



SECOND CRFM – OSPESCA JOINT PLAN OF ACTION

2 October 2019

Introduction

1. The Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held on August 19 in El Salvador, interested in establishing actions that have a positive impact on improving the quality of life of their populations, and considering that both development opportunities and challenges in the sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture are similar, have assessed the significant efforts made by the CARICOM and SICA to pursue common policies for management, development and sustainable use of fisheries resources and aquaculture.
2. The Heads of State and Government have instructed to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) work together to strengthen cooperation between the two regional fisheries organizations to improve the conservation, management and sustainable development of marine living resources of the Caribbean Sea.
3. Specifically, the CRFM and OSPESCA were requested to:
 - a) Develop and implement a joint action plan for the responsible management of migratory fish resources of the Caribbean Sea;
 - b) Ensure that the plan facilitates the gradual inclusion of CRFM countries in the regulatory framework for the regional management of the spiny lobster industry in cooperation with the countries of SICA.
 - c) Promote the strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance systems to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
 - d) Explore new production alternatives such as aquaculture, and
 - e) Convene the first joint ministerial meeting of the CRFM and OSPESCA aimed at strengthening collaboration between both regional fisheries organisations to improve conservation, management and sustainable development of the living marine resources of the Caribbean Sea, including review and approve the joint action plan.
4. Within this framework the First Meeting of the CRFM-OSPESCA Ministers responsible for fisheries and aquaculture was convened, 3-4 September, 2012 in Belize City, Belize.

5. The Meeting produced three important regional policy documents that have guided cooperation between the CRFM and OSPESCA in fisheries and aquaculture. These are:

- a) The Belize Declaration on Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) Cooperation for Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources;
- b) A Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA); and
- c) A Joint Action Plan (CRFM-OSPESCA) setting out priority areas and modalities for cooperation.

6. This document contains the proposed joint action plan to guide cooperation and collaboration between the CRFM and OSPESCA over the period 2020 to 2025.

Objective

7. This plan provides a framework for joint action that will build on the foundation established by the First Joint Plan of Action aimed at harmonizing and integrating the fisheries and aquaculture management efforts of the two sub-regions, eventually to be supported in the future by a common fisheries and aquaculture policy for the Caribbean Sea.

8. Specifically, the plan establishes a regional arrangement for coordinated planning and implementation of programmes, projects and activities in a manner that facilitates the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture based on best practices and principles for sustainable and responsible use of the resources.

Principles and strategies

9. The CRFM and OSPESCA, taking into account the principles and strategies that are common to the Fisheries and Aquaculture policies of their respective regions,

10. Taking into account also that this is the second joint action plan between the CRFM and OSPESCA, the Meeting agree that the Action Plan should:

- a) Contain high priority actions that are clearly defined, manageable and feasible for implementation, especially in the short-term, so as to gradually lay the foundation for improved effectiveness and synergy in advancing the common interests of the two organisations;
- b) Focus on issues of common interests, and on species that are targeted by commercial fisheries and are important in international or sub-regional trade and contribute to livelihoods and job creation;
- c) On the topics of IUU fishing and monitoring, control and surveillance, aquaculture production, value-added and markets, climate change and disaster risk management in fishing communities, seek a wide exchange of experiences and capitalize on the lessons learnt and results achieved from previous regional work;
- d) Promote partnerships and coordination with international development partners, NGOs and donors with an interest in fisheries and aquaculture in the Caribbean region;
- e) Apply the ecosystems approach to fisheries, as well as and the precautionary approach, taking into account biological, economic, social and environmental aspect; and
- f) Promote decent work, gender equality and participation of youth, as these are key principles to achieve sustainable and equitable development among peoples and coastal communities in the region.

Regional Arrangement for Execution of the Plan

11. The Councils of Ministers of the two organizations will be informed of the progress on implementation of the Joint Action Plan at least once a year using their regular meetings and governance processes.

12. The operational coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan will be done by the Directors of CRFM and OSPESCA, who will make every effort to ensure proper implementation of the Action Plan. They will also inform their governance bodies of the progress achieved.

13. The CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to work within the framework of the Interim Fisheries Coordinating Mechanism to coordinate and implement the Plan of Action. Attention will be given to opportunities for synergies and improved coordination with other regional and national actors that can strengthen integrated actions for sustainable use of aquatic resources. In particular, this will require cooperation and coordination among regional organizations, the private sector, including small-scale and artisanal fishers, processors, exporters, and other stakeholders.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Research and management of fisheries of regional interest.

a) Spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)

14. The Caribbean spiny lobster resource has supported the second most economically valuable fishery in the region. The resource is distributed throughout the Wider Caribbean, with evidence that it could be at least partly shared among the States. The results of regional-level stock assessments have underscored the need for enhanced regional cooperation to guarantee sustainability of the fisheries.

