

CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

WORK PLAN AND BUDGETS **April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011** **April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012**



CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Draft Annual Work Plan and Budgets

April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011

April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

CRFM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – CRFM Work Plan and Budgets: April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 and April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

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List of Acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARISEC	CARICOM 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 – SEFSC	The National Marine Fisheries Service – South East Fisheries Science Center
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
RSWG	Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group
SARM	Sustainable Aquatic Resources Management

SCPWG	Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
SGWG	Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Working Group
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
SCRS	ICCAT Standing Committee on 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	1
INTRODUCTION	1
CRFM PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	8
100: CORPORATE SERVICES	8
200: ADVOCACY, POLICY AND PLANNING	9
210.1: POLICY AND PLANNING	9
210.2: PLANNING	11
220.1: ADVOCACY	13
300: FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION	15
301.2: ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL FISHERIES DATABASE (DONOR FUNDED)	15
314.1: TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP THE SAMPLING SYSTEMS FOR CATCH, EFFORT, BIOLOGICAL AND OTHER FISHERIES RELATED DATA	16
314.3: CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CARIFIS)	18
330.1: MONITOR AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TRAINING AND SUPPORT)	19
400: FISHERIES RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	21
401: TECHNICAL INPUTS (EMOLUMENTS)	21
401.4: PROVISION OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN ICCAT	21
410.2 / 412: TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING OR EXPANDING LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES ...	23
410.3: CRFM REEF AND SLOPE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (CRFM RSWG)	24
411: REGIONAL NETWORK PARTNERSHIP	25
414.2: CRFM LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (CRFM LPWG)	27
414.6: CRFM WORKING GROUP ON DATA, METHODS AND TRAINING (CRFM DMTWG)	29
414.7: CRFM SMALL COASTAL PELAGIC FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (CRFM SCPWG)	30
420: ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS	32
420.1: CRFM SHRIMP AND GROUND FISH FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (CRFM SGWG)	33
430.1: MONITORING AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	34
450.1: CRFM CONCH AND LOBSTER FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (CRFM CLWG)	34
450.3 FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING SPOTTED LOBSTER FISHERIES IN ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	35
500: FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	37
501.1 PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA (CITES AND WECAFC)	38
501.2: CRFM / JICA FORMULATION OF A MASTER PLAN ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN (DONOR FUNDED)	40
512.2: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMPs) FOR MEMBER STATES [PROPOSED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ACP FISH II PROJECT]	42
512.3: PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN ACP COUNTRIES (ACP FISH II) (DONOR FUNDED)	43
520.1: DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF FISHERFOLK ORGANISATIONS (DONOR FUNDED) ...	45
520.2: DIAGNOSTIC STUDY TO DETERMINE THE POVERTY LEVELS IN FISHING COMMUNITIES IN SELECTED CARICOM / CRFM MEMBER STATES (DONOR FUNDED)	47
520.3: MANAGEMENT OF SHARED RESOURCES	49
520.4: REHABILITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE QUEEN CONCH (STROMBUS GIGAS) RESOURCES IN THE CARICOM STATES (DONOR FUNDED) [PROPOSED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ACP FISH II PROJECT].	50
520.5: ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MCS IN THE CARICOM REGION (DONOR FUNDED) [PROPOSED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ACP FISH II PROJECT]	53
520.6: UNDP / GEF / IOCARIBE CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT (DONOR FUNDED)	55
520.8: REDUCTION OF FISHERS' VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS	57

530.1: MONITOR AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT)	58
540.1: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	59
560.1: STRENGTHENING FISHERY PRODUCTS HEALTH CONDITIONS IN CARICOM/ CARIFORUM MEMBERS STATES AND OCT COUNTRIES (DONOR FUNDED).....	61
560.2: STUDY TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF RISING COST FACTORS, SUCH AS CAPITAL, LABOUR, MAINTENANCE AND ENERGY COSTS ON FISHERIES OPERATIONS IN THE CRFM MEMBER STATES AND PROPOSE APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THE RESULTING ISSUES [PROPOSED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE ACP FISH II PROJECT]	63
600: COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION	67

BACKGROUND

Chairman and Members of the Ministerial Council:

The Ministerial Council at its Second Meeting, March 18, 2010 (Suriname) directed that a Work Plan and Budget covering a two-year period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012 be prepared for consideration.

The Biennial Work Plan and Budgets 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12 have been prepared and revised through inputs at three levels: CRFM Senior Managers, the Executive Committee, and finally the Forum at its Eighth Meeting, April 22 – 23, 2010 in Belize.

INTRODUCTION

As introduction I wish to advise that the First and Second Medium Term Plans of the CRFM were prepared as compendia of fifteen (15) Project Profiles drawn from the nine (9) programmes of the Strategic Plan. The objective of this style of presentation was to engage the International Donor Community. Positive indication of interest by Donors would result in further developing the profiles into full projects for financing consideration.

The Second Medium Term Plan (MTP II) was approved by the CRFM Ministerial Council at its First Meeting (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) in January 2009, and has a life of two (2) programme years (2010 / 11; 2011 / 12). The reason for restricting the life of the Second MTP to two (2) years was to align it to the life of the existing Strategic Plan, which ends March 31, 2012. It is expected, that work on the Second Strategic Plan will begin during programme year 2011 / 12 and be finalized by its implementation date – April 1, 2012.

At the Second Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council (Suriname, March 18, 2010), Management proposed, and the Council agreed, that the Second MTP would be operationalised as a two (2) years Work Plan and Budget. Further, that owing to the Global economic meltdown which has negatively affected the economies of CRFM Member States, Council would not entertain any request for an increase in the existing level (US\$970,000) of Member States Contributions during the two (2) years period. The Financing of the Work Plan of the CRFM Secretariat will be from two (2) sources:

- Member States Annual Contributions
- Donor Supported Projects

As at April 1, 2010, seven (7) of the CRFM Regional Projects have attracted funding from the following sources:

➤ European Union – 2 projects:

- Study to improve Compliance with European Union Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector (An all ACP Project budgeted at Euro 44.86 million;

CARIFORUM allocation 15% approximately) Life 5 years.

- Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries – ACP Fish II (An all ACP Project budgeted at Euro 30 million; CARICOM allocation 15%) (3.3 million). Life 4.5 years.

➤ **The Government of Japan (JICA):**

- Formulation of Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean (US\$3.6 million). Life 3 years.

➤ **The Kingdom of Spain:**

- Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in the CARICOM Region (Euro 231,600). Life 2 years.

➤ **The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA):**

- Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (US\$329,608). Life 2 years.

➤ **The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the World Bank:**

- Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions (US\$56.31 million). Life 4 years.

➤ **The Government of Iceland (under its Island Growth Initiative Fund)**

- (i) Advanced Leadership Training for Fisheries Department Heads (US\$150,693). Life 2 years.
- (ii) Caribbean Stock Assessment Training Course (US\$239,437). Life 2 years.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the CRFM and Dalhousie University (Canada) five (5) scholarships per year in Ocean Governance (Policy, Law and Management) are extended to Member States.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the CRFM and the United Nations University – Fisheries Training Programme, three post-graduate fellowships are approved per year over a period of three years.

The above scholarships are valued at US\$40,000 each.

The implementation of most of these donor supported projects is by way of independent Private Sector Companies engaged by the International Donors, and are not (as in the past) managed directly by the CRFM and its Secretariat. To address this change, the CRFM Secretariat has had

to redefine its relationship with the International Donor Community on projects, and reposition itself as a **partner**, providing counterpart support services instead of being the **manager**.

Major components of the CRFM Work Plans and programme activities are directly related to the Donor Financed Projects. On account of this, management has embraced a strategy of realigning components of its Work Plan to individual Donor Financed Projects; and providing technical counterpart inputs, the value of which is calculated on allocation of CRFM specialists staff time to the projects instead of providing cash input.

A programme management system will be in place to ensure the following processes:

Project Planning and Approval:

Effective April 1, 2010, the CRFM will develop a Comprehensive Work Plan and Budget to capture all activities to be implemented in each programme year, their related costs, and source of financing.

This Comprehensive Work Plan and Budget will be discussed and reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Forum.

Implementation:

The CRFM Secretariat will coordinate the implementation of the Comprehensive Annual Work Plan and Budget and provide counterpart support through its Programme Managers and other technical staff to all Donor Funded Projects.

