is linked to knowledge. A lot of things they teach us in primary school, we learnt 40 years afterwards that it wasn't really true. So, the fact of the matter is that, if we're doing our work, since in 2005, 2008, this was happening; what it shows to us, Madam President, that our country, if you want to play in the global stage, we need to know what's going on.

Our ministries, our Governments, our businesses, the NGO's, whatever it is for excellence and for survival, we need to know because if we invest, as we speak about the fishermen invest, there are persons who bought both, maybe **(laughter)**, two weeks before this was announced, how are they dealing with that? How is the Bank dealing with that? Because they're going to get scared in terms of exposure, and I go to this background, Madam President, because as we debate this Bill... a Bill is not a piece of paper with words on it, a Bill is a document, could be soft or hard copy, that contains words pertaining to measures, and when you speak about measures, measures have impact on people, that's why we make Laws.

We don't make laws to affect things; it affects people, and so, every time we come here to sit down to make those regulations and laws, it sounds like the people would be affected, and in that regard, we have to ask ourselves, how much the people were consulted in this process? That's a big question; of course, some may say, well, it's rhetorical for me to say that and impart because there was some action from the

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

“Government Side”, having a series of consultations in the stadium, there was one in Gouyave, there was one... I think in Grenville, there was supposed to be one in Carriacou, but because... that wasn't scheduled officially, and I attended all of them.

In fact, the Chief Fisheries Officer said, “Well, you're all over?” I said, “Well, that's one matter that I need to be all over”, and it was generally well turned out, in the evening, the one in the stadium; the first one had close to 100 persons, some of the exporters were present also, not only the fisherfolk, and they are the concerns, but they're also at the same time understood that, “Look, we need to put things in place”. So, they sort of maybe attack and cursing, and vexing that one may generally expect, it wasn't there, and I don't think we should take that as a cue that people are happy, but sometimes when you analyse, whether you have the blade in your hand or whether you have the handle in your hand, the fisherfolk have the blade in their hands, so they have to go easy and pray that everything works right, and so, you shouldn't take that accommodating forum as they are happy because they are hurting.

Of course, it was good that their discussion took place, and that meeting, a series of meetings they were supposed to have at least one and two fisherfolk on a task force that was existing. Some names were taken, and I'm saying publicly, I trust that they were contacted and invited to participate in those meetings that took place. I would follow up personally on that, and I trust that they were honestly involved in the process because if we're dealing with legislation, an impactful thing as that, we need to have... It's part...

In fact, Madam President, in fact, after the first reading, this thing should've been out **(laughter)** discussing the fisherfolk to get their input, as normal best practices, of course, we understand the urgency and in so doing, we trust that what needs to be done will be done because, for example, the fisherfolk question was, “We want to know, what do we have to do; what do we need to do?”

And what they need to do most times, Madam President, will be in the regulations, that's where most of those things will be. Of good, we thank our goodly Senator to share, and apparently she alone might have this copy because nobody else seems to have a copy of the sharing to understand what the fishermen... so, they still had to wait, I will

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

say, before this passes here for the regulations to really take fit, because the regulations cannot exist if the principal Act doesn't empower that... gives the Minister that power, otherwise, it will be a sort of illegal regulation, and so, we trust that these regulations come forth very quick to ensure that our fishers could meet the requirements.

We could set the standard, and the question is, what assessment has been done in terms of the ability of our current fisherfolk to meet the standards? That's an important question, in terms of the type of hooks they may use, for example, there was a big debate in that meeting about J hook, and O hook... and I'm learning those things myself, because they've used the J hook and they said, if it holds a mammal it would be difficult to release it safely and so on; and some said they have to use some O hook... the question is, Madam President, if the O hook would be the one that is desirous, we'll have to look at a few things. What is the effectiveness of the... economically for the fisherfolk? Would they hold more, would they hold less?