15. Taking into account the application of OSPESCA Regulation OSP-02-09 for the regional management of the Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), the CRFM's St Georges Declaration on Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) (2015), and the Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Spiny Lobster that was approved by the 17th WECAFC Commission Meeting in July 2019.

16. The CRFM and OSPESCA will work towards supporting national and regional implementation of these policy instruments that address all aspects from harmonization of statistical systems and collaboration in research to conservation and management measures that serve to prevent, deter and

eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, to protect juvenile, berried and very fecund lobsters, and to guarantee internationally respected market and trade operations.

b) Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

17. Similar to Caribbean spiny lobster, queen conch is widely distributed throughout the Caribbean, and sustains very valuable fisheries in a number of CRFM and OSPESCA States. The need for a regional approach to the management of queen conch is considered essential.

18. Hence, like spiny lobster, the CRFM and OSPESCA countries have worked together to under the framework of the Joint WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Queen Conch to implement the Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan that was approved by 16th WECAFC as well as by CITES.

19. CRFM and OSPESCA will work towards the development and implementation of national plans to support the broader regional implementation of the management and conservation measures for the queen conch, which would address all aspects from harmonization of statistical systems and collaboration in research to conservation and management measures that serve to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, and to guarantee internationally respected market and trade operations.

c) Large pelagic fisheries

20. Large pelagic fish species such as the tunas, dolphinfish and wahoo are highly migratory fishes distributed over vast areas within and beyond the Wider Caribbean region. These shared fish resources sustain many artisanal, small-scale, and large-scale commercial fisheries in the Wider Caribbean, and as such, would benefit from joint cooperation by CRFM and OSPESCA at the regional and international levels for their sustainable management. In 2018, the CRFM Ministerial approved Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plans for Blackfin tuna fisheries, and for fisheries conducted using fish aggregating devices (FAD).

21. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas including the Caribbean Sea. In addressing the large pelagics, CRFM and OSPESCA States should therefore strengthen their overall cooperation with ICCAT.

22. Hence, in the Action Plan, CRFM and OSPESCA will consider and pursue closer cooperation with ICCAT for conservation and management of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish species that are harvested by States in the region, in partnership with other interested regional fisheries organizations such as FAO/WECAFC, as deemed necessary for its success. In this connection, we will also promote closer engagement of our member states in ICCAT's activities.

23. It is envisaged that in the long term, the proposed cooperation arrangement will facilitate development of harmonized large pelagic fishery statistical monitoring systems, formulation and implementation of regionally-agreed research plans to strengthen the information and knowledge base on the biology, ecology and management of large pelagic fish resources, and sustainable management and use of these resources at the regional level, consistent with ICCAT-agreed goals and standards.

d) Lionfish

24. CRFM and OSPESCA will cooperate to support the implementation and monitoring of the regional management and control strategy for the invasive lionfish. They will address identified gaps and needs in scientific research, resource assessment, continued public awareness and education, and management approaches. The collaboration will include developing new proposals on the specific work to be carried out jointly in the future, and identify further options for promotion and implementation of regionally coordinated actions in collaboration with relevant international, regional, and national partners.

Combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing through strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems (MCS)

25. IUU fishing and seafood fraud are two major problems undermining the sustainability of fisheries in the region. The CRFM and OSPESCA Secretariats and Member States will work together to strengthen cooperation to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.

26. The collaboration will focus on implementation of the measures recommended in the Joint WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Plan of Action on IUU Fishing, which was approved by the 17th WECAFC Commission Meeting, July 2019.

27. Both organisations will work together to improve public awareness and education on IUU fishing and seafood fraud and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information to improve monitoring, control and surveillance to prevent IUU fishing.

28. Both organisations will continue to work closely with FAO/WECAFC to promote the meetings of Joint IUU Fishing Working group to monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on IUU fishing and address any gaps identified to improve effectiveness. Further action will include:

- a) Promote Member State ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to relevant international instruments, such as the FAO Compliance Agreement and the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as necessary, ~~as soon as possible~~.
- b) Coordinate review, update and development of national plans of action and MCS regulatory framework to combat IUU in their Member States that have not yet done so, consistent with the approaches prescribed by the Regional Plan of Action on IUU and relevant international instruments.
- c) strengthen the national and subregional institutional arrangements for MCS and law enforcement capacities in Member States, especially with regard to training of fisheries inspectors and maritime security agents.

