



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**Prospectus and Provisional Agenda**  
**4th (Virtual) Meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish of the North Brazil-Guianas Shelf**

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18-19 November 2020

## **1. Background**

The Secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) are pleased to announce the Fourth Meeting of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the North Brazil- Guianas Shelf.

The current version of the working group met for the first time in September 2015 in response to the recommendation of the 15th Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission to reactivate the working group. During this first session of the reactivated Working Group held on the 7-8th of September 2015, members discussed the status of the shrimp and groundfish stocks, investment options for shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the sub-region and opportunities to harmonize fisheries management measures that would increase financial and environmental sustainability of the sector. Among others, recommendations were made to increase collaboration between the countries on stock assessments of the shrimp and groundfish resources, to build capacity to carry out the necessary analyses in support of fisheries management decision making, to develop a regional plan of action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as a sub-regional shrimp and groundfish fishery management plan for the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf countries.

During the first meeting participants also agreed to terms of reference for the working group., which were endorsed at the 16th Session of WECAFC, called upon WECAFC, CRFM and IFREMER to ensure regular meetings of the working group, given the crucial social and economic impact of these fisheries and called upon all partners and projects in the region to work together to implement the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

### **1.1.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 pays due attention to the Code of Conduct's Article 6.4 of the general principles and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

## **1.2. Goal**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the working group contributes to the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Brazil-Guianas shelf by providing management advice to Members of WECAFC 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 marine environment and 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 EAF and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

## **2. Previous Meetings of the Shrimp and Groundfish WG**

The Second Meeting of the WG was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, 17-18 May 2018. The participants reviewed and analyzed the current state of data collection and fisheries management for each country in the North Brazil Guianas Shelf. Also, an update was made on the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership and the outcomes of the 1st Meeting of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group that took place in Barbados, 14-16 May 2018. The assessment of data limited fisheries was presented as an approach to consider for the North Brazil Guianas Shelf shrimp and groundfish fisheries. Additionally, the status and necessary steps to develop a sub-regional EAF management plan for shrimp and groundfish were discussed, as well as the need to enhance capacity in stock assessment techniques in the sub-region.

The Third Meeting of the WG was held in Paramaribo, Suriname, 26-27 November 2019. An update on stock status of shrimp and groundfish species for each country in the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf was presented and showed decreasing trends in apparent abundance. The assessed stocks appeared to be fully exploited or overexploited. An update on genetic studies of shrimp populations in the region showed that no cryptic species were present and only the southern brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus subtilis*) was found in samples from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Regarding the Atlantic seabob (*Xiphopenaeus kroyeri*) a genetic analysis revealed a common population structure in samples obtained from French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname. Furthermore, an update was presented on the status of the WECAFC-FIRMS stocks and fisheries inventories and the related published and draft fact sheets. The need to complete draft records for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil-Guianas shelf was underlined. The member countries representatives also presented an update on the status and development of their national fisheries management plans, followed by a discussion about the status and necessary steps to develop a sub-regional EAF management plan for shrimp and groundfish. Additionally, advances in a gender analysis along the small-scale fisheries value chain in Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago was presented, as well as an update regarding progress with the development of the sub-regional Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Indicators to inform policy making on governance effectiveness.

Working Group participants reviewed and discussed the draft regional strategy for bycatch management in the WECAFC Area developed by the REBYC II LAC project. Finally, they also discussed the needs and priorities to combat IUU fishing in the Northern Brazil-Guianas-shelf.

### 3. Objectives of the Fourth Meeting

The purpose of the planned Working Group session is to continue enhancing collaboration and cooperation amongst Working Group partners to achieve Recommendations WECAFC/16/2016/5 and WECAFC/17/2019/11 on the management of shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the WECAFC area and achieve the Working Group’s long-term goal. These recommendations call, *inter alia*, for the development of a sub-regional EAF shrimp and groundfish strategy and management plan and the related national implementation plans. Additionally, outcomes of the Second (virtual) Meeting of the WECAFC Fisheries Data and Statistics (FDS) WG (12-16 October 2020) related to shrimp and groundfish resources and the North Brazil-Guianas shelf geographic area will be reviewed and discussed. In particular, the interim Data Collection Reference Framework (iDCRF) and data policy, as well as the species list and proposed geographical areas for the region will be discussed and reviewed. Finally, an update on the decision support system (DSS) for fisheries management in the WECAFC area will be presented, as well as the current status of FIRMS inventories and vessel mapping.

For this session, the main objectives of the meeting are:

- To present and review the final draft of the sub-regional fisheries strategy and management plan.
- To present an update on status of National fisheries management plans
- To provide feedback on outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> FDS WG meeting
- Present update on FIRMS inventories and vessel mapping
- Review Monitoring and Evaluation indicators for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem.

<b>Day 1: Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
08:30 - 08:40	Call to order Instructions on Zoom Platform	
8:40 – 8:50	Welcome addresses and opening of the workshop - FAO Representative - Fabian Blanchard – Working Group Convener	
08:50 - 09:05	Overview of workshop objectives and expected outputs - adoption of agenda	Fabian Blanchard
9:05 – 9:50	Presentation and discussion of final draft of sub-regional EAF strategy and management plan	Paul Fanning
09:50 – 10:05	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

10:05 - 11:20	<p>Current status and outlook of National Fisheries Management Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brazil</li> <li>- Guyana</li> <li>- Suriname</li> <li>- Trinidad and Tobago</li> </ul>	Country representatives
11:20 – 11:50	Status of monitoring and evaluation framework and indicators for shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil-Guianas shelf	Robin Mahon
11:50 - 12:20	Advances in study of working conditions in shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guianas-Brazil shelf	Gabrielle Lout
<b>Day 2: Thursday November 19th</b>		
8:30 – 8:45	Wrap up day 1	Fabian Blanchard
08:45 - 09:15	Update on FIRMS inventories	Aureliano Gentile
9:15 – 9:45	Review of iDCRF main species list and geographic sub-areas	Yann Laurent
9:45 – 10:15	Update on vessel mapping	Yann Laurent
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30 - 11:00	Review of iDCRF and data policy	Yann Laurent
11:00 – 11:30	Decision Support System/WECAFC	Yann Laurent Aureliano Gentile
11:30 - 11:45	Current status of follow-up project proposal to FAO CLME+ project shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the NBSLME	Jeremy Mendoza
11:45 – 12:15	Review and update of intersessional work plan	Fabian Blanchard
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Wrap up, conclusions and closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of Working Group recommendations to 18th Session of WECAFC</li> </ul>	Fabian Blanchard