The CRFM Secretariat will also be responsible for Quality Management through the Office of the Deputy Executive Director and the Executive Committee of the Forum.

Monitoring:

Monitoring will be a continuous process, and will be undertaken at various levels (programme, Senior Management, Executive Committee, and Forum)

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be undertaken as a joint exercise between the CRFM Secretariat and Donors at mid-term and End of Project points and at three (3) years intervals (review of Medium Term Plan) for CRFM Core Programmes.

Work Plans for programme year 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12 budgeted at US\$1,879,889 and US\$1,636,312 respectively are presented for Ministers consideration and approval. Member States contributions to the budget in Year 1 is 55.6% of that year's budget and 63.9% of the second year's budget. The remaining budget financing will be met from Project resources provided by International Donor Agencies. This is the first time that a Comprehensive Work Plan and Budget which captures all the activities to be implemented, and identifies the sources of financing, is being presented. The strategic shift from **manager** to **partner** in the

implementation process will result in the CRFM Secretariat staff being engaged in various roles – **Leader** in some cases; **Support** in others.

For example, in the “Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions” project, the CRFM has **Lead** responsibility for two sub-projects: (1) Large Pelagics; (2) Flying Fish and **Support** roles in Lobster and Conch, Shrimp and Groundfish, Governance, Reef Fishes etc.

Over the past five years, Member States contributions to the CRFM Secretariat have averaged 80 percent of total commitments. The budgets being presented assume an 80 percent level of performance per year by Member States on current contributions and 45 percent collection rate on arrears.

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
 - Staff Recruitment
 - 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 – Promoting the CRFM
 - Planning - Strategic and Medium Term Plans; Fishery Management Plans
- *Fisheries Statistics and Information:*
 - Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Database
 - Training and Technical Assistance to Develop the Sampling Systems for Catch, effort, Biological and Other Fisheries Related Data
 - Caribbean Fisheries Information System (CARIFIS)
 - Monitor and provision of technical assistance (training and support)
- *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 Meetings (Annual Scientific Meetings)
 - 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
 - Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance

➤ *Fisheries Resource Management and Development*

- Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Management For a (CITES) (FAO / WECAFC)
- Formulation of Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in the Caribbean (CARICOM / Japan Cooperation)
- Development and Facilitation of Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans
- Strengthening Fisheries and Biodiversity Management in ACP Countries (ACP Fish II)
- Formalisation of the 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
- Implementation of the CLME
- Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance
- Study to review the impact of rising cost factors on fisheries operations in Member States and propose appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues

The CRFM is committed to Human Resource Development and Institutional Strengthening at the National Fisheries Authority level, the Fisherfolk level, and the CRFM Secretariat level. This is reflected in the sums invested in training personnel at these three levels. Training opportunities have been negotiated at the post-graduate (fellowship) level; at the Directors, Chiefs and Senior Fisheries Officers level in Advanced Leadership Training. Also, in the area of Ocean Governance (Policy, Law and Management) for mid-level and senior managers, and resource assessment for Data Managers, and management for leaders of fisherfolk organizations.

Recruitment of Executive and Senior Staff

The core component of the CRFM staff numbers seven (7) persons. At the present time there are three (3) vacancies at the senior technical level:

- Programme Manager, Statistics and Information
- Programme Manager, Advocacy, Policy and Planning
- Corporate Services Manager

In addition to the above three vacancies the Employment Contracts of the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director will mature on December 31, 2010.

Draft Procedures for the recruitment of the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director will be considered by the CRFM Ministerial Council later today as *Agenda Item 7*.

We propose for your consideration that the recruitment to fill these five (5) posts be phased – Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Programme Manager, Statistics and Information in 2010 / 11 and Corporate Services Manager and Programme Manager, Advocacy, Policy and Planning in 2011 / 12.

Major Outputs:

The Major Outputs of the Work Plan are summarized below:

- Progress and Financial Reports finalized;
- Draft Common Fisheries Policy prepared within the Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;
- Declaration on IUU Fishing finalized;
- Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean prepared in Draft;
- Improved fisheries policies and management plans at the regional and national levels, and Fisheries Management Plans for selected Member States completed in draft;
- CNFO formalised;
- Fisherfolk leaders from all Member States trained in operating formal networks;
- Five (5) senior staff recruited – (ED, DED, PM – Statistics and information in PY 2010 / 11; CSM, PM, Advocacy Policy and Planning in PY 2011 / 12
- A Diagnostic Study Report, including recommendations and models for planning and Implementing alternative livelihood programmes, and the identification of suitable socioeconomic and demographic indicators for ongoing monitoring and evaluation finalised;
- SAPs for the shared stocks of the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery and the Large Pelagic Fisheries completed;
- Ten persons (five per year) trained in the areas of ocean governance as it relates to policy, law and management under the CRFM / Dalhousie University MOU;
- Six persons (three per year) trained in fisheries under the CRFM-UNU-FTP MOU;
- Twenty Chief Fisheries Officers and other Senior Officers trained in Advanced Leadership;
- 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;
- Data collection systems defined and operational in the Member States;
- CARIFIS being utilized in more Member States;

- Improved national contributions to fishery assessments conducted by CRFM Fisheries Resource Working Groups;
- Enhanced quality and applicability of Annual CRFM Fishery Reports;
- Production and circulation of CRFM Fishery Reports for 2010 and 2011 that will include the reports of the Sixth and Seventh Annual CRFM Scientific Meetings respectively, as well as national fishery reports submitted to the two CRFM Scientific meetings, and the corresponding fishery management advisory summaries;
- Management advice and recommendations for the region's major fisheries, based on fisheries analyses completed during the Sixth and Seventh Annual Scientific Meetings;
- Ongoing active collaboration with and contribution to the operation of the regional fish age and growth laboratory at IMA, and development of regional fish age and growth parameters, required for incorporation into priority assessments requested by Member States;
- Ongoing training of fisheries officers in CRFM States in fisheries data analysis and stock assessment, facilitated through the annual scientific meetings and the UNU-FTP / CRFM / UWI course;
- Assessment of the economic importance and impact of recreational fisheries for large pelagic fish resources, in fulfillment of contractual arrangements under the CLME project;
- Completion of regional assessments of dolphinfish and blackfin tuna, in fulfillment of contractual arrangements under the CLME project; and
- Updated assessment and management advice for Eastern Caribbean flyingfish, that takes into account economic criteria, species interactions, and fishery interactions, in fulfillment of contractual arrangements under the CLME project.

CRFM PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

100: Corporate Services

During this period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012 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.

The CRFM Secretariat will lend support to the recruiting of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and the three Programme Managers during this period.

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, Biennial and Annual Work Plans. The life of the existing Strategic Plan and the Second Medium Term Plan will end on March 31, 2012. Work will begin on the successor Plans, during programme year 2011 / 12. 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

Through the Biennial Work Plan and Budgets (2010 – 2012), the CRFM Secretariat will continue to support and coordinate activities of Member States in policy formulation, with a focus on:

- (i) Finalising the Framework Agreement for the *Common Fisheries Policy* as a 1st step towards fulfilling the mandate of CARICOM Heads of Government given at their Fourteenth Inter-sessional Meeting in 2003.
- (ii) Initiate activities related to the Second Strategic Plan and the Third Medium Plan.
- (iii) Finalising the Regional Declaration on IUU Fishing, and begin its implementation.

