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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Miami, United States of America, 15-18 July 2019

Intersessional activities and progress made by members and working groups in implementing the 2016-2018 work programme

This document provides brief information on the intersessional activities of the Commission and FAO in the WECAFC area. For context, the document should be read in conjunction with WECAFC/XVII/2019/Ref.1: **Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission (Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No 1162)** and particularly its appendix D.

The approved WECAFC Work Programme 2016-2017 was the reference of the work of the Commission for the past 3 years.

Suggested Action by the Session

The Commission is invited to review the inter-sessional activities and progress made by the Members and Working Groups on the implementation of the Work Programme for 2016–2018.

Particularly, the Commission is requested to:

- Take into account the limited resources (financial and human), which are presently available to the WECAFC Secretariat.
- Consider support, in-kind and/or financially, to priority activities of the various Working Groups and other activities under the draft Work Programme 2019-2020 (see WECAFC/XVII/2019/17) or to other activities that the Commission wishes to include in the Work Programme.

Technical Focus Area 1:

1. **Under Technical Focus Area 1: “Improve fisheries governance”**, the range of activities undertaken included:
2. Dissemination of the latest information on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and related instruments and guidelines (activity 1.1), took place through region-wide distribution of copies of the CCRF, technical and international guidelines. In addition, the WECAFC secretariat supported the FAO work related to monitoring of the implementation of the CCRF among the WECAFC membership. Facilitation is ongoing with the relevant technical unit in FAO Headquarters for the monitoring of the questionnaires on Article 11, Post-harvest Practices and Trade. A project is also developing to support the improved regional facilitation and implementation of suggested best practices with a focus upon improving the sustainable management of internationally shared stocks of high regional value.
3. Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA) (activity 1.2), took place through implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Project developing business cases for cost effective bycatch reduction strategies, which have since achieved external financing for ongoing implementation in Grenada. Further support for this activity has occurred through the development of a joint Latin America Bank of Development (CAF)-FAO GEF international waters funded project on “Enhancing Blue Economy through Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems “ , the inception in July 2018 of the project “Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries” (StewardFish), the start-up in early 2017 of the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project on Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector, participation in the CLME+ project, promotion of the EAF & EAA in multiple FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects (e.g. Bahamas, Suriname) and integration of EAF methodologies and tools in regional workshops, fisheries planning and legislative framework development exercises at national level.
4. Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members (Activity 1.3) has been provided under various Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects in The Bahamas, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Recommendations in support of national level policy, planning and legislative processes were provided upon request. A Caribbean Fisheries Legal and Institutional Study: “Findings of the comparative assessment and country reports”, was carried out with support from the Caribbean Billfish Project.
5. Facilitation of the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (activity 1.4). The convener of the working group participated on behalf of the working group in multiple international meetings on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecosystems Based Services Arrangements. Moreover, a chapter on VMEs in area 31 was prepared for FAO technical paper 595 “Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas” (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf>) and the WECAFC endorsed VMEs have been included in the VME Portal and DataBase.
6. Support at the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members (Activity 1.5). The

WECAFC Secretariat hosted the GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). This 5.6 million USD GEF funded project, in which Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago participate, is promoting the international by-catch guidelines and bycatch reduction technology introductions, participatory approaches and appropriate incentives and ensuring enabling institutional and regulatory frameworks in the region. . Furthermore, the Caribbean Billfish Project informed and facilitated the improved management of billfish species that are considered bycatch among international longline fleets targeting high value tunas. This project leveraged the concerning stock statuses, importance to regional food security and the high value use of billfish species among tourism generating recreational fisheries to improve management as summarized in the now published Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3366EN/ca3366en.pdf>).

7. Promotion of the ratification and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members (activity 1.6). The WECAFC Secretariat and FAO colleagues provided cost-benefit analyses, awareness raising, capacity needs assessments and capacity building support on the PSMA to multiple WECAFC members in 2016-2018. Workshops on the PSMA were held in Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname. The following 17 WECAFC members ratified or accepted the PSM Agreement to-date: Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominica, European Union, France, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Japan, Korea, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent & Grenadines and the USA. Multiple WECAFC member countries are currently benefiting from regional TCP and Trust Fund project support, among which include the PSMA and the “Support for the Implementation of the PSMA and Related Instruments to Combat IUU Fishing Project”. Collaboration between the WECAFC working group on IUU Fishing and the Caribbean Billfish Project also supported PSMA implementation also with production of a supporting brochure and poster on Fishing Vessel Marking and Identification requirements (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7783e.pdf>)
8. Support to the application of the international Guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF Guidelines) (Activity 1.7), was carried out in close collaboration with CRFM, UWI/CERMES, CANARI and CNFO, as well as with multiple national level fisherfolk organizations and Fisheries Divisions and Departments. Hard copies of the SSF guidelines and related brochures were distributed widely and communicated via on-line internet access. The SSF guidelines were also translated in Dutch language by Suriname. Moreover, the GEF funded sub project “Stewardfish” was launched in September 2018, incorporating SSF awareness raising and empowerment of fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels. It includes the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Caribbean Billfish Project informed sustainable management and engagement initiatives for small-scale fisheries while also improving value chains and export market access opportunities for these fisheries through the ongoing business case implementation. The same was provided by the Global Small-Scale Fisheries Umbrella programme.
9. Improving the coordination and cooperation between national and regional organizations/institutions responsible for fisheries-related Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (activity 1.8). The Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU) was established by WECAFC 15, convened by CRFM, and received financial support from the US Department of Commerce/NOAA, the EU DG Mare, CLME+ project and the Caribbean Billfish Project.

Two meetings of the RWG IUU were held in 2017 and one in 2018. The first meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, was held in Barbados on 1 and 2 March 2017. The 52 participating experts, representing 21 WECAFC members, were presented with and discussed many aspects of IUU fishing. This 1st meeting of the RWG-IUU contributed to: 1) increasing awareness and understanding of the IUU fishing problem in the Caribbean region; and 2) increasing capacity for a more effective collaboration in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing in the Caribbean region, with emphasis on experiences from other regions with Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and MCS supporting measures and on international and regional instruments to combat IUU fishing, such as the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement. The meeting also finalized and agreed on its ToRs and work plan for the period 2017-2018 of the RWG-IUU for final endorsement by CRFM and WECAFC. Additionally, the first meeting, reviewed elements to be included in a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU).

