

April 2016

E



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)**

**SIXTEENTH SESSION**

**Guadeloupe, 20-24 June 2016**

**Draft Terms of Reference of the (joint) Working Groups**

1. **OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**
2. **CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH**
3. **WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON SHRIMP AND GROUND FISH IN THE NORTHERN BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHELF**
4. **WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES**
5. **WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**
6. **CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS**
7. **CRFM/WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYING FISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN**
8. **CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS**
9. **REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)**
10. **WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING  
GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**

CONVENER: JOSÉ INFANTE

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

**1 SCOPE**

The scope of the working group is the sustainable management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the code of conduct's article 6.4 of the general principles.

**2 THE GOAL OF THE WORKING GROUP**

Using a multidisciplinary approach the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries. In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the management of Caribbean spiny lobster stock and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC region under the code of conduct for responsible fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

**3 TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

Caribbean spiny lobster is a transboundary resource and therefore the TORs may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC secretariat, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of Caribbean spiny lobster.

**SPECIFICALLY, THE WORKING GROUP WILL:**

- a) Share available data and information on Caribbean spiny lobster.
- b) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of spiny lobster stocks, which involve the private sector formally in data collection.
- c) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of spiny lobster in the Caribbean
- d) Compile and analyse data on spiny lobster capture fisheries and aquaculture operations in the member countries and monitor and evaluate changes, using an EAF approach.
- e) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of lobster fisheries.
- f) Provide management advice and advice on the implementation and performance of regional management regulations on spiny lobster to countries and regional organizations (e.g. OSP-02-09).
- g) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated.
- h) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- i) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the spiny lobster field.

- j) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.
- k) The ToR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC.

## 4 MODE OF OPERATION

### 4.1 ROLE OF COUNTRIES

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- implement, at the national level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the group;
- host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

### 4.2 ROLES OF FAO/WECAFC AND OSPESCA

The FAO subregional office for Mesoamerica and WECAFC secretariat will play supporting roles in the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with OSPESCA (the working group lead agency) in:

- co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of Funding);
- providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- providing technical assistance and support to research;
- facilitating training;
- ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders.

### 4.3 ROLES OF OTHER SUBREGIONAL ORGANISATIONS (E.G. CFMC, CRFM)

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- providing technical assistance and support;
- facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- facilitating the decision-making process at the subregional level.

## 5 COMMUNICATION

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (video conference, skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national node or focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC secretariat.

## 6 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The working group should meet physically once a year or at a minimum, once every two years. The meetings should be of two to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

---

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**(Period 2015 - 2018)**

**CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP**  
**ON QUEEN CONCH**

**Convener:** Miguel A. Rolón (CFMC)

**1. Scope**

The purpose of the Working Group is to support the sustainable management and conservation of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) resources and its fisheries in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>1</sup>.

**2. The goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Queen Conch fisheries and trade. In pursuing this goal, the working group will contribute to the fulfillment of national, regional and international responsibilities and commitments for the management and conservation of and trade in Queen conch and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

In particular, the Working Group will aim to support with technical and scientific advice the implementation of Decisions adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to CITES on "Regional cooperation and management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)" (Thailand, 2013), and WECAFC 15 Recommendation (WECAFC/15/2014/3) "on the management and conservation of Queen Conch in the WECAFC area" (Trinidad and Tobago, 2014).

**3. Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Queen Conch is a transboundary resource with commercial and economic, as well as ecological, importance for most countries in the Wider Caribbean region. Therefore, these TORs apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC, CFMC, CITES, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management and conservation of Queen Conch.

The Working Group will carry out the following general tasks:

1. Share and disseminate available data and information on queen conch biology, ecology, management, fisheries, trade and other relevant areas.
2. Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of queen conch stocks and promote the involvement of the private sector in data collection.
3. Monitor changes in distribution of queen conch stocks and populations in the Caribbean region.

---

<sup>1</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

4. Compile and analyze data on queen conch catch and effort and aquaculture production in the range states and monitor changes.
5. Compile information about the social and economic importance of queen conch fisheries, and provide advice for policy decision making accordingly.
6. Provide advice on the implementation of national and regional management measures and regulations for queen conch to countries and regional organizations.
7. Establish communication between the members of the working group and interested parties and stakeholders, including the private sector.
8. Develop and implement a work plan that will be monitored and evaluated by the WECAFC SAG and Commission.
9. Report to CFMC, OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM at each of their sessions (on the outcome of each Working Group meeting).
10. Invite selected experts to participate in the Working Group, ensuring that they have the necessary expertise, know-how and experience in areas relevant to the operation of the Working Group and the implementation of these Terms of Reference.

