



Minutes
20th FIP+FDM Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2023
Northern Fishermen Cooperative Conference Room
Belize City
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Meeting Objective: To update the FIP+FDM Steering Committee on the activities previously carried out by the members and increase support of the current and upcoming activities outlined in the work plan. The Steering Committee will provide guidance and support decision-making on these matters.

Attendance:

Members present were:

1. Elmer Rodriguez (Chair) - National Fishermen Producers Cooperative Ltd. (National)
2. Jason Arnold - National Fishermen Producers Cooperative Ltd. (National)
3. Jeronimo Tzul - National Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. (National)
4. Robert Usher - Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern)
5. Gregory Lambey - Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern)
6. Roberto Bautista - Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern)
7. Isaac Lambey - Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern)
8. Carlo Keith – Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. (Northern)
9. Jane Salazar Mcloughlin - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
10. Peter Battisti – Future of Fish (FoF)
11. Abigail Quiroz – Belize Fisheries Department (BFD)
12. Jaime Velasquez – Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society, Ltd. (Northern)
13. Ninon Martinez – University of Belize-Environmental Research Institute (UB-ERI)
14. Dr. Jay Coombs – Centre for Applied Development Studies, Ltd. (CADS)

Members absent were:

15. Hugo Miranda, Belize Department of Cooperative (BDC)
16. Sydney Fuller - Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association (BFCA)

- 17. Mauro Gongora - Belize Fisheries Department (BFD)
- 18. Nicole Auil Gomez - Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- 19. James Foley - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- 20. Estevan Solis - Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society, Ltd. (Northern)
- 21. Momo Kochen - Future of Fish (FoF)

Observers:

- 22. Demois Williams - Centre for Applied Development Studies, Ltd. (CADS)
- 23. Amani Coombs - Centre for Applied Development Studies, Ltd. (CADS)
- 24. Aretha Mortis - Centre for Applied Development Studies, Ltd. (CADS)

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome</p>	<p>1.1 Mr. Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and proceeded to present the meeting agenda.</p> <p>1.2 All members present were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presentation of 19th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>2.1 An audio version of the 19th Meeting Minutes was played for the members. The minutes of the meeting were accepted as read.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confirmation – 19th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>3.1 There being no suggested changes from the members, a motion was moved by Mrs. Jane Salazar-McLoughlin to accept the meeting minutes as written, and this was seconded by Mr. Jeronimo Tzul and was passed without dissent.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (4)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Updates of Actions of 19th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>4.1 Presentation of SI – Mauro Gongora Ms. Abigail Quiroz reported that Mr. Gongora was on duties outside the country, and she does not have any further information on this item.</p> <p>4.2 By-laws in alignment with template – Jane Salazar-McLoughlin</p> <p>4.2.1 An exercise was conducted to update the by-laws for the National Fishermen Co-operative. The updated by-laws will be presented to the membership at their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September.</p> <p>4.2.2 Within a month to a month and a half, the same assessment for Northern Fishermen Cooperative will commence as part of the institutional strengthening assistance from the TNC. This assistance will support</p>

	<p>updating Northern’s bylaws using the official template from the Belize Cooperative Department.</p> <p>4.2.3 Northern’s AGM will be conducted on 23 September 2023.</p> <p>4.3 Steering Committee Chair Rotation</p> <p>4.3.1 Northern accepted the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the FIP+ Steering Committee for the next six months of project implementation (July - December 2023). A letter from Northern will be submitted to the Committee indicating the name of the person that the cooperative has selected for this role.</p> <p>4.4 This Fish Tally Optimization Update</p> <p>4.4.1 ThisFish will arrive in the country on 18 June 2023. A virtual meeting to be facilitated by TNC will be conducted with National and Northern to update them on their schedule of activities and make recommendations for improvements.</p> <p>4.4.2 Both co-operatives expressed that they were in communication with ThisFish.</p> <p>4.5 Meeting to discuss data sharing with Tech Base and Research and Monitoring Task Forces – FIP Coordinator.</p> <p>4.5.1 This effort continues. A more detailed presentation on the practical matters to advance this particular task will be addressed during the preparation of the work plan for the next period of the FIP.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (5)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presentation of Task Force Report 1 & Discussions</p>	<p>5.1 Dr. Coombs explained that in the last month (May 2023), the CADS team, along with task force members, reviewed the various actions that the task forces are expected to complete to advance the FIP+FDI Project. See Presentation.</p> <p>5.2 The objective of the visits by the team with the task forces and the task leads was to determine the status of the actions to which they were assigned. During the status review sessions, the team undertook to update the 18 tasks of the FIP+FDI Project. This revision process was an opportunity for the coordinator to hear from members on the status of each task and related actions that had been undertaken to progress these.</p> <p>5.3 The coordinating team was able to update 13 of the 18</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (5a)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Belize FIP Social Media Update</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Amani Coombs</p>	<p>tasks. Updated information for the remaining 5 tasks are still outstanding and require feedback from the task forces or the organizations with lead responsibility, particularly the World Conservation Society and Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA).</p> <p>5.4 Ms. Salazar-McCloughlin asked whether the tech evaluation that Fisheries did was at the Fisheries Department or with the fisheries sector in General?</p> <p>5.4.1 Ms. Abigail Quiroz responded that Mr. Mauro Gongora would be better positioned to provide a comment on this matter.</p> <p>5.5 Mr. Usher, Northern Fishermen Cooperative, thanked Dr. Jay Coombs, FIP Coordinator for summarizing the updates of the activities of the task forces in the presentation. He indicated that the information presented was in line with what was shared by the</p> <p>5a.1 Ms. Amani Coombs made a presentation on data analytics for engagement on the FIP+FDMM Facebook page, and the FIP Newsletter. See Presentation</p> <p>5a.2 Ms. Coombs encouraged everyone to like and share the page.</p> <p>5a.3 Also, the members of the committee were encouraged to share images of fishers at work or any other relevant pictures, which will be included in the picture bank for the FIP+FDMM project. These will be used as original content for communication material developed by the FIP Coordinator.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (6)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Joint Working Sessions – Review of FIP+FDMM to March 2024</p>	<p>6.1 The FIP Coordinator communicated that the discussions with the task forces and task force leads have helped to establish a baseline for actions in 2023.</p> <p>6.2 These discussions contributed to a total of three (3) different levels of updates or validation on the status of the tasks. Contributing to these validation points are: the Fishery Progress.org six-month report, task force updates, and the coordinator’s assessment.</p> <p>6.3 The Coordinator’s assessment also identified that specialist assistance was critical to advancing some of the tasks. Additionally, settling concerns of the real roles vs assumed roles and responsibilities for the task forces needed addressing.</p> <p>6.4 The FIP Coordinator proposed a planning workshop to</p>

