



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



**FCWC**  
Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea

Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

*Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System*



## PROSPECTUS

FIRMS<sup>1</sup> and fishery statistics capacity development data workshop

FAO-FCWC LoA

Online

26-30 October 2020

### Background

**A formal collaboration was established between FAO and FCWC (Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea) in 2019. An agreement was made to provide “Training on fishery statistical data, and fisheries status data for the FCWC region and its member countries”.**

The outcome of this agreement is for FCWC to achieve the capacity to deliver the best science-based evidence available for decision makers and more broadly all stakeholders involved in the management of fishery resources. In particular:

1. strengthened capacity by FCWC and its Member States to maintain and disseminate FIRMS fisheries inventories, in line with CECAF-FIRMS policy;
2. strengthened capacity by FCWC to collate, manage and maintain a regional database of Catch and Effort at fishing units level; and
3. strengthened capacity of FCWC member states to submit such statistics on a regular basis, in ways harmonized and consistent with other reporting duties of these Member Countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) <http://firms.fao.org>

The collaboration Terms of Reference aims for a training on fishery statistical data, and fisheries status and trends information for the FCWC region and its member countries. The training was foreseen to be made of two parts: 1) a training session for two FCWC staff (a Fisheries specialist and an IT/data manager specialist) and the CECAF-SSC chairperson who travelled to Rome FAO headquarters in February 2020 for practical hands-on sessions with real statistical data provided by FCWC and for reviewing the FIRMS fisheries inventories; and 2) a three-day capacity development data workshop to identify strengths and weaknesses of current systems and to provide a training session to FCWC members for the collation, harmonization and submission of fishery data.

The report of the first training event (February 2020) is available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9357en/ca9357en.pdf>.

The present prospectus refers to the capacity development data workshop to be led by FCWC in collaboration with FAO.

### Workshop Objectives

With the overall goal of developing the capacity to deliver, in efficient and consistent ways, the best science-based evidence available for decision makers and more broadly all stakeholders involved in the management of fishery resources; the objectives of the workshop are:

1. a strengthened capacity by FCWC and its Member States to maintain and disseminate FIRMS fisheries inventories, in line with CECAF-FIRMS policy;
2. a strengthened capacity by FCWC to collate, manage and maintain a regional database of Catch and Effort at fishing units level; with an harmonization and streamlining focus; and
3. a strengthened capacity of FCWC member states to submit such statistics on a regular basis, in ways harmonized and consistent with other reporting duties of these Member countries.

### Specific objectives

#### **FIRMS**

1. Review and validate recommendations for the FCWC-FIRMS data sharing arrangement, with focus on what data should remain confidential in FCWC database, what can be shared among countries, what can go public in FIRMS.
2. Align, where possible, the FIRMS inventory with the FCWC's regional database (artisanal fisheries) and the other fisheries (industrial and foreign fisheries under fishing agreements).

3. Ensure complete coverage of up-to-date inventory of fisheries according to the FCWC RDB and align the former FIRMS fishery inventories (which also includes industrial fisheries)
4. Identify ways to connect the update of inventories with the collected statistics (data submission workflow, technology, etc.).

### **Fishery Statistics**

1. Review and validate recommendations for the FCWC-to-FAO fisheries statistics data provision, with focus on addressing content quality, and harmonization issues; this will require developing a framework to streamline the workflow for harmonization of fishery statistics based on CWP standards, with implementation of recommendations for inclusion of missing data fields in the FCWC database to ensure coherence with FAO and international reporting standards.
2. Consolidate FCWC members' capacity for the collation, harmonization and submission of fishery data, including a streamline statistical workflow.

### Target participants and support

The national Focal Point of the TCP project (Country Data Manager) and the Data Manager (Head of statistics division) for FCWC member countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and the Togo), and Fisheries Researchers from CECAF.

Resource persons will include FCWC Fisheries Technical Advisor, IT officer, etc. and staff from FAO Statistics and Information Branch, including Fishery statisticians and the FIRMS Secretariat.

### Preparation for the meeting

During the FCWC-FIRMS Training (Rome, Feb. 2020) a set of follow-up activities were identified to be carried out prior to the data workshop. These actions require follow-up by the participants prior to the meeting on the following:

1. Review and confirm the FCWC-FIRMS inventory of fisheries mapped to the national fishing units;
2. Review and confirm the Matrix for mapping of national vessel type with draft regional classification; and
3. Feedback on the Mapping of FCWC Catch & Effort dataset, CECAF regional dataset, Statbase structure, and OpenArtFish with CWP standard for reference harmonization.

## Venue

This workshop originally conceived as a three days workshop to be convened and hosted by FCWC during 2020, will be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting is envisaged to be structured in five days, 3-3.5 hours per day with a tea break. Zoom web conference platform will be utilized; simultaneous translations in English/French will be provided.

FCWC will ensure all Member States participants will be equipped with internet MIFI device and will stay in convenient rooms to attend and actively participate in the scheduled hours of the meeting.

An agenda and provisional timetable for the online meeting is provided in Appendix 1.

