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**REPORT OF THE CTA/CRFM REGIONAL
FISHERIES STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP
TO PROMOTE THE LAUNCHING OF A
CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF NATIONAL
FISHER FOLK ORGANISATIONS**

**September 26-28, 2007
St. George's, Grenada**

**CRFM Secretariat, Belize
2007**

CRFM Technical & Advisory Document –
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**Report of the CTA/CRFM Regional Fisheries Stakeholders
Workshop to Promote the Launching of a Caribbean Network of
National Fisherfolk Organisations, September 26-28, 2007,
George's, Grenada**

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
BFCA	Belize Fishermen Cooperation Association
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CABA	Caribbean Agri Business Association
CALFICO	Calliaqua Fisherfolk Co-operative
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARNUFO	Caribbean Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations
CBO	Community Based Organization
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CFP&R	Common Fisheries Policy and Regime
CFTDI	Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institution
CIDA	Canadian international Development Agency
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSM	CARICOM Single Market
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CTA	Centre Technique de Cooperation Agricole et Rurale ACP-UE/Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CU	Coordinating Unit
DOF	Department of Fisheries
EU	European Union
FAC	Fishery Advisory Committee
FD	Fisheries Division/Department
FFL	Fisher folk leader
FFO	Fisher Folk Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPS	Global Position System
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
JFCU	Jamaica Fisherman's Cooperative Union
NAFCO-OP	National Association of Fishermen Cooperative Society Limited
NFA	National Fishermen's Association
NFO	National Fisherfolk Organization
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PFO	Primary Fisherfolk Organization
RFO	Regional Fisherfolk Organization
SIDC	Seafood Industrial Development Corporation
SSA	Suriname Shrimp Association
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TCDC	Technical Corporation among Developing Countries
TOR	Terms of Reference
TTUF	Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk
PM,FMD	Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WIFA	Women In Fishing Association

1.0 Introduction

A CTA/CFRM Project entitled *Development of the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations (2006-2008)* is in its second year of implementation by the CFRM. The background and details of this project are provided in Section 5.0 *Overview of the Project*.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to improved incomes, higher standards of living for fisherfolk and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Caribbean. The expected results are the creation/strengthening of NFOs and the Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organisation (CARNUFO); management, communication and advocacy capabilities of NFOs and CARNUFO strengthened; and fisher folk and other interested parties better provided with relevant information on regional fisheries issued.

Several project activities have been or will be executed to ensure the realisation of these expected results. One such activity was the Regional Fishers Stakeholder Workshop to Promote the Launching of a Caribbean Network of National Fisher Folk Organisations.

Fisher folk leaders, Fisheries Officers and Cooperative Officers, together with resource persons reviewed progress, identified constraints and plotted a course of action aimed at establishing CARNUFO.

The expected outputs from the Workshop were:

- Common understanding of major current and emerging challenges and concerns regarding fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development at the national and regional levels.
- Expressions of interest from and commitment of main stakeholder groups to a regional network of national fisher folk organisations.
- Consensus built on the rationale, purposes, intervention areas and decision-making mechanisms for the regional network.
- Membership categories and criteria defined.
- Types of contribution from the members determined.
- A network coordination unit identified/created, and its functions and tasks defined.
- Action plan outlined
- Stakeholder input into the Stakeholders Directory obtained.

2.0 Welcome and Opening Remarks

The workshop was held at the Conference Room of the Flamboyant Hotel and Villas in St. Georges, Grenada, from September 26 to 28, 2007.

Mr. Johnson St. Louis, acting Chief Fisheries Officer, Grenada, welcomed participants and thanked the CRFM Secretariat for choosing Grenada to host the Workshop. He observed that the fishing industry in all the countries was at the core of economic and social development and that Grenada has been demonstrating its commitment to conservation and management of its fish resources. He expressed the hope that the Workshop would further CRFM's goal towards

regionally managed fisheries and that CARNUFO, when created would consider many issues including the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for the CARICOM Community. He indicated that he was confident that the expected outputs from the Workshop would be realised.

Mr. Hugh Saul, Executive Director, CRFM, started his remarks by thanking the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Utilities and Energy for agreeing to host the Workshop. He traced the evolution of the Project: *Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations (2005-2008)* from the 2003/04 assessment study of organisational needs and operational strengths and weaknesses of Caribbean fisher folk organisations to the present project activity with the financial support of the CTA. He reiterated that one of the main goals of CRFM was to promote co-management to enhance sustainable utilization of the fishery resources through the empowerment of the user groups by building their capacities, thus facilitating fishers and fishers' organisations to become dominant and strategic partners in the sustainable management of the fishery resources. He noted that CARICOM Heads of Government had acknowledged the importance of fisher folk representation in the governance system by approving a seat on the Caribbean Fisheries Forum. Participants were reminded that the task of the Workshop was to finalise the framework and ensure that requirements were met for creating CARNUFO. He pointed out that future funding would depend on the success of the two year project.

Hon. Gregory Bowen, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Utilities and Energy gave the Feature Address. He extended a warm Grenada welcome to everyone. He recalled the studies, activities and consultations that were executed and which led to this Workshop to promote the launching of CARNUFO. He noted that Grenada has had mixed experiences and successes with primary and national fisher folk organisations and that the weaknesses were mainly attributed to inadequate access to funding, lack of capacity in management, leadership, organisation, communication and advocacy skills; and inadequate access to relevant information. A National Fisherman's Organisation formed in 1992 never functioned and was inactive.

He reminded the Workshop that there was strength in unity and that the creation of these fisher folk organisations were aimed at fulfilling particular needs, such as empowering their members to manage their own affairs, to enhance income and improve on their standards of living and to satisfy the need to contribute significantly to the social and economic development and sustainable livelihoods of fishers locally, regionally and internationally. Consequently, one of his government's policies and priorities was to promote well organised fisher folk organisations. The Government's programme to achieve this included: promoting and building capacity in business, financial management, leadership, communication and management skills; financial help e.g. grants to rehabilitate and acquire fishing requisites, loans; improving communication and shore-based infrastructure.

He noted that it was now the prerogative of fisher folk and their organisations to determine the functions, structure, goals and objectives of the umbrella organisation across the Caribbean. The need to organise regionally was greater now than before as a result of globalization. He pointed out that fisher folk should take initiatives and not be left out of the changing global environment. They should develop capacities at the national and regional levels and expand markets and

marketing efforts. He stated that CRFM's efforts to promote the creation of a regional fisher folk organisation were important, significant and critical to the region. He encouraged fishers to learn from past experiences and failures and not to repeat them.

He re-affirmed his Ministry's full support to this regional initiative which, he felt confident, would optimize benefits including participation in fisheries governance, to our fisherfolk.

3.0 Introduction of Participants

Participants and resource persons introduced themselves. Thirty-two (32) participants comprising fisher folk leaders and fisheries and cooperative officers from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and resource persons from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat attended the Workshop. The facilitator was Mr. Reuben Charles, Consultant and former Chief Fisheries Officer of Guyana. The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.

4.0 Review of Agenda and Workshop Arrangements

The Draft Agenda was reviewed and adopted with the proviso that, depending on the flow of the Workshop, there would be flexibility in its delivery. The Final Agenda, including changes made during the Workshop, is given at Appendix 2.

It was agreed that for each day, a fisher folk leader (FFL) and the Facilitator would co-chair the day's proceedings. Co-chairs were appointed and are listed below:

Day I	-	Ms. Heine Alexis	-	Grenada
Day II	-	Mr. Mitchell Lay	-	Antigua and Barbuda
Day III	-	Mr. Eocen Victory	-	St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Rapporteurs were also identified for each day and are listed below:

Day I	-	Mr. William Gregory Bethel	-	The Bahamas
Day II	-	Mr. Phillip Jackman	-	Barbados
Day III	-	Ms. Tenile Grant	-	Jamaica

A debriefing session was held with the chairperson, selected FFLs, rapporteur, facilitator and the resource persons at the end of the proceedings for days I and II. Participants in the Debriefing Session are listed in Appendix 3.

5.0 Overview of the CTA/CRFM Project: Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organisation

This presentation was made by the CRFM Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, Mr. Terrence Phillips.

