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## CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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# ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

## April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010



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Towards Sustainable Development of Fisheries for the People of the Caribbean

# **CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**CRFM Annual Work Plan and Budget  
April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010**

# **CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – CRFM Annual Work Plan and Budget April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010**

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## List of Acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARISEC	Caribbean Community Secretariat
CBCRM	Community-Based Coastal Resources Management
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
CHOG	CARICOM Heads of Government
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
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
DFID	Department for International Development
DRAO	Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer
DR	Dominican Republic
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
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
IOI	International Oceans Institute
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LPWG	Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
LRS	Licensing and Registration Software
MAREMP	Marine Resource Environmental Assessment and Management Programme
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NMFS – SEFC	The National Marine Fisheries Service - SEFC
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
RSWG	Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group
SARM	Sustainable Aquatic Resources Management
SCPWG	Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
SCRS	ICCAT Scientific Committee in Research and Statistics
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TIP	Trip Interview Programme (Data collection software package)
T and T	Trinidad and Tobago
UK	United Kingdom
UWI	University of the West Indies
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the FAO, United Nations

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## INTRODUCTION

### *Chairman and Members of the CRFM Ministerial Council:*

Work Plan for programme year 2009 / 2010 budgeted at US\$1,635,905 (EC\$4,397,639) was discussed and recommended for approval by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum at its Seventh Meeting, July 29 – 30, 2009 and is presented for your consideration. In this programme year we will face many challenges, some resulting from the global financial slump that most of our member countries are experiencing. Many governments have fallen deeper into fiscal deficits; some sectors of our regional economies, such as tourism, agriculture, Banking and financial services are under severe stress, and this has negatively affected their performance. This situation cannot be fixed overnight, hence the challenge to be efficient in the delivery of our workplan.

Although regional in scope, the Work Plan embraces a series of activities in the five approved programme areas which have direct relevance to the work plans of Member States. It is hoped that this will result in a greater sense of ownership of the plan by its immediate stakeholders and provide an avenue for the CRFM Secretariat to more effectively and efficiently backstop the implementation of national work plans. Many of these activities will be delivered as part of regional projects such as, “*Study on Formulation of Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean*,” funded by the Government of Japan, “*Strengthening of Fisheries and Biodiversity Management in ACP Countries – Phase II*,” funded by the EU, the “*Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in Selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States*,” funded by the Kingdom of Spain, and *support to the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations* funded by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP – EU (CTA).

Management is agreed on a financing strategy which is structured in such a way to readily identify the activities to be financed by Member States contribution (US\$1,018,852 or 62.3%). Member States contributions will finance the emoluments of the CORE Staff and some of the strategic and technical activities related to their attachments at the Secretariat. Donor financing is divided into two (2) groups: (a) Donor Approved finances (US\$431,788 or 26.4%) which are committed to specific activities and projects, and (b) Donor Requested finances (US\$185,265 or 11.3%) which have been promised, but not yet committed.

There is another financing envelope, but this has not been captured. That is the value of Member States commitment to national activities jointly implemented with the CRFM Secretariat, and which form part of individual Member States work plans.

The Draft Work Plan spans five (5) major thematic areas, which are detailed below:

- *Corporate Services*
  - Financial, Human Resource, and General Administrative Management
  - Organization Development
  - Communication and Documentation



- Publication and Dissemination of Technical Reports
- Information and Documentation Centre Operations
- Networking Administration
  
- *Advocacy, Policy and Planning*
  - Formulation of a Common Fisheries policy and Regime
  - Advocacy
  - Planning
  
- *Fisheries Statistics and Information:*
  - Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Database
  - CARIFIS
  - Monitor and provision of technical assistance (training and support)
  - Data collection
  
- *Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment:*
  - Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Fora (ICCAT)
  - Assess potential for developing or expanding large pelagic fisheries
  - Fishery Assessment and Methods Meeting
  - CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM LPWG)
  - CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SCPWG)
  - CRFM Fisheries Tagging Programme and Tagging Database
  - CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SCPWG)
  - Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance
  - Feasibility Study to determine potential for developing spotted lobster fisheries in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines
  
- *Fisheries Resource Management and Development*
  - Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Management Fora (CITES) (FAO/WECAFC)
  - Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans
  - Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations
  - Diagnostic Study to Determine the Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States
  - Enhance the Effectiveness of MCS in the CARICOM Region
  - Training and Scholarships
  - Sustainable Aquatic Resource Management (SARM)

We have received approval from several donor agencies for the implementation of various projects that were developed within the logical framework of our Strategic Plan and the First and Second Medium Term Plans. These are:

1. Formulation of Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in the Caribbean (CARICOM / Japan Cooperation)
2. Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CTA)
3. Programme for Strengthening Fisheries and Biodiversity Management in ACP Countries (ACP Fish II)
4. Study to improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector (EU funded)
5. Diagnostic Study to determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in Selected CARICOM/CRFM Member States

The CRFM is dedicated to the concept of co-management and the building of public awareness through education, and capacity building through regional network partnerships. This is reflected in the value of funds being invested in training personnel of the fisheries departments of the region and fisherfolks. The CRFM has been able to effectively negotiate training opportunities (post graduate fellowships) with the United Nations University – Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP) Iceland, to accommodate the training of nine fisheries scientists (three per year) to pursue post graduate studies. This programme year is now the second year of this agreement, and it is expected that another (3) regional representatives will be sent to further their studies. Other training opportunities have been secured for Data Managers and Fisheries Biologists in statistics and stock assessment; and for Directors of Fisheries and Chief Fisheries Officers in Advanced Leadership Development (Executive Management and Strategic Planning).

Additionally, the CRFM's scholarship initiative with the International Ocean Institute facilitates five (5) scholars per year to be trained in the area of Ocean Governance (Policy, Law and Management) at the Dalhousie University in Canada.

The Major Outputs of the Work Plan can be summarized below:

- Progress and Financial Reports finalized;
- Draft Common Fisheries Policy prepared within the Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;
- Greater awareness among fisherfolk of their role in sustainable development of fisheries resources;
- Institutional capacities of fisher folk organizations developed; Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations established and active in the region, including participation in Meetings of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum;

- Regional Fisherfolk Organization / Network established and active in the region, including participation in Meetings of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum;
- Enhanced integration of fisheries planning systems, both at the regional (CRFM Secretariat) and national (Fisheries Departments) levels;
- Strategic review of CRFM completed and preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan initiated;
- Enhanced Resource Mobilisation Activities in support of Medium Term Plan II;
- Completion / upgrading of user-friendly/interactive CRFM Website;
- Sampling plans and data collection systems defined and operational in the Member States;
- Data Managers and other fisheries personnel from Member States trained to develop and implement appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data;
- Sampling plans and data collection systems defined and operational in the Member States;
- CARIFIS being utilized in more Member States;
- Fisheries staff of the region trained in data entry, querying and reporting in CARIFIS;
- CRFM Secretariat staff trained to provide CARIFIS technical support to Member States;
- Improved national fisheries data systems, where recommendations for improvement have been implemented;
- Improved national contributions to fishery assessments conducted by CRFM Fisheries Resource Working Groups;
- Enhanced quality and applicability of Annual CRFM Fishery Reports;
- Production of training material including Training CD for use by data collection and data processing staff;
- Production and circulation of CRFM Fishery Report for 2009 that will include the report of the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, as well as national fishery reports submitted to the CRFM Scientific meeting in 2009, and fishery management advisory summaries;
- Improved CRFM Research Contribution to ICCAT;

- Provision of technical and legal advice and support to countries dealing with ICCAT;
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's major fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations;
- Resumption of operation of regional age and growth laboratory at IMA, and information on fish age and growth, required for incorporation into priority assessments requested by Member States;
- Development of stock assessment training course suited to CRFM fisheries situations, and integration of this into a joint CRFM-UWI long-term fisheries training programme;
- Twenty (20) Fisheries Officers in CRFM Member States trained in suitable Stock Assessment Skills by March 2010;
- Development of Advanced Leadership training course suited to the needs of National Fisheries Authorities and other Associated Regional and National Institutions in the Caribbean;
- Twenty (20) Directors / Chief Fisheries Officers / Fisheries Administrators in CRFM Member States trained in Advanced Leadership;
- Evaluation of the abundance and distribution of spiny lobster and queen conch resources on the Grenadines shelf;
- Evaluation of the abundance and distribution of spiny lobster and queen conch resources on the Grenadines shelf;
- Provision of technical advice and coordination in relation to fisheries and related matters at CITES fora;
- Participation in the WECAFC study to assess illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for Queen Conch at the regional or sub-regional level; the diagnostic study to describe and quantify the problem of derelict fishing gear in the Wider Caribbean and the activity to prepare draft Fisheries Management Plans for shark fisheries in selected member countries;
- Initiation of activities in support of Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean;
- Updated Fisheries Management Plans drafted for national consultations, approved and implemented in selected CRFM Member States;
- The Diagnostic Study Report, including recommendations and models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes, and the identification of suitable socio-economic and demographic indicators for ongoing monitoring and evaluation;

- Draft Regional framework agreement for effective management, conservation and sustainable use of queen conch and spiny lobster under the jurisdiction of CRFM Member States prepared;
- Awareness campaign and public education on conservation and sustainable management of conch developed and in place;
- Report of preliminary study to review the existing fisheries policies regarding the spiny lobster and queen conch and the gaps in relation to the existing management and development regime;
- National Plans of Action that will include amended and updated legislation in all Member States. Such legislation will include provisions that accommodate evidence from the new technologies, will place the burden of proof on the fisher, and will institute harmonized penalties that serve as an appropriate deterrent;
- Five persons trained in the areas of ocean governance as it relates to policy, law and management; and
- Three persons from CRFM Member States trained in fisheries policy and planning and fish stock assessment under the CRFM – UNU – FTP MOU.

## **CRFM PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES**

### **100: Corporate Services**

During this period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 the CRFM Secretariat will provide leadership, and financial and administrative support for delivery of the Annual Work Plan. The implementation of the procedures and rules in the recently developed Operations Manual for the CRFM will continue. The CRFM Secretariat will prepare and submit Half Yearly Progress and Financial Reports to Donors, Member States and other stakeholders. The Forum and its Executive Committee will meet to review the work of the Secretariat and provide guidance and direction on the implementation of the workplan. The CRFM Secretariat will continue to strengthen and develop collaborative relationships with the Fisheries Departments of the Member States and with other stakeholders, collaborators and partners.

#### **Outputs**

- Half-yearly and Annual Progress and Financial Reports finalized;
- Quarterly Work Plans and Implementation Schedules monitored;
- Provide administrative support to Forum, Executive Committee and Ministerial Meetings;
- Collaborative relationships with Fisheries departments of Member States strengthened;
- Collaboration with stakeholders, collaborators and institutional partners strengthened; and
- Progress reports prepared and submitted to Donor Agencies.

## **200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning**

### **210.1: Policy and Planning**

#### **Background**

The Ministerial Council (Ministers responsible for fisheries) is the main policy-making body of the CRFM. The policies are implemented through the Strategic, Medium Term and Annual Work Plans. Member States have agreed upon, and have been pursuing a range of policy objectives in the fisheries sector, which have given rise to the priority areas of the CRFM, chief among which is the development of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM.

#### **Objectives**

The common policy objectives include:

- (i) The fisheries sector should continue to be a major source of employment especially for remote communities.
- (ii) The industry must be managed in a responsible manner in order to achieve sustainable yields.
- (iii) The standard of living and socio-economic status of fishers should be enhanced.
- (iv) Aquaculture should be pursued as a means of increasing and diversifying production of fish and other aquatic animals as well as a way of reducing pressure and thus enhancing the sustainability of the nearshore marine stocks.
- (v) National institutions in the public sector, private fishing organisations and community based NGOs should be strengthened to effectively perform as partners or agents of co-management.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

Within the context of Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2009 / 2010, the CRFM Secretariat will continue to support and enhance the institutional capabilities of Member States in policy formulation, with a focus on the finalisation of the Policy component within the Framework Agreement for the *Common Fisheries Policy and Regime* as mandated by CARICOM Heads of Government at their Fourteenth Inter-sessional Meeting.

