



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**

August-December 2003

By Suzuette Soomai



PROGRESS REPORT TO THE PROJECT COORDINATOR EP/GLO/201/GEF

Country: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Reporting period: August 2003 – December 2003 (5 months)

National Coordinator (name /title): Ms Suzette Soomai (Fisheries Officer)

LIST THE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE HELD: (GIVES DATES, PLACES):

A National Steering Committee has not been formalised at this time.

PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES:

The Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the FAO and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was officially signed on 7 August 2003. Activities over the reporting period August to December 2003 were focused on preparations for the initiation of activities outlined in the LOA, namely those involving the collection of baseline data on operations and catches of the three main trawler types as well as the formation of the National Steering Committee. These were as follows:

1. Informal meetings were held with members of the fishing industry who previously assisted the Fisheries Division in the preparatory phase of this project. These were trawler owners who provided information on by-catch and discards and participated in national meetings and regional workshops. Four meetings were held: one at each of the two main landing sites for the industrial and semi-industrial trawlers and one at each of the two main landing sites for the artisanal trawlers.

These meetings were aimed at appraising fishermen/trawler owners of the developments regarding the signing of the LOA and the activities in years 1 and 2 in the work plan. These meetings were also aimed at determining the most suitable representatives of the fishing industry to comprise the National Steering Committee. Summary information on the project was prepared, based on the project document, and disseminated to these individuals. It was necessary to fully appraise the members of the fishing industry of the project's objectives and activities, due to the long time interval between their involvement in the preparatory phase and the signing of the LOA.

2. A census of fishing vessels was conducted in December 2003. This activity was part of the national work programme for fisheries resource management. A component of this activity used funds available under the GEF project and involved field visits to trawling communities. The purpose of this activity was to obtain information on the current status of the shrimp-trawling industry with regards to number of trawlers and fishermen by fleet and landing site and general concerns. The information is being analysed and the updated information will soon be available.
3. The Fisheries Division's research vessel was repaired in preparation for at-sea field work for purchase of trawl catches and for future gear trials.

4. New staff was recruited to assist with field work and data analyses. Two Biological Data Collectors were recruited in September 2003 and trained in fish taxonomy and sampling techniques. These new Biological Data Collectors will be involved in the collection of baseline information on the by-catch composition of the trawl fleets. One (1) new Biologist was recruited in November to assist with analyses of data on trawl catches.
5. Information on by-catch continues to be collected from the trawl fleet from the ongoing biological sampling programme for groundfish.

FINANCIAL INPUTS OVER THE PERIOD AUGUST – DECEMBER 2003

Government (in-kind):

Professional staff:

One (1) Fisheries Officer for 5 months @ US\$1000/month with an estimated 50% full-time allocated to project activities: \$2,500

One (1) Fisheries Officer for 5 months @ US\$1000/month with an estimated 25% full-time allocated to project activities: \$1,250

One (1) Biologist @ US\$750 for 2 months with an estimated 75% full-time allocated to project activities: \$1,125

Support Staff:

Four (4) Biological data Collectors (includes 2 new staff for 4 months and two existing members of staff for 5 months) each @ US\$450/month with an estimated 75% full-time allocated to project activities : \$6,075

Travel expenses: US\$400

Materials and supplies: US\$850

Total: US\$12,200

Industry (in-kind):

Four meetings with 6 trawler owners at a rate of US\$100 per owner was applied: US\$600.

Total: US\$600

Overall total: US\$12,600

Estimation of by-catch reduction: (for the reporting period): not applicable

Number of shrimp trawlers: 114

This comprises 84 artisanal vessels (13 vessels at 6.7-9.8m in length and 71 vessels at 7.9-11.6m recorded in the 1998 census), 9 semi-industrial (10.4-12.2m) and 21 industrial trawlers (17.1-22m) recorded from fieldwork in 2000. The most current numbers will be obtained from the 2003 census results.

Number of shrimp-trawlers currently using BRDs: none