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GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMING THE FISHERIES SECTOR

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is developing a comprehensive sector plan to strengthen the management and growth of the fisheries, marine conservation, and climate resilience sectors.

Minister of Fisheries, Marine and Land Conservation and Climate Resilience, Hon. Conroy Huggins, said the initiative is intended to improve long-term planning and coordination as the sector responds to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Speaking during Fisherman's Day activities at the Kingstown Fish Market (Little Tokyo) on May 25, 2026, Huggins noted that climate change, shifting market demands, food security concerns, marine conservation priorities, and the expansion of the blue economy are reshaping the industry.

“The fisheries and marine sector are evolving rapidly in response to climate change, changing market demands, food security challenges, marine conservation priorities, and expanding opportunities within the blue economy,” he said.

To address these changes, the Ministry is preparing a sector plan that will provide a clear framework for policy development, infrastructure investment, marine resource management, climate adaptation, and institutional strengthening over the medium to long term.

According to Huggins, the plan will also improve collaboration among key stakeholders, including government agencies, fishers, coastal communities, private-sector partners, and development organizations.

“Importantly, the sector plan will help ensure greater coordination among government agencies, fishers, coastal communities, private-sector stakeholders, and development partners,” the

Minister said. “It will also position St. Vincent and the Grenadines to better access technical and financial support for fisheries development, marine conservation, and blue economy initiatives.”

While work on the strategy continues, the government is already investing in several priority areas. These include fisheries infrastructure upgrades, marine conservation programmes, aquaculture expansion, sea moss development, seafood safety systems, and climate-resilient coastal communities.

The Ministry is also focusing on measures to improve fisher safety and productivity. “We are committed to improving the safety and productivity of our fishers through greater investment in modern equipment, vessel monitoring systems, refrigerated storage, and improved access to financing,” Huggins said.

Once completed, the sector plan is expected to provide a coordinated roadmap for sustainable fisheries development, marine resource protection, and climate resilience, while helping to unlock new opportunities within the blue economy.

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