

**Summary of the Fourth Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting  
Bridgetown, Barbados, Tuesday, 28 February, 2017**

**Participants**

Name	Abbreviation	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	RV	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	MH	Executive Director	CRFM
Mr. Sergio Martinez	SM	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick McConney	PM	Director	UWI- CERMES
Mr. Robin Mahon	RM	Professor	UWI-CERMES
Mrs. Laverne Walker	LW	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

**Agenda**

1. Review status update and the Fisheries ICM Workplan
2. Update of the 3 sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination
3. IUU strategy and action plan
4. Update Reorientation of WECAFC and Decision of the Commission to launch a process to establish an RFMO Process
5. Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting
6. SOME outline and fisheries chapter
7. Participation at UNEP-CEP COPs & IGM Meetings
8. Any Other Business

**Meeting Development**

RV: welcomed everyone to this fourth meeting of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries, including Mr. Patrick McConney and Mr. Robin Mahon participating as observers.

**1: Review Status Update and the Fisheries ICM Workplan**

***Queen Conch***

- RV: asked whether the OSPESCA countries were working on queen conch management, and SM responded it appears they were not, because OSPESCA had not yet developed conch regulations, similar to the ones for spiny lobster.
- RV: informed that the US NGOs that had previously failed their petition to list queen conch as an endangered species have initiated a legal action against the Government decision of not to list this species as threatened or endangered. At this time, the region is not very clear as to how the new administration will address this legal action.
- MH: indicated that the region should continue to monitor the progression of this case, given the implications for the Caribbean queen conch fishery. If listed as endangered the USA would close the fishery and stop all trade, if listed as threatened additional regulations on trade are expected.
- RV: announced that the Regional Queen Conch Management Plan was adopted at the CITES COP 17 held in Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2015. Countries requested funding from CITES Secretariat to assist in the implementation of the Management Plan. EU has pre-approved USD

200,000 to CITES and a meeting between the EU, FAO and some scientists is scheduled to take place to agree how to utilize this funds. It is anticipated that probably would be used to support national level implementation of the management plan and traceability. Results will be shared with this group.

- RV: mentioned that FAO received a request from CITES to review information provided by Honduras with regard to continuing and expanding their scientific research of the queen conch. The review is currently taking place.
- Participants highlighted the importance of having a monitoring scheme for tracking the implementation of the management plan, which could be used to show that degree the region is implementing the plan. Similarly, the planned regional traceability meeting could also be used for this purpose.
- SM: indicated that under a US MAREA initiative, a management plan for queen conch was developed for the countries of Honduras, Belize & Guatemala. RV asked about its similarity with the regionally approved management plan. SM will share the MAREA plan with the group.
- MH: will follow up with Jamaica regarding the submission of queen conch data to FAO.
- RV: informed that the meeting next Queen Conch Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place at the end of 2017 or early 2018, depending on when adequate funds would become available.

### ***Large Pelagics***

- RV: informed about a 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Workshop for Billfish management and conservation being planned for 4-6 April, 2017. A draft workshop programme and subsequently official invitation letters were sent for review. The main purpose is to review the draft Billfish Management Plan. Upon plan endorsement by the Working Group, the process shall continue with the CRFM and OSPESCA revision and endorsement, before it is submitted to the next WECAFC Session for adoption and subsequent implementation.
- RV: talked about potential for allocation of some funds under the Caribbean Billfish Project to undertake a study on how improve ICCAT decision making with regards to important target stocks for the Caribbean region. However, they are still looking for a consultant. An expected output is to have CRFM and OSPESCA countries acting like an integrated group during ICCAT meetings.

### ***Sharks***

- RV: reported that from 4-6 July, the sharks WG would meet in Barbados. Given limited funds, only major shark producers will be invited to attend.
- A regional assessment on the status of sharks will be undertaken and a Regional Plan of Action will be drafted. It is anticipated that this RPOA-sharks will also go through the Fisheries ICM process in 2017/2018.

## **2: Update of the 3 sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination**

### ***Spiny Lobster sub-project***

- SM: indicated that a spiny lobster meeting was held 23-24 February in Costa Rica. Representatives from Jamaica and Bahamas joined OSPESCA countries, along with representatives from CRFM and CERMES. This meeting also served as the inception workshop for CLME+ Spiny Lobster sub-project. RV recommended in the future extended invitations to FAO and the WECAFC Secretariat.

- SM: reported the spiny lobster sub-project is moving forward smoothly. At present, a project coordinator is being hired.
- LW: informed there has been some delays in receiving the NOAA grant funds, and that the use of these funds are expected from October 2016 to September 2017. She also advised the FICM can consider to develop the next Spiny Lobster WG meeting during that period. Currently, this meeting is planned to be hosted in alignment with the GCFI annual meeting in November 2017. An extension of the NOAA grant until December 2017 will be requested.
- RV: explained that a Convener of a Working Group is responsible for drafting an agenda and a prospectus, circulated with other RFBs for their review, before invitation letters are sent. In addition, it is also responsible for chairing or co-chairing these meetings.
- The group suggested that large producer countries shall be invited given their higher interest in this fishery. MH cautioned this approach because does not consider some CRFM countries having stronger conservation measures in place.