In 2003/04, a CTA/CARDI/CRFM regional study examined the organisational needs and operational strengths and weaknesses of existing national and primary or community-based Caribbean fisher folk organisations and made recommendations to address them. At a CTA/CARDI/CRFM Regional Workshop held in Belize in 2004 to review the study and recommendations, an explicit recommendation was made to launch a Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organisations (CARNUFO). It was also decided that CARNUFO would be established when at least 50% of the ACP countries + 1 would have NFOs. In this context, a Working Group was created to develop a strategy for the launching of CARNUFO and make proposals for strengthening the institutional capacities of fisher folk organisations, with the strategy being aimed at addressing the following issues:

- Lack of critical mass of NFOs for launching CARNUFO as defined by the 2004 Belize Workshop;
- Fisher folk organisations' weak management skills;
- Insufficient access to relevant information by fisher folk; and
- Fisher folk organisations limited communication and advocacy skills.

The Working Group met in Guyana in June 2005 and produced a Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan for the Institutional Strengthening of Regional Fisherfolk Organisations – 2006-2010.

Based on the Strategy and Medium Term Action Plan, a proposal for the development of the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations (CARNUFO) was submitted to the CTA. This proposal was reviewed and refined by the CRFM and CTA into the Project: Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations, September 2006 - July 2008, with the overall objective being to contribute to improved incomes, higher standards of living of fisher folk and the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Caribbean.

The expected results were the:

- Strengthened/Creation of NFOs and CARNUFO;
- Management, Communication and Advocacy Capacities of NFOs and CARNUFO strengthened; and
- Fisher folk and other interested parties better provided with relevant information on regional fisheries issues.

The programme of sub-project activities to facilitate the above results included:

1. Establishment of NFOs and CARNUFO facilitated:
 - Awareness and Promotion Campaign (Completed to date: FFOs in the Caribbean: Briefing Note on Networking for Success, TV and Radio Interviews, etc. on the project and outcome, e.g. Dominica, Guyana.)
 - Sensitisation of fisherfolk in Group 3 ACP countries: Haiti and Suriname (being initiated through this Workshop with the participation of Suriname)
 - National Consultations for the launch of NFOs in Group 2 Countries - May-July 2007 (Completed).
 - Regional Fisheries Stakeholders Workshop to Launch CARNUFO – September 2007
2. Management, communication and advocacy capacities of NFOs and CARNUFO Strengthened (Completed to date: Training of Trainers Workshop – December 2006; Training Workshop on Management of Fisher folk Organisations – March 2008).
3. Fisher folk and other interested parties better provided with relevant information on regional fisheries issues:
 - Newsletter – July 07 – June 08. Issues #1 and #2 published.
 - Stakeholders Directory – August – November 07. (First Draft to be presented at the Workshop.)
 - Website – in 2008.

5.1 Discussion

During the discussion, the critical mass (50% +1) of ACP countries with NFOs required to launch CARNUFO was considered. Participants noted that the actual number aimed at should be 10, which represented 50%+1 for the CRFM Member States. St Lucia informed the Workshop that its NFO, St Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society Limited had been registered. The other Group 2 countries, i.e. countries with active primary organisation but no officially recognised NFO organisation, were encouraged to continue their efforts to meet the deadlines that they had set for the establishment of their respective NFOs.

6.0 Current and Emerging Challenges and Concerns regarding Fisheries Governance, Conservation Management, Trade and Development in the Caribbean

This presentation was made by Dr. Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer, UWI-CERMES.

The presentation focused on placing the Caribbean situation in a context of what was happening in the world, noting that world fisheries were recognised as being in crisis. He called attention to the myriad of EEZs in the region and that there were many regional fisheries issues such as weak

institutions for policy decision making, inadequate information, limited capacity, etc. These pointed to the need to manage Caribbean fisheries with fisher folk organisations having a role to play. He mentioned that in the area of trade and development, there were considerations of, for example, competition for imported seafoods, common markets, tourism development, physical infrastructure, improved well being etc., and indicated that fisher folk should identify and explore opportunities in these areas. Conservation and management were crucial, with good interactive governance being essential. It was recommended that the region should examine its fisheries networks and institutions, and strengthen these networks for better policy making, build adaptive capacity through learning and promoting good interactive governance.

6.1 Discussion

In the discussion, there were mixed views among fisher folk leaders about tourism and fisheries. One view was that they could not co-exist, while another was that fisheries could contribute to and benefit from tourism (catch and release, viewing large species, etc) so that there was a place for both. It was also pointed out that FFOs should be empowered to play a greater role and make documented cases to their respective governments to support their interests. In terms of marketing, it was opined that the FFOs could assist in identifying opportunities within the region, and play a role in the stabilising of prices.

7.0 Country Reports (Updates) and Discussion

The Facilitator reminded country representatives that they had been requested to provide Country Reports on their national and primary fisherfolk organisations by presenting brief comments on the establishment of these organisations, their roles and functions, membership and indications of their strengths and weaknesses.

It was noted that such reports had been presented by twelve countries at the CTA/CRFM Training of Trainers Workshop for Fisheries Extension Officers held in December 2006, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Facilitator, via a PowerPoint presentation, provided summaries of those reports for each country, with the country representative present updating the information (Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands were not present to update their reports). In addition, country reports were presented by the representatives from Guyana, Suriname and the Bahamas, as they were not represented at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines meeting.

Generally, fisherfolk associations, cooperatives in particular, had been formed in the 1960s with the aim of empowering their members to manage their own affairs and to improve on their operations, so as to increase income and improve standards of living. Principal roles and functions included: acquiring and selling fishing requisites to members; addressing crisis situations affecting members; representing members; providing information to members and services such as repair and maintenance. In time, these roles expanded as governments and aid agencies used the organisations as conduits for assistance to fisher folk. They provided grants, loans, infrastructure (landing sites development, ice, cold storage, etc.) and training opportunities. Some organisations became involved in the marketing of members' produce.

A number of these FFOs became dormant or inactive because of similar weaknesses which were more complex in some situations than others. The range of weaknesses included:

- Inadequate access to funding (sustainable financing).
- Dependency on government.
- Alignment to political parties.
- Inadequate capacity in management, leadership, communication (which was generally poor between executive and members), advocacy skills.
- Inadequate access to information.
- Insufficient oversight by regulatory bodies.
- Insufficient commitment by members reflected by selfishness (they were only interested in tangible benefits or they could not find time).
- Lack of transparency and accountability resulting in little trust in executives
- Inadequate representation at the national level.
- Unavailability of fishing supplies and requisites.
- Spatial distribution of fisher folk and their fishing activities.

The active fisher folk organisations have strengths that included:

- Rewarding and active marketing and business activities including those which provide supplies, requisites and services to members.
- Having committed and involved members and strong leadership who recognise the value and need for a PFO.
- Members held together by fighting a common problem.
- Having recognition and support from government.
- Providing assistance to members and other potential groups.
- Having proper records and holding regular meetings

In relation to membership, it was clear that a significant number of fisher folk were not in any fisher folk organisation and in some countries some FFOs were not members of the NFO.

7.1 Discussion

A spirited discussion focused on the lack of faith and trust in the leaders of the FFOs by members, with this situation being seen as the result of the perceived ineffective oversight by government regulatory departments which should be ensuring transparency and accountability. Further, there was no evidence of punitive actions against those who commit fraud or badly managed the affairs of the FFOs. It was also noted that succession plans for keen and new leadership to emerge hardly or never existed. The unsatisfactory situation of fisher folk not attending and participating in meetings and the poor and inadequate flow of information from executives to members were highlighted. It should be noted that related information on these matters can be obtained from the Fisherfolk Organisations in the Caribbean: Briefing Note on Networking for Success (McConney, 2007).

8.0 Report of the National Consultations to Launch NFOs in Group 2 Countries

In a PowerPoint presentation, the Programme Manager noted that the objective of this activity was to ensure that the critical mass of ACP countries with NFOs (50% + 1) needed to form CARNUFO was realised. As such, National Consultations to launch NFO's were held in six of the seven Group 2 countries i.e. countries with PFOs but no NFO. He indicated that The Bahamas had stated that they could not hold national consultations at that time.

