



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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Organisation
des
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pour
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

2022-2024 Programme of work

Introduction

1. The background paper on "[Intersessional activities and progress made by members and working groups in implementing the 2019-2021 work programme](#)" (WECAFC/XVIII/2022/7) showed progress made in the last intersessional period. The document showed that the majority (over 80 percent) of the approved 2019-2021 Programme of Work has been implemented, with a remarkable high number of meetings of the Executive Committee and activity of many working groups. Overall, the last Programme of Work seems to have been realistic and achievable. The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission's Programme of Work were received from various Trust Fund programmes mostly supported by the EU DG Mare and GEF, and FAO's regular programme. Joint activities with Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), The French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), further contributed to the implementation of a range of activities of the joint Working Groups.
2. The Working Groups continued to be effective tools for collaboration between members and relevant institutions. Major milestones have been reached and substantial progress has been made despite challenges and delays to implementation related to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Notwithstanding the shared responsibility in the convening role by the main regional fishery bodies (i.e., CRFM and OSPESCA), and active task forces in some working groups, support to the initiation and implementation of the activities remains heavily dependent on the WECAFC Secretariat.
3. The SAG, at its 11th session held electronically on 25-27 April 2022, reviewed and approved the draft individual workplans of nine of the 11 working groups. SAG also reviewed the tailored terms of reference and recommendations made by five of the working groups. In their review, SAG recommended a few minor text edits to the recommendations for two of the WGs, requesting the amendments be submitted within 15 days of receipt of the suggested guidance. Further, SAG also recommended each WG review their TORs and provide a supplemental page identifying specific modifications for the tailored TORs from the historical TORs.
4. The aforementioned workplans along with guiding deliverables from the activities of the Executive Committee and the ad hoc Intersessional Working Group (IWG) established by WECAFC17 (which is tasked with implementing the Roadmap for progressing towards the development of a model for a regional fisheries management entity or arrangement in the WECAFC area) were the basis for this (draft) Work Programme for 2022-2024.
5. This template of draft programme of work 2022-2024 was prepared in keeping with a recommendation by the Commission at its 17th Session, paragraph 98 of the proceedings¹, *requesting that in future years the Draft Work Programme of WECAFC be built mainly around the core work of*

¹<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8748t/> FAO. 2020. *Report of the seventeenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Miami, United States of America, 15-18 July 2019*

the Secretariat, SAG and WGs of the Commission. This indeed eases the tracking of fulfilment of the objectives and identification of core work of the Secretariat, SAG, WECAFC thematic WGs and other ad hoc WGs, versus the more general (global, regional) initiatives, as a well a presentation of those activities in a more thematic way.

ENDORSED WECAFC Programme of Work (2022-2024)

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Address any gaps in implementation of the management measures in the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan (endorsed by WECAFC 17, CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC), and continue to monitor implementation of the plan.		Call on a meeting to identify and address gaps in the implementation of the management measures in the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	5,000\$ (at least two online workshops and active communication with country representatives)		CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members	1;2;3
Finalize, publish and disseminate the report of the hybrid WG meeting hosted in Puerto Rico (in hard copies and on-line on http://www.strombusgigas.com/index.htm and at www.WECAFC.org ;		Reports published on the WECAFC webpage and stromusgigas.com	March 2022	No, for information			CFMC and FAO with inputs from meeting participants	2

including the national summary reports).								
3. Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments, and support national consultations as needed in the region, to advance implementation of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> and relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by CITES and WECAFC.		Effective implementation of the of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> and relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by CITES and WECAFC.		No, for information	15,000 (for expert consultation to conduct regional analysis)		WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities), CRFM, OSPESCA, CITES, CFMC, FAO/WECAFC, SSTAG	1,2,3

<p>4. Report on progress with the implementation of relevant CITES and WECAFC decisions, and the outcomes of the Working Group – at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 18th session of WECAFC, July 2022 ● 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, November 2022; and consider the possibility of organizing a side-event ● 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee, 2023 		<p>Effective Report on the progress drafted and shared</p>	<p>In advance of deadlines for reporting required</p>	<p>No, for information</p>			<p>CITES/Fisheries authorities of QC range States attending these meetings (as appropriate) ; CITES and WECAFC Secretariats</p>	<p>1,2,3</p>
<p>Support fishers and fisheries administration in addressing the decent work, employment, and safety-at-sea problems in the queen conch fisheries, in particular; fisher organizations should be engaged as</p>		<p>Record of national officers and fishers and engaged in addressing the decent work employment and safety at sea. Record on the improvement of</p>	<p>January 2022 onwards</p>	<p>No, for information</p>			<p>Fisheries authorities in the region</p>	<p>1,2,3,4</p>

much as possible for these activities.		the fishers working conditions						
Prepare a recommendation on the promotion of decent work, health, and safety in the fisheries sector for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC18.		Effectiveness of the recommendation on the promotion of decent work, health, and safety in the fisheries sector prepared	January 2022 – February 2022	Yes, recommendation for discussion and endorsement by the Commission			WECAFC/FAO with CRFM and OSPESCA	1,2,3
Support publication of the health and safety study and proposed project.		Effective dissemination of the health and safety study and project developed	January – September 2022	No, for information				2
Continue the review and consideration of options for the development of a transparent “chain of custody” procedure to track catches from their harvest location		Clear communication between the different stakeholders while collecting the reviews on the development of a transparent	January 2022 onwards	No, for information			OSPESCA, CRFM, NOAA Fisheries/CFMC with CITES, WECAFC/FAO and the fisheries	1,2,3

to their eventual destination.		“chain of custody” procedure to track catches from their harvest location to their eventual destination.					authorities in the region	
<p>Advance research to determine genetic connectivity of queen conch across the Caribbean,</p> <p>Identify stocks, and design/implement a protocol to trace illegally harvested queen conch in trade.</p> <p>Engage countries to identify points of contact to assist with sample collection and participation in this research.</p>		<p>Effective of the research will enable to determine genetic connectivity of queen conch across the Caribbean</p> <p>Effective Identification of stock/ implement a protocol to trace illegally harvested queen conch in trade</p> <p>National focal points identify to assist with sample collection</p>	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	200,000 – 250,000 (cost has increase this year.. inflation high) Need update from CITES on progress?		SSTAG with support of WECAFC/FAO and CITES	1,2,3

