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**REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE  
CRFM / CARICOM FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE PRIORITY COMMODITY  
WORKING GROUP (FISHCOM WG)**

06 October 2022

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CRFM Secretariat  
2022

# CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2022 / 08

## Report of the Tenth Meeting of the CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG)

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CRFM Secretariat  
Belize, 2022

## **CRFM TECHNICAL & ADVISORY DOCUMENT – Number 2022 / 08**

Report of the Tenth Meeting of the CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG)

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AHND	Acute Hepotopancreatic Necrosis Disease
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
CABA	Caribbean Agri-Business Association
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CFTDI	Caribbean Fisheries Training Institute
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations
CPSO	CARICOM Private Sector Organization
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
EMS	Early Mortality Syndrome
FISHCOM WG	CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HACCP	Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Point
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
QA	Quality Assurance
RBM	Results Based Management
SPF	Specific Pathogen Free
SPR	Specific Pathogen Resistant
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UWI	University of the West Indies

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Tenth Meeting of the CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG) was convened electronically on 06 October 2022. The Meeting reviewed the FISHCOM Working Group 2022 Progress Report; engaged in discussions with industry stakeholders; and reviewed preparations for the upcoming regional fish processing industry forum.

## **AGENDA ITEM 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

2. The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. by Dr. Sandra Grant, Deputy Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat, who served as Chairperson for the Meeting. The Chairperson welcomed all to the Meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.
3. Thirteen participants (8 males and 5 females) from the CARICOM Secretariat, the CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO), Rainforest Caribbean, Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI), CRFM Member States (Guyana, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), and the CRFM Secretariat attended the Meeting. Also, in attendance were specially invited guests, Mr. Alvin Henderson from the Belize Shrimp Growers' Association and Dr. Pranaya Parida, a fisheries scientist from India, who has been recruited under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and who will be stationed at the CRFM Secretariat's Eastern Caribbean in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Dr. Parida is expected to arrive in SVG within the next few weeks. The list of the Meeting's participants follows. Participants' full contact information are provided in Appendix 1.
  1. Nigel Durrant (CARICOM Secretariat);
  2. Sandiford Edwards (CPSO);
  3. Benjamin Jardim (Rainforest Caribbean);
  4. Keegan Slinger (CFTDI)
  5. Denzil Roberts (Fisheries Department, Guyana);
  6. Vaughn Serieux (Department of Fisheries, Saint Lucia);
  7. Kate St. Mark (Department of Fisheries, Saint Lucia);
  8. Jennifer Cruickshank-Howard (Fisheries Division, St. Vincent & the Grenadines)
  9. Alvin Henderson (Belize Shrimp Growers Association)
  10. Pranaya Parida (Scientist, India)
  11. Sandra Grant (CRFM Secretariat);
  12. Rochelle Staine (CRFM Secretariat); and
  13. Pamela Gibson (CRFM Secretariat).

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

4. The Chairperson presented the draft agenda, which was adopted without amendment on a motion moved by S. Edwards (CPSO) and seconded by N. Durrant (CARISEC). The agenda is given in Appendix 2.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3. REVIEW OF REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING**

5. The Chairperson gave a brief overview of the Report of the Ninth Meeting of the FISHCOM WG, which was convened electronically on 15 July 2022. The ninth meeting received and accepted the eighth FISHCOM WG meeting report; and reviewed (i) changes to the composition of the FISHCOM WG;

and (ii) arrangements for the proposed Regional Fish Processing Industry Forum. Regarding the composition of the FISHCOM WG, a proposal for the change in composition of the Working Group was reviewed and approved by the CRFM Ministerial Council at its Regular Meeting in April 2022. The reconstituted FISHCOM WG Membership is shown in table 1 below.

6. The ninth meeting was apprised of the initial efforts to develop a digital directory of fish processors and fish processing entities in the region; and it was also recommended that the Special Ministerial Task Force on Food Security should be made aware of the FISHCOM WG efforts to develop this Contact Management System, as the Task Force could perhaps help to identify sources of further support that may be needed. Further progress has been made with regard to the contact management system and the digital directory is now fully functional. Additionally, discussions are ongoing with the CARICOM Secretariat (N. Durrant) and a proposal for submission to the Special Ministerial Task Force is being prepared.

**Table 1: CRFM/ CARICOM Re-constituted FISHCOM WG Membership**

2 CRFM Secretariat	1 CARICOM Secretariat	3 regional CARICOM Institutions	2-4 industry representatives	2-4 CRFM Member States
Sandra Grant	Ngel Durrant	CABA	ONFO	CFTD
Peter A Murray		UW	CPSO	Guyana
		CAHSA	Rainforest Seafood	St. Lucia
Maren Headley*			Seafood Ass'n Suriname	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
June Masters*				
Pam Gibson (WG Secretary)				

\*Will participate as necessary.

### **Discussion**

7. The CPSO representative said that CPSO was pleased to support this regional effort through participation in the FISHCOM WG. He, however, queried the inclusion of the CPSO under the category of *industry representative* as opposed to *regional CARICOM Institution*, noting that CPSO is an associate institution of CARICOM with a regional focus that works with sector specific industry representatives, hence CPSO would be better suited under the *regional CARICOM Institution* category.
8. The request was noted and it was indicated that CPSO could be included under the *regional CARICOM institution* category and that perhaps another organization could be invited to participate under the *industry representative* category.

**Recommendation 1:** CPSO be included under the category *regional CARICOM institutions*, and another organization could be invited to participate under the *industry representative* category.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4. FISHCOM WG 2022 PROGRESS REPORT**

9. The Chairperson presented this item. She referred to CRFM/CARICOM Fisheries and Aquaculture Priority Commodity Working Group (FISHCOM WG) Work Programme (January – December 2022) (*FISHCOM 10-04*) and noted that the Work Plan had been prepared based on the new mandate from the Heads of Government of CARICOM for a 25% reduction in the regional food import bill by 2025. The work plan includes *ultimate*, *intermediate* and *immediate* outcomes, as well as outputs and is designed in keeping with the CARICOM RBM framework. The expected outputs for 2022 are: (i) promote investment and production of priority products (high-valued fish products and value adding); (ii) promote aquaculture production; (iii) promote standardize legislation, guidelines and policies; (iv) build awareness of seafood quality, and coordination of fisheries activities; and (v) mobilize resources

to address research, production, and capacity development. Barriers to achieving the outputs and indicators for measuring implementation milestones have also been considered and are reflected in the theory of change geared towards addressing the immediate outcomes: promote investment supportive of adding value to fish commodity; promote standardized legislation, policies and guidelines; build awareness of marine fish and aquaculture commodities; and mobilize resources to address research and production.