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

Inputs

- (i) Provision of technical assistance and advice to Member States
- (ii) Coordinate disseminate information to Member States
- (iii) Facilitate negotiation among Member States during the meetings of the Forum and Ministerial Council
- (iv) Coordinate technical input to facilitate start-up activities related to the Second Strategic Plan and Third Medium Term Plan

Outputs

- Completion of the Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime;
- Completion of a Regional Declaration on IUU Fishing;
- 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) Ensure effective coordination and integration of the work being conducted under the various projects being implemented by the CRFM and by other donors in the region.
- (ii) Enhance leadership capacity of the Heads of National Fisheries Administrations through a training workshop on advanced leadership using project funding and technical assistance provided by the Government of Iceland
- (iii) To review the performance of fisheries sector with regard to its contribution to social and economic development by analyzing recent trends in production, employment, exports and imports etc.
- (iv) Coordination of Pilot Projects within the Japanese funded Project to prepare a Master Plan for sustainable use of fisheries resources for coastal community development.
- (v) Review the state of the fisheries sector in the region particularly in respect of the incidence of poverty in fishing communities through the study by the Government of Spain.
- (vi) Review the First Strategic Plan of the CRFM and begin preparation of the Second Strategic Plan
- (vii) Prepare and submit project proposals to donors to mobilize resources to address priority areas of focus identified in the Strategic and Medium Term Plans.
- (viii) 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) Coordinating the delivery of the Half Yearly Technical Progress Reports and the quarterly review (monitoring) of performances.
- (ii) Conduct advanced leadership training workshop for Heads of National Fisheries Administrations
- (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 Pilot Projects under the Japanese funded Study to prepare a Master Plan for sustainable use of fisheries by coastal communities.
- (v) Develop new project proposals and intensify efforts to mobilize resources to address short term, medium term and long term priority programme areas including the impact of climate change on fisheries and marine ecosystems.
- (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) Coordination and integration of the workplans of donor funded projects that will be initiated or continue during the year, including the JICA funded Fisheries Master Plan, the EU funded ACP-EU Fisheries II, Iceland Funded Projects, 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 coordination and integration of ongoing projects to optimize contribution to national and regional development;
- Strategic review of CRFM completed, and preparations for the Second Strategic Plan and Third Medium Term Plan initiated;
- Diagnostic study on poverty in fishing communities with recommendation for future intervention completed;
- Project proposals prepared and submitted to donors; 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) Completion of a CRFM Communication Strategy.
- (ii) Initiating and effecting MOUs with a selected Organizations to strengthen strategic alliances and partnerships.
- (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.
- (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 collection systems; expanding and improving the quality of the data collection systems; harmonizing the data collection 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.

The Statistics and Information Programme will in programme years 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12, benefit from the Iceland Funded Project on Training in Statistics and Stock Assessment, and the JICA Funded Project to prepare a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean.

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

This activity will benefit from a component of the JICA Funded Project to prepare a Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean. The project was initiated in 2009 (see WBS 501.2 for more information), and an inception mission and baseline survey was completed during the latter half of 2009.

One of the components of the baseline survey was the review and assessment of the national and regional fisheries information systems of the CRFM. Based on the findings of the inception mission, baseline survey and regional consultations, the following decisions were taken with regards to the regional database component of the project:

- The CRFM Member States were classified into three groups according to the state of their Fisheries Statistical Systems and their internal capacity to improve the systems.
Group A includes: Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. These Member States have the most developed national Fisheries Statistical Systems relative to the other CRFM Member States.
Group B includes: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. These Member States fall in the mid-range relative to other CRFM Member States, and require further development of a their Fisheries Statistical Systems
Group C includes: Guyana, Haiti, and Suriname. These are Member States with the weakest Fisheries Statistical Systems and facing the greatest challenges improving the systems using their own technical and financial resources.

- Two fisheries statistical systems pilot projects will be conducted under the Project, one in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to develop and refine recommendations for the Group B countries, and one in Guyana, to develop and refine recommendations for the Group C countries.

The findings of the pilot projects will be used to refine recommendations for improvement of national and regional fisheries information systems and prepare a draft policy framework for establishing a regional fisheries database, and ultimately for the formulation of a Master Plan on sustainable use of fisheries resources for coastal community development in the Caribbean.

Objective

To assist in the design and implementation of two fisheries statistical systems pilot projects (one in Guyana and one St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to test the feasibility of selected key components for improving national fisheries information systems, and initiating the establishment of a regional fisheries database, for CRFM Member States.

Activities and Inputs

The CRFM Secretariat will coordinate with Member States, and assist with activities towards the design and implementation of two fisheries statistical systems pilot projects, which includes counter-parting arrangements for national and regional missions. The Secretariat will also provide advice and instruction on data collection and arrange for, and assist with regional training workshop(s).

Outputs

- Two Model FSS systems corresponding to the characteristic of group “B” and “C” countries, designed and implemented in Guyana (representing group “C” countries) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (representing group “B” countries). This will include review / development of the sampling program, data management and administration, review / development of vessel and fisher registration, and information dissemination.
- Recommendations for improvement of national and regional fisheries information systems which will go towards the formulation of a Master Plan on sustainable use of fisheries resources for coastal community development in the Caribbean.

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

In its ongoing effort to assist Member States with the implementation of the activities identified 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. In addition, reviews of the data and information systems of the 13 CARICOM Member States participating in the JICA funded Study were done as part of the Baseline Study between August – November 2009. Based on the recommendations from these reviews 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.

In programme years 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12 CRFM Member States will also be provided with training in Stock Assessment and Fisheries Statistics, under the MOU: CRFM / UNU Fisheries Training Institute (WBS: 540.10). The Secretariat will assist with coordination and training activities in the workshop.

The Statistics and Information Analyst with lead responsibility for this programme will also participate in the Annual CRFM Scientific Meetings to provide support to the Member States.

Objective

To provide assistance to 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

- (i) Under the JICA project, the Secretariat will coordinate with Member States, and assist with activities to establish appropriate fishery statistical systems corresponding to the realizable needs of the CARICOM Member States of CRFM, which includes counter-parting arrangements with the JICA team for national and regional missions.
- (ii) Under the JICA project, assist with regional and national training workshop(s), providing advice and or instruction on data collection etc.
- (iii) The CRFM Secretariat will also organize and convene national workshops (not donor funded) 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.
- (iv) Assist with coordination of and participate in the CRFM / UNU Workshop: A Short Course in Fisheries Statistics, Monitoring and Stock Assessment.
- (v) Participate in the Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting to provide support to the Member States.

Outputs

Under the JICA project:

- Customize the versions of the proposed FSS models (as developed in WBS 314.1) adapted for each Member State;
- Strengthening of the logistics, and collaborative efforts in data management and administration for each Member State;
- Training manuals for statistical officers, data managers, data operator, data collectors and fishermen;
- Implementation of fisheries database where possible and appropriate;
- Development of a sustainable follow-up training plan and a database / data management technical support structure.
- Data managers and other fisheries personnel trained in fishery statistical systems, use of database and basic statistics;

In addition to support provided under the JICA Funded Project the CRFM will continue to provide the following services to Member States:

- Data managers and other fisheries personnel trained to develop and implement appropriate sampling systems for catch, effort, biological and other fisheries related data.
- Data collection systems strengthen and operational in the Member States.

314.3: Caribbean Fisheries Information System (CARIFIS)

The startup 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).

Since programme year 2006 / 2007, the CRFM Secretariat at the request of Member States has continued to provide technical support towards implementation of CARIFIS.

In programme years 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12, the CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical assistance and training in CARIFIS to the Member States. A number of national missions will be undertaken to address the following:

- (i) training of fisheries staff in data entry and querying and reporting using CARIFIS;
- (ii) provision of CARIFIS technical support;
- (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, the recent reviews conducted during the baseline surveys conducted by the JICA Funded Project, and on the request of the Member States.

Under the JICA project, fisheries databases (where possible and appropriate) will be implemented in the two member states (St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana) as part of the pilot study for the regional database component of the project.

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.

Activities and Inputs

Convene at least five national CARIFIS training workshops. Member States which have already requested national CARIFIS training workshops, or have been identified from the CARIFIS Matrix for these workshops includes: Anguilla, The Bahamas, St Lucia, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Outputs

The outputs will be as follows:

- CARIFIS being utilized in more Member States; and
- Fisheries staff of the region trained in data entry, querying and reporting in CARIFIS.

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

Objective

This activity is intended to provide technical support and advice on an ad hoc basis to strengthen the data collection and management capabilities of the CRFM countries.

Activities and Inputs

The assistance will be provided in response to national requests.

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 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. To this end, the 400 activities focus specifically on research and assessment activities for 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 Fisheries 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. These resource Working Groups, together with a supporting Data, Methods and Training Working group (DMTWG) established in 2009, face the challenge of keeping pace with developing approaches in research, fishery assessment and the formulation of management advice, particularly the challenge of customizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries management for CRFM situations.

Working Group activities are intended to involve activities to be undertaken in the period between annual scientific meetings (inter-sessional activities), that, in turn, provide inputs for completion of specific proposed tasks during the annual on-site meetings. Such activities and tasks can include, *inter alia*: data analysis, research, assessment, and provision of management advice on key fisheries resources.

In addition, the Research and Resource Assessment Programme for 2010 / 12 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. Specific donor-funded projects, commenced in 2009, will be continuing their activities through to 2012, and will facilitate the completion of various research studies aimed at improving both the assessment and management processes.

