

**Summary of the Sixth Sustainable Fisheries Interim Coordination Mechanism Meeting
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Friday, 23rd March, 2018**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Maren Headly	Research & Resource Assessment	CRFM
Mr. Milton Haughton	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. Reinaldo Morales	Regional Director	OSPESCA
Mr. Manuel Perez	Consultant	OSPESCA
Mr. Carlos Pulgarin	Consultant	FAO
Mr. Patrick Debels	Regional project coordinator	CLME+ PCU

Agenda

1. IFCM work plan: status review & revision
2. RFMO establishment
3. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial meeting
4. Update on staff changes at WECAFC and CLME+ PCU
5. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1. IFCM work plan: status review & revision

Queen Conch

- The fisheries management and conservation queen conch plan was approved by the CRFM and OSPESCA Ministerial Councils, adopted by the WECAFC Commission and endorsed by CITES. WECAFC will recirculate the plan among the member states, as limited response has been received.
- A funding proposal was submitted to CITES and DG MARE and an update will be required from the WECAFC Secretariat. In the absence of the WECAFC Secretary, further revision of the plan is deferred to the next opportunity.

Spiny Lobster

- The FMP was updated as planned and is being reviewed.
- The 2nd Working Group meeting was held in March 2018. The harmonization of stock assessment workshop under the ECOLANGOSTA Subproject took place in November 2017 and outputs were presented at the Working Group meeting (preceding this meeting).
- CLME+ PCU proposed that the 2017-2018 Work Plan and other related actions of the IFCM be incorporated in the SOME, SAP M&E, PPCM, SFP, and Research Strategies. It was agreed that substantive discussions on these matters be deferred to the next meeting once the WECAFC Secretary is on board and the CLME+ Coordinating Staff is completed.
- The 3rd Working Group meeting could take place in 2018 or 2019 and focus on traceability giving continuity to the discussions conducted at its 2nd meeting. The regional plan will be further analyzed.

It was suggested that a training workshop on stock assessment methodologies and data collection (Nicaragua) be included in the Work Plan.

Flyingfish

- CRFM is in the process of completing 6 consultancies simultaneously, to work on the various aspects of the flyingfish subproject; however, a joint working group meeting needs to be scheduled, probably for the last trimester of 2018. The Work Plan was adjusted accordingly. Preliminary consultations with CERMES to decide venues for meetings and its involvement and interactions with flyingfish stakeholders in this Subproject were conducted. It appears that there are no real risks for flyingfish subproject activities.
- More specific actions for SOMEE may need to be postponed until the CLME+ SOMEE Officer is on board.

Shrimp & Groundfish

- The coordinator for the subproject will be appointed in the coming weeks, and based in Barbados.
- OSPESCA and CRFM are expected to participate in the 3rd Joint Working Group meeting on S&GF (they did not participate in the previous meetings). It is expected that they participate in future meetings, depending on funding availability.

Sharks & Rays

- The Working Group meeting took place as planned and recommendations are being considered by CRFM.
- The OSPESCA draft action plan is being reviewed, with comments expected until June.
- CRFM and OSPESCA recommend that WECAFC consider the most suitable time for conveying its 17th session, considering the completion of various FMPs and other recommendations. The SAG indicated the same applies for the transition into an RFMO.

IUU fishing

- Two meetings have been held, with a 3rd one scheduled for this year. The Work Plan may need to be moved to the subsequent trimester. CRFM and OSPESCA are currently considering the recommendations.

Spawning Aggregations

- The Working Group meeting will be held next week.

FADs

- September 2018 is the tentative date for the FADs Working Group meeting, it may require adjustment in the Work Plan.
- The CRFM-CARIFICO seminar was held (30 Nov- 1 Dec/2017), with extensive discussions on the status of the FAD fisheries in the OECS participating countries. FAO indicated difficulties in supporting the current FAD management plan, and NGOs have expressed growing opposition to FAD fisheries. These fisheries generally of small-scale require further analysis.

2. RFMO Establishment

- The preparatory meeting for the RFMO is deferred until the new WECAFC Secretary comes on board. Countries and organizations were asked to submit any questions to be considered by the FAO consultant (already hired). CRFM countries are engaged, both at the technical and policy level, and OSPESCA is awaiting responses from WECAFC. Funding for this meeting was approved, but it is unknown if a deadline applies.

3. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- The meeting is trying to be aligned with the next SICA-CARICOM Summit and require substantive progress on the actions and recommendations under the Plan; probably during 2018 or 2019. The Ministers shall consider at least the following items: (1) IUU Action Plan, (2) Lobster Management Plan, (3) Traceability strategy; and (4) progress on the WECAFC reorientation, SOMEE institutionalization, identification of a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism/Regional Governance Framework and associated Sustainable Financing Plan.

4: Update on Staff Changes at WECAFC and CLME+ PCU

- Ms. Yvette DieiOuadi has been appointed as the new WECAFC Secretary and is expected to be in the region by July.
- The CLME+ PCU is re-recruiting two people: a) a Senior Environmental Reporting Specialist (SERS); and b) a Monitoring & Mapping Specialist. Both positions are expected to be home-based.

5. Any Other Business

- The announcement of the new WECAFC Secretary was welcomed, thus they will seek to meet with the new WECAFC Secretary upon her arrival, and the IFCM should then hold a meeting.
- The IFCM's role (and its associated work plan) in the development of key CLME+ Project outputs including SOMEE, SAP M&E, PPCM and SFP and the Research Strategy are to be further discussed and elaborated, once the new WECAFC Secretary and CLME+ PCU new staff are on board.
- Two concrete possible next opportunities for the IFCM to meet are: during the mid-term CLME+ PSC meeting slated to take place 17-20 June; or the COFI meeting in July.
- It was agreed that the ECOLANGOSTA sub-project would support the publication of the St. George's declaration.
- The OSPESCA IUU draft plan, will be sent asap by the CMLE+ PCU for its translation to English, as offered.