10. The four work plan activities and the progress made in implementing these activities for the first half of 2022 (Jan – Jun) was presented. Activity 1: promote and monitor investments supportive of adding value to fish commodity; and, Activity 2: strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to promote commodity development are both 25% completed, while Activity 3: build awareness of marine fish and aquaculture commodities is 50% completed. Activity 4: mobilize resources to address research and production has not yet been addressed. The Work Plan/Progress Report is given in Appendix 3.

### **Discussion**

11. It was noted that aquaculture is not a specifically identified area of focus, but it should be given its importance globally (global aquaculture production outstrips marine capture production). The status of aquaculture and whether Member States had clearly defined aquaculture support programs was unclear. An activity or set of activities focused on aquaculture should be included in the work plan, as this sub-sector should be developing over time.
12. In response to the suggestion, it was noted that work on aquaculture is ongoing through the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) and the status of aquaculture in CRFM Member States is known. Efforts to integrate WGA activities with FISHCOM WG activities will be made.

**Recommendation 2:** Activity(ies) focused on aquaculture should be included in the FISHCOM WG’s work plan, and links with WGA activities made, where possible.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5. PLENARY DISCUSSION WITH RAINFOREST CARIBBEAN**

13. Mr. Benjamin Jardim, Business Development Manager, Rainforest Caribbean introduced himself again and expressed his pleasure at being part of the FISHCOM WG and this meeting. Mr. Jardim prefaced the plenary discussion with a brief overview of his organization.
14. Rainforest Caribbean is a regional organization with footprints in five Caribbean territories. Rainforest is involved in primary production (shrimp farm Belize) and processing of seafood, as well as other agricultural products. The company, which was started in Jamaica in 1995, has over 25 million pounds of freezer/cold chain capacity throughout the islands in which it operates. Upwards of 70% of the seafood processed by Rainforest is sourced regionally throughout CARICOM. Rainforest currently has processing plants in Jamaica, Belize and very recently in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and distribution centers in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Barbados (partnership). Rainforest also owns and operates more than 40 retail stores and three restaurants across the Caribbean.
15. *Question* – You have used the phrase ‘*we need to carry the whole basket*’, can you please explain?  
*Answer* – Rainforest is a strong supporter of primary production and good working relationships throughout CARICOM. The Caribbean is a small part of the world, and individual islands are even smaller, but as a group the region becomes more competitive on the world stage. The majority of the Caribbean’s GDP is based on tourism. If the Caribbean is to remain a prime tourism destination and maintain standards throughout the hotels, there is need to offer the entire range of required products. The Caribbean has a good fishery resource, however some high-end products like salmon are not

available, and exotics like King crab and Octopus are not available in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. The region needs to work at ways to increase primary production and lower impact on imports, while cognizant of the demand, particularly within the hotel sector primarily, for these exotic products.

16. *Question* – Rainforest is one of the Caribbean’s largest processors of seafood, involved in regional and extra-regional trade, what are some of Rainforest’s challenges in terms of production, distribution, technology, infrastructure, etc.?

*Answer* – In terms of production, Rainforest is operating on a global stage, with competitors not only in the Caribbean, but also from major industries across the world (Brazil, Cuba, Australia, North America) and small islands like ours have inherent disadvantages, but also competitive advantages. Cost of operations in general, particularly utilities, are significantly higher than our competitors, which puts us at an immediate disadvantage. For example, electricity in Mexico is about US\$0.20 per k/watt; in Jamaica it is about US\$0.33 per k/watt and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines about US\$0.42 per k/watt. Also, access to raw materials, equipment, packaging, etc., is an issue and is usually more expensive to processors in the Caribbean. Rainforest’s position on this is to provide quality products, recognizing that it is not possible to compete on volumes; the focus is therefore to offer a full range of value-added products that realizes the greatest value from the resource. Additionally, an area requiring further attention is technology transfer and training for fisherfolk. The fishing operations in many islands in the region are traditional in nature and are not conducive for producing a more competitive product; training and technology transfer for fisherfolk could help to address this issue.

17. *Question* – Is Rainforest fully supplied or are there opportunities for other regional producers to engage with Rainforest?

*Answer* – There are always opportunities on the supply side and Rainforest is always looking for new opportunities. At present, a significant volume of fish is bought from Guyana and Suriname and moved to Jamaica for processing/value adding. In terms of sourcing fish from other regional producers, the protocols and logistics for moving fish, particularly fresh fish, may require some further consideration. Opportunities for growth lie more in value adding and carving out niche markets than in primary production due to the high level of competition from large countries on the commodities market.

18. *Question* - What is the minimum training staff require for operating in the processing plants?

*Answer* - Rainforest conducts much of its training in-house. This include HACCP training and routine refresher courses for processors, as well as constantly updating HACCP Plans and ensuring that QA (quality assurance) teams are up-to-date on codes and regulations.

19. *Question* - The level of packaging achieved by Rainforest is impressive and comparable to international standards; however, this is not necessarily the case for other processors in the region. What advice would you give to other processors in terms of improving their packaging/presentation at a reasonable cost, given the limited packaging industry capacity in the region? How was Rainforest able to overcome this constraint at an affordable cost? Is there any scope for joint procurement, to realize volume discounts?

*Answer* – Rainforest’s view on packaging is to bring colour to a traditionally dull (monotone, single-colour) presentation. Rainforest also has a sizable marketing team that is constantly looking at ‘*new looks and feels*’ and also at how customers interact with the packaging, which is very important. Packaging is sourced from all over the world, including the Caribbean. Shipping and transport cost could add significantly to the cost of packaging, depending on volume. At Rainforest, efforts are made to constantly expose the marketing team to what is happening in the market and to look at new types of packaging, e.g., re-sealable and portion-sized packaging that helps to preserve quality. For territories like ours that have natural disadvantages, it is important to find ways to stand out - capitalize on the Caribbean brand. Regarding joint procurement of packaging to realize volume discounts and share costs (shipping, etc.) this could be considered.

20. *Question* - Rainforest was commended on the quality of its packaging; not only is it very attractive (which makes a difference) but it also addresses preservation of quality (vacuum packing, etc.); what was the main driver for this?