#### **4 Mode of Operation**

##### *4.1 Role of WECAFC Member Countries*

The members of the Working Group are to play a leading role in the Working Group activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Ensure involvement of both CITES and Fisheries Authorities in the work of the Group;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

##### *4.2 Role of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat*

The FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean and the WECAFC Secretariat will facilitate and support the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with the partner agencies CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM and CITES in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including securing funding for its operation);
- Providing a technical secretary;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training (as appropriate);
- Communicate outcomes to WECAFC, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and countries (as appropriate);
- Ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders in Working Group Activities.

##### *4.3 Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding for working group activities;
- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

##### *4.4 Role of the convener*

The working group convener will:

- formally convene the meetings of the group,
- technically guide the group work and determine subjects to be discussed,
- represent the group in regional and international meetings (as appropriate),
- invite new members and *ad hoc* experts to participate in working group meeting,
- review and clear publications and messages produced by the working group, and
- take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings.

## **5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all Working Group members.

The successful functioning of the Working Group also requires that each member country of WECAFC and organization/ agency identify a national focal point/expert through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and national fishery and CITES administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

## **6 Working Group meetings**

The Working Group should meet physically once every two years. The meetings should be of two to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group**  
**on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf**

Period 2015 -2018

Convener: Fabian Blanchard (IFREMER, French Guyana)

**1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

**1.1 Scope**

The scope of the working group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct's Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>2</sup> and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

**1.2 The goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach the working group will contribute to the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Brazil-Guianas shelf by providing management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of the shrimp and groundfish resources and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

**1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Some shrimp and groundfish resources are transboundary and therefore the TORs may apply at sub-regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CRFM and UNEP-CEP, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources.

Specifically, the working group will:

- (a) Share available data and information on shrimp and groundfish resources.
- (b) Develop common methods for assessment and monitoring of shrimp and groundfish stocks, possibly involving the private sector formally in data collection.

---

<sup>2</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

- 
- (c) Undertake, review and validate stock assessments of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
  - (d) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
  - (e) Compile and analyse data on catch, effort, size composition, changes in habitat and reproductive patterns () of shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the sub-region and monitor and evaluate changes.
  - (f) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
  - (g) Propose a sub-regional management plan for shrimp and groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf, considering the recommendations from plan for investment in EAF management, and taking into account regional strategy on the management of trawl fisheries by-catch including co-management arrangement tested in pilote studies.
  - (h) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
  - (i) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues regarding the shrimp and groundfish resources, such as environmental changes of local or global economic context. Wherever relevant, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their impacts on the shrimp and groundfish resources in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions or stakeholders.
  - (j) Establish links with the CRFM continental shelf fisheries working group as appropriate, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and optimize use of technical and financial resources.
  - (k) Establish link with other sub-regional initiatives (ex. CLME+, ReByC II projects) for mutual benefits.
  - (l) Collaborate with IUU working group on development and implementation of the regional plan of action on IUU fishing.
  - (m) Report to WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

## **1.4 Mode of Operation**

### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the working group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating the inputs of the members of the working group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;
- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

#### *1.4.3 Role of FAO*

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the working group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training.

#### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER, NOAA)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

### **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.

---

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep sea fisheries**  
**2015 -2018**

### **1. Background and justification**

Deep sea fisheries in the high seas are those where the total catch includes species that can only sustain low exploitation rates, and that are conducted using fishing gears that either contact or are likely to contact the sea floor during the course of the fishing operations. Eighty-nine percent of the waters in the WECAFC area of competence have a depth of 400 meters or greater. Eighty-six percent of the water surface area has a depth greater than 1000 meters. Fifty-one percent of the WECAFC area is considered high-seas. The information available about deep sea fish stocks and their catches in the WECAFC area is insignificant.

Hardly any data on deep sea fish stocks and catches in the region are collected or reported. The vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the deep sea areas and particularly in the high seas areas in the WECAFC competence area have not been identified. The current gaps in knowledge and information on this subject may have serious effects for the management of stocks and sustainability of fisheries operations in the waters concerned. While in many regions countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) have made efforts to increase knowledge and information on this subject, this is not the case in the WECAFC area.

