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CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

CRFM Progress and Financial Report April 1 to December 31, 2007

*Funded by Members and Associate Members
of the Caribbean Community*

Towards Sustainable Development of Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

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TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMO TO: Mr. Wesley Clerveaux, Chairman of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum
Members of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

FROM: Hugh Saul
Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat

SUBJECT: **CRFM Secretariat Technical and Financial Progress Report: April 1, –
December 31, 2007**

Please find enclosed the Technical and Financial Progress Report of the CRFM Secretariat for the period April 1 – December 31, 2007. The Report is based on activity schedules and budgets from the approved Work Plan and Budget for Programme Year April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.

The Report provides an overall description of the status of each programme and activities undertaken by the CRFM Secretariat during the period, allowing for a global appreciation of the progress made.

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List of Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CBCRM	Community-Based Coastal Resources Management
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFF	Caribbean Fisheries Forum
CFU	CARICOM Fisheries Unit
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme
CFP&R	Common Fisheries Policy and Regime
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
CFTU	Caribbean Fisheries Technical Unit
CIDA	Caribbean International Development Agency
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLWG	Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group
COTED	Council on Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CRP	Caribbean Regional Queen Conch Research Programme
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DFMR	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
DRAO	Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer
DR	Dominican Republic
EC	Eastern Caribbean Currency
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
ESDU	Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit
EU	European Union
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GECAFS	Global Environmental Change and Food Systems
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
IAC	International Agricultural Centre
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic

Tunas

ICRAFD	Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IMMARBE	International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
IOI	International Oceans Institute
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LAPE	Lesser Antilles Pelagic Ecosystems (Project)
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LPWG	Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
LRS	Licensing and Registration Software
MALMR	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources
MAREMP	Marine Resource Environmental Assessment and Management Programme
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NFO	National Fisherfolk Organisation
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
RPTF	Regional Preparatory Task Force
RSWG	Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group
SANREM CRSP	Sustainable Agriculture and National Resource Management Collaboration Support Programme
SAP	Systems, Application and Products in Data Processing
SCPWG	Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
SCRS ICCAT	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TIP	Trip Interview Programme (Data collection software package)
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UK	United Kingdom
UWI	University of the West Indies
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the FAO, United Nations
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Work Programme Milestones and Budget Approvals

Work Programme Start: 1st April 2007

Work Programme Budget Approval: Yes

Cost Limitation: US \$ 1,319,283 (EC \$ 3,546,498)

With respect to Member States' contribution to the budget, Management liaised with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions to the Budget of the CRFM Secretariat. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions during the period (April 1 – December 31, 2007) totaling EC\$2,366,373 (US\$880,282). The arrears fell from EC\$943,333 as at March 31, 2007 to EC\$677,334 as at December 31, 2007.

The Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 3-4 May, 2007, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands where new members of the Executive Committee of the Forum were elected. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, matters arising from the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, and the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, April 11 – 12, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago and their status of implementation. Such matters included the draft Framework Agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime; a draft Regional Declaration / Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for the CRFM Member States; Queen Conch and Lobster; ICCAT 2006 Commission Meetings and Compliance Issues; Overdraft facility for the CRFM Secretariat; and the CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget 2007 / 08. Three meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the reporting period, April 1 to December 31, 2007 to consider such matters as the first draft of the Annual Work Plan 2008 / 09; the Second CRFM Medium Term Plan; the Draft Agreement Establishing the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM.

The CRFM and CARICOM Secretariats continued to provide technical leadership and financial support in the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat, prepared a TOR and recruited a consultant to further refine the draft text establishing the CFP&R, and prepared an information document on the CFP&R to assist fisheries officials of Member States in providing information to the various stakeholders. In addition, it organised and convened a Meeting of the Expanded Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, in Barbados, from August 9 to 10, 2007, to review the Draft Agreement submitted by the legal consultant. The revised Draft Agreement from the Barbados Working Group Meeting was presented for discussion at the Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum which was held in Guyana from October 3-4, 2007. A Report from the Forum was submitted to the 23rd Special Meeting of COTED (October 2007), which was held in Jamaica. The COTED identified several areas of concern in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime relating to the Common Fisheries Zone, the extent of coverage/membership of the CFP&R and the role of the Implementing Agency which required further clarification.

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical support to countries on ICCAT matters. The Secretariat provided support to countries in respect of preparation of statistics for submission to ICCAT, and the Secretariat prepared the 2007 annual report to ICCAT on behalf of CARICOM. The CRFM Secretariat also participated in the 2007 Annual ICCAT SCRS and Commission Meetings on behalf of CARICOM, and reports on the outputs of these two meetings were prepared that included required follow-up actions, as well as advice on new ICCAT resolutions and recommendations adopted in 2007. The CRFM Secretariat reports were circulated to Member States.

The Report of the Second Annual Scientific Meeting, March 13- 22, 2006 was finalized and released for publication. In addition, during 16-26 July 2007, the Secretariat convened CRFM's Third Annual Scientific Meeting, which included a 1-day training session for 12 fisheries officers serving as rapporteurs. During this meeting, the status of 10 fisheries within the CRFM region were analysed and evaluations were completed for the development of management advice. Also, the Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods was presented for formal adoption by Member States. The Report of the Third Annual Scientific Meeting has been drafted and is now being finalized. Similarly, the Secretariat convened the third and final meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods during 27-30 November in Grenada. The report of the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods has been circulated to participants for review and was finalized in December 2007. The methods meeting report will be presented at the next annual scientific meeting.

During October 2006-March 2007, Secretariat staff collaborated with staff of the Fisheries Department in St. Kitts and Nevis to finalize a proposal for conducting an underwater visual survey of the national resource of the Queen Conch, aimed at providing information for improving management of Queen Conch in the twin-island State. During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat continued its resource mobilization efforts to source funds for this project.

During the period April- September 2007, the CRFM Secretariat prepared a proposal to determine the feasibility of developing fisheries for spotted lobster in St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The proposal is being reviewed by national fisheries staff, and is now being finalized.

In May 2007, the CRFM Secretariat completed the development of the proposal to establish a CRFM Fisheries Tagging Programme and Tagging Database. This programme is intended to facilitate coordinated implementation of important tagging studies of regional interest.

Following a request from the Fisheries Division of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in September 2007, the Secretariat has been engaged in analysis of the queen conch and spiny lobster fisheries of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Following discussions over the period December 4 – 10, 2006 among Senior Government Officials, the Queen Conch Industry Officials in Jamaica, and the CRFM Secretariat, to develop a Plan of Action for the mobilization of resources for an assessment of the Queen Conch (Pedro Bank), and to render technical assistance to the Veterinary Service Division, Jamaica, the CRFM Secretariat recruited Dr. Roland Vanthuyne, Consultant, to provide technical assistance to the Veterinary

Service Division, Jamaica to achieve compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards for Marine Gastropods. Dr. Vanthuynne visited Jamaica during the period 2 - 19 February 2007 to provide the necessary technical assistance. The EU Mission to Jamaica to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of fishery, aquaculture products and marine gastropods intended for export to the European Union was conducted on the 18-25 April 2007. The CRFM Secretariat's intervention provided the necessary technical assistance for addressing the issues identified by the EU Inspection Mission (5- 11 July, 2006) which resulted in Jamaica receiving a favorable report following the April 2007 inspection. Jamaica can continue to enjoy the benefits of exporting conch to the EU market.

In March 2007, at the request of the Government of Jamaica, the CRFM Secretariat deployed a two man team to Jamaica to assess the Queen Conch allocation system, observe the process and provide an independent opinion on the adequacy and integrity of the system for the allocation of quotas in the Jamaican Queen Conch Fishery. A Draft Report was prepared and officially presented to Mr. D. Stanbury, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and his team in Jamaica on 23 May. The Draft Report was presented by a team from the CRFM Secretariat comprising of Mr. Hugh Saul, Executive Director, Mr. Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager Fisheries Management and Development and Mr. Neville Bissember, Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat. The CRFM Secretariat is awaiting comments from the Government of Jamaica on the Report.

During the period July- September 2006, a source of funds was tentatively identified by the CARICOM Secretariat to finance the preparation of the CRFM Operations Manual, however, in February, 2007 the CARICOM Secretariat advised that it was unable to obtain the funds from the source. The CRFM Secretariat commenced an "in house" development of the Operation's Manual and prepared a first draft which was tabled at the Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 3-4 May, 2007, Turks and Caicos Islands. Subsequently, the Resource Mobilisation Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat advised the CRFM Secretariat that they had been successful in sourcing USD 25,000. 00 for the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's Operations Manual. The project proposal was revised and re-submitted to the CARICOM Secretariat. This activity will be implemented over three phases which will involve data and documentation collection review and analysis, an Operations Manual Design Workshop, and an Operations Manual Implementation Workshop focussing on the roll out of the new Operational Policies, Procedures and Business Processes at the CRFM Secretariat. The approach to the development of the manual will be a consultative one, involving all staff members and the Forum. Phases I and II have been completed and the reports of Phase 1 activities and the Operations Manual Design Workshop (Phase II) have been circulated to Member States.

