



# **CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT**

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## **CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM**

### **PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

Covering the Period  
October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005

March 16, 2006

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

Report #3 - CRFM



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## **TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM OF THE DIRECTOR**

**MEMO TO:** Mr. Joseph Simmonds, Chairman of the CRFM  
Members of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

**FROM:** Hugh Saul  
Executive Director, CRFM Secretariat

**SUBJECT:** **CRFM Technical and Financial Progress Report: October 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**

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Please find enclosed the Technical and Financial Progress Report No. 3 of the CRFM for the period October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. The Report is based on activity schedules and budgets from the approved Work Plan and Budget for Programme Year April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

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.

## **TABLE OF CONTENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
Output 100: Management and Support .....	4
Output 200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning .....	10
Output 300: Fisheries Statistics and Information .....	15
Output 400: Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment .....	17
Output 500: Fisheries Resource Management and Development .....	27
Output 600: Communication and Documentation .....	36
Other Activities Implemented during October 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2005 .....	37

### **APPENDIX A – PROCUREMENT LIST**

### **APPENDIX B – CRFM SECRETARIAT STAFF**

### **APPENDIX C – REPORTING USAGE OF ADVANCES RECEIVED**



## List of Acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of ACP States
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CBCRM	Community-Based Coastal Resources Management
CFU	CARICOM Fisheries Unit
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme
CFP&R	Common Fisheries Policy and Regime
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
CFTU	Caribbean Fisheries Technical Unit
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLWG	Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group
COTED	Council on Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU
DFID	Department for International Development
DRAO	Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer
DR	Dominican Republic
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
IAC	International Agricultural Centre
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICRAFD	Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IOI	International Oceans Institute
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LPWG	Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group
LRS	Licensing and Registration Software
MAREMP	Marine Resource Environmental Assessment and Management Programme

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Work Programme Milestones and Budget Approvals

**Work Programme Start:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005

**Work Programme Budget Approved:** Yes

**Cost Limitation:** US\$957,918 (EC\$2,536,379)

This report covers the third quarter of the second year of the Medium Term Plan of the CRFM (2004 / 05 – 2006 / 07). The activities of the Medium Term Plan as reflected in the agreed Priority Areas include the development of A Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM, the promotion of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), the development of fisheries management plans, implementation of mechanisms for shared resources, human resource development, strengthening of fishers' organizations, and support for standards and related requirements for global trade.

During the previous period, support to Member States continued with the development and use, through training, of the CARIFIS database. Specifically, a resource person, Ms. Sherrill Barnwell, was engaged to conduct a training workshop in St. Kitts and Nevis to transfer TIP and LRS data to CARIFIS. The technical support programme continued during the period under review.

Management continued to liaise with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions to the budget of the CRFM Secretariat. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions, up to the end of the quarter under review, totaling EC\$1,220,208 (US\$453,913). The arrears fell from EC\$864,137 as at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 to EC\$416,398 as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Owing to the lack of qualifications of candidates considered, difficulties were encountered in recruiting a Programme Manager, to lead the Statistics and Information programme. However, efforts were intensified with regard to seeking donor resources for a Programme Manager, Statistics and Information, and for a Caribbean / CARICOM counterpart to under-study this individual.

During the previous quarter, the CRFM Secretariat took the initiative to explore the possibility of facilitating membership of the CRFM by the Cayman Islands. Also, the Executive Director represented CRFM Member States at a Conference on Governance of the High Seas and the United Nations Fish Agreement, May 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Canada. Further, the Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development while acting as Deputy Executive Director rendered technical support to Guyana, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in respect of their National Consultation on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

The CRFM continued to play the leading role in the development of a Framework Document on the establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. A Multidisciplinary Workshop was held in St. Kitts & Nevis to *inter alia*, further refine the Framework Document. Resource Mobilisation efforts continued to facilitate the work of two (2) expert working groups to address the Social, Economic and Linkages issues of the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, and the associated

Legal aspects. The effort to mobilize resources for this purpose continued during this report period. Financial support for the legal aspects has been approved by the CARICOM Secretariat. Preliminary work on the socio-economic and linkages aspects began during this reporting period.

The CRFM Secretariat continued to provide technical support to countries preparing documentation for the annual ICCAT meetings, and also to CRFM country delegations participating in these meetings. Based on technical advice provided by the Secretariat, Belize was successful in obtaining catch quotas from ICCAT for tuna fishing vessels registered with IMMARBE. The five Working Groups on the major species in the region established to address issues of common concern pertaining to statistics, research and stock assessment methods continued to operate. Based on the recommendations of the First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, specific species have been earmarked for assessment by each Working Group at the forthcoming Second Annual Scientific Meeting, which is now scheduled to be held during March 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 in Trinidad and Tobago. The Report of the First Meeting of the CRFM Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods has been finalized and will be presented formally at the second annual scientific meeting. The queen conch visual survey study being implemented in the Dominican Republic continued, with the first field survey completed at Parque Jaragua. Additionally, the CRFM Secretariat continued its efforts to develop regional partnerships and networking arrangements, through its participation and active technical contributions during GECAFS and FAO/LAPE meetings held in this quarter.

Three forms of donor assistance to the region were realized. The first meeting of the Pro Tem Working Group on Institutional Strengthening of Regional Fisher folk Organizations, funded by the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 in Guyana. A five-project proposal package from the Medium Term Action Plan emerging from the workshop was sent to the CTA through CARDI for consideration of funding. Second, the FAO / CRFM / MALMR Regional Workshop on the Collection of Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities and its Use in Community-Based Fisheries and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Caribbean was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago on June 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005. A follow-up proposal for leaders of fisherfolk organizations to embark on a study tour of the Philippines and Malaysia was approved by FAO for implementation early in the ensuing quarter. Third, three scholars from the region benefited under the CRFM / IOI scholarships on Ocean Governance (Policy Law and Management) at the Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada, May to July 2005.

The CRFM continued working on resource mobilization plans of regional significance during this period. These included the Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM under the Japan - CARICOM Cooperation Agreement. Activities in this area included meetings with Japanese government officials and exchange of electronic communication. Project proposals on the Rehabilitation and Management of the Queen Conch were prepared and submitted to the FAO of the UN, DFID of Britain, and USAID of the USA for funding. Responses are being awaited. Five project proposals on the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisher folk Organizations were under preparation for submission to the CTA and other donor organizations for funding. Also, upon the advice of the CARICOM Secretariat, the CRFM Secretariat wrote to CARICAD, Barbados, requesting assistance in the completion of its Operations Manual, and in enhancing its Documentation Centre and Registry Operations. The CARICAD responded favourably and dispatched a mission to Belize in August 2005 to discuss and further develop the request, among other matters.