401: Technical Inputs (Emoluments)

Specialised 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

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

Activities and Inputs

In both programme year 2010 / 11 and programme year 2011 / 12, CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical and management support, including legal support, to member states participating in ICCAT activities, particularly those states that are also Contracting or Cooperating parties to ICCAT. 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.

Each year, the provision of technical and management support, including legal support to Member States is expected to continue to be executed through the following core of activities that currently comprise the annual ICCAT management cycle.

- (i) 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 and objectives.
- (ii) Contribution to the scientific work of ICCAT SCRS and its subsidiary bodies.
- (iii) Reporting on ICCAT scientific and management activities and advising CRFM Member States about developments in fishery assessment and management achieved by ICCAT.
- (iv) Assistance and advice to countries with regard to the fulfillment of their statistical reporting and research obligations to ICCAT for stocks managed by ICCAT.
- (v) Assistance and advice with regard to 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) prepared in October 2010 and October 2011, providing annually 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) prepared in December 2010 and December 2011, providing annual updated advice on management measures adopted by ICCAT for fisheries resources of international concern;
- Improved CRFM statistics and research contributions to ICCAT in 2010 and 2011;
- Representation and protection of the large pelagic fishing industry interests and objectives of CRFM Member States, through active representation and participation in the 2010 and 2011 annual ICCAT SCRS and Commission meetings; and
- Provision of technical support, including legal advice and support to countries in matters related to ICCAT cooperation and participation for the period April 2010 - March 2012.

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. The approved JICA study to formulate a master plan for sustainable resource use by coastal communities commenced in 2009, and will continue in both programme year 2010 / 11 and programme year 2011 / 12. The pilot studies to assess the potential for developing or expanding large pelagic fisheries are expected to be completed during programme year 2011 / 12, and these outputs will inform the development of the master plan on sustainable use of fisheries resources for coastal community development.

Objective

This project is intended to contribute to the sustainable development and management of under-utilized and unutilized 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 2010 / 11, activities will include the following.

- (i) Implementation of pilot studies to obtain catch, effort and biological data and information, and to investigate the feasibility of applying FAD methodology and the management of FAD fisheries.

- (ii) Workshops at pilot study sites to review and improve FAD management plan.

In programme year 2011 / 12, activities will include the following.

- (i) Completion of pilot study, data analysis and preparation of pilot study reports.
- (ii) Formulation of a Master plan for sustainable resource use.

Outputs

- Reports of the pilot studies, aimed at providing improved information on the resources and fisheries examined; and
- Formulation of a master plan for sustainable resource use, including a FAD management plan.

This activity is dependent on external funding from JICA.

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 maintain and continuously improve the technical and information base for informing management planning and decision-making with regard to reef and slope fisheries in 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.

Activities and Inputs

In programme year 2010 / 11, an on-site meeting of the RSWG is planned during the Sixth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 420.

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);
- 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
- Regularly updated technical and management advisory reports on the region's reef and slope fisheries, based on updated 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 Sixth 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 420.

411: Regional Network Partnership

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.

- (i) NMFS and UWI research and assessment partnerships - As in previous years, NMFS scientists are expected to collaborate in the completion of key assessment tasks during the annual scientific meetings: during the 2010 and 2011 meetings, NMFS is expected to assist with assessments of selected large pelagic fish species. UWI also participates in the annual scientific meetings and is being relied upon to assist with specific research studies.
- (ii) UNU research partnership - In 2009, CRFM finalized 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. This activity is expected to commence implementation in 2010, and to be ongoing.
- (iii) IMA research partnership - In 2009, CRFM established a MOA with the IMA to resume operations of a regional fish age and growth laboratory, and the work of this laboratory is expected to attain full strength during 2010 / 11, after which it is expected to provide inputs into the annual scientific meetings each year.
- (iv) CLME project research and assessment partnership - CRFM has been contracted by the CLME project to undertake specific TDA and SAP activities for large pelagic and flyingfish resources. This work will commence during programme year 2010 / 11 and be completed during programme year 2011 / 12.
- (v) JICA research partnership - In 2009, JICA commenced its regional study on the formulation of a master plan on sustainable use of fisheries resources for coastal community development in the Caribbean, and this project will continue through to 2012.
- (vi) GCFI (regional conference) - It is important for CRFM to document and present its research findings for peer review at regional scientific fora, such as the annual GCFI meetings. A budgetary provision is therefore made to facilitate representation by CRFM at the 2010 and 2011 GCFI meeting.
- (vii) FAO research and assessment partnership – In view of the work completed by FAO on the Eastern Caribbean fourwing flyingfish in 2008, the CRFM SCPWG and the WECAFC ad hoc Working Group on Flyingfish is expected to hold a joint meeting in 2011 to complete the technical analyses required by the CLME project.

Activities and Inputs

In programme years 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12, key networking / partnership arrangements with institutions such as UWI, IMA NMFS SEFC, and UNU (Iceland), organizations such as FAO and JICA, and projects such as CLME, will continue, aimed at strengthening collaboration and coordination in respect of research and resource assessment activities:

- (i) Scientists at the NMFS SEFSC are expected to continue to provide assistance with assessment analyses conducted during the annual scientific meetings.

- (ii) UWI, with support from CRFM Secretariat, is expected to assist with development and implementation of proposed UNU-FTP course in stock assessment, and to assist with implementing research recommendations identified by the scientific meetings.
- (iii) Implementation of the joint CRFM / UNU-FTP / UWI course in fish stock assessment, and consideration of options for long-term incorporation into the CRFM and UWI systems.
- (iv) In accordance with the 2009 CRFM-IMA MOA for resuming the operation of the regional age and growth fish laboratory at IMA, CRFM countries will resume their contributions to fish age and growth research, based on priorities identified by Member States.
- (v) CRFM Secretariat will continue to provide technical inputs into regional initiatives such as CLME and the JICA regional study to formulate a master plan for sustainable resource use by coastal communities (further details provided under Activities 412, 422 and 424).

Outputs

- Training of national fisheries staff in statistical analysis resource assessment through collaboration with NMFS SEFSC scientists and the UNU-FTP training course;
- Resumption of more permanent regional arrangement for operation of regional fish age and growth laboratory at IMA, and information on fish age and growth, required for incorporation into priority assessments requested by Member States;
- CRFM interests incorporated into those CLME activities undertaken by CRFM, and technical products to be used for informing the establishment of multiple-level management and governance arrangements for flyingfish and large pelagic resources;
- Direct CRFM inputs into JICA pilot studies and master plan for sustainable resource use by coastal communities (see Activity 412);
- Completed CRFM-FAO joint meeting on flyingfish;
- Peer-reviewed research papers that are accessible to the Wider Caribbean and international scientific community.

Networking activities are at least partially dependent on external donor support. If available, some ACP Fish II funds could form part of CRFM's annual contribution to the regional fish age and growth laboratory.

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 fish resources.

Objectives

To maintain and continuously improve the technical and information base for informing management planning and decision-making with regard to large pelagic fisheries in the CRFM region. This requires 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, the CRFM was assigned a lead role in the implementation of the CLME Large Pelagic pilot project. The specific technical research and assessment tasks defined in this project will be coordinated through the activities of the CRFM LPWG: enhancement of data on regionally distributed large pelagic species, evaluation of the economic importance and impact of recreational fishing operations; establishing a working partnership arrangement with ICCAT and WECAFC to facilitate assessment of key regional species.

Activities and Inputs

Both in programme year 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12, annual on-site meetings of the LPWG are planned during the annual scientific meetings noted under Activity 420.

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 2010 / 11 will include tasks directed at completion of the recreational fishery evaluation study, and addressing issues affecting large pelagic fishery statistical systems.

Outputs

The outputs of this project activity include:

- Improved data and information systems for large pelagic fish resources and the associated industries they support (achieved essentially through Working Group inter-sessional activities);
- Improved understanding of the economic importance and impact of recreational fisheries;
- Incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses where these data are available;
- Completed fishery assessment of at least 1 large pelagic species, as required by the CLME project for informing management and governance activities; and
- Provision of a regular, regional scientific and peer-review forum, desirable for various fishery certification applications.

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 two annual CRFM scientific meetings in 2010 and 2011 are identified by national fisheries authorities, and in accordance with CLME contractual commitments. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data.

The successful implementation of proposed CLME activities is dependent on continued CLME funding. The budget for the annual scientific meeting is incorporated into that for Activity 420.

