

**Summary of the Ninth Meeting of the Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism (IFCM)
Miami, Florida, US, Friday, 19 July, 2019**

Participants

Name	Designation	Organization
Mrs. Yvette Diei-Ouadi	Executive Secretary	WECAFC-FAO
Mr. Milton Haughton	Regional Director	CRFM
Mr. Reinaldo Morales	Regional Director	OSPESCA
Mr. Patrick Debels	CLME+ Regional Coordinator	IFCM Secretariat
Mrs. Nancy Cummings		NOAA (FIRMS)

Agenda

1. Follow-up on outputs from WECAFC 17
2. IFCM workplan: status review & revision
3. FIRMS, CMA2
4. SOME development & institutionalization process
5. Upcoming SAP ICM & Coordination Mechanism Regional Consultation
6. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting
7. Upcoming 1st CLME+ Partnership Forum and 21st LME COP Meeting
8. Joint Meeting calendar: the last half of 2019 to first half of 2020
9. Plans for new projects under the CLME+ SAP (GEF7, others)
10. Any Other Business

Meeting Development

1. Follow-up on Outputs from WECAFC 17

WECAFC reorientation

- WECAFC acknowledged support and constructive engagement of the CRFM and OSPESCA memberships, and the benefit of an experienced US Chairmanship. The transformation process now has a roadmap, but still needs to be materialized.
- The WECAFC 18th session is planned for 2021, it usually takes place during the summer months, and it was suggested that a date be considered for the second half of the year. Arrangements are to be made between FAO and the Nicaraguan government. There is a need to coordinate the planning for regional meetings and keep the CLME+ Hub joint calendar updated for better planning.
- For the re-orientation process, it was suggested that the right questions be made to countries to clarify their doubts and necessary TORS for consultants need to be formulated. It was also suggested to engage the EU more (as observers) in regional meetings.

IUU Strategy and Action Plan

- The RPOA IUU fishing has been endorsed by the Commission, and it will be published and shared with all stakeholders, which are invited to promote it. CRFM and OSPESCA are doing that through their governance mechanisms.
- The joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Council meeting will be a good opportunity, and help is to be

provided to the countries in customizing their NPOAs. CRFM also has a subregional RPOA IUU.

- A draft subregional RPOA and IUU Strategy is available for the SICA area, and OSPESCA member states have national plans to deal with IUU (being reviewed), however Illegal cross-border trade is recognized as a big problem.
- The status of NPOA & IUU development and their degree of implementation should be part of the SOME report. OSPESCA is working on a protocol to categorize these associated crimes. SOME can provide the “snapshot” that creates awareness and triggers action, and provide information on more detailed technical reports on specific issues.

MARPLESCA

- MARPLESCA needs to be published in Spanish and English, after finalizing the last revision. The plan implementation will be discussed in a workshop. An information system on spiny lobster is being developed (e.g the Nicaraguan methodology is being incorporated in software & capacity building). Complementarily, OSPESCA and OIRSA are working on a traceability tool for computer and smartphones and it shall include data on spiny lobster, queen conch, sea cucumber & other (aquaculture) species. Co-financing work on spiny lobster has been obtained from TNC.
- Spiny lobster fisheries to be considered at the next Joint CRFM-OSPESCA meeting.
- There is a need to link this work with the IUU traceability system and integrate the social dimension. For instance, fishers’ health and safety, including diving.
- It was mentioned that SOME work on Spiny Lobster and IUU should be prioritized to the extent to be able to bring this topic to the Joint CRFM OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting.
- The possible association with the ILO Convention C188 Work on Fishing Convention (2017, minimum standards for decent work and occupational safety for fishers) was mentioned.

Selected Recommendations and Resolutions

- Data availability is a major issue, and for prioritized species, there is a need to improve data for management and reporting obligations, and system standardization. CRFO can illustrate for priority species & other recommendations.
- The WECAFC 17TH session generated too many recommendations and there is a need for consolidation. Half of the recommendations were endorsed, and others were deferred. the importance of having conveners attending the SAG was highlighted.
- Some recommendations were scientific, others were policy-related. The advice of SAG is needed for structuring and presenting the recommendations to focus on their substantive part. The role of the WECAFC Secretariat is acknowledged. It is premature to adopt some of the recommendations; however, it is important to discuss them.
- Some recommendations may impose legal implications and have great impacts, a pre-screened work, using proper language and professional translation is thus recommended.

2. IFCM workplan & Opportunities for Enhanced Coordination

- Participants have an updated version of the Work Plan document (Meeting Document).
- IFCM members need information about the SubProjects concerning the Data Collection Framework (DCF), vis-à-vis how data management and collection from the different experiences help in capturing lessons.
- The linkages of SOME development and a reporting mechanism need to be further explored.
- Agreement that major information on the status of subproject implementation can be obtained through the regular reporting which is available to the CLME+ PCU.

3. FIRMS, CMA2

- FIRMS is in phase 3 and receives continued support. Countries have to start using products, and provide feedback. However, connection between data from different Working Groups & Species need to be further explored, and some informative materials need to be developed (vessel mappings by countries, main species to be sampled, S&GF, lobster, conch).
- The group analyzed various opportunities to feed this regional database, such as the status of DCRF to countries. The development of the fisheries components in SOME E needs to be linked with FIRMS. The need for more incorporation from SICA countries in the FIRMS efforts was mentioned, and it was suggested to have a pilot with conch and lobster.
- CRFM is working through the CARICOM Nordic Country Cooperation Agreement on capacity building for evidence-based decision-making, so efforts should be harmonized. A workshop in Iceland aims to organize capacity-building workshops in the region in the coming years, and Mrs. June Masters will be the CRFM contact for this initiative. Funding from Fit4CC initiative (fisheries innovation technology - data & information collection) can be linked with FIRMS.
- Collaboration with the flyingfish subproject, in particular the activity “updated FIRMS resource and fisheries inventories for the flyingfish” will be re-activated.
- The CLME+ PCU showed a practical application of the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2) Geonode and its usefulness to the ICM for Ocean Governance, and IFCM membership. They will liaise with ICM members and FIRMS to ensure further development and build synergies to avoid overlap.

