



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Present available Working groups in the region

J. Masters

Rel. to agenda item 16: “**Present available Working groups in the region**”

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

Regional and international organisations with responsibility for fisheries management and development in the wider Caribbean

Mahon, R. et al. (2008) LOOKING AT; Governance for Caribbean Living Marine Resources: Seeking a Path

He found nine regional and international organisations with responsibility for fisheries in the region

**WECAFC, ACS, WECAFC LAC,
CARIFORUM, CARICOM/CRFM, OECS, ICCAT,
OLDEPESCA, OSPESCA.**

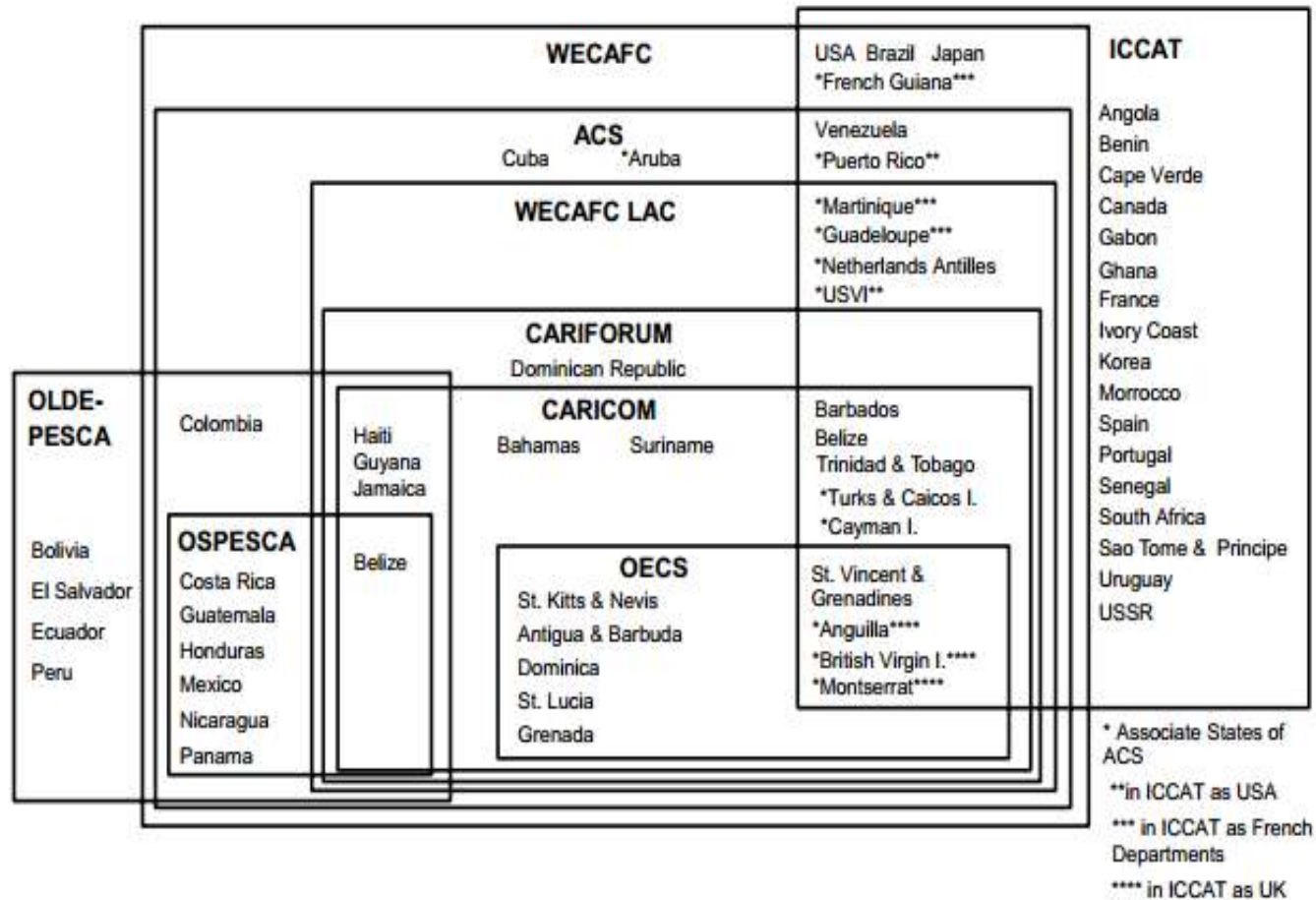


Figure 4. The membership of regional and international organisations with responsibility for fisheries management and development in the wider Caribbean (WECAFC = FAO West Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, ACS = Association of Caribbean States, CARICOM = Caribbean Community and Common Market, OECS = Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, LAC = Lesser Antilles Committee, OLDEPESCA = Latin American Organization for Fishery Development, OSPESCA = Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano, ICCAT = International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas).

(OLDEPESCA)

Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development

Species covered

- all living marine resources.

Membership

- Open only to those States belonging to the Latin American Economic System.
- **Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).**

Working Groups identified:

- * Working groups have been established to investigate the impact of the Fish Stocks Agreement on the States in the region and the concerns of these States.
- * And FAO/OLDEPESCA Working Group on Fisheries Research

(OSPESCA) Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

Species covered

Marine capture, inland capture and aquaculture fish stocks of Member States.

Membership

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Members and Objectives

Working Groups (WG) comprised of specialists from the countries in fishery and aquaculture issues.

WG aims to provide scientific and technical recommendations to support the various agreements of OSPESCA decision-makers.

OSPESCA WORKING GROUPS

- * **Permanent Groups:**

- * GT "Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy" (GTPP)
- * GT "Harmonization of Fishing Regulations" (GANP)

- * **Special Groups:**

- * GT "Aquaculture" (GRUTAC)
- * GT "Sharks and Highly Migratory Species" (GTEAM)
- * GT "Sport Fisheries"
- * GT "Fisheries Research"

- * **Liaison/National Focal points (Networks)** – For dealing with issues of training, fisheries and aquaculture registry, communications, vessel monitoring system.

Recent major successes of OSPESCA WORKING GROUPS

SICA countries binding regional regulations:

