



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND
COOPERATION**

BETWEEN

**THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE ORGANIZATION (OSPESCA)**

AND

**THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM
(CRFM)**

Belize City, Belize, September 4 2012



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPECSA)
and
The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)**

The Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPECSA) of the Central America Integration System (SICA), represented by Mr. Danilo Rosales Pichardo, Executive Vice President of the Nicaraguan Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture (INPESCA) acting in this occasion as Pro Tempore President of OSPECSA and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, represented by The Honourable V. Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government in The Bahamas, acting in this occasion as Chairman of the CRFM Ministerial Council, agree the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter MOU) on the following terms.

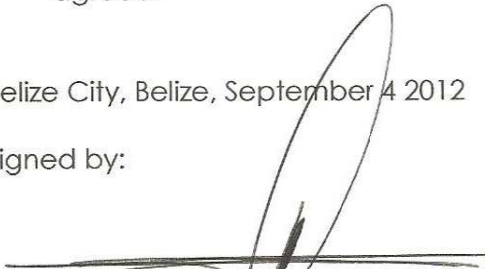
1. The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen understanding and cooperation between OSPECSA and CRFM to promote and ensure conservation and sustainable use of the fishery and aquaculture resources of the Caribbean region.
2. Under this framework agree to:
 - (a) Develop the Joint Action Plan described in Annex I of this MOU to comply with the mandate [instruction] of the Third Summit of Heads of States and Governments of SICA and CARICOM to be implemented as of the 1st of January 2013.
 - (b) Promote the active involvement of participating States, through their national institutions and civil society, as well as international partners, in the implementation of the Joint Action Plan.
 - (c) Establish the conditions to formulate and implement a comprehensive program based on a Common Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy.
 - (d) Establish a Monitoring Committee consisting of the Pro Tempore President of OSPECSA and the Chairman of the CRFM Ministerial Council], or their representatives, who will report on the progress of this MOU in the respective OSPECSA and CRFM meetings.
 - (e) Commission the CRFM Secretariat and the SICA/OSPECSA Directorate to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan and this MOU, promoting a communication strategy and reporting on a biannual basis to the Monitoring Committee and through it to the fisheries authorities of the OSPECSA and CRFM member countries; and establish working groups as required to assist with specific tasks.

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- (f) Jointly seek funds to implement the Action Plan and other agreed activities designed to achieve the purpose of this MOU.
3. Nothing in this MOU will affect a Party's freedom or ability to:
- (a) develop relations with any other State or organization;
 - (b) conduct research or capacity building activities independently;
 - (c) continue existing commitments , or make new ones;
 - (d) mobilize resources; or
 - (e) exploit or otherwise take advantage of its intellectual property.
4. All intellectual property rights arising out of the projects developed and implemented under this MOU will belong to the CRFM and OSPESCA. The institutional logos of both Parties should appear in products that are generated, with the prior mutual consent of the Parties.
5. If, in the performance of this MOU, any differences should arise as to the interpretation, application or the obligations assumed by the parties, such issues shall be resolved through a negotiation process or, in the alternative, by other means to which the parties may agree.
6. This MOU shall enter into force on the 1st of January 2013.
7. This MOU may be amended by agreement in writing once signed by both parties.
8. Either Party may terminate this MOU at any time by giving at least 180 days written notice to the other Party. The termination of the MOU will not affect projects that have been agreed prior to the termination, and ongoing activities will continue until their completion, unless otherwise agreed.


Belize City, Belize, September 4 2012

Signed by:


Danilo Rosales Pichardo
Pro Tempore President of
OSPESCA


V. Alfred Gray
Chairman of
CRFM Ministerial Council

Witnessed by:


Lisel Alamilla
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries
and Sustainable Development, Belize