During the period 2006 / 07, the CRFM Secretariat provided support to Member States with the development and use of the CARIFIS database and continued to provide same during the reporting period. During the months May to July 2007, Consultant, Dr. Paul Medley, and Research Graduate, Ms. June Masters, undertook field missions to The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to implement the Consultancy to review the Data Collection and Management Systems for the Marine Fisheries. During these missions, technical assistance on the implementation of CARIFIS was also provided. Following on the submission of the draft reports on the data collection and management systems for the marine fisheries of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands by the Consultant, they were reviewed by the Secretariat and submitted to the respective Member States.

A number of Fisheries Management and Development initiatives continued to be addressed during the reporting period which included the review of Fisheries Management Plans for Grenada and Suriname by the CRFM Secretariat.

During the period July- September, 2006, Mr. John Landos, Consultant, AGRIFOR Consult was recruited by the EU Office, Brussels to commence the project “*Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*” which began with a meeting with CRFM Secretariat staff in Belize, held on 31 August 2006. Mr. Landos and his team visited eight (8) CRFM Member States to identify issues that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU Sanitary standards. The findings were presented at the “*Workshop to Consider the Report of the Consultants on Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*” held on November 14 - 15, 2006 in Belize. The findings of the workshop were presented to the EU Commission in December 2006, by the Consultant’s principals, AGRIFOR Consult. Subsequently, the Consultant’s *Final Report on the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector* was provided to the CRFM Secretariat by the CARIFORUM Secretariat and circulated to Member States for review and comments. During the reporting period, the Secretariat provided feedback to the CARIFORUM Secretariat on the Report as well as made recommendations on the Way Forward.

Also, during the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat continued actions to review and update its Website. The Secretariat continued to update its Calendar of Events Webpage to keep its Members and other stakeholders informed of activities being undertaken by the CRFM. Documents for workshops and reports were also placed on the site during the reporting period. The CRFM Secretariat continued to prepare and circulate its Fish- E- Bulletin which has been well received by its readers.

The CTA and the CRFM Secretariat funded project *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations* continued implementation - the project is to be implemented over the period 2006 - 2008. The CRFM Secretariat has since finalized the Report for the CTA/CRFM Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to Enhance Their Skills to Provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisher Folk Organisations, 4 – 14 December 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; prepared, with the assistance of a Consultant, Dr. P. McConney and distributed the Briefing Note on the Networking of Fisher Folk Organisations in the Caribbean. To date, the Secretariat has prepared and distributed Issues 1, 2, 3 (Special Issue) and 4 of the Fisher Folk Net Newsletter; provided technical assistance to six countries; Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the organization and convening of the National Consultations to launch National Fisherfolk Organisations; awarded a contract for and received the final draft of the Stakeholders Directory and organized and convened the Regional Fishers Stakeholder Workshop to promote the Launching of a Caribbean Network of National Fisher Folk Organisations, Grenada, September 26 – 28, 2007. The September 2007 Workshop Report and the Fisheries Stakeholder Director will soon be published for distribution.

The CRFM Secretariat has established a long-term institutional relationship with the University of the United Nations, Iceland, for the purpose of building national and regional capacity for fisheries development and management in the region. In this regard, scholarships were awarded by the

University of the United Nations, Iceland to Mrs. June Masters, Research Graduate, CRFM Secretariat and Ms. Dawn Maison, Principal Fisheries Officer, Guyana to undergo a six (6) months period of training in Iceland. Studies commenced in September, 2007.

Further, during the reported period Fisheries Officers from St. Lucia, Barbados, Jamaica and the CRFM Secretariat successfully completed a course of training on Ocean Governance, Policy, Law and Management, 21 May – 22 July, 2007 at the International Oceans Institute, University of Dalhousie, Canada.

The CRFM Secretariat approved assistance and support to the staff of the Fisheries Departments of Jamaica and Turks and Caicos Islands to attend the course *Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis* at the University of Wageningen, Holland, October 1 – 19, 2007. The course focused on information about fishers, fish stocks and fisheries catch and effort and discussed the information needs, the sources of information and the techniques used to obtain it. Mrs Kathy Lockhart from the Turks and Caicos Islands and Ms. Anginette Murray from Jamaica participated.

The CRFM Secretariat continued its resource mobilization efforts during this period. Work continued on project proposals in areas mentioned below which were submitted for donor support:

(i) JICA Funded Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Management in the Caribbean

The *Note Verbale* on immunities and privileges to be accorded to JICA experts has been agreed by all CRFM Member States. The draft Scope of Work was refined after consultation with Member States, and it was expected that the approved scope of work will be signed during the third quarter (October – December) of this year. However, the Japanese has since advise, through Mr. Tadaomi Nakai (JICA representative based at the CARICOM Secretariat, that the Scope of Work will now be signed in March 2008.

(ii) Strengthening Fisheries Management; ACP Fish II Project

The EU recruited a group of consultants to review the original Feasibility Study submitted by the CRFM Secretariat for a Programme on Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries. The Consultants indicated that they proposed the development of a Project Facilitation Unit Regional hub (at the CRFM Secretariat) in the Caribbean. The budget allocation for Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II was raised from 11 million Euros to 30 million Euros. Implementation of the project is expected to start late 2007.

(iii) Sustainable Development of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Resources in the CARICOM States.

Project Proposals on the Sustainable Development of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Resources in the CARICOM States were finalized and submitted through CARISEC to the FAO and IDB respectively.

(iv) Enhance the Effectiveness of MCS in the CARICOM Region

A Project Proposal to Enhance the Effectiveness of MCS in the CARICOM Region was finalized

and submitted through the CARICOM Secretariat to the IDB.

ACTIVITY 100: Management and Support	
Output:	CRFM (Belize) Conducting and implementing agreed Programmes / projects and activities, and liaising with Member States, Executive Committee of the Forum, CARICOM Secretariat, etc.
Activity Start:	April 1 st , 2007
End:	March 31, 2008
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget:	US\$346,843
Spent:	US\$222,806
Will complete Activity within Total Budget:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Completion of Activity (Work plan):	ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> schedule
Completion of Total Activity:	ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> schedule

Management and Support

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat provided support for the implementation of activities approved in the Annual Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.

Office furniture and equipment etc., were procured as stated at **Appendix A: Procurement List**.

With regards to **Appendix B: CRFM Secretariat Staff**, Mr. Michael Salton, Biologist resigned from the CRFM Secretariat, Headquarters, effective 24 August, 2007. Mr. Terrence Phillips Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development was appointed to act as Deputy Executive Director, effective 4 October, 2007 (Mr. Haughton proceeded on Study Leave in the United Kingdom See WBS 540).

Management liaised with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions to the Budget of the CRFM Secretariat. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions during the period (April 1 – December 31, 2007) totaling EC\$2,366,373 (US\$880,282). The arrears fell from EC\$943,333 as at March 31, 2007 to EC\$677,334 as at December 31, 2007.

During the period under review the CRFM Secretariat organized and convened, as well as provided

technical, administrative and rapporteurial support to the following meetings / workshops:

- (i) Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 2 May, 2007, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands;
- (ii) Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 3 -4 May, 2007, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands;
- (iii) Meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Jamaica, 24 May, 2007, in Jamaica to discuss the Draft Report of the Mission to Observe the Process for the Allocation of Quotas in the Jamaica Queen Conch Fishery and provide an Independent Evaluation;
- (iv) Workshop on ACP Policy Briefs in Fisheries Livestock and Biofuels, Wageningen, The Netherlands, May 28 – June 01, 2007;
- (v) CERMES MarGov Project Inception Workshop, UWI, Cavehill, Barbados, 15 – 16 May, 2007;
- (vi) Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting, 6-8 June 2007, Cartagena, Colombia;
- (vii) Third Annual Scientific Meeting, 16 – 26 July, 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (viii) Meeting of the Expanded (Legal) Working Group, August 9 – 10, 2007, Barbados;
- (ix) Regional Fisheries Stakeholders Workshop to Launch CARNUFO, 26 – 28 September, 2007, Grenada;
- (x) 2007 Annual ICCAT SCRS Meeting, 1 – 5 October, 2007, Spain.
- (xi) Twentieth Regular Meeting of ICCAT, 9-18 November 2007, Turkey.
- (xii) Third Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods, 27-30 November, 2007, Grenada.
- (xiii) Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 3 – 4 October, 2007.
- (xiv) CRFM Operations Manual Workshop, 17 – 18 October, 2007
- (xv) Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, October 2, 2007, Guyana.
- (xvi) Brainstorming Session on the CRFM Medium Term Plan 30 November, 2007, Belize
- (xvii) Operations Manual Design Workshop, 10 – 11 December, 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

(xviii) Tenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 12 – 13 December, 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Resource Mobilisation

Management continued to liaise with and lobby donor agencies with regard to resource mobilization as below-mentioned:

1. Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM

Funding was approved by the Italian Government, through the Resource Mobilisation Unit, CARICOM Secretariat, for implementation of the following activities under the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime:

- (i) Consultancy to review and refine the Framework Agreement of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime and to prepare an Information Document to assist Member States in their National Consultations
- (ii) A meeting of the Expanded Ad Hoc Legal Working Group
- (iii) A Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum to consider the outputs of the Working Group of (ii) above.
- (iv) Preparation of the Information Document to accompany the Framework Agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

2. Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II project.