<p>Create a Task Force – comprised of members from the QCWG and Regional Working Group on IUU fishing – to intersessionally draft a recommendation prioritizing genetic identification of queen conch to improve traceability and combat IUU fishing in the region for the QCWG to consider for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC 18.</p>		<p>Task force created to intersessionally draft a recommendation prioritizing genetic identification of queen conch to improve traceability and combat IUU fishing in the region for the QCWG</p>	<p>January 2022 – February 2022</p>	<p>Yes, a recommendation for discussion and endorsement</p>	<p>15,000-20,000 One in person workshop plus online follow-up?)</p>		<p>SSTAG, WECAFC, CFMC, CRFM, OSPESCA</p>	<p>1,2,3</p>
<p>Expand the collection of socio-economic information to analyze contribution of queen conch fisheries to income, livelihoods, and trade.</p>		<p>Effective collection of socio-economic to help analyzing conch fisheries to income, livelihoods, and trade.</p>	<p>January 2022 onwards</p>	<p>No, for information</p>	<p>15,000-20,000 (for compiling existing information and plan to collect new and standardized info)</p>		<p>CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members</p>	<p>1;2;3</p>

Provide training on the use of modules for the assessment of queen conch stocks through a regional conference.		SSTAG to organize a training on the use of modules for the assessment of queen conch stocks	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	15,000-25,000 (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage, values depending on level of the expansion)		SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	2;3
Conduct two pilot studies for determination of fishery production as the basis for further analysis of the long-term sustainability of the species and its associated fisheries.		Effectiveness of the pilot studies conducted, results disseminated	January 2022	No, for information	35,000-50,000 (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage, values depending on level of the expansion)		SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	1;2;3

Investigate and consider the impacts of climate change on the queen conch resources and the fishery.		Effective Investigation carry out by WG members	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	35,000-50,000 (Research on QC reproduction dynamics and changes at the regional level)		WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	3
Investigate the ecological and biological impacts of pollution on queen conch resources.		Effective Investigation conducted by the WG members	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	35,000-45,000 (Microplastic pilots covered, need to expand at the regional level or inclusion of other pollutants)		WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	3

<p>Continue / expand the scientific support to apply updated conversion factors by all countries with a queen conch fishery.</p> <p>For this purpose, the Scientific and Statistical Sub-Group (SST Sub-group) has: Elaborated a series of technical documents on conversion factors that need to be applied and updated when reporting conch production / trade data across the region.</p>		<p>Effective application of the technical documents on conversion factors</p>	<p>Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the next two years.</p>	<p>No, for information</p>	<p>20,000-35,000 (Linked with act. 12, need add funding for field work and expert support, depending on level of expansion and secure matching funds)</p>		<p>CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership , CITES</p>	<p>1;2;3</p>
<p>Continue review of existing queen conch NDFs and guidance in order to develop a simplified template for making non-detriment findings for queen conch, in consultation with the CITES Animals Committee, dissemination of the</p>		<p>Development of a simplified template for making non-detriment findings for queen conch</p>	<p>Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the next two years.</p>	<p>No, for information</p>	<p>15,000-20,000 (Need a task force with country representatives for final</p>		<p>CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership , CITES</p>	<p>1;2;3</p>

template to the Working Group membership for their consideration, and supporting selected countries in applying the templates and sharing the results at the regional level.					agreements)			
Determine priority next steps to implement education and outreach as stated in the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> .		Effective implementation of education and outreach	January 2022 onwards				CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	1;2;3
Consult with the PROCARIBE+ project to identify potential areas for improving the sustainability of the queen conch fishery including contributions to the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) reporting mechanism, habitat impacts/restoration and an updated Strategic Action Program Monitoring and Evaluation framework.		Effective collaboration with the PROCARIBE leading to the identification of potential areas for improving the sustainability of the queen conch fishery	January 2022 onwards	No, for information			CFMC, the WECAFC Secretariat too and/or the relevant sub-regional partners (CRFM, OSPESCA, Coordination Mechanism for Integrated Ocean Governance	1;2;3

							in the Wider Caribbean)	
Collaborate with the Blue BioTrade Project regarding improved trade and value-chain activities.		Improved trade and value-chain activities.	January 2022 onwards	No, for information	(Linked with activ. 8)		CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	1;2;3
Continue support to the development of the WECAFC Strategic Plan 2021-2027		Effective implementation of the strategic plan	January 2022- February 2022	No, for information		Not Applicable	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	1;2;3;4
Review and finalize the new TORs for the QCWG		The New ToRs for the QCWG approved and disseminated	January 2022- February 2022	No, for information		Not Applicable	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	1;2;3;4

CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Present Fishery Management Plan (FSAMP) to WECAFC18. Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to review the recommendations		Approval/ mainstreaming of the (FSAMP)	Spring 2022	Yes, the FSAMP for discussion and endorsement	No cost	Not Applicable	WECAFC secretariat	1,2,3
Convene the 5th meeting of the SAWG		Organization of a meeting/ meeting report	Jan-23	No, for information	TBD	NOAA Fisheries & CFMC	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; meeting supported by NOAA Fisheries Deferred	1,2,3
Submit Fishery Management Plan to WECAFC 18 (Nicaragua)		Approval of the Fishery Management Plan at WECAFC 18	Summer 2022	Yes, the FSAMP for discussion and endorsement	No cost	Not Applicable	Spawning Aggregations Working Group	1,2,3

