



ISSN: 1995-4808

CRFM Management Report – PY 2012 / 13

VOLUME 2 – Supplement 2

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL
SUB-COMMITTEE ON FLYINGFISH
18 OCTOBER 2012

CHAIRPERSON:

**Hon. V. Alfred Gray, M.P.
Minister of Agriculture, Marine
Resources and Local Government
THE BAHAMAS**

DATE AND VENUE:

**St. John's
ANTIGUA and BARBUDA**

18 OCTOBER 2012

**CRFM Secretariat, Belize
2012**

CRFM Management Report – PY 2012 / 13. Volume 2 – Supplement 2. Report of the First Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 18 October 2012

© *CRFM* 2012

All right reserved.

Reproduction, dissemination and use of material in this publication for educational or non-commercial purposes are authorized without prior written permission of the CRFM, provided the source is fully acknowledged. No part of this publication may be reproduced, disseminated or used for any commercial purposes or resold without the prior written permission of the CRFM.

Correct Citation:

CRFM 2012. Report of the First Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 18 October 2012. Volume 2 – Supplement 2. CRFM Management Report – PY 2012 / 13. 12p.

ISSN # 1995-4808

Published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat,
Belize

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	ii
INTRODUCTION	1
REPRESENTATION.....	1
ITEM 01: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	1
ITEM 02: ADOPTION OF AGENDA	1
ITEM 03: PROCEDURAL MATTERS	2
ITEM 04: REPORTS OF CLME CASE STUDIES TO CONDUCT A POLICY, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND A STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS FOR THE FLYINGFISH FISHERY.....	2
ITEM 05: REPORT OF FIRST MEETING OF CRFM / WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN	5
ITEM 06: ANY OTHER BUSINESS	8
ITEM 07: DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING	8
ITEM 08: ADJOURNMENT.....	9
ANNEX I - PARTICIPANTS LIST	10
ANNEX II - DRAFT AGENDA.....	13

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CANARI	-	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CLME	-	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CRFM	-	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
FMP	-	Fisheries Management Plan
GEF	-	Global Environmental Facility
NGO	-	Non-governmental Organization
SAP	-	Strategic Action Programme
TDA	-	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UWI	-	University of the West Indies
WECAFC	-	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

INTRODUCTION

The First Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish was held at the Grand Royal Antiguan Beach Resort, St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda on 18 October 2012.

REPRESENTATION

The list of delegates is appended as *Annex I* for easy reference.

ITEM 01: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman of the Ministerial Council, **Honourable V. Alfred Gray, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government, The Bahamas**, welcomed the delegates and representatives to the First Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish. In the process, he also verified the Member States in attendance that made up the Sub-Committee and thanked them for their participation.

ITEM 02: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The **Chairman** introduced this item and directed the attention of the Meeting to the draft Agenda (see *Annex II*) which was circulated prior to the start of the Meeting.

The **Barbados Representative** pointed out to the Meeting that his country had some issues regarding the establishment and the Terms of References (TORs) for the Ministerial Sub-Committee, and requested that it should be placed on the current Agenda.

The **Chairman** recalled that a decision was taken by the Ministerial Council at its Fifth Meeting on 13 October 2011 to establish the Sub-Committee. The Chairman also recalled that during the Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on 15 June 2012, Nassau, The Bahamas, due recognition was given to the concerns of Barbados, when these were raised, and the Council had agreed that the concerns of Barbados should be circulated to the Members of the Sub-Committee and addressed by the Sub-Committee during its First Meeting.

The **Deputy Executive Director** added that, prior to the present Meeting, the **CRFM Secretariat** had communicated with the Chief Fisheries Officer of Barbados to explain the structure of the general agenda and to note the need for Barbados to resubmit its written position, and then to request formal consideration of the position during the present Meeting. However, no formal submission was made prior to the present Meeting to facilitate distribution and hence formal discussion of the concerns.

The **Barbados Representative** had a document in hand, which he indicated to the Chairman, contained details of the concerns of Barbados.