The substantive policy areas that are being discussed under the Common Fisheries Policy are:

- (i) Optimum utilisation of the regions fisheries resources
- (ii) Conservation and protection of the fish stocks and ecosystems
- (iii) Welfare and Economic Development of fishers and fishing communities

- (iv) Prevention and elimination of IUU fishing
- (v) Improving income of fishers and employment opportunities within the fisheries sector
- (vi) Membership of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
- (vii) Development of aquaculture
- (viii) Data collection and research
- (ix) Marketing and trade in fish and fishery product
- (x) Monitoring Control and Surveillance
- (xi) Registration of Vessels
- (xii) Public education and awareness

### **Outputs**

- Draft Common Fisheries Policy within the Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;
- Greater awareness among fisherfolk of their role in sustainable development of fisheries resources; and
- Regional Fisherfolk Organization / Network established and active in the region, including participation in Meetings of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum.

## **210.2: Planning**

### **Main Objectives**

- (i) To measure the performance of the CRFM Secretariat and the fisheries sector with regard to the implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Plan.
- (ii) To monitor the implementation of the CRFM Secretariat Annual Work Plan (2009 / 10), and national Fisheries Administrations Work Plans.
- (iii) Review the state of the fisheries sector in the region particularly in respect of the incidence of poverty in fishing communities
- (iv) Begin preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CRFM Strategic Plan
- (v) Prepare and submit project proposals to donors to mobilize resources to address priority areas of focus identified in the Strategic and Medium Term Plans.



- (vi) Prepare workplans for new projects that will come on stream during the year.
- (vii) Continue work on finalizing the draft Common Fisheries Policy

### **Activities and Input**

The focus of our activities in planning in this programme year will be:

- (i) Reviewing the Member States Fisheries Departments' Annual Work Plans to identify areas of synergies and to achieve greater coherence with the CRFM's Work Plan.
- (ii) Coordinating the delivery of the Half Yearly Technical Progress Reports and the quarterly review (monitoring) of performances.
- (iii) Providing support to the, Fisheries Management and Development Programme in developing Fisheries Management Plans for selected Member States and ensuring that national plans for fisheries and the CRFM Secretariat's Work Plan reflect common areas / priority activities identified for implementation, such as the Common Fisheries Policy.
- (iv) Commence implementation of the recently finalized and approved Second Medium Term Plan.
- (v) Develop new project proposals and intensify efforts to mobilize resources to address short term, medium term and long term priority programme areas.
- (vi) Conduct strategic review and initiate preparation of the second strategic plan for the CRFM.
- (vii) Provide assistance to Member States, on request, in national project development, preparation and resource mobilization for the implementation of same.
- (viii) Conduct a diagnostic study of the prevalence of poverty in fishing communities of Member States.
- (ix) Continue to build strategic alliances and partnership with regional and international organizations with an interest in fisheries in the Caribbean.
- (x) Elaboration of the workplans of donor funded projects that will be initiated during the year, including the JICA funded Fisheries Master Plan, the EU funded ACP-EU Fisheries Management Project and the Spanish Government funded regional fisheries projects.

### **Outputs**

- Half Yearly Work Plans and reports prepared, reviewed and submitted to stakeholders, as appropriate;

- Input provided to Fisheries Management Plans and Work Plans of Member States;
- Enhanced integration of fisheries planning systems, both at the regional (CRFM Secretariat) and national (Fisheries Departments) levels;
- Strategic review of CRFM completed and preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan initiated;
- Diagnostic study on poverty in fishing communities with recommendation for future intervention completed;
- Project proposals prepared and submitted to donors;
- Funds and technical assistance secured from donors and made available to support regional and national efforts; and
- Strategic alliances and partnership with regional and international organizations with an interest in fisheries in the Caribbean strengthened.

### **220.1: Advocacy**

This sub-programme will continue to focus on projecting a positive image of the CRFM, its Secretariat, and programme activities as well as the Fisheries Departments of Member States and the fisheries sector overall. It will highlight the working relationships and achievements of the CRFM Secretariat, Member States and industry organizations and will focus on providing advocacy for the fisheries sector and the interest and concerns of fisherfolk in the region.

#### **Objectives**

- (i) To build and support the development of a strong working relationship between Fisheries Departments of Member States and the CRFM Secretariat.
- (ii) To promote greater public awareness of the role, programmes (both national and regional), activities and achievements of the CRFM among its stakeholders and collaborators.
- (iii) To improve the public image of the CRFM Secretariat among the Member States and collaborators.
- (iv) To build greater awareness of the importance of the fisheries sector and the needs of stakeholders.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

The following activities will be implemented:

- (i) Initiating and effecting MOUs with a selected number of Organizations.

- (ii) Production and Distribution of CRFM Newsletters.
- (iii) News Releases and press conferences on topical issues in fisheries.
- (iv) Panel discussions (Radio, TV, etc.) on the fisheries sector organized in selected Member States in collaboration with CERMES.
- (v) Upgrade and effective utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ITC).
- (vi) Represent the interests of Member States' Fisheries Departments at regional and international fora.
- (vii) Preparation and presentation of scientific and technical papers on various aspects of fisheries in the region at regional and international workshops, conferences, etc.

## **Outputs**

- Strengthened working relations between Member States and the CRFM Secretariat;
- Stakeholder groups and other collaborators regularly informed on the work and achievements of the CRFM Secretariat and on fisheries issues in the region;
- Improved awareness of the role of the CRFM with its many publics;
- MOUs established with a number of targeted collaborators;
- Dissemination of Newsletter and other information products to stakeholders;
- Upgraded and user friendly / interactive CRFM Website; and
- Greater awareness and understanding of fisheries among policy makers and the general public.

### **300: Fisheries Statistics and Information**

The fisheries sector has been making significant contributions to the region's economies through job creation, foreign exchange earnings and savings, food security, economic growth and general socio-economic improvements, especially in rural communities. Dependence on this sector will increase in the future as the role of traditional agriculture decreases. However, because fisheries management systems have been traditionally weak, it is of vital importance to install and/or improve fisheries management decision-making and planning on the basis of a sound data collection and management system. This programme is designed to strengthen the data collection and management capabilities of the CRFM community through: training of fisheries personnel in data collections systems; expanding and improving the quality of the data collections systems; harmonizing the data collections systems to facilitate the establishment of a sound regional fisheries database; improving the institutional capabilities to coordinate data collection and management; and improving stakeholders' attitude to support the development and sustainability of data collection systems.

#### **301.2: Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Database (Donor funded)**

This Programme will benefit from a component of the Formulation of a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean funded by JICA. The project will be initiated during the first half of 2009 (see WBS 501.2 for more information), and the baseline survey will be initiated in July 2009.

#### **314.1: Training and Technical Assistance to Develop the Sampling Systems for Catch, Effort, Biological and Other Fisheries Related Data**

Since programme year 2003 / 04, the CRFM Secretariat has been working with a number of Member States, including The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Haiti, Belize, Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname in the updating and implementing of their Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

In its ongoing effort to assist Member States with the implementation of the activities identified in their respective Fisheries Specific Action Plans, included in their Fisheries Management Plans, the CRFM Secretariat has assisted the Fisheries Divisions of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Guyana, St. Lucia, Montserrat and Grenada 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 evaluations 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. Based on the recommendations from these reviews, as well as to further assist these and other Member States in the refinement of their data collection and management systems, the Secretariat will provide assistance to Member States in the form of training workshops on the development and implementation of appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data.

## **Objectives**

To provide assistance and train fisheries personnel from Member States in the development, implementation or refinement of appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data.

## **Activities and Inputs**

The CRFM Secretariat will organize and convene at least two national workshops to assist Member States in the development and implementation of appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data. The assistance will be provided based on priorities identified at the national level and requests received by the Secretariat. The Research Graduate, Statistics and Information with lead responsibility for this programme will also participate in the Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting to provide support to the Member States.

## **Outputs**

- The output will be data managers and other fisheries personnel trained to develop and implement appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data; and
- Sampling plans and data collection systems strengthen and operational in the Member States.

### **314.3: Caribbean Fisheries Information System (CARIFIS)**

The start up date for implementation of CARIFIS in Member States was January 31, 2004. Services provided by the CRFM Secretariat to Member States for the implementation of CARIFIS included: the provision of computers for operation of the software, compilation and distribution of training material to support the use of CARIFIS (including the development of the CARIFIS Training CD's), in-country training in the use of CARIFIS and in-country provision of technical assistance for the implementation of CARIFIS (including review and transfer of legacy TIP and LRS data to CARIFIS).

At the request of Member States, CRFM Secretariat has continued to provide technical support towards the implementation of CARIFIS at the country level, and in programme year 2006 / 2007 and 2007 / 2008, the CRFM Secretariat undertook a number of national missions, in which technical assistance in the implementation of CARIFIS was provided to seven Member States. In programme year 2006 / 2007 the CRFM also recruited a Research Graduate, Statistics and Information (RG, S&I) to strengthen this programme area, and who will (with the appropriate training) provide consistent CARIFIS technical support and training needed by the Member States.

In programme year 2009 / 2010, through the RG, S&I, the CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide CARIFIS technical assistance and training to the Member States. To this end the Research Graduate, Statistics and Information will undertake a number of national missions to

facilitate at national levels (i) training of fisheries staff in data entry and querying and reporting using CARIFIS (ii) provision of CARIFIS technical support where possible (iii) identification of other technical needs to be addressed by a consultant and (iv) analysis of hindrances to successful implementation of CARIFIS at the national level for corrective actions. Assistance will be provided to Member States based on the needs identified and documented in the CARIFIS Matrix prepared during the 2008 / 09 programme year, and on the request of the Member States. These activities as performed by the Research Graduate, Statistics and Information at national levels where all the relevant national fisheries staff can be involved, will build capacity in the region to address CARIFIS technical and non-technical issues through learning by doing.

### **Objectives**

- (i) To continue to provide technical support and training to the staff of Fisheries Departments in Member States in order to implement CARIFIS at national levels.
- (ii) To build capacity in the use of CARIFIS regionally.
- (iii) To build in-house capacity at the CRFM Secretariat to service the software and provide technical assistance to Member States.

### **Activities and Inputs**

- (i) Convene at least four national CARIFIS training workshops (workshops are to be facilitated by the RG, S&I). Member States which have already requested national CARIFIS training workshops, or have been identified from the CARIFIS Matrix for these workshops includes: Montserrat, Anguilla, Belize, St Lucia Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands.
- (ii) The CRFM Secretariat will provide technical assistance to Member States based on the needs identified and documented in the CARIFIS Matrix prepared during the 2008 / 09 p.y., and also, based on Member States requests.
- (iii) In collaboration with FAO, Suriname will be provided with technical support towards the implementation of CARIFIS, subject to request by Suriname.

### **Outputs**

The outputs will be as follows:

- CARIFIS being utilized in more Member States;
- Fisheries staff of the region trained in data entry, querying and reporting in CARIFIS; and
- CRFM Secretariat staff trained to provide CARIFIS technical support to Member States.

