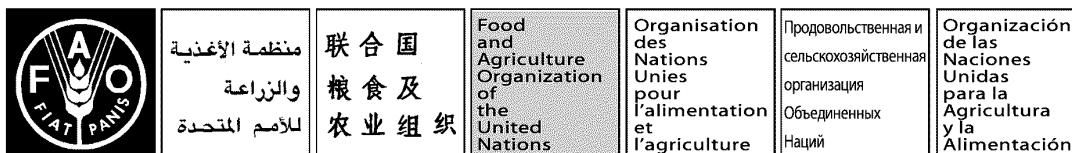


May 2018

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**WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)****1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)****Barbados, 14-17 May 2018****Draft recommendation on Regional Data Access and Sharing Policies****Recommendation WECAFC/xxx/2018/TBD****“ON THE REGIONAL DATA ACCESS AND SHARING POLICIES”**

The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC):

RECALLING that the objective of the Commission is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources within the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission;

NOTING that the 16<sup>th</sup> session of WECAFC held in Guadeloupe, France, 20-24 June 2016, agreed to establish the Regional Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDSWG) ;

CONSIDERING the identified minimum steps needed to improve the capability of the Commission in becoming a functional management organization as (i) Increase and improve information content on fisheries data and statistics, (ii) Increase accuracy of data and statistics via utilizing agreed practices in data collection, (iii) Develop and implement agreed practices for data sharing and (iv) Identify feasible stock assessment models for the region

PENDING the adoption of the DCRF as WECAFC minimum data requirements to increase and improve information content on fisheries data and statistics

RECOGNISING the need for confidentiality at the commercial and organisational levels for data submitted to the WECAFC;

PENDING the delivery of additional information by the FDSWG and the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG);

ADOPTS in conformity with Article 6 of the WECAFC Revised Statutes this RECOMMENDATION that:

ADOPTS in conformity with Article 6 of the WECAFC Revised Statutes this RECOMMENDATION that:

1. Data and statistics submitted by Members of WECAFC are consistent with the principle of data confidentiality defined in the WECAFC Regional Data Access and Sharing Policies.