



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

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Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, October 2 – 3, 2007, Guyana

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum met in Georgetown, Guyana in order to consider the Draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, and make recommendations thereon to the COTED at its next meeting.

The Principal Fisheries Officer (ag.), Fisheries Department, Guyana, Mr. Tejnarine Geer, chaired the Opening Ceremony. He thanked Member States, the CARICOM, CRFM and OECS Secretariat and the FAO for their support to the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for the Caribbean Community. The Key Note Address was delivered by the Honorable Robert Persaud, Minister of Agriculture, who expressed support for the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, and mentioned its importance to Guyana. The Chairman of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, Mr. Wesley Clerveaux, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, CARICOM Deputy Secretary-General, delivered some remarks. The Deputy Secretary General said that the Common Fishing Zone and the conditions of access to the fisheries resources therein have been among the sensitive issues for some Member States who are concerned about the sustainability of the resources and potential negative social and economic impacts on their local fishermen. The Vote of Thanks



Opening Ceremony, Second Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, held at the CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana

was given by Mr. Saul, Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat.

Draft Action Plan for Improved Management of the Protected Area System in the Turks and Caicos Islands

The CRFM Secretariat facilitated a Marine Protected Areas Effectiveness Workshop, 20 – 21 August, 2007, Turks and Caicos Islands, in which the Draft Action Plan for Improved Management of the Protected Area System in the Turks and Caicos Islands was reviewed.

Participants included representatives from among the Department of the Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), the National Trust, the Attorney General's Chambers, Parliament, Blue Water Divers and the Caicos Conch Farm. Mrs. Michelle Fullford-Gardiner, Deputy Director of the DECR, made the Welcome Remarks and Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director of the CRFM Secretariat, opened the meeting. Ms. Maren Headley, Research

Assistant, Information and Statistics, CRFM Secretariat also participated in this meeting. The participants reviewed the Draft Action Plan for Improvement Management of the Protected Area System in the Turks and Caicos Islands and made several recommendations for its improvement. It was agreed that the CRFM Secretariat will be responsible for amending the Draft Action Plan for Improved Management of the Protected Area System in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Regional Fisheries Stakeholder Workshop to Promote the Launching of a Caribbean Network of National Fisherfolk Organization, Grenada, September, 26 – 28, 2007

In 2003/04, a CTA/CARDI/CRFM regional study examined the organizational needs and operational strengths and weaknesses of existing national and primary or community-based Caribbean fisher folk organizations and made recommendations to address them. At a CTA/CARDI/CRFM Regional Workshop held in Belize in 2004 to review the study and recommendations, an explicit recommendation was made to launch a Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organizations (CARNUFO). It was also decided that CARNUFO would be established when at least 50% of the ACP countries + 1 would have NFOs. In this context, a Working Group was created to develop a strategy for the launch of CARNUFO and make proposals for strengthening the institutional capacities of fisher folk organizations.

The Regional Fisheries Stakeholders Workshop was held in Grenada, September 26 – 27, 2007 to promote the establishment of a regional network of national fisher folk organisations - CARNUFO.

The expected outputs from the Workshop were:

- Common understanding of major current and emerging challenges and concerns regarding fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development at the national and regional levels.



Conference room at the Flamboyant Hotel filled to capacity with over 35 workshop participants

- Expressions of interest from, and commitment of, main stakeholder groups to a regional network of national fisher folk organizations.
- Consensus built on the rationale, purposes, intervention areas and decision-making mechanisms for the regional network.
- Membership categories and criteria defined.
- Types of contributions from the members determined.
- A Network coordination unit identified/created, and its functions and tasks defined.
- Action plan outlined.
- Stakeholder input into the Stakeholders Directory obtained.

Training of Fisheries Department and CRFM Secretariat Staff at the University of the United Nations, Iceland

The CRFM Secretariat initiated discussions with the United Nations University (UNU) to train fisheries personnel from the region for the academic year 2007/ 08. 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



Class Photo – United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme

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. 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.

Guyana and Belize identified potential candidates to receive training awards. Scholarship awards were made to Ms. June Masters, Research Graduate, Statistics and Information, CRFM Secretariat and Ms. Dawn Maison, Principal Fisheries Officer, Guyana to undergo six months training in the specialist areas of Marine and Inland-waters Resources, Assessment and Monitoring. Training commenced in early September, 2007.

CRFM's Operations Manual

The CRFM Secretariat with financial assistance from the CARICOM Secretariat's Resource Mobilisation Unit, has engaged the Caribbean Centre for Administration and Development (CARICAD), to develop an Operations Manual for the CRFM.

The intervention will comprise the following three phases:

Phase I

- 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

Phase II

- During Phase II, CARICAD will utilize the outputs of analyses of Phase 1 as the basis for conducting an Operations Manual Design Workshop for a Reference Group made up of CRFM Staff, Forum Members and Representatives from a sample of Ministries of Agriculture and Department of Fisheries

Phase III

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

Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis

The CRFM Secretariat spearheaded the provision of support for two Fisheries Departments' staff – Mrs. Kathy Baier Lockhart, Turks and Caicos Islands and Mr. Anginette Murray, Jamaica, to attend the course *Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis*, held October 1 – 19, 2007, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

This course focused on information about fishers, fish stocks and fisheries catch and effort. The course discussed the information needs, the sources of information and the techniques used to obtain it. After the course the Fisheries Departments' staff were able to appraise which information is essential for fisheries management; apply some tools and techniques to collect data from various stakeholders; and were better equipped to process fisheries data and prepare such data for evaluation.

The 2007 Annual Meeting of ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), 24 September – 5 October, 2007, Madrid Spain

The CRFM Secretariat's Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment, Dr. Susan Singh-Renton, attended the SCRS Meeting.

The major accomplishment of the meeting were:

- (i) The CRFM Secretariat obtained updates on stock status for all species assessed by ICCAT.
- (ii) The annual SCRS meetings are striving to become 'paperless', with participants required to download meeting documents from a server, accessed via wireless internet.

The CRFM Secretariat was able to identify weak areas and gaps pertaining to statistics and research for tuna fisheries in CARICOM countries. Recommendations are made in the detailed report for follow-up actions to address these weak areas and gap.

We invite you to visit our website at: www.caricom-fisheries.com for further information.