10. The 2nd meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (RWG-IUU) Fishing, convened 19-21 September 2017 in Barbados. In total 35 fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) officers of 16 WECAFC member countries participated. MCS officers were updated on the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (IPOA-IUU), the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, and specific measures needed in the Caribbean region to effectively end IUU fishing. The technical meeting discussed and agreed on various management measures, such as on vessel marking and identification, the establishment of a regional authorized fishing vessel record and regional IUU vessel lists. These measures will, once adopted by the WECAFC session allow fisheries inspectors, coast guard personnel, and navy and port officials to easily identify fishing vessels and determine if the vessels have the necessary authorizations to fish. These measures will facilitate the work of the inspectors and other officials, who will have access to a regional record of authorized fishing vessels and lists of presumed and confirmed IUU fishing vessels. This will enable them to deny port access and support prosecution actions against IUU vessels.
11. The 3rd meeting of the RWG-IUU convened 26-28 September 2018 in Barbados, built on the initiatives of the previous workshops. Participants reviewed the latest international mechanisms/tools in support of the fight against IUU fishing and of relevance to the region, updated regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing and established a medium-long regional strategy to combat IUU fishing. The development of these elements of the RPOA IUU are reported under WECAFC/XVII/2019/14.
12. At national level FAO is assisting countries in the region to develop their National Plans of Action on IUU (NPOA-IUUs). Specific assistance is being provided to Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Technical Focus Area 2:

13. Under **Technical Focus Area 2: “Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries”** the following activities were undertaken. Strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean (Activity 2.1) was undertaken in close collaboration with regional partners. The GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) on “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector” (CC4Fish) started in January 2017 and is being implemented in close collaboration with CANARI, CRFM, UWI/CERMES, CNFO and INFOPECA. Activities at national level in the following seven

Caribbean SIDS have started: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Under the project, approximately 753 people benefited from adoption of diversified, climate livelihood options through basic-fishermen training, ICT training; fish handling and food safety training and business skills training. A methodology for the assessment of climate change vulnerability and capacity in the fisheries sector has been developed, two pilots in two countries conducted and a regional workshop held. A study on the impacts of sargassum on key fish species (flying fish and dolphin fish) were carried out as well as an outlook bulletin for sargassum in the region. Under the project 20 seamoss farmers have been trained during the regional Seamoss farming meeting which was held in December 2017 in Grenada and 3 drafts of seamoss farming (production, business and marketing) manuals have been developed. The aquaponics consultant has been recruited and will on developing a NVT manual for seamoss farming in the region in addition to a production manual. Two national Aquaculture Plans have been developed (one delivered) and in December 2018 a Regional Advancing Aquaponics through improved market access workshop was held in Barbados with 25 participants. Implementation of this 5.4 million USD project includes mainstreaming of Climate change and Disaster Risk management measures in fisheries policy and management frameworks. The project is hosted by the WECAFC Secretariat at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados. A brochure on climate change adaptation in the fisheries for food security was developed by the CC4Fish project in collaboration with CNFO for the Caribbean Fisherfolk week in June 2017 and was distributed widely.

14. Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated in September 2017 various islands in the Caribbean region and significantly negatively impacted the fisheries sector. The FAO and WECAFC have provided fisheries disaster needs assessment guidance to the affected countries and overseas territories, as well as developed and supported various emergency projects in support of the sector's rehabilitation in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda. Various WECAFC members also provided support to each other in the aftermath of the natural disasters.
15. Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) (Activity 2.2) was supported by the CC4Fish project through the development and endorsement of the "Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy" by the Ministerial Council of the CARICOM in October 2018. A protocol for gender in fisheries for the CCCFP was developed by CERMES with support from FAO and presented to the CRFM forum in Jamaica in 2017. Subsequently presented in October 2018 at the 8th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of CRFM, the policy instrument on gender equity in the fisheries sector led to a policy statement¹ on the subject .
16. Improved management of reef fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (activity 2.3). Not any specific actions under this activity were conducted in the intersessional period, however members of the WECAFC Executive Committee participated in regional workshops

¹ *"The Council accepted that international and national norms regarding issues pertaining to gender, youth, and decent work be adhered to, and be incorporated into all CRFM policies, protocols, programmes, and plans."*

and events on MPA related subjects organized by UNEP and the CBD, representing WECAFC. Likewise, the CAF-FAO joint programme on Blue Economy proposal being foreseen for funding by GEF for implementation in 2020 includes a sizable outcome on MPA.

17. Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national level (activity 2.4). The WECAFC-FIRMS partnership was initiated in 2014 with the support of DG MARE to improve availability of information and data in the WECAFC region. Initial activities and focuses were communicated at WECAFC 16 and are further communicated here. Three primary activities were conducted under phase I of this project (2015 – 2017) under the oversight of a multi-institution task force (WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, FAO HQ, NOAA). These were: development of new and updating of the fisheries inventories for the WECAFC region with publication in FIRMS website, the organization of a regional data workshop in January 2016 in Barbados and the development of a regional database prototype in support to the dissemination of regional data. These key outcomes of the regional data workshop led to the development of three key documents in support to data collection in the WECAFC area: Data Collection Reference Framework, Regional Data Sharing and Access Policies and regional guidelines for logbook.
18. Acknowledging the critical importance of coordinating and leveraging activities related to fisheries data and information among regional projects, the WECAFC-FIRMS project supported the organization of the Caribbean Fisheries Data and Statistics Coordination Meeting, held in Miami, USA, on 14-15 March 2017. The meeting reviewed on-going projects to identify similar, convergent or over-lapping activities, identified and discussed collaboration principles, proposed synergies and collaboration and defined a workplan for implementation of joint activities.
19. The creation of the joint WECAFC Fisheries data and statistics working group was endorsed at WECAFC16 in Guadeloupe, France. Under WECAFC-FIRMS phase II (August 2017 to January 2019) a primary aim was to operationalize the FDS-WG . The first meeting of the WG convened in May 2018 in Barbados with the review and validation of the WG terms of reference (TORs), of the DCRF, Regional policies and regional guidelines for logbook. Further, Draft Species Prioritization listings were developed and reviewed under Phase II. These documents were presented to various species working groups (North Brazil-Guianas Shelf shrimp and groundfish, conch, lobster), to the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Committee in November 2019 and then distributed to WECAFC Member countries. After a second round review by a virtual SAG meeting in June 2019, the documents will be presented to WECAFC 17 for review and endorsement.
20. The WECAFC-FIRMS partnership initiated phase III of the WECAFC-FIRMS project to “Support to the creation of a Regional Database and associated transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Working Group on fisheries data and statistics”, funded by the EU DG MARE, which will become operational in June 2019, to address the recommendations of the 1st working group meeting and organization of the second FDS Working Group meeting and subsequent interventions.
21. With support from the World Bank funded Caribbean Billfish Project a FIRMS-WECAFC regional workshop on recreational fisheries statistics in the Caribbean, was held in Nassau, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, on 20–22 June 2017. The workshop brought together 38 representatives from 13 Caribbean countries and overseas territories’ fisheries departments, regional fisheries bodies, fisheries technical advisory institutions, non-governmental organizations, various fishery statistics specialists and other relevant stakeholders.

