

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-28 March 2014

Draft Strategic Plan 2014–2020

1. INTRODUCTION – WECAFC a Regional Fishery Body established under FAO

The FAO Constitution provides that the Organization shall collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. The term "agriculture" in the FAO Constitution includes fisheries, aquaculture and marine products.

The Constitution further provides that the Organization shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to *inter alia*: scientific, technological, social and economic research related to food, nutrition and agriculture, and; the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production.

Under Article VI of the FAO Constitution, the FAO Conference or Council may establish commissions, to advise on the formulation and implementation of policy and to coordinate the implementation of policy. This procedure has been used to set up a number of commissions (by region and/or subject matter) within the Organization. Their functions are generally to recommend policy, to take measures, to advise Members on policy formulation and implementation, to facilitate exchange of information, and to recommend lines of inquiry and research. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was established in 1973 by Resolution 4/61 of the FAO Council under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution. Its statutes were amended by the FAO Council at its Seventy-fourth Session in December 1978 and by the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the FAO Council in November 2006. Apart from WECAFC there are currently 5 other Regional Fishery Bodies operating under Article VI of the Constitution.

WECAFC has since 1973 undergone many changes. The Commission has seen very active periods and periods of low interest by the members and FAO. A major impetus to the importance of WECAFC and other regional fisheries bodies was given by the Twenty Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 1997. The Committee strongly endorsed the need for effective regional fishery organizations and arrangements in the framework of the Code of Conduct if fish stocks were to be managed in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The Committee agreed that FAO regional fishery bodies should be reviewed and evaluated in depth by their members on a case by case basis, taking full account of regional and membership differences, in determining what measures might be taken to facilitate the strengthening of each body as appropriate. The Committee agreed that the following actions should be taken to strengthen the FAO fishery bodies, bearing in mind the financial and resource implications involved:

- FAO regional fishery bodies should initiate action to make themselves more effective. This may involve reducing the area of competence of some of these bodies and sub-regionalizing relevant subsidiary bodies as well as promoting bilateral and trilateral arrangements for the conservation and management of fisheries resources, by providing technical/scientific support to the development of such arrangements within the limits of available means.
- Within means available, FAO should also be ready to provide existing non-FAO fishery bodies with technical/scientific support in areas such as research, fishery analysis, and elaboration of management advice.
- Where both FAO and non-FAO fishery bodies exist in a region, FAO should make all efforts to examine the situation with the view to promoting further cooperation and reducing duplication.

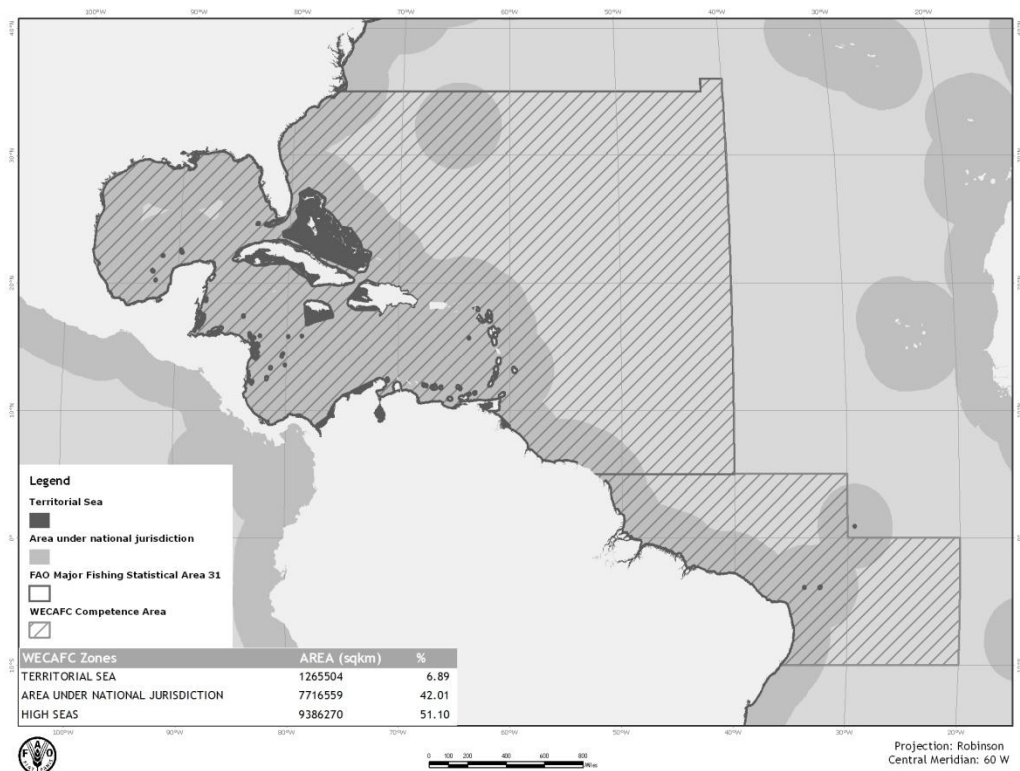
Over the last two decades WECAFC has implemented, supported and encouraged the above actions in its mandate area.

