



REBYC

Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management

<http://www.fao.org/fi/gefshrimp.htm>

Report of the first Meeting of International Project Steering Committee (IPSC).

Guaymas, Mexico, 19 September 2002

The First Meeting of the IPSC was held immediately after the last session of the preceding Inaugural Meeting of National Coordinators.

The full list of participants and observers is given in Appendix A, the Agenda in Appendix B.

Welcome

Mr. Fogelgren welcomed the participants on behalf of FAO, and noted that representatives from five countries as well as SEAFDEC (observer) and the Project Coordinator were in attendance. Unfortunately, no delegate from the Gulf Region was able to attend, nor the representative from the Project Implementing Agency, UNEP.

He then called for the election of a Chairperson.

Election of Chairperson

The representative from Mexico, Mr. Ignacio Mendez Gomez was proposed to be nominated Chairperson for the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Effendi A. Sumardja of Indonesia. Mr. Mendez Gomez extended his gratitude for being suggested, and accepted the Chairmanship. He formally opened the meeting, and continued by expressing his satisfaction of the formal launching of this important project. He recapitulated the more significant findings and conclusions of the Inaugural Meeting of the National Coordinators, and after reviewing the agenda for the IPSC meeting, he remarked that since the project had recently commenced, he anticipated the IPSC to proceed smoothly.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda for the first IPSC meeting.

Proposal for reporting

Mr. Fogelgren volunteered to prepare the minutes of the meeting.

Review of the Project Document

Mr. Fogelgren gave an account of the background of the Project Document, and the obligations for the participating parties. A discussion followed on the Project Document.

Mr. Virgilio Alforque (the Philippines) remarked that the preparation phase of the project document had been very transparent, and the countries had been involved throughout the process. At this stage, he did not see any need to immediately revise the project document or the workplan, although it would likely become necessary later.

Since the IPSC meetings will be held only every 18 months, he suggested any comments on the Project Document could be communicated to FAO in writing.

Mr. Effendi A. Sumardja (Indonesia) noted the requirement for half year Operational Reports. Since these reports would partly be based on nationally undertaken activities, the achieved results and encountered problems, Mr. Sumardja recommended that detailed guidelines should be produced how to prepare the reports, also to enable the countries to use the same format.

Mr. Thiele supported the proposal, and suggested that the guidelines should be made available on the internet webpage, which FAO currently is preparing. The National Reports could be published, even as drafts, which will facilitate each country to monitor progress/constraints in the other countries, and to easily share information on how problems have been resolved by them. The Project Document, names of the members of the International Project Steering Committee and the National Coordinators, as well as technical reports and other useful information and links to related webpages, could be posted. Mr. Thiele also suggested that any recommended change of the Project Document should be posted on the webpage.

Mr. Mr. Oumarou Nujfonjuou (Cameron) observed that the total budget allocation for Cameron was US\$ 50,000 over the five year period. Since there are a number of activities to be undertaken, he felt some concern whether the funds would be sufficient, and asked if additional funds could be requested from GEF.

Mr. Fogelgren explained that the overall budget provided by the GEFSEC can not be increased. However, minor shifting of funds between budget lines or between the budgets of the participating countries, would be possible. One alternative approach is to try to obtain additional co-financing. He further advised the countries to keep detailed records of how their national in kind contributions were being spent.

Mr. Jose J. Alio (Venezuela) raised the issue of the country Letter of Agreements. Since few activities in the countries can commence before funds have been made available, he stressed the importance to promptly finalise them, so the first transfer of funds can be released.

Mr. Fogelgren described how the Letter of Agreements are prepared and processed within FAO. Given that the duration of the project can not be extended, FAO will ensure that the Agreements are completed and submitted for signatures as early as possible.

Recommendations to FAO

The Meeting recommended FAO

- to finalise the outstanding Letters of Agreements;
- to design and open a project webpage, which should be reviewed by the participants of the project, and to post the format of the national reports on the webpage,
- to provide technical and administrative comments on the draft reports;
- to copy relevant communication on project issues to the National Coordinators for the project, so they can quickly assist in resolving any obstruction in the implementation of the activities.
- to design a logo for the project;

Any other business

Since there were no other business, the Chairperson thanked the participants for their contribution to the first IPSC meeting, and expressed his pleasure that the project is moving in the right direction. The meeting thanked the Chairperson.

Date and venue for the next IPSC

The Committee gratefully accepted the offer of the Philippines to host the Second IPSC, scheduled for January 2004. Confirmation of dates and venue will be obtained in mid 2003.

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**Agenda for the first International Project Steering Committee meeting of
EP/GLO/201/GEF – Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical
Shrimp Trawling, through the Introduction of by-catch Reduction
Technologies and Change of Management**

19 September 2002, Guaymas, Mexico

- Election of Chairperson;
- Adoption of the Agenda;
- Proposal for reporting;
- Review of the Project Document;
 - national workplans
 - budgets
 - other
- Recommendations to FAO;
- Any other business;
- Date and venue for the next IPSC.