

HUMBOLDT CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

GEF-PNUD-HCLME PIMS 4147 2011-2015

BULLETIN 1: September-October 2012



EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the GEF-UNDP *'Towards an Ecosystem Approach to Management of the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem'* (HCLME) Project information Bulletin. After the approval of the first Annual Work Plan (2012-13) in May 2012, project activities have started to be implemented in coordination with others which will be described in chronological order every two months.

GUANO HARVEST 2012 AT SAN JUAN POINT, PERU

The Agricultural Program for Rural Development (AGRO RURAL) of the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture carried out an extractive campaign for guano harvesting at the Punta San Juan de Marcona Nature Reserve during August and September 2012. During the campaign the Punta San Juan Project, run by the Center for Environmental Sustainability of the Peruvian Cayetano Heredia University (CSA-UPCH), developed a program for Volunteer Observers to intensively monitor the local fauna. Recommendations for enhanced performance were given to AGRO RURAL for the mitigation of any possible negative impacts on wild populations with a very special focus on the Humboldt Penguin as Punta San Juan hosts the biggest colony in the country.



Photo: S. Cárdenas

48 volunteer observers participated including Peruvians and foreigners. Group daily tasks included training of workers in charge of the guano harvest regarding marine ecological issues, as well as for beach cleanup, maintenance of the camp etc.

HCLME ACTIVITIES DISSEMINATION WORKSHOPS, CHILE

During October several dissemination workshops were carried out in Chile regarding activities being conducted in the context of the approved HCLME Project Annual Work Plan 2012-13. On October 12th a meeting was held in Valparaíso to constitute a Technical Task Team (TTT) for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) including seamounts of the Juan Fernandez archipelago (see special note on the next page). On October 17th a workshop was held in San Antonio on the Socialization of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach related to the highly migratory species targeted by artisanal fishers. On October 19th a new informative workshop was held in Valparaíso for public institution professionals on fisheries certification options. Finally on October 23rd the HCLME Project was presented to professionals in the public sector in Punta Arenas (Magallanes Region).



Photo: L. Naranjo

The dissemination workshops are useful to establish cooperative linkages between the Project and Stakeholders, including NGOs, ministries, universities, private companies, local and regional governments, and guilds among others.

TDA-SAP COURSE PERFORMED BY AN IW-LEARN EXPERT

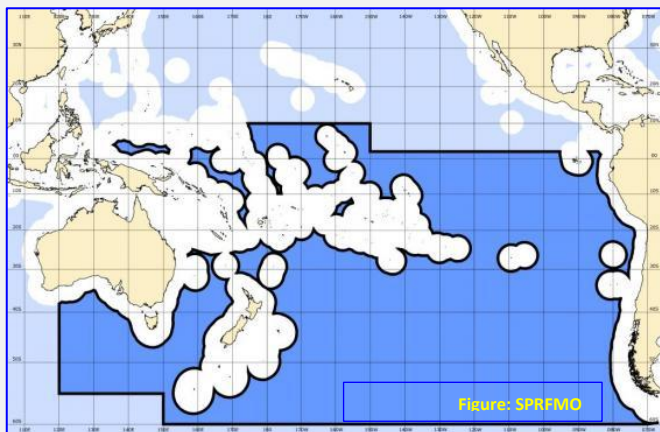
From September 10 to 14 the HCLME Project carried out a Course on *Transzonal Diagnostic Analysis* (TDA) and *Strategic Action Programme* (SAP) development at the UN complex in Lima. The activity was attended by a group of Chilean and Peruvian experts identified by the national focal point organizations IFOP (Instituto de Fomento Pesquero, Chile) and IMARPE (Instituto del Mar del Perú). This group will have the key task of drafting and seeking approval for a new HCLME TDA, as well as to propose to the two governments a SAP to progress towards an Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach for the management of goods and services provided by the HCLME. The course was delivered by IW-LEARN specialist Dr. Martin Bloxham, who has worked for 10 years as a UN expert on sustainable development, and also for other important organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Five working groups were established for each country. A similar structure was agreed at bi-national level. The five thematic modules are: (1) ocean productivity, (2) fish and fisheries, (3) ecosystem health, (4) socioeconomics and (5) governance. The activity was number 1.1.1 on the 2012-13 work plan.

