

## **Resolution WECAFC/XVII/2019/8 “ON THE WECAFC-FIRMS PARTNERSHIP”**

The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC):

RECALLING the endorsement of the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership by WECAFC 15 in 2014;

NOTING the achievements of the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership in the preparation of species and fisheries fact sheets for the region, fisheries logbook guidelines, indicators for measuring fisheries management performance, development of regional databases, progress made towards stock assessment capacity building, and effective collaboration with CRFM and OSPESCA under the partnership;

RECALLING the request for and endorsement of the WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group by WECAFC 16 in 2016;

ACKNOWLEDGING the support of the World Bank funded, WECAFC executed Caribbean Billfish Project to the development of the project on Fisheries information technology innovations for resource management and climate change adaptation in the Caribbean (FIT4CC), and its aim to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Caribbean fisheries sector, through increased decision-support knowledge generated through inclusive, modern and sustained fisheries information systems in the CARIFORUM fisheries sector; a project which is expected to significantly increase the capacity to respond to national and regional challenges on data and statistics required for decision making;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the SDG 2030 Agenda and FAOs custodianship role to inform SDG14.4.1;

ADOPTS in conformity with Article 6 (a) of the WECAFC Revised Statutes this RESOLUTION that:

1. WECAFC members support and promote the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership as a collaborative platform for:

- a. Collating and sharing scientific information throughout the region
- b. Leveraging of ongoing regional projects (CLME+ project, Caribbean Billfish Project)

2. WECAFC members contribute to the Regional Data Base established by the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership through:

- a. Participation in the Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group
- b. Provision of national data and statistics to the Regional Data Base according to the draft Data Collection Regional Framework (DCRF) and building on the logbook guidelines and best practices
- c. Developing and updating national inventories of fisheries and resources

3. WECAFC members support the FIT4CC project, with implementation arrangements in accordance with agreements with the resource partner, the EU DG DevCo, and the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries.

4. WECAFC members recognize the role of WECAFC, CRFM, and OSPESCA to support and validate, including with participation of fishers organizations, national inventories of resources and fisheries and their publishing through FIRMS as part of the global reporting framework requested under SDG14.4.1 and contribution to the regional SOMEE.