

**Summary of the Ninth Meeting of the Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism (IFCM)
Miami, Florida, US, Friday, 19 July, 2019**

Participants

Name	Abbreviatio	Designation	Organization
Mrs. Yvette Diei-Ouadi	YD	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Houghton	MH	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. Reinaldo Morales	RM	Regional Director	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick Debels	PD	CLME+ Regional Coordinator	IFCM Secretariat
Mrs. Nancy Cummings	NC		NOAA (FIRMS)

Agenda

1. Approval of the summary of the ninth meeting of the IFCM
2. Follow-up on outputs from WECAFC 17: review & reorientation of WECAFC, IUU strategy and action Plan, MARPLESCA, selected recommendations and next steps
3. IFCM workplan: status review & revision
4. FIRMS, CMA2
5. SOMEE development & institutionalization process
6. Upcoming SAP ICM & Coordination Mechanism Regional Consultation
7. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting
8. Upcoming 1st CLME+ Partnership Forum and 21st LME COP Meeting
9. Joint Meeting calendar: the last half of 2019 to first half of 2020
10. Plans for new projects under the CLME+ SAP (GEF7, others)
11. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

- MH Offered welcoming words
- Two changes were made to the initial proposed agenda: moving up discussions on FIRMS and CMA2, and *Sargassum* issues added to Any Other Business.

1. Approval of the Summary of Ninth Meeting

- Summary of the meeting report of the 8th IFCM reviewed prior to meeting, they were approved.

2. Follow-up on Outputs from WECAFC 17

WECAFC reorientation

- YD: feels satisfied with outcome obtained, and acknowledged support and constructive engagement of the CRFM and OSPESCA memberships, and the benefit of an experienced US Chairmanship. The transformation process now has a roadmap, but still needs to be materialized.

- MH: WECAFC 18th session planned for 2021, usually takes place during summer months, and suggested look at the second half of the year. NC other meetings already planned for June-July/2021. Arrangements to be made among FAO and the Nicaraguan government.
- PD: importance of having a CLME+ Hub joint calendar and keeping it updated.
- RM: need good preparatory work, and suggested right questions need to be made to countries to clarify their doubts and necessary TORS for consultants need to be formulated.
- PD + YD: CLME+ PCU and FAO/EU can provide funding for consultants & electronic meetings.
- MH: Suggested engage EU more (as observers) in regional meetings.

IUU Strategy and Action Plan

- YD: commends the work of CRFM in convening the WG. The RPOA IUU has been endorsed by the Commission, and it will be published and shared with all stakeholders, which are invited for its promotion. CRFM and OSPESCA are doing that through their governance mechanisms.
- MH: the joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Council meeting will be a good opportunity, and tangible help is to be provided to the countries in customizing their NPOAs. CRFM also has a subregional RPOA IUU.
- RM: a draft subregional RPOA and IUU Strategy is available for the SICA area, and OSPESCA member states have national plans to deal with IUU (being reviewed), however Illegal cross-border trade is recognized as a big problem.
- status of NPOA & IUU development and their degree of implementation to report to SOME. OSPESCA is working on a protocol to categorize these associated crimes. SOME can provide the “snapshot” that creates awareness and triggers action, and provide detailed technical reports on specific issues.

MARPLESCA

- RM: MARPLESCA need to be published in Spanish and English, after finalizing last revision. The plan implementation will be discussed in a workshop. An information system on spiny lobster is being developed (e.g the Nicaraguan methodology being incorporated in software & capacity building). Complementarily, OSPESCA and OIRSA are working on a traceability tool for computer and smartphones and it shall include data on spiny lobster, queen conch, sea cucumber & other (aquaculture) species. Co-financing work on spiny lobster has been obtained from TNC.
- MH: spiny lobster fisheries to be considered at next Joint CRFM-OSPESCA meeting.
- YD: need to link this work with the IUU traceability system and integrate the social dimension.
- For instance, fishers health and safety, including diving.
- MH: possible association with ILO Convention C188 Work in Fishing Convention (2017, minimum standards for decent work and occupational safety for fishers).

