

March 2014

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)

FIFTEENTH SESSION

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

Draft Working Group Terms of References (2014 -2015)

1. This document provides the draft Terms of References for the WECAFC joint working Groups for the period 2014 -2015. This document should be read in conjunction with working document WECAFC/XV/2014/4 (intersessional activities), working document WECAFC/XV/2014/14 (Draft programme of Work) and reference documents 3 (SAG report), 6 (Queen Conch) and 8 (Spawning Aggregations).

2. It should be noted that CRFM and OSPESCA internal clearance processes for some of the draft TORs have yet to be completed and that therefore only preliminary agreement from these organizations on Terms of References of joint Working Groups can be expected. Nevertheless, there is willingness expressed to continue the various joint Working Groups that were approved by the fourteenth session.

3. The Working Groups proposed for the Fifteenth session (2014 -2015) are the following:

Proposed Working Group titles	TORs (page)
1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster	2
2. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC/IGFA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries	5
3. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch	6
4. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)	7
5. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	11
6. WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries	16
7. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations	17
8. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on shrimp and groundfish of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf	18
9. OSPESCA/WECAFC Working Group on Sharks	

4. The draft Terms of References, as prepared by the conveners, Working Group members and partners, for the Fifteenth session are the following:

WECAFC WORKING GROUPS
TERMS OF REFERENCE

OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster

Convener: John Jorgensen (FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica)

Terms of Reference

1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

1.1 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 principles¹.

1.2 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.

1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)

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.

¹ 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.

- (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) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- (h) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the spiny lobster field.
- (i) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC 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 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.

1.4.3 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.

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 five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities.

WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC/IGFA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries

Convener: Raymon van Anrooy (WECAFC)

Terms of Reference

The working group will aim to further implementation of the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the Wider Caribbean Region.

In particular, the working group will carry out the following tasks in the period 2014–2015:

- a) Test the agreed economic impact assessment manual to assess the impact of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- b) Carry out a baseline desk study on the status of billfish resources and the billfish fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic
- c) Carry out management and functional reviews of recreational fisheries legislation in selected Caribbean States, indentifying gaps and conflicting rules and regulations and institutional capacities, and making recommendations for improvements and updates
- d) Prepare a recreational fisheries data collection scheme, including information forms, for annual reporting by states to FAO (as is done for commercial catches, aquaculture, fisheries employment, fleets and import/export of fisheries products) for testing in the WECAFC region.
- e) Support the establishemnt of a Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in the Western Central Atlantic established, comprising relevant organizations (RFB/RFMOs, INGOs, CSOs and private sector representatives)
- f) Prepare a draft Billfish management and conservation plan for the Wider Caribbean Region for region wide endorsement by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2016.

The implementation of the tasks of 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.

CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch

Convener: Miguel A. Rolón (CFMC)

Terms of Reference

The working group will carry out the following tasks:

- Share already available data and information on queen conch.
- Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of queen conch stocks. Involve the private sector in data collection.
- Monitor changes in distribution of queen conch species in the Caribbean.
- Compile and analyze data on queen conch catch and effort and aquaculture production in the member countries and monitor changes.
- Compile information about the social and economic importance of queen conch fisheries.
- Provide management advice and advice on the implementation of regional management regulations on queen conch to countries and regional organizations.
- Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the queen conch field.
- Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.
- Define a precise profile of the experts to participate in the Working Group to ensure that the right experts participate.

In the period 2014–2015 the Working Group will specifically work on:

1. The improvement and standardization of trade data and statistics (through regionally agreed conversion factors in the absence of national conversion factors based on regionally agreed processing grades and terminologies) for Queen Conch and its derivatives such as pearls, shells and opercula.
2. The development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch, in accordance with the best available scientific evidence to be presented to the 16th session of WECAFC for final review and regional adoption.

CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

Joint Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) (Partners: WECAFC, JICA, IFREMER, CRFM, Dominica Fisheries Division)

Convener: Dominica Fisheries Division, 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 (SAG), 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 joint 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 fulfilment 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). The Working Group is to function in a technical and advisory capacity over the period April 2014 to March 2016.

2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2014 to 2016

- a. To consider data on FAD fisheries in analyses of pelagic fish resources;
- b. To collaborate with JICA on the CARIFICO Project, and to share the outputs with Member States;
- 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

The role of JICA will be effected under the auspices of the CARIFICO Project as follows:

- a. To assist with the procurement of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- b. To develop a FAD co-management approach, through pilot activities which facilitate registration, licensing, collection of catch and effort data, and also consensus building among fishers on fishing rules around FADs and FAD maintenance.

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 Dominica Fisheries Division

- 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 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 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 RATIONALE²

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.

Flyingfish fisheries are concentrated in the southern end of the Lesser Antilles chain. Barbados, Tobago, Martinique and Saint Lucia all have large flyingfish fisheries and to a lesser extent Dominica and Grenada. Barbados accounts for about two thirds of the regional catch. In 2009 the total annual recorded catch in Barbados was 2292 tonnes. There were about 167 ice boats, which account for more than 90% of the catch, and 242 registered day boats in 2007. Compared to other countries in the region, Barbados also adds more value to flyingfish catches through processing and sale to the tourism sector. The annual value of the flyingfish catch in Barbados alone is estimated at USD 15 million. The flyingfish fishery is the most important fishery in Barbados employing 2000 fishers, 500 vendors as well as 325 persons employed as de-boners or workers in fish processing plants.

