



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

ANNUAL PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Covering the Period
April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007



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TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM OF THE 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, 2006 – March 31, 2007**

The Technical and Financial Progress Report of the CRFM Secretariat for the period April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007 is presented for your information and guidance. The Report is based on activity schedules and budgets from the approved Work Plan and Budget for Programme Year April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007.

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 Tuna
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	Scientific Committee in 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 2006

Work Programme Budget Approval: Yes

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

This report covers the twelve months of the third year of the Medium Term Plan of the CRFM. The major activities implemented during this period include:

- the continuation of the development of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM through ad hoc Working Group Meetings (Legal and Socio Economic) and a Special Meeting of the CRFM Forum;
- the continuation of the updating of national Fisheries Management Plans for selected Member States;
- activities related to the Resource Mobilization process;
- implementation of consultancies to provide technical assistance and training in the use of CARIFIS;
- assessment of the Jamaica queen conch fishery quota allocation system, observation of the process and provision of an independent opinion on the adequacy and integrity of the system for the allocation of quotas in the Jamaican Queen Conch Fishery;
- provision of technical assistance to the Veterinary Service Division, Jamaica to achieve compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards for Marine Gastropods;
- continued provision of the necessary technical support and advice to countries which participated in the 2006 annual ICCAT Commission Meeting;
- signing of MOU between CTA and the CRFM Secretariat, for the funding support of the project *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations*;
- participation in the implementation of the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector by way of consultations with the EU and Regional Consultants contracted to undertake the Study; and
- providing logistical support and continuing efforts to expand fisheries assessment methodologies being utilized by the CRFM Resource Working Groups so that management advisory outputs address a broader range of issues.

- Two fisheries department staff from The Bahamas, St. Lucia, and one CRFM Secretariat staff were selected for CRFM / IOI scholarships for training on Ocean Governance.

With respect to Member States' contribution to the budget, Management continued to liaise with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions up to the end of the period under review (April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007) totaling EC\$2,366,834 (US\$880,453.10). The arrears to date fell from EC\$710,233 as at March 31, 2006 to EC\$357,776 as at March 31, 2007.

The Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 11- 12 April 2006, Trinidad and Tobago, where new members of the Executive Committee of the Forum were elected. Also coming out of the Meeting were recommendations to the Ministerial Council for approval of (i) the Work Plan and Budget, 1 April 2006- 31 March, 2007; (ii) Member States Contribution to the CRFM Secretariat for the next triennium 1 April, 2006 – 31 March, 2009; (iii) Progress Report (Status) on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime , (iv) recommendations for the renewal of the contracts for the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director for a further three (3) years; and (v) resource management recommendations for several fish species of economic importance.

The Twenty- First Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) met during the 12-13 May, 2006, in Trinidad and Tobago and approved the major recommendations above-mentioned arising from the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat organised and convened with its collaborators the *CRFM/ CARPE Diem Conference on VMS and MCS Systems for Fisheries Management in the Caribbean*, 3-4 December, 2006 in Jamaica. Officials from the CRFM Member States were provided with information that would enable them to make recommendations for the development of cost effective MCS mechanisms across the CARICOM region in order to achieve improved management of the fisheries resources.

A regional Workshop to Review the draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for the CRFM Member States, was held on 6 December, in Jamaica where participants provided comments on the *draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for the CRFM Member States*. Comments made by Member States were incorporated into the draft Declaration and submitted to the CRFM Secretariat by the Consultant in February 2007. During the last quarter of the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat prepared a revised Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS.

The Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7-8 December, 2006. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, matters arising from the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, April 11-12, 2006, and their status of implementation. Matters discussed included the draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime; Queen Conch and Lobster; MCS and IUU; and a preliminary draft of the 2007/ 08 CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget.

Discussions were held with Senior Government Officials and the Queen Conch Industry Officials in Jamaica, over the period December 4 – 10, 2006, 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. In this regard, 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. Vanthuyne visited Jamaica during the period 2 - 19 February 2007 where, *inter alia*, he met with several Working Groups involved in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements; assisted with the review and implementation of water/ ice quality control standards and systems that are EU compliant; trained 40 Quality Managers and Inspectors focused on the immediate needs and understanding of the private sector and the official sector; and undertook evaluation visits with the Competent Authority (CA) to various private sector enterprises involved in the harvesting, processing and export of fishery products to the EU.

The CRFM Secretariat's intervention is expected to help facilitate the preparation of Jamaica's response to the EU to highlight the steps taken and achievements made in addressing the issues identified by the EU Inspection Mission on 5 - 11 July, 2006 and prepare Jamaica for an upcoming EU inspection scheduled for the 16 - 25 April, 2007.

Also, in March 2007, at the request of the Government of Jamaica, a team comprising the Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM Secretariat and the Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat, conducted a Mission 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 and findings and recommendations of the team has been prepared for the consideration of the Government of Jamaica.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical leadership in the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime including the identification and analysis of the legal and socio-economic and linkages issues, through a consultative and participatory approach. The Ad Hoc legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, met during the period 31 July – 2 August 2006, in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, was held during 21-22 September, 2006 to continue the process of reviewing and providing legal advice on the draft Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. A special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 23-24 October, 2006, Guyana, involving technical officials from Member States where the document updated by the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group entitled "*A Common Fisheries Policy and Regime- Revised Framework*", was reviewed and discussed, with further guidance provided to the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group and the Social, Economic and Linkages Working Group. A revised schedule of implementation of the Way Forward was recommended. The Ad Hoc Legal Working Group met in Grenada from January 31 to February 2007 to review the recommendations of the Special Forum of October 23 to 24, 2007, and incorporate them into the Draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. Also, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkage Issues drafted the "*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*" including the draft Bibliography. This also was presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries

Forum in October 2006.