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. In 2010 / 11, a 2-day meeting of the DMTWG will be convened during the Sixth Annual Scientific Meeting. It is envisaged that additional training would be undertaken by the DMTWG during the Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting.

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

Outputs

- Improved data manipulation using the statistical software;
- 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 Groups;
- 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.

If requested by countries, the Working Group's activities in programme year 2011 / 12 could be partly 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. Except for the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish that is believed to range from Trinidad and Tobago in the south to the northern Leeward Islands, 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 maintain and continuously improve the technical and information base for informing management planning and decision-making for small coastal pelagic fisheries in 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, the CRFM was assigned a lead role in the implementation of the CLME Flyingfish pilot project. The specific technical research and assessment tasks defined in this project will be coordinated through the activities of the CRFM SCPWG: improvements in data quality and availability; completion of bioeconomic studies; improved fishery evaluations that incorporate economic aspects and trophic interactions; incorporation of economic aspects and ecosystem considerations into management advice.

Activities and Inputs

In programme year 2010 / 11 and programme year 2011 / 12, annual on-site meetings of the Working Group are planned during the annual scientific meetings noted under Activity 420.

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.

Inter-sessional activities will include tasks identified for the CLME project, particularly: assessment of the social and economic importance of the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish fishery; evaluation of relevant species trophic interactions; improvement in the quality and availability of data for assessments.

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);
- Incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data and species trophic interaction data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Completed assessment and economic analysis of the Eastern Caribbean fourwing flyingfish, in fulfillment of CLME contractual commitments, and which will be used for informing CLME management and governance activities;
- Regularly updated technical and management advisory reports on the region's small coastal pelagic fisheries, based on updated fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations; and
- Provision of a regular, regional scientific and peer-review forum, desirable for various fishery certification applications.

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 annual scientific meetings are identified by national fisheries authorities, and in accordance with LME contractual commitments. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data. The successful implementation of proposed research projects for the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish stock is dependent on continued CLME Project funding.

420: Annual Scientific Meetings

Objectives

The CRFM Scientific Meetings are held annually, to facilitate on-site meetings of the CRFM technical 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.

Activities and inputs:

During programme year 2010 / 11 and programme year 2011 / 12, the Sixth and Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting respectively will take place. During these meetings, CRFM Working Groups will meet to undertake fisheries analyses and assessments in response to management priorities identified by CRFM Member States and CLME contractual commitments. 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. Specific training activities are also planned.

Inter-sessional activities will include continued development of data systems, preparations for assessments, assessment analyses, testing of assessment methods, data collection for specific CLME fisheries economic studies, and development of CRFM assessment notebook / casebook.

Outputs

- Management advice for completed fishery assessments;
- Training in statistical software, R, which is available online and gratis;
- Training in data analysis and stock assessment for fisheries officers participating in CRFM Working Group activities;
- Production and circulation of CRFM Fishery Report - 2010 and CRFM Fishery Report - 2011, which are reports of the Sixth Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting and the Seventh Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting respectively, national fishery reports submitted to the CRFM Scientific meetings in 2010 and 2011 respectively, and the corresponding fishery management advisory summaries;
- Inter-sessional activity research reports; and
- Completed CLME technical products for informing implementation of CLME management and governance activities.

Some CLME project funds will be used to fund components of the Sixth and Seventh Annual Scientific Meetings, as well as inter-sessional activities. Some ACP Fish II funds could be used to fund components of the Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting.

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

Objectives

To maintain and continuously improve the technical and information base for informing management planning and decision-making for shrimp and groundfish fisheries in 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.

Activities and Inputs

In programme year 2010 / 11, an on-site meeting of the Working Group is planned during the Sixth 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 continues to be 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;
- Regularly updated technical and management advisory reports on the region's shrimp and groundfish fisheries, based on updated fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations;
- Improved knowledge and understanding of the biology and ecology of the Atlantic seabob resource in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; and
- Provision of a regular, regional scientific and peer-review forum, desirable for various fishery certification applications.

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 Sixth 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, such as the seabob biology and ecology study, 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 2010 / 11 and programme year 2011 / 12, activities are expected to include support to countries for implementing specific technical tasks associated with the JICA project, ACP Fish II project and the various CLME projects, but particularly those being led by the CRFM (large pelagic fish resources and flyingfish). Additionally, member states may request specific assistance to complete an inter-sessional tasks recommended by the annual scientific meetings.

Outputs

The outputs of this activity are linked to the outputs of Activities 412, 420, 422 and 424.

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 maintain and continuously improve the technical and information base for informing management planning and decision-making with regard to conch and lobster fisheries in 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.

Activities and Inputs

In programme year 2011 / 12, the Working Group will convene an on-site annual meeting during the Seventh Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting noted under Activity 420.

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. Some of these activities will require tasks to be completed in countries throughout the year (inter-sessional period).

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);
- Incorporation of other types of data and information, e.g. social and economic data, into fisheries evaluation analyses;
- Continued and improved evaluation of the status of conch and lobster stocks of interest.
- Regularly updated technical and management advisory reports on the region's queen conch and lobster fisheries, based on updated fisheries analyses and Working Group recommendations; and
- Provision of a regular, regional scientific and peer-review forum, desirable for various fishery certification applications.

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 Seventh Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting are to be identified by national fisheries authorities. Fisheries assessments are conducted based on the availability and suitability of data.

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 laevis*), 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 2010 / 11. Exploratory fishing trips will also commence.

Outputs

In programme year 2010 / 11, 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

This programme impacts within national boundaries as well as across borders and is directed towards the creation of a conducive environment (policy and otherwise), for the conservation and management of marine resources. Within national boundaries, the focus is aimed at enhancing the co-management strategy of fisheries management, while across national borders it is directed towards increased collaboration among countries and with relevant international agencies in the management of shared resources. It is intended to promote and encourage vibrant fishers' organizations at the local, national and regional levels, while improving on their participation in the fisheries management process. In addition, it is intended to enrich the stakeholders' knowledge capital in the region (MTP2, 2008).

The major outputs will be:

1. A Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean.
2. Improved fisheries policies and management plans at the regional and national levels, including FMPs for Anguilla, Dominica and Grenada.
3. Reinforced control and enforcement capabilities.
4. CNFO formalised / launched.
5. Production and distribution of CNFO promotional brochure.
6. Fisherfolk leaders trained in operating formal networks.
7. Publication and dissemination of a policy brief on critical issues concerning national, regional and international trade in fish and fish products.
8. Fisherfolk leaders trained to use web 2 tools.
9. Publication and dissemination of *Fisher Folk Net* Newsletter.
10. A 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.
11. Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for the shared stocks of the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery and the Large Pelagic Fisheries.
12. Needs assessment survey conducted and the training requirements for personnel to support sustainable fisheries development identified.
13. Ten persons trained in the areas of ocean governance as it relates to policy, law and management under the CRFM/IOU MOU.

14. Six persons trained in fisheries under the CRFM-UNU-FTP MOU.
15. CFOs and other senior fisheries officers trained at the UNU-FTP regional workshop on leadership development for heads of national fisheries administrations and related agencies.
16. IUU Fishing Declaration.

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

Background

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 includes 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>).

Recognizing 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 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>).

Recognizing 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.

Objectives

- (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 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12.

Activities and Inputs

During 2010 / 11, 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 relevant WECAFC Meetings:

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 - 2012 CITES COP Meetings; and
- Participation in the CITES COP and WECAFC Meetings.

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

Background

The Scope of Work for the Study was signed by the CARICOM Secretariat, JICA and CRFM Secretariat in December 2008. It aims to analyze and propose options for a comprehensive resource management approach in the Caribbean region that may include limited entry to coastal fisheries, diversification of the industry, and promotion of the optimal use of fisheries resources with cooperation between government and communities. It addresses 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.

A Pre-inception mission was undertaken during May 2009 by the Japanese consulting firm, IC Net Limited, and a Draft Inception Report which sets out the background and purpose of the study and the methods of implementation, including the conducting of the baseline survey, was prepared in June 2009 and given to Member States for review. The baseline survey has been conducted by the regional consulting firm Trevor Hamilton and Associates, and the CRFM / IC Net Limited teams have undertaken field missions to Member States to conduct, with the assistance of the fisheries departments, analyses of the institutional arrangements for fisheries management and development as well as obtain data and information relevant to the various components of the Study. The draft country and regional reports from the baseline studies have been reviewed and are being finalised. In December 2009, the first Project Steering Committee Meeting was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to review the preliminary Draft Master Plan; identify and short list the likely pilot studies, and review the overall progress of the project.

