

# UPDATE ON THE WECAFC - FIRMS COLLABORATION: PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## WECAFC-FIRMS Collaboration

WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, 8th SESSION

Merida, Mexico 3-4 November 2017

*Relative to doc. WECAFC/SAG/VII/2017/10*



# Content


- \* **Introduction/Background and Need**
- \* **Status of WECAFC-FIRMS Collaboration, and main milestones in roadmap**
- \* **Strategic Development of the WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Fisheries data and statistics working group**
- \* **Support to Stock Assessment**
- \* **FIT4CC Project**
- \* **Regional Framework for SDG14.4.1**
- \* **Request to the SAG**

# WECAFC-FIRMS Collaboration

## Review: Background and Need

- \* Inadequacy and gaps in fisheries data and statistics central issue to lack of fisheries management authority in WECAFC region (**WECAFC 14 & 15**)
- \* **WECAFC 15** endorsed the WECAFC – Fisheries and Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) “Partnership” (<http://wecafc.org/en/statistics-info/firms.html>)
- \* **WECAFC-FIRMS “Partnership”** established by the FAO with direct involvement of the FIRMS Secretariat
  - Facilitating a variety of significant improvements in the region focusing on fisheries

# Novel Use of FIRMS for Regional Fisheries Needs

- **FIRMS Partnership instrumental to improving basic data on fisheries**
  - \* Inventories / fact sheets providing minimum data for monitoring and management
  - \* Utilizing FIRMS standards and concepts to add informative value to data
  - \* Providing mechanism for basic dissemination on status and trends
  
- **WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership key example of extension of FIRMS benefits beyond traditional uses**
  - \* Supporting the need for access to high quality information for management
  - \* Foundation information layers (inventories, fact sheets) act as catalyst to develop regional data base
    - \* Enabling the sharing of quality information to support fishery management plans and assessment
  
-  **Developing multi layered cooperative initiatives**
  - \* Strategic and cost effective

# Collaboration Goals

## Overarching Aim:

*“Support regional needs to strengthen data collection for informing priority regional management plans in the WECAFC area”*

## Goals:

- \* **Advance Fisheries Inventories and Marine Resources Summaries** through FIRMS
- \* Promote a functional pilot **regional database** (RDB) targeting five shared regional stocks (Spiny lobster, Queen conch, Flying fish, Billfish, Shrimp and Groundfish) for monitoring and management
- \* Support **regional governance through a collaborative task force** bringing a set of complementary skills and knowledgeable of all Caribbean Fisheries issues
  - **Leveraging resources** across multiple groups and initiatives
  - Enabling oversight and **transparency** for agreed regional goals
- \* **Establishment of partnerships** with other important regional initiatives (e.g., CLME+ project Strategic Action Plan - SAP)
  - Catalyzing on initiatives, skills and resources regionally and building transparency

# Collaboration Progress and milestones reached through WECAFC-FIRMS phase1 (EU funded project)

(Summarized in WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/7)

- **WECAFC-FIRMS Data Workshop** (January 2016, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5789e.pdf>)
  - \* Attended by 13 member countries (mostly CRFM) and 2 EU territories
  - \* Consensus of **minimum data requirements for regional data base** for monitoring and management
  - \* Developed **work plan for Phase I** enabling: capacity building, task prioritizations, develop WG TORs
- Developed **new inventories** for several countries (Appendix 1, WECAFC/SAG/VII/2017/10)
- **Endorsement: WECAFC CRFM-OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)** by the WECAFC Commission (June 2016, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6031t.pdf>)
- Draft WECAFC **Data Collection Framework (DCF)** and logbook
- Developed 3 national **Statistics strengthening project concept notes**
- Secured **Phase II funding** for advancing the RDB towards a fully functional RDB and funded

