



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WECAFC Regional Database Workshop

Questionnaire responses

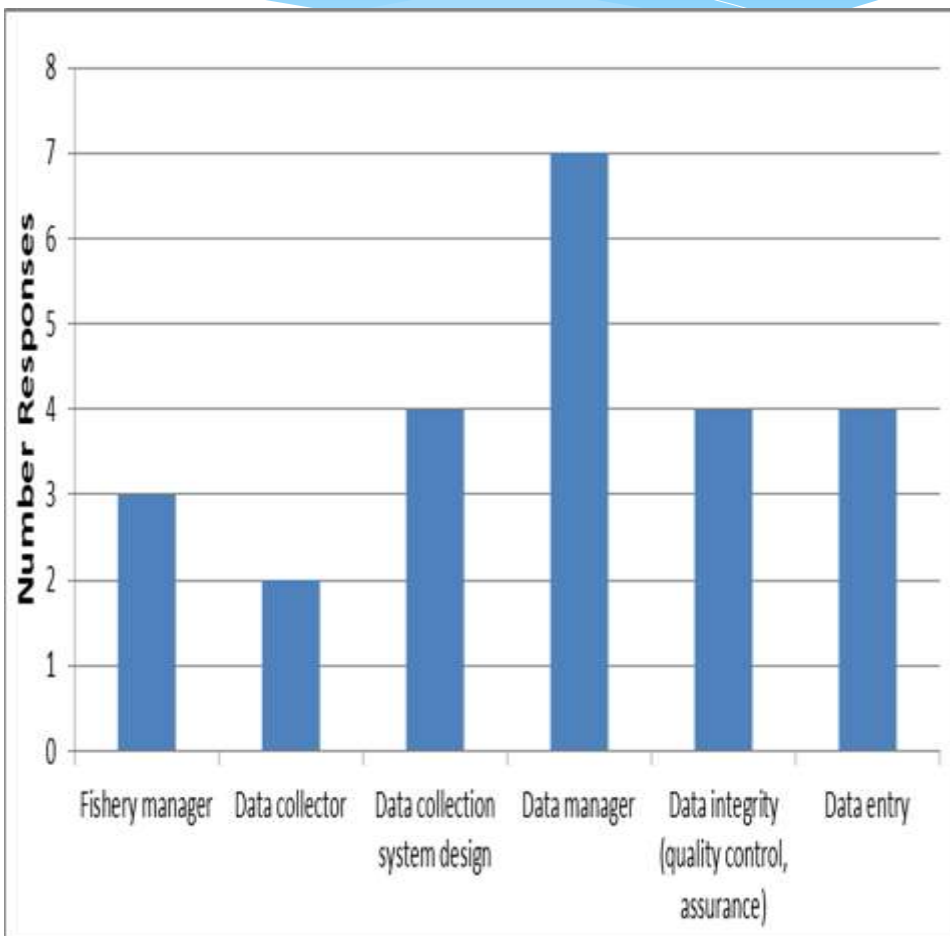
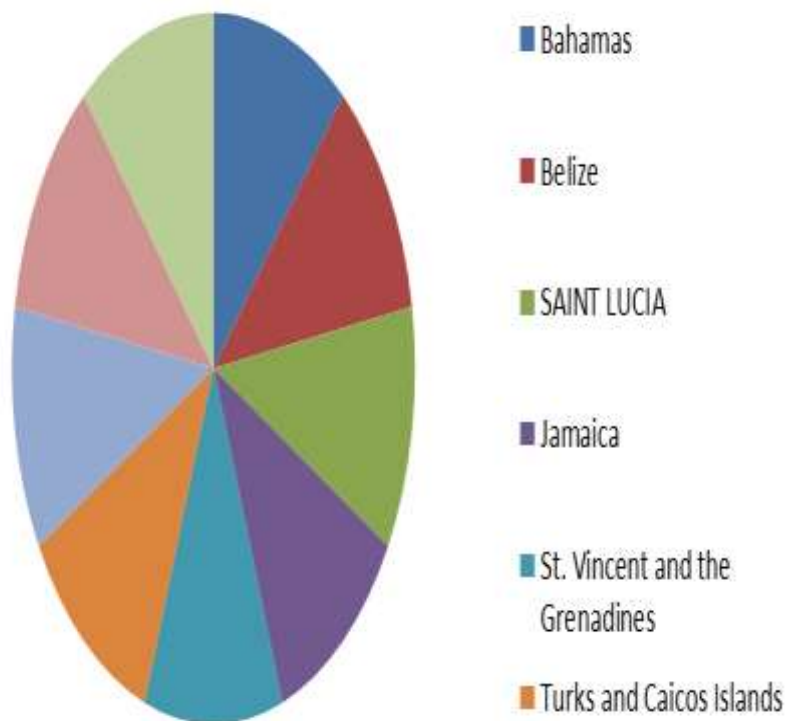
Nancie Cummings

