



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT

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CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Covering the Period
April 1 – December 31, 2006

March 28, 2007

*Funded by Members and Associated
Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

Report #7 - CRFM



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TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMO TO: Ms. Ann-Marie Jobity, Chairperson of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum
Members of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

FROM: Hugh Saul
Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat

SUBJECT: **CRFM Secretariat Technical and Financial Progress Report: April 1, 2006
– December 31, 2006**

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

The Report provides an overall description of the status of each programme and activities undertaken by the CRFM Secretariat during the period, allowing for a global appreciation of the progress made.

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List of Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CBCRM	Community-Based Coastal Resources Management
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFF	Caribbean Fisheries Forum
CFU	CARICOM Fisheries Unit
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme
CFP&R	Common Fisheries Policy and Regime
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
CFTU	Caribbean Fisheries Technical Unit
CIDA	Caribbean International Development Agency
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLWG	Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group
COTED	Council on Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CRP	Caribbean Regional Queen Conch Research Programme
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DFMR	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
DRAO	Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer
DR	Dominican Republic
EC	Eastern Caribbean Currency
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
ESDU	Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit
EU	European Union
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GECAFS	Global Environmental Change and Food Systems
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
IAC	International Agricultural Centre

ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICRAFD	Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IMMARBE	International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
IOI	International Oceans Institute
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LAPE	Lesser Antilles Pelagic Ecosystems (Project)
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LPWG	Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
LRS	Licensing and Registration Software
MALMR	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources
MAREMP	Marine Resource Environmental Assessment and Management Programme
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
RPTF	Regional Preparatory Task Force
RSWG	Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group
SANREM CRSP	Sustainable Agriculture and National Resource Management Collaboration Support Programme
SAP	Systems, Application and Products in Data Processing
SCPWG	Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
SCRS ICCAT	Scientific Committee in Research and Statistics
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TIP	Trip Interview Programme (Data collection software package)
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UK	United Kingdom
UWI	University of the West Indies
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the FAO, United Nations
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Work Programme Milestones and Budget Approvals

Work Programme Start: 1st April 2006

Work Programme Budget Approval: Yes

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

This report covers the first nine months of the third year of the Medium Term Plan of the CRFM. The major activities implemented during this period include the continuation of the development of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM through ad hoc Working Group Meetings (Legal and Socio Economic) and a Special Meeting of the CRFM Forum, the continuation of the updating of national Fisheries Management Plans, activities related to the Resource Mobilization process, implementation of consultancies to provide technical assistance and training in the use of CARIFIS, continued provision of the necessary technical support and advice to countries which participated in the 2006 annual ICCAT Commission Meeting, participation in the implementation of the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector by way of consultations with the EU and Regional Consultants contracted to undertake the Study as well as providing logistical support and continuing efforts to expand fisheries assessment methodologies being utilized by the CRFM Resource Working Groups so that management advisory outputs address a broader range of issues.

With respect to Member States' contribution to the budget, Management continued to liaise with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions up to the end of the period under review (April 1 to December 31, 2006) totaling EC\$2,207,190 (US\$821,066). The arrears fell from EC\$710,233 as at March 31, 2006 to EC\$421,366 as at December 31, 2006.

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

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

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

A regional Workshop to Review the draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for the CRFM Member States, was held on 6 December, in Jamaica where participants provided comments on the *draft Regional Declaration/ Agreement on IUU Fishing and MCS for the CRFM Member States*. The comments are to be incorporated into the document by the Consultant and submitted to the CRFM Secretariat for circulation to Member States.

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

Also, discussions were held with Senior Government Officials and the Queen Conch Industry Officials in Jamaica, over the period December 4 – 10, 2006, to develop a Plan of Action for the mobilization of resources for an assessment of Queen Conch (Pedro Bank), and to render technical assistance to the Veterinary Service Division, Jamaica. A verbal commitment to finance these activities, through the CRFM Secretariat, was given by the Queen Conch Industry Representatives.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical leadership in the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime including the identification and analysis of the legal and socio-economic and linkages issues, through a consultative and participatory approach. The Ad Hoc legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, met during the period 31 July – 2 August 2006, in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, was held during 21-22 September, 2006 to continue the process of reviewing and providing legal advice on the draft Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. A special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held 23-24 October, 2006, Guyana, involving technical officials from Member States where the document updated by the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group entitled “*A Common Fisheries Policy and Regime- Revised Framework*”, was reviewed and discussed, with further guidance being provided to the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group and the Social, Economic and Linkages Working Group. A revised schedule of implementation of the Way Forward was recommended.

During the period under review, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkage Issues drafted the “*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” including the draft Bibliography. This also was presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in October 2006.

Also, during the period, April – June, 2006, CARICAD commenced the documentation review phase

of the assistance / collaborative effort for the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's draft Operations Manual through the provision/ sourcing of expertise, and the development of the Secretariat's Registry and Documentation Systems. A Comprehensive Plan and Budget for the draft Operations Manual was completed and circulated to Member States by letter dated July 7, 2006. During the period July- September, a source of funds (Canada Cooperation Fund) was identified by the CARICOM Secretariat to finance this project. Discussions have been held among CARISEC / Canada Fund / CRFM Secretariat and it is hoped that an agreement will soon be reached on this matter.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide support to Member States with the development and use of the CARIFIS database. Ms. Sherrill Barnwell, Consultant, contracted by the CRFM Secretariat provided technical assistance and training in the use of CARIFIS to Guyana and Belize during August 2006. During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat was in the process of reviewing the CARIFIS Country Matrix showing the status of implementation of CARIFIS in each Member State and Country Specific Action Plans. The Terms of Reference to review the data collection and management systems of the marine fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda was drafted, and the Consultant identified. The CRFM Secretariat continued to liaise with Mr. Fanning, Project Manager, FAO LAPE Project, with regards to the collaborative efforts relating to the debugging of CARIFIS, legacy databases transfers, training, provision of querying and reporting software, and organizing of the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS.

A number of Fisheries Management and Development initiatives continued to be addressed during the reporting period, which included the convening of the final National Consultation on the Revised Draft FMP for Guyana which was held on November 7. The finalization of the Draft FMP for Guyana, review of the draft National Consultation Report for St. Lucia and the review and editing of the draft FMPs for Grenada and Suriname were realised.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical support to countries preparing documentation and positions for input into the 2006 Annual ICCAT Commission Meeting, also to CRFM country delegations participating in these meetings and requiring assistance with catch quota negotiations. On behalf of the CRFM, the Secretariat also participated in and provided inputs during the FAO Regional Workshop for CARICOM Member Countries on the Factors of Unsustainability and Overexploitation in Marine Fisheries, held during 6-8 December 2006. The Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods was finalized, and will be presented at the Third Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting during programme year 2007/08.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to collect Member States Annual Work Plans. Request for Annual Work Plans were sent to Member States from the CRFM Secretariat and to date Work Plans have been received from: (1) The Bahamas, (2) Anguilla, (3) Grenada, (4) St. Vincent and the Grenadines, (5) Jamaica and (6) Belize (Capture Fisheries Unit). The objective of this exercise is to establish greater relationship between national and regional plans and so give to Member States a greater sense of ownership to the CRFM Secretariat's Annual Work Plan and Budget. Further, the CRFM Secretariat has commenced discussions with the OECS Secretariat (ESDU) to enter into an MOU arrangement with regard to formalizing a collaborative approach for the planning and delivery of projects / activities in the OECS sub-region.

