

## REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CRFM/CLME LARGE PELAGIC FISHERY CASE STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE



12 March 2013  
Dominica

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CRFM Secretariat  
Belize



## **CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2013 / 4**

**Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Large Pelagic  
Fishery Case Study Steering Committee, 12 March 2013, Dominica**

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Belize 2013

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Study Steering Committee, 12 March 2013, Dominica

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CANARI</b>	Caribbean Natural Resource Institute
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CCCCC's(5C's)</b>	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
<b>CERMES</b>	Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
<b>CFP</b>	Common Fisheries Policy
<b>CLME</b>	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
<b>CNFO</b>	Caribbean Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations
<b>COFCOR</b>	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
<b>COTED</b>	Council for Trade and Economic Development
<b>CPC</b>	Contracting and Non-Contracting Cooperating Party
<b>CRFM</b>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
<b>EAF</b>	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAD</b>	Fish Aggregating Device
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing
<b>JICA</b>	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
<b>LME</b>	Large Marine Ecosystem
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NAFO</b>	North Atlantic Fishery Organization
<b>OECS</b>	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
<b>OSPESCA</b>	Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Organization of the Central American Isthmus
<b>SAP</b>	Strategic Action Programme
<b>TDA</b>	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Service
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>WECAFC</b>	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development

## 1. Opening Ceremony

A single opening ceremony was held for the Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Case Studies Steering Committee meetings since they were held on two consecutive days 11 – 12 March, 2013 at the same venue. A summary of the proceedings is given below.

The Opening Ceremony was jointly chaired by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries, Dominica, Mr. Samuel Carrette and upon his exit, by Mr. Andrew Magloire, Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Dominica. The meeting was opened with the playing of the National Anthem of Dominica followed by singing of the song – “this is the day the Lord has made” by participants. Senior Fisheries Officer of the Fisheries Division, Dominica, Mr. Harold Guiste then offered a prayer.

Mr. Samuel Carrette welcomed all participants to Dominica and more specifically to the Second Joint Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Study Steering Committee meetings. He expressed the critical need for these case studies given the numerous challenges encountered in managing the flyingfish and large pelagics fisheries. Mr. Carrette also highlighted the case of Dominica where fishing trends over the past twenty years showed the development of coastal pelagics from the early 1990’s to offshore pelagics in the late 1990’s. He also noted the importance of these fishery resources in addressing the food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation needs of Dominica. Mr. Carrette echoed a call for consideration to be given to swift and decisive actions in order to address the demise facing these very important species which contributed significantly to the social and economic stability of many of the small rural communities. In closing, Mr. Carrette expressed that in his view, the session was timely and brought together all of the relevant and critical stakeholders to deliberate on the subject of flyingfish and large pelagic fisheries of the Eastern Caribbean. The full text of the address by Mr. Carrette is at **Appendix 1 (A)**.

Mr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat then extended a welcome on behalf of CRFM to all participants and special guests especially the resource users and other stakeholders. He extended special thanks to the Government of Dominica for agreeing to host the meetings in Dominica that week i.e. the meetings of the Joint Steering Committee on Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries as well as another meeting which was to be held by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to look at the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishery in the Region. He also thanked the Government of Dominica for their assistance in organizing the meetings and providing the transportation and other logistical arrangements. The purpose of the gathering he stated was to review the outputs of two regional studies that were aimed at providing scientific policy guidelines, in order to strengthen governance and management arrangements for the flyingfish and large pelagic fisheries. He noted that the meetings were convened by the CRFM Secretariat with funding provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) based in Cartagena, Colombia. Mr. Haughton also told participants that in December 2010, the CRFM Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) based in Denmark signed two Agreements for the implementation of these Studies, which have a combined budget of US \$508,000 and duration of less than 2 years. However, he said that the studies were formally launched at the first meeting of the Steering Committee in

February 2011. He then provided some background on the CLME Project by citing that it was for 4 years and funded by GEF with co-financing from partner states in the Caribbean, namely 23 countries in the region as well as 2 associate countries and 11 organizations. The project he said began in May of 2009 and would come to an end in August 2013. He pointed out that the overall objective was the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the CLME and adjacent areas through an ecosystem-based approach that would meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target for sustainable fisheries. In so doing, he indicated that the CLME Project has assisted Caribbean countries to improve the management of their shared living marine resources, most of which were considered to be fully or over exploited. Mr. Haughton also noted that following the development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) document, which set out the required priority interventions, reforms and investments needed for long term sustainable use and management of the living marine resources of the CLME, the CLME Project Steering Committee met last week and endorsed the SAP Report with changes made by the committee and that the document would be formally submitted to the countries for political level approval, before any action could be taken. He told participants that once signing was done of the SAP document, countries could move on to implement the reforms and investments that were identified in the document. He explained that a great opportunity existed to mobilize resources and have funds and technical assistance to do some of the important work that the countries must do. He pointed out that the information derived from the case studies done was used to prepare the SAP for the fisheries. The ultimate goal of these studies he stressed was to ensure that the people of the region obtained the optimum social and economic benefits that existed and so the onus was on them to complete the endorsement of the SAP at the political level so as to begin the implementation of the project. Mr. Haughton also took the opportunity to inform and give some insight with regards to the strategic importance of another initiative of great significance i.e. the initiative to develop the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – which was complementary to the CLME SAP development, and which together could assist tremendously in moving towards long-term objective of sustainable use of shared living marine resources. He mentioned that the CFP had been endorsed by ministers responsible for Fisheries as well as by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR). He also stated that it had been reviewed by the Legal Affairs Committee of CARICOM (AGs) and was now awaiting formal approval by the CARICOM Conference of Heads of State. The full text of the address by Mr. Haughton is at **Appendix 1 (B)**.

