

July 2019

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联合国  
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Food  
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Organisation  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)**

**SEVENTEENTH SESSION**

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

**Terms of Reference and Updated Workplan of (selected) Working Groups**

- 1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**
- 2. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH**
- 3. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON SHRIMP AND GROUND FISH IN THE NORTHERN BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHELF**
- 4. TERMS OF REFERENCE WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP SEA FISHERIES**
- 5. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**
- 6. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS**
- 7. CRFM/WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN**
- 8. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS**
- 9. REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)**
- 10. WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**
- 11. WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (FDS-WG)**

# **1. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP OF OSPECA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC ON THE CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**

## **ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

### **1 SCOPE**

The scope of the working group is the sustainable management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the code of conduct's article 6.4 of the general principles. The Strategic Actions Program is also included, where priority actions and strategies required to improve transboundary governance and the management of shared living marine resources in the CLME + region have been identified and agreed upon.

### **2 THE GOAL OF THE WORKING GROUP**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries. In pursuing this goal, the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the management of Caribbean spiny lobster stock and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC region under the code of conduct for responsible fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

### **3 TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)**

Caribbean spiny lobster is a transboundary resource and therefore the ToR may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC secretariat, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity, under the framework of the FAO/CRFM/OSPESCA Interim Coordination Mechanism, to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of Caribbean spiny lobster.

SPECIFICALLY, THE WORKING GROUP WILL:

- a) Share available data and information on Caribbean spiny lobster.
- b) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of spiny lobster stocks, which involve the private sector formally in data collection.
- c) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of spiny lobster in the Caribbean
- d) Compile and analyze data on spiny lobster capture fisheries and aquaculture operations in the member countries and monitor and evaluate changes, using an EAF approach.
- e) Compile and analyze data and information about the social and economic importance of lobster fisheries.
- f) Support programs and projects oriented towards the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Spiny Lobster Fisheries in the region, including the Monitoring and Evaluation aspects of such initiatives, as well as the updating of reports on the state of the resource, socio-economic aspects, and associated governance, among others.
- g) Provide management advice and advice on the implementation and performance of regional management regulations on spiny lobster to countries and regional organizations (e.g. OSP-02-09).
- h) Develop and implement a biannual work plan that will be monitored and evaluated, and that will be aligned with a longer-term vision within the framework of the CLME + Strategic Action Plan and international goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

- i) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- j) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the spiny lobster field.
- k) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.
- l) The ToR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC.

#### 4 MODE OF OPERATION

##### 4.1 ROLE OF COUNTRIES

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- implement, at the national level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the group;
- host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

##### 4.2 ROLES OF FAO/WECAFC AND OSPESCA

The FAO sub regional office for Mesoamerica and WECAFC secretariat will play supporting roles in the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with OSPESCA (the working group lead agency) in:

- co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of Funding);
- providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- providing technical assistance and support to research;
- facilitating training;
- ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders.

##### 4.3 ROLES OF OTHER SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. CFMC, CRFM)

Sub regional organizations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- providing technical assistance and support;
- facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- facilitating the decision-making process at the subregional level.

#### 5 ROLE OF THE CONVENER

The working group convener will:

- formally convene the meetings of the group;
- technically guide the group work and determine subjects to be discussed;
- represent the group in regional and international meetings (as appropriate);
- invite new members and *ad hoc* experts to participate in working group meeting;
- review and clear publications and messages produced by the working group; and
- take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings.

## 6 COMMUNICATION

A mechanism for ongoing communication among working group members (video conference, skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national node or focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC secretariat.

## 7 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The Working Group should meet in person once a year or, at a minimum, once every two years. Meetings should last between two and five days. The meetings must use restraints and cost-effective institutional facilities and whenever possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

# **TÉRMINOS DE REFERENCIA DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO DE OSPECA/COPACO/CRFM/CFMC SOBRE LA LANGOSTA ESPINOSA DEL CARIBE**

## **ROL DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO**

### **1 ÁMBITO**

El ámbito del grupo de trabajo es el ordenamiento sostenible de las pesquerías de langosta espinosa del Caribe en la región de la COPACO. Al llevar a cabo su trabajo, el grupo de trabajo prestará la debida atención al Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable aprobado por la FAO en 1995 del artículo 6.4 de los principios generales. También se incluye el Programa de Acciones Estratégicas, donde se han identificado y acordado las acciones y estrategias prioritarias que se requieren para mejorar la gobernanza transfronteriza y el manejo de los recursos marinos vivos compartidos en la región CLME+.

### **2 EL OBJETIVO DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO**

Con el uso de un enfoque multidisciplinario, el grupo de trabajo contribuirá a la conservación y ordenamiento sostenible de las pesquerías de langosta espinosa del Caribe. Dándole seguimiento a este objetivo, el grupo de trabajo contribuirá al cumplimiento de las responsabilidades nacionales y regionales para el ordenamiento de la langosta espinosa del caribe y las especies relacionadas o las que interactúan o las pesquerías en la región de la COPACO bajo el código de conducta para las pesca responsable, y de acuerdo con los objetivos de ordenamiento acordados y documentados, incluyendo la garantía de las subsistencias de las personas que dependen de estos recursos.

### **3 TÉRMINOS DE REFERENCIA (TdR)**

La langosta espinosa del caribe es un recurso transfronterizo y, por lo tanto, los términos de referencia pueden aplicarse a nivel regional y/o nacional, según el caso. El grupo de trabajo, con el apoyo de la FAO, la secretaría de la COPACO, CFMC, CRFM Y OSPECA, actuará en una capacidad consultiva, en el marco del Mecanismo Interino de Coordinación FAO/CRFM/OSPECA, para orientar y facilitar el ordenamiento sostenible de la langosta espinosa del Caribe.

**ESPECÍFICAMENTE, EL GRUPO DE TRABAJO:**

- a) Compartirá los datos y la información disponibles sobre la langosta espinosa del Caribe.
- b) Desarrollará metodologías comunes para la evaluación y vigilancia de las poblaciones de langosta, que formalmente involucren el sector privado en la recopilación de datos.
- c) Vigilará los cambios en la disponibilidad, distribución y abundancia de langosta espinosa en el Caribe.
- d) Recopilará y analizará datos sobre la captura de la pesca de la langosta espinosa y las operaciones de acuicultura en los países miembros y monitorizará y evaluará los cambios, utilizando un enfoque de EEP.
- e) Recopilará y analizará datos e información acerca de la importancia social y económica de las pesquerías de langosta.
- f) Apoyará los programas y proyectos orientados a la implementación del Enfoque Ecosistémico de la Pesca de la langosta espinosa en la región, incluyendo los aspectos de Monitoreo y Evaluación de tales iniciativas, así como la actualización de informes sobre el estado del recurso, los aspectos socio-económicos, y de gobernanza asociados, entre otros.
- g) Proporcionará consejo sobre el ordenamiento y la implementación en cuanto a la ejecución de los reglamentos regionales de ordenamiento sobre la langosta espinosa a los países y las organizaciones regionales (por ejemplo, OSP-02-09).

