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Organización
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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

EIGHT SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Merida, Mexico, 3-4 November 2017

Intersessional activities – review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2016 -2017

1. This document provides brief information on the intersessional activities of the Commission and FAO in the WECAFC area. The document needs to be read in conjunction with WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf.3: Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission (Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1162) and particularly its approved programme of work.
2. Approximately two-thirds of work of the Commission was largely conducted as planned in the approved WECAFC Work Programme 2016-2017. Nineteen activities were carried out as planned and 11 activities were partly implemented. Only 3 of the more than 30 activities of the Work Programme did not receive follow-up.
3. A traffic light system is used to indicate progress in terms of implementation of the Programme of Work, and is made available in Annex A.
4. The approved Work Programme of WECAFC, was subject to obtaining the required extra-budgetary funding support. Consequently, some of the earlier foreseen activities have not been carried out.
5. The transfer of the WECAFC Secretary from the WECAFC Secretariat in Barbados to Belize, which took effect in March 2017, started to have a negative impact on implementation of the programme of work from July 2016 onwards, due to uncertainties related to the transfer date and the arrangements put in place.
6. The office facilities provided to the Secretary in Belize were substandard and inadequate, and the work over the course of 2017 showed that the functioning of a secretary of WECAFC is constrained substantially by being located away from the other WECAFC secretariat staff and the FAO Fisheries team in Barbados, for which the Secretary is the supervisor/manager. Moreover, the added travel time and costs related to the secretary being located in Belize were very high and prohibitive for effective work programme implementation in the Caribbean. Consequently, it was decided by FAO senior management that the new (incoming) secretary would be based in Barbados again.

Review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2016 - 2017

7. Under Technical Focus Area 1: “Improve fisheries governance”, a range of activities has been undertaken. These activities included:
8. Dissemination of the latest information on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and related instruments and guidelines (activity 1.1), took place through region-wide dissemination of copies of the CCRF, technical and international guidelines. In addition, the WECAFC secretariat supported the FAO work related to monitoring of the implementation of the CCRF among the WECAFC membership.
9. Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA) (activity 1.2), took place through participatory development of the GEF international waters funded project on “Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries” (StewardFish), the start-up in early 2017 of the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project on Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector, participation in the CLME+ project, promotion of the EAF & EAA in various FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects (e.g. Bahamas, Suriname) and integration of EAF methodologies and tools in regional workshops, fisheries planning and legislative framework development exercises at national level.
10. Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members (Activity 1.3) was provided under various Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects in The Bahamas, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Recommendations in support of national level policy, planning and legislative processes were provided upon request. A Caribbean Fisheries Legal and Institutional Study: Findings of the comparative assessment and country reports, was carried out with support from the Caribbean Billfish Project.
11. Facilitate the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (activity 1.4). Start of reporting by WECAFC members on Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) catches in the high seas of Areas 31 and 41, using the form in appendix 3 of Report 1087, did not receive follow-up due to secretariat staff movement. The convener of the working group participated on behalf of the working group in various international meetings on VMEs and EBSAs. Moreover, a chapter on VMEs in area 31 was prepared for FAO technical paper “Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas” and the WECAFC endorsed VMEs have been included in the VME Portal and DataBase.
12. Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members (Activity 1.5). The WECAFC Secretariat hosted the GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). This 5.6 million USD GEF funded project, in which Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago participate, is promoting the international by-catch guidelines and bycatch reduction technology introductions in the region. Limited progress was made on the regional bycatch strategy in the reporting period.
13. Promote the ratification and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members (activity 1.6). The WECAFC Secretariat and FAO colleagues provided cost-benefit analyses, awareness raising, capacity needs assessments and capacity

building support on the PSMA to many WECAFC members in 2016-2017. Workshops and workshop sessions on the PSMA were held in Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname. The following 15 WECAFC members ratified or accepted the PSM Agreement to-date: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominica, European Union, France, Grenada, Guyana, Japan, Korea, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent & Grenadines and the USA. Various WECAFC members are currently benefiting from regional TCP and Trust Fund project support.

14. Support to the application of the international Guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (Activity 1.7), was carried out in close collaboration with CRFM, UWI/CERMES, CANARI and CNFO, as well as with various national level fisherfolk organizations and Fisheries Divisions and Departments. Hard copies of the SSF guidelines and related brochures were distributed widely and made available on-line. The SSF guidelines were also translated in Dutch language by Suriname. Moreover, a project development workshop of the Stewardfish project was held in Guyana in 2016, which incorporated SSF awareness raising. The Stewardfish project became operational in October 2017 and includes the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
15. Improve coordination and cooperation between national and regional organizations / institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (activity 1.8). The Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU) was established by WECAFC 15, convened by CRFM, and received financial support from the US Department of Commerce/NOAA, the EU DG Mare, CLME+ project and the Caribbean Billfish Project.
16. Two meetings of the RWG IUU were held in 2017. The 1st meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, was held in Barbados on 1 and 2 March 2017. The 52 participating experts, representing 21 WECAFC members, were presented with and discussed many aspects of IUU fishing. This 1st meeting of the RWG-IUU contributed to: 1) increasing awareness and understanding of the IUU fishing problem in the Caribbean region; and 2) increasing capacity for a more effective collaboration in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing in the Caribbean region, with emphasis on experiences from other regions with Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) supporting measures and on international and regional instruments to combat IUU fishing, such as the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement. The meeting also finalized and agreed on its ToRs and work plan for the period 2017-2018 of the RWG-IUU for endorsement by CRFM and WECAFC, and discussed elements to be included in a Regional Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU).
17. The 2nd meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, was held in Barbados on 19, 20 and 21 September 2017. 35 fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) officers of 16 WECAFC member countries participated in the meeting. At the meeting, the MCS officers were updated on the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (IPOA-IUU), the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, and specific measures needed in the Caribbean region to effectively end IUU fishing. The technical meeting discussed and agreed on various management measures, such as on vessel marking and identification, the establishment of a regional authorized fishing vessel record and regional IUU vessel lists. These measures will, once adopted by the WECAFC session allow the fisheries inspectors, coast guard, navy and port officials to easily identify fishing vessels and see if the vessels have the necessary authorizations to fish. These measures will facilitate the work of the inspectors and other officials, who will have access to a regional record of

authorized fishing vessels and lists of presumed and confirmed IUU fishing vessels. This will enable them to deny port access and support prosecution actions against IUU vessels.