Rel. to agenda item 5: “Presentation of Pre-Workshop Questionnaire Results on data gaps and deficiencies in the region”

WECAFC-FIRMS Data workshop. Barbados, 19-21 January 2016

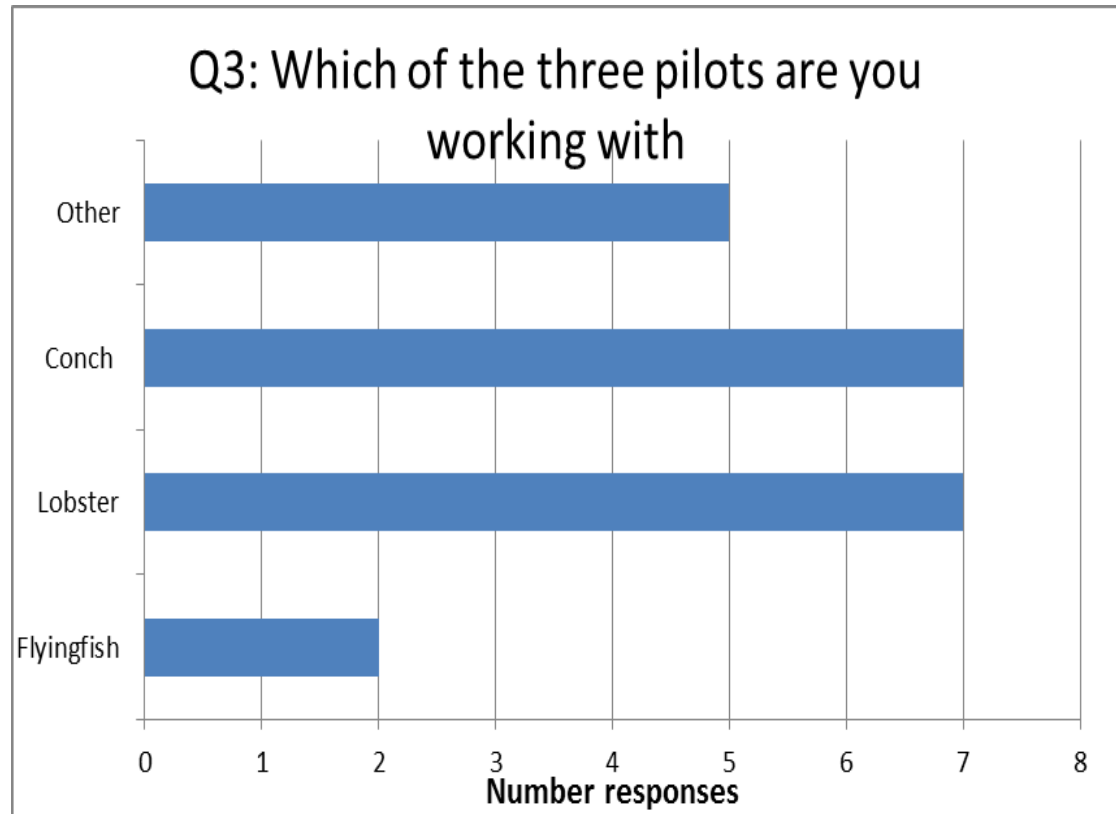
Responders locations and focus in data collection

