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Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the introduction of By-catch
Reduction Technologies and Change of Management
(EP/GLO/201/GEF)

Summary Record of Project Task Force meeting, held at FAO HQs, Rome, 30 May 2006

Attendance

Members: Grainger, FIDI (Chair)
Csirke, FIRM
Bianchi, FIRM
Moth-Poulsen, FIIT
de la Rocha FIDP
Barg FIRI
Kuemlangan LEGN
Skonhoft, LEGN
Fogelgren FIIT

Invited: Thiele (Project Coordinator) FIIT

Absent with apologies:
Turner, FIIT

Agenda:

- Project status report and planned activities in 2006.
- Visit by Mr. Nakamura, UNEP, to FAO 1-2 June.
- Any other business

Introduction

After welcoming the participants and introducing the agenda, Mr. Grainer invited the Project Coordinator, Mr. Thiele, to brief the meeting on the current status of the project, as well as planned activities in 2006.

Status report and planned activities in 2006

Mr Thiele gave a power point presentation (see annex 1).

The overall pace of the implementation of the project activities continues to be satisfactory. Recognising the different stage of the project implementation in the participating countries, and following the suggestions of the third International Project Steering Committee, there is a need for a mid-term meeting of all the National Project Coordinators in order to evaluate achievements and to exchange experiences and views on the project work in the future. The meeting is scheduled for October 2007, kindly hosted by the Philippines.

What must be done before the current NTE date of May 2007:

- Conduct further research on BRDs in all countries;
- select an appropriate device which fits the requirements of the country (in the Caribbean it will be the Mexican prototype trawl with possible fish eyes, in the Asian region the JTED developed by SEAFDEC, Iran will use Australian BRDs on industrial trawlers, and square mesh windows/codends on dhows, Nigeria and Cameroon square mesh windows/codends and T90 codends)
- review, and if necessary revise the national legal frame works (work started with Indonesia, FAO legal department is involved)
- strengthen the cooperation between countries and regions.

FAOs obligations:

- Publication on Shrimp fishing (under preparation B. Gillett study)
- By-catch guide published in English and Arabic, whereas Spanish and French version under preparation
- Inventory of legal and policy frame work (done)
- Project web site established and reports are posted on it.

Visit by Mr. Nakamura, UNEP, to FAO 1-2 June.

Mr. Nakamura, Project Management Officer, International Waters, UNEP/GEF, will visit FAO HQ 2-3 June. The visit was initiated by FIIT since UNEP, although being the Implementing Agency, had so far not attended any of the project meetings they had been invited to.

Topics of particular concern to discuss will be:

- the project budget, especially the allocation to FAO which provides an unrealistically low budget for the Project Officer.
- the mid-term project evaluation: whether there is a need for one, and how it would be funded.
- extension of the project duration: given the slow start, and that some 45% of the budget remains with only one year left.
- FAO has received a proposal from BBC to make a documentary about the project. The estimated cost is €55.000, and UNEP will be asked if they can identify all or part of the funding.
- interest from UNEP whether FAO can initiate the process of a second project with similar objectives, but involving other countries.

The visit by Mr. Nakamura will be an opportunity also for other FAO colleagues who are working with the UNEP IW programme, to discuss problems/constraints.

Any other business

No other matters were discussed.

Closure

Mr Grainger concluded that after some initial difficulties, the project is now making improved progress. He thanked the participants for their contribution to the meeting, and in view of Mr. Thiele's departure, he extended his gratitude for the services extended to the project, and his active involvement in the project. The meeting was advised that Mr. Moth-Poulsen will take over as Project Coordinator on an ad interim basis, pending the selection of Mr. Thiele's successor.

GEF /FAO Project
“Reduction of Environmental Impacts
from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, trough the
Introduction of By-catch Reduction
Technologies and Change of
Management”

Third Meeting International Steering Committee
Bandar Abbas; Iran
25 – 27 April 2006



GEF /FAO Project

“Reduction of Environmental Impacts from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the Introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management”

Status of the project by end of May 06

Wilfried Thiele

Project Coordinator FAO





- The reduction of by-catches and discards of unwanted catch is thus a policy for many States, as well as for an increasing number of regional and sub-regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements. The reduction of discards, and the environmental impact of this, is a priority activity under FAO's Regular Programme, and is addressed specifically in the rolling Medium-Term Plan entitled "Reduction of discards and environmental impact from fisheries" which includes the evaluation of by-catches and discards resulting from various fisheries, plus assessment of the impact of trawling and other similar fishing methods on the sea-bottom, and on the environment in general.



