



**OSPESCA FAO WORKSHOP
TOOLS TO COMBAT IUU FISHING
THE GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS
San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 6-9Th March 2012**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

(Non-professional translation by FAO consultant)

Opening of the workshop

1. Mr. Juan Carlos Ordoñez, Honduran Vice Minister of Livestock and Representative of the Pro Tempore Presidency of SICA/OSPESCA, was in charge of opening the meeting, together with Ms. Michele Kuruc, Coordinator of the Fishing Operations and Technology Service, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resource Use and Conservation Division, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO-Rome, Mr. John Jorgensen, Fisheries Officer for the Sub-regional FAO office for Central America, Ms. René Gutiérrez, Director General of DIGEPESCA and the Licenciado Mario González Recinos, Regional Director of SICA/OSPESCA. Attendance and participation of Ms. Alicia Mosteiro Cabanelas, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Consultant for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels and Dr. Mauricio Herdocia, OSPESCA Legal Consultant for Fisheries Legislation group was noted.
 2. Ms. René Gutiérrez, Director General of DIGEPESCA, welcomed the delegations and explained the importance of having a regional register and the usefulness of this instrument. She encouraged the delegates to reach the objective of elaborating a Regional Action Plan for the integration of the SIRPAC to the Global Record.
 3. Lic. Mario González Recinos, OSPESCA Regional Director, presented the framework of reference in which the workshop is framed, explaining OSPESCA structure and the strategic areas to be developed and that are envisaged in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy in the Central American Isthmus, highlighting that one of the "common strategic areas" is the "management" were the creation of the SIRPAC is envisaged. He presented the components of the Code of Ethics for Responsible Fisheries and Aquaculture in the States of the Central American Isthmus. He highlighted the cooperation that OSPESCA received from FAO in the following subjects: development of national action plans, shark action plan, fishing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. He presented the International Network of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and its activities and reminded the objectives of the current workshop. Finally, he thanked the FAO representatives, the presenting delegates and the Pro-Tempore Presidency for the support given to the organization of the workshop.
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4. Ms. Michele Kuruc mentioned the changes occurred in FAO with the new Director General, and addressed the following points: the importance of counting on adequate budget; the importance of the COFI report and the Regional Conferences and that in the reports the position of the countries attending the meeting should show. She thanked OSPESCA for the support given in the development of the workshop and mentioned that currently the losses estimated due to IUU fishing amount to 20-30 million US\$ annually. She reminded that this subject only reached global importance at the end of the 90s. She also highlighted the importance of "translating the documents into action" and indicated that the fishing monitoring, control and surveillance is weak compared to other problems as: transport of guns, drugs and others.

How much does it cost the IUU fishing? It hasn't been estimated in a precise way. She spoke of her experience in NOAA in law implementation. She explained the purpose of the workshop and the historical background from Costa Rica workshop in 2010. She reminded the group that many products that leave this region go around the world, which forces us to establish more strict rules for control and surveillance. "The region has momentum" she said, but, how do we get resources to keep these projects working?. She said that there are regions that do not have the advancements achieved in Centro America, and therefore this region should be proud. She defined the area as world leaders for transforming the words into action. She also mentioned that the final aim of the workshop would be to produce an action plan, collecting ideas and counting on the presence of John Jorgensen who can support the region in obtaining financing that can only be obtained from here.

5. The Vice Minister, Mr. Juan Carlos Ordóñez congratulated Mr. Graziano da Silva, FAO Director, welcomed the delegations and made reference to the approved Centro American Agricultural Policy and to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy for the Central American Isthmus. Within this Policy, the IUU fishing is contemplated. He reaffirmed that workshops as this one, feed the central American integration and the benefits arrive and impact many people in the region that most probably do not know of the existence of our organizations. He signaled that these workshops give guidance to work at political level. Finally, he inaugurated the event.

Development of the workshop

Day 1

6. Dr. Mauricio Herdocia, SICA/OSPESCA Legal Adviser, presented "The SIRPAC in the SICA Governance Model and the Legal Framework for the Central American integration" explaining the SICA "Governance Model" and explaining the legal framework in which the SIRPAC is framed. He raised several articles of Regulation OSP 01-09 of the Integrated System for Fisheries and Aquaculture Central America Registry (SIRPAC), in order to better explain its purpose. He mentioned the

importance of the international cooperation that OSPESCA gets and that has been crucial for the development of this Model. He finished his presentation enumerating some of the conclusions for the consolidation of the Governance Model 2005-2015.