Location of responders



N=9

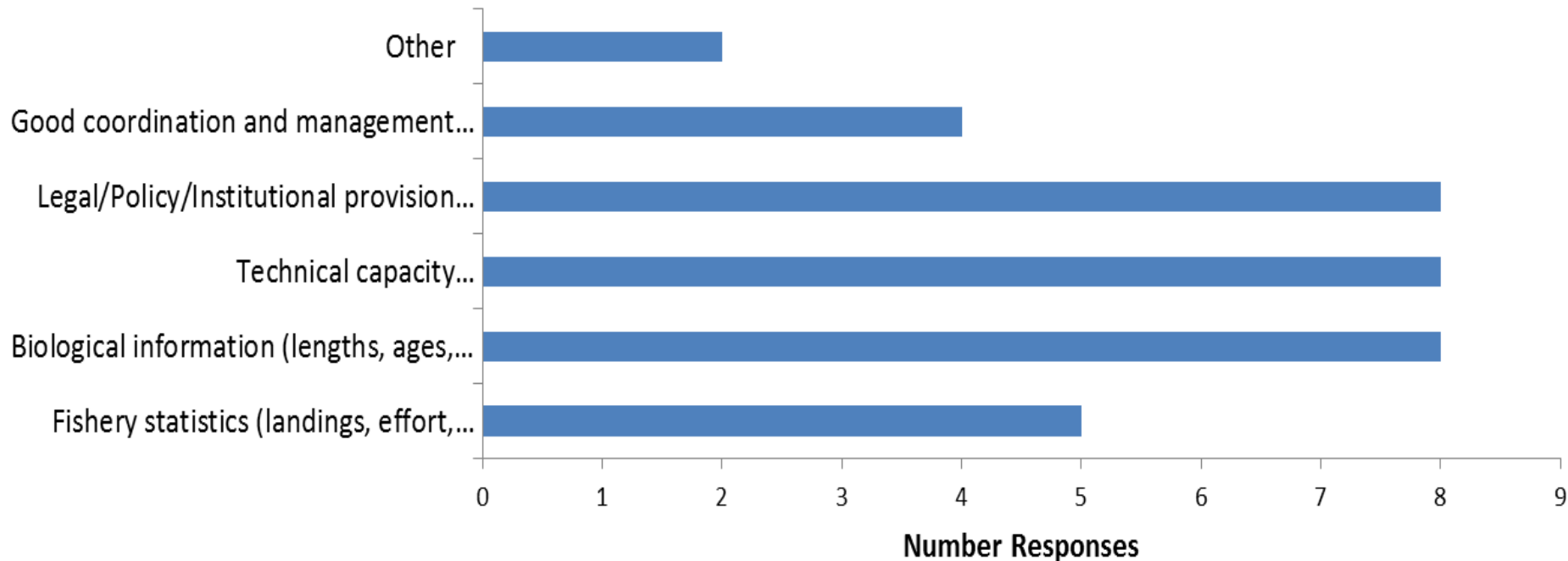
Q3: Which of the three pilot areas are you working in (flyingfish, lobster, conch)



N=9

Q4: What are the main areas in which you feel data collection gaps or deficiencies exist in your country?

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N=9

Q5: If you answered 'Legal/Policy/Institutional provision' in Question 4, please explain

- ❖ Use of legal provisions compelling data provision by the industry not used
- ❖ Reporting of landings is not mandatory & some regulations ambiguous regarding gear and its usage.
- ❖ Fisheries legislation addressing gaps or deficiencies in data collection has been submitted to parliament however the passing of the Bill is still pending.
- ❖ Legal requirement for reporting is limited to Processing Facilities, and current policy has limited that to Class A Facilities.
- ❖ Policy for reporting has been limited to Conch and Lobster only (not other species).
- ❖ Clarification of definitions for reporting exists
- ❖ No penalties for fishers refusal to cooperate
- ❖ Verification of data challenges
- ❖ The Fisheries Legislation for St. Vincent and the Grenadines is outdated and needs to be revised to incorporate new fishing techniques (FADs).
- ❖ Fishing Industry Act needs updating, no reporting required by law

