

Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fishery Authorities: Preparation, Monitoring Site Selection, and Training Workshops

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ABSTRACT

Fisheries authorities in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region have long asked for more attention to be paid to socio-economics in data collection, information generation and decision-making. National and regional fisheries management plans being developed and implemented call for socio-economic data. The regional need for socio-economic monitoring and information will increase with the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the proposed Common Fisheries Policy and Regime. Although efforts have been made by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to expand data collection systems to include social and economic data, little progress has been made by fisheries authorities towards implementation, especially at a site-specific level. To address this, the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus, the socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) lead organization for the English-speaking Caribbean, is implementing an 18 month project, *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fisheries authorities (Fisheries SocMon)*, to increase and improve the use of site-specific socio-economic information in fisheries and coastal management decision-making by fisheries stakeholders in five locations – Barbados, Dominica, Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This poster, and its companion paper, reports on the training and monitoring initiation processes and preliminary findings from the site monitoring conducted at Oistins, Barbados; Dublanc, Bioche and Colihaut, Dominica; Booby Island, Nevis; Grenville, Grenada; and Rose Place, St. Vincent.

KEY WORDS: Socio-economic monitoring, fisheries authorities

Monitoreo Socio-económico por Autoridades de Pesca del Caribe: Talleres de Capacitación, Preparación y Monitoreo de Sitio Seleccionado

Las autoridades de pesca de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) han estado solicitando que se preste más atención a lo socio-económico en la recolección de datos, generación de información y toma de decisiones. Los Planes de manejo de pesca tanto nacionales como regionales en su proceso de desarrollo como implementación requieren datos socio-económicos. La necesidad regional para información y monitoreo socio-económico aumentará con la Economía y Mercado Común de CARICOM (CSME) y el Régimen y Política de Pesca Común propuesto. Aunque se han realizado esfuerzos por el Mecanismo Regional de Pesca del Caribe (CRFM) para expandir los sistemas de recolección de datos e incluir datos sociales y económicos, se ha visto poco progreso por parte de las autoridades de pesca en la implementación, especialmente a nivel de sitio-específico. Para responder a esto el Centro para el Manejo de Recursos y Estudios Ambientales (CERMES) de la Universidad de West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill campus, la organización líder en monitoreo socio-económico (SocMon) del Caribe anglo-parlante, está impulsando un proyecto de 18 meses, *Monitoreo socio-económico por autoridades de pesca del Caribe (SocMon de pesca)*, para aumentar y mejorar el uso de información socio-económica específica de sitio de pesca y manejo costero en San Vicente y las Granadinas. Este póster, y su documento acompañante, informa sobre los procesos de inicio del monitoreo y capacitación y resultados preliminares de sitios de monitoreo conducidos en Oistins, Barbados; Dublanc, Bioche y Colihaut, Dominica; Isla Booby, Nevis; Grenville, Grenada; y Rose Place, San Vicente.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Monitoreo socio-económico, autoridades de pesca

Suivis socio-économique Entreprit par les Autorités de Pêche dans les Caraïbes : Préparation, Suivi de Sélection de Sites et Sessions D'apprentissage

Les autorités de pêche dans les pays membres de la CARICOM ont depuis longtemps été demandé de prêter plus attention aux suivis socio-économiques en tout aspects : le recueil des données, la génération d'informations et en prise de décisions. Le développement et l'implémentation de plans de gestion des pêches au niveau national et régional nécessitent ces données socio-économiques. De plus, il existe un besoin régionale pour les suivis socio-économique dans le cadre du marché commun des Caraïbes ainsi que pour la police régionale des pêches bientôt envisagée. Bien qu'il existe des efforts prit par le bureau du Mechanisme Régionale des pêches des Caraïbes (CRFM) d'inclure des données sociales et économiques dans leur systèmes de recueil de données, peu de progrès est réalisé au niveau des autorités de pêche nationales de mettre en oeuvre la collecte dans des localités designées. Pour relever ce déficit, le Centre pour la Gestion des Ressources et Etudes Environnementales (CERMES) à

