

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

Participants

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

Agenda

1. Summary of last meeting
2. 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

- RV offered welcoming words.
- The proposed agenda was adopted with no additional comments.

1. Summary of Last Meeting

- Summary of the fourth meeting was reviewed and approved, with no additional comments.

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

Queen Conch

RV: limited response received from the WECAFC member countries in regard to the queen conch fisheries management and conservation regional plan.

- JA: suggested the plan 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

- JA: tentative workshop in November aimed to evaluate spiny lobster stocks in Belize, Honduras and Nicaragua, using CLME+ Spiny Lobster Sub-Project funding. Stock assessment methods could be used in other countries.
- MH: 3 years ago, at the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group on Spiny Lobster focused on stock assessments, and indicated proposed workshop appears to be a follow-up of that meeting, and an opportunity to advance the discussions and save resources.

- JA: agreed that this workshop should be in synergy with the Spiny Lobster Working Group. Additional participants would need to their own funding and ideally be involved in undertaking stock assessments in their countries.
- The group agreed that the stock assessment workshop proposed should preferably a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Spiny Lobster, of which OSPESCA is the Convener. A list of contacts to be invited at their own expense will be in accordance with CRFM and WECAFC information. Invitations to Antigua, Grenada and Saint Lucia were suggested, MH asked for potential funding for at least two participants from these countries to the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project.
- LV: indicated to look at a NOAA grant to support this 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.
- JA: OSPESCA still do not have enough information on its 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.

Shrimp and Groundfish

- RV: 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 participate and it was asked if OSPESCA would be interested in become a part. Consultations will be made.

Sharks and Rays

- RV: 1st meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/ OSPESCA/CFMC/CITES Working Group on sharks and rays would take place in Barbados in October 2017. As in the case of spiny lobster and queen conch, agreed recommendations would be reviewed by CRFM and OSPESCA then brought to WECAFC Session for final endorsement.
- LW: asked for invitation to the SPAW Secretariat, because sharks and rays are species under the SPAW Protocol and were mentioned in previous IFCM meetings. The WECAFC-FAO has sent invitations, and is waiting for their response. Currently, UNEP-CEP is in the process of hiring a new SAPW Programme Officer.

Fish Aggregating Devices

- MH: 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.
- RV: 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, considered important to be addressed by the Fisheries IFCM in the future.

Spawning Aggregations

- RV: 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

- MH: The sentence *'Where possible ensure that Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction is given consideration when identifying activities.'* lead 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.
- RV: funds from the Blue Innovative Institute to have a Fisheries and Climate Change meeting in Grenada and the tool this tool could be presented there. Angus Friday of the Blue Innovative Institute will be contacted regarding the 5Cs tool and to see if this meeting could take place before the end of the year.

3. 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.

4. IUU Strategy and Action Plan

- RV: two meetings of the Joint Working Group on Illegal Unregulated Unauthorized (IUU) fishing have been held. At present, is identifying an additional USD \$30,000 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 meeting convener is in the process of being filled.
- JA: OSPESCA had developed an IUU plan, but it may need translation before its broad distribution.
- LV: Offered help with the English translation.

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

- RV: a consultant has been contracted to support the WECAFC reorientation to RFMO as recommended at 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. EU \$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.

6: Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- JA: the new Regional Director of OSPESCA is seeking a time, hopefully between October and November to visit Belize and meet MH to discuss the proposed Joint CRFM – OSPESCA 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.

7: Departure of existing WECAFC Secretariat and potential impact on the work of the Fisheries ICM

- RV: 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. This acknowledgment IFCM. There is hope that the position of WECAFC will be filled short time.

8: Any Other Business

- The meeting agreed that the new Chairperson for the IFCM will be the Executive Director of CRFM, MH.

RV thanked all for their participation during this meeting and earlier meetings of the IFCM. He also thanked the other Regional Fisheries Bodies 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 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 .