# Collaboration Progress and Milestones Reached (continued)

- **Developed Draft “*Communication and Visibility Plan*” for the Partnership**
- **Convened Data/Statistics Coordination Workshop (March 2017)**
  - \* **Extended the RDB to OSPESCA region**
  - \* **Extended the RDB to include:**
    - \* North Brazil Shelf shrimp and ground fish resources of North Brazil Shelf and recreational Billfish fisheries liaising with CLME+ and other regional projects
    - \* Enabling transversal synergies with the UN, UNEP CLME+ SAP and the GEF Global Environmental Fund project activity (GEF)
  - \* **Confirmed Task Force as coordinating mechanism, including:**
    - \* WECAFC-FIRMS regional and CRFM+OSPESCA sub-regional focal points
    - \* Representatives from CLME+, other key GEF projects, and FIRMS Secretariat
  - \* **Analytical Matrix** developed to guide further implementation, optimize synergies and planning of the WECAFC-FIRMS Phase II
- **Translation of the FIRMS website to Spanish**
  - \* Increasing potential for reaching OSPESCA countries for developing new inventories



# Communication: WECAFC-FIRMS Poster



## Strengthening data collection and research in support of fisheries management in the Wider Caribbean

### The WECAFC – FIRMS Partnership



Nancie Cummings<sup>1</sup>, June Masters<sup>2</sup>, Reinaldo Morales<sup>3</sup>, Aureliano Gentile<sup>4</sup>, Giulia Gorelli<sup>5</sup>, Yann Laurent<sup>6</sup> and Marc Taconet<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA - NMFS), Miami, FL, USA; <sup>2</sup>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), St. Vincent and the Grenadines; <sup>3</sup>Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), El Salvador; <sup>4</sup>FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy

**FIRMS** - Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System is a partnership of intergovernmental fisheries organizations with competence for resource assessment and conservation aiming at collating worldwide information on stocks and fisheries.

**WECAFC** - Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission is a FAO regional fishery body promoting the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in its area of competence.

**CRFM** (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism) and **OSPESCA** (Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization) – Sub regional organizations associated to the Partnership in the context of WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

➤ **Funding** - EU funded project (2015-16) improving data collection and research in support of fisheries management in the Wider Caribbean

➤ **Technical Support** - iMarine Data e-Infrastructure [www.i-marine.eu](http://www.i-marine.eu)



### Achievements - 2016

*As follow-up to FIRMS - WECAFC data workshop (14 countries, 1 EU overseas territory, 4 regional organizations)*

- ✓ Foundation of the Regional Database laid with draft data sharing guidelines
- ✓ Consensus obtained on need for minimum data requirements for stock assessment in the WECAFC area towards a Data Collection Framework (DCF)
- ✓ WECAFC data/statistics working group endorsed (WECAFC 16<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ 6 countries contributed to the inventory of 20 fisheries now published in FIRMS



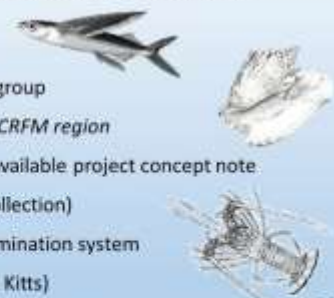
### WECAFC-FIRMS Collaboration Scheme



Focus species: Queen conch, lobster and flying fish

### Future plans

- Finalization of the pilot Regional Data Base (RDB) for the three focus species in the CRFM region
- Extension of the RDB to the OSPESCA region
- First meetings of the WECAFC data/statistics working group
- Extension of FIRMS inventories and fact sheets in the CRFM region
- Strengthening countries' statistical capacities – from available project concept note
  - New technologies (e-logbook, tablets for data collection)
  - Database management for processing and dissemination system
  - Survey implementations (Belize, St. Lucia and St. Kitts)
- Identification of external linkages for advancing the project with the aim to provide sound data for use in stock assessment and monitoring of marine resources in the wider Caribbean (CLIME+)



<http://firms.fao.org>



# WECAFC-FIRMS phase 2

## Support to Regional Database

- **Finalizing the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)** and data collection logbook guidelines documents and necessary modules. Presentation of logbook guidelines for data collection is planned for the November 2018 GCFI conference in Merida, Mexico.
- Development of **new inventories and updating old inventories**, with their publishing as fact sheets on the FIRMS website
- Kick off of **RDB phase II** begun Q3 2017
- Development of **RDB data sharing and IT policies and best practices** documents