### **330.1: Monitor and provision of technical assistance (training and support)**

#### **Objectives**

This activity is intended to provide technical support and advice to strengthen the data collection and management capabilities of the CRFM countries. In view of the fact that the Secretariat is often asked to provide technical assistance in response to specific ad hoc requests from countries, time and budget allocations are given for this type of assistance.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

Ad hoc assistance to be provided to countries in need of improving data and information systems. The assistance will be provided based on priorities identified at the national level and requests received by the Secretariat.

#### **Outputs**

The outputs of this activity will include:

- Improved national fisheries data systems, where recommendations for improvement have been implemented;
- Improved national contributions to fishery assessments conducted by CRFM Fisheries Resource Working Groups;
- Enhanced quality and applicability of Annual CRFM Fishery Reports; and
- Preparation of training material including Training CD for use by data collection and data processing staff.

#### **400: Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment**

As noted in the draft Second Medium Term Plan, this programme is intended to nurture the appropriate scientific-based management environment necessary for sustainability of the region's fishing industry. The 400 activities focus specifically on research and assessment activities pertaining to strengthening the scientific basis for resource management, as well as activities aimed at improving statistical monitoring and the region's pool of skills in fisheries science.

At the CRFM level, the five CRFM resource working groups have been active since 2004, and have been successful in promoting collaboration among national fisheries authorities, thereby ensuring coordinated approaches to research and resource assessment among Member States. On-site annual scientific meetings of the CRFM working groups have facilitated data analysis and assessment work to progress at a reasonable pace. It is therefore expected that these Working Groups will continue their activities, as before, being primarily responsible for agreed inter-sessional activities, as well as preparation for and conduct of fisheries assessments during their annual scientific meetings. Working Group activities will cover data analysis, research, assessment, and provision of management advice on the following range of fisheries resources: large pelagic; small coastal pelagic; reef and slope; shrimp and groundfish, conch and lobster. From 2009, these Working Groups will report formally to a CRFM Scientific Committee during the annual scientific meetings.

In addition, the Research and Resource Assessment Programme for 2009 / 10 continues to include a component for provision of technical and management support to Member States participating in ICCAT, given the overlapping mandate in respect of large pelagic fish resources, and a component for strengthening regional scientific collaboration.

#### **401: Technical Inputs (Emoluments)**

Specialized technical expertise will be required to implement planned activities in research and resource assessment, and related essential remunerations are anticipated.

##### **401.4: Provision of Technical and Management Support for participation in ICCAT**

Acknowledging the establishment, role, and objectives of ICCAT, and the overlapping mandate with regard to the assessment and management of large pelagic fish resources, CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical and management support to countries participating in ICCAT activities.

#### **Objectives**

- To continue, expand and strengthen CRFM participation in the activities of ICCAT, in order to promote and defend the fisheries interests of CRFM Member States.
- To facilitate an improved institutional framework for fisheries management at the national, regional and international levels.



## **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical and management support, including legal support, to countries participating in ICCAT activities. The CRFM Secretariat will coordinate planning and development of both national and regional positions on issues ranging from improvements in large pelagic fishery data to management issues for these species. In addition, CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide advice and support for national statistics and research contributions to ICCAT.

In programme year 2009 / 10, CRFM Secretariat will continue provision of technical and management support, including legal support to Member States through the following activities:

1. Participation in ICCAT SCRS and Commission meetings, and collaborating with CRFM country delegations during these meetings to ensure effective meeting contributions and representation of the region's industry interests.
2. Contribution to the scientific work of ICCAT SCRS and its subsidiary bodies.
3. Reporting on ICCAT scientific and management activities and advising CRFM Member States about ICCAT's work progress.
4. Assistance and advice to countries with regard to the fulfillment of their statistical reporting and research obligations to ICCAT for stocks managed by ICCAT, and handling of other ICCAT issues, such as catch quota negotiations and management and compliance issues, as required by CRFM countries on a case by case basis.

## **Outputs**

- Report(s) providing updated information on ICCAT research and resource assessment activities with regard to those fisheries resources of international concern, especially tuna, tuna-like, billfish and shark resources;
- Report(s) providing updated advice on management measures adopted by ICCAT for fisheries resources of international concern;
- Improved CRFM statistics and research contributions to ICCAT;
- Representation and protection of the large pelagic fishing industry interests of CRFM Member States; and
- Provision of technical and management, including legal advice and support to countries participating in ICCAT activities.

### **410.3: CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group (CRFM RSWG)**

In the Caribbean region, reef and slope fisheries are multi-gear, multi-species fisheries and are relatively diverse and complex. It is generally assumed that reef and slope fish resources do not undergo large-scale movements, and can be managed at the local or country level. However, islands sharing a common shelf may also be sharing the same reef and slope fish stocks.

#### **Objectives**

To develop a strong technical and information base for informing the management and development of reef and slope fisheries within the CRFM region. To facilitate this, there is a need for a collective effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice. The CRFM Reef and Slope Fish Resource Working Group (CRFM RSWG) was established for this purpose, and its activities will continue to be coordinated by the Secretariat in 2009 / 10.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, an on-site meeting of the RSWG is planned during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 414.1.

Additionally, research priorities identified by countries and by the RSWG will be addressed through a stepwise approach involving proposal development, funding acquisition, implementation, technical review and reporting.

#### **Outputs**

The outputs of this project activity include:

- Improved data and information systems and improved understanding of the reef and slope fish resources and the associated industries they support (achieved essentially through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Improved evaluation of the status of reef and slope fish stocks of interest; and
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's reef and slope fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for management planning and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, and assessment. The assessment priorities to be addressed during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are

identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data.

The successful implementation of proposed research projects is dependent on donor funding. The budget for the annual scientific meeting is incorporated into that for Activity 414.1.

## **413.2: Regional Network Partnership for Research and Resource Assessment**

### **Objectives**

This activity is designed to strengthen key networking arrangements and partnerships within CRFM States, and among national and regional institutions and other bodies capable of making a relevant contribution to the success of regionally coordinated fisheries research and resource assessment work. It is intended primarily to avoid duplication of effort, within the CRFM region where human and financial resources are limited, to afford access to pools of expertise not available outside of a formal networking/ partnership arrangement, and to facilitate peer collaboration in research.

In the Caribbean region, especially among the 17 CRFM Member States, fish stock assessment skills are generally limited, and are hampering both national and regional-level efforts to achieve effective fisheries monitoring and management. Fisheries Officers with responsibility for stock assessment are usually primarily biologists, with limited formal qualifications and experience in statistics and fish stock assessment. CRFM has established a partnership arrangement with UNU (Iceland) to develop a fish stock assessment training course suited to fisheries management situations in the Caribbean, and to strengthen the skills of selected experts working in the Caribbean to administer and deliver the training course at required regular intervals.

### **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, key networking/ partnership arrangements with institutions such as UWI, IMA and NMFS SEFC, and organizations such as FAO, will continue to be developed, through strengthening of collaboration and coordination in respect of research and resource assessment activities.

1. In accordance with the proposal for resuming the operation of the regional age and growth fish laboratory at IMA endorsed by CRFM Resource Working Groups in 2008, CRFM countries will resume their contributions to fish age and growth research, based on priorities identified by Member States.
2. Scientists at the NMFS SEFSC are expected to continue to provide assistance with assessment analyses conducted during the annual scientific meetings.
3. UWI, with support from CRFM Secretariat, is expected to assist with development and implementation of proposed UNU-FTP course in stock assessment.

4. CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical inputs into regional initiatives such as CLME, FAO technical projects, and the Caribbean Sea Assessment initiative led by the Caribbean Sea Commission.

## **Outputs**

- Resumption of operation of regional age and growth laboratory at IMA, and information on fish age and growth, required for incorporation into priority assessments requested by Member States;
- Training of national fisheries staff in resource assessment through collaboration with NMFS SEFSC scientists and the UNU-FTP training course; and
- Improved understanding and representation of CRFM perspectives in regional initiatives, and improved regional scientific networking and partnerships.

These networking activities are dependent on external donor support.

### **414.1 Annual Scientific Meetings /Meetings of the CRFM Scientific Committee**

## **Objectives**

The CRFM Scientific Meetings are held annually, to facilitate on-site meetings of the five CRFM Resource Working Groups and the development of management advice for the fisheries examined. These meetings also provide opportunities for hands-on training of fisheries officers and for helping them to improve their understanding of the fisheries for which they are responsible. The CRFM Scientific Committee, proposed for establishment in 2009, will oversee the activities of the CRFM Working Groups and the associated annual scientific meetings.

## **Activities and inputs:**

In programme year 2009 / 10, the Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting (the First Meeting of the CRFM Scientific Committee) will take place. During this meeting, all CRFM Working Groups will meet to undertake fisheries analyses and assessments in response to management priorities identified by CRFM Member States. As in previous years, there continues to be a need for several external assessment experts to participate in the annual scientific meeting and to provide assistance to fisheries officers for completion of assessments.

Inter-sessional activities will include continued development of data systems, preparations for assessments, assessment analyses, and testing of assessment methods.

## **Outputs**

- Management advice for fisheries assessed;

- Training in statistics and stock assessment for fisheries officers participating in CRFM Working Group activities;
- Production and circulation of CRFM Fishery Report for 2009 that will include the report of the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, as well as national fishery reports submitted to the CRFM Scientific meeting in 2009, and fishery management advisory summaries; and
- Inter-sessional activity research reports.

It is recommended that ACP project funds, allocated for the purpose of improving research, be used to fund the Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting.

#### **414.2 CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM LPWG)**

Within CRFM, the CRFM LPWG provides regional coordination of research and assessment of large pelagic resources.

##### **Objectives**

To develop a technical and information base for informing the management and development of large pelagic fisheries within the CRFM region. To facilitate this, there is a need for a coordinated effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice. The CRFM Large Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group (CRFM LPWG) was established for this purpose, and its activities will continue to be coordinated by the Secretariat in 2009 / 10.

The CRFM has been assigned a lead role in the implementation of the CLME Large Pelagic pilot project. If resources for the pilot project are available this year the CRFM will begin to elaborate the detail work plan and delivery of the activities. See WBS 520.6 for further information on the CLME Project.

##### **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, an on-site meeting of the Working Group is planned during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 414.1.

Research priorities identified by countries and by the LPWG will be addressed through a stepwise approach involving proposal development, funding acquisition, implementation, technical review and reporting. Inter-sessional activities of the Working Group in 2009 / 10 will include data collection and compilation preparations for a proposed joint meeting with ICCAT in 2010 to facilitate assessment of blackfin tuna and Spanish mackerel.

## Outputs

The outputs of this project activity include:

- Improved data and information systems and improved understanding of large pelagic fish resources and the associated industries they support (achieved essentially through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Improved evaluation of the status of large pelagic fish stocks of interest; and
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's large pelagic fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations; and
- Improved quantity and quality of available data on blackfin tuna and Spanish mackerel to facilitate joint assessments with ICCAT in 2010.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for management planning and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, and assessment. The assessment priorities to be addressed during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data.

The successful implementation of proposed research projects is dependent on donor funding. If CLME and ACP project funds become available, these could be used to help improve data collection and research activities for large pelagic fisheries, particularly of those species for which a joint CRFM-ICCAT assessment meeting is proposed. The budget for the annual scientific meeting is incorporated into that for Activity 414.1.

### **410.2 / 412: To Assess the Potential for Developing or Expanding Large Pelagic Fisheries**

The sustainable development and management of large pelagic fisheries has been identified as a priority area for development by CARICOM Member States through the COTED (Proposal for the CRFM) 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 will 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**

This project is intended to contribute to the sustainable development and management of offshore pelagic resources, and to increase development and employment opportunities within the sector. In so doing, the project will contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and hence social and economic stability in the CARICOM Member States.