Other Fisheries Management and Development initiatives were addressed to varying degrees during



this period of reporting. The introduction, review and / or updating of Fisheries Management Plans through the consultative and participatory approach was continued. This activity continued in Belize, St. Lucia, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis. Follow up actions were taken to assess the prospects of EU funding of the project proposal on Strengthening of Fisheries Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM and OCT states. The Consultancy Report on the Study of the Impact of Globalization on Fisheries was distributed to relevant stakeholders in the region.

Finally, the expert Working Group formed to review the work on the finalization of strategy and proposal for promoting Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of the fisheries resources in the region, commenced its work of amending and redrafting the proposal to reflect comments of Member States at the Workshop on MCS held March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, Georgetown, Guyana. This activity continued with the meeting of an Ad Hoc MCS Expert Working Group in St. Lucia to finalise the Strategy and Proposal. The draft plan was submitted to the Forum in April in St. Kitts and Nevis; the latter giving member states two months to review the document and provide feedback. The failure of the member states to comply with this request was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at their meeting in the Turks and Caicos Islands in December 2005; seeking their advice on how to expedite the finalization of the Draft MCS Strategic Plan.

<b>ACTIVITY 100: Management and Support</b>	
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 <sup>st</sup> , 2005                      End:              March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2006
<b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b>	
Total Budget:	US\$284,148                      Spent to date: US\$219,684
	Spent during Reporting period: US\$77,000
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 type="checkbox"/> schedule	

### WBS 100: Management and Support

During the quarter (October – December, 2005) the CRFM Secretariat (headquarters) continued to provide support for the implementation of activities approved in the Annual Work Plan and Budget, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Also, based on quotation, various items were procured under the continuing activity, housing complex and office maintenance. **Appendix A** provides details regarding the items bought during the period under review.

Management continued to liaise with Member States to make good on arrears and current contributions to the budget of the CRFM Secretariat. Fourteen (14) Member States made contributions, up to the end of the quarter under review, totaling EC\$1,220,208 (US\$453,913). The arrears fell from EC\$864,137 as at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 to EC\$416,398 as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

For the period April – September, 2005, the CRFM Secretariat provided technical, administrative and rapporteurial support to the following meetings / workshops:

- (i) Workshop to Train Fisheries Department Staff in Underwater Conch Visual Survey Methodology, July 25 - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (Support to Fisheries Department of Dominican Republic provided by the Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment). A TCDC arrangement facilitated the participation in this workshop of Mr. Isaias Majil of the Fisheries Department in Belize. Mr. Majil was responsible for training in field skills.
- (ii) GECAFS / SANREM CRSP Caribbean Proposal Finalization Workshop, August 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 (The Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment represented the CRFM Secretariat at this meeting to continue to provide inputs on behalf of the CRFM for the further development and finalization of a proposal to address aspects of research identified by the GECAFS Caribbean project, for funding by the Sustainable Agriculture and National Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Programme (SANREM CRSP)
- (iii) Meeting with the Minister responsible for fisheries matters, the Permanent Secretary in the same Ministry, and Senior Fisheries Division staff in Grenada, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, was held to discuss ways of enhancing Grenada's participation in ICCAT activities (The Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment represented the CRFM Secretariat at this meeting).
- (iv) Regional Symposium on Climate Change Information Sharing and Sustainable Development, September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Belmopan, Belize (The Deputy Executive Director and the Coordinator Advocacy, Policy and Planning represented CRFM at this meeting).

Interviews were held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, for the vacant posts of Biologist to be attached to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines office, and Programme Manager, Statistics and Information. The interview panel comprised Mr. Terrence Phillips, Deputy Executive Director (ag.), Dr. Susan Singh-Renton, Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment, and Mr. Anthony Mills, Corporate Services Manager. Three candidates were interviewed, and Ms. Farahnaz Solomon, employed as a Fisheries Biologist, Trinidad and Tobago, was considered the most suitable for the post of Biologist.

During the quarter (July – September, 2005), Ms. Solomon advised of her unavailability to accept the post of Biologist until after December 2005. A new recruitment drive is recommended – the other candidate interviewed for the post was considered unsuitable for recruitment. As a consequence, during the period under review, October – December, 2005, the post of Biologist was re-advertised among Member States and interviews are scheduled for the next quarter.

**During this reporting period (October – December 2005) the following events took place:**

- (i) Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Turks and Caicos Islands.
- (ii) CITES Queen Conch Workshop was held December 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in the Dominican Republic.

- (iii) Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS) Workshop, a follow-up of the project proposal finalization workshop held in August, took place in Trinidad & Tobago, 23 – 25 November 2005. The CRFM was represented by the Programme Manager for Research and Resource Assessment in order to provide advice to planners of the project on fisheries matters and to provide technical support.
- (iv) The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of WECAFC and the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the WECAFC Lesser Antilles Fisheries Committee was held in Trinidad & Tobago; the CRFM was represented by the Programme Manager, Fisheries Development & Management, with 13 CRFM Member States in attendance, and at which a review of the status of the fisheries resources and trends in Aquaculture and Capture fisheries was also undertaken.
- (v) The Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment and CRFM/CARICOM Advisor on ICCAT matters represented the CRFM/CARICOM Member States at the 2005 Annual ICCAT Commission Meeting, 3 -7 October, and the ICCAT Commission Meeting, 14 – 20 November 2005 in Seville, Spain. The representative provided technical support to delegations participating at the Workshop and those that were not represented but had requested assistance.
- (vi) The Deputy Executive Director represented the CRFM and its Member States at the GCFI sponsored Conch and Lobster Meeting in San Andres, Colombia at which discussions were held on assessment and management of the Queen Conch and at which the CITES representative expressed concern at the lack of responses or lack of adequate responses from CRFM States that had been queried on their management of the Queen Conch since August 2003, namely Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and the Dominican Republic.
- (vii) The First Meeting of the FAO LAPE Ecopath Modeling Working Group was held in Barbados, 12- 16 December 2005. Participants came from Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The Programme Manager, Research and Resource Assessment was the CRFM Representative at the Meeting.