Participants' knowledge of regional fishery data challenges and their capacities to address these challenges effectively were developed over the course of the workshop.

22. While several WECAFC members have begun providing vessel information to the Global Record of Vessels database, the number of members providing data remains very limited. The annual reporting of fisheries and aquaculture data and statistics by WECAFC members to FAO has not improved in this intersessional period, despite the WECAFC secretariat urging the members. It appears that fisheries and aquaculture statistics collection and analysis is not receiving the priority it deserves in various member states and overseas territories of France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom that participate in WECAFC.
23. Regional resources and fisheries inventories prepared through the FAO Fishery Resource Monitoring Program (FIRMS) and disseminated (activity 2.5) is an ongoing activity in which the FIRMS Secretariat is actively involved. In collaboration with countries' officers, 3 stocks and 25 fisheries factsheets² with focus on the target species Queen Conch, Spiny Lobster and Flyingfish were prepared and published for 9 countries (Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos islands). A new fisheries management information system was tested successfully in The Bahamas in 2014 to 2016 through FAO TCP support. With the support of the Japanese Trust Fund JPN/228, a similar activity has been on-going in Trinidad and Tobago since 2017. The WECAFC Regional Database prototype was made fully functional in 2017 and 2018 through joint support of the WECAFC-FIRMS phase II project and the Horizon 2020 BlueBRIDGE project. A major aim of the WECAFC-FIRMS phase III project is making the regional database fully operational fed with national and regional data. Additional activities supported by the CLME+ project and the Japanese trust funds provided additional support to Trinidad and Tobago on the production of the last 6 years of fisheries statistics. Joint activities between WECAFC-FIRMS phase III, CLME+, CC4Fish, REBYC II LAC and Japanese trust will continue in 2019 and onwards to support the reinforcement of national capacity to collect, process, analyze and disseminate high quality and credible fisheries data and statistics in support to fisheries management and stock assessment.
24. Increase the availability of information on the contribution of fish to food security and the social and economic value of the fisheries sector (activity 2.6) received some attention particularly in the Central America and Caribbean region. FAO, with assistance from CRFM, conducted a study on the "Impacts of rising cost factors in fishing operations in the CRFM Member States", which looked into social and economic status of various fisheries.
25. Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies (activity 2.7) continued between the WECAFC and CRFM, OSPESCA, CLME+, IFREMER, CFMC, ICCAT, GCFL, CNFO, UNEP-CEP, WWF, CI, IGFA, WB, and other partners.

² Such WECAFC-FIRMS stocks and fisheries fact sheets can be accessed at [http://firms.fao.org/figis/website/FIRMSSearch.do?dslist\[0\]=fishery&dslist\[1\]=resource&refxml=false&startrow=1&bsize=15&lixsl=webapps/figis/firms/format/searchfirmslist.xml&kw\[0\]=institution&kv\[0\]=WECAFC&kw\[1\]=reportingyear&kv\[1\]=2018+2017+2016+2015+2014&logop=and](http://firms.fao.org/figis/website/FIRMSSearch.do?dslist[0]=fishery&dslist[1]=resource&refxml=false&startrow=1&bsize=15&lixsl=webapps/figis/firms/format/searchfirmslist.xml&kw[0]=institution&kv[0]=WECAFC&kw[1]=reportingyear&kv[1]=2018+2017+2016+2015+2014&logop=and) The underlying inventories can be accessed at <http://data.d4science.org/workspace-explorer-app?folderId=QUxhOVdwYVWZMllaDJ3azByUmlWQnAycC96UlpayY1BKnm96NnJpcTBqRHcxSFBIMGRlAy8yVWIOTW54WWRDaw> (iMarine gateway, WECAFC VRE)

29. the Department of State of the United States of America and the World Bank introduced an initiative on climate risk insurance for the Caribbean Fisheries sector as part of a global programme on Blue Growth. The document at 2018 SAG <http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/WECAFC/SAG2018/9e.pdf> was presented at SAG9.

Technical Focus Area 3:

30. **Under Technical Focus area 3 “Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture”** multiple initiatives were developed and activities were carried out.
31. The Caribbean Billfish Project improved the regional management of highly migratory shared pelagic stocks and implemented best practices including circle hooks on longliners, digital data collection and transparency systems among the pelagic fishing industry value chain stakeholders, EAF management implementations, improved value generations from tuna fisheries and the development of profitable business case opportunities for fishing industries to implement international recommendations that improve their sustainability
32. Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations (Activity 3.1), received attention through financing the participation of CNFO members at GCFI, in technical working group meetings, in discussions on regional fisheries governance, in WECAFC reform process, in the development and inception of the Stewardfish project and in activities of the REBYC II LAC, CC4Fish and Caribbean Billfish project at national and regional level. The StewardFish project had its inception workshop 13 -14 September 2018, Barbados.
33. Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean (Activity 3.2) did not receive attention in the intersessional period.
34. Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities (Activity 3.3) received attention in the WECAFC region from various FAO projects, including the regional TCP project “Towards a Caribbean Revolution”, which has helped Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis with capacity building to increase aquaponics production in the Caribbean SIDS. Similar aquaponics initiatives are unfolding under the support of CC4Fish project in the Eastern Caribbean countries and other aquaculture development and management support activities were carried out by FAO in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, Mexico, Suriname and various other countries.
35. Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and Codes (activity 3.4) was supported by TCP/GUY/3501 on Promotion of Small Scale Aquaculture in Guyana for Food Security and Rural Development. This project developed a manual for the culture and reproduction of Tambaqui (Pacu), which has been published early this year, and carried out training in best hatchery and nursery practices for Tambaqui production. Together with the Grenada Blue Innovation Institute, preparations have been made for a training workshop on seaweed (seamoss) production and value addition. A training workshop was convened in 2017 and several best practices were produced.

36. Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures (Activity 3.5) received some attention from WECAFC and FAO projects in this biennium. Value chain analysis and opportunities for value addition in shrimp, billfish, tuna fisheries and aquaculture supply chains have been carried out in the beneficiary projects of REBYC II LAC, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago with support of the CC4Fish project, and in the beneficiary countries of the regional aquaculture TCP mentioned above. FAO funded the organization of a Caribbean regional workshop on “Effective fish trade and sustainable development for Small Island Developing States” 3-5 October 2018 under a Letter of Agreement with INFOPECSA. The Caribbean Billfish Project also conducted Fishery Performance Indicator (<http://www.fao.org/3/i8833en/I8833EN.pdf>) studies in Grenada and Dominican Republic to inform business case developments and strategic adjustments to prioritized fishing actions and value chain processes. The resulting improvements in data collection and product traceability is improving compliance to international standards for tuna exports while also promoting premium sustainable market opportunities for compliant fisheries. In Grenada, this has proceeded post project into the ongoing development and implementation of a Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Project with external funding support.
37. A project on the “development of national plans for the monitoring and management of seafood contamination with ciguatoxins in the Caribbean WECAFC member countries” has been approved by EU to be operational in the second half of 2019. Likewise, the CAF-FAO joint proposal on “Enhancing Blue Economy through Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems” (USD 13, 486,239) prepared and submitted in April 2019 for GEF funding has significant value chains development interventions. Another pipeline project which will benefit the region is the Intra-ACP Fisheries and Aquaculture Blue Growth programme for Improved Value Chains (shortened to Fish4ACP) endorsed in March 2019 by DG DEVCO for EDF-11 funding (40 million euros). It is expected that about 5-10 millions allocated to the Caribbean region. A regional value chains prioritization workshop is planned in August 2019.
38. Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries (Activity 3.6) received significant attention from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The earlier work by FAO, in collaboration with CANARI, CERMES and CRFM received follow-up and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the CLME, was endorsed by most of the countries in the region in 2013 and 2014. Strategy 6 of the SAP “Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery” receives support from the CLME+ project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”. The CLME+ sub-project on shrimp and groundfish has become operational in August 2017. WECAFC-FAO has been hosting since March 2018 the coordination unit for the USD 950 000 sub-project on shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
39. The joint WECAFC/IFREMER/CRFM Working Group on shrimp and groundfish met in May 2018 with support from the CLME+ and REBYC II-LAC projects. Preparation of the Sub-regional Management plan for shrimps and groundfish Fisheries of the Guianas-Brazil has been initiated. The Working Group also reviewed the first working document of the Regional Strategy on Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean bottom trawl fisheries, drafted under the REBYC-II LAC Project. FAO will continue the consultation process to introduce a final version of the strategy in 2020. The recommendation “on the management of shrimp and groundfish resources of North Brazil-Guianas Shelf in the WECAFC area”

from the working group meeting was endorsed by the 9th Session of SAG and submitted to WECAFC17. Further, at the May meeting collaborations were made with the WECAFC-FIRMS task force members and significant progress made on updating several FIRMS inventories at the workshop.

40. The GEF international waters funded FAO project on “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries” (REBYC-II LAC) became operational in August 2015 and has apart from its inception workshop in September 2015 organized a range of national and regional training activities and workshops, including a Regional Workshop on Sustainable Utilization of Bycatch, a Regional Workshop on Data Collection and Monitoring, and a Regional Workshop on Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Best Practices, as well as a regional workshop on implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries In partnership with NOAA, the project also conducted two training weeks at NOAA’s Harvesting Systems Unit to build capacity of all six project countries on bycatch reduction technologies.
41. In Brazil, REBYC-II LAC assisted in updating catch monitoring data in four project pilot sites. This also includes socio-economic assessments of all project pilot sites, a review of the state of trawl fisheries in Brazil and census of the types of gear and vessels that exist in the fishery. Brazil has also undertaken EAF capacity building workshops around the country. These workshops are also contributing to the participatory drafting of a new National Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan that will be finalized in late 2019. Gear trials in all project pilot sites demonstrated around 20% bycatch reduction.
42. In Costa Rica, REBYC-II LAC is working with national and local authorities to develop a Fishery Management Plan for an Atlantic small-scale shrimp trawling fishery. The development process includes organizational strengthening and development of two fisher and fish worker organizations, the development of an area management plan and stock assessment and impact evaluation assessments.
43. In Mexico, REBYC-II LAC and national partners established the Campeche Pink Shrimp Management Consultative committee that was included in the fishery’s Management plan, but never formally instituted. Data collection in the fishery has also improved since Mexico just completed a third year of on-board observers, as well as a species id guide and a fishery statistics database. A socio-economic evaluation of the impact of bycatch will soon be presented to stakeholders. Finally, three gear trials have demonstrated a potential reduction in bycatch and fuel consumption by switching to a new net design. Gear trails will continue into 2019.
44. In Trinidad and Tobago initial gear trials showed a 20% reduction in previously discarded bycatch, most of which was composed of undersized commercially important species. The country also completed a value chain analysis of trawling bycatch that identified the areas that require strengthened capacities, including improved utilization. REBYC-II LAC also assisted the country to develop a geodatabase for the Gulf of Paria, a first step for georeferenced data that enhances science-based fisheries management decisions.
45. In Suriname, REBYC-II LAC supported the MSC re-assessment of the seabob fishery. In conjunction with NOAA and national partners, the project is also testing flexible TED’s for the bottom trawl groundfish fishery. In terms of management, Suriname has created or

strengthened five fisher organizations that will improve fisher and fish worker's improved participation in the decision-making process.

46. Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Activity 3.7) receives currently support from the CLME+ project and NOAA. The joint OSPESCA/CRFM/WECAFC/CFMC Working Group on spiny lobster met in March 2018. OSPESCA is coordinating the working group. A recommendation "on the management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster in the WECAFC area" has been put forward which was endorsed by the 9th SAG.
47. Improved transboundary management of the Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean (activity 3.8) was contributed to by the joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean. This Working Group, convened by CRFM, met in September 2018. This working group is supported by the CLME+ project, through CRFM. The Sub-Regional Fishery Management Plan for the Eastern Caribbean Flying Fish Fishery, which was approved at the eight meeting of the CRFM council in 2014, and by WECAFC 16, is being monitored at the CRFM forum meetings.
48. Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore moored FADs (activity 3.9). This working group last met 30th April -2nd May 2019, to review the various manuals prepared in 2015/2016, published and disseminated by CRFM with support from IFREMER and the Caribbean Billfish Project. The manuals are made available on-line. The CRFM subregional management plan for FAD fisheries was further reviewed and received comments from the WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, as well as various FAD fisheries and stock assessment experts with further support from the Caribbean Billfish Project, which also produced the relevant Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan. The matter of hyperstability in Catch per Unit of effort (CPUE) as a consequence of Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) use among pelagic fisheries is receiving major attention from scientists in the region as a result of actions of the Caribbean Billfish Project. It has become apparent that the stock assessment methodologies used in the management of tunas and billfish by RFMOs, such as ICCAT, requires to be modified to take into account these effects of FADs that invalidate core statistical assumptions of stock assessments and the capacity for stock comparisons against pre-FAD data. The meeting also reviewed data, the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project, shared experience on FAD fisheries in analyses of pelagic fish resources and identified key elements and the process for the development of a regional FAD management plan.
49. Best-practices for FADs fisheries, and improvement of FAD fisheries regulations, and co-management facilitation have also been promoted in Grenada and the Dominican Republic through the Caribbean Billfish Project, with post project funding allocated from external sources for this ongoing purpose.
50. Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean (Activity 3.10). The CFMC/OSPESCA/ WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch met in Panama in 2018 with the joint support from CFMC, the European Union (member organization) through the trust fund project "Support to the implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management and Conservation of Queen conch", implemented by WECAFC as well as the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service. Among other tasks, it discussed the status of queen conch fisheries and management and implementation of the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan* at the national level, identified challenges and actions

needed to advance its implementation, and reviewed the status of development and application of conversion factors for standardized data reporting. A set of three recommendations have been submitted and endorsed by SAG9, now tabled at WECAFC17. New terms of reference and 2019-2021 workplan were prepared by the working group as well, with a shift of convening role from CFMC to CRFM (Maren Headley).

51. To streamline the practical implementation of the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan*, the Panama meeting operationalized two of the three sub-groups (Scientific and statistics, Education/Outreach, Governance) within the Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan endorsed by WECAFC 16 and adopted at global level by the CITES COP 17, held in South Africa in 2016. Funded by CFMC, the scientific sub-group's first face-to-face meeting held 23-25 April 2019 in Miami provided scientific guidance on regional conversion factors, queen conch non-detriment findings and identified priority research. The Regional Plan was published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper, and following the Panama meeting, was translated into the other two WECAFC languages for publication in mid-2019.
52. Improved management and conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean (activity 3.11) was supported by the GEF funded, World Bank implemented and FAO executed Caribbean Billfish Project, component of the Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform. This 1.95 million USD project started in March 2015 and was hosted and coordinated by the WECAFC Secretariat in Barbados
53. The project organized the Third Regional Workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 4 to 6 April 2017. Thirty-five representatives from thirteen Caribbean countries and territories, along with various organizations and projects, attended the workshop. Information about the values represented by billfish stocks in the Caribbean was presented and discussed in pursuit of solutions to increase the value of these resources for the Caribbean states. Successful billfish capture and stock value conservation examples were presented and discussed, as were the policy, legislative and management contexts within which billfish fisheries currently takes place in the region. The latest stock assessment data were presented, which illustrated stock declines and the current level of fisheries pressure on the stocks. A third draft of the Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan was discussed, as was the draft Subregional FAD Management Plan. Business case opportunities sought through the Caribbean Billfish Project were also clarified. A draft WECAFC management recommendation was prepared by the Working Group, recognizing the concerns over billfish stock status, the current fisheries pressure on these stocks and proposing regional concerted action. Participants revised the Terms of Reference pertaining to the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, updated the work plan and elected its convener.
54. The Caribbean Billfish Project also conducted numerous studies on billfish stocks status, billfish values, the economic impact of recreational fisheries, rights-based management approaches for pelagic fisheries, fisheries legislation, and recreational fisheries statistics in 2016 and 2017. Ongoing studies include a fisheries performance indicators study, willingness to pay study for recreational/game fishing, a review of recreational fisheries governance best practices, a study into the mercury content in billfish meat and the use of circle hooks. Pilot demonstration activities in Grenada and the Dominican Republic were conducted, which developed viable business cases for billfish management and conservation. Conservation

International was actively supporting the project with funding from the World Bank Ocean Partnership Project (OPP).