4. SOME E development & institutionalization process

- The CLME+ PCU showed progress and challenges relating to SOME E development. The majority of the ICM membership endorsed/supported and recognized the persistent risks among (potential) contributors regarding how to address its development. In this regard, the current draft subchapter on spiny lobster was recognized, but despite being chosen as a prototype, it was considered that more work was needed before it could be used as a model. Ongoing work on the State of Pollution Report and State of Habitats Report (UN Environment CEP), and the recently delivered State of Fisheries Update (WECAFC17) are expected to feed into the SOME E report.
- The state of fisheries report may contain “artifacts” arising from having statistics of one or a few species fished from a limited number of countries. This can generate distorted/masked trends. It was recommended that SOME E pay attention and present accurately messages of fish stocks, landings and associated trends.

5. Upcoming SAP ICM & Coordination Mechanism Regional Consultation

- The CLME+ PCU shared the agenda of the upcoming SAP ICM meeting. Day 1 will aim at preparing for the ICM members’ role at the Regional Consultation and day 2 will look at the results obtained and next steps, as well as other matters pertaining to the ICM.

6. Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting

- OSPESCA and CRFM will start discussing the agenda and coordinate with WECAFC and IFM Secretariats.
- The CLME+ project has reserved some funds, but those resources will need to be added to the existing UNOPS-CRFM Agreement through an Amendment. CRFM and CLME+ financing managers are urged to coordinate regarding the possible need for additional resources.
- Climate Change, DRR, a Declaration relative to Blue Growth, Trade and SPS, the WECAFC reform, and wider regional cooperation in the context of Blue Economy (towards improved ocean governance and the role of OSPESCA and CRFM) need to be in the agenda. Some global issues, ABNJ, for example, are incorporated. OSPESCA and CRFM will review and work on the agenda, by the week of 30 September.

7. Upcoming 1st CLME+ Partnership Forum and 21st LME COP Meeting

- The CLME+ PCU talked about the limited progress to date for the Forum (scheduled to take place in Cartagena, Colombia, in mid-September) given the amount of other priority activities, and so it will have to be downscaled as a consequence of capacity constraints. The 3rd day would consist of joint programming with the 21st edition of the annual meeting of the Community of Practitioners on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME COP21). the CLME+ was selected due the progress made in the region (e.g. IFCM & ICM). Examples across the world (wider Caribbean, Seas of East Asia, Mediterranean, possibly Pacific SIDS) will be explored. A draft LME COP21 agenda was shared with the participants.

8. Joint Meeting calendar: the last half of 2019 to first half of 2020

Event name	Date	Country
Expert Consultation on Scuba Diving in Artisanal Fisheries	22-23 August	Panama
Fish for ACP Workshop	7-9 August	St Vincent
CLME+ Partnership Forum and LME COP21	16 September	Colombia
Central America Indigenous People Small Fisheries Workshop	2-4 September	Panama
16 th COPPEESAALC meeting	4-6 September	Cuba
ACP fisheries meeting SAMOA	10-13 September	
International Conference on Sargassum	23-25 October	Guadeloupe
Joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting	30 Sept-4 Oct (1 day)	
ICCAT SCRS meeting	30 Sep-4 Oct	Spain?
73 GCFI meeting	(1/2 week Nov.)	U.S.A.
ICCAT Commission	18-25 November	Spain
FAO and IMO ad hoc WG on IUU	23-25 October	Spain
Sargassum Workshop	28-30 October	Barbados
Fisheries Sustainability Conference	19-21 Nov	Italy
Latin America Congress on Aquaculture	19-22 Nov	Costa Rica
Management Strategies Evaluation with FLR/a4a Training Course (free)	25-29 November	Italy

9. Plans for new projects under the CLME+ SAP (GEF7, others)

- The CLME+ PCU acknowledged the Inter-Governmental Meetings, including CCAD, IOCARIBE of the IOC of UNESCO, and UN Environment CEP, to leverage renewed financing from the GEF to give continuity to the outputs and outcomes from the CLME+ Project. A vacancy has been placed for work on the development of the concept note, engaging ICM members. The importance of exchange of information for new proposals, and the role of the ICM Secretariat (currently the CLME+ PCU) was stressed. The CRFM, FAO WECAFC and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) have made progress in developing the PIF for a new GEF project focused on BE in the Caribbean.

10. Any Other Business

- The increase of *Sargassum* was a concern perceived relevant at the Ministerial Meeting. Some CRFM countries feel overwhelmed, and it appears clean-up efforts are not effective, nor sustainable. In some discrete communities, serious health problems have been associated with *Sargassum* decomposition. This problem seems to be associated with nutrient enrichment and warmer water, and some studies have mentioned the potential relationship of most nutrients coming with the upwelling along the African

coast. In addition, other impacts on fisheries are important. The International Conference on *Sargassum* is scheduled for 23-25 October in Guadeloupe.