Efforts with regard to resource mobilization continued apace. Project proposals in areas mentioned below were prepared and submitted for possible donor support:-

- (i) Enhancing Alternative Fishing Techniques (Fish Aggregation Device) to Benefit Local Fishing Communities in Belize through Technology Transfer.
- (ii) Rehabilitation and Management of Queen Conch in CARICOM / CARIFORUM States (for submission to GEF, Belize).
- (iii) A Medium Term Action Plan comprising of five project profiles with cost estimates prepared by the Pro Tem Working Group of representatives of the regional fisherfolk organizations has been developed for submission to CTA/CARDI and other donor agencies.
- (iv) Financial support is being sought for the meetings of the Working Groups on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (Socio-economic and Linkages Working Group and the ad hoc

Legal Working Group). Approaches have been made to the CARICOM Secretariat to access financing from the Spanish Government for that purpose.

OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT	
<b>ACTIVITY 121 : General Administration- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	
Output:	CRFM (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) coordinating and implementing agreed activities
Activity Start:	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005
	End: March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2006
<b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b>	
Total Budget:	US\$40,000
	Spent to date: US\$26,010
	Spent during reporting period: US\$9,227
Will complete Activity within Total Budget:	Yes ___ No ___
Completion of Activity (Work plan):	ahead ___ behind ___ on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Completion of Total Activity:	ahead ___ behind ___ on schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Percentage of total output achieved to date	

**WBS 121: General Administration - St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

During the (October – December 2005) 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<sup>st</sup>, 2005 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

<b>OUTPUT 100 MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT</b>					
<b>ACTIVITY 150:</b>	<b>Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum</b>				
Output:	Recommendations to COTED and approved Work Programme and Budget				
Activity Start:	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005		End: March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2006		
<b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b>					
Total Budget:	US\$32,000		Spent to date: US\$11,818 Spent during reporting period: US\$3,974		
Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <u>/</u> No <u>_</u>					
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> Percentage of total output achieved to date _____					

## WBS 150: Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

During the quarter under review (July – September, 2005) the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, agreed to host the Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee proposed to be held during the period December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This Meeting of the Executive Committee was held December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in the Turks and Caicos Islands as scheduled, in addition to meetings with Senior Government Officials and the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

<b>OUTPUT 200 Advocacy, Policy and Planning</b>	
<b>ACTIVITY 200: Advocacy Policy and Planning</b>	
Output:	
Activity Start: April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005	End: March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2006
<b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b>	
Total Budget: US\$66,052	Spent to date: US\$37,955
	Spent during reporting period: US\$13,792
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 200: Advocacy, Policy and Planning**

This programme was planned to contribute to the collaborative development of a legal framework for the establishment of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM. Major initiatives in Advocacy will be undertaken to promote the CRFM's work and achievements through facilitating the establishment of strategic alliances and partnerships with relevant organizations, the production and distribution of Newsletters and the publishing of News Releases. A project proposal for funding to facilitate the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisher folk Organizations is in the pipeline. Also action will be initiated towards the development of a Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan, with preliminary aspects implemented towards the end of the year. Coordinating and editing the preparation of quarterly reports and providing assistance in the preparation of project proposals for external funding and the monitoring of their implementation, would be other activities to be implemented under this programme.

## **Fisheries Master plan for CARICOM**



**Background:**

This project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM, 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. Inputs will be mainly provided at two levels, namely the general development of the Master Plan and provision of technical support to the Community based management aspects.

**Achievements for this quarter**

- Countries contacted to obtain information that was requested by the JICA Consultants.
- Information received from 10 Member Countries by mid-December and forwarded to JICA. Four member states (namely Barbados, Guyana, Antigua & Barbuda and Haiti) had not responded as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Preliminary activities for implementation of the project tentatively scheduled for October, although it seems more plausible for January - February 2006.
- Continue to monitor progress in the preparatory stages.

**POLICY****Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP & R)****Background:**

The CRFM will continue to provide technical leadership in the formulation of the Common Fisheries Policy & Regime in the preparation of the Framework Document and subsequent legal and socio-economic and linkages aspects, through a consultative and participatory approach.

**Achievements during this quarter:**

- Monitoring of consultations with stakeholders at the national level on various aspects of the CFP & R.
- Drafting of Terms of Reference for the Socio Economic and Linkages Working Group.

- Terms of Reference for Legal Working Group prepared.
- The management of CRFM Secretariat collaborated with the CARICOM Secretariat in sourcing funds for the planned activities.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Meetings of the ad hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries policy and Regime.
- Meeting of the Socio-economic and Linkages Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

### **Advocacy - Promoting the CRFM**

#### **Background:**

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

#### **Objectives:**

To build public awareness of activities and achievements of the CRFM Secretariat . This will have particular reference to its functional organs, including the Secretariat, the Technical Working Groups, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and other stakeholder groups.

#### **Achievements for this quarter**

All arrangements for the publication and distribution of the CRFM NEWS Issue #3 were completed, and preliminary work on Issue # 4 has commenced.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Solicitation of for articles for CRFM News Issue #5
- With the help of the editorial committee members edit all submissions for publication.

## **PLANNING**

#### **Background:**

This area of activities deals with 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.

#### **Objective:**

To coordinate the preparation and compiling of the quarterly work plans and assist in the preparation of project plans for funding and participate in their implementation.

**Achievements during this quarter:**

- Distribution of Quarterly Reports for April to June 2005.
- Compilation of the Draft Quarterly Work Plans for October – December, 2005.
- Finalisation of Quarterly Report for July to September 2005.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Finalisation of quarterly report for October - December 2005.
- Coordinate the preparation and compilation of Quarterly Work Plans for January to March, 2006.
- Assist in preparation of draft Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006/07.

**CTA / CARDI / CRFM Projects (IN SUPPORT of PM / FM & D) See under 520.1 below for full report:**

**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. The main business of its first meeting was the preparation of a Mode of Operation for the Group and a strategy and a Medium T Action Plan for the fisher folk Organizations

**Achievements for the reporting period:**

Prepared draft reports on the workshop on the Terms of Reference for the Pro Tem Working Group on the Institutional Strengthening of the regional fisher folk organizations and the Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan for the Fisher folk organizations. Copies were submitted to CTA. Copies were sent to the participating member states.

**Activities planned for the next quarter:**

With the Programme Manager, Fisheries Development and Management, finalize reports and forward to participating countries for feedback.

Open a dialogue with the national decision makers of a number of member states on policy

formulation to establish the political will to support the forming of national fisher folk organizations, through electronic communication and visits to a number of countries where difficulties are being encountered. Prepare the grounds for implementing Project 1 of the Medium Term Action Plan.