Then there was a debate about the size of the hooks, depending on the size of the fish you're holding; so, that's another scientific debate, and here you're speaking to fisherfolk, whose income can immediately change because of these things. Would that be regulated in terms of the must put O hook because in that way, there is a certainty that this mammal would not be, inadvertently, injured? Because if the J is going to cause it somewhat, should the J really be there because there's a chance for it to happen? Why are we going and exposing ourselves then to show, based on the statistics I saw, over 600,000 mammals, on an annual basis, are affected in different ways throughout the world, based on all of these things.

So, in Grenada, from speaking to the fisherfolk and so on, they are cognisant about a lot of these things, and so, they have been doing in their own way, managing that process with whatever technology that we are currently using; they were very clear in saying that, but we know how this business is, show me, show and tell. So, where is the data? Where is your record that needs to be kept? And so, we need to have datasheets for them to collect this data to show we've collected 500 tuna, release two mammals, do that... All these records have to come back to the Fisheries and be submitted to NOAA

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

to prove that we know what we're doing, and we're doing things properly. It's a new education for our fisherfolk. I don't think they have a problem in doing that; the question is, where are the forms?

Have they been trained with these forms over the past few weeks while we're getting ready for this, so that things happening concurrently, which there is some "concurrent-ness", but if the fisherfolk on that end is not brought up to speed, what is going to happen, Madam President, is that we'll say, "Well, we did our part, we passed the law, everything is in place, but them fishermen, you know their heads are hard already, they thing..." No. We're standing up now and saying, "Let us ensure or have they been exposed to this data captured as of now?" Have they been? They should be, and would that be also in the regulation in terms of the sort of data to be collected, and whether it would be manual or digital, because we know these days, you can put this thing digitally, and it could help with data collection very easily.

In fact, one of the greatest concerns out of the Gouyave meeting is this very said issue, and it was not about data collection on the boat, "You know, sometimes you always like to pass the buck and don't watch ourselves," our goodly fisherman said, but when we're coming, do we know? I mean, my good friend, Senator Britton is over there, he knows, those boats **(laughter)** are not coming at 2 o'clock in the evening, and 1 o'clock in the evening and stuff. 12 at night, one in the morning, three in the morning, who is there, waiting in the Fisheries Division to collect this data, and Victoria area, we know that... and I'm not talking who will be there, but we know for sure the challenges they face all two and three in the morning fishes are falling out of their boats because there is no jetty or all kinds of things.

That is a different discussion; we're not going there today, but I'm just sharing this based on my understanding that that will be a challenge, and that was raised in the meeting, and the question would arise, "How do we deal with that?" Because the fisherfolk would do everything, and yet still, the party that is responsible, because it is a Government issue, it's not a fisherman issue, have to ensure that there is a transparency of persons working and being available. One can say... in fact, I even offered to say,

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

“Well, fisherfolk, we could use technology,” you know, you can use a camera, you put it on the scale, and it reads it, and it digitally record it so nobody have to be there; maybe these are things that we have to look at.

Amazon drops off a package for you, they’ll take a picture, email it to you and say we’ve dropped the package. When you go the package **(laughter)** may not even be there, but somebody picked it up but they dropped it back...

**Madam President:** Senator, we find your scenario is... **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** ...No, it’s true, it’s true...

**Madam President:** ...Very interesting...

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** ...Because you can drop in your fish...

**Madam President:** ...Yes, but try to...

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** ...With a camera...

**Madam President:** ...Stick to the Bill.

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** ...Sorry, sorry, Madam President, sorry.

**Madam President:** Thank you, because I find those scenarios were potential scenarios and experiences that you’ve conjured up. I find them very interesting because they’re very probable, so you may use them a little bit more leniently in relation to the undertaking to pass... to debate the Bill itself. I think those are interesting points for the development of the schedule and the Regulations, and so on. So, thank you for your patience. Continue.

