

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE CRFM/CLME EASTERN CARIBBEAN
FLYINGFISH FISHERY CASE STUDY
STEERING COMMITTEE**



11 March 2013
Dominica



CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2013 / 3

**Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Eastern Caribbean
Flyingfish Fishery Case Study Steering Committee, 11 March 2013,
Dominica**

CRFM Secretariat
Belize

CRFM TECHNICAL & ADVISORY DOCUMENT – Number 2013 / 3
Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM/CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish
Fishery Case Study Steering Committee, 11 March 2013, Dominica

© *CRFM 2013*

All right reserved.

Reproduction, dissemination and use of material in this publication for educational or non-commercial purposes are authorized without prior written permission of the CRFM, provided the source is fully acknowledged. No part of this publication may be reproduced, disseminated or used for any commercial purposes or resold without the prior written permission of the CRFM.

Correct Citation:

CRFM, 2013. Report of the Second Meeting of the CRFM / CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery Case Study Steering Committee, 11 March 2013, Dominica. *CRFM Technical & Advisory Document*, No. 2013/3. 30 p.

ISSN: 1995-1124

ISBN: 978-976-8165-71-8

Published by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat
Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Table of Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	iii
1. Opening Ceremony	1
2. Election of Chairperson.....	3
3. Adoption of meeting Agenda	3
5. CRFM SAP for the flyingfish fishery report and its incorporation into overall CLME SAP report.....	3
5 (b) Second component of the presentation.....	7
6. Case study presentation.....	9
6 (b) Continuation of presentation	10
7. Flyingfish Participatory Level 2 – Governance Assessment.....	13
8. Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee	13
9. Any Other Business.....	14
10. Adjournment	14
Appendix 1 (A) - Welcome Remarks by Permanent Secretary, Mr. Samuel Carrette	15
Appendix 1 (B) - Remarks by the CRFM Executive Director, Milton Haughton	17
Appendix 2 – Meeting Agenda, as adopted	22
Appendix 3 - List of Participants (by countries and organizations).....	23
Appendix 4 - Decisions of the 4TH Steering Committee Meeting of the CLME Project.....	27
Appendix 5 - Level 2 Participatory Assessment Of Governance Arrangement Performance	29

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CERMES	Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CNFO	Caribbean Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations
COFCOR	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOCARIBE	Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUU	Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Service
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. Opening Ceremony

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 to manage 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 in early 1990’s to offshore pelagics in late 1990’s. Mr. Carrette 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 this 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 pelagics 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 to all participants and special guests on behalf of CRFM and also extended a special welcome to the various resource users and 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 Pelagics 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 graciously assisting 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 pelagics 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 2 Agreements for the implementation of these Studies, which had 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 funded by (GEF) for 4 years with co-financing from partner states in the Caribbean region 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 is 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 was assisting 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 will be formally submitted to the countries for political level approval, before any action can 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 exists 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 optimum social and economic benefits that exist and so the onus was on them to complete the endorsement of the SAP at the political level so as to begin implementing 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 can assist tremendously in moving towards long-term objective of sustainable use of shared living marine resources. Mr. Haughton 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 are part of a chain of islands sharing common bodies of water and since we are 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 Fishery 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 flying fish and large pelagics 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. Election of Chairperson

On resumption Mr. Magloire informed participants of some housekeeping matters.

Due to the absence of a representative from Barbados who was expected to chair the meeting, Mr. Andrew Magloire, Chief Fisheries Officer and chairperson for part of the opening ceremony assumed the role of chair again. He re-affirmed that the purpose of the session was to provide background information and to give an overview of the SAP for the flyingfish fishery. He pointed out that the necessary documents had been circulated by the CRFM Secretariat last week.

3. Adoption of meeting Agenda

The Chairperson invited the committee to review the draft agenda. The CRFM Secretariat's Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Susan Singh-Renton indicated that Item 5 was going to be broken down into two parts and would be presented in a little more detail but this should not be treated as a change to the agenda.

Mr. Magloire then asked for the adoption of the agenda as presented. In response to the Chairperson's request, the representative from the UWI, Professor Hazel Oxenford moved the motion for the agenda to be adopted as presented. The presented agenda is affixed as **Appendix 2**.

4. Introduction of Participants

Mr. Andrew Magloire invited participants to introduce themselves. The participants list can be found in **Appendix 3**.

5. CRFM SAP for the flyingfish fishery report and its incorporation into overall CLME SAP report

Mr. Haughton provided an update on the CLME Project. He expressed that he was going to look briefly at the CLME project overall and then about the case study specifically. He reiterated that it was a GEF funded project with a number of partners involved who have been working together over the past 4-5 years to implement the project. He showed the geographical area which was being made reference to citing that there were two marine systems covered in the project. The two ecosystems involved were the Caribbean LME and the North Brazil Shelf LME. By way of overview he stated that the project began in 2009 and would come to an end in August of 2013 citing GEF's contribution to the project. The goal he said was Sustainable provision of goods and services by the shared living marine resources in the wider Caribbean region through robust cooperative governance which he

expressed was identified as the main challenge/problem in the region among all the underlying problems identified and which should be the area of focus.

