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<b>WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION</b> Twelfth Session
<b>WECAFC LESSER ANTILLES FISHERIES COMMITTEE</b> Ninth Session
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 25-28 October 2005
<b>SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WECAFC AD HOC WORKING GROUPS</b>

## I. Introduction

1. The Ninth Session of the Commission, October 1999, adopted the working group approach as its strategy to organize its work programme and to provide technical assistance and advice to its members in order to assist them in achieving sustainable fisheries. Since then the following ad hoc working groups were established based on the requests of members:

- Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf;
- Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, (*Panulirus argus*) Resource in the WECAFC Area;
- Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean;
- Working Group on Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*); and
- Working Group on the Sustainable Development of Moored FAD Fishing in the Lesser Antilles.

## II. Activities

### Ad hoc Working Group on the Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas shelf

2. In February 2005, a consultant visited Suriname and appraised the current status of data collection and assessment of the national shrimp and groundfish fisheries. His report identified several priority activities that should be implemented to facilitate strengthening of the existing assessment and management of the fisheries in that country. It was not possible to visit Guyana on the same mission because of major floods in the country. The mission to Guyana rescheduled for later in the year did not materialise. The main objective of the mission was to assist the two countries in preparing for an assessment workshop.

3. A two-week assessment workshop was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad in April 2005 on the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. The workshop culminated in a meeting of stakeholders from both countries at which the most recent assessments on the status of the shrimp and groundfish resources and management recommendations were presented. The report of the workshop, Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela Status Report – March 2005, is being edited for publication.

### Ad hoc Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster Resource in the WECAFC Area

4. It has not been possible to hold a meeting of the WECAFC ad hoc Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster but it is likely that some funding to hold a meeting in 2006 would be available from the FAO FishCode programme.

### Ad hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean

5. It has not been possible to hold a meeting of the flyingfish working group since January 2001, for various reasons, including those related to the maritime delimitation between two members of the Group and the state of readiness of members of the Group in terms of availability of data on the fisheries. The agenda for the next meeting of the Group will include the draft Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean which was prepared in 2002.

### Working Group on Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*)

6. In response to requests for assistance, a manual on management of queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, in accordance with the regulations and requirements of CITES, was prepared and has been submitted to several technical experts in Belize, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, as well as to the International Queen Conch Initiative (coordinated by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council), the CRFM (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism) and the CITES Secretariat for comments. The manual is being finalized and should be completed before the end of 2005. It will be translated first into Spanish. Subject to availability of extra-budgetary funds, the intention is to run national and sub-regional training workshops in 2006 on the application of the methods described in the manual. The UNEP - Caribbean Environment Programme (Jamaica) and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CMFC) have indicated their interest in supporting these workshops.

### Working Group on the Sustainable Development of Moored FAD Fishing in the Lesser Antilles

7. During the intersessional period, the Second meeting of the ad hoc Working Group took place in Guadeloupe, 5-10 July 2004. It was hosted by the Institut Régional de Pêche et de Marine (IRPM). The working group examined the construction, deployment and the management systems of moored FADs and highlighted its potential impacts. Following the meeting, a two-week practical training session for fishers and fisheries extension personnel from Lesser Antilles countries was held for selected fishers and fisheries extension officers from participating member countries. The training focused on construction, deployment, maintenance and the appropriate fishing techniques to use around FADs. The French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer --Ifremer) cooperated in organizing the meeting with financial assistance from the Government of France for the working group meeting as well as for the two-week training session.

8. The working group report, Report of the Second Meeting of the WECAFC ad hoc Working Group on the Sustainable development of Moored Fish aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles, 5-10 July 2004, and a supplement containing the technical papers and national summaries are being edited for publication.

9. In order to accelerate the process of knowledge acquisition and to involve fisheries managers in a responsible, supervisory process for this emerging fishery, it was proposed that a multidisciplinary programme be carried out in the islands where moored FADs were being used. A draft proposal aimed at securing European Union funds for research work to support the sustainable exploitation of the marine resources around moored FADs was presented to the Third SAG, April 2005. The SAG recommended that the proposal consider both the social and economic benefits and the study of alternative management and fishing strategies to reduce possible negative impacts, particularly on those species that were presently considered overfished.

### **III. Reports**

10. The following reports have been published by the working groups or are in the process of being published:

#### Ad hoc Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf

- Report of the First Regional Conference on the Sustainability of Fisheries Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Paramaribo, Suriname, 5-7 March 2002. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 676. Rome, FAO, 2002. 27pp.