- * Regulation OSP-01-09 Fisheries and Aquaculture Integrated Register System (SIRPAC)
- * Regulation OSP-02-09 Caribbean Spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Regional Management
- * Regulation OSP 03-10 Regional Fishing Vessels Monitoring System
- * Regulation OSP 04-11 Fisheries and Aquaculture Code of Ethics
- * Regulation OSP-05-11 Shark finning prohibition
- * Regulation OSP-06-13 On the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)
- * Regulation OSP 07-14 On strengthening Whale shark population sustainability
- * Regulation OSP 08-14 To prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, undeclared and unreported fishing
- * Regulation OSPESCA/OIRSA 001-2013 To prevent, control and eradicate cultured shrimp diseases

Other regional achievements:

- * Regional Plan of Action for Sharks
- * Harmonization of landing and inspection forms and database for highly migratory species

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Members:

- * Antigua and Barbuda,
 - * Dominica (the Commonwealth of)
 - * Grenada,
 - * Montserrat,
 - * St Kitts and Nevis,
 - * Saint Lucia
 - * St Vincent and the Grenadines.
- * The fisheries programme is part of an overall Ocean Governance Programme and so not species-group or sub-sector oriented.

Associate Members

- * Anguilla
- * British Virgin Islands

Ocean Governance Team of the OECS

The OECS has an "Ocean Governance Team", comprised of nationals of OECS Member States who are the national focal point for ocean governance activities.

Objectives.

- * To support the development and implementation of an OECS ocean policy framework and action plan

Scope

- * Legal, institutional and technical issues pertinent to ocean governance.
- * Resource base and consultative services in respect of ocean governance.

CARIFORUM CARICOM and CRFM

CARIFORUM

Membership

16 Participating States

- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- **Cuba**
- Dominica
- **Dominican Republic**
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Suriname
- Saint Lucia
- St. Christopher and Nevis
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

CARICOM MEMBER STATES

Antigua and Barbuda
The Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Montserrat
Saint Lucia
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

CARICOM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Anguilla
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Turks and Caicos Islands

* CRFM Member States

* Anguilla

- * Antigua and Barbuda
- * The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Saint Lucia
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands

CARIFORUM CARICOM and CRFM

The CRFM is an organisation established by CARICOM

CARIFORUM
Below the Council of Ministers is the Secretary General of CARIFORUM whose duties and responsibilities are carried out by the Secretary-General of CARICOM.