Prior to Mr. Samuel Carrette's departure due to another engagement, he introduced the Honourable, Minister in the Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries, Dr. Kenneth Darroux who did the feature address, which is given in **Appendix 1 (C)**. The Honourable minister welcomed all in a special way to the shores of Dominica, the Nature Island of the world. He said the Government of Dominica had over the years placed special emphasis on the development of the Fisheries Sector given its importance to the livelihood of the people of Dominica. He expressed the view that though limited by small size of the boats, gear type and a range of operations, it was understood that fishery resources within our Exclusive Economic Zones were shared with many other countries of the regions. The Honourable Dr. Darroux called for an understanding that we were part of a chain of islands sharing common bodies of water and since we were part of a Caribbean chain, this therefore called for the cooperation of all parties concerned. The minister emphasized that the Commonwealth of Dominica welcomed the initiative and placed on record the efforts of CRFM and Mr. Haughton. In closing, he recognized the efforts of JICA and its accomplishments in the region

regarding the Fish Aggregating Devices. He expressed that under the Caribbean Fisheries Master Plan Project; Dominica had made tremendous strides forward in the area of FAD technology and had become a leader in the OECS in FAD fishing. He attributed this to the Japanese and the hard work of the CRFM Secretariat. He also commended the CRFM and CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Studies Steering Committees for the work that had been accomplished thus far. He wished all God's guidance and a very fruitful discussion over the next few days.

The Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Dominica, Mr. Andrew Magloire gave the vote of thanks. Mr. Magloire first of all expressed thanks to Garraway Hotel for venue arrangements. To the Hon. Minister, he expressed thanks for taking time off from his very busy schedule to deliver the address. To CRFM, he expressed appreciation for allowing Dominica the opportunity to host these important meetings. He also recognized the effort made by participants to attend the meeting to deliberate and share information on the flyingfish and large pelagic species. Mr. Magloire expressed thanks to CRFM Secretariat for their expertise in steering the process of fisheries resource management activities that were inclusive of the critical stakeholders. This he said gave the stakeholders the opportunity to analyze, discuss and review the programs so as to ensure long term sustainability of these fisheries resources. Mr. Magloire also acknowledged the media for covering the opening session.

## **2. Introduction of Participants**

The participants at this Committee meeting were the same participants at the Flyingfish Case Study Steering Committee meeting held the previous day at the same venue. Since the participants were introduced the previous day there was no need to repeat the process. A list of participants is affixed as **Appendix 3**.

## **3. Election of Chairperson**

Mr. Andrew Magloire, Chief Fisheries Officer Dominica who chaired the Case Study Steering Committee meeting on Flyingfish the previous day continued as the Chairperson for this Steering Committee meeting.

## **4. Adoption of meeting agenda and meeting arrangements**

The agenda was adopted on a motion moved by Mr. Peter Murray of OECS Secretariat and seconded by Professor Hazel Oxenford of UWI-CERMES. This agenda is affixed as **Appendix 2**.

## **5. Case Study Implementation: Large Pelagic presented by Mr. Haughton (Objectives, Results, Lessons Learned, Best Practices)**

Mr. Milton Haughton presented an overview on the large pelagics fisheries. He showed a layout citing that this presentation was very similar to the prior day's presentation and informed that he would focus on results and lessons learnt from the case studies presented under the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project.



The large pelagics of interest were of two types namely:

1. The offshore pelagics which were oceanic in their geographical scope and travelled beyond the CLME. These he said could be found in the wider Atlantic Region (species such as yellowfin and big eye tuna, bill fishes).
2. The second type was the smaller tuna and tuna like species such as blackfin tuna, dolphinfish, wahoo and mackerels. He noted that the highly migratory species (oceanic) were covered by the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) set up in 1969. Mr. Haughton pointed out that a few member countries were members of ICCAT however he encouraged more countries from the region to join and participate in ICCAT activities. He stressed that a fundamental problem was limited data on the large pelagics species in the region thus creating a problem for their management.

He noted also that many of the pelagic species were included on the ICCAT mandate but only a few of them were being actively managed by ICCAT, particularly the larger highly migratory tunas and some species of threatened sharks. He made a case for those that were more regional in distribution to receive more attention since they were of greater economic importance to the countries in the region.

General Objectives were outlined as follows:

1. Filling knowledge gaps that would complete the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis that was required under the GEF funded project and to identify the existing gaps.
2. Provide information to assist with the development of the Strategic Action Program for management and governance of the species to ensure their sustainability.

Activities and results achieved during the past two years of the case studies:

1. Improvement of data for selected major small tuna and tuna like species. Needs were identified through testing by the use of a model, a particular analysis tool that was developed in Australia called an ecological risk assessment for the effects of fishing using the ecosystems approach (ERAEF).
2. Region-wide assessment of some key regional distributed species – prepared regional data sets and completion of analysis for dolphinfish etc done in collaboration with not only scientists from the region but also from Canada, Brazil, USA, Venezuela, etc.
3. Assessment of recreational fisheries – through three studies which examined the nature and importance of recreational fisheries.
4. Combined data and information for the results attained in order to complete the Strategic Action Program.
5. Stakeholders' analysis – identified and engaged stakeholder groups and documented their role and capacity in governance and management, and their capacity building needs for more effective participation in the ecosystems approach to fisheries - study done with the assistance of CANARI.