- h) Desarrollará e implementará un plan de trabajo bienal que será monitoreado y evaluado, y que será alineado con una visión de más largo plazo en el marco del Plan de Acción Estratégico del CLME+ y de metas internacionales como las Metas de Desarrollo Sostenible.
- i) Establecerá la comunicación entre los miembros del grupo de trabajo, y entre el grupo de trabajo y las partes interesadas, incluido el sector privado.
- j) Tomará otras acciones necesarias que involucrarán las cuestiones emergentes en el campo de la langosta espinosa.
- k) Informará a OSPESCA, COPACO, CFMC y CRFM sobre el resultado de cada sesión.
- l) Los términos de referencia pueden ser modificados, cuando sea necesario por los miembros a nivel de la COPACO, después de cada período de dos años, coincidiendo con las reuniones de la COPACO.

#### 4 FORMA DE OPERACIÓN

##### 4.1 EL PAPEL DE LOS PAÍSES

Los miembros del grupo de trabajo tendrán un papel importante en sus actividades a través de las siguientes actividades y compromisos:

- Participar en actividades acordadas del grupo de trabajo, y asegurar la participación de expertos adecuados;
- Implementar, a nivel nacional, el trabajo identificado en el plan de trabajo acordado del grupo;
- Acoger las reuniones del grupo de trabajo de manera rotativa.

##### 4.2 LOS PAPELES DE LA FAO/COPACO/OSPESCA

La oficina subregional de la FAO para Mesoamérica y la Secretaría de la COPACO tendrán papeles secundarios en las actividades del grupo de trabajo, a través de colaboración activa con OSPESCA (la organización principal del grupo de trabajo) en:

- La coordinación colectiva de las actividades del grupo de trabajo (incluyendo la ayuda con la gestión de financiamiento);
- La provisión de un secretario técnico y el apoyo técnico;
- La provisión de asistencia técnica y apoyo técnico para la investigación;
- Facilitación de capacitación;
- La garantía de la participación de expertos adecuados y partes interesadas

##### 4.3 LOS PAPELES DE OTRAS ORGANIZACIONES SUBREGIONALES (POR EJEMPLO, CFMC, CRFM)

Las organizaciones subregionales tienen un papel importante en la asistencia de sus países miembros con la plena participación de las actividades del grupo de trabajo a través de:

- La provisión de asistencia y apoyo técnicos;
- La facilitación de gestión de financiamiento, cuando sea posible;
- La coordinación colectiva de las actividades del grupo de trabajo;
- La facilitación del proceso de toma de decisiones a nivel sub-regional.

#### 1. PAPEL DEL CONVOCANTE

El convocante del grupo de trabajo deberá:

- Convocar formalmente las reuniones del grupo,
- Guiar técnicamente al grupo de trabajo y determinar los temas a discutir,
- Representar al grupo en reuniones regionales e internacionales (según corresponda),
- Invitar a nuevos miembros y expertos ad hoc a participar en la reunión del grupo de trabajo,
- Revisar y aclarar publicaciones y mensajes producidos por el grupo de trabajo, y
- Asumir un papel de liderazgo en la obtención de fondos para reuniones de grupos de trabajo.

## 2. COMUNICACIÓN

Un mecanismo para la comunicación continua entre los miembros del grupo de trabajo (videoconferencia, skype y correo electrónico), es esencial para asegurar que el trabajo del grupo se mantenga entre reuniones. Debe incluir a todos los miembros del grupo de trabajo.

El funcionamiento exitoso del grupo de trabajo también requiere que cada país miembro y la organización/agencia identifiquen un nodo nacional o punto focal a través del cual se dirigirán las comunicaciones. Los resultados del grupo de trabajo se comunicarán a través de informes del grupo de trabajo a la COPACO, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, y las administraciones pesqueras nacionales a través de la secretaría de la COPACO.

## 3. REUNIONES DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO

El grupo de trabajo debe reunirse en persona una vez por año o, como mínimo, una vez cada dos años. Las reuniones deben durar entre dos y cinco días. Las reuniones deben utilizar los alojamientos y facilidades institucionales rentables y siempre que sea posible aprovechen otras reuniones en la región.

**WORK PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP OF OSPESCA / WECAFC / CRFM / CFMC ON THE CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER (RWG-CSL)**

The GTR-LEC will implement the following activities in the 2019 - 2020 period:

ACTIVITY	PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE	Estimated Budget (US\$)
1. Adoption of the Regional Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan by the OSPESCA Ministerial Council (SICA countries)	December 2018 (already accomplished)	OSPESCA	25 000
2. Support and contribute to the preparation of the SOMEE Report, in particular the chapter on the Ecosystem Approach to Spiny Lobster Fisheries, and follow-up to the Strategic Actions Program (PAE) of the CLME +.	January 2019 onwards	GTR-LEC in coordination with OSPESCA and the CLME + PCU	
3. Presentation of the Regional Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan in the 17 <sup>th</sup> WECAF Session	July 2019	OSPESCA	2 500
4. Adoption of the Regional Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan in the framework of the WECAFC	July 2019 onwards	WECAFC countries in coordination with the WECAFC Secretary, CRFM and OSPESCA	
5. Second Ministerial Meeting CRFM-OSPESCA for adoption of the Regional Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan in the CARICOM and SICA countries.	October 2019	CRFM and OSPESCA	75 000
6. Implementation of selected actions of the Regional Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan in selected countries	July 2019 - December 2020	WECAFC countries coordinated by the WECAFC Secretary, CRFM and OSPESCA	100 000
7. The 3rd Meeting of the RWG-CSL - emphasis on	May 2020	WECAFC + OSPESCA	70 000



ACTIVITY	PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE	Estimated Budget (US\$)
the implementation of the regional management plan			

**PLAN DE TRABAJO DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO DE OSPESCA/COPACO/CRFM/CFMC SOBRE LA LANGOSTA ESPINOSA DEL CARIBE (GTR-LEC)**