The **Chairman** noted the submission of Barbados, but ruled that the matter could not be discussed at the present meeting, as it was not formally circulated to the Members of the Sub-Committee prior to the meeting as requested by the Sixth Meeting of the Council. The Chairman further requested that the concerns of Barbados be documented and distributed to the Members of the Sub-Committee as soon as possible so that the issues can be formally reviewed at the Second Meeting of the Sub-Committee, in order to allow sufficient time for Committee members to properly review the submission.

The Barbados Representative pointed out that the decision of the Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council as recorded in the report of the Meeting was as follows:

***Further Agreed** that the concerns expressed by Barbados would best be addressed by the Sub-Committee during its First Meeting*

The Meeting reviewed the draft Agenda and accepted it as presented. The adoption of the Agenda was moved by the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Representative** and seconded by the **Grenada Representative**.

ITEM 03: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The **Chairman** urged the Sub-Committee Members to keep all discussions or presentations clear, concise and to the point, so that the Agenda could be completed in a timely manner.

ITEM 04: REPORTS OF CLME CASE STUDIES TO CONDUCT A POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND A STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS FOR THE FLYINGFISH FISHERY

The **Executive Director** introduced this item and stated that the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project was primarily funded by the GEF, and was being jointly executed by various organisations including, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, IOC/UNESCO, CRFM, OSPESCA, UWI and countries during the period 2009 – 2012. He pointed out that the overall objective of the CLME project was to help prepare Caribbean States to strengthen their systems for governance and sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean through an ecosystem-based management approach. To achieve this goal, several technical activities had been undertaken to identify and address gaps in the information base regarding identified priority transboundary issues (TDA component of project). In addition, the CLME project was preparing a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) among Caribbean States to jointly improve governance, management and conservation of the transboundary living marine resources in a sustainable manner. The CRFM was the organization responsible for implementing two case studies addressing the Large Pelagic and Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fisheries.

The **Executive Director** further stated that in order to prepare the SAP component for the large pelagic and flyingfish fisheries Case Studies, the CRFM was mandated to complete the following 2 Activities in addition to the TDA activities mentioned above:

Activity 1 - Review and analyze existing policy, legal and institutional arrangements and investments for governance and management of these two fisheries with regard to the capacity to support the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Based on the findings, recommendations had been made to improve policy, legal and institutional arrangements for each fishery, including, as appropriate, identifying mechanisms for decision-making regarding conservation and management at the regional / sub-regional levels.

Under this activity, the CRFM Secretariat contracted Dr. Uwe Tietze and Dr. David Steadman Berry in November 2011 to undertake the review and analysis of the Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries. Field missions were undertaken by the Consultants during the period November - December 2011 which resulted in the first draft reports being completed in January 2012. The draft reports were subsequently revised and validated by the Member States and stakeholders during a regional technical workshop held in Grenada on 2 – 4 May 2012. These two reports have since been published.

Activity 2 - Conduct a stakeholder analysis to determine key organisations and groups (government departments, NGOs, fisher organisations, etc) that were involved or affected by the Flyingfish and Large

Pelagic Fisheries in each of the participating States, and to seek the inputs of these stakeholders on the most suitable approaches to improve governance arrangements for these important resources.

Under this activity and in February 2012, the CRFM Secretariat contracted the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional NGO based in Trinidad and Tobago, to conduct the regional and country-specific stakeholder analyses for the Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries. The scope of work focused on:

- 1) identifying primary and secondary stakeholders in each area, and;
- 2) assessing stakeholders' capacities, interests, levels of influence and involvement, willingness to participate, and any challenges to their current participation in the governance and management of the respective fisheries.

This analysis was an important step in the CLME project, and its success depended on the active participation of all participating States and stakeholders involved in the fisheries.

CANARI completed focus group discussions and surveys through field missions in Barbados, Grenada, Martinique, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The draft reports of the two fishery stakeholder analyses were prepared for review and validation during a regional workshop held in Grenada on 2 – 4 May 2012. The final reports were submitted in July 2012, and have since been published.

