

**Summary of the Seventh Meeting of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries  
Miami, Florida, US, Saturday, 18 August 2018**

**Participants**

Name	Abbreviation	Designation	Organization
Mr. Milton Haughton	MH	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. Jeremy Mendoza	JM		WECAFC/FAO
Mr. Reinaldo Morales	RM	Regional Director	OSPESCA
Mrs. Laverne Walker	LW	Senior Project Officer	CLME+ PCU

**Agenda**

1. Approval of the summary of the seventh meeting of the IFCM
2. Review, status update and revision of IFCM workplan
3. Update reorientation of WECAFC and the decision of launch a process to establish a RFMO
4. Permanent policy coordination mechanism and sustainable financing plan process
5. IFCM responsibility and contribution to the SOMEE and SAP M&E reporting mechanism
6. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial meeting
7. Any other business

**Meeting Development:**

- MH: offered welcoming words. Indicated this meeting was a continuation of a meeting which commenced during COFI in July.

**1. Approval of minutes of the eighth Meeting of the IFCM**

The summary of the seventh meeting was reviewed and adopted.

**2: Review, status update and revision of IFCM workplan**

***Queen Conch***

- MH: CRFM countries would be reminded to submit their comments on the regional fisheries management plan. The third Queen Conch Working Group meeting will take place in Panama, 30 October to 1 November, 2018. Invitation letters had been sent. CRFM will act as the convener responding a request from CFMC, if resources needed to support the group and to host the meetings are available and upon the approval from its Executive Committee.
- RM: the work on traceability conducted by OSPESCA on spiny lobster and shrimp in Honduras, with support from OIRSA, is also applicable to queen conch.

***Spiny Lobster***

- RM: the final draft of the Regional Management Plan for Spiny Lobster will be shared in the coming weeks with countries for their inputs. The revised version will then be review by CRFM and OSPESCA countries prior to its submission to WECAFC for approval, hopefully at the upcoming WECAFC 17 session, scheduled after April 2019, allowing CRFM and OSPESCA to go through their own governance processes.

- RM: 25 people, from all sub-project participating countries (except the Bahamas) are expected to participate in the Stock Assessment Workshop, planned to take place in Belize (28-31 August).
- MH: CRFM explored with CEFAS about the possibility to sponsor additional participants to this workshop, but it appears is too late given that logistics for the workshop were already advanced, and the time CEFAS needs for internal administrative process.
- RM: Depending on the outcomes of the first stock assessment workshop and the availability of funds OSPESCA would consider the possibility of hosting a second one. Explained that OSPESCA had entered into an agreement with TNC to support the continuation of work which started under the Ecolangosta Sub-Project, and so, in the upcoming months they will be finalizing the traceability system and assisting countries with the implementation of the national management lobster plans.

### ***Flyingfish***

- MH: several consultancies under this sub-project continue. A joint coordination meeting between the consultants and the CRFM took place in June this year, and it a Joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group meeting on Flyingfish was recommended to further explore inputs from participating countries, define the way forward in the updated of the management plan, stakeholder agreement, data policy and other sub-project outputs (scheduled for 1-2 October in Barbados). CRFM is working to ensure a full stakeholder buy-in of sub-project outputs.
- MH: the revised Flyingfish Fishery Management Plan is expected to be finalized by March 2019 and then submitted to the CRFM governance bodies. The revised Management Plan would also need to be presented to the WECAFC for their approval.

### ***Shrimp and Groundfish***

- JM: the contract for the Shrimp and Groundfish Sub-Project were finalized May 2018, and the sub-project has been stationed in Barbados, since mid-July 2018. They are now seeking to hire a consultant for the development of the management plan (by the end of August).
- JM: the Shrimp and Groundfish Joint WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group took place 15-18 May 2018 in Barbados.
- MH: given lack of funding, neither CRFM nor OSPESCA representatives participated in this meeting, as has happened in previous Working Groups meetings. Funding from other members of the IFCM is needed for securing their participation.
- RM: meeting reports and supplementary documentation from the Joint Working Groups will need to be shared among the IFCM members.
- JM: a work plan was developed by the Working Group to support a number of activities contemplated under this sub-project. For instance, a Data Preparatory Workshop is planned for October 2018, and a the IUU Fishing Joint Working Group meeting is for 26-28 September in Barbados. Letters of agreements were sent to the countries, with further revision and finalization expected by the end of the year. WECAFC-FAO does not have a NFP representative from Brazil for the sub-project.
- LW: will share the CLME+ Project Focal Points names along the North Brazil Shelf with WECAFC.