El GTR-LEC llevará a cabo las siguientes actividades en el periodo 2018- 2019:

ACTIVIDAD	PERIODO	RESPONSABLE
1.2da reunión del GTR-LEC en la República Dominicana	21-23 marzo 2018	COPACO + OSPESCA (como coordinador): reunión apoyada por la NOAA y el Proyecto CLME+
2. Finalización, publicación y divulgación del Reporte de la 2da Reunión del GTR-LEC	Mayo 2018	Secretaría COPACO y OSPESCA
3. Revisión adicional del borrador del Plan Regional de Manejo de la Pesca de Langosta del Caribe	Abril 2018	GTR-LEC en coordinación con OSPESCA/ Secretaría COPACO
4. Finalización del Plan Regional de Manejo	Abril- Mayo 2018	OSPESCA
5. Apoyo y aportes para la preparación del Informe SOME, en particular el capítulo sobre el Enfoque Ecosistémico en la Pesca de la langosta espinosa, y seguimiento al Programa de Acciones Estratégicas (PAE) del CLME+.	Abril-diciembre 2018	GTR- LEC en coordinación con OSPESCA y la UCP del CLME+
6. Revisión de Indicadores para el Monitoreo y Evaluación del PAE y el Marco de Trabajo Evaluativo de la Efectividad de la Gobernanza (MEEG, GEAF pos sus siglas en inglés)	Abril- septiembre 2018	GTR- LEC en coordinación con OSPESCA y la UCP del CLME+
7. Proporcionar insumos para la Estrategia de Investigación, Sección Pesquerías, con enfoque en requerimientos de investigación prioritaria para el EEP para la langosta	Abril-septiembre 2018	GTR- LEC en coordinación con OSPESCA y la UCP del CLME+

ACTIVIDAD	PERIODO	RESPONSABLE
espinosa.		
8. Proporcionar insumos para la consultoría sobre el Marco Regional de Gobernanza y su Plan de Financiamiento Sostenible	Abril- diciembre 2018	GTR- LEC en coordinación con OSPESCA y la UCP del CLME+
9. Presentación de recomendaciones generadas por la 2da Reunión del GTR-LEC para revisión/ discusión y adopción por el CRFM, OSPESCA y COPACO	Abril-junio 2018	Mecanismo Interino de Coordinación para pesquerías sostenibles (apoyado por el CLME+)
10. Presentación a la 9na. Reunión del Grupo Científico Asesor (GCA) de la COPACO para revisión de los consejos y las recomendaciones	noviembre 2019	OSPESCA + Secretaría COPACO
11. Muestreo acerca de la posible presencia en países seleccionados de la región del virus de la langosta PaV1	Julio- diciembre 2018	Mecanismo Interino de Coordinación FAO/OSPESCA/CRFM con apoyo de CFMC
12. Organización de la 3a Reunión del GRT- LEC	Marzo 2019	COPACO + OSPESCA (como coordinador): apoyo y lugar de la reunión AD
13. Presentar insumos y comentarios al documento del Marco de Trabajo de Referencia para la Colecta de Datos (DCRF en inglés), y participación de algunos miembros en el taller del grupo de trabajo de estadísticas de la COPACO en el marco del FIRMS	Abr-may 2018	GTR-LEC en coordinación con FIRMS/FAO con apoyo de NOAA y CFMC

## **2. (Revised) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH (Period 2019-2021)**

### **1. Scope**

The purpose of the Working Group is to support the sustainable management and conservation of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) resources and its fisheries in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>1</sup>.

### **2. The goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Queen Conch fisheries and trade. In pursuing this goal, the working group will contribute to the fulfillment of national, regional and international responsibilities and commitments for the management and conservation of and trade in Queen conch and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

In particular, the Working Group will aim to support with technical and scientific advice the implementation of Decisions adopted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES on "Regional cooperation and management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)" (South Africa, 2016), and WECAFC 16 Recommendation (WECAFC/16/2016/1) "on the Regional Plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch in the WECAFC area" (Guadeloupe, 2016) and any relevant decisions that are adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and WECAFC 17.

### **3. Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Queen Conch is a transboundary resource with commercial and economic, as well as ecological, importance for most countries in the Wider Caribbean region. Therefore, these TORs apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC, CFMC, CITES, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management and conservation of queen conch.

#### **The Working Group will carry out the following general tasks:**

1. Compile, analyze and share interdisciplinary available data and information on queen conch, in thematic areas such as: biology, management of this fishery, socio-economics and trade, fishing technology, environmental factors, and other relevant areas needed to provide advice for policy and decision-making processes.
2. Develop common and modern methodologies for data and information collection for monitoring of queen conch stocks and promote the involvement of the private sector in data collection.
3. Monitor changes in abundance/density of queen conch stocks and populations in the Caribbean region.

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, relevant regional and international agreements, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

4. Review data from the countries and other sources on queen conch catch and effort and aquaculture production in the range states and monitor changes as appropriate.
5. Provide advice on the implementation of national and regional management measures and regulations for queen conch to countries and regional organizations.
6. Establish communication between the members of the working group and interested parties and stakeholders, including the private sector.
7. Develop and implement a work plan that will be monitored and evaluated by the WECAFC SAG and Commission.
8. Report to CFMC, OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM at each of their sessions (on the outcome of each Working Group meeting).
9. Further advance and monitor the implementation of the Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan that was adopted by WECAFC 16, CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC at appropriate levels.
10. Invite selected experts to participate in the Working Group, ensuring that they have the necessary expertise, know-how and experience in areas relevant to the operation of the Working Group and the implementation of these Terms of Reference.

### **Mode of Operation**

#### **1. Role of WECAFC Member Countries**

The members of the Working Group are to play a leading role in the Working Group activities through the following activities and commitments: • Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts; • Ensure involvement of both CITES and Fisheries Authorities in the work of the Group; • Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group; • Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### **2. Role of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat**

The FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean and the WECAFC Secretariat will facilitate and support the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with the partner agencies CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM and CITES in: • Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including securing funding for its operation); • Providing a technical secretary; • Providing technical assistance and support to research; • Facilitating training (as appropriate); • Communicate outcomes to WECAFC, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and countries (as appropriate); • Ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders in Working Group Activities.