l'Université des West Indies (UWI) au campus Cave Hill est en tête d'un projet de 18 mois intitulé *Suivi socio-économique entrepris par les autorités de pêche (Fisheries SocMon)* afin d'augmenter et améliorer l'emploi des données socio-économiques en gestion de pêche et gestion intégrée des côtes aux Barbades, en Dominique, à Nevis, la Grenade et St. Vincent et les Grenadines. L'affichette, sa recherche accompagnatrice, les rapports sur apprentissage et l'initiation des processus ainsi que les résultats préliminaires des suivis sont présentés dans les cinq localités désignées de Oistins, Barbades; Dublanc, Bioche et Colihaut en Dominique; Booby Island, Nevis; Grenville, Grenada; et Rose Place, St. Vincent

MOTS CLÉS: Suivi socio-économique, autorités de pêche

INTRODUCTION

National and regional fisheries authorities in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region have long asked for more attention to be paid to socio-economics in data collection, information generation and decision-making. Although efforts have been made by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to expand data collection systems to include social and economic data, little progress has been made by fisheries authorities towards implementation. The national and regional fisheries management plans being developed and implemented call for socio-economic data. The regional need for socio-economic monitoring and information will increase with the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the proposed Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFPR). In response, the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, as Socio-economic Monitoring (SocMon) coordinating centre for the English-speaking Caribbean is implementing an 18-month project, (October 2007 to March 2009) to increase and improve the use of site-specific socio-economic information in fisheries and coastal management decision-making by fisheries stakeholders in five selected CRFM member countries.

The goal of this project, funded primarily by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Grant with matching funds mainly from CERMES, is to increase and improve the use of socio-economic information in inshore fisheries and coastal management decision-making by training at least 50 fisheries management stakeholders, in five countries - Barbados, Dominica, Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - in the use of SocMon Caribbean methods.

The project has four main objectives (Pena and McConney 2008):

- i) Five in-country practically-oriented 3-day training workshops in SocMon Caribbean methodology (see the locations listed earlier),
- ii) Initiation of five site monitoring programs for fisheries-related coastal management in the five selected CRFM member states that received the training,
- iii) Documentation of training and monitoring initiation processes to aid replication, with

improvement in future rounds of SocMon activity, and

- iv) Submission of compatible data to the Reef Base Socio-Economic global database to ensure data sharing.

The project will contribute towards building capacity among all fisheries stakeholders in socio-economic monitoring in the Caribbean. This paper provides a summary of progress made in creating partnerships with stakeholders and leaders at selected monitoring sites; planning and implementation of training workshops and initiation of site monitoring programs in the five sites.

METHODS

Applications for Training, Site Selection and Project Announcement

In October 2007, CARICOM countries were invited to apply for training in SocMon immediately upon project start. This process also solicited project partners. Applications sought to determine fishery authority interest in participating in the project, experience with coastal monitoring, proposed study sites and preferred training dates. The project was announced across the region by email distribution of a two-page promotional project flyer to all fishery authorities in the eastern Caribbean and by the SocMon regional coordinator at a CRFM meeting (Pena and McConney 2008).

Workshop Preparation: Site Preparation and Local Workshop Organisation

Participating fishery authorities, selected as site monitoring leaders at all sites, were given ownership of the project at this stage of preparation for in-country three-day training workshops. CERMES provided all sites with a draft generic workshop agenda. Workshop training dates, local workshop organisers and SocMon lead individual contacts were confirmed and identified for all sites. Each of the participating countries was provided with an inception training workshop budget template to be completed by each local organiser. On completion of these budgets, workshops organisers were asked to submit them to CERMES for processing and disbursement of funds for further site-specific logistical preparations. The aim was to further contribute to ownership by the partners.

Selection of stakeholders to receive SocMon training was left entirely up to the discretion of the fishery authori-

ties within some general guidelines. CERMES advised the fishery authorities to seek out wide stakeholder involvement in the project and to select no more than 20 participants per site. Once the selection process was completed workshop organisers distributed the draft workshop agenda, outline and project announcement provided by CERMES to workshop participants.

Each fishery authority provided a preliminary site description of the study area chosen for implementation of socio-economic monitoring (as noted in the application for training). This site-specific information was incorporated into the training workshop presentations (Pena and McConney 2008).

Workshop Preparation: Training Material Preparation

Slide presentations providing an overview of this project and detailed, but generic, training information on SocMon Caribbean methodology were prepared. An add-on SocMon related session, comprising about three hours of presentation and practical, on either economic valuation, livelihoods analysis, co-management or MPA management effectiveness was included in the 3-day training workshops to add value to the site monitoring programs in each of the five selected locations by providing training in a specialisation of relevance to each monitoring site. Fishery authorities were provided with a flyer describing the specialisation modules and were asked to submit an accompanying form outlining the specialisation module of interest to their site. Workshop packages were prepared for participants at each site comprising the following:

- i) Project announcement,
- ii) Workshop outline,
- iii) Workshop agenda, and
- iv) Main course books provided in hardcopy and electronically on a CD:
 - a) Bunce, L. and R. Pomeroy. 2003. Socioeconomic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in the Caribbean (SocMon Caribbean). GCRMN.
 - b) Bunce, L., P. Townsley, R. Pomeroy and R. Polnac. 2000. *Socioeconomic manual for coral reef management*. Australian Institute of Marine Science
 - c) Fisheries SocMon monitoring site preliminary description
 - d) Specialisation modules outlines
 - e) Generic SocMon PowerPoint presentation handout
 - f) SocMon Caribbean training handout: examples of questions, coding and data table
 - g) Canaries, St. Lucia case study and Quick look at Canaries PowerPoint presentation handouts
 - h) La Parguera, Puerto Rico case study PowerPoint presentation handout
 - i) Negril, Jamaica Preparatory case study

PowerPoint presentation handout

- j) SocMon preparatory activities worksheets
- k) Workshop evaluation form (Pena and McConney 2008).

CERMES encouraged workshop organisers to supply secondary sources of data (such as maps, planning documents, research documents of interest to the area, censuses etc.) relevant to study areas for use during the workshop.

Training Workshops

Five in-country, practically oriented three-day SocMon methodology training workshops were held at the sites during the period May – June 2008. Both the project manager and investigator delivered the training. The investigator was assisted by Ms. Katherine Blackman, CERMES research assistant, for Dominica and St. Vincent training workshops. Daily workshop training components are shown in Table 1 (CERMES 2008a). At the end of Day 2 of the workshop, participants were asked to nominate persons from among themselves to comprise a SocMon team of about seven. These persons would be involved in the SocMon assessment for their study area. Five site-specific training workshop reports were completed in June and circulated to all workshop participants by email and mail.

Site Monitoring Initiation: Grant Disbursement, Site Assessment, Planning Meetings, Questionnaire Design and Fieldwork

On conclusion of the training workshops, 40% (US\$ 1,000) of US\$ 2,500 small grant funds were disbursed during the period July to September to the relevant organizations responsible for financial administration of the project in each of five SocMon sites for implementation of the site monitoring plan. In September, final disbursement of grant funds was made to the St. Vincent SocMon team due to good progress made with establishing a site monitoring program for Rose Place.

SocMon teams in St. Vincent, Dominica and Barbados held site assessment planning meetings during the period July to September. Minutes of these meetings held in St. Vincent and Barbados were submitted to the project investigator. Delays in holding planning meetings in Grenada have been encountered, but a few have recently been held. No planning meetings have been held to date in Nevis which has requested CERMES assistance in implementing the study in addition to advice.

Draft SocMon questionnaires were submitted by St. Vincent and Dominica SocMon teams for review by the project manager and investigator in August and September. A draft questionnaire for the Grenada site was submitted for review in October. Technical advice with respect to drafting questionnaires was provided by CERMES with documents and handouts produced and distributed to

Table 1. Daily SocMon training workshop content

Schedule	Training component
Day 1	<p>Overview of the project Funding, duration, project management project goal and objectives. Workshop goal and objectives. Study sites overview - Preliminary site descriptions of resource uses, stakeholder groups and issues or activities relevant to each site</p> <p>Introduction to the SocMon Caribbean methodology Lessons from previous studies were used to explain components of each SocMon phase (preparatory activities; planning and reconnaissance; field data collection and data analysis) Participants were encouraged to refer to the SocMon Caribbean guidelines and socio-economic manual. Examples of SocMon projects in the wider Caribbean region – Negril Marine Park, Jamaica; Canaries and Soufriere, St. Lucia; and La Parguera, Puerto Rico - provided to illustrate the wide applicability of SocMon</p> <p>Development of goal(s) and objectives for monitoring at the study area</p> <p>Field trip to study area for preliminary reconnaissance. Participants were encouraged to take photos of issues/ activities occurring the area.</p>
Day 2	<p>Review of site visit Study area monitoring goal and objectives refined and confirmed by participants SocMon preparatory activities worksheet completed in groups – formed the basis of the site monitoring plan Questionnaire design, data coding and data analysis overview SocMon team chosen from among workshop participants Project ownership determined Organisations responsible for administration of US\$ 2,500 chosen</p>
Day 3	<p>Add-on specialization module</p> <p>Workshop evaluation</p>

SocMon teams to guide sites through the process of survey design.

The fieldwork component of site monitoring has begun in St. Vincent and Dominica but is now behind schedule in Barbados, Grenada and Nevis (CERMES 2008b).

Information Sharing

A yahoo SocMon e-group comprising workshop participants from all five sites was created on completion of the training component of the project. All five workshop training reports have been shared among all sites to keep each site informed of proposed monitoring activities. In addition, meeting minutes from St. Vincent and Barbados site planning meetings, and the questionnaire designed by the St. Vincent SocMon team has been shared among all sites to encourage the remaining sites to proceed with their plans for monitoring in a similar way to this team. It is the intention to share all site questionnaires and relevant information among sites, with the permission of each SocMon team. Web pages to support the project were prepared and will be continuously updated throughout the duration of the project for the CERMES web site.

RESULTS

Applications for Training, Site Selection and Project Announcement

Completed applications for SocMon training were submitted by four authorities - Dominica, Grenada, Barbados and Nevis - within the first month of application request (November 2007). The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries Division submitted its application in February 2008. The five participating fishery authorities and the CRFM Secretariat were fully incorporated into the project in the first week of February 2008 (Pena and McConney 2008). Participants responded well to the detailed information requests in most cases, and this allowed the CERMES team to design the next stages efficiently.

Workshop Preparation: Site Preparation and Local Workshop Organisation

In-country workshop organisation and support was commendable. The provision by CERMES of the draft workshop agenda, budget template and advice was effective in acquiring timely responses from each project site during the planning process. Email communication during this stage was also effective although phone conversations with SocMon workshop organisers were

necessary at times for confirmation of details.

Workshop organisers satisfactorily identified workshop participants for a wide cross-section of stakeholder involvement in training. Stakeholder representatives from government departments and NGO organisations, educational institutions, stakeholder organisations such as fisheries co-operatives, and key residents participated in the training workshops.

Training Workshops

The five in-country SocMon training workshops were successfully conducted with 89 fisheries stakeholders trained in SocMon methodology (see Table 2) surpassing the project objective of training aimed at 50 fisheries

Table 2. Workshop training dates and number of participants for each project site

SocMon site	Workshop date	Stakeholders trained
Barbados	5-7 May	16
Dominica	14-16 May	19
Nevis	20-22 May	14
Grenada	27-29 May	19
St. Vincent	3-5 June	14

management stakeholders (CERMES 2008b).

The study area field trip and SocMon preparatory activities worksheets components of training were particularly useful to participants. The field trip allowed participants to view the study area from a socio-economic perspective providing them with the opportunity to identify social, economic, environmental, cultural and political issues relevant to the area. This was particularly for workshop participants who were not very familiar with the study area of the interest as was the case in Grenada. The study area here extends across nine settlements. The thorough SocMon preparatory activities worksheets demonstrated the necessary components and information required for the development of monitoring plans for each study area. Such information included – goals and objectives for monitoring; stakeholder identification based on the relevant study area activity or issue of relevance to the socio-economic monitoring programme; locations of these stakeholders and key informants; identification of the SocMon leader and team for site monitoring; methods of data collection and means of visually presenting the data according to monitoring objectives; 2-month work plan schedule; critical research resources required; monitoring budget with the US\$2,500 grant fund; and key survey variables and identification of relevant secondary sources of information to be focused on in questionnaires chosen according to the monitoring objectives. Participants were better able to understand the process of socio-monitoring

with these hand-on exercises and made comments to the effect to the trainers.

In general workshop training was well received by participants at all project sites. The workshop evaluation survey provided at the end of each workshop was completed by the majority of workshop participants. The majority of participants at each either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that:

- i) The workshop goal and objectives had been achieved,
- ii) The livelihoods analysis specialization module added value to the workshop,
- iii) Their expectations for attending the workshop had been exceeded,
- iv) The workshop was well organized and facilitated,
- v) They would recommend a similar workshop to their colleagues,
- vi) Their abilities as a fisheries management professional or stakeholder had been improved as a result of the workshop, and
- vii) They enjoyed participating in the workshop – all participants noted they enjoyed the workshop.

Across all sites, participant responses regarding things most liked about the workshop included:

- i) The participatory process through group discussions and interactive sessions between participants and facilitators,
- ii) The new contacts and networks developed during the workshop,
- iii) Well-balanced nature of the workshop – the relevant stakeholders were chosen to attend and the facilitators were knowledgeable about SocMon,
- iv) Information materials provided for training, and
- v) The field trip and practical exercises

Things least liked about the workshops included:

- i) The terms used. It was suggested that more user friendly, less specialized, terms should be used,
- ii) The quantity of material distributed – some noted that there was lot of material to absorb in a short time period,
- iii) The lack of involvement/limited participation of some participants in practical exercises,
- iv) The absence of who some participants thought should be key stakeholders,
- v) The short duration and rushed nature of the field trips, and
- vi) The short duration of the workshop overall.

Recommended changes to the workshops included:

- i) The provision of examples of SocMon studies and material relevant to the purpose of SocMon in order to provide participants with a background to SocMon prior to the workshop,

- ii) Finding ways to improve equal participation by all workshop participants with special emphasis on those who are least familiar with SocMon,
- iii) Spending more time on working through the preparatory activities worksheet with particular emphasis on question design and including stakeholders in monitoring,
- iv) Increasing the workshop duration providing more time to plan monitoring activities,
- v) The preparation of the draft questionnaire to be used for pre-testing during the workshop,
- vi) Participation of more diverse stakeholders,
- vii) Selection of the SocMon team earlier in the workshop so that workshop activities could be focused on the actual monitoring to be undertaken, and
- viii) Making available relevant secondary data on the study site during the workshop. It should be noted here that workshop organizers were requested by CERMES to have secondary data relevant to the site available for use in the workshop. This was the case in some workshops where maps of the study area were provided. However, census data, research previously conducted in the study areas etc. had not been provided (Pena 2008a, Pena 2008b, Pena 2008c, Pena 2008d, Pena 2008e).

Five site-specific training workshop reports were completed in June and circulated to all workshop participants by email and mail. The reports are also available on the CERMES web site.