During programme year 2006/ 07, CARICAD commenced the documentation review phase of the assistance / collaborative effort for the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's draft Operations Manual through the provision/ sourcing of expertise, and the development of the Secretariat's Registry and Documentation Systems. A Comprehensive Plan and Budget for the draft Operations Manual was completed and circulated to Member States by letter dated July 7, 2006. During the period July- September 2006, a source of funds (Canada Cooperation Fund) was tentatively identified by the CARICOM Secretariat to finance this project, however, in February, 2007 the CARICOM Secretariat advised that funds were not available from the Canada Cooperation Fund. As mandated by the Executive Committee at the Seventh Executive Committee Meeting, 7-8, December, 2006, "*to do whatever can be done "in house" must be done to ensure progress is made on the Operations Manual*", the CRFM Secretariat recommenced the "in house" development of the Operation's Manual and prepared a first draft which is to be tabled at the Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum scheduled for April 2007. Also, the Secretariat developed a publication guidelines for preparation and production of CRFM publications, in recognition of the CRFM's status as an autonomous organization.

During the period 2006 / 07, the CRFM Secretariat continued to provide support to Member States with the development and use of the CARIFIS database. Ms. Sherrill Barnwell, Consultant, provided technical assistance and training in the use of CARIFIS to Guyana and Belize during August 2006. Also, the CRFM Secretariat, in collaboration with the FAO LAPE Project, organised and convened *the CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, in Trinidad and Tobago, on 10 April, 2006*. The Meeting concluded that CARIFIS is an important and useful software that is needed by the countries to facilitate planning and decision making in fisheries, and to build capacity in the countries, transfer the legacy databases to CARIFIS, remove bugs from the program and address the other needs articulated by specific Member States. It was recognized that a key step in the process of the implementation of the CARIFIS was to acquire the services of a dedicated staff member to work on CARIFIS and other data management issues.

A number of Fisheries Management and Development initiatives continued to be addressed during the reporting period. These include the convening of the final National Consultation on the Revised Draft FMP for Guyana, November 7, 2006. Other initiatives included the review and editing of the Consultation Reports for St. Lucia and Guyana, and provision of technical assistance to Guyana in the finalization of its Revised Draft FMP. The Secretariat updated the Draft FMP for Anguilla and submitted same to the DFMR for review. In addition, the FMPs for Grenada and Suriname were updated.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical support to countries preparing documentation and positions for input into the 2006 and 2007 Annual ICCAT Commission Meetings, also to CRFM country delegations participating in these meetings and requiring assistance with catch quota negotiations. On behalf of the CRFM, the Secretariat participated in and provided inputs during the FAO Regional Workshop for CARICOM Member Countries on the Factors of Unsustainability and Overexploitation in Marine Fisheries, held during 6 - 8, December 2006. The Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods, held June 27 – 30, 2006, and the Report

of the Second Annual Scientific Meeting, held March 13 – 22, 2006, were both finalized during the reporting period. Both Reports will be published.

In 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 period July- September, 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 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 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.

The CRFM Secretariat participated in the FAO/ UNEP/ CEP/ CRFM Regional Queen Conch Workshop, Jamaica, May 1 – 5, 2006 where assistance was provided to Caribbean countries in the development of effective management plans for queen conch fisheries. The workshop was updated on the work being done by the CRFM Secretariat and Member States with regards to the drafting and holding of national consultations on their respective FMPs. The CRFM Secretariat also coordinated the Member States’ participation and preparation for the workshop. The draft Workshop Report contains essential information required to complete the draft proposal *Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch (Strombus gigas) Resources in the CARICOM/ CARIFORUM States* which was submitted to the FAO for consideration for funding. The CRFM Secretariat is now in the process of completing the Queen Conch proposal.

Also, during the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat continued actions to review and update its Website. The actions included revision of the Website to make it more user friendly and interactive, regular updates of the Calendar of Events section and placement of technical publications, reports and documentation, including the CRFM Secretariat Annual Report 1st April, 2004 – 31st March, 2005, on the Website. As part of its Advocacy outreach programme, the CRFM Secretariat developed an E (electronic) – Bulletin to inform its many audiences of activities it has been involved in on a monthly basis. This new addition to the Advocacy programme commenced in March 2007.

During programme year 2006/ 07, the CRFM Secretariat initiated discussions with IOCARIBE at the CLME TDA Kick-off Meeting in October 30 – November 1, 2006, Barbados, concerning the development of a draft MOU between the CRFM and IOCARIBE. These discussions led to the submission by the CRFM Secretariat of a draft MOU to IOCARIBE for consideration.