## **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, activities will include the following:

- (i) Baseline studies to: improve understanding of the current pelagic fishery development situation in the region, improve current biological and ecological knowledge on target species, evaluate capacity building needs, determine appropriate field survey methodology; and determine regional and export market potential for target species
- (ii) Pilot Studies to obtain catch, effort and biological data and information, and to investigate the feasibility of applying FAD methodology.
- (iii) Formulation of a Master plan for field survey of pelagic resources

## **Outputs**

During 2009 / 10, the Activity will produce reports of the baselines and pilot studies, aimed at providing improved information on the biology and ecology of the large pelagic resources examined. Preparation of a master plan for a field survey of selected large pelagic resources will also commence with production of a first draft.

This activity is dependent on external funding from JICA.

### **414.6: CRFM Working Group on Data, Methods and Training (CRFM DMTWG)**

## **Objectives**

The CRFM Working Group on Data, Methods and Training (DMTWG) has been established to build on the achievements of the CRFM ad hoc Working Group on Methods, as well as examine options for improving available data and developing the scientific skills of national fisheries staff. This Working Group's activities will also provide opportunities for hands-on training of fisheries officers and for helping them to improve their understanding of the fisheries and data situations concerned.

## **Activities and inputs:**

An on-site meeting of the Working Group will be convened as required by the annual scientific meetings. The annual scientific meetings will identify the specific tasks to be addressed, in accordance with the Working Group's Terms of Reference.

The Working Group will also utilize available internet services to facilitate discussions and other activities, as deemed appropriate.

## **Outputs**

- Recommendations to improve data collection required to facilitate assessments during the Annual Scientific Meetings;
- Review of data management and fishery assessment methodologies, with emphasis on those that are suitable for application to Caribbean fisheries;
- Established criteria for evaluating the performance and suitability of data management and fishery assessment methodologies proposed and utilized;
- Recommendations on data management and assessment methodologies;
- Completion of data preparatory tasks requested by CRFM Resource Working Group;
- Provision of training opportunities to improve understanding and application of the methodologies proposed;
- Establishment and execution of a communications plan; and
- Production and circulation of Working Group activity reports.

The Working Group's activities is to be funded under the ACP Fish II project.

### **414.7: CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SCPWG)**

Small coastal pelagic fish resources support substantial fisheries throughout the Caribbean region, sometimes accounting for 40% or more of the total reported national fish landings. The small coastal pelagic fisheries can employ large numbers of the populations in some small island and coastal states, and hence are of paramount importance in contributing to the social and economic stability of the countries involved. The movement and distribution of stocks of small coastal pelagic fish resources within the Caribbean are not well understood, although it is very likely that islands sharing a common shelf are fishing the same stocks.

## **Objectives**

To develop a technical and information base for informing the management and development of small coastal pelagic fisheries within the CRFM region. To facilitate this, there is a need for a coordinated effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice. The CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group (CRFM SCPWG) was established for this purpose, and its activities will continue to be coordinated by the Secretariat in 2009 / 10.



## **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, an on-site meeting of the Working Group is planned during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 414.1.

Research priorities identified by countries and by the scientific meetings will be addressed through a stepwise approach involving proposal development, funding acquisition, implementation, technical review and reporting. A provision is included to assist St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other countries that have requested assistance to review the field sampling plan and available data on their small coastal pelagic fisheries. Management of the flyingfish fishery has been selected as one of the pilot projects under the CLME Project, which is scheduled to commence in early 2009. The CRFM was selected to lead the implementation of this project.

## **Outputs**

The expected outputs of this project activity include:

- Improved data and information systems and improved understanding of the small coastal pelagic fish resources concerned and the industries they support (achieved essentially through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Improved evaluation of the status of small coastal pelagic fish stocks of interest; and
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's small coastal pelagic fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for management planning and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, and assessment. The assessment priorities to be addressed during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted, based on the availability and suitability of data. The successful implementation of proposed research projects is dependent on donor funding. If funds are available through the CLME Project during this programme year, the CRFM will elaborate the work plan for the flying fish project and begin implementation of the activities. See WBS 520.6 for further information on the CLME Project.

## **420.1: CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SGWG)**

### **Objectives**

To develop a technical and information base for informing the management and development of shrimp and groundfish fisheries within the CRFM region. To facilitate this, there is a need for a coordinated effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice. The CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Resources Working Group (CRFM SGWG) was established for this purpose, and its activities will continue to be coordinated by the Secretariat in programme year 2009 / 10.

### **Activities and Inputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, an on-site meeting of the Working Group is planned during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 414.1.

Additionally, research priorities identified by countries and by the scientific meetings will be addressed through a stepwise approach involving proposal development, funding acquisition, implementation, technical review and reporting. A comparative study of the biology and ecology of key shrimp species of Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago is recommended.

### **Outputs**

- Improved data and information systems and improved understanding of shrimp and groundfish resources concerned and the industries they support (achieved essentially through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Improved evaluation of the status of shrimp and groundfish stocks of interest;
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's shrimp and groundfish fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations; and
- Improved knowledge and understanding of the biology and ecology of the Atlantic seabob resource in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for management planning and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, and assessment. The assessment priorities to be addressed during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data. The successful implementation of proposed research projects is dependent on donor funding.

## **430.1 Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance**

### **Objectives**

This activity is intended to provide technical support and advice to strengthen the research and resource assessment capabilities of the CRFM countries. In view of the fact that the Secretariat is often asked to provide technical assistance in response to specific inter-sessional and ad hoc requests from countries, time and budget allocations are given for this type of assistance.

### **Activities and Inputs**

Ad hoc assistance is to be provided to countries in need of addressing research and assessment priorities during the inter-sessional period between annual scientific meetings. The assistance will be provided based on priorities identified at the national level and requests received by the Secretariat. In programme year 2009 / 10, activities will include continued development of social and economic indicators for specific fisheries of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, continued development of ERAEF methodology and provision of technical support for a visual survey of spiny lobster and queen conch resources in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### **Outputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, the outputs of this activity will include:

- Evaluation of the abundance and distribution of spiny lobster and queen conch resources on the Grenadines shelf; and.
- Improved data and information for supporting urgent management decisions.

## **450.1: CRFM Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group (CRFM CLWG)**

The spiny lobster and the queen conch are considered to be one of the most economically important fisheries resources in the CARICOM region, due to local consumption rates and as sources of foreign currency.

### **Objectives**

To develop a technical and information base for informing the management and development of conch and lobster fisheries within the CRFM region. To facilitate this, there is a need for a coordinated effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice. The CRFM Conch and Lobster Resources Working Group (CRFM CLWG) was established for this purpose, and its activities will continue to be coordinated by the Secretariat in programme year 2009 / 10.

## Activities and Inputs

In programme year 2009 / 10, the Working Group will convene an on-site annual meeting during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 414.1.

Research priorities identified by countries and by the scientific meetings will be addressed through a stepwise approach involving proposal development, funding acquisition, implementation, technical review and reporting.

## Outputs

- Improved data and information systems and improved understanding of the resources concerned and the industries they support (effected through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Improved evaluation of the status of conch and lobster stocks of interest;
- Technical and management advisory reports on the region's queen conch and lobster fisheries, based on completed fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations; and
- Technical and management advisory reports and recommendations for consideration by those countries in which conch visual surveys are conducted, as well as managers coordinating regional efforts.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for management planning and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, and assessment. The assessment priorities to be addressed during the Fifth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data.

### **450.2: Study to improve the information and analytical base for integrating fishery performance indicators into the formulation of management advice**

Key commercial fisheries ideally need to measure their '*sustainable management and development*' performance levels not only in respect of conserving the health of the resource and realizing the maximum possible economic benefits, but also with regard to minimizing the negative ecological and environmental impacts of various and new fishing methods, and to achieving agreed levels of equity for social welfare and food security.

Using the queen conch fishery as an example, the proposed study will seek to test the application

of suitable decision support tools to integrate the full range of fishery performance data and information, including information on trade and global environmental change, to aid the development of more comprehensive and integrated fishery management approaches for this fishery.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the project is to develop and customize the application of available decision support tools, such as Multiple Criteria Analysis (MCA), capable of evaluating the performance of fisheries with regard to the full range of agreed management objectives. In particular, the proposed study will focus on developing the methodology for the CRFM region, using the queen conch fishery as an example.

## **Activities and inputs**

- (i) Conduct analysis of agreed management objectives, the results of which will be used to determine the range of fishery performance indicators.
- (ii) Conduct a stakeholder analysis.
- (iii) Field surveys will be conducted to gather the additional data to reflect levels of fishery performance in respect of agreed social, economic, ecological and environmental management goals.
- (iv) Computerisation and analysis of data.
- (v) Application of specific analytical decision-support tools, such as MCA, to formulate management recommendations within a holistic context.
- (vi) Review and to finalize decision support model for management of the fisheries concerned.

## **Outputs**

- A report of the analysis of management objectives for the queen conch fishery in selected territories, which have been agreed and documented at the national and regional levels, for determination of suitable fishery performance indicators;
- A stakeholder analysis report;
- Reports of current levels of fishery performance, relative to each type of agreed management goal (biological, social, economic, ecological, and environmental), i.e. current status relative to the desired target status for sustainable management; and
- Fishery management advisory report, which will be a report of analyses incorporating the results of phases 1 and 2, and using decision support tools to develop comprehensive and

integrated management recommendations for the queen conch fishery at the national level, and which are also regionally harmonized.

This Activity is dependent on external funding.

#### **450.3 Feasibility study to determine potential for developing spotted lobster fisheries in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

Four species of lobsters have been observed in the waters of St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. They include the Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), spotted lobster (*Panulirus guttatus*), slipper lobster (*Panulirus laevicanda*), and the red banded lobster (*Justitia longimanus*). Traditionally, the Caribbean spiny lobster has been the primary lobster species targeted on a commercial scale in the two island states. However, due to the high level of exploitation of the Caribbean spiny lobster, St. Lucian fishers have recently lobbied for a fishery for the spotted lobster (*P. guttatus*) and the current fisheries management plan also proposes the development of this fishery. The Fisheries Division of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has also expressed an interest in evaluating the potential for development of a spotted lobster fishery, since the Caribbean spiny lobster population is considered to be over-exploited in near shore areas.

#### **Objectives**

This activity aims to determine whether it is feasible to develop commercial-scale spotted lobster fisheries in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, through assessment of the present population abundance and estimation of sustainable yield, and evaluation of suitable harvesting strategies. This information will be used to propose practical management control options for achieving sustainable yield.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

The activities include underwater visual surveys and exploratory fishing trips. Subject to availability of funds, the visual surveys are expected to be completed during programme year 2009 / 10. Exploratory fishing trips will also commence.

#### **Outputs**

In programme year 2009 / 10, the following outputs are expected:

- CRFM Technical and Advisory Report and Research Paper to provide details of the results and interpretations of the underwater visual survey studies; and
- Preliminary results of exploratory fishing trials.

Activity implementation is dependent on availability of core funding, as well as funding from the two participating States.

## **500: Fisheries Resource Management and Development**

### **501.1 Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Fora (CITES and WECAFC)**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls, with species covered being listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. These Appendices are as follows:

**Appendix I** include species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

**Appendix II** includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

**Appendix III** contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade (<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/how.shtml>).

Recognising the impact of the listing of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) on Appendix II of CITES on the management and development of the queen conch fisheries in the Caribbean and the ever increasing influence of this Convention on the trade in fish and fish products from the region and the likely effects on sustainable fisheries development, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum has decided that the CRFM Secretariat must seek observer status with the CITES Secretariat and participate in meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP), etc. in order to provide technical advice on fisheries matters to Member States as well as play a coordinating role in the determination of positions on fisheries related issues.

