

Terms of Reference for Consultant for Development of CRFM position on Nassau Grouper Conservation and Management

1.0 Introduction

The fisheries sector in CRFM countries provides a range of benefits to the region, including employment, poverty alleviation, food security, and foreign exchange earnings. Some of these benefits are not sufficiently understood and valued. Additionally, fisheries issues are usually managed under the general portfolio of agriculture, but are often marginalized, and as a consequence, attract low investment. This low investment has stifled the advancement of statistics, research, and development for supporting resource management, technological developments and marketing and trade. Additionally, there continues to be limited promotion and understanding of the sector's contributions, as well as its potential, and this has exacerbated the challenges faced.

Previous efforts by CRFM and CTA to build fisherfolk capacity to participate in the governance process has seen the successful establishment of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), improved fisherfolk understanding of key policy issues, and more active CNFO participation in certain policy advisory activities. Such participation in the policy advisory activities are very much in the preliminary stages, and continued effort is essential to deepen further the understanding of fisherfolk of some of the more technical aspects of fisheries policies, and by this means, strengthen the industry's overall capacity to nurture broad support for successful implementation of agreed policies.

CRFM's Blue Growth Workshop will provide opportunity to continue collaborative efforts to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture policy and management approaches in the Caribbean, including examination of sustainable use, conservation and management of selected key commercial species. Of particular interest to CRFM and CNFO at this time is the development of a CRFM position on the conservation and management of Nassau grouper in view of the recent announcement by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Government of the United States, of a proposal to list Nassau Grouper, a commercially important marine fish species in many CARICOM States, as a threatened species under the United States Endangered Species Act (ESA). While the proposed listing as "threatened" under the ESA does not automatically apply the protections and prohibitions of the ESA that apply to an "endangered" species listing, the NMFS may issue a regulation to apply any of those protections.

The present NMFS proposal announcement does not, at this time, include a proposed regulation to apply the conservation measures and prohibitions of the ESA. However, if the NMFS finalizes the present proposal to list Nassau grouper as a threatened species, it will evaluate the necessity of developing such a regulation, which could include prohibitions on the importation or trade of the Nassau Grouper. In view of this, it is crucial that CRFM and CNFO work to develop a consolidated, informed position on the conservation and management of Nassau grouper among the range states concerned, to serve as a positive reference for guiding the formulation of the final NMFS listing, as well as to nurture the necessary support within the region for the situation and remedial measures to be taken.

2.0 Objective

The objective of the assignment is to develop a CRFM/ CNFO position on conservation and management of Nassau grouper.

3.0 Expected outputs

The Consultant is expected to:

1. Obtain from States the best available data and information on the status and active management of Nassau grouper in their countries, particularly information that could inform NMFS' final listing and associated proposed conservation measures.

2. Obtain from States information on their progress made regarding obligations pursuant to Recommendation WECAFC/15/2014/1 “on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers” that was adopted by the Fifteenth Session of WECAFC.
3. Compile and analyse the information gathered from States at (1) and (2), and based on this information, develop a consolidated regional CRFM/CNFO position on the conservation and management of Nassau grouper in the CRFM region, in a format suitable to provide a response to NMFS in respect of the recent announcement.
4. Formulate also CRFM/ CNFO management proposal on further and specific necessary actions to be taken by countries in preparation for the final NMFS decision.

The Consultant will deliver:

1. A regional CRFM/CNFO position on the conservation and management of Nassau grouper in the CRFM region, in a format suitable to provide a response to NMFS in respect of the recent announcement.
2. A CRFM/ CNFO proposal on further and specific necessary actions to be taken by countries in preparation for the final NMFS decision.
3. A terminal report on the Consultancy outlining the tasks undertaken and the results, with lessons learned and recommendations for follow up action

4.0 Target

The outputs of this consultancy will target fishery policy makers, fisherfolk and their organisations, national fisheries authorities and CRFM personnel

CRFM / CTA will provide the consultant with a list of organizations and individuals with their contact details, pertaining to various target groups listed above.

5.0 Approach

Under the general direction of the Executive Director, a consultant will be contracted to undertake the assignment.

The Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Deputy Executive Director, in the delivery of the assignment. Although, the consultant will work in close collaboration with the above-mentioned personnel, it is understood that the consultant is responsible for producing the deliverables of this assignment and contribute to its outputs.

The Consultant, working with the Deputy Executive Director, Members of the CNFO Coordinating Unit and other partners will:

- (i) Using a survey/ questionnaire approach, collaborate with CRFM range states to obtain information on their efforts to conserve and manage Nassau grouper.
- (ii) Prepare draft position paper and management proposal for review, discussion, and further development during the Blue Growth Workshop, making use of both plenary and Working Group sessions.
- (iii) Finalize the position paper and management proposal, based on feedback from the Blue growth Workshop and other key sources within the CRFM range states.

The Consultant will be responsible for ensuring the efficient implementation of (i) to (iii) above

6.0 Reporting

- 6.1 The Consultant will prepare and submit a draft consultancy report on the Consultancy including methodologies used for implementation, the outputs generated, with lessons learned and recommendations for follow up action. The report shall be produced in Microsoft Word 2000 for Windows format and submitted electronically by 18 November 2014 to the CRFM Secretariat for review by the Secretariat and CTA prior to its finalization. The final version of the Report must be submitted to reach the CRFM Secretariat in Belize City, Belize, 30 November 2014. At the end of the assignment, he/she will also prepare a brief terminal report outlining the tasks undertaken and the results.
- 6.2 The Consultant will deliver the draft position paper and management proposal on Nassau grouper by 18 November 2014, and final versions by 30 November 2014.

7.0 Time Allotment and frame

The assignment will require a total of 5 person days, and shall be conducted during 14 -30 November 2014, as shown in the following table.

Task	Deadline for draft submission	Deadline for completion of final versions
Development of final Conservation and management position	18 November 2014	30 November 2014
Development of final management proposal	18 November 2014	30 November 2014
Consultancy final consultancy report	18 November 2014	30 November 2014

8.0 Qualification and Experience.

The Consultant should be qualified in fisheries management or a related field, with five or more years of work experience at the regional and national levels in the Caribbean