The overall objective he said was the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources in the CLME ecosystems through an integrated management approach based on the ecosystem approach. Quite early in the implementation of the project, Mr. Haughton said that a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) i.e. a technical scientific process used in the GEF to identify problems and challenges was done to identify main problems and challenges in the region and root cause of those problems; The TDA included a Causal Chain Analysis (CCA) to identify the direct, intermediate, underlying and root causes of these problems. From the TDA and the CCA, the SAP was developed to identify the reforms and investments that were required to achieve the goals set. The SAP is a ten year program that has been developed through the identification of many pilot projects and case studies such as the flying fish and large pelagic fishery.

Mr. Haughton listed common root causes that have been identified through the TDA:

1. Weak governance (including legal and institutional frameworks, inadequate environmental quality standards to include standards for fisheries conservation and management)
2. Limited human and financial resources
3. Inadequate data and information resources
4. Inadequate knowledge about the fish stocks, ecosystems and processes that were taking place in the Caribbean LM Ecosystems
5. Inadequate public awareness and participation from stakeholders including the fisherfolks and others with a real interest and a stake in the use of the resources
6. Inadequate consideration of value of ecosystems goods and services (social and economic value derived from the CLM ecosystems from both living and non-living marine resources; since it was felt that the value of ecosystems to society was not well documented, understood or taken into account when planning and decisions were being made)
7. Population and cultural pressures (resources that were used by persons in the region extensively for economic benefits for their livelihood; tourism purposes, coastal development, etc)
8. Trade and external dependency dimension (many of the fish species being harvested went into international trade and this placed some pressure on the resource because of high dependence on fish for income and export earnings by people of the region for livelihood.)

In addition to the TDA that was done, the CLME project implemented a number of Case studies and Pilot projects to fill gaps in the information that were identified as well as to test certain reforms and measures to improve, governance, conservation and management of the resources. He presented a list of the many case studies and pilot projects that were conducted over the past four years along with the lead agencies and support from others. He reiterated that the governance arrangement was one of the biggest components of the CLME SAP. He emphasized that part of the governance arrangement was participation and being able to work together. He also noted that in the region many institutions overlap though each has the mandate of what should be done; the challenge was to 'pool' together. Beyond that, he remarked that there were problems in that there was lack of participation of all stakeholders and fisherfolks required to give effect to models for good governance and an ecosystem approach and being able to work together in a coordinated harmonized manner. Overall issues of accountability and transparency he said were all things that should be looked at so as to improve those areas. Mention was made of the Information Management Systems and Regional Ecosystems Monitoring Program that were implemented by the IOCARIBE.

Mr. Haughton then gave an overview of the Flyingfish Fishery and highlighted the following points:

1. That the focus was on the four wing flying fish (*Hirundichthys affinis*)
2. Seven (7) states are involved namely Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Martinique which is not a CRFM member State
3. The flyingfish is regarded as the most important small pelagic fishery in the southern eastern Caribbean
4. Landings for the flyingfish are varied, at the high point between 4 and 5 thousand metric tons were landed and more recently estimated at up to 2,500 metric tons, but landings have been fairly stable.
5. There are about 1,700 small to medium size vessels involved in the Fisheries.
6. It is a very important fishery from a socio-economic point of view which can have very significant post harvest value added by processing. Based on study done in Barbados some years ago, the value of the fishery was documented as 15 million dollar. Additionally, flyingfish is of cultural and historical significance in the Caribbean particularly in Barbados.

The overall objectives of the case studies he stated were to put in place effective sub-regional governance and management framework for the flyingfish fishery and to develop policy cycles (data collection analysis, decision making, management etc). The policy cycle is based on a number of internationally accepted principles for good governance and effective management, as listed below:

- Involve all key stake holders
- Utilize the best available information
- Applying precautionary approach
- Use of sub-regional management plan
- Establishment of a deliberation and decision making body to guide the interventions to secure sustainable use and management of the resources.

Mr. Haughton reiterated that the SAP was a ten year program which set out the long term vision for the CLME including the flyingfish and large pelagic fisheries, with objectives and strategic directions: including governance and management of the fishery as well as safeguarding the marine environment, looking at *inter alia* pollution control, preservation of the habitat and marine biodiversity. There were strategies and actions to realize the strategic directions and objective and long term vision. They required inputs, investments in terms of money and resources to achieve those actions. He however stressed that those activities to give effect to those actions and strategies would be developed in the next phase once the necessary endorsement of the SAP had been received.

Mr. Haughton emphasized that the next step was for the draft SAP for the CLME which was circulated in February 2013 to be reviewed by States and countries and to have stakeholders' consultations at national levels. He indicated that a meeting was held last week in Columbia where the SAP was reviewed by the Steering Committee which endorsed the document with a number of changes. He noted the importance of having endorsements of the SAP by a minister or ministers. This he highlighted as a prerequisite for funding from the GEF.

Discussion Summary - In response to a query on the progress of the SAP developed in Columbia as per next steps and time line, Mr. Haughton informed the meeting that the meeting in Colombia reviewed the SAP endorsed by the steering committee. He also pointed out that a number of changes were agreed and that by the next week the SAP would be circulated to countries in the region for political endorsement. He was not able to give a detailed time line for the process but he stated that

this was of high priority. He also made reference to the actual decision of the 4th steering committee meeting which addressed time line (No. 9 of the decision). This document is attached as **Appendix 4**. Mr. Harold Guiste reiterated the critical importance of endorsing the SAP. Mr. Haughton also informed the meeting that an inter-sectoral meeting of GEF would be held in August 2013 and he was not certain if the document could be submitted for decision making. He was hopeful however that the documents could be submitted before the end of the year so that the gap between our position now and implementation would not be too wide.