- Report of the Meeting of Fisheries Managers and Ministers of the WECAFC Ad hoc Working Group of the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 26-29 March 2001. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 650. Rome, FAO, 2001. 381pp.
- Fourth Workshop on Assessment and Management of Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries on the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, 2-13 October 2000, Cumana, Venezuela. Regional reviews and National Management reports. *FAO Fisheries Report* No. 651. Rome. FAO, 2001. 152pp.
- Report of National Workshop on Fisheries Management in Suriname and a Follow-up Meeting, Paramaribo, Suriname, 21-22 June 2000 and 11 July 2000. FAO/FISHCODE Project, GCP/INT/648/NOR. Field Report F-12 (Ni and En). Rome, FAO, 2000, 23pp.
- Rapport de la Réunion Nationale sur les Pêcheries de Crevettes et de Poissons de Fond du Plateau Guyano-Brésilien, Cayenne, 16 juin 2000. Programme de Coopération FAO/Norvège, GCP/INT/648/NOR. Rapport de terrain F-11 (Fr). Rome, FAO, 2000, 6pp.
- Seminário Nacional sobre Pesca de Camarão e Peixes Demersais na Costa Norte do Brasil (Report of National Workshop on Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas Shelf), Belém, Brazil, 14 June 2000. FAO/FISHCODE Project, GCP/INT/648/NOR., Field Report F-10 (Por). Rome, FAO, 2000, 22pp.
- Informe del Taller sobre Pesquerías de Camarón y Peces de Fondo en la Región Atlántica de Venezuela, Cumaná, Venezuela, 5 de mayo de 2000. Programa de Cooperación Gubernamental FAO/Noruega, GCP/INT/648/NOR. Informe de Campo F-9 (Es). Roma, FAO, 2000, 9pp.
- Report of National Workshop on Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, 2-3 May 2000. FAO/FISHCODE Project, GCP/INT/648/NOR. Field Report F-8 (En). Rome, FAO, 2000, 22pp.
- Report of National Workshop on Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Mon Repos, Guyana, 27-28 April 2000. FAO/FISHCODE Project, GCP/INT/648/NOR. Field Report F-7 (En). Rome, FAO, 2000, 16pp.
- Report of the Third Workshop on the Assessment of Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries on the Brazil-Guianas Shelf, Belém, Brazil, 24 May-10 June 1999. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 628. Rome, FAO. 2000, 206pp.
- National reports presented and stock assessment reports prepared at the CFRAMP/FAO/DANIDA Stock Assessment Workshop on the Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries on the Guiana-Brazil Shelf, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 7-18 April 1997. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 600. Rome, FAO. 1999, 200pp.
- Report of the Fourth Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf and CFRAMP Shrimp and Groundfish Subproject Specification Workshop, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 8-12 January 1996. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 544. FAO, Rome, 1996, 43pp.
- National Report and selected papers presented at the Fourth Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf and CFRAMP Shrimp and Groundfish Subproject Specification Workshop, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 8-12 January 1996. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 544, Supplement. Port-of-Spain FAO, 1997, 248pp.
- Report of the Third Workshop on the Biological and Economic Modelling of the Shrimp Resources of the Guyana-Brazil Shelf, Paramaribo, Suriname, 22-25 June 1992. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 526. FAO, Rome, 1992, 24pp.

- National Reports and selected papers presented at the Third Workshop on the Biological and Economic Modelling of the Shrimp Resources of the Guyana-Brazil Shelf, Paramaribo, Suriname, 22-25 June 1992. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 526 Supplement, Rome, FAO, 1995, 200pp.
- Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela Status Report – March 2005; The *ad hoc* Working Groups on Shrimp and Ground-fish on the Brazil- Guianas Shelf (being edited for publication).

#### Ad hoc Working Group on the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*, Resource in the WECAFC Area

- Report of the Second Workshop on Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries in the WECAFC Area, Havana, Cuba, 30 September-4 October 2002. *FAO Fisheries Report* No. ? Rome, FAO, 2003. ? pp. (in press)
- Report of the Workshop on Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Fisheries in the Area of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Mérida, Mexico, 4-8 September 2000. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 643. Rome, FAO, 2001. 66pp.
- Report on the FAO/DANIDA/CFRAMP/WECAFC Regional Workshops on the Assessment of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*), Belize City, Belize, 21 April-2 May 1997 and Mérida, Mexico, 1-12 June 1998. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 619. Rome, FAO, 2001. 381pp.

#### Ad hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean

- Report of the Second Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean, Bridgetown, Barbados, 8-12 January 2001. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 670. Rome, FAO. 2002, 156pp.
- Report of the First Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean, Bridgetown, Barbados, 22-24 September 1999. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 613. Rome, FAO. 1999, 45pp.

#### Ad hoc Working Group on the Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles

- Report of the First Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Working Group on the Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device Fishing in the Lesser Antilles, Le Robert, Martinique, 8-11 October 2001. *FAO Fisheries Report* No. 683. Rome, FAO. 2002. 23pp.
- National reports and technical papers presented at the First Meeting of the WECAFC Ad hoc Working Group on the Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device Fishing in the Lesser Antilles, Le Robert, Martinique, 8-11 October 2001. *FAO Fisheries Report* No. 683, Suppl. Rome, FAO. 2002. 295pp.
- Report of the Second Meeting of the WECAFC ad hoc Working Group on the Sustainable development of Moored Fish aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles, 5-10 July 2004 (being edited for publication).

#### Working Group on Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

- [Draft] Manual for the monitoring and management of Queen Conch. FAO. 2005 (being edited for publication)

#### **IV. Suggested Action by the Commission**

11. The Commission is invited to review and comment on the Ad hoc working groups' activities.