

## Minutes

### Quarterly Project Management Group Meeting – Darwin DPLUS 153: Conserving tropical marine ecosystems in TCI through science-based fisheries management

**Date:** 23 June 2022

**Time:** 09h00 (Turks and Caicos Islands); 10h00 (Falkland Islands); 14h00 (United Kingdom)

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams (online)

Item #	Agenda Item	Detail	Action
	Present (Microsoft Teams)	Deputy Director Henry Wilson (HW – FMRM); Assistant Director Kathy Lockhart (KL – FMRM); Ms Tyann Henry (TH – FMRM); Dr Paul Brickle (PB – SAERI); Dr Megan Tierney (MT – JNCC); Director Kyne Krusic-Golub (KKG – Fish Ageing Services); Dr Edward Butler (EB – SAERI); Ms Tara Pelembe (TP – SAERI, <i>meeting chair</i> )	
2022/06/23-2	Apologies	Director Lormeka Williams (LW – DECR); Director Thecla Joseph (TJ – FMRM); Deputy Director Luc Clerveaux (LC – DECR); Assistant Director Mr Bryan Naqqi Manco (BNM – DECR); Mr Alexander McLeod (AM – DECR); Mr Jessly Robinson (JR – DECR); Director Alistair Dunn (AD – Ocean Environmental)	
2022/06/23-3	Round table introductions	All new attendees to PMG meetings (MT)	
2022/06/23-4	Project overview – staffing	EB welcomed Mr Jessly Robinson to the project team as the project officer (started April). Jessly will manage the fisheries laboratory and fisheries database and will be working with fishers and data collectors in the field.	
2022/06/23-5	Project overview – timeline and budget	EB provided an update on recent project deliverables and budget > the Darwin Annual report was completed on time in April. > The project has delivered a number of stakeholder workshops, data collection training sessions and a comprehensive data collection Manual. The reports from these events and the manual are available via the project webpage.  There have also been a number of minor delays with regard to the timeline and budget.	

		<p>&gt;The completion of the fisheries laboratory and the start of data collection have been delayed.</p> <p>&gt;These have been to do with delays with suppliers and unexpectedly long lead-in times</p> <p>&gt;Delays have been compounded by long delays (&gt;2 months) in gaining concession letters from TCIG customs department.</p> <p>This has meant that some budget was shifted accordingly from Y1 to Y2 to accommodate for shipping costs and their delay.</p>	
2022/06/23-6	Project overview – equipment	<p>EB summarised reported equipment delays. These have been to do with the arrival of the otolith saw, data collection equipment and consumables and due to supplier difficulties, unexpectedly long lead in times and issues attaining customs concession letters. Currently, much of the equipment is on island awaiting collection (customs clearance). The DECR laboratory order is still being processed and is expected later this year.</p> <p>HW expressed concern about the delay in attaining customs clearance letters and suggested that this should not take more than a week to obtain. HW and KL offered their assistance and the assistance of FMRM for attaining customs clearance letters in the future and KL offered to follow up on the progress of the current concession letters with LW.</p> <p>PB requested a better understanding of time frame for the DECR laboratory order and expressed concern over delays impacting project deliverables. EB committed to requesting an update and an estimate of deadline from AM</p> <p>KKG expressed concern over impacts of delays in equipment to project deliverables and supported the idea that solving the mentioned issues</p>	<p>&gt;KL to follow up with LW regarding concession letters. LW responded that the resubmission was made to the customs dept. on 22 June and will follow up on 24 June</p> <p>&gt;EB to add to issues log and request an estimated date of arrival from AM for DECR-ordered laboratory equipment</p>

		should be a priority, particularly where they impact data collection.	
2022/06/23-7	Project overview – recent activities	EB provided a brief overview of recent activities including the landing sites identifications & data collection planning meetings	
2022/06/23-8	Project overview – upcoming activities	EB provided an update on upcoming activities including the landing sites consultation and project workshop	
2022/06/23-9	Landing sites identification	<p>EB describes how JR, with the assistance of TCIG officers, has identified numerous landing sites and listed them in terms of importance and frequency of use.</p> <p>&gt;So far, 24 sites on Providenciales, 11 on Middle and North Caicos, 4 on South Caicos and several on Grand Turk have been identified.</p> <p>&gt;These data will inform a data collection protocol which targets specific landing sites at the peak times of use.</p> <p>&gt;Sites have predominantly focused on Providenciales where the fishing community is most diffuse and difficult to monitor.</p> <p>&gt;These data will be assessed and supported by the upcoming landing site consultations.</p>	
2022/06/23-10	Upcoming landing site consultation	<p>EB explained that currently there are too many landing sites being used across the islands and this makes data collection and fisheries monitoring difficult to achieve. The purpose of the landing site consultation is to make these processes more easily achievable by improving collaboration with fisher groups and potentially centralizing landing sites. EB mentioned the need to identify the specific objectives of the consultation process and discuss what options are available for centralization of landing sites (pass laws prohibiting sites, mandating use of others, incentivising use of specific sites with better facilities etc.) and understand time frames involved in implementing these options.</p> <p>KL responded and</p>	EB to articulate the major outcomes of the conversation on paper and compile a list of questions for the consultation process. This will be addressed in a follow-up meeting before consultation begins