Publish and distribute Report of 5th SAWG meeting (2023)		Dissemination of the meeting report (mail and WECAFC website)	Spring 2023	No, for information	TBD		WECAFC + CFMC supported by NOAA Fisheries	1,2,3
Maintain the SAWG network intersessional communications by regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists		Regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists(monthly/ bi-monthly etc.)	2021 – 2025	No, for information	No cost	Not Applicable	FWRI Ongoing – ListServe established; postings ongoing	2
Final cooperative monitoring program and database		Final Database set	Not started	No, for information	USD\$ USD\$70,000	EU Funding – application process begun	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members and researchers, and others Requires funding	2,3
Develop a FSA Protocol to: 1) report on the status of spawning aggregations and associated environmental factors, and 2) evaluate local		Effective implementation of FSA protocol	Present draft at 6 th SAWG meeting; adopt at 7 th SAWG meeting	No, for information	USD\$25,000	EU funding – application process begun	FSAMP Team Funding application submitted (applicable to all relevant countries)	1,2

management initiatives. Identify lessons learned and apply positive outcomes.								
Conduct a regional and national status and needs assessment of FSA sites in the WECAFC region		Mainstreaming the results of the status and need assessment of the FSA sites	Not started	No, for information	USD\$100,960	EU Funding – application process begun	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members and researchers, and others Requires funding	1,2
Establish clear and simple guidance to: 1) update and/or verify the status (timing and location, fish numbers, catches) of known spawning aggregations at the national level, and 2) facilitate prioritization of those spawning aggregations most		Guidance adopted and disseminated	2022 – 2023	No, for information	USD\$87,300	EU Funding – application process begun	FSAMP Team Funding application submitted (applicable to three pilot countries)	1,2

urgently needing protective action.								
Mobilize resources from bilateral and international agencies to assist with Activities called for in SAWG Work Plan		Funding mobilized and available/ project start up	2021 - 2025	No, for information			WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members, and others Initiated summer 2021	4
Secure financial support to develop Digital Hub in support of Communication Plan with downloadable resources and resource library		Operationalization of the Digital hub	2022- 2023	No, for information		CFMC & EU Funding	CFMC (support to BelugaSmile) Requires additional funding	4
Production of one-hour film for International Broadcast		International Broadcasting of the film	Jan-Sept 2022	No, for information		BelugaSmile Productions, supported by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Terra Mater and PBS	BelugaSmile Productions, supported by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Terra Mater and PBS	4

Develop materials for Citizen Science Program aimed at fishers and enforcement officials: 1) Produce & distribute radio kits in Spanish and French; 2) Produce & distribute two short films: a) a 30-minute "call to action" film aimed at fishing communities to stop decline of mutton snapper; and b) a film that calls on the general public to protect FSAs by not consuming grouper and snapper during spawning periods		The material developed and disseminated helps in raising awareness around the mutton snapper to avoid catches during spawning season	2022- 2023	No, for information		CFMC	CFMC (support to BelugaSmile)	4
Share to identify FSAs in regions where FSAs have not been documented or characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean)		New FSA identified through technical capacity	2021- 2025	No, for information			WECAFC Requires funding	2
Implementation of 1) Public Broadcasting Service's Outreach plan and 2) The Howard Hughes		The stakeholders are effectively educated through the 02 outreach plans	2022 - 2023	No, for information		HHMI & PBS	<i>Ana Salceda will coordinate with HHMI & PBS.</i>	4

Medical Institute's (HHMI) Science Outreach Plan.								
Secure support to assist WECAFC members with FSAMP Implementation for most urgent actions needed		Effective implementation of the FSAMP in most urgent actions	2022 – 2023	No, for information		EU Funding – application process begun	FSAMP Team, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, WECAFC Funding application submitted	1,2,3,4
REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Design and carry out a review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region		Mainstreaming the result of the review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region	Had previously been postponed pending development [finalization] of FAO methodological guidelines-	No, for information	USD152,500		Convener + WG members	In coordination with NFIO's work towards methodology to estimate the extent of IUU fishing

			end date (Mid-2023)					
Develop NPOAs -IUU based on the RPOA-IUU and inform FAO/WECAFC after adoption		NPOAs IUU developed and approved	Ongoing. 5 (CRFM) Member States have commenced development of NPOAs-IUU-end date (End 2024)	No, for information	USD19,060		WG members	Also to be informed by the ongoing work on NPOA-IUU development guidance and the findings of the members Readiness study. (1)
Finalization of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners		Approval of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners	Concept note developed; develop and finalise proposal-end date (Mid-2023)	For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII /2022/25	USD2,500		Convener + CRFM	Postponed. Achievement based on relevant info from the study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing (1,2)
Encourage/support increased national regulations, to ensure effective monitoring and control of		Effective monitoring and control of transshipment activities	Ongoing-end date (2024)	No, for information	USD38,000		WECAFC Secretariat; WG Members	In progress in national support activities (1,2)

transshipment activities								
Identify information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations		Consolidation information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations	To commence in 2022-end date (Mid-2023)	No, for information	USD25,000		Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members	Important for the work to be done to raise awareness on transshipment contributing to laundering IUU catch into the supply chain and improve the monitoring, control and regulation of transshipment activities (1,2)
Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, with voluntary guidelines		Alignment of the national regulations, with voluntary	Ongoing-end date (Mid-2024)	No, for information	USD25,000		Coordination Mechanism for	In progress in national support

for marking of fishing gear.		guidelines for marking of fishing gear.					Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members	activities (1,2)
Develop an IUU Vessel List for the region, using internationally applied criteria and procedures, and arrange with TM Tracking for maintaining the list		Database of IUU vessel list in the region developed and shared	t.b.d. Guidance to be sought from WECAFC18/ End-2024	No, for information	USD 57,180		WG Members with WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA and TM Tracking	Probable review of the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels (2,3)
Develop protocols for “cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” under the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and OSPESCA, respectively		Protocols developed	Ongoing- End date (Mid- 2024)	No, for information	(USD47,650)		CRFM, OSPESCA plus relevant WG members; supported by WECAFC Secretariat	1
Organize exchange of information and study tours for WG members to learn about successful and		Stakeholders learn about successful and best-practice approaches in	Ongoing- End date (2024)	No, for information			WG members, facilitated by the CRFM,	Needs to be strengthened, with more

best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general (MCS and fisheries inspection in general					OSPESCA and WECAFC Secretariats	collaboration, information generation by WG members or WECAFC focal points then coordination by WECAFC Secretariat (1,4)
Develop new draft recommendation for regional vessel record for WECAFC region		New draft recommendation developed and approved	To be commenced- (In time for WECAFC 19 (2024))	No, for information	USD19,130		WECAFC Secretariat together with FAO HQ, in consultation with WG Members	1,2
Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU		Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU developed and approved	Ongoing- December 2022	No, for information	USD20,000		PROCARIBE+ project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat	10
Engage in the ongoing process coming up to COFI 35 for the		Guidelines for regulating, monitoring and	Recommendation	No, for information	USD19,130		WG Members	1,2,3

possible development of guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations		controlling transshipment operations developed and approved	endorsed by SAG XI- End date (COFI 35)					
Development of a GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area		GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area developed and submitted, approved	Concept Note was presented at the 4 th WG Meeting for expression of interest by WECAFC members End date (End-2022)	For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII /2022/25	USD 22,140		PROCARIBE+ project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat	1,2,3,4
Development of an implementation plan of the RPOA-IUU		Approval and implementation of the plan of the RPOA-IUU	Readiness study report includes the elements of an implementation plan End date - 5 th RWG-IUU (late-2022)	No, for information	USD30,340		WECAFC Secretariat and FAO HQ colleagues	1,2

