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**SECRETARIAT OF ACP GROUP**



**STRENGTHENING FISHERY PRODUCTS HEALTH  
CONDITIONS IN ACP/OCT COUNTRIES,  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK  
AGREEMENT N°114338/C/SV/ACP**

**“Study to Improve Compliance with EU  
Commission Sanitary Standards in the  
CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector”**

**CARIBBEAN REGION**

**Contract N° 36/03/06/CAR**

**Final Report**

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The views expressed in this document are those of the Consultants and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the beneficiary Governments

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## Disclaimer

This report has been prepared for AGRIFOR Consult-led Consortium and the PMU-SFP funded by Europe AID. Information has been obtained from interviewing a range of people with a direct involvement in the subject of the study. The team has used their best efforts to ensure the accuracy of the material. However, they do not warrant the accuracy of any data provided, nor do they accept responsibility for any error contained in or any omission from the documents prepared, nor any loss or consequential loss arising from the information or its use.

## Abbreviations

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AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
CA	Competent Authority
CARICOM	Caribbean Community Secretariat
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum (CARICOM plus Dominican Republic and Haiti)
CARIRI	Caribbean Industrial Institute
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CFTDI	Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute
CIDA	Canadian International Development Assistance Agency
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CAHFSA	Proposed CARIFORUM plant / animal health and food safety agency
CRAA	Caribbean Regional Accreditation Authority
CRAS	Caribbean Regional Accreditation System
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation For Standards And Quality
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DSP	Diarrheic Shellfish Poisoning
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	The European Union
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
VKI	Fish Inspection Institute (Surinam)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
MRAs	Mutual recognition agreements
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
ORISA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agrpecuaria (Central America Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health)
PSP	Paralytic shellfish poisoning
R&M	Repairs and Maintenance
RFQ	Regional quality infrastructure
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the WTO
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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## Executive Summary

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This study has confirmed earlier studies that there are substantial impediments to some CARIFORUM countries developing their fishing industries particularly in relation to the export of fishery products to the EU.

The study has taken a short to medium term perspective in line with the TOR for the study. However, external market forces such as the following will inevitably bring about longer-term structural change:

- The fact that CARIFORUM countries have virtually no control over the price of fisheries products in world markets. Exporters in CARIFORUM countries for a number of species including tuna are “price takers” in world markets with the exception of conch and flying fish;
- The likelihood that the WTO rules will over time lead to increased competition from countries that have economy of scale advantages over CARIFORUM countries;

It is important that the longer-term issues related to the potential influence of world markets is factored into investment and development assistance decisions.

The CARIFORUM countries:

- Are small in population;
- Generally do not have soundly based Competent Authority (CA) arrangements;
- Produce relatively small quantities of fishery products by world standards;
- Have for the most part inadequate sanitary standards in their local markets;
- For the most part lack the capacity to screen fisheries imports from a food safety perspective;
- Most CARIFORUM countries are relatively high cost producers compared with significant fishery products exporters such as Guyana and Surinam;
- Generally lack the necessary infrastructure, such as laboratory capacity, required to meet the requirements of markets like the EU;
- Generally lack capacity to implement and audit HACCP programs;
- Are subject to seasonal demand for marine product on their domestic markets as well as seasonal fishing influences / migratory species;
- In particular some of the CARIFORUM countries have significant social impediments in terms of improving the economic efficiency of their fishing industries;

Notwithstanding the above, there are CARIFORUM countries presently exporting fishery products successfully to nearby EU, EU Territories and the USA. Exports of shrimp,

conch and live lobster are likely to remain viable given stocks are not depleted, and export of certain other species may be viable, depending on the world price for the product and whether the exporter has a diversified business or joint venture arrangements.

In the case of EU Territories' trade, some CARIFORUM countries have been longstanding suppliers to these markets until the imposition in the mid 1990's of more stringent standards by the EU. Some EU Caribbean Territories have special arrangements to allow the importation of certain species. Given the stringent requirements of the EU maintenance of the trade reflects a strong commitment by officers of the CA's in the various countries.

The domestic market (including tourism and restaurant trade) is important to CARIFORUM countries, as the fishing industry is a significant employer of labour (2-5%). The availability of a local market, even based on the existing generally inadequate sanitary standards, is likely to continue for some years. However, it would be prudent to recognise that even in this market there will be pressure for change, which will require an upgrading of sanitary standards. Improving sanitary standards for the domestic market is likely to lead to a stronger, more viable market over time.

In many CARIFORUM countries pressure for change is much more likely to come from the private sector, such as supermarkets that impose their own food safety and quality standards, and from export oriented processing plants as distinct from Governments, although it is important to recognise that Government can assist greatly in terms of providing appropriate institutional framework.

This report suggests areas where Governments can provide an appropriate framework for the private sector to develop. It also recognises that not all CARIFORUM countries will be able to sustain an export fishing industry and as such not all recommendations will be applicable to all CARIFORUM countries. The report also suggests that regional organisations such as CARIFORUM can make a substantial contribution to building the sustainability of the fishing industries of CARIFORUM countries through agencies such as the proposed CAHFSA agency. As such, this report is directed toward CARIFORUM Governments, CARIFORUM donor agencies and the private sector.

The major recommendations of this report cover institutional aspects of sanitary controls, such as the development of sustainable Competent Authorities and related foundation stones for the building of sustainable arrangements. Without such development unlimited training and laboratory support can be provided but it will have little practical effect, as it will not be sustainable. Upgrading of sanitary standards is seen as important to the longer-term sustainability of the domestic fishing industry as well as having critical implications as far as access to export markets such as the EU and USA

A key recommendation is the seeking of development assistance funding to enable establishment of a number of specialist positions within the proposed CARIFORUM plant / animal health and food safety agency (CAHFSA). It is envisaged that the appointees will facilitate the development of institutional CA arrangements where these do not exist, and also provide a focus for HACCP training and verification, including train the trainer efforts, to ensure all CARIFORUM countries have at least some real capacity in this area.

In recognition of the fact that it will be some time before CAHFSA is operational and having regard to the timelines associated with the recommendations of this study, it is recommended that the food sanitation specialist positions be established for the time being in CRFM. A mandate does exist for CRFM to have an involvement in issues related to this study. When CAHFSA is established it will be appropriate to transfer the unit and positions that are established in CRFM to CAHFSA.

In the difficult area of laboratory upgrading there are recommendations designed to provide a sustainable solution in the short to medium term. There is a need to at least provide specific microbiological test facilities in countries that export to the EU Territories and the USA.

Training and public awareness activities are highlighted in the recommendations as they relate to fishermen, inspection staff and the general public. .

The financing proposal has been provided in line with the TOR's, however the reality is that an organisation like CAHFSA will need long-term donor funding to remain a useful organisation to CARIFORUM countries. A good example is the technical capacity provided in the Pacific through Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) where Europe AID, AusAID and NZAID all contribute funding to maintain and effective animal and plant health capacity that is available to the small island member countries of the SPC. In the case of animal health some of this funding is baseline funding in addition to specific project funding.

The growth in aquaculture ventures in some CARIFORUM countries will highlight specialised areas of need as far as aquaculture is concerned, including:

- Sourcing spore and fingerlings from countries that do not pose a risk of introducing exotic pests or diseases into aquaculture;
- Sourcing feeds from sources that do not introduce aquatic animal health or food safety issues;
- Ensuring residue issues such as potential anti biotic residues are well managed.

The reality in relation to EU listing is acceptance of the system based approach, and an acceptance that CA status for any country is hard won but very easily lost. One exporter



who ensures compliance one day but not the next may well put the firm's status at risk, but a CA with a system designed to meet EU requirements that is not robust can put the whole export industry at risk. This is a key reason why a CA must be built and sustained on a sound foundation. Even during the team visits, according to a press report, Brazil was put on notice re histamine testing by the EU because of what was described as serious health concerns. Brazil is a much larger exporter of seafood than any CARIFORUM country.

There are common themes that run through virtually all EU Review reports of both CARIFORUM countries and nearby Central American countries. Recent reviews have included Cuba, Guatemala and Jamaica. These themes align very closely with the findings of this study.

What will absolutely critical to sustainable improvements being effected as a result of recommendations in this report is a commitment by the concerned governments that they understand the complexity of the requirements laid down by the EU. Additionally that they recognize the importance of their active participation in any project the EU might carry out in the Caribbean region before the commencement of such a project.

## 1. Background

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This study has built on an earlier study undertaken in 2002 by the CRFM Secretariat (then CARICOM Fisheries Unit). Other studies reviewed include:

- The 2003 studies “Advice and Support to the Competent Authority” – for Guyana and Belize;
- The 2003 Commonwealth Secretariat study by John Landos (Team Leader) and Naveen Kumar “Technical Assistance Inputs to Enhance Sanitary Standards and Capacity in the Supply Chain for Marine Products for Human Consumption in Eastern Caribbean States of St Lucia, Antigua, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Grenada”. The Research Officer assisting the team, also visited Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis;
- The 2002 EU Review of the live lobster export trade in Antigua and Barbuda;
- A number of recent EU reviews of fisheries exports to the EU from countries in the Caribbean / Central American region

The study commenced in Belize with an Inception Meeting and the development of an Inception Report. This report was considered as a draft and then accepted; during this phase a number of countries were added to the list to be visited, in particular CARIFORUM countries such as Guyana with major fisheries exports and Barbados and The Bahamas. Following this Inception meeting, visits by team members were made to Dominican Republic, Antigua, St Lucia, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, The Bahamas and Haiti. Wherever EU Delegation personnel were available, meetings were held with them as well as development assistance agencies and international organisations relevant to the study.

The terms of reference are attached at Annex 1

The study has examined existing sanitary controls relating to exports, domestic production and imports, and has specifically focussed on the upgrading of sanitary controls for the EU market.

During the course of the study, the team became aware of a presently ongoing study into CARIFORUM WTO SPS laboratory capacity being undertaken by Ms Beverley Wood of Barbados. A meeting was held with Ms Wood with a view to ensuring a cohesive approach to the difficult issue of laboratory capacity. It is understood her report is likely to follow some time after the completion of this report.

A draft final report of this study was prepared and circulated two weeks before the workshop to all participants in the workshop held during the second visit of the team in November 2006. This report was considered by the workshop and a workshop report as well as a final report were prepared.

### 1.1 Methodology and Limitations

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This study involved two visits by John Landos, (Team Leader) and Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles (Team Members). The first visit of almost five weeks was made in September / October 2006. The second visit, primarily to conduct the workshop, was made in November 2006.

In addition to obtaining information through discussions, the team also sought out available statistics and factual structural information from both agencies and web based sources that could be used in the analysis process. However, suitable statistical material was not always available and this represented a limitation to the study.

The stated timeframe in the TORs of two years for providing significant benefits to CARIFORUM countries is extremely limiting in the context of this study.

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## **2. Introduction**

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### **2.1 World Market Trends**

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The world market is a very powerful generator of change and the fishing industries of CARIFORUM countries are not immune from its influence.

The available information suggests fisheries stocks are under pressure in many CARIFORUM countries. At the same time, in countries able to support aquaculture ventures, production from aquaculture is increasing.

It is recognised that world demand for fisheries products is growing against a background of world population growth and the perceived health benefits of eating these products. As such, a balanced view would suggest that wild caught and aquaculture produced fisheries products will be in increasing demand

Market forces such as the following impact on the fishing industries of CARIFORUM countries:

- The availability of frozen portion controlled imports from countries with low production costs;
- The steady growth in food sold by supermarkets, against a background that supermarkets usually apply strong purchase cost and sanitary requirements on suppliers. The growth in supermarkets can be expected to continue;
- The increasing tendency for consumers to look for ready prepared meals; in the case of fisheries products implying cleaned and filleted or portion controlled product; and
- Pressure flowing from the trade rules of the WTO that are designed to allow a freer flow of trade.

### **2.2 Country Cost Structures**

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CARIFORUM island country cost structures are generally high compared with low cost, higher volume producers such as Guyana and Belize. Estimates were provided that monthly wages alone were four times as high in some CARIFORUM island countries compared with Guyana. In addition, utility costs, particularly electricity, are very high in most CARIFORUM countries, and water, also a key input to the processing of fishery products, is also generally high in cost.

In line with world fuel prices very substantial increases have occurred in fuel costs in recent years.

## 2.3 Exports

Major exports include shrimp groundfish, conch, tuna, lobster (including live), red snapper and some reef fish. Tilapia and shrimp are emerging as significant aquaculture venture exports.

## 2.4 Imports

Many CARIFORUM countries import both locally available and exotic fishery products either from fellow CARIFORUM countries. Frozen portion or filleted fish from Guyana can be seen in supermarkets retailing at a price that is competitive to locally available product in these supermarkets.

Generally sanitary controls and inspection of imported products are not strong. Over time the rules of the WTO will lead to more open markets, exposing CARIFORUM countries to even greater competition from imports.

## 2.5 General growing awareness of safe foods

***!Proteja su salud!***

**Solo compre alimentos si el vendedor:**

- Tiene zafacón con funda y tapa.**
- Tiene protegidos los alimentos del polvo, insectos, etc.**
- No fuma, ni bebe y está vestido adecuadamente.**
- Esta identificado y autorizado debidamente.**
- Usa guantes plásticos o pinzas para despachar los alimentos.**
- No estomuda sobre los alimentos.**

**CONSATUR**  
Comisión Nacional de Salud y Turismo

**"PROGRAMA DE CONTROL DE VENTAS DE ALIMENTOS EN VÍAS PÚBLICAS"**

 

Ministerio de Salud y Medio Ambiente  
y Asistencia Social (MISAS) Ministerio de Salud y Turismo  
Dirección General de Salud Ambiental



There is a growing awareness of issues related to the safety of food in the younger people in CARIFORUM countries, by virtue of the availability of information via television and the Internet. Additionally, younger people are travelling more widely and as such more exposed to trends in fresh food retailing in other countries. There remains a sector of the population that holds to the view that evidence of ice being used to store fish indicates the fish is not fresh.

Biotoxins, particularly ciguatera, are a real problem for some CARIFORUM countries. For example, in Antigua and Barbuda in the period 1999-2002, an average of approximately 300 cases a year was reported.

*One of the Dominican Republic safe food brochure.*

No figures have been obtained on the cost of hospitalisation and economic loss due to this and other toxins.

On-line travel health web sites tend to highlight ciguatera as a risk in all Caribbean countries ie they do not discriminate between those that have a genuine domestic problem and those that do not have a serious incidence of the toxin.

## 2.6 Hotels, Resorts, Restaurants and Supermarkets

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The restaurant and tourism related trade remain good markets for CARIFORUM fishermen. However, in terms of sanitary standards there will be increasing demand for improvements to be made to these standards.

This reflects the growing issue of legal liability, for example, in the case of a guest of a hotel, restaurant or resort who becomes ill after eating fish. It is understood most hotels avoid ciguatera problems by careful selection of the species of fish they buy. Others have established arrangements with individual fishermen that can include ice and/or refrigeration being used.

Fresh fish was preferred to frozen fish, however the price differential between fresh fish and frozen fish was a real issue. In the main, hotels sought cleaned filleted portion controlled fish as distinct from whole fish.

Studies have suggested that the availability of fresh fish was a factor that attracted tourists to eat in particular restaurants. Supermarket growth continues and in line with this growth improved sanitary standards for fisheries products are often required of the suppliers of fisheries products.

### 3. Findings

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This chapter represents a summary of the findings as it relates to this study in the CARIFORUM countries.

#### 3.1 Sustainability of Fisheries

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The countries visited vary greatly in terms of the size of their economic zone and of fisheries stocks they have available. There is evidence to support the view that close to shore fisheries stocks are declining (Report of the 2000 Caribbean Pelagic And Reef Fisheries Assessment and Management Workshop, June 5 - 7, 2000) and therefore larger vessels are going to be required with the capacity to remain at sea longer than a day. Shrimp stocks in Guyana and Surinam are being managed and production is not likely to increase (CRFM report May 2004, on the Shrimp and Groundfish workshops conducted in Guyana - November 2003, Belize - December 2003 and Trinidad and Tobago - January 2004). Similarly, the conch fisheries in at least Jamaica and Belize are sustainable and managed fisheries (CFRAMP 2002, Regional Overview of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Resources in CARICOM/CARIFORUM Countries, July 2001).

There is fishing by some fishermen of other CARIFORUM countries waters, with the fishermen leaving port from their home country and landing product in a second CARIFORUM country.

Another significant influence on fisheries stocks is likely to be illegal fishing by large vessels of non-CARIFORUM countries. The CARIFORUM countries have little capacity to enforce their territorial sea rights.