- **Additional to the RP funds The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided funds to a joint FAO/UNEP project on “*Reduction of environmental impact from tropical shrimp trawling, through the introduction of by-catch reduction technologies and change of management.*” The project commenced in July 2002.**



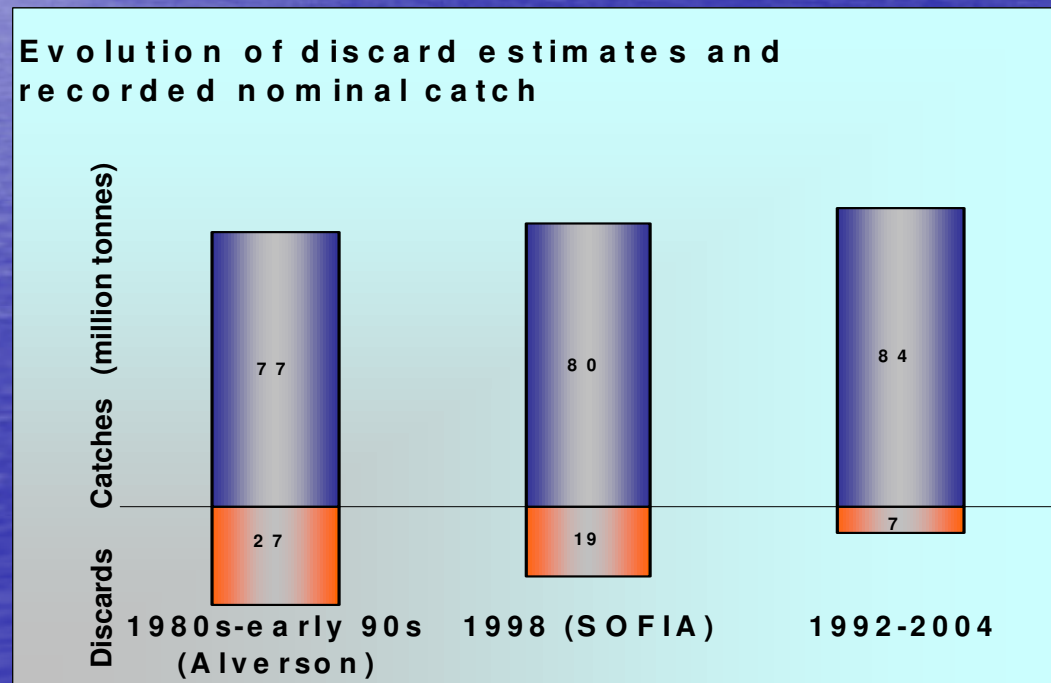
- **Twelve countries and one Intergovernmental Organisation are participating in the project. Asia is represented by Indonesia and the Philippines, Western Africa by Nigeria and the Cameroon, the Gulf Region by Iran and Bahrain, and Latin America and the Caribbean by Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela.**
- **Following the Inaugural meeting held in Mexico in September 2002, the participating countries developed work plans, and the project activities started.**
- **Recognising the different stage of the project implementation in the participating countries, and following the suggestions of the International Project Steering Committee there is a need for a mid term meeting of all national Coordinators in order to evaluate achievements and to exchange experiences and views about the project work in the future.**