Presentation of deliverables (recommendations and resolutions) to the 11 th Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC		PPTs presented at SAG XI	End date (April 2022)	No, for information	USD2,500		WECAFC Secretariat and Convener of the RWG-IUU	As per WECAFC17 instructions , WG convener presented recommendations to SAG and is on hold for the Commission's deliberations (1,2,3,4)
Report on the work of the RWG-IUU and eventual support to SAG for the submission of recommendations to WECAFC18		Report presented to SAG XI	April 2022	No, for information	USD2,500		SAG and WECAFC Secretariat in consultation with WG Convenor	
Organise the 5 th RWG-IUU and publication of the proceedings		Meeting organized/ meeting report	To commence- End date (Mid-2023)	No, for information	USD 5,750		RWG-IUU	(1,3,4)

Gantt chart showing Time frame for the RWG-IUU Proposed 2022-2024 work schedule

#	Activity	Year											
		2022				2023				2024			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Design and carry out a review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region												
2	Develop NPOAs -IUU based on the RPOA-IUU and inform FAO/WECAFC after adoption												
3	Finalization of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners												
4	Encourage/support increased national regulations, to ensure effective monitoring and control of transshipment activities												
5	Identify information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations												

6	Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear.												
7	Develop an IUU Vessel List for the region, using internationally applied criteria and procedures, and arrange with TM Tracking for maintaining the list												
8	Develop protocols for “cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing” under the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and OSPESCA, respectively												
9	Organize exchange of information and study tours for WG members to learn about successful and best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general												
10	Develop new draft recommendation for regional vessel record for WECAFC region												
11	Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU												
12	Engage in the ongoing process coming up to COFI 35 for the possible development of guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations												

13	Development of a GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area												
14	Development of an implementation plan of the RPOA-IUU												
15	Presentation of deliverables (recommendations and resolutions) to the 11 th Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC												
16	Report on the work of the RWG-IUU and eventual support to SAG for the submission of recommendations to WECAFC18												
17	Organise the 5 th RWG-IUU and publication of the proceedings												

WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (FDS-WG)								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Vessel mapping Content	Liaise with FDS WG focal points for additional submissions	Additional submissions submitted	2022-2024	No, for information			WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries	1,2
	Review submission from WECAFC Members and highlight where revisions are needed	Effective reviews from WECAFC members		No, for information				
	Implementations in the Regional Database with corresponding metadata	Effective implementation using the metadata		No, for information				
	Discussion of adding vessel type information into FIRMS tables, including vessels images when available	Mainstreaming the use of the vessel type information into FIRMS		No, for information			FDS-WG and member countries	1,2
WECAFC Subarea Boundaries	Finalize the proposal in the Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala sub-region under the OSPESCA umbrella	sharing the proposal through emails/ adoption of the proposal	2022-2024	No, for information				1,2

	Review feedback from member countries on sub-areas related to area 31 and 41, and if the case appears feasible, prepare for presentation at CWP	Circulation and approval of the different feedback		No, for information				1,2
	Discuss a recommendation for SAG and the Commission, or any other plan to move forward	Meeting reports approving the recommendation for SAG		Yes, Recommendation for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18				1,2
	d. Conduct intersession discussions on Venezuela sub area delimitations	Meeting reports approving the new delimitations		No, for information				1,2
FIRMS Inventories	Summarize inputs by member countries, highlight latest submissions, discuss/elaborate specific FIRMS services for the region (delivered through WECAFC map viewer)	Consolidated summary document approving specific FIRMS services for the region	2022-2023	No, for information			WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries	1,2

	b. Discuss/identify/implement a path for updating inventories in OSPESCA region- e.g., consultant to further inventory development on a country by country basis possibly, considerations of focus groups working with fleet segments (across multiple member countries) to enrich inventories	Effective implementation of inventories in OSPESCA region		No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
	c. Also noting that FIRMS Secretariat may develop a pilot demonstrating how a possible future addition of FIRMS fishery Is (optional) in certain Tasks of the DCRF can be exploited, for presentation at next FDS-WG	Presentation of the pilot demonstrating how a possible future addition of FIRMS fishery		No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
Small Scale Fisheries Matrix	Summarize list of member countries which submitted highlighting latest submissions and new pilot testing	Compilation of member countries which submitted the matrix	2022-2024	No, for information			FAO and FDS-WG	1,2

	Present a synthesis of the level of adoption of the SSF matrix to the WECAFC region and what would need to be changed in the SSF matrix for it to be of practical application for the region	Effective application of the changes in the SSF matrix in the region	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
	Discuss a recommendation for submitting to FAO for consideration WECAFC iDCRF	Adoption of the recommendation	Same as above	Yes, recommendation for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18			Same as above	Same as above
WECAFC Reference list of aquatic species, annotation of important Subareas by species and DCRF tasks	a. Review submissions by member countries and WGs for additional species, and sub-areas for species, and proceed with member countries endorsements for the proposals. The use of the FIRMS map viewer will help to obtain additional input on annotation of area by species.	Endorsement of the proposals	2022-2024	Yes			FDS-WG and member countries	1,2

	b. Review inputs from relevant Working groups, for the list of species and their sub-areas and identification of specific DCRF tasks	Approval of the list of species and their sub-areas and approval of the specific DCRF tasks	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
	c. Annotation of relevant standard conversion metrics by species/subarea for inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of conversions	Inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of conversions of the relevant standard conversion metrics by species/subarea	Same as above	Yes, DCRF for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18			Same as above	Same as above
	d. Annotation of relevant biological parameters for select set of species in main list of species by important subareas (e.g., reproductive ogives, growth parameter estimates) for inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of biological parameters	Inclusion in the DCRF catalogue of the relevant biological parameters for select set of species in main list of species by important subareas	Same as above	Yes, DCRF for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18			Same as above	Same as above

iDCRF	a. A revised DCRF document will be made available early December for review by Members, WGs and ICCAT by end January 2021, for consolidation in February and final review in March for adoption at the extended session of FDS-WG2 (end March/early April) of a recommendation for SAG and the Commission, or any other plan to move forward	Circulation of the revised DCRF(1st draft)	2022-2024	Yes			FDS-WG and member countries	1,2
	b. Further proofing DCRF (post extended session of FDS-WG2) with:	Circulation of the revised DCRF(2nd draft)		No, for information				1,2
	i. pilot testing starting with Data preparatory workshop and initial country submissions that will follow	Country submission/ organization of the data preparatory workshop						