In each consultation, a CRFM team comprising a facilitator, resource persons from Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association (BFCA) and CRFM Secretariat worked with participants from PFOs, DOFs and the Cooperative Departments. The agenda included an overview of the CTA/CRFM Project; rationale for the formation of NFOs and CARNUFO; objectives, role and functions, membership, management and decision making in NFOs; regulatory and institutional requirements; experience of Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association; decision to form an NFO and the way forward.

He presented a summary of the PFO situation for each of the six countries then listed the general issues/concerns related to the formation of NFOs, such as types of NFOs (cooperatives, associations, etc.) and membership requirements; inadequate oversight by regulatory bodies; viability of PFOs; inclusiveness (non-registered groups, Associations, etc.); need to sensitise fishers and others to the need for and formation of PFOs and NFOs; transparency and accountability; marginalisation; inadequate access to information for decision making; dependence on governments, etc.; inadequate representation at the national level (illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing by foreign fleets, piracy) and sustainable financing of PFOs and NFOs. Also, a range of possible functions of the NFOs was presented, with these including activities such as education, training and institutional strengthening; awareness, advocacy at local, national and regional levels, involvement in the conservation and management of fishery resources, mobilisation of resources; importation and distribution of supplies/requisites; processing; marketing; and facilitating "TCDC" arrangements.

Each of the countries had formed a Steering Committee comprising fisher folk leaders from PFOs supported by staff from the Cooperative and Fisheries Departments. The individual Committees were tasked with determining the type of NFO; obtaining the commitment of the PFOs; developing by-laws/constitutions and business plan and legally establish the organisation by having it registered. Thereafter, actions to support the formation on the RFFO may be intensified.

Deadlines for the formation of their respective NFOs were given as September 2007 (St. Lucia); October, 2007 (Guyana, St. Kitts/Nevis), December 2007 (Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines).

8.1 Discussion

In terms of updates by the Steering Committees in Group 2 countries to form the NFOs, as well as the status of NFOs in Group 1 countries, the country reports were as follows:

Group 2 Countries:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Steering Committee was going to meet shortly to review the activities for the way forward and make decisions to facilitate the formation of the NFO in December 2007.

Guyana

The Fisheries Department has to liaise with the Steering Committee and the Cooperative Department to get the process going, but the target for the NFO formation was still December 2007.

St. Lucia

The NFO: *St. Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society Ltd* had been registered as planned, with six out the eight FFOs being members. Last year the fishers were sensitized, 6 out of 8 groups agreed, therefore the NFO was registered. Upon return, the process will be finalized.

Dominica

The Steering Committee, with assistance from the Fisheries Department, had embarked on a process of consultations with the FFOs.

The Bahamas

Although they did not participate in the national consultation exercise, The Bahamas is committed to having an NFO formed by April 2008. They requested assistance from the CRFM on this matter.

St. Kitts and Nevis

The Steering Committee is committed to having a NFO in place by December 20, 2007, with the deadline having been changed from World Food Day, October, 2007. Consultations with the FFOs would continue.

Grenada

Four meetings have been held with seven FFOs and their commitment to a NFO obtained. Consultations were still to be held with three other groups. Grenada is aiming to form the NFO by December, 31, 2007.

Group 1 Countries

Antigua and Barbuda

The NFO: *Antigua and Barbuda Fisheries Alliance* (1997) is a very active advocacy group, which continues to develop this particular skill.

Jamaica

The *Jamaica Fisherman's Cooperative Union (JFCU)* is a vibrant NFO, with ten PFOs as members. It has been involved in efforts to create awareness, provide training and offer

assistance during natural disasters to PFOs. It was also part of the drive to form new PFOs in Jamaica. The board of the JFCU meets biannually.

Barbados

The NFO: *Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations* has conducted training requested by fisher folk, and encouraged the incorporating of small groups into larger groups to strengthen organisation. It has an educational programme, but funding is needed for implementation.

Belize

The NFO: *Belize Fishermen Association (BFCA)* continues to be vibrant and has provided training and education to its members. It has been involved in the development and implementation of a biosphere project for its members.

Trinidad and Tobago

The NFO: *Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF)* is an umbrella body that included PFOs and other stakeholders from the private fisheries sector. It had received technical assistance from the Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC) and Fisheries Department to conduct technical training and develop business activities such as the provision of goods and services to its members. Current activities included the conducting of training activities for the PFOs aimed at increasing the fishing skills of fisher folk particularly on Tobago.

Group 3 Countries

Suriname

The NFO: *Suriname Shrimp Association (SSA)* is an association of all fishing enterprises. It came about under an initiative of the Fisheries Department. Any fishing company or fishing association or even boat owners can register as a member. Suriname undertook to inform the CRFM Secretariat formally that the SSA is the NFO for the country and send a report regarding registration, executives, management, etc.

9.0 Fisher Folk and Fisheries Scientists, Linking and Learning Together

This presentation was made by Dr. Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer, UWI-CERMES.

He informed the Workshop about the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), which was founded in 1947 to promote the exchange of current information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean Region. He indicated that the GCFI met annually in regional locations and its participants were drawn mainly fisheries scientists, managers, students and fisherfolk. Its sessions focused on biology, ecology, assessment of reef and pelagic fishes and invertebrate marine fisheries, fish spawning aggregations, marine protected areas, recreational fisheries, marine aquaculture, etc.

He reasoned that the regional network of NFOs would be stronger if links were formed between fisherfolk and regional fisheries scientists, as fisher folk leaders needed to have a good

appreciation of fisheries' science and that GCFI was one of the best places for this. Therefore, it was proposed to take fishers to GCFI and have a fisheries forum where they would interact with other fishers and scientists and strengthen networking. The expected results would be that the selected fishers would be better informed on scientific methods, results, and applications and be better able to network and draw on network resources through new and stronger personal contact with other fisher folk leaders and fisheries scientists. Fisheries scientists would know more about what fishers think about and needed from the scientists. CRFM would also gain insight into fisheries science initiatives of interest to fisher folk leaders.

He indicated that the proposed Working Group members to attend GCFI would be Anderson Kinch (fisher/boat owner, GCFI Board member, presenter at GCFI) Patrick Mc Conney (CERMES, UWI), Terrence Phillips (CRFM Secretariat), Brian Davy (IISD, Canada) and four (4) fisher folk leaders to be selected and organised for the meeting. The fishers selected would be expected to deliver oral reports on their GCFI experience to NFOs on their return which reports should include the lessons learned from the entire venture.

The Workshop was presented with a series of guidelines or criteria for identifying and recommending the four fisherfolk leaders that they thought should attend.

9.1 Discussion

All expressed an eagerness to go and were convinced that it would be a useful and valuable exercise. However, due to the venue being in the Dominican Republic and the likely airline routes, it was recognised that possession of a US visa would be an important requirement. The Workshop was invited to study the suggested list of criteria for the selection process which was slated to be done on the last day.

10.0 Day I Review

On Day II, the facilitator made a brief presentation which summarised the activities of Day I. He first thanked the fisher folk co-chair and rapporteur of day I and invited the Day II co-chair and rapporteur to take up their positions. Members of the Debriefing Session were also acknowledged.

He noted that some of the more positive features of the previous day's deliberations could be summarized as follows:-

1. The Minister of Agriculture, Land, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Utilities and Energy in his speech emphasizing that fisher folk should take initiatives and not be left out of the changing global environment; develop capacities at the national and regional levels; expand markets and marketing efforts; and that CRFM's effort to promote the creation of a regional fisher folk organization (RFO) was important, significant and critical to the region and was fully supported by the government of Grenada.
2. Trinidad and Tobago's strategy of creating a secondary group organised as a business applying innovative solutions to issues that seem insurmountable.

3. St. Lucia meeting their deadline of forming a new secondary organisation based on analysis of lessons learned from past experiences and the need for change.
4. Opportunity for four fishers to attend the GCFI meeting to strengthen networking.
5. Good interaction among participants.

