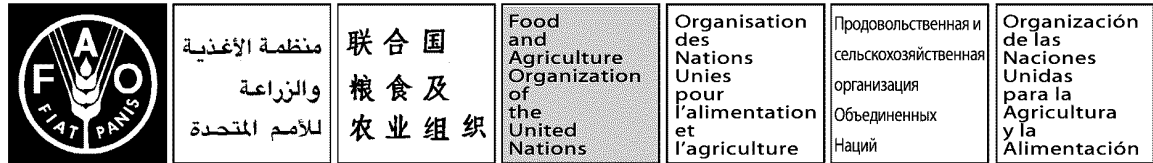


March 2020

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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

2nd meeting of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)

Panama, 16-18 March 2020

Prospectus

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' initiated in 2014. Additionally, the WECAFC 16 supported the development of a regional database (RDB) in collaboration with the Members and partners in the region.

The First meeting of the FDS WG (convened 16-18 May 2018) was supported by the European Commission General Directorate for Fisheries (DG MARE) who also, generously agreed to financially support the organization of the Second meeting of the FDS-WG and the Regional data workshop.

The 'Partnership' direction and focus is managed through an interagency taskforce representing key entities involved in fisheries research and management in the Caribbean. Primary outputs of the FDS-WG and the 'Partnership' through Phase II include: i) Interim Data Collection Reference Framework (iDCRF) endorsed by WECAFC 17, ii) regional data exchange and sharing policies, iii) guidelines to logbooks design, iv) a fully functional RDB, v) FIRMS¹ inventories for 28 fisheries, and v) identification of strategic data and information gaps and a path for improvements.

Under the scope of the WECAFC-FIRMS project, and in support of continued improvements in data collection and capacity building efforts in the region aiming at strengthening science-based decision-making process, the FDS-WG is key to implementation of the RDB, in accordance with the DCRF and in providing guidance on governance of the RDB. The parallel and continuing activities towards moving the RDB now fully functional, to operational status (i.e., enriched with data reported to the WECAFC Commission according to guidelines set forth under the DCRF) is integral for achieving the required level of credible information needed for sound management of regional resources.

¹ FIRMS: Fisheries and Resources Management System <http://firms.fao.org/firms/en>

Objectives

The WECAFC Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG) proposes to convene the second meeting of the Working Group 16-18 March 2020 in Panama City, Panama that will continue to facilitate the work of this FDS-WG. Further, the WECAFC-FIRMS task force proposes to host a Regional data workshop 19-20 March 2020 in Panama City, Panama, which aims to facilitate moving the RDB towards a fully operational status. Appendices 1 and 2 present abridged agendas.

Specific objectives of the Second meeting of the FDS-WG are:

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|------|---|---|
| i. | prepare the final version of the Data Collection Reference Framework including comments from WECAFC 17, | P |
| ii. | prepare the operationalization of the Regional Database and, | P |
| iii. | identify countries to receive support in fisheries statistics from the WECAFC-FIRMS project Phase III. | I |

Specific objective of the Regional Data Workshop are:

- i. Initiate the update of FIRMS inventories with new main species to the region,
- ii. Review and further train in FIRMS inventory template completion,
- iii. Train in the use of the Regional Database (i.e., viewer, data preparation, template design, upload),
- iv. Review role of Regional Database manager and,
- v. Identify further needs of countries as relates to attaining a fully operational Regional Database.

The FDS-WG activities remain transversal to other regional thematic working groups (see Appendix 3 for complete list of WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA-IFREMER-CFMC working groups meeting as of this workshop).

Liaison with these regional thematic working groups will continue to be key to attain the level of a regional integrated database and system in support to regional fisheries management, development of sound, informed management plans, and stock assessment.