18. At national level FAO is assisting countries in the region to develop their NPOA-IUUs. Specific assistance is being provided to Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
19. Under Technical Focus Area 2: “Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries” the following activities were undertaken. Strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean (Activity 2.1) was undertaken in close collaboration with regional partners. The GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) on “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector” (CC4Fish) started in January 2017 and is being implemented in close collaboration with CANARI, CRFM, UWI/CERMES, CNFO and INFOPECA. Activities at national level in the following 7 Caribbean SIDS have started: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Implementation of this 5.4 million USD project includes mainstreaming of Climate change and Disaster Risk management measures in fisheries policy and management frameworks. The project will be hosted by the WECAFC Secretariat at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados. A brochure on climate change adaptation in the fisheries for food security was developed by the CC4Fish project in collaboration with CNFO for the Caribbean Fisherfolk week in June 2017 and was distributed widely.
20. Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated in September 2017 various islands in the Caribbean region and negatively impacted the fisheries sector. The FAO and WECAFC have provided fisheries disaster needs assessment guidance to the affected countries and overseas territories, as well as developed and supported various emergency projects in support of the sector’s rehabilitation in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda. Various WECAFC members also provided support to each other in the aftermath of the natural disasters. It is expected however that the fisheries production in some of the member states will be lower in 2017 than in recent years, due to the loss of fishing gears and vessels, the need for repair of fishing vessels and engines, fisheries infrastructure and loss of market access (airports were closed for several months in some islands).
21. Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) (Activity 2.2) is foreseen to be supported by the CC4Fish project, but has not started as yet. A protocol for gender in fisheries was developed by CERMES with support from FAO and presented to the CRFM forum in Jamaica in 2017.
22. Improved management of reef fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (activity 2.3). Not any specific actions under this activity were conducted in the intersessional period, however members of the WECAFC Executive Committee participated in regional workshops and events on MPA related subjects organized by UNEP and the CBD, representing WECAFC.
23. Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national level (activity 2.4). A Caribbean Fisheries Data and Statistics Coordination Meeting was held in Miami, USA, on 14-15 March 2017. The meeting reviewed on-going projects to identify similar, convergent or over-lapping activities, identified and discussed collaboration principles, proposed synergies and collaboration and defined a workplan for implementation of joint activities on this subject.
24. With support from the World Bank funded Caribbean Billfish Project a FIRMS-WECAFC regional workshop on recreational fisheries statistics in the Caribbean, was held in Nassau, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, on 20–22 June 2017. The workshop brought together 38 representatives from 13 Caribbean countries and overseas territories’ fisheries

- departments, regional fisheries bodies, fisheries technical advisory institutions, non-governmental organizations, various fishery statistics specialists and other relevant stakeholders. Participants' knowledge of regional fishery data challenges and their capacities to address these challenges effectively were developed over the course of the workshop.
25. At the workshop agreement was reached on smartform design, regional database structure and contents and a draft project proposal on Fisheries information technology innovations for resource management and climate change adaptation in the Caribbean (FIT4CC) was discussed, reviewed and objectives, outputs and activities were technically agreed upon.
 26. The WECAFC-FIRMS partnership also developed a project to "Support to the creation of a Regional Database and associated transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Working Group on fisheries data and statistics", which got approved in 2017 by the EU DG Mare and became operational in August 2017.
 27. While several WECAFC members have started providing vessel information to the Global Record database, the number of members doing so is still very limited. The annual reporting of fisheries and aquaculture data and statistics by WECAFC members to FAO has not improved in this intersessional period, despite the WECAFC secretariat urging the members. It appears that fisheries and aquaculture statistics collection and analysis is not receiving the priority it deserves in various member states and overseas territories of France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom that participate in WECAFC.
 28. Regional resources and fisheries inventories prepared and disseminated (activity 2.5) is an ongoing activity in which the FIRMS Secretariat is actively involved. Stocks and fisheries factsheets were prepared for Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. A new fisheries management information system was tested successfully in The Bahamas in 2016 and 2017 and activities supported by the CLME+ project and the Blue Bridge project continue to contribute to this activity in the coming years.
 29. Increase the availability of information on the contribution of fish to food security and the social and economic value of the fisheries sector (activity 2.6) received some attention particularly in the Central America and Caribbean region. FAO, with assistance from CRFM, conducted a study on the "Impacts of rising cost factors in fishing operations in the CRFM Member States", which looked into social and economic status of various fisheries.
 30. Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies (activity 2.7) continued between the WECAFC and CRFM, OSPESCA, CLME+, IFREMER, CFMC, ICCAT, GCFI, CNFO, UNEP-CEP, WWF, CI, IGFA, WB, and other partners.
 31. Under Technical Focus area 3 "Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture" many activities were carried out.
 32. Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations (Activity 3.1), received attention through financing the participation of CNFO members at GCFI, in technical working group meetings, development of the Stewardfish project and in activities of the REBYC II LAC, CC4Fish and Caribbean Billfish project at national and regional level.
 33. Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean (Activity 3.2) did not receive attention in the intersessional period.
 34. Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities (Activity 3.3) did receive attention in the WECAFC region from various FAO projects, including the regional TCP project "Towards a Caribbean Revolution", which is currently assisting Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis with capacity building to increase aquaponics production in the

Caribbean SIDS. Other aquaculture development and management support activities were carried out by FAO in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, Mexico, Suriname and various other countries.

35. Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and Codes (activity 3.4) was supported by TCP/GUY/3501 on Promotion of Small Scale Aquaculture in Guyana for Food Security and Rural Development. This project developed a manual for the culture and reproduction of Tambaqui (Pacu), which will be published in 2018, and carried out training in best hatchery and nursery practices for Tambaqui production. Together with the Grenada Blue Innovation Institute, preparations have been made for a training workshop on seaweed (seamoss) production and value addition, to take place in the last months of 2017 in Grenada. Some best-practices are expected to be produced by the training workshop.
36. Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures (Activity 3.5) did receive some attention from WECAFC and FAO projects in this biennium. Value chain analysis and opportunities for value addition in shrimp, billfish, tuna fisheries and aquaculture supply chains are being carried out in the beneficiary projects of REBYC II LAC, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago with support of the CC4Fish project, and in the beneficiary countries of the regional aquaculture TCP mentioned above. Agreement has been reached with INFOPECA to organize an FAO funded Caribbean regional workshop on “Effective fish trade and sustainable development for Small Island Developing States” in 2018.
37. Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries (Activity 3.6) received significant attention from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The earlier work by FAO, in collaboration with CANARI, CERMES and CRFM received follow-up and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the CLME, was endorsed by most of the countries in the region in 2013 and 2014. Strategy 6 of the SAP “Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery” receives support from the CLME+ project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”. The CLME+ sub-project on shrimp and groundfish has become operational in August 2017 and the inception workshop is scheduled to take place in November 2017. WECAFC-FAO has been assigned a leading role in the coordination of the USD 950 000 sub-project on shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
38. The joint WECAFC/IFREMER/CRFM Working Group on shrimp and groundfish did not meet in 2016 or 2017 due to funding constraints. However, the results from the Workshop on Investing in Ecosystem-based shrimp and groundfish fisheries management of the Guianas – Brazil shelf, which was held in Barbados, on 7-8 September 2015, were distributed through a workshop report and a circular.
39. The GEF international waters funded FAO project on “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries” (REBYC-II LAC) became operational in August 2015 and has apart from its inception workshop in September 2015 organized a range of national and regional training activities and workshops, including a Regional Workshop on Sustainable Utilization of Bycatch, a Regional Workshop on Data Collection and Monitoring, and a Regional Workshop on Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Best Practices. The findings and recommendations of this project are expected to be disseminated regionally by WECAFC to allow all members to benefit from the project.

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40. Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Activity 3.7) receives currently support from the CLME+ project and NOAA. The joint OSPESCA/CRFM/WECAFC/CFMC Working Group on spiny lobster did not meet in 2016 or 2017. OSPESCA is coordinating the working group and a meeting is scheduled to take place in the 1st semester of 2018.
 41. Improved transboundary management of the Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean (activity 3.8) was contributed to by the joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean. This Working Group, convened by CRFM, did not meet in 2016 or 2017. However, the ongoing support from the CLME+ project, through CRFM, to this working group is guaranteed for the coming years. The Sub-Regional Fishery Management Plan for the Eastern Caribbean Flying Fish Fishery, which was approved at the eight meeting of the CRFM council in 2014, and by WECAFC 16, is being monitored at the CRFM forum meetings.
 42. Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore moored FADs (activity 3.9). This working group did not meet in 2016 or 2017, but the various manuals prepared by the group in 2015/2016, were published and disseminated by CRFM with support from IFREMER and the Caribbean Billfish Project. The manuals are made available on-line. The CRFM subregional management plan for FAD fisheries was further reviewed and received comments from the WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, as well as various FAD fisheries and stock assessment experts. The matter of hyperstability in Catch per Unit of effort (CPUE) in tuna fisheries and probably also other large pelagics (such as billfishes) as a consequence of FADs fisheries is receiving major attention from scientists in the region. It has become apparent that the stock assessment methodologies used in the management of tunas and billfish by RFMOs, such as ICCAT, requires to be modified to take into account the effects of FADs.
 43. Best-practices for FADs fisheries, and improvement of FAD fisheries regulations, are being promoted in Grenada and the Dominican Republic by the Caribbean Billfish Project. Moreover, the JICA-supported CARIFICO project continues to provide technical advisory services and capacity building to FADs fishers in Dominica and Grenada. Co-management arrangements around FADs are being developed in various locations.
 44. Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean (Activity 3.10). The CFMC/OSPESCA/ WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch did not meet in 2016 or 2017. However, the Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan, following WECAFC 16 endorsement, was adopted also at global level by the CITES COP 17, held in South Africa in 2016. The implementation of the Regional Plan, including the preparation of Non-Detriment Findings, National Queen Conch Management Plans and the use of the regional harmonized conversion factors for the various degrees of processing of conch meat received follow-up in June -August 2017 by the WECAFC Secretariat and six members supplied information that is made available on FAO and CITES websites. The Regional Plan was published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper as well. The WECAFC secretariat also developed a project in support of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group as well as national implementation of the regional management plan, and formally solicited EU DG Mare and CITES support for it.
 45. Improved management and conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean (activity 3.11) was supported by the World Bank/GEF funded Caribbean Billfish Project, component of the Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform. This 1.95 million USD project started in March 2015 and is hosted and coordinated by the WECAFC Secretariat in Barbados.

