



**REBYC**

Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the introduction of By-catch  
Reduction Technologies and Change of Management  
(EP/GLO/201/GEF)

# **Trinidad and Tobago**

## **Progress report to the Project Coordinator EP/GLO/201/GEF**

**January-June 2004**

**By Suzuette Soomai**



## Progress Report to the Project Coordinator EP/GLO/201/GEF

Country: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Reporting period: January 2004 to June 2004).

Reporting Officer: Suzuette Soomai, Fisheries Officer (National Project Coordinator)

### 1. List the meetings of the National Steering Committee held:

(a) The 1st Meeting of the National Steering Committee of PROJECT EP/GLO/201/GEF was held on Thursday May 20, 2004 at the Conference Room, South Regional Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources, King's Wharf, San Fernando. In attendance were seven members of the trawl fishing industry, representing primarily the artisanal fleet with one representative from the semi-industrial and industrial trawl fleet.

The main issues discussed were the Terms of reference of the National Steering Committee and strategies for the data collection component of the Project. Attached are the minutes of the meeting which contain the meeting agenda and the terms of reference for the Committee.

(b) Two meetings were held on May 26th, 2004 with the representatives of the industrial fishery who were absent from the 1<sup>st</sup> NSC Meeting. The first was with Mr Dexter Khan at the Orange Valley Fishing Centre from 9:00 am- 10:00am and the second with Mr Haniff Mohammed at the National Petroleum Compound, Sea Lots. From 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. The matters discussed followed the agenda that was set for the 1<sup>st</sup> NSC meeting of May 20, 2004. Minutes of the meetings with Mr Khan and Mr Mohammed are attached.

### 2. Describe the progress of each activity

(as listed in the project document, section 4.5 General Workplan and Timetable)

**(see Section 4)**

### 3. Describe briefly any workshops, training, or demonstration activities undertaken. Indicate location, and number of participants and days.

*No such activities were undertaken in the reporting period.*

### 4. Describe the progress of each national project activity (as scheduled under the LOA with FAO).

#### **Develop Awareness Material & Consultative Process with Fishing Industry**

##### Public Awareness and Consultation

a. Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the National Steering Committee, a formal meeting to officially introduce the Project was held on 15 April 2004, at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre, Couva from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. This meeting was aimed at vessel owners and fishermen from the artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial trawl fleets to appraise them of the above mentioned project. In addition staff involved in the Project's activities, all Biological Data Collectors, Biologists and Statistical Data Entry Staff attended the meeting due to their ongoing work with members of the trawl fishery.

The meeting was chaired by the National Co-ordinator for the Project, Ms Suzuette Soomai, Fisheries Officer who was also the main presenter and Ms Lara Ferreira, Fisheries Officer was a joint presenter. There were 34 members of the fishing industry and 23 members of the Fisheries Division.

The meeting took the form of a brief presentation on the background and activities under the Project. Nominations were invited for one to two fishing industry representatives from each of the trawl fleets to become members of the National Steering Committee to assist with management of the activities under the project. The meeting also updated the trawl industry on its data collection programmes as well as the results of recent assessments conducted for shrimp. One general consultation with stakeholders was held. A booklet summarising the issues with regard to trawling and discards as well as the activities involved in the Project was prepared and distributed at this meeting.

b. One main meeting of the National Steering Committee was held. Two smaller meetings with two members of the NSC were also held.

## **Data Collection on Landings & Fishing Grounds**

### Data Collection

a. At sea sampling and purchase of samples from the artisanal and semi-industrial trawlers: Catches were obtained from two artisanal vessels operating in the south Gulf of Paria and one semi-industrial vessel operating in the north Gulf of Paria. This included landed catch and discards. A Biological Data Collector was responsible for the collection of the sample at sea, on board the commercial trawlers and recorded general station data and GPS coordinates of fishing area,

Species composition of by-catch by fleet was obtained and data computerised. Length and weight by species was recorded and where possible, the stage of maturity.

Due to administrative procedures hindering the hiring of observer trainees on contract, existing biological data collectors on the permanent establishment of the Fisheries Division were utilised to collect catch samples at sea.

5. Give other general comments on the current status of the shrimp-trawling industry.

A summary of the status of the trawl fleet, as recorded in December 2003, is attached. The trawl fleet comprises 126 vessels of which 95 are artisanal (41 with inboard and 54 with outboard engines), 9 semi-industrial and 22 industrial vessels.

6. Financial inputs (in-kind) for the period January – June 2004.

### **Government (in-kind):**

Professional staff:

One (1) Fisheries Officer for 6months @ US\$1000/month with an estimated 40% full-time allocated to project activities: \$2,400

One (1) Fisheries Officer for 6 months @ US\$1000/month with an estimated 10% full-time allocated to project activities: \$600

One (1) Biologist @ US\$750 for 4 months with an estimated 30% full-time allocated to project activities: \$900

*This Biologist was hired on contract in November 2003 and was assigned other responsibilities within the Fisheries Division in May 2004.*

**Support Staff:**

Three (3) Biological Data Collectors for 6 months @ US\$450/month with an estimated 75% full-time allocated to project activities: \$6, 075

*One of these Data Collectors is on the Ministry's permanent establishment and the other two Data Collectors were hired on contract in October 2003. At the end of June 2004, one of these Data Collectors on contract resigned in order to take on a more permanent job in another Ministry.*

One (1) Biological Data Collector for 3 months @ US\$450/month with an estimated 75% full-time allocated to project activities: \$1, 012

*This Data Collector was assigned to another project within the Fisheries Division in April 2004.*

Travel expenses: US\$1,007

(includes vehicle maintenance and fuel)

Materials and supplies: US\$429

(included by-catch samples, ice)

**Sub-Total: US\$12,423**

**Industry (in-kind):**

One 2hr meeting of the National Steering Committee with 8 trawler owners at a rate of US\$ 50 per owner per hour was applied: US\$800.

Two 1hr meetings each with one trawler owner each at a rate of US\$50 per owner: US\$100

One 3 hr meeting with 34 trawler owners/fishermen at a rate of \$50 per owner per hour:

US\$5,100

**Sub-Total: US\$6,000**

**Overall total: US\$18, 423**

**7. Estimation of by-catch reduction:**

Number of shrimp trawlers: 126 vessels comprising 95 artisanal (includes 41 outboard and 54 inboard engines), 9 semi-industrial, 22 industrial. These figures were obtained from the fishing vessel census completed in December 2003.

**8. List any equipment purchased, with indication of price and present location of the item(s). (not applicable)**