

Recommendation WECAFC/XVII/2019/13 “ON QUEEN CONCH CONVERSION FACTOR”

The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC):

RECALLING that the objective of the Commission is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources within the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission;

RECALLING the establishment of the WECAFC Working Group on Queen Conch by WECAFC 14 in 2012;

REAFFIRMING the commitments made by Queen Conch range States at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16, Bangkok, 3-14 March 2013) to implement the Decisions on “Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*)” agreed at CoP16;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING Recommendation WECAFC/16/2016/1 and the Decisions 17.285 – 17.290 related to queen conch adopted at 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES(CoP17, Johannesburg, 24 September – 4 October 2016),¹ calling upon WECAFC members to implement the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan*;

RECALLING the outcomes of the Third meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on Queen Conch, held in Panama, 30th October- 1st November 2018 supported by the European Union, NOAA Fisheries and FAO;

PENDING the delivery of additional information by the RWG-IUU;

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of Article 6 (h) of the Revised Statutes of the WECAFC the RECOMMENDATION that:

1. Each WECAFC member country, determines the number of individual queen conch harvested, in order to support stock assessments.
2. The conversion factor (for the different processing levels within a country) should be used to back calculate the whole animal weight extracted from the shell, (i.e. shell not included in the weight) for the purpose of supporting stock assessments.
3. WECAFC members are urged to report their total conch production and exports as the whole animal weight extracted from the shell to FAO and CITES.
4. A compendium of processing levels, their definitions and associated conversion factors should be prepared for all countries.
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¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7818e.pdf>