



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



PROSPECTUS

First Meeting of the
REGIONAL FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP
For the WECAFC Commission

14-16 May 2018

United Nations House

Barbados

1 Background

The WECAFC 16th (Guadeloupe, France, 20-24 June 2016) agreed to establish a working group for fisheries data and statistics matters (FDS WG), based on the ongoing work of the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership. Additionally, the WECAFC 16 supported the development of a regional database (RDB) in collaboration with the Members and partners in the region.

The European Commission General Directorate for Fisheries (DG MARE) agreed to support financially the organization of the first meeting of the FDS WG in the context of the WECAFC-FIRMS project. The WECAFC-FIRMS project is coordinated by a taskforce representing key entities involved in fisheries research and management in the Caribbean.

In the course of the WECAFC-FIRMS project, and in support of data collection efforts in the region aiming at strengthening science-based decision making process, an essential asset for a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC region, important reference documents have been drafted by the WECAFC-FIRMS task force. These documents are: i) a Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), which provides minimum data requirements for data collection by Member Countries in support to fisheries management and stock assessment, ii) regional data exchange and sharing policies in complement to the DCRF, and iii) guidelines to logbooks design to support Member Countries in the implementation of modern tools for fisheries monitoring.

The DCRF will be implemented in a Regional Database (RDB). The proposed IT solution supporting the RDB is being finalized.

2 Objectives

The WECAFC Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG) proposes to convene the first meeting of the Working Group 14-16 May 2018 in Barbados that will officially launch the work of this FDS WG.

Specific objectives of the 1st meeting of the FDS WG are as follows:

- Develop consensus upon the WG ToR and outline the priorities in supporting collection of fisheries data and statistics in the WECAFC region;
- Review and validate minimum data requirements in support to fisheries management and stock assessment with related policies and guidelines for implementation;
- Review existing technical solutions developed to collate and share minimum data requirements (Regional Database);
- Identify priorities (in terms of filling gaps in knowledge on a variety of topics, species, fisheries, and ecosystems) for fisheries data collection and statistical analysis in the WECAFC area¹.

¹ Examples of short-term include basic catch and effort statistics and capacity relevant to monitoring national fisheries and sufficient statistics for stock assessment. Examples for long term include response to data needs for quantifying stock status, e.g., stock status relative to reference points, proportion of stocks sustainable (SDG 14.4.1 and/or reporting on the indicators the “State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies” (SOME) report, and other indicators as defined.

The FDS WG activities are transversal to other regional thematic working groups (see Appendix 2 for complete list of WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA-IFREMER-CFMC working groups meeting as of this workshop). Liaison with these regional thematic working groups will be key to achieve a vision of a regional integrated database and system in support to regional fisheries management, development of management plans, and stock assessment.

This regional database should encompass:

- A regional statistics database in support to fisheries management and stock assessment (to be reviewed and endorsed during this meeting)
- A regional vessel registry (see the recommendations from the Second IUU WG meeting, Barbados, September 2017 – OSPESCA vessel register for artisanal fleet),
- A regional fishing license registry (see provisions in the regional fisheries management plans for Conch and Flying Fish),

The FDS WG will work to ensure coordination and liaison with the other WGs and with the supporting projects.

3 OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

To achieve the above specific objectives, the FDS WG will engage the following activities in different working sessions

- Review, propose possible adjustments to the mandate (ToR) of the FDS WG, and approve modifications for final endorsement by the Commission
- Identification of members of FDS WG Steering Committee and chairperson
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Collection Logbook Guidelines
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Sharing and Access Policies (DSAP)
- Review FIRMS² activities conducted under the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership
- Review of the technical tools in support to the regional database implementation
- Identification of priority issues of concern and/or challenges and best practices in data collection and/or data sharing in the region for initial focus work including development of roadmap/timelines
- Propose recommendations regarding minimum data requirements for a variety of fisheries monitoring indicators and stock assessment to WECAFC.

² FIRMS: Fisheries and Resources Management System <http://firms.fao.org/firms/en>

This first meeting will contribute to the long-term objectives of the FDS WG to catalyze the actions required for improved fisheries data and statistics in support to better informed policy development for sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

4 ORGANIZATION

The meeting of the 1st FDS WG is organized by the WECAFC Secretariat, which is located at the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean (SLC), in Christ Church, Barbados. The meeting is organized in collaboration with CRFM, OSPESCA, and the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership.

The workshop will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados, and particularly its Fisheries Division.

The European Union's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), through Trust Fund project GCP /SLC/014/EC "Support to the creation of a Regional Database and associated transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Working Group on fisheries data and statistics (WECAFC)" generously supports the organization of this first meeting of the FDS WG. Support contributions also received from NOAA, CRFM and OSPESCA. Additional support is expected to be received from the CLME+ and the REBYC-LAC II projects.

The meeting will be conducted in plenary format, but it is not excluded that break-out working groups might be required. Resource persons from FAO, WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA will assist the capacity building components of the meeting.

5 PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

National and regional fisheries experts presently engaged in one or more of the following areas of activity (e.g., statisticians, data managers, directors of fisheries statistics, etc.) are eligible to participate and contribute their expertise and experience in this meeting.