At the 31st session of COFI (June 2014), a review and analysis of the FAO Article VI and XIV Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) will again be undertaken, which may result in additional recommendations to member states and FAO.

2. THE WECAFC AREA

The WECAFC area of competence includes all marine waters of the Western Central Atlantic. The Statutes¹ provide for the exact coordinates. The main area of competence is Area 31, but the commission is also mandated to work in the northern part of Area 41. For comparison, the size of the area of competence of WECAFC is larger than the land area of the USA and Brazil combined.

¹ Statutes of WECAFC are available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/wecafc/statutes.pdf>



The area of competence of WECAFC has not been a topic of discussion in any of the WECAFC sessions over the last decades. It has however been emphasized in various sessions that the WECAFC Secretariat and its members coordinate their efforts to avoid overlap and duplication and to ensure compatibility with the work of other (sub)-regional fishery bodies active in the WECAFC mandate area, such as CRFM, OLDESPESCA, OSPESCA, CFMC and ICCAT.

3. THE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS OF WECAFC

The objectives, principles and functions of WECAFC are outlined in its statutes.

1. General Objective of the Commission

Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States, the Commission shall promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by Members of the Commission.

2. General Principles

- a) The Commission shall have due regard for and promote the application of the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
- b) The Commission shall ensure adequate attention to small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries.
- c) The Commission shall coordinate and cooperate closely with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest.

3. Functions of the Commission

The Commission shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) to contribute to improved governance through institutional arrangements that encourage cooperation amongst members;
- b) to assist its members in implementing relevant international fisheries instruments, in particular the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related International Plans of Action;
- c) to help fishery managers in the development and implementation of fishery management systems that take due account of environmental, social, economic and cultural concerns;
- d) to keep under ongoing review the state of the fishery resources in the area and the related industries and promote the interchange of related information;
- e) to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, organize or undertake research related to the living marine resources in the area of competence of the Commission, including on the interactions between fisheries and the ecosystem, and design programmes required for this purpose;
- f) to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake the collection, exchange and dissemination of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information as well as its analysis or study;
- g) to provide the necessary support and advice to enable Members to ensure that fishery management decisions are based on the best available scientific evidence;
- h) to provide advice on management measures to member governments and competent fisheries organizations;
- i) to provide advice on monitoring, control and surveillance, and to promote cooperation on these matters, including joint activities, especially as regards issues of a regional or subregional nature;
- j) to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, strengthen the development of institutional capacity and human resources, particularly through education, training and extension activities in the areas of competence of the Commission;
- k) to promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear, fishing techniques and post harvesting technologies in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- l) to facilitate trade in fish and fish products by promoting the implementation of internationally accepted sanitary and phytosanitary standards;
- m) to promote and facilitate harmonizing of relevant national laws and regulations, and compatibility of conservation and management measures;
- n) to assist its Members in and facilitate, as appropriate and upon their request, the conservation, management and development of transboundary and straddling stocks under their respective national jurisdictions;
- o) to assist, as appropriate, its Members in preventing and, upon request of the interested Parties, resolving fisheries disputes;
- p) to promote liaison between its members and all competent institutions within the area served by the Commission and adjacent waters;
- q) to seek funds and other resources to ensure the long-term operations of the Commission and establish, as appropriate, a trust fund for voluntary contributions to this end;
- r) to serve as a conduit of independent funding to its members for initiatives related to conservation, management and development of the living resources in the area of competence of the Commission;
- s) to draw up its plan of work;
- t) to carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Commission to achieve its objectives, as defined above.