Dr. Susan Singh-Renton enquired about the SAP PIF and project proposal which should be finalized by June 2013. While recognizing that the SAP had been discussed on several occasions over the last two to three years, she enquired whether the document was already in circulation, whether there was a draft PIF or Project proposal and what were the plans for facilitation at the CRFM level. Mention was made of No 9 in the document which made mention of a CRFM Council meeting and so in connection with the PIF and project proposal she voiced that it would be good for the Caribbean Fisheries Forum to consider it. In response Mr. Haughton said that the PIF should be consistent with the SAP and so he believed that both should be circulated and endorsed and once they were released, countries should endorse them. Mr. Haughton expressed the wish that SAP would be endorsed by a sizeable quorum of the GEF focal points so as to have submission of SAP implementation and PIF by 15th June and to operationalize the GEF grant by 21st June 2013. He also reminded the meeting that on account of all the work already done on the SAP it should facilitate the consultative process. He urged countries to look carefully at what was in the SAP. He advised that endorsement of the SAP did not entail any legal commitment but rather gave a lot of opportunities for training and projects. Mr. Haughton was optimistic that the process for endorsement would not be a protracted exercise and quick endorsement would be possible. It was expected that once funding was released another consultative process would be held to decide on details to use the funds.

Mr. Magloire indicated that GEF provided local, regional and international allocations and that local allocation should not be committed to regional initiatives without prior consultation with the GEF local focal point. He also recommended that national consultation should be held to prioritize GEF local allocation and that there should be adequate planning at the country level to ensure that whatever was developed under the SAP became the country's priority and in line with the GEF framework. Secondly, in reference to the SAP endorsements, Mr. Magloire urged countries to go out as quickly as possible to get endorsement on the ground by fishers and various organizations before moving to endorsement at the ministerial level.

Mr. Haughton stated that all countries were required to give co-financing i.e. in-kind contribution. He stressed that this did not mean new resources. He reminded the meeting that the in-kind contribution could be the value of the on-going programs being done within the Fisheries Division for governance and management of the resource. He also mentioned that since GEF was usually associated with Ministries of the Environment in countries there was need to involve them. He also recognized that these ministries may play a lead role in CLME project and in some other countries this had been delegated to Fisheries departments. Whatever the situation he urged states to have a broad inter-sectoral committee with broad involvement to have oversight of the project. Mr. Haughton also noted that there was a need to pay attention to the impact of tourism, agriculture and shipping on the resource.

He reminded participants that stakeholders' involvement was extremely important and so finding the mechanisms to fully integrate and involve the stakeholders was an imperative. He recognized that progress had been made over the past ten years or so in terms of strengthening the Fisheries organizations across the region.

5 (b) Second component of the presentation

Mr. Houghton then presented on lessons learnt for TDA and SAP components for the flyingfish fishery. Dr. Susan Singh-Renton was expected to present the results of the Case studies afterwards. He went on to say that a multi-criteria analysis was used as a tool in developing the objectives and facilitating decision making during the implementation of the program particularly the activities that fell within the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis set of activities. He expressed that multi-criteria analysis was a very useful tool for developing objectives and making decisions.

He expressed that the studies are all documented and available and so gave a brief synopsis of the objectives, as listed below:

Objectives/ Activities and Results for TDA

1. Improving of availability of data and information - (a very valuable tool for multiple objective decision-making etc.). Priority given was still questionable since a minimum capacity was still required in order to be able to share.
The importance of the Fisherfolks in contributing to the whole process was stressed given their knowledge and an initiative to enhance working and communicating with fishers at local and regional levels was recommended.
2. Bio-economic analysis / criteria / management measures – support at senior management and policy-making levels for data collection and analysis was not apparent; statistical systems not actively used; and poor data/data analysis etc. It was important for shared resources that we have policy input for decision making and guidance.
3. Incorporating predator prey interactions, bio-economic, evaluation, holistic management – (more information to be given in Dr. Susan Singh-Renton’s presentation)

Objectives / Activities and Results for SAP

1. Stakeholder analysis – lack of information/interest by stakeholders etc; so a lot more work was required
2. Analysis of existing policy – weak national policy and legislation instruments etc
3. MOU (with regards to Martinique), seen as absolutely necessary and as the process moved forward did not only want to look at participatory level but at the policy making level involvement as well.
4. Regional Non-binding Declaration - important to have good scientific basis to propose management actions.
5. Convening national meetings with key stakeholders - The CRFM meetings have been a good forum for conducting the work and bringing people together; as well as for the countries to meet and share information.
6. Promote / mobilize CRFM networking via its scientific meetings and strengthen the ministerial sub-committee for policy input and guidance
7. Convene senior level joint meetings – Meeting achieved its goals because of the preparatory work completed before hand.
8. Convene meetings of the CRFM Ministerial Council with Ministerial representation from Martinique
9. Prepare report on the combined findings – this report was informed by successful completion of the other two supporting activities, which were informed by stakeholder engagement.

