



EP/GLO/201/GEF

**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)

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

Summary Record of Project Task Force meeting, held at FAO HQs, Rome,  
31 October 2002

Attendance

Members: Turner FIIT (Chairman)  
Prado FIIT  
Everett FIPP  
Teutscher FIIU  
Fogelgren TCII  
Kollavik-Jensen FIDP

Invitees: Thiele FIIT (Project Coordinator)  
Mann FIIT (Consultant)  
Lenselink FIIT  
de Young FIPP

Absent with apologies:  
Martosubroto FIRM  
Teigene LEGN  
Grainger FIDI  
Barg FIRI  
de la Rocha FIDP

Introduction

Mr Turner welcomed the participants to this 2nd meeting. Matters arising from the previous meeting were already included in the Agenda which had been distributed earlier.

Project status report

Mr Thiele gave a brief verbal report: referring particularly to the Inaugural Meeting held in Guaymas mid September (a preliminary account of which was already circulated to the TF), at which a number of National Coordinators had reported on their own initial activities (*eg*: Indonesia - the Demonstration and Training Workshop, held in Sorong; SEAFDEC - the Regional Practical Workshop held in Phrasamutchedi; Mexico - the RS-INP prototype BRD developed (and later demonstrated to all participants at the Inaugural Meeting).

In addition Iran and Bahrain (not present) had announced recent experiments and demonstrations undertaken with BRDs. Some other participating countries were ready to

start base-line data collection, but others were not so prepared because of changes in local responsibilities, or limited national financial resources. In brief all participants wanted FAO to accelerate the preparation of the LOAs under which the first funding could be released for the planned national activities.

Mr Thiele proposed to undertake missions to Costa Rica, Colombia (end 2002), Iran, Bahrain (beginning 2003) in order to reinforce his contacts with the National Coordinators concerned, and to investigate solutions to current administrative and technical problems, including the finalization of LOAs. **Action: Thiele**

He concluded that the Inaugural Meeting had been very useful, with the brief country reports presented by each participant giving significant up-to-date information, and therefore enabling NCs to discuss their collaborative regional programmes in more detail, including the need for revision/ updating of their national work-plans upon which the LOAs should be based.

A demonstration of the Mexican prototype shrimp-trawl fitted with a new BRD (RS-INP) had illustrated a 40% reduction in by-catch, a significant saving in fuel consumption, as well as a higher-quality of the shrimp-product landed. Some specialist equipment for monitoring of trawl-performance and trawl parameters (as will be needed for some gear-technology studies) had been demonstrated by SIMRAD.

Mr Teutscher had made presentations to the Inaugural Meeting on: the better-utilization of any un-avoidable by-catch (so as to enable better vessel-earnings); on the transfer of by-catch utilization technology from Cuba to Costa Rica (funded by RP/FIIU); and on another potential project to realize the full value of un-avoidable by-catch from the trawl fisheries in the Arafua Sea (Indonesia).

Mr de la Rocha, Mr Fogelgren and Mr Thiele had explained the various aspects of administrative procedures concerning: the LOAs; periodic Progress Reports, TECs; etc.

### Draft Report on the Steering Committee Meeting

Mr Fogelgren summarized this (distributed earlier to TF members), explaining that the representatives from the Gulfs area (I.R. Iran), from Africa (Nigeria), and from UNEP (UNEP office in Mexico City) had unfortunately been unable to attend, and so other participants had been co-opted.

This Committee had emphasized:

- the need for urgent action on the LOAs so that initial funding could be released to participating countries;
- that a project web-site would be very important for all participants as a means of information-exchange, including (for instance) the recommended reporting format to be used by National Coordinators in their half-yearly submissions to FAO;
- that the budgetary allocation for some countries (Cameroon for instance) was minimal, thus FAO should examine supplementary sources of funding;
- that as an-inter-sessional activity members were invited to submit in writing (to Mr Turner FIIT) any major comments that they might have upon the current Project Document and its overall work-programme.

### Project's work-plan through mid-2003

Mr Turner first recalled the importance of selecting indicators for monitoring the progress of the project towards its aim of reducing the by-catch rate in the tropical shrimp-fisheries by 50%. Other relevant indicators should be forthcoming from the global study of discard rates (see Everett below), from observer-monitoring programmes (see FISHCODE below), and from data recorded during by-catch utilization studies (see

Teutscher below). One simple indicator that each participating country would be expected to give in its half-yearly reports was the estimated number of shrimp-trawlers using gear fitted with BRDs. More detailed analyses of each country's situation should be included in the technical reports analyzing the observed catches and by-catches from their on-board studies.

