



STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION
ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF CAPTURE
FISHERIES



Central American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Improvement of Fisheries Data and Information Collection Systems¹

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),² 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.

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

² 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.