A number of key species such as tuna are migratory in nature and this, combined with seasonal conditions, adds to the difficulty in maintaining sustainable fisheries particularly as it relates to exports.

#### 3.2 Market Constraints

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For the small island countries lacking economies of scale and having an industry largely based on small, expensive to operate vessels remains the most significant market constraint.

The high cost of capital financing and obtaining suitable statistical information that can be used to guide strategic decision making by the private sector is not easily obtained at a reasonable cost.

A detailed understanding of recent EU Directives is a major problem for the private sector and many Government agencies.

While markets such as the EU Caribbean Territories and the USA are relatively close, the cost of airfreight to those markets is significant.

### 3.3 Knowledge of Market Developments

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Fishermen and processors are well aware of domestic market conditions and what that market requires. Some acknowledge the adverse impact of imports upon their business, Guyana being an exception.

Less understood among smaller exporting countries is how the international market operates in terms of supply and demand, prices received and what is required to access specific countries such as the EU.

Extremely limited in countries not exporting to the EU is a good understanding of the requirements of the EU in particular:

- The systems based approach that is used by the EU to ensure the safety of seafood for its consumers;
- A sound knowledge and understanding for new EU Directives related to sanitary matters in fisheries.

However, even countries already exporting to the EU have difficulties when significant new directives are introduced.

### 3.4 Competent Authority Issues

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Of the CARIFORUM countries that are active exporters of fisheries products to the EU, only Belize has an integrated single agency CA. A few countries have a CA for its animal products including fisheries products. Other countries typically have CA responsibilities split between a number of Departments of State such as Agriculture, Fisheries (although usually part of Agriculture), Health and the Bureau of Standards. In a number of



CARIFORUM countries an “SPS Committee” is responsible for the coordination of CA activities.

Overall the current CA arrangements, particularly those that do not involve a single agency, must be regarded as fragile and more prone to problems arising than necessary. Links between Competent Authorities and other relevant agencies are not robust, and there are greatly increased opportunities for issues that arise, in particular new requirements not being addressed in a timely and logical manner. Even with those CA’s that are presently within a single agency there is a need strengthen their operating arrangements.

At the root of the problem is the organisational structure of Ministries of Agriculture (and Fisheries) and to a lesser extent the Ministries of Health. By and large Ministries of Agriculture have not changed their organisational arrangements to the extent necessary to adequately address market access issues related to the WTO SPS agreement. Many of these agencies still have a similar structure to what might have existed (and been appropriate for) fifty years ago. However, since 1996, that is the date when the WTO SPS Agreement came into force, organisational arrangements have not changed to the extent warranted by the significance of this agreement to trade in foods.

A comparison between the percentages of total resources available to Ministries of Agriculture in developed countries that are directed toward CA activities will show quite a significant percentage. Typically this is not the case in developing countries including the CARIFORUM countries.

CA’s are generally under resourced from a personnel and financial perspective. Often they lack specialist expertise, for example food technology or aquatic animal health. Only a few countries have easy access to the required laboratory facilities.

Generally, there has been inadequate recognition of the critical role the CA has in relation to gaining and maintaining market access for exports of fishery (and other agricultural) products.

### 3.5 Financial Support and Cost Recovery

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All CARIFORUM Governments have severe budget constraints and this tends to be the norm in developing countries. As such the extent of financial support the Government is able to provide to CA activities is very limited.

Cost recovery for the provision of Government enforcement, inspection and certification services is not well developed in most CARIFORUM countries an exception being the

Government Analytical Laboratory in the DR. The absence of cost recovery inevitably leads to a service or CA that is more under- resourced than necessary.

### 3.6 Legislation

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Current sanitary legislation as it relates to both domestic and export control of foods is generally inadequate in most CARIFORUM countries. Some countries have quite advanced drafts prepared that would address this issue. However, in the main legislation is not well structured, as often principal Acts and Regulations are difficult to amend given the legal resource capability and the staffing capacity of the specific agency.

In some countries livestock legislation is still in use in relation to fisheries products and invariably the legislation does not provide the required degree of control required by the EU.

Legislation has been prepared and is in an advanced stage in OECS and Barbados for animal health and food safety.

### 3.7 Operating Procedures and HACCP

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Considerable effort has been made by Governments, the private sector and by a number of development assistance agencies to improve the understanding of HACCP in the region. Quite a number of public sector employees have received some HACCP training via donor agency workshops (eg EU, FAO, CIDA and JICA). To some extent this has been successful however, there remains a significant shortage of “in depth” expertise for developing and the independent verification of HACCP plans. At times there is the need for a determination on when or if plans are needed

Some private sector operatives have produced their own HACCP plan following training of one of their own personnel. However, too many of these plans are static, that is they are “bookshelf plans” and are not “living plans” that are updated regularly or independently audited on a regular basis.

The capacity for independent HACCP verification is extremely limited in the region.

### 3.8 Sanitary Conditions in Local Markets

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With the possible exception of resorts, major hotels and the larger supermarkets the domestic market in most if not all CARIFORUM countries have serious deficiencies in fisheries sanitation. These can be attributed to a range of factors:

In some countries there are significant issues that to date have impeded the development of improved sanitary arrangements in the fishing industry. These include:

- A reluctance of fishermen to adopt more efficient and sanitary vessels
- A belief by some people in some countries that iced or refrigerated fish is not fresh fish;
- Inability to obtain financing for upgrading;
- Inadequate public and post harvest public landing and post harvest facilities



Fishermen are unlikely to change their habits in advance of identifiable consumer demand for improved sanitary practices. Partly this probably reflects the cash returns received from fishing and a tendency not to plan too far ahead.

*The current St John's fish market in Antigua*

### 3.9 Testing Facilities (Laboratory)

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Laboratory capacity is very limited in most CARIFORUM countries. Typically some capacity exists in all countries to undertake basic microbiological testing, for example of fisheries products and water samples. However, more complex tests of pesticides, heavy metals and toxins can be undertaken only in a few countries. Environmental monitoring remains a significant issue in terms of the ability of countries to meet these requirements on a regular basis.

Over many years development assistance agencies have provided support both by way of equipment and training to enhance laboratory capacity in developing countries generally.

However in many cases the sustainability of these efforts has not been thought through adequately, leading to a situation where:

- Sophisticated equipment is often purchased from countries too distant and too expensive in terms of servicing and maintenance of laboratory equipment. This leads to a situation that where servicing, upgrading or maintenance of the equipment is required (which inevitably will be the case) the laboratory or the country does not have financial resources to meet the need;
- Laboratory equipment is supplied with minimal maintenance and servicing arrangements;
- Adequately trained technical staff are not available or in very short supply;

One specific option raised in the TOR for this study relates to the capacity to utilise a regional laboratory. At present one specific purpose regional laboratory exists in the region the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) in St Lucia. This laboratory has in the past had the capacity to undertake a range of complex tests. However, due to funding and technical constraints this is not now happening. A significant problem has been the lack of samples being submitted to the laboratory that in turn the laboratory can charge for. Apparently at least one other private sector laboratory in the region actively competes for samples, and this impacts on the ability of CEHI to provide a sustainable capacity for complex testing such as heavy metals and toxins. Specific issues that are often not adequately addressed in the context of a regional laboratory are:

- The availability of timely, cost effective air links preferably without a transit to ensure samples in cooler boxes arrive at the laboratory in good condition;
- The need for a formal protocol between the sending and receiving country when a sample of potentially exotic organism is to be the subject of testing.

### 3.10 Industry Related Issues

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The maintenance of acceptable standards for a range of industry related issues is a problem for most CARIFORUM countries. These issues include:

- Vessel condition relating to sanitation;
- Landing site facilities;
- Transportation vehicles in the context of cold chain and sanitation issues;
- Many preparation and processing facilities are in need of upgrading;
- Most airports lack cold chain facilities for the storage of fisheries products.

### 3.11 Status of National Policies and Planning

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Some CARIFORUM countries have commissioned reports or strategic plans aimed at development of fisheries products and related processing industry. However, with such

plans, food safety, inspection and certification issues related to the status of the CA have generally not been adequately addressed. This will lead to a situation where development that is export oriented will be delayed by inadequate institutional arrangements related to food safety.

The team was not made aware of any CARIFORUM country that had a cohesive plan to address sanitary deficiencies in the domestic, import or export markets. Some countries had successfully accessed development assistance, but the net result was a fragmented and as such largely unsustainable approach to improving fisheries sanitation issues.

### 3.12 Donor Strategies and Programs

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Key donors active in the region include Europe AID, FAO, CIDA and JICA. The World Bank is currently embarking on a worldwide SPS strengthening program.

Contact was made with CIDA who advised that they have no planned interventions in the area of fisheries sanitation in CARIFORUM countries.

Coordination between donors in the area of fisheries sanitation is nowhere near as extensive as it should be leading to fragmented development assistance efforts.



*The new fisheries building and laboratory set up in Antigua and provided by JICA*

#### 4. Discussion of General Issues

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The options for moving forward are quite constrained by the timetable suggested in this study's TOR. End 2007 is mentioned as well as a two-year timeframe which would extend to end 2008. Both in the context of substantive and sustainable improvements to fisheries sanitary capacity in the region are unrealistic.

As a consequence this study has provided recommendations and options that meet the timeframe specified in the TORs, but also provided substantive guidance for future years.

Options can be considered for meeting EU export requirements, import requirements and the local market in each of the CARIFORUM countries.

##### 4.1 Meeting EU Export Food Safety Requirements

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There are a limited number of CARIFORUM countries that have a fisheries resource that would lead to the export of product to the EU or its Caribbean Territories. Guyana, Surinam, Jamaica, Belize and Antigua (live lobster) are at present exporting to these destinations. Given the timeframe of end 2008 that this study has, there is very little likelihood of other CARIFORUM countries becoming exporters of fisheries product to the EU.



*The one of the Nova fisheries prawn packing establishment in Belize that has full EU listing*

As such the exploration of options for meeting EU export requirements is for the time being best confined to the countries that are presently active exporters to the EU, and those that previously exported and are making efforts to regain that status.

#### 4.2 Food Safety Issues Related to Imports of Fisheries Products by CARIFORUM Countries

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As a general statement, all CARIFORUM countries require strengthening of capacity in relation to ensuring that imports of fisheries products meet reasonable food safety standards. As such, recommendations in this area will be applicable to all CARIFORUM countries although it is recognised that some will be in a better position to move down this path than others. Most will require substantial building of the foundations of a CA (preferably a single agency) before sustainable enhancements can be made to their processes that relate to the food safety of fisheries imports.

#### 4.3 Food Safety Issues Related to the Local Market

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Most, if not all CARIFORUM countries have a real need to upgrade if not requirements then the enforcement of these requirements, for fisheries products destined for the local market. Fisheries products are but one food, in a range of foods (for example meat), where food safety can be a real concern in the context of the current capability of CARIFORUM countries. It is essential that the more general foundations for food safety are addressed as part of enhancing fisheries food safety to provide a higher level of sustainability.

At present in many local markets realistic food safety requirements are required and enforced by hotels, resorts and supermarkets. With a general trend towards growth in the supermarket sector, a reasonable expectation is that food safety requirements and enforcement will improve at least as far as this group of sellers and users are concerned.

This study will recommend measures that can be taken to improve fisheries sanitation in the local market. These measures will be directed towards improving the understanding of consumers of the need for appropriate sanitation in relation to fisheries products. Consumers are the primary drivers when it comes to forcing fishermen, handlers and processors to improve sanitary standards, so accordingly initial measures must target this group to have a sustainable impact.

#### 4.4 CAHFSA

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The proposed establishment of CAHFSA is a significant issue in the context of fisheries sanitation. The Pacific island countries through Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have a regional animal and plant health capacity and have had this capacity for many

years. Development assistance agencies such as Europe Aid, AusAID and NZAID provide baseline and project funding. There is severely limited capacity for the Pacific island countries to provide funding that would sustainably support these functions.

The Central America Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health (ORISA) headquartered in San Salvador and with a presence in Belize is another example of a regional organisation. At present ORISA is actively sponsoring Masters study that is often largely Internet based for both SPS issues and food safety.

For CAHFSA at this point in time:

- The staffing suggested is one Veterinarian, one plant health specialist, one food safety specialist and an administrator. The food safety specialist will be useful in the context of fisheries sanitation however, other issues that require specialist fisheries aquatic animal health expertise are likely to emerge as the aquaculture industry develops;
- There is varying levels of enthusiasm for the establishment of CAHFSA and some countries are not supportive as they cannot identify the value of CAHFSA to their situation;
- The funding model proposed for CAHFSA, that is quota contributions by member countries is unlikely to provide the necessary income to sustain a viable organisation;
  - While it may be possible for specific project funding to be obtained by CAHFSA, the organisation is likely to require external development assistance baseline funding for at least five years.
- It will be critical that the objectives of CAHFSA are tightly focussed and remain that way in the years ahead. The document that discusses the establishment of CAHFSA, projects an extensive set of objectives that are more than likely to place an impossible task on the staff of CAHFSA unless specific priorities are nominated.

Given CAHFSA can be established on a sound base, it will prove a useful organisation to many if not all CARIFORUM countries. One of its most valuable roles could be advising on appropriate harmonised legislation for exports / imports and the domestic sector. There is still one off legislation currently being developed in the field of animal health that is not appropriate to the needs of CARIFORUM countries and if anything sets back the development of more robust CA organisational arrangements. Another potentially valuable role would be advising development assistance agencies on how to improve the sustainability of donor assistance in the SPS area. This does not imply CAHFSA having funding control over these efforts, as clearly there are national sovereignty issues to consider.



Having regard to the above and in particular the need for the smaller CARIFORUM countries to have a focus where help is required this study is proposing funding measures that will assist CAHFSA in its formative years. In particular there is a strong case for baseline support from the EU to enable CAHFSA to commence its operations as early as possible. CAHFSA will be a critical organisation in the context of trade between and from CARIFORUM countries.

#### 4.5 CROSQ

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The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) was established as an intergovernmental organisation to establish and maintain a cost effective and internationally recognised regional quality infrastructure (RQI). The quality infrastructure is based on establishing within the region, an infrastructure for metrology, standards, testing and quality, which meets international standards to support mutual recognition agreements (MRAs).

In 2005 CROSQ presented a discussion paper that outlines the concept of the Caribbean Regional Accreditation System (CRAS), and defines the role of a Caribbean Regional Accreditation Authority (CRAA), which is recommended as the first step in the process of harmonising the region's testing and quality systems in order to afford and ensure international recognition.

CROSQ is not a regulatory organisation but can play a useful part in strengthening fisheries sanitary capacity arrangements through its efforts to establish a regional accreditation authority and through its efforts related to HACCP. It will be important that close links are maintained between CAHFSA and CROSQ as at times their efforts will focus on similar issues.

#### 4.6. The Roles of Development Assistance, Governments, and Regional Organisations

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Before considering the respective roles of development assistance agencies, governments and regional organisations, it is necessary to identify the steps necessary to ensure a sustainable export market.

The following summarises, by precedence, the steps that are necessary.

#### **Stage 1 Foundations Underpinning Exports of Fishery Products**

- Industry personnel who understand how the international market works and have necessary linkages to purchasers of product, or related companies in foreign markets;
- Availability of sustainable stocks of key species;
- Existence of market at profitable price, having regard to:
  - Seasonal demand for product and seasonal catches;
  - Cost of catching;
  - In country transport costs;
  - Processing and storage costs;
  - Costs of laboratory testing and certification;
  - Availability of suitable air/sea freight for fisheries product;
  - Packaging, freight and insurance to international destination;
  - Supply of comparable product from markets with economies of scale and cheaper production costs.
- Availability of alternative market if international price offered is not profitable;
- A credible Competent Authority with the ability to provide credible Government-to-Government health certification, and underpinned by:
  - Legislation;
  - Regulations and Operational Manuals;
  - Trained Officers;
  - Regulatory culture that allows enforcement of requirements;
  - Availability of supporting specialist scientific advice in the event importing government authorities raise specific technical issues.
- Industry personnel who understand catching, processing, storage and transport requirements of key importing countries;
- Availability (not necessarily in-country) of laboratory capacity to undertake the full range of test required by importing countries;
- Availability of HACCP development and verification capability at reasonable cost.

**Governments can set a framework by:**

- Improving knowledge of private sector on international markets and movements in sanitary standards;
- Improving the public awareness of the wider public as to the benefits of improved sanitary arrangements;
- Having clear CA Arrangements and Organisational structures that recognise that qualified resources are scarce in small countries;
- Having appropriate legislation in place;

- Recognising that a regulatory service associated with the issuing of internationally accepted certification will need support and will need to be able to enforce prescribed standards.
- Facilitating a gradual move in sanitary standards on the domestic market consistent with sustaining domestic fisheries activity.