#### **3. Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM)**

Subregional organizations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by: 1. Providing technical assistance and support; 2. Facilitating procurement of funding for working group activities; 3. Coordination of the activities of the working group; 4. Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

### **Role of the Convener**

The Convener, in consultation with the Working Group, will: • formally convene the meetings of the group, • technically guide the group work and determine subjects to be discussed, • represent the group in regional and international meetings (as appropriate), • invite new members and ad hoc experts to participate in working group meeting, • review and approve publications and messages produced by the working group, and • take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings.

### **Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all Working Group members.

The successful functioning of the Working Group also requires that each member country of WECAFC and organization/ agency identify a national focal point/expert through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and national fishery and CITES administrations and other relevant entities via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **Working Group Meetings**

The Working Group should meet physically at least once every two years or as needed. The meetings should be of two to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

**WORK PLAN OF THE CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH (QCWG)**

The QCWG will carry out the following activities in 2019–2021 period:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
1. Finalization, publication and dissemination of the Report of the WG meeting in Panama (in hard copies and on-line on <a href="http://www.strombusgigas.com/index.htm">http://www.strombusgigas.com/index.htm</a> and at <a href="http://www.WECAFC.org">www.WECAFC.org</a> ; including the national summary reports)	February 2019	CFMC and FAO with inputs from meeting participants
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments in the region to support the implementation of CITES COP 17 Decisions and WECAFC 16 recommendation WECAFC/16/2016/1 and any relevant decisions that are adopted at the 18 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and WECAFC 17	January 2019 – December 2021	WG members
3. Report on progress with the implementation of relevant CITES and WECAFC decisions, and the outcomes of the Working Group – at the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• next meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), November 2018; -</li> <li>• 17th session of WECAFC, April/May 2019;</li> <li>• 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, May/June 2019;</li> <li>• 31st meeting of the Animals Committee, January 2020</li> </ul>	In advance of deadlines for reporting required	CITES/Fisheries authorities of QC range States attending these meetings (as appropriate); CITES and WECAFC Secretariats
4. Translate the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> that was adopted at WECAFC 16 into French and Spanish, disseminate for review, and publish upon completion	January 2019	WECAFC Secretariat
5. Continue increasing awareness and building capacity among fishers on Safety-at-Sea, in particular addressing risk management in compressed air diving for Queen Conch; fisher organizations should be engaged as much as possible for these activities	January 2019 onwards	NOAA Fisheries/CFMC and FAO with the fisheries authorities in the region
6. Continue review and consideration of options for the development of a transparent "chain of custody" procedure to track catches from their catch location to their eventual destination	January 2019 onwards	NOAA Fisheries/CFMC with CITES, WECAFC/FAO and the authorities in the region

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
7. Further advance and monitor the implementation of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan</i> that was adopted by WECAFC 16, CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC at appropriate levels	January 2019 onwards	CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members
8. Encourage countries to implement the <i>Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan</i> as called for by WECAFC 16	January 2019 – December 2021	CFMC, WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA and WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities)
9. Support national level consultations as needed to discuss Working Group proposed management and conservation measures for building awareness, increasing buy-in and contributing to compliance	January 2019 onwards	WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities)
10. Support national authorities and fisherfolk organizations to implement the <i>Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan</i>	January 2019-December 2021	WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities), CRFM, OSPESCA, CITES, CFMC, FAO/WECAFC
<p>11. Operationalize the Scientific and Statistical Sub-Group (SS Sub-group) established in the <i>Regional Queen Conch Management and Conservation Plan</i> that will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying countries that lack national conversion factors for queen conch meat, analyzing available data, assisting with development of national conversion factors for these countries, and reporting back to the Working Group on these factors for their consideration.</li> <li>• Review of existing queen conch NDFs and guidance in order to develop a simplified template for making non-detriment findings for queen conch, in consultation with the CITES Animals Committee, dissemination of the template to the Working Group membership for their consideration, and supporting selected countries in applying the templates and sharing the results at the regional level.</li> </ul>	<p>Draft template: November 2018 - March 2019</p> <p>Results and application of template: June 2019 and onwards</p>	CFMC/WECAFC, SS Sub-group membership, CITES
12. The CFMC will hire a consultant to compile existing information and educational resources, with the appropriate authorization and permission, that	January-December 2019	CFMC/WECAFC Secretariat

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
could be used to meet the objectives of the Working Group		
13. Consult with the CLME+ project to identify queen conch fishery needs that can be incorporated into a possible next phase of the CLME+ project and explore potential opportunities for collaboration specifically with respect to contributions to the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) reporting mechanism and the Strategic Action Program Monitoring and Evaluation framework	November 2018 – December 2019	CFMC, the WECAFC Secretariat too and/or the relevant sub-regional partners (CRFM, OSPESCA)



### **3. TERMS OF REFERENCE WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf**

#### **1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

##### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the working group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct's Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>2</sup> and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

Using a multidisciplinary approach the working group will contribute to the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Brazil-Guianas shelf by providing management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of the shrimp and groundfish resources and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

##### **1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Some shrimp and groundfish resources are transboundary and therefore the TORs may apply at sub-regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CRFM and UNEP-CEP, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources.

Specifically, the working group will:

- (a) Share available data and information on shrimp and groundfish resources.
- (b) Develop common methods for assessment and monitoring of shrimp and groundfish stocks, possibly involving the private sector formally in data collection.
- (c) Undertake, review and validate stock assessments of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
- (d) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
- (e) Compile and analyse data on catch, effort, size composition, changes in habitat and reproductive patterns () of shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the sub-region and monitor and evaluate changes.
- (f) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
- (g) Propose a sub-regional management plan for shrimp and groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf, considering the recommendations from plan for investment in EAF management, and taking into account regional strategy on the management of trawl fisheries by-catch including co-management arrangement tested in pilote studies.
- (h) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- (i) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues regarding the shrimp and groundfish resources, such as environmental changes of local or global economic context. Wherever relevant,

address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their impacts on the shrimp and groundfish resources in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions or stakeholders.

(j) Establish links with the CRFM continental shelf fisheries working group as appropriate, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and optimize use of technical and financial resources.

(k) Establish link with other sub-regional initiatives (ex. CLME+, ReByC II projects) for mutual benefits.

(l) Collaborate with IUU working group on development and implementation of the regional plan of action on IUU fishing.

(m) Report to WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

## **1.4 Mode of Operation**

### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the working group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating the inputs of the members of the working group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;
- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

### *1.4.3 Role of FAO*

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the working group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training.

### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER, NOAA)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

## **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.

## WORK PLAN

### WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Guianas-Brazil Shelf (WSSGF)

The joint Working Group intends to carry out the following activities in 2018-2020:

Activity	Timeframe	Responsible	Status
1. Finalization, publication and dissemination of the Report of the WG meeting in Barbados September 17-18 2018	September 2018	CRFM/IFREMER/WECAFC and FAO with inputs from meeting participants	Complete (needs dissemination).
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments and WECAFC Commission	May 2018– December 2020	WG members;	Continuing
3. Report to the: -17th session of WECAFC, January – July 2019 – 9th meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), November 2018.	As deadlines for reporting require	WECAFC Secretariat	Reporting to WECAFC in July. Already reported to SAG.
4. Support formulation of sub-regional plan for IUU fishing in Guianas-Brazil Shelf by attending IUU meeting and providing inputs to drafting process	September 2018 – July 2019	Working Group with Support from CLME+	Continuing
5. Collaborate with the Data and Statistics Working Group to respond to the requirements presented at the Working Group's meeting - Identify focal points for provision of shrimp and groundfish data	October 2018- December 2019	Working Group Members supported by IFREMER/CRFM and WECAFC	Continuing
6. Formulate draft sub-regional management plan for shrimp and groundfish in Guianas-Brazil Shelf	December 2019	Working Group with Support from CLME+ and Members	Continuing
7. Reactivate Stock assessment work:	Early 2019 for	IFREMER/CRFM/WECAFC in	Data needs workshop

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data Prep and Parameter workshop</li> <li>- Training in stock assessment for WG Countries</li> <li>- Carry out planned periodic stock assessments</li> </ul>	<p>trainings. Stock assessment for priority species December 2020</p>	<p>collaboration with NOAA, IDB, CLME+ and FIRMS</p>	<p>complete. Stock assessment training completed</p>
<p>8. Collaborate and provide inputs for the execution of an Investment Plan for Investment in EAF management (includes continuous training on EAF – ecological, social and economic)</p>	<p>July 2020</p>	<p>IFREMER/CRMF/WECAFC with support from IDB, REBYC-II LAC, CLME+ and CC4FISH</p>	<p>Investment plan for Guyana under way</p>
<p>9. Develop draft Regional Strategy on Shrimp by-catch and introduce CRFM and OSPESCA Ministerial Meetings and present to WECAFC at it's 18<sup>th</sup> Session</p>	<p>July 2020</p>	<p>Working group Members with Support from CRFM/WECAFC/IFREMER and REBYC II LAC</p>	<p>Regional strategy delayed.</p>
<p>10. Review and suggest inputs, targets and indicators for the CLME + SAP and contribute to the shrimp and groundfish indicators of the GEAF framework</p>	<p>December 2019</p>	<p>Working Group Members. In collaboration with CERMES</p>	<p>Work initiated</p>
<p>11. Develop communications and work strategy between working group members for inter-session period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Including common work-space and document repository</li> </ul>	<p>August 2019</p>	<p>CRFM/IFREMER and WECAFC to suggest, members to endorse</p>	<p>Delayed(although operational under REBYC)</p>
<p>12. Next Session of Working Group- intersessional meeting</p>	<p>September 2019</p>	<p>IFREMER in collaboration with WECAFC /CRFM</p>	

#### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep sea fisheries 2015 -2018**

##### **1. Background and justification**

Deep sea fisheries in the high seas are those where the total catch includes species that can only sustain low exploitation rates, and that are conducted using fishing gears that either contact or are likely to contact the sea floor during the course of the fishing operations. Eighty-nine percent of the waters in the WECAFC area of competence have a depth of 400 meters or greater. Eighty-six percent of the water surface area has a depth greater than 1000 meters. Fifty-one percent of the WECAFC area is considered high-seas. The information available about deep sea fish stocks and their catches in the WECAFC area is insignificant.

Hardly any data on deep sea fish stocks and catches in the region are collected or reported. The vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the deep sea areas and particularly in the high seas areas in the WECAFC competence area have not been identified. The current gaps in knowledge and information on this subject may have serious effects for the management of stocks and sustainability of fisheries operations in the waters concerned. While in many regions countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) have made efforts to increase knowledge and information on this subject, this is not the case in the WECAFC area.

The 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas provide guidance on management factors ranging from an appropriate regulatory framework to the components of good data collection programs and include the identification of key management considerations and measures necessary to ensure conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats. Making a joint effort towards implementation of these internationally accepted voluntary guidelines is highly necessary in the WECAFC region.

##### **2. Role of the Working Group**

The objective of the Working group is to inform and provide guidance for the management of deep sea fisheries by WECAFC members, in such a manner as to promote responsible fisheries that provide economic opportunities, while ensuring the conservation of marine living resources and the protection of marine biodiversity and to facilitate the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

##### ***2.1 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2015 to 2018***

The work of the Working Group will be guided by the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries of the High-seas and in particular will address the following aspects:

- a) Collect and review of existing (past and present) data and information on the deep sea fisheries in the WECAFC area, in addition to identifying the potential of such fisheries in the region.
- b) Meet and analyse the data and information collected and make recommendations for the sustainability of the deep sea fisheries in the WECAFC region.
- c) Identify priority areas for future work and international funding and support for the work identified.
- d) Organize in 2014 a WECAFC Technical Workshop on Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas Areas of the Western Central Atlantic to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the working group, and to obtain inputs from the WECAFC members.
- e) Develop a Chapter on the Western Central Atlantic for the 2015 FAO Worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas.
- f) Report to the Commission at its next session, its conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

##### **3. Mode of Operation**

###### **3.1 Membership of the Working Group**

Membership shall consist of all Members of WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with an interest in deep sea fisheries. Membership may also include representatives of deep sea fisheries stakeholders of Members, Non-members, as well as relevant regional and regional organizations and experts.

*Working Group members from WECAFC members*

The members of the Working Group, on behalf of WECAFC members, will have expertise in deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs and/or high seas legal frameworks, in their respective countries. They will play an important role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and ensuring the participation of appropriate other experts from the country (if required);
- Support implementation of the draft recommendations prepared by the Working Group at the national level;
- Assist by hosting Working Group meetings on a rotational (periodic) basis (as appropriate).

*Working Group members from partner organizations and institutions*

The Working Group members from partner organizations at international and regional level will provide (in-kind) expertise, participate in information and data collection, facilitate funding, collaborate in the organization of workshop(s) and funding of experts participation (if appropriate), support the co-ordination and communication in the Working Group and support the decision-making process in the Wider Caribbean Region in order to reach well-balanced outputs and recommendations that are acceptable to the region and can account with the support from the various partners in terms of implementation and follow-up.