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** Yes, I understand, Madam President. See, because maybe my training teaches me to have an acting preventative mode, and don't come and cry afterwards. I like to see things far, but I guess, you know, some folks prefer to see things near. So, the question arises, Madam President, and I built all of this up, so that we'll understand context, because sometimes we must not just say things are hanging. All of this was said; we spoke on data collection, we spoke on how do we analyse and ensure the integrity of the data. No one will ask you that, how you collected it, where you collected it, the people straying to collect it because when you look at, Madam President, if you want to go there we can go there; we can go to clause 3 in the Bill, that speaks about observer and monitoring programmes, that's where I'm going, but **(laughter)** I can't just bring us there like that because the Bill here leaves it hanging, and if you read it like that, you'll end up in trouble.

The question is, you can do... if you read, you can do digital monitoring, and the fisherfolk spoke about that. There is a record there in that, mentioning about, what you call, digital recording, which involves a camera that would monitor things, like a surveillance camera; but it's good that they also have to cater for manual because not everybody could afford. So, the question arises, this observer and monitoring programmes, is not clear to me how this is going to be implemented.

For example, I understand that there will be an observer, and there will be a series of observers. I take it and understand that they will have some certification that they are authentic. I understand that part, but what I don't understand is if each vessel will have an observer; that's the first question, because the amount of vessels I heard about here today, Madam President, and the rate of unemployment in this country, I wonder if we'll get enough people because almost everybody is employed to go out on those boats as observers. Well, 900 boats; all may not be commercial boats, I admit, I understand that.

The question is, do we need an observer on each boat? From my understanding, when the fisherfolk go outside, we have to understand these things. They go out sometimes in what we call groups; they may go four or five of them, and they're in a fishing ground. So, the question sometimes is, do you really need one observer for one

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

boat? Or can you get one observer to deal with a cluster of boats? Because they're in that general broad area.

We need to understand these things because when it comes to implementations, right now, the boatman is wondering... and who's paying this other observer? Because this person may not be able to be another regular fisherperson on the boat, because... and who is paying them? Is it the fisherfolk who have to pay them as part of the requirements, as though you have a truck assistant? And if that's the case, we know what's going to happen as we increase the cost of production, and the cost of things, this isn't an assumption, somebody has to pay the cost. Is the Government going to subsidise that?

And this is one of the biggest issues that comes with this Bill. Not because... because it happens, Madam President, it happens. Regulations come, and it's going to cost us in different ways. What is this cost going to be like? Is it EC\$10,000, EC\$20,000, and that was again discussed in the forums, in which the duly Minister was also present, in terms of making funds, loans, or grants, as the case may be, available to help them through this period, if it's for a one year period, a 90-day period, to get them at... because at the end of the day, this Bill that we are discussing here, Madam President, is not to prevent the fisherfolk from fishing, it's to grow the industry.

In fact, this is an enabling Bill, a Bill to move forward, and so, all parts of it must be so oiled and tuned to deliver us there. Madam President, the issue of the FAD, I don't know if you know about something called FAD, Fish Aggregating Device. This is a technology that has been introduced to Grenada in recent times, and it assist... In fact, in Grenville, there is a FAD group, a FAD association. Now, this is not a boat, this is an area where they have this makeup of different materials, to create like a breathing ground. How does that also be taken into consideration in the regulations pertaining to this Bill? Because let us not lose sight, Madam President, that this Bill, it's not about marine mammals, and whether they're killed or not killed, or whether they died, or how much died, that is part of it, but there are deeper parts that we've failed to understand.

Something called stock count; read the Bill, it's there, not our Bill... read them...

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

and the point that Senator... good doctor raised. We have to ensure that what we're doing here could match up side-by-side or even exceed the requirements that the US has set, not only for Grenada, but for the world. So, this is why I'm raising this issue, because the issue of conservation practices, the impact, measuring your stock, and all of these things, relate to your FAD, and it relates to all those other areas.

I'm saying this, Madam President, with due respect to all of us, and respect to the fisherfolk, but more respect to those guys that are involved in lambie and conch, because since 2022, we cannot ship conch because of the same exact reason of not being able to count our conch; that matter has not been solved yet, it's not solved yet. Up to about two months ago, they had some work, and some progress was being made. So, I'm not speaking here because of this; I'm speaking because of experience, knowledge, and understanding of what I've seen before. I've seen this movie before, so I don't want us to go there.