The 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas provide guidance on management factors ranging from an appropriate regulatory framework to the components of good data collection programs and include the identification of key management considerations and measures necessary to ensure conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats. Making a joint effort towards implementation of these internationally accepted voluntary guidelines is highly necessary in the WECAFC region.

### **2. Role of the Working Group**

The objective of the Working group is to inform and provide guidance for the management of deep sea fisheries by WECAFC members, in such a manner as to promote responsible fisheries that provide economic opportunities, while ensuring the conservation of marine living resources and the protection of marine biodiversity and to facilitate the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

#### ***2.1 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2015 to 2018***

The work of the Working Group will be guided by the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries of the High-seas and in particular will address the following aspects:

- a) Collect and review of existing (past and present) data and information on the deep sea fisheries in the WECAFC area, in addition to identifying the potential of such fisheries in the region.
- b) Meet and analyse the data and information collected and make recommendations for the sustainability of the deep sea fisheries in the WECAFC region.
- c) Identify priority areas for future work and international funding and support for the work identified.
- d) Organize in 2014 a WECAFC Technical Workshop on Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas Areas of the Western Central Atlantic to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the working group, and to obtain inputs from the WECAFC members.

- e) Develop a Chapter on the Western Central Atlantic for the 2015 FAO Worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas.
- f) Report to the Commission at its next session, its conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

### **3. Mode of Operation**

#### 3.1 Membership of the Working Group

Membership shall consist of all Members of WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with an interest in deep sea fisheries. Membership may also include representatives of deep sea fisheries stakeholders of Members, Non-members, as well as relevant regional and regional organizations and experts.

##### *Working Group members from WECAFC members*

The members of the Working Group, on behalf of WECAFC members, will have expertise in deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs and/or high seas legal frameworks, in their respective countries. They will play an important role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and ensuring the participation of appropriate other experts from the country (if required);
- Support implementation of the draft recommendations prepared by the Working Group at the national level;
- Assist by hosting Working Group meetings on a rotational (periodic) basis (as appropriate).

##### *Working Group members from partner organizations and institutions*

The Working Group members from partner organizations at international and regional level will provide (in-kind) expertise, participate in information and data collection, facilitate funding, collaborate in the organization of workshop(s) and funding of experts participation (if appropriate), support the co-ordination and communication in the Working Group and support the decision-making process in the Wider Caribbean Region in order to reach well-balanced outputs and recommendations that are acceptable to the region and can account with the support from the various partners in terms of implementation and follow-up.

#### 3.2 Election of Convener of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener would be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs, high seas legal frameworks, as well as to contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this working group.

#### 3.3 Role of FAO/WECAFC Secretariat

- a) To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;
- b) To assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- c) To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;

- 
- d) To liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and particularly on their ongoing work to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
  - e) To liaise with the FAO, UNEP and World Bank staff working on the GEF programme on “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”
  - f) To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
  - g) To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### 3.4 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group are foreseen to be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group.

#### **4. Amendments to these Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Members at the level of WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

## **Terms of Reference for the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**

### **1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

#### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the Working Group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the Working Group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>3</sup>, the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

#### **1.2 The Goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Working Group will contribute to the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region, by providing scientific and management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the Working Group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of recreational fisheries and resources, and related or interacting species, or other interacting fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

#### **1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Many of the fish resources in recreational fisheries, such as billfish, dolphin fish and tunas, are transboundary and /or highly migratory and therefore the TORs may apply at the sub-regional and/or national levels, as appropriate. The Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of recreational fisheries.

Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (n) Compile, analyse and share available biological and socioeconomic data and information on recreational fisheries.

---

<sup>3</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

- 
- (o) Develop common monitoring and assessment methods for recreational fisheries, involving commercial fisheries (industrial and artisanal) formally in data collection, if possible.
  - (p) Provide scientific and management advice to countries and regional organizations about the implementation and performance of agreed sub-regional management measures for recreational fisheries.
  - (q) Establish communication among members of the Working Group, and between the Working Group and interested parties, including private sector.
  - (r) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues, including external environmental and economic drivers of change at local, national or global level. To the extent possible, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their social-ecological impacts in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions and local stakeholders.
  - (s) Establish links with the appropriate working groups of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA) and of the InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission (ICCAT) in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and to optimize use of technical and financial resources.
  - (t) Establish links with other sub-regional initiatives (e.g., Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+), and The Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (ReByC II) projects) for mutual benefits.
  - (u) Collaborate with other WECAFC working groups (i.e., fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs), flying fish and shark fisheries) in issues of mutual interest
  - (v) Report to appropriate institutions at each session.
  - (w) Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance and recommendations about monitoring, assessment, and management of recreational fisheries.
  - (x) The working group will aim to further implementation of the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the Wider Caribbean Region.
  - (y) Support the Project Management Unit of the Caribbean Billfish Project.
  - (z) Support the establishment and implementation of a Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in the Western Central Atlantic, comprising relevant organizations (RFB/RFMOs, INGOs, CSOs and private sector representatives)
  - (aa) Support the preparation of a draft Billfish Management and Conservation Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region endorsed by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2016-2017.

The implementation of many of the tasks assigned to this Working Group will be supported by the Caribbean Billfish project, a component of the World Bank/GEF programme on Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models For Innovation And Reform.

## **1.4 Mode of Operation**

### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the Working Group will play a leading role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and facilitate, to the extent practicable, participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement, the tasks agreed upon in the work plan of the Working Group at national level;
- Host Working Group meetings on a rotational basis.

### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the Working Group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings, by coordinating the inputs of the members of the Working Group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;
- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.
- 

### *1.4.3 Role of FAO*

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the Working Group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training.

### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, OSPESCA)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

## **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all Working Group members.

The successful functioning of the Working Group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, National fishery administrations and any other organization via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the work plan and depending on resources available.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS

**Convener:** TBD, with support from the CRFM Secretariat

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

FAD fisheries began to develop in the Caribbean Islands at the end of the 1980s. This activity is still developing in several states. Moored FADs allow small-scale, artisanal vessels easier access to offshore pelagic resources by aggregating them at fixed locations. Their use leads to different fishing practices and consequently, may impact different resources, depending on the local circumstances. The communities involved in this type of fishery, consist to a great extent of fishers with low incomes and limited other livelihood options, and the fishery contributes significantly to local food and nutrition security. Although the use of FADs increases the probability of catching fish and consequently the overall catches, increases the savings on fuel costs and reduces the search time when compared with other methods of targeting offshore pelagic species it has become evident that there is need to implement FAD management measures at the onset if the resources on which the fishery depends is to be sustained in the long term.

At the Fourteenth Session of WECAFC, convened in Panama City, Panama from 06 to 09 February 2012, the Commission agreed to *continue all Working Groups (Spiny Lobster, Flying Fish, FADs, Queen Conch, Nassau Grouper/Spawning Aggregations) as joint working groups of WECAFC with partner organizations. It was considered that a leading role could be played by these partners as well.* The Terms of Reference for the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles was articulated at that time. The Sixth Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in Corpus Christi, Texas on 03 November 2013, discussed the TORs of the various Working Groups and made recommendations for their improvement and harmonization.

Subsequently, the CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management was convened in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines from 9 to 11 December 2013. In light of the overlapping aims of the MAGDELESA project and its termination at the end of October / November, 2013, the joint workshop provided an opportunity to transfer knowledge and experiences, consolidate linkages among existing networks for FAD fishery management and also to discuss the future of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group. The Workshop proposed that the current IFREMER / WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored FAD Fishing in the Lesser Antilles be transformed into a joint Working Group on FADs with the possible participation of JICA, IFREMER, CRFM and WECAFC. The joint Working Group would consist of one participant from all Caribbean countries with FAD fisheries, IFREMER, WECAFC and JICA / CARIFICO. The Dominica Fisheries Division was recommended to serve as convener for this working group with support from the CRFM Secretariat. The Workshop also agreed that the Terms of Reference of the new Joint Working Group be made consistent with recommendations of the meeting.

This Terms of Reference for the new Joint Working Group on FADs gives consideration to the SAG recommendations and the recommendations of the CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management, while giving due cognisance for maintaining transparency and accountability in the operations of the Working Group.

