

GCLME NEWSLETTER



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ANGOLA - BENIN - CAMEROON - CONGO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GABON - GHANA - GUINEA - GUINEA BISSAU - LIBERIA - NIGERIA - SAO TOME & PRINCEPE - SIERRA LEONE - TOGO

FROM THE EDITOR :

From 6 - 10 March, the GCLME Project organized a Regional Workshop on Methodology of Nutrient Monitoring/Reduction Strategies at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra. The Workshop which had as one of its objectives: "to generate a regional protocol for nutrient monitoring in the GCLME" was officially opened by the Deputy Minister for Environment, Honourable Dr. Gyesika Agmbila while Prof. Chris Gordon, Dean of International Studies, University of Ghana, Accra chaired the Opening Ceremony.

Dr. Agambila stated that the Workshop came at an appropriate time because of the fast deteriorating quality of the water bodies which is caused by pollution coming from land-based activities such as the use of poisonous chemicals and fertilizer in Agriculture, indiscriminate discharge of untreated municipal and industrial waste directly into rivers, lagoons and into the shared ocean.

He hoped that other GCLME countries are pursuing the same policies and programmes as Ghana by developing water policies and programmes in order to ensure an effective management of water resources in Ghana.

He attributed the contamination of coastal water bodies to the inadequate waste disposal systems and informed participants that the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana, is currently working towards the establishment of quality standards for the discharge of effluents.

Expressing strong hopes that the Workshop would create a forum for the participants to develop specific policies and strategies to fully address the problem, Dr. Agambila wished them fruitful deliberations.

Regional Workshop on Methodology of Nutrient Monitoring/Reduction Strategies: Accra, Ghana, 6 - 10 March 2006.



L-R: Deputy Minister of Environment & Science, Hon. Dr. Gyesika Agmbila, Prof. Chris Gordon, Dean of International Studies, University of Ghana and Prof. Chidi Ibe-

Regional Director, GCLME.

L-R: Dr. George Wiafe, Ms Adelina Mensah from the Dept. of Oceanography/Fisheries of the University of Ghana and Mrs. Ugo Udochu from Institute of Oceanography & Marine Research, Nigeria.



Group photograph of Workshop participants.



Between 20 and 24 March, 2006, participants from the GCLME countries participated in a Regional Seminar on Flag State Implementation and Port State Control at the Regional Coordination Unit of the project which was to inform participants from the GCLME countries about the functions and responsibilities of maritime safety administration as well as train them on the procedures for adopting IMO Conventions and Investigations into marine accidents and incidents.

The Workshop was officially opened by the Minister for Harbours and Railways, Prof. Christopher Ameyaw Akumfi who reconfirmed the commitment of the Republic of Ghana, through his Ministry, to the sustainable protection of the Marine Resources from Pollution. He referred to his past discussions with the Regional Director, Prof. Chidi Ibe on the proposals for setting up waste oil reception facilities in the sub region as part of contingency plans on control of pollution.

He stated that Ghana Maritime Authority has already initiated actions towards the effective fulfillment of Ghana's obligations under most of the ratified international maritime instruments. These actions include the preparation of about 27 subsidiary legislations required for the implementation of the Ghana Shipping Act 2003 as well as completion of Act 645 which will be submitted to Parliament for approval in due course.

The Team Leader of the IMO consultants, Mr. Fernando Plaza announced IMO's decision to name its 2006 World Maritime Day "Technical Cooperation: IMO's response to the 2005 World Summit", with special emphasis on the maritime needs of Africa. According to him, the choice of this theme will stress the millennium development goals, adopted by the 2000 Millennium Summit and re-affirmed by challenges presented by the fact that hundreds of millions of people are left defenseless against hunger, disease and environmental degradation, even though the means to protect them against such are available.

He pointed out that there are still many challenges for the years ahead, with respect to flag State implementation and the work to develop guidelines and procedures to reduce maritime casualties and mitigate marine pollution through the universal and full implementation of relevant conventions and other instruments, primarily by the flag State and as a second line of defense by the port States.

Regional Seminar on Flag State Implementation and Port State Control: Accra, Ghana 20-24 March 2006



The Min. for Harbours & Ind., Prof. Christopher Ameyaw (standing) delivering the Keynote Address at the Opening Ceremony. To his left are Prof. Chidi Ibe and Mr. Peter Azumah, Director General, GMA.

L-R: Mr. Ekoué Kouvidjin from Togo, Mr. Van Niekerk & Mr. Govender Sundras from South Africa, Capt. Ebenezer Afadz, Chief Pilot-GPA & Capt.



Emmanuel Kofi Ankamah, Commander-Ghana Navy.