55. The Consortium for Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) established in November 2015 and hosted at IGFA continues in its efforts to inform billfish management and conservation. The CBMC includes the following project partners, IGFA, FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, World Bank, ICCAT and CI. The CBMC is functioning well as reviewer of technical advice on billfish management and conservation, for awareness raising and sharing of experiences among the partners. This Consortium has currently been folded within the WECAFC Working Group for Recreational Fisheries, but may be reinstated under a future expected project improving shared stock management.
56. The WECAFC participated also in the 8th World Recreational Fisheries Conference, in Victoria, British Columbia, in July 2017, and organized a side-event on rights-based management opportunities for pelagic fisheries. In addition, the WECAFC secretariat attended the Global Think Tank meeting of the OPP in October 2017 in Los Angeles, where business case developments for tuna and billfish were discussed and reviewed.
57. Improved management and conservation of sharks (Activity 3.12). This activity received follow-up in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, where FAO, in collaboration with the Fisheries Divisions, assisted the preparation of draft National Plans of Action for the Conservation and management of sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2016. A poster on the sharks and rays of Barbados and a Caribbean Sharks and Rays Identification Guide were published by FAO-WECAFC and disseminated widely.
58. The joint WECAFC/OSPESCA/CITES/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management was established by WECAFC 15 and met for its 1st meeting on 17-19 October 2017 in Barbados. The meeting received support from NOAA, as well as the GEF funded REBYC II LAC, Caribbean Billfish Project and CLME+ projects. The meeting was attended by 30 shark and ray fisheries and conservation experts and fisheries officers from 15 Caribbean countries. The experts at the meeting worked on a regional assessment of the shark and ray situation in the WECAFC area. They recognized the decline in various shark and ray stocks in the Caribbean, as well as the need to conserve the threatened species among them. They also stressed the importance of harmonizing conservation and management measures with various international and regional conventions for the protection of these often-migratory species, as well as with measures by regional fisheries management bodies in the Atlantic. The meeting recommended amongst others that the countries in the region should prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached through the point of first landing of the sharks. The meeting further recommended the prohibition of targeted fisheries for iconic species such as whale sharks, sawfishes and manta rays. Incidental catches of these species should be promptly released unharmed and alive, to the extent possible. The meeting also worked on a draft RPOA-Sharks, which incorporates regional collaboration on shark research, data collection and sharing, capacity building, harmonized management and conservation measures, enforcement and monitoring. Awareness raising and public education are expected to further increase the impact of the regional plan, which is presented to WECAFC 17, and should help shark stock recovery in the Western Central Atlantic.
59. Improved management and conservation of spawning aggregations of grouper and snapper (activity 3.14). Under this activity, the CFMC/WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Working Group

on Spawning Aggregations had its 2nd meetings in March 2018, with funding from the NOAA.

Technical Focus Area 4:

60. Under Management Focus Area 4 “Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission”, the following activities were undertaken.
61. Organization of the 8th, 9th and 10th SAG meetings in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively (Activities 4.1 and 4.2) and the seventeenth session of the Commission.
62. The report of WECAFC 16 was prepared and sent to all members in a timely manner. WECAFC 16 agreed to launch a process to establish a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the Northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) *and to clarify issues in relation to competency area, stocks coverage, budgetary implications for Members, institutional structure, membership, decision making processes, national sovereignty aspects, its objectives and any other relevant matters that the Members may wish to consider.*”
63. The Strategic Reorientation of WECAFC (activity 4.4) received follow-up by the executive committee of WECAFC following the decisions by WECAFC 16. A proposal was submitted to the EU DG Mare of the European Union for a project to “Support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization for the WECAFC area”. This project approved in December 2016 became operational with the funding of the 1st preparatory meeting for the establishment of an RFMO in the WECAFC area, held 25-26 March 2019. There, WECAFC members agreed to establish a regional fisheries management entity or arrangement that will define a convention area and a regulatory area in the ABNJ where binding measures can be implemented, and these could also include selected straddling and transboundary stocks, or highly migratory stocks within the EEZ without prejudice of the sovereign rights of WECAFC Members.
64. The EU DG Mare supported project on “Improving the governance of fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic”, supported the development of a discussion paper that intended to clarify some of the questions from members regarding the competency area, stocks coverage, budgetary implications for Members, institutional structure, membership, decision making processes, national sovereignty aspects, its objectives and any other relevant matters that the Members may wish to consider. That document complemented by a guidance paper on the analysis of substantive themes and draft agreement, prepared through the funding of the project “Support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization for the WECAFC area” were the key background documents of the 1st Preparatory meeting for the transformation of WECAFC in a RFMO.
65. Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops (activity 4.5). The WECAFC Secretariat together with FAO colleagues, regional partners and members organized over dozens of regional and national level technical meetings, workshops and capacity building events in the period 2016-2018. During that period, nine of the 11 joint working groups had their meeting.

66. Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects (activity 4.6). The mobilization of resources got assigned high priority by WECAFC and its secretariat as portrayed by the projects and programmes developed or approved over the past years since the last Plenary of the Commission.
67. The assistance by FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) funded projects to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the WECAFC member countries increased in the 2016-2017 biennium to 5.3 million USD (3.2 million USD for regional TCPs and 2.1 million USD for national TCPs) compared to approximately 3.2 million USD in the last biennium, reflecting an increase of more than 60%. The trends in TCP requests for the 2018-2019 biennium is less exponential, compared to the growing portfolio of trust funds projects.
68. Resource mobilization efforts in recent years have shown to result in many new technical assistance and capacity building projects, well-established contacts with resource partners, and an effective and efficiently implemented programme through the FAO subregional offices in Barbados and Panama.

ANNEX

Projects

A number of FAO projects have been carried out in the WECAFC region in the periods 2016 – 2017 and 2018-2019. The most notable projects are described in summary below.

(sub) Regional TCP projects

- Alimentación acuícola alternativa de bajo costo para fortalecer la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de los acuicultores de recursos limitados en países de AL (TCP/RLA/3504) – 250 000 USD
- Reducing and managing the risks of Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) of cultured shrimp (TCP/INT/3502) - 422 000 USD. Coverage: Colombia, Guatemala)
- Strengthening biosecurity governance and capacities for dealing with the serious shrimp infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV) disease (TCP/INT/3501) – 372 000 USD (countries various affected countries)
- Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional de Salud, Sanidad e Inocuidad para el Desarrollo de la Producción Agropecuaria, Pesquera y Forestal (TCP/SLM/3502) -461 000 USD. Coverage: Nicaragua.
- Asistencia para el Fortalecimiento de las capacidades institucionales para el combate a la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada (TCP/RLA/3604) -275 000 USD. Coverage: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic.
- Towards a Caribbean Blue Revolution (TCP/SLC/3601) – 468 000 USD. Coverage: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, St Kitts and Nevis.
- Technical assistance for the formulation of national strategies and action plans to improve compliance with the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) (TCP/INT/3603) – 500 000 USD Coverage: Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, and others
- Fortalecimiento de las capacidades y las medidas para Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada en los países de América Latina (TCP/RLA/3604) – 500 000 USD Coverage: Guatemala, El Salvador, Belice, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic

National level TCP and TCP facility projects

Bahamas

- Strengthening Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance in the Bahamas (TCP/BHA/3501) - USD 469 000

Brazil

- Para la Promoción de la implementación de las Directrices Voluntarias de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional en el Brasil (TCP/BRA/3401) -34 000 USD

Colombia

- Apoyo Técnico y estratégico de la FAO al Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural en la formulación e implementación del Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario y pesquero de la Región de La Mojana en Colombia (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1) 62 000 USD

Costa Rica

- Asistencia para el desarrollo de las bases de la planificación del sector acuícola. (TCP/COS/3501) -47 000 USD

Cuba

- Desarrollo del Programa Nacional sobre Genética para peces de agua dulce (TCP/CUB/3501) – 297 000 USD

Dominican Republic

- Asistencia para la formulación de una propuesta de desarrollo pesquero-acuicola del Lago Enriquillo (TCP/DOM/3401 facility) 46 000 USD.