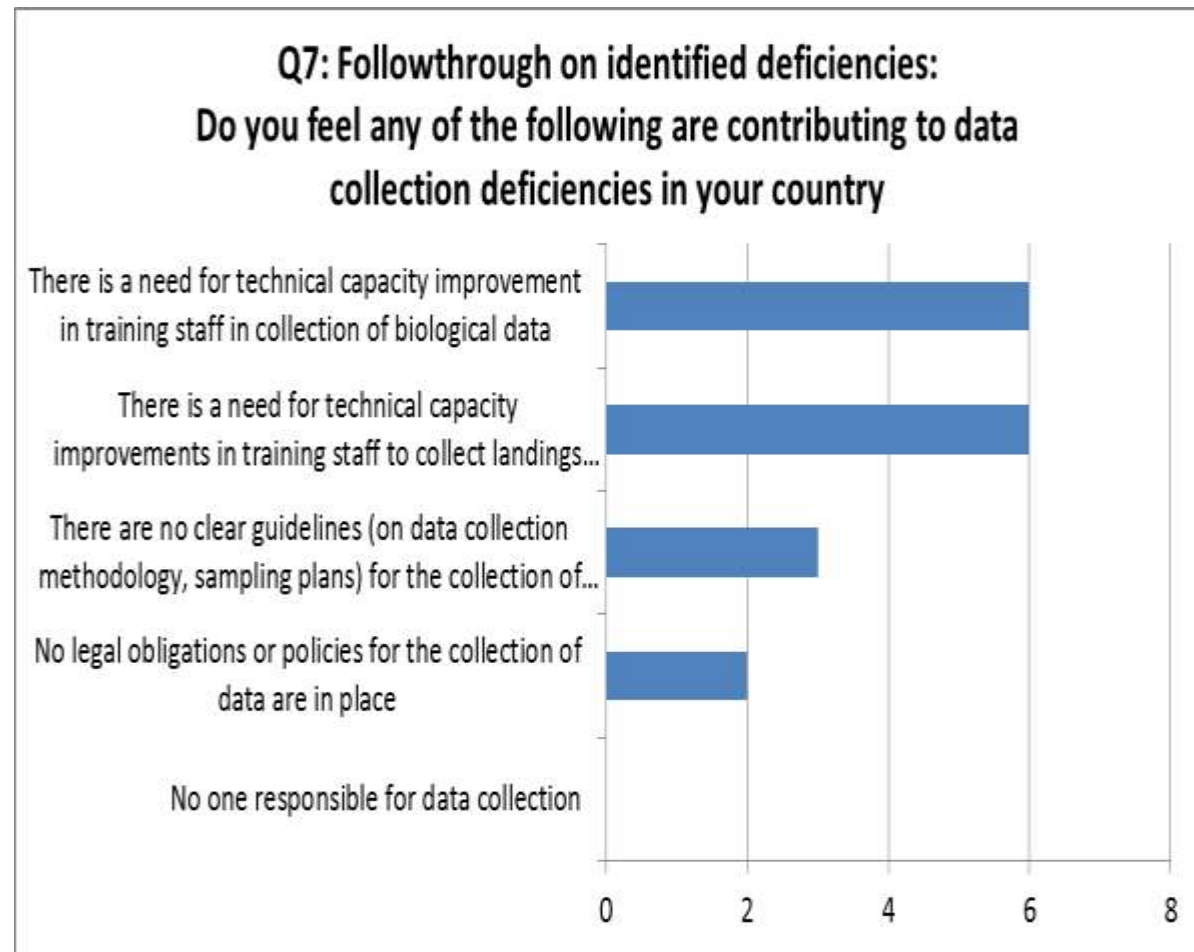
Q6 and Q7: Follow-through on deficiencies from Q5

* Do you Do you feel feel the deficiency/gap in fishery statistics will impact the ability to complete the data of the FIRMS inventory at fishery level?