46. The project organized the Third Regional Workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 4 to 6 April 2017. Thirty-five representatives from thirteen Caribbean countries and territories, along with various organizations and projects, attended the workshop. Information about the values represented by billfish stocks in the Caribbean was presented and discussed in pursuit of solutions to increase the value of these resources for the Caribbean states. Successful billfish capture and stock value conservation examples were presented and discussed, as were the policy, legislative and management contexts within which billfish fisheries currently takes place in the region. The latest stock assessment data were presented, which illustrated stock declines and the current level of fisheries pressure on the stocks. A third draft of the Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan was discussed, as was the draft Subregional FAD Management Plan. Business case opportunities sought through the Caribbean Billfish Project were also clarified. A draft WECAFC management recommendation was prepared by the Working Group, recognizing the concerns over billfish stock status, the current fisheries pressure on these stocks and proposing regional concerted action. Participants revised the Terms of Reference pertaining to the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, updated the work plan and elected its convener.
47. The Caribbean Billfish Project also conducted numerous studies on billfish stocks status, billfish values, the economic impact of recreational fisheries, rights-based management approaches for pelagic fisheries, fisheries legislation, and recreational fisheries statistics in 2016 and 2017. Ongoing studies include a fisheries performance indicators study, willingness to pay study for recreational/game fishing, a review of recreational fisheries governance best practices, a study into the mercury content in billfish meat and the use of circle hooks. Pilot demonstration activities in Grenada and the Dominican Republic are ongoing to develop viable business cases for billfish management and conservation. Conservation International is actively supporting the project with funding from the World Bank Ocean Partnership Project (OPP).
48. The Consortium for Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) was established in November 2015 and is hosted at IGFA. The CBMC includes the following project partners, IGFA, FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, World Bank, ICCAT and CI. The CBMC is functioning well as reviewer of technical advice on billfish management and conservation, for awareness raising and sharing of experiences among the partners.
49. The WECAFC participated also in the 8th World Recreational Fisheries Conference, in Victoria, British Columbia, in July 2017, and organized a side-event on rights-based management opportunities for pelagic fisheries. In addition, the WECAFC secretariat attended the Global Think Tank meeting of the OPP in October 2017 in Los Angeles, where business case developments for tuna and billfish were discussed and reviewed.
50. Improved management and conservation of sharks (Activity 3.12). This activity received follow-up in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, where FAO, in collaboration with the Fisheries Divisions, assisted the preparation of draft National Plans of Action for the Conservation and management of sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2016. A poster on the sharks and rays of Barbados and a Caribbean Sharks and Rays Identification Guide were published by FAO-WECAFC and disseminated widely.
51. The joint WECAFC/OSPESCA/CITES/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management was established by WECAFC 15 and met for its 1st meeting on 17-19 October 2017 in Barbados. The meeting received support from NOAA, as well as the GEF funded REBYC II LAC, Caribbean Billfish Project and CLME+ projects. The meeting was attended by 30 shark and ray fisheries and conservation experts and fisheries officers from 15 Caribbean

countries. The experts at the meeting worked on a regional assessment of the shark and ray situation in the WECAFC area. They recognized the decline in various shark and ray stocks in the Caribbean, as well as the need to conserve the threatened species among them. They also stressed the importance of harmonizing conservation and management measures with various international and regional conventions for the protection of these often-migratory species, as well as with measures by regional fisheries management bodies in the Atlantic. The meeting recommended amongst others that the countries in the region should prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached through the point of first landing of the sharks. The meeting further recommended the prohibition of targeted fisheries for iconic species such as whale sharks, sawfishes and manta rays. Incidental catches of these species should be promptly released unharmed and alive, to the extent possible. The meeting also worked on a draft RPOA-Sharks, which incorporates regional collaboration on shark research, data collection and sharing, capacity building, harmonized management and conservation measures, enforcement and monitoring. Awareness raising and public education are expected to further increase the impact of the regional plan, which is to be presented to WECAFC 17, and to help shark stock recovery in the Western Central Atlantic.

52. Improved management and conservation of spawning aggregations of grouper and snapper (activity 3.14). Under this activity the CFMC/WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Working Group on Spawning Aggregations was expected to meet for its 2nd meeting in October 2017. The NOAA would support this second meeting of the group. However, hurricanes Irma and Maria caused that the meeting had to be postponed till 2018. No other activities of the working group have been conducted in 2016 or 2017.
53. Under Management Focus Area 4 “Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission”, the following activities were undertaken.
54. The organization of the sixteenth session of the Commission in 2016 and the 8th SAG meeting in 2017 (Activities 4.1 and 4.2) have been carried out successfully. The support provided by the Government of France/Guadeloupe and the EU DG Mare to the 16th session was excellent. The number of countries attending WECAFC 16 was high with 28 out of 34 members around the table. The Commission adopted five regional fisheries management recommendations respectively on: 1) the regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen conch, 2) spiny lobster management and conservation, 3) the sub-regional fisheries management plan for flyingfish, 4) the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas, and 5) the management of shrimp and groundfish resources. The Commission also adopted two resolutions on: 1) sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture, and 2) Marine Protected Areas as fisheries management tool in the Caribbean.
55. WECAFC 16 agreed to launch a process to establish a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the Northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) and to collaborate in fisheries management and conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not under the mandate of ICCAT. The Commission discussed intersessional activities of Working Groups and regional collaboration in addressing Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, and approved the Programme of Work (2016-17). The report of WECAFC 16 was prepared and sent to all members in a timely manner. Recommendations of WECAFC 15 have received followed-up from the Secretariat and many of the WECAFC members.
56. The preparation for the organization of the seventeenth session of the Commission in 2018 (Activity 4.3) started in December 2016. Informal confirmation from the Government of the

USA regarding hosting the session in Miami or Puerto Rico was obtained, however a formal exchange of letters or Memorandum of Responsibilities have not been prepared as yet.

57. The Strategic Reorientation of WECAFC (activity 4.4) received follow-up by the executive committee of WECAFC following the decisions by WECAFC 16. A proposal was submitted to the DG Mare of the European Union for a project to “Support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization for the WECAFC area”. This project was approved in December 2016 and became operational in August 2017. The project is intended to finance a large part of the 1st preparatory meeting for the establishment of an RFMO in the WECAFC area.
58. The ongoing EU DG Mare supported project on “Improving the governance of fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic”, currently supports the development of a discussion paper that intends to clarify some of the questions from members regarding the competency area, stocks coverage, budgetary implications for Members, institutional structure, membership, decision making processes, national sovereignty aspects, its objectives and any other relevant matters that the Members may wish to consider.
59. Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops (activity 4.5). The WECAFC Secretariat together with FAO colleagues, regional partners and members organized over 15 regional and national level technical meetings, workshops and capacity building events in the period 2016-2017.
60. Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects (activity 4.6). The mobilization of resources got assigned high priority by WECAFC and its secretariat at WECAFC 15. An overview of efforts made was presented to WECAFC 16 and the work of the Secretariat was highly appreciated by the members.
61. The assistance by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) funded projects to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the WECAFC member countries increased in the 2016-2017 biennium to 5.3 million USD (3.2 million USD for regional TCPs and 2.1 million USD for national TCPs) compared to approximately 3.2 million USD in the last biennium, reflecting an increase of more than 60%.
62. The portfolio of FAO implemented regional Trust Fund projects on fisheries and aquaculture that are relevant for the WECAFC membership added up to 19 million USD in the 2016-2017 biennium, which is some 70% increase over last biennium. The national level fisheries trust fund project portfolio managed by FAO in the WECAFC region totaled some 18 million USD in this biennium 2, which is more than double than in the 2014-2015 biennium, including some projects that are multi-sectoral.
63. Resource mobilization efforts in recent years have shown to result in many new technical assistance and capacity building projects, well-established contacts with resource partners, and an effective and efficiently implemented programme through the FAO subregional offices in Barbados and Panama.