6. Review and analysis of existing policy (legal and institutional arrangements for investments for management and governance of the large pelagics in the region at both the national and regional levels – study done with the assistance of UWI Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus. .
7. Convened joint regional workshop involving all stakeholders to review and validate the various studies. Methodology used was the same as for the Flyingfish (fairly participatory approach – visited 5 – 6 countries).
8. Prepared SAP report based on findings of all case studies and existing literature compiled.

### **Lessons learned**

1. Mr. Haughton recognized that though the ecosystem approach was useful to try in the region, it required intensive effort to complete the work. He noted that it required significant input to make it realistic and workable. Information from all key stakeholders and scientists was seen as critical. In order to fulfill better communication and participation there was a need to improve the capacity of national and regional organizations to work with all stakeholders. Mr. Haughton considered it unfortunate that social and economic considerations were not included in the ecological risk management approach. The multi criteria approach which was applied for flying fish was considered equally useful.
2. In terms of the Region-wide assessment of key regionally-distributed species – the CRFM scientific meeting was used as a forum which provided sound information for the CRFM scale regional assessment. Since the arrangement was not adequate for the future there was the need to agree on a region wide forum where all interested states could provide and contribute the data. In order to obtain more comprehensive data it was necessary to form a partnership arrangement with ICCAT to co-ordinate the work to be done in the region. Mr. Haughton promised that this would be considered in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
3. A call was made for recreational fisheries to be properly monitored and evaluated when taking into account the management of fisheries since though significant in some countries, they were overlooked in assessment, management and advisory approaches. Mr. Haughton explained that key improvements and electronic communication proved very useful in getting information regarding recreational fisheries.

Mr. Haughton spoke further of the lessons learnt in terms of Stakeholders analysis – some of the lessons learnt were that there were champions that could be identified. He made a call for the study and use of these champions so as to promote greater stakeholder involvement. He added that regional organizations have high capacity, interest and influence, but there was a need to increase capacity of regional organizations for participatory management and governance arrangements. He recognised that there was a willingness and trust on the part of stakeholders to be involved but there was also a lack of information/interest by some stakeholders who preferred to go ahead with their livelihood and did not make the connection between these policies and discussions. Despite reluctance by some stakeholders, he recommended strongly working with them through capacity building, communication and participatory strategy, although current policies may not be supportive of the participatory process and involvement of stakeholders. Mindful that some of the existing instruments did not provide support to NGOs and civil society organizations such as Fisherfolk organizations, and that there was the lack of

funding. He pointed out that work and commitment was needed to encourage participatory approaches in national and regional policies, legislation and institutional arrangements.

With respect to the legal and institutional policy arrangements and investments, the general findings were that the National policy and legislations were weak and needed updating to incorporate international best practices and in some cases international obligations assumed through various Treaties. He also spoke of a wide range of principles and standards in non-binding instruments including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and IUU Declarations, etc., that are required to be brought into the national policies and legislation of States. He added that home-grown support and commitment to fisheries management aims were required for successful reform. Mr. Haughton expressed confidence that Common Fisheries Policies (CFP), CRFM agreements and other instruments in existence in the region were strong and held good potential for regional management functions.

He also noted that it was very important to have the buy-in and effective support of all stakeholders at all levels in the planning and decision making process and there was room for improvement. It was also mentioned that the CRFM mechanism/network involving working groups, scientific meetings, gathering of fisheries' officers and technical experts at the forum level were found by the consultants to be fairly good systems that could be built upon and used to advance the objectives. Stakeholder engagement and input was also seen as very useful. It was stressed that the committee should ensure that recommendations were practical and would provide tangible benefits to stakeholders. This was pointed as an important consideration when the funding was received.

At the end of this brief overview the floor was opened for questions and comments and clarifications from participants. Mr. Peter Murray, OECS representative stated that he did not see mention of the two measures ERAEF in the SAP. He also questioned whether we recommended it for use in the future given its limitation. Additionally he raised the issue of partnership with ICCAT. Mr. Haughton in response to the partnership issue said that the region needed to pay particular attention and that the USA was interested in working collaboratively with the region.

With regards to ecological risk assessment, he said that there were several models and that the model was set up in such a way that despite its limitations, it was something that could be used. He further stated that since they were encouraged by the results thus far, it could be used. Additionally, coming from a situation where there were no models, this platform provided information which could be built upon.

With reference to Mr. Murray's question about ERAEF and its inability to deal with the social aspects, Mr. Haughton did not think this was a problem since other models could be adapted to incorporate these aspects. He said that the actual utility was supposed to identify where there was the most risk and since it allowed stakeholder input, there was a need for stakeholders to communicate knowledge better. Mr. Haughton spoke of an existing partnership with ICCAT which could be improved through additional funding for membership.

In response, the ICCAT representative took the opportunity to thank CRFM for the invitation to the meeting and to the Commonwealth of Dominica for hosting the meeting. He praised the efforts of CRFM to get work done in such a short time. He was hopeful that all the information would be put to

good use. He recognized the position of CRFM as an observer in ICCAT and called for more commitment from all CPC's of the region and wished that the majority of countries in the region would join ICCAT. He was of the view that RFMOs were essential for cooperative management of shared fishery resources. He pledged the assistance of ICCAT and announced that there was now a budget set for the territories for tuna in terms of data improvements and data recovery. He encouraged partners from the Caribbean to submit tenders. Mr. Magloire made a case for ICCAT to review its membership requirements especially for small island states with small economies and a lack of funds. Mr. Magloire saw this as important for the management of small tunas. Mr. Haughton, sought clarification on the tender process and what it was trying to achieve. In response it was explained that it was because of the lack of data in the management of small tunas. CRFM was encouraged to take the initiative to tender. It was also announced that the deadline for tender was end of March 2013.