In terms of best practices and lessons learnt from the TDA and SAP, Mr. Haughton expressed that multi criterion analysis was used as a tool in developing the objectives and facilitating decision making during the implementation of the program particularly the activities that fell within the boundaries of the TDA set of activities. He explained that several factors were taken into consideration when arriving at the objectives. Mr. Haughton reiterated points made earlier as follows:

1. For improving data and information – Fisher folks were very keen to participate in the management process and for arriving at information given their knowledge of what was going on with the resource. They had as well good knowledge of the issues and the opportunities, however with regards to their capacity to effectively participate and advocate as well as represent their interest, this required further development. With regards to this, there were a number of regional and sub regional documents that had been developed.
2. Regarding incorporating predator-prey interactions/ economic evaluation holistic management – there was lack of formal arrangement at policy level. There was also need to have good scientific information so that the quality of advice given would be excellent. Mr. Haughton expressed the need to continue to promote the annual planning meetings as well as to strengthen the ministerial subcommittee so that there was policy input and guidance as to what happens at the lower level. He ended by saying that the reports were on the memory sticks given as well as on the CRFM website.

The Chairman then asked for questions and comments from the participants. The following were the deliberations:

Mr. Guiste lamented that some level of dialogue should have already begun with the neighbouring French departments regarding data sharing. Mr. Haughton indicated that a formal request should be made to the CARICOM Secretariat as to how best to engage the French. He also advised that the ministers recommended that such engagement could be through our ambassadors. OECS representative, Mr. Peter Murray informed that it was his understanding that Martinique and Guadeloupe have gotten political permission to apply to become members of OECS. Mr. Horace Walters however expressed the concern that given the tight time frame, lack of political readiness to give priority to fisheries issues, getting endorsements by end of May 2013 was not hopeful. Mr. Haughton indicated that there was unanimous decision to move the process forward at the steering committee meeting. He encouraged participants to use all opportunities to engage ministers and to utilize the voice of fisherfolks since this was an opportunity to get resources. He was hopeful that if three quarters of our countries signed off then the project would progress. Mr. Murray advised the meeting that representation should be made to National GEF Focal Point persons to assist the endorsement process rather than just depending on the minister.

Following on Mr. Murray's recommendations that countries should prepare a draft program to justify their case, Mr. Walters requested that Mr. Murray assist by preparing a brief to send to all OECS countries. Mr. Murray advised that this request should be a recommendation from the meeting. Mr. Haughton supported the request and agreed to CRFM Secretariat tabling the request using various means to facilitate the process for quicker responses. Mr. Haughton also reminded participants that only countries who endorsed the project could benefit from it. He also noted that the CLME had set aside funds to visit countries to facilitate the endorsement of the document. Mr. Murray stressed that CRFM personnel should be part of that visiting team since the countries were familiar with them much more than personnel from Cartagena. This move he saw as essential to obtaining quicker approval of the document. Dr. Singh-Renton added that the endorsement process had to be driven outside of the CRFM process. She mentioned that since CRFM has an interest in the process there was a need to draft the brief and a letter for Fisheries Departments to take to the GEF Focal points.

She stressed the need for feedback from National Fisheries Departments about the progress of the endorsement process. It was generally agreed that given the low priority of fisheries issues that all possible means of endorsement should be undertaken and all could play a role. Advocacy was seen as key to get the attention for moving the process forward. Mr. Haughton had also hailed the SAP as the first management plan for shared resources that has been developed in the region.

6. Case study presentation

Dr. Susan Singh-Renton presented the case study recognizing that the objectives, activities and lessons learnt were already presented by Mr. Haughton. Dr. Singh-Renton focused on the results. She reminded participants about the shared resources and the ecosystem based approach to management. She explained the multi level policy cycle and examined different levels of the cycle and their interactions. It was also noted that the CLME project identified 3 Transboundary issues for the Caribbean, namely:

1. Unsustainable fishing
2. Habitat degradation and community modification
3. Pollution

Dr. Singh-Renton said that we would have to examine the current system in place to help us to overcome these issues and we would need to test the tools of analysis. The data was also mentioned as an important indicator for which we needed to make recommendations. She mentioned the development of the 2012 sub-regional management plan for flyingfish and that it was also necessary to look at the performance of the fishery so as to provide advice. She further informed of the activities already undertaken, e.g. proposed sub-regional management resolution on flyingfish; MOU of CRFM-France in case of their overseas departments and urged participants to seek ways to improve on these activities. She mentioned the SAP as being critical to consolidate how we moved forward. Dr. Singh-Renton drew particular attention to the following points with reference to the SAP:-

- Stakeholder analysis through an assessment so as to identify their weaknesses and capacity building needs.
- Understanding the type of reform required to move forward with the approach
- MOU, work-in-progress with Martinique
- Based on proposed sub-regional management resolution, management measures were currently being planned
- Have facilitated stakeholders' inputs at every turn
- Have established specific sub committees on flyingfish

Participants were advised that the next meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish was scheduled for 30th May 2013 and therefore feedback was essential.

The floor was opened for questions, suggestions and comments, and deliberations ensued.