The EU recruited a group of consultants to review the original Feasibility Study for a Programme on Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries. The Consultants indicated that they proposed the development of a Project Facilitation Unit Regional hub (at the CRFM Secretariat) in the Caribbean. The budget allocation for Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II was raised from 11 million Euros to 30 million Euros.

3. Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in ACP/ OCT Countries.

Mr. John Landos, Consultant, AGRIFOR Consult was recruited by the EU Office, Brussels to conduct a “*Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*” which began with a meeting with CRFM Secretariat staff in Belize, on August 31, 2006. Mr. Landos and his team visited Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Barbados to identify issues that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU Sanitary standards. The findings of the study were presented at a regional workshop held on November 14 -15, 2006 in Belize. The findings of the workshop were presented to the EU Commission in December 2006, by the consultant’s principals, AGRIFOR Consult.

4. US – CARICOM Cooperation Agreement

The following proposals were submitted to CARISEC as part of a suite of project proposals being considered by the USA for funding under the US – CARICOM Cooperation Agreement:

- Development and Implementation of a Programme for Enabling and Promoting Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Support towards establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM
- Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch

OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

ACTIVITY 121 : General Administration- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Output: CRFM (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) coordinating and implementing agreed activities

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$37,080

Spent: US\$28,971

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

Percentage of total output achieved to date

General Administration - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat, Eastern Caribbean Office (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) provided support for the implementation of activities approved in the Annual Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

ACTIVITY 150: Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

Output: Recommendations to the COTED; and approved Work Programme and Budget

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$44,875

Spent: US\$42,874

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule
Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule
Percentage of total output achieved to date

Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

The Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 3 – 4 May, 2007, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. At this meeting the following major outputs were achieved:

(i) Election of the new Executive Committee of the Forum as:

- Turks and Caicos Islands (Chair)
- Suriname (Vice Chair)
- Jamaica
- St. Lucia
- The Bahamas

Belize and Guyana shall be invited to sit in at meetings of the Executive Committee.

(ii) Recommendation of the Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008 to the Ministerial Council for approval;

(iii) Progress Report (Status) of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;

(iv) Recommendation of a draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and

MCS for the CRFM Member States;

- (v) Recommendation of the draft Resolution in respect of Overdraft Facility for the CRFM Secretariat.

Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held in Turks and Caicos Islands, 2 May, 2007. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, matters arising from the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, and the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, April 11 – 12, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago and their status of implementation. Such matters included the draft Framework Agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, Queen Conch and Lobster; ICCAT 2007 Commission Meetings and Compliance Issues, overdraft facility for the CRFM Secretariat and a draft of CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget the 2007/08.

The Ninth and Tenth Meetings of the Executive Committee were held, 3 – 4 October, 2007, Guyana and 12 – 13 December, 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, respectively. Matters deliberated upon included the draft Annual Work Plan and Budget 2008/09; the CRFM Operations Manual (update); the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM; and the Second CRFM Medium Term Plan.

OUTPUT 200 Advocacy, Policy and Planning

ACTIVITY 200: Advocacy Policy and Planning

Output: Promotion of the CRFM Secretariat and its achievements, the continuation of the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, and the coordination of work plans and activities for implementation.

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$161,908

Spent: US\$44,453

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

Percentage of total output achieved to date

WBS 200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning

Within the context of the Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2007 / 08, the CRFM Secretariat continued to support and enhance the institutional capabilities of Member States in the area of policy formulation, with a focus on the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime as mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government at their Fourteenth Inter-sessional Meeting. Also, with regards to advocacy, the emphasis was on projecting a positive image for the CRFM, its Secretariat, and programme activities.

Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM

Background:

This project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM Secretariat, aims at developing a Master Plan for fishery resource development and management in the Region (especially for the small-scale sub-sectors within the EEZ). The agreed components are: (1) Pelagic Resource Development and Management; (2) Aquaculture Development Policy Formulation; (3) Regional Fisheries Database Development; (4) Supporting Community-based Management (including sedentary resource management); and (5) Education and Training in the component fields in the CARICOM States.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The CRFM Secretariat continued to follow up with the Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat, and Dr. Tadomi Nakai, (Japanese representative at the CARICOM Secretariat) on the progress in respect of the signing of the Scope of Work by the Japanese, the CARICOM Secretariat and the CRFM Secretariat for the programme. Dr. Nakai advised that the Japanese were not in a position to sign the draft Scope of Work until November 2007 as they needed to engage in further internal discussions. Subsequently, Dr. Nakai informed the CRFM Secretariat that the signing of the Scope of Work be scheduled for the week of December 10th, 2007 in Guyana at which time the Japanese will be discussing Cooperation Agreement matters with CARISEC representatives. This signing was further postponed to early 2008.

POLICY

Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP & R)

Background:

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide administrative support and technical leadership in the formulation of the CFP&R including identification and analysis of the legal, socio-economic and linkages issues, through a consultative and participatory approach.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Arising from the Regular Meeting of the Forum, Turks and Caicos Islands, 3 – 4 May, 2007, the CARICOM and CRFM Secretariats retained the service of a legal expert to review and make refinements of the Draft Agreement Establishing the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime in order to expedite its completion.
- The CARICOM Secretariat mobilized resources to contract the legal consultant.

The legal expert (consultant) submitted the Revised Draft Agreement to a meeting of the Expanded Legal Working Group, from August 9 to 10, 2007, in Barbados. The Working Group reviewed the

Draft Agreement and made recommendations for further refinement.

-
- The Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was convened in Guyana, 3 – 4 October, 2007, to consider the Revised Draft Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.
- The findings and recommendations of the Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Forum were presented to the COTED at its 23rd Special Meeting, 10 – 11 October, 2007, Jamaica. COTED identified several areas of concern in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime relating to the Common Fisheries Zone, the extent of coverage/membership of the CFP&R and the role of the Implementing Agency which required further clarification.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Obtain legal opinion on the concerns raised by Suriname at the 23rd Special Meeting of the COTED in relation to the Common Fisheries Zone and whether this was grounded in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.
- Prepare an Information Paper on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime that addresses the legal, socio-economic and broad financial implications of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

Advocacy - Promoting the CRFM Secretariat

Background:

The activities planned are geared to promote greater public awareness of the programmes and activities of the CRFM Secretariat, highlighting its achievements.

Highlights Of Achievements During the Reporting Period:

- During the quarter, the CRFM Secretariat prepared and distributed via e-mail, a Fish-E Bulletin to stakeholders.

PLANNING

Background:

During the reporting period, CRFM Secretariat's technical staff prepared individual Quarterly Workplans to guide the implementation of activities as set out in the CRFM Secretariat Annual Workplan and Budget 2007/08. Additionally, Consultant, Mr. Claremont Kirton, of UWI Jamaica, was recruited to assist in the preparation of the Second Medium Term Plan for the CRFM.

Consistent with the CRFM's Strategic Plan, a differential approach to addressing varying country circumstances is adopted through the planning process.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

The CRFM Secretariat prepared the first draft CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan 2008 / 09 in consultation with the Executive Committee at its Tenth Meeting, 12 – 13 December, 2007. This draft CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan was developed against the background of a new Second Medium Term Plan; critical activities from the First Medium Term Plan that are to be completed during 2008 / 09 and the expected start-up of new donor funded projects in 2008 / 09, e.g. the Japanese funded Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the EU funded Programme for Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries (ACP Fish II).

- Individual staff Work Plans for the period September 1 to December 31, 2007 were prepared.
- Implementation (Quarterly) reports for staff for the period July 1 to September 30, 2007 were also prepared.
- Consultant Claremont Kirton and Karl Aiken of UWI Jamaica, facilitated a Brainstorming Meeting 30 November, 2007 at the CRFM Headquarters, Belize with respect to the preparation of the draft Second Medium Term Plan.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue preparation of the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2007 / 08 – refine the Annual Work Plan 2008 / 09 with the comments of the Executive Committee of its Tenth Meeting.
- Prepare the draft Budget 2008 / 09 (based on Activity Sheets) to accompany the Annual Work Plan.
- Circulate Annual Work Plan and Budget 2008 / 09 to Member States for comments / input.
- Prepare Draft Outline of the Second CRFM Medium Term Plan.
- Prepare CRFM Technical Progress and Financial Report for the period 1 April – December 31, 2007.
- Prepare individual staff Work Plans (January – March 2008) and Implementation Reports (September – December, 2007).