He noted that some considerations were introduced in the presentation on “Challenges and Concern” which pointed to the global decline in marine fisheries and the need for conservation and management supported by good interactive governance, a task the RFO could facilitate. FFOs throughout the region faced similar problems, with few being solved. He pointed out that it would be useful to see these as challenges to be surmounted in creating a regional net work of NFOs. Then posed the questions: Are these problems going to plague the proposed RFO? How are they to be addressed?

He urged countries to pursue the process of forming and strengthening their NFOs, viewing active participation in the RFO as an incentive. Based on Day I, how can this best be done? What capacities are required? Is further help required from CRFM? If so, in what regard?

11.0 Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisherfolk Organisation: Options for Networking, it’s Goal, etc.

The Facilitator focused participants on information given to them already in various documents and in particular the document *Fisher Folk Organisations: Briefing Note on Networking for Success*. He noted that networking was the ability to pool/link people (individuals) communities, organisations and/or countries together, or in this case the process in which one could form linkages between national fisher folk organisations and the government. The goal was to link many NFOs to form a regional network, to empower user groups through building their capacities, so that they could play the role of partners of the government in the collaborative management of the resources.

He indicated that the objectives were to enhance fisher folk organisations weak management skills; to improve fisher folk’s access to relevant information; to improve fisheries folk organisations’ limited communication and advocacy skills and to contribute to better incomes, higher standards of living of fisher folk and sustainable use of fishery resources in the Caribbean.

He mentioned that networks could facilitate the transmission of information in the shortest possible time using modern technology and this could start with the fishers and their organisations, with an initial being the creation of a directory of fishers’ organisations in progress). Since, this could assist in ensuring the efficient flow of information among primary and secondary organisations. He indicated the importance of regular meetings and the reports from such meetings in the networking process, with the fisheries and cooperative extension officers being key facilitators in the process. He identified the use of such tools as websites, newsletters, etc. in sharing information about meetings, agendas, etc. and the importance of key networking points/reliable contact persons in the process of networking. He further noted that NFOs needed to critically examine their readiness to network and be realistic about the pros and cons. He suggested that NFOs would need to become proficient in email and use of the internet

in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the RFO and that a network coordination unit would have to be identified and created, with its functions and tasks be clearly defined.

He pointed out that the NFOs would need to collaborate to plan and implement regional level initiatives to assist national and primary FFOs. As such, some functions of the network would be to collect and disseminate information; transmit common understanding of major current and emerging challenges and concerns regarding fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development at the national and regional levels; solicit opinions and points of view; seek consensus on issues; advocate the concerns of fisher folks, PFOs, and NFOs; promote marketing/garner market intelligence and explore and develop international linkages with other FFOs and donors.

He then directed participants to consider the three options of the network:

- (a) A centralised hub in which there was a single, easily identified central node from which most relationships emanate and no places on the periphery were connected to each other.
- (b) An open network, which in effect was decentralised, each node being somewhat independent, with no clearly identified network headquarters.
- (c) A multi-cluster, which was a hybrid of the above two networks. It would be a series of hubs joined together. Lead nodes could be sub-regional with member NFOs nearby.

11.1 Discussions

The Facilitator requested that the general body be broken into four working groups with each group considering the topic “Goal, Objectives and Functions of the Network”.

The composition of the Groups 1 through 4 remained the same for the remainder of the Workshop and the names of their members are in Appendix 4. At the end of the Working Group Session, each group made its presentation to the Workshop and questions were entertained.

The Group reports are presented in Appendix 5 where there are aligned next to each other for comparison. Appendix 6 represents a review of the Appendix 5 with the elements for the respective items being identified. It was noted that the “Functions” were more activities, so the column was renamed “Activities”.

12.0 Outline a Short Term Action Plan (2008)

The Facilitator requested the Workshop to reform into Working Groups and using the “list of activities” generated in the combined group presentations (Appendix 6), outline a Short Term Action Plan. A presentation by each group was made at the end of the Working Group Session. These Reports are in Appendix 7.

12.1 Discussion

There was no discussion on these reports. The Facilitator indicated this would be addressed after the formation of a Coordinating Unit.

13.0 Communication-Internet Access, Fisher Folk Net Newsletter, Stakeholders Directory, Website Development

This presentation was made by Dr. Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer, UWI-CERMES.

It was a thought provoking presentation that considered various forms of communication possible among NFOs and PFOs across the region. Identifying the computer as a tool that offers communicating systems such as providing internet access, website, and email, he raised such questions as who would be communicating for the NFOs and with whom; competence in using the system; access to computers; how would knowledge be transferred; who would develop the website etc.? Further what types of information did fisher folk research? Did they use the internet and for what purposes and were they comfortable with transferring information on the internet?

He indicated that the Stakeholder Directory currently being developed would be useful as it was intended to provide names and contact information for all fisheries and fisheries related business and personnel in the Region. He also noted that the Directory would have to be updated on a regular basis and signalled that some agency would have to be identified to do it.

Another form of communicating identified was the newsletter “Fisher Folk Net”, with two issues already having been published and distributed. Dr. McConney enquired as to whether the newsletter was being read and sought feedback on ways in which it can be improved. He also noted that its continued publication would have to be addressed as the Project had only catered for a limited number of issues.

Communication by way of physical exchanges or visits to other places to learn from experience was mentioned, with questions being asked as to their usefulness, focus, arrangements and funding.

13.1 Discussion

Fisher folk leaders were keen about improving communication and they identified some problems that needed to be addressed. A questionnaire (Appendix 8) to evaluate competence in the use of computers was circulated. Most participants were capable and did use computers but it was agreed that in the wider fisherfolk community, this was not the case. The reasons advanced were that fishers did not have the time, were afraid of new technology, did not know what was out there and had limited access. Belize indicated that they had a programme to train fishermen in internet and email use. Members of the cooperatives were invited and paid a stipend for the attendance. It was opined that the fishermen did not consider internet and email use to be useful but their children made use of the technology.

Some participants claimed that they had not seen the Newsletter, so they were asked to provide email addresses and Fisheries Department representatives were asked to make hard copies available to FFOs when such bodies did not have internet access.

14.0 Formation of a Regional Fisher Folk Organisation: Options

The Facilitator informed participants that the rationale and objectives for forming the RFO were similar to those given for the NFOs and PFOs, with the main points being:

- Community-based groups in pursuit of common goals could empower the individuals as well as the community.
- Empowered community based groups would be better able to widen the economic space for the members through means such as capacity building, advocacy, networking and by taking advantage of business opportunities.
- Community-based groups would have a higher profile and greater capacity than an individual and would be better able to contribute to co-management of the resource base in which members have a proprietary interest.
- Fisher folk organisations could make use of opportunities available for accessing assistance from both government and external agencies for institutional development.
- Community and political leaders have a need for focal points for forging legitimate community consensus.
- Conservation and management of fisheries and the ecosystem.

He noted that the Cooperative was the most common type of fisherfolk organisation in the region and took the opportunity to reiterate the seven principles of Cooperative: Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, Member Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation among Cooperatives and Concern for Community.

He further reviewed the possible types of organisations that could be considered, such as study group, association, cooperative, trade union, business firm, and limited liability company. He pointed out that in deciding on the form the regional body should take consideration should be given to what this RFO was expected to do, noting that its functions could include the following:-

- advocate for fisher folk throughout the region.
- be partners with government in fisheries governance.
- provide information to members on marketing, modern practices in fisheries, etc.
- undertake and carry out mercantile commercial, industrial or financial business activity.

14.1 Discussion

Based on a request, Trinidad and Tobago shared information on the formation of their NFO, indicating that the TTUF was formed under the Company Act 1993, which was based on the Canadian Model. The Articles of Association defined how the association would operate. It was

a non-profit company with limited liability and had to produce annual audited financial statements.

In response to “what will be the official and the legal authority of the RFO”, it was pointed out that the RFO would most likely have to be registered in one country and be governed by the laws of that country. It was recommended that the Articles of Association of similar regional bodies e.g. the Caribbean Agri Business Association (CABA), could be examined and a model identified.

15.0 Working Group Session

Following on 14, the Workshop broke into the four Working Groups with each group being given a topic to consider.

