

**Summary of the Fifth Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Miami, Florida, US, Monday, 2nd October, 2017**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr. Raymond Van Anrooy	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. James Azueta	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mrs. Laverne Walker	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. Review, status update and revision of IFCM work plan
3. Update 3 fisheries sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination
4. WECAFC reorientation and the launch of a process to establish an RFMO
5. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA ministerial meeting
6. Departure of existing WECAFC Secretariat and potential impacts on the IFCM
7. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1. Review, status update and revision of IFCM work plan

Queen Conch

- Due to limited responses received from the WECAFC member countries in regard to the queen conch fisheries management and conservation regional plan, the document will be redistributed to the Fisheries Departments in case they are still not aware of this document.
- **WECAFC will re-send the plan (English & Spanish versions) to the countries in October, followed by emails from OSPESCA and CRFM, expecting to gather information on its implementation status.**

Spiny Lobster

- A tentative workshop in November to evaluate spiny lobster stocks in Belize, Honduras and Nicaragua, using CLME+ Spiny Lobster Sub-Project funding is being planned. Stock assessment methods could be used in other countries. **This would build synergy with the Spiny Lobster Working Group.**
- The workshop will continue efforts done at the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group on Spiny Lobster that focused on stock assessments (3 years ago), and use this as an opportunity to advance the discussions and save resources.
- **OSPESCA is the Convener of this regional Working Group. They will coordinate with CRFM and WECAFC to send the invitations letters.** It was suggested to invite two people from Antigua, Grenada and Saint Lucia, depending on availability of funds from the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project.
- It would be possible to use funds from the NOAA grant to support the Spiny Lobster Joint Working Group meeting instead, considering the project is ending in Dec/2017 and the expansion of the originally proposed workshop. In addition, this Working Group meeting should focus on the traceability standard.
- It was decided **to postpone the workshop to the first half of 2018 and request a no-cost extension of the Grant from NOAA.** OSPESCA still do not have enough information on its traceability standard.

Shrimp and Groundfish

- **The inception meeting for the Shrimp and Groundfish Sub-Project, the North Brazil Shelf EBM Sub-Project & the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Working Group is scheduled for 20-24 November.** At present, only WECAFC-FAO and CRFM will participate. OSPESCA is consulting on whether to take part or not.

Sharks and Rays

- **The 1st meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/ OSPESCA/CFMC/CITES Working Group on sharks and rays will take place in Barbados in October 2017.** As in the case of spiny lobster and queen conch, the agreed recommendations would be reviewed by CRFM and OSPESCA and subsequently brought to WECAFC Session for final endorsement.
- The WECAFC-FAO has sent invitations, and is waiting for responses. Currently, UNEP-CEP is in the process of hiring a new SAPW Programme Officer and no response has been received from them.

Fish Aggregating Devices

- CARIFICO Project has funds to support the development of another FAD manual in the series that was started some years ago. **A workshop to discuss FAD management is being planning for 30 November – 1 December.**
- FAO may have difficulty supporting the current FAD management plan as some countries are adopting a cautious approach when it comes to FAD fisheries, however, this was considered important to be addressed by the Fisheries IFCM in the future.

Spawning Aggregations

- Due to Hurricane Maria, the Spawning Aggregation Working Group meeting was postponed. **The meeting is expected to take place during the first quarter of 2018 and CFMC is taking a leading role in its organization.**

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

- The sentence *'Where possible ensure that Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction is given consideration when identifying activities.'* led to the development of the 5Cs tool to help evaluate projects and interventions for climate smart practices. It may be useful for the RFBs to assess the tool with the assistance of the 5Cs.
- The Blue Innovative Institute will have a Fisheries and Climate Change meeting in Grenada and this tool could be presented there.
- **A representative of the Blue Innovative Institute will be contacted regarding the 5Cs tool, to see if this meeting could take place before the end of the year.**

2. Status Update 3 fisheries sub-projects and opportunities for enhanced coordination

- This topic was discussed earlier at the Project Executive Group, thus no need for further discussion.

3. IUU Strategy and Action Plan

- Two meetings of the Joint Working Group on Illegal Unregulated Unauthorized (IUU) fishing have been held. At present, an additional USD \$30,000 was identified to host its 3rd meeting which would focus on the Regional Plan of Action. A draft is expected in early 2018, having the consultants engaged prior to their departure from the region (Stop Illegal Fishing and FISH-i Africa recommended). A convener for the meeting is in the process of being identified.
- **OSPESCA had developed an IUU plan, but it may need translation before its broad distribution.**
- **CLME+ PCU offered help with the English translation.**

4: Departure of existing WECAFC Secretariat and potential impacts on the IFCM

- A consultant has been contracted to support the WECAFC reorientation to RFMO as recommended at the 16th Commission session, and a report is expected by mid-December 2017. Questions from member states and partner organizations would be included as an Annex in preparation for a legal consultant. \$100,000 Euro is available from the GCP/SLC/015/EC to support the first RFMO Preparatory Meeting, probably at the first half of 2018.

5: Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- The new Regional Director of OSPESCA is seeking a time, hopefully between October and November, to visit Belize and agree with CRFM on their joint Ministerial Meeting agenda, amongst other things.
- **It was agreed that this ministerial meeting should be held prior to the next SICA – CARICOM meeting scheduled for 2018.**

6: Departure of existing WECAFC Secretary and potential impact on the work of the Fisheries ICM

- The WECAFC Secretary will be departing the region for a new post in FAO Rome on Dec/2018. Thanks and appreciation was expressed in recognition to all the successes accomplished during his stint as WECAFC Secretary. **There is hope that the position of WECAFC Secretary will be filled rapidly.**

7: Any Other Business

- **The meeting agreed that the new Chairperson for the IFCM will be the Executive Director of CRFM.**
- The WECAFC Secretary thanked everyone for their participation during the meeting and earlier meetings of the IFCM. He also thanked the other RFBs for their excellent cooperation and expressed his hope that this arrangement will continue. The IFCM is an opportunity to build the capacity and strengths of the RFBs as well as to promote a harmonized approach towards fisheries management. He also expressed his thanks to the CLME+ PCU for their continued support to the ICM and the collaborative work of the RFBs.