The general objective of WECAFC is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the WECAFC region in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by Members of the Commission. The main functions and responsibilities of the Commission are:

- (i) to contribute to improved governance through institutional arrangements that encourage cooperation amongst members;
- (ii) to assist its members in implementing relevant international fisheries instruments, in particular the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related International Plans of Action;
- (iii) to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake the collection, exchange and dissemination of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information as well as its analysis or study;
- (iv) to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, strengthen the development of institutional capacity and human resources, particularly through education, training and extension activities in the areas of competence of the Commission;

- (v) to promote and facilitate harmonizing of relevant national laws and regulations, and compatibility of conservation and management measures.
- (vi) to assist its Members in and facilitate, as appropriate and upon their request, the conservation, management and development of transboundary and straddling stocks under their respective national jurisdictions;
- (vii) to seek funds and other resources to ensure the long-term operations of the Commission and establish, as appropriate, a trust fund for voluntary contributions to this end; and
- (viii) to serve as a conduit of independent funding to its members for initiatives related to conservation, management and development of the living resources in the area of competence of the Commission (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/wecafc>).

Recognising the importance of this RFB to the improvement of fisheries governance and management at the regional and sub-regional levels as well as its technical competence to advise on fisheries and related matters being raised at CITES, WTO, etc., the CRFM has been participating in the Commission and other WECAFC meetings and providing briefs to Member States on agenda items. The CRFM has also been partnering with WECAFC in the convening of meetings on fisheries management and development.

### **Objective**

- (i) To provide technical advice to Member States as well as play a coordinating role in the determination of positions on fisheries and related matters at CITES and WECAFC fora.
- (ii) To collaborate with and participate in WECAFC activities planned for 2009 / 10.

### **Activities and Inputs**

During programme year 2009 / 10, the CRFM Secretariat will participate in the CITES Conference of Parties Meeting to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2010. It will prepare a brief on fisheries related issues for Member States prior to the 2010 COP Meeting. Also, the CRFM will participate in the following WECAFC Meetings:

1. Workshop on fisheries management in the Brazil – Guianas shelf based on the best available scientific information - implementation constraints and their resolution (2009).
2. Fishery assessment and management workshop for developing / refining management plans for different species and fisheries of the Brazil – Guianas Shelf (2009).
3. Managers' Workshop on fisheries management to promote activities and cooperation in fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas shelf (2009).
4. Managers' / Ministers' Meeting on the management of Caribbean Spiny lobster (2009).



5. Meeting of Managers and Ministers to discuss, adopt management plans and implementation modalities for the flying fish fishery of the Eastern Caribbean (2008 / 09).

In addition the Secretariat will participate in the WECAFC study to assess illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for Queen Conch at the regional or subregional level; the diagnostic study to describe and quantify the problem of derelict fishing gear in the Wider Caribbean and the activity to prepare draft fisheries management plans for shark fisheries in selected member countries.

## **Outputs**

- Provision of technical advice and coordination in relation to fisheries and related matters at CITES fora;
- Preparation of brief on fisheries related issues for Member States prior to the 2010 CITES COP Meeting;
- Participation in the CITES COP and WECAFC Meetings; and
- Participation in the WECAFC study to assess illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for Queen Conch at the regional or subregional level; the diagnostic study to describe and quantify the problem of derelict fishing gear in the Wider Caribbean and the activity to prepare draft fisheries management plans for shark fisheries in selected member countries.

### **501.2: CRFM / JICA Formulation of a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean (Donor funded)**

In response to an official request from the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat through the Government of Belize, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sent a Preparatory Study Team to the Region from February 27 - March 31, 2005 to review and refine the Project Proposal for “*Formulation of Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Management in the Caribbean*”. During its stay in the Region, the Team carried out field surveys and held a series of discussions with officials of the Governments of the CRFM Member States, the CRFM Secretariat and other authorities concerned. At this time, the Project Proposal for Formulation of a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean (fisheries resources include aquaculture) was reviewed and refined.

Following a lag of approximately eighteen months in the commencement of project activity, due to a 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, a Team from Japan conducted a mission to the region from February 27 – March 10, 2007, to gather information to further review and refine the Project Proposal. The Team conducted field surveys and consulted officials of selected CRFM Member States, the CRFM Secretariat and other stakeholders. During

this time, the CRFM and the JICA Team agreed upon the scope of work and the five components of the Project listed below. The Scope of Work was signed by the CARICOM Secretariat, JICA and CRFM Secretariat in December 2008. To date, JICA has recruited the consultants to implement the Project, with the field work slated for start up in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2009 / 10.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the Development Study are:

1. To formulate a master plan for sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture in the Caribbean, focusing on small-scale operators in coastal communities.
2. To transfer relevant technology to the institutions and staff of CRFM Member States and CRFM Secretariat during the course of the Study.

## **Activities and Inputs**

The Study will address the following components:

1. Pelagic resource development and management.
2. Aquaculture development policy formulation.
3. Regional fisheries database development.
4. Support for community-based management (including sedentary resource management).
5. Education and Training in the component fields in the CARICOM States.

The approach will be to conduct baseline studies to understand the current situation in the areas identified above; carry out pilot studies to clarify issues identified within these areas or generate additional information and formulate a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean.

During the Study Period, the CRFM Secretariat will serve as the Implementing Agency, coordinating the delivery of the Study on behalf of the Member States to facilitate smooth implementation.

## **Outputs**

- A Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean;
- Reports of Baseline and Pilot Studies conducted under the various components; and

- Transfer of relevant technology to the institutions and staff of CRFM Member States and CRFM Secretariat during the course of the Study.

### **501.3 CRFM / DFO Canada Workshop on Fisheries Management in the Caribbean (Donor Funded)**

CRFM and DFO Canada will hold a two day workshop in the Caribbean in order to increase knowledge of, and ensure compliance with, the various international fisheries standards in the area of fisheries regulation and the curbing of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

The workshop will help reinforce the importance of ratifying, implementing, and complying with relevant international treaties for Caribbean States as well as the conservation and management rules of RFMOs, and will help these States build the necessary capacity to monitor and control fishing activities in nearby waters and to develop their scientific capabilities.

The overarching goals of the Workshop will be:

- to highlight the need to prevent overfishing/ensure proper fisheries management,
- to increase capacity to monitor, control and conduct surveillance of the activities of fishing vessels in nearby waters (including training by Canadian experts)
- at-sea / port inspection procedures
- monitoring and surveillance approaches / methodologies
- VMS
- Observers
- Dockside Monitoring
- Integration – how all these tools make an effective MCS scheme
- to engage in a dialogue with developing countries and work with them to enhance their capacity to combat IUU activities
- to build greater understanding of RFMO reform initiatives (e.g., catch documentation schemes, capacity, and science-based decision making) and other international initiatives (e.g., MCS network, high seas vessel information system)
- to improve scientific capabilities and their links to policy development/implementation and development of integrated management plans

- to identify and facilitate further opportunities for collaboration regionally and internationally, including joint science projects
- to increase knowledge of the benefits and obligations of international fisheries conservation and management regimes
- to increase participation in, and assistance in reform of, international fisheries conservation and management bodies

### **Proposed Workshop Activities**

- 1) Workshop Name: Caribbean Workshop on International Fisheries Management
- 2) Venue: It is proposed that the Workshop be held in St Lucia, one of the islands of the Eastern Caribbean and the seat of the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.
- 3) Invitees: Fisheries managers from CARICOM and OECS states as well as representatives from the University of the West Indies and the Regional Security System. DFO envisages close collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism to identify a list of potential invitees.
- 4) Speakers: Academics, government officials and members of regional and international organizations with specialization in the law of the sea and laws and regulations related to fisheries and fisheries enforcement will be invited to make presentations. A scientific expert on fisheries will also be invited. The speakers will be drawn from the Caribbean, Canada, the US and the UK.
- 5) Purpose:
  - The Workshop will gather and disseminate information regarding international fisheries rules and standards related to overfishing, fisheries management and fisheries conservation
  - The target audience/participants will be from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Fisheries of Caribbean states, including fisheries enforcement and scientific staff
  - The Workshop will promote the objectives of reducing and preventing overfishing, and the importance of science with a focus on tunas, sharks and swordfish
  - By inviting delegates from the entire Caribbean region, the Workshop will further encourage multilateral cooperation. Speakers from the US/UK will be asked to participate

- Caribbean regional organizations with specific interest in fisheries will be invited to participate in the Workshop
  - The Workshop is envisaged as the first phase in an ongoing education, training and technical assistance program. Following its completion, more detailed fisheries and conservation regimes and rules may be explored.
- 6) Timelines for Activity: A January or February Workshop is envisaged. Further workshops and technical activities may be held in upcoming years, pending funding.
- 7) Funding for Activity – Funding for this activity will be provided by DFO of Canada

## **512.2: Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for Member States**

The formulation and implementation of appropriate fisheries sector policies and developmental and management strategies and plans are complex and multifaceted, with the critical inputs revolving primarily around political commitment, institutional capacity and effective stakeholder participation.

During the programme years 2003 / 04 to 2008 / 09 the CRFM Secretariat has worked with a number of countries, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname in the process of updating and facilitating the implementation of their Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). Based on a timeframe that takes about twelve months to update a FMP, hold national consultations with stakeholders and obtain approval from the relevant political authority, the CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide assistance to Member States in the updating and facilitation of the implementation of their Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

### **Objective**

To update and facilitate implementation of the fisheries management plans for the CRFM Member States.

### **Activities and Inputs**

The CRFM Secretariat, in collaboration with the Departments of Fisheries (DOF), will continue to update the draft Fisheries Management Plans, and organize and convene national consultations with the stakeholders to obtain their inputs into the draft FMPs for those Member States for which these activities are yet to be completed (e.g. Belize, Barbados and Jamaica). Following the national consultations, the CRFM Secretariat and DOFs will incorporate changes agreed upon into the Draft FMPs, with the DOFs undertaking to distribute the revised Draft FMPs to the participants from the consultations and/or the FACs. Also, the revised Draft FMPs would be further discussed with fishers/communities and other stakeholders at different locations to achieve the following: (i) inform them of the Draft Plan, and (ii) to obtain their input. On

completion of these exercises, the DOFs will submit the revised draft FMPs to the FACs for review and forward them to their respective Ministers / Cabinets for approval.

## **Output**

- Updated FMPs drafted for national consultations, approved and implemented in the selected CRFM Member States.

### **512.3: Programme for Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries (ACP Fish II) (Donor Funded)**

ACP Fish II is the second phase of the ACP Project originally entitled “*Strengthening of Fisheries and Biodiversity Management in ACP Countries*” or ACP Fish I. A feasibility study was done by the SIFAR / FAO for a project initially budgeted for 11 million euros, but this was considered to be insufficient. With the increasing of the budget to 30 million euros, a complementary feasibility study was undertaken in 2006 in order to redesign the project consistent with this new sum. This Project, which has been approved, is likely to commence implementation during the fiscal year 2009 / 10. It will be managed under decentralized management through a Programme Management Unit (PMU) based in Brussels and a set of Regional Facilitation Units (RFUs) located in Belize (CRFM Secretariat), Gabon, Senegal, Uganda, Mozambique and Fiji.

## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to the sustainable and equitable management of fisheries in ACP countries.

The specific objective of the Programme is to strengthen fisheries sectoral policy development and implementation in ACP Countries.

## **Activities and Inputs**

The CRFM Secretariat in collaboration with the PMU and RFU will draft the strategic and actions plans for the CARIFORUM component of the Project; review them with the Member States/at the FORUM and undertake implementation.

## **Outputs**

The expected Programme outputs are:

- Improved fisheries policies and management plans at the regional and national levels;
- Reinforced control and enforcement capabilities;
- Reinforced national and regional research strategies and initiatives;

- Developed business supportive regulatory frameworks and private sector investment; and
- Increased knowledge sharing on fisheries management and trade at the regional level.