The CRFM Secretariat continued its resource mobilization efforts during this period. Project proposals in areas mentioned below were prepared and submitted for donor support:

(i) Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

Financial support was received from the Government of Spain, through the CARICOM Secretariat, for a Study Mission to the European Community 28 May – 7 June, to better understand the structure, process of development and applications of the EC's Common Fisheries Policy and identify lessons that may assist with the preparation and implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

Financial support was received from CIDA, Canada, through the CARICOM Secretariat, for the meetings of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, and a Mission to Canada by representatives of the CRFM Secretariat, Office of the General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat and the CSME / Agricultural Section, CARICOM Secretariat. The Study Mission took place during the period July 9 – 20 and a Study Report with recommendations for further development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM was prepared, taking into account the experience and lessons learnt from the preparation and application of the Canadian Fisheries Policy.

(ii) Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

A MOU between CTA and the CRFM Secretariat for the funding support of the project *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations* was signed on the 18 September 2006 and the project is to be implemented over the period 2006 - 2008. The value of funding for 2006 is fixed at a maximum of Euro 84 060. A “*Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to Enhance Their Skills to Provide Better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisherfolk Organizations*” was held 4-14 December, 2006 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Twenty six fisheries extension officers, cooperative officers and fishermen's cooperative officials were trained to provide better information, advisory and training services to primary and national fisherfolk organizations. A draft briefing note on fisherfolk organizations in the Caribbean, and outlines of the draft guidelines and strategy for the construction of the national consultations for the launch of the National Fisherfolk Organisations (NFOs) in selected Member States were developed and will be completed in programme year 2007/ 08.

(iii) 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. During the period under review, JICA Officials visited the CRFM Secretariat Headquarters, 6-9 March 2007, as part of the Preliminary Survey for the *Fisheries Masterplan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean*.

The JICA Team also visited Member States Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines which included a visit to the CRFM Secretariat Eastern Caribbean Office. The draft Scope of Work was refined and will be reviewed in Japan before being sent to the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate further discussions.

The signatories to the draft Scope of Work, as advised by the CARICOM Secretariat in discussions with the JICA Team, and as advised by the Assistant General Counsel, Mr. Neville Bissember, are the CARICOM Secretariat as Executing Agency, the CRFM Secretariat as Implementing Agency and JICA.

(iv) 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. Implementation of the project is expected to start late 2007.

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 , 2006 End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget:	US\$295,479 Spent: US\$294,405 Spent during the last quarter: US\$54,197
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, 2006 – March 31, 2007.

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 up to the end of the period under review (April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007) totaling EC\$2,366,834 (US\$880,453.10). The arrears to date fell from EC\$710,233 as at March 31, 2006 to EC\$357,776 as at March 31, 2007.

During the programme year the CRFM Secretariat organized and convened, as well as provided technical, administrative and rapporteurial support to the following meetings / workshops:

- (i) CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, 10 April, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago;

- (ii) Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 11 – 12 April, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago;
- (iii) National Consultation on the Draft FMP for the Marine Fisheries of St. Lucia, April 27, 2006;
- (iv) National Consultation on the Draft FMP for Montserrat, May 24 , 2006;
- (v) The Second Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Methods Working Group, 27 – 30 June, 2006, Grenada;
- (vi) Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, July 31 – August 2, 2006, Turks and Caicos Islands;
- (vii) CLME Project Steering Committee Meeting, 2-3 August 2006, Panama;
- (viii) Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, September 21 – 22, 2006, Guyana;
- (ix) Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, October 23 – 24, 2006, Guyana;
- (x) Final National Consultation on the Revised Draft FMP for Guyana, November 7, 2006, Guyana;
- (xi) Workshop to consider Report of the Consultants on Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector, 14 – 15 November 2006;
- (xii) Training of Trainers Workshop for Extension Officers to enhance their skills to provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to primary and National Fisherfolks Organizations, December 4 - 14, 2006;
- (xiii) CRFM / CARPE Diem Conference on VMS and MCS Systems for Fisheries Management in the Caribbean, December 4 – 5, 2006, Jamaica;
- (xiv) Regional Workshop to develop a Framework Agreement and Action Plan on IUU Fishing and MCS, December 6, 2006, Jamaica;
- (xv) Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, December 7 – 8, 2006, Jamaica.

Also, with respect to recruitment of staff, Ms. Maren Headley MSc, a national of Barbados, commenced duties as Research Graduate / Biologist, effective August 1, 2006. Ms. June Masters MPhil, a national of Jamaica, commenced duties as of Research Graduate / Data Manager, effective September 1, 2006. Both staff are located at the Eastern Caribbean Office, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These recruitments will further strengthen the capabilities of the technical programmes.

During the period November 28 – 29, 2006, the Executive Director and the Corporate Services Manager, upon a request to visit, conducted a mission to the Cayman Islands and met with Senior Government Officials, including the Leader of Government Business (Chief Minister) the Honourable D. Kurt Tibblets, J.P., to discuss options for Membership of the CRFM, by the Cayman Islands and potential areas for future cooperation.

Resource Mobilisation

Efforts with regard to resource mobilization continued as below-mentioned:

1. Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

Financial support was received for a Study Mission to the European Community 28 May – 7 June, 2006 to better understand the structure, process of development and applications of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and identify lessons that may assist with the preparation and implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

Financial support was also received from CIDA, Canada, through the CARICOM Secretariat, for the meetings of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, and a Mission to Canada by representatives of the CRFM Secretariat, Office of the General Counsel, CARISEC and the CSME / Agricultural Section, CARISEC. The Study Mission took place on the July 9 -20, 2006 and a Study Report with recommendations for further development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM was prepared, taking into account the experience and lessons learnt from the preparation and application of the Canadian Fisheries Policy.

2. Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations.

An MOU between CTA and the CRFM Secretariat for the funding support of the project *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations* was signed on the 18 September 2006 and the project is to be implemented over the period 2006 - 2008. The value of funding for 2006 is fixed at a maximum of Euro 84 060.

3. 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. Implementation of the project is expected to start late 2007.

4. 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.

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, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$36,500

Spent: US\$46,005

Spent during the last quarter: US\$17,943

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, 2006 to March 31, 2007.

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, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$33,600

Spent: US\$47,399

Spent during the last quarter: US\$10,874

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 Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 11 – 12 April, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago. At this meeting the following major outputs were achieved:

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

- Belize
- St. Lucia
- The Bahamas
- Trinidad and Tobago (Chair)
- Turks and Caicos Islands (Vice-Chair)

Jamaica will sit on the Executive Committee as an invitee, pending the proposed amendment of the Agreement Establishing the CRFM.

(ii) Recommendation of the Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007 to the Ministerial Council for approval;

- (iii) Recommendation of the Member States Contribution to the CRFM Secretariat for the next triennium April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2009 for approval of the Ministerial Council;
- (iv) Progress Report (Status) of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;
- (v) Recommendations of specific resource management measures and research that should be implemented to protect and ensure sustainable use of a number of fisheries in the region to the Ministerial Council for approval.

Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum (CFF)

A Special Meeting of the CFF, was held in Guyana, 23-24 October, 2006, with the objectives, to review and discuss the Draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy Regime, the Draft Report of the Study on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that can Impact on the CFP&R, and provide further guidance to the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group and the Social, Economic and Linkages Working Group on the way forward.

The Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, met its objectives and mandated the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group to continue to be involved in the process of the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM and, further developed a revised Summary Timeline and Budget (June 2006- June 2007) to be submitted to the COTED and Heads of Government at the 21st Meeting of the COTED.

Meeting of the Executive Committee

The Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 7- 8, 2006. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, matters arising from 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; MCS and IUU – A regional approach and a preliminary draft of CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget the 2007 / 08.

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, 2006	End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget: US\$135,375	Spent: US\$116,623 Spent during the last quarter: US\$57,631
Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <u>√</u> No ____	
Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ____ behind ____ on schedule <u>√</u> Completion of Total Activity: ahead ____ behind ____ on schedule <u>√</u> Percentage of total output achieved to date	

WBS 200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning

Within the context of the Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2006 / 07, the CRFM Secretariat continued to support and enhance the institutional capabilities of Member States in the area of policy formulation, with a focus in 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-base Management (including sedentary resource management); and (5) Education and Training in the component fields in the CARICOM States.

The CRFM Secretariat, through the CARICOM Secretariat, coordinated the provision of information requested by the Japanese experts to finalize plans for the commencement of the pilot projects leading to the development of the Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM. There has been a lag (approximately 18 months) in the commencement of the field work activity under the project arising from the delay in completing the *Note Verbale* pertaining to privileges, immunities and other benefits to be accorded to the Japanese Experts in the CARICOM Member States. On May 29, 2006 the CARICOM Secretariat received the agreement of Jamaica on the *Note Verbale*.

During the period October – December 2006, JICA forwarded to the CRFM Secretariat, through Dr. Tadomi Nakai, CARICOM Secretariat, a tentative schedule of visits to the Caribbean by a JICA Mission commencing 26 February, 2007 and ending on 10 March, 2007. The JICA Team visited the CRFM Secretariat Headquarters, Belize, during the fourth quarter, 6-9 March 2007, as part of the Preliminary Survey for the project: *Fisheries Masterplan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean* under the rubric of the CARICOM- Japan Cooperation Agreement. Discussions at the meeting included a review of the results of the last survey; the five components of the project; roles of the CARICOM Secretariat, CRFM Secretariat and JICA; the draft scope of work; financial and logistical arrangements for the project; and the draft criteria for the placement of pilot projects. In addition to Belize, the JICA Team visited Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This Mission also undertook the following in order to facilitate project start up:

- (i) Review the result of last survey;
- (ii) Discuss the expecting five components such as development and management of pelagic species, integrated development plan of aquaculture, establishment of fisheries database, community-based resource management, education and training;
- (iii) Decide and collect the information of a pilot project site proposed;
- (iv) Visit aquaculture site;
- (v) Request the arrangement of counter-part persons;
- (vi) Coordinate the scope of work with CRFM Secretariat;
- (vii) Sign the minutes of meeting with the representative of CRFM Secretariat;
- (viii) Collect the information of local implement agency;
- (ix) Discuss with the Embassies of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica;

