

DEVELOPMENT OF TUNA FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC-ACP STATES (DEVFISH) PROJECT

THIRD PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (PSC-3)

Ngara Amayong Cultural Centre , Koror, Palau – 10 May 2008

A.RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Agenda 1: Introduction

Appointment of Chairman

1. The meeting endorsed Len Rodwell-FFA Secretariat to chair the meeting.

Agenda

2. The proposed Agenda was adopted with an additional item under Other Business.

Introductory Remarks & Objective of Meeting

3. The Project Coordinator provided introductory remarks on the purpose of the meeting and noted the expected aims and results to guide the meeting.

Agenda 2: Progress of Work Programme

The meeting noted:

4. The project will undertake practicable follow up actions in the 4th AWP on the recommendations of in-country studies such as the Samoa alia report.
5. Concern over the sustainability of support for executive officer positions in national fisheries associations, while noting the positive outcomes of the trial. The project was requested to develop an exit strategy – looking at ways for industry to support this capacity in larger countries and other donor funding for countries with little industry development. In some cases a sub-regional approach may be better.
6. The access negotiation workshop in April 2008 was only for countries with active bilateral fisheries agreements – mainly the PNA countries. A further workshop or work at the national level covering broader aspects of fisheries licensing, which would be suitable for all FFA members, is being considered.
7. The procedure for securing in-country support from the project is either by a direct request from the national fisheries contact or from the fisheries association with supporting endorsement from the fisheries authorities.
8. The project's focus on tuna industry development has required some flexibility - a range of assistance has been provided to small scale fisheries initiatives, especially in countries with little industry development.
9. The USP postgraduate scholarship was on cetacean depredation was not really designed as a tertiary education opportunity – it was simply a cost efficient approach for a two year research activity.
10. Interest in the outcomes of the bio-fuel trial from other member countries.
11. Interest in the findings of the sportsfishing study, noting some previous work on the potential in Solomon Islands and the need to balance the requirements of sports and commercial fishing interests.
12. FFA Development Division has supported a number of in-country activities and can assist further if DevFish budget limitations prevents the project from responding to requests.
13. An addendum to the Financing Agreement for the extension of the implementation phase to December 2009 has already been submitted to RAO and on to EC (Brussels). This process normally takes about 3 months but the EC delegation representative was not aware of any problem with the addendum.
14. DevFish has also submitted a provisional AWP for year 4 in compliance with EC procedures, but this will be updated and amended to incorporate any feedback from this meeting.

Agenda 3: Financial Reports of expenditure to date

The meeting noted:

15. Financial reports of expenditure to date as presented.
16. The clarification that indirect cost relate to FFA/SPC service fees for managing and support provided by other programs/staff within the organizations. This is limited to a percentage of project costs.

Agenda.4: Work Programme & Budget for Year 4.

The meeting noted:

17. The AWP and budget as presented.
18. The EU representative's advice to members that have Fisheries Partnership Agreements with the EU that they could perhaps request DevFish assistance to develop national plans and policies required under their FPAs.
19. The RAO's comments that unspent funds at the end of the project will be returned to EU.
20. The invitation to countries to provide any additional notes or suggestion for possible assistance during the course of the FFC and refer back to the Project staff.
21. FSM confirmed interest in assistance with a tuna fisheries development strategy.

Agenda 5.1 -3: Outcomes of Major project activities (FFA)

The meeting noted:

22. The need to circulate electronic copies of project reports to some of the new fisheries Directors. Electronic copies can be downloaded from webpage on FFA website and hard copies by contacting project staff.
23. Several highlighted areas from the PNA Purse Seine Strategy report for follow up. These included:
 - i. options for development of a regional tuna corporation;
 - ii. a detailed economic study of onshore investment options in feasible countriesThe meeting also discussed the feasibility of dedicated air-freight services to support longline development. It was stressed that policies covering foreign investment are a matter for national governments.
24. The opportunity created by the relaxation in the Rules of Origin requirements to increase exports to the EU without the restrictions on vessel ownership. However this is still dependent on meeting EU export requirements for inspection by a Competent Authority.
25. There are still some issues to be resolved for foreign flag vessels offloading in PIC country. Those based in the country will have to undertake inspection by the national CA, whilst for others CA inspection clearance will need to be undertaken by the flag state.
26. Concern was raised regarding Vanuatu flag vessels based in PNG. The EU seem to be referring to the flag state (which does not have an approved CA) in relation to the approval to export to the EU whilst the same vessels offloading to Thailand facilities are treated differently to this ruling. PNG requested DevFish to seek reasons to explain this treatment.
27. The potential for export to the EU market was noted under current economic circumstances. Countries should consider CA assistance if they want to continue export or have export fishery and have plans export to EU markets; however the CA process is also expensive and takes time.
28. SPC will provide further explanation of the functions of OIE in relation to the export of certain aquaculture products.

Agenda 5.4: SPC component of major activities outcomes

The meeting noted:

29. The presentation on collaboration between SPC Nearshore Fisheries Development & Training Section and the DevFish Project.

Agenda 6: Monitoring Report by EU Missions

The meeting noted:

30. The monitoring missions reports

Agenda 7: Mid Term Review

The meeting noted:

31. The mid term review report undertaken by external consultants with positive rating

32. The two issues highlighted for attention and informed that they are being attended to by DevFish.

Agenda 8:-EDF-10 Update

The meeting noted:

33. The RAO's update on progress with the EDF-10 process. Points highlighted:

- i. On the original schedule EDF-10 should have commenced in January 2008. Now agreement on the release of funds is anticipated by June 2008.
- ii. Total funding is now a total of Euro 95 million. There is a change in the focal areas with the economic growth (Euro 45 million) and sustainable development (Euro 40 m). The title of the second focal area is still being debated with the EC favouring 'sustainable management of natural resources and environment'. There is also a non-focal sector (Euro 10million).
- iii. A guideline for concept notes has been developed and will be circulated to regional agencies soon, once the focal areas are confirmed. The deadline for submission of concept notes is July 2008.
- iv. Groups of countries can submit proposals directly under regional initiatives and not necessarily through regional organizations.
- v. The previous regional strategy papers may need some review. The RAO anticipates signing off on the new Regional Indicative Programme in June 2008

34. The Concept Paper for DevFish 2 and endorsed in principle the draft proposal which is to be re-formatted in line with the new guideline for concept notes.

Agenda 9-Other Matters

The meeting was provided with:

35. A copy of the fisheries chapter in the EPA for P-ACP members for comments. It was noted that should no comments be received back from the members on the text as provided, FFA will advise Forum Secretariat that there are no outstanding issues from Fisheries Administrations with the draft.

Meeting Closed.

36. The meeting closed at 12.30 hrs

B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

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