*Answer* - If the packaging is attractive someone may buy a product once, but never buy it again if the quality is poor. Hence, preservation of taste, texture and product quality is of critical importance. Rainforest recognizes the need to help to prevent degradation of product quality and has moved towards vacuum packaging, individual portions, etc.

21. *Question* - Is there any type of producer association regionally or nationally that focuses on fish processing? Is Rainforest a part of any such association(s)?

*Answer* – Rainforest is part of the lobster association in Jamaica, but is not aware of or a part of any such regional association.

It was noted that perhaps the issue of a regional processors’ association, similar to the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), could be raised at the Processors Forum, slated for later this year. A regional processors’ association will provide opportunity for processors to verbalize their issues/challenges and discuss possible interventions and solutions.

22. *General comment* – Rainforest was commended for the work it is doing in the region and SVG’s commitment to collaborate and advise on matters related to the industry was affirmed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6. PLENARY DISCUSSION WITH THE BELIZE SHRIMP GROWERS’ ASSOCIATION**

23. The Chairperson introduced this item. She noted that the Ninth Meeting had requested an update on the shrimp industry in Belize. To this end, Mr. Alvin Henderson, President of the Belize Shrimp Growers’ Association was invited to participate in this Meeting and to provide the update.

24. Mr. Henderson introduced himself again, noted that he was the President of the Belize Shrimp Growers’ Association and a shrimp farmer. He expressed thanks for the opportunity to participate and to share of his experience in the Belize shrimp industry.

25. The Belize shrimp industry is 30 years old and is a fully integrated business from the brood stock and spawning to the value-added processing – the entire value chain. As a small company, at its highest, Royal Mayan Shrimp produced 2.8M pounds and had markets in Europe (Spain, Portugal, France), USA and Canada, regionally (Mexico, Guatemala) and the Caribbean (Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados). In 2014, Belize shrimp exports were valued at US\$45M, a significant contributor, not only to GDP, but also to employment in rural areas. In 2015, the industry was exposed to an epizootic commonly known as Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) [acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHND)], which had devastating impacts on production, such that by 2021 earnings from the industry was less than US\$2M. Initially, the industry’s response to the disease was similar to that of Ecuador (largest shrimp producer in the world), which was more genetic, with little or no modifications to the infrastructure (legacy production ponds). This path did not yield the expected results. About a year and a half ago, Royal Mayan Shrimp embarked on a pilot, based on a technology developed by Thailand and modified for Belize, that involves a more intensive culture and the results have been very positive. Based on these trials and using the technology that has been modified to Belize’s situation, expansion is planned for next year. Prior to EMS, the survival rate at Royal Mayan was about 65 percent, the current survival rate is over 90 percent. In terms of production, pre-EMS production was around 4,500lbs p/acre compared to current production of 27,000lbs p/acre. The new intensive culture technology has a very small footprint. Royal Mayan produced 2.8M pounds of shrimp on 320 acres; with the new technology it is estimated that the same volume could be produced on about 15 percent of the land area. With the

new technology and other levels of innovations, improved growth rates have been noted, e.g., before EMS, the average growth rate was about 0.9g per week, with the new technology it is over 2g per week.

26. The lessons learned from the experience with EMS:

- (i) The importance of bio-security – Many producers around the world, including Belize’s neighbours, have battled various diseases (white spot, yellow-head, etc.) over the last 10 to 15 years, but Belize was spared; hence Belize was ill-prepared when EMS struck. Belize is in the process of making amendments to legislation to heighten the approach to bio-security. Bio-security should remain central to any regional advances in aquaculture.
- (ii) Look to Asia for new diseases, to understand disease trends, as well as technology to combat the diseases – Over the last 10-15 years, most, if not all, of the diseases affecting aquaculture originated in Asia, and, being the first affected region, the technology to combat these diseases was also developed in Asia.
- (iii) The importance of building systems that are resilient to climate change – The impacts of climate change are becoming more obvious. Over the last three years, higher sustained ambient temperatures (water temperature as high as 36°) as well as unusual weather patterns, including heavy rainfall (3.8 inches in 6 hours) have been observed at farm-level. The most likely climate change impacts on Belize are high sustained ambient temperatures and unpredictable rainfall. With good engineering (deeper ponds, share crop, control water flow, etc.) these impacts can be managed.
- (iv) The need for research and development – The paucity of resources is a Caribbean reality. Innovation, supported by private capital (debt and equity), is leading the recovery of the industry, however there is need for government and university involvement to help farmers to overcome these obstacles more quickly. Predictability on the production side will encourage investment in the industry.

**Discussion**

27. *Question* - A Belize aquaculture farm was recently awarded by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, please provide an update on this. Also, Royal Mayan Shrimp Farm is part of a bigger group, please advise what that group does and your role?

*Answer* – Reference was made to how Rainforest positions its products, based on quality, and it was noted that the Rainforest’s plant in Belize, established to process lobster (wild-caught), was modified to also process shrimp (farm raised). Processing both wild-caught and farmed species helps to ensure that Belize still has a presence in the industry and in the Caribbean, given its low production levels at present. Belize’s production is dwarfed on the world stage hence, the focus is to produce a high-quality product for niche markets that are sensitive to social responsibility and environmental sustainability. Caribbean Shrimp recently received Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification, which is critical, especially for markets in Europe. For example, Belize had a presence at Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury in the UK market, which was in part made possible through ASC certification.

28. *Question* – (i) What type of animals are used for trials in Belize; (ii) Where is feed sourced from? (iii) Can testing for disease be done in Belize?

*Answers* – (i) Trials have been done in Belize using both Specific Pathogen Resistant (SPR) animals (animals that have been exposed to a disease and have built up a resistance) and Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) animals (animals that have never been exposed to any disease). With the intensive culture technology being used now, the preference is for SPF animals because they have a faster growth rate (pre-EMS - 0.9g p/wk; SPR – 1.2-1.3g p/wk; SPF – >2g p/wk). Possibly the biggest change in operation post EMS, is sanitation of the ponds. The technology being used now allows farmers to efficiently concentrate and rapidly remove organic load from the centre of the pond and this helps to prevent many diseases.

(ii) Feed comes from Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica. Regarding, certification of the feed, once

the company is ASC certified, the feed has to also meet the standards.

(iii) Regarding testing, testing for viral and bacterial diseases can be done in Belize.