Guyana

- Promotion of Small Scale Aquaculture in Guyana for Food Security and Rural Development (TCP/GUY/3501) -122 000 USD

Honduras

Asistencia Técnica para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en el Sector Pesquero en Honduras (UNFA/HON/047/UND)

Jamaica

- Capacity building in resource assessment and management of the Jamaican sea cucumber fishery and potential for aquaculture development (TCP/JAM/3502) – 288 000 USD

Nicaragua

- Asistencia para la reconversión tecnológica del buceo en la pesca de langosta en la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua: Mesoamérica sin Hambre/Cooperación Sur-Sur, México/ TCPF/NIC. 225 000 USD

Panama

- Asistencia para el mejoramiento del Sistema de estadísticas pesqueras. (TCP/3401/PAN). 50 000 USD.

St. Kitts and Nevis

- Strengthening Fisheries Legislation in St Kitts and Nevis – focus IUU (TCP/STK/3502) 91 000 USD

St Lucia

- Strengthening the National Standards and Certification System for Major Agricultural Products in St Lucia (TCP/STL/3401 facility component 2) – includes aquaculture code of practice

- Assistance with the development of Fishery Policy (TCP/STL/3602) 60 000 USD

Suriname

- Updating Suriname's capture fisheries legal framework" (TCP/SUR/3502) - 122 000 USD

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Strengthening fisheries legislation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – focus: IUU fishing (TCP/STV/3602) – 100 000 USD

Trinidad and Tobago

Strengthening fisheries legislation in Trinidad and Tobago – focus: IUU fishing (TCP/TRI/3601) - 100 000 USD

Regional and National level Trust Fund activities supported by FAO

Regional

- Activación de los servicios y consolidación de la Red de Acuicultura de las Américas (RAA) (GCP/RLA/190/BRA). The beneficiary/signatory countries of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas are: Argentina, Brasil, Bolívia, Colômbia Costa Rica, Chile, Equador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. 2.4 million USD.

- CLME+ project “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”, (UNJP/RLA/217/OPS) the FAO executed shrimp and groundfish component has a budget of 1.3 million USD.

- Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). (GCP/RLA/201/GFF) – 5.8 million USD. The project beneficiary countries include: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.

- Caribbean Billfish project (component of the Ocean Partnerships For Sustainable Fisheries And Biodiversity Conservation – Models For Innovation And Reform) (GCP/SLC/001/WBK) - 1.95 million USD. Coverage: all Caribbean countries.

- Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (GEF Special Climate Change Fund supported) (GCP/SLC/210/SCF) 5.4 million USD. The project beneficiary countries include: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

-Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal & Marine Biodiversity in key ecological areas and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) (GCP /ARG/025/GFF)- 1,365,000 USD. The project beneficiary country includes Argentina

- Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries” (StewardFish) (GCP/SLC/211/GFF) 1.77 Million USD Coverage: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

- CITES - FAO joint capacity building for implementation of the Decisions on “Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). (EP/SLC/003/UEP) – 90 000 USD. Coverage: Regional –all Queen Conch producing Caribbean countries.

- An independent cost-benefit assessment of the options for strategic re-orientation of WECAFC (GCP/SLC/006/EC) -90 000 Euro. Coverage: Regional – All WECAFC member countries.

- Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through FIRMS to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area (GCP/SLC/ 007/EC) 110 000 Euro. Coverage: Regional.

- Support to the Caribbean Regional Working Group on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RWG-IUU) (GCP/SLC/008/USA) - 40 000 USD. Coverage: CRFM countries.

- Fortalecimiento de la resiliencia de la agricultura familiar y para la prevención y respuesta efectiva frente a las enfermedades fito y zoo sanitarias (GCP/SLM/002/SPA)

- Programa Mesoamérica sin Hambre: marcos institucionales más efectivos para mejorar la agricultura familiar y la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional (GCP /SLM/001/MEX)
- Improving the governance of fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic (16th Session of WECAFC-Guadeloupe) (GCP/SLC/011/EC) – 130 000 USD
- Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Wider Caribbean Region (GCP/SLC/013/USA) – 50 000 USD
- Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (GCP /SLC/012/EC) – 100 000 USD
- Support to the creation of a Regional Database and associated transversal WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, IFREMER and CFMC Working Group on fisheries data and statistics (GCP/SLC/014/EC) – 86 000 USD
- Support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization for the WECAFC area (GCP/SLC/015/EC) – 111 000 USD

- GCP/SLC/016/EC - Support to implementation of the Regional Plan of Action to deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Western Central Atlantic. USD 158,025
- GCP/SLC/017/EC- Support to the implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management and Conservation of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) in the WECAFC area (Recommendation WECAFC/16/2016/1). USD 133,295
- GCP/INT/313/SWE: Support for the Implementation of the PSMA and Related Instruments to Combat IUU Fishing Project. USD 5,800,600
- GCP/RLA/222/USA-Port State Measures Support Project. USD 900,000.
- GCP /INT/350/ROK-FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) Implementation Support Project. USD 2,000,000.
- GCP/GLO/959/NOR- Support member countries implement climate change adaptation measures in fisheries and aquaculture. USD 868 489

Brazil

- Improving Competitiveness of the Aquaculture Sector of Brazil (UTF/084/BRA) - 8 Million USD.

Colombia

- Cooperación técnica para la adaptación y validación del Programa Nacional de Extensionismo en Acuicultura, como escuela de formación y fortalecimiento para AREL y AMyPE (UTF /COL/063/COL) -260 417 USD.