Projects

64. A number of FAO projects have been carried out in the WECAFC region in the period 2016 - 2017. The most notable projects are described in summary below.

(sub) Regional TCP projects

- Alimentación acuícola alternativa de bajo costo para fortalecer la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de los acuicultores de recursos limitados en países de AL (TCP/RLA/3504) – 250 000 USD
- Reducing and managing the risks of Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) of cultured shrimp (TCP/INT/3502) - 422 000 USD. Coverage: Colombia, Guatemala)
- Strengthening biosecurity governance and capacities for dealing with the serious shrimp infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV) disease (TCP/INT/3501) – 372 000 USD (countries various affected countries)
- Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional de Salud, Sanidad e Inocuidad para el Desarrollo de la Producción Agropecuaria, Pesquera y Forestal (TCP/SLM/3502) -461 000 USD. Coverage: Nicaragua.
- Asistencia para el Fortalecimiento de las capacidades institucionales para el combate a la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada (TCP/RLA/3604) -275 000 USD. Coverage: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic.
- Towards a Caribbean Blue Revolution (TCP/SLC/3601) – 468 000 USD. Coverage: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, St Kitts and Nevis.
- Technical assistance for the formulation of national strategies and action plans to improve compliance with the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) (TCP/INT/3603) – 500 000 USD Coverage: Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, and others
- Fortalecimiento de las capacidades y las medidas para Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada en los países de América Latina (TCP/RLA/3604) – 500 000 USD Coverage: Guatemala, El Salvador, Belice, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic

National level TCP and TCP facility projects

Bahamas

- Strengthening Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance in the Bahamas (TCP/BHA/3501) - USD 469 000

Brazil

- Para la Promoción de la implementación de las Directrices Voluntarias de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional en el Brasil (TCP/BRA/3401) -34 000 USD

Colombia

- Apoyo Técnico y estratégico de la FAO al Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural en la formulación e implementación del Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario y pesquero de la Región de La Mojana en Colombia (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1) 62 000 USD

Costa Rica

- Asistencia para el desarrollo de las bases de la planificación del sector acuícola. (TCP/COS/3501) -47 000 USD

Cuba

- Desarrollo del Programa Nacional sobre Genética para peces de agua dulce (TCP/CUB/3501) – 297 000 USD

Dominican Republic

- Asistencia para la formulación de una propuesta de desarrollo pesquero-acuícola del Lago Enriquillo (TCP/DOM/3401 facility) 46 000 USD.

Guyana

- Promotion of Small Scale Aquaculture in Guyana for Food Security and Rural Development (TCP/GUY/3501) -122 000 USD

Jamaica

- Capacity building in resource assessment and management of the Jamaican sea cucumber fishery and potential for aquaculture development (TCP/JAM/3502) – 288 000 USD

Nicaragua

- Asistencia para la reconversión tecnológica del buceo en la pesca de langosta en la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua: Mesoamérica sin Hambre/Cooperación Sur-Sur, México/ TCPF/NIC. 225 000 USD

Panama

- Asistencia para el mejoramiento del Sistema de estadísticas pesqueras. (TCP/3401/PAN). 50 000 USD.

St. Kitts and Nevis

- Strengthening Fisheries Legislation in St Kitts and Nevis – focus IUU (TCP/STK/3502) 91 000 USD

St Lucia

- Strengthening the National Standards and Certification System for Major Agricultural Products in St Lucia (TCP/STL/3401 facility component 2) – includes aquaculture code of practice
- Assistance with the development of Fishery Policy (TCP/STL/3602) 60 000 USD

Suriname

- Updating Suriname`s capture fisheries legal framework” (TCP/SUR/3502) - 122 000 USD

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Strengthening fisheries legislation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – focus: IUU fishing (TCP/STV/3602) – 100 000 USD

Trinidad and Tobago

Strengthening fisheries legislation in Trinidad and Tobago – focus: IUU fishing (TCP/TRI/3601) - 100 000 USD

Regional and National level Trust Fund activities supported by FAO**Regional**

- Activación de los servicios y consolidación de la Red de Acuicultura de las Américas (RAA) (GCP/RLA/190/BRA). The beneficiary/signatory countries of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas are: Argentina, Brasil, Bolívia, Colômbia Costa Rica, Chile,

Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. 2.4 million USD.

- CLME+ project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”, (UNJP/RLA/217/OPS) the FAO executed shrimp and groundfish component has a budget of 1.3 million USD.
- Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). (GCP/RLA/201/GFF) – 5.8 million USD. The project beneficiary countries include: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.
- Caribbean Billfish project (component of the Ocean Partnerships For Sustainable Fisheries And Biodiversity Conservation – Models For Innovation And Reform) (GCP/SLC/001/WBK) - 1.95 million USD. Coverage: all Caribbean countries.
- Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (GEF Special Climate Change Fund supported) (GCP/SLC/210/SCF) 5.4 million USD. The project beneficiary countries include: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries” (StewardFish) (GCP/SLC/211/GFF) 1.77 Million USD Coverage: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- CITES - FAO joint capacity building for implementation of the Decisions on “Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). (EP/SLC/003/UEP) – 90 000 USD. Coverage: Regional –all Queen Conch producing Caribbean countries.
- An independent cost-benefit assessment of the options for strategic re-orientation of WECAFC (GCP/SLC/006/EC) -90 000 Euro. Coverage: Regional – All WECAFC member countries.
- Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through FIRMS to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area (GCP/SLC/007/EC) 110 000 Euro. Coverage: Regional.
- Support to the Caribbean Regional Working Group on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RWG-IUU) (GCP/SLC/008/USA) - 40 000 USD. Coverage: CRFM countries.
- Fortalecimiento de la resiliencia de la agricultura familiar y para la prevención y respuesta efectiva frente a las enfermedades fito y zoo sanitarias (GCP/SLM/002/SPA)
- Programa Mesoamérica sin Hambre: marcos institucionales más efectivos para mejorar la agricultura familiar y la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional (GCP /SLM/001/MEX)
- Improving the governance of fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic (16th Session of WECAFC-Guadeloupe) (GCP/SLC/011/EC) – 130 000 USD
- Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Wider Caribbean Region (GCP/SLC/013/USA) – 50 000 USD
- Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (GCP /SLC/012/EC) – 100 000 USD

