



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# WECAFC-FIRMS Data workshop

Introduction, terms of reference and expected products

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# Outline

**Workshop Introduction**

**Background and need**

**Focus**

**Terms of Reference**

**Goals and Objectives**

**Expected Products**

# Background

WECAFC 14 (2012), WECAFC 15 (2013) and WECAFC SAG (2013) recognized:

- \* Need for reliable and sufficient fisheries data in support of better fisheries management in the region
- \* Strengthening national data collection in the WECAFC region in support of regional fishery management plans
- \* Need for regional harmonization of data collection and sharing

WECAFC 14 (2012) formally adopted these recommendations in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for 2014/2015

- \* Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national levels
- \* Improvements in regional and national fisheries status and trends
- \* Aligning with the Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) tapping into knowledge and experience
- \* Further endorsed through UNDP/GEF Project “CLME+ ““Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme

# Workshop Focus

- \* Identifying minimum data needs to align with management objectives
- \* Identifying data gaps and deficiencies and capacity needs
- \* Identify best practices for harmonization of data collection and sharing in the region and
- \* Obtain consensus on best practices for regional data collection & sharing
- \* Identify relevant data sets to share
- \* Enhance existing working groups in the region and identify new WGs to foster improvements in data collection, sharing and support
- \* Develop workshop around three pilot resource units:
  - \* flying fish, lobster and conch
- \* Lay the foundation for a roadmap for implementation of best practices in regional data collection, sharing and harmonization;

# Terms of Reference

- \* Provide findings on current data collection and data sharing procedures in the region from the review of existing FMPs and through discussions with regional experts for three priority resource groups (conch, lobster, flying fish)
- \* Propose a strategy for improving data collection systems in the region in support of WECAFC FMPs, towards capacity to disseminate stocks and fisheries status report through FIRMS
- \* Propose a strategy for improving human capacity in data collection, and few priority and achievable targets
- \* Propose a strategy for increasing data harmonization and sharing in the region towards the advent of a scientific and dissemination Regional Database in support of WECAFC FMPs
- \* Discuss relevant experts working groups TORs and/or propose activities for collaboration with existing groups in the region

# Expected Workshop Products

- \* Identification of needs, gaps and deficiencies in regional data collection, sharing and capacity.
- \* Consensus on minimum elements and best practices for data collection, data sharing, data harmonization, IT requirements for a regional database.
- \* Definitions of basis for action plan for building capacity and strengthening national data collection and working groups in support of fisheries management
- \* Finalization and publishing of FIRMS inventories (with Spanish translations)
- \* Foundations for prototype of regional database and consensus of .

**Thank You!**  
**Gracias**  
**Merci!**