Group 1: Categories and Criteria for Membership of the Regional Network.

Group 2: Creation of a Coordinating Unit, and Identification of its Functions and Tasks

Group 3: Sustainable Financing of the Network

Group 4: Communication

15.1 Reports

The Working Groups presented their reports, but there were no discussions. However, it was agreed that the reports would guide the Coordinating Unit in finalising the Action Plan.

16.0 Day II Review

The Facilitator thanked the Day II co-chair and rapporteur then invited those for the final day to take their places. He noted that the deliberations so far had generated four sets of Goals, Objectives and Functions and these had been combined into one document by the resource persons and renamed *Goal, Objectives and Activities*. Also, four sets of activities which would constitute the main elements for the Short Term Action Plan had been identified. He indicated that the gaps in the circulation and distribution of the Newsletter and other outstanding items of this Workshop, including the appointment/election of a Coordinating Unit would occupy Day III discussions.

17.0 Finalising Previously Discussed Agenda Items

17.1 Training

The participants addressed the issue as to whether the Short Term Action Plan should include training for fisheries and cooperative personnel. They decided that it should not be included in the Plan as such training was dealt with by the departments and other government agencies. It was also agreed that training activities would be focused on fishers and fisher folk representatives, especially those in FFOs, with the Fisheries and Cooperative Departments providing technical assistance and training in their areas of competence. It was noted that the NFOs in the Member States could serve as the conduit through which technical assistance and training could be provided to PFOs.

The resource person from CERMES informed the participants that they had an eighteen month project, from October 1, 2007, for five selected CRFM countries that was undertaking socio-economic monitoring.

17.2 Review of Goals, Objectives and Functions (Activities)

The Facilitator called attention to the summary (Appendix 6) where the key elements from each group's presentation on goals, objectives and functions had been captured. It was noted that these elements should be used to finalise the goal (s), objectives and activities for the RFO, and used in the development of the Action Plan.

17.3 Establishment of the RFO

In order to establish the RFO, participants were asked to focus on its establishment and maintenance; its composition; its roles and tasks; and timeframe for completion.

Contributions in response to these matters included the following:

- the RFO should work to satisfy the needs of fisherfolk;
- the RFO should have access to government resources;
- fisherfolk needed to feel a strong necessity for having the organisation;
- the RFO needed to have strong institutional support e.g. from government;
- the RFO needed to have a resource person from the different communities who would be willing to assist when needs arose;
- the RFO would need financial support since not all PFOs would be able to contribute financially dues, as a significant amount of their funds come from projects, and most executive members are volunteers;
- NFOs needed to look at the RFO as a business, with trading as a possibility;
- the strengthening the PFOs would in turn lead to a stronger NFOs; and
- there should be outreach programmes to promote the value and importance of vibrant PFOs and NFOs.

The participants recognized the need to monitor and continue to participate in the delivery of the CTA/CRFM Project to ensure that all the activities were implemented and the objectives achieved.

17.4 Review and Refine the Short Tern Action Plan

The Workshop agreed to establish a Coordinating Unit comprised of fisher folk leaders who would have time and determination to implement the Short Term Action Plan that would lead to the creation of the RFO. The Fisheries and Cooperative Departments were also requested to provide support to this Unit.

It was noted that the Coordinating Unit could play a role in assisting Group 2 countries to complete the process that would result in the formation of their respective NFOs. Since, this activity was critical to achieving the critical mass of NFOs to establish the RFO.

17.5 Stakeholders Directory

The Workshop decided that the Draft Stakeholder Directory would be circulated by the CRFM to each Fisheries Department and NFO for review and feedback. It was also agreed that the representative from each country at the Workshop would be informed so as to ensure that the verification process is executed in a timely and thorough manner. The responsibility for future updating of the document was not spelt out, but it was opined that the RFO could play a role in this exercise.

17.6 Newsletter

The CRFM indicated its commitment to produce the newsletter to June 2008. It was suggested that after this period, the CRFM working with the NFOs, such as the one in Jamaica, would seek to continue this activity until the RFO was in place. Participants were encouraged to contribute articles for publication, and Group 2 countries were encouraged to provide progress reports on the formation of their respective NFOs.

Regarding distribution, participants suggested that some e-mail addresses should be changed and/or new addresses added in order for them to have access to the Newsletter. St. Kitts and Nevis and Suriname requested that the Newsletter be sent to their Cooperative Department and NFO respectively. St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize undertook to get hard copies to fishers.

17.7 Attendance at GCFI

CRFM indicated that it would be sponsoring four fisher folk leaders to attend the Conference from November 4 to 10, 2007, in the Dominican Republic. Participants were asked to consider the following points when making a nomination: the nominee's years of fulltime fishing experience; level of interest in the science aspects of fishing; be respected by fisherfolk as a leader; eager to participate actively at GCFI; can afford to take time off fishing to attend the meeting; willing to share GCFI experience on return and preferable have a US visa.

Based on the criteria given above, Mr. Winston Hobson (St. Kitts and Nevis), Mr. Mitchell Lay (Antigua and Barbuda), Mr. Havelan Honeyghan (Jamaica), Bevans Green (Belize) and Dexter Chance (Grenada) were proposed as possible attendees. The information for any nominee not present at the Workshop was to be sent to CRFM by Friday (October 5, 2007).

17.8 Countries Commitment to the Establishment of the RFO

Each and every country participant agreed in principle and made statements giving full support to the formation of a RFO.

Suriname pointed out that upon the return to their country, the fishers would want to know what would be the cost to be a part of the RFO. However, it was recognised that this could only be determined when a number of matters, such as the form of the organisation/network was being finalised.

17.9 Networking

It was decided that networking by the Coordinating Unit would be the basis of its operation and its initial work style would lend to the implementation of one of the network options discussed earlier. The Coordinating Unit (CU) would be expected to communicate with all the countries and keep them abreast of its implementation of the Action Plan.

17.10 Website

It was noted that when this aspect of the project came on-stream, the CRFM would contract a consultant to design the website, in consultation with the Coordinating Unit, Secretariat and CERMES.

18.0 Appointment of Coordinating Unit (CU)

The Workshop decided that the Coordinating Unit should have seven members (fisher folk leaders) with support from other agencies such as the Fisheries Departments, Cooperative Departments, CRFM, CERMES/UWI and IISD. The CU's Terms of Reference was to develop and implement an action plan for CARNUFO to become a reality. The Unit should correspond by electronic means, with the coordinator having access to an electronic medium. The members should have time to expend on the activities of the Unit. It was decided that the Terms of Office for the members of the CU would be up to the time of establishment of the RFO.

Suggested guidelines for the identification and nomination/election of fisherfolk to the three main positions of Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Secretary were presented to the Workshop. Among these were that participants should consider the skills of the person as they relate to his/her being a manager and leader, his/her experience in project planning, training, organisation and administration, communication and networking and financing.

Based on the above, the fisher folk leaders elected were:

- Coordinator - Mr. Mitchell Lay, Antigua and Barbuda
- Deputy Coordinator – Mr. Joslyn Lee Quay, Trinidad and Tobago
- Secretary - Ms. Nadine Nembhard, Belize.
- Committee members – Mr. Parmanand Sewdien, Suriname
- Ms. Vernel Nicholls, Barbados.

It was decided to start with 5 persons and give the Unit the opportunity to expand later by filling the remaining 2 positions.

The support persons elected were:

- Cooperative Officer – Mr. Chester Langaigue, Grenada
- Fisheries Officer – Ms. Petronila Polius, St. Lucia

The CRFM Secretariat, UWI/CERMES and IISD were identified as advisors.

The CRFM Secretariat undertook to bring the establishment of the CU and its membership to the attention of the Member States. The Coordinator of the CU made a presentation on the Fisher Folk Network and this was viewed as his acceptance speech on the Fisher Folk Network.

Following on the closing of the Workshop, the CU and resource persons outlined a Draft TOR and Action Plan/Work Programme Matrix. These are set out as Appendix 10.