OUTPUT 300 FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

ACTIVITY 300: Fisheries Statistics and Information

Output: Information available for the management of Pelagic and Reef Species, Shrimp and Groundfish Species and Lobster and Conch Fisheries

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$90,350 Spent: US\$46,648

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

Percentage of total output achieved to date.

WBS 300: FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

This Programme continued to focus on the provision of technical support in the implementation of CARIFIS at the country level, in areas such as the transfer of the legacy databases from TIP and LRS to CARIFIS, training in querying and reporting and debugging of the software.

In accordance with the AWP 2006/07, the CRFM Secretariat recruited Ms. June Masters a Jamaican National to strengthen this programme area.

The CRFM Secretariat sought legal advice in order to secure the intellectual property rights in the CARIFIS programme. On the basis of the advice, the most appropriate approach is to claim copyrights to the programme. This may be done by affixing the copy right symbol (©), with the date of creation or revision, and name of the CRFM as owners. This will grant the CRFM, the creator, the exclusive rights to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute, perform and display the programme.

Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM - Regional Data Base:

Background:

This Project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM Secretariat aims at developing a master plan for fishery resource development and management in the Region (especially for the small-scale sub-sectors within the EEZ). During its implementation, a baseline study to review and assess the current national and regional fisheries information systems will be done, with the findings of the study being used to make recommendations for improving national fisheries information systems and drafting a policy framework for establishing a regional fisheries database. The inter-linked components are as follows: Pelagic Fisheries Development and Management; Community Based Fisheries Resource Management; Regional Fisheries Database Development and Aquaculture Development.

Review the Data Collection and Management Systems of the Marine Fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda

Background:

In an effort to provide information for management and decision-making on a continuous basis, the CRFM Secretariat will assist the Fisheries Divisions of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to review and refine their data collection systems to collect catch, effort, biological, economic, social and environmental data in order to permit qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the impact of their marine capture fisheries on the population structure, including estimates of fishing mortality, current abundance and status of exploitation, trends in recruitment and projected future abundance, and allowable catch under given management regimes. Biomass dynamic models, length based assessment techniques / models, as well as bio-economic models will be utilized in these assessments.

The aims of this Project are to:

- review the data (catch, effort, biological, economic, social and environmental) collection, and management systems of The Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda and make recommendations for refinement.
- review the type of economic data being collected and advise on the additional data to be collected in order to monitor the performance of the fleets in the respective fisheries as well as provide information for management.
- clearly identify and characterize the strengths and weaknesses of the current data management system at the different levels (field sampling, data management, analysis and reporting).

The CRFM Secretariat will provide technical assistance to The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to undertake a review of their respective data collection and management systems for catch, effort, biological, economical, social and environmental data.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The Consultant, Dr. Paul Medley, and Research Graduate, Ms. June Masters, undertook field missions to The Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to implement the Consultancy to review the Data Collection and Management Systems for the Marine Fisheries in these countries during May to July 2007. During these missions, technical assistance on the implementation of CARIFIS was also provided.
- Following on the submission of the draft reports on the data collection and management systems for the marine fisheries of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and TCI by the Consultant, they were reviewed and submitted to the respective Member States.
- Terms of Reference for a Consultancy to Review the Data Collection and Management Systems for the Marine Fisheries of Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, and St. Lucia, was drafted and a scheduled worked out with the Member States concerned.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Recruit a consultant and implement the Consultancy to review the Data Collection and Management Systems for the Marine Fisheries of Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, and St. Lucia,

Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance (Trainers and Support):

This activity is designed to strengthen the data collection and management capabilities of the CRFM countries through the development of training material for improving the collection of fisheries data, and the continued implementation of CARIFIS in the Member States.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The CRFM Secretariat provided technical assistance to The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands on the implementation of CARIFIS. Please see above-mentioned Consultancy to Review the Data Collection and Management Systems for the Marine Fisheries in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Determine the status of the implementation of CARIFIS in the Member States in order to develop the technical assistance programme for 2008/09.

OUTPUT 400 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

ACTIVITY 400: Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment

Output: Information available for the management of Pelagic and Reef Species, Shrimp and Groundfish Species and Lobster and Conch Fisheries

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$265,082

Spent: US\$142,876

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

Percentage of total output achieved to date.

WBS 400: FISHERIES RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Formal assessment tasks are conducted largely through the activities of CRFM regional resource working groups. The CRFM resource working groups, under the guidance of selected Chairpersons, are responsible for agreed inter-sessional activities, and preparation for the annual scientific meetings. These resource working groups cover data analysis, research, assessment, and provision of management advice on fisheries targeting the following range of fisheries resources: large pelagic fish; small coastal pelagic fish; reef and slope fish; shrimp and groundfish, conch and lobster.

In addition, the Research and Resource Assessment Programme for 2007-08 continues to include a component for provision of technical support at ICCAT and other international fora, as required.

Development and Implementation of Mechanisms for the Management of Shared Resources:

Background:

Under the UN Convention on Fish Stocks (1995) all countries are obliged either to participate in activities of an existing competent organization that has been established to manage particular shared marine resources, or where one does not exist, to establish one. This is needed to ensure that the region's concerns are incorporated into the global decision-making process and that member countries' rights are protected. Within the Caribbean region, shared resources are being exploited by CRFM and non-CRFM countries alike, and the sustainable exploitation of these resources are threatened unless mechanisms for collaboration or joint management are put into place.

Objective:

The aim of the research component of this activity is to provide technical information on resource distribution and status, to assist regional coordination in management planning and implementation especially in the case of shared resources.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Report of the 2007 Scientific Meeting is being finalized and will be published under the newly adopted guidelines for CRFM publications.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Publish and distribute the Report of the Third Annual Scientific Meeting

PARTICIPATION IN ICCAT

Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Management Fora:

Background:

Acknowledging the establishment, role, and objectives of ICCAT, other relevant regional and international fisheries bodies and international management fora, CRFM countries have begun to participate more actively in the activities of these organizations and to be directly involved in the management process. In 2007 - 08, the activity continues to include the provision of CRFM technical (research and assessment) support to countries on relevant issues of shared concern. This activity permits the CRFM Secretariat to coordinate planning and development of both national and regional positions on issues ranging from statistics to management, which require knowledge and understanding of the interpretation of resource biology and status, as well as development of legal arguments.

Objectives:

- (i) To coordinate planning and development of both national and regional positions on issues ranging from statistics to management, but which require knowledge and understanding of the interpretation of resource biology and status.
- (ii) To participate in those activities of international fora, in observer capacity, in cases where it is warranted.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Participated in 2007 Annual ICCAT SCRS and Commission Meetings.
- Prepared and circulated CRFM reports on the 2007 ICCAT SCRS and Commission Meetings, to advise Member States of current developments in the management of tuna and tuna-like fisheries within the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent Seas.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Assist countries with completion of planned ICCAT inter-sessional activities, especially for fisheries of priority to Member States.
- Prepare for and participate in planned national consultation in Guyana on the issue of ICCAT membership and participation.
- Provide technical support to countries in respect of preparation of 2007 statistics for submission to ICCAT
- Provide technical support to countries seeking assistance from ICCAT to improve their data collection systems.

RESEARCH:

1) Assess the Potential for Developing or Expanding Large Pelagic Fisheries:

Background:

The sustainable development and management of large pelagic fisheries have been identified as priority areas by CARICOM Member States through the COTED as well as by the National Governments through their fisheries development and management plans and policy papers.

As prescribed by the various international agreements, Caribbean countries need to develop their knowledge of these offshore pelagic and other under-utilized resources, to ensure responsible and successful sustainable development and management of the relevant fisheries. Given that many of these resources are shared, countries have committed to regional coordination of statistics, research and management.

Objectives:

- (i) To develop knowledge base of countries on offshore pelagic and underutilized resources.
- (ii) To promote responsible and sustainable resource utilization.
- (iii) To increase development within the sector, and contribute to socio economic well being of industry stakeholders.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- This activity was put on hold, pending finalization of CRFM-JICA project agreement document.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- If project is finalized, develop project design details and commence project implementation.

2) CRFM Regional Queen Conch Research Programme (CRP):**Background:**

This project is designed to rehabilitate and strengthen the management of the Queen Conch, *Strombus gigas*, resources in the region by strengthening regional management capability and empowering fisheries divisions to carry out their tasks through training, systems improvements, and provision of financial and technical assistance. The overall long-term goal of this project is ensure sustainable utilization of Queen Conch resources in the CARIFORUM Region through greater networking, research, capacity building and improved management to rehabilitate and protect the stocks and ensure sustainability of the fisheries.

Objectives:

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- (i) To strengthen the region's data collection and management systems and maintain a regional database on the conch fisheries.
- (ii) To identify the patterns of distribution, abundance and densities of the queen conch.
- (iii) To develop advice for strengthened management of queen conch.
- (iv) To create models and plans for the effective management of the stocks.
- (v) To broaden stakeholder and general public awareness of the status of queen conch

stocks and engender support for their sustainable management.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Activity put on hold, pending acquisition of donor funding.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Develop project design details and commence project implementation should project funding becomes available.

3) Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch - ad hoc study

Background:

This activity is designed to rehabilitate and strengthen the management of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) resources in the region by strengthening management capability through training in research, assessment and management methods, conduct of visual surveys to evaluate the present status of the queen conch resources, and provision of financial and technical assistance. The overall long-term goal of this project is to ensure sustainable utilization of queen conch resources in the CARIFORUM Region through greater networking, research, capacity building and improved management to rehabilitate and protect the stocks.

In 2005-06, the Office of Protected Resources (USA) supported the CRFM's work in the Dominican Republic, which, of the countries currently prohibited by CITES from exporting queen conch, was most likely to benefit from early work, such as stock assessment surveys. This support enabled CRFM to assist this country to follow up on the recommendations made by CITES.

To date, the field work has been completed and data have been computerized.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- (i) To gather fisheries-independent data on the queen conch resources in the Dominican Republic through the conduct of underwater surveys on the main fishing grounds to determine the status of the stocks.
- (ii) To determine size frequency distribution and maturity profile of the exploited populations, and the location of any juvenile beds.
- (iii) To organize consultations with stakeholders including government officials, fishermen and processors and exporters to discuss the stock status and build support for improved conservation and management.
- (iv) To prepare queen conch management plans for the Dominican Republic.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

Preparation of report was put on hold, pending availability of Ms. Mateo to provide essential inputs

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Continue data review and commence data analysis and preparation of report.

4) CRFM Fisheries Tagging Programme and Database:

Background:

Given that many commercial fishery resources within the Caribbean region are believed to be shared among two or more territories, quantifying the nature and extent of resource sharing will provide essential information to support the required co-operation in fisheries management among the parties concerned. In addition, effective application of and support for several management tools such as marine reserves, closed areas and closed seasons, require quantifiable evidence of both small-scale and large-scale resource movement patterns throughout the life history, including information on settlement patterns, habitat preferences, as well as feeding and spawning migrations.

Objectives:

The establishment of the CRFM Fisheries Tagging Program, if approved, will serve to address priority tagging research and management questions through the development and implementation of species-specific projects, e.g. a spiny lobster tagging project. By this means, the Program will contribute to regional collaboration and exchange of information on resource sharing patterns, and also inform the development of regional fisheries management strategies involving shared resources. By this means also, the Program is intended to assist countries to fulfil some of their research obligations in accordance with regional and international agreements and conventions to which they are signatories/parties.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Existing database reviewed to determine options for modification..

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Continue work on design of the tagging database, and the incorporation into the database of the data gathered during the CFRAMP Large Pelagic Tagging Programme.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT:

Fishery Assessment and Method Meetings:

Background:

Many fisheries resources of major importance in the Caribbean region have distributions that extend beyond national boundaries, and hence require coordinated action in respect of their assessment and management.

To facilitate informed coordinated management planning and implementation, the CRFM has established a number of Fisheries Resource Working Groups: the CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Resource Working Group (SGWG); the CRFM Conch and Lobster Resource Working Group (CLWG); the CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (LPWG); the CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Resource Working Group (RSWG); the CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (SCPWG). These Fisheries Resource Working Groups handle a range of research and assessment activities, and are responsible for developing management recommendations based on the results of fisheries assessment analyses. A CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods has also been established to investigate the suitability of various available assessment methods for application to CRFM fisheries management situations. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods reports to the Resource Working Groups during the CRFM Annual Scientific Meetings.

The CRFM Annual Scientific Meetings are joint meetings of the CRFM Fisheries Resource Working Groups, and ensure sharing of knowledge and expertise among the Working Groups. The Annual Scientific Meetings also facilitate wider regional review and consultation concerning the interpretation of assessment results. By this means, fisheries assessments and management recommendations are coordinated and updated at the regional level, for presentation to the CFF and the Ministerial Council on an annual basis.

Objectives:

- (i) To use the most recent and available data to assess, by whatever technical approach or approaches are most appropriate, the status of fishery resources exploited by CRFM countries.
- (ii) To discuss, and interpret the results of the assessments and other relevant quantitative analyses of the data, incorporating local intimate knowledge and understanding of the fisheries concerned.
- (iii) To make recommendations for management of the fisheries investigated, considering any significant social and economic implications of the management strategies that would emerge from such recommendations.
- (iv) To make recommendations for improvements in statistics, and to identify future research and fisheries assessment needs.
- (v) To develop the skills of national staff in fisheries assessment analyses and report preparation.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Finalized the report of the Third Scientific Meeting.
- Convened the Third and final Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods.
- Report of the Third Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods was finalized for presentation at the Fourth Scientific Meeting.
- Commenced inter-sessional assistance to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to complete assessments of that country's spiny lobster and queen conch fisheries.
- Continued ERAEF study of lobster fishery of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Publish and circulate report of Third Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Continue ERAEF study of lobster fishery of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Continue to assist St. Vincent and the Grenadines with assessments of that country's queen conch and spiny lobster fisheries.
- Begin study to test certain proposed assessment methods, particularly the incorporation of social and economic data and information into assessments and hence management advice.

OUTPUT 500 FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVITY 500: Fisheries Resource Management and Development

Output: Improved national fishery management policies and plans with inputs from principal stakeholders

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$507,571

Spent: US\$168,877

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

Percentage of total output achieved to date

WBS 500: FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

This Programme provides technical assistance to Member States in the areas of: fisheries management planning, using a participatory and multidisciplinary approach; monitoring control and surveillance (MCS); quality assurance and safety; organizational development of fisher folk organizations for improved participation in the fisheries management process; and human resource development in fisheries and related fields. It is also involved in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM.

Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The Revised Draft Agreement was reviewed by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum which was held (3 – 4 May, 2007) in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Forum recommended that the Revised Draft Agreement, including the additional changes recommended by that Meeting, be forwarded to COTED for advice on the way forward.

- Prepared a TOR and recruited a consultant to finalise the draft text establishing the CFP&R, and prepare an information document on the CFP&R to assist fisheries officials of Member States in providing information to the various stakeholders.
- Organised and convened a Meeting of the Expanded Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, in Barbados, from August 9 to 10, 2007, to review the Draft Agreement submitted by the legal consultant.
- Organised and convened the Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, October 3 to 4, 2007, in Guyana.
- Prepared a submission on the Way Forward for the October 2007 COTED which was held in Jamaica..
- Reviewed the draft of the Information document on the CFP&R which was prepared by the Legal Consultant.
- Reviewed the revised text of the agreement establishing the CFP&R following the Second Special Forum in October 2007.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Finalise the Information Note on the CFP&R.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT:

Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs):

Background:

During the programme years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06, the CRFM Secretariat worked with a number of countries, including The Bahamas, Turks and Caiços Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda in the process of developing and implementing their fisheries management plans (FMPs). Based on a timeframe that takes about six to twelve months to develop a FMP, hold national consultations with stakeholders and obtain approval from the relevant political authority, the CRFM Secretariat was sought to follow-up the activities with the countries mentioned above as well as work with the Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and Suriname in the updating and implementation of their FMPs.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Reviewing the updated FMPs for Grenada and Suriname.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Complete the review of the updated FMPs for Grenada and Suriname and forward them to the respective Fisheries Departments for review.

Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management:

Implementation of the Medium Term Action Plan for the Institutional Strengthening for Leaders of Fisherfolk Organisations:

Background:

Following the publication of the Report on the Organizational Needs Assessment of Fisher folk organizations and the Workshop on the Report held in October 2004, a Pro Tem Working Group was formed to transform five (5) recommendations from the report into a Medium Action Plan. The Pro Tem Working Group met in Guyana for the first time, June 22 – 23 2005, and produced a draft Strategy and Medium Term Plan of its project proposals. Following this meeting, draft reports on the Workshop on the Terms of Reference for the Pro Tem Working Group on the Institutional Strengthening of the Regional Fisher folk Organizations, and the Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan for the Fisher folk Organizations were prepared and compiled. Copies were submitted to the CTA and to the participating Member States for their review and comments. Following consultations with the CTA a draft project proposal culled from the project profiles in the Medium Term Action Plan was prepared and submitted to the CTA for consideration of funding.

With assistance from CTA, the Secretariat concluded the project documentation and signed a contract in September 2006 to implement the TOR/ “Strengthening of National Fisherfolk Organisations in Selected ACP Caribbean Countries”

Following on the above, the Secretariat organised and convened the *CTA/CRFM Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to enhance their Skills to provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisher Folk Organisations*, 4 – 14 December 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Objective:

To implement the Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan for the Institutional Strengthening of Regional Fisherfolk Organisations 2005 –2010.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Finalised the Report for CTA/CRFM Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to enhance their Skills to provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisher Folk Organisations, 4 – 14 December 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and distributed it to the Member States and other stakeholders.
- Briefing Note on the Networking of Fisher Folk Organisations in the Caribbean

finalized and distributed to Member States and other stakeholders.