7. Ms. Michele Kuruc explained the Objectives of the Workshop and referred to the document of the Technical Consultation. She mentioned the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) as an example of the priority that the international community is giving to the IUU fishing problem. She spoke of the difference between the English concepts of "registry" which is the maritime registry and the "record" which is the list of fishing vessels, the "registry" is the legal personality of the vessel. Paragraph 42 and 43 of the International Plan of Action (IPOA FAO) describes what a "record" is. She indicated that the objective of the workshop is to develop a final plan of action, which is not a short term project and that it is necessary to have a good action plan and search funds to develop it. The plan must have, the actions to be developed and how. She indicated that the methodology could be developed through informative sessions, retro-feeding sessions and working groups. She explained the chronology of the Global Record, referred to the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) and to Table No. 4 of the Technical Consultation. She highlighted OSPESCA advancements and the importance of the COFI "drafting committee" that is in charge of writing up the report. She commented aspects of the PSM Agreement that were related to the registry and the record and the port state cooperation. She referred to the website: www.fao.org/fishery/global-record/en . She made clear that the Record will not include recreational vessels or container ships. She explained the different phases in which the Global Record (GR) will be developed. She mentioned that HIS Fairplay issues the IMO numbers and it is free. She referred to how the GR would be and the subjects addressed in the Costa Rica workshop of 2010. She listed the following steps; for OSPESCA: identify the needs and how to satisfy them; strengthen the national registers; work in the UVI; identify modules and essential and complementary data; adopt and implement other complementary initiatives like NPOA-IUU, RPOA-IUU, development of a regional MCS network, PSMA. For FAO: build capacities; other important initiatives like the PSMA, Flag State, capacity IPOA, the IMCS network, The Compliance Agreement, the COFI, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and complementary measures.
8. SIRPAC presentation: Lic. Mario González explained the procedures from the institutional and legal point of view and the role of governments dealing directly with OSPESCA. He explained the binding agreement. Ing. Jorge Fernández explained the history of SIRPAC creation, explaining the criteria used for the registration in the record and that parallel to this, the regional regulation was developed. He signaled that common factors were identified in all countries and these were transferred to the Fisheries Regulations Harmonization Group for the development of the legislation; optional data were defined. Establishing the profile of the SIRPAC liaisons: people and responsibilities. Unification of: information to be used, measuring units and mechanisms of updating. "Informatics technology" was defined: it was decided to develop it in the SICA informatics platform with the

support of that Organization, a relational database, SQL. He explained that each country has 3 licences for the access to information and that two systems were developed to access the data: private and public. He explained the work developed for the elaboration of the respective Regulation, through workshops. In his view, the key factors for success were: direct participation by responsible people, provision of time and information, collaboration of Directors, appropriate guidance by the Regional Directorate of OSPESCA. He spoke of the difficulties encountered like: staff turnover, administrative and institutional changes, lack of coordination and communication among institutions authorizing the fishing and those authorizing the navigation, respectively. Among the benefits: the access to information on Centro American vessels, exchange of information, harmonization of registers and the work culture. He defined the next steps: implementing an artisanal vessel register, integration of Dominican Republic registers.

Countries presentations

Each delegation proceeded with presentations on their respective national registration systems for the national fleet: operational needs, gaps, weaknesses, and expected special requirements in order to adapt to the Global Record initiative.

9. COSTA RICA, José Rafael Centeno. He presented the legal background of INCOPECA, making reference to human resources dedicated to vessel registration. He described the fishing fleet composition in Costa Rica as well as the foreigner fleet, nature and extent of the fisheries MCS strategy. OPERATIONAL NEEDS, depurate the database, field inspection programme, move from an LOA based system to a carrying capacity-based system, and improve the monitoring, control and surveillance satellite tracking system. GAPS, vessels built without knowledge of INCOPECA. The autonomy does not correspond to reality; there is a great amount of non authorized vessels, needed coordination with the national registry. WEAKNESSES, it is easy to duplicate a vessel. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS, improvement of the national registers, institutional improvement.
10. EL SALVADOR, Alejandro Rosa showed screenshots from their register, and an example of documents provided to fishermen. The fishing fleet is not totally located due to the lack of a law enforcing VMS. GAPS, the full potential of VMS is not developed, lack of autonomy in the management and administration of the system. WEAKNESSES, there is no independence from CENDEPECA, duplicity of information and competencies, the system design imposes the use of a document, input of much irrelevant and unnecessary information.
11. GUATEMALA, Freddy Góngora explained the institutions and the change of name of the fishing authority. NEEDS, creation of informatics application (software), equipment like cameras, scanners and others. GAPS, there is no specific regulation with functions, attribution and data. WEAKNESSES, diversity of formats, much information is still on paper, lack of knowledge regarding the existence of standard codification systems at national level, insufficient staff, lacking equipment, the

organization of the directorate does not include the register. REQUIREMENTS, capacity building and a better inter-institutional coordination, especially with National Defense Navy and Customs.

