



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 4th Meeting of International Project Steering Committee (IPSC)

NIOMR, Lagos, Nigeria, 14-16 February 2007

I. Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the IPSC was hosted by the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, 14-16 February 2007, in Lagos Nigeria.
2. The meeting was attended by the following appointed members of the IPSC: the Philippines, Mexico, Nigeria, Venezuela, FAO and SEAFDEC, and observers from the Nigerian Trawlers Owners Association (NITOA) and INP Mexico. The representative from Iran could not attend due to other commitments, and the project Implementing Agency, UNEP, had to unfortunately cancel its participation due to a medical emergency.

The list of participants appears in Appendix A.

3. The main objectives of the meeting were to review progress and constraints encountered by the project, and the workplan for the remaining duration of the project, and to discuss regional activities.

II. Opening formalities

4. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Manjit Sadarangani. The meeting was declared open by Nigeria's Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Resources (HMS), Otunba Bamidele F. Dada (ffs, OON). He was represented by Mr. A. V. Amire, Head of Nigeria's Fisheries Resources Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Unit. Present at the opening ceremony were the representative of the Executive Director, Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), Lagos; Mr. P. A. Taggert, Deputy Director, Fish Quality Assurance Unit; Deaconess Foluke Areola, President Fisheries Society of Nigeria; Mr. Manjit Sadarangani, MD/CEO Atlantic Shrimpers Ltd and President of NITOA; Ms Amber Aura, Political/Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General, Lagos; senior fisheries administrators from the Federal Department of Fisheries; research scientists from NIOMR; many fisheries practitioners and stakeholders in the industry.

5. In the HMS goodwill message to the meeting, he expressed delight at the re-certification of Nigeria for the export of wild caught shrimp and shrimp products to the US markets and the role being played by the project in the sustainable management of Nigeria's marine fisheries resources. In

appreciation of this, the HMS said the Federal Government had already approved a budget line to ensure that the national activities undertaken through the project, will be sustainable. He enjoined the industry operators to continue to use the various BRDs that have been tried and recommended. Finally, the HMS commended the FAO for providing ready development assistance to many developing countries, including Nigeria. He wished the Committee fruitful deliberations.

III. Election of Chairperson

6. On the commencement of the technical sessions, Nigeria was elected as Chairman. In his acceptance speech, Mr. J. C. Ogbonna, the National Coordinator, thanked the Committee members for giving him the honour to serve.

IV. Adoption of the meeting agenda

7. The agenda of the workshop, which appears in Appendix B, was adopted, and the Chairperson outlined the agenda and timetable for the meeting.

V. Statements

8. An overview of the status of the project in all the participating countries was presented by Mr. Thomas Moth-Poulsen. The conclusions drawn from his presentation were centred on the set targets of the project for the remaining period:

- i. BRD research to be concluded by all participating countries.
- ii. Adoption of appropriate BRDs by each country.
- iii. Development of necessary legislative framework in collaboration with FAO.
- iv. Production of exit plans.

9. The regional representatives, made the following highlights of activities since the last IPSC in April 2006:

- **Mexico** has had two experimental cruises at the West Coast of the Baja California Peninsula, using Mexico's prototypes of 90 and 120 feet headline trawls with reduced trawl length, false footrope and fisheyes. The modified ("prototype") selective trawl will be introduced in commercial fishery by June 2008 at the latest. One trial was incomplete and will be repeated in 2007. Experimental cruises are planned in Gulf of Tehuantepec, June 2007; in the coast of Tamaulipas, July 2007; In Bank of Campeche, August 2007 and in Yucatan Channel (Contoy Region), Oct. 2007.

Mexico had hosted the TVE team for the production of "Potted Shrimps" film, and Ms Lena Westlund for the mid-term review mission through UNEP. Mexican consultants have assisted the project activities in Trinidad

and Tobago and Venezuela. Joint work, including sea trials, are planned with T&T, Cuba, Venezuela and possible with Costa Rica.

10. **Columbia** has finished data analysis of the experimental fishing surveys conducted on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and have presented the results of the project to the fishery managers (INCODER). The elaboration of the final technical report is to be presented to COLCIENCIAS (National Agency for Funding of Science and technology in Colombia) soon. Presentation of project results to stakeholders on the Atlantic coast was not conducted during 2006 as originally planned, but will be conducted in March 2007. In April 2007 the adaptation of the project developed technical measures will be discussed at a workshop with the fisheries management sector. A regulation to introduce the use of fisheye in shrimp trawlers from Colombia will be presented to INCODER in June 2007. It is obvious that, given that only US\$100,000 of GEF resources was allocated to Colombia, a considerable national co-financing has been generated.

11. **Costa Rica** has implemented workshops and tests of BRDs with support of Mexican consultants, partly in-kind. A comprehensive experimental program for the remaining period is under preparation. A visit planned by Mr. Fogelgren in spring 2007.

12. **Cuba** has conducted comparative fishing experiments on board commercial vessel with modified nets (Mexican design) and fisheye-type BRDs versus conventional gears. Fifty-two trawl hauls of approximately 2.5 hours duration each were carried out in Santa Cruz del Sur Industrial Fishing Enterprise fishing area. The results revealed increased shrimp length and better quality. New trials are expected in July 2007 with in-kind assistance of a Mexican consultant, the FAO Project Coordinator, and participation of the project coordinator from Costa Rica.

13. **Trinidad and Tobago** conducted gear trials with double foot-rope in the artisanal trawl fleet in collaboration with the industrial operators and assistance of a Mexican in-kind resource person last November, which will be repeated in April current year. Observation of the operators of the semi-industrial and industrial fleet was conducted for future testing.

14. **Venezuela** practical demonstrations were conducted on the Suripera gear and also on how to include a second footrope in the trawl nets, for both industrial and artisanal boats, in August 2006. Performed tests on the use of fish eye and sea trials with the artisanal and industrial fisheries are ongoing until March 2008.

15. **Nigeria** TED construction and rigging workshops were conducted for industry operators, and a post re-certification workshop was held in November, 2006. After a successful program with workshops to implement the use of TEDs in the spring of 6, the US inspection team visited the Nigerian industrial shrimp fleet in September 2006. A positive feed-back was received from the inspectors, with indications that recertification of export of wild caught shrimp to the US market could be expected. With the positive message from the US inspection, managers from the Nigerian shrimp trawler industry travelled to the US to explore new market opportunities.

Recognizing that the shrimp resources are shared with her neighbouring countries, Nigeria is planning a series of regional workshops on legal harmonisation.

16. **Cameroon** the project funds are almost exhausted, but Nigeria has committed to support to a BRD and TED technical workshop, planned in March with Nigerian and FAO consultants, to help ongoing regional activities on equalizing management regulations. In the reporting period, Cameroon participated in a TED workshop in Nigeria, and the Cameroonian Government has committed additional funds to project activities.

17. **Iran** the report was presented by Mr. Fogelgren, on behalf of the regional representative, who was absent due to other official engagements. No technical report had so far been received by FAO from Iran, and it was not clear why Iran has underutilized the GEF funds. However, laudable results have been achieved through national funds;

- A 20 minutes awareness film on production and use of BRDs has been produced,
- a total of ten different types of BRDs have been tested in the industrial shrimp trawling fleet,
- as of 21 March 2006, all industrial vessels of the fleet have to use BRDs,
- increased mesh size and net design is being introduced to the artisanal fishermen,
- and maybe most importantly: by buying back licenses and fishing gears, the Government of Iran has reduced the industrial bottom trawling fleet from 69 vessel in 2004 to 39, and an additional 9 vessels is planned to be removed from the fisheries in 2007. The capacity reduction programme is a direct impact by the results under the project, and will cost Iran about US\$ 185,000 (\$130,000 buying back licenses, \$55,000 compensation for redundant gears).

Additional backstopping visits are planned by Mr. Fogelgren and a FAO consultant in 2007.

18. **Bahrain** presented in the reporting period a detailed proposal for new activities, but experienced shortage of funds allocated to project activities, since the country is not eligible for GEF funds.

19. **Philippines** tests have been performed in the Samar Sea with grids with horizontal and vertical bars and different bar-spacing. This was done through a pilot project where various JTED (Juvenile and Trash Fish Excluder) types were tried with the criteria of reducing at least 40% of the juveniles. A second phase of the trials will involve socio-economic studies. Technical Reports are under preparation and review, and the implementation of the Samar Sea management plan will be a major work.

Proposals have been made for public awareness raising, including the use of government media to propagate the use of JTEDs. The Philippines was

hosting the National Coordinators Meeting in October 2006, and was also hosting the TVE team in relation to the shooting of the 'Potted Shrimps' film.

20. **Indonesia** introduced an eco-friendly, small-scale trawl in the Makassar Strait area. A workshop on TED rigging for the industry has been conducted with in-kind assistance by a resource person from NOAA in the US. Workshops and meetings with trawler operators were held with the participation of Messrs Fogelgren and Thiele from FAO. A legal framework study was conducted by a local consultant in cooperation with the FAO legal office. Indonesia has launched plans on the implementation of a pilot project on eco-friendly trawling management from February 2007 to March 2008. The Bycatch Guide Book by Steve Eayrs will be translated into local language in 2007.

21. **SEAFDEC** presented a technical paper on the project at a recent ICES gear symposium in the US, and has provided technical assistance to Philippines and Indonesia. SEAFDEC experiences constraints ascribed to lack of funds, since most of the GEF allocation has been utilized.

22. The Session was concluded with a film presentation on BRD manufacturing in Iran.

VI. Financial and budgetary matters

23. A presentation on financial and budgetary matters of the project was made by Mr. Fogelgren. He informed the meeting that through 2006, the total delivery and commitments were US\$2,770,000, or 62% of the GEF cash contribution to the main phase of the project. Although this might give the impression that the project will not deliver on the full budget by June 2008, Mr. Fogelgren advised the meeting that the recently revised national workplans indicated that the final overall delivery will be close to 100%. He further informed that the overall co-financing contribution to the project already exceeds the total GEF cash contribution.

24. He urged all members to send in their 6 monthly national project progress reports with updated workplans to FAO no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period. The Chairman advised members to also include their budgets into the workplan.

VII. Cooperation between participating countries

25. The Chairman, who is also the Regional Representative for Nigeria and Cameroon, informed the meeting that Cameroon was not yet certified to export shrimps to the US, whereas Nigeria, fishing in the same waters, was recently recertified. He called for assistance of FAO to facilitate project collaboration between the two countries, so that their fisheries regulations would be harmonised. He further noted that as part of the collaboration, some project activities in Cameroon of mutual interest to both countries, could be funded from Nigeria's allocation of the project.

It was stated by the meeting that in general, close collaboration among member countries, particularly those within the same region, is a requirement for successful implementation of the project.

26. Mexico informed the meeting that in the coming six months period, Mexico will provide in-kind technical assistance to Trinidad&Tobago, Costa Rica and Cuba in workshops and sea-trials. The total duration would be some four weeks, and no staff time would be charged. Other project countries in the region would be invited to attend the activities, when appropriate.

27. SEAFDEC, through its Japanese Trust Fund Programme, continues to support the Philippines and Indonesia.

28. The meeting recognised the valuable long-term impact these regional exchange programmes have created, and would welcome the participation of also other countries which are confronting the same challenge as addressed by the project.

VIII. TECHNICAL STATUS OF THE PROJECT AND DETAILED WORKPLAN FOR THE REMAINING DURATION

29. Members were requested to submit detailed workplans to FAO Project Coordinator.

IX. Use of the project website

30. It was agreed that the website should be put into effective use. FAO was advised to encourage the use of the website by making it more attractive and interesting through the quality of the materials posted on the website. Other methods of publicizing the project activities such as Newsletters, Press Releases etc, should be explored.

31. Mr. Fogelgren agreed that the website could be improved, but reminded the meeting that the content of the site is to a large extent depended on contributions by the countries, which had been very limited in the past. To further raise the awareness of the website, he repeated what he suggested at the National Coordinators Meeting (NCM) in October 2006, that the countries should arrange links to the project websites from as many suitable national websites as possible.

X. Project Performance Indicators and exit plans

32. In the unfortunate absence of UNEP, the Chairman recapitulated that at the NCM, UNEP had informed that GEF had introduced the requirement that all projects should set up project performance indicators, which should illustrate concrete and measurable results and achievements to be able to judge the success at the end of the project. The proposed indicators for REBYC cover various levels: BRD trials, socio-economic level, on the ground impact, policy, knowledge exchange and possible replication of other

countries, and counterpart funding of participating countries as a level of commitment.

33. At the NCM, many of the countries had expressed concern over the proposed concept of indicators, given the different situation and status of implementation in each country, and that the indicators will be introduced at this late stage of the project.

34. One of the recommendations of the NCM was that the then proposed indicators should be reviewed by the countries, and a final set be agreed by all countries by end of December 2006 (see Appendix C).

35. It was observed by the meeting that the first three indicators had no baseline and were found complex for meaningful evaluation. However, it was agreed that the indicators should be retained, and the project participants should try to meet the requirements of the indicators.

32. Only Nigeria submitted a draft project exit plan. Other countries were advised to submit theirs to FAO as soon as possible.

XI. Project review and lessons learnt

33. The UNEP mid-term review report was discussed, but members were advised that the report had not yet been finally approved by UNEP, hence they should restrict its circulation.

XII. Second project

34. The meeting agreed unanimously that preparations for a second project should commence. The objectives should be broadened, and given the strong interest by many outside countries, also expanded geographically.

35. Fogelgren informed that he had identified two possible consultants to initiate a first concept note for a project document, which would be circulated when available. However, he reminded the meeting that the condition by GEF to have confirmed co-financing, meant most likely that additional external donors will be required, like private sector, which are interested in eco-friendly harvested products.

XIII. IPSC Final meeting

36. The Meeting was informed that the final IPSC meeting would be held in Rome at a date to be confirmed, but tentatively April 2008. Depending on the financial situation, it was suggested to also organise a technical review seminar at the end of the Project, which researchers and other stakeholders should attend.