29. *Question* – Regarding bio-security measures, what can be done to encourage/ensure all farmers comply?

*Answer* – Until now a lot of the cooperation on bio-security has been on a ‘gentle person’ basis arrangement, however, amendments to the legislation will give government more regulatory power to ensure that the companies are monitored. Voluntary compliance is not be enough, regulatory compliance is critical.

30. *Question* – Is there a regional aquaculture producers’ association that could help to bring the issues faced by producers to the attention of regional institutions and governmental structures, etc.

*Answer* – There is a lot to be learned from the Belize experience (which should be documented). The technology developed/modified for use in Belize can be used by other Caribbean aquaculture farmers.

31. *Question* - How does the shrimp growers’ association work? Are there any benefits for membership?

*Answer* – It is all voluntary; no one is paid. All shrimp farmers are members of the association. Regarding benefits to members, up to 2014 one Belizean company had a contract with Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury in the UK and that company signed associate growers’ agreements with many farmers in Belize, including Royal Mayan. Under this arrangement, when Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury came to Belize, they would also audit the associate farmers. There were many collaborations like this during those years; and this is also still being done now through Rainforest, which is selling Belizean shrimp in the Caribbean. These types of collaborative efforts are critical for the progress of the industry.

#### *General comments*

32. Mr. Henderson was commended for his presentation. Reference was made to the collaborative efforts in Belize and the need for more of this at the regional level was expressed.

33. In SVG consideration is being given to development of a conch nursery, the FISHCOM WG may be able to provide some advice in this regard. It was suggested perhaps a presentation on development of conch nursery could be made at the next meeting. Another option would be to forward the information to the aquaculture working group for its attention, as there are several aquaculturists in that group and they may be able to provide advice.

34. Gratitude was expressed for the efforts of Compete Caribbean in assisting the Belize shrimp industry in determining its marketing position and with the ASC certification as well as the re-certification process that is currently ongoing. It was noted that sometimes the importance of the work of these regional bodies may not be readily seen or acknowledged, but are critical, more so, because we in the Caribbean are small players and how to make enough *noise* to get attention to our products is very important.

**Recommendation 3:** Given SVG’s intent to develop a conch nursery, either efforts will be made to have a presentation on the subject at the next FISHCOM WG meeting; or to forward the information to the aquaculture working group for its attention, as there are several aquaculturists in that group, who may be able to provide advice.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7. PREPARATION FOR THE PROCESSING INDUSTRY FORUM**

35. The Chairperson presented this item. She began her presentation by playing a video, which provided information about the development of the contact management system, development of an e-library in collaboration with IICA, and the communications campaign for the regional processors’ forum.

36. Information about processors across the region had been collated and an industry directory developed. The directory is searchable by country, trading type, processing type, company name, fish type, etc.
37. Under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF SPS project, a lot of information, including several SPS training manuals, was produced and published by CRFM. These publications, with the assistance of IICA are being located in an e-library (linked to CRFM Web Portal) so as to make them more accessible to users. A communication campaign about the Regional Fish Processors' Forum will be launched soon to let processors know about the Forum and to get them interested in participating. The digital directory will be formally launched at the Processors' Forum.
38. The Chairperson then presented the draft agenda (Appendix 4) for the Processors' Forum for the Meeting's review and inputs. The substantive agenda items are: CARICOM Facilitating Intra-Regional Trade; Compliance with International SPS Standards; and Investment Opportunities. It is expected that under these three agenda items information regarding fish production, trade (imports/exports) statistics, CRFM Contact Management System, SPS best practices guidelines, SPS Roadmap, reducing the food import bill for fish and fish products, strategy for replacing fish imports in the region, and investment business plan will be presented. A knowledge platform demonstration on retrieving documents will also be given.

### **Discussion**

39. Whether the Processors' Forum will be virtual or face-to-face and the date of the Forum were queried. The Meeting was advised that the Processors' Forum will be convened electronically on a date to be determined, possibly by this Meeting.
40. Regarding Item 3 – *CARICOM Facilitating Intra-Regional Trade* it was suggested that review of the production and trade data (production, imports, exports) could serve as a basis for identifying investment opportunities so that these two items could be combined under a single agenda item.
41. It was recommended that a specific agenda item that focuses on the challenges – production, distribution, marketing, finance, research and development, etc. – faced by processor, and the development of recommendations for addressing these challenges, which could be taken forward to the Ministerial Task Force, should be included.
42. Reference was made to Item 4 – *Compliance with International SPS Standards*, and a query raised as to whether there was need for an agenda item focusing on SPS as this has already been identified as a challenge for processors and would likely be discussed as part of that agenda item.
43. Following some discussion about a possible date for the event, the Processors' Forum was tentative slated for 03 November 2022,

**Recommendation 4:** The Processors' Forum to be scheduled for 03 November 2022.

**Recommendation 5:** Regarding the Agenda for the Processors' Forum, the production/trade data and investment opportunities should be combined into one agenda item. Also, an agenda item focused on discussing the challenges – production, distribution, financial, marketing, etc., faced by processors should be included; while the item on SPS should be removed.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**AGENDA ITEM 9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

44. The next meeting of the FISHCOM WG will be convened at least one week before the Processors' Forum.
45. The Chairperson thanked the Working Group members for taking the time to attend and for their useful contributions to the discussions. The Chairperson also extended special thanks to Mr. Alvin Henderson, Belize Shrimp Growers Association and Mr. Benjamin Jardim, Rainforest Caribbean for facilitating the plenary discussions.
46. There being no further interventions, the Chairperson wished all a good day and adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name & Designation	Address	Email Contact
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Ms. Kate St. Mark	Department of Fisheries Pointe Seraphine, Castries <b>SAINT LUCIA</b> Tel: (758) 454-7439 / 725-1728	<a href="mailto:Kate.stmark@govt.lc">Kate.stmark@govt.lc</a>
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Mr. Alvin Henderson President	Belize Shrimp Growers Association Be	
Dr. Sandra Grant Deputy Executive Director	CRFM Secretariat Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City <b>BELIZE</b>	<a href="mailto:sandra.grant@crfm.int">sandra.grant@crfm.int</a>
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Ms. Pamela Gibson Administrative Secretary (Meeting Rapporteur)	CRFM Secretariat First Floor, TEKA Building, Arnos Vale P. O. Box 2427, Kingstown <b>ST. VINCENT &amp; THE GRENADINES</b> Tel: (784) 458-4269 / 456-4628	<a href="mailto:crfmsvg@crfm.int">crfmsvg@crfm.int</a>