- d) Proposals to facilitate collaboration with other national, regional and international entities and their inputs in both the design phase and the implementation of the Regional Plan.
- e) An initiative to launch a regional network to support implementation of the regional plan of action on IUU fishing.
- f) Facilitate bilateral and subregional exchanges to address IUU fishing between and among two or more countries to address specific IUU fishing problems.

Climate change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture

29. The data compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), says the five-year period from 2014 to 2019 is the warmest on record. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have reached new highs, and sea-level rise and other impacts of climate change have accelerated significantly over the same period. The report also highlights the threats to the oceans, with more than 90% of the excess heat caused by climate change ending up in the waters. The WMO analysis says 2018 had the highest ocean heat content values on record. There has also been an overall increase of 26% in ocean acidity since the beginning of the industrial era.

30. The contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to social and economic development and food security is threatened by increasing vulnerability of marine ecosystems and living marine resources, as well as coastal communities. This vulnerability is growing because of increased incidence of hazards and the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

31. Climate change is already having profound impacts on marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, fishing and fish farming communities in the region, e.g. changes in fish distribution and accessibility by fishing fleets, coastal erosion and destruction caused by more frequent and intense hurricanes and tropical storms (e.g. the devastation in the Bahamas by Hurricane Dorian) and flooding.

32. It is therefore essential that appropriate strategies and action plans are developed and implemented to deal with the increasing vulnerability of the sector to disaster risks and climate change.

33. CRFM and OSPESCA countries have already invested significant resources in addressing climate change and disaster risk management (DRM) in the region in collaboration with regional and international development partners and donors.

34. CRFM and OSPESCA will work together to develop a combined strategic approach to address the impacts of DRM and climate change, and taking into account the existing International and Regional Frameworks and institutional arrangements already established. Actions to be pursued will include, inter alia:

- i. The need to strengthen long-term capacities at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels to systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards in fishing and aquaculture communities,
- ii. The need to ensure that institutions concerned with fisheries and aquaculture development at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels develop and maintain sustainable mechanisms of coordination to support the implementation of regional programmes for DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) across the fisheries and aquaculture sector,
- iii. The need to work with a range of other sector agencies to implement systematic approaches to livelihood diversification for poor fishing and aquaculture communities in ways that build their resilience and reduce their vulnerability,
- iv. The need to reinforce institutional and operational capacities dedicated to risk management of natural disasters within the fisheries and aquaculture sector, build local and national capacities to undertake hazard identification and analysis, undertake risk assessments and compile risk mapping and strengthen local early warning and response capacities,
- v. The need to extend insurance coverage to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and operators,
- vi. The need to expand early warning and emergency systems to all countries and all fishers in the region.

Blue Economic growth

35. The CRFM and OSPESCA note that ocean-based economic activities holds the key for sustainable inclusive economic growth and development of many of our Member states, and is an integral part of the people's livelihoods, social and cultural wellbeing particularly the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

36. Anthropogenic activities have contributed to degrading the state of the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean sea, and their ecosystems through inter alia, overfishing, pollution, species habitat destruction and climate change.

37. Blue economic activities in the region must balance the enhancement of economic benefits and minimizing adverse ecosystem impacts to ensure that all economic development activities are environmentally sustainable.

38. Being aware that Blue economy may concern different national authorities and sectors; therefore, the CRFM and OSPESCA will ensure coordinated approach to development by inter alia, encouraging dialogue to ensure coordination through establishment of relevant cross-sectoral mechanisms between these different authorities and other stakeholders.

39. The CRFM in collaboration with the Latin-American Development Bank (CAF) and FAO, have developed and submitted a blue growth project involving five CRFM and one OSPESCA Member States to the GEF for funding consideration. The Project entitled, "Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (BE: CLME)". The objective of the project is to promote blue economy development in the CLME through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas (MPAs), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and sustainable seafood value chains. The CRFM will work closely with OSPESCA in implementing this project and in sharing and transferring lessons and best practices to their other member States.

40. The CRFM and OSPESCA will promote fisheries and aquaculture value chains development and trade and investments, as corner stones in the development of the blue economy in the region.

41. The CRFM and OSPESCA will actively pursue innovative financing mechanisms to support the development of the Blue economic growth in the member States.

42. The CRFM and OSPESCA will also promote the strengthening of scientific information to support evidence-based decision-making to pursue blue economic growth.

Sustainable development of aquaculture.

43. Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing food production sectors globally and is expected to fill the supply deficit in seafood owing to the declining capture fisheries production and population increase. While global aquaculture production reached accounts for approximately 50% of food fish production globally, we note with concern that the contribution of Caribbean countries to the global production remains very low.

44. Within the context of blue growth, the CRFM and OSPESCA will therefore work towards strengthening aquaculture production, including large scale commercial as well as small scale and subsistence operations in our countries by inter alia, providing an enabling policy environment, and strengthening aquaculture production systems including improved feed, brood-stock, seed and advisory delivery systems and provide support and incentives for the private sector investments in aquaculture businesses.

45. Noting that the high cost of inputs such as land, feed, energy and financing is a significant impediment to the development of sustainable aquaculture in the region, we will work together and with international partners to seek to reduce the cost of key inputs to improve the competitiveness and profitability of aquaculture in States.

46. CRFM and OSPESCA will encourage the design and implementation of long-term management plans for sustainable aquaculture development based on the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to aquaculture.

47. We will focus on cooperation and sharing of best practices among our countries to strengthen and catalyse aquaculture development and therefore calls for enhanced partnerships, in particular towards implementing

initiatives that promote technology transfer and other successful aquaculture practices for the benefit of our countries.

48. Additionally, the CRFM and OSPESCA will promote participation in existing appropriate aquaculture networks/ working groups to promote sustainable aquaculture development at the regional and national levels.

49. This plan will therefore promote an exchange program both for national experts and producers, aimed at extending the opportunities of local best practices at the regional level. The areas of seed production, production technologies, environmental measures, markets and health measures will be given due attention in the activities outlined above.

Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Initiative

50. In 2013, countries bordering the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) collaboratively developed a 10-year (2015-2025) Strategic Action Programme (SAP), providing Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's) with an over-arching roadmap to reverse degradation of the marine environment, and to secure its important natural marine resources as a basis for climate resilient, socio-economic development.

51. By March 2019, this SAP had received high-level political endorsement by well over 30 Ministers, representing 26 different Countries and 8 Overseas Territories from the region.

52. The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 76 priority Actions. Many of the Actions outlined under the Strategic Action Programme support the improved management and governance of the region's fisheries resources, including the economically very important spiny lobster and queen conch fisheries. Specifically, Strategy 3 of the CLME+ SAP outlines a process towards the development and establishment of a regional policy coordination mechanism for ocean governance.

53. The implementation of the priority Actions under the SAP is being supported by a variety of projects, several of which have received co-financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Among these, the 6-

year UNDP/GEF "CLME+" Project occupies a central place, as it aims to "Catalyse (and coordinate) the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems". Actions being supported through the CLME+ Project include: the Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism (IFCM) established in 2016 and consisting of the three Regional Fisheries Bodies, CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC-FAO; and the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) established in 2017 amongst eight inter-governmental organisations (UN Environment CEP, WECAFC-FAO, IOCARIBE of the IOC of UNESCO, CRFM, OSPESCA, CCAD, OECS Commission and the CARICOM Secretariat) to enhance regional coordination and collaboration for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

54. The CLME+ Project is further supporting a regional consultation and decision-making process to establish a permanent Coordination Mechanism to support ocean-based sustainable development in the Wider Caribbean Region, inspired on the successes and lessons learnt from the interim mechanisms. It is in light of the foregoing that inter alia:

55. CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to engage in the development, updating and implementation of the work plans of the Interim Coordination Mechanisms, in alignment with their respective mandates and in support of the joint CRFM-OSPESCA Action Plan and CLME+ SAP.

56. CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to engage in the process towards the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance.

57. CRFM and OSPESCA encourage Member States to undertake national consultations on the Coordination Mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in preparation for the CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting planned for the first semester of 2020 at which a regional decision on the mandate, form and functions of the Mechanism is expected, and to further support, as applicable, the efforts leading to the establishment and operationalization of the mechanism.

58. CRFM and OSPESCA will further encourage Member States to support the efforts to leverage additional donor funds to support the further implementation of the CLME+ SAP and to give continuity to the outcomes and the outputs of the CLME+ Project, amongst others by supporting the development of a follow-up UNDP/GEF initiative for the CLME+ Project, and that both CRFM and OSPESCA, as per their mandate, be engaged in the development and implementation of such projects.

59. In collaboration and coordination with the other members of the Coordination Mechanisms and their Member States, CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to support (a) the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of the Actions outlined under the CLME+ SAP, as well as (b) the efforts to update the CLME+ SAP by 2025, i.e. through the development and institutionalization of a standardized, regional, long-term, collaborative reporting mechanism on the governance and status of the marine environment and its resources in the Wider Caribbean – currently referred to as “SOMEE” (State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies).