During the period July- September, Mr. John Landos, Consultant, AGRIFOR Consult was recruited by the EU Office, Brussels to commence the project "*Study to Improve Compliance with EU*

Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector” which began with a kick off meeting with CRFM Secretariat staff in Belize, held on 31 August 2006. Mr. Landos and his team visited Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Barbados to identify issues that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU Sanitary standards. The findings were presented at the *“Workshop to Consider the Report of the Consultants on Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector”* held on November 14 - 15, 2006 in Belize. The findings of the workshop were presented to the EU Commission in December 2006, by the consultant’s principals, AGRIFOR Consult.

The CRFM Secretariat participated in the FAO/ UNEP/ CEP/ CRFM Regional Queen Conch Workshop, Jamaica, May 1 – 5, 2006 where assistance was provided to Caribbean countries in the development of effective management plans for queen conch fisheries. The Deputy Executive Director and the Programme Manager Fisheries Management and Development gave a joint presentation on the work the CRFM Secretariat has done in connection with queen conch, which included information on activities and projects that strengthen national capacity to assess and manage queen conch such as the provision of CARIFIS, training activities, and preparation of FMPs. The workshop was also updated on the work being done by the CRFM Secretariat and Member States with regards to the drafting and holding of national consultations on their respective FMPs. The CRFM Secretariat also coordinated the Member States’ participation and preparation for the workshop.

Also, during the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat continued actions to review and update its Website. The actions included revision of the Website to make it more user friendly and interactive, regular updates of the Calendar of Events section and placement of technical publications, reports and documentation, including the CRFM Secretariat Annual Report 1st April, 2004 – 31st March, 2005, on the Website.

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

(i) Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

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

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

(ii) Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

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

(iii) JICA Funded Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Management in the Caribbean

The *Note Verbale* on immunities and privileges to be accorded to JICA experts has been agreed by all CRFM Member States. During the previous quarter, JICA had advised through Dr. Nakai, JICA Expert on Regional Development Planning, Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance, based at the CARICOM Secretariat, that the project start up will probably be in January 2007. A JICA Mission to the Caribbean to put in place arrangements for the project start-up has been scheduled for 26 February to 10 March, 2007.

(iv) Strengthening Fisheries Management; ACP Fish II Project

The EU recruited a group of consultants to review the original Feasibility Study for a Programme on Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries. The Consultants indicated that they proposed the development of a Project Facilitation Unit Regional hub (at the CRFM Secretariat) in the Caribbean. The budget allocation for Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II was raised from 11 million Euros to 30 million Euros. Implementation of the project is expected to start late 2007.

ACTIVITY 100: Management and Support	
Output:	CRFM (Belize) Conducting and implementing agreed Programmes / projects and activities, and liaising with Member States, Executive Committee of the Forum, CARICOM Secretariat, etc.
Activity Start:	April 1 st , 2006 End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Total Budget:	US\$295,479 Spent: US\$240,208
	Spent during the last quarter: US\$82,740
Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> schedule	
Completion of Total Activity: ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> schedule	

Management and Support

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat provided support for the implementation of activities approved in the Annual Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007.

Management liaised with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions to the Budget of the CRFM Secretariat. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions during the period (April – December 31, 2006) totaling EC\$2,207,190 (US\$821,066). The arrears fell from EC\$710,233 as at March 31, 2006 to EC\$421,366 as at December 31, 2006.

For the period April 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006, the CRFM Secretariat organized and convened, as well as provided technical, administrative and rapporteurial support to the following meetings / workshops:

- (i) CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, 10 April, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago;
- (ii) Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, April 11 – 12, 2006, Trinidad and Tobago;

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

Ms. Maren Headley, a national of Barbados, commenced duties as Research Graduate / Biologist, effective 1 August, 2006. Ms. June Masters, a national of Jamaica, commenced duties as of Research Graduate / Data Manager, effective 1 September, 2006. Both staff are located at the Eastern Caribbean Office, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

During the period November 28 – 29, 2006, the Executive Director and the Corporate Services Manager, upon a request to visit, conducted a mission to the Cayman Islands and met with Senior

Government Officials, including the Leader of Government Business (Chief Minister) the Honourable D. Kurt Tibbletts, J.P., to discuss options for Membership of the CRFM, by the Cayman Islands and potential areas for future cooperation.

Resource Mobilisation

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

1. Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

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

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

2. Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations.

MOU between CTA and the CRFM Secretariat for the funding support of the project *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations* was signed on the September 18, 2006. The project will be implemented over the period 2006/08. The value of funding for 2006 is fixed at a maximum of Euro 84 060. The first tranche of funds in the amount of US\$31, 016 was received by the CRFM Secretariat. Implementation of the project commenced with the convening of a *Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to enhance their skills to provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisher Folk Organisations*, December 4 – 14, 2006, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

3. Formulation of Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Management in the Caribbean.

The Note Verbale on immunities and privileges to be accorded to JICA experts has been agreed by all CRFM Member States. JICA has advised through Dr. Nakai, JICA Expert on Regional Development Planning, Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance, based at the CARICOM Secretariat, of a JICA Mission to the Caribbean, 26 February, 2007 to 10 March, 2007 in order to put in place arrangements for project start-up.

4. Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II project.

The EU recruited a group of consultants to review the original Feasibility Study for a Programme on

Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries. The Consultants indicated that they proposed the development of a Project Facilitation Unit Regional hub (at the CRFM Secretariat) in the Caribbean. The budget allocation for Strengthening Fisheries Management ACP Fish II was raised from 11 million Euros to 30 million Euros. Implementation of the project is expected to start late 2007.

5. Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in ACP/ OCT Countries.

Mr. John Landos, Consultant, AGRIFOR Consult was recruited by the EU Office, Brussels to conduct a “*Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*” which began with a meeting with CRFM Secretariat staff in Belize, on August 31, 2006. Mr. Landos and his team visited Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Barbados to identify issues that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU Sanitary standards. The findings of the study were presented at a regional workshop held on November 14 -15, 2006 in Belize. Mr. Landos advised the CRFM Secretariat that the findings of the workshop would be presented to the European Commission in December 2006.

6. Conch Abundance Survey and Technical Assistance to the Veterinary Service Division, Jamaica

Discussions were held with Senior Government Officials and the Queen Conch Industry Officials in Jamaica, over the period December 4 – 10, 2006, to develop a Plan of Action for the mobilization of resources for an assessment of Queen Conch (Pedro Bank), and to render technical assistance to the Veterinary Service Division, Jamaica. The Conch Industry officials have given a verbal commitment to finance, through the CRFM Secretariat, these activities. The CRFM Secretariat and the Fisheries Division, Jamaica will mobilize human/expert resources.

OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

ACTIVITY 121 : General Administration- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Output: CRFM (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) coordinating and implementing agreed activities

Activity Start: April 1, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$36,500

Spent: US\$28,062

Spent during the last quarter: US\$8,592

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes ☒ No ☐

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Completion of Total Activity: ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Percentage of total output achieved to date

General Administration - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

During the reporting period, the CRFM Secretariat, Eastern Caribbean Office (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) provided support for the implementation of activities approved in the Annual Work Plan and Budget, April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007.

OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

ACTIVITY 150: Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

Output: Recommendations to the COTED; and approved Work Programme and Budget

Activity Start: April 1, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$33,600

Spent: US\$36,525

Spent during the last quarter: US\$24,097

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes ☐ No ☒

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Completion of Total Activity: ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Percentage of total output achieved to date

Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting of the Executive Committee

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

OUTPUT 200 Advocacy, Policy and Planning

ACTIVITY 200: Advocacy Policy and Planning

Output: Promotion of the CRFM Secretariat and its achievements, the continuation of the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, and the coordination of work plans and activities for implementation.

Activity Start: April 1, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$135,375

Spent: US\$58,992

Spent during the last quarter: US\$18,396

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes ☒ No ☐

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Completion of Total Activity: ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Percentage of total output achieved to date

WBS 200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning

Within the context of the Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2006 / 07, the CRFM Secretariat will continue to support and enhance the institutional capabilities of Member States in the area of policy formulation, with a focus in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime as mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government at their Fourteenth Inter-sessional Meeting. Also, with regards to advocacy, the emphasis will be on projecting a positive image for the CRFM, its Secretariat, and programme activities. The working relationships and achievements of the CRFM Secretariat and the Directors of Fisheries of Member States will be highlighted.

The focus of planning in this programme year will be directed at review of the First Medium Term Plan and preparation of the Second Medium Term Plan, preparation of Quarterly and Annual Work Plans and Implementation Reports, and enhancement of complementarity and coherence between and among the regional (CRFM Secretariat) and national (Fisheries Departments) Work Plans.

Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM

Background:

This project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM Secretariat, aims at developing a Master Plan for fishery resource development and management in the Region (especially for the small-scale sub-sectors within the EEZ). The agreed components are: (1) Pelagic Resource Development and Management; (2) Aquaculture Development Policy Formulation; (3) Regional Fisheries Database Development; (4) Supporting Community-base Management (including sedentary resource management); and (5) Education and Training in the component fields in the CARICOM States.

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

During the period October – December 2006, JICA forwarded to the CRFM Secretariat, through Dr. Tadomi Nakai, CARICOM Secretariat, a tentative schedule of visits to the Caribbean by a JICA Mission commencing 26 February, 2007 and ending on 10 March, 2007. This Mission will undertake the following in order to facilitate project start up:

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

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- In July, the CARICOM Secretariat by way of *Note Verbale* notified the Government of Japan of Jamaica's readiness to participate in the JICA funded project.
- The CRFM Secretariat has been in continual communication with JICA and its representation at the CARICOM Secretariat and it is expected that the start-up would commence soon.

- Finalization of schedule of visit to the Caribbean by JICA Mission to facilitate commencement of project implementation.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Provide support for logistical arrangements for JICA Mission to CRFM Member States.

POLICY

Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP & R)

Background:

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide administrative support and technical leadership in the formulation of the CFP&R including identification and analysis of the legal, socio-economic and linkages issues, through a consultative and participatory approach.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group was held, 7 – 8 April, 2006, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a detailed draft legal text was prepared for several substantive and procedural sections of the Draft Legal Framework Agreement on the CFP & R, and a resource person from U.W.I CERMES was contracted to develop a Bibliography to facilitate the work of the Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkages Issues. The resource person submitted a draft Bibliography on the *Review of the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime* for review by the Working Group which was finalised.
- The Ad Hoc legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, met for the third time during the period 31 July – 2 August 2006, in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, was held during September 21-22, 2006 to continue the process of reviewing and providing legal advice on the draft Framework Agreement for a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.
- A Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum was held during the period October 23 – 24, 2006, Georgetown, Guyana, in order to review and input to progress reports of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group, and the Social, Economic and Linkages Working Group, and incorporate the reports into the draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. The Forum made several recommendations for improving the draft policy and a revised schedule of implementation of the Way Forward was recommended.

- The “*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” was drafted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkage Issues Working Group, and the report / Input of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the *draft Framework Agreement for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime* were both presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in October 2006.
- A team comprising of Mr. Milton Haughton, Deputy Executive Director (CRFM Secretariat), Mr. Neville Bissember, Assistant General Counsel, CARICOM Secretariat and Mr. Ivor Carryl, Programme Manager, CSME visited Canada to review the Canadian Fisheries Policy and Law during the period July 9-20, 2006. The Report of the Study Mission to Canada, containing recommendations for the elaboration of the CFP & R, and taking into account the experience and lessons learnt from the preparation and application of the Canadian fisheries policy were also presented to the Special Meeting of the Forum in October 2006.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Organise and convene the Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the CFP&R, January 31 to February 2, 2007, Grenada.
- Prepare the Working Group Report.

Advocacy - Promoting the CRFM Secretariat

Background:

The activities planned are geared to promote greater public awareness of the programmes and activities of the CRFM Secretariat, highlighting its achievements.

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

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- The CRFM Secretariat Annual Report 1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005, was placed on the CRFM Secretariat Website and arrangements were made for hard copies to be distributed to Member States.
- The Editorial Committee met to discuss and determine the way forward with regard to the production of the CRFM Newsletter Issue # 6. Articles for the Newsletter were determined and potential persons responsible for preparation of them recommended.

- The CRFM Secretariat participated in the 2006 National Agriculture and Trade Show, 28- 30 April, Belmopan, Belize. The objectives of the CRFM Secretariat's participation was to raise awareness of the CRFM Secretariat to the Belizean public and the CRFM Secretariat's support to the sustainable management of fisheries in Belize and the other Member States. The CRFM Secretariat and the Belize Department of Fisheries exhibited their displays under the same roof and together brought issues pertaining to the development and management of fisheries in Belize and the wider Caribbean to the attention of national and visiting stakeholders.
- The CRFM Secretariat participated in the IICA Sixth (6th) Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture Exhibition and Trade Show, 5-7 October, Nassau, The Bahamas.
- Updating of the CRFM Secretariat Website continued during the reporting period.
- The CRFM Secretariat initiated a review of the Publication Policy with a view to updating it.

PLANNING

Background:

The provision of leadership in the preparation of Annual and Quarterly Work Plans and Reports, and the preparation of project concept papers and proposals for resource mobilization.

Work Plans for the period October - December, 2006 were prepared by staff. A Technical Progress and Financial Report for the programme year, 2005 / 06 was finalized. Further, the CRFM Secretariat's Annual Report for the period 2004/05 was completed. Consistent with the CRFM Secretariat's Strategic Plan, a differential approach to addressing varying country circumstances will be adopted through this planning process.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Request for Annual Work Plans were sent to Member States from the CRFM Secretariat.
- The CRFM Secretariat continued collecting Member States Work Plans. To date Work Plans have been received from: (1) The Bahamas, (2) Anguilla, (3) Grenada, (4) St. Vincent and the Grenadines, (5) Jamaica and (6) Belize (Capture Fisheries Unit). An analysis will shortly commence to determine the extent to which Member States' Work Plans are aligned with the CRFM (Regional) Secretariat's Work Plans and to ensure a coordinated approach to delivery.
- Further, the CRFM Secretariat has commenced discussions with the OECS Secretariat (ESDU) to enter into an MOU arrangement with regard to a collaborative approach to the planning and delivery of projects / activities in the OECS sub-region.