**Development assistance agencies can assist by:**

- Recognising the need to support the development of sustainable infrastructure in order to guarantee the importation of safe product to their country and to ensure the viability of their business. Coordination of activities between agencies will be critical to sustainable outcomes. This can be facilitated by a regional agency like CAHFSA even recognising that specific donors will have objectives that they themselves wish to pursue.

**Regional Organisations such as CARIFORUM / CRFM / CAHFSA / CROSQ can assist by:**

- Acting as a focal point for institutional strengthening activities for CARIFORUM countries in relation to upgrading sanitary standards for fisheries processing;
- Being a focal point for specialised training such as HACCP and risk analysis;
- Advising on the formation of appropriate consultative arrangements between a CA and the private sector;
- Ensuring that other development assistance agencies active in CARIFORUM countries in the field covered by this study have access to this report and perhaps meet to plan a strategic approach to funding;
- Facilitating the development of standardised legislative frameworks, operating manuals and HACCP verification capacity;
- Providing information in relation to the sustainability of species;
- Organisations such as CRFM and the proposed CAHFSA acting as focal points for the coordination of development assistance for SPS capacity building from a regional perspective.

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## 5 Conclusions

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### 5.1 Organisation of the Competent Authority

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In very small countries, as is the case with many CARIFORUM countries, appropriately qualified technical inspection and certification resources are scarce. Having only one or two people able to perform these duties leads to the need for a multi skilled workforce trained across all exported agricultural, marine and food products. Many of the skills needed to inspect and certify the safety of a specific food will be common to another food, agricultural or marine product. In practice, this points to the need to establish an integrated CA in countries where exports of these products are significant enough to justify such a move. Establishing such a Service needs to include consideration of how it can best mesh with domestic sanitary requirements that have typically been the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. It is undesirable in a small country with limited resources, to have two separate inspection regimes for establishments producing product for both the domestic and export markets.

Having a single CA that acts like a post box by sending specific requirements to specialist Ministries is one option. However, it will prove not to be a practical way of dealing with the issue of obtaining and maintaining EU listing in the medium to long term.

A preferred option in terms of EU and all other foreign country requirements is to establish a stand-alone CA agency more than likely in the Ministry of Agriculture. It would be the agency responsible for inspection and the issue of export certification, and therefore in turn responsible for providing the necessary assurances to all foreign governments in relation to meeting their standards. It would operate the WTO SPS Enquiry Point and Notification functions.

The benefits of such an agency are that all import and export SPS related inspection and certification activities will be located in a specialist regulatory agency. Having a single regulatory agency involved in this area will provide a genuine focus for building on current arrangements.

In small countries there may be advantages in the short term having a Committee set up which comprises the various competent authorities, and perhaps chaired by an agency such as the Ministry of Agriculture. In some CARIFORUM countries, agricultural products as well as fishery products are exported with government-to-government certification invariably provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, in the medium to long-term movement to a single CA agency will provide a stronger foundation in terms of sustainable exports to markets such as the EU.

Strengthening CA arrangements can only happen where the will to do so exists within the national Government. Moving organisationally to a single CA agency is not a simple exercise and a multitude of problems may be encountered, including issues related to “patch protection”, or argument that organisational alignment to international organisations is more important than such an agency.

If a single agency is developed, then other substantive foundation issues need to be addressed such as the legislative base for the organisation and cost recovery.

It is highly unlikely that external expertise that can be provided to national governments exists in the region at present, and accordingly this study is suggesting that a regional funding facility be established so that countries who are prepared to organisationally move to a CA single agency can be assisted to make that move. The expertise required will in the main be institutional, having regard to the fact that a single agency CA should encompass all CA activities related to animal (including aquatic species) and plants and their products and foods, particularly import and export of food subject to WTO SPS measures.

Having a single agency involved in CA responsibilities, concentrates the capacity of countries to address SPS measures related to the export and imports of all foods. As such it will have flexibility in the utilisation of enforcement staff and be able to spread their activities over export and import enforcement activities. Some CARIFORUM countries may find that when full EU requirements are in place for the export of bananas to the UK that additional support will be apparent for a single agency CA.

In countries where fisheries products are the only export covered by EU requirements having a CA agency within fisheries should serve fisheries exporters well.

Access to the regional funding facility must depend on firm prior commitments from national governments to implement a single agency CA.

For countries where moving to a single agency is not practicable at this point in time alternative models should be as strong as possible and may benefit from restructuring but not necessarily to a single agency.

## 5.2 Funding Base of the Competent Authority

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Realistic cost recovery policies can make a substantive contribution to the funds available to the CA, given that Governments will allow the funds recovered to be used by the

agency. In particular, cost recovery can provide a funding base from which equipment can be purchased and maintained and specialised technical expertise developed. Cost recovery is, along with up to date legislation and an appropriate organisation structure, one of the foundations stones on which sound CA arrangements can be built.

There are risks with cost recovery, and one is that the Government may not allow recovered funds to be retained by the agency; another is that, having regard to the agency having a cost recovery policy, a Government may choose to reduce budgetary funding. However, even acknowledging these weaknesses, a sound cost recovery policy based on the premise that there is an identifiable beneficiary, is strongly supported. There are clearly situations in CARIFORUM countries where the private sector is not contributing for a valuable service that the Government provides. A significant part of this issue is a lack of appreciation of the value of the services the Government provides through its CA arrangements. The case for cost recovery can be argued with the private sector in the context of strengthening the essential inspection and certification infrastructure. This will offset the perception that many private enterprise firms see only the actual time spent by an inspector on their premises, either inspecting some product or issuing required government-to-government certification. They do not recognise that, behind the scenes, a considerable amount of government effort goes into, in some cases, securing new markets for agricultural and fishery products, and then maintaining those markets. This issue can be addressed through improving the understanding of the private sector of EU food safety requirements and the role that the CA has in the whole process leading to sustainable exports.

As well as risks related to cost recovery there are opportunities to derive income from wider sources with that income being applied to core CA functions. Included may be:

- Licence fees;
- A fee for the registration/approval of processing and storage establishments;
- A fee for the time Government Officers spend on monitoring, inspection and certification duties at approved processing establishments;
- Passenger processing, and cargo inspection charges for countries (particularly island countries) who have a genuine need for import biosecurity measures to be enforced at airports and seaports, to minimise possible exotic pest and disease incursions from these sources that may impact on their wider agricultural and fisheries industries.

In general having cost recovery provisions will lead to improved ability to argue for budgetary support from Government. A system that involves a fee for a service that is time based will focus the private sector on improving their operations so as to avoid unnecessary charges. This in turn will lead to a more robust system overall.

This study believes that the regional funding facility referred to above to support the development of a single agency CA within countries, should be utilised to assist national Governments to implement appropriate cost recovery measures. However, access to funding to enhance cost recovery activities should be dependent on a national government's commitment to a single agency CA.

Cost recovery will be most advantageous where agencies are able to retain funds in a trust account environment and use these funds as an investment to strengthen activities such as laboratory or systems capacity.

### 5.3 Legislation

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A critical need exists for CARIFORUM countries to have access to common model legislation that covers the inspection and certification of all agricultural and marine products. Model legislation will not only assist in facilitating trade between CARIFORUM countries but will also provide an easier platform for individual countries to maintain their legislation in an up to date form. Technical requirements do change in relation to inspection and certification, and legislation that can cope with these regular changes is needed. Ideally this model legislation will be simple and operationally suitable for CARIFORUM countries.

Overarching export control legislation that allows for the basic requirements for inspection and certification would significantly improve the situation. Such legislation, if adopted, will provide a framework for accessing the EU food market as well as other markets for fisheries (and other agricultural products) exports. Using an Export Control Act as the overarching legislation for the inspection and certification of all agricultural, fisheries and food products, allows for specific regulations to be developed for particular products such as fishery products, while maintaining a common overall framework. An outline of an Export Control Act is at Annex 4.

In addition to export control legislation, appropriate domestic legislation and import control legislation is needed. An outline of appropriate import control (biosecurity / quarantine) legislation is at Annex 5.

A high priority for CAHFSA should be having access to expertise that will facilitate the development of appropriate legislation for a single agency CA. Typically such legislation will include export control and import biosecurity (quarantine) legislation. In some countries this will require a substantial rewrite of traditional livestock and plant protection legislation for example.

Other legislative needs include relatively minor amendments to legislation in order to satisfy issues raised during formal EU reviews.

The funding of a SPS / CA legislative specialist capacity available to CRFM / CAHFSA is recommended to meet this critical need within CARIFORUM countries.

#### 5.4 HAACP Capacity within Competent Authorities and the Private Sector

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There has been a previous report that recommended the establishment of a HACCP Regional CA with four subcommittees installed under the CARICOM Scientific and Technical Committee. This Committee would be responsible for:

- The harmonisation of food legislation;
- Training (Good Practices – pre requisite programs and HACCP);
- Regional Environmental monitoring program;
- Approval and net working of regional laboratories.

While this remains an option, the current study sees the problem one more as that one of a shortage of specialised resources as distinct from the need for coordination of activities. Some CARIFORUM countries have the capacity to develop operating procedures for inspection and certification authorities, while others do not. Given the generally small size of the countries covered by this study and their limited trained human resources, one option is that model procedures and documents such as HACCP verification manuals are developed by one lead country and made available to other CARIFORUM countries.

However, a better alternative may be providing a small-specialised resource base to CAHFSA, for say a two year period, with a view to the development of model procedures and manuals that can be adopted by all CARIFORUM countries.

This study believes that a targeted program of upgrading existing HACCP skills is needed, and that it should be a program that includes both key Government officials and representatives of the private sector active in the fisheries harvesting and processing sectors. However, in drawing this conclusion it is important to point out that, unless governments are prepared to enforce building and sanitary standards, and the private sector is prepared to renovate or build new premises that meet current accepted standards, a lot of the training effort will be wasted.

Within the timeframe suggested for the implementation of the recommendations of this study CAHFSA is unlikely to be in a position to manage such a program, although in the longer term it may have the capacity.



The ultimate aim should be to establish train the trainer and HACCP verification capacity within each CARIFORUM country.

## 5.5 Laboratory Capacity

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This is one of the more difficult issues to address. There is no question that laboratory capacity generally in CARIFORUM countries is inadequate. At issue is how to improve laboratory capacity, and, in relation to this issue, this study has focussed on testing needs related to fisheries exports to the EU.

JICA has been active in this area in Dominica, and more recently in Antigua, where microbiological and bacteriological laboratory facilities and equipment have been provided to the fisheries sector. In Antigua, the technical staff needed to operate the equipment will be sourced from the Ministry of Agriculture laboratory.

It is critical to note that a separate and ongoing study is in progress as this report is being completed. Ms Beverley Wood of Barbados has been commissioned by CARICOM Rural Development Unit to undertake a study “Agricultural Health and Food Safety Laboratory and Training Needs Assessment for CARICOM Countries.” This study can be expected to provide substantive detail that can be read in conjunction with this study, with a view to formulating a sustainable approach to this critical issue.

At least for the time frame required by this study, regional strengthening of laboratory capacity is not a viable option. However, the strengthening and/or rationalisation of a national laboratory capacity is an option through a regional funding facility managed for example by CAHFSA. However, for this to result in sustainable improvements it will require a rigorous assessment of any request for funding including:

- The availability of potentially competing private sector laboratories;
- The laboratory having sound cost recovery policies and practices in place;
- Specimen throughput is sufficient to sustain the particular test regime;
- Qualified (and backup) technical staff are available;
- Supplementary Government funding is sufficient to sustain a servicing / maintenance program and the purchase of consumables.

In addition to the above, specialised training of key personnel may be required and this would represent a useful investment in building laboratory capacity, given parameters such as those above are in place.

Laboratory accreditation is a further major issue that needs to be considered in terms of upgrading or building new laboratories in CARIFORUM countries. The accreditation process requires specialised personnel and at present there is a shortage of same in CARIFORUM countries. For example, the EU would have an expectation that any laboratory used to process samples under its requirements would be accredited by a substantive organisation in accordance with EN 45001 or ISO 17025.

Some CARIFORUM countries are looking to establish a national laboratory that integrates presently fragmented laboratories in a number of different ministries, and this option has merit, providing the specific limits of the proposed laboratory in terms of tests it can perform, is carefully circumscribed. It is critical to recognise that laboratory techniques across plant pathology, animal health, and food in general and human vary widely and require specialist expertise, if not to conduct the test itself, then at least to interpret results.

There are good arguments to support the view that microbiological parameters should be capable of being tested within a country, and this study supports that view.

However, conducting complex testing may still best be managed by sending samples to overseas laboratories unless a detailed study supports, in an economic sense, the establishment of a fully functional national or regional laboratory. Any laboratory engaged in the process of testing samples for the EU should be encouraged to seek accreditation under EN 45001 or ISO 17025 to ensure reliability of test results. These laboratories should have arrangements for inter laboratory comparison of test results.

Given the underlying funding difficulties experienced by all developing countries, directing funding into the development of ELISA or other quick / cheap tests that do not require sophisticated laboratory equipment or specialised technical staff, will be an option. However, it is recognised that often the specificity of such tests will not meet EU testing requirements and therefore “package arrangements” would be required. These include the use of these tests as a screening tool with much more infrequent use of the more specific laboratory tests. In conjunction with this approach, consideration of derogation issues for certain specific tests for CARIFORUM (or all developing countries) may be required.

## 5.6 An Understanding by Both the Private and Government Sectors of EU Requirements

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A number of private sector processing plants indicated they had significant difficulty in coming to an appropriate understanding of EU requirements. This was particularly so where a significant new Directive had been issued. One company, a significant EU

exporter in its country, had printed out the Directive from the Internet but understanding and implementing the content of the Directive was a task that required external assistance.

This assistance could take the form of targeted workshops both for existing EU requirements and for significant new directives. There are several options that could be considered:

- One would involve an EU fisheries sanitation team visiting the region regularly and conducting workshops for both Government and the private sector;
- For the EU to seek advice from the CARIFORUM states as to the relative importance to CARIFORUM countries of the fisheries sector compared to the rural sector generally, and when an opportunity arises place a fisheries sanitation expert in one of the regions rural development positions within the delegation. That person would be specifically designated as a resource in terms of improving the understanding of both the private sector and Government of EU requirements. Having such a person in the region would facilitate consideration of capacity issues that might follow the implementation of a new EU directive;
- For EU Inspection staff on formal reviews extend their visit by a week or two to enable presentations of a standard training package related to EU requirements to both Government and private sector personnel;
- Early on going funding for the food safety component of CAHFSA with a position being designated as being responsible for improving the understanding of EU directives in the region. Whilst this report focuses on fisheries, such a person would more than likely have skills that would support wider food safety initiatives in the region;
- Early on going funding directed towards the establishment of an e-mail based help service for fisheries sanitation in the region, with a specific focus on assistance in understanding and meeting EU requirements. Pacific PestNet is one example of an e-mail based help service that has been operating successfully for a number of years now, with a specific focus on plant protection
- Establishing a facility that could be used to strengthen CA / private sector consultative arrangements.

## 5.7 Fisheries Import Sanitation

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Improving capacity in the area of fisheries imports is an issue that cannot be easily separated from the fisheries export issues. This reflects the fact that to have sound import inspection and enforcement practices effectively means that a country requires a single agency CA, complete with the package of issues raised above in respect of exports.

For the most part, current arrangements for inspection and clearance of imported fisheries products are ad hoc in nature, and provide no substantive food safety assurance to consumers. More than likely, the only areas where imports are meeting reasonable food safety requirements are where resorts, major hotels and supermarkets are the importers, and have commercial requirements relating to food safety that must be met.

Foundation issues that require focus include:

- Having contemporary food safety legislation that is equally applicable to imports and domestically produced fisheries products. In many countries that currently have aging public health legislation, this will mean the development and implementation of new food safety legislation;
- Having an agency with sound cost recovery practices, including the recovery of costs from the private (domestic) sector. This is essential in order to sustain an enforcement workforce and, in time, to having the private sector recognise and operate to its own responsibilities in the context of supplying consumers with safe food.;

## 5.8 Domestic Market Fisheries Sanitation

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Having regard to the constraints faced by local markets there are key issues:

- The availability of adequate legislation;
- The capacity to enforce legislation;
- The need for specific and serious health issues such as ciguatera poisoning to be addressed if at all possible by the development of a cheap and effective test kit;
- The need to continue to educate consumers about the benefits of sound sanitary practices for fisheries products. This would recognise that fishermen and processors will only improve their practices when there is a demonstrated need from consumers.