## **CRFM / FAO / MALMR Integrated Fisheries Management Project:**

### **Background**

A Workshop was held in June 2005 in Trinidad & Tobago, at which technical experts from the region and outside came together to review the results of seven country case studies within the region and the report of comparative study mission to Malaysia and the Philippines both on the collection and use of demographic and socio-economic indicators in integrated coastal zone and communities development plans.

### **Achievements during this quarter**

- Workshop Report prepared and forwarded to the FAO in keeping with the requirements of the MOU.
- A follow-up project proposal to the FAO to fund a study tour of Malaysia and the Philippines by selected leaders of fisherfolk organizations during the next quarter was favourably received by the FAO.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter (in collaboration with the Programme Manager)**

- To draft a project proposal based on the recommendations from the CRFM / FAO / MALMR Regional Workshop on the Collection of Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities and Its Use in Community Based Fisheries and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, June 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- To implement the study tour of the Philippines and Malaysia by representatives of regional fisher folk organizations under FAO funding early in the ensuing quarter.

OUTPUT 300 FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION	
<b>ACTIVITY 300:</b>	<b>Fisheries Statistics and Information</b>
Output:	Information available for the management of Pelagic and Reef Species, Shrimp and Groundfish Species and Lobster and Conch Fisheries
Activity Start: April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005	End: March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2006
<b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b>	
<b>Activity Budget</b>	
Total Budget: US\$123,434	Spent to date: US\$23,856
	Spent during reporting period: US\$7,943
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.	

### 300: FISHERIES STATISTICS AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

The focus of this programme will be the continued provision of technical support, such as the transfer of the legacy databases from TIP and LRS to CARIFIS, training in querying and reporting and debugging of the software to facilitate the implementation of CARIFIS at the country level. The programme will also develop training materials for improving the data collection systems in Member States.

#### Fisheries Master Plan for CARICOM - Regional Data Base:

This project, to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the CRFM, 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 listed at WBS 200.

#### 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: development of training material for improving the collection of fisheries data in CRFM countries. In particular, development of a training CD, that can be used by countries for training staff in field sampling techniques, collection of data in the field, and data recording is proposed for development in 2005 – 2006. The CD proposed for 2005 – 06 will help to harmonize the national data collection systems, and in so doing, facilitate the coordination of data analysis for resources that are shared. The CD will also provide an aid for in-country training workshops, when these become necessary. In 2005 – 06, the outputs of this activity will include: (i) a training CD in field sampling and data collection techniques, including CRFM data forms, and (ii) trained data collectors, where in-country workshops are held.

#### **Achievements during this Quarter:**

- Continued to provide technical support to CRFM member states in the implementation of CARIFIS.
- Liaised with P. Fanning, Project Manager, FAO LAPE Project, with regards the collaborative efforts relating to the debugging of CARIFIS, legacy databases transfers, training, procurement of querying and reporting software, and organizing of the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS planned for March / April 2006.
- Stonefield Querying and Reporting Software being procured for Member States by FAO LAPE and CRFM Secretariat.

It should be noted that based on discussions with the Project Manager and the FAO LAPE Consultant, Ms. Sherrill Barnwell, it has been recommended that the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS planned for March / April 2006 should be postponed to June / July owing to the amount of work still to be done in cleaning-up and transferring TIP and LRS legacy databases to CARIFIS in some Member States.

#### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- Provide technical assistance to Jamaica and Turks and Caicos Islands in refining their CARIFIS data management operations, including training.
- Liaise with P. Fanning, Project Manager, FAO LAPE Project, with regards the collaborative efforts relating to the debugging of CARIFIS, legacy databases transfers, training, procurement and installation of querying and reporting software, and organizing of the Workshop on Analysis and Reporting in CARIFIS planned for March / April 2006.

## 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<sup>st</sup>, 2005

End: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

### Activity Progress Report Summary

#### Activity Budget

Total Budget: US\$184,460

Spent to date: US\$89,690

Spent during reporting period: US\$32,389

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:

Planned research and resource assessment tasks will continue to be conducted largely through the activities of CRFM regional resource working group activities. The CRFM resource working groups, under the guidance of selected Chairpersons, will also continue to be responsible for agreed inter-sessional activities, and preparation for the CRFM Annual Scientific Meeting. These resource working groups will cover data analysis, research, assessment, and provision of management advice, on fisheries targeting the following range of fishery 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. Proposed activities covering aspects of fisheries management and which contain research components include:

1. development and implementation of mechanisms for the management of shared resources,

and

2. assessment of potential for developing or expanding large pelagic fisheries.

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

### **Background:**

Several species of large and small pelagic fish, shrimp, lobster, conch, ground fish and some species of reef fish are distributed in waters spanning national borders. In some instances, the area is narrow and only two territories are primarily involved. In other instances, the area is extremely wide encompassing several territories in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. In most instances, these shared resources are being exploited without the necessary mechanisms for sustainability and equity.

Under the UN Convention on Fish Stocks (1995) all countries are obliged either to participate in activities of an existing competent organization that was 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.

### **Objectives:**

1. Coordinate assessment work
2. Provide input to inform management planning and implementation

### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Continue to provide technical advice to support development of regional management mechanisms, through production of technical reports containing advice and recommendations in respect of management planning and decision-making..

## **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 2005 - 06, the present activity is included to accommodate for the provision of CRFM technical (research and assessment) support to countries on relevant issues of shared concern.



**Objectives:**

1. 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.
2. To provide funding for participation of CRFM staff in those activities of international fora, in cases where it is warranted.

**Activities completed during the reporting period:**

1. Finalized the 2005 CRFM report to ICCAT.
2. Provided technical advice to countries preparing for negotiation discussions at the annual ICCAT Commission meeting.
3. Prepared and circulated reports on the annual ICCAT SCRS and Commission meetings, to update Member States about developments of issues at ICCAT related to their large pelagic fisheries, and to advise on actions that need to be taken at the national levels.
4. Participated in *Global Environmental Change And Food Systems - Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program* (GECAFS-SANREM CRSP) Scenario meeting, to provide technical support and advice related to fisheries issues.
5. Participated in the first meeting of the FAO LAPE ECOPATH Modelling Working Group, to provide advice on the quality and possible ways of improving catch data from the countries involved in the FAO LAPE project.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- Continue to collaborate with countries that need to address specific ICCAT queries and provide responses to CRFM and / or ICCAT on these and related matters.
- Coordinate the submission to ICCAT of 2005 tuna fisheries statistics by CRFM Member States.