### ***Sharks and Rays***

- There is not additional information on the Sharks and Rays Working Group.
- JM: WECAFC-SAG recommendations from the November 2017 meeting report has been published. Another SAG meeting is being planned prior to the next WECAFC 17 session.
- MH: indicated that at the upcoming SAG meeting (tentatively November 2018) there is an opportunity to address any concerns and/or queries on the proposed recommendations and resolutions to be presented at the next WECAFC session.

### ***IUU Fishing RWG***

- JM: indicated that the next meeting of the JWG on IUU Fishing is scheduled to take place 26-28 September in Barbados and that Peter A. Murray of CRFM would be the convener. Letters of invitation had been recently sent out.
- LW: was updated from JM about the status of the IUU Fishing Strategy and Regional Action Plan (RPOA). At the Working Group meeting the new IUU fishing guidelines discussed at COFI will be presented for further discussion. Final results are expected to be also presented at the WECAFC 17 session.
- RM: OSPESCA is working with FAO Panama in developing an IUU fishing Plan for its members, and it is recommended to analyse this plan when developing the sub-project RPOA.

### ***Spawning Aggregations***

- MH: CRFM participated in the last Working Group meeting for Spawning Aggregations. Despite, it has not additional comments, the information provided by Alejandro Acosta presented will be presented at the Any Other Business Item at the SAP ICM meeting.

### ***Fish Aggregating Devices***

- MH: it is unlikely that a FAD RWG, originally planned for September this year, would take place. Concerns about policy on FADS need to be resolved with WECAFC. The CARIFICO Project demonstrated the socio-economic benefits of the FAD fishery and the commitment of the countries to the fishery. This is a fishery pursued as a co-management arrangement where apart from increasing catch, it also addressed data collection and management measures for joint decision-making involving government and fishers. Some of the submerged anchored FADs, placed during the project, survived the category 5 storms which passed through the Caribbean last year. This is significant, because submerged FADs provided sustenance to many coastal communities impacted by the storms. CRFM was seeking to promote use of more of these FADs, but it appeared that WECAFC is taking a different position. CRFM is aware of the problems associated with drifting FADs, explaining they are not promoting those, but the small scale anchored FADs, and recognized that the FAD fishery would need to be managed and regulated.
- JM: the Billfish Project, with pilots in the Dominican Republic and Grenada, has seen some positive results from the use of FADs.
- RM: OSPESCA is also investigating the use of FADs for the tuna fishery. This would include the number of FADs to be deployed, with potential impacts of pollution, etc.

### **3. Update Reorientation of WECAFC and the decision of launch a process to establish an RFMO**

- JM: a WECAFC reorientation meeting is being planned for the first quarter of 2019, with funds from the EU, thus able to present results at the WECAFC 17 session meeting.
- MH: explained that the fisheries resources under national jurisdiction are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the State. CRFM Ministers' expressed that the RFMO's mandate for making binding decisions should be restricted to areas beyond national jurisdiction, with the exception of straddling stocks and highly migratory resources, in keeping with international law.
- LW: asked about CRFM's position in relation to shared resources (such as lobster and conch), and MH responded that these shared resources cannot be part of the mandate of the RFMO. CRFM's view is that the RFMO should have dual mandates: binding decisions in respect of high seas resources and non-binding, advisory decisions, facilitating cooperation and providing technical support of the resources under the sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction of States. In this respect, WECAFC can

contribute with strengthening the capacity of countries and coordination in support of countries management of resources under their national jurisdiction.

#### **4. Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan process**

- the group considered that it was important to ensure integration between the RFMO and the PPCM, as the region moves forward with these two initiatives. Both are seen as important mechanisms and it is critical they support and complement each other. Members of the IFCM need to be fully engaged in the development of the PPCM to ensure coordination of efforts.

#### **5. IFCM Responsibility and Contribution to the SOME and SAP M&E Reporting Mechanism**

- the SAP ICM meeting, a few days ago, indicated that same standards will be applied to the IFCM. They recognized that the first approach will consist in having bilateral discussions between their agencies and the PCU.

#### **6. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting**

- MH: informed that the CARICOM-SICA summit will take place 24-25 October 2018 in Belize. Both the CRFM and OSPESCA representatives agreed that it was too late to plan the CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial meeting along the borders of the summit. They further acknowledged that an update on CRFM-OSPESCA cooperation need to be presented to their respective integration bodies. As such, the next Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting is likely to take place in 2019.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- MH: suggested the CLME+ PCU share the meeting summaries from previous IFCM meetings, as many members are new and may not have access to those files.
- LW: CLME+ PCU would update the current IFCM work plan, which it appears it has not been updated since the 6<sup>th</sup> IFCM meeting.
- It was recommended that the next meeting of the IFCM could take place after the WECAFC reorientation meeting, where all three RFBs are expected to be present.

MH thanked all for their participation and inputs, and wished all a safe journey. The seventh IFCM meeting was then adjourned, at noon.