- (x) Discuss with the JICA Mexico Office.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- In July, the CARICOM Secretariat by way of *Note Verbale* notified the Government of Japan of Jamaica's readiness to participate in the JICA funded project and the region's acceptance of the arrangements concerning privileges, immunities and other benefits to be accorded to the Japanese team carrying out the study in the region.
- During the reporting period, JICA Officials visited the CRFM Secretariat HQ, 6-9 March 2007, as part of the Preliminary Survey for the *Fisheries Masterplan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean*. The draft scope of work highlighting the roles of the CARICOM Secretariat, CRFM Secretariat and JICA in the delivery of the project was prepared. The draft Scope of Work is to be further refined in Japan before being sent to the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate further discussions.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group was held, 7 – 8 April, 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a detailed draft legal text was prepared for several substantive and procedural sections of the Draft Framework Agreement for the CFP & R. The Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime held further meetings in the Turks and Caicos Islands (31 July – 2 August 2006), and Guyana (September 21-22, 2006) to continue the process of reviewing and drafting the Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.
- A resource person from U.W.I / CERMES was contracted to develop a Bibliography to facilitate the work of the Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkages Issues. The resource person prepared a Bibliography on the *Review of the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may Impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*.
- A team comprising of Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat, Mr. Neville Bissember, Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat and Mr. Ivor Carryl, Programme Manager, CSME visited Canada to review the Canadian Fisheries Policy and Law during the period July 9-20, 2006.

- A Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held during the period October 23 – 24, 2006, Georgetown, Guyana, in order to review and input to progress reports of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, and the Social, Economic and Linkages Working Group, and incorporate the reports into the draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. This Forum made several recommendations for improving the draft Policy and a revised schedule of implementation of the Way Forward was recommended.
- The draft documents “*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkage Issues Working Group, and “Input of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the *draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” were both presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in October 2006. The Report of the Study Mission to Canada, containing recommendations for the elaboration of the CFP & R, and taking into account the experience and lessons learnt from the preparation and application of the Canadian fisheries policy, was also presented.
- The Ad Hoc Legal Working Group met in Grenada from January 31 to February 2, 2007 to review the recommendations of the Special Forum of 23 to 24 October, 2007, and incorporate them into the Draft Framework Agreement for the CFP&R.

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.

During the year, the CRFM Secretariat prepared and distributed CRFM News Issue #5 to stakeholders. Recommendations were made to expand membership of the Editorial Committee and to form a Publications Committee which was reviewed by Management.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The CRFM Secretariat participated in the 2006 National Agriculture and Trade Show, 28- 30 April, Belmopan, Belize. The objectives of the CRFM Secretariat’s participation was to raise awareness of the CRFM Secretariat to the Belizean public and the CRFM Secretariat’s support to the sustainable management of fisheries in Belize and the other Member States. The CRFM Secretariat and the Belize Department of Fisheries exhibited their displays under the same roof and together brought issues pertaining to the development and management of fisheries in Belize and the wider Caribbean to the attention of national and visiting stakeholders.

- The CRFM Secretariat participated in the IICA Sixth (6th) Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture Exhibition and Trade Show, 5-7 October, Nassau, The Bahamas. The objectives of the CRFM Secretariat's participation was to raise awareness of the CRFM Secretariat's support to the sustainable management of fisheries in The Bahamas and the other Member States to the Bahamian public. The CRFM Secretariat and The Bahamas Department of Fisheries exhibited a collaborative display and brought to the fore, through various mediums, issues pertaining to the development and management of fisheries in The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean to the attention of the attendees.
- Updated the CRFM Secretariat Website.
- Production of a monthly E (electronic) – Bulletin. Circulation of the CRFM Secretariat E-Bulletin commenced in March 2007.
- Design and development of draft CRFM Secretariat brochures which are expected to be completed and printed during programme year 2007/ 08.
- Guidelines for the Preparation and Production of Documents Published by the CRFM Secretariat was developed and is expected to be finalized during programme year 2007/ 08.

PLANNING

Background:

During the reporting period, CRFM Secretariat technical staff continued to prepare individual Quarterly Workplans to guide the implementation of activities as set out in the CRFM Secretariat Annual Workplan and Budget 2006/ 07. Also, the CRFM Secretariat initiated a Quarterly Implementation reporting system which is integrally linked to the organization performance appraisal system and facilitates the reporting on designed to allow on the implementation of activities in a more informative and concise manner.

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

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The CRFM Secretariat commenced and continued discussions with the OECS Secretariat (ESDU) to enter into an MOU arrangement with regard to a collaborative approach to the planning and delivery of projects / activities in the OECS sub-region.
- The CRFM Secretariat completed the draft CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2007 / 08. This draft CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan and budget was developed against the background of a new Medium Term Plan for the period 2007 / 08 to 2009 / 10; critical activities from the old Medium Term Plan that are to be completed during 2007 / 08; and expected start-up of new donor funded projects in 2007 / 08, 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).

- The draft CRFM Secretariat Annual Workplan 2007/ 08 was presented to Members of the Executive Committee at its Seventh Meeting, December 7 -8, 2006, Jamaica, and subsequently circulated to all Member States for their input.

