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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION Twelfth Session
WECAFC LESSER ANTILLES FISHERY COMMITTEE Ninth Session
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 25-28 October 2005
INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS¹

I. FOLLOW-UP TO THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELEVENTH WECAFC

1. The following summary report relates to the main decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the Commission, 21-24 October 2003, St. Georges, Grenada.

Consultation on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation

2. With respect to the convening of the consultation, to date, the Secretariat was unable to mobilize funds to support this activity.

National Workshops on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)

3. No national workshops were held to promote the utilization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries since no requests were received from member countries. However, other organizations such as the UWI (Outreach Program) have assisted in promoting the Code at the local and national levels in the WECAFC region.

Regional Workshop on Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

4. Two workshops, one for the English-speaking members and one for the Spanish-speaking members of WECAFC were held in Trinidad and Tobago and Panama in July and August 2004, respectively. The main objectives of the workshops were to sensitize countries on the need and potential for cooperation on VMS; create awareness of the potential benefits of VMS, beyond the use in MCS (e.g. marine safety, statistics, fisheries management); and inform countries on current developments with regard to electronic logbooks and satellite surveillance.

Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action (NPOA) to prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

5. A regional workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 12 - 16 November 2004, with the objective of developing national capacity so that countries would be better placed to elaborate NPOAs to combat IUU fishing and, as a result, meet the requirements of the IPOA. Participants were from the English speaking Caribbean countries, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname.

¹ Does not include activities of the WECAFC ad hoc working groups, which are found in document WECAFC/XII/05/8.

Formulation of NPOAs in Central America

6. In December 2004 Central American countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) initiated a technical activity to formulate the National Plans of Action (NPOA-Capacity, NPOA-Sharks, NPOA-IUU fishing, NPOA-Sea Birds) with the technical and financial assistance of FAO in partnership with OSPESCA. The first phase of the programme has been accomplished with the organisation of three workshops that evaluated the situation in each country and prepared national work programmes concerning each NPOA. The second phase, which is in progress, includes visits of international experts to each member country to provide technical guidance and advice in the formulation of each NPOA. The third phase will consist of sub-regional workshops to harmonise relevant aspects of each NPOA.

First Meeting of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on the Strengthening of WECAFC

7. With the financial assistance of the US Department of State, the First Meeting of the IWG was held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 12-14 July 2005. The report of the First IWG is contained in background document, WECAFC/XXII/05/11.

II. ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

ACTIVITIES

8. The following lists the main FAO fisheries activities and projects in the WECAFC region that were implemented during the last biennium:

Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities in Community-based Fisheries and ICZM

9. With financial assistance from FAO, the CRFM (Caribbean Regional Fishery Mechanism) in collaboration with the Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago, organized a 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, 13-17 June 2005, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The main objective of the Workshop was to review the comparative study on the use of demographic indicators in coastal area and fisheries management between Malaysia and the Philippines and the findings of the country case studies on the status of coastal zone and fisheries/aquatic resources management and on the incorporation of demographic/socio-economic considerations/indicators in selected Caribbean countries, with a view towards making recommendations for the strengthening of integrated coastal zone and community-based fisheries management in the Caribbean and on the collection and use of demographic information on coastal fishing communities. The country specific case studies to identify ways and means as to how demographic concerns could be incorporated into the on-going coastal zone management programmes that were prepared for Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Agricultural and Rural Development Plan for Dominica

10. The draft fisheries component of the strategic plan for agriculture and rural development in Dominica was submitted to the Government of Dominica in August 2005.

PROJECTS

TF Projects

11. GEF/UNEP/FAO - Reduction of environmental impact from tropical shrimp trawling through the introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies (BRTs) and change of management, February 2002 – January 2007. The overall objective of the project is to reduce discards of fish captured by

shrimp-trawlers, primarily by introducing in a selected number of developing countries, technologies that reduce the catch of juvenile food-fish and other by-catch. Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela from the WECAFC Region are participating in the project. The major outcome of the project should be the adoption by several of the participating countries of fishing technologies (including By-catch Reduction Devices and others). Another direct outcome of the project should be a reduction in the number of juvenile commercial species caught by shrimp-trawlers.

FIINPESCA Project – GCP/RLA/150/SWE

12. Recently a project entitled, “Strengthening of Interdisciplinary Fisheries Research for Responsible Fisheries in Central American countries (FIINPESCA)” was approved for funding by Sweden. The project will be executed by FAO in partnership with OSPESCA (Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in the Central American Isthmus) and its member countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). The project activities will focus on research in shrimp and coastal, demersal fish resources and will aim at the establishment, on a permanent basis, of a regional interdisciplinary working group to deal with resource evaluation and economic and social aspects of these fisheries. The project, which will have duration of 38 months, should be initiated shortly.