# WECAFC-FIRMS phase 2

Support to Stock assessment  
towards on-line hands-on interactive training

- **Liaised with the BlueBRIDGE project to address capacity building needs noted at 7<sup>th</sup> SAG (WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/7)**
- **Products:**
  - \* **Review of and report** on the potential for use within a Virtual Research Environment (VRE) of a frequently used data limited stock assessment model (CMSY model) resulting in significant improvement in performance of the current CMSY model
  - \* **Preliminary interface** developed for importing data into the VRE
  - \* **Algorithms** developed for enhancing the reproducibility of stock assessment results within the VRE environment
- **Short term plans include:**
  - \* **Review additional data limited models** (e.g., length, yield per recruit) with aim to produce functioning models within the VRE environment
  - \* **Produce functioning import templates** for migrating minimum data into VRE by national data managers
  - \* **Deliver test training sessions** using the above VREs

# WECAFC-FIRMS phase 2

## Other collaboration activities

- **Capacity building** in a few Caribbean countries for integrated fishery statistics and management information systems (FiSMIS) through FAO support
  - \* Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago
- The FAO CLME+ sub-project on Shrimp and Groundfish will be kicked-off at the end of 2017 (November)
  - \* **Continuing to build** on existing regional projects to **leverage** resources, **build transparency and strengthen** knowledge resources
- Provided input at **recreational fisheries** data workshop (June 2017)
  - \* Participants adopted guidelines of task force for logbook design.

# WECAFC-FIRMS Collaboration Summary

## Collaboration Provided:

- **Improvements in basic fishery information and capacity to share**
  - \* Inventories, fact sheets, build technical capacity
- **Strategic opportunity to extend basic fishery information improvements beyond FIRMS traditional partnership**
  - \* **Developing pilot regional database** informed by agreed standards
  - \* Incorporating **shared agreements and harmonization** across region
  - \* **Capitalizing coordination** across multiple organizations leveraging resources and knowledge across diverse skillsets
- **Potential ability for managers to provide information on regional resource status informed through high quality fisheries data**

# Requests to the SAG

On:

- \* WECAFC-FIRMS '*Partnership*'
- \* WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG)

# WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership

## Actions Requested by WECAFC-SAG

1. The SAG is requested to comment on **relevant aspects of the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership development and related projects** described here for:
  - \* RDB, DCF, logbook guidelines, stock assessment support
2. The SAG is **encouraged to suggest to FIRMS and WECAFC Secretariats** to contact specific experts in the region to contribute to or collaborate with the ongoing FIRMS activities on the activities described above
3. The SAG is requested **to comment on the relevance of the FDS-WG** and to provide input on priority discussion topics for the first Meeting (see next slide)
4. The SAG, through its members and partners, is **invited to support mobilization of national participation in the upcoming FDS-WG and its preparatory stages, in particular to advise on:**
  - \* the review process of DCRF and Logbook guidelines prior to convening the Working Group,
  - \* the provision of national inventories of fisheries, and response on the survey questionnaires on data collection systems and data gaps,
  - \* the provisioning of national datasets to the RDB pilot.



# WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA

## Fishery Data and statistics working group (FDS-WG)

### **Actions Requested by WECAFC-SAG: provide input on priority discussion topics**

#### ➤ **Aims of the first Meeting of the WG:**

- \* Review and Adopt FDS-WG Terms of Reference for the mandate and functions of the WG
- \* Review and Identify FDS-WG priorities for relevant priority marine resources (Conch, Lobster, Flying fish, Groundfish and shrimps) focus of the regional RDB
- \* Review and Endorse Draft Data Collection Framework Document
- \* Review and make Recommendations on Draft Logbook Guidelines Document
- \* Review establishment of FDS-WG steering committee
- \* Review and make Recommendations on data collection best practices guidelines document activity
- \* Review, prioritize and comment on future initiatives of the RDB phase II activities