	<p>clarify, refine, and revisit the tasks to determine if they remain feasible.</p> <p>6.5 Ms. Salazar-McCloughlin reported that the FIP+FDM maintained an A rating as of the meeting. However, most of the actions in the last report are pending, so the project has been downgraded from a Comprehensive FIP to a Basic FIP. Restoration to a comprehensive FIP will also depend on the completion of the proposed update to the FIP work plan.</p> <p>6.6 Mrs. Salazar-McCloughlin also explained that actions could be eliminated from the work plan, with proper justification, especially if they are unrealistic for the cooperatives and the country's realities. The new and updated work plan will be uploaded to the Fishery Progress in October 2023.</p> <p>6.7 It was agreed to have a working session to update the work plan on either July 27, or 28, 2023.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (7)</p> <p>ORRA UK Blue Planet Fund Proposal</p>	<p>7.1 Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) of the United Kingdom has put out a call in April 2023 for which TNC Belize with the support of TNC head office, is applying. The ceiling is US \$500,000.00 and the TNC is aiming to design a two-year programme to commence in 2024. This program would assist various tasks in the FIP including, <i>benefits to cooperatives and membership and improvement in processing facility to ensure that the Cooperatives have the capacity to support product development</i>. This proposal is due on 31st July 2023. TNC is working to complete the budget.</p> <p>Three components are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Micro-financing, insurance for cooperatives at macro and micro levels, (ii) Policy, internal to coops, by-laws and implementation of bylaws, and updating Belize's Fishing Regulations, and (iii) Scientific research looking at the lobster gear in use in Belize. A call for proposals was put out to do a pilot study in Turneffe. <p>7.2 Mrs. Salazar-McCloughlin is to share the proposal with interested members of the Steering Committee.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item (8)</p>	<p>8.1 There were no Other Matters</p>

<p align="center">Other Matters</p>	
<p>Agenda Item (9)</p> <p>Actioned Items</p>	<p>9.1 Northern to submit to the Steering Committee a letter accepting the Chairmanship of the committee and the name of the person who will hold the position.</p> <p>9.2 Mr. Mauro Gongora to respond to a question asked by Ms. Salazar as to whether the tech evaluation that Fisheries did is at the Fisheries Department level or looking at the fisheries sector in General?</p> <p>9.3 All members of the Committee are to like and share the Facebook Page and Newsletter.</p> <p>9.4 All members of the committee share images of fishers at work or any other relevant pictures, which will be included in the picture bank and will be used from time to time.</p> <p>9.5 FIP Coordinator to schedule a working session to update the work plan for 27 or 28 July 2023. Members are to save this date on their calendars</p> <p>9.6 Mrs. Salazar-McCloughlin is to share the ORRRA proposal with interested members of the Steering Committee.</p>
<p>Agenda Item (10)</p> <p>Schedule date, venue and catering for next meeting</p>	<p>10.1 It was agreed that the next meeting will be at the Northern Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society, Ltd conference room from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon on 17th August 2023.</p>
<p>Agenda Item (11)</p> <p>Adjournment</p>	<p>11.1 There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m., which was accepted by Mrs. Salazar-McCloughlin and was seconded by Mr. Gregory Lambey.</p>

Date: 15/06/2023