LAPE Project – GCP/RLA/140/JPN

13. The FAO/Government of Japan project entitled, “Scientific Basis For Ecosystem-based Management in the Lesser Antilles including Interactions with Marine Mammals and Other Top Predators”, is also referred to as the Lesser Antilles Pelagic Ecosystem (LAPE) project (2002-07). It has been operational for over a year now and involves the OECS countries, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. The project was designed to provide the scientific information base for introducing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, and included three major phases. The first, the data collection and generation phase, has been the primary focus to this point. Activities in this area included three complementary themes: fisheries data (detailed catch and effort), predator-prey relations (diet studies), and stock distribution and abundance (cetacean and fish surveys). Some of the activities in each theme area have started and the rest will be started during this year. The second phase is data synthesis and modelling. This has also been started with preliminary ecosystem models and the compilation of GIS base layer data. The models will be updated as additional results from the data collection and generation phase are provided. The final phase, starting in about two years, is the interpretation of the scientific results to address ecosystem-issues in fisheries management. These results of the project will be provided as draft ecosystem-based fisheries management plans.

TCP Projects

14. TCP/ANT/0066 (A), Phase II, - Strengthening of food control and safety of fish for export from Antigua and Barbuda, January 2004 - June 2005. The objective of the project was to improve the institutional capacity to ensure the quality and safety of the food-fish supplied in Antigua and Barbuda. Fish processors, food analysts and inspectors have been trained.

15. TCP/ANT/2903 (A) - Assistance in Fisheries Legislation (Antigua and Barbuda), June 2003 - June 2005. The objective of the mission was to review the fisheries legislation, consult with relevant government officials and stakeholders and to present and discuss recommendations for amendments and additions to the current fisheries legislation, as appropriate. Based on the results of the discussions with the relevant government agencies and stakeholders and the recommendations of the National Consultation, drafts of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations, 2004, were prepared.

16. TCP/RLA/3003(T) - Introduction of Aquaculture and Other Integrated Production Management Practices to Rice Farmers in Suriname and Guyana, April 2004 - March 2006. The

objective of the project is to enhance food security, income and nutrition through improved and diversified farming practices using the Farmer field-school (FFS) approach. Activities are ongoing.

17. TCP/JAM/2901(A) - Development of a Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for Sustainable fisheries management, February 2003-January 2005. The main objectives were to assist the Government of Jamaica in assessing the current status and production practices in the fisheries sector; to provide advice to strengthen the institutional and administrative capabilities of the fisheries division to implement the sustainable management of capture and culture fisheries; and to assist the Government of Jamaica in planning for the sustainable management of its fisheries resources. All outputs envisaged under the project have been produced and operational closure is being processed.

Emergency Projects

18. TCP/DMI/3002 (E) - Emergency Support to Farmers and Fisher-folk Affected by Floods in Dominica, December 2004 - November 2005. The main objective is to mitigate the negative impact of recent floods on livelihoods and food-security of affected communities through a prompt resumption of agricultural production and fisheries livelihoods by providing emergency agricultural inputs to vulnerable households. Fishing inputs have been procured and its distribution is near completion.

19. TCP/GRN/3003 (E) - Emergency Assistance to Farmers and Fisher-folks Affected by Hurricane Ivan, September 2004 – November 2005.

OSRO/GRN/401/CAN - November 2004- June 2005 and OSRO/GRN/402/US - November 2004-October 2005, - Emergency Assistance to Farmers and Fisher-folks Affected by Hurricane Ivan.

The main objective was to assist the Government of Grenada to provide inputs to facilitate the recovery of productive activities in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Assistance to the fisheries sector included the repair/replacement of damaged fishing vessels and fishing gear, the rehabilitation of the fisheries communication network, and the restoration of market facilities.

20. TCP/RLA/3015 (E)- Emergency assistance to farmers and fisher-folks affected by hurricanes Ivan and Frances in the Bahamas and St Vincent and the Grenadines, November 2004 - October 2005. The main objective is to mitigate the negative impacts of recent hurricanes on livelihoods and food-security of affected communities through a prompt resumption of production by providing emergency agricultural/fishery inputs to small rural households and vulnerable fisher-folks. The fishery inputs have been sourced and distributed and repair/replacement of damaged fishing vessels and gear and infrastructure is nearing completion.

III. OTHER PROJECTS, INCLUDING ON INLAND FISHERIES OR AQUACULTURE, IMPLEMENTED OR IN OPERATION IN THE COPESCAL REGION (2003 – 2005)

21. WECAFC member countries were involved in the following projects:

TCP/BRA/3001 (A): Fortalecimiento institucional de la Secretaría Especial de Acuicultura y Pesca (SEAP), Brasil. Mayo de 2004 - Octubre de 2005.

UTF/BRA/066/BRA: Coastal community development. August 2005 - August 2010.

TCP/GUA/2902 (A): Apoyo a la ordenación de las pesquerías de camarones y fortalecimiento institucional de la autoridad pesquera, Guatemala. Septiembre de 2003 - Febrero de 2005.

TCP/HAI/2903 and (0/IV/HAI/083): Promotion of small-scale poultry farming and aquaculture for food security in Haiti. November 2002 - May 2005

UTF/MEX/049/MEX: Acuicultura experimentales de camarón rosado y corvina roja en el estado de Campeche. Junio de 2001 – Julio de 2005.

UTF/MEX /053/MEX: Evaluación del Instituto Nacional de Pesca. Enero de 2005 - Julio de 2005J

TFD-03/VEN/001: Bautista repobamiento piscícola del embalse PAO la Balsa - estado de Cojedes
Enero de 2005, Telefood 21 211