The French delegate made the point that he hoped that discussion could be held with Martinique given problems which existed with their fisherfolks. The OECS delegate expressed that in terms of the report the recommendations were not really solid, he suggested that the key points should be pulled out and placed in an executive summary. He also expressed that the '*hows*' were unavailable and it was useful as a point of departure. Dr. Singh-Renton responded by saying that the electronic version of the Executive Summary proposed for review pointed towards some '*hows*'. She advised

that the SAP report be read especially item 9 which spoke about the adherence to the Treaties and how the Legislation was treated and it's enforcement. She again added that the report afforded some flexibility, given additional stakeholders' input that would be required to work out the complete approach (i.e. the 'how').

Former Governance consultant, Dr. Patrick McConney's input was to remind participants of the governance framework, citing that discussion could be held to show a linkage to the multi cycle level. Mr. Haughton explained that there was advice given to keep the document concise but at the same time ensuring that the various factors relating to the SAP were adequately taken into consideration. He said that notwithstanding there was no reference to the policy cycle, the background documents that have informed the SAP shows it had been considered. Dr. McConney suggested since this is so fundamental, a one page diagram would capture the information without comprising the size of the final document. A special call went out for the fisherfolks to make their inputs on the document. The point was made that smaller sums should be incorporated in the report and that lump sums should be broken down. A fisherfolk representative from Barbados expressed that it was easier to follow the presentations than the document. The CNFO representative voiced that he needed to see some research component and not just the data aspects. Dr. Singh-Renton responded that the research component was soon to be presented and that she would make an effort to revise the report, based on the various interventions. Professor Oxenford supported Mr. Murray on his comments regarding the executive summary and promised to forward specific comments on the SAP.

6 (b) Continuation of presentation

CRFM Strategic Action Programme proposed for the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery

Objectives:

1. Attempts to incorporate views of all stakeholders
2. Focuses on the Transboundary issues and concerns
3. Identifies policy, legal and institutional deficiencies
4. Recommends Reforms
5. Recommends a Phased Approach
6. Addresses all stages of EAF Management cycle as well as provides qualitative evaluation of investment costs

The following areas were highlighted as gaps or weaknesses:

1. Failure to delimit maritime boundaries which could create problems for management of shared resources;
2. Ad hoc consideration of ecosystem issues;
3. Weakness in cooperation and networking; and
4. Weakness in data collection for supporting EAF

Six Building block concepts and definitions –were included as follows:

1. Governance
2. Strategic directions, objectives and priorities
3. Fisheries Management
4. Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management

5. Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management
6. Poverty and Vulnerability

In terms of the precautionary approach, she indicated that there were many uncertainties to be addressed.

Five steps used for SAP development were outlined. Dr. Singh-Renton explained the colour scheme on the table.

Step 1 - Overall Vision – The ‘What’, (in black) – meaning the healthy marine ecosystems. **The ‘How’ (in red)** – that were adequately valued and protected through robust, integrative and exclusive governance arrangements at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels that effectively enabled adaptive management, and **The ‘Why’ (in blue)** – which maximizes, in a sustainable manner, the provision of goods and services in support of enhanced livelihoods and human well-being.

Step 2 – Overarching Ecosystems Quality Objectives were listed in terms of unsustainable exploitation; habitat degradation and community modification and thirdly, pollution.

Step 3 – Two broad Interventions were identified:

1. Sub Regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Governance Arrangement; and
2. National Level Parallel to (1) above (National Sectoral Committees).

Each broad intervention was further analyzed into 7 points (as per Table 6 of report): strategies, targets, indicators, investments, timeframes, costs & responsibilities.

Step 4 – Re Broad specific interventions – these were broken down into Regional and National:

1. For Regional –
 - a. Legal and Policy; b. Management and conservation; c. Research and Data; d. Stakeholders

In terms of research and data – some strengthening was necessary and joint action was required regarding proposed functions of CRFM as Regional Fisheries Management Organization for Flyingfish.

2. For National –

Three components required strengthening –

- a. Legal and Policy; b. Management, Data and Research, and c. Stakeholders

At the management level there were specific interventions for various segments; and in terms of harmonization not always able to have correct data of catches etc.

Step 5 – Specific Interventions Prioritized, 3- Phased Approach was proposed:

- a. Phase 1 – High priority and achievable in short term
- b. Phase 2 – High priority and achievable in medium or long term
- c. Phase 3 – Medium priority regardless of timeframe for completion

Further, the intervention activities were broken down in terms of responsible party, priority level (low, medium, and high), timeframe (short, medium and long-term) and cost (low, medium and high).

These were looked at as follows:

At the Regional level as:

- 1.1 sub-regional EAF legal and policy interventions;
- 1.2 sub-regional EAF management and conservation;

- 1.3 sub-regional Fisheries Research, data collection and sharing;
- 1.4 sub-regional stakeholder interventions.

At the National level as:

- 2.1 National EAF legal and policy interventions/activities;
- 2.2 National EAF management, research and data collection interventions;
- 2.3 National EAF Stakeholder interventions.

In terms of Monitoring and Evaluation, (M&E) activities were seen as critical and responsible parties identified should establish M&E systems from CRFM to stakeholder organizations and these should be harmonized to the extent possible to supplement one another to provide a holistic overview of progress.