## APPENDIX 2: DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

ITEM 1	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	1000 - 1005
ITEM 2	<b>Adoption of Agenda</b>	1005 - 1010
ITEM 3	<b>Review of Report of Ninth Meeting</b>	1010 - 1030
ITEM 4	<b>FISHCOM WG 2022 Progress Report</b>	1030 - 1040
<b>Information/Discussion session</b>		
ITEM 5	<b>Plenary discussion with Rainforest Caribbean</b> – Benjamin Jardim	1040 - 1110
ITEM 6	<b>Plenary discussion with the Belize Shrimp Growers Association</b> – Alvin Henderson	1110 - 1140
<b>Regional Fish Processing Industry Forum</b>		
ITEM 7	<b>Preparation for the Processing Industry Forum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Agenda</i></li> <li>- <i>Contact management and digital library – Adele Ramos</i></li> <li>- <i>Forum communication campaign</i></li> <li>- <i>Date and time for the meeting</i></li> </ul>	1140 - 1240
ITEM 8	<b>Any Other Business</b>	1240 - 1250
ITEM 9	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b>	1250 - 1300

## APPENDIX 3: FISHCOM WG WORK PROGRAMME/PROGRESS REPORT - 2022

### CRFM/CARICOM FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRIORITY COMMODITY WORKING GROUP (FISHCOM WG) WORK PROGRAMME (January – December 2022)

Bearing in mind the Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security plan to reduce Regional food bill objective: ***Commercialization of the Regional agri-food industry, with actual commencement of private sector production activities in priority sectors identified, within a three-year window***<sup>1</sup>. "Reduction in Regional Food Bill 25/25"

The outcomes and outputs of the FISHCOM WG are as follows:

**Ultimate Outcome:** Implementation of the Region's agri-food system strategy through strategic partnerships with Regional Private Sector Bodies to promote commercialization of the sector and reduce food import bill by 2025.

**Intermediate Outcome:** To create/use local fishery commodities which can replace some imports, improve the region's food and nutrition security, and increase incomes in the fishery sector, while maintaining fishery sustainability.

**Immediate Outcome:** Improve food safety standards, legislative framework, and fish value-added products, while maintaining the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

#### **Outputs:**

1. Promote investment and production of priority products (high-valued fish products and value adding)
2. Promote aquaculture production
3. Promote standardized legislation, guidelines, and policy
4. Build awareness of (a) seafood quality and (b) coordination of fisheries activities
5. Mobilize resources to address research, production, and capacity development

#### **Barriers:**

1. Inadequate food safety standards
2. Inadequate/rapidly changing policy standards (trade)
3. Sustainability of fisheries resources
4. Vulnerability of the aquaculture sector
5. Inadequate financial resources for research and projects

#### **Outcome Indicators**

1. At least one accredited Laboratory for testing fish samples in each country by 2025.
2. 25% of processing establishments have at a minimum HACCP certification by 2025.
3. Member States have SPS measures extensively addressed in their legislation by 2025.
4. One investment agreement formulated at the national level in a priority commodity by 2025.

The Theory of change (Figure 1) and the Workplan 2022 elaborates on how the FISHCOM WG intends to achieve the intermediate outcome.

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<sup>1</sup> Implementation Plan: Strategy for Advancing the CARICOM Agri-Food systems agenda; Prioritising Regional Food and Nutrition Security. (Attachment III)