- Support to the creation of a Regional Database and associated transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Working Group on fisheries data and statistics (GCP/SLC/014/EC) – 86 000 USD
- Support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization for the WECAFC area (GCP/SLC/015/EC) – 111 000 USD

Brazil

- Improving Competitiveness of the Aquaculture Sector of Brazil (UTF/084/BRA) - 8 Million USD.

Colombia

- Cooperación técnica para la adaptación y validación del Programa Nacional de Extensionismo en Acuicultura, como escuela de formación y fortalecimiento para AREL y AMyPE (UTF /COL/063/COL) -260 417 USD.
- Asistencia para la formulación del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de la Acuicultura Sostenible de Colombia: Regular Programme 75 000 USD; AUNAP: 35 000 USD.
- Asistencia para la Formulación de la Política Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura. UTF/068/COL. 275 000 USD.
- Implementación de lineamientos de Política para la Promoción y aprovechamiento sustentable de la pesca y la acuicultura a nivel nacional UTF/COL/052/COL 832 016 USD
- “Cooperación técnica para la adaptación y validación del programa de extensionismo como escuela de formación y fortalecimiento en acuicultura para AREL y AMyPE con enfoque territorial, diferencial y de género para Colombia” UTF/COL/064/COL 225 000 USD

Costa Rica

- Fortalecimiento de capacidades de Acuicultores de Recursos Limitados a través de una unidad demostrativa de producción de tilapia. (GCP/RLA/190/BRA). 40 000 USD.

Haiti

- Initiative OMD - programme d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire en Haiti (GCP/HAI/030/EC) – includes some fisheries and aquaculture activities - 5 million USD
- Mer Sud Project - Marine Environment Regeneration in the South of Haiti (EP/HAI/034/UEP) -100 000 USD

Honduras

- Asistencia Técnica para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en el Sector Pesquero en Honduras. UNJP/HON. 236 752 USD.

Mexico

- Assistance to the Government of Campeche, Mexico in the formulation of the State Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (UTF/MEX/099/MEX) -147 000 USD
- Asistencia para la formulación del Programa Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura 2014-2018 y diagnóstico técnico-operativo de los centros acuícolas operados por la CONAPESCA (UTF /MEX/116/MEX) -468 000 USD
- Diagnóstico base para la preparación del Plan Rector Acuícola y Pesquero del Estado de Yucatán (UTF /MEX/117/MEX) -118 000 USD

Trinidad

- Improving forest and protected area management in Trinidad and Tobago (FSP). (GCP/TRI/003/GFF) 2.7 million USD. This project contains a Marine Protected area management component.

Global Trust Fund Projects with relevance to the WECAFC region and WECAFC membership

- Various WECAFC members have supported FAO fisheries projects in the WECAFC region and at global level.
- The **Government of France** is financing a global project on “Development of a data base on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems of the high seas”, 2011 -2014 (GCP/GLO/309/FRA) -400 000 USD. Moreover, the Government of France provided support to the REDPARQUES workshop in Cuba on Marine Protected Areas.
- The **Government of Spain** is supporting FAO Globefish (MTF/GLO/625/MUL) -563 000 USD, which supports also activities of INFOPECA in the LAC region.
- The **Government of Japan** has been financing various global FAO programmes and projects in recent years, of which some are of relevance to the fisheries sector in the WECAFC area. Those with most relevance are the following:
 - Project “Promotion of sustainable fisheries: support for strengthening functions of and coordination among Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)/ Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)”, 2008 -2012 (GCP/INT/069/JPN), supported amongst others the development of the Regional Fishery Body Network (RSN) in which the WECAFC Secretary participates.
 - Project “Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context”, (GCP/INT/253/JPN), - 3.2 million USD, included two focus areas with activities of interested for the WECAFC region.
 - Project “Improved fisheries management for sustainable use of marine living resources in the face of changing systems” (GCP /INT/228/JPN) -2.6 million USD
- The **European Union** is supporting various global projects that incorporate various WECAFC members.
 - BlueBRIDGE - Building Research Environments for fostering Innovation, Decision-making, Governance and Education to support Blue Growth (GCP/GLO/646/EC) - 780 000 USD
 - Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and supply Vessels (GCP /GLO/316/EC) – 111 000 USD
 - Marine Investment for the Blue Economy - MARIBE (GCP /GLO/622/EC) - 221 000 USD
- The **United States of America** is assisting also in various global activities of relevance for the WECAFC membership.
 - Cooperative Agreement on U.S. Support for Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Activities (GCP/GLO/576/USA) – 230 000 USD
- The **UNEP/CITES Secretariat** supports from a global level project the region.

- CITES-FAO collaborative project for immediate actions in support of implementation of the CITES listings for sharks and rays. (EP/INT/227/UEP) – 100 000 USD. Coverage: activities in Barbados, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Regional and National level activities in the WECAFC region supported by the FAO Regular Programme

65. The FAO regular programme financially and technically supported the following fisheries and aquaculture activities and events in the WECAFC member countries:

- Annual compilation of catch statistics for area 31 (WECAFC) and dissemination to the member states.
- A study to review the impact of rising cost factors such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs on fishing operations in the CRFM Member States and propose appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues.