As I sum up, Madam President, I call on all our fisherfolk and all the industries to be ready for all opportunities that will be provided by this Government, such that they can be well placed and ready to ship come early January. They must be ready, whether the Government is ready; that's not my business. They must be ready, and the Government must do all that it takes to ensure that what they need to know and do is well in place. I'll be monitoring very closely, this development because, as our good friend, the Leader of Government's Business said, "It's a half billion dollars industry, and it might even be more," not only about the export, but it's about our own health and well-being; and so, Senator Rahaman's question begs at this stage.

In anything you're doing, you must have a plan B and a plan C, and these are not prepositions or suppositions, when January 1 comes, the fisherfolk will ask the same question, and I know they have been meeting with the Government in different ways, and some of the responses maybe cannot be made publicly for strategic reasons; what will happen to the fisherfolk and their fish? Amerijet, Madam President, one of the major shipping airlines, even though they have their own problems too, ships 40... 50,000 pounds of fish, and you're able to get your soursop and all those other things going on

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

board because that makes it economically viable for a big soursop tree that's worth over 12 million dollars.

Employ hundreds of persons, thousands of farmers; so this half a billion dollar industry that they're speaking about in fishing, the impact of not having to ship for an economic stand point, a macroeconomic stand point that was outlined by our goodly, Leader of Government's Business, could easily be one billion dollars, close to maybe... how much our National budget does be? A lot of money.

So this is a serious issue, and I don't want us to miss it because there is complementarity in that, and I speak here on behalf of the Fresh Produce Exporter Association, because that is a burning concern of theirs. So with these few words, Madam President, and it was very few words...

**(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Roderick St. Clair:** ... we support this Bill, but more so, we call for swift action for those elements around this Bill and the regulations that will empower and allow our fisherfolk to be able to be ready for business come January. We call further that if we need to come back here to make some adjustments to this Bill, that is done swiftly, and we don't lose time because those things can happen. We understand that we need to send this thing to NOAA to observe it, to give feedback, and let us not be shy; we all do sometimes fall short sometimes, and there's nothing wrong in coming back and saying we need to make these little changes to fix it.

I wouldn't say I was long-sighted or short-sighted; I would say this is how the cookie crumbles sometimes. At this stage, Madam President, I thank you. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** I thank you, Senator St. Clair, for the focus on readiness and preparedness of fishermen and fisherwomen by January, and I just wanted to interject, which I suppose your research would have revealed to you that the real authority around this is FAO, as you would know it, passed, I believe in the early 2000s, a regulation on

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

comparability for the protection of marine mammals. The US is important to the Grenada market, and we have to focus on that, but being aware also that there are standards at the global level, particularly for us SIDS, and we are thus also under the guidance, if not the binding regulations, of FAO.

I should take this opportunity, and I do take this opportunity to thank you in your capacity as the Fisheries Representative in the Senate, and the Minister for Fisheries, I think, is in our Senate as well. I thank both of you for the work you're doing and continue to do, and encourage you as we take this forward. Thank you. The Leader of Government's Business in the Senate, Senator Adrian Thomas.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Thank you, Madam President, and I must join with you in commending the Fisheries Senator for his presentation; I must say that I catered for an hour, and I think I got a little less than that, so it kind of deprived me to...

**(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** ... **(Laughter)** But, Madam President, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the Senators who made presentations, and for the unanimous support of this very important piece of legislation; and in the same breath, I want to thank the Minister in this task force within the ministry, the new ministry that we have, the Ministry of the Blue Economy that we have put together just under a year ago and this is the ministry that is rarely and truly in forefront of making sure that those things happen.

Madam President, I want to also make the point, and I didn't hear it in the House for the day, but sometimes you go to these regional firms, and you hear about small island developing states, and most of the time I have to speak on those subjects. I prefer to refer to places like Grenada as big ocean states because the statistics have shown that what we own outside there is about 75 times or more or greater than the land mass that we have. So, the ocean outside there is a big thing for us, and this very important industry

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

is where it comes from.