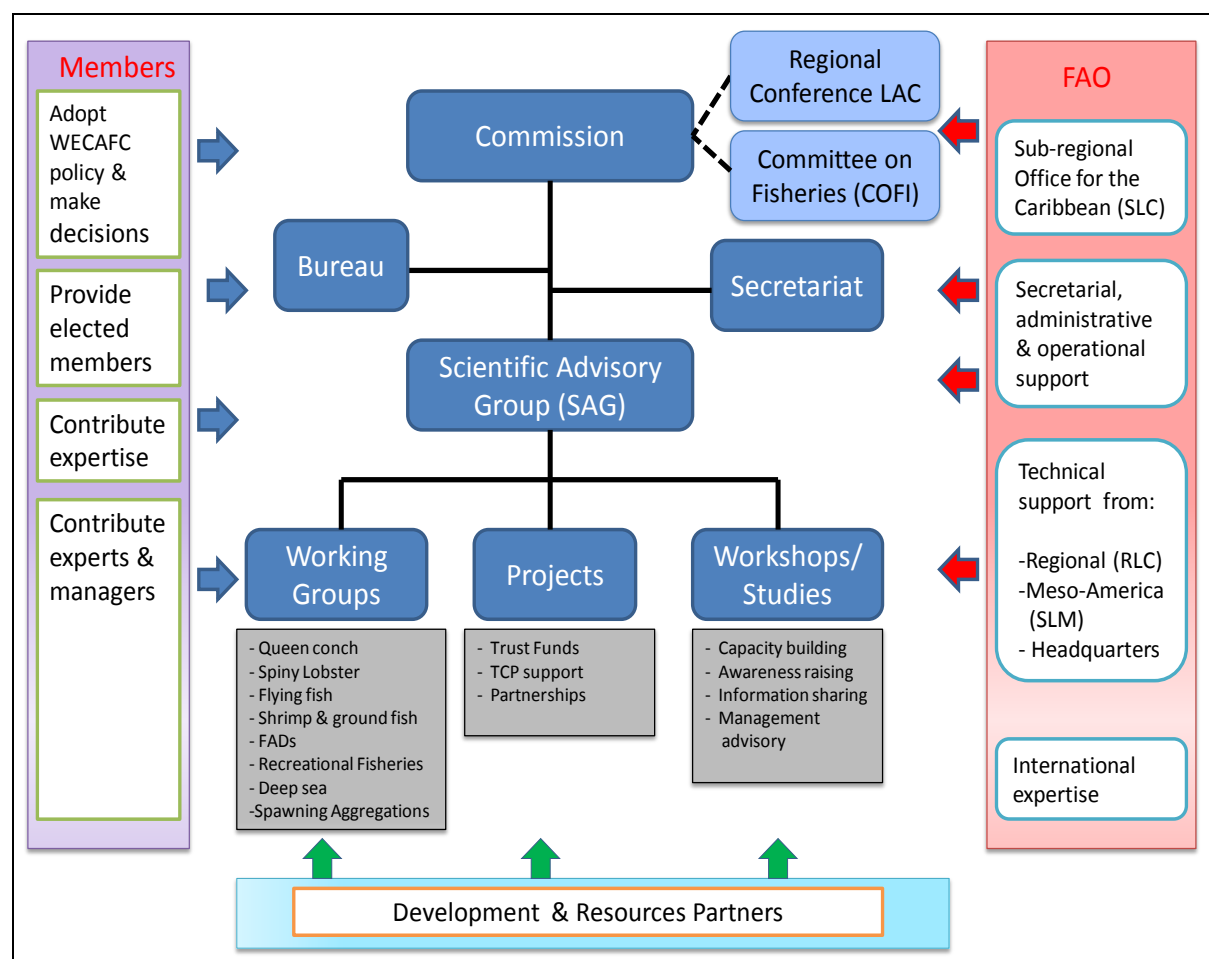
The objectives, principles and functions of WECAFC are broad and enable the Commission to provide advice on the conservation, management and development of fisheries as well as on the sustainable use of the marine and aquatic resources in the widest sense².

These functions, adopted in the revised WECAFC statutes of 2006, have not been topic of discussion at the last two WECAFC sessions. Members felt that the current objective and list of functions allows the Commission to deal with any of the emerging issues of common interest, such as climate change adaptation, lionfish invasion, shark conservation and management, etc. Therefore the Commission adopts the above objective, principles and functions also for this Strategic plan 2014-2020.

4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

The institutional structure of the Commission has been relatively stable over the last decades. The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) was established by the 9th session of WECAFC in 1999. The Bureau was established in the (revised) Rules of Procedure of 2008 and got a greater role assigned at the 14th session of the Commission in 2012. Working Groups have changed over-time along with the priorities of the members.