- During the period October – December 2006, work and consultations commenced on the draft Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2007 / 08. This draft Annual Work Plan is being developed against the background of a new Medium Term Plan for the period 2007 / 08 to 2009 / 10; critical activities from the old Medium Term Plan that are to be completed during 2007 / 08; expected start-up of new donor funded projects in 2007 / 08, e.g. The Japanese funded Master Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the EU funded Programme for Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries (ACP Fish II).
- The draft Annual Workplan was presented to Members of the Executive Committee at its Seventh Meeting, December 7 -8, 2006, Jamaica, and subsequently circulated to all Member States for their input.
- The inputs of Member States will be presented to the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee later this year, and subsequently to the Forum for approval. This consultative approach to developing the Annual Work Plan will engender ownership of this Plan by Member States and, as far as possible, ensure that Member States' individual and collective needs are addressed by the Work Plan.
- CRFM concluded a MOU with the U.W.I.
- The CRFM Secretariat initiated preparation of a MOU between IOCARIBE and the CRFM to facilitate enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the two organizations. The draft MOU was submitted to IOCARIBE for consideration.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to collect Annual Workplans for CRFM Member States.
- Review Member States comments and finalize draft Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2007/ 08.
- Continue dialogue with the OECS Secretariat (ESDU) to enter into an MOU arrangement with regard to a collaborative approach to the planning and delivery of projects / activities in the OECS sub-region.

OUTPUT 300 FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION	
ACTIVITY 300: Fisheries Statistics and Information	
Output:	Information available for the management of Pelagic and Reef Species, Shrimp and Groundfish Species and Lobster and Conch Fisheries
Activity Start: April 1, 2006	End: March 31, 2007
Activity Progress Report Summary	
Activity Budget	
Total Budget: US\$102,543	Spent: US\$65,641 Spent during the last quarter: US\$19,845
Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Completion of Total Activity: ahead <input type="checkbox"/> behind <input type="checkbox"/> on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Percentage of total output achieved to date.	

WBS 300: FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

This Programme continued to focus on the provision of technical support in the implementation of CARIFIS at the country level, in areas such as the transfer of the legacy databases from TIP and LRS to CARIFIS, training in querying and reporting and debugging of the software.

In accordance with the AWP 2006/ 07, the CRFM Secretariat recruited Ms. June Masters to strengthen this programme area.

The CRFM Secretariat sought legal advice in order to secure the intellectual property rights in the CARIFIS programme. On the basis of the advice, the most appropriate approach is to claim copyrights to the programme. This may be done by affixing the copy right symbol (©), with the date of creation or revision, and name of the CRFM as owners. This will grant the CRFM, the creator, the exclusive rights to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute, perform and display the programme.

Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM - Regional Data Base:

This Project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM Secretariat aims at developing a master plan for fishery resource development and management in the Region (especially for the small-scale sub-sectors within the EEZ). During its implementation, a baseline study to review and assess the current national and regional fisheries information systems will be done, with the findings of the study being used to make recommendations for improving national fisheries information systems and drafting a policy framework for establishing a regional fisheries database. The inter-linked components are as follows: Pelagic Fisheries Development and Management; Community Based Fisheries Resource Management; Regional Fisheries Database Development and Aquaculture Development.

Review the Data Collection and Management Systems of the Marine Fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda

Background:

In an effort to provide information for management and decision-making on a continuous basis, the CRFM Secretariat will assist the Fisheries Divisions of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to review and refine their data collection systems to collect catch, effort, biological, economic, social and environmental data in order to permit qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the impact of their marine capture fisheries on the population structure, including estimates of fishing mortality, current abundance and status of exploitation, trends in recruitment and projected future abundance, and allowable catch under given management regimes. Biomass dynamic models, length based assessment techniques / models, as well as bio-economic models will be utilized in these assessments.

The aims of this Project are to:

- review the data (catch, effort, biological, economic, social and environmental) collection, and management systems of The Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda and make recommendations for refinement.
- review the type of economic data being collected and advise on the additional data to be collected in order to monitor the performance of the fleets in the respective fisheries as well as provide information for management.
- clearly identify and characterize the strengths and weaknesses of the current data management system at the different levels (field sampling, data management, analysis and reporting).

The CRFM Secretariat will provide technical assistance to The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda to undertake a review of their respective data collection and management systems for catch, effort, biological, economical, social and environmental data.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Terms of Reference for the resource person to review the data collection and management systems of the marine fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda drafted.
- Consultant identified.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Contract the consultant and implement the consultancy to review the data collection and management systems of the marine fisheries of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and Antigua and Barbuda drafted.

Monitoring and Provision of Technical Assistance (Trainers and Support):

This activity is designed to strengthen the data collection and management capabilities of the CRFM countries through the development of training material for improving the collection of fisheries data, and the continued implementation of CARIFIS in the Member States.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Organised and convened *the CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, in Trinidad and Tobago, on 10 April, 2006*. The Meeting concluded that CARIFIS is an important and useful software that is needed by the countries to facilitate planning and decision making in fisheries. The current usage of the software is less than desired or expected at this stage, and urgent steps are needed at this time to build capacity in the countries, transfer the legacy databases to CARIFIS, remove bugs from the program and address the other needs articulated by specific Member States. It was recognized that a key step in the process of the implementation of the CARIFIS is to acquire the services of a dedicated staff to work on CARIFIS and other data management issues.
- Report of the *CRFM/FAO LAPE Project Seminar to Review Progress on the CARIFIS Implementation and Determine the Fisheries and Related Information Required for Decision-making and Fisheries Management, Trinidad and Tobago, 10 April, 2006* was finalised.
- Prepared TORs for the contracting of a consultant and implemented consultancies to provide technical assistance and training in the use of CARIFIS to Guyana and Belize in August 2006.
- TORs prepared for legal expertise to secure intellectual property rights in CARIFIS, and discussion initiated with the CARICOM Secretariat.

- Preparation for Regional Training Workshop on the use of CARIFIS commenced.
- CARIFIS Country Matrix showing the status of implementation of CARIFIS in each Member State, and Country Specific Action Plans being reviewed.
- Liaised with P. Fanning, Project Manager, FAO LAPE Project, with regards the collaborative efforts relating to the debugging of CARIFIS, legacy databases transfers, training, provision of querying and reporting software, and organising of the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Review and complete CARIFIS Country Matrix and Country Specific Work Plans.
- Provide technical assistance to The Bahamas in the implementation of CARIFIS.
- Liaise with P. Fanning, Project Manager, FAO LAPE Project, with regards the collaborative efforts relating to the debugging of CARIFIS, legacy databases transfers, training, provision of querying and reporting software, and organising of the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS.
- Organise the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS.
- CRFM Secretariat participation in the Third Scientific Workshop of the Lesser Antilles Pelagic Ecosystems Project.

OUTPUT 400 FISHERIES RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

ACTIVITY 400: Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment

Output: Information available for the management of Pelagic and Reef Species, Shrimp and Groundfish Species and Lobster and Conch Fisheries

Activity Start: April 1, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$342,611

Spent: US\$116,129

Spent during the last quarter: US\$32,876

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes ☒ No ☐

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Completion of Total Activity: ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Percentage of total output achieved to date.

WBS 400: FISHERIES RESEARCH AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Formal assessment tasks are now conducted largely through the activities of CRFM regional resource working groups. The CRFM resource working groups, under the guidance of selected Chairpersons, are responsible for agreed inter-sessional activities, and preparation for the annual scientific meetings. These resource working groups cover data analysis, research, assessment, and provision of management advice on fisheries targeting the following range of fisheries resources: large pelagic; small coastal pelagic; reef and slope; shrimp and groundfish, conch and lobster.

Besides the focused tasks of the resource working groups, other aspects of fisheries management require research inputs to inform their planning and implementation.