Selected Recommendations and Resolutions

- NC + MH: data availability is a major issue, and prioritized species need to improve data for management and reporting obligations, and system standardization. CRFO can illustrate on priority species & other recommendations.
- YD: WECAFC 17TH session generated too many recommendations, and need consolidation. Half of the recommendations endorsed, others deferred. Highlighted the importance of having conveners attending the SAG.

- MH: some recommendations scientific oriented, others policy related, and need the advice of SAG. Careful recommendation in structuring and presenting, focus on their substantive part. The role of the WECAFC Secretariat is acknowledged. It is premature to adopt some of the recommendations, however important to discuss them.
- RM: some recommendations may impose legal implications and have great impacts, thus recommended a pre-screened work, use proper language, and truthful translation.

3. IFCM workplan & Opportunities for Enhanced Coordination

- Participants have updated versions of the Work Plan document (Meeting Document).
- NC: IFCM members need info about SubProjects concerning Data Collection Framework (DCF). vis-à-vis data management and collection from the different experiences help in capturing lessons.
- PD: linkages of SOMEE development and reporting mechanism need to be further explored.
- Agreement that major information on the status of subproject implementation can be obtained through the regular reporting which is available to the CLME+ PCU.

4. FIRMS, CMA2

- NC: FIRMS is in phase 3 and receives continued support. Countries have to start using products, and provide feedback. However, connection between data from different Working Groups & Species need to be further explored, and some informative materials need to be developed (vessel mappings by countries, main species to be sampled, S&GF, lobster, conch).
- The group analyzed various opportunities to feed this regional database, such as the status of DCRF to countries. PD considered the development of fisheries components in the SOMEE linked with FIRMS. RM mentioned more incorporation from SICA countries in the FIRMS efforts, and suggested a pilot with Conch and Lobster.
- MH: CRFM is working through the CARICOM Nordic Country Cooperation Agreement about capacity building for evidence based decision making, so need to harmonize efforts. A workshop in Iceland aimed to plan capacity building workshops in the region in the coming years, and Mrs. June Masters will be the CRFM contact for this initiative. Funding from Fit4CC initiative (fisheries innovation technology - data & information collection) can be linked with FIRMS.
- NC: retake collaboration with the flyingfish subproject, in particular the activity “updated FIRMS resource and fisheries inventories for the flyingfish”.
- PD: showed a practical application of the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2) Geonode and its usefulness to the ICM for Ocean Governance, and IFCM membership. CLME+ PCU will liaise with ICM members and FIRMS to ensure further development & built synergies, avoiding overlap.

5. SOMEE development & institutionalization process

- PD: progress and challenges relating to SOMEE development. Endorse/support received by the majority of the ICM membership, but also persistent risks among (potential) contributors regarding how to address its development. Therefore, the spiny lobster fisheries subchapter chosen as a prototype, recognizing current draft need additional work, before it can be used as a model. Ongoing work on the State of Pollution Report and State of Habitats Report (UN Environment CEP), and the recently delivered State of Fisheries Update (WECAFC17) are expected to feed into the SOMEE report.

- MH: the state of fisheries report may contain “artifacts” arising from having statistics of one or a few species fished from a limited number of countries. This can generate distorted/masked trends. Recommended SOMEE to pay attention and present accurately messages of fish stocks, landings and associated trends.

6. Upcoming SAP ICM & Coordination Mechanism Regional Consultation

- PD: shared the agenda of the upcoming SAP ICM membership, day 1 be aimed at preparing for the ICM members’ role at the Regional Consultation, day 2 look at results obtained and next steps, as well as other matters pertaining to the ICM.

7. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- RM + MH: will start discussing the agenda and coordinate with WECAFC and IFM Secretariats.
- The CLME+ project have reserved funds, but those resources will need to be added to the existing UNOPS-CRFM Agreement through an Amendment. Mr. Delmar Lanzo, CRFM Manager Finance and Administration is urged to liaise with Mr. Ivan Pavletich, CLME+ PCU. It is possible that additional resources could be needed.
- Climate Change, DRR, a Declaration relative to Blue Growth, Trade and SPS, the WECAFC reform, and wider regional cooperation in the context of Blue Economy (towards improved ocean governance and the role of OSPESCA and CRFM) need to be in the agenda. Some global issues, ABNJ, for example, are incorporated.
- RM + MH: will review and work on the agenda, by meeting in the week of 30 September.

8. Upcoming 1st CLME+ Partnership Forum and 21st LME COP Meeting

- PD: limited progress to date for the Forum (scheduled to take place in Cartagena, Colombia, in mid-September) given the amount of other priority activities of the PCU, and so it will have to be downscaled as a consequence of capacity constraints. The 3rd day would consist of joint programming with the 21st edition of the annual meeting of the Community of Practitioners on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME COP21). the CLME+ selected due the progress made in the region (e.g. IFCM & ICM). Examples across the world (wider Caribbean, Seas of East Asia, Mediterranean, possibly Pacific SIDS) will be explored. A draft LMECOP21 agenda was shared with the participants, and invited for evaluation & possible attendance.

9. Joint Meeting calendar: the last half of 2019 to first half of 2020

Event name	Date	Country
Expert Consultation on Scuba Diving in Artesanal Fisheries	22-23 August	Panama
Fish for ACP Workshop	7-9 August	St Vincent
CLME+ Partnership Forum and LMECOP21	16 September	Colombia
Central America Indigenous People Small Fisheries Workshop	2-4 September	Panama
16 th COPPEESAALC meeting	4-6 September	Cuba
ACP fisheries meeting SAMOA	10-13 September	
International Conference on Sargassum	23-25 October	Guadeloupe
Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting	30 Sept-4 Oct (1 day)	
ICCAT SCRS meeting	30 Sep-4 Oct	Spain?
73 GCFI meeting	(1/2 week Nov.)	U.S.A.

ICCAT Commission	18-25 November	Spain
FAO and IMO ad hoc WG on IUU	23-25 October	Spain
Sargassum Workshop	28-30 October	Barbados
Fisheries Sustainability Conference	19-21 Nov	Italy
Latin America Congress on Aquaculture	19-22 Nov	
Management Strategies Evaluation with FLR/a4a Training Course (free)	25-29 November	Italy

10. Plans for new projects under the CLME+ SAP (GEF7, others)

- PD: formal support obtained at the Inter-Governmental Meetings, including CCAD, IOCARIBE of the IOC of UNESCO, and UN Environment CEP, to leverage renewed financing from the GEF to give continuity to the outputs and outcomes from the CLME+ Project. A vacancy has been placed for work on the development of the concept note, engaging ICM members. Importance of exchange of information for new proposals, and the role of the ICM Secretariat (currently the CLME+ PCU). The CRFM, FAO WECAFC and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) have made progress in developing the PIF for a new GEF project focused on BE in the Caribbean.

11. Any Other Business

- MH: increase of *Sargassum* is a concern, perceived relevant at the Ministerial Meeting. Some countries feeling overwhelmed, and it appears clean-up efforts are not effective, nor sustainable. In some discrete communities, serious health problems have been associated with *Sargassum* decomposition. This problem seems to be associated with nutrient enrichment and warmer water, and some studies have mentioned the potential relationship of most nutrients coming with the upwelling along the African coast. In addition, to other impacts on fisheries. An International Conference on *Sargassum* scheduled for 23-25 October in Guadeloupe.

The meeting is adjourned at 2:35 pm. The Chair wishes all participants a safe onward or returning journey.