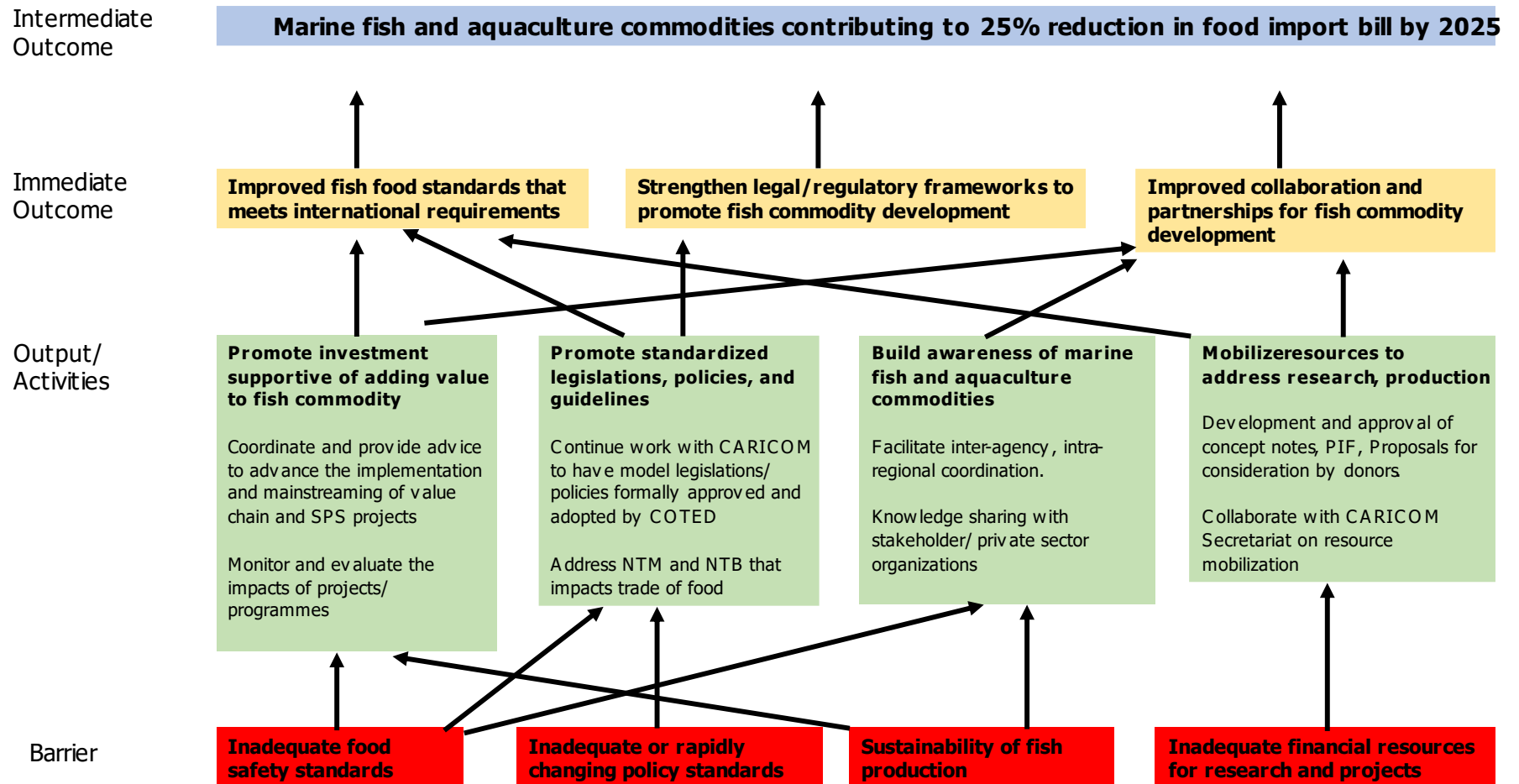


Figure 1: Theory of Change to address marine fish and aquaculture commodity development in the Caribbean region.

**CRFM/CARICOM FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE COMMODITY WORKING GROUP  
WORKPLAN JAN – DEC 2022**

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Risks & Assumptions	Responsibility (Lead & Supporting Entities)	Interlinkages/ Communication Targets
		Start	End	Cost	Source			
<p><b>Activity 1</b> <b>Promote and monitor investments supportive of adding value to fish commodity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue coordination and provide advice to advance the implementation and mainstreaming of value chain/addition/preparation and SPS projects</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the impacts of projects using the impact assessment tool</li> <li>Participate in project workshops (actions plans, validation, etc)</li> <li>Promote one (1) fish commodity for investment development</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone:</b> Coordinate and provide advice and support to Member States to advance the implementation of SPS deliverables and value chain assessment for marine fish and aquaculture</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started</b> (0%) - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started</b> (25%) – Draft Inventory Report and workplan completed and validated at a FISHCOM WG meeting facilitated by the CRFM Secretariat by Q1 2022  <b>Progressing</b> (50%) – Actions to develop 25% by 2025 strategy underway, including investment development; M&amp;E strategy to monitor investment activities, research and development completed and approved by the FISHCOM WG by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced</b> (75%) – Outcome of M&amp;E of project activities discussed with other Thematic and Commodities by Q3 2022  <b>Completed</b> (100%) – Decisions on fish commodities related to 25% by 2025 strategy advanced by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	USD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><b>Risks:</b> Allocation of sufficient resources by participating states to ensure successful sustained uptake of benefits</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Member States incorporated the project aims into national planning and have assigned suitable resources for mainstreaming the lessons learned</p>	<p><b>Lead</b> CRFM</p> <p><b>Supporting:</b></p>	<p><b>Interlinkages:</b> FAO, UWI, CANARI, Member States</p> <p><b>Communication Targets:</b> Fisheries Departments, Civil Society, international fisheries organizations</p>

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Risks & Assumptions	Responsibility (Lead & Supporting Entities)	Interlinkages/ Communication Targets
		Start	End	Cost	Source			
<p><b>Activity 2</b> <b>Strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to promote commodity development</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work with CARICOM Secretariat (Legal Dept) to have model legislations/ policies formally approved and adopted by COTED</li> <li>Participate in the advancement of the regional laboratory policy for CARICOM</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone 1:</b> Promote standardized legislation/guidelines</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Feedback from CARISEC on the SPS model legislations received by Q1 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Organize and facilitate stakeholder meeting on the final version of the SPS model legislations by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Participate in meetings to develop regional and national policies related to commodity development by Q3 2022  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Model legislation submitted to CFF, MC, and COTED for approval by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><b>Risks:</b> Model policies not formally approved or adopted</p> <p>Member States no longer wish/able to advance the implementation or mainstreaming of model policies</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Member States are desirous of advancing the implementation and mainstreaming policy measures</p>	<p><b>Lead</b> CRFM</p> <p><b>Supporting:</b> CARICOM Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Interlinkages:</b> FAO, UWI, CANARI, Member States</p> <p><b>Communication Targets:</b> Fisheries Departments, Civil Society, international fisheries organizations</p>
<p><b>Activity 3</b> <b>Build awareness of marine fish and aquaculture commodities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate activities of the FISHCOM WG and report outputs to COTED</li> <li>Organize and facilitate at least 4 FISHCOM WG meetings per</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone 1:</b> Inter-agency coordinated planning and reporting of all fisheries and aquaculture commodity development initiatives</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Participate in agriculture planning group meetings by Q1 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Participate in</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><b>Risks:</b> Dependence on selected groups being active</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Selected groups are engaged in addressing cross-cutting issues of interest</p>	<p><b>Lead</b> CRFM</p> <p><b>Supporting:</b> AHFS thematic Group, IICA</p>	<p><b>Interlinkages:</b> FAO, UWI, IICA, CANARI, Member States</p> <p>Herbs and Spices Commodity Group</p> <p>Business Development Thematic Group</p>

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Risks & Assumptions	Responsibility (Lead & Supporting Entities)	Interlinkages/ Communication Targets
		Start	End	Cost	Source			
<p>year to address all issues related to the workplan</p> <p>3. Networking activities with Thematic and Commodity Groups (Business Development Thematic Group, AHFS Thematic Group, and Herbs and Spices Commodity Group) to develop fish commodities/ capacity building</p>	<p>planning meeting of the thematic and commodities groups by Q4 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – 4 FISHCOM WG meetings organized by Q4 2022.  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Briefing notes for COTED prepared and submitted by Q4 2022</p>							<p><b>Communication Targets:</b>  <i>Fisheries Departments, Civil Society, international fisheries organizations</i></p>
<p>1. Organize and facilitate at least one stakeholder meeting with SPS processing entities (/private sector) entities for sharing information and knowledge to support marine fish and aquaculture commodity development</p> <p>2. Identify and build strategic partnerships with representatives from the private sector entities</p> <p>3. Develop SPS information toolkit and make accessible to stakeholders</p> <p>4. Promote the success of fish commodity development through social media and the CRFM Website.</p>	<p><b>Milestone 2:</b> Build awareness of the value of SPS measures in the Caribbean region</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Complete inventory of processing establishment and their level of compliance in the region by Q2 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Develop an SPS information toolkit for distribution (digital and printed documents) by Q2 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Organize and facilitate a stakeholder meeting with fish processors by Q3 2022  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Promote the success of fish commodity activities through social media by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds			