**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 has been identified as a priority area for development by CARICOM Member States through the COTED (Proposal for the CRFM) as well as by the National Governments through their fisheries development and management plans and policy papers.

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

### **Objectives:**

1. To develop knowledge base of countries on offshore pelagic and underutilized resources
2. Promote responsible and sustainable resource utilization
3. To increase development within the sector, and contribute to socio economic well being of industry stakeholders

### **Activities completed during the reporting period:**

- JICA funding not yet received for commencement of activities.

### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter**

- Follow-up collaboration with JICA team, to elaborate further details of the research tasks planned under this Activity.

### **CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group (CRFM RSWG): (a) Data Analysis, Research and Assessment; (b) Working Group Meetings and Inter-sessional Activities:**

#### **Background:**

For the purposes of this document, reef fish resources refer to those resources which spend most of their lives on island shelves while deep slope fish resources refer to those resources which spend most of their lives on the deep slopes and submerged banks that occur further offshore. In the Caribbean region, reef and slope fisheries are multi-gear, multi-species fisheries and are relatively diverse and complex. It is generally assumed that reef and slope fish resources do not undergo large-scale movements, and can be managed at the local or country level. However, islands sharing a common shelf may also be sharing the same reef and slope fish stocks. The CRFM working group on reef and slope fish resources (CRFM RSWG) was established to facilitate a collective effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, assessment, and preparation of fishery advisory reports. Based on the recommendations of the first Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, the RSWG is expected to conduct the following assessments in 2005 - 06, given suitable and available data: selected stocks of red snapper, mutton snapper, and red hind.

### **CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM LPWG): (a) Data Analysis, Research**

## **and Assessment; (b) Working Group Meetings and Inter-sessional Activities:**

### **Background:**

Current ICCAT efforts in statistics, research and management are mainly focused on the oceanic large pelagic resources. Scientists of ICCAT Contracting Parties have noted that there is a general lack of adequate data to assess the status of the small tuna resources (i.e. the coastal large pelagic resources), and have highlighted the need for studies, carried out at the local and regional levels, to determine the state of these resources and the best way to use and manage them. Within the Caribbean region, the CRFM will provide a suitable regional arrangement for coordinating assessment and management of those large pelagic resources, such as dolphinfish, and the mackerels that can be handled at the regional level, primarily through the establishment of a Working Group on Large Pelagic Resources (CRFM LPWG). The LPWG was established in 2000.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, assessment, and preparation of fishery advisory reports. Based on the recommendations of the First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, the LPWG is expected to conduct the following assessments in 2005 - 06, given suitable and available data: dolphinfish, Spanish mackerel, and king mackerel.

Two site meetings are proposed for 2005 - 06: an ad hoc methods meeting aimed at examining and developing stock evaluation methods suited to the CRFM countries' capabilities for fisheries statistical monitoring, and the Second Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting. These 2 meetings will address issues being handled by all CRFM WGs.

Activities (Working Groups LPWG / SCPWG / SGWG / RSWG / CLWG) completed during reporting period:

1. The Information Note, together with agenda, for the Second Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting was finalized, and a letter to the host country was prepared.
2. The Secretariat continued to encourage the national fisheries officers concerned to establish working linkages for non-Caribbean stock assessment experts to work with species rapporteurs in CRFM countries during the inter-sessional period to complete assignments started during the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods.
3. Letters of invitation, as well as the TORs and LOAs for consultants required for the meeting were finalized.
4. Manager's questionnaire was circulated again to countries, as requested by the Ad Hoc Methods WG.

### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Finalize consultancy arrangements for the scientific meeting.
- Prepare proposal(s) for additional working groups and committees, as needed.

- Dispatch letters of invitation for second scientific meeting.
- Collaborate with species rapporteurs and consultants, in order to identify and prioritize tasks to be addressed during scientific meeting.
- Follow up on the outstanding Manager's questionnaires.
- Conduct second scientific meeting and draft meeting report.

**CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SCPWG): (a) Data Analysis, Research and Assessment; (b) Working Group Meetings and Inter-Sessional Activities:**

Small coastal pelagic fish resources support substantial fisheries throughout the Caribbean region, sometimes accounting for 40% or more of the total reported national fish landings. The small coastal pelagic fisheries can employ large numbers of the populations in some small island and coastal states, and hence are of paramount importance in contributing to the social and economic stability of the countries involved. The movement and distribution of stocks of small coastal pelagic fish resources within the Caribbean are not well understood, although it is very likely that islands sharing a common shelf are fishing the same stocks. A CRFM working group on small coastal pelagic fish resources (CRFM SCPWG) was established to facilitate a collective effort to address common issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice.

These outputs contribute directly to strengthened mechanisms for regional planning, assessments, resource management, and decision-making.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, assessment, and preparation of fishery advisory reports. Based on the recommendations of the First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, the SCPWG is expected to conduct the following assessments in 2005 - 06, given suitable and available data: flyingfish and other species for which there are sufficient data.

**Shrimp and Ground fish Resource Assessment:**

**CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries Working Group (CRFM SGWG): (a) Data Analysis, Research and Assessment; (b) Working Group Meetings and Inter-Sessional Activities:**

**Background:**

CFRAMP, in collaboration with the FAO, convened a series of Workshops in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 to assess the status of the shrimp and groundfish stocks being exploited by the fishery along the Guiana - Brazil Shelf. Building on the progress of the WECAFC ad hoc working group a CRFM shrimp and groundfish working group (CRFM SGWG) was established to facilitate a collective effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, assessment, and preparation of fishery advisory reports. Based on the recommendations of the first Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, the SGWG is expected to conduct the following assessments in 2005 - 06, given suitable and available data: selected stocks of southern pink shrimp, Atlantic seabob, southern brown shrimp, redspotted shrimp, lane snapper, bangamary, and sea trout.

### **Activities completed during the reporting period**

*See page 21 and 22*

### **Planned activities for the Next Quarter**

*See page 22*

### **Lobster and Conch Assessment:**

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

The PM Research and Resource Assessment will keep a keen eye on trends in the implementation of planned activities in Member States in the 400.0 activity areas, alert the national administrations on problems relating to implementation and provide technical assistance in finding solutions, including doing some “firefighting” *in situ* where more critical problems arise.