The representative from Venezuela endorsed the partnership of small nations in ICCAT. Mr. Murray suggested that since CRFM/CLME was part of ICCAT that CRFM could use its good office to make the case to our member countries to use the diplomatic route to get membership in ICCAT. He suggested getting participation on the panel for small tuna. Dr. Patrick McConney stated that some of the present countries with membership should seek to get into more panels and advocate on behalf of the non participating States. Dr. Susan Singh-Renton spoke of a document which provided a lot of data and the history of the relationship of CRFM with ICCAT. However she recognized that there was more work to be done at the Secretariat, national and forum level. She reminded the meeting that much of the way forward was captured in the SAP. She also noted that commitment from nations was essential for moving forward. Mr. Magloire agreed that most islands provided data and collaborated and this could be considered a good first step. He however called for more support for the CRFM. Mr. Murray added that though there may have been provision of data and collaboration, many of the nations were still not members and that there was need to seek official membership.

Mr. Haughton explained that the CRFM Ministerial Council in 2010 mandated the Secretariat to work with ICCAT. He pointed out that the CRFM Working Group on ICCAT had been established and the mandate was to help CRFM Member States have a more effective way to engage with ICCAT. He was of the opinion that this showed a level of real commitment, however he lamented that the countries that have signed on were not using the resources available. He made a call to encourage our national decision makers to get a little more involved.

## **6. Presentation of Reports**

Dr. Singh-Renton in presenting on the contents of the SAP indicated that Mr. Haughton had reviewed the general objectives. She recapped that the policy cycle had the capacity to generate policy advice and decisions; it also provided management advice. She reminded the meeting that since large pelagic fish resources were shared resources, the local level management process needed to connect to the corresponding regional and global cycles.

She also recapped the three (3) Transboundary issues for the CLME region and indicated that the gaps and weaknesses were similar to that for the flyingfish (e.g. legislation, maritime boundary delimitation, stakeholder involvement, policies, insufficient co-operation, and weak data information base). She took the opportunity to remind the meeting of CARICOM's long history of participation in ICCAT in

various capacities. In her presentation Dr. Singh–Renton reminded the meeting that the five (5) steps used in the SAP development was the same as that used in the development of the SAP for Flyingfish. Some of the points highlighted during her presentation were as follows:

Broad interventions identified – required at the sub-regional and national level

1. Of these four (4) regional fisheries bodies: (ICCAT/WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA) they have the capacity to move forward a governance arrangement
2. Targets – at regional/national cycles, data and information systems to strengthen participatory systems;
3. Updated policy level legislation to strengthen implementation
4. Investments – at regional and national levels for improved monitoring and management
5. Regional data base needed
6. Update and strengthen management plan at national level

Regional – a. Legal and Policy – Technical assistance available for harmonization of legislation  
Identification and development of EAF indicators  
Stakeholders’ participation two-fold aim – formal and informal research

National – a. Legal and policy  
b. Management data and research – need to be planned and strengthened; though data systems are there, they do not cover all the species and they are not covered by their management information systems. It was also important to harmonize the licenses and registrations systems for vessels.  
c. Stakeholders

A 3-phased approach was proposed as in the case of Flyingfish

For Phase 1 activities – at the Regional (sub regional level) they are hoping to work along the mandates of the regional fisheries concerned and working along with their management.

At the management level, assessment was important.

For the stakeholders, it was similar to that of flyingfish

Dr. Singh–Renton stressed that maritime boundary delimitation would be an issue if we had to move forward and that it may not be achievable in the short term.

At the national level – for policy/management, maritime boundary delimitation, review of fishery laws regarding modern fishery management, stakeholders’ involvement was seen as paramount.

CRFM proposed to lead implementation because of long history with ICCAT. For fees and fines mentioned (need to demonstrate the benefit approach and management cost recovery of the approach).

Deliberations from participants ensued. Mr. Murray questioned whether any work had been done with the European Union (EU) and advised that these aspects should be explored. On the question of funding he suggested that CRFM should explore the opportunities available and present this to the Fisheries Departments instead of just saying that these opportunities existed. With reference to the Ministerial Council and CRFM, Mr. Murray was concerned about the various instruments that the

states were parties to and states were not complying. He highlighted the doctrine of *pact sunt servanda* which was the rule that agreements and stipulations especially those contained in treaties, must be observed. He raised the importance of sanctions and gave examples of EU cases and sanctions imposed for non compliance. (e.g. fines for violating fisheries quotas). He stressed that it was the sanction mechanism that ensured compliance. He noted that in the Caribbean, countries wanted flexibility to implement and that sanctions were not being applied. He made reference to Article 60 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and Article 14 of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre.

Regarding the WECAFC partnership arrangements, Mr. Murray informed that the OECS Secretariat would like to support the request to fill the post of CRFM Programme Manager and Statistics Information. He also mentioned that the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5'CS) had some funding available and encouraged member states to follow-up. In terms of Maritime Boundary delimitation, Mr. Murray asked that ICCAT No.3 should be checked. He indicated that in terms of improvement in technology some of the work can be done by computer in a relatively short space of time once the baseline data had been established. The problem thus became one of formally negotiating and agreeing on the boundaries. He noted that for OECS States this was particularly the case with third party States such as Barbados and Venezuela. He also noted a decision of OECS Heads of Government that OECS Member States should first agree on boundaries among themselves.