* Yes: 28.6%

* No: 71.4%

N=7

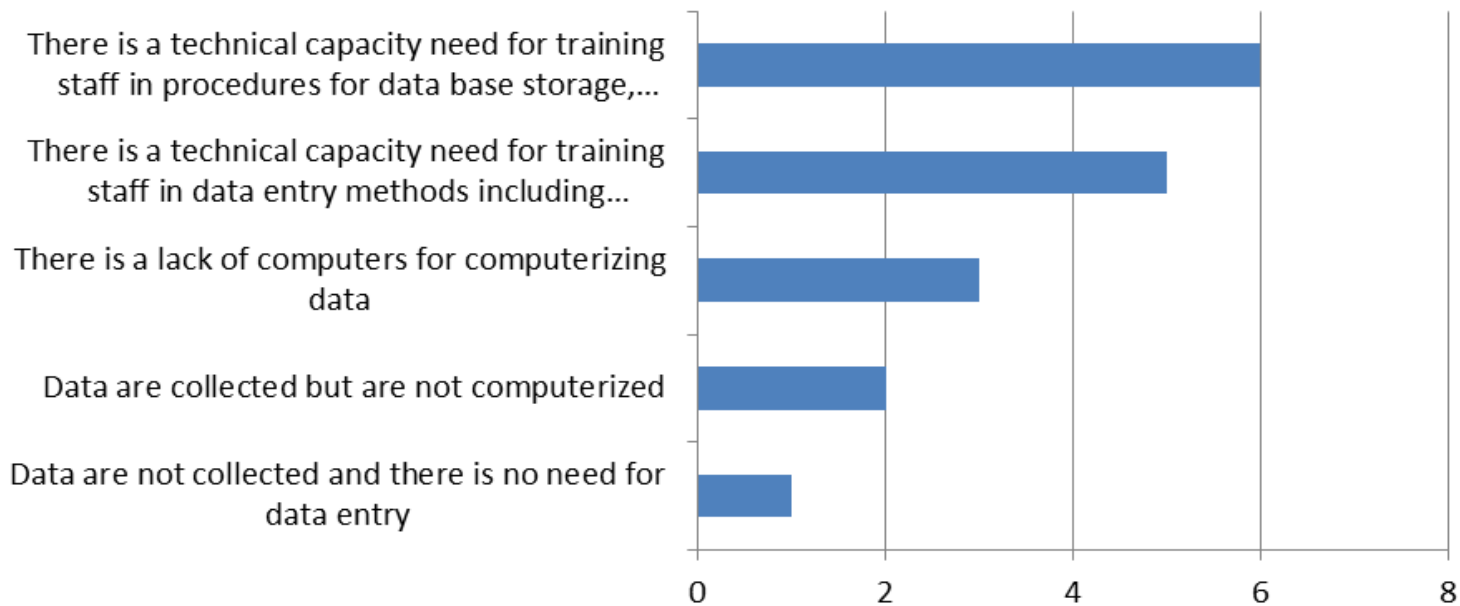


N=9

Main areas of gaps in data entry and data management

gaps exist?

Primary areas of gaps in data entry and data management



Q9: Do stakeholders understand the need for data collection

- * Yes (44.4%)
- * **No (44.4%)**
- * Other (11.1%)

N=9

What factors may be contributing to fishers/stakeholders understanding of the need for data collection.

- ❖ While some do understand, transferring the data into useful information that can guide them in their operations is lacking
- ❖ Through public awareness and training.
- ❖ Fishers/stakeholders are aware of the need for data and experience the benefit when data is used for fisheries management.
- ❖ For those who understand are familiar with the need for data in effective decision-making
- ❖ Fishers understand the need for data collection because whenever there is an ad hoc data collection program the importance of the data is always explained to them & they cooperate.