Group Photo of the Workshop participants.

From 27 - 29 March, 2006, the GCLME Fisheries Expert, Dr. Theodore Djama representing the GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit participated in a Sub-Regional Workshop on Management of the shared resources of *Sardinella* between Angola, Congo, DR Congo, and Gabon which was held at the Conference hall of the National Institute of Fisheries, Angola by the GCLME Regional Centre of Activities, Angola. The objective of the Workshop was to review existing research and management strategies between the four countries with respect to shared sardinella stock as well as to analyze the current methods of assessment applied in the four countries and elaborate some recommendations for future strategies taking into account the Ecosystem approach to Fisheries management.

The Workshop was officially opened by the Director General of the National Institute of Fisheries Angola, Dr. Francisca Delgado on behalf of the Angolan Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Salomao Jose Luheto Kirimmbi who stressed the importance of the fisheries sector in the region. She stated that the fisheries sector in Angola occupies the third rank in the economy of the country following petrol exploitation and the Industry of Diamonds and advised that due to the transboundary nature of the fisheries resources, proper management of these should be through subregional and or regional management initiatives. Based on the reports presented by each of the four countries, it was confirmed that the distribution size of sardinella sp varies from Gabon to Angola with Gabon (15 to 26 cm total length on average) having the smallest sizes when compared to those of Congo, DR Congo and Angola.

Recommendations which came out from the three-day deliberations include:

- Update sampling protocols in future surveys to include biological sampling especially on gonads maturation stages and stomach contents.
- Harmonize method of analyses in the four countries for result comparisons.
- Create a consultative organ at both scientific and administrative levels for the management of the shared resources.
- Assist RDC in the organisation of an appropriate statistical data collection system.

The Workshop was followed by two other workshops on the Improvement of the draft Coastal Profile of Angola and the Launching of National Programme of Action.

Sub-Regional Workshop on Management of the Shared Resources of *Sardinella* sp, Luanda, Angola: 27 - 29 March, 2006.



GCLME Fisheries Expert, Dr. Theodore Djama presenting the GCLME Project at the technical session of the Workshop.



Laboratory of food technology of the Institute of Fisheries Resources, Angola.

*Group photograph of the participants to the Sub-regional workshop on Management of the Shared resources of *Sardinella* sp, Accra, 27 - 29 March, 2006.*



FLASH BACKS!

Between 23 and 24 January 2006, launching of activities of GCLME Project and a Workshop on National Programme of Action (NPA) in relation to the Protection of Marine Environment from Land based Activities (LBA) were held in Equatorial Guinea. The ceremony was chaired by Mr. Simon Osa Adugu, Director of Coastal Waters to the Ministry of Fisheries and the Environment who is also the National Director for GCLME Project in Equatorial Guinea. The GCLME Environment Expert, Dr. Jaques Abe represented the Regional Director, GCLME at the Workshop.

Shortly after the launching of NPA in Equatorial Guinea, the Environment Expert went on mission to Cote d'Ivoire to participate in the Workshop on National Programme of Action as well as evaluation of GCLME activities that were conducted in 2005.

From January 30 to 1 February, 2006, the GEF/ UNESCO Project on Management of Transboundary Coastal Aquifers of the Gulf of Guinea was launched in UNESCO Paris. The participants were representatives of the 5 Member States of the project, namely Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The Workshop which was organized by UNESCO/UNEP, Nairobi with the participation of GCLME Project was aimed at finalization of a Project document on the West African Coastal Aquifers. The session was chaired by Mr. BO of the Department of Hydrology of UNESCO Paris. The GCLME Regional Director was represented by Dr. Jacques Abe.

The launching and presentation of the National Programme of Action Workshop of the GCLME Project in Liberia took place from 1-3 February 2006 at the YMCA Building in Monrovia, Liberia. The workshop was attended by 70 (seventy) participants representing broad spectrum of stakeholders, organizations from relevant Government Ministries/Agencies, Academic, Institutions, NGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector. The GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit was represented by the GCLME Fisheries Expert, Dr. Theodore Djama.

Kelechi Ihemeje



Group photograph of participants to the Workshop on NPA, Cote d'Ivoire, 26 - 27 January, 2006.



Group photograph of participants to the Workshop on NPA, Equatorial Guinea, 23 - 24 January, 2006.



Dr. David Tommy, the UNIDO Representative for Nigeria a.i. (middle) during his visit to the UNILAG/GCLME EIMS Centre, Lagos. To his left is Dr. P. C. Nwilo, the GCLME Regional Expert on GIS while to his right is Mrs. Goodnews Falaye of UNIDO, Lagos.