Specific planned activities covering aspects of fisheries management and which contain research components include:

- (i) development and implementation of mechanisms for the management of shared

- resources, and
- (ii) assessment of potential for developing or expanding large pelagic fisheries.

Implementation of activity (ii) is dependent on external funding. In addition, the Research and Resource Assessment Programme for 2006-07 continues to include a component for provision of technical support at ICCAT and other international fora, as required.

Development and Implementation of Mechanisms for the Management of Shared Resources:

Background:

Under the UN Convention on Fish Stocks (1995) all countries are obliged either to participate in activities of an existing competent organization that has been established to manage particular shared marine resources, or where one does not exist, to establish one. This is needed to ensure that the region's concerns are incorporated into the global decision-making process and that member countries' rights are protected. Within the Caribbean region, shared resources are being exploited by CRFM and non-CRFM countries alike, and the sustainable exploitation of these resources are threatened unless mechanisms for collaboration or joint management are put into place.

Objective:

The aim of the research component of this activity is to provide technical information on resource distribution and status, to assist management planning and implementation.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

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

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Tagging Programme proposal to be completed.

Provision of Technical Support at Regional and International Management Fora:

Background:

Acknowledging the establishment, role, and objectives of ICCAT, other relevant regional and international fisheries bodies and international management fora, CRFM countries have begun to participate more actively in the activities of these organizations and to be directly involved in the management process. In 2006 - 07, the activity continues to include the provision of CRFM technical (research and assessment) support to countries on relevant issues of shared concern. This activity permits the CRFM Secretariat to coordinate planning and development of both national and regional positions on issues ranging from statistics to management, which require knowledge and understanding of the interpretation of resource biology and status, as well as development of legal arguments.

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

Objectives:

- (i) To coordinate planning and development of both national and regional positions on issues ranging from statistics to management, but which require knowledge and understanding of the interpretation of resource biology and status.
- (ii) To participate in those activities of international fora, in observer capacity, in cases where it is warranted.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- CRFM Secretariat, supported by CARISEC, provided both technical and legal support and advice to countries preparing for, and participating in the 2006 Annual ICCAT Commission Meeting.
- CRFM Secretariat prepared and submitted an annual report to ICACT on behalf of CARICOM.
- Due to a meeting schedule clash, The CRFM Secretariat was unable to participate in the ICCAT SCRS Meeting.
- CRFM Secretariat report on the 2006 ICCAT Commission Meeting was prepared and faxed to countries.

- CRFM provided technical support to CRFM countries which participated in the FAO Regional Lobster Workshop, 19- 29 September, Merida, Mexico.
- On behalf of the CRFM, the Secretariat also participated in and provided inputs during the FAO Regional Workshop for CARICOM Member Countries on the Factors of Unsustainability and Overexploitation in Marine Fisheries.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Advise countries about proposals to be prepared for submission to ICCAT by February 2006, and preparation of annual statistics to be submitted to ICCAT during the first half of 2007.
- Prepare proposal for establishment of appropriate Subsidiary Body or Bodies of CFF to deal with international fora issues of relevance to the CRFM.

PELAGIC AND REEF FISHES RESOURCE ASSESSMENT:

Assess the Potential for Developing or Expanding Large Pelagic Fisheries:

Background:

The sustainable development and management of large pelagic fisheries have been identified as priority areas by CARICOM Member States through the COTED as well as by the National Governments through their fisheries development and management plans and policy papers.

As prescribed by the various international agreements, Caribbean countries need to develop their knowledge of these offshore pelagic and other under-utilized resources, to ensure responsible and successful sustainable development and management of the relevant fisheries. Given that many of these resources are shared, countries have committed to regional coordination of statistics, research and management.

Objectives:

- (i) To develop knowledge base of countries on offshore pelagic and underutilized resources.
- (ii) To promote responsible and sustainable resource utilization.
- (iii) To increase development within the sector, and contribute to socio economic well being of industry stakeholders.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- This activity is on hold, pending receipt of donor funds and support.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Contribute to JICA mission work and report, in preparation for commencement of agreed activity tasks.

CRFM Resource Working Group Activities and the Annual CRFM Scientific Meetings:

Many fisheries resources of major importance in the Caribbean region have distributions that extend beyond national boundaries, and hence require coordinated action in respect of their assessment and management.

To facilitate informed coordinated management planning and implementation, the CRFM has established a number of Fisheries Resource Working Groups: the CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Resource Working Group (SGWG); the CRFM Conch and Lobster Resource Working Group (CLWG); the CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (LPWG); the CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Resource Working Group (RSWG); the CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (SCPWG). These Fisheries Resource Working Groups handle a range of research and assessment activities, and are responsible for developing management recommendations based on the results of fisheries assessment analyses. A CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group On Methods has also been established to investigate the suitability of various available assessment methods for application to CRFM fisheries management situations. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods reports to the Resource Working Groups during the CRFM Annual Scientific Meetings.

The CRFM Annual Scientific Meetings are joint meetings of the CRFM Fisheries Resource Working Groups, and ensure sharing of knowledge and expertise among the Working Groups. The Annual Scientific Meetings also facilitate wider regional review and consultation concerning the interpretation of assessment results. By this means, fisheries assessments and management recommendations are coordinated and updated at the regional level, for presentation to the CFF and the Ministerial Council on an annual basis.

Objectives:

- (i) To use the most recent and available data to assess, by whatever technical approach or approaches are most appropriate, the status of fishery resources exploited by CRFM countries.
- (ii) To discuss, and interpret the results of the assessments and other relevant quantitative analyses of the data, incorporating local intimate knowledge and understanding of the fisheries concerned.

- (iii) To make recommendations for management of the fisheries investigated, considering any significant social and economic implications of the management strategies that would emerge from such recommendations.
- (iv) To make recommendations for improvements in statistics, and to identify future research and fisheries assessment needs.
- (v) To develop the skills of national staff in fisheries assessment analyses and report preparation.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- The Report of the Second Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting that included the reports of the annual meetings of the CRFM SGWG, LPWG and CLWG was approved by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, and the management recommendations pertaining to the 10 fisheries analysed by the three Working Groups were forwarded to the meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council when it met in May 2006.
- The CRFM Ad Hoc Methods Working Group held its second meeting in June 2006, and continued the work it began in 2005, as well as commenced examination of some new methodologies. Nine (9) species rapporteurs from seven (7) different CRFM countries received training in the new assessment methods during the Second meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods.
- Inter-sessional activities are being conducted by species rapporteurs.
- Monitoring by the Secretariat suggests that rapporteurs are not making timely progress with regard to inter-sessional activities. This matter would need to be addressed at the level of the CFF.
- Agreed on scientific approach to be implemented for proposed conch survey in Jamaica, and provided comments to facilitate finalization of conch survey study proposal for St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Report of Methods Working Group Meeting finalized.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to monitor implementation of inter-sessional assessment-related activities, aimed at preparing for the third scientific meeting.
- Prepare information note and consultancy documents required for conduct of third scientific meeting.
- Continue to provide technical support and assistance to those countries undertaking conch visual survey studies, to ensure successful implementation.

CRFM Regional Queen Conch Research Programme (CRP):

Background:

This project is designed to rehabilitate and strengthen the management of the Queen Conch, *Strombus gigas*, resources in the region by strengthening regional management capability and empowering fisheries divisions to carry out their tasks through training, systems improvements, and provision of financial and technical assistance. The overall long-term goal of this project is ensure sustainable utilization of Queen Conch resources in the CARIFORUM Region through greater networking, research, capacity building and improved management to rehabilitate and protect the stocks and ensure sustainability of the fisheries.