**Action: National Coordinators**

Mr Thiele summarized the main elements of the projects's immediate work-plan as follows:

- Design of web-site - already in hand; **Action: Thiele, Lenselink, etc**
- Inventory of BRDs - already in hand; **Action: Prado, with FIDI/FIGIS**
- Guidelines for implementation/ use of BRDs - already in hand; **Action: Thiele**
- Inventory of legal and policy frameworks for sustainable shrimp fisheries -  
**Action: Thiele to initiate meeting with Everett, de Young and Tiegene**
- Directory of experts and institutions (experienced in shrimp-fisheries) - in hand;  
**Action: Prado**
- Electronic publication of shrimp-fishing methods - in hand;  
**Action: Thiele with Løkkeborg & FIDI/FIGIS**
- Mission to Iran & Bahrain to discuss technical and admin aspects; **Action: Thiele**
- Mission to Iran (January) - on by-catch utilization aspects; **Action: Teutscher**
- Philippines - Training Workshop (under LOA) in collaboration with SEAFDEC, April 2003;  
**Action: Thiele & Mann**
- Data-collection on by-catch and economics aspects - Venezuela & Mexico awaiting resources through LOAs; **Action: Thiele & Mann**
- Caribbean Regional Workshop on shrimp-trawling planned for mid 2003;  
**Action: Thiele**

#### FAO inputs & outputs to the GEF/UNEP Project scheduled under RP/PWB

Mr Turner recalled that the FAO in-kind contribution amounting to some \$190,000 per year consisted largely of the working-time of FI technical officers (consultancy inputs and travel budgets being charged elsewhere). Such RP inputs must be foreseen and recorded in the Programme Entities of the concerned units, in order to enable reporting of the FAO in-kind contribution to the UNEP/GEF project.

**Action: Turner**

Alternatively, FID would be requested by him to authorise an increase under 233A1 so that all inputs by the Technical Divisions (including FIPP, FIIU, LEGN, etc) could be authorized and recorded under a single budgetary heading.

Mr Fogelgren queried the filling of the part-time post of Fishing Technologist (prodoc p 22, line 10): Mr Turner explained that 3 FIIT staff (Prado, Løkkeborg, Båge) were presently providing this input.

#### RP activities related to the GEF/UNEP Project

Mr Turner invited each Unit to summarise the status of its current RP activities related to the GEF/UNEP Project:

- FIPP (RP project 233A1 - Discards study). Consultant Macfadyen to conduct an overview of: previous work; UN decisions and reports; main issues of Policy, Legal, and Environmental aspects (1 w/m November/December); Everett himself had prepared notes on discards in Chile, Argentina, Morocco, Namibia (although none of these ranked as tropical trawl-fisheries). Economic aspects were already considered by Consultant Pascoe. Guidelines for Observer-

- programmes being issued by the FISHCODE project. An International Meeting on discards is planned for 2003.
- FIIT Economic efficiency and impact of introducing Responsible Fishing: funding not sufficient, since very little data already exists. A programme to be prepared in 3 lead countries.
  - FIIT The global study on all discards - in hand (an up-dating of FAO's Fisheries Technical Paper No.339, 1994) where a variety of methods were used to collect data). A consultant (Kelleher) under recruitment (3 w/m, November-February) to make a comparison between different methodologies used.
  - FIIU A RP Workshop on "Approaches to reducing shrimp-trawl by-catch in the Western Indian Ocean" being planned for Mombasa, March 2003 (to which Nigeria might be invited also under RP).
  - FIIU Kenya (KMFRI) was interested in further work on by-catch and utilization problems (involving also policy issues).
  - FIPP Project TCP/URT/0168 "... Planning and Co-management of the Tanzanian prawn fisheries". An analysis of available data showed that the shrimp-fisheries have indeed declined significantly since 1998. The industry is now agreeable to a more detailed research activity, including the development of suitable BRDs, and arrangements for management of this shrimp fishery must take into consideration the similar fishery in adjacent Kenyan waters, because of the movement of stocks and vessels between the two. An extension of the project through April 2004 has been proposed in order to give more attention to the food-security aspect (the utilization of the by-catch) and to a sub-regional approach.
  - FIIT A shrimp-trawling study (covering temperate and tropical fisheries) – it is intended to prepare by end 2002 a costed proposal, identifying information already available, and future activities needed to define the direct and indirect social, economic and environmental impacts.
  - FIIT A paper was being prepared on the mitigation of the negative impacts of fishing gear (including shrimp-trawls) on the environment.

#### Strategies for information-flow and development of Project's web-site

Mr Turner recalled that FAO's (global-level) responsibilities laid down in the Project Document focused upon the collection, quality-control and dissemination of relevant information, as well as the recommendation of strategies for getting improved BRDs actually adopted and used by the shrimp-trawling vessels. In this respect he emphasized the need for a well-developed information strategy within the Project.

Ms Lenselink gave an account of the proposals of concerned staff for a Project web-site to serve as a tool for making relevant information readily available to all concerned. She provided a note on the prioritization of the real targets for the communication of information, as well as a note listing the 3 main "chapters":

- General Information on the Project (public access);
- Technical Information relevant to the Project (public access)
- Project Administration (restricted access - FAO staff and the 12 National Coordinators).