- Asistencia para la formulación del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de la Acuicultura Sostenible de Colombia: Regular Programme 75 000 USD; AUNAP: 35 000 USD.

- Asistencia para la Formulación de la Política Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura. UTF/068/COL. 275 000 USD.

- Implementación de lineamientos de Política para la Promoción y aprovechamiento sustentable de la pesca y la acuicultura a nivel nacional UTF/COL/052/COL 832 016 USD

- “Cooperación técnica para la adaptación y validación del programa de extensionismo como escuela de formación y fortalecimiento en acuicultura para AREL y AMyPE con enfoque territorial, diferencial y de género para Colombia” UTF/COL/064/COL 225 000 USD

Costa Rica

- Fortalecimiento de capacidades de Acuicultores de Recursos Limitados a través de una unidad demostrativa de producción de tilapia. (GCP/RLA/190/BRA). 40 000 USD.

Haiti

- Initiative OMD - programme d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire en Haiti (GCP/HAI/030/EC) – includes some fisheries and aquaculture activities - 5 million USD

- Mer Sud Project - Marine Environment Regeneration in the South of Haiti (EP/HAI/034/UEP) - 100 000 USD

Honduras

- Asistencia Técnica para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en el Sector Pesquero en Honduras. UNJP/HON. 236 752 USD.

Mexico

- Assistance to the Government of Campeche, Mexico in the formulation of the State Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (UTF/MEX/099/MEX) -147 000 USD

- Asistencia para la formulación del Programa Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura 2014-2018 y diagnóstico técnico-operativo de los centros acuícolas operados por la CONAPESCA (UTF /MEX/116/MEX) -468 000 USD

- Diagnóstico base para la preparación del Plan Rector Acuícola y Pesquero del Estado de Yucatán (UTF /MEX/117/MEX) -118 000 USD

Trinidad

- Improving forest and protected area management in Trinidad and Tobago (FSP). (GCP/TRI/003/GFF) 2.7 million USD. This project contains a Marine Protected area management component.

Global Trust Fund Projects with relevance to the WECAFC region and WECAFC membership

- Various WECAFC members have supported FAO fisheries projects in the WECAFC region and at global level.

- The **Government of France** is financing a global project on “Development of a data base on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems of the high seas”, 2011 -2014 (GCP/GLO/309/FRA) -400 000 USD. Moreover, the Government of France provided support to the REDPARQUES workshop in Cuba on Marine Protected Areas.

- The **Government of Spain** is supporting FAO Globefish (MTF/GLO/625/MUL) -563 000 USD, which supports also activities of INFOPESCA in the LAC region.

- The **Government of Japan** has been financing various global FAO programmes and projects in recent years, of which some are of relevance to the fisheries sector in the WECAFC area. Those with most relevance are the following: o Project “Promotion of sustainable fisheries: support for strengthening functions of and coordination among Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)/ Regional

Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)”, 2008 -2012 (GCP/INT/069/JPN), supported amongst others the development of the Regional Fishery Body Network (RSN) in which the WECAFC Secretary participates.

- Project “Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context”, (GCP/INT/253/JPN), - 3.2 million USD, included two focus areas with activities of interested for the WECAFC region.

- Project “Improved fisheries management for sustainable use of marine living resources in the face of changing systems” (GCP /INT/228/JPN) -2.6 million USD

- The **European Union** is supporting various global projects that incorporate various WECAFC members.

BlueBRIDGE - Building Research Environments for fostering Innovation, Decision-making, Governance and Education to support Blue Growth (GCP/GLO/646/EC) -780 000 USD

Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and supply Vessels (GCP /GLO/316/EC) – 111 000 USD

Marine Investment for the Blue Economy - MARIBE (GCP /GLO/622/EC) - 221 000 USD

The **United States of America** is assisting also in various global activities of relevance for the WECAFC membership. Cooperative Agreement on U.S. Support for Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Activities (GCP/GLO/576/USA) – 230 000 USD

The **UNEP/CITES Secretariat** supports from a global level project the region. CITES-FAO collaborative project for immediate actions in support of implementation of the CITES listings for sharks and rays. (EP/INT/227/UEP) – 100 000 USD. Coverage: activities in Barbados, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Regional and National level activities in the WECAFC region supported by the FAO Regular Programme

The FAO regular programme financially and technically supported the following fisheries and aquaculture activities and events in the WECAFC member countries:

- Annual compilation of catch statistics for area 31 (WECAFC) and dissemination to the member states.
- A study to review the impact of rising cost factors such as capital, labour, maintenance and energy costs on fishing operations in the CRFM Member States and propose appropriate strategies for dealing with the resulting issues.

Some FAO Publications with relevance for WECAFC and its membership

Author	Title	Year	Direct Link
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers			
Martha Prada, Richard Appeldoorn, Sjeff van Eijls & Manuel Pérez Moreno	Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 610. Rome, Italy	2017	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7818e.pdf
Anthony Thompson, Jessica Sanders, Merete Tandstad, Fabio Carocci & Jessica Fuller	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 595. Rome, Italy	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf
Roy Bealey, Manuel Pérez Moreno & Raymon van Anrooy	Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 643. Rome, Italy	2019	http://www.fao.org/3/CA3366EN/ca3366en.pdf
FAO Circulars and Reports			
Helga Josupeit, Judith Swan & Raymon van Anrooy	WECAFC: Performance, planning and procedures. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1096 Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5096t.pdf
Kjartan Hoydal	WECAFC: Findings of the independent cost-benefit assessment of the options for strategic re-orientation of WECAFC. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular. No. 1117. Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6377e.pdf
FAO	Background documents for the Workshop on investing in ecosystem-based shrimp and groundfish fisheries management of the Guianas – Brazil shelf, Barbados, 7–8 September 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1120. Rome, Italy	2017	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5648e.pdf
Cristina Leria	Caribbean Fisheries Legal and Institutional Study, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1124. Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6175e.pdf
Brad Gentner	The Value of Billfish Resources to Commercial and Recreational Sectors in the Caribbean, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1125. Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6178e.pdf
Brad Gentner	The Use and Design of Rights and Tenure Based Management Systems for Transboundary Stocks in the Caribbean, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1126. Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6071e.pdf
Nelson Ehrhardt & Mark Fitchett	Status of Billfish Resources and Billfish Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1127. Bridgetown, Barbados	2016	http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6204e.pdf
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