

**Summary of the First Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Barbados, Thursday, 3 September, 2015**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	Executive Director	CRFM
Mr. Mario Gonzalez	Executive Director	OSPESCA
Mr. Lionel Reynal de Saint Michel	Director	IFREMER
Mr. Stefan Asmundsson	Executive Secretary	NEAFC
Mr. Johan H. Williams	Director, Fisheries & Aquaculture	Norwegian Ministry Trade & Industry
Mrs. Laverne Walker	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. MOU for establishment IFCM
2. Proposed work plan
3. Future steps

Meeting Development

1. MOU for the establishment of an IFCM

- The CME+ PCU provided brief introductions to the CLME+ SAP and CLME+ Project, and provided an update of process of its endorsement (SAP) by 22 Caribbean countries. They are preparing a Concept Note for submission to the GEF, in the search for additional resources to implement some actions outlined in the CLME+ SAP. Under the CLME+ SAP Strategy 2, countries called for the establishment of an interim arrangement for sustainable fisheries coordinated by FAO-WECAFC and including CRFM, OSPESCA and OECS. However, considering that the OECS Commission is not an established RFB, the interim mechanism will be limited to the three RFBs.
- The CME+ PCU also presented a proposal for objectives of the interim coordination mechanism, and the group decided they will be adjusted to allow for coordination outside the CLME+ SAP. In this sense, the IFCM is expected to facilitate, support and strengthen coordination amongst the 3 RFBs. In order to formalize the operation of the IFCM, CRFM expresses hope for finalizing the approval and signature process of the MOU. The MOU needs to be reviewed by OSPESCA countries before it can be signed. The revision process may take 15 days.
- It was discussed that countries may see this ICM as a step towards a more formal arrangement. It is envisaging that this mechanism would help the region to move towards a formal arrangement, becoming a model for more coordinated work.
- It was agreed that because the word interim is often interpreted as a transition, this word will be kept, and in the future it could be used to support the establishment of an RFMO. In any case, the focus will be on the term “coordination”. With the MOU, the 3 RFBs are seeking to determine how to strengthen coordination efforts to execute activities under the CLME+ Project as well as contribute to the establishment of an RFMO.
- Comments from OSPESCA on the draft MOU will be shared upon completion of the revision process, but it was mentioned that the document could be simplified. The inclusion of too many details implies the risk of leaving out some aspects.
- In the past, the Latin American and English-speaking Caribbean countries utilized different MOU formats, and it was therefore suggested to pick one format for this MOU.
- The 3 RFBs agreed that efforts will be made to expedite the signing of the MOU. Once OSPESCA complete its consultative process, both CRFM and WECAFC-FAO can easily proceed with the

signing of the MOU. Participants thought that the MOU may be signed by the last week of October.

2. Proposed Work Plan

- OSPESCA had four priority areas they would like to be considered: a) climate change, b) expansion of the management plan for spiny lobster, c) flexibility of OSPESCA regulations to include other countries, and d) establishment of a country-basis binding traceability system for spiny lobster.
- These priorities were taken from the Joint CRFM-OSPESCA work plan, and wondering if they can also be considered priorities for WECAFC-FAO. The RFBs could work towards streamlining many of their working groups, and indicated a need for resources to operate, plan, review and develop their detailed work plan. It was mentioned that more than one meeting a year might be required. A clear work plan with an associated budget is needed.
- It was recommended to include in the work plan of the IFCM, the sub-projects on shrimp and groundfish, spiny lobster and flyingfish. WECAFC supported this recommendation and proposed to add the queen conch as a priority topic. The inclusion of the IUU fishing and fisheries statistics in the work plan would be dependent on what funding was available. The TORs for all the Working Groups should be available in both English and Spanish, as a minimum, and the CLME+ PCU may wish to keep a database of the latest version of the WG TORs on their website.
- Regarding the lobster sub-project, it is understood that OSPESCA will take the lead on the implementation of the activities; however, there is a need to discuss the mechanism for involving the CRFM countries participating in this sub-project. The issue could be one of the tasks of the IFCM. CRFM is also looking for some support in translating the lobster declaration articles into simple language that could be understood by all, in order to raise awareness and ensure that the fishers are made aware of what is expected. They wanted to know if this sort of activity could be supported by the CLME+ Project.
- Since the development of the SAP, a number of initiatives have been approved, such as REBEYC II and C4; and as such, there is a need to ensure that the most recent developments are factored in, with a view to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.
- Participants discussed if the topic of climate change needs to be included as a priority issue or it should be treated as a separate issue. In the end, it was agreed that where necessary the issues of climate change and variability would be mainstreamed into many of the agreed upon activities. Within OSPESCA membership, climate change had been highlighted as a priority issue, and so recently they started putting out a weekly bulletin dedicated to climate and its potential impact on fisheries and aquaculture.
- The following areas were agreed as priority areas for inclusion in the work plan of the first year of the interim arrangement: queen conch; spiny lobster; flyingfish, IUU fishing, with climate change and disaster risk reduction being mainstreamed into other activities where necessary.
- A work plan and budget would be developed for the first year of the interim arrangement. The CLME+ PCU would put together a template which would be filled-out by the RFBs immediately and re-submitted for allocation of budget (~USD \$30k). It may be necessary to identify additional resources through the support of donors or other partners.
- There is a need for country buy-in of lessons learnt from the first CLME project. OSPESCA would like to see a mechanism which would allow greater participation of countries, as a means to take ownership of the project and its activities allowing for greater sustainability of the outputs.
- CLME+ PCU is providing very clear TORs to the countries for the National Focal Points. This information will be shared, so they are reminded of the functions and responsibility of a NFP.

3. Future steps

- The revised MOU will be shared with the meeting participants immediately.
- WECAFC-FAO will take the responsibility of having the revisions reflected in the Spanish version.
- The CLME+ PCU will develop and share a template with the RFBs so that they can define activities for year one of the work plan with an associated budget.
- The RFBs will work towards having the MOU signed by the PEG meeting to take place 26-27 October.
- The RFBs will meet during the Miami meetings to better define the work plan of the interim arrangement.
- CLME+ PCU will put together the notes of the meeting and share with the participants.