The most appropriate option given the nature of this study is the development of a regional program designed to educate consumers in relation to the need for fisheries sanitation. Such a program could be a foundation project for CAHFSA. The program would need to be capable of being easily modified by specific CARIFORUM countries to more accurately reflect local conditions or needs.

## 6. Recommendations

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1. That in order to establish CAHFSA, or in the interim to establish a specialist unit in CRFM within a short period of time that baseline funding is provided to facilitate this happening. Ideally this funding should extend for at least five years.
2. That a regional funding facility be provided managed by CRFM / CAHFSA that will allow, over the next two years, for the engagement of suitable institutional specialists to advise countries who express serious interest in how to set up sustainable single agency Competent Authority. This facility should also be available to enable the strengthening of institutional arrangements such as cost recovery in smaller CARIFORUM countries that may at this stage not wish to implement a single agency Competent authority.
3. That funding is provided to the specialist unit to be specifically directed towards the establishment of in depth HACCP expertise and train the trainer capacity in CARIFORUM countries and other specialist training.
4. That a regional funding facility be established for a period of two years that can be accessed by countries wishing to review and / or rationalise existing in country laboratory facilities.
5. That a regional funding facility be established for a period of two years that is able to be accessed by countries wishing to upgrade existing laboratory capacity so as to better meet EU testing requirements. This would include laboratory accreditation activities. This facility subject to strict conditions of access relating to the sustainability of the proposed expenditure. .
6. That funds be made available to enable the commissioning of a study to identify where “quick screen tests” or equivalent tests are capable of being developed for use in developing countries. This would necessarily be in conjunction with consideration of where reasonable derogations might be used to support these tests.
7. That funding is provided to CAHFSA/ CRFM for two years to facilitate access to an SPS legal specialist who can guide countries in the development of sound and suitable legislation having regard to the resources available to the country.
8. That funding be made available to enable the development of a Internet based fisheries sanitation and aquatic animal health email based help service. This should happen in close cooperation with what is understood to be a veterinary email help service being developed.
9. (a) That the EU considers the placement of a fisheries sanitation expert as a replacement for a rural development officer who has completed their term of duty. This placement is designed to assist the private sector and Government by the expert delivering workshops and advising on EU requirements.

(b) As an alternative EU Review Inspectors would present a standard training package at the end of their review to groups of Government and private sector personnel.

(c) A third alternative would be to increase the number of specific purpose visits by EU personnel to present and take questions related to EU requirements.

10. That funding be provided to CRFM / CAHFSA that will facilitate improved coordination of development assistance efforts among key development assistance agencies active in the region.
11. That CRFM / CAHFSA be provided with specific funding to develop a regional consumer awareness program that countries can easily tailor to their specific needs.
12. That a EU funding facility be established for the training of fishers, fish farming and post harvest handlers and related personnel in the requirements of the EU. This would include train the trainer and public awareness components.
13. That a funding facility be established to explore the improvement of landing site facilities and systems and handling (sanitary operations on board) on vessels in the context of fisheries exports to the EU.
14. That the EU commission an evaluation of activities undertaken by mid 2008 with a view to identifying longer term needs of the region in the area of fisheries sanitation, especially the involvement of small scale fisheries in the EU export market.

**Annex 1: Terms of Reference of the mission**

**SECRETARY OF THE ACP GROUP OF STATES**  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT**  
**STRENGTHENING FISHERY PRODUCTS HEALTH CONDITIONS IN ACP/OCT**  
**COUNTRIES**  
**REG./70021/000 - 8.ACP.TPS.137**  
**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE n° 114338/C/SV1CP**

**CARIBBEAN REGION**  
**REQUEST FOR SERVICES N° 36/03/06/CAR**  
*Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the*  
*CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*

**Terms of Reference**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The EU has adopted high Fisheries sanitary standards in order to guarantee a high level of health and consumer protection for EU citizens. These standards are also of application for raw and processing fish products penetrating EU market and consumed domestically, whatever the origins. EU domestic regulation may pose a series of challenge for CARIFORUM raw and processing fish exporters that need to meet those requirements in view of penetrating EU markets and expanding market shares. Indeed, the fisheries sector in the Caribbean remains mainly artisanal, some CARIFORUM countries such as Trinidad and Tobago are not exporting to EU markets (for more information on fisheries in the CARIFORUM region see annex to the terms of reference).

**2. PROJECT PURPOSE**

The overall objectives of the study is to advise on a programme of action to eventually increase the value added and revenue derived both from existing and potential fish exports to the EU from Caribbean operators through improved institutional collaboration and capacity in fisheries sanitary standards at the CARIFORUM level.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1.) to identify issues (such as institutional or capacity constraints) that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU sanitary standards and
- 2.) to propose a prioritised list of Terms of References for necessary actions and interventions feasible at the regional / CARIFORUM level that will provide

significant benefits to the fishery sector by assisting in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements.

### **3. BENEFICIARIES AND PARTIES INVOLVED**

The study will include the full participation of the Dominican Republic and CARICOM countries.

The beneficiaries of the mission will be the Governments of the above mentioned countries in general and particularly their Competent Authorities

The ultimate beneficiaries will be the fishing community and the related industry in CARICOM region as well as international and national consumers.

### **4. EXPECTED RESULTS**

A **Final Report** demonstrating the findings, conclusions and recommendations as well as a list of Terms of references for consecutive activities as well as the minutes of a workshop held at the end of the evaluation period.

The report will include the following:

1.) A clear and appropriately structured problem analysis based on EU Fisheries sanitary legislation and policies, taking account of the background to these Terms of Reference and other available information, including:

- a. The region's key constraints in terms of infrastructure, (human) resources, capacity and institutions in the area of SPS in the region's fishery sectors with respect to the development/expansion of those sectors (in particular with regard to intra-regional and international trade);
- b. The existence or otherwise of national or regional policies to tackle these various constraints in a sustainable manner;
- c. The existence or otherwise of strategies and programs by donors and international institutions to tackle these various constraints in a sustainable manner.

2.) Identification of any immediate actions that could promote longer term strategic options to increase the overall contribution of the fishery sector to the regional economy through meeting EU sanitary requirements.

3.) Identification of priorities to be addressed at regional level (e.g. regional laboratory network, accreditation strategy for laboratories, drafting of "best practices" documentation to enable small businesses to comply with HACCP requirements) to fulfil the minimum EU sanitary import requirements for raw and processing fish products

4.) Recommendations to optimise and rationalise resources directed to sanitary control that already exists including complementary measures in order to assure a better coordination of the aid conveyed to CARIFORUM in the sector.

5.) A methodology to prioritise actions in terms of impact, target the surveillance body e.g. a Competent Authority, selecting actions (ToRs) deliverable within a 2 year implementation timeframe.

6.) A draft Financing Proposal advising on an optimum intervention.



7.) In addition to the requirements of the terms of reference core text, the Final Report will take into account the following issues:

- CARIFORUM policies and strategies relevant to sanitary requirements in the fisheries sector,
- CAHPSA, CAFP, CDE, CBSL, the CRFM Secretariat and related capacity building work,
- CARIFORUM / EU EPA Negotiations,
- Existing EU-ACP Fisheries Sector Support (SFP and others)
- Existing CARIFORUM proposals for Fisheries sector sanitary standards support,
- Background to the CARIFORUM Fisheries sector set out in Annex 3 and
- Ongoing relevant regional, national and international fisheries development projects.

## **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The study shall be undertaken to help contribute supporting growth in export markets by helping exporters meet EU sanitary standards requirements. For the purposes of the fisheries sector it will be a self contained project with complete and clear objectives and a time horizon of no more than two years.

A workshop will bring all interested parties together in order to discuss the results of the study and assist in elaboration the requested Terms of References.

## **6. REQUESTED SERVICES**

### **6.1. Study**

The team leader will attend a kick-off meeting at a venue to be confirmed in the presence of the co-chairs of the RPTF or their representatives and the co-chairs of the EPA technical negotiations or their representatives.

Following the kick off meeting, the consultancy team will subsequently carry out an inception phase of work. During this phase they will review the following:

- Activities financed by CARIFORUM countries or any other donor to improve Fisheries sanitary standards in CARIFORUM
- Related studies that already identify weaknesses and sources of obstacles related to sanitary issues (institutional, capacity, etc) in the CARIFORUM Fisheries sector experience intending to penetrate EU market
- Methodologies for optimising and rationalising existing resources and programmes including complementary measures and better coordination of relevant aid to CARIFORUM in the field of sanitary control.

The consultants will then submit a draft inception report describing the proposed methodology and detailed schedule to conduct the rest of the of the consultancy assignment, including field visits and (financial and human) resources available to the team.

A second meeting may be organised at a venue to be confirmed to present the draft inception report to the co-chairs of the RPTF or their representatives and the co-chairs of the EPA technical negotiations or their representatives. Following receipt of comments from the co-chairs of the RPTF and the co-chairs of the EPA technical negotiations, the consultancy team will prepare the final inception report.

The consultancy team will then undertake field work, including *inter alia* but not exclusively consultations with:

- National public and private sector authorities / representatives in CARIFORUM Member States.
- The CSME Unit, the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats.
- CAHFSA, CAFP, CDE, SFP, CBSL and the CRFM Secretariat.
- EC Delegations and representatives of EC Member States in CARIFORUM.
- Relevant donor or other agencies operating in the Caribbean.

After consultation with the co-chairs of the EPA technical negotiations, additional instruction from the co-chairs of the RPTF may be given to the consultancy team, if deemed appropriate.

Following the field work, the consultancy team will prepare a final report containing at least the following:

- A summary of existing public and private activity relevant to complying with EU sanitary standards in the regional fisheries sector.
- A prioritised list of actions at the regional / CARIFORUM level that will provide significant benefits to the fishery sector by assisting in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements and can be undertaken by the end of 2007.
- A schedule of actions with timing, responsibilities and SWOT / Risk analysis, terms of reference and management arrangements for taking these forward.
- Potential measures to rationalise and increase the co-ordination and effectiveness of current development assistance to the fisheries sector to support the objectives of this consultancy.
- A draft Financing Proposal.

## **6.2. Regional workshop**

At the end of the evaluation period a two full days workshop for information and discussion of the results of the study will be organised and executed in Belize for all interested parties. There a list of appropriate Terms of References reflecting the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study will be elaborated in collaboration with the stakeholders.

Two representatives of each member of the CAROFORUM will be invited to participate.

In addition, representatives of CARICOM/CARIFORUM Secretariat, OECS Secretariat and CRFM might participate.

A list of potential participants is attached in annexe VII.

The experts will have to organise the travels of the participants and logistics on the spot (accommodation, venue, technical and practical material for presentations, etc.) and will be responsible for the agenda of the meeting.

The costs of the organization of the meeting (transport of participants and subsistence allowance, hire of venues, coffee-breaks, reception, local assistance, etc.) to a maximum amount of 40.000 EURO, are to be included under the reimbursable costs

The TL will act as moderator and will direct the discussions in order to reach conclusions for actions as regional as possible, keeping in mind an objective of harmonization in general.

The experts will be responsible for putting the final report together, based on the presentations of the assessment reports and the decisions of the national authorities regarding their further participation in the SFP programme.

## **7. EXPERTS PROFILE (3 EXPERTS)**

### **1.) Team Leader, TL:**

The team leader will be an international expert with at least 10 years relevant professional in experience, supported by relevant profession qualifications and / or a university degree.

His or her essential experience includes:

- EU fisheries SPS legislation and regulations and technical aspects of fisheries SPS.
- Public health and food safety systems management and their links to the private sector.
- Marketing and management of fisheries export trade to the EU.
- Experience in the Caribbean region.

Preferable experience includes:

- An understanding of regional institutional development and political processes.
- Public sector institutional capacity development, project design and implementation.
- EC project cycle management.

### **2.) Two (2) local Experts:**

The team leader will be supported by two local experts with at least 5 years professional experience in the sanitary surveillance in the fisheries sector, supported by relevant profession qualifications and / or a university degree.

His or her essential experience includes public - private relations and partnerships in the fisheries sector, including artisanal and commercial fisheries.

The team will need to include English, Spanish and French speaking members for field visits as appropriate.

Each expert will assess a particular geographical area.

## **8. LOCATION AND DURATION**

The study will be carried out in selected member states of CARIFORUM: Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. The workshop will take place in Belize.

The work will be scheduled as follows:

- The maximum duration of the study is 8 weeks including workshop, drafting time, travelling time and time for the receipt of comments.
- The consultants will carry out the following tasks according to the schedule set out below in following table starting from the date of issue of the contract.

Table Schedule of Work	
Week	Action

1 - 2	Inception phase, preparation and agreement of inception report.
3 - 6	Fieldwork and preparation of draft final Report.
7	Workshop
8	Presentation and comment on draft final report and preparation of final report.

## **9. REPORTING**

The structure of the report should have a detailed table of contents, a list of abbreviations, a list of annexes, a list of persons/organisations contacted and at least the following headings: Introduction, Background, Objectives, Main findings, Conclusions and Recommendations and should have at the beginning a concise Executive Summary (maximum 3 pages). The main part of the report should not pass 30 pages. Additional detailed information on visits (establishments, laboratories, other visited sites), meetings or else may be placed as annexes.

A draft copy of the report will be sent by e-mail to the PMU for approval within 7 days after the debriefing. Comments will be given to the experts after consultation with the co-chairs of the RPTF or their representatives and the co-chairs of the EPA.

The final report will be issued in 10 hard cover copies within 5 days after reception of the comments to the draft and sent to the PMU for distribution (2 for EuropAid Cooperation office AIDCO, 2 copies for the ACP secretariat in Brussels, 2 copies for the RPTF, 2 for EPA and 2 copies for the PMU) as well as 1 CD ROM each..

## **10. FURTHER REMARKS**

During contacts with official organisations, the consultants have to identify themselves as independent consultants.

The framework contractors must foresee a local budget available to the consultants, covering *inter alia* purchase of relevant documents, translation, personnel, transport and office supplies.

## ANNEX TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Background to the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector

#### 1. The Fisheries Sector in CARIFORUM

- 1.1. The fishing industry in the Caribbean/CARIFORUM Region is predominantly artisanal with over eighty percent of persons in the industry dependent on fish related activities for their livelihood. A small but vibrant industrial fishery can be found in a few states. Many of the persons employed in the sector are in the areas of harvesting and marketing, however many benefit from related occupations such as boat building and supply as well as repairs and maintenance. A notable feature of the industry is its high proportion of female workers who are engaged in key aspects of seafood operations including but not limited to processing, distribution and retailing in the local market.
- 1.2. Handling of seafood products from harvesting through to processing, marketing and trade is at different levels across the countries, in some states the quality control systems are such that the product is of acceptable international standards, while in others there is considerable room for the enhancement of systems and standards for the consistent attainment of product quality to meet international health and food safety standards.
- 1.3. The required supportive legislative, institutional and laboratory infrastructure also varies across the states. In some countries modern agricultural health and food safety legislation has been enacted or legislation is in the process of being upgraded. There are instances where the processing of fish products is dictated by documented international acceptable standard operating procedures, Good Manufacturing Practices and a HACCP plan for maintaining product quality. These however are in the minority.
- 1.4. The responsibility for the inspection of food production premises, fishing vessels, landing sites, and fish markets in most instances is distributed across government ministries, but consolidated in a single national agency in a few countries. In addition, laboratory analytical facilities exist in most countries with the opportunity for regional networking support in this area through current regional and national laboratory facilities such as those at CEHI (St. Lucia), UWI (Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica), the SRC in Jamaica and the IAST in Guyana.
- 1.5. Also, a regional technical coordinating unit has been established and has successfully delivered institutional and technical support to CARICOM/CARIFORUM Member States beginning with the CFRAMP (1991) for CARICOM countries and the ICRAFDP for CARIFORUM Member States.
- 1.6. In summary the fisheries sector in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region is strategically important and will be increasingly so in the future. In this context critical elements are:
  - It employs over 130,000 persons directly and indirectly mostly from remote rural communities, which lack other income earning opportunities and a significant percentage of women who do not otherwise have equity in the labour market or the regional economy in general.
  - It earns over Euro 150 million per year from export and saves the region at least three times as much in foreign exchange since the volume of production is four times the volume of export.
  - Entry into the industry is growing as the uncertainty and global uncompetitiveness of other major rural activities, primarily banana and sugar, loom.
  - The fact that annual production of 126,360 metric tonnes is at least twice the volume of imports means that it is a major contributor to food security.
  - The estimated value of production is Euro 500 million.
  - It accounts for up to 8% of some Member States' GDP. This percentage could be much higher, however, since the processing aspects of the industry are not included in the computation of the GDP data.
  - It creates opportunities for some of the more socio-economically disadvantaged i.e. the least educated, the rural poor and women.
  - It is a major source of protein especially in rural communities, which have a higher percentage of poverty than the national average.
  - In general, the legislative framework, institutional and laboratory infrastructure is somewhat limited and requires considerable strengthening.
  - There is evidence of a strong potential for beneficial networking among national and regional technical and analytical agencies in support of fish production, processing and trade in conformity with international health standards.
  - Is served or can be potentially served by regional or national technical analytical agencies, either individually or through a network.