Invitations for participating in this meeting will be sent to all WECAFC members. Upon request, funding support for travels will be reviewed, however funding is limited and therefore co-funding is encouraged. This first meeting of the FDS WG will focus on reaching consensus on practical/technical measures and as such the meeting is intended for technical staff of national fisheries administrations proficient in statistical and data matters. The WECAFC members are encouraged to nominate those technical officers who can discuss fisheries statistics and standards required for fisheries assessments and monitoring throughout the WECAFC region (e.g., statisticians, data managers, directors of fisheries statistics, etc.), and have a broader understanding of the statistical and data issues at national level, and as an asset, the regional and international level. The Working Group will formulate technical recommendations for later endorsement by decision makers e.g. at WECAFC Commission meeting.

Early indication of intended interest and nomination of country participant is encouraged. The WECAFC Secretariat and other sponsoring and supporting projects in the region will decide financial support allocations in coordination with the convener based on expertise of nominated participant, including range of skills, knowledge and/or specialized training relevant to the work of the working group, as well as the timely response to the invitation. Accordingly, selected participants will be provided for airfare and lodging, and meals' financial support.

FAO WECAFC will provide transport from nearby hotels to and from the meeting venue, as well as lunches and coffee/tea breaks will be covered for the all participants.

It is to be noted that WECAFC is the Convener of the Working Group, while the WECAFC Secretariat serves as secretariat of the Working Group.

6 STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

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

7 REPORT AND OUTPUT OF THE MEETING

The report of the workshop will be published in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report series. The WECAFC secretariat will coordinate the production and distribution of the report.

8 OFFICERS OF THE MEETING

Convener	Lionel Reynal, WECAFC chairperson
Technical Secretary	Marc Taconet, FAO/FIAS, Rome
Resource Person	Nancie Cummings, WECAFC-FIRMS Regional Focal Point and FIRMS Chairperson
Resource person	June Masters, CRFM, and WECAFC-FIRMS CRFM Sub regional Focal Point
Resource person	James Azueta, OSPESCA, and WECAFC-FIRMS OSPESCA Sub-regional Focal Point
Resource person	Yann Laurent, FAO HQ, Rome
Resource person	Aureliano Gentile, FAO HQ, Rome
Programme Clerk/Secretary	Sonya Thompson, FAO, Barbados
FDS WG Chairperson	To be elected at the meeting
FDS WG Vice-Chairperson	To be elected at the meeting

Appendix 1

WECAFC Regional Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group
1st Meeting 14 -16 May 2018
PROVISIONAL ABRIDGED AGENDA (to be detailed in the next weeks)

Monday 14 May 2018	
08.15	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
08.30 – 08.45	Registration of participants
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.00	1. Opening of the Session Welcome - FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA
09.00 – 10.00	2. Participants roundtable: presentation and countries expectations from the 1st Meeting of the WECAFC FDS WG
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 10.45	3. FDS WG introduction – Proposed ToRs – Election of Chairperson and nomination of rapporteurs
10:45 – 10:55	4. Review and adoption of meeting agenda
10.55 – 12.30	5. ToRs of the FDS WG – review and consensus development
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
Afternoon Session 14.00 – 17.30	6. DCRF – review and consensus development
17.30	Return by bus to the hotel– no evening Programme foreseen
Tuesday 15 May 2018	
08.30	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.00	Day 1 wrap-up
09.00 – 10.00	6. DCRF – review and consensus development (cont.)
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 12.30	7. Regional logbook best practice guidelines – review and consensus development
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break

Afternoon Session 14.00 – 15.30	7. Regional logbook best practice guidelines – review and consensus development (cont.)
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break
15.45 – 17.30	8. Regional Database – presentation of pilot, and discussion on requirements in support of further developments
17.30	Return by bus to hotel
19.00 – 20.00	Social diner
Wednesday 16 May 2018	
08.30	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.10	Day 2 wrap-up
09.10 – 10.00	9. Data Sharing and Access Policies – review and consensus development
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 12.30	10. Identification of priority issues of concern and/or challenges and best practices in data collection and/or data sharing in the region for initial focus work including development of roadmap/timelines
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	11. FDS WG intersession activities – review and validate FDS WG annual work plan
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break
15.40 – 17.00	12. FDS WG Draft Recommendations to the Commission – review and adoption
17.00 – 17.20	13. Election of vice-chairperson - Time and Venue of next meeting
17.20 – 17.30	14. Conclusions and closure of the meeting
17.30	Return by bus to the hotel– no evening programme

LIST of WECAFC WORKING GROUPS

Detailed TORs and priorities of each working group may be consulted at WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/8 available at http://www.fao.org/fishery/docs/DOCUMENT/weca/c/7th_sag_2015/8e.pdf

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. IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Devices (**FAD**) **Fishing** in the Lesser Antilles
5. CRFM/WECAFC **Flyingfish** in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group
6. WECAFC Working Group on the management of **Deep-sea Fisheries**
7. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM **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**
10. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on **IUU Fishing**