The **Executive Director** noted that the Flyingfish and Large Pelagic case studies were part of a larger CLME Project which was now winding down. He further noted that the Strategic Action Programme was being prepared and would be presented to the Member States for endorsement in the near future in the hope of getting additional funding from the GEF to implement the agreed Strategic Action Programme.

The Executive Director also reminded the meeting that the establishment of the Ministerial Sub-committee and the convening of the first two Meetings of the Sub-committee were specific activities planned under the Flyingfish Case Study, and as such these activities must be completed within the specified timeframe of the CLME Project in accordance with the Grant Support Agreement made between the United Nations Office for Project Services and the CRFM in November 2010. He further noted that the Case Study was scheduled to end on December 31, 2012 and all planned activities and expenditure should be completed by this date unless the project deadline was extended.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Ministerial Sub-Committee:

Noted the successful completion of the two CLME Case Study activities intended to inform development of a Strategic Action Programme for the CLME;

Also noted that the relevant reports have now been published, and that the information contained therein is useful for fisheries governance and management planning and decision-making purposes in general;

Urged Member States to prepare for, and to also begin to pursue to the extent possible, the recommendations contained in the two reports, which will be advocated under the CLME SAP.

ITEM 05: REPORT OF FIRST MEETING OF CRFM / WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

The **Deputy Executive Director** introduced this item to the Sub-Committee and gave a brief background of the CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish. She explained that during the Fourteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission held 6 - 9 February 2012 in Panama City, Panama, the Commission examined and adopted Terms of Reference for a number of joint technical working groups, including a CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean. The Terms of Reference for the joint Working Group included the development of WECAFC and CRFM activities regarding flyingfish management, specifically those steps that could be achieved during the 2012 - 2014 WECAFC inter-sessional period.

The **Deputy Executive Director** also noted that under the CLME Project, the CRFM had undertaken specific Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) activities for Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish. The outputs of these activities were now available and very timely in contributing to the agreed TORs and 2-year work plan of the CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on flyingfish.

The **Deputy Executive Director** reported that the First Meeting of the CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean was successfully convened on 18 - 19 June 2012. The countries represented at the Meeting included: Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent

and the Grenadines. There were also representatives from the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariat, as well as from The University of the West Indies (UWI). Countries were requested to submit national reports, and these were received for Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The UWI representative, being from Barbados, provided an informal, oral update on the Barbados flyingfish fishery.

During the Meeting, the most recent resource assessments conducted for Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish, as well as the findings of the additional CLME TDA activities completed to date, were reviewed and examined, which resulted in the following outputs:

- (i) An updated Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- (ii) An agreed list of proposed key management measures;
- (iii) A draft management resolution to be discussed and adopted at the next Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Sub-committee Flyingfish, or the CRFM Ministerial Council;
- (iv) An agreed process for national stakeholder consultations to consider the proposed management plan and in so doing, also the proposed management measures and resolution, and
- (v) An inter-sessional Work Plan, which identified the steps towards implementation of the FMP, as well as a timeframe for commencing implementation.

The **Deputy Executive Director** further explained that the countries concerned should note that the national stakeholder consultations were intended to:

- (i) Introduce and increase awareness of the latest draft Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and the management measures included;
- (ii) Solicit feedback on the draft FMP and any necessary adjustments / refinements;
- (iii) Generate buy-in from fishers and other stakeholders for implementation of the FMP;
- (iv) Prepare stakeholders for implementation of the FMP (discussion about national level implementation of management measures, e.g. licenses).

Guided by the fact that the CRFM Ministerial Sub-committee on Flyingfish or the Council would not be able to approve and adopt the fisheries management plan and proposed management measures and resolution until 2013, after all the national consultations had been completed and presented to the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, the Working Group recommended that, in the interim, the available drafts be shared during the upcoming CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee Meeting in October 2012. The Draft FMP and Resolution were therefore being presented to the Members of the Sub-Committee not for final

endorsement but to keep the Council apprised of the on-going activities to strengthen governance and management arrangements of the fisheries.

