

**Survey of SocMon-Related Sites
(Sites Conducting Socioeconomic Monitoring related to the Global
Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative)**

**DRAFT RESULTS FOR
CORN ISLAND, CARIBBEAN COAST OF NICARAGUA**

- 1. Your name and e-mail address:** Karen Joseph, karenswq@hotmail.com
- 2. Title of the socioeconomic monitoring or assessment:** Social economic Impact of the close season in Corn Island Caribbean coast of Nicaragua
- 3. Location:** Corn Island, Nicaragua.
- 4. Objectives:**
 - Evaluate the (before, during and after) social-economic impacts of the 2003 closed lobster season on the islanders of Grate and Little Corn Islands
 - Work with stakeholders to identify new solutions for the 2005 closed season
- 5. Topics addressed in your socioeconomic monitoring:**
Stakeholder participation in management
Fisheries issues
Local perceptions of management
- 6. Management question(s) you were addressing:**
The socioeconomic monitoring program was conducted to determine the socioeconomic impacts of the closed season on lobster fishery in Corn Island, including impacts on the islanders lifestyle. It was also conducted to see what they can propose for the following close season with regard to regulations. This closed season were conducted in 2002 for one month, 2003 for two months and 2004 for three months and planned for 2005 for four months.
- 7. Socioeconomic indicators you assessed:**
PLEASE ADD
- 8. Methods you used:**
Field surveys, review of existing fishery information, interviews of key informants, questionnaires to selected population - households, fishermen, owners of fishing company and also to key informant.
- 9. Total cost of the study (optional):** \$1,000.00
- 10. Time it took to conduct:** 15 days

11. Number of people on the study team: two full-time person, 4 half-time persons

12. How the coastal managers and other stakeholders were engaged in planning, implementation and reporting results:

Fishermen and other stakeholders provided the data we requested regarding fishing activities and daily living. These data are going to be analyzed to determine the actual situation and to propose alternatives.

13. *The most important results, particularly unexpected findings:

The decline in production is reflected in lower incomes during the open season, lower capital investments in vessels, and increases in lobster trap gear costs for the following year. The fishermen's income per person decreased the last two years. During the closed season there was no income for the majority of fishers and households. During the closed season farming (agriculture activity) increased. In general there were no economic activities and fewer people were living on the island. Delinquency increased, there was more traffic of drugs, and alcohol consumption rose. Authorities are not really affected because of this situation because they have a salary so they do not take into account the complain from fishers to search for other alternative to provide income.

People were more prepared than other years for the closed season. Expectations for increased harvest and income for the rest of the year were really high. Fishermen understand the need for the closed season because the lobster are limited and overexploited. They believe that their income will eventually increase if they respect the closed season, but they also noted that they need alternative livelihoods until then.

Most fishermen believe that the close season will make the lobster stock increase in the region and fishers believes that they will be the primary beneficiary of the strategy. Finally, a majority of the respondents agree to establish the close season for the following year (four months) but government need to provide other alternative for the islanders to survive for this period.

14. * How the socioeconomic information has been used to improve coastal management. Please be specific.

This information is particularly important because it will be used to demonstrate to potential users and donor organizations the benefits of conducting socioeconomic monitoring.

The results of the study will be used to demonstrate that people are willing to comply with the closed season establish since 2002, and that resource users are willing to cooperate with the government and decisions/policy makers to find

alternative develop the fishing sector. In comparison of previous years there has also been an increase in compliance with the regulations established.

15. Lead contact for further information (name, role in the socioeconomic monitoring, organization, contact e-mail & phone):

Karen Joseph lead investigator karenswq@hotmail.com
MSc. International Fisheries Management
University of URACCAN Bluefields Nicaragua
Tel: (505) 8221 308
Fax: (505) 8221 306
Cell: (505) 8380 131

16. Website for the project and/or socioeconomic study:

none