Madam President, I want to raise a few issues here and I want to remind this House that although the United States may have made the demand on us in regards to NOAA and the important issue that we are dealing with here today, we should not limit ourselves to just fixing to satisfy that demand. As I said in my presentation, it's a golden opportunity for us to rise to the occasion and set standards, so while we are trying to satisfy the demand that was laid upon on us and we're dealing with today, we should look at opportunities, other opportunities where other people, rather than making demands, you could be requesting the blue gold that we have in Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique.

Also, I made the point that we have to start... **(Laughter)** You know, my good... Senator David Andrew left a while ago, but I made the point to him, you know, there are local restaurants in Grenada complaining that they cannot get yellowfin tuna to buy. The question is, are we consuming much of the fish that we produce? The answer is yes, but can we consume more? We need to open up our minds.

Madam President, processing all opportunities that present themselves now, and I want to refer... I think the concern was raised in regards to, I think it was by Senator Norland Cox, in regards to the... who will be affected, whether it's the small vessels or whether it's... Everybody will be affected. The question is, Madam President, this... what's packing the demand by NOAA and the response by Grenada really and truly is the yellowfin tuna.

Basically, this... the ordinary guy who has a boat, and is registered as a fisherman, doing sea moss, doing little snappers and lobster, and those sorts of things would not be affected by that. Basically, what we are talking about here is the boat involved in longlining for yellowfin tuna and other pelagic species. These are large and small boats, the longline... the lining technology has the potential to have interactions with marine mammals other than rock fishing, or shooting, or the case may be. So really and truly, you're talking about every single boat, it's basically a... It's the yellowfin industry that is... that we have to be concerned about.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025***

So, having said that, Madam President, I want to say once again, thank you very much for your contributions, and I now look forward to us approving this very important Bill.

**Madam President:** Thank you. I'm not sure of the regulation here. I want to ask you two clarification questions for my own purpose; so, the idea is that the yellowfin tuna is to be protected under this regulation more than it currently is. I asked the question because... I mean, the focus is on the marine mammals, and...

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Yes, but... no... sorry.

**Madam President:** Yes, so, clarify.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Yes, Madam President, the possibility of interacting with marine mammals is basically... it would not happen within the conferment of the rocks and shoreline fishing or the case may be, it's the longline fishermen, fisherfolk, who will... the possibility of looking for tuna will interact with the, what we are concerned about, the Mammals and so on.

**Madam President:** And the other question I've been dying to ask, and I think you're the perfect person to ask, will the price of fish increase for me? **(Laughter)** For our country? **(Laughter)** I think that's...

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I guess that this will be driven by market... by demand and supply. **(Laughter)**

**Madam President:** As we...

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** And I will ask the Senator, Senator Rahaman,

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

to... **(Laughter)** to intervene.

**Madam President:** When all the new regulations are in place, the new equipment is purchased, the new observers are paid, and the new registration occurs, does that raise the price of fish for the ordinary Grenadian on January 1? **(Laughter)**

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** Madam President, market forces and demand and supply affect pricing on every commodity.

**(Inaudible comment by Senators)**

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** So, the answer could be yes as to how... and how it is cushioned or how it is implemented, that can be worked on because we have to make sure that... We want our nation to eat healthy because if you don't pay attention to it upfront, you would have to pay for it in the hospital. So, that is a difficult question to answer, the how, but with regulations usually comes an additional cost, and God knows best.

**Madam President:** Thank you, Diplomat. **(Laughter)**

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a second time.**

**Clerk (Ag.):** A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**Madam President:** Senator Thomas.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg to move that the Senate resolves itself in a Committee of the whole Senate and consider the Bill, Clause by Clause.