The current structure of the Commission is as follows:



² Aquaculture has implicitly been covered under the term Fisheries in the work of the Commission.

5. THE WECAFC SECRETARIAT

The WECAFC Secretariat is hosted by the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean (SLC) in Barbados. At present the Secretariat is composed of the Secretary, the SLC Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, who receives administrative and operational support from other SLC staff, and technical secretaries provided by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in FAO Headquarters and the FAO Subregional office for Meso-America (SLM).

The functions and responsibilities of the Secretary are outlined in the revised procedures accepted by the 14th session in 2012. The Secretary is responsible, inter alia, for the receipt, collation and circulation of documents, reports and resolutions of the sessions of the Commission, SAG and Working Groups.

The Secretariat also provides technical support to the workshops and meetings convened by WECAFC and acts in a liaison function with FAO headquarters-based fisheries professionals. In this manner, technical support from FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department can be accessed in support of the Commissions activities.

The Secretariat officers also have regular functions as FAO technical officers, which means that their work for WECAFC is integrated into the work of FAO in the Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC). Additional regular programme staffing support is not available, however the commission has considered a variety of possible arrangements, including secondments from member countries or donor supported positions as part of assistance to the activities of the Commission.

6. THE WECAFC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The 30th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (July 2012) requested FAO to initiate performance reviews for all RFBs under its auspices. Moreover, at the 14th session of WECAFC (February 2012) the members requested a strategic re-orientation, which would require a thorough review of the performance of the Commission.

In the period November – December 2013 FAO conducted an on-line survey. The results of this survey were discussed at the WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop, Guadeloupe, 29-30 January 2014 and are presented in WECAFC/XV/2014/11.

7. THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The on-line survey, applied for the Performance Review, provided the basis for the current Strategic Planning process. This process also recognizes the outcomes of the 2008 -2009 study on the WECAFC historical overview, impacts and lessons learned. The regionally endorsed Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean and north Brazil shelf large marine ecosystems (CLME+ SAP), which assigns an important regional fishery management and advisory role to WECAFC, also provides an important input to this Strategic Plan. Moreover, the planning process embraces the important ongoing collaboration with other sub-regional fishery bodies, fisherfolk organizations, NGOs, research institutions, development banks and projects. The process also takes into consideration the FAO Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 and the Strategic Objectives of the Organization.

The five Strategic Objectives of FAO are:

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.
3. Reduce rural poverty.
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

The work of the WECAFC is largely integrated into Strategic Objective 2 above. The FAO Secretariat provision to WECAFC is considered part of the FAO Corporate Technical Activities, and as such the Commission maintains also in the future close linkages with the FAO framework.

It is recognized that the Strategic plan should address commonly shared sectoral priorities, as expressed by respondents in the on-line survey, as well as those of the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy (CCCFP), FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), the recommendations from FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and other important policy and strategy documents. Finally, it builds on the approved 2012-2013 Work Programme of WECAFC as was endorsed by the 14th session.

This draft strategic plan has been prepared by the WECAFC Secretariat in close cooperation with the WECAFC Bureau. It was discussed and amended at the WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop, held in Guadeloupe, 29-30 January 2014. This workshop was kindly hosted in Guadeloupe by the Government of France, with support from the European Union and FAO. Recommendations and guidance obtained at this workshop and comments received afterwards from the WECAFC members was incorporated. The final review and endorsement of this Strategic Plan will take place at the 15th session of WECAFC, scheduled to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-28 March 2014.

8. VISION, GOAL AND MISSION FOR THE PERIOD 2014–2020

Vision

Recognizing that a vision is generally made for the long-term, the vision of WECAFC is “to ensure long-term sustainable use of living marine resources and responsible development of aquaculture, taking account of the environmental, economic and social aspects of fisheries in the region in a balanced manner”.

Goal

A fisheries and aquaculture sector producing high quality food and products derived from living marine resources for the WECAFC member states, and providing social and economic benefits to communities, particularly in coastal areas, while operating responsibly and fairly, applying best-practices that are in line with the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

Mission

This Strategic Plan adopts the objective of the Commission as its mission for the period 2014–2020. The mission of WECAFC is thus “to promote the effective conservation, management and development and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and

address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by Members of the Commission”.

9. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Recognizing the above vision, goal, mission (section 8) and the objective, general principles and functions of the Commission (section 3), this Strategic Plan shall have the following guiding principles:

- 1) The members of the Commission shall have ownership of and responsibility for this Strategic Plan and the intersessional work programmes to be developed in support of its implementation.
- 2) The WECAFC Strategic Plan shall first and foremost reflect the common interests and priorities of all members to the Commission. Implementation arrangements will however strive to address unique problems of individual members as well as problems shared by a subset of the Commission’s membership, such as the member countries of CARICOM, SICA, EU and OECS.
- 3) The Strategic Plan and related work programmes shall be implemented [as much as possible] through technical cooperation in line with the principles of South-South Collaboration, Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Technical Cooperation among Countries in Transition (TCCT) advocated by FAO.
- 4) It shall be implemented by the Commission, which will operate it as a programme for exchanging, producing and disseminating special information and advice; linking policy-makers, managers, scientists and private sector fish producers, working in marine fisheries and/or aquaculture with the aim to achieve the objectives of the Commission;
- 5) The core resources (manpower, core funding and institutional participation) to operate the Strategic Plan and related work programmes will be provided by the members of the Commission;
- 6) The work programme shall consist of activities and projects that are implemented with the assistance of FAO and other donors and resource partners.
- 7) The development and implementation of specific projects and activities under the Strategic Plan shall be undertaken by the members with the assistance of the Secretariat and Bureau of the Commission.
- 8) The implementation of the Strategic Plan and programme and the activities under it shall be coordinated by the Secretariat and monitored and evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)/ Technical Advisory Committee [TAC] of the Commission.

10. FOCUS AREAS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan contains three technical focus areas and one programme coordination and management focus area. The technical focus areas largely follow the three General Principles of the Commission.

10.1 Technical Focus Areas

1. Improve regional fisheries governance

This Focus Area relates to WECAFC General Principle 1) Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.

Goal: Improved regional governance of the marine fisheries and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC.

Purpose: Strengthened policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote and support fisheries and aquaculture in line with the CCRF and related and other applicable international fisheries instruments in the WECAFC region.

2. Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries

This Focus Area relates to WECAFC General Principle 3) Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest.

Goal: Increased availability of essential information for fisheries management, through inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Wider Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.

Purpose: Strengthened information, research, technology development, management and capacity building frameworks and networks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

3. Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture

This Focus Area relates to WECAFC General Principle 2) Support the development and management of responsible fisheries and aquaculture sectors, ensuring adequate attention to small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries

Goal: Increased capacity of fisherfolk and aquaculturists to apply modern production technologies, better management practices and produce high quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption.

Purpose: Responsible development and management of fisheries and aquaculture, providing a sustainable contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to food security, employment and coastal livelihoods.

10.2 Management Focus Area

The fourth focus area of this Strategic Plan is of a functional nature and relates to the internal management and administration of WECAFC, as provided by FAO. This focus area provides the enabling environment for carrying out the technical work. It relates mainly to the mission of the WECAFC Secretariat, which is to provide support to the Commission in achieving its objective and carrying out its functions. In a situation with limited human resources, the functions and responsibilities of the Secretary are largely similar as those of the Secretariat as whole. The functions and responsibilities of the Secretary are laid out in the revised Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

4. Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission

Goals:

1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, Scientific Advisory Group/ Technical advisory Committee [TAC] and the Working Groups.

2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among Members and other stakeholders through effective dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

Purpose: Increased management and administrative capacity of the Secretariat of the Commission to address the pertinent needs of its members in the three technical focus areas and other specific gaps in regional fisheries management in a competent and effective manner.

11. PRIORITIES FOR WECAFC FOR THE PERIOD 2014 -2020

The WECAFC Secretariat and Bureau have prepared the following lists of priority activities, based on the outcomes from the process described above (in section 7) and the Focus areas (listed in section 10).

Focus area 1.Improve regional fisheries governance

WECAFC will assist its members to:

- Implement and monitor implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

- Plan for and build capacity for implementation of the “Resolution of the members of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments” adopted by the 14th session in 2012. This assistance will focus in particular on the following international fisheries instruments:
 - a. 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (FAO Compliance Agreement);
 - b. 1995 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 (UN Fish Stocks Agreement);
 - c. 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures Agreement);
 - d. 2003 FAO Technical Guidelines on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries;
 - e. 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas; and
 - i. 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards

- Take actions and measures to strengthen implementation of regional and international fisheries that have recently been endorsed, are under development or may be developed in the near future, including the following:
 - Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

- Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (SSF Guidelines).
 - Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance.
- Govern and manage fisheries in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) –the high seas- within the WECAFC mandate area (FAO area 31).
 - Develop a regional fisheries governance arrangement that will enable WECAFC to become more effective, transform into a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) (if necessary), issue resolutions and (non-) binding recommendations, support implementation of management and conservation measures and monitor implementation of measures agreed.
 - Strengthen the institutional capacity of the fisheries authorities (ministries, divisions, departments) to carry out their fisheries governance functions.
 - Strengthen national and regional fisheries policy and legal frameworks and harmonize fisheries policies and legislation among members.