- A regional institutional and technical support agency (CRFM Secretariat) exists with a demonstrably successful track record.

## 2. Status of Regional Policy

2.1. All CARIFORUM Member States, with the exception of The Bahamas, are signatories to the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) agreements of the WTO. All have introduced policies intended to result in adjustment of national legislation and to introduce the required standards to protect human, animal and plant health and to ensure food safety. At the level of CARICOM, the regional policy is to harmonise SPS measures within the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). At the wider CARIFORUM level, the region's policy is to put into place appropriate SPS measures for the fisheries sector which would facilitate trade between the Dominican Republic and CARICOM, especially in the context of the CARICOM/Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (FTA). At the global level, the region's policies focus on putting into place technical standards which are compliant with the requirements of external markets, particularly the EU market, in order to facilitate access through which to further develop the fisheries sector in the region and to enable the sector to play an increasingly important role in the economic diversification and development of the region.

## 3. EU Policy

3.1. The EU Policy, as spelt out in the Plan and Schedule for EPA Negotiations, is to consider the provision of support to CARIFORUM which would contribute to CARIFORUM regional integration and which would assist the region in becoming EPA ready. Its general policy, in respect of SPS, is to promote WTO compliance in its cooperating partners including CARIFORUM. Its specific policies are spelt out in Regulation 853/2004 (Specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, replacing Directives 91/492, 91/493 and 92/48) Council Directives 91/67/EEC (animal health of aquaculture animals); 96/22EC (hormone ban, including aquaculture); 96/23EC (residue monitoring, including aquaculture) and 95/2EC (food additives) which specify minimum health and hygiene conditions for fishery products and aquaculture products for human consumption within the EU regardless of where these products are manufactured.

3.2. The General Hygiene rules for all foods are laid down in Regulation 852/2004, which provides that all establishments must implement risk-based and process-oriented self-controls on the basis of HACCP principles. The rules for inspection and controls of fishing vessels and processing establishments are provided in Regulation 854/2004. Finally, Regulation 882/2004 on official food and feed control defines the minimum requirements to be fulfilled by the competent authorities in charge of conducting official controls and signing veterinary export certificates. Criteria include the organization, legal powers and resources available to ensure that official controls are done efficiently, credibly and free from conflicts of interest.

3.3. For the short term perspective, three elements of EU legislation should be highlighted in the context of this study:

(i) Article 12 of Regulation 882/2004, which provides the following:

The competent authority shall designate laboratories that may carry out the analysis of samples taken during official controls. However, competent authorities may only designate laboratories that operate and are assessed and accredited in accordance with the following European Standards:

- EN ISO/IEC 17025 on "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories"
- EN 45002 on "General criteria for the assessment of testing laboratories";
- EN 45003 on "Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation system-General requirements for operation and recognition",

In principle, this requirement enters into force on 1 January 2006. The EU Commission is preparing a measure to postpone the implementation of this condition until January 2010. But this does not change the fact that Caribbean countries exporting to the EU must prepare themselves and develop an accreditation strategy for all laboratories involved in official controls. Such a strategy could be developed at a regional rather than national level.

(ii) Article 4 of Regulation 852/2004, which provides the following:

Food business operators shall, as appropriate, adopt the following specific hygiene measures:

- compliance with microbiological criteria for foodstuffs;
- procedures necessary to meet targets set to achieve the objectives of this Regulation;
- compliance with temperature control requirements for foodstuffs;

- maintenance of the cold chain;
  - sampling and analysis.
- (iii) Article 5 of Regulation 852/2004, which provides the following:  
Food business operators shall put in place, implement and maintain a permanent procedure or procedures based on the HACCP principles.
- 3.4. Regulation 852/2004 enters into force on 1 January 2006. Although the EU will not have the capacity to enforce all provisions immediately in all exporting countries, it is advisable to carefully evaluate its potential impact on a regional level. If necessary, priority actions and an action plan should be identified to ensure that all necessary elements are put in place to maintain eligibility for EU export.
4. Origins and Preparation of the Project
- 4.1. The CARICOM Fisheries Unit (CFU)<sup>1</sup> took the initiative to organise a diagnostic mission, during the last quarter of 2001, the purpose of which was to assess the capacity and potential for the CARICOM/CARIFORUM Member States to expand their individual and collective capabilities for production and trade in fishery products, locally, regionally and internationally. As a consequence, the mission focused on the post harvest aspects of the fishing sector and related supportive areas.
- 4.2. The target countries were: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago as well as the OCT UK countries, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, and Turks and Caicos, and the OCTs of the Netherlands. Most countries were visited and questionnaires were submitted to and collected from those not visited.
- 4.3. As a follow-up to the mission, in June 2002, a workshop was organised by the CFU. The purpose of the workshop was two-fold. Firstly, it was intended to give an opportunity for the country representatives to provide input to the preliminary draft of the project proposal resulting from the diagnostic mission. In addition, it allowed greater exposure to the range of support services available to the successful implementation of the intended project. The target countries were each represented by two persons from agencies such as Ministries of Agriculture and Health, Standards Bureaux and National Analytical Laboratories. Regional agency representation from environmental analytical laboratories, technical and functional cooperation, including the Centre for Development of Enterprise, and standards bodies also participated. At the workshop:
- Each country presented the status of its fisheries sector, including post harvest handling, processing, quality control, legislation and monitoring arrangements for seafood safety.
  - The consultant presented a preliminary draft of the project design made on the basis of the country visits, the interviews conducted, and the analysis of questionnaires.
  - Working groups, constituted from the workshop participants, studied the different modules of the 8th EDF ALL ACP proposal and made recommendations for the practical implementation of those modules in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region.
  - The workshop also made proposals about the CARICOM/CARIFORUM institutions which should be involved in the delivery mechanism.
- 4.4. CARIFORUM and the EU are currently engaged in negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The second phase of these negotiations focuses on regional integration. In that regard, technical negotiations discussed SPS measures at the First CARICORUM/EC Technical Session on Market Access. A decision was made to explore the possibilities for a CARIFORUM pilot project on SPS measures in a priority area for the Caribbean region.
- 4.5. The Regional Preparatory Task Force (RPTF), which is charged with responsibilities for advising on support measures/programmes arising out of EPA negotiations, agreed that an examination would also be undertaken of the additional support which may be provided to the CAHFSA, outside of the CARICOM Action Plan currently being developed under the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme of the 9th EDF and the participation of the Dominican Republic in CAHFSA. The RPTF also agreed that as a CARIFORUM Pilot Project to support CAHFSA it would focus initial support on the Fisheries Sector.
5. Legislative, Institutional and Analytical Framework Systems
- 5.1. Legislative: In some countries, Fisheries Acts and companion Regulations were present but these were inadequate in comparison to the legislation existing in the 'European Union or global

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<sup>1</sup> The CFU has evolved, into the CFTU under the CRFM.



legislation' of the other major fish importing countries such as the US and Japan. In others, there were Fisheries Acts but no Regulations and in others still, the Acts and Regulations were limited in scope.

- 5.2. Institutional: As earlier stated, the responsibility for the inspection of food production premises, fishing vessels, landing sites, and fish markets in most instances is distributed across government ministries, but consolidated in a single national agency in a few countries. Inspectorates were either not always able to do the essential checks or did not implement the control measures mentioned in the national legislation. Some inspectorates need capacity building through training, while others need capacity enhancement through additional personnel, and efficient organisation of the work activities.
- 5.3. Analytical: In most countries, a laboratory for microbiological analysis of fishery products and water was available. Four or five laboratories in the region could be considered as being able to assist the fisheries sector and inspectorates. However, there were only a few laboratories in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region capable of doing chemical tests (inorganic for heavy metal and organic for pesticides and herbicides) and bioassays and other tests on bio-toxins.
6. Environmental Monitoring
  - 6.1. Environmental Monitoring Programmes are developed by the competent authority in collaboration with official laboratories. They are set up to monitor accidental contaminants such as heavy metals (mercury, lead, cadmium), pesticides and herbicides (organochlorinated substances). Basic environmental monitoring programmes exist only in Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica and Belize. There are no environmental monitoring programmes in the other countries. As such, there can be no guarantees provided for the raw materials landed from the sea, in those countries.
7. Residue Monitoring
  - 7.1. No residue monitoring programmes were in place. Information concerning residue monitoring programmes must be provided in keeping with the relevant EU regulations as cited above. Each aquaculture farm has to develop and implement a residue monitoring programme, approved by the CA which monitors in the aquaculture products the residues of drugs used in the aquaculture farm. Jamaica, Belize and Suriname were in the process of establishing residue monitoring programmes.
8. Industry Related Problems
  - 8.1. Vessel Conditions: With the majority of the fisheries being artisanal in nature, most countries had open boat type vessels and landed the fish each day. In general there was limited use of ice for chilling and preserving the catch. Only a few countries had boats with holds, in which the fish could be kept on ice for several days (Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad, Belize, Barbados and The Bahamas) and freezer vessels. Hygienic conditions on the vessels did not cause major problems in the region but control measures were generally not implemented. The time fishery products remain in the open boats was generally short (a few hours) but a small hold with clean surfaces, ice and a lid could improve the freshness and hygiene. In many states open boats were equipped to facilitate this.
  - 8.2. Landing site conditions: The design and hygienic conditions of the landing sites were of great concern since many did not comply with minimum hygiene requirements and promoted frequent handling of the catch, thus increasing opportunity for contamination of the product. Landing sites should be designed to offload fishery products (via jetty and clean containers) and to ice and load fishery products into sanitary means of transport, with minimum handling.
  - 8.3. Transport of fishery products: The transport of fishery products needs to be reorganised and improved in many countries. It was observed that fishery products were transported in open pickups, on the floor of insulated trucks and in dirty containers. Fishery products can be transported either on an open truck (even by animal drawn cart) but in closed, insulated and iced containers, or in open, clean containers with ice, in an insulated (and eventually mechanically refrigerated) truck.
  - 8.4. Preparation / Processing facilities: Facilities for preparation and processing of fishery products generally did not comply with international standards, with the exception of some plants in Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica and Belize. Deficiencies were evident in the design of plants, the lay out of the processing line and the implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as well as normal quality control, and personnel practices, even though HACCP was a 'common slogan'.
  - 8.5. Quality Assurance and Safety: Quality Assurance in the form of GMP and Safety Assurance (HACCP) systems were present in some establishments but not properly implemented, documented or approved. The importance and benefits of a HACCP system were over-estimated and prerequisite programmes (plant design, and codes of practices, etc.) were not present or were not

being implemented. 'HACCP certified' and 'HACCP approved' are almost meaningless statements if the quality and safety assurance practices are not continued after their initial introduction.

- 8.6. Airport Facilities: Airport facilities to ensure the cold chain were generally not present. It would be necessary to engage the industry, airport authorities and airline officials in discussions concerning a suitable resolution to this situation.

## 9. Potential Improvements

- 9.1. After a careful analysis of the situation in different Member States, it can be concluded that at the local level, improved food quality and safety measures need to be implemented in the local fish processing and handling sector. Such improvements should be directed at the levels identified below:

- providing ice to local fishermen;
- proper landing and off loading of fishery products;
- better contact surfaces for fishery products during offloading, transporting, preparation and selling at markets (cutting boards);
- quality and safety for the local population e.g. control of histamine (scombroid fish species) and control of ciguatera poisoning occurring in some countries as St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda;
- HACCP implementation in the hotel and tourism sector. More and more agencies in the USA and Europe are asking for increased guarantees on food safety in the tourism sector. In some parts of the Caribbean region where ciguatera is endemic, food safety assurance must be provided.
- Developing a national competent authority, drafting legislation, codes of practices and safety procedures have to be implemented at the local level because these will form the basis as well as provide the momentum for the development of the small-scale fisheries.

- 9.2. The best approach would be to devise common standards for the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region, recognising that the pace of implementation would vary among states depending on the level of development in the fishing sector, availability of resources (funds, skills, etc.) and the markets being targeted.

## 10. Markets and Marketing Intelligence

- 10.1. Markets: At the national level, fish products are marketed primarily through established fish markets, itinerant vendors or at landing sites. In many countries the fish is retailed unchilled or unrefrigerated on account of consumer resistance to fish on ice, an attitude which evolved in response to fishermen and vendors delaying the icing of fish until several hours after capture. This is a problem which needs to be addressed through consumers' and fishers' education and the training of marketers in fish handling methods.

- 10.2. In respect of exports, the fish products are either bulk frozen and bulk exported for example, to canneries or sent 'whole fresh on ice gutted', packed in waxed cardboard boxes, or 'whole frozen' packed in plastic bags and cardboard boxes. Major value added products from the region are 'fresh fillets on ice' packed in foam boxes; fresh or frozen fillets or steaked fish, individually vacuum packed; de-veined, peeled or cooked shrimp; block frozen or IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) frozen shrimps; frozen and individually packed lobster tails; conch, packed and frozen, etc. There is scope for more emphasis on the development of value added products, with examples being vacuum packing of fish fillets and smoked exotic fish products for niche markets and the tourism industry.

- 10.3. Market Intelligence: With marketing still being dealt with on an individual company basis, very little, if any, sharing of information in the fisheries sector occurs at the national and regional levels. The gathering and dissemination of market intelligence should address price and accessibility issues pertaining to the major target markets such as the EU.

## 11. EU Legislative Issues

- 11.1. In this context, copies of the legislation relating to fishery products (Dir 91/493 and 91/492 etc.) and foodstuffs (Dir 91/43) were neither available nor adequately known in most CARIFORUM Member States. Only CARICOM Member States which were in the process of harmonising their legislation with those of the EU, had a few texts, but even then, not complete sets.

## 12. Institutional Conceptual Issues

- 12.1. There was a lack of understanding of 'legislation as a tool' in facilitating the marketing of a product. There is also need for an understanding of the language and terminology embodied in the laws and regulations of the target markets, particularly the EU. Concepts such as 'competent authority', 'own checks', 'monitoring programmes' (environmental and residue), quality and

safety assurances, the impact of certification and approval needed to be fully explained and understood, since the whole ‘concept message’ embodied in the European Legislation would be completely lost if the abovementioned terms are not understood. Approximately 80% of the problems encountered during the ‘correspondence phase’ to get on list 2, to enable a country to start exporting fish products to the EU, were due to misunderstandings resulting from this ‘historical, cultural and language concept’ difference.

### 13. Problems of Intra-Regional Trade in Fishery Products

- 13.1. A careful analysis of the production, import and export sectors in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM States would show that no two islands or countries in the region are the same in respect of their fisheries development. Some Member States are more dependent on tourism and offshore activities, while others are more dependent on products of animal origin or other foodstuffs. Some islands have to import products of animal origin or foodstuffs, while others can export various products to other Caribbean and Latin American countries, the USA or EU.
- 13.2. Those CARICOM/CARIFORUM States which satisfy the global requirements with regard to the level of food safety and quality thereby raise the regional standards for the import of products of animal origin (i.e. fishery products) or foodstuffs originating from neighbouring Member States, by their so doing. The other countries will be faced with restrictions in trade unless a two tiered health standard system obtains. This will apply to fresh or processed products.
- 13.3. From a different perspective, the management of establishments or factories in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region which have invested substantially in the improvement of their facilities and in the implementation of quality and safety assurance including the employment of quality managers, could find themselves in a difficult economic position (as is the case in Jamaica) because their products become more expensive (taking into account the investments). This situation could affect their competitiveness to trade at the local and regional levels at least in the short term.
- 13.4. Such a situation could be prevented by avoiding the implementation by the competent authority of double standards, which means using the same standards for local, regional and international trade from the beginning and being consistent in listing approved establishments. The implementation of new legislation and more stringent standards in some CARICOM/CARIFORUM States (Suriname, Belize, Jamaica and Guyana) would provide the impetus for other Member States to take similar action. If the entire process is properly planned and implemented, it would have a beneficial effect on all the countries involved. This latter approach would be consistent with the principles being pursued within the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region, for example, within the CSME. At the same time, focused attention has not been paid to Haiti and The Bahamas given their status in the CSME. Their specific situations will require to be addressed. In addition, constraints which may exist in promoting CARICOM/Dominican Republic trade in fish and fisheries products would require identification in order to plan strategies which can result in trade under the CARICOM/Dominican Republic FTA.

