

Mandate

CECAF promotes the sustainable utilization of living marine resources through a science-based approach to fisheries management frameworks and fishing operations across CECAF's area of competence.

Functions

- Review the state of the marine resources within CECAF's area of competence;
- Promote, encourage and coordinate research on living marine resources and develop programmes to manage fisheries management and fisheries related research;
- Promote the collection, sharing and distribution fisheries information in areas of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data;
- Establish the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources and to deliberate measures through CECAF's subsidiary bodies;
- Make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures;
- Provide advice for the adoption of regulatory measures by Member Governments, sub regional or regional organizations, as appropriate;
- Provide advice on monitoring control and surveillance, especially for issues specific to the sub-regional and regional context;
- Encourage, recommend and coordinate training in priority areas of the Committee;
- Promote the sustainable utilization of the appropriate fishing craft, gear, systems and techniques;
- Promote dialogs between institutions within CECAF's maritime area and review working arrangements with international organizations that share related objectives within the area.

Historical and legal framework

CECAF was established in 1967, by Resolution 1/48 adopted by the FAO Council at its Forty-eighth Session under Article VI (2) of the FAO Constitution.

Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the CECAF Committee

Its Rules of procedure, particularly the description of the purpose, functions, and responsibilities of the Committee, were amended in 2003.

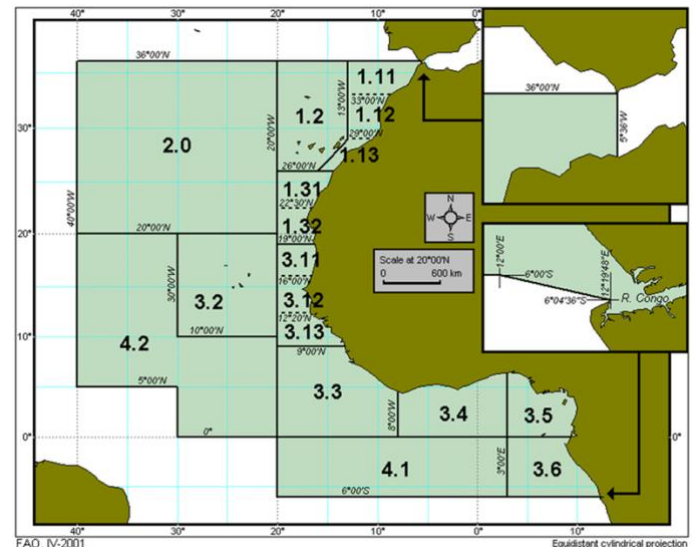
Amendments of the Statutes of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

Area of competence

CECAF's area of competence is defined as all the waters of the Atlantic bounded by a line drawn as follows:

From a point on the high water mark on the African coast at Cape Spartel (lat. 35°47'N, long. 5°55'W) following the high water mark along the African coast to a point at Ponta de Moita Seca (lat. 6°07'S, long. 12°16'E) along a rhumb line in a northwesterly direction to a point on 6° south latitude and 12° east longitude, thence due west along 6° south latitude to 20° west longitude, thence due north to the Equator, thence due west to 30° west longitude, thence due north to 5° north longitude, thence due west to 40° west longitude, thence due north to 36° north longitude, thence due east to 6° west longitude, thence along a rhumb line in a southeasterly direction to the original point a Cape Spartel.

Figure 1 CECAF's area of Competence



Species and stock coverage

All marine species present in its area of competence, with the exception of tuna and cetaceans.

Supplementary fisheries data can also be accessed from:

- For CECAF capture data please access the [CECAF Regional Capture Statistical Collection](#)
- For FAO figures reported to FAO, please access [FishstatJ software](#)
- For an inventory of resources, please access FAO [FIRMS CECAF stocks and fisheries fact sheets](#)

Members

The Committee is composed of Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization selected by the Director-General of FAO. Such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization are selected from among Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization in Africa whose territory borders the Atlantic Ocean from Cape Spartel to the mouth of the Congo River, and such other Member Nations and Associate Members fishing or carrying out research in the sea area concerned or having some other interest in the fisheries thereof, whose contribution to the work of the Committee the FAO Director-General deems to be essential.

