

SEABOB WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Date: August 27 August 2020

Time: 09.14hrs

Chair: Desha Husbands Spellen

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Desha Husbands Spellen -Chair

Randy Bumbury - Fisheries Department

Saskia Tull Co-Chair SWG

Dawn Maison MSC Project Coordinator

Mikhail Amsterdam Fisheries Department

Sopheia Edghill World Wildlife Fund Representative

Kadeem Jacobs Fisheries Department

Terrence Browne Fisheries Department

Corwin D'Anjou Fisheries Department

Brentnol Gibbs Pritipaul Singh Investments

Mahendra Ram Gopie Investment

Reuben Charles President GAPTOSP

Announcements

The new chair acknowledged the sterling contribution of the previous chair Mr. Randy Bumbury over the last 3 ½ years in leading the MSC certification process.

Matter Arising

1. The new client action plan was submitted to TUN
2. Two of the three reports were submitted to CRFM these are the HCR and the implementation strategy, the research and development plan. The other report which is the review of the management strategy is currently being review by CERMES. Ms. Kadesha Nedd is to report on this matter at the next meeting.

3. Noble House Seafoods will no longer pursue the issue with Labour with the Fisheries Department. They will do this on their own.
4. The first quarter HCR report was completed using the new HCR
5. LETTERS WERE SENT OUT TO THE COMPANIES AND THE President of GATOSP on the closed season with the proposal for two research projects to be conducted during the time.
6. Some companies have already purchased the new GPS system

Adoption of Minutes.

Minutes adopted by

Seconded by

Discussion

A. Marine Stewardship Council Recertification

- Conditions 2-5 implementation should begin during the closed season with the research trips.
- Condition 7 is being addressed by the companies in acquiring the VMS for better monitoring of the fishing activities.
- External review of the management plans and the stock assessment is being done by CRFM.
- Recommendations 1-4 needs to be implemented
- Next audit February 2021

B. CRFM-CSWG e-meeting

The CRFM meeting was rescheduled to a date to be announced.

C. HCR Implementation Meeting with GATOSP

This issue has been closed and will be reported under the CPUE reports.

D. Closed Season

- Closed Season has been scheduled for August 31, 2020 for a duration of 8 weeks.

- Department of Fisheries to have 2 projects for the closed season. One which is the impacts on the use of sledge on the trawl.
- Season will be reopened before the 8 weeks if the catch sizes show to have increase.

E. Fathom Line remapping

NHS to submit coordinates to FD for MARAD so that they can proceed with the remapping process.

Reports

1. VMS Surveillance

- January - August 16 inspections were completed
- Low coverage due to COVID-19 (*Please see report attached*)
- Department to write Gopie on CCTV coverage.

2. CPUE

Observed CPUE- 473kg, the new HCR is in effect. The new target reference point is 284 kg, rebuilding 228KG and limiting reference point is 142 kg. Days per month 1872 for the sector. Companies are still to decide whether to allocate the days fish per vessel or per company. A reminder will be sent to them on this issue. If no decision is forthcoming by the start of the new season the SWG will recommend to the Fisheries Department the next steps. (*Report Attached*)

3. Observer Programme and Last Haul

Three trips were completed for the year. No further trips have been made.

Last haul to be restarted at the start of the new season.

COVID 19 supplies are to be supplied by the companies for the staff.

Letters to be sent to the companies on the observance of the procedures now that we are in the COVID 19 season.

4. ETP

24 vessels submitted ETP logs January -March. There were no turtle sightings or captures reported. A number of interaction and sightings occurred with rays. GII did not submit any report. (*Report is attached*)

Training programme to finalize and a strategy on how to proceed with it during this season of COVID-19.

Any other business

NHS to sort out issue with Labour without the assistance of the Fisheries Department since it was reported by the Chair that the CFO will not participate in any negotiations with the Ministry of Labour.

It was noted that the companies' participation at SWG was low. It was then pointed out that the companies are represented at the SWG at the GATOSP level and this shouldn't be a worry.

Next Meeting

27 September 2020 | 09.00 hrs.