#### **Activities completed during the reporting period:**

- Commenced cleaning of Haiti census data.

#### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Analysis of Haiti fisheries data and preparation of final report.
- Publish conch data analysis report for Belize (February 2004 workshop report).

### **CRFM Conch and Lobster Fisheries Working Group (CRFM CLWG): (a) Data Analysis, Research and Assessment; (b) Working Group Meetings and Inter-Sessional Activities:**

#### **Background:**

The spiny lobster and the queen conch are considered to be among the most economically important fisheries resources in the CARICOM region, due to local consumption rates and as sources of foreign currency. Economically, the spiny lobster is the single most important fishery resource of the Caribbean followed by the queen conch. In the last 30 years, the overall harvest of conch has increased substantially, largely driven by international export, population growth and increasing tourism in the Caribbean region. A CRFM working group on conch and lobster resources (CRFM CLWG) was established to facilitate a collective effort to address shared issues pertaining to statistics, research, stock assessment methods and development of management advice.

This project activity requires special expertise in statistical analyses, assessment, and preparation of fishery advisory reports. Based on the recommendations of the first Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, the CLWG is expected to conduct the following assessments in 2005 - 06, given suitable and available data: selected stocks of queen conch and spiny lobster.

### **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:

1. Strengthening the data collection and management systems and improvement and sustenance of a regional database on the conch fisheries.
2. Identification of the patterns of distribution, abundance and densities of the Queen Conch and shedding of more light on this through data collection.
3. Development of advice on suitable management measures for strengthened management of the regional queen conch.
4. Creation of models and plans for the effective management of the stocks.
5. Broadening of stakeholder and general public awareness of the status of conch stocks and engendering of support for their sustainable management

#### **Activities completed during the reporting period:**

1. Activities are expected to commence when funds have been obtained.
2. Continued collaboration with fisheries staff in The Bahamas to develop and finalize a proposal to conduct a national visual conch survey study.

#### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

1. Drafted general proposal for selected national conch visual surveys, and also specific proposal for Haiti conch survey.
2. Await feedback from countries and potential sponsors.

### **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. The recommendations reflected the overall status of queen conch in the countries reviewed. In the cases of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, CITES instituted a prohibition on exports of queen conch until basic research could be done which assesses the status of the resource in each country's waters, sets a conservative quota for catch and exports and implements data collection and monitoring programs to ensure that quotas are not exceeded.

This activity 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 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 and ensure sustainability of the fisheries.

In 2005 - 06, the Office of Protected Resources (USA) is supporting the CRFM's work in the Dominican Republic, which, of the countries currently prohibited by CITES from exporting queen conch, is most likely to benefit from early work, such as stock assessment surveys. This would enable CRFM, not only to assist this country to re-open harvest and, perhaps trade, of this species, but also to follow up on the recommendations made by CITES. Given available resources, similar work will be conducted in other CRFM territories, as required.

### **Activities completed during reporting period:**

1. Continued to collaborate with staff of the Fisheries Departments of Belize and the Dominican Republic to prepare for and to conduct the first field trip at Parque Jaragua.
2. Obtained reports of the first field trip, and commenced preparations for second field trip.
3. Briefly reviewed data collected during the first field trip.
4. Obtained comments on training workshop report, and finalized this report for publication.

### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Oversee and coordinate implementation of remaining field work and obtain work progress updates for CRFM Secretariat and NOAA / NMFS
- Data entry and analysis.

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**OUTPUT 500 FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

Activity Start: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

End: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

**Activity Progress Report Summary**

Total Budget: US\$215,824

Spent to date: US\$111,436

Spent during reporting period: US\$22,298

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 will continue to focus on the development of Fisheries Management Plans in selected Member States of the CRFM, using the participatory and multidisciplinary approach. It will also play the leading role in the Aquaculture Development, provide support for community-base resource management and the Education and training aspects of the development of the fisheries Master Plan for the CARICOM funded JICA. The Programme Manager will also provide support in the development of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for the region, and provide technical support for the implementation of the project for the establishment of a network of the region's fisherfolk organizations.

**Formulation of a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (See WBS 210.1 above)****Activities completed during reporting period:**

- Monitoring and providing technical assistance to countries holding national consultations on the CFP&R.
- Resource Team to undertake the Study to Review and Elaborate on the Social, Economic and Linkage Issues that could Impact on the Establishment of A Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM reviewed the TOR and provided suggestions for the best means of implementing the Study due to the limited resources available.

- Finalised draft Terms of Reference for work of Socio-economic and Linkages Working Group.

#### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Implement the TOR for the CFP&R Social, Economic and Linkages Study.
- Continue to monitor and provide technical assistance to countries holding national consultations on the CFP&R.
- Organise meeting of Socio-economic and Linkages Working Group.

#### **STRENGTHENING NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT:**

##### **Development and Implementation of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs):**

##### **Background:**

During the programme years 2003 / 04 and 2004 / 05, the CRFM Secretariat had been working with a number of countries, including The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda in the process of developing and implementation of 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 will be seeking to follow-up the activities with the countries mentioned above as well as work with the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname in the updating and implementation of their FMPs

##### **Activities completed during reporting period:**

- Continued to liaise and provide support on the preparation of the Belize Draft FMP.
- National Consultation on the Draft Fisheries Management Plan for the Marine Fisheries of Guyana held on November 17, 2005. The National Consultation on St. Lucia's Draft FMP slated for December 15 was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- The Fisheries Department of Montserrat reviewed and made their input into refining the Draft FMP prior to the holding of a national consultation.
- Draft FMP for St. Kitts and Nevis updated and forwarded to the Fisheries Department for review and input. The Draft FMP for Anguilla is being updated.

##### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter:**

- Update the draft FMPs for Anguilla, Grenada and Suriname.

- Draft the National Consultation Workshop Report for Guyana and revise the Draft FMP based on the recommendations of the Workshop.
- Facilitate the national consultations on the Draft FMPs for Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia and Montserrat.
- Work with St. Vincent and the Grenadines in developing a Strategy and Plan for Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development, and obtain comments and input from St. Kitts and Nevis on their Draft FMP prior to holding a national consultation.