## Outputs of the meeting

As per above specific objectives, the following main outputs are expected:

1. Published up-to-date FCWC-FIRMS fisheries inventories covering all FCWC member countries, with responsibilities and update frequencies clearly assigned.
2. The FCWC – CECAF – FAO reference harmonization standard of CWP (the “matrix”) is validated for implementation by FCWC and its member countries, as a basis for future provision of fisheries statistics by FCWC member countries in a harmonized manner.
3. Recommendations for a clear framework to streamline the workflow of data as well as for updates in the inventories of fishery indicators and for maintaining a constant alignment between the FCWC database and the FIRMS inventories.
4. Recommendations for the enhancements of the quality of national artisanal fisheries database and the regional FCWC database. Ensure, as far as possible, consistency and coherence with CECAF and FAO capture fisheries statistics.
5. Report of the workshop to be provided by FCWC as per the agreement.

## APPENDIX 1. Provisional Agenda

Meeting place: Online, 26-30 October 2020 start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT

- Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00 GMT
- Accra, Ghana Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00 GMT
- Cotonou, Benin Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 11:00 WAT
- Lagos, Nigeria Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 11:00 WAT
- Lomé, Togo Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00 GMT
- Monrovia, Liberia Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00 GMT
- Praia, Cabo Verde Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 09:00 CVT
- Rome, Italy Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 11:00 CET
- GMT Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00 GMT
- UTC, Time Zone Mon, 26 Oct 2020 at 10:00

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FIRMS-FCWC capacity development Data Workshop		
<b>Day 1 [Monday 26 October 2020 Start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT]</b>		
9.45-10.00	Participants join the online session	
10.00-10:15	1) Welcome and presentation of participants	FCWC
10:15-10:30	2) Presentation of Agenda and Workshop Objectives	FCWC-FAO
10:30-10:45	3) Data needs for assessment and management of the CECAF stocks and fisheries in the FCWC region – key points on data gaps, and areas for improvements.	CECAF
10:45-11:15	4) Status of the FCWC Data Centre (e.g. Types of data: fisheries (SSF, industrial, recreational, scientific surveys...), census, socio-economic, household, frequency of data submission (month, trimester...), any data quality checks, etc. Update on the use of OpenArtfish.	FCWC
11.15 -11:30	5) About FIRMS	FAO
11:30-11:45	Tea Break	
11:45-12:15	6) Status of FIRMS inventories for the FCWC region - FIRMS fisheries inventories, mapping with FCWC's regional database	FAO, FCWC, CECAF
12:15-13:15	7) Presentation of preparatory work done by countries (mapping local vessel classification; mapping gears with vessels/fishing units when applicable; present current data submission workflow for FCWC, CECAF (Statlant A, and the assessment WGs), FAO NS1, ICCAT, ECOWAS + names of focal points, and any issues faced in such submission; FCWC-FIRMS inventory validation)	National participants – template to be provided by FAO/FCWC
<b>Day 2 [Tuesday 27 October 2020 Start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT]</b>		
9.45-10.00	Participants join the online session	
10:00-11:30	8) FCWC data and FAO fisheries statistics: Provide an overview of FAO capture fisheries	FAO-FCWC and CECAF

	reporting requirements and review the consistency of the FCWC database with the CECAF and Global Capture databases, FishStatJ	
11:30-11:50	Tea Break	
11:50-12:30	9) CWP standard for reference harmonization; CWP streamlining principles and best practices, in the context of reporting obligations of FCWC members.	FAO
12:30-13:30	10) Review of fisheries data collection schemes and related responsibilities (who collects and reports on what and when, which existing data exchange mechanisms at national level, ...)	FAO-FCWC and CECAF
<b>Day 3 [Wednesday 28 October 2020 Start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT]</b>		
9.45-10.00	Participants join the online session	
10:00-12:00	11) Mapping reporting requirements of various international organizations (FAO, CECAF/CECAF SSC, ICCAT, FCWC, ECOWAS, UEMOA...) to CWP reference harmonization standard	FAO-CECAF-FCWC
12:00-12:15	Tea Break	
12:15-13:00	12) Identification of capacity building needs that are related to reporting requirements	Countries, FCWC, FAO
<b>Day 4 [Thursday 29 October 2020 Start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT]</b>		
9.45-10.00	Participants join the online session	
10:00-11:30	13) Publishing protocol for the FCWC fisheries inventories (CECAF-harmonized)	FAO-CECAF-FCWC
11:30-11:50	Tea Break	
11:50-13:00	14) Defining a roadmap and the expected activities for the arrangement of the completion of the FCWC-FIRMS inventories	FAO-CECAF-FCWC
<b>Day 5 [Friday 30 October 2020 Start 10.00 AM UTC/GMT]</b>		
9.45-10.00	Participants join the online session	
10:00-11:30	15) Defining a roadmap and the expected activities towards streamlined and harmonized fishery statistics workflow	FAO-CECAF-FCWC
11:30-11:50	Tea break	
11:50-12:30	16) Review of agreed decisions and key points, any outstanding questions	FAO-CECAF-FCWC
12:30-13:00	17) Meeting closure	FAO-FCWC