

**Summary of the Third Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Guadeloupe, French Island, Saturday, 24 June, 2016**

Participants

Name	Abbreviation	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	RV	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Ms. Tarub Bahri	TB	Fisheries Resources Officer	FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	MH	Executive Director	CRFM
Ms. Lorna Innis	LI	Principal Coordination Officer	UNEP-CEP
Ms. Frederique Fardin	FF	Nereus Fellow	UNEP-SPAW
Mr. Sergio Martinez	SM	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick Debels	PD	Regional Project Coordinator	CLME+ PCU
Mrs. Laverne Walker	LW	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries workplan
2. IUU Working Group meetings, venues and dates, and next steps
3. WECAFC 16 on the RFMO
4. CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan
5. NOAA Grant Proposal – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries
6. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1 – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries Work Plan

Queen Conch

- The QC Regional Management Plan has been approved through the governance processes of all three RFBs.
- A draft decision will be taken to the CITES 17 COP, once completing countries review. Colombia will probably lead this initiative to ensure the decision is adopted.
- the CITES Secretariat will have funds to support the Queen Conch Working Group meeting (expected to take place in 2017), and national stock assessments, among other activities.
- It was reiterated that appropriate delegates from Jamaica participate in this CITES COP in case they like to address the issue of IUU fishing and the CITES scientific quota.
- SM: informed that Belize, Honduras and Guatemala were looking at harmonizing management measures for the queen conch, similarly to the approach taken for the spiny lobster. OSPESCA Executive Director will report on the progress. Honduras and Nicaragua are also working on a traceability system.
- PD: Reminded the need to identify targets and indicators for queen conch as it is related to the CLME+ SAP. RV so indicated these targets had already been defined by FIRMS and are based on the Regional Management and Conservation Plan for Queen Conch.
- RV: Will share the proposal to be submitted to CITES Secretariat with the FICM members for their input during the fourth quarter of the year.

Spiny Lobster

- SM: informed that very soon the SICA Secretary General will sign the MOA on behalf of OSPESCA to develop the spiny lobster CLME+ sub-project. A coordinator will be hired. An Inception Workshop (October- November/2017) should be open to as many countries as possible, including Cuba that has expressed interest in be part of this effort and those that are already part of the Spiny Lobster WG.
- PD: reiterated the need to go beyond a single Spiny Lobster WG meeting, to identify targets and indicators that are aligned with the CLME+ SAP.
- SM: Invitation letters for the inception workshop will be sent out ASAP.

Flyingfish

- MH: informed that the MOA with UNOPS had been signed and the first disbursement has been received. CRFM is currently elaborating TORs for consultants to assist with the implementation of the sub-project. They are also planning the inception workshop, once stakeholders are updated and activities are better planned to secure their commitment.
- LW: indicated the need to define the link between Sargassum seaweed densities and flyingfish stock status. MH agreed that this issue would need to be further discussed, as it is important, but it was not originally included in the sub-project document.
- TB: mentioned that the University of the French Antilles in Guadeloupe could be invited to attend the inception workshop considering they have information on flyingfish decrease associated with the Sargassum seaweed. Contact information was provided.
- MH: CRFM had done an assessment on the status of the implementation of the Flyingfish Management Plan, just over a year after its approval. Only limited progress had been made, a topic to be discussed at the next Flyingfish WG meeting in 2017. They will share this assessment with the CLME+ PCU.

Large Pelagics

- RV: informed that a Billfish Workshop will take place in the Dominican Republic during the last week of November. At this workshop the draft Billfish Management Plan developed and shared with countries and the Billfish Consortium will be reviewed. It is expected the plan will be finalized at the workshop and then passed through the IFMC for endorsement.

2 – IUU Working Group Meetings, Venues and Dates, and Next Steps

- VR: FAO had finally received funds under a NOAA Grant to support the IUU WG meeting. This meeting would be supplemented with funds from the World Bank Billfish Project. The WG meeting would take place between September-October /2017.
- MH: They have prepared a tentative list of participants and a proposed agenda will be updated and shared to WECAFC and OSPESCA for their review, at the beginning of July, 2016.
- RV: informed that due to limited funds, the meeting will be conducted only in English and simultaneous translators cannot be hired this time.
- RV: A much broader IUU WG training workshop is also being considered for November 2016 with a focus on the Vessel Registry, and asked SM if OSPESCA would be willing to organize and host this meeting. Panama was proposed as a possible meeting location. A proposal from OSPESCA is then expected by 01 July, 2016.
- MH: mentioned that a Regional Wildlife Crime Meeting in the Bahamas in July will be organized by Interpol and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime.

3 – WECAFC 16 on the RFMO Process

- RV: indicated that the first preparatory meeting would take place in June 2017. This meeting will be multidisciplinary and involve fisheries personnel, lawyers, and representatives from the foreign affairs ministries.
- RV: said that WECAFC-FAO submitted a proposal to the EU, which is currently being considered. If approved, funds would become available around April, 2017. In that case, the venue would need to be determined. In preparation, WECAFC will work on a background paper. Participants attending this meeting, would need to be well prepared.
- MH: indicated CRFM membership have a number of questions/queries after review the reports. Thus RV suggested these questions be sent to them in September.

4 – CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan

- MH: reported that about a meeting with the Executive Director of OSPESCA in El Salvador in May and were able to discuss the CRFM-OSPESCA Joint Action Plan. At present, they are awaiting feedback from OSPESCA on TORs for two Ministerial Level Committees. They are also hoping to establish an Executive Meeting Group with representatives from the two organisations. Greater collaboration, particularly under the CLME+ Project are underway.
- PD: indicated that under the CLME+ Project there are funds to support the next joint CRFM-OSPESCA ministerial meeting, and suggested the meeting take place at the end of 2017.

5 – NOAA Grant Proposal – Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries

- LW: mentioned that a grant proposal was submitted under NOAA grants website. This proposal looks for support for the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries work plan, including support the Spiny Lobster and Queen Conch Working Group meetings, and a catch documentation and traceability system. She said that a NOAA representative would contact the CLME+ PCU to consider the scope of the grant.
- It was suggested that resources from tis grant could be used to help the region comply with the US IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud Regulation.

6 – Any Other Business

- PD: informed the draft Letter of Intent (LOI) for the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism was revised. Members of the FICM agreed to further revise this LOI. In addition, they agreed to include CARICOM Secretariat in the list of organisations that will be represented on the Interim Coordination Mechanism.
- The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism should come into effort when at least 6 of the 10 suggested participating organisations sign the LOI. A revised LOI version could then be circulated among their legal departments.