Mr. Magloire remarked that quite a lot of research work which was done at the national level did not feed into the regional data base. He made a call to encourage research funding at CRFM level. The representative of St. Lucia complimented CRFM on the SAP and endorsed the importance of large pelagics as food and for recreational purpose in the region.

Dr. Singh-Renton commented again on the 2010 technical document regarding historical information on CARICOM's involvement in ICCAT. She made the point that fishery values vis a vis the amount spent in ICCAT participation was a very small percentage. She expressed the view that if large pelagic fisheries were a priority, then we needed to invest in membership of ICCAT. She said that the Ministerial Council asked the Forum to consider the benefits of regional membership as opposed to individual membership. The second problem she noted was that since our countries' fisheries were more diverse (open registry, recreational fishing, artisanal fishery), that this could pose a challenge to representation at the regional level and therefore one would need to look at all these issues in our decision making. She urged that we seek to do what was most appropriate for us. She reminded the meeting that contribution to ICCAT was not just about attending meetings but was linked to contributing scientific data and countries have to be committed to the full package. She supported the point made by Mr. Murray re the maritime boundary delimitations. In response to Mr. Magloire's research query she stated that it was a national responsibility to bring the local research to the attention of the regional body. Dr. Singh-Renton supported OECS representative's call for the Programme Manager of Statistics and Information to be recruited since this was needed in the region.

Mr. Harold Guiste suggested that some revised formulas for ICCAT membership fees be negotiated for small member states due to their peculiar situation. Mr. Magloire called on the states who were members to make a case for the smaller states who were not able to participate because of fees and travel cost constraints.

Mr. Haughton in response to the OECS representative points made regarding the Ministerial Council said that given the fact that there were binding Treaties which they must respect and the fact that states were sovereign, they could not be forced to do anything, therefore the compliance in these organizations or taking a decision was left up to these states and this was the challenge. Additionally, he stated that the governance lay solely at the national level and organizations like CRFM did not have the power since the States had a bearing on their decision making.

The representative from the UWI, Professor Hazel Oxenford spoke of available information and research. She commented that there was a lot of confusion between the two documents and indicated that they contained some errors. She promised to send in comments by e-mail.

The ICCAT representative recommended the empowering of the regional fishery associations and regional management of the fisheries. He stated that the large marine ecosystem of the Caribbean was one of the most important large marine ecosystems of the world. He encouraged the meeting to think of fishing not only for local and regional markets but also for international markets. He advised that countries needed to work together and to seek special ways to access for developing countries. He also expressed that ICCAT was a voluntary organization, and was presently looking at revising their strategies, and so he thought it was time for Mr. Guiste's recommendation to be put into perspective.

Mr. Haughton raised the issue of fishing on the high seas and access to the high seas which needed to be addressed. He stated that the doctrine of fishing and access to fishing on the high seas was limited and the scope was diminished. He stated that in theory all States could go to fish on the high seas. He explained how non-membership of RFMO's and an open registry situation can impact the resource. He pointed out that high seas resources are limited and that the only way to secure long term access was to be part of an RFMO. If this was not done he was of the opinion that there was a serious risk for States to be excluded from fishing on the high seas in the next 10 – 20 years. He made the point that all resources in North Atlantic Fishery Organization (NAFO) were already allocated. He urged that since access to the EEZ was slowly closing, then within the Atlantic region we must ensure that we retained a space and quota for the future. He regarded membership in ICCAT as the only way to guarantee this access.

Mr. Murray pointed out that our challenge in the OECS and the Eastern Caribbean was the issue of whether the high seas could be defined to the west hence the importance of addressing maritime boundaries. He called on fisheries officers to take on an advocacy role in getting dialogue on maritime boundary issues.

It was noted that within the SAP document there were things such as becoming parties to international and regional arrangements, reviewing and revising national fisheries policies and legislation, improving data collection and management systems that were common and would be required across the board (regardless of the type of fishery) and so should be addressed in the overall CLME SAP. This way the SAP for the Large Pelagic Fishery would be more focused on addressing gaps specific to that fishery and as such reduce the resource requirements (funds, etc.).

Dr. Singh-Renton in joining the discussion stated that through experience, securing catch limits was minimal through open registry but higher gains can be made by contributing towards the science. She

also agreed that there were different types of membership in ICCAT and full membership was not the only option to be explored.

The Chairman, Mr. Magloire asked of the meeting whether as a way forward for the future it was time to set up a consultation to seek information as to how to get revenue from the fisheries which can be used to contribute to the management and governance of the resources

## **7. Governance Assessment**

Dr. Patrick Mc-Conney requested that participants work in the three groups as was done for the flyingfish meeting the previous day, (i.e. National Fisheries Departments, Fisherfolks organizations and institutions). Participants were given a form (Level 2 participatory assessment of governance arrangement performance) to conduct an assessment for large pelagics. Prior to beginning the work, participants were shown slides of the results of the flyingfish participatory governance assessment done on the previous day. Slide 1 indicated importance in terms of coverage and slide 2 indicated importance in terms of presence. He explained the principles and points rating along the radii of the axis in the spider diagram. **See Appendix 4.** He explained low and high scores in principle. He cautioned that since the assessment was based on perception, this could be reviewed in a year or two to see if there were changes. He collected the assessment forms for the large pelagic governance assessment after the exercise.

## **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Adjournment**

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Chairman expressed gratitude to the participants, particularly those visiting from ICCAT and Venezuela for the first time. Mr. Milton Haughton then expressed gratitude to participants for their involvement, contribution and participation. He thanked the Government of Dominica for all the assistance and logistical arrangements. He commended Mr. Magloire very highly for the good job he had done towards the success of the meeting. He also urged all to follow up at the national level for signing on to the SAP to facilitate speedy implementation.