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

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Second meeting of the FDS-WG

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

- Review of FDS-WG achievements during the intersessional period
- Review main outcomes of WECAFC 17 related to FDS-WG
- Review and Identify WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) main list of species and priority sub-areas
- Review and validate national fleet segments mapping with regional DCRF classification

- Review and validate the WECAFC Logbook Guidelines
- Review and identify steps for operationalization of the RDB
- Review and develop consensus on FIRMS inventories under WECAFC-FIRMS Phase III
- Review FIRMS activities conducted under the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership
- 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
- Review, propose possible adjustments to the mandate (ToR) of the FDS-WG, and approve modifications for final endorsement by the Commission
- Review, propose adjustments to members of FDS-WG Steering Committee and chairperson/convenor

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

Regional data workshop- Outcome and Impact

To achieve the above specific objectives of the Regional data workshop, the following activities will take place in different working sessions:

- Review of the technical tools in support to the regional database implementation including the regional data base,
- Conduct training on data input template design and upload and,
- Review role of regional database manager.

The Regional data workshop will facilitate the enrichment of information in the RDB and provide necessary technical improvements needed to reach the full operational status.

ORGANIZATION

The meeting of the second FDS WG and the Regional data workshop 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 FAOR-Panama/SLM-SRC of Panama.

The European Union's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), through Trust Fund project GCP/SLC/020/EC "**Support to the activities of the transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG)**" supports the organization of meeting the second meeting of the FDS WG and the Regional data workshop. 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; however, the provision for breakout working groups is noted. Resource persons from FAO, WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA will assist the capacity building components of the meeting.

PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

National and regional fisheries experts actively 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 both the FDS-WG and Regional data workshop meetings.

Invitations for participating in this meeting will be sent to all WECAFC members. Upon request, funding support for travels will be reviewed on a first-come and needs basis, however funding is limited and therefore co-funding is encouraged.

The second meeting of the FDS WG will focus on reaching consensus on practical/technical measures pertaining to a) consolidation of the interim Data Collection Reference Framework with list of priority species and the WECAFC/FAO Subareas delineation, b) development of best practice guidelines for logbook implementation, and Implementation of Data sharing and access strategy and policy. The Regional data workshop will focus on developing technical capacities for operationalizing the RDB emphasizing five (5) pilot species in close association with regional/subregional organizations and their working groups. Therefore, 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. WECAFC 18).

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 finalize 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.

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The agenda and provisional timetables for the Second Meeting of the FDS-WG and the Regional data meetings are presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

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.

OFFICERS OF THE MEETING

Meeting Opening	Diedre Warner-Kramer, WECAFC chairperson
Convener	Nancie Cummings, NOAA, SEFSC
Technical Secretary	Marc Taconet, FAO/FIAS, Rome
Resource person	Nancie Cummings, NOAA, and WECAFC-FIRMS Regional Focal Point, FIRMS Chairperson, and FDS- WG Convener

Resource person	June Masters, CRFM, and WECAFC-FIRMS CRFM Sub-regional Focal Point
Resource person	Jeanette Mateo, OSPESCA, and WECAFC-FIRMS OSPESCA Sub-regional Focal Point and FDS-WG Co-convener
Resource person	Yann Laurent, FAO HQ, Rome
Resource person	Aureliano Gentile, FAO HQ, Rome
Resource person	James Geehan, FAO HQ, Rome
Programme Clerk/Secretary	Sonya Thompson, FAO, Barbados

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

Appendix 1

<i>Monday 16 March 2020</i>		
08.15 – 08.30	Registration of participants	
Morning Session 08.30 – 09.00	1. Opening of the Session Welcome - FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA & Logistics	
09.00 – 09.30	2. Participants roundtable: presentation and countries expectations from the 2nd Meeting of the WECAFC FDS-WG	
09.30 – 10.00	3. FDS-WG introduction – Meeting agenda	
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 11.00	4. Review of FDS-WG intersessional activities	
11.00 – 12.00	4 cont.) Review of FDS-WG intersessional activities: Dedicated session logbook implementation	
12:00 – 12.30	5. WECAFC 17 main outcomes related to FDS-WG	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
Afternoon Session 13.30 – 14:30	5 cont.) WECAFC 17 main outcomes related to FDS-WG	
14:30 – 15.30	6. DCRF: list of main species	
15.30 – 15.45	Tea Break	
15.45 – 16.30	6 cont.) DCRF: list of main species	
16.30 - 17.30	7. DCRF: geo sub-areas	
17.30	Close of day	
19.00 – 20.00	Social diner	
<i>Tuesday 17 March 2020</i>		
08.30 – 08.45	Day 1 wrap-up	
08.45- 09.30	8. DCRF: national fleet segments mapping with regional DCRF classification	
09.30 – 10.00	9. DCRF: review of comments/ possible	

