

Global FISH Alliance
Spiny Lobster Initiative
NOTES from the 1st Working Group Meeting April 1, 2009
English Translation

General Objective of the Meeting:

The objective of the meeting was the facilitation of communication and the meeting conditions of the different groups and stakeholders involved in the private, environmental, civil, and governmental sectors related to the to the Spiny Lobster in Honduras.

Goals of the first meeting were:

1. Introduce the Spiny Lobster initiative though the SCALE approach
2. Explore the energy and commitments from different stakeholders to work together
3. Develop together a map of topics/themes related to the context of the lobster (environment, government, civil and private.)
4. Determine the interest and commitment of the participants to formalize a working group to conduct the Whole System in the Room event
5. If there is interest in doing the WSR, then
 - look for the choice in topics/phrases that describe the theme of the WSR (from the interest of the participants)
 - Identify the related groups from the different sectors on the lobster topic
 - Identify other stakeholders that are interested in participating in the working group
 - Identify places/sights where the WSR can be held
 - Who should sign the invitations for the WSR
 - Define next steps and commitments from the working group

Participants

	Name	Organization	Office Phone	Cell #	Email
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1. Introduce the Spiny Lobster through the SCALE approach

Bette Booth, SCALE facilitator in Honduras introduced G-FISH and the Spiny Lobster initiative in Honduras and Nicaragua, the role of AED in the initiative, SCALE, and the paradigm shift in which it is based, and her personal commitment to the initiative and Honduras.

2. Explore the interest and commitments to work together. Why did they attend the meeting?

The participants said/expressed:

- The lobster industry should find new alternatives (guide the activity)
- There is a decrease in the resource by various factors
- We use the resource with out fully considering its conservation
- There is an interest in learning and implementing new alternatives
- Changes are necessary and urgent
- Commitments to convey the Initiative in each sector have been expressed
- It is interesting to think of the idea together and try to find points in common
- Need to have an Initiative that reaches and implements sustainable alternatives for fishing groups
- Take initiative to equally distribute the resource between all the groups

3. Develop a map of topics/themes

According to the comments and information of the participants, these are the following:

PRIVATE

- Identify sustainable economic alternatives for the sector
- Improved methods of industrial fishing
- Search to improve and expand the market
- Certification of the lobster (value added)
- Hermeticism/sealing off of lobster prices at the start of the season
- Little or no funding from the fishing industry (no credits)
- The percentage of lobster as a fishing product is not quantified
- Fishing tends to promote the commercialization of small sized fish
- Generation and strengthening of strategic partnerships

GOVERNMENT

- Lack of compliance with the legal framework of the fishing sector (laws, conventions)
- Case of 16th parallel (Honduras and Nicaragua)
- Joint patrols with other related entities
- Promote community fishing concessions
- Verification of closed seasons in relation to the life cycle of the lobster
- Lobster diving, good or bad?
- Training on artificial habitats for the lobster
- Definition of national policy with respect fishing by diving
- There is no government support to the fishing sector/fisheries
- No records or actual quantification of the contributions of the fisheries to the country
- Few or no records for the fishing boats
- There is not sufficient staff for logistics and operations
- Operational instability of the fishing sector because of government changes

CIVIL

- Bring awareness to the national/international public levels and all sectors
- Promote more fishing associations to handle and maintain the product
- Find alternatives to miskito divers
- Cultural focus related to local economic development activities
- Traditions and culture (Garifunas, islanders, Miskitos and mestizos)
- Drug use related to lobster fishing and diving
- International remittances
- Education for the younger generations

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Diversification of the fish
- Protecting the resource
- Payment for environmental services
- Identification of critical habitats for the lobster
- Reproduction period
- Better research about the lobster and its ecosystem
- Lack of basic biological data on the lobster
- Tracking the source/origin of the lobster industry

4. Determine the interest of the participants to form a working group

- It is considered that the lobster system in Honduras is between a state of denial and confusion
- A meeting with more participants/groups from other sectors would provide more support for the lobster industry
- Interest exists for doing the WSR
- This is the ideal time to do this initiative; there are conditions: the private sector is in slow production and it is the closed season therefore the fishing boats aren't going out to sea
- The participants showed interest in doing a short-term Lobster WSR and forming a working group for the Lobster Initiative

4.1 WSR

The members of the working group agreed that the level of the WSR would be a workshop. The participants formed 3 groups and contributed 48 ideas on what could be the theme of the WSR event in Honduras.