Objectives:

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- (i) To strengthen the region's data collection and management systems and maintain a regional database on the conch fisheries.
- (ii) To identify the patterns of distribution, abundance and densities of the queen conch.
- (iii) To develop advice for strengthened management of queen conch.
- (iv) To create models and plans for the effective management of the stocks.
- (v) To broaden stakeholder and general public awareness of the status of queen conch stocks and engender support for their sustainable management.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Activity was suspended, pending acquisition of donor funding.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Activities will focus on finalizing proposals for countries, based on requests received by the Secretariat, and commencement of proposal implementation, should funds become available during the next quarter.

Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch - ad hoc study

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

This activity is therefore designed to rehabilitate and strengthen the management of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) resources in the region by strengthening management capability through training in research, assessment and management methods, conduct of visual surveys to evaluate the present status of the queen conch resources, and provision of financial and technical assistance. The overall long-term goal of this project is to ensure sustainable utilization of queen conch resources in the CARIFORUM Region through greater networking, research, capacity building and improved management to rehabilitate and protect the stocks.

In 2005-06, the Office of Protected Resources (USA) supported the CRFM's work in the Dominican Republic, which, of the countries currently prohibited by CITES from exporting queen conch, was most likely to benefit from early work, such as stock assessment surveys. This support enabled CRFM to assist this country to follow up on the recommendations made by CITES.

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

Objectives

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- (i) To gather fisheries-independent data on the queen conch resources in the Dominican Republic through the conduct of underwater surveys on the main fishing grounds to determine the status of the stocks.
- (ii) To determine size frequency distribution and maturity profile of the exploited populations, and the location of any juvenile beds.
- (iii) To organize consultations with stakeholders including government officials, fishermen and processors and exporters to discuss the stock status and build support for improved conservation and management.
- (iv) To prepare queen conch management plans for the Dominican Republic.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

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

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Completion of study report.

OUTPUT 500 FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVITY 500: Fisheries Resource Management and Development

Output: Improved national fishery management policies and plans with inputs from principal stakeholders

Activity Start: April 1, 2006

End: March 31, 2007

Activity Progress Report Summary

Total Budget: US\$349,817

Spent: US\$118,210

Spent during the last quarter: US\$58,556

Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes ☒ No ☐

Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Completion of Total Activity: ahead ☐ behind ☐ on schedule ☒

Percentage of total output achieved to date

WBS 500: FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

This Programme provides technical assistance to Member States in the areas of: fisheries management planning, using a participatory and multidisciplinary approach; monitoring control and surveillance (MCS); quality assurance and safety; organizational development of fisher folk organizations for improved participation in the fisheries management process; and human resource development in fisheries and related fields. It is also involved in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM.

Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Prepared TOR and contracted resource person to complete the compilation of the draft bibliography of literature available on the subject of the Study to draft a Bibliography on the *Review of the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*. The document

has been submitted by the resource person and finalized by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Social, Economic and Linkages Issues.

- The “*Report on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that may impact the Establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime*” was presented to the Special Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in October 2006.

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

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Organise and convene the Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Legal Working Group on the CFP&R.
- Prepare the Working Group Report.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT:

Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs):

Background:

During the programme years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06, the CRFM Secretariat worked with a number of countries, including The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda in the process of developing and implementing their fisheries management plans (FMPs). Based on a timeframe that takes about six to twelve months to develop a FMP, hold national consultations with stakeholders and obtain approval from the relevant political authority, the CRFM Secretariat was sought to follow-up the activities with the countries mentioned above as well as work with the Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and Suriname in the updating and implementation of their FMPs.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Convened the National Consultation on the Draft FMP for the Marine Fisheries of St. Lucia on April 27, 2006. Draft National Consultation Report for St. Lucia being reviewed.
- Convened the National Consultation on the Draft FMP for the Marine Fisheries of Montserrat on May 24, 2006.
- Updated the Draft FMP for Anguilla and passed it to the DFMR for review.
- Draft FMPs for Grenada and Suriname being reviewed and edited.

- With the DOF, Guyana, amended the Draft FMP based on recommendations coming out of the National Consultation in November 2005 and facilitated the holding of the Final National Consultation on the Revised Draft FMP for Guyana on November 7, 2006, in Guyana. The Draft FMP for Guyana has since been finalized.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Review and comment on the Draft Workshop Report for the Final Consultation on the Updated Draft FMP for Guyana, November 7, 2006.
- Review and comment on Draft Workshop Report for the National Consultation on the Draft FMP for St. Lucia.
- Review the Draft FMPs for Suriname and Grenada.
- Hold discussions with CFO and Director of Fisheries of Barbados and Jamaica respectively on the process for updating their FMPs.

Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management:

Implementation of the Medium Term Action Plan for the Institutional Strengthening for Leaders of Fisherfolk Organisations:

Background:

Following the publication of the Report on the Organizational Needs Assessment of Fisher folk organizations and the Workshop on the Report held in October 2004, a Pro Tem Working Group was formed to transform five (5) recommendations from the report into a Medium Action Plan. Further work in this area was done during this reporting period.

Objective:

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

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Using the Draft Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan, the CRFM Secretariat prepared and submitted a Draft Project Profile entitled “Strengthening of National Fisherfolk Organisations in Selected ACP Caribbean Countries” to the CTA for consideration under their technical assistance programme.
- CRFM Secretariat participated in the CTA Workshop on Project Preparation and Management, in The Netherlands, from 10 - 13 April 2006, to become acquainted with the CTA project planning approach and tools, and review the submitted Project Profile.

- With assistance from CTA, finalised the Project Profile “Strengthening of National Fisherfolk Organisations in Selected ACP Caribbean Countries”.
- TOR/Project : “Strengthening of National Fisherfolk Organisations in Selected ACP Caribbean Countries” approved for implementation by CTA.
- Organised and convened the CTA/CRFM Training of Trainer Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers to enhance their Skills to provide better Information, Advisory and Training Services to Primary and National Fisher Folk Organisations, 4 – 14 December 2006.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Review December 2006 Training of Trainers Workshop Report.
- Implement the:
 - Promotion and Awareness Campaign
 - National Consultations for the launching of NFOs.
- Initiate the organization of the Regional Fisheries Stakeholders Workshop to launch CARNUFO.

Human Resource Development – Long Term Training and Scholarships:

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the CRFM Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the participation of individuals from the Caribbean Region in the IOI’s Training and Capacity Building activities, particularly the IOI Training Programme in Ocean Governance.

In its ongoing commitment to develop the human resource base in fisheries and fisheries related disciplines in the region, the CRFM Secretariat provided IOI scholarships for four (4) persons drawn from fisheries departments in the member states to attend the International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management in Canada, from May 24 to July 21, 2006, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Selection of scholars was governed by the CRFM’s philosophy in respect of human resource development, which includes long-term and short-term training, attachments and active collaboration with Fisheries Departments and universities both external and regional, to identify priority areas of collaboration.

Against the above, during the 2006/ 07 PY, the following offer of awards were made and awardees commenced and completed training:

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

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

During the period October – December 2006, the Governments of CRFM Member States were advised by letter to submit nominations to the CRFM Secretariat for pre-selections for CRFM / IOI Scholarships for the year 2007. The training will take place during the period May 23 – July 20, 2007 at the Dalhousie University, Canada.