Objectives

The specific objectives are:

- (i) understanding the situation in fishing and rural village development, needs of community members, and development possibilities and constraints;
- (ii) formulating a master plan for the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the region that includes a coastal resource management scheme with cooperation between government and communities, and recommends practical resource management activities;
- (iii) identifying effective schemes for fishery resources management and sustainable development, and verifying the feasibility of these schemes with the implementation of pilot studies; and
- (iv) enhancing policy making and problem analysis capabilities of CRFM Secretariat and Fisheries Department staff as well as fishers' organization personnel through various studies, including the implementation of pilot studies.

Approach

During 2010 / 12, the Secretariat will continue to participate in the implementation of the Master Plan Study by serving as counterpart to the IC Net Limited Team in the areas of community-based resource management, aquaculture and socio-economics / marketing, which would involve participation in the following:

- (i) field survey teams implementing and monitoring the short-listed pilot projects (mainly the aquaculture and pelagic fisheries management studies) being undertaken in the Member States (Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia);
- (ii) review of the draft pilot study reports;
- (iii) project steering committee activities; and
- (iv) review of the Draft Final Master Plan.

Output

The expected outputs are:

- A Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean; and
- Transfer of technology to the relevant institutions and staff of CRFM Member States and Secretariat during the course of the Study.

512.2: Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for Member States [Proposed for funding under the ACP Fish II Project]

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 2009 / 10 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 it takes 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).

The ACP Fish II Project was developed with the intention of accessing resources to strengthen fisheries management planning in Caribbean ACP States. Component 1 of the Approved Workplan, 8 February 2010 – 30 June 2011 is focused on providing funding and technical assistance to improve fisheries policies and management plans at national and regional levels. The CRFM Secretariat will work with Member States to access the resources available to address the national and regional priority needs identified under this component.

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. Anguilla, Dominica, Grenada). 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)

Background

The ACP Fish II is the second phase of an EU programme, which has as its overall objective “*to contribute to the sustainable and equitable management of fisheries in ACP countries*”. The ACP Fish II aims to foster improved institutional capacity for fisheries and aquatic resources management. It specifically addresses knowledge requirements for sustainable management in ACP countries at all levels of decision-making.

Implementation of the project, which will be conducted under decentralized management through a Coordination Unit (CU) based in Brussels and six Regional Facilitation Units (RFUs) located in Belize, Gabon, Senegal, Uganda, Mozambique and Fiji, commenced in the latter half of 2009. In relation to the Caribbean the first activity, a Regional Needs Assessment Workshop was held in Belize on October 27 – 28, 2009. The primary objective of the Needs Assessment Workshop was to propose broad activities for each component that could be supported under the ACP Fish II Programme. These broad activities will be used to develop an overall work plan for the programme period and work plan for the first year and a half, and budgets to be presented to the Steering Committee for approval. A proposed second round of workshops in early 2010 will refine these documents.

Objective

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to the sustainable and equitable management of fisheries in ACP countries, while the specific objective is to strengthen fisheries sectoral policy development and implementation in ACP Countries.

Approach

During 2010 / 11, the Secretariat will continue to participate in the implementation of the ACP Fish II Project by undertaking the following:

- (i) reviewing the Draft Overall Work Plan for the Caribbean component of the Project;
- (ii) reviewing the Draft Annual Work Plan 2010 / 11 for the Caribbean component of the Project;
- (iii) serving as counterpart to the consultants / resource persons contracted to deliver projects / activities in the project components relating to:

- (a) **improved fisheries policies and management plans at regional and national levels:** Devise and update fisheries policies and management plans, revise and update regulatory frameworks for policies, institutional capacity building of fisheries administration;
- (b) **reinforced control and enforcement capabilities:** Identification of potential regional cooperation in MCS and enforcement, support the implementation of MCS and VMS at national and regional levels;
- (c) **reinforced national and regional research strategies and initiatives:** Support the development of research strategies that reflects policy and management at the national and regional levels, reinforce conservation and resource management, capacity building for institutions / agencies involved in research and quality standards;
- (d) **developed business supportive regulatory frameworks and private sector investment:** Assess existing policies and regulatory framework governing business and private sector investment, develop export market capabilities and promote private investment, strengthen regional level trade in fish and fish products; and
- (e) **increased knowledge-sharing on fisheries management and trade, at regional level:** Assess needs and capacities for communication strategy and products, develop fisheries management Knowledge exchange system (KES) strategy to support intra ACP networking and communication.

Output

The expected project 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)

Background

The CTA and CRFM have been working together in support of the dynamic process initiated by fisher folk groups in the Caribbean to create a regional network of fisherfolk organisations. The first phase of the process which lasted from 2006 to 2008 included the following elements: identifying the potential for a regional network among fisher folk groups; establishing and formalizing national fisher folk organisations (NFO), as the backbone of the regional network; training fisher folk leaders in areas related to network management and use of communication tools.

Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia and Suriname have officially formed NFOs and Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have established steering committees to legalize NFOs in the near future. NFOs from these two groups of countries along with those from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago form the core group of the CNFO to be launched in 2010. They are represented in the CNFO Coordinating Unit (CNFO-CU) which was established at the Grenada Workshop to develop and execute a work plan for the formation and legalization of the regional network and its development. It is expected that the remaining countries in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region will eventually join the Network in the years to come as a result of CNFO-CU's continued mobilization efforts and understanding of the benefits of being members.

Based on their exposure at the recent workshops on policy influence and planning; involvement in the April 2009 CRFM Special Forum on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime in Dominica and the July 2009 CRFM Forum in St. Lucia, fisherfolk leaders have recognised the need to keep themselves informed as well as share information about current fisheries policy and related matters so as to be in a better position to make informed contributions to fisheries policy development at the national and regional levels.

With the 2006 - 2008 project activities, including the activities in the CU short-term action plan having been implemented and the regional network now ready to be formalised, a follow-up project proposal ***Launching and Capacity Development of the Caribbean Network of fisherfolk Organisations*** has been developed and is being finalized with the CTA for implementation in 2010 - 2011. The main thrusts of the project are (i) continuing to reinforce the institutional and technical capacity of Caribbean fisherfolk to develop positions on policy issues; and (ii) communicating and advocating for fisherfolk's positions on critical issues. These thrusts will be operationalized through workshops, networking, enhanced use of ICT applications, and effective cooperation with the media. At the end of this phase, the CRFM Secretariat will collaborate with the CNFO in preparing a follow-up project proposal for submission to the CTA.

Objective

The overall objective is to contribute to the development of a sustainable and profitable fishing industry and the improvement of the quality of fishers' lives, with the purpose being to enhance the capacities of fisherfolk organisations to make effective member and policy representation.

Activities and Inputs

During 2010 / 11, the following activities will be undertaken:

- (i) convening of a regional CNFO launching workshop;
- (ii) preparation and dissemination of a CNFO promotional brochure;
- (iii) convening a training workshop on leadership in formal networks;
- (iv) preparation and dissemination of a policy brief on critical issues concerning regional and international trade in fish and fish products;
- (v) a training workshop on the use of web 2 tools;
- (vi) upgrade and maintenance of the CNFO Website;
- (vii) preparation and dissemination of *Fisher Folk Net* Newsletter; and
- (viii) preparation and dissemination of media materials.

The CRFM will also continue to provide support for the participation of fisherfolk leaders, identified by the CNFO, in the 2010 and 2011 GCFI Meetings.

Output

The outputs from these activities will be:

- CNFO formalized;
- Production and distribution of CNFO promotional brochure;
- Fisherfolk leaders trained in operating formal networks;
- Publication and dissemination of a policy brief on critical issues concerning regional and international trade in fish and fish products;
- Fisherfolk leaders trained to use web tools;
- CNFO website upgraded and being maintained;
- Publication and dissemination of *Fisher Folk Net* Newsletter;
- Publication and dissemination of media materials; and
- Participation of 2 fisherfolk leaders in the GCFI Meetings in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

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

Background

This Project will seek to undertake a diagnosis of the socio-economic and demographic situations in fishing communities in selected CARICOM/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. It is being funded by the Government of Spain under the CARICOM / Spain Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement.