	<p>ii. two proposed e-TWGs</p> <p>a. for elaboration on measures of fishing effort per Fleet segment or Gear type</p> <p>b. for refinement of Biological tasks – member countries with experience invited to be part of this WG</p>	Effective application of the outcomes of the e-TWGs						
I. Operationalization of the DCRF (DCRF) and Contributions to RDB (RDB-1)- post Q2 2021, initiate June 2021	a. Finalize the Maps viewer (through e-TWG?) for public release as soon as possible	Public release of Maps viewer	2022-2024	No, for information			FDS-WG and member countries	1,2
	b. Identifying member countries willing to commit in the intersession, to populate the RDB using local statistics in 2020 and 2021. Local statistics uploaded to RDB. Identification of	RDB populated by identified countries, using local statistics in 2020 and 2021.	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above

	local country data manager.							
	c. Liaising with and identifying Regional species WGs to combine their expectations for data with the member countries contribution (Shrimp and Groundfish, Lobster, ...), and organize joint activities	Compilation of expectations for data from Regional species WG	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
	d. Identifying issues/challenges with member countries committing data to RDB during pilot tests	Document presenting the challenges and leveraging on these challenges to improve the RDB	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above
	e. Developing road map including pilot data sets for implementing data	effective use of the road map and the pilot data	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above

	uploads to RDB by end of 2021							
	(*) [Consider communication of OSPESCA Director of 12 June 2020 on topic of collaborating on pilot data sets to test for RDB that currently are already capturing statistics]	Effective collaborating on pilot data sets to test for RDB	Same as above	No, for information			Same as above	Same as above

<p>II. Discussion of how the RDB information can contribute to informing SDG 14.4.1 (initiate Q1 2021 through the work of the FDS-WG via the DCRF? Has any progress been made yet, what is needed to begin to make progress (individual member countries operationalizing the DCRF through committing to contribute to the RDB). Develop some time tables and a path (roadmap)</p>	<p>1. Consider if a sub-committee needed- perhaps focus on one of the pilots (e.g., OSPESCA lobster)</p>	<p>RDB information to contribute to informing SDG 14.4.1</p>	<p>2022-2024</p>	<p>No, for information</p>			<p>FAO and FDS-WG</p>	<p>1,2</p>
<p>III. Fostering Growth of FDS-WG throughout region</p>	<p>a. Co-convener shadow training to develop leadership in WG</p>	<p>WG empowered through the training session</p>	<p>2022-2024</p>	<p>No, for information</p>			<p>FDS-WG</p>	<p>1,2</p>
<p>IV. How can this WG interact or begin to interact with other regional/international</p>			<p>2022-2024</p>	<p>No, for information and discussion</p>			<p>FDS-WG</p>	<p>1,2</p>

WGs (species, topical, RFMOs) to further improve the regional statistics and information on fisheries	1. Under MoU with ICCAT- contribute to the planned joint ICCAT-WECAFC working group where respective species list might be examined	Signature of the MoU between the WGs and ICCAT or others regional international WGs						1,2
	2. Should this WG contact ICCAT re' participating in ICCAT statistics WG as observer to learn how ICCAT develops/prioritizes and carries out its tasks/intersessional work on the topic of statistics (a question to ask to the participants? would anyone volunteer)	WG Effectively learn from ICCAT on the prioritization of its tasks on the topic of statistic						
V. Capacity building- other needs-this work is ongoing	a. Finalize the list of selection criteria and propose a short list of WECAFC Members meeting these criteria for final selection	Approval and circulation of the list of selection criteria	2022-2024	No, for information			FDS-WG, WECAFC-FIRMS, FAO-FIRMS	1,2

	b. For the selected WECAFC member(s), define the work plan and related budget for support	Approval of the WP and the related budget	Same as above				Same as above	Same as above
	c. Seek for co-funding from other regional projects and agree on the shared investments	Regional projects Start up	Same as above				Same as above	Same as above
VI. Review Logbooks guidelines and revisit FDS-WG 2 (LOG-1) Begin Q3 2021	Review work done during FDS-WG 1 intersession- discuss LOG-1 (two pilot surveys) and LOG-2 (historical experiences) survey instruments in context of best practices in logbook implementation in region and identify needed revisions for survey instruments LOG-1, LOG-2.	Approved the comments on the reviews of LOG 1 and LOG 2	2022-2024	No, for information			FDS-WG	1,2
WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES								

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Workshop1: prepare a regional project		Regional project start up	July 2022	No, for information	USD 28,000		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner. (1,2,3)
Project preparation			July-October 2022	No, for information			Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	
Report Workshop1		report	November – December 2022	No, for information			Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	

Workshop2: monitoring, management and conservation strategies		report	April 2023	No, for information			Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Same as above
Report Workshop2			May- June 2023	No, for information	USD 28,000		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	
Training 1: Marine robotic technologies for ecological monitoring		report	February 2022	No, for information	USD 21,000		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Same as above
Report Training 1			March 2022	No, for information			Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	
Training 2: Fisheries Stocks assessment data-poor fisheries		Report	July 2023	No, for information	USD 21,000		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Same as above
Report Training 2			August 2023	No, for information			Convener with OSPESCA,	