- In July 2007, the CRFM Secretariat provided technical assistance to six Group 2 countries (Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) in the organization and convening of the National Consultations to Launch the NFOs.
- Issues 1, 2, 3 (Special Edition) and 4 of the newsletter: Fisher Folk Net were prepared and distributed to Member States and other stakeholders.
- In September 2007, the CRFM Secretariat also organized and convened the Regional Fisheries Stakeholder Workshop to promote the Launching of a Caribbean Network of National Fisher Folk Organisations, Grenada, September 26 – 28, 2007.
- Finalised the September 2007 Workshop Report.
- The contract for the consultancy to prepare the Stakeholders Directory was awarded, and the first Draft of the Directory was presented to the participants of the Grenada RFO Workshop for comments.
- Finalised the draft reports on the National Consultations to Launch the NFOs in six Group Two (2) Countries namely St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada, Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and submit them to the respective countries..
- Finalised the Stakeholders Directory.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Publish and distribute the September 2007 Workshop Report.
- Publish and distribute the National NFO Consultation Reports.
- Publish and distribute the Fisheries Stakeholders Directory.
- Prepare and distribute Issue 5 of the Newsletter.
- Liaise with the CTA regarding the preparation of the Addendum for 2008.

520.4: Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Resources in the CARICOM States (Donor Funded)

This Project is designed to strengthen the management of the Queen Conch, *Strombus gigas*, fisheries in the region by strengthening regional management capability and empowering fisheries divisions to carry out their tasks through technical assistance and training, and improvement of data and resource management systems.

The Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) is considered one of the most important fishery (second only to the Spiny lobster) resources in the CARICOM region due to local consumption as well as sources of income, primarily from export. In the last 30 years the overall harvest of conch has increased substantially largely driven by international exports as well as growing resident populations and increasing tourism in the Caribbean region. These factors have been the main contributors leading to the drastic decline in conch population densities that are seen in most Caribbean countries. Deep waters provide refuge from fishing, as the conchs are often difficult and/or uneconomical to exploit. However, the use of SCUBA equipment and hookah, in place of traditional conch hooks and free diving techniques, has allowed expansion of the fishery into previously unexploited areas, thus placing many deep-water populations at risk (Mulliken 1996).

Conch is commercially exploited in at least 22 countries throughout the region (Mulliken 1996; Tewfik 1997). Populations of Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) can be found along the entire Caribbean chain, from the northern coast of South America and Central America, northwards through the Lesser Antilles and northwest as far as Bermuda. (Mulliken, 1996). Annual harvest of conch ranges from 4000 MT (Appeldoorn 1994) to 10,200 MT (FAO, 1999).

In the CARICOM Region, the main objectives of Queen conch fisheries management are conservation of the species, sustainable harvest, and re-building of stocks. Management regulations for Queen conch resources include various minimum size restrictions, closures, gear and vessel restrictions, bulk harvest restrictions (quotas) and limited entry (Appeldoorn 1997; Tewfik 1997), (CFU, 2001).

The rapid expansion of export markets, and subsequent overfishing and declines in the populations led to the inclusion of *Strombus gigas* on Appendix II of CITES in 1992. Since then CITES has progressively stepped up pressure on the range states to adopt resource management and trade related measures to protect and conserve the stocks and ensure sustainable utilization and trade in the species.

The 19th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee which was held in Geneva, 18th – 21st August 2003, on the basis of the Report of the Significant Trade Review, made several short-term and long-term recommendations regarding the species which have significant ramifications for the Caribbean States. These recommendations include among others, a moratorium on commercial harvest (outside of territorial waters) and suspension of international trade in Honduras, Dominican Republic and Haiti. CITES Animals Committee recommendation made in 2000 had already resulted in suspension of trade from three other CARICOM Countries, namely, Barbados, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago. These suspensions have been lifted. However, Grenada was subjected to trade sanctions in May 2006 for their failure to take actions recommended in 2003, and provide information requested.

With the lifting of sanctions and release of Member States from the obligations imposed in 2003, the onus is now on Member States and regional organizations to ensure proper management of the stocks and avoid the need for future CITES interventions to regulate trade and demand better management of the species.

Objective

The overall objective is to improve information and systems for effective management of queen

conch resources in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region to ensure the long-term sustainable exploitation of the conch resources and a better quality of life for the resource users.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- Based on feedback from the FAO, the Project Proposal was revised and submitted to CARISEC for formal submission to FAO.
- A Project Proposal was prepared and submitted to the IDB under the CARICOM/IDB programme.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Monitor and obtain feedback from CARISEC concerning the status of the Queen Conch Project Proposals with the FAO and IDB.

520.5: Enhance the Effectiveness of MCS in the CARICOM Region (Donor funded)

The CARICOM region is spread over a very large area of the Caribbean Sea and includes several SIDs. The capacity for carrying out MCS activities varies from state to state as is demonstrated by the paucity of resources made available by most countries to the tasks of surveillance and enforcement; the current state of legislation; the low level of systems for monitoring and the apparent lack of political will to enforce fisheries regulations. As a result, the level of compliance varies throughout the region.

Most fishery resources are under national jurisdiction thus making the development of national strategy a key element in their management. However, in the Caribbean situation where countries are in close proximity to each other, both regional/sub-regional and national approaches to solutions are required. Furthermore, owing to the migratory nature of tuna and tuna-like species, and the sharing of other stocks, the impact of IUU fishing is being felt regionally. An approach to management and MCS must therefore be built on cooperation, coordination and exchange of information.

IUU fishing is a dynamic and multi-faceted problem and, as such, no single strategy is sufficient to eliminate or reduce it. A concerted and multi-pronged approach is required nationally and regionally, and by type of fishery. Assuming that there is a shared commitment for effective management of the living resources of the region, the strategy for conducting monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, as part of any fisheries management structure must be developed within the framework of National Plans of Action (NPOAs). These plans would encompass robust institutional capacity, effective planning, adequate funding and cooperative arrangements between institutions at the national level and between neighbouring states at the regional/sub-regional level. By so doing, states will become capable of undertaking MCS operations in a manner that will maximize their ability to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities.

Objectives

The objective is to enhance the effectiveness of MCS above its current state by creating and sustaining the necessary harmonized and contemporary legislative and regulatory regimes; building capacity in national fisheries administrations; and fostering an attitude of compliance among fishers, which is intended to facilitate and support the management of fisheries nationally and regionally.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- A Project Proposal was prepared and submitted to the IDB under the CARICOM/IDB programme.
- Reviewed and provided comments to CARISEC on the Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing for the CRFM Member States.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

- Monitor and obtain feedback from CARISEC concerning the status of the MCS Project Proposals with the IDB.
- With CARISEC, finalise the Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing for the CRFM Member States for submission to COTED.

Human Resource Development – Long Term Training and Scholarships:

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the CRFM Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the participation of individuals from the Caribbean Region in the IOI's Training and Capacity Building activities, particularly the IOI Training Programme in Ocean Governance.

In its ongoing commitment to develop the human resource base in fisheries and fisheries related disciplines in the region, during the quarter under review (April – June 2007), the CRFM Secretariat provided IOI scholarships for three (3) persons drawn from fisheries departments in the member states and the CRFM Secretariat to attend the International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management in Canada, from May 23 to July 20, 2006, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Selection of scholars was governed by the CRFM's philosophy in respect of human resource development, which includes long-term and short-term training, attachments and active collaboration with Fisheries Departments and universities both external and regional, to identify priority areas of collaboration.

