

**Summary of the Fourth Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Bridgetown, Barbados, Tuesday, 28 February, 2017**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	Executive Director	CRFM
Mr. Sergio Martinez	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick McConney	Director	UWI- CERMES
Mr. Robin Mahon	Professor	UWI-CERMES
Mrs. Laverne Walker	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. Review status update and the Fisheries ICM Workplan
2. Update of the 3 sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination
3. IUU strategy and action plan
4. Update Reorientation of WECAFC and Decision of the Commission to launch a process to establish an RFMO Process
5. Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting
6. SOME outline and fisheries chapter
7. Participation at UNEP-CEP COPs & IGM Meetings
8. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1: Review Status Update and the Fisheries ICM Workplan

Queen Conch

- The OSPESCA had not yet developed conch regulations, similar to the ones for spiny lobster.
- The US NGOs have initiated another legal action against the US Federal Government decision of not listing queen conch as threatened or endangered. At this time, the region is not very clear as to how the new administration will address this legal action.
- The region should continue to monitor the progression of this case. If listed as an endangered species, the US would close the fishery and stop all trade, impacting the entire region.
- The Regional Queen Conch Management Plan was adopted at the CITES COP 17 held in Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2015. Countries requested funding from the CITES Secretariat to assist in the implementation of the Management Plan. The EU has pre-approved USD 200,000 to CITES and a meeting between the EU, FAO and some scientists is scheduled to take place to agree on how to utilize these funds. **The WECAFC Secretariat will inform the Fisheries ICM about the outcome of the discussions between CITES, FAO and the EU.**
- **The representative from CRFM will follow up with Jamaica regarding the submission of queen conch data to FAO.**
- FAO is currently reviewing information provided by Honduras with regard to continuing and expanding their scientific research of the queen conch, in response to the CITES request.

- The importance of a monitoring scheme for tracking the implementation of the management plan was highlighted. The regional traceability meeting could also be used for this purpose.
- Under the US MAREA initiative, a management plan for queen conch was developed for Honduras, Belize & Guatemala. Its similarity with the regionally approved management plan will be analyzed. **OSPESCA to share the MAREA plan with the meeting.**
- The next meeting of the Queen Conch Working Group is scheduled to take place at the end of 2017 or early 2018, depending on when adequate funds would become available.

Large Pelagics

- The 3rd Regional Workshop for Billfish management and conservation is planned for 4-6 April, 2017. A draft programme and invitation letters were sent for review. The workshop is aimed to review the draft Billfish Management Plan. Once the plan is endorsed by the Working Group, the process will continue with CRFM and OSPESCA revision and endorsement, before it is submitted to the next WECAFC Session for adoption and subsequent implementation.
- WECAFC may allocate funds under the Caribbean Billfish Project to undertake a study on how to improve ICCAT decision-making with regards to important target stocks for the Caribbean region. An expected output is to have CRFM and OSPESCA countries acting like an integrated group during ICCAT meetings.

Sharks

- From 4-6 July, the sharks WG will meet in Barbados. Given limited funds, only major shark producers will be invited to attend.
- A regional assessment on the status of sharks will be undertaken and a Regional Plan of Action will be drafted. It is anticipated that this RPOA-sharks will also go through the Fisheries ICM process in 2017/2018.

2: Update of the 3 sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination

Spiny Lobster sub-project

- A spiny lobster meeting was held on 23-24 February in Costa Rica. Representatives from Jamaica and Bahamas joined OSPESCA countries, along with representatives from CRFM and CERMES. This meeting also served as the inception workshop for CLME+ Spiny Lobster sub-project. It was recommended to extend invitations to FAO and the WECAFC Secretariat in the future.
- The spiny lobster sub-project is moving forward smoothly, and a project coordinator is being hired.
- The NOAA grant has been delayed, and thus the use of these funds are expected from October 2016 to September 2017. It was recommended to develop the next Spiny Lobster WG meeting during that period, which will alter current plans of using the 2017 GCFI annual meeting. **CLME+ PCU will request an extension of the NOAA grant until December 2017.** Coordination with the Working Group convener will be necessary.
- The group suggested that large producer countries shall be invited given their higher interest in this fishery. However, this approach does not consider some CRFM countries having stronger conservation measures in place.

