



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Guadeloupe, 20-24 June 2016

Summary report of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC

1. The seventh session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was held in Panama City, Panama on 7-8 November 2015. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) hosted the session at the venue of its sixty-eight annual conference. The SAG discussed the outcomes of the work carried out by various joint working groups in 2014–2015 and their recommendations to WECAFC 16, the fisheries resource status in the Wider Caribbean Region, and activities to be undertaken by WECAFC in 2016–2017. The SAG further got updated on WECAFC collaboration with the Fisheries Resource Management System (FIRMS), and collaboration on fisheries research in the region.
2. The complete SAG report is made available as WECAFC/XVI/2016/Ref.3 and is published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1138.
3. The list of SAG recommendations for the attention of the Commission is included below.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION

The SAG recommends that the Commission:

- Endorses the recommendations from the working groups and resolutions from the regional workshops that have been thoroughly reviewed by the experts.
- Maintains all ten working groups and provides clear guidance on the expected advice to be received from them.
- Endorses the updated terms of reference of the ten working groups.
- Approves the programme of work 2016-2017.
- Considers entering into an agreement with ICCAT to improve assessment and management of large pelagic species, as well as data and information sharing.

- Increases efforts on improving data and information collection, analysis and sharing in the Region.
- Takes note of the emerging issues identified and advises on actions to be taken.
- Urges members to ensure participation in upcoming meetings of COFI.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION

4. The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the report of the Seventh SAG session and provide guidance with regard to issues discussed during the session.