➤ **Will be convened by WECAFC-FIRMS focal point, *on behalf of the TaskForce***



# THE FIT4CC PROJECT

## FISHERIES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FOR RESSOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Presentation of a project proposal to be financed by EU-DEVCO



# FIT4CC project CONTEXT

**Downward trends** in Fisheries data and **information availability** in the Caribbean

**Poor statistics** information are **bottlenecks** in projects and **programmes**. Need to solve them

## FISHERIES & Aquaculture SECTOR

**Innovative** ways needed to rebuild **fisheries management information systems**, due to limited resources

Need to meet **SDG # 2, 13 & 14**, as well as COP21 and Aichi targets

Interest from **fishers to team-up** with public sector to collect data and increase information availability for co-management purposes.

**EU DEVCO** indicates opportunity exists for such project, which **could be financed under the 11th EDF**

# FIT4CC project OBJECTIVES

Increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts, thanks to:

- increased decision-support knowledge,
- through
- inclusive, modern and sustained fisheries information systems

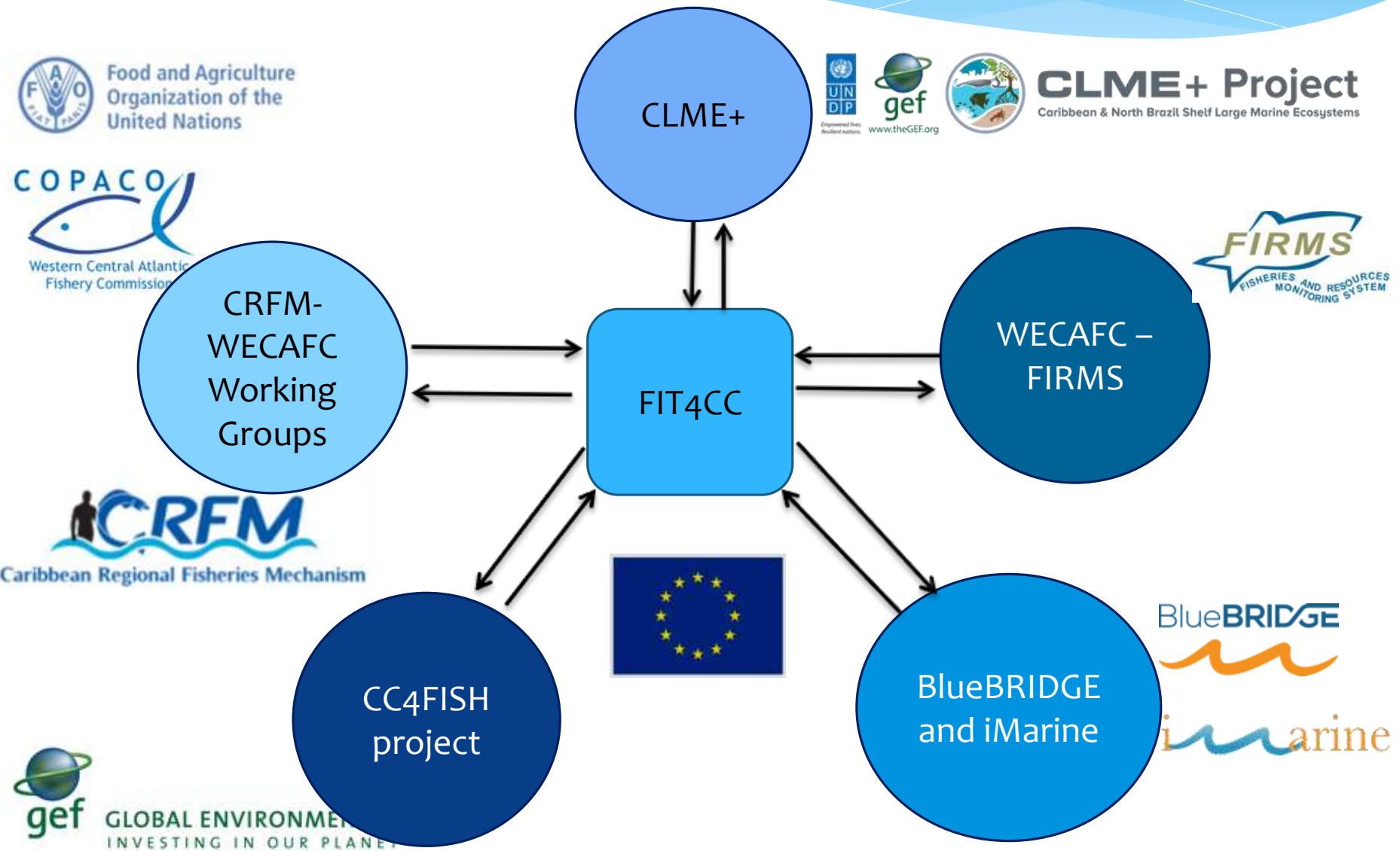


**1- TO STRENGTHEN CARIFORUM COUNTRIES' CAPACITIES** in producing science-based evidence for sound management decision making in both fishery and aquaculture sub-sectors

**3- TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION** into fishery management decision-making processes.

**2- TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COLLABORATION** data and information sharing among Caribbean countries and their integration in a regional governance context.

# FIT4CC project – COMPLEMENTARY WITH ON-GOING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES



# FIT4CC project CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS

**Total project target budget : 10 000 000 Euro  
of which 80% or more of total cost can be funded by EU DEVCO**

**We are here**



**NEXT STEPS**

**CARIFORUM  
Secretariat  
endorsement**

**Country level  
approval**

**Partner agency  
endorsement**

**Submission of  
project approval  
to DEVCO**

**2017**



**2018**

**2019?**

**CONCEPT  
NOTE**

**ACTION  
DOCUMENT  
IDENTIFICATION**

**ACTION  
DOCUMENT  
FORMULATION**

**GRANT  
AGREEMENT**

**PROJECT  
IMPLEMEN  
-TATION**



# FIT4CC project

## STAKEHOLDERS - BENEFICIARIES

### FISHERIES MANAGERS AND DECISION MAKERS

At national and regional level need data and information about fisheries, fish stocks and related subjects to fulfill their tasks .

### FISHERS

Want to improve business, investment and market opportunities.  
**Willing to participate in management of the resources**  
need information on # vessels, landings, stocks, market prices, etc.