### 3.2 Election of Convener of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener would be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs, high seas legal frameworks, as well as to contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this working group.

### 3.3 Role of FAO/WECAFC Secretariat

- a) To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;
- b) To assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- c) To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d) To liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and particularly on their ongoing work to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
- e) To liaise with the FAO, UNEP and World Bank staff working on the GEF programme on “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”
- f) To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
- g) To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

### 3.4 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group are foreseen to be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group.

#### **4. Amendments to these Terms of Reference**

1. The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Members at the level of WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.



## **5. Terms of Reference for the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**

TORs updated in April 2017

### **1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

#### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the Working Group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the Working Group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>3</sup>, the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

<sup>3</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

#### **1.2 The Goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Working Group will contribute to the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region, by providing scientific and management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the Working Group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of recreational fisheries and resources, and related or interacting species, or other interacting fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

#### **1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Many of the fish resources captured by recreational fisheries, such as billfish, dolphin fish and tunas, are transboundary and /or highly migratory and therefore the TORs may apply at the sub-regional and/or national levels, as appropriate. The Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of recreational fisheries.

Specifically, the Working Group will:

(n) Compile, analyse and share available biological and socioeconomic data and information on recreational fisheries.

(o) Develop common monitoring and assessment methods for recreational fisheries, involving commercial fisheries (industrial and artisanal) formally in data collection, wherever possible.

(p) Provide scientific and management advice to countries and regional organizations about the implementation and performance of agreed sub-regional management measures for recreational fisheries.

(q) Establish communication among members of the Working Group, between the Working Group and interested parties, including private sector.

(r) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues, including external environmental and economic drivers of change at local, national, regional or global levels. To the

extent possible, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their socio-ecological impacts in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions and local stakeholders.

(s) Establish links with the appropriate working groups of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (ICCAT) and the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks while optimizing the use of technical and financial resources.

(t) Establish links with other sub-regional initiatives (e.g., Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+), Climate Change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) and the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (ReByC II LAC) projects) for mutual benefits.

(u) Collaborate with other WECAFC working groups (i.e., fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs), flying fish and shark fisheries) in issues of mutual interest

(v) Report to appropriate institutions at each session.

(w) Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance and recommendations about monitoring, assessment, and management of recreational fisheries.

(x) Support the organization of, and provide technical expertise during, the Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries Data and Statistics in the Caribbean.

(y) The working group will aim to advise and support implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan, the CRFM Sub-Regional FAD Management Plan and the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the WECAFC area.

(z) The working group will review and validate draft findings of the “Scenario Study on how to influence ICCAT decision making processes.

(aa) Support the Project Management Unit of the Caribbean Billfish Project.

(bb) Support activities of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC).

(cc) Support endorsement procedures for the draft Billfish Management and Conservation Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2017-2018.

(dd) Report on the 8th meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory group to provide advice and recommendations

(ee) Promote closer relations with, and reporting to, the SCRS of ICCAT

(ff) Review and provide recommendations on the Business Case(s) developed through the Caribbean Billfish Project

The implementation of many of the tasks assigned to this Working Group will be supported by the Caribbean Billfish project, a component of the World Bank/GEF programme on Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform.

## **1.4 Mode of Operation**

### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the Working Group will play a leading role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and facilitate, to the extent practicable, participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement the tasks agreed upon in the work plan of the Working Group at national level;
- Host Working Group meetings on a rotational basis.

### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the Working Group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating inputs of the members of the Working Group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;

- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

#### *1.4.3 Role of FAO*

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the Working Group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training.

#### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, OSPESCA)*

Sub-regional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Sub-regional level;
- Promoting implementation of data collection and a resultant regional database for recreational fisheries.

### **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all Working Group members.

The successful functioning of the Working Group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, national fishery administrations and any other organization via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.

6. (Revised) **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING MFADS**

Period 2019-2020

**1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

FAD fisheries began to develop in the Caribbean Islands at the end of the 1980s. This activity is still developing in several states. Moored FADs (MFADs) allow small-scale, artisanal vessels easier access to offshore pelagic resources by aggregating them at fixed locations. Their use leads to different fishing practices and consequently, may impact different resources, depending on the local circumstances. The communities involved in this type of fishery, consist to a great extent of fishers with low incomes and limited other livelihood options, and the fishery contributes significantly to local food and nutrition security. Although the use of MFADs increases the probability of catching fish and consequently the overall catches, increases the savings on fuel costs and reduces the search time when compared with other methods of targeting offshore pelagic species it has become evident that there is need to implement MFAD management measures at the onset if the resources on which the fishery depends is to be sustained in the long term.

At the Fourteenth Session of WECAFC, convened in Panama City, Panama from 06 to 09 February 2012, the Commission agreed *to continue all Working Groups (Spiny Lobster, Flying Fish, MFADs, Queen Conch, Nassau Grouper/Spawning Aggregations) as joint working groups of WECAFC with partner organizations. It was considered that a leading role could be played by these partners as well.* The Terms of Reference for the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles was articulated at that time.

Subsequently, the CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management was convened in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines from 9 to 11 December 2013. In light of the overlapping aims of the MAGDELESA project and its termination at the end of October / November, 2013, the joint workshop provided an opportunity to transfer knowledge and experiences, consolidate linkages among existing networks for FAD fishery management and also to discuss the future of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group. The Workshop proposed that the current IFREMER / WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored FAD Fishing in the Lesser Antilles be transformed into a joint Working Group on FADs with the possible participation of JICA, IFREMER, CRFM and WECAFC. The joint Working Group would consist of one participant from all Caribbean countries with FAD fisheries, IFREMER, WECAFC and JICA / CARIFICO. The Workshop also agreed that the Terms of

Reference of the new Joint Working Group be made consistent with recommendations of the meeting.

This Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group on FADs gives consideration to the recommendations by the 2013 CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management and recommendations of the Seventh Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in

Panama City, Panama on 7 to 8 November 2015, while giving due cognisance for maintaining transparency and accountability in the operations of the Working Group.