## **Improving Regional and National Mechanisms for the Management and Sustainable Development of Shared Fisheries Resources in the Caribbean:**

### **Background:**

The critical issues associated with the management of shared marine resources are: inadequate policy and institutional framework for management; ineffective management of stocks; overexploitation of many fisheries species such as, queen conch, shrimp, groundfish, large pelagics and some species of reef fishes; inadequate biological, social and economic data and information for policy formulation; irresponsible fishing and inappropriate use of equipment; inadequate participation of resource users in fisheries management planning; and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities both by nationals and foreigners; and inadequate delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

### **Objectives:**

The Project seeks to improve the policy and institutional frameworks for management; formulate and establish harmonized regional management systems and legislation, and strengthen the mechanisms for regional planning, assessments, management and decision-making in respect to such resources as lobster, queen conch, shrimp, groundfish, coastal and large pelagic fishes and reef fishes.

### **Activities completed:**

- Project Proposal on *Improving on the National and Regional Mechanisms/ Systems for Fisheries Management and Development in the Caribbean (ACP Fish II)* drafted.

### **Planned Activities for Next Quarter**

- Determine status of the ACP-EU Fish II Project and the supplementary/complementary Project from CRFM.

## **CRFM / FAO Fisheries Integrated Management Project – Workshop to Develop a Strategy and Plan for Fisheries Integrated Management**

### **Background:**

Through FAO's assistance a comparative study on the use of socio-economic and demographic indicators in coastal area and fisheries management in countries in Southeast Asia (Malaysia and the Philippines) which were more advanced in this respect in order to learn from their experiences, was implemented in August 2004. It was accompanied by country specific case studies undertaken in selected Caribbean countries i.e. Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago and the Turks & Caicos Islands, which would identify ways and means as to demographic concerns can be incorporated in the on-going coastal zone management programmes. A Workshop was planned to compare the results of the two studies and arrive at recommendations for the CARICOM to adopt this approach to coastal area development.

### **Objective:**

To review the findings of the comparative study and the country-specific case studies in a regional workshop and elaborate specific recommendations on how to proceed further in the Caribbean with the use of demographic and socio- economic indicators in fisheries integrated management at the regional level.

### **Activities completed during reporting period:**

- FAO edited the Draft Workshop Report and Case Studies for publication.
- Following on discussions with the FAO, the Draft Proposal for the Comparative Study on the Use of Demographic and Socio-economic information by Fisher folk Organisations was revised.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- Finalise the arrangements for the implementation of the Draft Proposal for the Comparative Study on the Use of Demographic and Socio-economic information by Fisherfolk Organisations was revised.
- To draft a project proposal based on the recommendations from the CRFM/FAO/MALMR Regional Workshop on the Collection of Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities and Its Use in Community Based Fisheries and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Caribbean, Trinidad & Tobago, June 13 – 17, 2005.

### **Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management:**

#### **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 organize the first meeting of the Pro Tem Working Group on the Institutional Strengthening of the Fisher folk Organizations in the region.

**Activities completed during reporting period:**

- Distributed refined Draft TOR for the Pro-tem Working Group and the Revised Draft Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan to the Workshop participants for their review and comments.
- Based on feedback from participants revised the Draft TOR and Draft Strategy and Medium Term Plan, and forwarded them to Member States for review and comments.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Refine Draft TOR for the Pro-tem Working Group and the Revised Draft Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan based on feedback from Member States.
- Mobilise resources to implement the Plan.

**Fishers and Community Inv. / Education:**

**CBCRM Phase III - Formulation of Project:**

The CRFM will start negotiating with the IDRC for the development and implementation of a Phase 3 of the project. This will follow on the successful completion of the second phase. It is anticipated that Phase 3 would be substantially different from the previous phases in the expansion of the scope, orientation, partnership and funding of the project. The CRFM will continue its coordinating and monitoring role in the process.

**Activities completed during reporting period:**

- Continued preparations and development of Phase III of the Project.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Continue preparations and development of Phase III of the Project

## **WBS 540: Human Resource Development – Long Tern Training & Scholarships:**

### **Background:**

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between itself and the CRFM has agreed 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 to 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 25<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Fisheries Departments were requested by letter to submit to the CRFM Secretariat nominees in respect of scholarships in pursuit of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management at the IOI, May 25<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, Canada.

A selection panel comprising the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director (ag.), and Corporate Services Manager met, reviewed the nominations and selected candidates based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of proposed area of study to the priority areas of the Fisheries Department
- Mid-career professional
- Endorsement by appropriate Government Ministry

Further, selection 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 Department and universities both external and regional, to identify priority areas of collaboration.

Against the above, the following offer of awards were made and awardees commenced training during the quarter (April – June 2005) under review:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Arthur Potts, Director, Marine Resources and Fisheries, Tobago House of Assembly	IOI Dalhousie University
Barbados	Mr. Christopher Parker Biologist	IOI Dalhousie University
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Dr. Lucille Barnabe Fisheries Officer	IOI Dalhousie University

All awardees successfully completed the IOI course of study and returned to their home bases in July 2005. During this quarter under review (October – December, 2005), Member States were

written to advising of a call for nominations for the 2006 round of training at the IOI, Canada.

During the quarter (October - December 2005) Mrs. Yolanda Babb-Echteld continued working on her thesis at the UWI / CERMES – based on an update from Dr. Robin Mahon of UWI / CERMES, Ms. Babb-Echteld was making progress with regard to completion of the thesis. Ms. Babb-Echteld was awarded an 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.

Also, short-term training scholarships were awarded by the CRFM Secretariat to the Fisheries Department, Jamaica as follows:

Country	Name and Title	Institution and particulars of course
Jamaica	Andre Kong Director of Fisheries	Training and Technology Institute Ltd., Jamaica Project Management Training Course June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , and 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2005
Jamaica	Three Fisheries Department Officers	New Horizons Computer Learning Centre, Jamaica Technical Training: Microsoft SQL (to support CARIFIS database).

During the quarter (October - December 2005) the CRFM Secretariat, under a continuing arrangement to co-sponsor the long-term training of two fisheries officers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, rendered financial support. This training is being delivered under the programme to facilitate compliance with ICCAT, IOTC (International Fisheries Organizations) and standards such as ISPA code. Details of the training awards are as below mentioned:

Country	Name and Title	Institution and particulars of course
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Kris Isaacs	BSc. Marine Ecology and Zoology, UWI, Jamaica
	Hyrone Johnson	Diploma, Marine Engineering, South Hampton College, England

In October 2004, the CRFM Secretariat, approved under Work Programme April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

#### **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 fiscal year 2002 / 03, the CRFM 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.