The **Deputy Executive Director** further explained that the draft Flyingfish Management Plan, 2012, which was developed during the Meeting, and which was included in the Report presented to the Sub-Committee, was an update of a Regional Flyingfish Management Plan developed in 2008 during the Third Meeting of the WECAFC ad hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean. The 2012 update was also informed by more recent findings arising from the work done by the CRFM through the CLME funded Case Studies. In this regard, the general management objectives underlying the 2012 management plan update were:

- (a) Sustained flyingfish resources (biological objective)
- (b) Optimal use of the flyingfish resource for long-term benefit (socio- economic objective) and
- (c) Sustained ecosystem health (ecological objective).

The **Deputy Executive Director** concluded by stating that while acknowledging the shortcomings of data, the Working Group advocated a precautionary approach to safeguard the socio-economic well-being of the fishers, the flyingfish industry in the sub-region and the ecosystem that sustained the flyingfish fishery. This approach was incorporated into the draft management resolution being submitted for adoption by the countries at the national as well as the regional level.

Further, if the national consultations were conducted as planned, the flyingfish management resolution was expected to be formally adopted by the CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee and the Ministerial Council in 2013, as well as the WECAFC Commission in 2014.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Ministerial Sub-Committee:

Noted the successful completion of the First Meeting of the CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;

Also noted the findings and recommendations contained in the Report of this Meeting, which included a fisheries management plan incorporating the most recent available scientific information on the status of

flyingfish and the performance of the industry, and proposed management measures arising from examination of this information;

Urged Member States to complete the necessary national consultations that would facilitate finalization and formal adoption of the fisheries management plan and of agreed management measures for the successful sustainable management of Eastern Caribbean flyingfish.

ITEM 06: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This item was introduced by the **Chairman**. However, there was no other business raised at the Meeting.

ITEM 07: DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

This item was introduced by the **Chairman** who invited the Members of the Sub-Committee to suggest a date and venue for the next meeting. The **Trinidad and Tobago Representative** offered to host the next meeting during the second or third week of November 2012. The Trinidad and Tobago Representative also invited the Chairman of the Ministerial Council to attend and to chair the proposed Second Meeting while thanking him for doing an excellent job in convening this Meeting.

The **Chairman**, in his response, noted the Trinidad and Tobago Representative's invitation and remarks, and stated that while he was not a part of this Sub-Committee, he would graciously accept such an invitation.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Ministerial Sub-Committee:

Agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-committee would be held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2012; and

Also Agreed that the Chairman of the Council, Hon. V. Alfred Grey, would chair the Second Meeting of the Sub-committee.

ITEM 08: ADJOURNMENT

The **Chairman** thanked the Members of the Sub-Committee for their participation and contributions made during the Meeting. He closed the Meeting with a word of prayer and wished everyone present a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

THE BAHAMAS

Hon. V. Alfred Gray, M.P.
 Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources and
 Local Government
 Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and
 Local Government
 P.O. Box N-3028
 Lavy Building
 East Bay Street
 Nassau
 Tel: 242-328-2700; Fax: 242-322-8632
 Email: valfredgray@bahamas.gov.bs

Mr. Michael T. Braynen
 Director of Marine Resources
 Department of Marine Resources
 Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources
 P.O. Box N-3028
 Nassau
 Tel: 242-393-1777
 242-393-1014
 242-393-1096
 Fax: 242-393-0238
 Email: michaelbraynen@bahamas.gov.bs
michaelbraynen@yahoo.com

BARBADOS

Mr. Ralph Farnum
 Chief Agricultural Officer (ag.)
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, and
 Water Resource Management
 Graemme Hall
 P.O. Box 505
 Christ Church
 Tel: 246-434-5018
 246-434-5000
 Fax: 246-428-7777
 Email: Rfarnum@minagriculture.gov.bb