After, two titles were developed together for the workshop:

- *Initiative for the sustainable use of the spiny lobster in Honduras*
- *Workshop for achieving the sustainability of the spiny lobster in Honduras*

4.2 Identification of other groups to attend the WSR

Government: Secretary of Education, Secretary of Work and Social Security, Sec. of Industry and Commerce, Merchant Marine and harbor captains (islands of la Bahía, La Ceiba, Puerto Cortes y Trujillo), Sec. of Health, DIGEPESCA, Sec. of Natural resources and the Environment (SERNA), environmental attorney, municipalities of Gracias a Dios, La Ceiba and island of la Bahía, naval academy, Secretary of livestock and agriculture SAG, office of CITES- Honduras, Honduran Institute of Tourism (IHT), Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History (IHAH).

Civil: Miskita Association MOPAWI, Miskita Association (MASTA), Association of disabled miskitos divers (AMBLIH), association of active miskitos divers (AMBLAH), organization of african Americans of Honduras (OFRANEH/ ODECO), churches, association of small fisheries (Graifunas, miskitos, mestizos e isleños), leaders from fishing communities

Private: banks, insurance companies, organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector of the central American isthmus (OSPESCA), International Regional organization for agricultural health (OIRSA), ship/boat owners, *naseros*, Fish Association (APESCA), APICA, managers of the packing companies, seafood distributors, intermediaries, exporters, importers, restaurants, supermarkets, hyperbaric chambers

Environment: WWF, TNC, Bay Island Conservation Asoc, Roatan Marine Park, Utila Center for Marine Ecology

4.3 Other groups who should be in the working group?

Who else should be invited to join the working group?	Which member of the current working group will invite these people?
1. representative of the ship owners	Capt., Mejia / Merchant Marine
2. representative of APESCA (Edgard Hyde, Steve Guillen or Jesús Canales)	Besy Aspra- WWFCA
3. representative of the packers of the island of la Bahía (Shawn Hyde o Charles Haylock)	Besy Aspra- WWFCA
4. Ashford Bodden (Astilleros)	Dr. Francisco Terry (EMPROMAS)
5. Association of disabled Miskitos divers (AMBLIH)	Representative assigned from MOPAWI with support from WWF/AED
6. association of Miskitos divers (AMBLAH)	Representative assigned from MOPAWI with support from WWF/AED
7. association of small fisher from the Moskitia	Representative assigned from MOPAWI with support from WWF/AED

4.4 Backing the Initiative (Sponsorship)

In a brain storming session, it was suggested that the sponsors of the Initiative would bring together all of the institutions that the members of the working group represent. This sponsorship implies the use of the logos for the call/publicizing of the WSR. If there is a need to design a logo for the Honduras Alliance, it will be evaluated/discussed at the next working group meeting.

4.5. Location for the WSR

The group identified various options:

- Hotel Palma Real (Roma- 21 Km de La Ceiba)
- Centro de la Fundación Agrícola FUNAVID (Balfate)
- Centro COLPROSUMAH (Tela)

The location for the WSR will be chosen according to the location of the participants, availability of funds and logistics.

4.6 Second meeting of the Working Group for the Lobster Initiative in Honduras

It was agreed that the second meeting of the working group will be:

Thursday April 16 at the Hotel La Quinta, El Sauce, La Ceiba. 8:00am to 4:00pm

Below is the following schedule:

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Induction of the newly invited members to the working group

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM- working in full

4.7 Follow up and commitments by the members of the working group

Who?	What?	When?
Francisco Terry	Submit the letter and inform Mr. Bodden about the meeting.	Upon receiving the invitation
Bessy Aspra	Follow up on the invitation to ASPESCA to send a representative. Also for the packing company. If MOPAWI needs support on following up on the invitation Waldemar Cabrera	Upon receiving the invitation
Vilma Castañeda	Follow up at the central level with the director of DIGEPESCA	
Héctor Castellanos	Follow up at a higher level about what was agreed on during the workshop	
Deborah Sánchez	Identify the Moskitia diver leaders and follow up on the invitations for the second meeting. Delegate to the representative of MOPAWI in conjunction with the Director	This week
Carlos Mejia	Identify a captain of the fishing fleet and inform his supervisor	
Adoni Cubas	Motivate Don Juan Diego Calix, (ACEPA) to identify leaders of Rio Esteban and Cayos Cochinos for the WSR meeting	
Calina Zepeda	Send invitations to fishermen in Boca Cerrada (RVSCS) for the larger WSR meeting	
Academy for Education and Development AED	Manage and provide the necessary funds for the WSR. Work with the working group to facilitate the communication between the WSR participants.	