#### **520.1: Development of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (Donor Funded)**

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

- (1) Lack of critical mass of NFOs for launching CARNUFO as defined by the 2004 Belize Workshop;
- (2) Fisher Folk Organizations' weak management skills;
- (3) Insufficient access to relevant information by fisher folk; and
- (4) Fisher Folk Organizations' limited communication and advocacy skills.

The Working Group met in Guyana in June 2005 and produced a Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan for the Institutional Strengthening of Regional Fisherfolk Organisations - 2006 to 2010. Based on the Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan, a project proposal for the development of the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations was submitted to the CTA. This proposal was reviewed and refined by the CRFM and CTA into the Project / Terms of Reference: *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations, September 2006 – July 2008*, with the overall objective being to contribute to improved income earnings, higher standard of living of fisher folk and the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Caribbean.

The Project is being implemented over a three-year period, starting in 2006 / 07. So far, the 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 Organizations; *Fisher Folk Organisations in the Caribbean: Briefing Note on Networking for Success* document; National Consultations to Promote the Launching of NFOs in Group 2 Countries; preparation and distribution of the newsletter: *Fisher Folk Net*; Regional Fishers Stakeholders Workshop to Promote the Launching of a Network of NFOs; *Fisheries Stakeholders Directory* and the Training Workshop on Management, Communication and Advocacy for Fisherfolk Organisations in CARICOM have been delivered.

## **Objective**

The purpose of the Project is to develop the institutional capacities of fisher folk organizations at the regional, national and community levels.

## **Activities and Inputs**

During the programme year 2009 / 10, the following components of the Project will be implemented:

- (i) Continued production and distribution of newsletters; and
- (ii) Development and Maintenance of a website for the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).
- (iii) Assisting Coordinating Unit in the implementation of the Action Plan to form the CNFO.

The CRFM Secretariat, in consultation with the CTA, will utilize resource persons / consultants to deliver the various components of the Project identified above.

## **Outputs**

- Fisher folk and other interested parties better provided with relevant information on regional fisheries issues; and
- Promotion of the development of the Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organisations.

### **520.2: Diagnostic Study to Determine the Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States (Donor Funded)**

This Project will seek to undertake a diagnosis of the socio-economic and demographic situations in fishing communities in selected CRFM Member States, especially as it relates to the determination of poverty levels in these communities, and its effects on the quality of life and community structures, in order to identify suitable models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes and alleviate poverty in fishing communities.

Implementation of this project will be funded under the CARICOM/Spain bilateral agreement. To date, a consultancy firm, *Tragsatec*, recruited by Spain, met with a CARISEC / CARDI / CRFM Secretariat Team to review the project proposal and others submitted by CARDI. Based on their review and design of the Study, with inputs from the Secretariat, the Project, with an estimated budget of US\$328,872, has been approved for implementation.

## **Objectives**

To design a diagnostic study to determine the levels of poverty in fishing communities in



selected CRFM Member States and develop models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes suited to their socio-economic and natural environments.

To identify the demographic and socio-economic variables underlying the low standards of living in the fishing communities, and devise means of monitoring and evaluating them to determine the achievements of the poverty alleviation programmes.

### **Activities and Inputs**

- (i) Implement the diagnostic study to determine the level of poverty in fishing communities in selected CRFM Member States and develop models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes suited to their socio-economic and natural environments.
- (ii) Identify suitable personnel to implement the field and analytical aspects of the Study.
- (iii) Train the field personnel and establish teams to conduct the Study.
- (iv) Conduct the field aspects of the Study in fishing communities in selected CRFM Member States.
- (v) Analyse the data and information coming out of the Study and draft the Report.
- (vi) Organise and convene a regional workshop of relevant stakeholders to review the Draft Study Report and its recommendations and determine the way forward.

### **Outputs**

- The Diagnostic Study Report, including recommendations and models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes, and the identification of suitable socio-economic and demographic indicators for ongoing monitoring and evaluation; and
- Skills in field research (qualitative and quantitative) acquired by field workers from Member States

## **520.3: Management of Shared Resources**

### **Background:**

The CRFM proposes to build on the work initiated under the CFRAMP and ICRAFD Projects to improve sustainable use, conservation and management of queen conch and spiny lobster, as a step towards strengthened management of shared resources. In accordance with the precautionary approach, the best available information will be used to prepare a regional agreement, to promote and address the efficient management, conservation and sustainable use of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) in the region. These are economically important resources which have been in decline region wide since the 1980.

Failure to improve management could result in further sanctions by CITES, which could eventually result in complete suspension in international trade and / or an increase in unilateral action by countries which may not serve the best interest of the CRFM Member States. Although the situation with the spiny lobster is not as serious as the queen conch, due to the overlap between the two fisheries, both could be covered by the same agreement. The agreement would specify the common objectives of the countries concerned, and the set of common measures to which the countries commit themselves in order to manage, protect and conserve the species in question.

**Objective:**

Preparation of a regional (CRFM) framework agreement<sup>1</sup>, to promote and address the efficient management, conservation and sustainable use of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) in and among the Member States.

**Approach:**

The CRFM Secretariat will use existing information to initiate preparation of an outline of the agreement for discussion and elaboration by the Member States, using the Forum and its Executive Committee, and a regional workshop, if resources are available.

The services of a Canadian Intern is being sought to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive review of the spiny lobster fisheries and current management and conservation practices in the region.

When the queen conch project referred to below (WBS 520.4) is implemented, it will provide information that can be used to refine, strengthen, and facilitate implementation of the management arrangements agreed upon.

Queen conch and Spiny Lobster are being used as a pilot, and similar arrangements will be developed for economically important shared resources such as shrimp, red snappers, groupers, after the preparation of this agreement.

**Output:**

- Regional framework agreement for effective management, conservation and sustainable use of queen conch and spiny lobster under the jurisdiction of CRFM Member States prepared.

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> The exact form of the agreement is to be determined (i.e. MOU, MOA, agreement, protocol or declaration etc)

improvement of data and resource management systems.

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

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

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

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

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee which was held in Geneva, August 18 – 21, 2003, on the basis of the Report of the Significant Trade Review, made several short-term and long-term recommendations regarding the species which have significant ramifications for the Caribbean States. These recommendations include among others, a moratorium on commercial harvest (outside of territorial waters) and suspension of international trade in Honduras, Dominican Republic and Haiti. CITES Animals Committee recommendation made in 2000 had already resulted in suspension of trade from three other CARICOM Countries, namely, Barbados, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago. These suspensions have been lifted. However, Grenada was subjected to trade sanctions in May 2006 for their failure to take actions recommended in 2003, and provide information requested. With the lifting of sanctions and release of Member States from the obligations imposed in 2003, the onus is now on Member States and regional organizations to ensure proper management of the stocks and avoid the need for future CITES interventions to regulate trade and demand better management of the species. Based on comments from the FAO (Rome) on the draft project document, it was finalized and submitted to the FAO through CARISEC in 2008/09.

## **Objective**

The overall objective is to improve information and systems for effective management of queen conch resources in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region to ensure the long-term sustainable exploitation of the conch resources and a better quality of life for the resource users.

## **Activities and Inputs**

### National:

The project will entail the following activities:

- (i) Preparing or updating national fisheries management plans for the queen conch resources, establishing the links between policy, operational objectives, indicators and reference points, and the management strategy that will be used to achieve the objectives.
- (ii) Strengthening systems for monitoring of catch, effort, biological, socio-economic and trade data collection, including establishment of “vessel observer programmes” in countries with industrial conch fleets, and training of both government fisheries staff and local NGOs to ensure sustainability of the monitoring system.
- (iii) Conducting assessments utilizing existing catch, effort, biological and related data.

### Regional:

- (i) Developing and implementing an awareness and education programme on sustainable management of the Queen conch targeting policy makers, fishers and the public at large.
- (ii) Creating a regional database on conch.
- (iii) Undertaking a preliminary study to review the existing fisheries legislation regarding the Queen conch and determining the gaps in relation to the existing management and development regime.
- (iv) Preparing a plan for improvement and harmonization of management measures, including closed seasons, minimum sized catch and export quotas, etc. across the region, and providing technical assistance and support to the countries in the implementation of the plan.

## **Outputs**

### National:

The key outputs will include the following:

- Prepared or updated queen conch fisheries management plans;

- Monitoring systems for catch, effort, biological, socioeconomic and trade data operational; and
- Updated information for management of conch fisheries available.

Regional:

- Awareness campaign and public education on conservation and sustainable management of conch developed and in place;
- Sensitized and supportive policy makers, fishers and general public;
- Collaboration among fishers and other stakeholders and governments through memoranda of agreement for the management of conch;
- Regional database on conch created and regularly updated;
- Report of preliminary study to review the existing fisheries legislation regarding the queen conch and the gaps in relation to the existing management and development regime; and
- Plan developed for improvement and harmonization of management measures, including closed seasons and size limits at the regional level.

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

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

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

IUU fishing is a dynamic and multi-faceted problem and, as such, no single strategy is sufficient to eliminate or reduce it. A concerted and multi-pronged approach is required nationally and regionally, and by type of fishery. Assuming that there is a shared commitment for effective management of the living resources of the region, the strategy for conducting monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, as part of any fisheries management structure must be

developed within the framework of National Plans of Action (NPOAs). These plans would encompass robust institutional capacity, effective planning, adequate funding and cooperative arrangements between institutions at the national level and between neighbouring states at the regional/sub-regional level. By so doing, states will become capable of undertaking MCS operations in a manner that will maximize their ability to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities. This Project was submitted to the IDB through CARISEC for funding. It was also included among the projects for consideration under the CARICOM/US Bilateral Programme.

## **Objectives**

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

## **Activities and Inputs**

Among the activities will be:

### **National**

- (i) Develop National Plans of Action to deter, prevent and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and related activities.
- (ii) Amend existing legislation, or create new legislation where necessary in accordance with the NPOA:
- (iii) Establish fisheries and vessel monitoring information databases;
- (iv) Promote a programme of public awareness of IUU fishing issues; and
- (v) Arrange training programmes on MCS and related issues for policy makers, the judiciary, law enforcement and other agencies.

### **Regional**

- Develop a Regional Fisheries Information system and data exchange mechanism between Member States. Included in the data will be the list of vessels in Good Standing.

## **Outputs**

The key outputs will include the following:

### National

- National Plans of Action that will include amended and updated legislation in all Member States. Such legislation will include provisions that accommodate evidence from the new technologies, will place the burden of proof on the fisher, and will institute harmonized penalties that serve as an appropriate deterrent;
- Participatory management regimes in each country that will enhance compliance by fishers;
- Enhanced Institutional capacity for MCS at the national level; and
- Public awareness and targeted education programmes.

### Regional

- A Regional Fisheries Information System.

### **520.6: UNDP / GEF / IOCARIBE Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Donor Funded)**

The CLME Project has been developed by UNESCO/IOCARIBE and submitted to the Global Environmental facility (GEF) for funding. It should build on and complement existing projects and initiatives that focus on technical and institutional aspects of sustainable living marine resource use. The overall objective of the project is the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean LME and adjacent areas through an integrated management approach that will meet the WSSD targets for sustainable fisheries.

The specific objectives of the project are:

1. To identify, analyze and agree upon major issues, root causes and actions required to achieve sustainable management of the shared living marine resources in the Caribbean LME and its adjacent regions;
2. To improve the shared knowledge base for sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources;
3. To implement legal, policy and institutional reforms to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resource management; and
4. To develop an institutional and procedural approach to LME level monitoring, evaluation and reporting (UNDP Draft CLME Project, 2007).