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Risks & Assumptions	Responsibility (Lead & Supporting Entities)	Interlinkages/ Communication Targets
		Start	End	Cost	Source			
<p><b>Activity 4</b> <b>Mobilize resources to address research and production</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and approval of concept notes, PIF, Proposals for consideration by donors</li> <li>2. Agree on and establish project governance and implementing structures</li> <li>3. Collaborate with CARICOM Secretariat on resource mobilization</li> <li>4. Advance implementation of CARICOM Secretariat and CRFM mobilization of resources and technical experts</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone:</b> Draft and finalize project concept and proposal for submission and approval from donor organizations</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Proposal for AMEXCID completed and submitted to CARISEC by Q2 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Finalise donor arrangement and documentation by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Project proposal approval by suitable donor by Q4 2022  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Advance implementation – CARISEC and CRFM mobilization of resources and technical experts by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><b>Risks:</b> Allocation of sufficient resources by participating states to ensure successful sustained uptake of benefits</p> <p><b>Assumptions:</b> Member state participation in in the development of proposals/etc.</p>	<p><b>Lead</b> CRFM</p> <p><b>Supporting:</b> CARICOM Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Interlinkages:</b></p> <p><b>Communication Targets:</b> <i>Fisheries Departments, Civil Society, international fisheries organizations</i></p>

**CRFM/CARICOM FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE COMMODITY WORKING GROUP  
PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2022**

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
<p><b>Activity 1</b> <b>Promote and monitor investments supportive of adding value to fish commodity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue coordination and provide advice to advance the implementation and mainstreaming of value chain/addition/preparation and SPS projects</li> <li>Monitor and evaluate the impacts of projects using the impact assessment tool</li> <li>Participate in project workshops (actions plans, validation, etc)</li> <li>Promote one (1) fish commodity for investment development</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone:</b> Coordinate and provide advice and support to Member States to advance the implementation of SPS deliverables and value chain assessment for marine fish and aquaculture</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started</b> (0%) - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started</b> (25%) – Draft Inventory Report and workplan completed and validated at a FISHCOM WG meeting facilitated by the CRFM Secretariat by Q1 2022  <b>Progressing</b> (50%) – Actions to develop 25% by 2025 strategy underway, including investment development; M&amp;E strategy to monitor investment activities, research and development completed and approved by the FISHCOM WG by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced</b> (75%) – Outcome of M&amp;E of project activities discussed with other Thematic and Commodities by Q3 2022  <b>Completed</b> (100%) – Decisions on fish commodities related to 25% by 2025 strategy advanced by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/ 2022	Q4/ 2022	USD\$  EC\$	Core Funds	<p><u>Status as at 31 March 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone 25%)</b>  The 8th FISHCOM WG was organized by the CRFM Secretariat with 14 participants on March 9. Inventory of initiatives addressing marine fish and aquaculture commodities and workplan was reviewed at the WG meeting and finalized document presented at the CRFM Fisheries Forum 20 on 23-24 March. Plans underway to hire an intern to assist with completing the inventory.</p> <p><u>Status as at 30 June 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone 25%)</b>  Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, held on Friday, 22 April 2022 approved proposed amendments to the FISHCOM WG Terms of Reference recommended by the FISHCOM WG membership.</p> <p>Intern hired to research and collate information on processing</p>	Resources to collect data and information for developing Investment profiles, and to understand all aspects of the fisheries value chain

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
						<p>establishments in the region. Results to date: (1) Census of processing establishments completed (N=209); (2) Sample survey to gather more detailed information completed (n=31; 15% response rate); (3) Analysis of the census and survey data started.</p> <p>Draft Report of the Eighth Meeting of the CRFM/CARICOM FISHCOM WG completed</p>	
<p><b>Activity 2</b> <b>Strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to promote commodity development</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work with CARICOM Secretariat (Legal Dept) to have model legislations/ policies formally approved and adopted by COTED</li> <li>Participate in the advancement of the regional laboratory policy for CARICOM</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone 1:</b> Promote standardized legislation/guidelines</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Feedback from CARISEC on the SPS model legislations received by Q1 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Organize and facilitate stakeholder meeting on the final version of the SPS model legislations by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Participate in meetings to develop regional and national policies related to commodity development by Q3 2022  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Model legislation submitted to CFF, MC, and COTED for approval by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p>Status as at 31 March 2022  <b>(Milestone 25%)</b>  Draft Model legislations (Draft Model Aquatic Animal Health Act and Aquatic Food Safety regulations) being finalised by Office of the General Counsel (OGC).</p> <p>Participated in the finalization of the Regional AHFS Policy and Action Plan</p> <p>SPS coordination plan and Roadmap for harmonization of SPS measures for fish products from the Caribbean Roadmap validated on 23 February with 60 participants from CARIFORUM countries.</p>	

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
						<p><u>Status as at 30 June 2022</u> <b>(Milestone 25%)</b> Draft Model legislations (Draft Model Aquatic Animal Health Act and Aquatic Food Safety regulations) prepared by OGC for feedback from MS prior to taking through the CARICOM approval process.</p> <p>Participated in the review and validation of the Regional Non-Medical Laboratory Policy on April 4, 2022</p> <p>Final consultancy report approved by project management, including Study &amp; Analysis and Roadmap</p>	
<p><b>Activity 3</b> <b>Build awareness of marine fish and aquaculture commodities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate activities of the FISHCOM WG and report outputs to COTED</li> <li>2. Organize and facilitate at least 4 FISHCOM WG meetings per year to address all issues related to the workplan</li> <li>3. Networking activities with Thematic and Commodity Groups (Business Development Thematic Group, AHFS</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone 1:</b> Inter-agency coordinated planning and reporting of all fisheries and aquaculture commodity development initiatives</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b> <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone <b>Started (25%)</b> – Participate in agriculture planning group meetings by Q1 2022 <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Participate in planning meeting of the thematic and commodities groups by Q4 2022 <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – 4 FISHCOM WG meetings organized by Q4 2022. <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Briefing notes</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><u>Status as at 31 March 2022</u> <b>(Milestone 25%)</b> Convened the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CRFM/CARICOM FISHCOM WG on March 9, 2022 (Virtual)</p> <p>Participated in the following CARICOM technical working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Agriculture Planning Meeting 17 January, organized by CARICOM Secretariat,</li> <li>• Business Thematic Group, 11 Feb, 4, 17 March organized by IICA</li> <li>• Business Development Thematic Group – Finance Sub-committee</li> </ul>	