The purpose is three-fold, namely: (1) to develop the local fishery product industry to provide a variety of products which meet international health and food safety standards, for local consumption as well as trade, (2) to improve access of CARICOM / CARIFORUM fish and fishery products to the regional and international markets by strengthening the health controls and support systems to meet international standards and market requirements, and (3) to enhance food security and rural stability in the participating countries.

### **Activities completed:**

- The matter of seeking to mobilise resources to implement the project for Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM member states and OCT countries was raised at the Second Workshop on Strengthening the Capacity of ACP Secretariat Staff in Agricultural (including Fisheries) Trade Negotiations, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Brussels, Belgium, under the Agenda Item Fish Trade Issues in the WTO and ACP/EU Negotiations: Project in ACP on quality and safety for fish products. It encouraged the CARICOM Embassy Officials in Brussels to continue to highlight the Project Proposal during ACP / EU discussions on quality assurance and safety.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter**

- Seek to mobilize resources to implement the Project for Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions in CARICOM / CARIFORUM member states and OCT countries.





<p><b>ACTIVITY 600 : Communication and Documentation</b></p> <p>Output: Functioning and efficient Documentation Centre operations; Publications Disseminated. Computer networks functioning.</p> <p>Activity Start: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005                      End: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005</p>
<p><b>Activity Progress Report Summary</b></p> <p>Total Budget: US\$12,000                      Spent to date: US\$6,645              Spent during Reporting period: US\$1,838</p> <p>Will complete Activity within Total Budget: Yes <u>✓</u>      No <u>  </u></p>
<p>Completion of Activity (Work plan): ahead ____ behind __ on schedule <u>✓</u>          Completion of Total Activity:                      ahead ____ behind __ on schedule <u>✓</u></p>

During the quarter (October – December 2005) the CRFM Newsletter, Issue No.4, was published.

The meeting was attended by:

The CARICAD advised that it was currently rationalizing the role of the CARICOM Secretariat in		
CRFM	36	Technical and Financial Progress Report

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.

CARICAD has commenced the documentation review phase of this assistance / collaborative effort.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THIS QUARTER**

### **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).

#### **Activities completed:**

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

#### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- Feedback on the distributed documents from the Member States will be sent to consultant to facilitate finalization.

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

## **Background:**

In order to assess the situation regarding monitoring, control and surveillance in the fisheries sector of the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region and identify the critical issues affecting its (MCS) use as an effective mechanism for fisheries resource management and sustainable development, the CRFM contracted a Consultant, Commodore (Retired) Anthony Franklin, in 2004, and implemented the Consultancy: *Review of the current situation on IUU fishing and monitoring, control and surveillance in the fisheries sector of the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region.*

The objectives of this Consultancy were:

- To review and document the extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM states.
- To review and assess the situation regarding monitoring, control and surveillance in the fisheries sector of the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region and identify the critical issues affecting its (MCS) use as an effective mechanism for fisheries resource management and sustainability.
- To define a strategy and project proposal to enhance the effectiveness of MCS at the national, sub-regional and regional levels and eliminate or minimize IUU fishing in the region.

In fulfillment of the Consultancy the CRFM Secretariat organized and convened a regional workshop of senior fisheries and enforcement personnel in Guyana from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, to review the strategy and project proposal, and make recommendations for its finalisation. At the Workshop, the Consultant presented the strategy and project proposal, which was then reviewed and discussed by the participants, with recommendations made for its finalisation. As part of the process for the way forward on the finalisation of the Draft Strategy and Proposal, in order for it to pave the way to seek donor funding for its implementation, the Workshop appointed an Ad Hoc MCS Expert Working Group to assist the Consultant in finalizing the Draft Strategy and Proposal. The Group was comprised of Mr. Andre Kong, Director of Fisheries, Jamaica; and Mr. Peter A. Murray, OECS-ESDU.

## **Activities completed:**

- CRFM Secretariat organized and participated in the Ad hoc MCS Expert Working Group Workshop to finalise the Strategy and Proposal. The Draft MCS Strat Plan was submitted to the FORUM in April in St. Kitts and Nevis, with the FORUM deciding to give Member States two months to review the document and provide feedback.
- Due to the lack of feedback from the Member States, the Secretariat brought this matter to the attention of the Executive Committee at their Meeting in the Turks and Caicos Islands in December 2005 and sought their advice on expediting the finalization of the Draft MCS Strategic Plan.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- Finalise the Draft Strategy and Project document based on feedback from Member States.

### **Development of Pelagic Fishery (Belize):**

#### **Background:**

A proposal for the project to deploy Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) was submitted to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) by the Fisheries Department of Belize in February 2002, with a request inviting the CRFM, in its capacity as a regional fisheries management agency, to collaborate in the development and implementation of the project. The CRFM agreed to purchase items required for the construction of four FADs and suggested that two be built and deployed in the first instance, followed by another two upon successful deployment of the first two. It was agreed that the project would be implemented as a collaborative effort between the Belize Department of Fisheries, The CRFM and, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, with the Fisheries Department being the entity to oversee the project development. In 2004 the Coastal Zone Management Authority was financially challenged and ceased to be a collaborating partner in the project.

To date three experimental FADs have been built and deployed with assistance being given by the Belize Sports Fishing Association for the third FAD. All three FADs have disappeared from their designated locations and have not been recovered since.

#### **Activities completed during reporting period:**

- Review of the experimental FAD programme undertaken by the CRFM.

### **Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

Hold discussions with the Department of Fisheries on the future of the FAD Project.

### **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.

**Activities completed during the reporting period:**

- The CRFM Secretariat has been monitoring the activities leading to the approval of this project and following up with countries to ensure that they support the Project and the CRFM's participation.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter:**

- CRFM Secretariat to follow up with IOCARIBE on the status of the Project to date.

**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 3 continents (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.

**Activities completed during reporting period:**

- The CRFM Secretariat continued to monitor the implementation of the Project

## **Safety at Sea Project:**

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

### **The expected outputs are:**

- A database with information on number of divers in the conch lobster fishery, types of injuries associated with diving in the conch and lobster fishery, causes of diver injuries in the conch and lobster fishery, frequency of injuries associated with the lobster and conch fishery and the problems and risk divers face in the conch and lobster fishery.
- An assessment of the diver occupation in the CARIFORUM / CARICOM Region
- This document will provide the stakeholders of the lobster and conch resources and the Department of Fisheries in the CARICOM / CARIFORUM region with the necessary data to initiate a plan to reduce the hazards associated with unsafe diving practices in the artisanal diving fishery.
- Reports on findings
- Baseline data for further studies.