## **2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

### *2.1 Scope*

The scope of the ad hoc working group is the development and management of moored FAD fishing in the [WECAFC Area 31], in a manner that is consistent with the long-term sustainability of associated pelagic fish resources and through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. The working group will take a multidisciplinary and participatory approach to the sustainable development of moored MFAD fishing for pelagics and will contribute to the fulfillment of national and regional management responsibilities for shared pelagic fish stock management under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in particular Article 8.11: “Artificial reef and fish aggregation devices” as well as related management recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Working Group is to function in a technical and advisory capacity.

### *2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2019 to 2021*

- a. To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group;
- b. To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project;
- c. To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on research of key pelagic species associated with MFAD fisheries, encourage pluridisciplinary research on MFADs including ecological socioeconomics and governance issues, and to consolidate information on MFAD fisheries in order to accurately characterize MFAD fisheries in the region;
- d. To develop and finalize manuals on best practices in the fisheries using MFADs. The manuals are to address interests in MFAD design, construction and deployment, maintaining good quality of MFAD-caught fish, fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers.
- e. To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT;
- f. To collaborate on co-management within MFADs fisheries, noting the successful examples in Grenada, Dominica, and Bonaire, and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group;
- g. To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group;
- h. To review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean, adapt to a broader a WECAFC regional FAD management plan and support Member Members’ efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans.

## *2.3 Mode of Operation*

### ***2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group***

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in fisheries which utilize MFADs.

### ***2.3.1 Election of Chair of the Working Group***

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve during the working group meeting.

### ***2.3.2 Role of Member States of WECAFC [Countries]***

- a. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for improving the quality of catch and effort data on the fisheries using MFADs, including historical time series data;
- b. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for collecting socio-economic data on fisheries using MFADs;
- c. To implement inter-sessional activities, agreed upon by the Working Group, at the national level;
- d. To maintain active discussion on assessment and management issues, share data and information, and monitor implementation of inter-sessional activities of the Working Group using available ICT tools or other cost-effective methods;
- e. To facilitate expert participation by their designated representatives at meetings of the Working Group.

### ***2.3.3 Role of WECAFC Secretariat***

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- b. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the regional level.

### **2.3.4 Role of IFREMER**

- a. To assist in research, technical assistance, and implementation of the Work Plan;

### ***2.3.5 Role of the CRFM Secretariat***

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

### **2.3.6 Role of the convener**

Over the two year period, the convener will:

- a. Convene meetings of the Working Group;

- b. Technically guide the group work and determine the subjects to be discussed;
- c. Represent the group in regional and international meetings, as appropriate;
- d. Invite new Members and other experts to participate in working group meetings;
- e. Take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings;
- f. Review messages and communications regarding information on MFAD activities in the region.

### ***2.3.7 Communication***

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the intersessional periods, so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The

National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM, OSPESCA, and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM, OSPESCA, and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

### ***2.3.8 Working Group Meetings***

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened ideally once a year, or at least once every two years, or as resources are available. Such meeting arrangements should be cost-effective. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be announced by the Convener and chaired by the Chair of the Working Group. Regional organizations and experts may be invited to participate in the meetings as required. The Convener shall coordinate intersessional activities of the Working Group.

## WORK PLAN OF THE CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS

The MFAD<sup>2</sup> Working Group will carry out the following activities in 2019–2021 period:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
(a) To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	June to December 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Request data and detailed information on MFAD fisheries from WECAFC Members for further analysis.	June 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Submission of available data and detailed information related to MFAD Fisheries by Member States to WECAFC.	June to December 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, and OSPESCA
(b) To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project	2019 to 2021	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
(c) To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on research of key pelagic species associated with MFAD fisheries, encourage pluridisciplinary research on MFADs including ecological socioeconomics and governance issues, and to consolidate information on MFAD fisheries in order to accurately characterize MFAD fisheries in the region	2019-2021	
- Establishment of Points of Contact	June to July 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, OSPESCA
- Request information on best practices and ongoing MFAD fishery projects and research	June 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Sharing information on best practices and ongoing MFAD fishery projects and research	June to December 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, OSPESCA, and anyone with relevant information
- Consolidating and compiling information related to ongoing projects and research	January to June 2020	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Compiling and analyzing information to accurately	January to June	Convener with CRFM,

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<sup>2</sup> Moored FAD



characterize MFAD fisheries with the help of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	2020	OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER with the support of University of California, Santa Barbara
- Encourage Members to promote participation in the ICCAT Atlantic Tuna Tropical Tagging Program (AOTTP) in order to improve the knowledge of tropical tuna movements in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.	2019 to 2021	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, and WECAFC Secretariat
(d) To develop and finalize manuals on best practices in the fisheries using MFADs. The manuals are to address interests in MFAD design, construction and deployment, maintaining good quality of MFAD-caught fish, fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers	June 2019 to June 2021	IFREMER, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat
- Provide edits on manual related to safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and any other tools related to the sustainable management of FADs	By June 2019 to June 2021	WECAFC Members and fisherfolk organizations
- Finalize remaining manuals	December 2020	IFREMER
- Publish manuals	June 2021	WECAFC Secretariat
(e) To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT	2019 to 2021	WECAFC Members
- ICCAT Parties should submit all relevant data to ICCAT	2019 to 2021	ICCAT Parties
- Non-Parties of ICCAT should work with their relevant regional organization to submit available data	2019 to 2021	Non-ICCAT Parties with CRFM, OSPESCA, and the WECAFC Secretariat
(f) To collaborate on co-management within MFADs fisheries, noting the successful examples in Grenada, Dominica, and Bonaire, and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group	2019 to 2021	OSPESCA, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat
- Encourage transfer of peer-to-peer knowledge of best practices among fishers and fisher organizations through Fisher Learning Exchanges.	2019 to 2021	CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations
(g) To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	2019 to 2021	OSPESCA, CRFM, WECAFC Secretariat, and WECAFC Members
- Identify a website to host relevant information for the Working Group	May 2020	WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group

- Share information on the beaching and entanglements of lost or abandoned moored and drifting FADs and collaborate to address the issue.	2019 to 2021	WECAFC Members and MFAD Working Group
(h) To review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean, adapt to a broader a WECAFC regional FAD management plan and support Member Members' efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans.		
Request WECAFC Members to review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for consideration in the development of a broader WECAFC FAD management plan.	June 2019	WECAFC Secretariat
Review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan, taking into account other relevant information (gears, species, socioeconomics, FAD construction materials, etc)	January to June 2020	WECAFC Members
- Seek funding to advance the drafting of a broader WECAFC regional FAD Management Plan, including appropriate consultation with fisherfolk in the region	December 2019	Convener and WECAFC Secretariat

## 7. **CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean**

### **1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

The four-wing flyingfish supports important small-scale fisheries in the region in terms of employment generation, food security and supply of bait for fisheries targeting large pelagic fish species. Like other small-scale fishers in the Caribbean, fishers involved in flyingfish fisheries often belong to the lower socio-economic strata of society.