Figure 2 CECAF Membership



Administrative and Structure

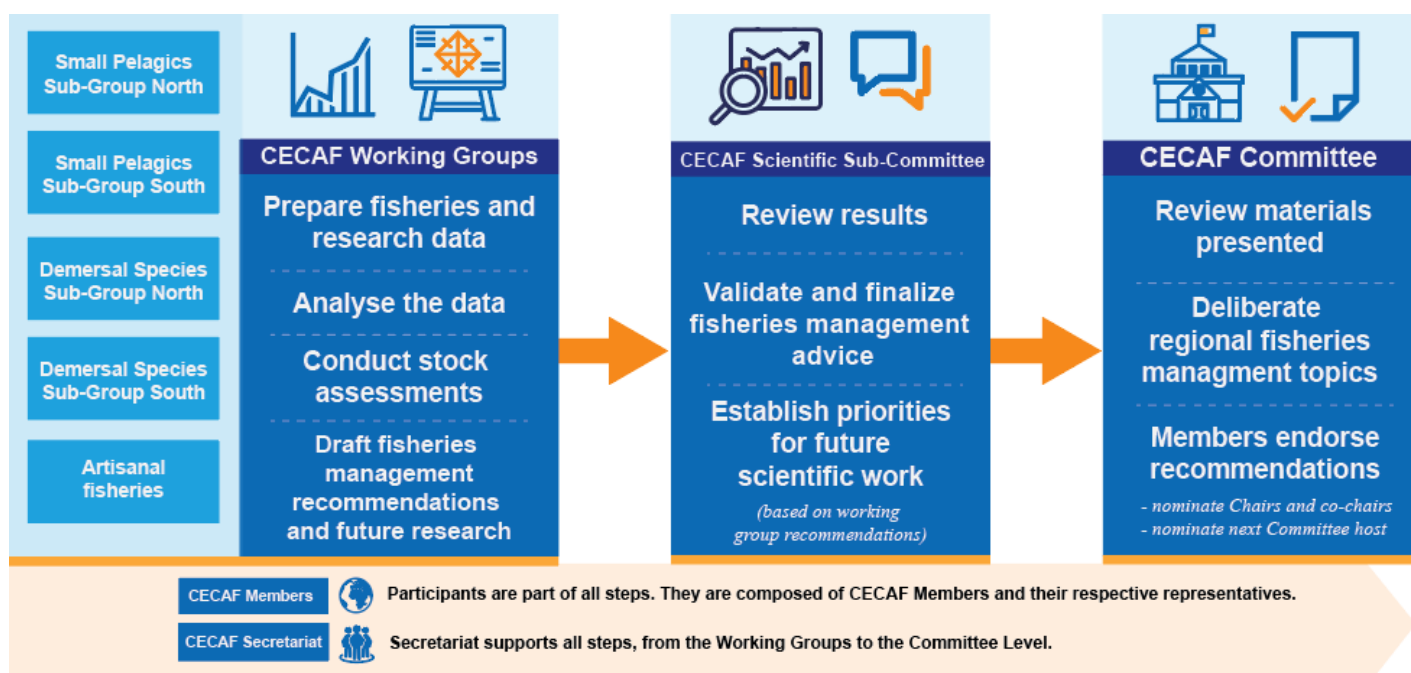
The Committee, composed of all CECAF member States, conducts the **Regular Sessions of the Committee** normally every two years. Decisions of the Committee are taken by a majority of the votes casted, unless otherwise provided. Each member has one vote.

The Committee also established a **Scientific Sub-Committee** in 1998. The main function of the Scientific Sub-Committee is to provide appropriate science-based advice to the Committee for fisheries management decisions. The Scientific Sub-Committee reviews the results of the Working Group assessments and formulates management advice for the stocks, which are then endorsed by the Member Countries during the Committee sessions.

In 2000, the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee established permanent **Working Groups** to address small pelagic species, demersal species, and artisanal fisheries. The Working Groups meet as required and on an intersessional basis. The Working Groups collate data and information about the fisheries resources and conduct stock assessments to analyze the state of the fish stocks. Using both traditional statistical analyses and considering other scientific information known about the stocks, the Working Groups determine if the stocks are: not fully exploited, fully exploited, or overexploited. ■



Figure 3 Structure and Organigramme of CECAF



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