12. HONDURAS, Rafael Echenique presented the function of the Maritime Fisheries Department and the last census of the fishing fleet. He spoke of the system for extending the licences and the need to boost capacity for the strengthening of the Maritime Department. WEAKNESSES, limited budget, limited inter-institutional coordination. Finally, he described the elements that include the national fishing register.
13. NICARAGUA, Verónica Bello presented the type of licences that are provided, as well as the type of registration done in the fishery register and the procedure for the registration of the access rights, specifying the artisanal fisheries cases, the basic documents for granting access rights. She provided the number of registered vessels in the register, 446, which includes the vessels that are not in Nicaraguan waters. She gave details on the existing human resources, 8 inspection chiefs, 17 inspectors and 5 administrative staff. WEAKNESSES, only a logbook, limited resources to compile information on the artisanal fisheries permits granted by local governments. The SIRPAC does not keep historic data, the system is slow.
14. PANAMA, Mario Quiroz explained the legal basis of the ARAP, the organizational structure of the Administration, the type of fishing licence granted and the actions of Panama against IUU fishing including sanctions, specific actions like the National Plan of Action to fight IUU fishing. He described the registration system of the fleet. NEEDS, technological support. WEAKNESSES, limited human resources. He explained the system to control international licences.
15. REPUBLICA DOMINICANA, Jeannette Mateo spoke of the effect of IUU fishing in the Dominican economy and presented data of vessels and fishermen as well as the type of fishing which is predominantly artisanal. The fishing registration system has field recorders which are people that take data in the landing sites. The inspectors supervise the field recorders. She explained the activities within the registration system and the monitoring and implementation of closed seasons, the extension of permits and the non-objection certificates. OPERATIONAL NEEDS, create a webpage, integrate catch analysis into the system, support to the institutional strengthening, and improve coordination with other institutions: Marine, Customs, and Environment. REQUIREMENTS, a promotional campaign, financial and technical support.

Team discussions

16. ALICIA MOSTEIRO, explained the components of a register, the structure of the questionnaire, the information modules and introduction. She explained the

different uses of a fishing register: fleet census, control of the licensing system, catch assessment, socio-economic surveys, and landing sites. She enumerated the components of a register: fields of information, definitions and references (codification system) the functionalities of the system, management of users. Then, she explained in detail the structure of the questionnaire in the following way: Section I, National Register of Fishing Fleet, and Codification (with international standards): ASFIS list of commercial species (ES, EN, FR, scientific), ISO codes for countries. Definitions, licences, quality control. She revised the subjects of: national fisheries statistics, Fishing Fleet Census, CAS (catch assessment survey), logbook and others (socio-economics), statistic bulletin, the human resources, equipment, budget, inspection and vessels, VMS.

17. WORKING GROUPS. With the purpose of revising the fields that integrate a register, the delegates were organized in 3 working groups, each one of them integrated by at least one delegate of each national fisheries office. Each group analyzed the fields of the different modules integrating the questionnaire with the purpose of obtaining the following: a recommended list of data fields considered as essential or complementary for their integration to the Global Record; a document of definitions agreed for those data and a list of references for them. In the same way, taking into account possible future financing (from FAO or another source) of the necessary activities, both at national and regional level, in order to move forward in the region towards the global record, present proposals on the necessary actions to correct situations of gaps and weaknesses at institutional, operational level, or on resources, cooperation and others. Proposals of activities focus on the improvement or development of the national and regional registration systems towards a future integration with the Global Record. The Group No. 1 revised the modules corresponding to "Fisheries" and "Compliance"; group No. 2 was focused on the modules "Equipment" and "Ownership" and group No. 3 to "Identity Information".

Presentations by working groups

18. Group 1. Speaker Ibrahina Blandón, Fisheries and Compliance modules. **RECOMENDATIONS:** Technical-Economical Support to carry out a Regional workshop to revise the homologation of national and international concepts and the procedures regarding the National Registers, The Regional Register (SIRPAC) and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 2. Economical support to carry out National Workshops of promotion and validation of concepts, information, forms and procedures that are required to implement the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 3. Carry out capacity building activities for the public officers involved in the management and input of information for the National, Regional Registers and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 4. Support for the creation of capacities and equipment of the competent Authorities regarding implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 5 Technical-economical support for the countries interested in implementing the Port State Measures, either as signatories of the

Agreement or as a cooperating party. 6. Support the procedures for approval of the Fisheries Laws in the region and other regulations that would facilitate the operability and the legal framework for entry into function of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 7. Support the automation processes (digitations) and updating of information required to comply with the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. 8. Support for the elaboration and printing of guidelines and manuals for the operability of the information system of the registers. 9. Establish a Follow up Commission for the formulation of the proposals integrating the recommendations issued from the results of this workshop.