## **Appendix 1 (A) – Welcome Remarks by Permanent Secretary, Mr. Samuel Carrette**

A very pleasant Good Morning to you all and welcome to the Second Joint Meeting of the CRFM/CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Study Steering Committees.

These case studies are critically needed in view of the numerous challenges encountered to effectively manage these very important regional resources (Flyingfish and the large pelagic fisheries).

Using the case of Dominica

Fishery Trends over the past twenty years,

In the early to late 1990's emphasis on inshore coastal pelagic and Reef species dominated the fishing effort with some sporadic seasonal emphasis on offshore species for Dolphins and Flyingfish. For most parts the fishery operations were centered on the use of seine, gill nets, fish pots and hand line.

In the mid 1990's, the transition to offshore pelagic begun with emphasis on the use of modified long line fishing operations to target the large tunas and bill fishes. The importance of Dolphin fishery had also grown to be a significant component of the total fisheries. Throughout this period Flyingfish constituted a major part of the fishery with more than 25% composition of the total annual landings.

In the late 1990's to early 2000's the FAD fishery began emerging as a fishery of great potential with better catch efficiency of large pelagic than the long line operations and provision of easier access to these resources by the ordinary fisher. To date the FAD fishery constitutes the largest fishery activity on island and accounts for approximately 76% of total fish landings which (includes species such as Tuna, Bill fish, Dolphin, Ocean Trigger fish and Jacks).

The Flying fish and large migratory pelagic species are of critical importance to Dominica in addressing its food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation needs.

They contribute significantly to the social and economic stability of many of our small rural communities. This assessment is also true for many other Caribbean states. As such the fishery trends from 1980 to present demonstrates a declining path in each of our major fisheries.

Flying fish is of particular interest since its contributions to our social, economic and food security need and is rapidly being eroded by the declining populations arriving at our EEZ's. In the mid 1990's this fishery contributed in excess of 28% of total fishery yields in Dominica to a current contribution of less than 4% of total fishery yields.

I believe we are at the critical crossroad where we must address our counter productive methods of capture, the negative impacts of sea and land based human sources of marine pollution, shoreline erosions, runoffs etc., on the marine ecosystems and risks due to global environmental change.

We need to keep to the fore our human actions, be it the fishing methods deployed or our negative impact on the natural ecosystem, the toll we impose on these very resources we depend upon our food

security, social and economic stability and recreational wonders. These challenges require collective action on all our parts and a willingness, both politically; in the formulation and implementation of relevant policies and laws to safeguard our ecosystems, and socially; in effecting behavioural change that is essential to the conservation and wise use of these fragile resources.

The large pelagic fisheries resources are of growing importance to our nations dietary requirements and have consistently provided secure foreign exchange earnings and savings either through direct trade in fish and fishery products or through granting of access rights to fishery resources by foreign fleets and flags of convenience.

Our countries future sustained access to such resources demands that we adequately address the inadequate monitoring, surveillance and enforcement issues at national and regional levels;

We must endeavour to combat IUU fishing through collective and collaborative efforts in implementing the 2010 Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing.

The Fishery operators are at the centre of all our Resource management matters and it is this grouping of stakeholders who must be empowered to take a more active role in management measures and the collection and analysis of fisheries data and information. They must be provided with the tools to network with each other and supported to be more actively involved in the process of influencing policy and governance issues relating to fish stock matters and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

(In my view this session is timely, and brings together all of the relevant and critical stakeholders to deliberate on the subject of Flyingfish and large pelagic fisheries of the (Eastern Caribbean.) Absent in the grouping is the presence of French territories representation. I believe they are significant users of our common pool of fishery resource that we must endeavour to incorporate then in our future plans.

I wish you all the very best during this workshop session and a very pleasant stay in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Thank you.

## Appendix 1 (B) – Remarks by the CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen

1. A pleasant Good morning and welcome to this 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of the Case Study Steering Committees for Flying Fish and Large Pelagic Fisheries. It is indeed a pleasure to be here in the beautiful City of Roseau in the Nature Island of Dominica.
2. Special thanks to the Gov of Dominica for agreeing to host these meetings. And particularly to the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Samuel Carrette, Mr. Andrew Magloire, Chief Fisheries Officer and the staff of the Fisheries Division who have so generously assisted with the arrangements for the meetings.
3. The purpose of our gathering here in Dominica this week is to review the outputs of two regional studies that are aimed at providing scientific and policy guidance in order to strengthen governance and management arrangements for the flying fish and large pelagic fisheries. These meetings are convened by the CRFM Secretariat with funding provided by the GEF Funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project, based in Cartagena Columbia.
4. In December 2010, the CRFM Secretariat and the United Nation's Offices for Project Services (UNOPS) based in Denmark signed 2 Agreements for the implementation of the Case Studies, which have a combined budget of US\$508,000 and duration of less than 2 years. The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Feb 2011, and formally launched the studies.
5. Since then, the Studies have been implemented in the region by the CRFM Secretariat in collaboration with participating countries and regional partners. Today we are gathered here to celebrate the completion of the studies and review their outputs and agree on the way forward.
6. Let me provide some back ground on the CLME Project.
7. CLME Project is a year long Global Environment Fund (GEF) intervention US\$7,008,116 from GEF and US\$47,804,111 in co-financing. The Project partners include 23 GEF countries in the region, 2 associate countries and 11 organizations.
8. The CLME Project began on 1 May, 2009 and will run until August, 2013.