19.0 Way Forward and Closure

The Programme Manager in giving consideration to the way forward indicated that the Group 2 countries would be expected to continue working to establish their respective NFOs and the CU would be expected to implement the Action Plan with a view to establishing the RFO by September 2008, with one of the earliest activities to be undertaken by the CU being the participation of the FFLs at GCFI meeting. He noted that the Workshop Report should be drafted and circulated for comments by the end of October 2007, with the final document being completed by the end of November 2007 for distribution to Member States and the CTA.

The Executive Director in his closing remarks thanked the Grenadian Government for hosting the Workshop and the participants who impressed him with the energy they displayed and their commitment. He urged the Group 2 countries to continue working to establish their NFOs. He noted that he was pleased with the zeal, interest and preparedness of the newly appointed Coordinating Unit in particular, the impressive vision of the Coordinator. Member states demonstrated seriousness since most were represented at the Workshop. He also thanked the resource persons and the Facilitator for their contribution over the three days.

Fisher folk leader, Mr. Honeyghan expressed thanks on behalf of the participants, noting that based on the number of participants and the intensity of the discussions, this was the best workshop he had attended.

The Facilitator thanked everyone and brought the Workshop to a close.

20.0 Review by Facilitator

20.1 Workshop Scope

The Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, CRFM Secretariat and the Facilitator discussed the Terms of Reference, and together with the resource person from CERMES/UWI developed the Agenda and agreed on the scope and orientation of the Workshop. The following key areas were identified to be addressed:

- Overview of the CTA/CRFM Project: Regional Network of National Fisher Folk Organizations
- Current and emerging challenges and concerns regarding fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development in the Caribbean
- Report from the National Consultations to launch NFOs in Group 2 ACP countries
- Caribbean regional network of national fisher folk organizations: options for networking, its goal, objectives, role, functions and decision-making mechanism
- Categories and criteria for membership of the regional network
- Formation of an RFO: regulatory and institutional requirements
- Determination of the contributions from members of the regional network
- Identification/creation of a network coordination unit, and definition of its functions and tasks
- Review of the Draft Stakeholders Directory for use by primary, national and regional fisher folk organisations, fisheries administrations, and other stakeholders to facilitate interaction on matters related to fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development
- Outlining of an Action Plan and the Way Forward.

20.2 Delivery of the Workshop

In keeping with the suggestion from the CRFM Secretariat to the Member States, the two participants attending the Workshop from each State were drawn from (a) the Fisheries Department or Cooperative Department and from (b) the National or Primary Fisherfolk Organisation.

The daily format for the workshop was to deliver a presentation or interactive exercise geared to provide knowledge, skills, competencies or attitudes on a salient topic, theme or issue, followed by relevant group exercises aimed at achieving specific outputs. Then, each group was required to make a presentation in plenary for discussion and recommendations, if necessary. In creating the four working groups which deliberated after each presentation care was taken to ensure the best mix that is no two persons from the same country should be in the same group.

The Workshop pointed fisher folk to the concept that CARNUFO would be their organisation and that they should decide on what it should be and how to make it work. Also, it sought to

assure them that strong support was always going to be offered by the agencies present. In addition, once they embraced the concept, are convinced of the purpose and value it would be as a result of their drive and urgency that the NFOs and consequently the RFO would be created.

20.3 Output and Follow-up Action

The expected outputs from the Workshop were:

- Common understanding of major current and emerging challenges and concerns regarding fisheries governance, conservation, management, trade and development at the national and regional levels.
- Expressions of interest from, and commitment of, main stakeholder groups to a regional network of national fisher folk organisations.
- Consensus built on the rationale, purposes, intervention areas and decision-making mechanisms for the regional network.
- Membership categories and criteria defined.
- Types of contributions from the members determined.
- A network coordination unit identified/created, and its functions and tasks defined.
- Action plan outlined.
- Stakeholder input into the Stakeholders Directory obtained.

The Workshop was a success in that it achieved all of the above. The outstanding achievement was the election of the Coordinating Unit, outlining its Terms of Reference, and developing an Action Plan. The CU immediately demonstrated some capacity and zeal by refining the Action Plan developed on the last day of the meeting. The way forward depends on the work of this Unit, with continued support from national and regional agencies.

21.0 References

McConney, P. 2007. Fisher folk organisations in the Caribbean: briefing note on networking for success. Report prepared for the of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, Belize City, Belize. 18 pp.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

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September 26, 2007

Final Agenda

**Regional Fisheries Stakeholder Workshop to promote the
Launching of a Caribbean Network of National Fisher Folk
Organisations**

26-28 September 2007

St. George's, Grenada

Day I – Wednesday, 26 September, 2007

08:30 – 09:45	Registration of Participants (CRFM Secretariat)
09:45 – 10:45	Opening Ceremony
Chairman	- Mr. Johnson St Louis, CFO (Ag)
Welcome	- Chairman
Remarks	- Mr. Hugh Saul, Executive Director, CFRM
Feature Address	- Hon. Gregory Bowen, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Utilities and Energy.
Vote of Thanks	- Mr. Francis Calliste, S.F.O

Co-chair (Fisher Folk Leader (FFL) and Facilitator)

10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 11:10	Introduction of Participants
11:10 – 11:30	Review of Agenda & Workshop Arrangements (CRFM Secretariat)
11:30 – 11:45	Presentation: Overview of the CTA/CRFM Project: Regional Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations (CRFM Secretariat)
11:45 – 11:50	Discussion

11:50 – 12:05	Presentation: Current and Emerging Challenges and Concerns regarding Fisheries Governance, Conservation, Management, Trade and Development in the Caribbean (UWI/CERMES)
12:05 – 12:45	Discussion
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 15:45	Country Reports/Updates and Discussions (Facilitator, Country Representatives)
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 16:15	Presentation: Report of the National Consultations to Launch NFOs in Group 2 ACP countries (CRFM Secretariat)
16:15 – 16:25	Discussion
16:25 – 17:00	Fisher Folk and Fisheries Scientist Linking and Learning Together (UWI/CERMES)
17.30 – 18.00	Debriefing Session (Co-chair, Rapporteur, Fisher Folk Leaders, Resource Persons)

Day II – Thursday, 27 September 2007

Co-chair (FFL and Facilitator)

09:00 – 09:20	Summary of Day I Discussions (Facilitator)
09:20 – 09:45	Presentation: Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations: Options for Networking, its Goal, Objectives, Role, Functions and Decision-making Mechanism (Facilitator)
09:45 – 11:00	Develop/Outline Goal, Objectives, and Functions of the Network (Working Groups)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>

11:15 – 11:45	Develop/Outline Goal, Objectives, and Functions of the Network (Working Groups Presentations & Discussions)
11:45 – 12:30	Outline a Short Term Action Plan (2008) (Working Groups)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Outline a Short Term Action Plan (2008) (Working Groups Presentations and Discussions)
14: 30 – 14:45	Communication – Internet Access, Fisher Folk Net Newsletter, Stakeholders Directory, Website Development (CERMES/UWI)
14:45 – 15:00	Discussion
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:15 – 15:40	Presentation – Formation of a Regional Fisher Folk Organisation: Options – Regional Cooperative, Regional Association, Regional Limited Liability Company, etc – Regulatory and Institutional Requirements. (Facilitator)
15:40 – 16:00	Discussion
16:00 – 17:00	Working Group Session. Working Groups to consider the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Categories and Criteria for Membership of the Regional Network. 2. Creation of a Network Coordination Unit, and Identification of its Functions and Tasks. 3. Sustainable Financing of Network. 4. Communication.
17:00 - 17:30	Working Groups Reports and Discussions
17:30 – 18:30	Debriefing Session (Co-chair, Rapporteur, Fisher Folk Leaders, Resource Persons)

Day III – Friday, 28 September 2007

Co-chair (FFL and Facilitator)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 09:00 – 09:20 | Summary of Day II Discussions (Facilitator) |
| 09:20 – 10:30 | Finalising Previously discussed Agenda Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Training Issuesii. Review the summarized group presentation on Goals, Objectives, Functions (Activities), Short Term Action Plan. |
| 10: 30 – 10:45 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 10:45 - 12:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Stakeholder Directoryii. Attendance at GCFI.iii. Countries Commitment to CARNUFOiv. The Newsletter.v. Networkingvi. Website Design. |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13:30– 14:30 | Appointment of Coordinating Unit. |
| 14:30 –14:45 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 14:45 – 15:30 | Way Forward and Formal Closure of Workshop |
| 15:45 – 18:00 | Terms of Reference and /Review and Refine Short Term Action Plan. (Coordinating Unit/Resource Persons) |
| 18:00 – 18:20 | Debriefing Session (Resource Persons) |