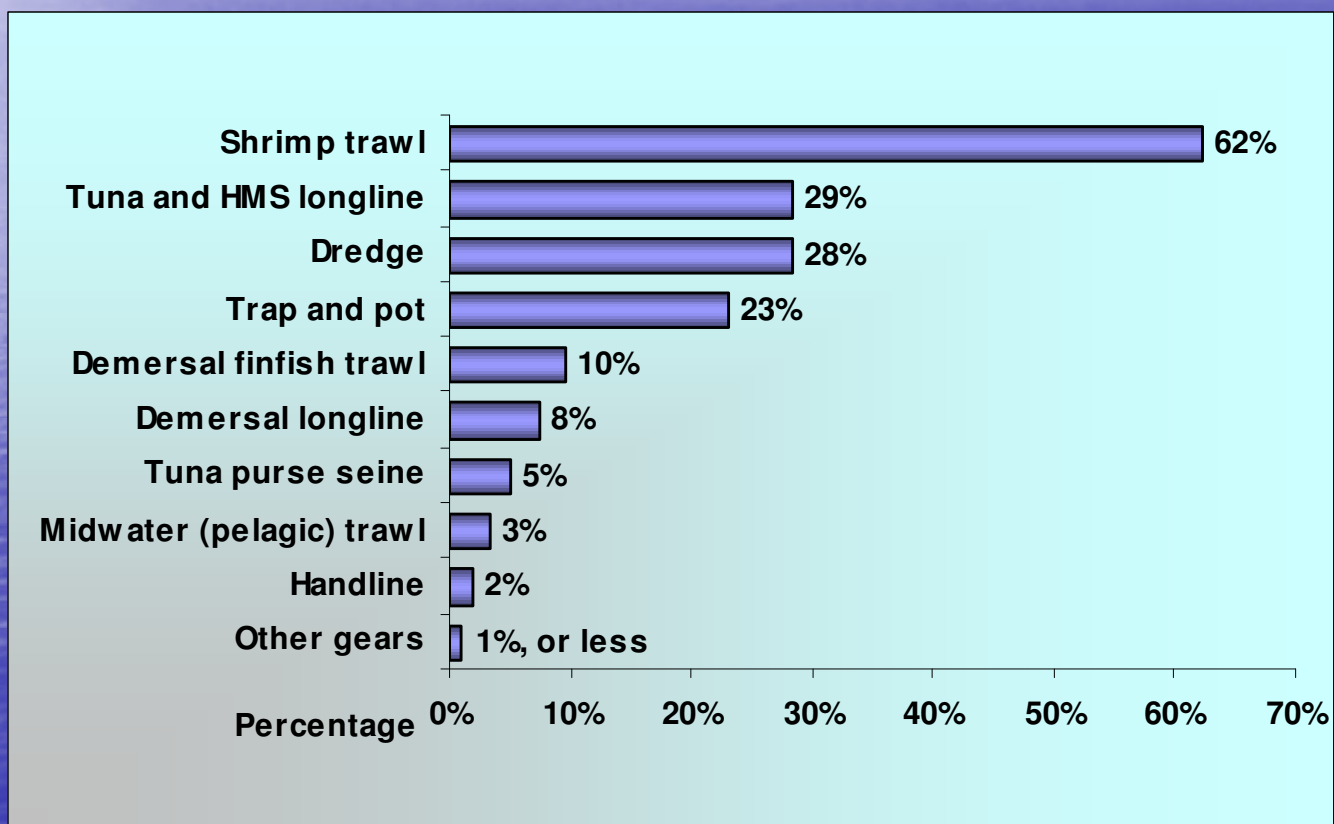
- **FAO has published an updated estimate on global discards. In general, it is stated there has been a substantial reduction in discards since the first assessment was made in 1994. There are two major reasons for this reduction:**
 - **Use of more selective fishing gears, the introduction of by-catch and discard regulations and improved enforcement of regulatory measures; and**
 - **Increased retention of by-catch for human or animal food, as a result of improved technologies and expanding market opportunities.**

Evolution of discard estimates and recorded catches

The sum of the recorded discards is 6.8 million t with respect to a total recorded catch of 78.4 million t. The global summed discard rate is 8.0% (quantity of discards as a percentage of the total catch).



Discards by major gear types





- **Where are we in the project execution**
 - **Our start was slow, mainly caused by difficulties in administrative procedures in FAO as well as in the participating countries**
 - **After solving those problems, we made good progress in all countries**
 - **According to the individual workplans the status of the project is different in each country**



- **Bahrain**

- **conducting of a regional demonstration and training course in October 2004**
- **Awareness campaign**
- **Attendance of Bahrain experts on a Workshop in Iran**



- **Cameroon**

- National Steering Committee was formed and meet regularly
- Cooperation with Nigeria is established
- Workshops in Nigeria were attended by people from Cameroon
- Observer programm and data collection is ongoing
- Training and demonstration cruise was conducted, supported by external experts
- The political will to introduce BRDs is high
- Problem: Lack of funds
- How can the ISC help?
- Nigeria will support (participation of Cameroonians experts in meetings etc.)



