

**Summary of the Third Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Guadeloupe, French Island, Saturday, 24 June, 2016**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Ms. Tarub Bahri	Fisheries Resources Officer	FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	Executive Director	CRFM
Ms. Lorna Innis	Principal Coordination Officer	UNEP-CEP
Ms. Frederique Fardin	Nereus Fellow	UNEP-SPAW
Mr. Sergio Martinez	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick Debels	Regional Project Coordinator	CLME+ PCU
Mrs. Laverne Walker	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries work plan
2. IUU Working Group meetings, venues and dates, and next steps
3. WECAFC 16 on the RFMO
4. CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan
5. NOAA Grant Proposal – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries
6. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1 – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries Work Plan

Queen Conch

- The QC Regional Management Plan has been approved through the governance processes of all three RFBs.
- A draft decision will be taken to the CITES 17 COP, once completing countries review. Colombia will probably lead this initiative to ensure the decision is adopted.
- The CITES Secretariat will have funds to support the Queen Conch Working Group meeting (expected to take place in 2017), and national stock assessments, among other activities.
- **WECAFC to share the proposal which will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat to the other members of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries for their review and input, during the fourth quarter of the year.**
- It was reiterated that appropriate delegates from Jamaica will participate in this CITES COP in case they like to address the issue of IUU fishing and the CITES scientific quota.
- It was informed that Belize, Honduras and Guatemala were looking at harmonizing management measures for the queen conch, similarly to the approach taken for the spiny lobster. OSPESCA will report on the progress. Honduras and Nicaragua are also working on a traceability system.
- Indicators and targets had already been defined by FIRMS and are based on the Regional Management and Conservation Plan for Queen Conch.

Spiny Lobster

- The SICA Secretary General will sign the MOU on behalf of OSPESCA to develop the spiny lobster CLME+ sub-project. A coordinator will be hired. An Inception Workshop (October- November/2017) should be open to as many countries as possible, including Cuba that has expressed interest in being part of this effort and those that are already part of the Spiny Lobster WG. **OSPESCA will send invitation letters for the inception workshop ASAP.**
- The need to go beyond a single Spiny Lobster Working Group meeting, to identify targets and indicators that are aligned with the CLME+ SAP, was reiterated.

Flyingfish

- CRFM informed that the MOU with UNOPS had been signed and the first disbursement has been received. They are currently elaborating TORs for consultants to assist with the implementation of the sub-project. **CRFM is also planning the inception workshop, once stakeholders are updated and activities are better planned to secure their commitment, and will report on the progress made.**
- A link between *Sargassum* densities and flyingfish stock status was recommended to be further discussed, but it was recognized that this issue was not originally included in the sub-project document.
- **CRFM will invite the University of the French Antilles in Guadeloupe to attend the inception workshop considering they have information on flyingfish decrease associated with *Sargassum* arrivals. UNEP-SPAW will provide University contact information.**
- CRFM had done an assessment on the status of the implementation of the Flyingfish Management Plan, just over a year after its approval. Only limited progress had been made, a topic to be discussed at the next Flyingfish Working Group meeting in 2017.

Large Pelagics

- A Billfish Workshop will take place in the Dominican Republic during the last week of November. At this workshop the draft Billfish Management Plan will be shared with countries and the Billfish Consortium will be reviewed. It is expected the plan will be finalized at the workshop and then passed through the IFCM for endorsement.

2 – IUU Working Group Meetings, Venues and Dates, and Next Steps

- FAO reported they received funds from a NOAA Grant to support the IUU Working Group meeting, which would be supplemented with funds from the World Bank Billfish Project. The Working Group meeting would take place between September-October /2017.
- **CRFM will finalize and share a tentative list of participants and a proposed agenda to WECAFC and OSPESCA for their review, at the beginning of July, 2016.**
- Due to limited funds, the meeting will be conducted only in English since simultaneous translators cannot be hired this time.
- A much broader IUU Working Group training workshop is being considered for November 2016 with a focus on the Vessel Registry. OSPESCA is considering to prepare a proposal (by July, 2016) to organize and host this meeting, possible to take place in Panama.
- **OSPESCA to inform WECAFC by 1 July, 2016 if they will be willing to organize the Vessel Registry Training Workshop to be hosted in the last quarter of this year.**
- A Regional Wildlife Crime Meeting in the Bahamas in July will be organized by Interpol and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime.

3 – WECAFC 16 on the RFMO Process

- The first preparatory meeting would take place in June 2017. This meeting will be multidisciplinary and involve fisheries personnel, lawyers, and representatives from the foreign affairs ministries.
- FAO-WECAFC submitted a proposal to the EU. If approved, funds would become available around April, 2017. In preparation, WECAFC will work on a background paper. Participants attending this meeting, would need to be well prepared.
- The CRFM membership have a number of questions/queries after reviewing the reports, and comments are expected to be sent by September.

4 – CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan

- In a meeting held in El Salvador in May, the CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan was discussed. At present, comments from two Ministerial Level Committees are expected. For greater collaboration, OSPESCA is hoping to establish an Executive Meeting Group with representatives from the two organizations.
- Under the CLME+ Project there are funds to support the next joint CRFM-OSPESCA ministerial meeting, and it was recommended this meeting take place at the end of 2017.

5 – NOAA Grant Proposal – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries

- The CLME+ PCU submitted a proposal under the NOAA grants website. This proposal looks for support for the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries work plan, including support for the Spiny Lobster and Queen Conch Working Group meetings, and a catch documentation and traceability system. A NOAA representative will contact the CLME+ PCU to consider the scope of the grant.
- Resources from this grant could be used to help the region comply with the US IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud Regulation.

6 – Any Other Business

- The draft Letter of Intent (LOI) for the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism was revised. Members of the IFCM agreed to further revise this LOI. In addition, they agreed to include the CARICOM Secretariat in the list of organizations that will be represented on the Interim Coordination Mechanism.
- The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism should come into effect when at least 6 of the 10 suggested participating organizations sign the LOI.
- **CLME+ PCU to circulate an updated version of the LOI to members of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism so that it can be reviewed by their legal departments by 1 July 2016.**