### OTHER FISHERIES SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

Interested to make **business decisions** related to the supply of and demand for fish and fisheries products:  
e.g. **retailers, processors, importers/exporters, tourism operators.**

# FIT4CC project – EXPECTED RESULTS

## 1- TO STRENGTHEN CARIFORUM COUNTRIES' CAPACITIES ...

→ **R1: Improved and more integrated fisheries management information systems in place**, in at least 10 selected countries, implementing sound statistical data collection through innovative and efficient methods (mobile phones, tablets, and involved fishers);

→ **R2: Higher quality national aquaculture statistics** are available to make informed decisions for sector development and management;

## 2- TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COLLABORATION ...

→ R4: An operational **regional training environment** and capacity building framework implementation **in statistics and stock assessment**;

→ **R7: An operational Regional Database (RDB) hosted by WECAFC**, addressing the needs of various geographic scopes and objectives (e.g. CRFM), including a **Regional Vessel Record**, IUU vessel list, data, information and **statistics for fisheries management and stock assessment**;

## 3- TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION ...

→ R9 : Current **value chain of selected fishery products analysed**, and **historical time series** on fish landings, value chain of fisheries products trade since 1970 in the CARIFORUM region reconstructed;

→ **R10 : Established functional linkages between data and information sources on climate change, fisheries and their marine environment** in at least 7 countries through Decision Support Systems (DSS), in order to facilitate fisheries management decision making processes;

→ **R11: Advisory data services** for fisheries stakeholders providing ocean and weather data;

# FIT4CC project

## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

**Increase resilience to  
climate change  
impacts in the  
Caribbean fisheries  
sector**

1 - The Regional data policy framework in place is credible enough to support a decision for establishing an Regional Fishery Management Organization

2 - Regional Management Plans for the 3 key species (Queen conch, spiny lobster and flying fish) implemented and monitored in X countries

3 - National measures taken in fisheries sector which address the adaptation to Climate Change

# FIT4CC project

## ACTORS AND ROLES

**IMPLEMENTATING  
AGENCY: FAO**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**EXECUTING  
AGENCIES: CRFM, and  
Departments of  
Fisheries at country  
level**



Manage the overall project, and all aspects of broader regional relevance and remit (e.g., WECAFC, OSPESCA).

