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## Capacity building and climate change adaptations for the fisheries in United Arab Emirates

Eihab Fathelrahman

Department of Agribusiness

College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, UAE

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### Keywords

Fisheries, Climate Change, Capacity Building, United Arab Emirates

### Abstract

*The fisheries sector in United Arab Emirates (UAE) witnessed declining of fishing catch in recent years due to reduced fish stocks. This research carried out field survey at six fisheries locations ( Abu Dhab, Diba Al-Hosn, Diba Al Fujeera, Al Fujeera, Ras Al -Kiama, Khor Fakan) where over hundred fishermen interviewed to gather information on the fishermen ability to adapt to climate changes and assess the need for capacity building measures to be consider by both government and government stakeholders.*

*Results of this study showed large differences between the various locations in their present capacity. Climate variability was ranked the highest cause of reduced fishing activities in the fishermen areas as compared to other constraints such as finance, marketing, and competition from neighboring countries' fishermen. Survey of the fishermen showed that fishing effort (measured by number of fishing trips) during the summer season is about 50% less than fishing effort during the winter season. About 27% of the fishermen are taking longer trips to explore fishing in regional waters as opposed to local shores due to the reduced fish stock locally. When asked about physical infrastructure needs, about 32% of the fishermen indicated that there is lack of such physical infrastructure to support the sustainability of their operations. Majority of the fishermen (88%) believe that capacity building both hard and soft should be considered through their regional cooperatives and indicated the important roles of the cooperatives to reach enhance capacity building. The research found that building capacity through climate change adaptation strategies that are technically sound, socially sustainable, and economically feasible are needed in the region. These adaptations include both hard and soft infrastructure to enable vulnerable fisheries in UAE to adapt to climate change.*

*The research described selected measures such as increasing dikes, enhanced drainage systems at the landing of the six locations, and development of shared early warning systems and found that these measures are critical components to adapt to foreseen climatic changes.*

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