		<p>&gt;acknowledged that the centralization of landing sites is a realised issue and underreporting of catch because of the diffuse state of landing sites is a problem.</p> <p>&gt;mentioned that there has been discussion for implementing government-run sites with improved facilities. Sites would also address health and safety standards, which need to be improved.</p> <p>&gt;these incentives (improved facilities) would hopefully attract fisher use.</p> <p>&gt;suggested that it will be difficult to pass and enforce legislation dictating which sites can be used etc.</p> <p>&gt;discuss with fishers the need for improved landing sites and understand how this process can be achieved.</p>	
2022/06/23-11	Data collection (South Caicos)	<p>EB explained how there have been a number of meetings with the DECR and FMRM recently to discuss several options for project data collection. The meetings have been very productive and solutions have been identified for almost all data collection gaps. These include using FMRM officers for data collection on certain islands and implementing fishery independent surveys to fill data gaps in the short term. However, one gap still remains and this is related to South Caicos – it would be useful to have someone regularly collecting fisheries data on South Caicos. This will be important for the project and for long term fisheries monitoring. There was discussion regarding using an intern to fill this gap in the short term, while a long-term solution is sought out.</p> <p>&gt;KL mentioned using TCIG summer internships which are available to TCI college students.</p> <p>&gt;HW mentioned that these internships haven't happened for some time due to Covid but would enquire about them.</p> <p>&gt;MT mentioned using field for studies students to fill data requirements</p> <p>&gt;KL stated that these students won't have the necessary time to assist</p>	<p>HW to find out about the possibility of a TCIG summer internship programme.</p> <p>EB and TP to explore solutions for a project intern</p>

		<p>&gt;TP mentioned that an internship directly through the project may also provide an option.</p>	
2022/06/23-12		<p>TP explains the idea behind the proposed workshop to be held in July/August to discuss the long-term goals of the project, realign them within TCI government and produce a specific project Terms of Reference to guide this.</p> <p>KL mentioned that the timing may be difficult as FMRM licencing season is coming up in July and that herself and TH will also be at a workshop in the UK from the 9<sup>th</sup> until the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.</p> <p>KL mentioned that FMRM will have a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June after which they will have a better understanding of time commitments</p>	<p>KL to feedback regarding time and commitments for July, to facilitate the workshop organisation</p>
2022/06/23-13	Fisheries App & Vessel Monitoring System	<p>EB explains that the project will be developing an App over the coming months to assist with data collection. This app will be targeted at fishers for self-reporting and will give them access to their own catch data.</p> <p>EB also mentioned the potential trialling of vessel monitoring systems which can directly tie into the app and provide passive effort data.</p> <p>&gt;These systems do not require a power source (solar) and can easily be mounted onto smallscale vessels.</p> <p>&gt;The units can provide detailed tracks and can be used to monitor fishing activity – how much fishing and where.</p> <p>&gt;The data is also appealing to fishers through the app – can tie into tracking where they have been successful etc.</p> <p>&gt;It also has an important safety function and can send a distress signal to alert emergency services.</p> <p>&gt;The project has secured a quote for a 1 year trial of 10 systems. The total cost is \$5000 which includes the systems, analytical software and cellphone connectivity and airtime.</p> <p>&gt;The project requires a means to support this trial.</p>	<p>KL to enquire with TS regarding the requirements for using the existing app.</p> <p>MT to explore and report on the potential use of VMS in the upcoming BlueBelt project.</p>

		<p>KL mentions that there is already an app available which was developed through a different project (Caricatch app). KL commits to finding out more information regarding the progress of the app and whether it can go live. KL also expressed concerns about whether fishers would actually use the app, which was seconded by EB.</p> <p>All agree that if an app already exists then there would be no need to develop another app. However, the project activity would still go ahead and could potentially look at developing a data collector app.</p> <p>KL mentioned that there is something regarding VMS being included in an upcoming BlueBelt project. MT commits to finding out more detail regarding this.</p> <p>KL supports the use of the VMS systems and KKG provides further support for their use for passive effort data collection</p>	
2022/06/23-14	National fisherman's day	KL provided an overview of the National Fisherman's day which will be taking place on the 27 <sup>th</sup> of August. The event will provide a good opportunity for data collection due to the volume of fishing and also provides a good opportunity for stakeholder engagement.	EB to arrange with KL for the project to be involved in the National Fishermen's Day
2022/06/23-15	Monitoring and evaluation	Due to time constraints, the M&E plan was not discussed	
2022/06/23-16	Issues log	Due to time constraints, the issues log was not discussed	
2022/06/23-17	Meeting close and any further questions	<p>TH suggested EB and JR be involved with upcoming fishery advisory meetings which will be taking place at the end of June.</p> <p>HW supports this idea</p> <p>All – nothing further to add</p>	EB to follow up on detail for fishery meetings