Technical Assistance support in statistics, stock assessment, data management, information systems, legal and policy aspects

Responsible for coordinating the execution of the project in the CARIFORUM countries

# FIT4CC project

## Actions Requested by WECAFC-SAG

### The WECAF SAG is invited to:

1. **Acknowledge the status of formulation** of FIT4CC including review stages and support received to date.
2. **Review and Endorse** the Project Identification fiche (Appendix 2, WECAFC/SAG/VII/2017/10 )
3. **Formulate relevant recommendations** for the Commission, noting that the project document is still being developed.

# A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SDG14.4.1 indicator “PROPORTION OF FISH STOCKS WITHIN BIOLOGICAL SUSTAINABLE LEVELS”

Contacts: [Yimin.ye@fao.org](mailto:Yimin.ye@fao.org)  
[marc.taconet@fao.org](mailto:marc.taconet@fao.org)



## Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 14.4.1

Target 14.4

“By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to **restore fish stocks** in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can **produce maximum sustainable yield** as determined by their biological characteristics”

**Indicator 14.4.1** - Proportion of fish stocks  
within biologically sustainable levels



# SDG14.4.1 - Policy Use and Interpretation

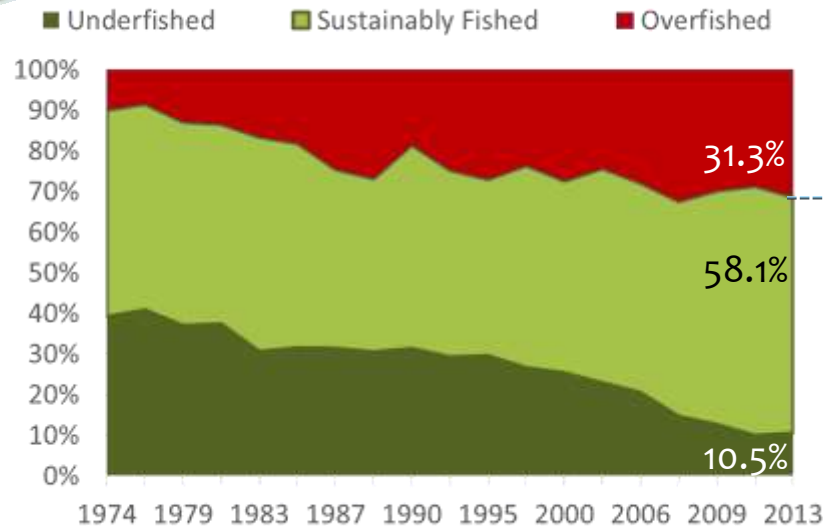
## FAO SOFIA - Global Trends in World Marine Fish Stock since 1974

This indicator measures the sustainability of the world's marine capture fisheries by their abundance

“the decreasing trend is worrying”



FAO regularly reports as part of its biennial SOFIA publication the state of fish stocks at global level



