

**Summary of the Seventh Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018**

**Participants**

Name	Abbreviation	Designation	Organization
Maren Headly	MaH	Research & Resource Assessment	CRFM
Mr. Milton Haughton	MH	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. Reinaldo Morales	RM	Regional Director	OSPESCA
Mr. Manuel Perez	MP	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Carlos Pulgarin	CP	Consultant	FAO
Mr. Patrick Debels	PD	Regional project coordinator	CLME+ PCU

**Agenda**

1. Approval of summary of the sixth meeting of the IFCM
2. IFCM work plan: status review & revision
3. RFMO establishment
4. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial meeting
5. Update on staff changes at WECAFC and CLME+ PCU
6. Any Other Business

**Meeting Development**

- MH Offered welcoming words.
- Two changes were made to the initial proposed agenda: expanded work on status and way forward on IUU fishing in
- item 4. Added item Any other business.

**1. Approval of minutes of the sixth Meeting of the IFCM**

- MH: additional text for the spiny lobster section regarding more participants to the stock assessment workshop was added. Slightly (editorial) changes proposed on Fish Aggregating Devices section. The Blue Innovation Institute name was corrected.
- RM: amendment of the paragraph about IUU plan to highlight it is still a draft.
- With these changes the summary was approved.

**2. 2. IFCM work plan: status review & revision**

***Queen Conch***

- MH: the fisheries management and conservation queen conch plan was approved by the CRFM and OSPESCA Ministerial Councils, adopted by the WECAFC Commission and endorsed by CITES. WECAFC would recirculate the plan among the member states, as limited response has been received.
- MH: a proposal was submitted to CITES and DG MARE looking for funding, update would be required from the WECAFC Secretariat. In the absence of the WECAFC Secretary, further revision of the plan is deferred to the next opportunity.

### ***Spiny Lobster***

- The FMP was updated as planned and it is being reviewed.
- RM: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting was held in March 2018. The harmonization of stock assessment workshop under the ECOLANGOSTA Subproject took place in November 2017, and outputs presented at the Working Group meeting (preceding this meeting).
- PD: proposed that the 2017-2018 Work Plan and other related actions of the IFCM be incorporated in SOME E, SAP M&E, PPCM , SFP, and Research Strategies. It was agreed that substantive discussions on these matters be deferred to the next meeting once the WECAFC Secretary is onboard and the CLME+ Coordinating Staff is completed.
- MP: 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group meeting could take place in 2018 or 2019 and focus on traceability given continuity to discussions conducted at its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The regional plan will be further analyzed. Suggested that training workshop on stock assessment methodologies and data collection (Nicaragua) be included in the Work Plan.

### ***Flyingfish***

- MH: 6 consultancies are underway simultaneously, working on the various aspects of the flyingfish subproject; however joint working group meeting needs to be scheduled, probably for the last trimester of 2018. The Work Plan was adjusted accordingly. Preliminary consultations with CERMES to decide venues for meetings and its involvement and interactions with flyingfish stakeholders in this Subproject. It appears no real risk that all flyingfish subproject activities.
- MH: more specific actions for SOME E may need to be postponed until the CLME+ SOME E Officer is on board.

### ***Shrimp & Groundfish***

- CP: the coordinator for the subproject will be appointed in coming weeks, and based in Barbados.
- MP: asked if OSPESCA and CRFM are expected to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> JWG meeting on S&GF (they did not participate in the previous meetings). MH indicated it is expected they participate in future meetings, depending on funding availability.

### ***Sharks & Rays***

- MH: Working Group meeting took place as planned; recommendations being considered by CRFM.
- RM: OSPESCA draft action plan is being reviewed, with comments expected until June.
- CRFM and OSPESCA recommend that WECAFC consider the most suitable time for conveying its 17<sup>th</sup> session, considering the completion of various FMPs and other recommendations. The SAG indicated the same applies for the transition into an RFMO.

### ***RWG IUU***

- MH: two meetings have been held, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> one scheduled for this year. Work Plan may need to be moved to the subsequent trimester. CRFM and OSPESCA are currently considering the recommendations.

### ***Spawning Aggregations***

- MH confirms the meeting will be held next week.

## **FADs**

- September 2018 tentative date for the FADs Working Group meeting, it may require adjustment in the Work Plan.
- MH: 30 Nov- 1 Dec/2017, CRFM-CARIFICO seminar was held, with extensive discussion on the status of the FAD fisheries in the OECS participating countries. At the 6<sup>th</sup> IFCM meeting, FAO indicated difficulties in supporting the current FAD management plan, and NGOs have expressed growing opposition to FAD fisheries. These fisheries generally of small scale requires further analysis.

## **3. RFMO Establishment**

- MH: timing of the preparatory meeting for the RFMO is deferred until the new WECAFC Secretary comes on board. Countries and organizations were asked to submit any questions to be considered by the FAO consultant (already hired). CRFM countries are engaged, both at technical and policy level, and OSPESCA is awaiting responses from WECAFC. Funding for this meeting was approved, but it is unknown if a deadline applies.

## **4. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting**

- MH: meeting is trying to be aligned with the next SICA-CARICOM Summit and require substantive progress on the actions and recommendations under the Plan; probably during 2018 or 2019. The Ministers shall consider at least the following items: (1) IUU Action Plan, (2) Lobster Management Plan, (3) Traceability strategy; and (4) progress on the WECAFC reorientation, SOMEE institutionalization, identification of Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism/Regional Governance Framework and associated Sustainable Financing Plan.

## **5: Update on Staff Changes at WECAFC and CLME+ PCU**

- Ms. Yvette DieiOuadi has been appointed as the new WECAFC Secretary and is expected to be in the region by July.
- The CLME+ PCU is re-recruiting two people: a Senior Environmental Reporting Specialist (SERS) and a Monitoring & Mapping Specialist. Both positions are expected to be home-based.

## **6. Any Other Business**

- The announcement of the new WECAFC Secretary was welcomed, thus they will seek to meet with the new WECAFC Secretary upon her arrival, and the IFCM should then be held a meeting.
- The IFCM's (and an associated work plan) in the development of key CLME+ Project outputs including SOMEE, SAP M&E, PPCM and SFP and the Research Strategy are to be further discussed and elaborated, once the new WECAFC Secretary and CLME+ PCU new staff are on board.
- 2 concrete possible next opportunities for the IFCM to meet are: The mid-term CLME+ PSC meeting slated to take place 17-20 June; and the COFI meeting in July.
- It was agreed that the ECOLANGOSTA sub-project would support the publication of the St. George's declaration.
- The OSPESCA IUU draft plan, will be sent asap to the CMLE+ PCU for its translation to English, as offered in the sixth IFCM meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm