Counterpart Caribbean Coastal Communities Small Grants Program Status Report: Project Milestone Four June 28, 2013

Project Title

A Participatory Co-Management Strategy for the use of Fish Aggregation Devices in Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Sustain the Caribbean Pelagic Fishery and Communities that Depend on it.

Project Partners

Counterpart International
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
Fisheries Division, Dominica
Fisheries Division, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida

Project Team Members Involved in Milestone Four Activities

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Milestone Four Deliverable

Progress report of FAD best management practice awareness and implementation effort.





Testing a daily activity planner as a best management practice for the Dominican FAD Fishery.

<u>Introduction</u>

This report documents activities undertaken to satisfy Milestone Four of the contract with Counterpart International, a funding partner for a collaborative project involving the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, Florida Sea Grant, the Dominica Fisheries Division and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries Division. During the period of March-May 2013 members of the project team developed and implemented a daily activity planner (i.e., planner) as a method of facilitating communication and cooperation among fishers using public or shared fish aggregation devices (FADs). The idea for the planner stemmed from facilitated discussion with FAD fishers, which took place at three workshops held on Dominica during December 2012 (summarized in the Milestone Three report). The planner is designed to allow FAD fishers to organize their trips based on knowledge of what others plan to do, such that overlap and competition with other fishers at particular FADs is minimized and individual catch is maximized. The planner is laminated with clear plastic that can be used with erasable magic markers (Figure 1).

Date:						
Fisher's Name	Departure Time (Out)	Return Time (In)	FAD	Security of		
			Dublanc Fisheries FAD checkbox	NAFCOOP FAD checkbox	Other FAD checkbox	Not likely to fish on FADs checkbox

Figure 1. Daily Activity Planner.

Daily Activity Planner Trial Implementation

During March 2013, the Dominica Fisheries Division identified focus groups of FAD fishers at the Dublanc and Fond St. Jean landing sites. Each focus group included five to seven FAD fishers who indicated that they would be willing to use the planner for a one-month trial-period (through April 2013). The project investigators subsequently met with members of each of the two focus groups and explained to them how to use the planner (Figure 2). Paid observers documented daily use of the planner using digital cameras (Figure 3). Each day the observers erased the information provided so that the next day's activities could be entered by the fishers who agreed to participate during the trial period.









Figure 2. Explaining how to use of the daily activity planner to focus groups.

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Fisher's Name G PETER K DELUGE J MORANCIE	Departure Time (Out)	Return Time (In)	Dublanc Fisheries FAD checkbox	Is Likely to NAFCOOP FAD checkbox	Visit Other FAD Checkbox	Not likely to lish on FADS American Lish on FADS Lish on FADS Lish Lish Lish Lish Lish Lish Lish Lish

Figure 3. Images of the daily activity planner used by focus groups members.

At the conclusion of the one-month trial-period the local project coordinator met with the observers and the focus groups to discuss the utility of the planner. According to the Fond St. Jean focus group, "the daily planner is beneficial to fishers who utilize it, because it gives fishers an idea as to what FADs are being used and when. As a result, fishers are better able to use the FADs without placing a strain on any one FAD." The Dublanc focus group added that the planner "provides a source of safety and security to fishers...in the event of any difficulties people know when and where to start the search." In addition, the focus groups indicated that based on the trial-period the planner did not require modification. Finally, the focus groups suggested that the use of the planner should continue through the 2013 tuna season (July-August) as the increased fishing activity would be a broader test of the effectiveness of the planner. For this reason, we plan to continue our outreach efforts with fishers to support their use of the planner through the tuna season.

Next Steps

Measures are being established to expand the use of the planner through the 2013 tuna season. This involves (1) working with members of the focus groups to provide reminders to FAD fishers to participate in the continued use of the planner, and (2) coordinating with paid observers to document this use. The observers will continue to use digital cameras to take daily images of the planner's use. We will follow-up with the fishers later in the year to determine the effectiveness of the planner and our outreach efforts.

Summary

The goal of this project is to strengthen cooperation among fishers and between fishers and government stakeholders to support the co-management of FAD fishery resources. This goal is being met by a strategy of rapid appraisal, primary data collection and analysis, and stakeholder engagement. The first phase of the project implemented a rapid appraisal to characterize formal and informal governance arrangements that characterize FAD use (e.g., private, public, and group). The second phase developed and applied a data collection and analytical protocol to determine the effect of the various governance arrangements on FAD fishing use patterns, catches, and economic returns to fishers. The third and current phase is engaging fishers and government stakeholders in a process to identify management issues and best management practices for FAD fishing. The engagement strategy is being implemented in a way that (1) builds participatory decision-making capacities, (2) provides a venue for government and local fisher stakeholders to collectively review and discuss data analysis results, and (3) identifies actions that can be implemented locally, nationally, or regionally to support FAD co-management. For example, at a local level, project partners are working with fishers in two communities to test the usefulness of a daily activity planner as a best management practice that can be implemented by individuals or groups of fishers. Knowledge and feedback resulting from this and other data analysis and engagement activities undertaken can be used to strengthen data collection, enhance local outreach capabilities, and offer recommendations that can assist the efforts of Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and other Caribbean governments to support co-management of their developing FAD fisheries.