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Bills: Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025  
Adjournment***

**Madam President:** Thank you.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Senate in Committee.**

**Senate resumed.**

**Madam President:** Honourable Members, I have the honour to report that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole, and was passed without Amendment. Minister... Honourable Senator Adrian Thomas.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg to move that the Chair's Report be adopted.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Chairman's Report adopted.**

**Madam President:** Senator Adrian Thomas.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg to move the third reading of the Bill.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**Bill read a third time and passed.**

**Clerk (Ag.):** A Bill for an Act, shortly entitled, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**Deputy Clerk (Ag.):** Item 16 – Public Business.  
Item 17 – Adjournment.

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Adjournment**

**Madam President:** Leader of Government's Business.

**Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas:** Madam President, I beg for the adjournment of the Senate *sine die*.

**Madam President:** Senator Claudette Joseph.

**Sen the Hon. Claudette Joseph:** Gloria.

**Madam President:** I can't see. Well, Senator Gloria Thomas, excuse me. Thank you.

**Sen. the Hon. Gloria Thomas:** Thank you, Madam President. I did not take the opportunity to present a Ministerial Statement, but I just want to update the House on a few activities as it relates to the Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs. I wish to inform this House that we have now rolled out our seed beneficiary card 100%. **(Applause)** So, all beneficiaries in every parish now have their cards to access their funds at the end of the month.

Our ministry commemorated International Men's Day on the 19th. Prior to that, we had a series of activities, where we worked with our young men, sensitising them and trying to encourage them to be positive role models in society. We ended the celebration with a match, a basketball match on the court in Cuthbert Peters Park on Wednesday, St. Mark against St. John. It was a well-fun-filled activity, and a number of them came out to just interact and to socialise, and I think that was really good. **(Applause)**

We also held a training for Media Personnel on Disability Awareness, encouraging the media to be sensitive in the way they cover stories that involve persons with disabilities, and that was held this week at the Radisson, and it was very successful.

We also had another training, another activity, where we focused on sensitising the public on the need to be aware of women who are violated, and we will start the 16

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Adjournment**

days of activism from the 25th of this month, when we further go into this activity. So, we will be looking at digital violence experienced by our women as we commemorate or go through the 16 days of activism from the 28th of December to the 10th... 28th of this month to the 10th of December. So, this is just what I want to update the House about, as it relates to the work of the Ministry of Social and Community Development.

We also have the Build Back Equal Project coming on, where we will be doing a pilot of 25 women, training them, and providing some support for them to take them out of SEED. So, after this training and the support, we will be providing the necessary services for them, so that they can be empowered and will gradually be taken out of SEED. Depending on how successful this Initiative will be, we will do another batch and hopefully, at a point in time, the young women, especially, will be able to become entrepreneurs and so on, so that they can take charge of their own lives. So, we're rolling out this programme to build capacity, so people will not depend on SEED as much. So, thank you so very much for the opportunity to share. **(Applause)**

**Madam President:** Thank you for your report, Senator. The social health of the nation is critical. In fact, it's foundational, and I take this opportunity to belatedly wish all the men in the Senate, and all the men who support the Senate, to congratulate you. I can't wish you a Happy Men's Day anymore, it's passed.

**(Laughter)**

**Madam President: (Laughter) ...**

**(Inaudible comments by Senators)**

**Madam President:** But, to congratulate you on being wonderful men in all dimensions of your life, public and private. **(Laughter)**

*Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025*

**Adjournment**

**(Inaudible comments by Senators)**

**Madam President:** And to encourage the country to be involved in the 16 days of activism to end violence against women **(Applause)**, 16 days of activism to end violence against women is starting... and to remind you also that the 10th of December is Human Rights Day, World Human Rights Day, that's when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was passed in 1948. It's a critical document in which the Human Rights culture and protocols of the 20th century were built. Of course, the first Human Rights Convention was the one again, the Anti-Slavery Convention of 1909. It all stems from that, and as products of the post-slavery era, we must always find pride and inspiration from the fact that the current human rights regime, at holes in the world now, really started in 1909 with the prohibition on a human rights level against slavery after it had been abolished in the 1830s.