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, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$102,543

Spent: US\$86,998

Spent during the last quarter: US\$21,357

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 M Phil, 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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The Terms of Reference for the consultancy to review the data collection and management systems of the marine fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda was drafted and the consultant recruited in April 2007. The TOR was amended to include the review and provision of technical assistance on the implementation of CARIFIS in these countries. The Consultancy will be implemented in May/June 2007.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During 2006/07, the CRFM Secretariat, in collaboration with the FAO LAPE Project, organised and convened *the CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, in Trinidad and Tobago, on 10 April, 2006*. The Meeting concluded that CARIFIS is an important and useful software that is needed by the countries to facilitate planning and decision making in fisheries. The current usage of the software was less than desired or expected at this stage, and urgent steps were needed at this time to build capacity in the countries, transfer the legacy databases to CARIFIS, remove bugs from the program and address the other needs articulated by specific Member States. It was recognized that a key step in the process of the implementation of the CARIFIS was to acquire the services of a dedicated staff member to work on CARIFIS and other data management issues. The Report of the *CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, Trinidad and Tobago, 10 April, 2006* was finalised.
- The CRFM Secretariat provided technical assistance and training to Guyana and Belize in the use of CARIFIS. Also, the Secretariat obtained legal advice on securing the intellectual property rights for CARIFIS. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the FAO LAPE Project, is in the process of organizing training sessions on the analysis and reporting in CARIFIS for May/June 2007.

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, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$342,611

Spent: US\$160,971

Spent during the last quarter: US\$44,842

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 now 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; small coastal pelagic; reef and slope; shrimp and groundfish, conch and lobster.

In addition, the Research and Resource Assessment Programme for 2006-07 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 management planning and implementation.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum held in April 2006, the Secretariat made a presentation on the results of ten fisheries analyses completed during the Second Annual Scientific Meeting held in March 2006. The reports of the fisheries analyses also provided recommendations concerning specific areas of collaboration at the regional level for those resources that are shared and those resources for which it was considered important to have harmonized management strategies, e.g. shrimp, queen conch, spiny lobster, king mackerel, and dolphinfish. A summary of the results and recommendations of fishery analyses were also presented to the meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council in May 2006.
- Report of the 2006 Scientific Meeting has been finalized and will be published under the newly adopted guidelines for CRFM publications.
- The proposal for the CRFM Fisheries Tagging Programme continued to be developed, with the sections on conch and lobster now completed and undergoing internal review.

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 2006 - 07, 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.

The CRFM Secretariat reviewed statistical forms completed by two (2) countries (Dominica and Grenada) for reporting of fisheries data to ICCAT and issued reminders to countries regarding the need to submit information required by ICCAT by deadline dates.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- CRFM Secretariat, supported by CARISEC, provided both technical and legal support and advice to countries preparing for, and participating in the 2006 Annual ICCAT Commission Meeting.
- CRFM Secretariat prepared and submitted an annual report to ICCAT on behalf of CARICOM.
- Due to a meeting schedule clash, The CRFM Secretariat was unable to participate in the ICCAT SCRS Meeting.
- CRFM Secretariat report on the 2006 ICCAT Commission Meeting was prepared and faxed to countries.
- CRFM provided technical support to CRFM countries which participated in the FAO Regional Lobster Workshop, 19- 29 September, Merida, Mexico.
- On behalf of the CRFM, the Secretariat also participated in and provided inputs during the FAO Regional Workshop for CARICOM Member Countries on the Factors of Un-sustainability and Overexploitation in Marine Fisheries.
- Provided technical advise to countries regarding proposals for data improvement activities, to be prepared for submission to ICCAT by February 2006, and preparation of annual statistics to be submitted to ICCAT during the first half of 2007.

PELAGIC AND REEF FISHES RESOURCE ASSESSMENT:

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

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

CRFM Resource Working Group Activities and the Annual CRFM Scientific 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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The Report of the Second Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting that included the reports of the annual meetings of the CRFM SGWG, CRFM LPWG and CRFM CLWG was approved by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, and the management recommendations pertaining to the 10 fisheries analysed by the three Working Groups were discussed and endorsed by the CRFM Ministerial Council (COTED) when it met in May 2006.
- The CRFM Ad Hoc Methods Working Group held its second meeting in June 2006, and continued the work it began in 2005, as well as commenced examination of some new methodologies. Nine (9) species rapporteurs from seven (7) different CRFM countries

received training in the new assessment methods during the Second meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods.

- Inter-sessional activities are being conducted by species rapporteurs.
- Monitoring by the Secretariat suggests that rapporteurs are not making timely progress with regard to inter-sessional activities. This matter would need to be addressed at the level of the CFF.
- Agreed on scientific approach to be implemented for proposed conch survey in Jamaica, and provided comments to facilitate finalization of conch survey study proposal for St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Reports of the Second Annual Scientific meeting and the Second Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on methods were finalized for publication.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- This activity was put on hold, pending acquisition of donor funding.

Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch - ad hoc study

Background:

In September 2003, the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) determined that queen conch was over-exploited in many countries of the Wider Caribbean and proposed recommendations to ensure the sustainable use of this resource.

This activity is therefore 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.

The CRFM Secretariat gave Dominican Republic fisheries staff copies of several Microsoft Excel files illustrating the format the Dominican Republic conch survey dataset should be organized for analyses, and also spreadsheets showing steps for conducting the planned data analyses.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- Commenced preparation of the final report on the *Ad Hoc Study on the Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch in the Dominican Republic*.