### 14. Regional Institutional Capacity

- 14.1. While some provisions are made for support for CAHFSa, in the CARICOM Action Plan, under the CRIP of the 9th EDF, some gaps in its capacities remain. In addition, modalities have not yet been worked out for the participation of the Dominican Republic in CAHFSa or its extremely close collaboration with the agency as a means of promoting genuinely CARIFORUM approaches to SPS measures.
- 14.2. A key objective of any work to be undertaken would be to identify the assistance which would be required to strengthen collaboration among the actors responsible for SPS issues at the national level in a way which would encourage and support collaboration at the regional level and between the two regions. Issues related to CAHFSa’s capacity, technical assistance requirements and sustainability will need to be addressed.
- 14.3. One other problem which will require to be addressed is the capacity and ability of the public sector in CARIFORUM to effectively meet EU market requirements. Their corresponding capacities to develop and implement strengthened management plans of action, for introduction for example of HACCP, GAP and GMP, requirements for the EU market would need focused attention.
- 14.4. Mechanism for collaboration between relevant EU and CARIFORUM regional arrangements which can provide early notification of SPS difficulties, collaboration on the development of

appropriate solutions and the devising of means to further CARIFORUM/EU common interests in other fora will also need to be addressed.

15. Related Programmes with other Donor Activities

15.1. The major related programme is the CARICOM Action Plan under the CRIP of the 9th EDF which makes some provisions for institutional support and capacity building for SPS Measures within the context of the CSME. Other related programmes include the 'All ACP Programme' for the fisheries sector and the final Work Programme for the CSME. The CARICOM 9th EDF Action Plan proposes to give general support to CAHFSA in the following areas:

- Develop policy and legislative framework in the area of food safety and in pesticide control and monitoring;
- Coordinate diagnostic resources across the Region;
- Provide technical assistance in laboratory diagnostic procedures and harmonise the technical procedures for laboratory analysis; and
- Harmonise standards to animal, plants and processed foods (CODEX).

**Annex 2: Recommendations, Prioritisation, Costing and Risks**

<b>Recommendations in Priority Order</b>	<b>Suitability for Specific Countries</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Risks</b>
1. Provision of baseline funding to assist in the establishment of specialist unit in CRFM /. CAHFSA	Suitable for all countries	Ideally €200,000 pa for five years.	CRFM / CAHFSA will lose focus particularly into issues related to fisheries sanitation	Review stewardship of funding after two years.
2. Assistance to develop a single agency as Competent Authority and related “foundation stone” activities such as cost recovery, legislation and private sector consultation. This to include countries unable to move to a single agency at this stage.	More likely at this stage suited to larger CARIFORUM countries	Per country €150,000 (estimate three countries accessing for single agency review) Per country €50,000 for countries wishing to strengthen other institutional arrangements (estimate 6 countries).	Countries will request funds from the facility but will not have the political will to see the changes through in the time the expert is in the country. Cost recovery may prove a difficult issue and some Governments may reduce their base line funding to the agency having regard too the implementation of cost recovery.	Solid commitment from country to move down the path of a single Competent authority agency or a commitment to strengthen existing institutional arrangements. With cost recovery the reality is that assuming funds recovered return to the agency they are probably going to be better placed from a sustainability perspective.
3. Development of substantive in-country HACCP expertise and audit capacity and other related specialist training	Suitable for most if not all countries	For train the trainer capacity in each country probably €50,000 for each country (estimate of ten countries accessing)	Person trained will quickly move to the private sector	Train more than one person in each country but do so only after sound Competent Authority agency arrangements are in place.
4. Provision of a facility to enable laboratory rationalisation	Suitable for most countries	€50,000 for each country (estimate of three countries accessing)	Rationalisation will not proceed as recommended	Prior commitment from Government and laboratories to be reviewed

<b>Recommendations in Priority Order</b>	<b>Suitability for Specific Countries</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Risks</b>
5. Provision of a facility to enable laboratory upgrading in specific countries. To include efforts towards formal accreditation.	Suitable only for larger fisheries exporting countries as volume of tests unlikely to provide sustainable income for smaller countries	For equipment and training of technical staff €150,000 for each country. Estimate of three countries accessing.	Insufficient samples and therefore income to sustain complex test equipment, consumables and technical staff. Maintenance and servicing not allowed for when equipment is provided	A rigorous analysis of the sustainability of improvements in laboratory capacity covering maintenance and servicing funding, cost of consumables and availability and training of technical staff
6. Funding of a test to assess feasibility of quick tests being developed in lieu of the provision of sophisticated laboratory equipment.	To be undertaken by EU specialists	€150,000	Derogation issue can be a complex one	Prior exploration by EU policy officers of the likelihood of derogations being available
7. Provision of facility to enable access to SPS legal expertise	Suitable for most countries and probably can be largely operated from a distance ie via Email	€50,000	No significant risks providing recommended model is followed	Not applicable
8. Provision of funding to CRFM / CAHFSA to enable an email help service to be established for fisheries sanitation and related aquaculture issues	Suitable for all countries	€75,000 over 2 years	No significant risks if evaluated regularly	Not applicable

<b>Recommendations in Priority Order</b>	<b>Suitability for Specific Countries</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Risks</b>
9. (a) The installation at the next available opportunity of a fisheries sanitation expert in an EU Delegation Rural Development posting in the region  (b) Extending the stay of review inspectors to deliver standardised package workshops  (c) Special purpose visits by EU personnel to deliver workshops	Location would need to be where an EU Delegation is located  Suitable for all countries subject (or potentially) to EU review.  Suitable for all countries subject (or potentially) to EU review	No specific cost other than if workshops are to be delivered under this program.  €25,000  €100,000	Demands for workshops could be quite high and accordingly costs could escalate	Reasonable contributions to be sought from private sector attendees
10. Provision of a facility that will facilitate better coordination of development assistance in the region	Suitable for all countries	€100,000	Countries will not be forthcoming with the required information	Link EU development assistance to improved coordination efforts
11. Development of a regional fisheries sanitation awareness program for consumers that is able to be easily modified by individual countries to fit their specific needs consumers	Suitable for all countries	€75,000	Countries unable to fund implementation of program	Consider donor assistance priorities

<b>Recommendations in Priority Order</b>	<b>Suitability for Specific Countries</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigating Risks</b>
12. That a EU funding facility be established for the training of fishers, fisheries farming and post harvest handlers and related personnel in the requirements of the EU. This would include train the trainer and public awareness components	Suitable for all countries	€100,000	Minimal risks	Not applicable
13. That a funding facility be established to explore the improvement of landing site facilities and systems and handling (sanitary operations on board) on vessels in the context of fisheries exports to the EU.	Suitable for all countries who export or potentially export to the EU	€100,000	That funding is not directed towards highest priority areas.	Strict analysis of country needs in this area will be required.
14. That the EU commission an evaluation of activities undertaken by mid 2008 with a view to identifying longer term needs of the region in the area of fisheries sanitation, especially the involvement of small scale fisheries in the EU export market.	Essential for reassurance that funding provided is being used in a sustainable manner.	€100,000	No significant issues	Not applicable
<b>Total Estimated Cost – Euros</b>		<b>€3,600,000</b>		



## Annex 3: Draft Financial Proposal



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EuropeAid Co-operation Office

**FINANCING**

N° \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL**

<b>BENEFICIARY COUNTRY/REG ION</b>	<b>CARIFORUM Countries</b>		
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Strengthening Fishery Products Health Conditions In ACP/OCT Countries</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>The complete project costs is estimated at 3.6 million Euros</b>		
<b>AID METHOD</b>	<b>Direct and Decentralized Management</b>		
<b>LEGAL BASIS</b>		<b>BUDGET HEADING</b>	
<b>DAC-CODE</b>		<b>SECTOR</b>	

### 1. RATIONALE

#### Strategic Framework

The fishing industry in the Caribbean/CARIFORUM Region is predominantly artisanal with over eighty percent of persons in the industry dependent on fish related activities for their livelihood. An export oriented commercial fishery can be found in a few states. Very few of the countries are able to export fisheries products to the EU or it's Caribbean Territories as they are not able to meet the stringent food safety requirements of the EU.

Handling of seafood products from harvesting through to processing, marketing and trade is at different levels across the countries, in some states the food safety systems are such that the product is of acceptable international standards, while in others there is considerable room for the enhancement of systems and standards for the consistent attainment of product quality to meet generally accepted food safety standards.

The required supportive legislative, institutional and laboratory infrastructure also varies across the states. In some countries modern agricultural health and food safety legislation has been enacted or legislation is in the process of being upgraded. There are instances where the processing of fish products is dictated by documented international acceptable standard operating procedures, good manufacturing practices and a HACCP plan. However, these are in the minority.

A Competent Authority exists in most countries. However, the responsibility for the inspection of food production premises, fishing vessels, landing sites, and fish markets in most instances is

distributed across government ministries, but consolidated in a single national agency in two of the countries visited. In addition, laboratory analytical facilities exist in most countries with limited opportunity for regional networking support in this area through current regional and national laboratory facilities.

The fisheries sector in the CARICOM/CARIFORUM region is strategically important and will be increasingly so in the future given sustainability issues can be addressed or managed. In this context critical elements are:

A regional institutional and technical support agency (CRFM Secretariat) exists. The establishment of a new Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) has been agreed by member countries and is currently in the process of being formed.

### **Lessons Learned**

Development assistance efforts to date have largely been fragmented and have lacked sustainability. Institutional arrangements are generally fragmented and as such fragile in terms of meeting the systems based approach of the EU to food safety issues and as a consequence market access.

The proposed establishment of CAHFSA offers an opportunity to improve the coordination of development assistance. However, while all countries have endorsed its formation, the funding model based on country quotas is unlikely to provide a sound foundation to build the efforts of CAHFSA upon. Some countries perceive CAHFSA to be of limited use in terms of their own objectives and priorities for the fisheries sector and this is likely to influence the level of support for CAHFSA.

SPC the umbrella organisation for over twenty Pacific island countries has for many years provided animal and plant health services to island countries that have extremely limited capacity to operate these own services. More limited services have also been provided in respect of food safety and fisheries sanitation. The SPC technical support model is not perfect but nevertheless a good working model to draw upon.

### **Complementary Actions**

No significant complementary actions were identified by this study. There has been bilateral donor assistance in the fisheries sanitation area and in some countries for example, Dominica and Antigua where a significant capital investment in buildings and equipment has been provided by JICA.

### **Donor Coordination**

Donor coordination in respect of fisheries sanitation is an issue that needs to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the inputs provided.

## **2. COUNTRY (OR REGIONAL) CONTEXT**

### **Economic and Social Situation**

The fisheries industry remains important to the economies of most CARIFORUM countries. It is a significant employer of labour and as such a significant contributor to the GDP of countries.

Most fisheries are fully or over exploited and this is a significant issue for most CARIFORUM countries in the context of the sustainability of the fishing industry.

There are significant social issues to be addressed in the context of fisheries sanitation. These are particularly highlighted in the domestic markets for fisheries products where a significant percentage of the population is still willing to purchase fresh fisheries product from sellers who observe minimal sanitary standards.

### **Development Policy of Beneficiary Countries and Sector Context**

Nearly all of the CARIFORUM countries recognise the importance of the fishing industry to their economic well being. Some countries have such a significant tourism industry that the fishing industry is not a significant sector in terms of the country's GDP.

## **3. DESCRIPTION**

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1.) To identify issues (such as institutional or capacity constraints) that limit the ability of the CARIFORUM Fisheries to meet EU sanitary standards and
- 2.) To propose a prioritised list of Terms of References for necessary actions and interventions feasible at the regional / CARIFORUM level that will provide significant benefits to the fishery sector by assisting in the implementation of EU sanitary requirements.

### **Expected Results and Main Activities**

A Final Report demonstrating the findings, conclusions and recommendations as well as a list of Terms of references for consecutive activities as well as the minutes of a workshop held at the end of the evaluation period.

The report will include the following:

- 1.) A clear and appropriately structured problem analysis based on EU Fisheries sanitary legislation and policies, taking account of the background to these Terms of Reference and other available information, including:
  - a. The region's key constraints in terms of infrastructure, (human) resources, capacity and institutions in the area of SPS in the region's fishery sectors with respect to the development/expansion of those sectors (in particular with regard to intra-regional and international trade);
  - b. The existence or otherwise of national or regional policies to tackle these various constraints in a sustainable manner;
  - c. The existence or otherwise of strategies and programs by donors and international institutions to tackle these various constraints in a sustainable manner.
- 2.) Identification of any immediate actions that could promote longer term strategic options to increase the overall contribution of the fishery sector to the regional economy through meeting EU sanitary requirements.
- 3.) Identification of priorities to be addressed at regional level (e.g. regional laboratory network, accreditation strategy for laboratories, drafting of "best practices" documentation to enable small businesses to comply with HACCP requirements) to fulfil the minimum EU sanitary import requirements for raw and processing fish products
- 4.) Recommendations to optimise and rationalise resources directed to sanitary control that already exists including complementary measures in order to assure a better coordination of the aid conveyed to CARIFORUM in the sector.

5.) A methodology to prioritise actions in terms of impact, target the surveillance body e.g. a Competent Authority, selecting actions (ToRs) deliverable within a 2 year implementation timeframe.

6.) A draft Financing Proposal advising on an optimum intervention.

7.) In addition to the requirements of the terms of reference core text, the Final Report will take into account the following issues:

- CARIFORUM policies and strategies relevant to sanitary requirements in the fisheries sector,
- CAHFSA, CAFP, CDE, CBSL, the CRFM Secretariat and related capacity building work,
- CARIFORUM / EU EPA Negotiations,
- Existing EU-ACP Fisheries Sector Support (SFP and others)
- Existing CARIFORUM proposals for Fisheries sector sanitary standards support,
- Background to the CARIFORUM Fisheries sector set out in Annex 3 and
- Ongoing relevant regional, national and international fisheries development projects.

### **Stakeholders**

The stakeholders identified to date are:

- CARICOM / CARIFORUM and their respective agencies that have a role in fisheries;
- Government agencies;
- All sectors of the fishing industry including ancillary industries that support the fishing industry in some way;
- The general population of the countries in this study in the context of being able to purchase and consume fisheries products that is safe to eat.

### **Risks and Assumptions**

The principal risks relating to the sustainability of the implementation of the recommendation of this study are that:

- National governments are not prepared to support the building of appropriate institutional foundations on which improvements to sanitary arrangements can be effected;
- The lack of effective conservation measures leads to a situation where fisheries are generally over exploited.

### **Conditionalities**

This study recommends that sound institutional arrangements are implemented by national governments as a pre condition to significant development assistance being provided in areas such as legislation and laboratory capacity

### **Crosscutting Issues**

Institutional arrangements relating to a single Competent Authority must encompass enforcement, certification and inspection of imports and exports of other agricultural products and foods that may be subject to EU measures under the WTO SPS Agreement

#### 4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

##### Implementation Method

The payments are to be fully decentralised.

##### Budget and Calendar

Europe AID Funding Recommendations (Note some recommendations will ideally require an implementation program that extends beyond 2008. This has been specifically highlighted in the report. Restricting total funding to a two year period will invite adverse sustainability issues.

Source	Recommendations	2007 Euro	2008 Euro	Total Euro	Comment
Europe AID	1	200,000	200,000	400,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with total funding of 1,000,000
	2	300,000	450,000	750,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with same total funding
	3	200,000	300,000	500,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with same total funding
	4	50,000	100,000	150,000	
	5	200,000	250,000	450,000	
	6	100,000	50,000	150,000	
	7	25,000	25,000	50,000	
	8	35,000	40,000	75,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with total funding of 135,000
	9 (a)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	9 (b)	15,000	10,000	25,000	
	9 (c)	50,000	50,000	100,000	
	10	50,000	50,000	100,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with total funding of 250,000
	11	25,000	50,000	75,000	
	12	50,000	50,000	100,000	Ideally should extend for 5 years with same total funding
	13	50,000	50,000	100,000	
	14	Nil	100,000	100,000	

##### Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring of progress by individual countries and CARIFORUM and its agencies should be undertaken using a six monthly reporting method.

##### Evaluation and audit

An evaluation should be scheduled for mid 2008 as per recommendation 14.

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**Annex 4: An outline of an Export Control Act**

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**The advantage of an Export Control Act** is that in one piece of legislation all the controls such as authorising officers, false trade description provisions and the issue of whatever certification is covered in one Act. Then if necessary specific commodities, for example fisheries products, meat fruit etc can have their own Technical Regulations or whatever duly authorised by the covering Export Control Act.