In terms of the Financing Mechanism – Donor support was seen as essential along with the SAP sourcing of funding required at both national and regional levels. There was a need to source funding for higher budget allocations and at the national level, fees and fines needed to be implemented.

There were discussions on the need for a strategy for a sub-regional management forum. In relation to the mention in some Fisheries legislation of Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), it was recommended that the FAC should decide on priorities before it presents to the inter-sectoral committee. The need for investment in legislation was underscored. The view was expressed that Environment legislation and Fisheries legislation had to move in the same direction. Harmonization of data and also licensing and registration systems were seen as very important. Mr. Murray sought clarification on which Castries Declaration was being referred to in the presentation. He noted that there were two agreements known by that name, the first having been done by OECS Members States in the 1980's on drift net fishing and the more recent one on IUU fishing. He also inquired whether LRS being referred to was a generic concept or the specific software that had been developed in the 1990's by CFRAMP. Dr. Singh-Renton clarified that regarding LRS, it was the concept that was being contemplated and not the software. Mr. Magloire urged the meeting to also consider access rights thinking components, particularly where non-traditional flyingfish countries may want to catch flyingfish as the situation changes. Mr. Magloire felt that given the time it takes to make legislative changes and reforms, the implications of this situation was worth considering now. He was hopeful that a lot could be done at present under voluntary compliance arrangements with fishers. He recommended education as a high priority if fishers are to comply. He was of the view that it was much easier to move from tradition through this route than through some of the changes at the administrative level. This was seen as a path of least resistance.

Mr. Murray noted that there was need to have clear understanding of the agreements which were in force if we were to advise in terms of strategic action. He stressed that certain legislative changes must be in context of some of the treaties. Mr. Murray commented that this consideration was absent from some of the reports. Mr. Haughton assured the participants that though the agreements may not have been specifically mentioned in the documents, it was not an indication that they were not taken into account. He stated that when there was mention of international agreements, this included these regional agreements. He promised to follow up on the issue of the extent to which these agreements are explicitly referenced in the SAP. He agreed that these were binding agreements to be taken into account and that actions need to be consistent with them. He made a call for the use of these agreements as references and also recognized the effect of these agreements on planned activities. Mr. Haughton had praise for the Ministerial Sub-Committee which had been established and working. He recognized the value of having the policy makers and the technical persons to move the process

forward. With reference to the suggestion that CRFM could be the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), he was in agreement. He was also mindful of the possibility that Martinique may not want to participate, however he did not see this precluding the reality of an RFMO. He however, indicated his wish that Martinique be part of the initial arrangement regarding management of the shared resources.

The Coordinator of CNFO, Mitchell Lay reiterated his position on the need to have information on the research component and addressing of the marketing issue of fishers in terms of their livelihood. He was also of the opinion that the Antigua legislation did not mandate the FAC because of the use of the word may instead of shall in the legislation. Of concern to Mr. Lay was also ensuring that stakeholders' representation was truly representative and there would be funding support of such participation. Dr. Singh-Renton assured Mr. Lay that research and marketing aspects were considered since page 26 of the SAP addressed marketing. She was hopeful that what was covered was general enough to assume all. Discussion ensued on how to deal with resources that may be in the management area but not in the national area waters. This discussion examined the need to consider who was most likely to be impacted, social and economic contributions, access agreements, harvesting and marketing arrangements. It was felt that this was where stakeholders' inputs needed to be included to address these considerations. Mr. Haughton assured participants that the livelihood of the fisherfolks was seen as an overarching component of the SAP and that if this was not explicitly presented in the flyingfish SAP report, he would ensure that this was done.

Mr. Magloire urged the meeting to consider the other linkages that should be borne in mind e.g. ecosystems approach, building awareness of fisherfolks to issues like predator/prey relationships. Participants were advised to consider the legislative requirements as they planned and implemented programmes to avoid stages in that process being legally challenged. He noted that this should not only be done with regards to the wording of documents but the whole approach should be consistent with the relevant legislation. Mr. Haughton supported Mr. Magloire's intervention and called for special attention to be given to Fisheries legislation and other relevant laws. He expressed hope that in the region all stakeholders would conduct their business in such a way that the sector could be given more priority for legislative requirements and changes. He also cautioned that the legislation alone was not sufficient but the process referred to such as Fishery Management Plan needed to be executed properly.

7. Flyingfish Participatory Level 2 – Governance Assessment

Dr. Patrick McConney made reference to a governance document coming from a meeting held last May 2012. An assessment form with principles to assess a governance arrangement at a point in time was circulated. Participants were divided in three working groups (the fisherfolks, government employees and donor institutions) for an exercise to rate governance at a regional level. He explained that the assessment sought the perception of what was presently at the sub regional level. He assured participants that national players were not excluded. He cautioned that a low score would not necessarily be bad since certain limitations may exist. The Assessment form is noted as **Appendix 5**.

8. Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

Since the SAP document had already been printed and submitted to the CLME PCU in a manner that suggested it had been finalized and there was limited resources to redo it to include refinements, recommendations, etc, it was decided that the steering committee report should be seen as

supplementary to the SAP document. The SAP plan should take all recommendations into consideration.

9. Any Other Business

The committee decided to continue the next day with the case study of large pelagics.

10. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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 2nd 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 1st 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 an 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 22nd 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
5. Case study implementation: objectives, results, lessons learned, best practices.
6. 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. Flyingfish 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)

DOMINICA	
<p>Harold Guiste Senior Fisheries Officer Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries, Fisheries Division, Dame Eugenia Charles Blvd Roseau, Dominica Tel: 767-448-0140 Fax: 767-448-0140 fisheriesdivision@dominica.gov.dm</p>	<p>Norman Norris Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries Fisheries Division Dame Eugenia Charles Blvd Roseau, Dominica Tel: 767-266-5291/2 Fax: 767-448-0140 nojnorris@gmail.com</p>
<p>Baylon Fontaine NAFCOOP Secretary National Association of Fisheries Roseau Fisheries Complex Dame Eugenia Charles Blvd Roseau, Dominica Tel: 767-613-4444</p>	<p>Andrew Magloire Chief Fisheries Officer Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries Fisheries Division Dame Eugenia Charles Blvd Roseau, Dominica Tel: 767-448-0140 Fax: 767-448-0140 fisheriesdivision@dominica.gov.dm</p>
GRENADA	
<p>Francis Calliste Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture Melville Street St. Georges Grenada Tel: 473-440-3814 Tel: 473-440-3831 Fax: 473-440-6613 tobex00@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Desmond Gill St. John's Fisherman Association Grenada Tel: 473-444-8043 Fax: 473-440-6613 lisachetram@gmail.com</p>
ST. LUCIA	
<p>Mr. Horace D. Walters President St. Lucia Fisherfolk Cooperative Society Ltd. P.O. Box 3074 Production, Castries</p>	<p>Mr. Seon Duncan Ferrari Fisheries Officer Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Food Fisheries and Rural Development 5th Floor Sir James Stanislaus Building</p>

<p>Saint Lucia Tel: 758-718-6229 Fax: 758-489-7951 horacewalters@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Castries Saint Lucia Tel: 758-468-4143/4135 Fax: 758-452-3853 deptfish@govt.lc seon.ferrari@govt.lc</p>
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	
<p>Hyrone Johnson Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Industry, Forestry and Fisheries Richmond Hill Kingstown St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tel: 784-456-2738 Tel: 784-456-1178 Fax: 784-457-2112 fishdiv@vincysurf.com</p>	<p>Winsbert Harry Member of Board of Directors National Fisherfolk Organization Goodwill Fisherman's Cooperative Fisheries Division St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tel: 784-456-2738 Tel: 784-456-1178 Fax: 784-457-2112 fishdiv@vincysurf.com</p>
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	
<p>Garth Ottley Director of Fisheries (Acting) Department of Marine Resources & Fisheries Tobago House of Assembly Trinidad & Tobago Montisorri Drive Glen Road Scarborough Tobago Tel: 868-639-4354 Tel: 868-639-1476 Fax: 868-639-1647 garthottley1@gmail.com gaottley@hotmail.com</p>	
MARTINIQUE	
<p>Lionel Reynal Scientist IFREMER Pointe Fort 97231 LeRobert Martinique Tel: (596) 596-66-19.50 Fax: (596) 596-66-19.41 Lionel.Reynal@ifremer.fr</p>	<p>Heloise Mathieu Scientist IFREMER Pointe Fort 97231 Le Robert Martinique Tel: (596)-596-66-19-50 heloise.mathieu@ifremer.fr</p>

VENEZUELA	
<p>Freddy Arocha, PhD Instituto Oceanografico Universidad de Oriente Cumana-Venezuela Avda. Universida Cerro Colorado Edif. Oceanografico Cumana Tel: +582934002240 farocha@udo.edu.ve</p>	
CRFM Secretariat	
<p>Terrence Phillips Programme Manager Fisheries Management Development Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat Top Floor Corea's Building Kingstown St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tel: 784-457-3474 Fax: 784-457-3475 terrence.phillips@crfm.net</p>	<p>Maren Headley Research Graduate Research and Resource Assessment Princess Margaret Drive Belize City Belize Tel: 501-223-4443 Fax: 501-223-4446 marenheadley@vincysurf.com</p>
<p>Milton Haughton Executive Director CRFM Secretariat Princess Margaret Drive Belize City Belize 501-223-4443 501-223-4446 crfm@btl.net</p>	<p>Susan Singh-Renton Deputy Executive Director CRFM Secretariat Top Floor Corea's Building Kingstown St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tel: 784-457-3474 Fax: 784-457-3475 susan.singhrenton@crfm.net</p>
CERMES	
<p>Professor Hazel Oxenford Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus Barbados Tel: 246-417-4316 hazel.oxenford@cavehill.uwi.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Patrick McConney Senior Lecturer Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus Barbados Tel: 246-417-4316 Fax: 246-424-4204 cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu</p>

CNFO	
<p>Mitchell Lay Coordinator Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation New Winthorpes St. Georges Antigua Tel: 268-784-4690 cnfo-cu@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Vernell Nicholls President Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisation Princess Alice Highway St. Michael, Barbados Tel: 246-426-5189 (1246) Fax: 246-268-7168 (1246) barnufo@caribsurf.com vernel.nicholls@gmail.com</p>
ICCAT	OECS
<p>M'Hamed Idrissi Executive Secretariat of the International Commission of the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Calle Corazon De Maria, 8-6° 28002-Madrid Spain Tel: +3491-416-5600 Fax: +3491-415-2612 Mhamed.idrissi@iccat.int</p>	<p>Peter A. Murray Programme Officer III OECS Secretariat Social and Sustainable Development Division PO. Box 1383 Castries St. Lucia Tel: (758)-455-6327: Ext 6367 Fax: 758-453-1628 pamurray@oecs.org</p>