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, 2006	End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget: US\$349,817	Spent: US\$200,605 Spent during the last quarter: US\$82,395
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 schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Completion of Total Activity: ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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

Further information on the preparation of the CFP & R is provided under WBS 200.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkages Issues prepared the document entitled “*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” and presented it to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in October 2006. As part of the implementation of their TOR, a resource person from U.W.I CERMES was contracted to develop a Bibliography to facilitate the work of the Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkages Issues. The resource person submitted a draft Bibliography on the *Review of the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime* which has been finalized, after being reviewed by the Working Group

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 Caicos 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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During 2006/07, the Secretariat facilitated the National Consultation on the Draft FMP for the Marine Fisheries of St. Lucia, on April 27, 2006, in St. Lucia; the National Consultation on the Draft FMP for the Marine Fisheries of Montserrat, on May 24, 2006, in Montserrat; and the Final National Consultation on the Revised Draft FMP for Guyana on November 7, 2006, in Guyana. It also reviewed and edited the Consultation Reports for St. Lucia and Guyana, and provided technical assistance to Guyana in the finalization of the Revised Draft FMP. The Secretariat updated the Draft FMP for Anguilla and submitted it to the DFMR for review. In addition, the FMPs for Grenada and Suriname have been updated.

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.

Further work in this area was done during this reporting period.

Objective:

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

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During 2006/07, the CRFM Secretariat, using the Draft Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan, prepared and submitted a Draft Project Profile entitled “*Strengthening of National Fisherfolk Organisations in Selected ACP Caribbean Countries*” to the CTA for consideration under their technical assistance programme. As a result, the Secretariat was invited to participate in the CTA Workshop on Project Preparation and Management, in The Netherlands, from 10 - 13 April 2006, to become acquainted with the CTA project planning approach and tools, and review the submitted Project Profile.
- With assistance from CTA, the CRFM 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 CRFM 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. In terms of the Expected Outputs, twenty six fisheries extension officers, cooperative officers and fishermen's cooperative officials were trained, however, the preparation of the Briefing Note on Fisher Folk Organisations in the Caribbean and the outline of the draft guidelines and strategy for the conducting of the national consultations for the formation of NFOs in Group two (2) countries which commenced during the Workshop have to be completed. The Draft Workshop Report has been prepared.

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, the CRFM Secretariat provided IOI scholarships for four (4) persons drawn from fisheries departments in the member states to attend the International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management in Canada, from May 24 to July 21, 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 2006/ 07 PY, the following offer of awards were made and awardees commenced and completed training:

Country	Name and Title	Institution
Antigua and Barbuda	Mr. Ian Horsford Fisheries Officer	IOI/ Dalhousie University
Jamaica	Mr. Ian Jones Senior Fisheries Officer	IOI/ Dalhousie University
Suriname	Mrs. Muriel Jagesar-Wirjodirjo Head of Legislation Office	IOI/ Dalhousie University
Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Suzette Soomai Fisheries Officer	IOI/ Dalhousie University
The Bahamas	Pat Bethel Assistant Director of Fisheries	IOI/ Dalhousie University

Awardees successfully completed their course of study and returned to their home bases in July 2006.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During the third quarter, the Governments of CRFM Member States were advised by letter to submit nominations to the CRFM Secretariat for pre-selections for CRFM / IOI Scholarships for the year 2007. In the fourth quarter, two persons were selected from fisheries departments in the member states, namely, Ms. Sarita Williams- Peter, Department of Fisheries, St. Lucia and Mr. Phillip Jackman, Principal Fisheries Assistant, Fisheries Division, Barbados; and Mr. Michael Salton, from the CRFM Secretariat, Belize, to attend the 2007 International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management in Canada, from 23 May to 20 July, 2007. Additionally, one other person, Ms. Lisa Grant, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, Jamaica, has been tentatively identified to receive an award of a scholarship to attend the programme in 2007.
- 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 December 2006.
- Also during the reporting period, Ms. Kennida Polanco from the Department of Fisheries in the Dominican Republic who received an EU/ ICRAFD scholarship to undertake research for her B.Sc Thesis successfully completed her studies.
- 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.
- The CRFM Secretariat facilitated training attachment of Ms. Iris Monnereau, a PhD. Student at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, who is studying the social aspects of lobster fishing in the Caribbean, under the Ecosystems Societies Consilience Precautionary principle (ECOST) Project.
- Consequent to the invitation 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.

- During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat was in discussions with the UNU to train fisheries personnel from the region for the academic year 2007/ 08 and arrangements 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.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- The CRFM Secretariat coordinated and participated in the implementation of the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector by way of consultations with the EU and Regional Consultants contracted to undertake the Study as well as providing logistical support. The Secretariat also assisted the Consultants in organizing and convening the CARIFORUM workshop to review the findings and recommendations of the

Consultants, November 14 - 15, 2006, Belize.

- The Workshop report was completed and submitted to the EU for consideration. The EU has approved the project which should commence during p.y. 2007/08.

ACTIVITY 600 : Communication and Documentation	
Output: Functioning and efficient Documentation Centre operations; Publications Disseminated. Computer networks functioning.	
Activity Start: April 1, 2006	End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget: US\$23,358	Spent: US\$11,905 Spent during the last quarter: US\$5,164
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 schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Completion of Total Activity: ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

WBS 600: Communication and Documentation

The CRFM Newsletter

During the quarter April – June, 2006, the CRFM News, Issues # 5, was published in July 2006. Some of the main articles in Issue # 5 included a tribute to the late Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Guyana) - the Honourable Satyadeow Sawh; the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 11 – 12 April, 2006; and Highlights of the Second Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting.