**As such the Act facilitates the more flexible use and cross training of staff in a situation where significant resource constraints exist.**

**Interpretations:** Includes all necessary definitions to be used in the Act

**Prescribed products to be covered by this Act to be specified:** Any product can be described but typically agricultural (including all meats and live animals), fisheries or timber products would be prescribed ie made subject to this Act.

**State to be bound:** This Act binds the Government and this is a standard clause binding the Government to observe the provisions of the Act.

**Authorised Officers:** Gives power to the Chief Executive Officer to appoint Authorised Officers to carry out the necessary duties as described in the Act, as directed by the Chief Executive Officer.

**Identity cards:** Gives power to require an Authorised Officer to carry an identity card which must contain a recent photograph of the officer, his/her signature, a unique identity number, and his/her authorization under the Act, and to require the surrender of the identity card upon ceasing to be an employee.

**Export and Entry for Export of Prescribed Goods:** This clause sets up an offence where a person enters for export or exports prescribed good(s) in contravention of this Act, commits an offence

**Notice of intention to export prescribed goods:** Under this Act notice must be given of an export to allow time for inspection and certification

**Prohibition on export of prescribed goods:** Basically all prescribed goods are prohibited exports where they have specific conditions or certification requirements attached to their export.

These could include:

- Providing for the necessary degree of freedom from the presence of pests and diseases;
- Providing for the necessary degree of freedom for any residue of a chemical;
- Prescribing packaging for specific kinds of prescribed good(s) intended for export;
- Providing for the branding or marking of packages or specific kinds of prescribed good(s), and for the registration of brands and marks;
- Providing for the registration of nurseries subject to prescribed terms and conditions;
- Providing that any person who catches, sows, plants, grows or farms prescribed good(s) shall give such information as may be required to facilitate the issue of export certification
- Prescribing modes of treatment of prescribed good(s) before they are entered for export, and prescribing such other things as shall be required of prescribed good(s) for export;
- Restricting the export of any prescribed goods;
- Requiring licences to export prescribed goods; and
- Having quality or grade requirements for prescribed goods

**Licences and contravention of licence conditions etc:** This clause sets up the giving and revocation if necessary of a licence to export a prescribed good.

**Inspection:** Provides powers for Authorised Officers to inspect prescribed goods according to certification or other Government requirements

**Seizure:** Provides power to seize if necessary.

**Obstructing Authorised Officers:** Makes it an offence for anyone to obstruct, hinder, interrupt, interfere with, threaten or assault an Authorised Officer in the performance of his duty.

**Persons to assist Authorised Officers:** Allows Authorised Officers to seek help during inspection process eg to move goods to facilitate inspection.

**Official Marks and Trade Descriptions:** This clause sets up the official nature of any marks or stamps eg stamps on carcasses of meat.

**Contraventions relating to official marks:** Sets up power to deal with contraventions of the above section.

**False trade descriptions:** This clause makes it illegal to have a false trade description on prescribed products entered for export. For example a claim may be made that fruit is Class 1 top of the line in terms of quality when in fact it is a lesser quality.

**False declarations:** This sets up a false declaration provision for example if someone seeks to export product they claim is sourced from an area free of a particular pest or disease.

**Forfeiture of prescribed goods:** Where problems are found in the context of requirements under this Act the goods can be forfeited.

**Delegations:** Gives power to the Minister and/or the Chief Executive Officer to delegate any powers to another officer.

**Protection of Authorised Officers and other persons:** Protects Authorized Officers or other officers against claims as a result of actions done or not done (in good faith) in the performance of their duties.

**Certificate for export:** Gives powers to Authorised Officers to issue whatever certificates are necessary for export.

**Supply of goods or services to authorised officers:** Due to regulatory nature of Authorised Officer's duties this clause makes it an offence to supply for example free goods to Authorised Officers.

**Electronic transmission of information and documents:** Allows for the electronic transmission of information for example certificates to other countries or notice of intention to export from an exporter.

**Regulations:** An Export Control Act is likely to have specific regulations for different products eg meat, fruit and vegetables, fish, food etc.

These regulations may prescribe in detail the construction and sanitary requirements of registered premises producing prescribed goods for export.

The regulations may also prescribe detailed operating requirements eg in the case of an abattoir or fish establishment registered for export.



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**Annex 5: An outline of an important Biosecurity Act.**

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**Interpretations and definitions:** Interpretation of terms used in the Act.

**Act to bind the Government:** This Act binds the Government

**Scope of biosecurity:** Details the scope of this Act

**Minister may appoint ports:** Power to appoint ports where goods that may pose a biosecurity risk may enter the country.

**Quarantine station:** Power to prescribe particular areas of land as a quarantine station.

**Particulars to be given:** Power to require details of goods to be provided.

**Examination of documents:** Power to examine any necessary documents

**Facilities at airports and seaports:** Power to require appropriate facilities at ports and airports.

**Cleansing and disinfection of insanitary conveyance or installation:** Power to require disinfection

**Landed cargo under quarantine control:** Power to control landed goods

**Restriction on importation of, regulated articles:** Power to restrict importation on certain goods that may pose a biosecurity risk.

**Regulated articles suspected to have been illegally imported**

Power to search for suspected illegally imported goods that may pose a biosecurity risk.

**Restriction on importation of cultures, etc:** Specific restrictions on biological substances

**Prohibition of importation of regulated articles:** Power to prescribe conditions of entry for a regulated article.

**Notification of imports:** Requirement to notify that goods that may pose a biosecurity risk are to be imported.

**Dispatch of regulated articles:** Power relating to dispatch of regulated goods.

**Inspection on arrival and permit them to be delivered to the importer:** Requirement for inspection.

**Examination of imported goods:** Power to examine regulated goods.

**Inspection of in-transit shipments:** Power to control in-transit goods

**Importation for special purposes:** Power where a specific purpose importation is planned.

**Inspection and treatment:** Power to order inspection and treatment.

**Duty of Postal and Customs Officers:** Requirement to facilitate cooperation between biosecurity officers and Customs and Postal Officers.

**Seizure and biosecurity:** Power to seize and destroy goods.

**Duty to prevent animal from being landed:** Power over live animals that may be on board vessels.

**Identification of packages:** Requirement that goods be properly identified.

**Declaration by passengers:** Requirement for a formal declaration by passengers.

**Discharge and treatment of garbage:** Power to control garbage and its treatment where it may pose a biosecurity risk.

### **PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL**

This section provides the powers to control and/or eradicate an endemic or exotic pest and disease

**Pest and disease surveys:** Provides the power to conduct pest and disease surveys.

**Declaration and control of infected areas:** Provides the power to declare areas of land (or water) infected by a pest or disease

**Revocation of infected area declaration:** Power to revoke a declaration relating to an infected area.

**Avoidance of pest or disease:** Power to direct people to avoid spreading a pest or disease.

**Control or eradication of a pest or disease:** Power to control and/or eradicate a pest or disease.

**Declaring and maintaining areas free or of low pest and disease prevalence:** Power to declare areas of low pest prevalence (or free).

**Proclamation of pest or disease emergency:** Power to proclaim a state of emergency in relation to pest or disease.

**Power to kill animal and conduct post mortem examination:** Power to destroy animals and conduct post mortems.

**Beneficial agents and biocontrol agents:** Control over the importation of beneficial organisms and biocontrol agents.

**Pest and diseases - The Chief Executive Officer shall cause to be kept and maintained a list of regulated pests and diseases:** Power to require that a list of pests and diseases present in the country be kept.

## **GENERAL**

This section provides all the general powers necessary for this Act.

**International Cooperation:** Provides the power for the agency to cooperate with international and counterpart agencies. This could include the exchange of specific information.

**National Biosecurity Coordination:** Provides the power for the agency to coordinate biosecurity issues across all agencies of Government.

**Authorised Officers:** A clause that permits the appointment of persons as Authorised Officers, this can include officers from other Ministries if required.

**Identity cards:** A clause that requires an Authorised Officer to carry an identity card.

**Facilities for the inspection and treatment of regulated articles:** A clause that requires adequate facilities to be made available by clients for the inspection of regulated goods by Authorised Officers.

**Powers of entry:** A clause that provides power of entry for Authorised Officers (qualified for a person's home)

**Search:** A clause that allows Authorised Officers to search premises.

**Opening of containers, etc:** A clause that allows Authorised Officers to open containers for inspection purposes.

**Obstructing Authorised Officers:** A clause that makes it an offence to obstruct the work of an Authorised Officer in any way.

**Compliance agreements:** A clause that allows for the development of simple but legally binding agreements between the agency and its clients in respect of certain actions that the client undertakes to do, for example inspection and treatment of a product.

**Safe carriage and safe working environment of Authorised Officers:** A clause that requires clients who need to transport an Authorised Officer to use a safe mode of transportation.

**Protection against lawsuits:** A clause that provides protection to the agency, the Minister and Authorised Officers when they are performing their duties or taking an action providing they are doing so in good faith.

**Fees and charges:** A clause that allows the Minister to set fees and charges and allows their publication by a notice in a major newspaper.

**Withholding services:** A clause that allows the agency to with hold services such as issuing a certificate where a client does not promptly pay an account that is due.

**Enforcement of conditions imposed:** A clause that requires conditions imposed by Authorised Officers must be enforced.

**Evidence:** A clause that allows evidence to be presented in a number of forms, for example by photo or electronic means.

**Sanctions:** A clause that allows the imposition of "on the spot" fines on incoming passengers and cargo importers for relatively minor infractions.

**Destruction of regulated articles:** A clause that permits the destruction of regulated articles.

**Delegation by Minister:** A clause that allows the Minister to delegate specific powers.

**Delegation by Chief Executive Officer:** A clause that permits the CEO to delegate functions and approvals.

**Schedules:** A provision to allow schedules to be attached to the principal Act, for example a list of penalty units available in the case of prosecution

**Existence of pest or disease:** A clause that allows the agency to notify the existence of a specific pest or disease

**Erroneous and knowingly false declarations:** A clause that enables prosecution to occur in the event of a false declaration

**Forms, notices and responses relevant to this Act:** A provision that allows the Head of the agency to approve the introduction of new or revised forms

**Liability for causing Authorised Officer to incur expense:** Where an authorised officer is put to unnecessary expense the firm causing the expense can be made liable for that offence

**Offences:** A general offence provision

**Offences with which Authorised Officers may be charged:** Specific offences that may lead to an authorised officer being prosecuted

**Money to be paid into Public Account:** Monies received must be paid into a nominated Government account

**Regulations:** The power to provide subordinate regulations under this Act.

## Annex 6: Meeting List

Date	Name	Organisation
<b>Belize (John Landos)</b>		
<b>31 August</b>		
<b>1000 Inception Meeting</b>		
	Hugh Saul	Executive Director CRFM Secretariat
	Milton O Haughton	Deputy Executive Director CCCRFM Secretariat
	Nicolas Ritzenthaler	Rural Development Section Manager, Delegation of the EU, Belize
	Michael Salton	CRFM Secretariat
	Anthony Mills	CRFM Secretariat
<b>1400</b>	Allan Bevans - Green	Chairman, Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association
	Barbara Bradley	Executive Secretary, National Fishermen's Cooperative Society Ltd
	Senior staff of National Fishermen's Cooperative	National Fishermen's Cooperative
<b>1600</b>	Milton O Haughton	Deputy Executive Director CCCRFM Secretariat
<b>1 September</b>		
<b>0900 (Belmopan)</b>	Sandra Hall	CEO Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Beverly Wade	Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Cooperatives, Commerce and Industry
<b>1030 (Belmopan)</b>	Nancy Nemin	CEO Ministry of Foreign Trade
	Ms Carmen Silva	Ministry of Foreign Trade
<b>1430</b>	Jason Arnold	Quality Assurance Manager Nova Shrimp Farm and Processing
	Alain Moguel	Plant Comptroller Nova Shrimp Farm and Processing
	Jaime Villanueva	Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries, Cooperatives, Commerce and Industry
<b>1800</b>	Luis Izquierdo	Food and Beverage Director, Princess Hotel
<b>2 September</b>	Various fish vendors	Inspection of vendors stalls at Belize City Markets
<b>4 September</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Robert Usher	Manager, Northern Fisheries Cooperative
<b>1400</b>	Omer Peled, Manager and Mr Perez Fisheries Department	Fresh Catch Belize
<b>5 September</b>	Milton O Haughton	Deputy Executive Director CCCRFM Secretariat
<b>0800</b>	Dr Michael De Shield	Director Food Safety Services, Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA)
	Endhir Sosa	Food Safety Inspector, Food Safety Services BAHA
<b>1130 (Belmopan)</b>	Pamela A Scott	Food Safety Manager, Organismo Internacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (ORISA)
	Ing. Fermin Blanco	Country Representative, ORISA

<b>6 September</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Ted Ejada	Manager, Best Western Biltmore
<b>1400</b>	Hugh O'Brien	Ministry of National Development
<b>7 September</b>	Travel Belize to Miami	
	Travel Miami to Dominican Republic	
<b>Dominican Republic (John Landos)</b>		
<b>8 September</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Jeannette Mateo	Director, Fisheries, Fisheries Department
	Carlos Hamilton	Fisheries Department
<b>1130</b>	Jonathon Pitts	Delegation of the European Union
<b>9 September</b>	Supermarket inspection	Santo Domingo
<b>11 September</b>		
<b>0930</b>	Jose A Gomez	President, Empresa Pesquera, Jose A Gomez, S.A.
	Franklin Gomez Breton	Plant Manager Empresa Pesquera, Jose A Gomez, S.A.
<b>1130</b>	Rogelio Perez	President, Distribudora de Mariscos Los 7 Mares, S.A.
<b>1300</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	Officers not available
<b>12 September</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Luis Emilio Feliz Roa	Director General of Ministry of Environmental Health
	Veterinary Dr Salvador Hiciano	Regional Controller Ministry of Environmental Health
<b>1130</b>	Lic. Ydalia Acevedo Monegro	Under Secretary, Department of Marine Resources and Conservation
<b>1300</b>	Jeannette Mateo	Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department
<b>13 September</b>		
<b>1300</b>	Fly Santo Domingo to Antigua	
<b>Antigua (John Landos)</b>		
<b>14 September</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Cheryl Jeffery-Appleton	Chief Fisheries Officer
	Philemon James	Senior Fisheries Officer
	Ian Horsefield	Fisheries Officer
<b>1100</b>	Iida Kazumi	JICA Fisheries Expert, Inspection of new USD\$15 fisheries facility
<b>1400</b>	Helena Jeffrey Brown	Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
	Camilo Diaz Quiros	Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
	Zakia Goodwin Diaz	Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>15 September</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Mavis George	Manager Antigua Fisheries Ltd (St John's Fish Market)

<b>0930</b>	Lionel Michael	Chief Health Inspector Ministry of Health
<b>1100</b>	Rowan Bail	Rowan Bail Fisheries
<b>1230</b>	Malverne Spencer	Laboratory Manager, Ministry of Agriculture
	Chris Simpson	Microbiologist, Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory
<b>1500</b>	Cheryl Jeffery-Appleton	Chief Fisheries Officer
	Philemon James	Senior Fisheries Officer
<b>1900</b>	Iida Kazumi	JICA Fisheries Expert, Antigua
<b>16 September</b>		
<b>1135</b>	Fly Antigua to St Lucia	
<b>St Lucia (John Landos)</b>		
<b>18 September</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Keith Nichols and Peter Murray	Fisheries Division OECS
<b>1100</b>	Allison Astwood	Laboratory Manager, Regional Laboratory St Lucia
<b>1305</b>	Fly to Barbados	
<b>Barbados (John Landos)</b>		
<b>1600</b>	Dr Philip Corrigan	Former Australian Veterinary Specialist Food Safety
<b>19 September</b>		
<b>1030</b>	Nadia Corbin	Technical Officer CROSQ
<b>1130</b>	Vernita Maryat	Administrative Officer, CROSQ
<b>1800</b>	Fly Barbados to Guyana	
<b>Guyana (John Landos, Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>20 September</b>		
<b>0830</b>	Dawn Maison	Principal Fisheries Officer Ministry of Agriculture
<b>1000</b>	Percival Marie	CARIFORUM Secretariat
	Margaret Kalloo	Senior Project Officer Agriculture Development Unit CARICOM
<b>1330</b>	Dr Colin James	Director, Veterinary Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture
	Dr Joshua I Da Silva	Veterinary Public Health Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
	Jewel Seals	Deputy Director, Food and Drug Department, Ministry of Health
<b>1600</b>	Mr C Seepersaud	Adviser WTO Policy, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>1630</b>	Robert Montgomery Persaud	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
<b>21 September</b>		
<b>0830</b>	Margaret Kalloo	Senior Project Officer Agriculture Development Unit CARICOM
<b>1030</b>	Mr L Ramald	Noble House Seafoods
	Mr D Rasiwan	Dodnauth Fishing Unit
	Philip B Vieica	GATO & SP
	Mr B Megham	B M Enterprises Ltd
<b>1430</b>	Evadnie Fields	Head Information Services, Guyana National