Appendix 4 - Decisions of the 4TH Steering Committee Meeting of the CLME Project

The CLME Steering Committee:

Having convened the Fourth Meeting of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project Steering Committee, in Cartagena, Colombia 5-6 March 2013 Co-Chaired by Bahamas and Colombia;

Taking into account the draft Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP);

Noting the draft reports produced under the CLME Project, namely Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA), the Regional Governance Framework report, the final reports from the CLME Pilot Projects and Case Studies;

Noting also the number of relevant initiatives, partners and organisations in the CLME+ concerned and involved with the management of shared living marine resources;

Acknowledging the results attained under the CLME Pilot Projects and Case Studies and having commended the efforts of the Project Partners and collaborating organizations in the successful execution of these projects;

Commends the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) in the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme development process and overall project coordination;

Gratefully recognizing the generous support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the implementing and executing agencies, participating governments, organizations and partners towards the successful implementation of the CLME Project;

Mindful of the opportunity available to obtain further support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to assist implementation of the SAP and the need to act expeditiously to take advantage of this opportunity and avoid undue delay:

1. **Approves** the implementation by the CLME PCU of the 2012 Annual Work Plan, as presented by the CLME Regional Project Coordinator.
2. **Approves** a no costs extension of the CLME Project duration until 31 August 2013.
3. **Approves** the Annual Work Plan and associated budget proposal prepared by the CLME PCU for the year 2013, as presented by the CLME Regional Project Coordinator.
4. **Approves** the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Caribbean and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) with the changes approved by the Steering Committee
5. **Urges** CLME countries and project partners to continue or initiate implementation of the SAP objectives, collaborative strategies and actions while awaiting formal SAP endorsement by governments.

6. **Recommends** that all efforts will be undertaken by CLME countries and project partners to ensure timely and broad endorsement of the final CLME+ SAP document.
7. **Requests** the PCU to give high priority to: delivering the final SAP document, achieving endorsement of the SAP, and the development, endorsement and submission to the GEF Secretariat of a “CLME SAP implementation” Project Identification Form (PIF).
8. **Agrees** to seek to the extent possible simultaneous endorsement of the CLME+ SAP and the CLME+ SAP implementation Project Identification Form (PIF).
9. **Urges** the CLME PCU, countries and project partners to undertake all efforts to adhere to the following timeline in order to maximize opportunities to obtain financial support for SAP implementation from the Global Environment Facility (GEF):
 - o SAP endorsed at the Ministerial level by a sizeable quorum of CLME countries by 31 May 2013
 - o Preparation of CLME SAP implementation PIF & securing sizeable quorum of GEF Operational Focal Points endorsements by 15 June 2013
 - o Submission of the SAP implementation PIF to the GEF Secretariat by 15 June 2013
 - o Operationalize a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) for the development of the full-sized project document proposal by 21 June 2013
10. **Urges** CLME countries and project partners to support the CLME Project Terminal Evaluation process including the provision of the required information on the actual co-financing to the Evaluator no later than end of April 2013.
11. **Thanks** the Government and People of Colombia and the Co-Chairs for their kind assistance with making the meeting a success.

Appendix 5 - Level 2 Participatory Assessment Of Governance Arrangement Performance

Fishery ([x] one) Flying fish Large Pelagics
Stakeholder type fishery authority fishing industry other

Importance of the principle to the arrangement: 0 = none, 1 = low, 2 = medium, 3 = high
 “The principle is present now “: 1 = Disagree strongly, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Agree strongly
 For each principle ...circle the numbers rating importance and presence that best reflect your view.

These principles assess a governance arrangement at a point in time		Important				Present			
Principle	Statement explaining the principle	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Accountability	The persons/agencies responsible for the governance processes can be held responsible for their action/inaction	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Adaptability	The process has ways of learning from its experiences and changing what it does	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Appropriateness	Under normal conditions, this process seems like the right one for what it is trying to achieve	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Capability	The human and financial resources needed for the process meet its responsibility are available	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Effectiveness	This process should succeed in leading to sustainable use of ecosystem resources and/or control harmful practices	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Efficiency	This process makes good use of the money, time and human resources available and does not waste them	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Equity	Benefits and burdens that arise from this process are shared fairly, but not necessarily, among stakeholders	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Inclusiveness	All those who will be affected by this process also have a say in how it works and are not excluded for any reason.	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Integration	This process is well connected and coordinated with other related processes.	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4
Legitimacy	The majority of people affected by this process see it as correct and support it, including the authority of leaders	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4

Representativeness	The people involved in this process are accepted by all as being able to speak on behalf of the groups they represent	0	1	2	3		1	2	3	4
Responsiveness	When circumstances change this process can respond to the changes in what most think is a reasonable period of time	0	1	2	3		1	2	3	4
Transparency	The way that this process works and its outcomes are clearly known to stakeholders through information sharing	0	1	2	3		1	2	3	4

Any other comments _____