XIV. Other business

37. Participants were again reminded of the importance to timely send their progress reports to FAO.

XV. Closing

38. The chairman thanked all members for coming to Nigeria for the IPSC meeting. He also thanked FAO for the support and further requested FAO's continuous assistance in order to sustain the gains of the project.

39. Mr. Fogelgren, on behalf of FAO, thanked the government of Nigeria, and the Federal Department of Fisheries in particular, for the hospitality and warm reception given the participants. He further congratulated the members to a constructive meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.50pm.

ATTENDANCE LIST

NAME		COUNTRY
1. Mr. J. C. Ogbonna	-	Nigeria
2. Mr. I. Mendez	-	Mexico
3. Mr. J. Fogelgren	-	FAO
4. Mr. T. Moth-Poulsen	-	FAO
5. Mr. B. Chokesanguan	-	SEAFDEC
6. Mr. R. Ramiscal	-	Philippines
7. Mr. J. Alio	-	Venezuela
8. Mr. B. B. Solarin	-	Nigeria

OBSERVERS

1. Mr. P. L. Lawrence	-	NITOA
2. Mr. T. Jalupon	-	NITOA
3. Mr. D. Aguilar- Ramirez	-	Mexico

SECRETARIAT

1. Mr. S. O. Ayeni
2. Mr. E. E. Edet
3. Mr. I. P. Ogar
4. Mr. J. O. Babatunde



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

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

Agenda of the 4th^d IPSC Meeting

Lagos, Nigeria
14 – 17 February 2007

Wednesday, 14 February

09:00 hrs

1. Opening of the meeting
 - Election of Chairperson
 - Welcoming address by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture.
 - Opening address by FAO, Project Coordinator
 - Welcoming address by hosting country; Chair
 - Introduction of members
2. Adoption of the meeting agenda
4. Opening statements on behalf of the participating countries and UNEP
5. Report of the project coordinator on technical activities following the third meeting of the IPSC
5. Reports from regional representatives

LUNCH

6. Financial and budgetary matters
7. Cooperation between participating countries
 - financial support
 - in kind assistance
8. Technical status of the project, and detailed workplan for the remaining duration
9. Use of project web site and dissemination options of project results

Thursday, 15 February

09:00 hrs

10. Project performance indicators and project exit strategies
11. The external project review; and lessons learnt from current project

LUNCH

12. Second project
13. Date and place for the final PISC meeting
14. Any Other Business
15. Closure of meeting

Friday, 16 February

09:00 hrs

Field trip to fishing port, including demonstration cruise at sea

Appendix C

Defined Project Performance Indicators for Each Country	Status by June 2008	Trinidad & Tobago												
		Bahrain	Cameroon	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Indonesia	Iran	Mexico	Nigeria	Philippines	SEAFDEC	Venezuela	
Indicator # 1: Trial level	20% or more Reduction of Non-Shrimp Bycatch (Discardc)	Yes,	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indicator # 2: Socio-Economic Level for Fishermen & Industry	Maintained Level of Net Income after Introducing BRDs	Not Introduced	Yes,	Yes,	Yes	Yes,	Yes,	?	Non-Applicable	Yes	Non-Applicable		Yes	Yes
Indicator # 3 a On-the-Ground Impact Level by Trawl Shrimp Fisheries	50% of Industrial Vessels will have Introduced BRDs	Not applicable	Pending	Yes	No	No, but 41% of all shrimp trawling vessels	Yes	Yes	?	100% for TED, for other BRDs 40%,	No, 5-10%		No, modified gear/BRDs tested in 25% of fleet	Yes
Indicator # 3 b On-the-Ground Impact Level by Trawl Shrimp Fisheries	15% of Artisanal Vessels will have Introduced BRDs	Yes	Pending	Non-Applicable	No	No, but 41% of all shrimp trawling vessels	Yes	?	?	Not applicable	Difficult to Implement, strict areal restriction & regulation		No, modified gear/BRDs tested in 25% of fleet	
Indicator #4: Policy Level:	A minimum of six Countries will adopt new policy to incorporate BRDs	Time is too short	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

Defined Project Performance Indicators for Each Country		Status by June 2008												
		Bahrain	Cameroon	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Indonesia	Iran	Mexico	Nigeria	Philippines	SEAFDEC	Trinidad & Tobago	Venezuela
Indicator # 5: Knowledge Exchange Level:	A minimum of ten Countries will adopt new techniques and skills learned new techniques and skills learned	Time is too short	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indicator #6: Replication (FAO is responsible for this indicator)	A minimum of ten Countries outside the project countries have confirmed interest in implementing BRDs in writing to FAO													
Indicator 7: Co-financing	At least six countries will have exceeded their committed co-financing contribution.	not applicable		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes