

REGIONAL MARINE GOVERNANCE AND THE ROLES OF THE KEY AGENCIES

Presenters:

Question 1: Ingmar Strom

Question 2: Christopher Corbin

Question 3: David Smith

Question 4: Peter A. Murray

Questions to be addressed

1. In your opinion what aspects of the proposals you have heard in the meeting seem feasible and beneficial in making the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective
2. In your opinion what aspects of these proposals would cause the most difficulty for implementation
3. From your perspective what aspects of these proposals would you change or improve to make the Caribbean Sea Commission more effective
4. What would it take for you to buy into this overall process

Overarching Response to Question

- The approaches and proposals seem feasible for making the CSC more effective
- They present added value potential - should be presented in report

Question 1: Common themes/threads that emerged

- CSC should be advisory but its recommendations should be considered for implementation as per national priorities
- Structured as proposed is workable but needs some modification; also national level inputs
- Coordination among existing formal bodies should be incorporated into the CSC framework
- There needs to be more information on the organizations and institutes and member state activities
- The interests and concerns of the stakeholders should be addressed from a bottom up approach

Question 1: Conclusions reached

- Discussion has given valuable input to science-policy interaction and consensus on working together towards the central role of the CSC and the ACS.
- A legally binding arrangement should be proposed with special emphasis on where gaps and overlaps exist that could promote binding decisions
- Overarching - Recognition that the CLME governance framework is theoretically a good one

Question 2: Common themes/threads that emerged

- Capacity constraints – financial, human
- Huge asymmetries eg. cultural, that are creating conditions to constrain integration opportunities
- High transaction cost of working in different languages
- Weak existing communication mechanisms
- Caribbean Sea as a common shared resource
- Current composition of CSC may not be inclusive of all countries in the region and mechanisms for their inclusion are needed

Common themes/threads that emerged Cont'd

- Need to better articulate the value added by the CSC - the gaps it will address, and mechanisms for cooperation so that would engender greater buy-in
- Current sub-commissions as established may limit implementation – need to address status, how they will be set up, how they would function, meet under themes

Question 2: Key insights/surprises

- The process requires very careful planning
- Commitment must be obtained especially from governments for implementation

Question 2: Conclusions Reached

- Must use existing mechanisms
- Need for resources – financial, human
- Clear plan of action/way forward
- Make use of existing studies, processes eg. SICA, EU

Question 3: Common themes/threads that emerged

- Current function is to oversee and promote the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea
- A legally binding instrument with consequences/sanctions would be needed to protect the resources of the Caribbean
- The Commission must be fully inclusive of States, regional organizations and territories
- Principle of subsidiarity – deal with those areas that cannot be addressed by existing organizations
- Seek to implement and work through existing organizations
- Define clearly, the roles and functions of the CSC and its sub-commissions ensuring clarity and transparency

Question 3: Common themes/threads that emerged Cont'd

- Address more clearly the connection between science, policy making and policy coherence
- Recommendations on sub-commissions:
 - the structure and function of the sub-commissions are vital to the success of the CSC
 - Must be able to operate flexibly
 - Can meet on themes (not as silos) eg agriculture, tourism
 - Can co-opt ad hoc expertise to deal with specific issues
 - Chairs of sub-coms to be ex-officio on the bureau
 - Chairs of the SC submit a single joint report to bureau

Question 3: Common themes/threads that emerged Cont'd

- CSC work is in the public domain, reports online, reports of meetings
- ACS and the CSC to help bridge groups with similar mandates that operate across language and sub-regional areas
- Information and communication strategies required to address knowledge management and communication with the public, donors and members to help with budgeting and buy-in

Question 4: Common themes/threads that emerged

- Clear objectives are required for the CSC framework
- Clear benefits to be derived from participation in the process
- Consultation with member states is required
- Decision making process should be effective, efficient and inclusive
- Clear definition of values and responsibilities that includes stakeholders
- Report of this meeting should inform and influence further operationalization of the CSC

- SG of the ACS could participate in the annual decision making meetings of international and regional organizations
- The appointment of a focal point of the CSC at the ACS
- The CSC could make information linkages to all stakeholders
- Need for monitoring and evaluation process to determine achievement of objectives and 'desired' outcomes

Question 4: Key insights/surprises

- Connectivity exists such that none of the 4 questions can be answered in isolation.
- No surprises

Question 4: Conclusions Reached

- A lot of work to be done - Need to start ASAP
- Willingness to contribute by regional organizations and individuals
- Immediate need for resource mobilization
- ‘Budget sub-commission’ should be reconfigured as ‘resource mobilization sub-commission’
- ‘Legal’ and ‘governance’ sub-commissions should be merged into one
- Scientific and technical sub-commissions should be maintained