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
Thematic Group, and Herbs and Spices Commodity Group) to develop fish commodities/ capacity building	for COTED prepared and submitted by Q4 2022					<p>meeting, 7 March organized by IICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Thematic Group, 25 Feb, 17 March organized by CAHFSA</li> </ul> <p><u>Status as at 30 June 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone 50%)</b>            Designed and developed a CRFM Contact Management System, a digital directory of fish processing establishments in the region. The aim is to facilitate for processors to be able to network.</p> <p>Participated in the following CARICOM technical working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SID Global Business Network Forum - Ocean Conference, 12-14 April, Palau</li> <li>• CARICOM RBM Leadership Group (CRLG) meeting, 20 &amp; 25 April, organized by CARICOM Secretariat,</li> <li>• AHFS Thematic Group, 22 April, 17 May, organized by CAHFSA</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Milestone 2:</b> Build awareness of the value of SPS measures in the Caribbean region</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is</p>	Q1/2022	Q4/2022	UD\$ EC\$	Core Funds	<p><u>Status as at 31 March 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone 0%)</b>            Training materials on fish processing designed; training delivered to staff at Ocean Delight and Tibu Impex fishing</p>	

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
<p>5. Organize and facilitate at least one stakeholder meeting with processing entities (public/private) entities for sharing information and knowledge to support marine fish and aquaculture commodity development</p> <p>6. Identify and build strategic partnerships with representatives from the private sector entities</p> <p>7. Develop SPS information toolkit and make accessible to stakeholders</p> <p>8. Promote the success of fish commodity development through social media and the CRFM Website.</p>	<p>shown against the planned milestone</p> <p><b>Started (25%)</b> – Complete inventory of processing establishment and their level of compliance in the region by Q2 2022</p> <p><b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Develop an SPS information toolkit for distribution (digital and printed documents) by Q2 2022</p> <p><b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Organize and facilitate a stakeholder meeting with fish processors by Q3 2022</p> <p><b>Completed (100%)</b> – Promote the success of fish commodity activities through social media by Q4 2022</p>					<p>processing plants; HACCP and traceability plan completed, two video productions completed (11<sup>th</sup> EDF project).</p> <p>Training materials and manuals on market requirements and how to improve testing in the laboratories developed; First “Refresher” training on laboratory testing relevant to MS completed with 12 participants from Belize Agricultural Health Authority, Belize and Grenada Produce Chemist Laboratory; List of equipment to be purchased being finalized (11<sup>th</sup> EDF project).</p> <p><u>Status as at 30 June 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone 25%)</b>  Second refresher course on improving testing of fish products was held on 25-26 May with participants from Laboratories in Barbados, Grenada, and Belize. Total of 39 persons (excluding CRFM and INFOPECA) participated (11<sup>th</sup> EDF project).</p> <p>SPS information toolkit discussed with IICA, and design of the interface started.</p> <p>Inventory database and analysis being finalized.</p>	

Result Statements	Milestones	Timeframe		Budget		Status	Challenges
		Start	End	Cost	Source		
						Plans underway to organize a Processor Forum.	
<p><b>Activity 4</b> <b>Mobilize resources to address research and production</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and approval of concept notes, PIF, Proposals for consideration by donors</li> <li>2. Agree on and establish project governance and implementing structures</li> <li>3. Collaborate with CARICOM Secretariat on resource mobilization</li> <li>4. Advance implementation of CARICOM Secretariat and CRFM mobilization of resources and technical experts</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milestone:</b> Draft and finalize project concept and proposal for submission and approval from donor organizations</p> <p><b>Milestone Criteria:</b>  <b>Not started (0%)</b> - No progress is shown against the planned milestone  <b>Started (25%)</b> – Proposal for AMEXCID completed and submitted to CARISEC by Q2 2022  <b>Progressing (50%)</b> – Finalise donor arrangement and documentation by Q3 2022  <b>Advanced (75%)</b> – Project proposal approval by suitable donor by Q4 2022  <b>Completed (100%)</b> – Advance implementation – CARISEC and CRFM mobilization of resources and technical experts by Q4 2022</p>	Q1/ 2022	Q4/ 2022	UD\$  EC\$	Core Funds	<p><u>Status as at 31 March 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone %)</b>  Project proposal approved and still with CARICOM RMTA. The CRFM was advised to revise the proposal for AMEXCID and submit to CARICOM Secretariat for further action. With the new directive proposed by the Heads of Government and awaiting the results of the inventory to decide revisions to the proposal.</p> <p><u>Status as at 30 June 2022</u>  <b>(Milestone %)</b>  No action planned this quarter</p>	

#### APPENDIX 4: DRAFT AGENDA FOR REGIONAL FISH PROCESSORS' FORUM

ITEM 1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <i>The Chairperson will call the meeting to order and welcome participants.</i>	1000 – 1010
ITEM 2	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Are you contributing to a sustainable and responsible future?</i>	1010 - 1020
ITEM 3	<b>CARICOM Facilitating Intra-Regional Trade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Total fish production (marine capture fish &amp; aquaculture)</i></li> <li>- <i>Imports (categories of fish products by percentage, value, chilled/fresh by country, intra-regional imports)</i></li> <li>- <i>Exports (domestic export, value, countries/value)</i></li> <li>- <i>Fish processors (#'s by countries, trade of fish commodities, type of products traded)</i></li> <li>- <i>CRFM Contact Management System – digital directory of fish processing establishments in the region</i></li> </ul>	1020 – 1100
ITEM 4	<b>Compliance with International SPS Standards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Best practice guidelines</i></li> <li>- <i>What has the region done (SPS Roadmap, capacity building, laboratory strengthening)</i></li> <li>- <i>Knowledge platform demonstration on how to retrieve documents (IICA/CRFM resources available for training)</i></li> </ul>	1100 - 1140
ITEM 5	<b>Investment Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Reducing the food import bill for fish and fish products</i></li> <li>- <i>Strategy for replacing fish imports in the region (Fish &amp; Shrimp)</i></li> <li>- <i>Investment business plan</i></li> </ul>	1140 - 1220
ITEM 6	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	1220 - 1250
ITEM 7	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	1240 - 1300

The CRFM is an inter-governmental organization whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”. The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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