

<b>FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Eleventh Session</b>
<b>Rome, Italy 13-14 and 18 May 2019</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY WECAFC DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD (June 2017 – April 2019)</b>
<b>Author: Nancie Cummings, WECAFC Focal Point</b>

1. Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries
  - Updated two (2) marine resources inventories and published two fact sheets (reporting year = 2016).
  - 13 new fishery records were added for a total of 25 fisheries for: Queen Conch, Spiny Lobster and Flyingfish,)
  - Fishery fact sheets published for nine countries (Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos islands).
  - Training conducted at sub-regional meeting on North Brazil Shelf Shrimp & Groundfish Data Preparatory meeting (May 2018, Barbados). 60 fishery records were drafted, 19 of them in advanced pending validation by French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago for being published as fishery fact sheets
  - Discussions on procedures for developing inventories held via teleconference with national representative of Dominica (April 2019, skype call).
  
2. Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources, and of fisheries;
  - No work on this element

3. Development/review of standards
  - Data Collection Reference Framework Developed and Reviews conducted (SAG 9), Conch, Lobster and North Brazil Shelf Shrimp and Ground fish Working Group)
  - Draft Guidelines on Logbooks developed
  - Draft Data Sharing and Access Policies developed
  
4. Development of Applications (e.g. new module at Secretariat level, or enhancements in streamlining workflow at Partner level);
  - No work conducted
  
5. Development of case studies/prototypes
  - Intersessional work activity identified in Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG) work plan to develop template for use in mapping national logbooks to regional logbook; progress made in identifying two (2) candidate fisheries (Jamaica reefish, OSPESCA spiny lobster); template under development.
  
6. Promotional / fund raising activities
  - FIRMS chairperson delivered materials for the Introduction of the FIRMS Partnership to the OSPESCA Regional Directors meeting, December 2018.
  - FIRMS Secretariat presented FIRMS and the new developments at the WECAFC, SAG9 Bridgetown, Barbados, November 2018.
  - FIRMS chairperson presented FIRMS at the Data Collection Reference Framework in the WECAFC Region Prepared for the 3rd Meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on Queen Conch Panama City, Panama, 30 October – 1 November 2018.
  - FIRMS Secretariat introduced the WECAFC-FIRMS success story at the Innovative data management services for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Copernicus. Brussels October 2018.
  - FIRMS Secretariat presented the Status of FIRMS inventories for the NBSLME. Data Preparation Workshop. 23 – 25 October 2018 Bridgetown, Barbados
  - FIRMS Secretariat introduced the WECAFC-FIRMS success story at the Data needs for Blue Growth; Policy issues and information needs for sustainable fisheries. 4th Geo Blue Planet Symposium. Toulouse, France 4-6 July 2018.
  - FIRMS Secretariat updated on WECAFC-FIRMS. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Shrimp & Groundfish Working Group. UN House. Barbados, 17-18 May 2018.
  - FIRMS chairperson presented the FIRMS Highlights and Requests and WECAFC-FIRMS RDB Project Highlights. Presentation prepared for Joint OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Caribbean Spiny Lobster Working Group. March 2018, Dominican Republic.
  - FIRMS Secretariat within the FAO-WECAFC Shrimp and Groundfish CLME+ sub-project promoted the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership during the FAO-WECAFC Shrimp and Groundfish CLME+ sub-project Launching Workshop. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20-24 November 2017.
  - FIRMS Secretariat presented FIRMS and the new developments at the WECAFC SAG8 Merida, Mexico 3-4 November 2017.

7. Planned activities during the coming intersession period.
  - Continue to develop inventories and fact sheets and update already developed inventories
  - Initiative to develop inventories for Dominica fisheries begun
  - Provide oversight to WECAFC FDS-WG