Following the publishing of the CRFM News # 5, July 2006, and the departure of the Editor, Dr. David N. Brown, Phd., the CRFM Secretariat undertook a review of the CRFM News, hence, only one issue was published during the reporting period. It is expected that on completion of the review, the CRFM News series would continue, under the leadership of a new technical Editor.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- Publishing of the CRFM Newsletter Issue # 5.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During the period, April – June, 2006, CARICAD commenced the documentation review phase of this assistance / collaborative effort and submitted a comprehensive Work Plan, Budget (*Project Plan for the Preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's Operations Manual*, and *Budget for the Preparation of the CRFM's Operations Manual*) and a detailed Terms of Reference for the exercise. These documents were submitted to Member States for comments, by July 19, 2006.
- Mr. Emerson Bryan, Research Assistant of CARICAD visited the CRFM Secretariat 17- 18, May to provide support to the development of the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's Operations Manual. Following Mr. Bryan's visit, CARICAD began the process of formulating a comprehensive proposal with respect to the Operations Manual (as well as the implementation of a Records and Information Management System as outlined in the TOR).
- A potential source of funds to support implementation was informally identified through the CARICOM Secretariat, that is, the Canada Cooperation Fund; however, this funding was not realized. The Executive Committee, at its Seventh meeting, December 7 – 8, 2006, Jamaica, urged that while the CRFM Secretariat was seeking to procure funding through the CARICOM Secretariat to complete the draft Operations Manual, whatever can be done "in-house" must be done to ensure that progress is made on the Manual.
- The CRFM Secretariat recommenced development of the Operations Manual "in-house", utilizing the agreed tasks as contained in the comprehensive Workplan and Budget for the CRFM Secretariat Operations Manual that was prepared by CARICAD.
- In March 2007, the CARICOM Secretariat further advised that the Capacity Development Fund (CDF) had indicated a strong interest in financing this activity. The CRFM Secretariat is pursuing this funding source.
- The draft "As – is" CRFM Secretariat Operations Manual was prepared in house by the CRFM Secretariat and will be tabled for discussion at the Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, 3-4 May, 2007.

The CRFM Secretariat's Website

Background:

During the programme year 2006/ 07, 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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During the period January to March, 2006 the CRFM Secretariat initiated actions to review and update its Website. The actions include training selected staff, revision of Website to make it more user friendly and interactions, placement of technical publications, reports and documentation on the Website.
- The CRFM Secretariat regularly updated the Calendar of Events webpage to keep CRFM Members States and other fisheries 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 throughout programme year 2006/ 07.
- A quotation has been received from Website service provider to update the Website. The CRFM Secretariat has met with the Website Designer and arrangements are being made to further modify the original proposal and begin implementation of the update of the Website. Owing to financial challenges, the CRFM Secretariat's plan to upgrade the CRFM Secretariat Website during programme year 2007/ 08 was not realized.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THIS PROGRAMME YEAR

Study of the Impact of Globalization on Fisheries:

Background:

This Consultancy began in P.Y.2004 / 2005, with the resulting draft reports being:

The Effects of Liberalization and Trade Related Policies on Fisheries and Measures Required for their Sustainable Development in the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region (Part A).

The Effects of Liberalization and Trade Related Policies on Fisheries and Measures Required for their Sustainable Development in the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region – Country Profiles (Part B).

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- Report distributed to CRFM Member States, to obtain feedback.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During 2006/07, the CRFM Secretariat organised and convened the Regional Workshop to Develop a Framework Agreement/Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS, December 6, 2006, Jamaica. Based on the comments and recommendations coming out from the Workshop, the Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS has been revised.
- During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat organised and convened with its collaborators the *CRFM/ CARPE Diem Conference on VMS and MCS Systems for Fisheries Management in the Caribbean*, 3-4 December, 2006 in Jamaica. Officials from the CRFM Member States were provided with information that would enable them to make recommendations for the development of cost effective MCS mechanisms across the CARICOM region in order to achieve improved management of the fisheries resources.
- Agreement was reached with CSC of France to conduct a 2-3 month demonstration project of their small-scale vessel monitoring System. The Government of the TCI agreed to host the system.

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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- During 2006/07, the CRFM Secretariat, which is represented on the Steering Committee for the CLME Project, participated in the CLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)/Strategic Program of Action (SAP) Training Workshop and Kick-off Session from October 23 to November 1, 2006, in Barbados, and the Causal Chain Analysis and Project Concept/TDA Synthesis Technical Workshop from February 27 to March 3, 2007, in Jamaica. The Training Workshop and Kick-off Session provided training on the TDA/SAP approach in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) International Waters Programme as well as determined the best approach to undertaking the TDA for the CLME Project. While the main purpose of the CLME Project Concept/TDA Synthesis Technical Workshop was to develop the technical components of the draft Full-Sized Project (FSP) document for review by the CLME Steering Committee and other project partners and subsequent submission to the GEF.

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 for 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 for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- 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.

Highlights of Achievements for the Programme Year 2006/ 07:

- Project proposal 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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCE SUPPORT

Andrew Barnes	Accounting Assistant
Pamela Gibson-Murphy	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