The project concept was accepted into the GEF pipeline in June 2003. The proposal for the second (PD-B) phase of project development was endorsed by the GEF on August 9, 2005. The purpose of this phase, which was implemented during programme year 2006 / 07, was to develop

the proposal for the full project. It was funded by GEF at US\$700,000 with about US\$200,000 contributed in-kind by participating countries and organizations.

The proposed UNDP-GEF Project: Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions will take the following approach:

1. Preparation and later updating of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), compilation and sharing of existing information and filling critical data gaps through targeted assessments, and the creation of a new and improved Information Management System.
2. Development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Caribbean LME and Adjacent Regions to implement a more comprehensive, ecosystem-based approach to management of living marine resources.
3. The development of a CLME Governance framework for fisheries management, including mechanisms for cross-sectoral involvement and engagement of the private sector and civil society through activities that target regional level policy cycles for LME-wide governance and sub-regional cycles for large pelagic fish, flyingfish, and shrimp and ground fish of the Guianas-Brazil region.
4. Strengthening of linkages between the private sector, advisory institutions and decision making bodies in order to improve the policy cycle at all levels.
5. Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SAP implementation and determine execution procedures and responsibilities; and
6. Implementation of two demonstration projects focusing on priority transboundary fisheries to demonstrate different models for strengthening the policy cycle and management framework at the local, national and sub-regional levels and to fill critical data gaps (UNDP Draft CLME Project, 2007).

Implementation of this Project is set to commence in 2009. To date, the CLME Project Identification Form has been approved and the full project and pilot projects have been developed. Also, the Project Manager has been recruited.

## **520.8: Reduction of Fishers' Vulnerability to Disasters**

Fishers are vulnerable to natural disasters and their personal safety is continually at risk while at sea. The vulnerability to natural disasters entail mostly hurricane related damages to fishing boats and equipment, loss of catches and threat to the life of the fishers who have not received timely warnings. The threats to personal safety are driven mainly by poor standards of boat construction, limited awareness of the required safety practices, and inadequate use of safety equipment. Each year Member States fisher folk suffer major financial losses arising from severe hurricanes and other negative weather conditions which damage or destroy their boats and equipment and fisheries onshore facilities such as gear sheds, jetties, etc. Similarly several have



lost their lives arising from adverse weather conditions or unsafe fishing practices and poorly constructed boats. These situations imply that the fishing industry will have to develop the capacity to plan for, and manage disasters, and fishers will have to become more aware of the need for adherence to safety practices and procedures.

## **Objective**

To build regional capacity to plan for and implement measures to minimize the vulnerability of fisher folk to natural disasters and other safety related risks at sea.

## **Activities and Inputs**

The CRFM Secretariat will take a phased approach to the implementation of this Project, with the strategy being to collaborate with CDERA in the development of comprehensive disaster management plans for the fisheries sector in the region.

## **Output**

- Development of comprehensive disaster management plans for the fisheries sector in the region.

## **520.9: Sustainable Aquatic Resources Management (SARM) – Strategic Influence on Decision-Making: Fisheries Governance in the Caribbean (Donor Funded)**

SARM is a new initiative of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and partners in the Caribbean and Asia to seek broader application of promising approaches for sustainable aquatic resource use, especially in relation to poverty reduction of coastal and aquatic resource-dependent coastal communities.

The CARICOM Heads of Government at their Fourteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago from February 14 – 15, 2003, considered and endorsed the proposals from the Government of Barbados on ‘the imperative of elaborating a Common Fisheries Regime’ and mandated the CARICOM Secretariat (CARISEC) to undertake the necessary consultations and propose a framework for consideration at the Twenty-Fourth Meeting in July 2003.

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum at its first meeting in Belize on March 27, 2003 acknowledged that the mandate of the Heads of Governments demonstrated the highest level of commitment by CARICOM Governments to the management and conservation of the region’s fisheries resources. As such, it was determined that the Caribbean Fisheries Forum/CRFM, being the regional fisheries body established by CARICOM, would establish a Working Group, under Rule 11, to implement the mandate from the CHOG and report to them through the Ministerial Council.

Stemming from these decisions, and based on the approval by the CHOG of the Working Group’s Plan of Action for the Establishment of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP&R) (arising from its first Meeting in Trinidad And Tobago in 2003), the CARICOM and CRFM Secretariats have spearheaded the preparation of the CFP&R through a consultative

process involving a series of studies, consultations among stakeholders including fishermen, and regional meetings involving officials of Member States and Regional experts in fisheries, marine law and policy. In addition, the Nineteenth Meeting of the COTED in 2005 endorsed the establishment of an Ad hoc Legal Working Group and a Socio-economic and Linkage Issues Working Group to undertake further research to inform the elaboration of the Draft Agreement for Establishment of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. Also, from mid-2007 the CARICOM and CRFM Secretariats have retained the service of a legal expert to review and make refinements to the Draft Agreement Establishing the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime in order to expedite its completion. While significant progress has been made in developing the CFP&R, the document should still be considered to be a work in progress requiring further policy guidance in some areas and legal input in others.

The overarching question guiding this investigation is: By what means, and with what outcomes, can fisheries-related policy in CRFM countries be influenced to improve fisheries governance, including facilitating stakeholder participation?

There are to be two main thrusts to strategically influencing decision-making:

1. Developing good governance in the context of the CFP&R
2. Organising and involving fisher folk groups in CFP&R fisheries governance

These two case studies are closely linked to each other and to ongoing projects implemented by CERMES and the CRFM Secretariat. The main projects are the *Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean* (MarGov Project) of CERMES and the CRFM project on *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organizations* (FFO project).

SARM will proceed in three phases with iteration and feedback. The first phase (November 2007 to January 2008) will focus on gathering background information on CFP&R and FFO communications to date and integrating SARM into the MarGov and FFO projects. The second phase (February 2008 to September 2009) will focus on strategic influence interventions and communications of several types. These will be monitored and evaluated. The third phase (October to December 2009) will pull together for a 'book' the lessons learned in the process. Many of these lessons would have been documented and shared in interim products.

To date, background information on the CFP&R and FFO communications has been gathered and SARM has been integrated into the MarGov and FFO projects

## Outputs

- Agreement on a CFP&R for CRFM Member States;
- Institutional capacities of fisher folk organizations developed, and NFOs networked and participating in the CRFM (CFF, etc.); and
- Preparation of a book on the lessons learnt in the process.

### **530.1: Monitor and provision of technical assistance (fisheries management and development)**

#### **Objectives**

To provide technical support and advice on matters related to fisheries management and development.

#### **Activities and Inputs**

Ad hoc technical assistance will be provided to countries to strengthen their capacity for fisheries management and development. Also, assistance will be provided to the CNFO-Coordinating Unit in the implementation of the action plan to establish the CNFO.

The assistance will be provided based on priorities identified at the national level and requests received by the Secretariat.

#### **Outputs**

In 2009 / 10, the outputs of this activity will include:

- Improved capability for fisheries management and development at the national level; and
- Assistance provided to the Regional Fisheries Organisation-Coordinating Unit in the implementation of the action plan to establish the RFO.

### **540.1: Human Resource Development**

CFRAMP, the predecessor to the CRFM, has trained personnel at the graduate and post-graduate degree levels as well as in a wide range of short courses, the latter mainly by attachments. The main beneficiaries of the training programmes were from the staff of the national fisheries authorities, with the training being focused on assessment and management of fisheries. This has helped to strengthen the institutional capability in fisheries management at both the national and regional levels. However there is still the need to continue training in fisheries related areas such as, new concepts and methods for data analysis and resource assessment, economics, sociology, statistics, computer programming, etc.

Preliminary training needs assessment conducted under the CFRAMP project had determined that there was consensus among member countries that the former CFRAMP training initiative needed to be broadened and deepened in order to ensure long term sustainability of the fishing industry. The stakeholders recognized that the future training initiatives should also include training for fishers, NGOs, fishers' organizations, and vessel owners and operators.

In view of the changing situation in fisheries at the national, regional and international levels, with a move to more integrated and ecosystems approaches to fisheries management, there is now the need to broaden and widen the knowledge base of the fishing industry to enhance

sustainable fishing, effective participatory management, and promote sustainable development. With this in mind, the CRFM will conduct a needs assessment survey, with a focus on identifying the differential needs of respective countries as well as the common training requirements for the targeted stakeholders as well as the institutions with responsibility for ocean and coastal zone oversight.

In addition to the survey, the Secretariat will continue to make use of training opportunities, such as those provided under the MOU with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the UNU-FTP. The CRFM will also seek to identify and develop new opportunities for human resources development with other bilateral and multi-lateral organizations.

## **Objectives**

The objectives will be:

To strengthen human and institutional capacity at the national and regional levels for sustainable development, managerial and conservation of the fisheries resources:

- (i) to conduct a needs assessment survey, with a focus on identifying the differential needs of respective countries as well as the common training requirements for the targeted stakeholders as well as the institutions with responsibility for ocean and coastal zone oversight;
- (ii) to provide scholarships for up to five persons drawn from fisheries departments in Member States to attend the International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, in Canada, in 2008;
- (iii) to provide up to 3 scholarships to fisheries department staff to undergo 6-months training in fisheries offered by the UNU-FTP in Iceland;
- (iv) to provide scholarship support for two to three additional personnel from the region to undertake specialized university level training in fisheries;
- (v) to convene an advanced leadership training workshop for Chief Fisheries Officers and Directors of Fisheries of Member States;
- (vi) organize and convene a stock assessment training workshop for data managers and other Fisheries Department staff involved in stock assessment

## **Activities and Inputs**

The CRFM Secretariat will contract a consultant to conduct a needs assessment survey, with a focus on identifying the differential needs of respective countries as well as the common training requirements for the targeted stakeholders as well as the institutions with responsibility for ocean and coastal zone oversight.

The CRFM Secretariat will send letters to member states seeking applications for the five scholarships to participate in the International Ocean Institute 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Training

Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, in Canada, from May to July 2009. Based on the number of applications, the Training Committee of the Secretariat will review them and select three for participation in the Training Programme.

As in previous years, the CRFM Secretariat will entertain requests for scholarships for post-graduate training in fisheries. This year, however, it is proposed that priority be given to candidates seeking training in statistics and in resource economics, two areas of critical need at both the regional and national levels.

The CRFM Secretariat was unsuccessful in getting candidates from Member States to take up any of the 3 fellowships offered by the UNU-FTP during the September 2008 - March 2009 training period, as the sole candidate from the region declined to take up the offer shortly before the scheduled commencement of the programme, thus rendering it impossible to find a substitute candidate.

Two or three candidates will be selected from Member States to undertake six (6) months of training in Iceland commencing September 2009. It is expected that additional scholarships will be provided to fisheries staff each year for the next 4 – 5 years. The Training covers six specialist areas including:

- (1) Fisheries policy and planning;
- (2) Resource assessment and monitoring;
- (3) Processing and quality management;
- (4) Management of fisheries companies and marketing;
- (5) Fishing technology and aquatic environmental assessment and monitoring.

Each candidate will specialize in one area only.

The CRFM Secretariat will also finalise arrangements for the UNU Fisheries Training Programme to conduct 2 short courses for CRFM Member States commencing this programme year. A regional training workshop on statistics and stock assessment and a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on leadership development targeted at the heads of national fisheries administrations and other fisheries related organizations will be convened.

The CRFM Secretariat will continue to explore other training opportunities for staff from Member States' fisheries departments.

## **Outputs**

- Needs assessment survey conducted and the training requirements for personnel to support sustainable fisheries development identified;

- Five persons trained in the areas of ocean governance as it relates to policy, law and management;
- Three persons trained in fisheries under the CRFM-UNU-FTP MOU; and
- Scholarship support provided to two or three candidates to pursue post-graduate training, preferably in either fisheries statistics or in resource economics.