During the period April – December, 2006, Mrs. Yolanda Babb-Echteld, of the Fisheries Department of Suriname, continued working on her Thesis at the UWI / CERMES. Ms. Babb-Echteld was awarded European Union funded scholarship (MSc. Fisheries Science) under the Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme – Fisheries Component. The CRFM Secretariat is also co-supervising the preparation of the MSc. Thesis. Ms. Babb- Echteld advised that she has been making corrections to her Thesis and was attempting to send electronically to Dr. Robin Mahon, UWI CERMES, for review, in December 2006.

Ms. Kennida Polanco from the Department of Fisheries in the Dominican Republic who received an EU/ ICRAFD scholarship to undertake research for her B.Sc Thesis successfully completed her studies.

In October 2004, the CRFM Secretariat, approved under Work Programme April 1st, 2004 to March 31st, 2005, and granted financial support to Ms. Ann-Marie Jobity, Director of Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago, in respect of a fisheries research project being pursued under a PhD. Programme with UWI, Trinidad and Tobago. The project is titled: *A determination of size selectivity in gill nets towards sustainability of the Carite Fishery in Trinidad*. During the period under review, the CRFM Secretariat continued to work with Ms. Jobity on this project.

The CRFM Secretariat facilitated training attachment of Ms. Iris Monnereau, a PhD. Student at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, who is studying the social aspects of lobster fishing in the Caribbean, under the Ecosystems Societies Consilience Precautionary principle (ECOST) Project.

Consequent to the invitation of contact by the CRFM Secretariat with the United Nations University, Iceland, Mr. Thor Asgeirsson, Deputy Programme Manager, United Nations University, Iceland, visited the CRFM Secretariat in May to engage in discussions on future cooperation between the University and the CRFM, especially regarding the fisheries training programme on offer. The United Nations University (UNU) Fisheries Training Programme is a postgraduate training programme that offers training in various areas of the fisheries sector for practicing professionals in the less developed countries. The programme is led by the Marine Research Institute in a formal cooperation with the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories and the University of Akureyri. The training covers six (6) specialist areas including (1) Fisheries Policy and Planning; (2) Marine and Inland Waters Resources and Assessment; (3) Quality Management and Fish Handling Processes; (4) Management of Fisheries Companies and Marketing; (5) Fishing Technology; and (6) Aquatic Environmental Assessment and Monitoring.

The CRFM Secretariat is in discussions with the UNU to train fisheries personnel from the region for the academic year 2007/ 08 and arrangements are being made for Mr. Asgeirsson to undertake interviews on potential candidates for the programme. This is an opportunity to establish a long-term institutional relationship between the UNU and the CRFM for the purpose of building national and regional capacity for fisheries development and management in the region.

IMPROVED POST HARVEST, PROCESSING AND MARKETING:

Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM/ CARIFORUM Members States and OCT Countries (Donor supported initiative submitted to the European Community for funding):

During the programme year 2002 / 03, the CRFM Secretariat (formerly the CARICOM Fisheries Unit) undertook a diagnostic mission which focused on the post harvest fishing sector and related support areas of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago as well as the OCT UK countries, Anguilla, The British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos and the OCT's of the Netherlands. This led to the preliminary design of a strategy and proposal for strengthening fishery products health conditions in CARICOM/CARIFORUM member states and OCT countries. The findings of the mission and the preliminary design of the proposal were complemented by, and refined through workshop discussions in which participated broad representation from agencies such as Ministries of Agriculture and Health, Standards Bureaux and National Analytical Laboratories.

Objective:

The objective of the "Project for Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM Member States and OCT countries" is the optimal use of the CARICOM / CARIFORUM States' fishery resources in order to gain improvements in production and trading capacity in relation to fishery products, so as to contribute to the securing of optimal economic and social returns from the resource.

During mid-2005, as part of the ongoing CARIFORUM and the EU negotiations for an Economic

Partnership Agreement (EPA), the second phase of these negotiations focused on regional integration. In this regard, the technical negotiations discussed SPS measures at the First CARIFORUM/EC Technical Session on Market Access, and a decision was made to explore the possibilities for a CARIFORUM pilot project on SPS measures in a priority area for the Caribbean region.

Following on this decision, the Regional Preparatory Task Force (RPTF), which is charged with responsibilities for advising on support measures/programmes arising out of EPA negotiations, agreed that the CARIFORUM Pilot Project on SPS Measures would focus on the fisheries sector. To this effect, the Terms of Reference for a Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector was prepared by the CARIFORUM Secretariat, in consultation with the CRFM Secretariat, and submitted to the Secretary of the ACP Group of States.

Objective:

The overall objective of the Study is to advise on a programme of action to eventually increase the value added and revenue derived both from existing and potential fish exports to the EU from Caribbean operators through improved institutional collaboration and capacity in fisheries sanitary standards at the CARIFORUM level.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- (i) to identify issues (such as institutional or capacity constraints) that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU sanitary standards; and
- (ii) to propose a prioritised list of Terms of References for necessary actions and interventions feasible at the regional / CARIFORUM level that will provide significant benefits to the fishery sector by assisting in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements.

The EU selected a Team of Consultants to review the situation in the region and prepare a financing proposal for submission to the Commission.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- CRFM Secretariat participated in the implementation of the Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector by way of consultations with the EU and Regional Consultants contracted to undertake the Study as well as providing logistical support.
- CRFM Secretariat assisted the Consultants in organizing and convening the CARIFORUM workshop to review the findings and recommendations of the Consultants, November 14 - 15, 2006, Belize.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Liaise with the Consultants and EU regarding the acceptance and implementation of the recommendations in the Consultants' Report.

<p>ACTIVITY 600 : Communication and Documentation</p> <p>Output: Functioning and efficient Documentation Centre operations; Publications Disseminated. Computer networks functioning.</p> <p>Activity Start: April 1, 2006 End: March 31, 2007</p>
<p>Activity Progress Report Summary</p> <p>Total Budget: US\$23,358 Spent: US\$6,741 Spent during the last quarter: US\$350</p> <p>Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <u>✓</u> No <u> </u></p>
<p>Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead <u> </u> behind <u> </u> on schedule <u>✓</u> Completion of Total Activity: ahead <u> </u> behind <u> </u> on schedule <u>✓</u></p>

The CREM Newsletter

Operations Manual, and Information and Documentation

In August 2005 the CRFM Secretariat wrote to the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), Barbados, reminding them of the CRFM Operations Manual and the Upgrade of the Registry and Documentation/Information System. CARICAD advised that a team would be sent to CRFM Secretariat Headquarters (Belize) to discuss the way forward with regard to this assistance. A Team from CARICAD visited the CRFM Secretariat, Belize, on November 4th, 2005 to discuss modalities for the assistance to the CRFM Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by:

Dr. Jennifer Astaphan	-	Executive Director, CARICAD
Mr. Richard Madavo	-	Senior Advisor, Public Sector Reform, CARICAD
Ms. Rosemund Warrington	-	Programme Specialist, CARICAD
Mr. Hugh Saul	-	Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat
Mr. Anthony Mills	-	Corporate Services Manager, CRFM Secretariat

The CARICAD advised that it was currently rationalizing the role of the CARICOM Secretariat in respect of governance arrangements for all regional organizations, and the placement / positioning of such regional organizations (e.g. CRFM) within a constellation that has like Rules and Procedures regarding governance, relations with each other, staffing, etc., so as to create synergies and minimize inefficiencies. Therefore, this assistance to the CRFM Secretariat would allow the CARICAD to, through networking arrangements, source skills in its own organization, the OECS Secretariat, CARICOM Secretariat and Member States to effect the work.