CARIFORUM
CARICOM and CRFM and linked with CRFM usually taking the role of acting as the fisheries arm of these two bodies

CRFM Working Groups

1. CRFM Working Group to promote sustainable aquaculture development - [Aquaculture](#)
2. Pelagic Fisheries Working Group (PWG) – [small & large pelagics, sport & recreational fishery](#)
3. Reef and Slope Fisheries Working Group (RSWG) - [Fish, Queen Conch and Caribbean Spiny Lobster](#)
4. Continental Shelf Fisheries Working Group (CSWG) – [Shrimp & groundfish](#)
5. Data, Methods and Training Working Group (DMTWG)

Operation and Successes of the CRFM Working Group

Membership in any Working Group is open to all CRFM Member and Associate States.

-From 2004- 2014 meetings of the working groups were convened once a year for 10 days during the Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting.

-This allowed for stock assessments and reviews of the different species by country or region under the various working groups. From the assessments fishery management advice were prepared for use mainly at the national level.

All the reports and analysis / Assessment can be found on the CRFM website.

Operation and Success of the CRFM Working Groups

Since 2014 - the WG's have been rearranged/consolidated (from 8 to 5 WG)
An on-site meeting should be convened at least once every two years.

At the Last Meeting of the working groups in June 2014

The PWG conducted analyses for:

- Scad fishery in Dominica,
- Dolphinfish fishery in St. Lucia,
- Large pelagic fishery in St. Vincent and the Grenadines,
- The pelagic fishery in St. Kitts and Nevis
- Non-artisanal longline fishery in Trinidad and Tobago

and provided recommendations for fisheries management, statistics and research to the extent possible.

TOR for WG can be found here

http://www.crfm.net/images/documents/press_release/CRFM_Special_Publ._No._3_final_05.03.15.pdf

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

*** 25 Members and 8 associate Members**

Areas of Focus

- * The preservation and conservation of the Caribbean Sea.
- * Sustainable Tourism.
- * Trade and Economic External Relations.
- * Natural Disasters.
- * Transport.

No fisheries related Working Group found.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNNAS (ICCAT)

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNNAS

Secretariat

STACFAD
Standing Committee
Finance and
Administration

Panels

SCRS
Standing Committee
Research and
Statistics

COC
Conservation &
Management
Measures
Compliance
Committee

PWG
Permanent WG
Improvement of
Statistics and
Conservation Measures

1: Tropical Tunas

Species WGs

2: Temperate tunas, North

SC Statistics

3: Temperate tunas, South

SC Ecosystems

4: Other species

These are the WG's that
might be most important to
us



ICCAT WORKING GROUP

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review available fishery and research information for the species of interest
- Carry out stock assessments and present their results and draft recommendations to the SCRS.

SPECIES WORKING GROUPS

Tropical Tunas - Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna,
Skipjack tuna

Albacore - Atlantic Albacore, Mediterranean
Albacore

Bluefin tuna - East Atlantic, West Atlantic

Billfishes -

Swordfish - North Atlantic Swordfish, South
Atlantic Swordfish, Mediterranean
Swordfish,

Sharks -

Small tunas -

Southern bluefin tuna

OTHER WORKING GROUPS

* **Stock Assessment
Methods Working Group**

* **Ad hoc WG on
coordination of tagging
information**

WECAFC - Current membership

- * Antigua and Barbuda,
- * Bahamas,
- * Barbados,
- * Belize,
- * Brazil,
- * Colombia,
- * Costa Rica
- * Cuba,
- * Dominica,
- * Dominican Republic,
- * European Union,,

- * France,
- * Grenada,
- * Guatemala
- * Guinea,
- * Guyana,
- * Haiti,
- * Honduras,
- * Jamaica,
- * Japan,
- * Mexico,
- * Netherlands,
- * Nicaragua,
- * Panama,

- * Republic of Korea,
- * Saint Kitts and Nevis,
- * Saint Lucia,
- * Saint Vincent/
Grenadines,
- * Spain,
- * Suriname,
- * Trinidad and Tobago,
- * United Kingdom,
- * United States of America,
- * Boliv Rep of Venezuela.

