

Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Government of Anguilla

REPORT

COURSE / WORKSHOP / MEETING NAME: INTERPOL Fisheries Enforcement Conference and Fisheries Crime Working Group Meeting.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT: Kafi Gumbs

VENUE: Lyon, France

DATE: 26-28 February 2013

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION(S): Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

TARGET GROUP: Ministers of government and heads of departments concerning environmental and marine protection/defense

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE MEETING:

The meeting provided the opportunity for networking. Through this Anguilla was able to learn about what other countries are doing about coastal defense and safe guarding against International Unknown Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. Participants were also introduced to technology that can allow government to track fishing boats and identify if they are engaging in any illegal activities or if they are in danger. From this meeting Anguilla delegates were able to express concerns and needs for assistance with boarder control, patrols, defense and capacity building and in the end garnered possible support from the British Navy.

In social settings the Anguilla delegates took every opportunity to share some of the problems facing Anguilla's fishing industry, its' needs for development and diversification, and potential problems with suspected illegal fishing within Anguilla's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Ideas on different fishing strategies, fisheries developments and stock assessment needs were shared in a brief meeting organized between the Anguilla and Norwegian delegates.

The initial conversations with the British Navy and Norway were great, because now it is only for the Government of Anguilla to follow up with them and formalize agreements. Everything that was discussed in the meetings are essential for Anguilla as the island moves to diversify/expand its fishing industry, thus, the meetings were very appropriate.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES:

The purposes of Anguilla representation at the meetings were to seek support for the expansion of the fishing industry and for other assistance concerning marine policing. Some of the overall aims/objectives of the meetings were to raise awareness concerning fisheries crimes; establish a system that would ensure institutionalized cooperation between national agencies and international partners; assess the needs of vulnerable member countries to effectively combat fisheries crimes; and to conduct operations to suppress crime, disrupt trafficking routes, and to ensure the enforcement of national legislation.

HOW WILL THE TRAINING BE PUT TO USE?:

The discussions and what was learnt at the workshop will be put to use by following up with various agencies and government on strengthening Anguilla borders and patrolling of the EEZ. Also to promote the establishment of a fish processing plant and a feasibility study for the diversification of the fishing industry.

OTHER REMARKS / COMMENTS

Owing to the fact that Anguilla was the only Caribbean island represented, the Government of Anguilla, through the Department of Fisheries, should raise this concern through regional fisheries bodies eg. CRFM, to try and seek the support of other Caribbean islands to join in with INTERPOL to help combat fisheries crime, because the islands are extremely close and are all affected in the same way by criminal activity on sea.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Use additional pages if necessary

Signature: Kafi Gumbs

Date: 15th March 2013