Against the above, during the quarter April 1 to June 30, 2007, the following offer of awards were made and awardees commenced training:

Country	Name and Title	Institution
St. Lucia	Ms. Sarita Williams-Peters Fisheries Officer	IOI/ Dalhousie University
Barbados	Mr. Phillip Jackman Principal Fisheries Assistant	IOI/ Dalhousie University
CRFM Secretariat	Mr. Michael Salton Biologist	IOI/ Dalhousie University
Jamaica	Lisa Grant Jamaican National Heritage	IOI/ Dalhousie University

All awardees above-mentioned successfully completed their course of training on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, 21 May to 22 July, 2007.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- During the reporting period, Mrs. Yolanda Babb-Echteld, of the Fisheries Department of Suriname, continued working on her Thesis at the UWI-CERMES. Ms. Babb-Echteld was awarded European Union funded scholarship (MSc. Fisheries Science) under the Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme – Fisheries Component. The CRFM Secretariat is also co-supervising the preparation of the MSc. Thesis. Ms. Babb- Echteld advised that she has been making corrections to her Thesis and was attempting to send electronically to Dr. Robin Mahon, UWI- CERMES, for review.
- In October 2004, the CRFM Secretariat, approved under Work Programme April 1st, 2004 to March 31st, 2005, and granted financial support to Ms. Ann-Marie Jobity, Director of Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago, in respect of a fisheries research project being pursued under a PhD. Programme with UWI, Trinidad and Tobago. The project is titled: *A determination of size selectivity in gill nets towards sustainability of the Carite Fishery in Trinidad.* During the period under review, the CRFM Secretariat continued to work with Ms. Jobity on this project.
- Consequent to the initiation of contact by the CRFM Secretariat with the United Nations University, Iceland, Mr. Thor Asgeirsson, Deputy Programme Manager, United Nations University, Iceland, visited the CRFM Secretariat in May to engage in discussions on future cooperation between the University and the CRFM, especially regarding the fisheries training programme on offer. The United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme (UNU- FTP) is a postgraduate training programme that offers training in various areas of the fisheries sector for practicing professionals in the less developed countries. The programme is led by the Marine Research Institute in a formal cooperation with the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories and the University of Akureyri. The training covers six (6) specialist areas including (1) Fisheries Policy and Planning; (2) Marine and Inland Waters Resources and Assessment; (3) Quality Management and Fish Handling Processes; (4) Management of Fisheries Companies and Marketing; (5) Fishing Technology; and (6) Aquatic

Environmental Assessment and Monitoring. The CRFM Secretariat engaged in discussions with the UNU with respect to the training of fisheries personnel from the region for the academic year 2007/ 08 and arrangements were made for Mr. Asgeirsson to conduct interviews on potential candidates for the programme in April 2007. This is an opportunity to establish a long- term institutional relationship between the UNU and the CRFM for the purpose of building national and regional capacity for fisheries development and management in the region. The following countries: Guyana and Belize identified potential candidates to receive an award for training.

- During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat was advised that offers of scholarships were made to Ms. June Masters, Research Graduate, Statistics and Information, CRFM Secretariat and Ms. Dawn Maison, Principal Fisheries Officer (ag.), Guyana. Mrs. June Masters commenced her six months period of training on September 3, 2007, specialising in the course on Marine and Inland-waters Resources, Assessment and Monitoring. Ms. Maison also began her training on September 3, 2007.
- On 4 October, 2007, Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director proceeded on 10 months study leave to pursue training in law at the College of Law of England and Wales, United Kingdom.
- The CRFM Secretariat provided assistance and support to the staff of the Fisheries Departments of Jamaica and Turks and Caicos Islands to attend the course *Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis* at the University of Wageningen , Holland, October 1 – 19, 2007. The course focussed on information about fishers, fish stocks and fisheries catch and effort and discussed the information needs, the sources of information and the techniques used to obtain it. Mrs Kathy Lockhart from the Turks and Caicos Islands and Ms. Anginette Murray from Jamaica participated.

IMPROVED POST HARVEST, PROCESSING AND MARKETING:

Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM/ CARIFORUM Members States and OCT Countries (Donor supported initiative submitted to the European Community for funding):

Background:

During the programme year 2002 / 03, the CRFM Secretariat (formerly the CARICOM Fisheries Unit) undertook a diagnostic mission which focused on the post harvest fishing sector and related support areas of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago as well as the OCT UK countries, Anguilla, The British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos and the OCT's of the Netherlands. This led to the preliminary design of a strategy and proposal for strengthening fishery products health conditions in CARICOM/CARIFORUM member states and OCT countries. The findings of the mission and the preliminary design of the proposal were complemented by, and refined through workshop

discussions in which participated broad representation from agencies such as Ministries of Agriculture and Health, Standards Bureaux and National Analytical Laboratories.

Objective:

The objective of the “*Project for Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM Member States and OCT Countries*” is the optimal use of the CARICOM / CARIFORUM States’ fishery resources in order to gain improvements in production and trading capacity in relation to fishery products, so as to contribute to the securing of optimal economic and social returns from the resource.

During mid-2005, as part of the ongoing CARIFORUM and the EU negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the second phase of these negotiations focused on regional integration. In this regard, the technical negotiations discussed SPS measures at the First CARIFORUM/EC Technical Session on Market Access, and a decision was made to explore the possibilities for a CARIFORUM pilot project on SPS measures in a priority area for the Caribbean region.

Following on this decision, the Regional Preparatory Task Force (RPTF), which is charged with responsibilities for advising on support measures/programmes arising out of EPA negotiations, agreed that the CARIFORUM Pilot Project on SPS Measures would focus on the fisheries sector. To this effect, the Terms of Reference for a Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector was prepared by the CARIFORUM Secretariat, in consultation with the CRFM Secretariat, and submitted to the Secretary of the ACP Group of States.

Objective:

The overall objective of the Study is to advise on a programme of action to eventually increase the value added and revenue derived both from existing and potential fish exports to the EU from Caribbean operators through improved institutional collaboration and capacity in fisheries sanitary standards at the CARIFORUM level.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- (i) to identify issues (such as institutional or capacity constraints) that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU sanitary standards; and
- (ii) to propose a prioritised list of Terms of References for necessary actions and interventions feasible at the regional / CARIFORUM level that will provide significant benefits to the fishery sector by assisting in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements.

The EU selected a Team of Consultants to review the situation in the region and prepare a financing proposal for submission to the Commission.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The Consultant's *Final Report on the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFOUM Fisheries Sector* was provided to the CRFM Secretariat by the CARIFORUM Secretariat and circulated to Member States for review and comments.
- Provided feedback to the CARIFORUM Secretariat on the comments received as well as made recommendations on the Way Forward.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

Liaise with the CARIFORUM Secretariat regarding the finalization of the Project.

ACTIVITY 600 : Communication and Documentation

Output: Functioning and efficient Documentation Centre operations; Publications Disseminated. Computer networks functioning.

Activity Start: April 1, 2007

End: March 31, 2008

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$50,481

Spent: US\$12,390

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes No

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead behind on schedule

Completion of Total Activity: ahead behind on schedule

WBS 600: COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Operations Manual, and Information and Documentation:

Background:

In August 2005 the CRFM Secretariat wrote to the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), Barbados, reminding them of the CRFM Operations Manual and the Upgrade of the Registry and Documentation/Information System. CARICAD advised that a team would be sent to CRFM Secretariat Headquarters (Belize) to discuss the way forward with regard to this assistance. A Team from CARICAD visited the CRFM Secretariat, Belize, on November 4th, 2005 to discuss modalities for the assistance to the CRFM Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by:

Dr. Jennifer Astaphan	-	Executive Director, CARICAD
Mr. Richard Madavo	-	Senior Advisor, Public Sector Reform, CARICAD
Ms. Rosemund Warrington	-	Programme Specialist, CARICAD
Mr. Hugh Saul	-	Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat
Mr. Anthony Mills	-	Corporate Services Manager, CRFM Secretariat

The CARICAD advised that it was currently rationalizing the role of the CARICOM Secretariat in respect of governance arrangements for all regional organizations, and the placement / positioning of such regional organizations (e.g. CRFM) within a constellation that has like Rules and Procedures regarding governance, relations with each other, staffing, etc., so as to create synergies and minimize inefficiencies. Therefore, this assistance to the CRFM Secretariat would allow the CARICAD to, through networking arrangements, source skills in its own organization, the OECS Secretariat, CARICOM Secretariat and Member States to effect the work.

At this meeting, it was agreed:

- (i) CARICAD will assist the CRFM Secretariat with the preparation of its draft Operations Manual through the provision / sourcing of expertise. CARICAD did not have funds dedicated for this activity, however, it will be able to supply skills, and the CRFM Secretariat can contribute, say airfares – a cost sharing arrangement would be worked out.
- (ii) CARICAD will also assist the CRFM Secretariat to develop its knowledge capability – through the development of its Registry, and Documentation Systems and its interface with Member States – this will be undertaken on the basis of a cost sharing arrangement.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The Resource Mobilisation Unit, CARICOM Secretariat, advised the CRFM Secretariat that they had been successful in sourcing USD 25,000. 00 for the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's Operations Manual. During this period July – September the proposal was refined and submitted to CARISEC. On the 22 June 2007, Mr. Mills, Corporate Services Manager, CRFM Secretariat met with Ms. Jennifer Astaphan, Executive Director, CARICAD, in Belize to review the implementation plan of the Operations Manual. Ms. Astaphan advised that CARICAD would revise the Implementation Plan to take into account the input and comments of Professor Cambridge who had suggestions to improve this information. CARICAD refined the implementation proposal for the preparation of the manual and has agreed to submit same with a time line to the CRFM Secretariat.
- CARICAD facilitated a Workshop, 17 – 18 October, 2007, Belize, attended by Mr. George Myvett, Senior Fisheries Officer, Belize and staff of the CRFM Secretariat to undertake the following:
 - Data and Documentation Collection, Review and Analysis
 - Conduct a Graphic History Exercise of CRFM
 - Prepare a Stakeholder Analysis
 - Conduct a SWOT Analysis
 - Undertake a Review of the Business Processes of the Organization

CARICAD also facilitated an Operations Manual Design Workshop, December 10 – 11, 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines which was attended by the Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Wesley Clerveaux, Mr. Vaughn Charles, St. Lucia, Mr. Raymond Ryan and Jennifer Cruickshank, St.

