

**SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES
PROGRAMME
(SWIOFP)**

NEWSFLASH 2: JUNE 2003

*An occasional newsletter to update
members of SWIOFP on current
developments.*

Following on from last month's newsflash it is now possible to report on additional positive developments in the SWIOFP programme. There has been considerable international exposure to the programme and the development of working groups is forging ahead.

Administration

- The appointment of an executive secretary to SWIOFP is imminent, in response to the advertised position.
- There has been considerable activity in developing a SWIOFP web site. The selection of a suitable company to design and host the site needs to be finalised, although a considerable amount of the content has already been compiled. Members will be canvassed for their input and opinion in regard to the design and content of this site.
- A number of agencies and institutions responded positively to the first Newsflash and asked to be included in future mailings and possible collaboration.

Programme development

A call for the hosting of the Theme Working Groups was made by the secretariat, as indicated in the last Newsflash. In response, South Africa reacted on a most positive note and are now in the process of arranging the first Scientific Programme Working Group – probably for August. Dr Johan Groeneveld from Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) has been appointed the focal point and leader of this group and he will contact members in this regard. All members are strongly urged to participate in this all-important group so as not to forfeit their opportunity to contribute to the science development of the overall SWIOFP programme.

It is also gratifying to report that France has formally declared its intention to support and participate in the SWIOFP programme. As a developed nation with considerable interests and influence in the West Indian Ocean this is indeed good news.

Programme Progress

It is useful to reflect on programme progress on a regular basis and hence the Programme Schedule will be updated and included in each Newsflash to indicate the level of progress in the programme.

INTERIM PROGRAMME			
<i>Task</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Confirm appointments to secretariat.	Appoint	Final candidate selected	By end June 2003
Initiate the 3 main working groups in respective host countries	Approve plans and budgets for working groups;	Science programme underway in SA.	Completed by end September 2003
Create basic SWIOFP Website	Design and host, Compile content- send out for review	Web Company to be selected. Draft of content designed	By end July 2003
Interface with other WIO programmes, including LME	Document other programmes; circulate- establish links.	Part complete- e.g. French WIO initiative	By end July 2003
Final project vision document submitted to GEF	Compile draft ; circulate	Basic template designed	By November 2003

Events and Meetings

From the 3rd to the 5th of June, the French authorities hosted an international meeting in La Reunion, to explore possible collaborative themes for research in the Indian Ocean. Although the topics covered ranged widely from health and culture through to natural resource management, there was a keen focus on marine matters. More than 300 delegates attended and the SWIOFP enjoyed considerable exposure as an example of regional collaboration. Although the meeting was exploratory in nature, there was strong recognition of the existence and anticipated role of SWIOFP.

We urge you to contact us at the SWIOFP secretariat with ideas, advice and comment. This programme remains one of the finest opportunities our collective countries will have to ensure long-term sustainable development of the West Indian Ocean. As such it deserves the support of all.

“Tongue Twister”

Many of us have lamented the name SWIOFP, as being unimaginative and hardly rolling of the tongue with ease! We are receptive to the idea of a new Acronym, preferably a name that reflects a more indigenous feature of our participating countries. Any suggestions?

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