9. The Project's overall objective is the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the CLME and adjacent areas through an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach that will meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target for sustainable fisheries.
10. The CLME Project is assisting Caribbean countries to improve the management of their shared living marine resources, most of which are considered to be fully or over exploited, through and ecosystem level approach. A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) identified three priority Transboundary problems that affect the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME): unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living marine resources, habitat degradation and community modification, and thirdly, pollution. A Strategic Action Program (SAP) with a shared vision for the CLME has been developed, setting out the required interventions, reforms and investments needed for long term sustainable use and management of the living marine resources of the CLME. The CLME Project Steering Committee met last week and endorsed the SAP Report with changes made by the Committee and so the document will be formally submitted to the countries for endorsement at the political level before further action could be taken to secure additional funding.
11. Once the SAP is signed by enough Ministers from the GEF eligible countries within the region, the countries can collectively begin the process of securing additional funding from the GEF to begin implementing the reforms and investments that are needed at the national and regional levels to transform the governance and management of the shared living marine resources. In fact the GEF representative at the meeting was very pleased by the progress made in developing the SAP for the Caribbean LME.
12. The Flyingfish and large pelagic species such as wahoo, black fin tuna, marlin and dolphin fish are very important to Caribbean countries because of the significant contribution they make to food and nutrition security, employment, livelihoods in coastal communities, as well as recreation and tourism in the region.
13. The Case studies seek to develop the information base for improving understanding of the Flyingfish and selected large pelagic fisheries, including information on the importance of recreational fishing activities. The information collected was then used to prepare the Strategic Action Programmes (SAP) for the fisheries. The SAP's that have been developed set out a shared vision, and the required interventions, such as the governance and management reforms needed to achieve long term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks while safe guarding the marine ecosystems in which they are found.
14. The ultimate goal of these studies is to ensure that the people of the region obtain optimum sustainable social and economic benefits from these fish stocks which are shared by several Caribbean States.

15. The onus is therefore on us to complete the endorsement of the SAP at the political level, and to take advantage of the opportunities to obtain additional funding to continue this important work of strengthening the governance arrangements, improving the conservation and management of the fisheries and enhancing the livelihoods and welfare of our fisher folk in the region.

## **CFP**

16. Mr. Chairman, in closing I want to briefly draw our attention to another initiative of great strategic importance to stakeholders who are interested in the sustainable use and management of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. This is the initiative to develop a CARICOM common fisheries policy. It is a complimentary to the CLME SAP development, and together these two (2) initiatives will assist us tremendously in moving towards our long-term objective of sustainable use of our shared living marine resources in the region.
17. The Draft Agreement on the CFP, as it now stands, is a comprehensive framework agreement aimed at establishing a cooperative platform for the transformation of the fisheries sector to ensure a better and more secure future for present and future generations of Caribbean people.
18. Its aim is to create new opportunities for economic growth and prosperity, and bring greater security and hope to the tens of thousands of people who depend upon the region's living aquatic resources for their livelihoods.
19. The "Draft Agreement" lays down the objectives to be achieved, and the basic principles regarding sustainable use, conservation, management and development of the aquatic resources under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Member States of the Community, in accordance with the mandate of the Conference, relevant principles from the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and associated instruments, such as FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
20. The Agreement addresses a number of key areas including: fisheries and aquaculture sector development; marketing and trade in fish and seafood; Governance reforms and fisheries management and conservation; Welfare and livelihood of fishers and fishing communities; statistics and research; Eradication of IUU fishing; inspection, enforcement and sanction for illegal activities; Intellectual property rights and confidentiality of data and information collected from stakeholders; climate change and disaster risk management; relationship with international fisheries organizations; among other subjects.
21. The CFP has been endorsed by Ministers responsible for Fishers as well as by the COTED and COFCOR. It has been reviewed by the Legal Affairs Committee of CARICOM (AGs) and is now awaiting formal approval by the CARICOM Conference of Heads of State.

22. Given the urgent need to ensure optimum long-term sustainable use and conservation of the flying-fish, large pelagic, and indeed, the other aquatic resources in the coastal and marine waters under the jurisdiction of our states and on the high seas adjacent to our states, we look forward to the outputs of this meeting in moving the process forward.

## **Appendix 1 (C) – Address by Minister, Dr. Kenneth Darroux**

Let me first welcome all you distinguished participants from the Caribbean Community , Japan and other parts of the world to the **Second Joint Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Studies Steering Committees and to the CRFM/JICA FAD Fishery Management Workshop for the Countries of the OECS**, which will be held here over the next three days.

I would like to welcome you in a special way to the shores of Dominica, Nature Island of the World. Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has over the years placed special attention to the development of the Fisheries Sector. We have invested heavily in that sector and at the same time embraced all the assistance that we could possibly get to achieve our social and economic objectives and to do so in a sustainable manner. Because we have realized the all important role that this sector plays in ensuring the food security of our nation and at the same time its role in generating revenue for the fisherfolk to sustain themselves and their families.

Our small scale type fisheries model has an inherent sustainable component since by its very artisanal nature; the fishing effort involved is limited. It is limited by small size of the boats, gear type and range of operations etc. However, small scale, it is a commercial fishery which makes a significant contribution to providing livelihoods for our people, income generation, employment, poverty reduction and food security. And I daresay the same may be true for many, if not all of the countries represented here today.

It is understood that the fishery resources within our Exclusive Economic Zones are shared with many other countries of the region. The flying fish and other large pelagic species are highly migratory and therefore a regionally collective effort is critical for its effective management. We need to understand that we are part of a chain of islands sharing common bodies of water.....the Caribbean Sea to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and this therefore, calls for the cooperation and collaboration of all parties concerned.