11th SPRFMO SCIENCE WORKING GROUP MEETING

From October 15 to 19 the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), 11th Science Working Group (SWG) meeting was held in Lima. In January 2013 the SPRFMO Commission will start its formal functions in the convention area (see figure below) binding fishery regulations for management purposes will apply based upon the agreements between country members. The agreed Scientific Program comprises three areas: the environmental variability patterns in several time and spatial scales across the South Pacific; the assessment of main fisheries within the SPRFMO convention (Jack Mackerel, squids and deep sea fish); and an Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management.



Map of the SPRFMO Convention Area, signed in New Zealand late 2009. To date six countries have ratified it including Chile. Therefore the SPRFMO Commission will start official attributions January 2013. From that moment on all agreements reached up by state members will be binding in relation to fish and fisheries of the South Pacific.

TECHNICAL TASK TEAM FOR SEAMOUNTS, CHILE

During a meeting held on October 12th at the Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP) in Valparaíso, a Technical Task Team (TTT) was created with the mission to carry out the Project objectives related to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) outlined during the planning phase, and very specifically the seamounts of the Juan Fernández archipelago and the O'Higgins seamount. The

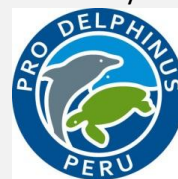
goal is to preserve the structure and biodiversity of these highly sensitive areas including submarine canyons. At present several organizations are executing activities in the area, therefore they all agreed to collectively name these efforts as "Macro-project Juan Fernández". The institutions currently developing activities are IFOP, Undersecretary of Fisheries, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, the Universidad de Concepción, the Ministry of Environment, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, among others.



Regarding fishery aspects, coordination has been made with all stakeholders in order to identify problems and possible solutions to the problems faced by the archipelago. Besides, with support of the Ministry of Economy a 'certificate of origin' has been obtained from the Institute of Intellectual Property for the Juan Fernández lobster. A similar certification will soon be achieved for the "Golden Crab", (see photo above).

PASSIVE ACOUSTIC DETECTION OF DOLPHINS, PERU

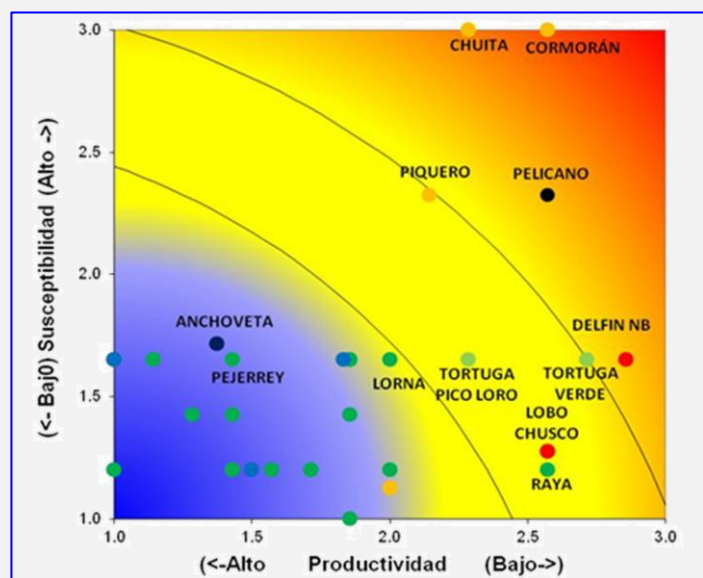
The first experimental use of a C-Pod (hydrophone operating to a digital audio recording device) in Peru was carried out during a scientific acoustic survey (coded 1209-10) on the assessment of pelagic fish populations aboard RV Olaya, a vessel owned by the Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE). The purpose is to evaluate the feasibility of using this technology in the monitoring of marine mammals, specifically dolphin populations, in every one of the numerous locations where the Olaya carried out fishing and/or oceanographic surveys. This new IMARPE activity has been possible thanks to the contribution of ProDelphinus, a local NGO specialized in top predator research, which supplied the C-POD for the experiment.