- ~30% overfished in 2013
- 70% sustainable in 2013

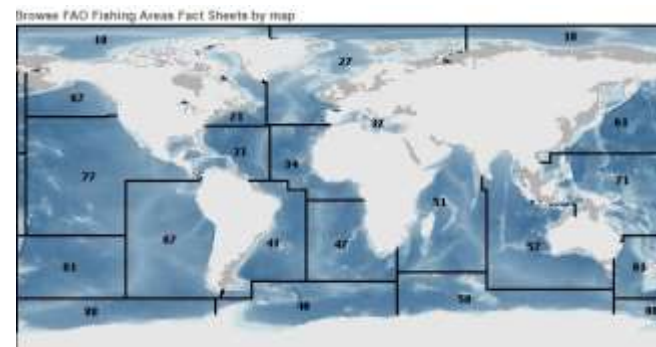
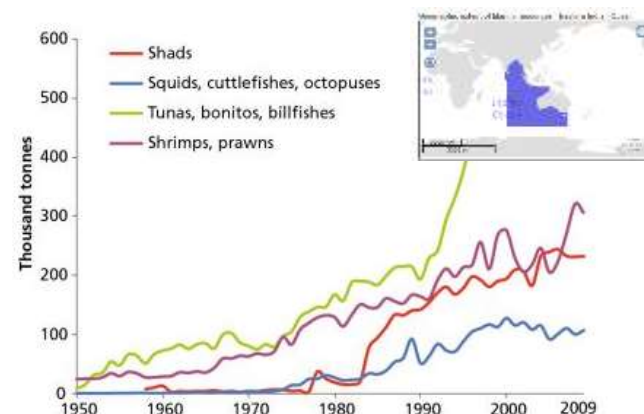
Global fisheries are declining

### SOFIA's indicator is the result of a methodology based on:

- Status of shared or straddling stocks assessed under RFMO/RFBs mandates
- Status of national stocks assessed under national mandates  
and in absence of stock assessment
- Analysis of Species catch trends by FAO area (FAO catch statistics)

Stock units are defined at a granularity of [FAO Major Fishing Areas X Species]

The “proportion” is calculated based on stock numbers (without weighting either by its production volume or stock abundance, that is every fish stock is considered of the same importance)



**With SDG14.4.1, countries will report on the status of stocks within their EEZs**

- Shared / straddling stocks under RFMO/RFB mandates are excluded from SDG14.4.1
- For shared / straddling stocks outside of RFMO/RFB mandates, FAO should come-up with attribution rules

**Currently, SOFIA's indicator is not owned / reported by countries**

- Moving towards countries' ownership will meet challenges ...

# SDG14.4.1 – Implementation challenges

## Complex issue in low capacity context

### Low capacities in developing countries for assessing individual stocks

- Complex processing:
  - traditional assessment methods are based on mathematical Models
  - which methods to apply / who will do the assessment
- Catch / effort data not of sufficient quality:
  - Catch often not available by species ; Effort often not available by fleet segment
  - geographic distribution often not enough precise
  - if available, time series are often short or difficult to reconstitute consistently in long term

### Framework required for consistent monitoring across stocks and time – challenges :

- Ensure consistency - the proportion of sustainable fish stocks is compiled in time/space consistent ways
  - How to select species, and stock units – not overlapping with those monitored under RFB mandates
  - → national inventories of relevant fish stocks
- Accept transparency rules - assessment results of individual stocks are published in monitoring systems

# SDG14.4.1 – Implementation challenges

## how will countries fulfil their SDG14.4.1 ownership

### A possible scenario is:

#### For assessment of individual Stock

- countries assess themselves the status of stocks under their responsibility
- countries delegate the assessment e.g. as part of RFB process
- countries require technical assistance for the assessment

#### SDG monitoring / reporting – relies on inventory of fish stocks

- According to FAO guidelines and standards
- FAO offers facility for unique global stock identifiers (through FIRMS);
- Publishing of such Unique Identifier constitutes a validation mechanism by FAO
- These unique global identifiers are then used as references for countries:
  - \* To publish the Status of individual stocks on national web-sites, and/or in case of low capacity
  - \* To publish the Status of individual stocks through FIRMS
- To facilitate reporting of the indicator, a tool will assist in computing the percentage and provide an indicator report for final validation by the country

## SDG 14.4.1 – Capacity Development/Technical Assistance

FAO is developing a capacity building plan  
for its member countries

Identification of a suitable set of stock assessment methods in **Data Poor situations**

Guidelines on the monitoring / reporting framework

Expansion of the FIRMS model / partnership to support national stock status monitoring

Development of an e-training curriculum

Convening of a **global expert workshop (Nov. 2017)** involving regional experts:

- methods will be peer reviewed for endorsement

- experts will be trained as trainers

- reporting framework and options will be reviewed



## SDG14.4.1 – Implementation challenges

COFI33 key milestone for countries to reach agreement

On the overall reporting methodology

On the methods ..., what species ... , how data collected ... , who should do the assessment ... , ... reporting framework

On the role of Regional Fishery Bodies:

in facilitating the capacity building process,

in ensuring consistency in an inventory based approach (should this option be selected).