Implementation commenced in October with a CARISEC / CRFM / Kingdom of Spain Workshop on 08 - 09 October 2009 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Workshop reviewed: (i) the Terms of Reference for the Project; (ii) the Terms of Reference for a Regional Project Coordinator (iii) documentation relating to the methodology to be employed in the survey, including the criteria for the identification of the 10 select CRFM member states in which to project is to be conducted; (iv) the timelines for the project activities and the attendant logistics and adjusted these as necessary; and (v) finalised the draft agenda / program, including duration, dates, venue and budget for training work shop for the surveyors.

To date, letters have been sent to member states advising that implementation of the project had commenced, along with the draft criteria and relevant questionnaires to solicit information needed to aid in the identification and selection of the ten Member States in which the study will be conducted. Based on submissions from the Member States involved, ten Member States (Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago) were selected for the conducting of the Study, and a workshop was held in Grenada in February 2010 to train the surveyors from these countries. In collaboration with the Consultants (Tragsatec, Spain), the selected Member States and the Secretariat have reviewed and finalised the study questionnaires and field manuals. The field work is slated to commence in March 2010.

Objective

The objectives of this project are to organize a diagnostic study to determine the levels of poverty in fishing communities in selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States and develop models for planning and implementing alternative livelihood programmes suited to their socio-economic and natural environments; and 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

During the implementation of this Study, the Secretariat will undertake the following activities in order to coordinate and facilitate project delivery:

- provide all available information for the statistical design of the study and the identification of suitable indicators;
- provide all available information for the preparation of the field work;
- review and approve the questionnaire and the field work methodology;
- select surveyors, in collaboration with the fisheries administrations of the selected countries;
- organize and convene a training course for at least 20 participants: specifically managing the payments associated with the preparation of material (training kit), course room and facilities, lunch and coffee breaks, translation (if necessary), transport (international and ground) and accommodation for all participants except for Tragsatec's experts;
- provide the surveyors with hard copies of the questionnaire for data collection;
- give support and coverage to surveyors during the field work to have a quick response in case of contingencies to enable the correct development of data collection;
- facilitate, through the national fisheries administrations of the selected countries, the transmission of the collected data to Tragsatec by allowing the installation of the program and the recording of results;
- organize and convene a regional workshop for approximately 30 participants, including chief fisheries officers / directors of fisheries; and
- assist Tragsatec in making the necessary logistical arrangements for its staff members while working in the region.

Output

The outputs from these activities will be:

- Provision of all available information for the statistical design of the study and the identification of suitable indicators;
- Provision of all available information for the preparation of the field work;
- Approved questionnaire and the field work methodology;
- In collaboration with the fisheries administrations of the selected countries, surveyors identified and selected;
- Training course for at least 20 organized and convened;
- Surveyors provided with hard copies of the questionnaire for data collection;

- Provision of support to and monitoring of surveyors during the field work and quick response in case of contingencies to enable the correct development of data collection;
- Provision of logistical support during the implementation of the fields survey activities;
- Facilitation of (through the national fisheries administrations of the selected countries) the transmission of the collected data to Tragsatec through the installation of the program and the recording of results;
- Regional workshop for approximately 30 participants, including chief fisheries officers / directors of fisheries, organized and convened; and
- Provision of logistical support to Tragsatec in making the necessary logistical arrangements for its staff members while working in the region.

The final outputs from the Study will be:

- 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 agreement¹, 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.

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) [Proposed for funding under the ACP Fish II Project]

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 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).

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

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 19th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee which was held in Geneva, 18 – 21 August 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.

The ACP Fish II Project was developed with the intention of accessing resources to strengthen fisheries management planning in Caribbean ACP States. Component 1 of the Approved Workplan 8 February 2010 – 30 June 2011 is focused on providing funding and technical assistance to improve fisheries policies and management plans at national and regional levels. The CRFM Secretariat will work with Member States to access the resources available to address the national and regional priority needs identified.

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) [Proposed for funding under the ACP Fish II Project]

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.

The ACP Fish II Project was developed with the intention of accessing resources to reinforce control and enforcement capabilities in Caribbean ACP States. Component 2 of the Approved Workplan February 8, 2010 – June 30, 2011 is focused on reinforced control and enforcement capabilities. The CRFM Secretariat will work with Member States to access the resources available to address the national and regional priority needs identified under this Component.

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)

Background

The CLME Project was developed by UNESCO / IOCARIBE and approved for funding by the Global Environmental facility (GEF). 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 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:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.

- (iv) Strengthening of linkages between the private sector, advisory institutions and decision making bodies in order to improve the policy cycle at all levels.
- (v) Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SAP implementation and determine execution procedures and responsibilities; and
- (vi) Implementation of 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).

As part of the start-up to the CLME Project, the CRFM Secretariat reviewed and commented on the Terms of Reference for the TDA gap filling activities and the SAPs for the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish and the large pelagic fisheries, respectively. The CRFM will serve as the lead agency for the implementation of these two projects. The Secretariat also participated in the CLME Steering Committee Meeting in Colombia, in September 2009 and the CLME Project TDA / SAP Training Course in Colombia in January 2010.

Objective

The specific objectives are:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) To improve the shared knowledge base for sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources;
- (iii) To implement legal, policy and institutional reforms to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resource management; and
- (iv) To develop an institutional and procedural approach to LME level monitoring, evaluation and reporting (UNDP Draft CLME Project, 2007).

Activities and Inputs

During 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12, the CRFM Secretariat will undertake the following:

- (i) Participate in the Steering Committee and Project Advisory Committee Meetings
- (ii) Participate in the activities of the CLME Technical Task Team charged with the preparation of the Causal Chain Analysis (CCA), the three Sub-regional TDAs and the final Regional TDA.

- (iii) Implement the TDA and SAP filling component of the TOR: *TDA Gap Filling and SAP Activities for the Shared Stocks of the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery*.
- (iv) Implement the TDA and SAP filling component of the TOR: *TDA Gap Filling and SAP Activities for Large Pelagic Fisheries*.

Output

The outputs will include:

- Participation in the activities of the CLME Technical Task Team charged with the preparation of the Causal Chain Analysis (CCA), the three Sub-regional TDAs and the final Regional TDA;
- SAP filling component of the TOR: *TDA Gap Filling and SAP Activities for the Shared Stocks of the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery* completed; and
- SAP filling component of the TOR: *TDA Gap Filling and SAP Activities for Large Pelagic Fisheries* completed.

520.8: Reduction of Fishers' Vulnerability to Disasters

Background

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.

The Secretariat participated in the First Meeting of the Agriculture Sector Sub-Committee of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council, on June 26, 2009, in Barbados. This was done with a view to arriving at a recommendation for the amalgamation of the CDM CHC Agriculture Sector Sub-committee and the COTED Technical Advisory Management Committee (TMAC) for the Deficient and Uncoordinated Risk Management Measures including Praedial Larceny under the Jagdeo Initiative. The Secretariat also participated in the Second Meeting of the Agriculture Sector Sub-committee of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council, on September 10, 2009, in Antigua and Barbuda. At this Meeting, the Secretariat made a presentation on the

Development and Promotion of a Risk Reduction Programme for Fishers taken from the CRFM MTP2. The Committee prepared a Draft Report for COTED which provides the outputs from both the First and Second Meetings of the CDM CHC Agriculture Sector Sub-Committee of 26 June and 10 September 2009, respectively. Subsequently, the Secretariat participated in the Third Meeting of the Agriculture Sector Sub-committee of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council, on March 10, 2010, in St. Lucia, which reviewed the Terms of Reference for a Consultancy on the State of Praedial Larceny in the Region and a proposal for a Regional Symposium on Agricultural insurance. A Report was prepared for the Special COTED which was held in Suriname in March 2010.

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 continue to participate in the COTED Agriculture Sector Sub-committee of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonization Council in its efforts to mobilize resources to develop comprehensive disaster management plans for the fisheries sector in the region, including the programme for the *Development and Promotion of a Risk Reduction for Fishers*.

Output

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

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 in the implementation of its action plan for 2010.

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

Outputs

The outputs of these activities will include:

- Improved capability for fisheries management and development at the national level; and
- Assistance provided to the CNFO in the implementation of its action plan.

