

SEABOB WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

Date: 4th February 2021

Time: 09.40 hrs.

Chair: Desha Husbands Spellen

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| Saskia Tull | Fisheries Department |
| Mikhail Amsterdam | Fisheries Department- Absent |
| 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- Excused |
| Mala Doolall | Fisheries Officer |
| Devon Reece | Co- chair- Absent |

Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order @ 9:40 am

Announcements

1. Today's meeting is the scheduled January 2021 meeting

2. Minister of Agriculture named the members of the Fisheries Advisory Committee and the Guyana Fisheries Limited Board these names have not been released

Matters Arising from Minutes of December 17, 2020

- Roles and Responsibilities of stakeholders to be completed by the Chair.
- Harvest Control Rule to be reviewed internally by FD and shared with GATOSP.
- Closed season completed with 5 research trips.
- Fathom Line- Fisheries Department to send letter to MARAD to proceed with the activity.
- VMS Implementation has started only vessels with the VMS are allowed to fish.
- New reference points for the HCR which is being monitored on a quarterly basis.
- Observer Programme and Last Haul 8 trips carried out in 2020.
- ETP - No report submitted.
- Research Plan to include quarterly update.
- Management Plan review completed. Officer to provide a report.

Minutes adopted by Terrence Browne and seconded by D'Anjou.

Discussion Areas

- **VMS-Update**

Officer absent.

- **Increase in seabob fleet**

The Minister of Agriculture has named a committee to examine the concerns with respect to the issuance of two seabob licenses. So far the committee has not convened.

- **Harvest Control Rule.**

After review by the Fisheries Department, they will meet with the GATOSP to discuss. Review is scheduled for February.

Suriname has fully implemented their HCR and is hoping Guyana will do the same shortly.

Reports

1. ETP

The annual report is attached. Only 45 vessels in 2020 submitted data. Not all vessels worked during the COVID-19 pandemic

2. CPUE

The annual CPUE was 320kg, which is above the Target Reference Point.

Total production was 4,197,840 Kg.

A comparison of 2019 was requested using the old HCR.

Report is attached

3. Observer Programme

Eight (8) trips were completed for the year because of the pandemic. Three (3) of these were done during the closed season. *The full report is attached*

4. CCTV

No report submitted- Reporting officer absent.

Any other Business

The roles and responsibilities of several officers have changed as a result of a reshuffling of staff, within the Fisheries Department. This have influenced a change in the responsibilities of some committee members.

| Responsible Officer | Area of Responsibility |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Corwin D'Anjou | VMS and CCTV |
| Mala Dolall | Research and Surveillance Activities |
| Devon Reece | Research and Development Plan; ETP |
| Kadesh Nedd | Last Haul |
| Terrence Browne | Observer Programme. |

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am Next meeting at 25 February 2021.