Site Monitoring Initiation

Initiation of monitoring has not yet occurred in most sites in spite of follow-up from CERMES after training had concluded. Progress towards initiating site monitoring has been reasonable but the field work component is now behind schedule in Barbados, Grenada and Nevis. CERMES has recently encouraged all sites to complete their fieldwork before December.

Barbados is currently organising a project launch for the area questionnaire drafting has begun. Delays in holding planning meetings in Grenada have been encountered, but a few have recently been held. Meetings have been poorly attended by some team members. A draft questionnaire has been submitted (October) for review by the project manager and investigator. Major tasks to follow have been outlined by the Grenada SocMon team leader and include recruitment and training of interviewers and promotion of the SocMon project on radio and TV. Reasons for delays in holding meetings for planning site assessments and slow project progress in Grenada and Nevis include government elections, public and individual holidays, office re-locations and prior commitments of partners in these sites. Nevis has recently (late October) requested CERMES to provide the SocMon team with a

prepared questionnaire for monitoring their study area. This is currently being taken under consideration by the project manager and investigator. This might entail a site visit by either the project manager or investigator to guide the SocMon team in designing its survey questions. Nevis has not yet been able to hold a planning meeting to discuss monitoring. Should further delays be encountered, site visits by the project manager and/or investigator may be necessary (CERMES 2008b).

Of the sites that have submitted draft questionnaires for review, they have each encountered some problems with designing questions relevant to their monitoring objectives. The tendency is for questionnaires to be too long and exhaustive with the inclusion of irrelevant questions although this issue had been addressed during training and follow-up advice. CERMES continues to provide technical advice in this respect and produced two documents specifically to guide SocMon teams through the design process. These documents are a compilation of questionnaires used in previous SocMon projects to provide examples of typical questions used in assessment and monitoring surveys, and a one-page survey instrument design handout.

Information Sharing

CERMES has made every effort to share project information with all five sites. The Yahoo e-group has not been successful in promoting site to site information exchange. Instead individual SocMon teams seem to prefer to directly communicate with the project investigator and manager. Therefore in the interest of timely execution of the project, the project investigator has resorted to group emailing SocMon teams. In general, feedback from project sites, with the exception of St. Vincent and Dominica, has been much more limited than expected.

The Fisheries SocMon webpage on the CERMES website (<http://cavehill.uwi.edu.bb/cermes>) has been updated with relevant project information including site-specific workshop training reports. However, this needs to be additionally updated with training materials and site photos.

DISCUSSION

Careful preparation and the cultivation of partner relationships were key ingredients to the successful start of the project. Critical in this was respect by CERMES for the situation of under-capacity and over-work faced by many fishery authorities. The planning process had to proceed at the pace appropriate to the partners rather than one set by the project management agency. It was also important to try to fully understand the circumstances of the monitoring site, and the level of priority likely to be accorded to the SocMon initiative by all of the invited participants (Pena and McConney 2008).

Communication by email is sometimes ineffective and this has resulted in delays. Feedback from project sites,

with the exception of St. Vincent and Dominica, has been poor. Initiation of monitoring has not yet occurred in most sites in spite of follow-up from CERMES after training had concluded. Understandably, prior commitments of partners continue to impact the progress of the project. Should further delays be encountered, site visits by the project manager and/or investigator may be necessary (CERMES 2008b).

Recommendations provided in the workshop evaluations as well as problems encountered in designing questions for surveys will be taken into account by CERMES in future rounds of SocMon initiatives. Perhaps there is the need to extend the duration of training workshops to four or five days with special emphasis on questionnaire design, pre-testing of the questionnaire and data analysis.

Ways of encouraging information sharing between sites need to be determined. The lack of information sharing exhibited between sites up to now may be due to the fact that participants are not familiar with each other, do not realize the importance of information sharing or simply do not want the information overload.

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DISCLAIMER

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