



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**FCWC**  
Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea

# **AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

## **Twenty-Seventh Session**

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### **ENHANCING FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DATA TO SUPPORT THE MONITORING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SECTOR AND CONTRIBUTE TO SDGS – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN THE FCWC REGION**

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# FCWC -INTRODUCTION

**Mission:** to promote **cooperation** among Member-States and to ensure through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of living marine resources in the marine waters under jurisdiction of the Member States, and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such resources.



Source: FCWC secretariat

# Objectives

Primary regional  
forum on any  
Fisheries Matter

Harmonization of  
legislation,  
regulations

International  
cooperation with  
countries (near and  
distant)

Improvement of  
livelihoods

Strengthening MCS  
and enforcement

Development of  
research capabilities

**Standardization  
of data collected,  
shared, reported**

Cooperation in  
marketing and  
trade of fish and  
fish products

# Initiatives to enhance fisheries data

Key initiatives are:

- TCP/RAF/3512
- FIRMS – FCWC LoA
- TCP/RAF/3709

# Challenges

- Limited human and financial resources available for data collection especially in artisanal fisheries
- Weak capacity in fish stocks assessment/Limited knowledge on technical tools for fisheries data processing and analyses
- Weak capacity in fish identification, biological data collection and analysis and Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (CECAF) assessment tools
- Inadequate outreach and training in fisheries reporting requirements and fisheries statistics (Consistent FAO support in training Member State (MS) in STATLANT, NS1, FishStatJ needed, CWP etc.)

# TCP/RAF/3512

*Strengthening routine fisheries data collection in West Africa in collaboration with FCWC (2016 - 2018)*

## OUTPUTS

1. Development of appropriate and cost effective sample based surveys for artisanal fisheries
2. Development of national and regional fisheries information systems
3. Collaboration between FCWC and its Member States with the Fisheries and Resources System (FIRMS) is improved
4. Establishment of mechanisms for the exchange of information between FCWC and its Member States

# Achievements

## For Outputs 1 & 2

- ❖ Review/Improvement of data collection
- ❖ Fish catch data collection with mobile phones/ODK into OpenArtfish software
- ❖ Development of regional fisheries database (FMS)
- ❖ Capacity Building: Over 120 fisheries staff trained

## For Output 4

FCWC Convention on Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data in the area of FCWC

## For Output 3

An LOA signed between FCWC and FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)



# FCWC and FIRMS LoA

- *A one-year collaboration signed in November, 2019, to provide training on fisheries statistical data, and fisheries status data for the FCWC region and its Member States (15 Dec, 2019 to 24 Nov, 2020)*
- **Strategic Objective**  
Capacities of institutions are strengthened to promote the adoption of more integrated and cross-sectoral practices that sustainably increase productivity and production, address climate change and environmental degradation
- Funded by FAO-FIRMS implemented by FCWC

# FCWC and FIRMS LoA

- **Outcome**

*To achieve the capacity to deliver the best science-based evidence available for decision makers and more broadly all stakeholders involved in the management of fishery resources. In particular a strengthened capacity by FCWC and its MS to:*

1. Maintain FIRMS fisheries inventories, in line with CECAF-FIRMS policy
2. Collate, manage and maintain a regional database of Catch and Effort at fishing units level
3. Submit such statistics on a regular basis, in ways consistent with other reporting duties of these MS

# FCWC and FIRMS LoA

- **Outputs**

1. The provision of data and engagement of FCWC member countries for capacity building events for improving fisheries statistical data and fisheries status data for the FCWC region and its MS
2. Recommendations and best practices for the future data submission workflow to FAO/FIRMS.

# Activities

- A joint 3-day capacity building workshop for 2 FCWC staff and CECAF-SC Chair in Rome (Feb 2020)
- A 5-day Regional fishery statistics capacity development data workshop (Oct 2020)
- Upgrading FCWC Regional Database, to include catch and effort from the industrial sector
- Translation of FAO e-learning course SDG Indicator 14.4.1 - Fish stocks sustainability: *'Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels'* into French

# Achievements

- FIRMS fact sheets on countries published
- Capacity of FCWC and MS built (national databases in place, e-reporting easier and faster, easier to monitor performance of field staff)
- Increased knowledge on international standards in fisheries reporting (CWP)
- Regional database upgraded to include industrial fishery data
- Better engagement between FAO Statistics and country focal persons for fisheries data reporting -facilitates data submission and clarifications on data submitted

# TCP/RAF/3709

- The FCWC and CECAF conducted a series of national workshops titled, *“Capacity Building on Data Collection and Management to Member States”*
- Six national consultative hybrid workshops were conducted in Ghana (29-30 April), Togo (18-19 May), Benin (26-27 May), Nigeria (2-3 June), Liberia (16-17 June) and Côte d’Ivoire (5-6 July)

# TCP/RAF/3709

- The objective of the workshops was to strengthen and harmonize FCWC regional reporting of fisheries data systems in each FCWC member country.
- National Data Team (NDT), comprising MS technical personnel involved in fisheries statistics participated.
- Resource persons were from the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Rome, FCWC and CECAF (FAO-RAF).

# Activities

- Continued review of MS data submission activities towards the completion of FCWC-FIRMS fisheries inventories
- Upgraded FCWC regional fisheries database introduced to the NDTs
- Engagement of NDTs to adapt national industrial fisheries capture data parameters to the upgraded FCWC regional database, in conformity to CECAF and FAO standards
- Fisheries data collection needs assessment and agreement on areas of support and future capacity development.



# Achievements

- Continued engagement of FAO and focal persons in fisheries statistics (the guys on the field)
- More personnel (at least 5 per country) aware of fisheries reporting issues with respect to requirements and obligations
- NDTs aware of upgraded FCWC regional fisheries database and their reporting obligations
- Industrial fisheries capture data parameters to the upgraded FCWC regional database, in conformity to CECAF and FAO standards
- Fisheries data collection needs assessment and agreement on areas of support and future capacity development.

# Challenges

- Limited human and financial resources available for data collection especially in artisanal fisheries
- Weak capacity in fish stocks assessment/Limited knowledge on technical tools for fisheries data processing and analyses
- Weak capacity in fish identification, biological data collection and analysis and CECAF assessment tools
- Inadequate outreach and training in fisheries reporting requirements and fisheries statistics (Consistent FAO support in training MS in STATLANT, NS1, FishStatJ needed, CWP etc.)

# Way Forward

- Active commitment of governments of Member Countries to fund fisheries data management i.e. collection, processing, storage, dissemination etc.
- More and more support needed from FAO
  - Training MS in species identification, biological sampling, biological analysis and CECAF assessment tools
  - Training MS in STATLANT, NS1, FishStatJ
  - More training in OPENARTFISH and updated FCWC RDB
  - Provision of tools and Equipment for analyses



**THANK YOU**