The software used is designed to analyze the audio data collected during the C-POD use and allows the automated identification of a number of cetacean species (mainly dolphins). IMARPE will be able to experimentally relate the echointegration achieved by active sonar systems with the passive ones obtained from marine mammals.

WORKSHOPS ON ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT, PERÚ

Three workshops were carried out in Peru on Ecological Risk Assessment (ERE) for fisheries taking place across the Project pilot sites areas in the Peruvian Guano Isles and Capes National Reserve – RNSIIPG. From October 18 to 19 the work was carried out in Santa Rosa (Lambayeque Region) for the ‘Lobos de Tierra’ island section of the National Reserve; from October 22 to 23 another analysis was undertaken at the Paracas National Reserve (Ica Region) in the case of the Ballestas Islands; and from October 25 to 26 another was performed in Marcona relating to San Juan Point (another part of the National Reserve). In the three cases mitigation actions have been identified, some to be promptly recommended to local authorities to reduce the ecological risk for species which are under a high degree of risk due to anthropogenic factors.



Result of the Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) achieved at the ERE workshops. In the case of the workshop for the Ballestas Islands section of the RNSIIPG (Paracas, Ica Region) a high degree of risk has been identified for some top predators. However simple mitigation measures – which are to be actively promoted – allow the risky conditions to be greatly reduced.

WORKSHOP ON MSC CERTIFICATION, PERU

On October 23rd a workshop was carried out at the Lima UN Complex on the characteristics and application procedures for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) eco-labeling process leading to the MSC fisheries certification. It was conducted by its Regional Director Mr. Rodrigo Polanco from Chile accompanied by Dr. Nicolas Gutierrez from the MSC London office who gave a detailed description of the MSC standard with very special reference to the new directive on Low Trophic Level species and the scoring system under the three MSC principles for achieving sustainability: 1) the state of target and key species and setting of Biological Reference Points (BRP) for the main species; 2) the effects of the

fishery on the ecosystem and current state of habitats and ecological niches; and 3) the ongoing laws, regulations, formal procedures and governance mechanisms designed to ensure the structure, resilience and diversity of the ecosystem. The MSC certification is a tool to promote the achievement of sustainable fisheries and thereby the sustainability of the ecosystem. This is achieved by binding the final buyer to the producer via a traceable process, by stimulating good fishing practices and an efficient and transparent management system.

The MSC certification amounts to the achievement of an Ecolabel after a 1 to 2 year evaluation procedure is successfully completed. It comprises a pre-assessment process, which in the case of a positive certification possibility, is followed by a full assessment. The whole procedure is carried out by a private assessment company and can be requested by a state, an NGO like WWF, or a group of companies. The achievement of the certification requires the implementation of a Custody Chain to ensure the traceability of the certified products.

WORLD FOOD DAY

In Peru World Food Day was celebrated early on October 15th with a ceremony at the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Regional Coordinating Unit of the GEF-HCLME Project took part of the Organizing Commission representing the marine sector. Accordingly an anchovy tasting session was held to promote the direct human consumption of this nutritious fish. Several gastronomic options were provided including ceviche, causa, chupe, parihuela and tacos. All this thanks to the contribution of the **Asociacion para el Consumo Humano de Anchoveta (ACH)**, which is promoting the reduction of national malnutrition indexes through the consumption of anchovy. Besides this, the government has recently created a special Nationwide “Eat fish” Program.



The Peruvian First Lady, Mrs. Nadine Heredia, Minister of the Production Mrs. Gladys Triveño, and Minister of Agriculture Mr. Milton Von Hesse in dialogue with Mr. Pablo Echevarria and other representatives of the ACH (Pisco) at the moment of tasting the culinary diversity available by using creativity and anchovy as the main ingredient.