Debriefing Sessions Team Members

DAY I

Havelan D. Honeyghan	-	Jamaica
Heine Alexis	-	Grenada
George Looby	-	Antigua
Gregory Bethel	-	Bahamas

DAY II

Mitchell Lay	-	Antigua
Winston Hobson	-	St. Kitts/Nevis
Phillip Jackman	-	Barbados
Tenille Grant	-	Jamaica
Gregory Bethel	-	Bahamas

Plus Resource Persons

Patrick Mc Conney	-	UWI/CERMES
Brian Davy	-	IISD
Terrence Phillips	-	CRFM Sec.
Hugh Saul	-	CRFM Sec.
Reuben Charles	-	Facilitator

Composition of the Working Groups

Group 1

Parmanand Sewdien	-	Suriname
Vernell Nicholls	-	Barbados
Winston Hobson	-	St. Kitts/Nevis
Sherma Gomez	-	Trinidad and Tobago
Jennifer Cruickshank	-	St. Vincent and The Grenadines
George Looby	-	Antigua and Barbuda
Francis Calliste	-	Grenada
Chester Langaigne	-	Grenada
Reuben Charles	-	Facilitator

Group 2

William Gregory Bethel	-	Bahamas
Joslyn P. Lee Quay	-	Trinidad and Tobago
Tenile Grant	-	Jamaica
Eocen Victory	-	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Julius Henry	-	Dominica
Brian Dey	-	Guyana
Nadine Nembhard	-	Belize
Hugh Saul	-	CRFM Secretariat
Terrence Phillips	-	CRFM Secretariat

Group 3

Phillip Jackman	-	Barbados
Nadine Estephen	-	St. Lucia
Jaime Villanuevea	-	Belize
Bisram Somwaru	-	Guyana
Mitchell Lay	-	Antigua and Barbuda
Brain Davy	-	IISD

Group 4

Petronila Polius	-	St. Lucia
Clyde Thompson	-	St. Kitts
Andrew Magloire	-	Dominica
Havelan Honeyghan	-	Jamaica
Florance Holmes	-	Grenada
Royan Isaac	-	Grenada
Patrick McConney	-	CERMES

APPENDIX 5

Group reports					
	Main elements from the four reports	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ dissemination of information ▪ satisfy the needs of fishers ▪ improve the quality of life and earnings ▪ contribute to the management, use and conservation ▪ representation at the regional and national levels ▪ sensitization and awareness of legal frameworks ▪ promote intra regional trade and marketing ▪ increase the visibility of fisher folk in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create a regional network of fisher folk NFO's from among member country to improve their socio-economic condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The goal of the Regional Fisherfolk Organization (RFO) is to improve the quality of life and earnings of fisherfolk and contribute to the management and conservation of the marine resources.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representation at the regional levels ▪ Sensitization and awareness of legal frameworks governing the fishing industry ▪ Identify and satisfy the needs of fishers ▪ Representation at national levels ▪ Promote inter regional trade, marketing and information dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase the visibility of fisher folk in the region through the development of their collective socio-economic well-being and sustainable management and use of the marine resources
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop data and information, access, analysis and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop communication strategies for the 	<p>The objectives of the RFO are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilization of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To identify and train suitable persons to provide representation at the regional level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create a greater awareness of the mutual benefits and continuous

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ collaborate with government agencies in decision-making and policy ▪ facilitate sustainable financing ▪ utilize CSME opportunities ▪ provide training and technical assistance to build capacity in FFOs ▪ Promote unity among fisherfolk and their organization ▪ promote the development of value added fish products ▪ create a greater awareness of the mutual benefits and continuous contributions of fisheries to national and regional ▪ develop a system of advocacy to influence 	<p>accessing and analyzing of information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To partner with Government and fisheries agencies to allow participation of fisher folk in decision/ policy making. ▪ To facilitate assistance from donor agencies such as the funding of projects. 	<p>opportunities being offered by CARICOM Single Market Economy (CSME);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist National Fisherfolk Organizations (NFO's) in the region by providing training and technical assistance; ▪ Promote unity among fisherfolk and their organization; ▪ Represent the interests of fisherfolk at the national and regional level; ▪ Improve communication and information exchange among fisherfolk organization on fisheries and related issues; ▪ Facilitate trade and marketing of fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop databases (eg legal, safety etc), other information sources, for regional sharing ▪ Strengthen NFO's and PFO's. ▪ Collect, synthesize and disseminate appropriate data and information needed by all stakeholders 	<p>contributions of fisheries to national and regional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide education and training appropriate for improving the socio-economic well-being of fisher folk and the responsible use and co-management of marine resources ▪ To develop a system of advocacy, promotion and information sharing by fisher folk that influences policy decisions in marine resource management.
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	policy decisions		products; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the development of value added fish products. 		
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of fisher folks in communications Safety at Sea, Marketing, Processing, Quality Control, Book-Keeping, Management, Leadership Regular meetings with all stakeholders Develop need assessment programs Communicate on the CSME and its opportunities Facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology on fishing operations; Facilitate exchanges among and between fisherfolk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of fisher folks in the using of communication tools. Regular meetings with all stakeholders to accommodate the bottom up and top down approach. Develop need assessment programs. 	<p>The functions of the RFO are considered as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute information on the CSME and its opportunities; Provide training and technical assistance to the NFO's on the following and not limited to Safety at Sea, Marketing, Processing, Quality Control, Book-Keeping, Management, Leadership and information technology; Facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology on fishing operations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFO with suitable staff, equipment etc to make representation Generating and submitting monthly reports to members Biannual rotating face to face meetings Database creation and maintenance Emergency response and relief capabilities Linkage with academic, research and regional bodies (including CRFM) enhance communication between fisherfolk and fisheries managers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation, evaluation and dissemination of data Create a mechanism for education and training through mass communication

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in the fisheries management process (<i>data collection, analysis and management decision making</i>) ▪ Promotion harmonization in relation to fisheries policy at the regional and national levels. ▪ Operationalise the RFO ▪ Develop emergency response and relief capabilities ▪ Linkage with academic, research and regional bodies (including CRFM) ▪ Enhance communication between fisherfolk and fisheries managers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate exchanges among and between fisherfolk; ▪ Provide representation for FFO's at the national and regional for a; ▪ Facilitate the sharing of information by way of News Letters, Websites, etc.; ▪ Obtain and distribute marketing information (<i>supplies, requisites, information on fish trading, etc.</i>); ▪ Participate in the fisheries management process (<i>data collection, analysis and management decision making</i>); and ▪ Promotion harmonization in relation to fisheries policy etc. 		
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Summarised Goals, Objectives and Activities Elements

Goal Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dissemination of information - satisfy the needs of fishers - improve the quality of life and earnings - contribute to the management, use and conservation - representation at the regional and national levels - sensitization and awareness of legal frameworks - promote intra regional trade and marketing - increase the visibility of fisher folk in the region
Objectives Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop data and information, access, analysis and communication - collaborate with government agencies in decision-making and policy - facilitate sustainable financing - utilize CSME opportunities - provide training and technical assistance to build capacity in FFOs - promote unity among fisherfolk and their organization - promote the development of value added fish products - create a greater awareness of the mutual benefits and continuous contributions of fisheries to national and regional - develop a system of advocacy to influence policy decisions
Activities summaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training of fisher folks in communications, Safety at Sea, Marketing, Processing, Quality Control, Book-Keeping, Management, Leadership - regular meetings with all stakeholders - develop need assessment programs - communicate on the CSME and its opportunities - facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology on fishing operations; - facilitate exchanges among and between fisherfolk - participate in the fisheries management process (<i>data collection, analysis and management decision making</i>) - promotion harmonization in relation to fisheries policy at the regional and national levels. - operationalise the RFO - develop emergency response and relief capabilities - linkage with academic, research and regional bodies (including CRFM) - enhance communication between fisherfolk and fisheries managers

Short Term Action Plan from Groups

Group 1: Establish a RFO with suitable staff, equipment, etc. to make representation.

