

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

**Participants**

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

**Agenda**

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

**Meeting Development:**

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

***Queen Conch***

- CRFM countries will 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 have been sent. CRFM will act as the convener responding a request from CFMC.
- 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***

- 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 reviewed by CRFM and OSPESCA countries prior to its submission to WECAFC for approval, hopefully at the upcoming WECAFC 17 session, scheduled in summer 2019, allowing CRFM and OSPESCA to go through their own governance processes.
- 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).
- CRFM explored with CEFAS about the possibility to sponsor additional participants to this workshop, but it appears that it is too late given logistical and administrative processes.
- Depending on the outcomes of the first stock assessment workshop and the availability of funds, OSPESCA will consider the possibility of hosting a second workshop. 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 lobster management plans.

### ***Flyingfish***

- Several consultancies under this sub-project continue. A joint coordination meeting between the consultants and the CRFM took place in June this year, and a Joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group meeting on flyingfish was recommended to further explore inputs from participating countries, define the way forward for updating 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.
- 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***

- The contract for the Shrimp and Groundfish Sub-Project was finalized in 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).
- The Shrimp and Groundfish Joint WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group took place 15-18 May 2018 in Barbados. Given the 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. Meeting reports and supplementary documentation from the Joint Working Groups will need to be shared among the IFCM members.
- 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 the IUU Fishing Joint Working Group meeting is scheduled 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.
- The CLME+ PCU will share the project focal points names with WECAFC.

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

- There is no additional information on the Sharks and Rays Working Group.
- 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.
- At the upcoming SAG meeting (tentatively November 2018) there is an opportunity to address concerns and/or queries on the proposed recommendations and resolutions to be presented at the next WECAFC session.

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

- The next meeting of the Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing is scheduled to take place from 26-28 September in Barbados and CRFM would be the convener. Letters of invitation have recently been sent out.
- At the IUU Fishing meeting, the Strategy and Regional Action Plan (RPOA) were discussed, as well as new IUU fishing guidelines that were discussed at COFI and will be presented for further discussion. Final results are expected to be presented at the WECAFC 17 session.
- 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.

### ***Spawning Aggregations***

- CRFM participated in the last Working Group meeting for Spawning Aggregations. The information provided by Alejandro Acosta is included in the Any Other Business Item.

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

- It is unlikely that a FAD Working Group meeting, originally planned for September this year, will 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 addresses 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 the 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 rather only the small-scale anchored FADs, and recognized that the FAD fishery would need to be managed and regulated.
- The Billfish project, with pilots in the Dominican Republic and Grenada, has seen some positive results from the use of FADs.
- 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.

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

- A WECAFC reorientation meeting is being planned for the first quarter of 2019, with funds from the EU.
- 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.
- CRFM considers that shared resources (such as lobster and conch) cannot be part of the mandate of the RFMO. They think 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.

### **3. 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.

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

- The SAP ICM meeting, held a few days ago, indicated that the 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 CLME+ PCU.

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

- The CARICOM-SICA summit will take place on 24-25 October 2018 in Belize. CRFM and OSPESCA agreed that it was too late to plan the CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial meeting in the margins of the summit. 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.

### **6. Any Other Business**

- The CLME+ PCU will share the meeting summaries from previous IFCM meetings, as many members are new and may not have access to those files.
- The CLME+ PCU will update the current IFCM work plan.
- The next IFCM meeting may take place after the WECAFC reorientation meeting, where all three RFBs are expected to participate.