

	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
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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

FIFTEENTH SESSION

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

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

1. The sixth session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was held in Corpus Christi, United States of America on 3 November 2013. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) hosted the session at the venue of its sixty-sixth annual conference. The SAG discussed the outcomes of the work carried out by various joint working groups (Queen Conch, Recreational Fisheries, Spawning aggregations, FADs and flying fish) in 2012–2013, the fisheries resource status in the Wider Caribbean Region, a review of the current fisheries management performance and conservation measures in the WECAFC Region, and activities to be undertaken by WECAFC in 2014–2015.
2. The SAG further discussed WECAFC collaboration with the Fisheries Resource Management System (FIRMS) and prepared a range of recommendations for consideration by the fifteenth session of WECAFC. These recommendations related, amongst others, to increasing efforts to develop and implement national plans of action for the conservation and management of sharks (NPOA-Sharks), increasing work on lionfish control and management, specific tasks to be undertaken by WECAFC Working Groups, and supporting implementation of the CLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
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:

- In view of the continuing need to combat IUU fishing, acknowledges the non-binding CRFM “Castries, St Lucia, (2010) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” and recommends the intended actions contained therein for region-wide, practical implementation.
- Takes note of the Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean, prepared by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and partners, and supports its implementation by the WECAFC membership.

- Takes note of the recent inclusion of various shark species under Appendix II of CITES, endorses the establishment of a joint Working Group on Sharks and urges WECAFC members to increase their efforts to develop and implement national plans of action for the conservation and management of sharks (NPOA-Sharks).
- Reviews the outcomes and recommendations of the report of the “Review of current fisheries management performance and conservation measures in the WECAFC Region”, and takes appropriate action to address the recommendations.
- Maintain the current Working Groups and formally endorses re-activation of the Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group, as a joint WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on shrimp and groundfish of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf.
- Endorses the Work Programme of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Queen Conch Working Group and provides the necessary follow-up to implement the CITES COP16 decision on Queen Conch in the region.
- Reviews and endorses the draft non-binding Recommendation, prepared by the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations, on the establishment of a regional closed season to protect spawning aggregations of specific species of groupers and snappers (starting with Nassau grouper and adding others as appropriate).
- Recognizes the importance of the ongoing work of the IFREMER/WECAFC FADs working Group, CRFM/WECAFC Flying Fish Working Group and the WECAFC/CFMC/CRFM/ OSPESCA Recreational Fisheries Working Group.
- Discontinues the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles.
- Recognizes the importance of the CLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which has been endorsed by most WECAFC members, and formally expresses its support to implementation of the SAP and the CLME+ project.
- Enters into a collaboration with the Fisheries Resource Management System (FIRMS) partnership, and reviews and endorses the WECAFC-FIRMS agreement.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION

4. The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the report of the Sixth SAG session and provide guidance with regard to issues discussed during the session.
5. The complete SAG report is made available as WECAFC/XV/2014/Ref.3 and is being published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1061.