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 main beneficiaries of the training programmes were from the staff of the national fisheries authorities, with the training being focused on data management, 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 and the institutions with responsibility for ocean and coastal zone oversight. The ACP Fish II Project was developed with the intention of accessing resources to improve fisheries policy development and execution in Caribbean ACP States. As such, the CRFM Secretariat will work with Member States to access the resources available to undertake this survey.

In addition to the survey, the Secretariat will continue to make use of training opportunities, such as those provided under the MOU between CRFM and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the CRFM and 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 ten 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 2010 and 2011;
- (iii) to provide up to six scholarships to fisheries department staff to undergo 6-months training in fisheries offered by the UNU-FTP in Iceland;
- (iv) to convene an advanced leadership training workshop for Chief Fisheries Officers and Directors of Fisheries of Member States; and
- (v) to organize and convene a stock assessment and statistics training workshop for data managers and other Fisheries Department staff involved in stock assessment and data analysis.

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 25th Anniversary Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, in Canada, from May to July 2010. Based on the number of applications, the Training Committee of the Secretariat will review them and select three for participation in the Training Programme. A similar approach will be taken for the year 2011.

Up to three candidates will be selected from Member States to undertake six (6) months of training in Iceland commencing September 2010. It is expected that additional scholarships will be provided to fisheries staff each year for the next 4 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, and
- (6) Aquaculture

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 workshop on leadership development targeted at the heads of national fisheries administrations and other fisheries related organizations and a second training workshop on statistics and stock assessment 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;
- Ten persons trained in the areas of ocean governance as it relates to policy, law and management;
- Six persons trained in fisheries under the CRFM-UNU-FTP MOU;
- Chief Fisheries Officers and other Senior Fisheries Officers trained at the regional workshop on leadership development for heads of national fisheries administrations and related agencies; and
- Fisheries officers trained in statistics and stock assessment will be convened.

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.

The Regional Workshop that was held in Belize from 14 – 15 November 2006 reviewed the situation in the region and made a number of specific recommendation designed to address the needs in the region. The major recommendations included, among other:

- development of sustainable Competent Authorities in the countries;
- training, including train the trainers;
- upgrading laboratory capacity in specific countries, including efforts towards formal accreditation.

In 2007, the Secretariat provided feedback to the CARIFORUM Secretariat on the comments received as well as made recommendations on the Way Forward. There is however uncertainty regarding the state of implementation of this project in the CARIFORUM countries.

The CRFM Secretariat will continue to follow up with the Project Office in Brussels through the CARIFORUM Secretariat in Guyana to secure additional benefits for the CARIFORUM Member States.

560.2: Study to review the impact of rising cost factors, such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs on fisheries operations in the CRFM Member States and propose appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues [Proposed for funding under the ACP Fish II Project]

Background

In 2008, the unprecedented hike in food and fuel prices, related to the global oil crisis resulted in severe economic, social and political consequences in poor countries. High prices of agricultural inputs have become a major obstacle to developing countries' efforts to increase agricultural (including fisheries) production. The fisheries communities are part of the most affected groups and the high prices combined with overexploitation of many fish stocks to significantly contribute to decreasing production and profitability of fishing units, and to the increasing poverty (<http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/aj308e.pdf>).

There is no representative global data set on the costs of fishing. Fishing costs vary greatly by type of fishery and locality: for example, trawl fisheries tend to have high fuel costs, while many smaller vessels are non-motorized and the cost of subsistence fishing may be little more than the cost of the labor involved. In general, the major cost factors for most fisheries are:

- labor (30 – 50 percent of total costs)
- fuel (10 – 25 percent)
- fishing gear (5 – 15 percent)
- repair and maintenance (5 – 10 percent)
- capital cost, such as depreciation and interest (5 – 25 percent).

The trends in the costs of each of these factors of production are relevant not only for an understanding of the historical trends in fisheries but also to provide a basis for future projections of, for example, the effect of changing fuel prices. Available cost data must be treated with some caution, because the true cost data tend to be confounded by taxes and subsidies. There is ample evidence that at the global level productivity has deteriorated, especially in recent years, as the majority of producers incur higher fishing costs while the global catch has remained stagnant. (World Bank, 2008).

During the Twenty-Seventh Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) (Agriculture) Georgetown, Guyana, May 21, 2008 the Surinamese delegation raised the issue of the impact of the high cost of fuel on the fisheries sector in Suriname. COTED endorsed a suggestion that a team of experts from CRFM, FAO, UWI (CERMES) and the CARICOM Secretariat be mobilised by CRFM to find alternatives to addressing the issue of high fuel prices affecting the Suriname Fisheries sector.

The CRFM initiated this exercise in July 2008 by contacting the agencies named by the COTED and requesting that each nominate an expert to be a part of the team, with the resulting team having been identified as Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM; Margaret Kalloo, Deputy Programme Manager, Agricultural Development Unit, CARISEC; Bisessar Chakallal, Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO; and Robin Mahon, UWI-CERMES. In addition the Executive Director of the CRFM has asked that the Deputy Executive Director participate in the exercise. However, due to Suriname taking internal actions to address the matter; the fall in oil prices globally and inadequate funds to initiate the study, its implementation was delayed.

At the July 2009 Forum, following on a discussion relating to Suriname's request which resulted in Member States commenting on the effects of high fuel prices on their fishing industry operations and returns on investments. It was recognized that CRFM States needed to guard against future economic shocks such as spikes in fuel prices; reduce economic risks; modernise with a view to improving the efficiency of the fishing fleets in the region; reduce barriers to accessing new markets; and address price fluctuations for commercially important species by promoting and developing value added products, etc. As such, it was recommended that the CRFM Secretariat would revise and update the Terms of Reference that was prepared in 2008 to address the fuel crisis issue for review by the Member States and activate the Working Group previously established. The Revised TOR should be aimed at addressing the issues affecting production, efficiency and profitability of fishing vessels and the broader areas of fishery operation. The Study will make recommendations to address the various issues affecting the efficiency and profitability of fishing vessels, and the broader issue of improving the competitiveness of fishery operation in the region. It was also agreed that the report and recommendations should be submitted to the next Forum Meeting for consideration, and that the Executive Committee would monitor and oversee the assignment including the development of the TOR and completion of the study.

The ACP Fish II Project was developed with the intention of accessing resources to improve fisheries policy development and execution in Caribbean ACP States. The CRFM Secretariat will work with Member States to access the resources available to address the national and regional priority needs identified including the undertaking of this Study.

Objective

To undertake a study to review the impact of the rising cost factors, such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs on fisheries operations in the CRFM Member States and propose appropriate policy options and strategies for dealing with the resulting issues in order to improve efficiency, improve on productivity, and reduce economic risks to the sector.

Approach

Under the general direction of the Executive Director, the Resource Persons identified from the agencies mentioned above will be assigned for thirty (30) person days to undertake the study and prepare the necessary report. Literature research, field visits, workshop discussions and report preparations will take place in April – June 2010.

The Team of Resource Persons (The Team) will work in close collaboration with the Deputy Executive Director and Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development of the CRFM Secretariat, Directors and staff of the Fisheries Departments and other stakeholders to conduct the assignment. Although the Resource Persons will work in close collaboration with the above-mentioned personnel, it is understood that they are responsible for producing the outputs of this assignment.

The analysis of the options should take into account the broader social, economic, environmental, trade and development context within the region.

The Team should consider ways of reducing operational costs and ways of adding value and increasing returns from the catch taken.

The Team should consider both short term remedies to address urgent concerns, and longer term structural solutions that will help the fisheries sector adapt to a future with higher/fluctuating fuel costs while ensuring the long term ecological sustainability, social stability, economic viability and international competitiveness of the fishing operations in the region.

The Team should critically consider all reasonable options for responding to the problems, including inter alia; doing nothing and allowing market forces to eliminate inefficient operators especially in fisheries where there is already over-capacity, the provision of incentives, whether direct or indirect, from governments to reduce their operating cost.

The long-term policy options that may be considered may include, inter alia:

- promoting the use of more fuel efficient vessels;
- promoting more efficient and ecologically friendly fishing methods and improved gear technology, such as, the use of static gears like set nets rather than trawling; and
- improving the return on investment through improved product quality and access to markets where better prices may be realized.

The Team should consult with resource users and other stakeholders in gathering information to identify and understand the issues.

The Team should clearly identify any additional research needs.

Output

- Report of the study to review the impact of the rising cost factors, such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs on fisheries operations in the CRFM Member States with proposed appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues in order to reduce economic risks to the sector and improve profitability and productivity.

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; and
- 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.