

GCLME NEWSLETTER



Second Edition
June, 2005

ANGOLA - BENIN - CAMEROON - CONGO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GABON - GHANA - GUINEA - GUINEA BISSAU - LIBERIA - NIGERIA - SÂO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE - SIERRA LEONE - TOGO

WE ARE SAILING! Kelechi Ihemeje, Editor :

I thought it would be a little while before I come your way again. But I'm being pulled by the current (perhaps the Guinea Current!) of events. The Pre Trawl Survey Workshop 1-3 June was very compelling not only in its results but more so, in its significance. The outcome of the Fish Trawl survey flagged off from 4 July and which will last till 19 July will afford the region a vital step towards science based management of the Fishery of the GCLME region. When I think of fish, I think nutrition and health of our peoples. Fish is food security and foreign exchange earnings. More fish means eradication of poverty and sustainable human development, etc. For these and other reasons, I decided that an issue of the Newsletter should be dedicated to the Fish Trawl Survey even if it comes quickly on the heels of the special edition on the Steering Committee published in May.

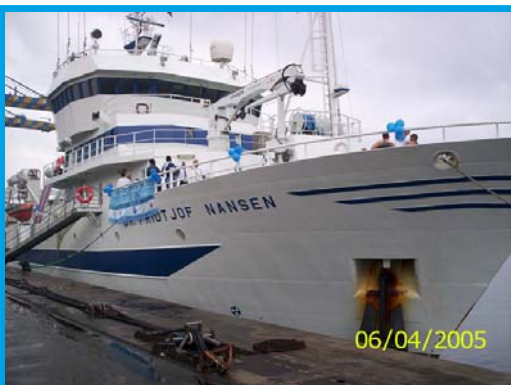
Ship Ahoy!

THE OPENING CEREMONY :

The Workshop on Fishery Resources Survey, Planning and Methodologies was held at the Regional Coordination Unit, Accra from 1 to 4 June, 2005. The Meeting was chaired by the Chief Director,



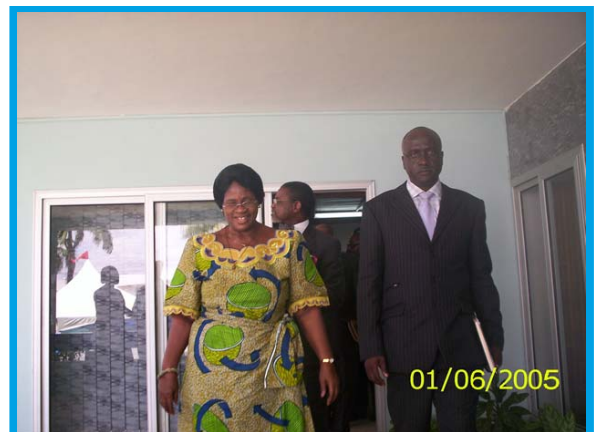
Ministry of Fisheries, Mr. Emmanuel Quaye. Three speeches were made during the ceremony by Dr Rexford Osei representing the Ministry of Environment and Science, Professor Chidi Ibe, Regional Director of the GCLME project and Honorable (Mrs) Gladys Asmah (MP), Minister of Fisheries.



R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, at Tema Harbour on 4 June before the Flagging off of the Trawl Survey.



The Regional Director, GCLME, welcoming the Chief Director, Ministry of Fisheries, Mr. Emmanuel Quaye in the presence of the Minister



Ushering in the Minister and the Deputy Minister



The Minister of Fisheries, Mrs. Gladys Asmah (MP) addressing the participants at the Opening Ceremony.





Looking into the camera at the Opening are the Liberian Director of Fisheries, his Consultant and Mr. Gabche from Cameroun.



Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah (MP), Minister of Fisheries signing the RCU Visitor's Book watched by the Deputy Minister and the Regional Director, GCLME



A Cross-Section of Participants at the Opening Ceremony



The Regional Director, GCLME, Briefing the Press following the Opening Ceremony.



Showing the Minister and her Deputy round the Library of the RCU. With them to the left is Dr. Rexford Osei who represented the Honourable Minister of Environment.



