

SEABOB WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

Date: 17 December, 2020

Time: 09.47 hrs.

Chair: Desha Husbands Spellens

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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 absent
Brentnol Gibbs	Pritipaul Singh Investments
Mahendra Ram	Gopie Investment
Reuben Charles	President GAPTOSP

Welcome

The meeting started at 9:47am Chair welcomed the committee members.

Announcements

1. The CRFM workshop took place on December 4, 2020
2. Mr. Bumbury has taken up his scholarship in Sweden.
3. MSC 2nd Audit is scheduled for February 2021.
4. D'Anjou excused due to prior commitments

The Chair went into matters arising since it was assumed that members read the minutes in the interest of time.

- MSC Conditions status were discussed.
- Conditions 2-5 to be addressed by research at sea.
- Installation of VMS.

- External Review of Management plan. This was undertaken and completed by CRFM.
- Recommendations were to be implemented in the new year.
- Vessel Information needs updating.
- Closed season August 31 –October 23, 2020.
- FD to conduct 2 research projects during this period.

Minutes adopted by Dawn Maison, seconded by Terrence Browne.

Discussion

a. Marine Stewardship Council Recertification

Recommendations to be addressed

- Roles and Responsibilities of stakeholders.
- Website. Ms Maison to address this issue.
- Update on vessel characteristics.
- Work is continuing on meeting the various conditions for 2021 audit

b. CRFM-CSWG e-meeting held on December 4, 2020

The report will be forwarded when completed. Mr. Jacobs presented the preliminary results of the new HCR implementation. This will be discussed during below.

c. Status of HCR Implementation

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

d. Closed Season

A number of research trips were made during the closed season. Please see attached report.

e. Fathom Line remapping

This matter is still to be resolved.

Reports

1. VMS Surveillance

- All companies have purchase the new VMS, installation process is ongoing

- Arrangement for Administrative access by the Fisheries Department is being sought from SASCO.
- Timeline for completion of installation is January 2021

1. CPUE

New HCR Reference points

TRP 284 RRP 228 LRP 142. These were presented and discussed at the recently concluded CRFM e-meeting.

CPUE by company

Gopie 280, NHS 206, PSI 406 Average CPUE 317.

CPUE is above the TRP for the entire year. The first quarter shows a more stable CPUE.

The HCR is still being tested. Evaluations will be done with the consultant in the New Year.

Notice on the implementation of the HCR will be sent to GATOSP for full implementation.

(Report Attached)

2. Observer Programme and Last Haul

Due to COVID 19 no trips were carried out in November.

3. ETP

No Reports submitted

Research Plan

CRFM reviewed the research plan and made the following requests and remarks

- The research plan should be updated every quarter and shared
- Logbooks should be digitized
- Evaluation of the HCR
- Mooring sites inspections
- Report on the ETP encounters.
- Inshore fishery plan needs implementing.

Management Plan Review

Review noted that the plan was partially implemented and the weakest was the artisanal fishery. Limited resources of the FD led to this fishery being weak.

Any other business

- Increase in seabob vessel licences. The Minister of Agriculture issued two seabob licences without first consulting with the SWG. Members aired their views about it.
- The president of the GATOSP noted that they have written to the Minister on the issue.
- WWF representative on the committee shared that they too had written the minister.
- The companies have given the reassurance that they will not be processing any of the harvested products.
- This can jeopardize the MSC certificate
- CRFM also make inquiries into the granting of the licences
- It should be noted that the seabob fishery is a closed fishery.

Next Meeting

January 28, 2021 | 09.00 hrs.