Some FAO Publications with relevance for WECAFC and its membership

66. In 2016 and 2017 a number of FAO publications and joint publications with partners of relevance to the WECAFC members have been published. These include the following:

Technical papers

- Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 610. Rome, FAO. 2017. 70 pp. Authors: Prada, M. C.; Appeldoorn, R. S.; Van Eijs, S. & Pérez, M. M. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7818e.pdf>
- Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 595. Rome, Italy, 2016. Authors: Anthony Thompson, Jessica Sanders, Merete Tandstad, Fabio Carocci and Jessica Fuller, eds.. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf>

Circulars

- WECAFC: Performance, planning and procedures. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1096. Bridgetown, Barbados, 2016. 150p. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5096t.pdf>
- Findings of the independent cost-benefit assessment of the options for strategic re-orientation of WECAFC. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular. No. 1117. Bridgetown, Barbados, 2016. Author: Kjartan Hoydal. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6377e.pdf>
- Background documents for the Workshop on investing in ecosystem-based shrimp and groundfish fisheries management of the Guianas – Brazil shelf, Barbados, 7–8 September 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1120. Rome, Italy, 2017.
- Caribbean Fisheries Legal and Institutional Study, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1124. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2016. Author: Cristina Leria. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6175e.pdf>

- The Value of Billfish Resources to Commercial and Recreational Sectors in the Caribbean, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1125. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2016. Author: Brad Gentner. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6178e.pdf>
- The Use and Design of Rights and Tenure Based Management Systems for Transboundary Stocks in the Caribbean, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1126. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2016. Author: Brad Gentner. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6071e.pdf>
- Status of Billfish Resources and Billfish Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1127. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2016. Authors: Nelson Ehrhardt and Mark Fitchett. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6204e.pdf>
- A Recreational Fisheries Economic Assessment Manual and its Application in Two Study Cases in the Caribbean, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1128. Bridgetown, Barbados. 2016. Authors: Rob Southwick, Brad Gentner, D'shan Maycock and Myriam Bouaziz. PDF URLs: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6148e.pdf>

Reports

- Report of the second meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, Panama City, Panama, 18–20 November 2014. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1097, Bridgetown, Barbados, FAO, 2016. 495 pp. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5587t.pdf>
- Report of the Workshop on Investing in Ecosystem-based shrimp and groundfish fisheries management of the Guianas –Brazil shelf, Barbados, 7-8 September 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1125, Bridgetown, Barbados. 150 pp. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5513b.pdf>
- Report of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Group. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1138, Bridgetown, Barbados, 2016. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5592t.pdf>
- Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1162. Bridgetown, Barbados, 2016. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6031t.pdf>
- Report of the launching workshop of the GEF/FAO Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH). FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1189.
- Report of the first meeting of the Regional Working Group on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1190.
- Report of the 3rd Regional Workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation of the WECAFC/ OSPESCA/ CRFM/ CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1191.
- Report of the FIRMS-WECAFC regional workshop on Recreational Fisheries Statistics in the Caribbean. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1194
- Report of the FAO Technical Workshop on Advancing Aquaponics: an efficient use of limited resources. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1214, Bridgetown, Barbados. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7953e.pdf>

- Report of the Work Planning Workshop for the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (REBYC-II LAC) project Barbados, 9–12 September 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1147. Bridgetown, Barbados. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6439b.pdf>

Brochures, stand alone publications, guides and posters

- The Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels. FAO, 2017. www.fao.org/3/a-i7783e.pdf
- Identification Guide to Common Sharks and Rays of the Caribbean. FAO, 2016. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5691e.pdf>.
- Poster: Barbados Sharks and Rays. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bc383e.pdf>
- El buceo en la pesca y la acuicultura en América Latina y el Caribe: Orientaciones operativas, legislativas, institucionales y de política para garantizar condiciones de empleo decente. www.fao.org/3/a-i7331s.pdf
- Política integral para la pesca en Colombia (infographic).
- Granjas agro-acuícolas demostrativas: sistematización de un programa para fortalecer las capacidades de acuicultores de recursos limitados. www.fao.org/3/a-i7317s.pdf
- Programa de transformación tecnológica de la pesca de langosta en el caribe de Nicaragua: implementación, logros obtenidos y pasos a seguir: validación del funcionamiento de las casitas cubanas

Suggested Action by the Session

67. The SAG is invited to review and comment on the inter-sessional activities and progress made on the implementation of the Work Programme for 2016–2017.
68. The SAG is also requested to:
- 1) Identify trends and emerging issues from the intersessional work that should be addressed by the Commission in its next session.
 - 2) Identify specific regional activities and conferences for 2017 and 2018 in which WECAFC as Commission or its Working Groups should be involved in.

Annex A: Progress monitoring on implementation of the Programme of Work 2016-2017

Legend:

Green: Outputs largely to fully achieved under this specific activity

Orange: Some outputs achieved under the specific activity

Red: No or limited outputs achieved under this activity

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
1.1 Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines	Recommendations for improvement and harmonization of legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region	Emails and letters to members, making them aware of guidelines and instruments Response to FAO CCRF monitoring questionnaire	
1.2 Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA)	EAF and EAA incorporated in national policies and strategies of WECAFC members EAF based fisheries management and conservation plans developed	National policy and strategy documents Fisheries management plans	
1.3 Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members	Recommendations for changes in the policies, strategies, laws and regulations Review of fisheries legislative frameworks in the WECAFC area	Mission reports of consultants National strategies, laws and regulations Review report	
1.4 Facilitate the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas	Start of reporting by WECAFC members on Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) catches in the high seas of Areas 31 and 41, using the form in appendix 3 of Report 1087. Effective functioning of WECAFC WG on deep sea fisheries in the high seas, including organization of the 2 nd meeting of the WG	At least 10 members report about their DSF catches in the high seas. Agreed VMEs recognized formally by members and included in relevant databases DSF collaborative research programme developed	
1.5 Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members	GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC)” realizes its objectives Draft regional management bycatch strategy developed	Adoption of bycatch management by REBYC II LAC countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago Recommendations for the WECAFC membership	
1.6 Promote the ratification and implementation of	Capacity built among at least 4 WECAFC members for	Capacity building materials for implementation of the PSMA Members listed among those countries that	

the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members	implementation of the PSMA in the WECAFC region. Ratification of the PSMA by a minimum of 4 WECAFC members	ratified the PSMA	
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Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
1.7 Support to the application of the International guidelines on small scale fisheries	Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food promoted in the region, with a focus on strengthening of fisherfolk organizations	WECAFC members adopt the SSF and Tenure guidelines	
1.8 Improve coordination and cooperation between national and regional organizations / institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.	Effective functioning of the joint Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. IUU mainstreamed in the work of other joint Working Groups Draft RPOA-IUU developed. Cost effective measures identified to combat in the short term IUU fishing Capacity built for regional collaboration on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fisheries	WG meeting report CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) implementation monitoring reports (particularly Strategies 2 and 6)	