Vincent and the Grenadines, senior and other staff of the CRFM Secretariat. A first draft of the structure and content of the Operations Manual was developed. The Report of the Workshop was circulated to Member States for their review / input.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- CARICAD will facilitate an Operations Manual Implementation Workshop, focusing on the roll out of the new Operational Policies, Procedures and Business Processes at the CRFM Secretariat.
- Preparation of First Draft of Operations Manual.

The CRFM Secretariat's Website

Background:

During the programme year 2007/ 08, the CRFM Secretariat continued to utilize modern technology, more specifically, the CRFM Secretariat Website to inform its stakeholders of the activities that the CRFM are involved, or implementing. The CRFM Secretariat aimed to make the Website more interactive and provided its audience with regular updates of meetings and CRFM technical reports.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The CRFM Secretariat continued to update the Calendar of Events webpage to keep CRFM Members States and other stakeholders informed of activities being implemented by the CRFM Secretariat.
- Meeting Reports, Information Notes, Agendas and other information continued to be placed on the website.

Activities Planned For The Next Quarter:

- Place scanned CFRAMP documents on the Website.
- Update Member States Quick Facts Webpage.
- Continue to update CRFM Calendar of Events Webpage.
- Upgrade the CRFM Secretariat's Website.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

Development and Implementation of a Programme for Enabling and Promoting MCS:

Background:

The CARICOM region is spread over a very large area of the Caribbean Sea and includes several SIDs. The capacity for carrying out MCS activities varies from state to state as is demonstrated by: the paucity of resources made available by most countries to the tasks of surveillance and enforcement; the current state of legislation; the low level of systems for monitoring and the apparent lack of political will to enforce fisheries regulations. As a result, the level of compliance varies throughout the region.

Most fishery resources are under national jurisdiction thus making the development of national strategy a key element in their management. However, in the Caribbean situation where countries are in close proximity to each other, both regional/sub-regional and national approaches to solutions are required. Furthermore, owing to the migratory nature of tuna and tuna-like species, and the sharing of other stocks, the impact of IUU fishing is being felt regionally. An approach to management and MCS must therefore be built on cooperation, coordination and exchange of information.

IUU fishing is a dynamic and multi-faceted problem and, as such, no single strategy is sufficient to eliminate or reduce it. A concerted and multi-pronged approach is required nationally and regionally, and by type of fishery. The considerations that would influence the design of MCS systems are:

There are no universally acceptable models and each system in operation is in fact, adapted to the cultural, geographic, political and legal framework of the country or region.

The operational character of the system will depend on the fisheries management strategies being applied.

The national and regional MCS systems are complementary, with effective mechanisms being put in place for coordination.

Assuming that there is a shared commitment for effective management of the living resources of the region, the strategy for conducting monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, as part of any fisheries management structure must be developed within the framework of National Plans of Action (NPOAs). These plans would encompass robust institutional capacity, effective planning, adequate funding and cooperative arrangements between institutions at the national level and between neighbouring states at the regional/sub-regional level. By so doing, states will become capable of undertaking MCS operations in a manner that will maximize their ability to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities.

Objectives:

- (i) To develop a regional framework agreement and action plan on IUU fishing and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

- (ii) To provide technical assistance to Member States in developing their respective NPOAs -IUU Fishing as an integral part of the process towards improved fisheries management and development.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The recently concluded Caribbean Fisheries Forum reviewed the revised Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS and made recommendations for further amendments and submission to COTED through CARISEC.

Activities Planned the Next Quarter:

- Finalise the Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS and submit it to COTED through CARISEC.

Large Marine Ecosystems Project (LME)

Background:

The proposed project for the Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and adjacent Regions will build on and complement existing projects and initiatives that focus on technical and institutional aspects of sustainable living marine resource use by focusing on governance, knowledge, and institutional issues in a transboundary context.

The project has as its overall objective: *Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and adjacent areas through an integrated management approach that would meet the WSSD target for sustainable fisheries.*

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to identify, analyze and agree upon major issues, root causes and actions required to achieve sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Sea LME;
- to improve the shared knowledge base for sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources;
- to implement legal, policy and institutional (SAP) reforms to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resource management; to develop an institutional and procedural approach to LME level monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The CRFM Secretariat participated in the CLME Steering Committee in Colombia in June 2007.
- Provided comments on the Draft Pilot Projects for Lobster and Reef Fisheries.

Implementation of this Project is likely to begin in 2008. To date, the CLME Project Identification Form has been approved and the full project and pilot projects are being developed.

ECOST Project:

Background:

The main objective of the ECOST project is to develop a new approach for the evaluation of fishing activities and fishing policies in order to contribute to a better management of aquatic resources in the world. The project falls under the logic of the decision of Johannesburg to restore the marine ecosystems by 2015 and the philosophy of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) for a responsible fishery.

The project involves 23 partners and is geographically spread over three (3) continents (three (3) countries for each continent) that are characterized respectively by ecosystems of coastal upwelling (West Africa with Mauritania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau), delta (South East Asia with China, Vietnam and Thailand) and coral reef (Caribbean with Cuba, Jamaica and Dominican Republic). Within each region / ecosystem (eco- region) several fisheries have been selected as representative of global fishing activities. Furthermore, a marine protected area will be chosen in order to establish comparative analysis within the said eco- region, and to serve as a reference point.

Highlights of Achievements during the Reporting Period:

- The CRFM Secretariat continued to monitor the implementation of the Project.

Safety at Sea Project:

The objectives of the project are to undertake an evaluation / needs assessment of the numbers and types of incidents/ injuries that divers receive in the commercial / artisanal fishery and compile the results in a format suitable to be stored in a database for analysis and development of a management plan at a later date.

The expected outputs are:

- A database with information on number of divers in the conch lobster fishery, types of injuries associated with diving in the conch and lobster fishery, causes of diver injuries in the conch and lobster fishery, frequency of injuries associated with the lobster and conch fishery and the problems and risk divers face in the conch and lobster fishery.
- An assessment of the diver occupation in the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region.
- This document will provide the stakeholders of the lobster and conch resources and the Department of Fisheries in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region with the necessary data to initiate a plan to reduce the hazards associated with unsafe diving practices in the artisanal diving fishery.

- Production of Reports on findings.
- Production and availability of baseline data for further studies.

The Project proposal was submitted to the Spanish Government for consideration for funding at the Second Meeting of the CARICOM – Spain Joint Commission, October 18 – 20, 2006, Jamaica.

APPENDIX A:
PROCUREMENT LIST

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECAHNISM - Secretariat
 Programming Unit
 Financial Information Report
List of Assets

Project Name: Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - Secretariat
 For the period starting: April 1,
 2007

Ending: March 31, 2008

Purchase Date	Cheque or Ref. No.	QTY	Equipment description	Model	Cost US\$	Location
6/28/2007	01754	1	King size bed and mattress (House #2)		2,294.00	Belize
7/31/2007	01785	1	Executive chair		249.50	Belize
7/31/2007	01909	1	Sofa set for Office		664.52	Belize
8/31/2007	001150	1	Desk top Computer		1,115.62	SVG
10/31/2007	1566	1	Laptop - 800 MHz with 14.1 inch Wide Screen Monitor	Intel 2 Duo T7100	1,579.78	SVG
12/31/2007	2114/1967	1	2008 Toyota Avalon - Vin #4T1BK36B08-V263697 Color Grey metallic	4-dr XLS Sedan	36,915.00	Belize
Total US\$					\$ 42,818.42	

APPENDIX B:

**CRFM SECRETARIAT
STAFF**

CRFM SECRETARIAT STAFF

COORDINATION and MANAGEMENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>Skills Area/Level</u>
Hugh Saul	Executive Director	MSc. / MBA / Cert. Exec. Management
Milton Haughton	Deputy Executive Director	MSc. / Dip. Mang.
Anthony Luis Mills	Corporate Services Manager	MSc. / MBA

TECHNICAL

Terrence Phillips	Programme Manager. Fisheries Management and Development	MSc.
Susan Singh-Renton	Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment	PhD
Charlene Sooknandan	Senior Finance Officer	BSc.
June Masters	Research Graduate: Statistics and Information	MSc.
Maren Headley	Research Graduate: Research and Resource Assessment	MSc.

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCE SUPPORT

Andrew Barnes	Accounting Assistant
Pamela Gibson-Murphy	Administrative Secretary
Sherlene Audinett	Secretary
Rochelle Staine	Information Clerk / Typist
John Cyrus	Office Assistant / Driver
Zelma Baizar	Office Attendant
Olin Myers	Office Assistant

APPENDIX C:

REPORTING ON USAGE OF FINANCIAL INFLOWS