## **2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

### ***2.1 Scope***

The scope of the ad hoc working group is the development and management of moored FAD fishing in the [WECAFC Area 31], in a manner that is consistent with the long-term sustainability of associated pelagic fish resources and through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. The working group will take a multidisciplinary and participatory approach to the sustainable development of moored FAD fishing for pelagics and will contribute to the fulfillment of national and regional management responsibilities for shared pelagic fish stock management under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in particular Article 8.11: “Artificial reef and fish aggregation devices” as well as related management recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

### ***2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2016 to 2018***

- a. To consider data on FAD fisheries in analyses of pelagic fish resources;
- b. To monitor progress in the JICA-CARIFICO Project and provide technical advice and guidance;
- c. To collaborate with IFREMER on research of key pelagic species associated with FAD fisheries;
- d. To develop manuals on best practices in the fisheries using FADs. The manuals are to address issues of safety in the construction and deployment of FADs, user conflicts associated with activities around FADs and improvements in FAD technology.

### ***2.3 Mode of Operation***

#### **2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group**

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in fisheries which utilize FADs.

#### **2.3.2 Election of Chair of the Working Group**

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve over the two-year period.

#### **2.3.3 Role of Member States of WECAFC [Countries]**

- a. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for improving the quality of catch and effort data on the fisheries using FADs, including historical time series data;
- b. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for collecting socio-economic data on fisheries using FADs;
- c. To implement inter-sessional activities, agreed upon by the Working Group, at the national level;
- d. To maintain active discussion on assessment and management issues, share data and information, and monitor implementation of inter-sessional activities of the Working Group using available ICT tools or other cost-effective methods;
- e. To facilitate expert participation by their designated representatives at meetings of the Working Group.

#### **2.3.4 Role of WECAFC Secretariat**

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;

- b. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the regional level.

#### 2.3.5 Role of JICA-CARIFICO

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;

#### 2.3.6 Role of IFREMER

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;

#### 2.3.7 Role of the CRFM Secretariat

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

#### 2.3.8 Role of the convener

- a. To convene meetings of the Working Group;

#### 2.3.9 Communication

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the intersessional periods, so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

#### 2.3.10 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Such meeting arrangements should be cost-effective. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group. Regional organizations and experts may be invited to participate in the meetings as required.

### **3. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Member States at the level of CRFM and WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

---

## CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean

Conveners: CRFM/WECAFC

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE<sup>4</sup>

The four-wing flyingfish supports important small-scale fisheries in the region in terms of employment generation, food security and supply of bait for fisheries targeting large pelagic fish species. Like other small-scale fishers in the Caribbean, fishers involved in flyingfish fisheries often belong to the lower socio-economic strata of society.

Unlike many other commercial species in the region the flyingfish, and in particular the four-wing flyingfish, *Hirudichthys affinis*, which comprises the majority of the flyingfish catch, has been extensively studied. There is a rich information-base on its stock delineation, distribution and biology. Less has been documented however, on the socio-economic, bio-economic and, ecological aspects of the fishery and resource, including the impacts on the population and risks associated with climate change, extreme weather events, and other aspects of global environmental change.

#### 2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

##### 2.1 Scope

The scope of the Working Group is to facilitate the achievement of management objectives as outlined in the respective sub-regional management plan for flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary, ecosystem and participatory approaches to fisheries management. These management objectives are: a) sustained flyingfish resources (biological objective), b) optimal use of the flyingfish resource for long-term benefit (socio- economic objective) and c) sustained ecosystem health (ecological objective)..

##### 2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2016 to 2018

(this will be completed later)

##### 2.3 Mode of Operation

###### 2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in the flyingfish fishery. Membership may also include representatives of key flyingfish stakeholders of Member States as well as relevant regional organizations and experts.

###### 2.3.2 Election of Chair of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve over the two-year period.

---

<sup>4</sup> Information taken from the 2012 Draft Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean which should be consulted for the references to information sources.

### 2.3.3 Role of Member States and other Collaborating Countries

- a. To develop or update national fisheries management plans, based on the agreed Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. To implement national fisheries management plans;
- c. To monitor and evaluate implementation of the FMP at the national level;
- d. To report annually to the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on the progress made in implementation of national FMPs;
- e. To improve the coverage and quality of data nationally to facilitate assessment of the fishery and associated stock as well as monitoring and evaluation of the FMP at the regional level; and
- f. To support the national level implementation of activities outlined under the CLME + (Implementation of Strategic Action Programme) that are aligned with the specific Terms of Reference.