Activities

- Member countries establish NFO by the end of 2007.
- Select one member from each NFO to form a steering committee to lead the process of forming the RFO by mid-June 2008. Such actions would include drafting of legislation, deciding on location of head quarters, registration and launching of RFO.
- Seeking funding to obtain relevant equipment.
- Recruiting of staff to manage.
- Funding would be generated from the various organisations/ associations

Group 2: Activities in Relation to the Formation of NFOs

- Fisheries and Cooperatives Departments in each Group 2 country should assist in the completion of the process and formation by December 2007.
- CRFM should also continue its assistance in monitoring and providing assistance to each country.

Activities in Relation to the Formation of the RFO

- Determine the host/organization for the RFO.
- Develop the legal framework/constitutional arrangements for the RFO.
- Finalize the Action Plan and Budget.
- Establish a Steering Committee/Coordinating Committee (FFOs, DOFs, Coops Dept, CRFM Sec./UWI/CERMES).
- RFO to be fully established by December 2008

Critical Activities

- Training and technical assistance to the FFO's in leadership, management, book-keeping and information technology.
- Facilitate the sharing of information.

Group 3 Action Plan to 2008

- Formation of the RFO: request CRFM to continue process and finalize RFO legally as soon as possible hopefully by January 31, 2008.
- Develop/refine business plan, budget, timeframes and identify possible sources of resources (funders, nat'l and int'l).
- Network and Hub: Establish RFO as a hub with appropriate staffing, equipment, connectivity and communication. Plan and ensure suitable networking with NFO and PFO nodes in each partner country.
- Stage a “Flagship event” at RFO and national nodes with Ministers, press and other media to establish presence.
- Training, capacity development using available CRFM information.

Group 4: Facilitate Education and Training Activities

Determine training needs from existing and or develop needs assessment

Who: T & T NFO or Belize NFO in association with FD & Co-op departments

Time line

January 2008

Identify funding sources to meet training needs

Who: JICA, CIDA, CTA/CFRM, EU

Time line

March 2008

Identify resource persons, tools and materials

Who : Belize

Time line

March 2008

Dissemination/Sensitization of priority training

Who: DOF/Coop Dept., NFO/RFO

Time line

May-June 2009

Delivery of training

Who: the Identified resource persons

Time line
Sept. 2008

Monitoring of training effectiveness
Who: DOF/NFO

Time line
Nov. 2008

Computer Questions

Tick in the box, on choice only

Your name:
(so we can follow-up later with you)

1. To what extent are you a computer user? Not at all sometimes regular user

2. Do you have easy access to computer for working on fisher folk matters? Yes
No

3. Do you have easy access, do you use a computer now for:

a) word processing documents such as meeting minutes, letters, etc Yes
No

b) browsing the internet, using Google, surfing the World Wide Web Yes
No

c) sending and receiving email messages and attachments to others Yes
No

4. If you are not computer comfortable (said yes to most of the above), is there someone else in

your organisation who is good at the above

Working Groups Presentations

Group 1: Categories and Criteria for Membership of the Regional Network

Categories

- NFO of member countries.
- Recognised fisher association
- Associate members.
- Observers (NDF ,UWI,CERMES,GCFT,CFTDI).

Criteria

- Must be a member of the NFO and a recognized fisherfolk association.
- Interest in the development and sustainable use of the fishing industry.
- Board of Director /Management Committee to oversee the activities and operations of network.
- Observer groups can attend meetings but has no voting power.

Group 2: Creation of a Network Coordination Unit and Identification of its Functions and Tasks

The Network Coordination Unit should comprise a Steering Committee including the following:

- FFOS;
- Fisheries Departments;
- Cooperative Departments;
- CRFM performing secretarial duties; and
- UWI/CERMES providing support.

Note: CRFM will serve as the executing arm.

Objectives

- To ensure the RFO is established by September 2008; and
- To ensure the criteria for the establishment of the RFO are met.

Tasks

- Put in place a consultative mechanism;
- Examine models for bringing together stakeholders and organizations at the regional level;
- Monitoring and providing support for the NFOS;
- Determine the type of organization;
- Develop a constitution;
- Finalize the Action Plan and Budget; and
- Mobilize resources for the action plan.
- The Steering Committee will collaborate with CRFM for the delivery of training to FFOS.

Group 3: Sustainable Financing of Network

Conceptual Problem: Need to decide first on the legal form - cooperative or other.

Problem: Some NFOs /PFOs having member contribution schemes (e.g. cooperatives), but some do not (e.g .some associations).

Existing Regional Practise (a few examples):

-Barbados: national government provides a subvention plus an office

- Belize: national cooperative is funded by PFOs and donors.

Recommendation:

- If a cooperative model is adopted, all primary and national groups should contribute to the RFO.
- A diversified strategy of fund raising sources: local, national and international.
- This issue may need more study of existing mechanisms and discussion/evaluation of best option for CARNUFO RFO.
- RFO working with NFOs/PFOs needs to raise funds or in kind contributions from a variety of regional and international funding sources.
- Disaster and related activities may be special cases.

Group 4: Communication

- At the RFO level
 - Multiple nodes system with NFO communications focal point communicating with their representatives
 - Web site developed and maintained
 - E-mail groups
 - Launch of RFO to policy makers, funding institutions, media houses, educational institutions, businesses and other stakeholders
 - Annual meetings

- At the NFO level
 - Communications officer established within each member co-op
 - Organize talk show programs with policy makers and coordinators of NFO
 - Launch/existence of NFO to policy makers, funding institutions, media houses, educational institutions, businesses and other stakeholders
 - Community out reach (talks, demonstrations, exhibitions, workshops, face to face, brochure)
 - Quarterly meetings

A. Draft Terms of Reference for the Coordinating Unit (CU)

Composition of the CU

The CU will be made up of seven fisher folk leaders supported at the national level by the Fisheries and Cooperative Departments, and at the regional level the CRFM Secretariat, UWI-CERMES and IISD.

Role and Responsibility of the CU

The CU is charged with responsibility to:

- Promote the establishment of NFOs in Group 2 countries.
- Develop and execute the work plan to establish the RFO.
- Develop a promotional strategy and action plan to create awareness among the various stakeholders.

B. Outline of Action Plan / Programme of Work Matrix for the Coordinating Unit (CU)

Activity	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Resources
Encourage/assist Group 2 countries in the formation of their respective NFOs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Prepare and participate in GCFI – FFLs and Scientist Session	X	X	X													
Review Stakeholder Directory	X	X														
Contribute to and assist in the distribution of the Fisher Folk Net Newsletter.	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Participate in the process to develop the website for the RFO.							X	X	X	X	X	X				
Assist in the							X	X	X	X						

Activity	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Resources
organisation of and participate in the training workshop for fisher folk organisations.																
Participate in the CRFM FORUM						X	X									
Provide leadership and participate in the formation of the RFO.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Finalise the Action Plan and Budget for the RFO Coordinating Unit.	X	X														
Review existing regional stakeholder organisation models and determine a suitable one for the RFO.			X	X	X											
Develop the legal framework/ constitution for the RFO.						X	X									
Develop a strategic plan for the RFO.							X	X	X							
Develop an action plan for the RFO.							X	X	X							
Develop a business plan for the RFO.							X	X	X							
Mobilise resources.																
Launch the RFO.													X			
Address operational issues.										X	X	X	X			
Establish system for evaluation and reporting by the RFO CU.			X			X				X						
Obtain a list of key meetings and events.		X														
Arrange face to face meetings of the CU.			X			X				X						
Facilitate exchange between and among NFOs.																
Develop a communication plan.	X															

Activity	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Resources
Finalise the name and logo for the RFO.								X	X	X						
Establish contact with other regional and international NFOs.	X	X	X													
Promote communication among the NFOs	X	X	X	X	X											