WECAFC – Working groups

1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster;
2. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries;
3. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Queen Conch Working Group;
4. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);
5. CRFM/WECAFC Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group;
6. WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries;
7. CFMC/WECAFC Spawning Aggregations Working Group;
8. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on shrimp and groundfish of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf;
9. OSPESCA/WECAFC Working Group on Sharks; and
10. Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU)
CRFM/WECAFC/OSPESCA joint group)

Operation and Success of the WECAFC Working Groups

Members of the WG's

- * Fishery scientists, experts, managers and decision-makers of member countries, Regional partner organizations and NGOs participate in the working groups,

TOR's

- * which have specific terms of reference and are time bound.

Data

- * The data used by the working groups to generate fishery management advice and recommendations are collected by the participating countries and NGOs.

Meetings

The working groups meet on a regular basis, the timing of which is decided by the members.

Operation and Success of the WECAFC Working Groups

-Working Groups have been Meeting and working face to face and electronically

- * **FAD WG** meet in SVG in 2013 – FAD Manuals of best practices are being produce.
- * **Queen Conch WG** – The ‘Report of the 2nd Meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch’ was provided as information to the 28th Meeting of the CITIES Animals Committee, Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015.
- * **Spawning Aggregations WG** – Meeting 2013 (OUTCOME)
- * **Spiny Lobster WG** –first meeting in Panama City in October 2014. Developed “Subregional Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster *Panulirus argus*) fisheries – MASPESCA – of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem.
- * **Flyingfish WG** - Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (Sub regional Flyingfish FMP) developed.

Issues perceived as constraints in conducting the work of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM groups

Lobster WG

- * Due to **funding** constraints, there has been very limited progress since the first Workshop in Panama. (Common to most WG)

Recreational Fishery

- * Limited communication and transparent broad consultation.
- * Interest among fisheries departments/divisions in the work of the WG is generally limited.
- * Top-down process is a problem.

Queen Conch

- * the follow-up at national level by WG experts requires time, effort and funds that are often not available .

FAD WG

- * Funds

Issues perceived as constraints in conducting the work of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM groups

Flyingfish

- * Lack of champion the Flyingfish FMP.
- * Institutional and language constraints of including (French-Martinique in the initiatives)

Shrimp

- * The frequent changes in national experts
- * Limited contribution by the private sector stakeholders to the work of the WG .

Working Groups in the region that could address certain issues

	OSPESCA	CRFM	WECAFC	ICCAT	Totals
Pelagics (large & small)/Recreational/Sport	2	1	3	8	14
Reef and Slop/Deep Slop fishery	1	1	2		4
Shrimp and Groundfish species	1	1	1		3
Conch fishery	1	Addressed by Reef and Slop WG	1		3
Lobster fishery	1	Addressed by Reef and Slop WG	1		3
Data/ Statistics/ Methods	1(Focal Point), 1 WG	1	1	2	6
Training/Communications	2(Focal Point)	Addressed by Data/ Statistics/ Methods WG			3
Aquaculture	1	1			2
Policy/Harmonization	2	Addressed at the Forum level	At session		3
Monitoring /Surveillance	1 (Focal Point)			Addressed by the Compliance Committee &PWG	3
FAD fishery			1		1

Interim fisheries management framework

Technical level

Working groups (joint or stand alone) collect scientific information, and expert members carry out analysis (involvement of key private sector stakeholders and NGOs) working groups are species based, fisheries based or aim to tackle specific subject (have biannual work plans)

Subregional policy/ decision making level



CRFM and OSPESCA carry out internal review of working group advice/ recommendations and amend and approve this for their members

Regional policy/ decision making level



CRFM and/or OSPESCA decisions are passed to WECAFC for discussion and final review and approval at regional level

THE WATERS OF THE CARIBBEAN SUPPORT A WEALTH OF FISH

IN RIVERS



AQUACULTURE



MARINE WATERS



Let us harvest our waters with care
and manage wisely



Thank YOU