							WECAFC Secretariat	
Technical report/Publications		Online Publication	DECEMBER 2022 October - December 2023	No, for information	USD 2,000+ USD 1,000(Stationery (paper, pens, pencils, envelopes, banner, etc.))		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Same as above
Documentary video		Video broadcasting	November – December 2022 September – December 2023	No, for information	USD 4000		Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Same as above
Moored Fishery Aggregating Devices Working Group (MFADS)								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of	Collect data on MFAD fishery from WECAFC member.	Data reviewed ready to be utilized for	Dec 2022 – June 2023	No, for information			Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA,	1,2,3

pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working	Conduct analysis on MFAD fishery data	fisheries management					WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER	
To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project	Regional Workshop	Mainstreaming of the guidance and advices from the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project		No, for information			WECAFC Members, CRFM, and OSPESCA	1,3
To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on the use of technology on MFADs (e.g. satellite-linked echosounders) for improved assessment of abundance of key fish stocks associated with MFAD fisheries	Meeting with IFREMER to discuss collaboration. Identify academia and research institution willing to provide support	Assessment of abundance of key fish stocks associated with MFAD fisheries improved	August 2022 – March 2024	No, for information			Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER	1,2,3
To develop and finalize manuals on best practices on (1) fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD	Identify suitable experts/ consultants Develop manual in collaboration with fisheries authorities in	Manuals on best practices on (1) fishing and business strategies for sustainable	September 2022 - Feb 2024	No, for information			Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat,	1,2,3

fisheries, (2) safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers, and (3) governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers	member states engaged in MFAD fishery	MFAD fisheries, (2) safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers, and (3) governance of MFAD fisheries mainstreamed					and IFREMER	
To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT	Advocate for the reporting of MFAD fisheries statistics at relevant regional fisheries forums	ICCAT adopts the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics	2022 - 2024	No, for information			CRFM, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER	2
To collaborate on co-management within MFADs fisheries, noting the successful examples in Grenada, Dominica, and Bonaire, and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group	Identify ongoing co-management initiatives among MFAD members Create synergies and linkages	Effective collaboration within MFADs fisheries and Fisheries Working Group	2022 - 2024	No, for information			CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities	1,2,3
To collaborate on use of low-cost Information and Communication	Assessment/review of ICT applications in MFAD states such as	Monitoring of MFAD fisheries improved	2023 -2024	No, for information			WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries	1,2,3

Technology (ICT) for improved monitoring of MFAD fisheries, noting the promising examples of Dominica and Monserrat and strengthen ties with Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	Dominica and Montserrat Replicate in MFAD countries with relevant/applicable						Data and Statistics Working Group	
To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	Liaise with FAO/CRFM/ICCAT to establish mechanism for sharing of MFAD data	Permanent Data/information sharing	2023 - 2024	No, for information			CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities	2
To facilitate the sharing of information and experiences related to MFAD designs in the region and outside the region	Liaise with FAO/CRFM/ICCAT to establish mechanism for sharing of MFAD information on designs	Stakeholders have access to information and experiences related to MFAD designs in the region and outside the region	2023 - 2024	No, for information			WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	2,3

To review and finalize the Regional Management Plan for MFAD Fisheries in the Caribbean, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans	Engage consultant for review and finalization of MFAD Regional MGT Plan, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans	Mainstreaming of the Regional Management Plan for MFAD Fisheries in the Caribbean, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans	September 2022 – December 2022	Yes, mFAD Fishery management plan and guide for improved monitoring for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18			WECAFC Secretariat	1,2,3
To support Members' efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans and improved monitoring systems for MFADs	Expression of interest from members seeking to develop the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans Engage Consultant to assist members	Effective technical support to Members to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans and improved monitoring systems for MFADs	March 2023 – July 2023 August 2023 - 2024				OSPESCA, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat, WECAFC members	1,3
Shrimp and groundfish working group								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area

Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments and WECAFC Commission		WG members to liaise with national government/ technical advices approved	2022-2023	No, for information			WG members	1,2,4
5th meeting of working group-intersessional meeting		Organization of the 5th meeting of working group-intersessional meeting/ meeting report	November 2022	No, for information			WECAFC, IFREMER, EAF4SG	?
Review the terms of reference of the WG to reflect expected tasks on provision of advice to a formal S&G resources management mechanism in the North Brazil- Guianas shelf.		Approval of the reviewed ToR	5 th meeting of the WG in 2022	No, for information			IFREMER/C RFM/WECAFC, WG members with support from the new project EAF4SG	
Continue work on data preparation, training in stock assessment for WG countries and carry out periodic stock assessment		Periodic stock assessment implemented	2023	No, for information	80kUS dollar (3 meetings, 2 people by country and one expert)		IFREMER/C RFM/WECAFC in collaboration with NOAA, FIRMS and potential funders	1,2,4

continued development/updating of Shrimp and Groundfish National Management Plans in line with the Sub-Regional Strategy and Management Plan for the S&G resources of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf		Shrimp and Groundfish National Management Plans regularly updated	2022-2023	No, for information			WG members with support from new GEF EAF4SG project	2,3
Update WECAFC stocks and fisheries inventory for shrimp and groundfish of Guianas-Brazil Shelf		Regular update of the WECAFC stocks and fisheries inventory	2022-2023	No, for information			FIRMS secretariat and working group members	1,2,3
Collaborate with : -Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU) - WECAFC/CRFM/OSPE SCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG)		Effective collaboration with the RWG - IUU and FDS -WG	2022-2023	No, for information			WECAFC Secretariat primarily and Working group members	1,2,3
Further studies on fisheries policies		Inclusion in fisheries policies of mainstreaming human well-	2022-2023	No, for information			Member countries	1,3

		being (including gender and working conditions)						
Search resources for collaborative research to complement and refine results on stock identification and extend research to additional shrimp and groundfish species		Results on stock identification improved and additional shrimp and groundfish species extended	2022-2023	No, for information			Working group members	2
Report to the 19th session of WECAFC and 12 th meeting of the WECAFC SAG		Meeting report	As deadlines for reporting require	No, for information			WECAFC Secretariat	4

Gantt chart of the showing linkages in the Work Plan of the Shrimp and Groundfish WG

The Working Group will carry out the following activities in 2022-2023 period

Activity	2022	2023
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<p>Collaborate with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU) -WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG) 	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>							
<p>Further studies on mainstreaming human well-being (including gender and working conditions) in fisheries policies</p>	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>							
<p>Search resources for collaborative research to complement and refine results on stock identification and extend research to additional shrimp and groundfish species</p>	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>							

OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Organize and hold the third meeting of the WG-CSL	Review of the implementation of the regional management plan in the countries. Presentation of the PROCARIBE+ project and identification of the role of WG-CSL/WECAFC in it.	Meeting organized, Meeting report	December 2022 at the latest	No, for information	USD 5,000-7,000 (estimated budget for 3 day online meeting)		WECAFC and OSPESCA	1
Prepare and endorse the WG-CSL Work Plan	List of activities for the period 2023-2024	endorsement of the WP	Dec-22	No, for information	no cost		WG-CSL	1
Conduct sampling to assess the potential presence of the spiny lobster virus PaV1 in selected countries of the region (Due to a lack of a fund execution mechanism, this project was not carried out in 2019)	Detection of PaV1 in selected countries of the WECAFC region.	Sampling conducted lab results shared	July-December 2023	No, for information	USD 10,000 -15,000 (It requires better execution mechanisms of the funds to develop the project)		Interim Coordination Mechanism FAO/OSPESCA/CRFM with support from CFMC	2

WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Collection of scientific and empirical information on relevant species' biology and ecology, including life history characteristics, behavior, feeding, identification.		Compilation(database) and sharing of scientific and empirical information on relevant species'	S/M	No, for information			WECAFC	1,2
Collection of scientific and empirical information on population dynamics, distribution, spatial-temporal and/or migratory patterns of relevant species. Delineation of pupping and nursery areas and critical habitats, etc.		Compilation (database) and sharing of scientific and empirical information on population dynamics, distribution, spatial-temporal and/or migratory patterns of relevant species.	M	No, for information			WECAFC	1,2

Implementation of long-term fisheries data collection, verification and monitoring programs to collect commercial and recreational fisheries data, including total catches and effort, age/length compositions etc. at species level.		Effective collection of commercial and recreational fisheries data	O/S	No, for information			WECAF C	1,2
Ensure a scientifically appropriate level of observer coverage onboard fishing vessels to collect species-specific biological information and fisheries information for relevant targeted and/or incidentally caught sharks.		Effective collection of species-specific biological information and fisheries information for relevant targeted and/or incidentally caught sharks	O/M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,3
Development and/or implementation of existing standardized methodologies, such as abundance indices, quantitative or semi-quantitative stock assessments, or other		Mainstreaming of existing standardized methodologies, such as abundance indices, quantitative or semi-quantitative	M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,2,3

appropriate approaches (e.g., data-poor methods, genetic methods etc.).		stock assessments, or other appropriate approaches						
Collection of available trade data and market chain information for shark products at lowest possible taxonomic level, ideally species level.		Effective/ systematic trade data, and market chain collection	M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,2
Implementation of appropriate labelling and custom coding for priority/relevant sharks species and products thereof.		Effective labelling and custom coding for sharks species and product thereof	M/L	No, for information			WECAF C	1,2

Collection of information about social and cultural practices related to sharks.		Database on the information collected on the social and cultural practices related to sharks.	S/M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,2,3
Reduction of shark by-catch in non-target fisheries and limiting directed catch and effort in target fisheries to sustainable levels.		Stock assessment showing an improvement in the stock status	S/M	No, for information			Member States	1,2,3
For relevant shark stocks, development of conservation and management reference points that could serve as a basis for deriving stock status and evaluating the achievement of management objectives.		Implementation of the conservation and management reference points to achieve sharks management objectives	M/L	No, for information			WECAF C, Shark WG members, and others	1,2,3

Design, implementation and monitoring for compliance with appropriate, science-based conservation and management measures		Mainstreaming and effective application of science-based conservation and management measures	O	No, for information			WECAF C and Member States	1,3
Implementation of the precautionary approach in the absence of adequate scientific information, where appropriate.		Precautionary approach is implemented in the absence of adequate scientific information, where appropriate.	S	No, for information			WECAF C	1,3
Design and promotion of safe handling and release guidelines for shark species, appropriate.		Guidelines approved	M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,3

Exploration of regional fisheries sustainability initiatives (e.g. certification, FIPs, etc.).		Mainstreaming of regional fisheries sustainability initiatives (e.g. certification, FIPs, etc.).	L	No, for information			WECAF C	3
Development of national laws and policies in line with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries		Approval of the national laws and policies in line with FAO CCRF	S/M	No, for information			Member states	1,3
2 Binding international obligations (primarily under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) are codified into national law and regulations.		Integration of the binding international laws into national laws and regulations	S/M	No, for information			WECAF C	1,3

Full utilization is promoted and by-catch of sharks is reduced in other fisheries.		Stakeholders are educated on the full utilization/ improvement of the shark stock	S/M/L	No, for information			WECAF C	1,3
Development of Non-Detriment Findings for the exports of CITES-listed shark products.		Mainstreaming and implementation of the Non-Detriment Findings	S/M	No, for information			Shark WG members, and others Funding is required	1,2,3
Implementation of effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems (properly staffed, trained, equipped, financed and supervised), including observers, VMS, electronic monitoring, etc. that specifically include		Effective monitoring of shark catch and bycatch	S/M/L	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,3

monitoring of shark catch and bycatch.								
Establishment/ improvement of institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of shark conservation and management measures, implementation of the RPOA, regulation of surveillance and enforcement activities, empowerment of staff to carry them out, and protect their physical integrity.		Institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of shark conservation and management measures are improved	S	RPOA for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1

Combat IUU fishing activities		Tracking records of decrease of IUU fishing activities	O	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1
Regional systematic sharing of information and data, including through the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework, with sub/regional organizations with a mandate for the conservation and/or management of sharks, in line with confidentiality rules.		Use of the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework to share information and data	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3