A Group Picture with the Minister of Fisheries, Mrs. Gladys Asmah (MP) and her Deputy, Mr Daniel Dugan following the Opening Ceremony.



From left are Diallo Samba (Guinea), Itoua-Niamba (Congo) and R.A Boamah (Ghana).



Listening attentively, from left are Mrs. Catherine Isebor (Co-Cruise Leader) and Michael Oyebanji (from Nigeria), Tapé Johanny and Ngoran Ya Nestor (from Côte d'Ivoire)



The Secretariat at work during presentation. Right to left, Dr. Théodore Djama, Fisheries Expert and Dr. Jacques Abé, Environment Expert (both of the GCLME-RCU).



Participants at work. Wearing a cap is Diallo Ibrahim from Guinea.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY :



Ana Caramelo presenting the Results of FAO/Nansen Survey in 2004. To her left is Oddgeir V. (IMR) and to her right are respectively Mr. Quatey Samuel and Mr. Charles Kotey (Ghana).



Prof. Chidi Ibe sitting between Dr Nestor Ngoran Ya (Côte d'Ivoire) who was the Chairman at the Closing Ceremony and Maria Esperança Dos-Santos who read the Vote of Thanks.

SPEECHES GALORE AT THE FLAG-OFF CEREMONY AT TEMA HARBOUR :



06/04/2005

By the Director of Fisheries, Mr. Alfred Tetebo who chaired the occasion.



06/04/2005

By the Captain of the RV. Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, Mr. Atle Sangolt who dressed up for the occasion.



06/04/2005

By Mr. Oddgeir V.(Institute of Marine Research), Bergen, Norway: Co-Leader of the Fridtjof Nansen.



06/04/2005

By the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Daniel Dugan



06/04/2005

By Ana Caramelo (FAO) who brought 40 years of experience in the region to the Survey



06/04/2005

And the lady fishers were there in full force! From left are : Ms. Maria Esperança Pires Dos Santos (Angola), Mme Emilia Gbaguidi (Benin), Mrs. Catherine Isebor, Co-Cruise Leader (Nigeria) and Ms. Henrieth Lutuba (Angola).



The Participants set for a group photograph in front of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen



The Regional Director seeing off the Deputy Minister at the end of the Flag off Ceremony.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, MRS. GLADYS ASMAH (MP)

For sometime now the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project activities have been given a lot of prominence in the media, both electronic and print. Personally, I have for a long time been concerned about the Transboundary problems that this project seeks to address. The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem project, I understand, is a Regional project aimed at combating living resources depletion and coastal degradation the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem through ecosystem through ecosystem-based regional actions. When we talk about the depletion of living resources in our ocean, we cannot leave out fish, which is a major living resource of the ocean. irresponsible fishing practices has not

only resulted in destruction of fishery resources but also resulted in conflict among the different sectors of the fishing industry. The government of the Republic of Ghana attaches so much importance to the fishery sector, because it is a great source of protein for our people, provides the livelihood for the coastal population and source of foreign exchange earner to the country. In spite of its economic importance, the fisheries sector is also faced with numerous problems.

It is in recognition of this that His Excellency the President decided to establish a Ministry at the highest level of government to give added impetus to this area of our national life. I say this because fishing is not only an economic activity but also a way of life for a number of communities in the country. And therefore if we want to reduce poverty in the country the Fisheries Sector must be given the attention it rightly deserves.

The GCLME project, I believe, is going to do exactly this. To do this the experts will have to undertake Fishery Resources Surveys, which will provide the relevant information to sustainable exploitation of fishery stocks. Apart from accurate data for planning and policy formulation, we have to turn attention to the creation of a core of indigenous scientist and highly skilled technical personnel, in other words we must do what ever it takes to indigenize our capacity for development of the industry.

At this juncture, it is now my singular honor and privilege to declare this Workshop on Fishery Resources Survey, Planning and Methodologies duly open. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

FLASH BACK TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 25 - 27 APRIL, 2005.:



Ms Dora Blessich (FAO) sitting between Dr. Tore Seroemme of Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway, Managers of the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen. and Captain (Mrs) Georgina Tackie, Regional Coordinator (West Africa), IMO.