Ladies and gentlemen, this cooperation is absolutely necessary, and now more than ever, to tackle this great challenge of managing these most valuable marine living fisheries resources that straddle and often cross over the maritime boundaries of all the coastal states of the Wider Caribbean Region. And I say more than ever, because as we speak, the entire world is grappling with issues that are far beyond our own humble efforts. And I speak of issues such as climate change and its associated devastating effects on biodiversity; I can speak to the issue of the ongoing global financial recession, ladies and gentlemen. This does NOT mean however, that because of our small populations and minute relative territorial space, that we should not play our part in conserving the resources that determines in some cases the very existence of some of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the just recently concluded Second Meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flying Fish in Trinidad and Tobago on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February of 2013, it was noted that the French Departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe posed some Transboundary maritime issues

that had to be addressed through diplomatic efforts so as to get them actively involved in the ongoing management program being proposed for the flying fish.

This type of collaboration and cooperation will also be required for the highly migratory Large Pelagic Marine Species since there are also Transboundary implications for other countries of the Wider Caribbean Region with regards to sustainable management of the species.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commonwealth of Dominica welcomes this initiative, and as the Minister responsible for Fisheries, I would like to place on the record my extreme gratitude to CRFM secretariat for their efforts to date in that pursuing the cooperation of the French Overseas departments at both the technical and policy level.

It is clear that a Regional Ocean Governance Mechanism is therefore absolutely necessary to aid the fisheries management process and hence we welcome the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project as being timely and appropriate to face the many challenges in the management of these shared living marine resources.

It is my understanding that the range of the large pelagic species spans the entire Caribbean Sea up to USA and Mexico in the North, all of Central and South America, the Caribbean Islands and spills over into the Atlantic Ocean. This is indeed a very large ecosystem in which these species operate. It is also true that fishing impacts the ecosystem and vice versa, hence the objective of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project in seeking to adopt an Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Resources Management.

This approach will no doubt pose further challenges for Regional Fisheries Institutions for accessing relevant scientific information, to fill necessary data gaps, identify stakeholders, combat IUU fishing and the effects of climate change, which will no doubt be required to enable the CLME to establish a good scientific base for generating sound fisheries management advice and for decision making on the Large Pelagic Species of the Wider Caribbean Region.

In closing, I would like to recognize the efforts of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and its accomplishments in the region regarding the Fish Aggregating Devices. This work is no more evident in the region than here in Dominica. Under the Caribbean Fisheries Master Plan Project, Dominica has made tremendous strides forward in the area of FAD technology and has become a leader in the OECS as far as FAD fishing is concerned. Thanks to our Japanese friends and to the hard work of the CRFM Secretariat.

Thus, I think it very fitting to have the CRFM/JICA FAD Fisheries Management Training Workshop hosted in Dominica...and as we review existing practices and develop new ones, it is my hope that we build our capacity to expand our pelagic fisheries through the use of FADs, and that we put the necessary mechanisms in place that will merge with the CLME objectives for good fisheries management and governance since we are dealing with the very same large pelagic species in both cases.

I want to end by again commending the **CRFM and the CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Studies Steering Committees** for what has been accomplished so far in



producing the case studies on the flying fish and the Large Pelagic Species, and various publications which are all geared towards moving the process forward.....towards the development of the Strategic Action Program(SAP) and for the formulation of a Regional Ocean Governance Framework for the Marine Ecosystems of the Wider Caribbean Region, geared towards sustainability of these shared marine resources.

I want to wish you God's guidance and very fruitful discussions over the next few days and look forward to the results of your deliberations.

I THANK YOU!!!

## **Appendix 2 – Meeting Agenda, as adopted**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of meeting agenda
4. Introduction of participants
1. Case study implementation: objectives, results, lessons learned, best practices.
2. CRFM SAP report and its incorporation into overall CLME SAP report:
  - i. Presentation of reports
  - ii. Consideration of report-proposed options for way forward, including the proposed roles of partner agencies.
7. Large Pelagics Participatory level 2 governance assessment.
8. Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.
9. Any other business.
10. Adjournment.

### Appendix 3 - List of Participants (by countries and organizations)

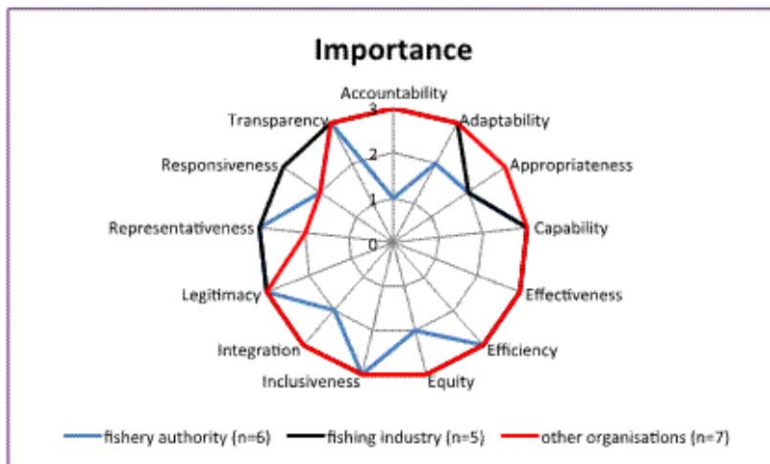
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**Appendix 4 – Results of Level 2 Governance Assessment for Flyingfish**  
Slide 1



Slide 2