- **Colombia**

- **National Steering Committee established and meets regularly**
- **Workshops and training courses on both coasts are conducted**
- **Transfer of Mexican technology under progress**
- **First results from trials with the transferred Mexican technologies were very promising**
- **Unwanted by-catch could be reduced by 22%, fuel consumption of vessels was reduced by 20%**
- **Problem : Lack of funds, financial help is needed!**
- **Mexico will provide nets and material for further project activities in Colombia**



- **Costa Rica**
 - National Steering committee established,
 - Problems in the project execution, because of administrative difficulties
 - Cooperation with Mexico is established
 - Costa Rican experts participated in trials/WS in Mexico
 - Workshops and tests of BRDs with support of Mexican consultants are under preparation
 - Additional to the technical work assistance in the development of the legal framework is needed



- **Cuba**
 - **National Steering Committee established, which meets regularly**
 - **Several experiments with BRDs (Fisheyes)**
 - **Cooperation with Mexico established**
 - **First joint trials with Mexican experts were done**
 - **Cooperation with Costa Rica on by-catch utilisation**



- **Mexico**
 - **National Steering Committee established**
 - **Several trials with BRDs and the new trawl concept**
 - **Same delays because of outstanding training from SIMRAD**
 - **Training courses will take place from June to September 06**
 - **Preliminary results from commercial vessels shows a reduction of by-catch between 30 and 60%, fuel savings rate around 50%**
 - **New technology is accepted by the fishermen and 140 vessels are using the new devices**
 - **Leading country in the Caribbean region, all regional activities depends on availability of Mexican experts.**



- **Nigeria**

- **National Steering Committee established**
- **Programme on data collection, socio economic effects has started**
- **experiments with BRDs supported by external experts**
- **First results are good, the percentage of marketable fish in the codends was increased and discards considerably reduced**
- **Effort has been focused on TED installation in order to be recertified for export to the US**
- **Cooperation and support to Cameroon**



- **Indonesia**

- National Steering Committee established
- Training courses and workshops in different areas conducted
- JTEDs, developed by SEAFDEC are the chosen devices
- WS IN Merauke shows clear that some more work (training/demonstration) is needed to introduce by-catch reduction technologies
- Awareness campaign on by-catch problems has started
- Assistance in development of legal framework is needed
- Cooperation with SEAFDEC and Philippines



- **The Philippines**
 - National Steering Committee established
 - Workshops and training Courses in different regions
 - Data collection and awareness campaign
 - Cooperation with SEAFDEC and Indonesia
 - Good progress in implementation
 - Three different types of BRDs are under investigation, results shows by-catch reduction between 33 and 68%
 - 18 trawlers are using the new technologies voluntarily
 - A Workshop on Implementation of BRDs in Samar Sea Region is under preparation



- **SEAFDEC**
 - Assistance to Philippines and Indonesia
 - Development of BRDs and TEDs fitting the regional requirements
 - Development of promotion material
 - Support to other countries in development of by-catch reduction technologies By Experts from SEAFDEC
 - Lack of funds, financial support from other countries is needed (Philippines and Indonesia will finance SEAFDEC experts)



- **Trinidad & Tobago**

- **National Project Steering Committee established**
- **Public Awareness campaign**
- **Data collection in continuing (Observer Programme)**
- **Cooperation with Venezuela and Mexico in preparation**
- **First trials, supported by Mexican experts will start in July**
- **Aiming to introduce the Mexican technology**
- **Some activities (gear trials) must be postponed because of seismic investigations of the oil industry (to September)**



- **Venezuela**

- **National Steering Committee established**
- **Several tests and trials with BRDs in artisanal fisheries and industrial fisheries**
- **Data Collection (Estimation of by-catch composition; fleet characteristics)**
- **Tests with Mexico to introduce the “ Suripera” in Lake Maracaibo are under preparation (June/ July), followed by tests with BRDs in the industrial sector (October/ November)**



- **What must be done in the remaining project time (ONLY ONE YEAR LEFT!!)**
 - **Conduct research on BRDs in all countries;**
 - **select an appropriate device which fits the requirements of the country (in the Caribbean it will be the Mexican prototype trawl, in the Asian region the JTED developed by SEAFDEC, Iran will use Australian BRDs on industrial trawlers, and square mesh windows/ codends on dhows, Nigeria and Cameroon square mesh windows/ codends)**
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Thank You!