



## **CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT**

### **Towards Sustainable Development of Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean**

**Fish E- Bulletin – Issue Number 3, May, 2007**

#### **Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum (Forum), 3 – 4 May, 2007, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands**

The Honourable McAllister Hanchelle, Minister of Natural Resources, Turks and Caicos Islands, gave the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Meeting of the Forum. Among other things he said “...*Since coming into office in 2003, my Government saw sustainable management and development of the fishing industry as an integral part in the development of these islands [the Turks and Caicos Islands]... It is estimated that over 60% of the population in these islands [South Caicos, Middle Caicos, and North Caicos] are earning a living either directly or indirectly from the fishing industry. In this regard, the sustainable development of the fishing industry is therefore essential. With the assistance of the CRFM Secretariat, the Government adopted a National Policy and Management Strategy for the development and management of the Marine Resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands*”.

In its Business Session, the Forum nominated the Turks and Caicos Islands as its Chairman, Suriname as Vice-Chair for programme year 2007 / 08, and approved the membership of the Executive Committee for 2007 / 08 as: Turks and Caicos (Chair), Suriname (Vice-Chair), Jamaica, St. Lucia, and The Bahamas. Belize and Guyana shall be invited to sit in at meetings of the Executive Committee. The Forum also considered, *inter alia*, and recommended for the endorsement / approval of the Ministerial Council with responsibility for fisheries; the CRFM Secretariat’s Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2007 / 08; a draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS); the draft Revised Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime; and a Regional Strategy on the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, based on a position paper to be prepared by the CRFM Secretariat.

Note that the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Forum was also held in the Turks and Caicos Islands on 2 May, 2007. The outputs and recommendations of this meeting informed the Fifth Meeting of the Forum.

**CRFM Secretariat provides Technical Assistance to Observe the Process for the Allocation of Quotas in the Jamaican Queen Conch Fishery and to Provide an Independent Evaluation**

A team comprising Mr. Hugh Saul, Executive Director, Mr. Terrence Phillips, Programme, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM Secretariat, and Mr. Neville Bissember, Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat, met with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Donovan Stanberry, and Team, in Jamaica on May 24, 2007. The meeting considered and discussed the way forward in respect of the Findings and Recommendations of the “*Draft Report of the Mission to Observe the Process for the Allocation of Quotas in the Jamaican Queen Conch Fishery and Provide an Independent Evaluation*”. The meeting agreed that the Draft Report will be finalized based on the comments from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and that the CRFM Secretariat shall provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Report.

**CRFM Secretariat facilitates Cayman Islands Delegation’s Study visit to Belize, May 27 to June 1, 2007**

A Cayman Islands delegation of senior government officials visited Belize during the period May 27 – June 1, 2007 to observe and discuss membership of the Cayman Islands in the CRFM, fisheries (aquaculture and mariculture) programmes and enterprises and the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA). The delegation was led by Mr. Gomez Kearney, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of District Administration, Planning, Agriculture and Housing. Highlights of the visit included a courtesy call on the Honourable Said Musa, Prime Minister of Belize, Mrs. Sandra Hall, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and visits to Cobia and Tilapia farms. Possibilities for future collaboration on business opportunities were explored.

The CRFM Secretariat records its gratitude to the Belize Department of Fisheries for its support and collaboration in planning and executing this activity.

**CRFM Secretariat participates in workshop on ACP Policy Briefs in Fisheries, Livestock and Biofuels, Wageningen, The Netherlands, May 28 – June 01, 2007.**

Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director, represented the CRFM Secretariat at the Workshop on ACP Policy Briefs on Fisheries, Livestock and Biofuels. The Workshop examined the status of scientific research, capacity building and governance of Fisheries Livestock and Biofuels and benchmarked this with what is happening at an international level to identify the ST&I policy implications and interventions for the ACP Group of States. Mr. Haughton delivered a presentation on the “*Status of Fisheries Research & Capacity Building in the Caribbean Region*”. The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP – EU (CTA) hosted this workshop of ACP and EU experts.

**Ms. Maren Headley, Research Graduate, Research and Resource Assessment, CRFM Secretariat Participates in Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) Program**

Ms. Maren Headley, Research Graduate, Research and Resource Assessment, CRFM Secretariat together with three persons from the Fisheries Division of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, two Tobago Cay Marine Park Rangers and a volunteer affiliated with the Fisheries Division, participated in the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) Program training activities that took place during 26 - 30, March 2007, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Ms. Headley was trained in AGRRA fish species identification, estimating fish size underwater, and recording the survey data underwater on AGRRA sheets. The AGRRA Program is an international collaboration of scientists and managers aimed at determining the regional condition of reefs in the Western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. An extensive regional database on Caribbean coral reef condition has been established by AGRRA using an innovative approach in examining the condition of reef-building corals, algae and fishes. Reef surveys are planned for the near future to identify biodiversity at the ecosystem level, determine coral reef health in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and contribute to the development of the AGRRA database.

**CRFM Secretariat participate in the CERMES MarGov Project Inception Workshop, UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados, 15 – 16 May, 2007**

Mr. Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, participated in the CERMES MarGov Project Inception Workshop, 15 – 16 May, 2007, Barbados. The main aim of the Inception Workshop was to refine the research problem, questions and approaches to project implementation with key partners early in the project to ensure that the project is demand-driven. This project will focus on understanding governance related to small-scale fisheries and coastal management in the Eastern Caribbean, using a conceptual framework derived from complex adaptive system and social-ecological system perspectives.

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