		Bureau of Standards
	Ms Shune Vickerie	Guyana National Bureau of Standards
	Candella Walcott – Bostwick	Head Conformity Assessment, Guyana National Bureau of Standards
<b>1600</b>	Dawn Maison	Principal Fisheries Officer Ministry of Agriculture
<b>Guyana (Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>22 September</b>		
<b>0530</b>	Fishermen	Major Artisanal Landing Site
<b>1000</b>	Helen Jenkinson Rainer Johannes Schierhorst	Reg. Advisor, E.U. Delegation Reg. Coordinator, E.U Delegation
<b>Trinidad (John Landos)</b>		
<b>22 September</b>		
<b>0930</b>	Ann Marie Jobity	Chief Fisheries Officer
<b>1145</b>	Supermarket inspection	
<b>1300</b>	Anthony Smallwood	First Counsellor and Charge d'Affairs a.i, European Delegation Trinidad.
	Ann Marie Jobity	Chief Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
	Farz Kahn	Chemistry Food and Drugs, Ministry of Health
<b>23 September</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Supermarket inspection	
<b>Jamaica (John Landos and Stephen Smikle)</b>		
<b>24 September</b>		
<b>1500</b>	Supermarket inspection	
<b>25 September</b>		
<b>0930</b>	Peta-Ann Hutchinson	Managing Director Newport Fish & Meats Ltd
<b>1330</b>	Dr Lynette Peters	Director, (Member of the Veterinary Committee), Ministry of Health
<b>1530</b>	Jennifer Aquart	Standards Development and Certification, Jamaica Bureau of Standards
	Fay Anderson	Jamaica Bureau of Standards
	Tanya Smith	Jamaica Bureau of Standards
<b>1630</b>	Andre Gregory Kong	Director Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>26 September</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Dr Felice Zaecheo	Director Rural Development, Delegation of the European Union
	Christopher Henderson	Rural Development Section Manager, Delegation of the European Union
<b>1200</b>	Hevelon Honeyqham	Chairman, Jamaica Fishermen's Cooperative Unit
	Errol Cameron	Secretary, Jamaica Fishermen's Cooperative Unit
	Ionie Henry	Manager, Jamaica Fishermen's Cooperative Unit
	Anthony Drysdale	Development Officer, Jamaica Fishermen's Cooperative Unit
<b>1400</b>	Donna Marie Roberts Cox	DFC Fisheries Ltd
	Frank Cox	DFC Fisheries Ltd
	Carlton Melbourne	Seafood Incorporated Ltd

<b>27 September</b>		
<b>0830</b>	Mr Don McGlashan	Chief Technical Director, Veterinary Services Division (also Head of Fisheries Division)
<b>1400</b>	Dr Headley Edwards	Director, Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture
	Dr Osbil Watson	Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture
	Dr Tricia Fraser	Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture
	Dr Wintorph Marsden	Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture
	Dr Trudi Stewart Jaynor	Veterinary Services Division
	Dr Candice Phipps	Veterinary Services Division
	Dr Clinton Reid	Veterinary Services Division
	Dr Errol Dakin	Veterinary Services Division
	Dr Olivia Scott	Veterinary Services Division
<b>Jamaica (Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>3 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Andre Kong	Head Fisheries Division
<b>4 October</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Errol Dakin	Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>1400</b>	Prof. Gerald C. Lalor, O.J, C.D., Ph.D.	International Centre Environmental & Nuclear Sciences (ICENS), UWI, Mona
<b>5 October</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Karl Aiken, UWI	Fisheries Division
<b>6 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Ted Hanley,	Jamaica Boiler Group, Aqua Jamaica Ltd
<b>7&amp;8 October</b>	Travel Jamaica to Haiti	
<b>Haiti (Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>9 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Gabriele Monaco	Chief Rural Development Section, E.U. Delegation
<b>1030</b>	Price Paddy	N.A.O, Haiti for E.U Projects
<b>1130</b>	Jean Fritz Boutin	Programme Chief, N.A.O. office
<b>1330</b>	Guyla Fontant Jean Robert Badio	Director of Fisheries C.F.O
<b>10 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Guyta Fontant	Fisheries
	Jean R. Badio	Fisheries
	Lawrent Meriser	Fisheries
	Wilmer Romain	Fisheries
	Jounas Gay	Secretary of State, Agriculture
<b>1300</b>	Serge Marie Andre	President, Sermar Associates

	Anthony Simon	General manager, CPASA (Import & Export)
	Ralph Kernizan	
	Jean Bernard Duperek	
<b>11 October</b>		
<b>1200</b>	Dr. Max Millien	National Laboratory
<b>12 October</b>	Review Haiti Situation	
<b>13 October</b>	Travel to Dominican Republic	
<b>15 October</b>		
<b>1800</b>	Jeanette Maeto	Fisheries Directorate
<b>16 October</b>		
<b>0930</b>	Jose Infante	Fisheries Directorate
	Carlos Hamilton	Fisheries Directorate
<b>1100</b>	Dr. Ramon Antonio Zuinones	Disla, Director Samidad Animal, Secretaria De Estado De Agriuculture
<b>1300</b>	Ramon Emila Canxman DMU,  Jocelyn Quirico, MV Crladys Echavarria Louis Quevas	Laboratory Administrator General, Laboratorio Veterinario Central Directorate. Division Diagnostic Dr De Batiste, Division, Directorate Central Veterinary Laboratory
<b>1500</b>	Gesela Meran Orlando Amargos	Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture
<b>17 October</b>		
<b>1200</b>	Dr. Salvador Hician	Ministry of Health
	Luis Fermin	Director Laboratory, Unio of Santo Domingo
<b>18 October</b>	Travel Dominican Republic to Barbados	
<b>Barbados (Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>19 October</b>	Joyce Leslie	Deputy CFO
<b>1000</b>	Phillips Jackman	Principal Fisheries Assistant
<b>1130</b>	Dr.Mark O Trotman, DVM, MSC	Senior Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Services
<b>1500</b>	Phillip Jackman	Fisheries Division
<b>1630</b>	Mr. Frederick Forte Patson Allayne Manand Ledwok Suzette Edey Babb	Permanent Secretary Deputy Permanent Secretary Administration Officer APU
<b>1800</b>	Ms. Beverly Wood	Director, Government Analytical Services and Consultant to CARICOM on laboratory needs
<b>20 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Camilla Rhone Anthea Ishmeal	Executive CROSQ Acting Director BNSI

<b>1300</b>	Beverly Wood	Govt. Analytical Laboratory
<b>21 &amp; 22 October</b>	Travel to Trinidad	
<b>23 October (Stephen Smikle and Reuben Charles)</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Marissa Nagassar Carl Baptiste Farz Khan Sylvan Chrichlow Errol Caesar Ramesh Sabarjit Richard Ranisgnat	Fisheries Division Fisheries Division Chemistry, Food & Drugs, Ministry of Health
<b>1300</b>	Fishermen	Cookerit, Alkan & Caranage Landing Sites
<b>1500</b>		CFTDI (School & Jetty)
<b>24 October</b>	Review of documentation	
<b>25 October</b>		
<b>1000</b>	Merissa Nagassar Carl Baptiste Edmund Moy Leslie Jennings David Lanser Federico Escandon	Fisheries Division Fisheries Division Antillean Seafoods Exports EZC Trinidad Seafoods Ltd Trinidad Seafoods Ltd
<b>1330</b>	Stanley Teemull	Chief Chemist & Director of Food & Drugs, Food & Drugs Division, Ministry of Health
<b>26 October</b>		
<b>0900</b>	Carl Bapliste Nadia Sharon	Trinidad Seafoods Ltd
<b>1300</b>	Carl Baptiste Nadia Edmund Moy	Antillean Seafoods Ltd
<b>27 October</b>	Review of reports	
<b>28 October</b>	Travel Trinidad to home base	

## Annex 7: Key Country Data

### 1. Status of Competent Authorities in CARIFORUM Countries

Country	Exists	Ministry	HACCP Inspectors	HACCP Auditors
Antigua & Barbuda	Yes	Agriculture	No	No
Barbados	No	Agriculture	No	Yes
Belize	Yes	Agriculture	Yes	Yes
Dominican Republic	No	Health	Yes	Yes
Guyana	Yes	Health	Yes	Yes
Haiti	No	Agriculture	Yes	No
Jamaica	Yes	Agriculture	Yes	Yes
Suriname	Yes	Agriculture	Yes	Yes
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes	Health	Yes	Yes
The Bahamas	Yes	Agriculture & Fisheries	Yes	No

### 2. Analytical Laboratories in CARIFORUM Countries

Country	Exists	Ministry	Tests	Monitoring
Antigua & Barbuda	Yes	Agriculture	MB	No
The Bahamas	Yes	Agriculture	MB	No
Barbados	Yes	Agriculture	MB, HM	No
Belize	Yes		MB, R, BT	Env + Res
Dominican Republic	Yes	Agriculture	MB, R, BT	Res
Guyana	Yes	Health	MB, R,	No
Haiti	Yes	Agriculture	MB,	No
Jamaica	Yes	Agriculture, University	MB, R, BT	Env + Res
Suriname	Yes		MB,	No
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes	Health	MB, R, BT	No

**3. Fishery Products Being exported into the EU and EU OCT's by CARIFORUM Countries, up to 1996 (When EU SPS requirements came into effect) and after.**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Currently</b>
Antigua & Barbuda	Live Lobsters	Yes	Yes
Barbados	Flying Fish	Yes	No
Belize	Shrimp	No	Yes
Dominican Republic	None	No	No
Guyana	Shrimp	Yes	Yes
Haiti	Lobster, Conch	Yes	No
Jamaica	Conch, Tilapia	Yes	Yes
Suriname	Shrimp & fish	Yes	Yes
Trinidad & Tobago	Flying Fish	Yes	No
The Bahamas	Lobster	Yes	Yes

**Note:** Data obtained during visits to countries or at the workshop and reviewed by workshop participants.

## **Annex 8: Workshop Report Belize 14 and 15 October 2006**

### **Report**

The workshop was conducted by the consultant team at the Best Western Biltmore Hotel, Belize City on 14 and 15 October 2006. CRFM provided administrative support for the workshop. A list of participants and program for the workshop is below.

The draft report was circulated to participants two weeks prior to the workshop to facilitate discussion at the workshop.

PowerPoint presentations were utilized and participant discussion and consideration of the factual content of the draft report, the findings and recommendations was encouraged. Working groups were established on the first day with each group considering issues relating to a group of findings in the draft report.

Throughout the workshop there was active participation from the participants and this facilitated a good outcome for the workshop. Recommendations from the draft report were considered one by one by the all participants and an agreed position reached in relation to each recommendation. Comment provided at the workshop was incorporated into the final report as were the agreed recommendations.

### **Workshop Program**

<b>Tuesday 14 November</b>	
0900	Official Opening Beverley Wade, Chief Fisheries Officer, Belize; Hugh Saul, Executive Director CRFM; Milton Haughton Deputy Executive Director, CRFM
0945	Course Administration, Francois Fontaine, AGRIFOR Consult
1015	Morning Tea
1045	Background to the Study – John Landos
1100	Country analysis - Reuben Charles
1130	Confirmation of country analysis content
1200	Presentation of key findings of study – Stephen Smikle
1245	Lunch
1345	Working groups (3) each considering 3 findings with a consultant working with each group
1600	Afternoon Tea
1615	Presentation of issues by the working groups
1630	Plenary discussion of working group reports and findings of study
1815	Finish day one
1900 – 2200	Official Reception

<b>Wednesday 15 November</b>	
0900	CROSQ presentation Ann Marie - CROSQ
0915	Discussion related to CROSQ presentation
0930	CAHFSA presentation - Margaret Kalloo CARIFORM Secretariat
0945	Discussion related to CAHFSA presentation
1000	Competent Authority presentation - Dr Michael de Shield
1015	Discussion related to Competent Authority presentation
1030	Morning Tea
1045	Presentation Vincent Aitkins, CRNM
1100	Discussion related to CRNM presentation
1115	Recommendations – John Landos
1215	Plenary discussions of and agreement to recommendations
1230	Lunch
1400	Plenary discussions of and agreement to recommendations
1515	Afternoon tea
1545	Plenary discussions of and agreement to recommendations
1715	Workshop Closing

### **Pictures and slides**

Some pictures taken and different presentations (slides) used by the participants during the workshop are available on the electronic version of the report (see directory Annex 8-1).

### **List of participants**



**Workshop to Consider Report of the Consultants  
on Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in  
The CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector  
November 14 - 15, 2006, Belize**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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### Annex 9: Prioritised List of Terms of Reference for future studies

Recommendations in Priority Order	Terms of Reference
1. Provision of baseline funding to assist in the establishment of specialist unit in CRFM / CAHFSA	Provision of funding to enable early start up of a specialist fisheries sanitation unit initially located in CRFM but moving to CAHFSA when this organisation is established.
2. Assistance to develop a single agency as Competent Authority and related “foundation stone” activities such as cost recovery, legislation and private sector consultation. This to include countries unable to move to a single agency at this stage.	Countries to develop projects relevant to their needs and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process.
3. Development of substantive in-country HACCP expertise and audit capacity and other related specialist training	Countries to develop projects relevant to their needs and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process.
4. Provision of a facility to enable laboratory rationalisation	Countries to develop projects relevant to laboratory rationalisation and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process.
5. Provision of a facility to enable laboratory upgrading in specific countries. To include efforts towards formal accreditation.	Countries to develop projects relevant to laboratory upgrading and accreditation and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process. Prior to funding approval a strict analysis of the sustainability of the proposed upgrading to be undertaken.
6. Funding of a test to assess feasibility of quick tests being developed in lieu of the provision of sophisticated laboratory equipment.	<p>Specialist EU consultant to be used to consider the list of test currently required by the EU in relation to fisheries sanitation and research and consider whether existing quick test technology or new developments in this field can assist in helping CARIFORUM countries meeting EU requirements for fisheries products. If it is considered that specific derogations are needed these should be highlighted. Any derogation issues should be considered against the background of not significantly reducing the level of safety that EU consumers currently have through existing testing requirements.</p> <p>Note this project has broad applicability to many developing countries that struggle with the laboratory testing requirements of the EU and other countries.</p>
7. Provision of facility to enable access to SPS legal expertise	<p>Most of the needs of CARIFORUM countries could be met by CRFM / CAHFSA engaging a suitably qualified consultant to provide an email service of any necessary changes to legislation.</p> <p>This service should include advising on an appropriate structural framework for legislation</p>

	relating to fisheries sanitation.
8. Provision of funding to CRFM / CAHFSA to enable an email help service to be established for fisheries sanitation and related aquaculture issues	This could involve the formation of a Yahoo Group Internet based email help service where individuals can post questions and comments and be assisted by other members of the group. The Pacific PestNet (plant protection) is a good example of a working model.
9. (a) The installation at the next available opportunity of a fisheries sanitation expert in an EU Delegation Rural Development posting in the region  (b) Extending the stay of review inspectors to deliver standardised package workshops  (c) Special purpose visits by EU personnel to deliver workshops	Issues for the EU to consider directly and fund as appropriate.
10. Provision of a facility that will facilitate better coordination of development assistance in the region	This could involve funding part of a position in the new fisheries sanitation unit with this person responsible for drawing together development assistance activities relating to fisheries sanitation.
11. Development of a regional fisheries sanitation awareness program for consumers that is able to be easily modified by individual countries to fit their specific needs consumers	Public awareness program to be developed by a suitably qualified consultant.
12. That a EU funding facility be established for the training of fishers, fisheries farming and post harvest handlers and related personnel in the requirements of the EU. This would include train the trainer and public awareness components	Countries to develop projects relevant to their needs and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process.
13. That a funding facility be established to explore the improvement of landing site facilities and systems and handling (sanitary operations on board) on vessels in the context of fisheries exports to the EU.	Countries to develop projects relevant to their needs and submit to CRFM / CAHFSA who will manage the funding process.
14. That the EU commission an evaluation of activities undertaken by mid 2008 with a view to identifying longer term needs of the region in the area of fisheries sanitation, especially the involvement of small scale fisheries in the EU export market.	Issue for the EU to consider directly.