19. Group 2. Speaker Jorge Mejía. **RECOMENDATIONS:** A regional meeting is suggested in order to carry out the updating of the registers and interface software to be integrated in first place to the regional register and then to the global. It is pointed out that the Dominican Republic does not have interface software. 2. A regional meeting is suggested to harmonize the terms, providing initial information of the international terms in Spanish. 3. Need to update the regional register software and elaborate clear manuals and guidelines. 4. The Unique Vessel Identifier should have 7 digits with substantial input from FAO. 5. Take into consideration the photograph registry for vessels. 6. The promotion of a unique registration number (UVI) among fishing vessel owners: recruitments, consultancies, equipment. 7. Acquisition of datafonos for insertion of the information by the inspectors. 8. Specific capacity building activities for the use of the regional register and the Global Record of vessels. 9. Elaborating manuals and guidelines on the regional register and the global record. 10. Development of information systems that would allow for real-time statistics on the fishery resources and therefore on the vessels that integrate the regional fishing fleet. 11. Elaboration of promotional material and promotional campaigns – forms, to inform the owners of the fleets. 12. Beacon acquisition to be installed in vessels of the region that do not have this device yet.
20. Group 3. Speaker Freddy Góngora, **RECOMENDATIONS:** 1. The definitions that should be included in the register were suggested with their meaning. 2. Revise the terms of codification of FAO and the ISO norms. The working matrices of each group are included as **Annex 1** of the Regional Work Plan.

Presentations of FAO projects

21. John Jorgensen, presented FAO presence in Central America and the Caribbean, the FAO organizations present in the area (COPACO, COPESCAL) and the form in which FAO supports the countries. He described what a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is. He defined the objectives of the TCPs and the procedure for the countries to request a TCP. The maximum amount to be requested is around US\$ 500,000.00 and no more than 24 months with extension to 36 months. He explained the fund of the TCP (TCPF) that is a frame project for which several requests of specific assistance can be filed. He gave details on what should be included in a request for financing. He presented some of the data on the Central America Fisheries. He spoke of the fisheries situation giving numbers of fisheries,

habitat destruction, fishermen vulnerability, invasive species, and poor statistics. He explained the FAO priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean: food security, plant health, climate change, support to family agriculture, institutional capacity building. He explained the work plan: spiny lobster working group FAO/OSPESCA/CRFM, support to the implementation of the CCRF, stocking, aquaculture diagnosis.

22. Michele Kuruc, explained the ISSF Programme www.iss-foundation.org describing the process to get the UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier). She spoke of the role of the Flag State and the Technical Consultation that took place in Rome. She elaborated on the PSM Agreement of FAO, as a binding agreement, its key points like the emphasis on the Port State, the procedures, information that should be provided, Article 21 on the provision of funds. She explained GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and the possibility to obtain funds from this programme. She informed on the International Network of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS Network) and the activities programmed for the future and that the 4th workshop in Global Fisheries Training that will take place in Central America. She invited to write for the bulletin of the IMCS network. She invited the countries to attend COFI and mainly to participate in the "Drafting Committee". She commented on Article 19, of the Port State Measures agreement, on information that should be public.

Team discussion on the Work Plan

23. With the aim of discussing and designing the Work Plan in order to achieve integration of the SIRPAC to the Global Record, the same working groups were organized to work in the following way: **Group 1: Identification of Strategies for the evolution of the SIRPAC towards the Global Record.** Search of collaboration and sources of financing. **Group 2: Identification of actions at regional level.** That should be executed to comply with the international prerequisites that would demand a future integration into the Global Record. Including capacity building activities, workshops, seminars. **Group 3: Identification of actions at national level.** Define the possible adjustments and modifications in the structure of the national registers. Measures for the development and improvement of capacities.
24. Each Group presented proposals of actions, recommending timing for its execution. In the case of Group 1, the compliance strategies were presented with a conclusion.

Closure of the workshop

25. The Closing Ceremony of the Workshop was chaired by Mr. Ing. Jacobo Regalado, State Secretary for the Agriculture and Fisheries Office and President Pro Tempore of SICA/OSPESCA, together with Ms. Michele Kuruc, FAO Representative Rome, Mr. John Jorgensen from FAO Centro America and Mr. Otto Wantland, representative of OSPESCA.