As Option for COFI33: a standards' based inventory mechanism

- traceability and transparency
- comparability across national ... regional ... global level
- expected to strengthen SOFIA's indicator on the state of stocks

## SDG14.4.1 – Summarizing

- Various capacity building actions are on-going under the WECAFC-FIRMS project, instrumental to SDG14.4.1
- A monitoring framework for SDG14.4.1 can be set up:
  - \* builds upon an enhanced FIRMS data dissemination framework for use by countries to enable/facilitate their dissemination of individual stock status.
  - \* requires consistency among stocks disseminated at national level and stocks disseminated at regional level through FIRMS
- Key involvement of FIRMS RFB Partners (WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA)
  - \* ensure the consistency of national versus regional stocks,
  - \* foster improved data collection and sharing,
  - \* offer a framework for training in stock assessment
- Such mechanism would enable:
  - \* Streamlined contribution to SOMEE
  - \* strengthen SOFIA's global indicator on the state of stocks by building more systematically on both regional and national level stocks.

# SDG 14.4.1

## Actions requested by WECAFC-SAG

The assessment and reporting framework should be discussed and agreed by all countries at COFI 2018. In anticipation of this event and in order to prepare a decision, it is important that RFBs help countries to develop their position.

### WECAFC-SAG is requested:

1. To **provide regional guidance** regarding the feasibility of an inventory based approach for SDG14.4.1 and consistency in particular at the interface between regional and national stocks.
2. To **advise on the roles** which FAO, WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, FIRMS and other stakeholders can respectively play in facilitating the SDG14.4.1 process.
3. To **formulate an overall advisory statement** encompassing the above considerations,
  - a. for WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA's considerations,
  - b. for use during the development process of the SDG14.4.1 reporting framework, and
  - c. to contribute shaping countries' opinions in view of COFI-33's decision making on the options for SDG14.4.1.

# Draft Resolutions for the WECAFC Commission

- \* **Acknowledging** progress made towards stock assessment capacity building
- \* **Acknowledging** the endorsement of the FDS WG by the WECAFC 16 Commission
- \* **Acknowledging** the capacity of FIT4CC to respond to national/regional to challenges on data and statistics required for decision making
- \* **Acknowledging** the SDG 2030 Agenda and FAOs custodianship role to inform SDG14.4.1

# Draft Resolutions for the WECAFC Commission

- \* **ACKNOWLEDGING** progress made towards stock assessment capacity building;
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- \* **ACKNOWLEDGING** the capacity of FIT4CC to respond to national/regional to challenges on data and statistics required for decision making;
- \* **ACKNOWLEDGING** the SDG 2030 Agenda and FAOs custodianship role to inform SDG14.4.1

# Recommendations for WECAFC Commission

**WECAFC members support and promote** the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership as a collaboration platform for:

- \* Collating and sharing scientific information throughout the region
- \* Leveraging of ongoing regional projects (CLME+, recreational billfish project)

**WECAFC members contribute** to the finalization of the WECAFC-FIRMS enabled RDB through:

- \* Participation in the fishery data and statistics working group
- \* Provision of national data and statistics to the RDB according to the draft data collection framework (DCRF)
- \* Developing/updating national inventories of fisheries and resources

\* **WECAFC members support and endorse** the **FIT4CC** project with implementation arrangements in accordance with agreements achieved through the Interim Coordination Mechanism

\* **WECAFC members recognize** the role of WECAFC, CRFM, and OSPESCA to support and validate national inventories and their publishing through FIRMS as part of the global reporting framework requested under SDG14.4.1

# Thank you

**Questions and Comments Welcome**