Small scale and artisanal fisheries, training of fishers, fisheries policy coordination

60. Small-scale and artisanal fisheries in CRFM and OSPESCA Member States make a valuable contribution to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, employment and income generation, economic growth and social stability. As such they provide livelihood opportunities for vulnerable members of society including women and marginalized youth. However, the sustainable development and management of small-scale fisheries face challenges because of the large numbers and low level of education of the operators involved, the remote location of fishing and landing operations, inadequate organisational structures, and limited access to credit and markets.

61. In 2018, the CRFM Ministerial Council approved a Protocol incorporating the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines), into the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

62. In 2017, the OSPESCA Council of Ministers approved the Resolution through which FAO's Voluntary Guidelines are implemented to ensure sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (the SFF Guidelines) in the Central American Integration System (SICA).

63. The CRFM and OSPESCA will support initiatives aimed at capacity-building of small-scale fisherfolk organisations and at strengthening the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries to guarantee and enhance their contribution social and economic development. We will also work to improve access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, in keeping with SDG 14b target.

64. The CRFM and OSPESCA Secretariats will also continue their individual efforts and initiate joint activities to build human and institutional capacity and secure transfer of appropriate technology and knowledge among fisherfolks, staff of national fisheries authorities and regional fisheries bodies to improve policy coordination and implementation, as well as governance, management and sustainable use of fisheries resources and ecosystems.

Participation in International Processes

a) WTO Subsidies Negotiations

65. Member States are concerned with the current state of capture fisheries recognizing that at least one third of the assessed fish stocks are deemed to be in an overfished condition as informed by FAO. The current problem in global fisheries arises from weak governance including misdirected subsidies to the fishing sector, which has led to the build-up of excessive fishing capacity which compromises the fish stocks natural regenerative capacity to provide high yields over the long term with the consequent risk to food security and livelihoods of many dependent countries.

66. It is important that prohibitions on capacity enhancing subsidy are realistic and pragmatic and supported by provisions for appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for SIDs and other developing

states to enable them to develop their fisheries and ensure food security, livelihoods and resource management.

67. Any agreement reached should include provisions for capacity building and technical assistance and should be proportionate to the capacity of developing countries.

68. CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to support the efforts of their Member States at the WTO to intensify efforts towards achieving a multilateral outcome to prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies granted to operators of fishing vessels targeting stocks in an overfished state and to vessel involved in IUU fishing.

69. CRFM and OSPESCA will exchange information and coordinate, to the extent possible, to ensure the common interest of our countries are addressed in any new agreement to discipline harmful fisheries subsidies.

b) Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ

70. Following a two-year Preparatory Committee process, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 72/249 (2017) to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The first two sessions of the IGC took place in New York, 4 to 17 September 2018 and 25 March to 5 April 2019. The third session took place from 19 to 30 August 2019. A fourth and final negotiating session will be held in the first half of 2020.

71. The Agreement being developed addresses four main elements: 1) marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; 2) measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; 3) environmental impact assessments; and 4) capacity building and the transfer of marine technology. The agreement will also address issues such as general principles, definitions, responsibility and compensation, and institutional and financial arrangements.

72. The new agreement should address gaps in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction — but must not undermining existing regimes, particularly for sustainable use and management of fisheries.

73. Both CRFM and OSPESCA have been providing technical advice to representatives of their respective Member States at the United Nations in support of the negotiations.

74. CRFM and OSPESCA will continue to provide advice and support to the BBNJ process.

75. The CRFM and OSPESCA will collaborate with a view to developing common positions at other international or regional fora as considered necessary, including, but not limited to CITES, FAO, UN Environment.

Training, Technology transfer and technical assistance.

76. Both organizations will seek resources in order to have specialized technical assistance and training programs available in the areas identified as priorities by the parties involved.

77. Efforts will be made to capitalize on the experience of specialists from both regions.

78. The model of training of trainers will be utilized to strengthen the region's own technical expertise and capacity to deliver training.

Development of a long-term Caribbean Regional Work Program.

79. It is proposed that both organizations establish a scheme that allows progressive development of a regional work program of wide and long-term scope, informed by actions, outputs and outcomes effected in the short term, as well as by other experiences fostered at the regional level.

Financing

80. Resources to implement the plan will come from the national and regional contributions, and both organizations will invite international cooperation to play a role in this new regional cooperative effort.