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
2.1 Strengthening disaster risk management (DRM) capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean	Implementation of the strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region. Implementation of the GEF Special Climate Change (SCCF) project on “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector”(CC4Fish)	Fisheries mainstreamed in DRM and Climate Change adaptation plans in at least 3 Caribbean countries	
2.2 Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy	Clear and comprehensive draft protocols prepared	Draft protocols	
2.3 Improved management of reef fisheries and Marine	Increased capacity among fisherfolk and fisheries managers to participate effectively in coastal/reef management and MPAs		

Protected Areas (MPAs)	Effective implementation of Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/004/GFF)		
2.4 Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national level	A regional fisheries and aquaculture statistics database established at WECAFC Participation of WECAFC and its members in the Global Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem database. Participation in the FAO Global vessel record by WECAFC members	Response rate to FAO annual fisheries and aquaculture statistics requests has increased. Evidence of WECAFC member participation in the VME and Global Record databases	
2.5 Regional resources and fisheries inventories prepared and disseminated	Prepare and share regional fisheries inventories –through the Fisheries Resource Management System (FIRMS) Partnership – with all members and ensure up-to-date and accessible information in support of responsible fisheries management. Report of the workshop on Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through FIRMS to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area published	Number of inventories published on-line	
2.6 Increase the availability of information on the contribution of fish to food security and the social and economic value of the fisheries sector	Assessments of the fisheries sector value and the fish and fisheries products value chain.	Studies and reports	
2.7 Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies	Increased sharing of information and communication between the WECAFC Secretariat and other fisheries, aquaculture and environment stakeholders active in the region and neighbouring regions	Minutes of meetings Reports of activities of partner organizations and projects	

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
3.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations	Competent fisherfolk representatives participating professionally in regional and national level fisheries management decision making processes	Attendance lists of capacity building activities Manuals and other capacity building materials prepared	
3.2 Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean	Investment/business plan study	Investment/business plan Grant/loan support from a development bank	
3.3 Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities	Sustainable aquaculture practices by small-scale farmers in various WECAFC member countries	Adaptation of aquaculture practices following advice given Aquaponics and marine	

		cage farming developed; various aquaculture manuals produced	
3.4 Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and Codes	Regional guidelines for responsible introduction of species in aquaculture developed; BMPs for specific species developed and Codes of Practices developed and adopted by aquaculturists	Codes of Practice and BMPs adopted and disseminated.	
3.5 Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures	Capacity built on Codex Alimentarius, HACCP, ISO, Good Hygiene Practices and other fish quality and safety measures Recommendations and advice for improving fish quality and safety	Increased number of facilities authorized to export to the EU, USA and Japan	
3.6 Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group General investment plan for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries developed. Pre-feasibility investment studies prepared for 2 countries Implementation of the CLME+ SAP strategy (No.6) to "Implement Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)/ Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery".	Report of the WG published and disseminated General investment plan finalized Draft management plan prepared	
3.7 Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster	Effective functioning of the WECAFC Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i> Resource assessment carried out and a draft regional management plan developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4A "Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries"	Reports of meetings Draft sub-regional management plan	
3.8 Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CRFM/ WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish of the Eastern Caribbean Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5A: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries.	Reports on the implementation of the endorsed the Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	
3.9 Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore FADs	Effective functioning of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles Manual on the design and application of moored FADs	Continuation of demonstrations in various CARIFICO project countries Findings and recommendations of the MAGDELESA Project Working group meeting reports	
3.10 Strengthened research and management capacity	Effective functioning of the CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Queen Conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i> "	WG reports Update for CITES	

for Queen Conch in the Caribbean	Draft regional management plan for Queen Conch Agreement on conversion factors for processing and on Non-Detriment Findings format Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4B		
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Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
3.11 Improved management and conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC/OSPECA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Draft regional management and conservation plan for billfish developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5B: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for large pelagics fisheries Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) functioning Data and information availability on recreational fisheries catches and landings has increased	WG TORs and reports Effective implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Project (CBP)”; Letter of Intent signed on the CBMC	
3.12 Improved management and conservation of sharks	Establishment of a joint working group on sharks conservation and management. A Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for the conservation and management of sharks developed Two additional WECAFC members have carried out shark stock assessments and developed and are implementing NPOAs –Sharks	WG TORs and reports A draft RPOA Number of NPOA’s sharks developed by WECAFC members Implementation records	
3.13 Improved management and conservation of spawning aggregations of grouper and snapper	Effective functioning of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations Implementation of the CLME+ work on reef fishes	Evidence of implementation of the regional closed season for Nassau grouper	

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	
4.1 Organize the 16 th session of the Commission in 2016	Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region	Approved work programme Report of the session	
4.2 Organize the 8 th SAG meeting in 2017	Scientific advice for consideration by the 17 th session of the Commission	Report of the meeting	
4.3 Prepare for the organization of the 17 th session of the Commission in 2018	Timely organized session which will discuss interesting subjects that meet the needs of the	Background papers prepared Host country confirmed	

	members of the Commission		
4.4 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	<p>An independent cost-benefit study of the various options for reform of WECAFC and how to move forward</p> <p>MoU implemented for an interim coordination mechanism between OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC</p>	<p>A workshop Report of the 2nd WECAFC Strategic Reorientation Workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1-2 December 2015</p> <p>Agreement on the preferred option for reform of WECAFC and a process towards the reform</p> <p>Signed MoU</p>	
4.5 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops	Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner	Reports of the events and workshops	
4.6 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects	At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding	Draft project documents in the required format	