#### ***FlyingFish Sub-Project***

- MH: informed that the first set of consultants for this sub-Project had been contracted: CANARI and UWI CERMES, NEXUS, a Canadian Firm, and Eastern Research an USA Firm. TORS for other assignments would be launched soon. The plan is to bring countries together for agreements on the project outputs and deliverables.
- LW: mentioned the importance of reduce replication of activities across consultancies, and so recommended CRFM, to the extent possible, urge the consultants to work together and have a strong coordinating role.
- The group recognized that at present there is no mechanism that allows RFBs to track implementation of the approved regional management plans, therefore, a harmonized monitoring system need to be in place. Such a monitoring system should be simple and easy to complete and wonder if assistance for its develop can come from the CLME+ Project.
- RV: offered to share monitoring tools implemented from another RFB\RFMO with CERMES and mentioned CERMES would look for possibilities to assist FICM in developing this monitoring system along with the CLME+ RPC at the workshop taking place on 3 -4 March 2017.
- MH: indicated that generally implementation of plans and policies in this region is very low and that CARICOM is considering on focusing more on monitoring and evaluation.
- LW: described how the development of SOME E under the CLME+ Project is a tool that should also be considered in monitoring and evaluation of policies and plans. Mentioned that fisher folk need to be involved in the implementation of management plans.
- RV: emphasized that the monitoring and evaluation system is not analyzing the actions impact, but mostly the degree of the plan and policies implementation.
- It was suggested that the draft monitoring framework should be submitted in time for the WECAFC SAG meeting which is scheduled to take place in November of this year.

#### ***Shrimp and Groundfish Sub Project:***

- LW: provided an update on the status of the IAA between FAO and UNOPS, and the expectations of having this IAA signed by the end of March, and project activities commence shortly after. She highlighted the importance of integrating this project with the one being developed by UNEP-CEP. In

fact, UNEP-CEP is organizing a workshop to advance the EBM Project Document 10-11 March in French Guiana and FAO has been invited, thus an update of this subproject could be presented there.

- RV: stated that an EAF training workshop was being planned for 5-9 June funded by the REBYC II LAC Project and the Shrimp and Groundfish Sub-Project.
- The third meeting of the IUU Working Group is scheduled to take place in October 2017 and probably be held back-to-back with the Shrimp and Groundfish Inception Workshop.

### **3: IUU Strategy and Action Plan**

- RV: informed that the IUU WG meeting was to commence the following day, with CRFM being the convener. The components for a future IUU Strategy and Regional Plan of Action would be discussed there. Two additional meetings of the IUU WG are being planned for 2017, the first is a regional workshop for the establishment of a Regional Fishing Vessel Register (23-25 May) and the EU support. The second will focus on the development of the Regional Programme of Action for IUU fishing (October) with support from the CLME+ Project. Funds under the CLME+ Project would be used to draft a RPOA-IUU fishing and to support the IUU WG meeting for the revision of this draft. As such, he welcomes additional financial support from the other CLME+ Sub-Projects.

### **4: Update Reorientation of WECAFC and Decision of the Commission to launch a process to establish an RFMO Process**

- RV: informed that under the EU project, the WECAFC Secretariat has some funds for a consultancy to seek answers to countries questions raised during their review of the reorientation of WECAFC study, presented at the WECAFC 16<sup>th</sup> session.
- MH: reaffirmed that CRFM Member States will submit their questions, and committed to do it soon after the Fisheries Forum.
- RV: mentioned that the EU will assist the region with the RFMO preparatory process, however a project proposal to access the funds needs to be developed. Project proposal is likely to be developed in April 2017.
- RV: the first preparatory meeting for the RFMO process is unlikely to take place in 2017, and most probably it will be around March 2018. Thus the first RFMO preparatory meeting would use EU funds, while the second one would use CLME+ Project funds.

### **5: Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting**

- MH: mentioned it is unlikely that the Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting would take place in 2017, but in 2018 where both CRFM and OSPESCA would have results from initiatives to share with the Ministers for their approval. Suggested dates for this meeting were June 2018 or October 2018.

### **6: SOME Outline and Fisheries Chapter**

- LW: the CLME+ PCU continues to work in the outline of the SOME, and so reminded that it would be a chapter dedicated to the State of Fisheries within the CLME+ region and that all the RFBs will be expected to participate in its development.

### **7: Participation at UNEP-CEP COPs & IGM Meetings**

- The meeting agreed that it is important that they participate in meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. However, MH indicated they would be unable to attend the meetings scheduled for

the week of 13 March, and expressed the importance that a fisheries representative be present as there were a number of species up for listing under the SPAW Protocol Annexes.

- It is highlighted the importance of UNEP-CEP engage more closely with the Regional Fisheries Bodies, and share meeting documents (likely to affect fisheries) presented at the SPAW Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STACs) meetings. In this way, the RFBs can share this documentation with the National Fisheries Departments and other fisheries stakeholders and allow for broader consultation on the marine species recommended for listings under the SPAW Protocols.
- LW: will share SPAW documents with the RFBs.

## **8: Any Other Business**

### ***SAP ICM Memorandum of Understanding***

- The Members of the RFBs inquired about the status of the SAP ICM MOU and the need for its formalization and operation. This is important because this is the second year of project implementation. They recommended the MOU be simple.
- It was suggested that the SAP ICM articulate a two-year work programme addressing some of the specifics they would be working on.
- They agreed to participate in a meeting of the SAP ICM, however, they stated that April was not a good month and suggested June.

### ***SDG 14 Oceans Conference - June 2017***

- The Meeting briefly discussed the SDG 14 Oceans Conference scheduled to take place 5 – 9 June 2017 in New York. It was recognized that attempts should be made to ensure that the region has a presence during that meeting.

### ***Next Meeting of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries***

- If necessary, the FICM could meet informally during the afternoon of Friday, 31 March, after the CRFM Fisheries Forum in Jamaica, however a formal meeting of Fisheries ICM would be defined at a later time.

RV: thanked all for their presence and participation during the meeting and wished everyone a good evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.