Mrs. Suzette Edey-Babb
 Chief Economist
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and
 Water Resource Management
 Princess Alice Highway
 P.O. Box 505
 Bridgetown
 Tel: 246-434-5036
 Fax: 246-428-7777
 Email: Suzette.EdeyBabb@gmail.com

GRENADA

Mr. Francis Calliste
 Fisheries Officer
 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
 Tanteen
 Ministerial Complex
 St. George's
 Tel: 473-440-2708
 Fax: 473-440-6613
 Email: tobex00@hotmail.com

ST. LUCIA

Honourable Moses Jn Baptiste
 Minister
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production,
 Fisheries and Rural Development
 5th Floor, Sir Stanislaus James Building
 Castries
 Tel: 758-468-4174
 Fax: 758-453-1262
 Email: minofagriculture@gosl.lc

Mr. Rufus George
 Chief Fisheries Officer (ag.)
 Department of Fisheries
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Point Seraphine
 Castries
 Tel: 001-758-468-4135 / 4136
 001-758-468-4143
 Fax: 001-758-452-3853
 Email: rufus.george@govt.ec

ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES

Honourable Saboto Scofield Caesar
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation and Industry
Murray's Road
Richmond Hill
Kingstown
Tel: 784-456-1410
Fax: 784-457-1688
Email: office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc
agrimin@gov.vc

Mr. Raymond Ryan
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation and Industry
Richmond Hill
Kingstown
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES
Tel: 001-784-456-1410
Fax: 001-784-457-1688
Email: agrimin@gov.vc
office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc
rayjoel3163@yahoo.com

Mr. Reuben Robertson
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation and Industry
Richmond Hill
Kingstown
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES
Tel: 001-784-456-1410
Fax: 001-784-457-1688

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

Mr. Jairam Seemungal
Minister of State
Ministry of Food Production
St. Clair Circle
St. Clair
Port of Spain
TRINIDAD and TOBAGO
Tel: 868-622-1221
868-342-2006
Fax: 868-622-1221
Email: mpjseemungal@yahoo.com

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

Mr. Milton Haughton
Executive Director
CRFM Secretariat
Princess Margaret Drive
P.O. Box 642
Belize City
BELIZE
Tel: 501-223-4443
Fax: 501-223-4446
Email: haughton@caricom-fisheries.com
miltonhaughton@hotmail.com
crfm@btl.net

Dr. Susan Singh-Renton
Deputy Executive Director
CRFM Secretariat
3rd Floor Corea's Building
Halifax Street
Kingstown
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES
Tel: 784-457-3474
Fax: 784-457-3475
Email: ssinghrenton@vincysurf.com
cfusvg@vincysurf.com

Mr. Terrence Phillips
Programme Manager, Fisheries Management
and Development
CRFM Secretariat
3rd Floor Corea's Building
Halifax Street
Kingstown
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES
Tel: 784-457-3474
Fax: 784-457-3475
Email: terrencephillips@vincysurf.com

Mr. Delmar Lanza
Manager, Finance and Administration
CRFM Secretariat
Princess Margaret Drive
P.O. Box 642
Belize City
BELIZE
Tel: 501-223-4443
Fax: 501-223-4446
Email: lanza@caricom-fisheries.com

Mr. Andrew Barnes
Finance Officer
CRFM Secretariat
Princess Margaret Drive
P.O. Box 642
Belize City
BELIZE
Tel: 501-223-4443
Fax: 501-223-4446
Email: barnes@caricom-fisheries.com

**CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM
SECRETARIAT**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE
MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE
ON FLYINGFISH**

RESTRICTED

MSCFF 2012 / 01 / 01

**Antigua and Barbuda
18 October 2012**

Document date: 27 September 2012

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**
- 4. REPORTS OF CLME CASE STUDIES TO CONDUCT A POLICY, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND A STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS FOR THE FLYINGFISH FISHERY**
- 5. REPORT OF FIRST MEETING OF CRFM/ WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN**
- 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**