Focus area 2. Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries

WECAFC will assist its members to:

- Assess the status of transboundary fisheries resources and straddling fish stocks of the main commercially targeted species in the WECAFC area.³
- Collect, exchange, analyze data and marine fisheries information in support of fisheries resources management decision making processes at national and regional level.
- Monitor the status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture in the WECAFC area.
- 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.
- Increase attention to marine biodiversity in the region, including bioprospection of marine resources.
- Through provision of a forum for exchange of scientific information on fisheries, to:
 - Strengthen inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Wider Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.
 - Exchange information and establish partnerships between stakeholders from the fisheries and environment sectors, as well as with trade and tourism sectors.

³ In this respect, specific emphasis was requested by members on monitoring the queen conch stock status and work on the development of a regional management plan for queen conch.

Focus area 3. Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture

WECAFC will assist its members to:

- Maintain and organize (joint) regional Working Groups that address specific fisheries management and conservation needs that are common to large parts of the membership. These Working Groups can be species or fisheries specific. Current Working Groups that should be maintained for the near future include:
 - OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster;
 - WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries;
 - CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Queen Conch Working Group;
 - JICA/IFREMER/CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles;
 - CRFM/WECAFC Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group;
 - WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries, and
 - CFMC/WECAFC Spawning Aggregations Working Group.

- Prepare, plan for and support implementation of regional management and conservation plans for key commercial fisheries resources, such as:
 - Queen Conch
 - Spiny Lobster
 - Billfishes
 - Groupers
 - Shrimps
 - Flying fish
 - Other species, such as sea cucumbers, lionfish and sharks

- Establish regional approaches and schemes for cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fisheries activities, including the introduction of a regional fishing vessel register linked to FAO's Global Record of Fishing Vessels Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record).

- Develop regional plans of action (RPOAs) -for fishing capacity, IUU fishing, shark conservation and management, seabird, etc. – and support development and build capacity for national plans of action (NPOAs).

- Develop regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), regional guidelines and Codes of Practice for responsible aquaculture.

- Strengthen human capacity in fisheries administrations and fisherfolk organizations at national and regional levels to participate effectively in management planning and implementation of management plans.

Focus area 4. Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission.

The WECAFC Secretariat will assist the WECAFC members to:

- 1) Organize the sessions of the Commission and the Scientific Advisory Group [Technical Advisory Committee], including also the preparation of background documents and session reports.
- 2) Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops.

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- 3) Support communication and collaboration among Members and other stakeholders through effective dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.
 - 4) Coordinate and act as liaison for FAO fisheries and aquaculture activities in the region with other Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and relevant regional organizations, on a regular or ad hoc basis, including:
 - CRFM
 - OSPESCA
 - OLDEPESCA
 - ICCAT
 - RAA
 - CFMC
 - INFOPESCA
 - GCFI
 - CLME+
 - UNEP CEP
 - ACS/CSC
 - 5) Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects, as well as through management of a dedicated WECAFC Trust Fund, established to facilitate member and resource partner contributions to the work of the Commission.
 - 6) Establish partnerships and collaboration with international and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society as part of an effort to improve linkages and understanding of grass roots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and private sector investment in resource management, including but not limited to:
 - World bank
 - EU
 - IADB
 - CBD
 - CNFO
 - NOAA
 - USAID
 - IFREMER
 - JICA
 - PetroCaribe
 - UWI –CERMES
 - IGFA
 - TBF
 - TNC
 - MSC
 - WWF
 - CI
 - CANARI
 - 7) Communicate results, decisions and outcomes of WECAFC sessions and activities through official channels of communication, press messages and other means to increase visibility and awareness on the work of the Commission.
 - 8) Establish and manage the WECAFC website, a portal for those interested in accessing information on-line and for disseminating information related to the work of WECAFC, FAO and its members in the region.
 - 9) Review, propose amendments to and develop, as necessary, the WECAFC Statutes, Structure and Rules of Procedure of WECAFC, partnerships with other agencies, in support of greater effectiveness and increased impact of WECAFC.