



## Central American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Improvement of Fisheries Data and Information Collection Systems<sup>1</sup>

*San Salvador, El Salvador 23 –26 January 2005*

### PROSPECTUS

#### Background and Rationale

Knowledge of the status and trends of capture fisheries, including socio-economic aspects, is crucial to sound policy-development and responsible fisheries management. It is necessary at the national level for informed decision-making linked to food security planning and securing other key socio-economic benefits provided by the fisheries sector.

Concerned with persistent deficiencies of fisheries data and information collection systems worldwide, FAO introduced the *Strategy for improving information on status and trends of capture fisheries* (Strategy-STF),<sup>2</sup> which sets out guiding principles and a practical framework for action.

FAO formulated the FishCode-STF Project as a major vehicle to give effect to the Strategy. The Project, operates under the FAO Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries Programme (FishCode). This workshop is one of a series of regional initiatives being organised with the support of the FishCode-STF Project.

#### Objectives

The overall objective of the Workshop is to facilitate the effective generation and use of fisheries statistics and information as a foundation of policy-development and responsible fisheries management within the Central American and Caribbean region.

#### Scope

The workshop addresses the data and information collection systems for capture fisheries in marine waters, including industrial, commercial, subsistence/small-scale Fisheries. Special point of attention will be coral reef fisheries.

<sup>1</sup> Sponsored by the FAO FishCode-STF Project in cooperation with OSPESCA, SICA and WECAFC.

<sup>2</sup> Strategy for improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries, Rome 2003. 34 p

## **Outcomes**

The workshop is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- 1) Regional synthesis and comparative analysis of covering major aspects of fisheries data and information systems in the Central American and Caribbean region;
- 2) Recommendations on future directions and immediate follow-up actions, including those related to information needs, areas for improvement, and needs for capacity building within the region.
- 3) Recommendations for pilot activities to test new monitoring systems within the region.

Workshop outcomes will provide a basis for organizing further capacity building activities under the second phase of the FishCode-STF Project, which is planned to commence in 2007.

## **Participation**

Proposed participating countries include: Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.