FlyingFish Sub-Project

- CANARI, UWI CERMES, NEXUS (a Canadian firm), and Eastern Research (an US firm) have been contracted for this sub-Project. The plan is to bring countries together for agreements on project outputs and deliverables.
- It was recommended, to the extent possible, that CRFM urge the consultants to work together and have a strong coordinating role, avoiding replication of activities across consultancies.
- At present, there is no mechanism that allows RFBs to track implementation of the approved regional management plans, therefore, a harmonized monitoring system needs to be in place. Such a monitoring system should be simple and easy to complete and assistance for its development could potentially come from the CLME+ Project. The monitoring and evaluation system should not analyze the impacts of the actions, but mostly the implementation level of the plan and policies in place.
- **FAO to share templates of the monitoring system with CERMES and CERMES to discuss with CLME+ PCU possible approaches for assisting the RFBs develop the requested monitoring system.**
- Generally, implementation of plans and policies in this region is very low and CARICOM is considering focusing more on monitoring and evaluation.
- The development of SOMEE under the CLME+ Project is a tool that should also be considered in monitoring and evaluation of policies and plans. The fisher folks need to be involved in the implementation of management plans.

Shrimp and Groundfish Sub Project:

- The IAA between FAO and UNOPS is expected to be signed by the end of March, and project activities shall commence shortly after. This project will be integrated with the one being developed by UNEP-CEP. A workshop to advance the EBM Project Document is being organized by UNEP-CEP (French Guiana, 10-11 March) and FAO has been invited, thus an update of this subproject could be presented there.
- An EAF training workshop is being planned for 5-9 June, and it will be funded by the REBYC II LAC Project and the Shrimp and Groundfish Sub-Project.
- The third meeting of the IUU Working Group is scheduled to take place in October 2017 and will probably be held back-to-back with the Shrimp and Groundfish Inception Workshop.

3: IUU Strategy and Action Plan

- The IUU WG meeting was to commence the following day, with CRFM being the convener. The components for a future IUU Strategy and Regional Plan of Action would be discussed there. Two additional meetings of the IUU WG are being planned for 2017, the first is a regional workshop for the establishment of a Regional Fishing Vessel Register (May) supported by EU funding. The second will focus on the development of the Regional Programme of Action for IUU fishing (October) supported by the CLME+ Project. The CLME+ Project is providing funding for drafting a RPOA-IUU fishing, with additional financial support from the other CLME+ Sub-Projects.

4: Update Reorientation of WECAFC and Decision of the Commission to launch a process to establish an RFMO Process

- The WECAFC Secretariat has some funds for a consultancy to seek answers to questions from countries raised during their review of the reorientation of WECAFC study, presented at its 16th session.
- **The CRFM Member States will submit their questions, and committed to do it soon after the Fisheries Forum.**
- The EU will assist the region with the RFMO preparatory process, however a project proposal to access the funds needs to be developed, and likely to be developed in April 2017.
- The first preparatory meeting for the RFMO process most probably will be around March 2018. Thus the first RFMO preparatory meeting would use EU funds, while the second one would use CLME+ funds.

5: Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- It is unlikely that the Joint CRFM – OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting would take place in 2017, but in 2018 where both CRFM and OSPESCA would have results from initiatives to share with the Ministers for their approval. Suggested dates for this meeting were June 2018 or October 2018.

6: SOME Outline and Fisheries Chapter

- The CLME+ PCU is working on the SOMEE outline. A chapter dedicated to the State of Fisheries within the CLME+ region is included, thus all the RFBs will be expected to participate in its development.

7: Participation at UNEP-CEP COPs & IGM Meetings

- The meeting agreed that it is important that they participate in meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. However, it was indicated they would be unable to attend the meetings scheduled for the week of 13 March, and expressed the importance that a fisheries representative be present as there were a number of species up for listing under the SPAW Protocol Annexes.
- It is important that UNEP-CEP engage more closely with the Regional Fisheries Bodies, and share meeting documents (likely to affect fisheries) presented at the SPAW Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STACs) meetings. In this way, the RFBs can share this documentation with the National Fisheries Departments and other fisheries stakeholders and allow for broader consultation on the marine species recommended for listings under the SPAW Protocols.
- **CLME+ PCU to share SPAW meeting documents with RFBs.**

8: Any Other Business

SAP ICM Memorandum of Understanding

- The Members of the RFBs inquired about the status of the SAP ICM MOU and the need for its formalization and operation. This is the second year of project implementation, and it was recommended that this MOU be simple.
- It was suggested that the SAP ICM articulate a two-year work programme addressing some of the specifics they would be working on.
- They agreed to participate in a meeting of the SAP ICM, however, they stated that April was not a good month and suggested June.

SDG 14 Oceans Conference - June 2017

- The Meeting briefly discussed the SDG 14 Oceans Conference scheduled to take place 5 – 9 June 2017 in New York. It was recognized that attempts should be made to ensure that the region has a presence during that meeting.

Next Meeting of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries

- If necessary, the IFCM could meet informally during the afternoon of Friday, 31 March, after the CRFM Fisheries Forum in Jamaica, however a formal meeting of the Fisheries ICM would be defined at a later time.