Q11: Do you feel there is a resistance from fishers to provide data or information in your country?

* Yes (11.1%)

* No (88.9%)

N=9

Generally fishers are co-operative, however some fishers show resistance because of:

- a) Low catches;
- b) lack of understanding of the role of the Department of Fisheries;
- c) Increases in fuel/operational costs;
- d) fear of government taxes if true earnings are revealed;
- e) fear of increased competition of fishing grounds are known

Some fishers are tired when returning to dock and do not always enjoy being disturbed/questioned.

Concern that providing data may lead to legal trouble - or that providing data may lead to Fisheries Legislative Amendments that could potentially make their livelihoods more challenging.

Q10 and 11 (continued): Factors impeding fishers cooperation with data collection

- * Fishers are sometimes peeved when there is no feedback about the data they helped to provide.
- * Many fishermen do not want their fishing activities to be monitored by relevant authorities.
- * Lack of knowledge for the purpose of data collection and trust in the confidentiality of the system
- * THERE ARE SOME FISHERS WHO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, e.g trade in illegal narcotics and guns and ammunition and stealing of fish from fish pots of other fishers
- * Fear of Taxation, protect their fishing ground/ fishing apparatus, lack of trust with government officials, do not see the need/benefit
- * ^{N=9} A few fishers still resist giving information to the Fisheries Division, because they feel that the information they provide

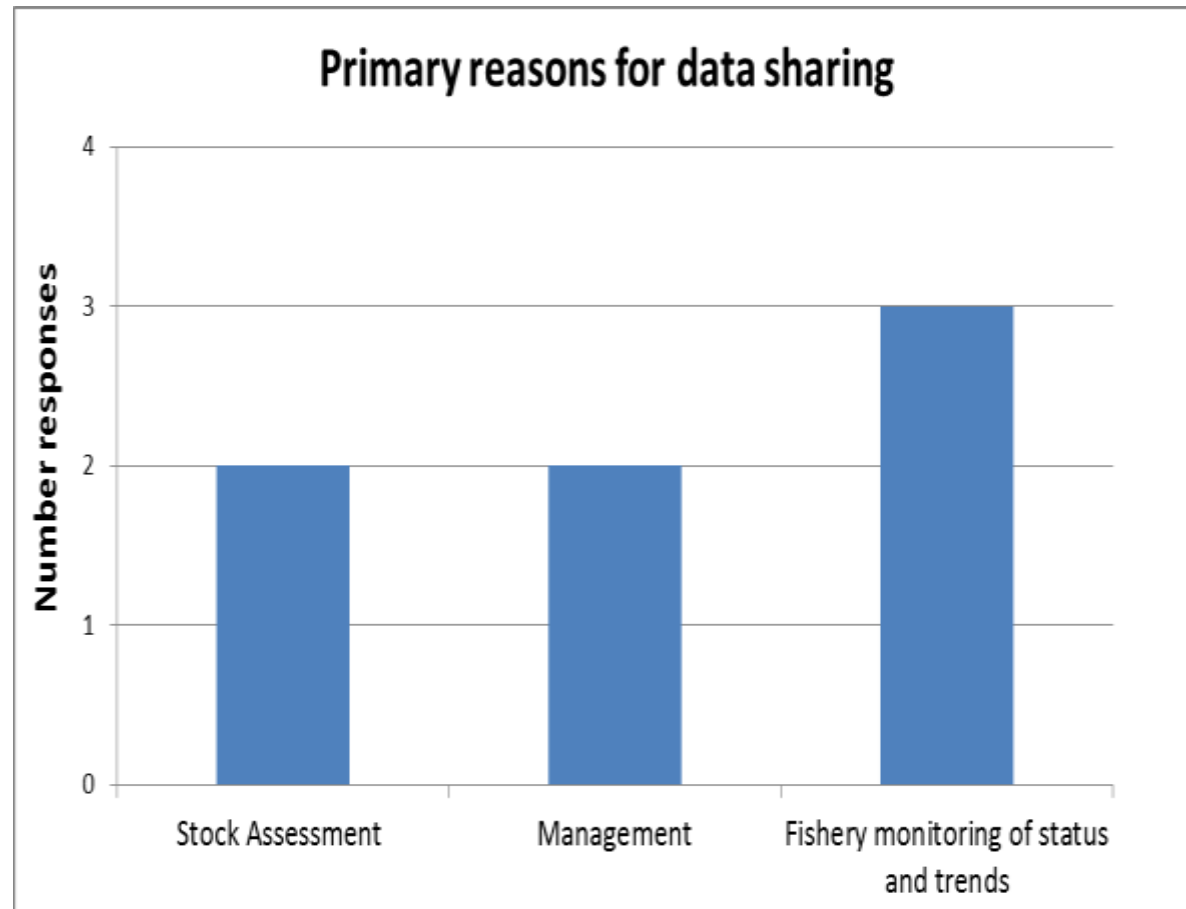
Q13: Frequency of stock Assessments in your agency?