### 2.3.4 Role of the CRFM Secretariat

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To continue efforts to formalize the relationship between France and the CRFM to facilitate involvement of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the management process;
- e. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified;
- f. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners; and
- g. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

### 2.3.5 Role of WECAFC Secretariat

- a. To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among CRFM and Non-CRFM Members, at the wider regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified; and
- e. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
- f. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

### 2.3.6 Communication

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the inter-sessional periods so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/ Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools, such as the CRFM DGroup and GoToMeeting, should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

### 2.3.7 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group.

### **3. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Member States at the level of CRFM and WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **CFMC /WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations**

Convener: TBD

The working group will carry out the following tasks:

- Compile and analyze data on spawning aggregations in the member countries and monitor any changes.
- Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance in the monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for management for protection and conservation of spawning aggregations.
- Provide advice on the management and implementation of regional strategies and regulations to protect spawning aggregations.
- Report to the appropriate institutions at each session.

In the period 2016–2018 the Working Group will specifically work on:

- a) Update and publish a spawning aggregations monitoring manual for the WECAFC members.
- b) Follow up on the recommendation WECAFC/15/2014/1 on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers.
- c) Establish an outreach and communication campaign on the closed areas and regionally agreed closed season.
- d) Support the development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of fish species that aggregate to spawn (targeting groupers and snappers), in accordance with the best available scientific evidence to be presented to the 17th session of WECAFC in 2018 for review, consideration and regional adoption.

---

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)

#### 1. Preamble

Recognising:

- That illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is any fishing which undermines or disregards national, regional or international fisheries conservation and management arrangements and measures;
- That high demand for fish, the economic benefits derived from IUU fishing and the inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems in the WECAFC Region have made Caribbean States particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing;
- That IUU fishing is practiced by both domestic and foreign vessels;
- The responsibilities of States to manage fisheries in which their nationals are engaged and/or benefit;
- The interest of States in providing for the long term development of sustainable marine resources;
- The range and extent of fishing activities within and across coastal waters and the high seas;
- The impacts of fishing on non-target species and the wider marine environment;
- The costs of ensuring compliance by foreign and domestic vessels with fisheries management and conservation measures;
- The benefits of coordination and cooperation in fisheries-related monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS);
- The advantages of collecting and sharing MCS information; and
- The requirements of CRFM States to implement fisheries-related MCS measures pursuant to national, regional and international law, including:
  - Article 8.1.4 and other provisions related to MCS from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- The principles and rules of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the 1982 UN Convention); the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 1995 (UN

Fish Stocks Agreement); and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 1993 (FAO Compliance Agreement); and

- Article 24 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing; and
- Article 6 (viii) of the Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, where States agree to establish a Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RWG-IUU) to regularly consult on methodologies and approaches in relation to deterring, eliminating IUU fishing.

The WECAFC member States indicate their intention to create a Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU) with the view to define and drive national programs to collect information on foreign fishing vessel incursions into the Region's EEZ, and to propose options and courses of practical action that coastal States can (and should) take to engage pro-actively with relevant RFMOs and suspected (or proven flag States) to address and mitigate these forms of incursions as well as measures to monitor, control and survey their own vessels fishing in the waters of other coastal States, in waters under the auspices of an RFMO and the high seas.

## **2. Objective**

2.1 The objective of the RWG-IUU is to improve coordination and cooperation between national organizations/institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

## **3. Organization**

3.1 The RWG-IUU will comprise one member from a national organizations responsible for MCS nominated by each participating country, one member of key partner organizations (OECS, CNFO, CRFM).

3.2 Persons or organizations with expertise in matters pertaining to MCS and IUU fishing may be invited to participate as an observer in the deliberations of the RWG-IUU.