	improvements to the DCRF Tasks / consensus	
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 12.30	10) Countries statements on 1. progress status of their national data collection system, what fisheries are being covered, vessel registry information, 2. issues, 3. needs, 4. contributions to FDS-WG2 (5 slides max) (template with guidance to be provided by FAO)	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
Afternoon Session 13.30 – 14.30	10 cont.) Countries statements	
14.30 – 15.30	11) Detailed discussion on RDB operationalization	
15.30 – 15.45	Tea Break	
15.45 – 16.00	11 cont.) Detailed discussion on RDB operationalization	
17.0 – 17.30	12) FIRMS inventories	
17.30	Close of day	
<i>Wednesday 18 March 2020</i>		
08.30	Morning Session Begins	
08.30 – 09.00	Day 2 wrap-up	
09.00 – 09.30	13) FIRMS inventories	
09.30 – 10.00	14) Identification of criteria for selection of countries to support with Capacity building	
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 11.15	14) Summary discussion: best practices in data collection, reporting, and inventory development	
11.15 – 12.30	15) Summary: list of intersessional activities / short list of countries	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 14.45	16) FDS-WG intersession activities & FDS-WG work plan	
14.45 – 15.00	17) FDS-WG ToR review and update if new mandates have been identified during meeting	
15.00 – 15.30	18) Any other business (FDS-WG membership)	
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break	
15.40 – 17.00	19) FDS-WG Draft Recommendations to the Commission	
17.00 – 17.20	20) Election of convener & vice-convener, Time, Venue 3 rd meeting	
17.20 – 17.30	21) Conclusions and closure of the meeting	
17.30	Meeting End	

Appendix 2.

Regional data workshop

<i>Thursday 19 March 2020</i>		
08.30	Morning Session Begins	
08.45 – 09.10	1) Opening of the workshop - Introduction to the Regional Data Workshop: RDB and inventories	Yann Laurent
09.10 – 09.30	2) FIRMS inventories: refresher	FIRMS representative
09.30 – 10.00	3) FIRMS: review the template for data reporting	FIRMS representative
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 12.00	4) Presentation of FIRMS inventories in the region: validated, under validation, on-going work	FIRMS representative
12.00 – 12.30	5) Practical work	FIRMS / Countries
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 15.30	6) Practical work	FIRMS / Countries
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break	
15.40 – 17.00	7) Practical work	FIRMS / Countries
17.00 – 17.30	8) Introduction to the Regional Database	
17.30	Day 1 Meeting End- no evening programme	

<i>Friday 20 March 2020</i>		
08.30	Morning Session Begins	
08.45 – 09.10	9) Day 1 sum up	Yann Laurent
09.10 – 09.30	10) Training on Regional database: RDB Scope, & Viewer	Yann Laurent
09.30 – 10.00	11) Training on the RDG database: regional manager role	Yann Laurent
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break	

10.15 – 11.15	12) Training on the RDB database: national manager role	Yann Laurent
11.15 – 12.30	13) Exercise on procedures for upload data to RDB	Yann Laurent/ Countries
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 15.30	14) Review data: define template. Prepare for RDB upload	YL / Countries Representative
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break	
15.40 – 17.00	15) Upload data from Countries	YL / Countries
17.00 – 17.30	16) Conclusions and closure of the workshop	
17.30	Meeting End- no evening programme	

Appendix 3

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, Dolphinfish, and pelagic species (not managed by ICCAT)** in the Eastern Caribbean Joint 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 North-Brazil Guianas shelf
9. OSPESCA/WECAFC Working Group on **Sharks**
10. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on **IUU Fishing**