Responses (N=9)

- * Once per year 11.1%
- * Once every two years (11.1%)
- * Once every five years (11.1%)
- * Never (11.1%)
- * On project basis- rarely (11.1%)
- * Other (44.4%)

Data Sharing and Reasons Given

- * Q14: Is there a formal process or protocol in place in your country for sharing data with other countries?
- * Yes (44.4%)
- * No (55.6%)
- * N=9



Q16: Could you describe any lessons learned from failure and/or success stories regarding data collection in your country?

Belize Fisheries Department has been able to assess the major commercial fisheries because there exist a close collaboration in data sharing with other stakeholders (NGOs) that focus in fisheries data collection.

HCRs have recently been introduced for lobster; implementation of closed seasons, i.e. newly instituted closed season for Nassau grouper; The Bahamas has also had to reduce the estimated safe harvest amount for the lobster fishery due to a lack of Bahamas specific fishery independent data.

When resources are limited it is better to conduct time limited surveys / data collection programs than to collect no data at all. Success: Excellent data collection during CFRAMP because of the support under that project.

Small-scale fishers do not generally view their operations as a business. With the introduction of a logbook system, an appreciation for monitoring catch, resources spent, earnings gained/loss and having actual documentation has impacted on their perception on the need for data collection. By extension, the Fisheries Division was able to strengthen data collection activities in some key areas thereby filling some gaps.

Q16: Lessons Learned continued:

- * Sampling of lobster fishery landings has led to the review of Lobster Season dates for Opening and Closure. Landings data collection for Conch was able to assist management policy to assist in stock recovery needed as a result of the environmental impact from Hurricanes Hanna and Ike (2008).
- * Success is stock assessment for conch due to effort and landings data; Failures: still only report on general landings which skews understanding on status of fishery
- * Lesson learned from success regarding data collection: Consistent collection of Fisheries Data must be done to ensure that data are readily available for management use
- * Some fishers are forced to keep written records and these have been used to access credit in financial institutions.

Q17: Factors contributing to deficiencies, gaps, capacity concerns in data collection, management and data sharing not addressed

- * Lack of human and financial resources especially in the collection of biological data.
- * Cooperation between concerned government agencies; Inability to gain the trust of the fishing community relating to the needs for statistical data collection and its usage; Inadequate training opportunities relating to data collection
- * Frequent staff turnover has lead to a loss in some technical capacities, this has also lead to a loss in collected data due to a lack of central databases and computers. Some lack of technical capacity in Fisheries Sciences and Management. As a developing country, Management Policies are taking time to develop into what may be a standard in Developed Nations.
- * Limited staff and financial resources
- * Factors contributing to deficiencies in biological data collection - Need Biological data collectors, Training, equipment (measuring board, scales etc), Financial resources (Lab work, buying of fish, etc.)
- * Allocation of finance to conduct fisheries research.
- * The major factors that contributes to deficiencies are: a) finances; b) Human resources; c) knowledge



Thank You!

Gracias

Merci!