3.3. The WECAFC Secretariat will act as secretary to the RWG-IUU.

## **4. Functions**

The RWG-IUU shall:

- As a matter of priority, seek to identify and recommend cost effective measures that can be easily implemented in the short to medium term to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.
- Review and assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region. In particular, the specific areas and species that are targeted by illegal fishing, domestic and/or foreign, and the main market for these IUU products;
- Review current methods and arrangements for timely collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data and information relating to DWFN poaching activities;

- 
- Assess the viability of adopting modern technologies and methodologies to increase data capture, coverage and reliability;
  - Develop recommendations for the establishment of formal protocol to facilitate transmittal of information regarding IUU fishing from coastal and/or market States to the flag State.
  - Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the methods by which IUU products are harvested, handled and traded including potential loopholes in legal systems and make recommendations for cost effective strategies and mechanisms to address identified deficiencies;
  - Review and assess best international/regional/national practices employed to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and determine the suitability for adoption and implementation in the WECAFC region;
  - Review and assess systems and mechanisms used by WECAFC Member States to address IUU fishing and make such recommendations as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness;
  - Provide advice and recommendations on viable methodologies to engage with flag States, regional fishery bodies and regional fishery management organizations in relation to data exchanges, in pursuit of reducing IUU fishing opportunities within the CRFM Region;
  - Recommend mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation and coordination among WECAFC Member States and entities as may be necessary in regard to sharing of data and information;
  - Promote the concept of collaborative policing approaches, with national fishers, and, where possible, through fisher organizations;
  - Seek complementary funding to support activities relating to data capture, analysis and sharing at the regional, national and local levels;
  - Promote technical assistance, training, experience exchange, and institutional development, to increase MCS knowledge and capability amongst participating parties; and
  - Perform other tasks as may be determined by the member states.
  - Develop plan to coordinated MCS actions in the WECAFC area by using as a model the regional fisheries surveillance plan of the southwest Indian Ocean. Such a plan would work to reduce the number of vessels fishing illegally in the region by at sea and aerial surveillance operations; by using satellite and oceanographic data to plan surveillance operations; by using surveillance infrastructures; by reinforcing national FMCs and improving the regional exchange of information and collaboration; by training inspectors and observers.

## **5. Meetings**

The RWG-IUU shall meet at least once every two years. However, the RWG may meet electronically and on an opportunistic basis afforded by the presence of members at other regional workshops or meetings as considered necessary. The deliberations and recommendations of the RWG shall be in writing.

**6. RWG-IUU Costs**

The cost of participation in meetings of the RWG-IUU will be met by the WECAFC Members. Additional resources may be mobilized with support from the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats.

---

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

#### 1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

##### 1.1 Scope

The scope of the working group is the management and conservation of sharks in the Wider Caribbean Region. This includes the development of national and regional plans of action in order to regulate target and bycatch fisheries, as well as manage existing populations within the region.

##### 1.2 The goal of the Working Group

The objective of the Working Group is to provide a basis for the conservation and sustainable management of shark populations in WECAFC member countries. In pursuing this goal, the Working Group will be fulfilling the national and regional responsibilities for the conservation and management of sharks as specified by FAO IPOA-Sharks, CITES 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties and WECAFC 15.

##### 1.3 Terms of Reference (TOR)

Many species of sharks and rays are present within the WECAFC region. There is currently minimal information regarding their stocks and very little has been done to protect and manage shark and ray populations. This Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will provide a platform for the development of regulations and facilitate the sustainable management of sharks and rays in the Wider Caribbean region. The actions of the Working Group will be guided by the guidelines laid out in the FAO IPOA-Sharks. Sharks are a transboundary resource and as such, the TORs may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate.

Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (a) Share available data and information on shark and ray stocks within the Wider Caribbean Region;
- (b) Develop National POAs for Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados;
- (c) Develop a Regional POA in accordance with the responsibilities agreed to in FAO IPOA-Sharks;
- (d) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of shark and ray populations, which involve the private sector formally in data collection;
- (e) Compile and analyze data and information about the social and economic importance of shark fisheries;
- (f) Focus a particular effort to monitor and protect the shark and ray species protected under current CITES regulations;
- (g) Provide management advice on the implementation and performance of national and regional management regulations to countries and regional organizations;
- (h) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated;
- (i) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector;
- (j) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues regarding sharks and rays;
- (k) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

The TOR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC

## **1.4 Mode of Operation**

### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

### *1.4.2 Roles of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat*

To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;

- To assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
- To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

### *1.4.3 Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, CRFM)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

### *1.4.4 Election of Convener of the Working Group*

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener will be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on sharks and rays, including their biology, ecology and methods for study of their populations, regional shark fisheries, the evaluation of stock vulnerability, current regulation and legal framework surrounding shark capture. The convener should also contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this Working Group.

## **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national node or focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group

reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

#### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

The working group should meet physically once a year or at a minimum, once every two years. The meetings should be of two to four days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group.