Harmonization of data collection protocols and information exchange systems related to sharks		Database showing the data collection protocols and information exchange systems	M	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,3
Cooperate and coordinate on MCS activities and fighting IUU activities, including related to sharks, at bilateral, subregional and regional levels		Effective Cooperate and coordinate on MCS activities and fighting IUU activities	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3
Coordination of research priorities and activities related to the conservation and management of sharks		Research and activities related to the conservation and management of sharks implemented	O	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2
Development and coordination of capacity building activities related to sharks (e.g., training workshops, practical trainings etc.) by consolidating available resources		Effective collaboration in the capacity building activities related to sharks in terms of sharing and consolidating	O/M	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,3

and fostering expertise at subregional and regional levels.		available resources						
Identification of policy, conservation and management issues related to sharks that require subregional/ regional cooperation to be effectively addressed.		Effective collaboration to address conservation and management issues related to sharks	0	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3
Ensure transparency and inclusiveness through the participation of relevant stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, fishers' organisations, fisheries managers, scientists, civil society/NGOs etc.) in the proceedings of subregional, regional fora addressing sharks-related issues.		Relevant stakeholders to collaborate in the drafting of the proceedings	0	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3

Development/ strengthening of collaborative arrangements between subregional/ regional/ international organisations involved in the conservation and management of sharks		Better conservation and management of sharks resulting from Further collaboration between subregional/ regional/ international organisations	O	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG memb ers	1,2
Development/update of appropriate ToRs, methodologies (including indicators and metrics), to enable the assessment of progress towards RPOA objectives, identifying successes, shortcomings, gaps etc.		Approval of appropriate ToRs, methodologies, to enable the assessment of progress towards RPOA objectives	O	No, for information			WECAF C Secret ariat and Sharks WG Conve ner	1,2,3
Assess progress towards the RPOA- sharks implementation, including through annual reports		Reports showing the progress towards the RPOA-sharks implementation	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG memb ers	1,3

Participation in deliberations relevant to sharks (e.g., SPAW Protocol, CITES, CMS).		Reports of the deliberations relevant to sharks (e.g., SPAW Protocol, CITES, CMS).	O	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	4
3. Stakeholder meetings organized, as appropriate, on specific issues related to shark conservation and management.		Reports meetings	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3
Processes for regular stakeholder feedback on the decision-making process on conservation and management measures		Operationalization of the stakeholder's feedback	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,3

Use existing and, if needed, develop appropriate communication tools for raising awareness about sharks adapted to the targeted audience.		Operationalization of a targeted communication tools	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2
Environmental education activities including surveys, information and awareness raising campaigns etc. to raise public awareness about shark conservation and management		Stakeholders are educated on shark conservation and management	S	No, for information			WECAF C and Shark WG members	1,2,3
4. Elaboration of a strategy for ensuring that adequate financial resources are made available for RPOA implementation at national level		Fund available and RPOA implemented at national level	S	No, for information			WECAF C Secretariat	1,3,4

Identify and seek commitment of potential donor agencies and organizations for supporting the implementation of the RPOA		Implementation of the RPOA	S	No, for information			WECAF C Secret ariat	4
Organize regular training workshops and courses in shark biology, ecology, data collection, Identification, stock assessments methods, management, etc. for targeted audience including fisheries observers, researchers, fisheries managers, civil society and other relevant NGOs		Workshop organized/ implementation of stock assessments methods, management, etc. for targeted audience including fisheries observers, researchers, fisheries managers, civil society and other relevant NGOs	S	No, for information			WECAF C Secret ariat	1,4

CRFM/WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH/DOLPHINFISH								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Organize and hold the first meeting of the FFDF WG	List of activities for the period 2023-2024.	Meeting organized, Endorsement of the WP Meeting report	First quarter 2023	No, for information			WECAFC and partners	1
WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES								
Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Organize and hold the third meeting of the Recreational WG	List of activities for the period 2023-2024.	Meeting organized, Endorsement of the WP Meeting report	2023	No, for information			WECAFC and partners	1

MANAGEMENT FOCUS AREA 4: FOSTERING A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE WECAFC SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION.

Goals:

- 1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, SAG and the Working Groups.
- 2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among members and other stakeholders through effective and timely dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
4.1 Organize the 18 th session of the Commission in 2022	Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region	Approved work programme Report of the session	July 2022	No , for information	85,000	FAO Regular budget EU DG Mare INPESCA	EU Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional de la República

							de Nicaragua
4.2 Organize the 11th SAG in April 2022 & 12 th SAG meeting in 2023	Scientific advice for consideration by the 18 th and 19 th sessions of the Commission	Report of the meeting	July 2022 & April 2023	Yes, by WECAFC18 and WECAFC 19 in 2023	30,000	FAO Regular budget Extrabudgetary resources/projects	
4.3 Inception of the preparation of the organization of the 19 th session of the Commission in 2023	Timely organized session which will discuss the reform (Strategic reorientation) of WECAFC as well as other essential matters for the members of the Commission	Background papers prepared Host country confirmed	2023	Yes, in summer 2023	130,000	FAO Regular budget Extrabudgetary resources/projects Member countries contribution	Host country
4.4 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	Second Preparatory meeting of WECAFC Transformation	A workshop Report of the 2 nd preparatory meeting of WECAFC transformation in a regional fishery	2022-2023	Yes, decisions for endorsement in 2023	60,000	FAO Regular Programme European Union	All members

		management entity/arrangement Evidence of the implementation of the guidance from WECAFC18				Other potential donors	
4.5 Facilitate the implementation of dedicated work of the Executive Committee	Periodic meetings held and successful delivery regarding matters requiring direct intervention of the Executive Committee	Bimonthly/quarterly meeting minutes shared with the Commission	2022-2023	Some actions may need decisions in 2023/WECAFC 19		FAO Regular budget	
4.6 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops	Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner	Reports of the events and workshops	2022-2023	No, for information only	--	FAO Regular budget Relevant projects	All stakeholders
4.7 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of	At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding	Follow up to proposals from working groups Draft project documents in the required format	2022-2023	No, for information only	--	WECAFC members	All relevant stakeholders

work and prioritized projects							
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4.8 Partnerships established with institutions in the environment and other sectors	<p>Follow up for a formal framework of partnership with ICCAT</p> <p>Collaboration increased with international and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society as part of an effort to improve linkages and understanding of grass roots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and</p>	<p>Specific arrangement agreed for collaboration and cooperation with ICCAT</p> <p>MoUs with other key partners</p>	2022-2023	Yes, for discussion at WECAFC18 and some issues may need endorsement by the 19 th session		<p>FAO</p> <p>GEF</p> <p>Other donors</p>	<p>ICCAT, CRFM, OSPESCA, other various IGOs and NGOs</p>
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	private sector investment in resource management.						
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