Other countries in the area also have important flyingfish fisheries. In Trinidad and Tobago, the flyingfish fishery is located on the Caribbean Sea coast of the island of Tobago. The number of boats involved in the fishery between 1988 and 2008 averaged 50 boats per season while in Saint Lucia, 331 vessels were engaged in the flyingfish fishery in 2007. According to figures provided by the department of fisheries, the total flyingfish catch of Saint Lucia was 109.35 tonnes in 2010. The total annual catch of flyingfish in Martinique was 47.6 tonnes in 2009 and 64.6 mt in 2010. There are no targeted flyingfish fisheries in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In the case of Dominica there has been a shift from the flyingfish fishery to the large pelagic fishery within the last eight years due to the increased use of FADs. The annual flyingfish landings in Dominica were reported to be 54.22 tonnes in 2011.

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. Although the stock has been assessed in 2008, the capacity in terms of the maximum number of fishing vessels that should be allowed in the fishery without jeopardizing its long term sustainability has not yet been estimated.

Results of the 2008 stock assessment suggested that the stock of flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean is not experiencing overfishing, that catch rates have remained fairly stable even with increased overall catches, and it is unlikely that catches have ever exceeded MSY for this stock.

² 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.

The study identified an annual catch trigger reference point of 5,000 t at which further management action should be taken to ensure the stock does not become overfished, since development beyond this level would have unpredictable consequences. The maximum recorded annual catch to date is 4,700 t. A 2011 preliminary assessment explored the bio-economic dynamic impacts of managing the multi-fleet and multispecies flyingfish fishery and undertook risk analysis of alternative fishery management decisions. Results indicated that, among other things, under open access, harvest rates in the neighbourhood of 5000 ton /year could result in collapse of this pelagic fishery but that this could be averted with catch quotas, or effort controls to reduce exploitation rates by 30% to allow the resource to recover its natural fluctuations over time. The most significant uncertainty in the 2008 and 2011 assessments stem from the poor data available on catches and effort. Improved data collection and monitoring is required to ensure sustainable use of this and other fishery resources.

Under the CLME Project a Flyingfish Case Study was completed by the CRFM. The study included a bio-economic assessment of the fishery (mentioned above); a Multi-Criteria Analysis; a Stakeholder Analysis; a review of existing policies and legislation and establishment of a CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on flyingfish.

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 CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, among other joint regional Working Groups, was also agreed upon. Between March 2013 and February 2014 two joint meetings of the CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group and the CRFM-WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean were convened. The joint meetings focused on review of the Draft Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, initially drafted in 2002 by Dr Hazel Oxenford and updated in 2008 by Dr Paul Medley (WECAFC Consultants) under the previous WECAFC Ad-Hoc Working Group on Flyingfish, and subsequently updated again in 2012 by Dr Uwe Tietze (CRFM Consultant) under the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME Project). The joint meetings also gave direction in respect of national consultations to review the Draft Sub-Regional FMP and associated Draft Resolution of the respective CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee. As at February 2014, national consultations were convened in four CRFM Member States and the reports made available to the Working Group to continue its work.

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. This revised version of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean gives consideration to the SAG recommendations and supports the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (awaiting endorsement of Heads of Government), the Draft Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish (to be amended following Member State review and feedback and endorsed by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and CRFM Ministerial Council Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish) 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 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). The Working Group is to function in a technical and advisory capacity over the period April 2014 to March 2016.

2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2014 to 2016

- a. Finalize and implement the [2012] Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. Finalize and seek adoption by CRFM and WECAFC of a Management Resolution on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish based on the best available scientific information;
- c. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the [2012] Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- d. Provide advice on the status of the fishery and its management to the CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and to WECAFC;
- e. Consider options for integrating environmental variables in assessment of the status of the resource;
- f. Support the regional and national level implementation of activities outlined under the CLME + (Implementation of Strategic Action Programme) that are aligned with the above Terms of Reference; and
- g. [Take other necessary actions on emerging issues pertaining to the sustainable use of Eastern Caribbean flyingfish.]

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.

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.

WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries

Conveners: FAO/WECAFC

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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.

Objective: 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.

Tasks: 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:

- 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.
- Meet and analyse the data and information collected and make recommendations for the sustainability of the deep-sea fisheries in the WECAFC region.
- Identify priority areas for future work and international funding and support for the work identified.
- 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.
- Develop a Chapter on the Western Central Atlantic for the 2014/2015 FAO Worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas.
- Report to the Commission at its next session, its conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

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

Convener: Miguel Rolón (CFMC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 2014–2015 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 16th session of WECAFC in 2016 for review, consideration and regional adoption.

Terms of Reference for the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf

Convener: Fabian Blanchard (Ifremer, French Guyana)

2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

2.1 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 principles³ 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 advice 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 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)

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, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources.

Specifically, the working group will:

- (j) Share available data and information on Shrimp and groundfish resources.
- (k) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of Shrimp and groundfish stocks, possibly involving the private sector formally in data collection.
- (l) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
- (m) Compile and analyse catch, effort and individual size (when available) data on shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the sub-region and monitor and evaluate changes.

³ 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.

-
- (n) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
 - (o) Provide management advice and advice on the implementation and performance of sub-regional management regulations on shrimp and groundfish resources to countries and regional organizations.
 - (p) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
 - (q) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues regarding the shrimp and groundfish resources, such as environmental changes of local or global economic context.
 - (r) Establish links with the CRFM annual scientific meeting as appropriate, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and optimize use of technical and financial resources.
 - (s) Establish link with other sub-regional initiatives (ex. CLME+, ReByC II projects) for mutual benefits.
 - (t) 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.
 - (u) 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)

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 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, CRFM, UNEP 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 three to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities.

