



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**

July-December 2004

By Suzuette Soomai



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

Country: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Reporting period (JUNE – DECEMBER 2004)

Reporting Officer = National Coordinator (name /title): Suzuette Soomai (Fisheries Officer)

1. Meetings of the National Steering Committee held:

There were no meetings of the National Steering Committee held over the period in review.

2. Progress of each activity (as listed in the project document, section 4.5 General Workplan and Timetable)

See Item 4

3. Workshops, training, and demonstration activities.

There were no such national activities over the period in review.

Trinidad and Tobago hosted the Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, 27 - 30 September 2004 at the Kapok Hotel, Port of Spain. The Fisheries Division collaborated with administrative staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and the FAO in preparing for the hosting of the Workshop. A report of the Workshop was prepared and forwarded to the Project Co-ordinator (*Workshop report is attached*).

From a national perspective, the Workshop was attended by the government staff working on the Project, two representatives from the artisanal trawl fishery operating out of Otaheite, also represented on the National Steering Committee, and one representative from the industrial trawl fleet operating out of the NP Compound. The Workshop included a field study tour which involved visits to Otaheite and NP Compound landing sites where the gear used and landings by the respective fleets were observed. Due to the timing of the field trip, landings were only observed for the artisanal fleet at Otaheite.

4. 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

Activities focused on the acquisition of library and information materials to assist in the future preparation of information materials to the fishing industry and communities. These included various texts and an on-line subscription to the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) database.

In July to September 2004, members of the trawl fishery were informed of the Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean and members of the National Steering Committee were invited to attend. This information transfer and periodic updates on the progress of project activities were made during the weekly field sampling trips to trawl landing sites (*referred to in the section below*).

Data Collection on Landings & Fishing Grounds

At sea data collection:

From June to August 2004, at-sea trips were conducted on one semi-industrial vessel operating out of Orange Valley in the north Gulf of Paria, and two artisanal vessels operating out of Otaheite in the south Gulf of Paria. A Biological Data Collector was responsible for the collection and purchase of the sample of the catch, including discards, while 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.

The at-sea sampling is considered preliminary. The hiring of observer trainees on contract to be involved in this activity still poses an administrative problem. Since the logistics of at-sea sampling need to be determined, existing Biological Data Collectors on the permanent establishment of the Fisheries Division were utilised to collect catch samples at sea. Attempts were made over the period to introduce two other existing members of staff of the Fisheries Division, a Trawler Captain and Vessel Engineer, to the procedures involved in the collection of samples at sea.

Land-based sampling of artisanal, semi-industrial trawlers and industrial trawlers:

A total of 21 field trips to Orange Valley and 5 trips to Otaheite were conducted over the period. From these trips the landed catch from 20 artisanal, 13 semi-industrial and 10 industrial vessels was sampled to determine the species composition of by-catch. A biological sampling programme for two species of finfish by-catch (*Micropogonias furnieri* and *Lutjanus synagris*) has been in place for one year now. In addition to biological data (length frequencies and weight) for these two species, the composition of the overall finfish by-catch was determined for each fleet sampled. This activity is considered to complement the at-sea data collection onboard trawlers.

5. General comments on the current status of the shrimp-trawling industry.

The composition of the trawl fleet remained unchanged from that recorded in December 2003. 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)

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

Support Staff:

One (1) Fisheries Assistant for 6 months @ US\$500/month with an estimated 50% full-time allocated to project activities:	\$1,500
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Two (2) Biological Data Collectors for 6 months @ US\$500/month with an estimated 75% full-time allocated to project activities:	\$4,500
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<u>Travel expenses:</u>	\$500
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(includes vehicle maintenance and fuel)

Materials and supplies:

\$7,807

Includes by-catch samples and ice; field equipment (sampling and safety gear); library and information materials (stationery, texts, on-line subscription to ASFA).

Sub-Total: US\$17,307

Industry (in-kind):

Attendance by trawler owners at the Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean:

two (2) representatives of the artisanal fleet each for one (1) day and

one (1) representative from the industrial fleet for two (2) days:

\$1,200

Demonstration of catch from one (1) artisanal fisherman on one (1) day:

\$110

(using a daily rate, based on revenues, of US\$490 for the industrial vessel owner and US\$110 per hour for the artisanal fisherman)

Sub-Total: US\$1,310

Overall total: US\$18, 617

7. Estimation of by-catch reduction:

Number of shrimp trawlers: 126 vessels

Number of shrimp-trawlers currently using BRDs: (expand by major-type of shrimp-trawler (if possible)): 9 Semi-industrial and 22 industrial shrimp trawlers outfitted with TEDs.

8. List any equipment purchased, with indication of price and present location of the item(s).

Not applicable