At this meeting, it was agreed:

- (i) CARICAD will assist the CRFM Secretariat with the preparation of its draft Operations Manual through the provision / sourcing of expertise. CARICAD did not have funds dedicated for this activity, however, it will be able to supply skills, and the CRFM Secretariat can contribute, say airfares – a cost sharing arrangement would be worked out.
- (ii) CARICAD will also assist the CRFM Secretariat to develop its knowledge capability – through the development of its Registry, and Documentation Systems and its interface with Member States – this will be undertaken on the basis of a cost sharing arrangement.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- During the period, April – June, 2006, CARICAD commenced the documentation review phase of this assistance / collaborative effort and submitted a Work Plan, Budget and a detailed Terms of Reference for the exercise. These documents were submitted to Member States for comments, by July 19, 2006.
- Mr. Emerson Bryan, Research Assistant of CARICAD visited the CRFM Secretariat 17- 18, May to provide support to the development of the preparation of the CRFM Secretariat's Operations Manual. Following Mr. Bryan's visit, CARICAD began the process of formulating a comprehensive proposal with respect to the Operations Manual (as well as the implementation of a Records and Information Management System as outlined in the TOR).
- A potential source of funds to support implementation has been informally identified through the CARICOM Secretariat, that is, the Canada Cooperation Fund.

The CRFM Secretariat's Website

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Additionally, during January to March, 2006 the CRFM Secretariat initiated actions to review and update its Website. The actions include training selected staff, revision of Website to make it more user friendly and interactions, placement of technical publications, reports and documentation on the Website. A quotation has been received from Website service provider to update the Website. The CRFM Secretariat has met with the Website Designer and arrangements are being made to further modify the original proposal and begin implementation of the update of the Website.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to place scanned hard copy Publications on the Website.
- Continue to update sections of the Website.
- Review revised Website update and implement update of the Website by the Service Provider.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THIS PROGRAMME YEAR

Study of the Impact of Globalization on Fisheries:

Background:

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

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

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

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

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

Development and Implementation of a Programme for Enabling and Promoting MCS:

Background:

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

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

IUU fishing is a dynamic and multi-faceted problem and, as such, no single strategy is sufficient to eliminate or reduce it. A concerted and multi-pronged approach is required nationally and regionally, and by type of fishery. The considerations that would influence the design of MCS systems are:

There are no universally acceptable models and each system in operation is in fact, adapted to the cultural, geographic, political and legal framework of the country or region.

The operational character of the system will depend on the fisheries management strategies being applied.

The national and regional MCS systems are complementary, with effective mechanisms being put in place for coordination.

Assuming that there is a shared commitment for effective management of the living resources of the region, the strategy for conducting monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, as part of any fisheries management structure must be developed within the framework of National Plans of Action (NPOAs). These plans would encompass robust institutional capacity, effective planning, adequate funding and cooperative arrangements between institutions at the national level and between neighbouring states at the regional/sub-regional level. By so doing, states will become capable of undertaking MCS operations in a manner that will maximize their ability to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities.

Objectives:

- (i) To develop a regional framework agreement and action plan on IUU fishing and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

- (ii) To provide technical assistance to Member States in developing their respective NPOAs - IUU Fishing as an integral part of the process towards improved fisheries management and development.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Provided technical assistance to Member States in outlining and developing their respective NPOAs - IUU Fishing.
- Organised and convened the Regional Workshop to Develop a Framework Agreement/Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS, December 6, 2006, Jamaica.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Review and revise the Draft Declaration on IUU Fishing and MCS, December 6, 2006, Jamaica.
- Present the Draft Declaration to the Forum for review and comments.
- Draft the TOR for an MCS Working Group.

Large Marine Ecosystems Project (LME)

Background:

The proposed project for the Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and adjacent Regions will build on and complement existing projects and initiatives that focus on technical and institutional aspects of sustainable living marine resource use by focusing on governance, knowledge, and institutional issues in a transboundary context.

The project has as its overall objective: *Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and adjacent areas through an integrated management approach that would meet the WSSD target for sustainable fisheries.*

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to identify, analyze and agree upon major issues, root causes and actions required to achieve sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Sea LME;
- to improve the shared knowledge base for sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources;
- to implement legal, policy and institutional (SAP) reforms to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resource management; to develop an institutional and

procedural approach to LME level monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Participated in the CLME TDA/SAP and Kick-off Session from October 23 to November 1, 2006.

Activities Planned for the Next Quarter

- Continue to monitor and participate in the implementation of the CLME TDA/SAP.

ECOST Project:

The main objective of the ECOST project is to develop a new approach for the evaluation of fishing activities and fishing policies in order to contribute to a better management of aquatic resources in the world. The project falls under the logic of the decision of Johannesburg to restore the marine ecosystems for 2015 and the philosophy of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) for a responsible fishery.

The project involves 23 partners and is geographically spread over three (3) continents (three (3) countries for each continent) that are characterized respectively by ecosystems of coastal upwelling (West Africa with Mauritania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau), delta (South East Asia with China, Vietnam and Thailand) and coral reef (Caribbean with Cuba, Jamaica and Dominican Republic). Within each region / ecosystem (eco- region) several fisheries have been selected as representative of global fishing activities. Furthermore, a marine protected area will be chosen in order to establish comparative analysis within the said eco- region, and to serve as a reference point.

Highlights of Achievements During the Reporting Period

- The CRRM Secretariat continued to monitor the implementation of the Project.

Safety at Sea Project:

The objectives of the project are to undertake an evaluation / needs assessment of the numbers and types of incidents/ injuries that divers receive in the commercial / artisanal fishery and compile the results in a format suitable to be stored in a database for analysis and development of a management plan at a later date.

The expected outputs are:

- A database with information on number of divers in the conch lobster fishery, types of injuries associated with diving in the conch and lobster fishery, causes of diver injuries in the conch and lobster fishery, frequency of injuries associated with the lobster and conch fishery and the problems and risk divers face in the conch and lobster fishery.

- An assessment of the diver occupation in the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region.
- This document will provide the stakeholders of the lobster and conch resources and the Department of Fisheries in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region with the necessary data to initiate a plan to reduce the hazards associated with unsafe diving practices in the artisanal diving fishery.
- Production of Reports on findings.
- Production and availability of baseline data for further studies.

APPENDIX A:

**CRFM SECRETARIAT
STAFF**

CRFM SECRETARIAT STAFF

COORDINATION and MANAGEMENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>Skills Area/Level</u>
Hugh Saul	Executive Director	MSc. / MBA / Cert. Exec. Management
Milton Haughton	Deputy Executive Director	MSc. / Dip. Mang.
Anthony Luis Mills	Corporate Services Manager	MSc. / MBA

TECHNICAL

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

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCE SUPPORT

Andrew Barnes	Accounting Assistant
Pamela Gibson-Murphy	Secretary
Rochelle Staine	Information Clerk / Typist
John Cyrus	Office Assistant / Driver
Zelma Baizar	Office Attendant
Olin Myers	Office Assistant

APPENDIX B:

REPORTING ON USAGE OF FINANCIAL INFLOWS