#### **560.1: Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM Members States and OCT Countries (Donor funded)**

##### **Background:**

During 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. 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.

The overall objective of the Study was 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 were:

- (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.

A Team of Consultants from the EU, by way of a field mission and a Workshop in 2006, reviewed the situation in the region and prepared a financing proposal that was submitted to the Commission. The Consultant's *Final Report on the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector* was provided to the CRFM Secretariat by the CARIFORUM Secretariat and circulated to Member States for review and comments. In 2007, the Secretariat provided feedback to the CARIFORUM Secretariat on the comments received as well as made recommendations on the Way Forward.

## **600: Communication and Documentation**

### **Objective**

To strengthen the operation of the documentation centres at the CRFM's offices in Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and to review, edit and disseminate reports produced by the CRFM Secretariat, CFRAMP or Member States as appropriate (including previously unpublished reports, which will be formatted and catalogue in accordance with the new CRFM's publication guidelines).

The following activities are being supported under this sub-project:

### **Activities and inputs**

This Activity will be handled by CRFM Secretariat staff with support from CERMES. A temporary assistant will be recruited for 2-3 months in the year to prepare the updated catalogue both in electronic and hard copy form. Specific activities will include:

- (i) Review of reports produced by the CRFM Secretariat, CFRAMP and Member States, including unpublished reports, and catalogue these in accordance with the new CRFM Secretariat's publication guidelines.
- (ii) Prepare reports for publication in paper, CD/DVD, or web formats.
- (iii) Acquisition of published reports on fisheries and related areas of relevance to the work of the CRFM.
- (iv) Disseminate reports and information documents to stakeholders
- (v) Acquisition or upgrading of productivity software including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, antivirus programmes, stonefield to assist with reporting from CARIFIS, Adobe for the creation of pdf files.
- (vi) The CRFM Secretariat will continue to lease a photocopier and where cost effective, out-source photocopying and reproduction of documents for Meetings, Conferences, etc.
- (vii) The CRFM Secretariat will work in collaboration with CERMES to develop its communication strategy and to disseminate relevant information to stakeholders and engage them in dialogue on issues in fisheries and the work of the CRFM.
- (viii) The CRFM Secretariat will continue to review, update and expand its website. The actions will include training of selected staff, revision of the Website to make it more user friendly and interactive, and placement of technical reports, publications and documentation on the Website



## **Expected Output**

- A complete up-to-date catalogue of the CRFM Secretariat and CFRAMP publications also made available on CD and the CRFM Secretariat website.
- Expanded stock of scientific and technical literature on fisheries and related areas such as books, journals, in hard copies or on CD / DVD at the CRFM and at documentation centres in Member States.
- Installation and use of updated software for virus protection; for conducting Data Analysis and reporting; and the renewal of license for the Stonefield Query Development Software to assist with the generation of reports from CARIFIS.
- Operational photocopier at the CRFM Secretariat and where cost effective, out-sourced photocopying and reproduction of documents for CRFM meetings, conferences, and workshops etc.
- The CRFM Secretariat working in collaboration with CERMES to disseminate relevant information to stakeholders and engage them in dialogue on issues in fisheries and the work of the CRFM.
- CRFM Website: Updated and expanded website. The actions will include training of selected staff, revision of the Website to make it more user friendly and interactive, and placement of technical reports, publications and documentation on the Website.

SUMMARY OF CRFM SECRETARIAT DRAFT WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES AND RELATED COST PROGRAMME YEAR 2009 / 2010 UNITED STATES DOLLARS			Financing Strategy		
		April 27, 2009			
ACTIVITY	DETAILED WORK PLAN EXPENSES	TOTAL BUDGET 2009-2010	MEMBER STATES	DONOR APPROVED	DONOR REQUESTED
<b>100</b>	<b>Management and Support</b>	<b>\$ 391,332</b>	<b>\$ 362,232</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 29,100</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>General Administration</b>				
111	General Administration - Belize	85,820	85,820		
112	Procurement	25,200	12,900		12,300
113	Housing Complex and Office Maintenance	3,000	3,000		
114	Management Input (Emoluments)	157,980	157,980		
<b>120</b>	<b>SVG Operations</b>				
121	General Administration - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	41,782	41,782		
<b>140</b>	<b>Programme Co-ordination</b>				
141	Coordination, Resource Mobilization and Auditing	15,700	15,700		
<b>150</b>	<b>Caribbean Fisheries Forum / Ministerial Council</b>				
150	Meeting of Caribbean Fisheries Forum	61,850	45,050		16,800
<b>200</b>	<b>Advocacy, Policy and Planning</b>	<b>\$ 203,553</b>	<b>\$ 107,138</b>	<b>\$ 26,250</b>	<b>\$ 70,165</b>
201	Technical Input (Emoluments)	22,775	22,775		
<b>210</b>	<b>Policy and Planning</b>				
210.1	Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy (draft)	65,850	39,600	26,250	
210.2	Planning	94,813	24,648		70,165
<b>220</b>	<b>Advocacy</b>				
220.1	Promoting the CRFM	20,115	20,115		
<b>300</b>	<b>Fisheries Statistics and Information</b>	<b>\$ 85,607</b>	<b>\$ 85,607</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
301	Technical Input (Emoluments)	29,859	29,859		
301.2	Establishment of a Regional fisheries Database (Donor funded)	6,655	6,655		
<b>310 / 330</b>	<b>Catch and Collection Systems</b>				
314.1	Training and Technical Assistance to develop the Sampling Systems for Catch, Effort, Biological and Other Fisheries Related Data	7,527	7,527		
314.3	Caribbean Regional Information System CARIFIS	34,410	34,410		
330.1	Monitor and provision of technical assistance (training and support) Data Collection	7,155	7,155		
<b>400</b>	<b>Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment</b>	<b>\$ 311,544</b>	<b>\$ 240,544</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 71,000</b>
401	Technical Input (Emoluments)	\$ 120,123	120,123		
401.4	Provision of Technical Support at Regional & Int'l Management For a (ICCAT)	23,556	23,556		
<b>410</b>	<b>Pelagics and Reef Fishes Resource Assessment</b>				
410.3	CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group (CRFM RSWG)	-			
410.2 / 412	Assess potential for developing or expanding large pelagics fisheries	-			
413.2	Regional Network Partnership	20,000			20,000
414.1	Fishery Assessment and Methods Meetings	96,950	81,950		15,000
414.2	CRFM Large Pelagics Fisheries Working Group (CRFM LPWG)	20,000			20,000
414.6	CRFM Working Group on Data, Methods and Training (DMTWG)	-			
414.7	CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SCPWG)	3,000	3,000		
<b>420</b>	<b>Shrimp and Groundfish Resource Assessment</b>				
420.1	CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SGWG)	9,000			9,000
<b>430 / 450</b>	<b>Lobster and Conch Resource Assessment</b>				
430.1	Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance	7,000			7,000
450.1	CRFM Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group (CRFM CLWG)	-			
450.2	Regional Rehabilitation programme for Queen Conch in CRFM Member States	-			
450.3	Feasibility Study to determine potential for developing spotted lobster fisheries in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines	11,916	11,916		
<b>500</b>	<b>Fisheries Resource Management and Development</b>	<b>\$ 613,803</b>	<b>\$ 193,265</b>	<b>\$ 405,538</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
501	Technical Input (Emoluments)	66,878	66,878		
501.1	Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Management For a (CITIES) (FAO/WE)	12,800	12,800		
501.2	Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM: (CRFM/JICA)	13,218	13,218		
<b>510</b>	<b>Strengthening National Fisheries Management</b>				
512.2	Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans	8,550	8,550		
512.3	Strengthening Fisheries Mgmt in Caribbean / ACP countries (ACP Fish 11)	13,218	13,218		

SUMMARY OF CRFM SECRETARIAT DRAFT WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES AND RELATED COST PROGRAMME YEAR 2009 / 2010 UNITED STATES DOLLARS			Financing Strategy		
			April 27, 2009		
ACTIVITY	DETAILED WORK PLAN EXPENSES	TOTAL BUDGET 2009-2010	MEMBER STATES	DONOR APPROVED	DONOR REQUESTED
<b>520</b>	<b>Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management</b>				
520.1	Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations	33,815	6,609	12,206	15,000
520.2	Diagnostic Study to Determine the Poverty Levels in fishing Comm. in Selected CARICOM/CRFM Member States	3,305	3,305		
520.4	Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch (Strombus gigas) Resources in the CARICOM States	3,305	3,305		
520.5	Enhance the effectiveness of MCS in the CARICOM Region	7,437	7,437		
520.6	IOCARIBE / GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME)	14,046	14,046		
520.8	Reduction of Fishers' Vulnerability to Disasters	4,961	4,961		
520.9	Sustainable Aquatic Resources Management (SARM)	4,133	4,133		
<b>530</b>	<b>Fishers and Community Involvement / Education</b>		-		
530.1	Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance	3,300	3,300		
<b>540</b>	<b>Human Resource Development</b>				
540.1	Training and Scholarships	138,498	28,200	110,298	
540.2	Short Term Training	283,034		283,034	
<b>560</b>	<b>Improved Postharvest, Processing and Marketing</b>				
560.1	Support for Standards and Related Requirements for Global Trade	3,305	3,305		
<b>600</b>	<b>Communication and Documentation</b>	\$ 30,066	\$ 30,066	\$ -	\$ -
<b>610 / 630</b>	<b>Information and Network Administration</b>				
610.1	Publication and Dissemination of Technical Reports	10,000	10,000		
620.1	Information and Documentation Centre Operations	7,550	7,550		
630.1	Net Work Administration	12,516	12,516		
	<b>Total US</b>	<b>\$ 1,635,905</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,852</b>	<b>\$ 431,788</b>	<b>\$ 185,265</b>
	<b>Total EC</b>	<b>\$ 4,397,639</b>	<b>\$ 2,738,877</b>	<b>\$ 1,160,733</b>	<b>\$ 498,029</b>

Table 1: Financing Strategy	
	US\$
<b>Financing Strategy PY 2009 / 2010</b>	
Member States Contribution Fiscal Year 2009/2010	970,000
Member States Contribution Arrears as at 3/31/09 - US\$344,490. Anticipated collection during PY 09 / 10 - (15%)	51,673
<b>Sub-Total: Member States Contribution:</b>	<b>1,021,673</b>
<b>Donor supported Projects:</b>	
210.1 - Spanish Government - CARICOM Cooperation Agreement	26,250
520.1 - Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)	12,206
540.1 - UN University - Fisheries Training Program (FTP) Iceland	45,000
540.1 - International Ocean Institute (IOI) - Canada	65,298
540.2 - Short Term Training and Attachments	147,000
540.2 - Short Term Training and Attachments	136,034
<b>Sub-Total: Donor Supported Projects:</b>	<b>431,788</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,453,461</b>
<b>Approved Project</b>	
(1) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) - Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM	
(2) EU - Postharvest - Support for Standards and Related Requirements for Global Trade	
(3) Spanish Government - CARICOM Cooperation Agreement: Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in Selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States	
(4) Strengthening of Fisheries and Biodiversity Management in ACP Countries - Phase II	
<b>Pipeline Projects</b>	
(1) FAO - Rehabilitation and Management of Queen Conch	
(2) CRFM Fourth Annual Scientific Meeting - CARISEC	
(3) US - CARICOM Cooperation Agreement	
(i) Development and Implementation of a Programme for Enabling and Promoting, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)	
(ii) Support towards establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM	
(iii) Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch	
(4) CRFM / St. Lucia / St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Feasibility Study on potential of the spotted lobster fisheries	