Finally, let me say that we are on the advent of the holiday season. We will, as the Senate, we anticipate, of course, meeting in December, starting with the presentation of the Budget, if I'm allowed to announce it here, I don't know if it's my place or somebody else's place. The Attorney General will no doubt clarify **(laughter)**, but we will have the Budget Presentation, and the Sitting of the Senate, I would like to invite the two leaders to meet me in my office immediately, concluding this meeting so that we'll take a look at some of the modalities that we care called to be engaged in, concerning the Budget Debate. Senator Quinc Britton, you have requested the floor, and you have it.

**Sen. the Hon. Quinc Britton:** Thank you very much, Madam President. Well, it's now afternoon, and I know everybody will be anticipating lunch. Quickly, Madam President, just an update from our ministry, from the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Economy and Culture, specifically to Tourism. Last time I gave... I extended an invitation, inviting everyone to the COMSPAN event that was very successful, and so far we have been able to distribute or... yes, distribute to several communities in the various parishes, including Carriacou and Petite Martinique. I think we only have two parishes that need to

***Sitting of the Senate  
held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025***

***Adjournment***

be the... the pans that are allocated for them, that need to be delivered, that's St. Andrew and St. George. So, we expect the programme to roll out in full effect come January in the various communities happening twice a week, as I mentioned before, and happening simultaneously.

The Camerhogne Folk Festival, Madam President, is back this year; it's from December 5 to the 7 at the Sauteurs Bus Terminal. This year's theme is, "Echoes of Camerhogne, Deep Roots, Strong Heritage, Bright Future," so we're inviting everyone, everyone here in this House, to be a part of... There will be a lot of activities, especially a lot of local entrepreneurs will be there, so you'll come and support, buy local, as well as many cultural activities from the various schools and community groups. So, we're inviting everyone to the Camerhogne Folk Festival. All right. Thank you very much.

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator, thank you so much. Honourable Members... Senator Rahaman.

**Sen. the Hon. Salim Rahaman:** One brief clarification, Madam President, and I think it's important for us to understand, it's a little bit about economics, I'll just be quick. You asked a question, and I mentioned that it depends on market forces, and that is true. I want to just quickly mention that it depends on what you eat, because if you like tuna, tuna is generally more expensive.

If there is a limited supply of tuna, and the bulk of it is exported when it resumes then perhaps the price will go up, but if the export does not resume when it's supposed to, then there will be an oversupply of tuna on the Market, and the price may likely drop, so it depends... that may have no effect on the regular fish that we consume; snapper, and the ones closer to shore, and also if it is that there is a lapses between the restart of the shipping to the US perhaps all fish may go up slightly because they have their bills to pay. So, there are so many variables that I just wanted to touch on some of them because... That's why there's no definite answer on this **(laughter)**, to this, your question. Thank you.

**Sitting of the Senate**  
**held at Parliament Chamber, Mt. Wheldale, St. George's**  
**on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2025**

**Adjournment**

**Madam President:** Thank you, Senator. Well, I know you didn't eat your parents' school fees (**laughter**), so thank you for elaborating. What I think it does show is that we will continue to have a healthy fish supply in the country, either for export or, in our... For expanding domestic consumption, either way, it's good for us.

I once spoke to a restaurant owner in New York who told me he just came from the Wharf in New York, and he purchased a tuna from the Caribbean, he didn't say from where, for US\$28,000 for one tuna, and this was a decade ago. I was stunned, and that's the sort of price that tuna, Bluefin, or otherwise yellowfin, or otherwise catches on in the US, New York market.

**Question put and agreed to.**

**The Sitting of the Senate adjourned sine die at 12:10 p.m.**

**PREPARED BY**

**HANSARD REPORTERS**

Ms. Shanta Joseph  
Ms. Terry-Ann Thomas  
Ms. Carlyn Pierre  
Ms. Natalya Isaac  
Ms. Zaria Skeete

**EDITORS**

Adrian Joseph (Dr.) (Clerk, Ag.)  
Ms. Leasha Francis (Senior Hansard Reporter, Ag.)