**Action: Thiele, Lenselink, Prado, de Young**

Immediate comments offered by the Task Force included: the responsibilities of the National Coordinators to promote information-exchange within their own countries (through the national steering committees, etc); the need to provide a practical working tool (given that in several participating countries the internet connections are still slow and unreliable, thus it might be necessary to avoid complex graphics); that the expected life of the web-site was only 5-years (no after-life was yet contemplated from FAO's own

resources); that it should be possible for FIIT staff alone to easily up-date the contents of the web-site (without the need for periodic consultancies by a web-site engineer); and that it might be useful to include market-trends (for shrimp).

The immediate aim was to have an initial section of the web-site operational before end-2002. TF members were invited to give their comments on the web-site structure to Mr Thiele by mid November, following which the information group will meet again with appropriate GI/FIGIS staff to further develop their proposals.

**Action: all TF members**

#### Possible for additional countries to participate

Mr Fogelgren had checked with UNEP: the budget ceiling (and duration) of the present project had been set by GEF agreeing to the original Project Brief, and could not now be increased, therefore other sources of co-funding would have to be explored. The GEF/UNDP small grants programme was very limited, and thus unlikely to be adequate for significant programmes to be undertaken in any other countries needing additional funding in order to participate in the project.

Contact would be maintained with FAO's donor-liason unit (TCAP), even if it appeared unlikely that "by-catch reduction in shrimp-trawling" would meet the criteria for inclusion in any new FAO/Government Cooperative Programmes. **Action: Turner**

In any case, given the trend towards prioritization of assistance programmes by the beneficiary countries themselves, it would be more appropriate for the country interested in participation in the Project to first approach the local representative of the potential donor. **Action: Thiele**

Mr Teutscher indicated that KMFRI (Kenya) had been able to obtain supplementary funding from the EU (European Union) for some of its activities.

Mr Prado recalled that collaboration/ exchanges with other related projects might also be useful.

#### Technical support for finalization work-plans under each LOA

Mr Mann pointed out that the national work-plans (submitted more than a year ago) had not provided sufficient data needed for the preparation of the detailed work-plans under formal Letters of Agreement. Therefore he requested that a series of meetings should be called among the Task Force members and other FI staff in order to focus, country by country, on the specific situations, as well as to prepare supplementary guidelines so that similar parameters/ methods could be used in each country, thus enabling better comparisons between the various studies. **Action: Thiele & Mann**

The TF members noted that the National Coordinators and the Steering Committee had both emphasized the need to accelerate the finalization of the LOAs so as to permit an initial release of funds to the participating countries. Therefore there should be (if possible) a compromise between technical detail and the legal requirements of FAO. Given the work-load involved, as well as the urgency, it was decided to prepare when appropriate a series of shorter, possibly overlapping LOAs with the same agency (even if requiring a special waiver under FAO's existing Rules and Regulations), instead of negotiating a single LOA covering the full duration of the project with each government agency. **Action: Thiele & Mann**

It was accepted that the priority ranking for this urgent work on the LOAs should generally follow magnitude of the national budgetary allocation, but should also have to take into account the timing of FAO missions to the countries (or vice-versa), as well as

the collaborative arrangements between countries of the same region. Apart from imminent missions by Mr Thiele to some participating countries, it might be advisable to call some individual National Coordinators to Rome (at FAO expense), for direct discussions with the various units concerned, on the detailed content and scope of their LOAs. Revised LOAs were in any case awaited from some NCs as a result of news/ views/ discussions held in Guaymas. **Action: Thiele.**

Missions planned by staff/ consultants relating to Project activities/ countries

Pending an expansion in early 2003 of the FI-intranet web-site to show all scheduled Departmental duty-travel, Mr Turner requested all staff to keep Mr Thiele informed of missions of NCs to Rome and of TF members to participating countries (*eg.* visits to Rome by: Njifonjou - Cameroon SRHOL/IRAD; Garcia-Rodriguez - Cuba CIP; Akande - Nigeria NIOMR).

Status of Project's budget

Mr Mann advised that the number of formal financial commitments already made under the allocations for individual countries were minimal (because many LOAs had not yet been finalized, and many of the costs of travel to the Inaugural Meeting had not yet appeared in the ORACLE accounts).

The direct allocation for FAO itself also showed a significant balance in FY 2002, partly because not all travel costs (for the Steering Committee members and FAO staff) had yet appeared, and because the post of Project Operations Officer had not yet been filled on a long-term basis (this task being undertaken by Mr Mann under a retiree-consultancy basis). Therefore there were some funds immediately available for the recruitment of some consultants and/or temporary support staff, although any unspent balance would be automatically carried forward into the FY 2003.

**Action: Thiele & Turner**

Any Other Business

The next full Task Force meeting will be called around end January.

**Action: Turner.**

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