Unlike many other commercial species in the region the flyingfish, and in particular the four-wing flyingfish, *Hirudichthys affinis*, which comprises the majority of the flyingfish catch, has been extensively studied. There is a rich information-base on its stock delineation, distribution and biology. Less has been documented however, on the socio-economic, bio-economic and, ecological aspects of the fishery and resource, including the impacts on the population and risks associated with climate change, extreme weather events, and other aspects of global environmental change.

### **2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

#### ***2.1 Scope***

The scope of the Working Group is to facilitate the achievement of management objectives as outlined in the respective sub-regional management plan for flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary, ecosystem and participatory approaches to fisheries management. These management objectives are: a) sustained flyingfish resources (biological objective), b) optimal use of the flyingfish resource for long-term benefit (socio- economic objective) and c) sustained ecosystem health (ecological objective).

#### ***2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2016 to 2018***

(this will be completed later)

#### ***2.3 Mode of Operation***

##### **2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group**

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in the flyingfish fishery. Membership may also include representatives of key flyingfish stakeholders of Member States as well as relevant regional organizations and experts.

##### **2.3.2 Election of Chair of the Working Group**

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve over the two-year period.

##### **2.3.3 Role of Member States and other Collaborating Countries**

- a. To develop or update national fisheries management plans, based on the agreed Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. To implement national fisheries management plans;
- c. To monitor and evaluate implementation of the FMP at the national level;
- d. To report annually to the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on the progress made in implementation of national FMPs;
- e. To improve the coverage and quality of data nationally to facilitate assessment of the fishery and associated stock as well as monitoring and evaluation of the FMP at the regional level; and
- f. To support the national level implementation of activities outlined under the CLME + (Implementation of Strategic Action Programme) that are aligned with the specific Terms of Reference.

#### 2.3.4 Role of the CRFM Secretariat

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To continue efforts to formalize the relationship between France and the CRFM to facilitate involvement of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the management process;
- e. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified;
- f. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners; and
- g. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

#### 2.3.5 Role of WECAFC Secretariat

- a. To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among CRFM and Non-CRFM Members, at the wider regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified; and
- e. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
- f. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### 2.3.6 Communication

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the inter-sessional periods so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/ Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools, such as the CRFM DGroup and GoToMeeting, should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

### 2.3.7 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group.

## **3. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Member States at the level of CRFM and WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

## **8. TERMS OF REFERENCE CFMC /WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations**

The working group will carry out the following tasks:

- Compile and analyze data on spawning aggregations in the member countries and monitor any changes.
- Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance in the monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for management for protection and conservation of spawning aggregations.
- Provide advice on the management and implementation of regional strategies and regulations to protect spawning aggregations.
- Report to the appropriate institutions at each session.

In the period 2016–2018 the Working Group will specifically work on:

- a) Update and publish a spawning aggregations monitoring manual for the WECAFC members.
- b) Follow up on the recommendation WECAFC/15/2014/1 on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers.
- c) Establish an outreach and communication campaign on the closed areas and regionally agreed closed season.
- d) Support the development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of fish species that aggregate to spawn (targeting groupers and snappers), in accordance with the best available scientific evidence to be presented to the 17th session of WECAFC in 2018 for review, consideration and regional adoption.

**WORK PLAN OF THE OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS (SAWG)**

The SAWG will carry out the following activities in 2018–2020 period:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
1. Convene the 2nd meeting of the SAWG in Miami	27-29 March 2018	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; meeting supported by NOAA <i>Completed</i>
2. Finalization, publication and dissemination of the report from March Meeting	November 2018	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; (Moe, Heyman, Young, Bolden, Rolon) <i>Nearly completed</i>
3. Develop draft Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Nassau grouper and other FSA-forming species	January 2019	CFMC (Sadovy, Azueta, Prada and Lindeman, and SAWG Members) <i>Nearly completed</i>
4. Finalization of the Regional FMP for aggregating species	2020	CFMC (Sadovy, Azueta, Prada and Lindeman, and SAWG Members)
5. Support contributions for the SOMEE Report	December 2018	Heyman, funding dependent
6. Draft regional cooperative monitoring protocol, database and data management systems to characterize and monitor FSAs	December 2019 (funding dependent)	Heyman and WG Members, funding dependent
7. Final cooperative monitoring program and database	December 2020	Heyman and WG Members, funding dependent
8. Conduct a regional and national status and needs assessment of FSA sites in the WECAFC region	2019 - 2020	CFMC and NOAA (W. Heyman, C. Young, S. Bolden, J. Azueta, R. Claro and others as appropriate; funding dependent
9. Presentation of recommendations generated by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting for review /	April – June 2018	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries (supported by

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
discussion and adoption by CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC		CLME+)
10. Presentation to the meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to review the recommendations	November 2019	WECAFC secretary
11. Develop communications strategy and tools for FSA conservation and management including two short videos about the urgency to protect FSAs.	2019-2020	CFMC (support to A. Salceda, Beluga Smile and SAWG communications subcommittee)  <i>work in progress</i>
13. Mobilize resources from bilateral and international agencies to assist Members of WECAFC	2018-2020	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA, SAWG members, and others
14. Organization and planning of the 3rd Meeting of the SAWG	2019	WECAFC + CFMC
15. Share technical capacity to identify FSAs in regions where FSAs have not been documented or characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean)	2019-2020	WECAFC; L. Reynal; funding dependent
16. Maintain the SAWG network intersessional communications by regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists	June 2018	FWRI (Acosta)  <i>completed</i>



## **9. TERMS OF REFERENCE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)**

### **1. Preamble**

Recognising:

- That illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is any fishing which undermines or disregards national, regional or international fisheries conservation and management arrangements and measures;
- That high demand for fish, the economic benefits derived from IUU fishing and the inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems in the WECAFC Region have made Caribbean States particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing;
- That IUU fishing is practiced by both domestic and foreign vessels;
- The responsibilities of States to manage fisheries in which their nationals are engaged and/or benefit;
- The interest of States in providing for the long term development of sustainable marine resources;
- The range and extent of fishing activities within and across coastal waters and the high seas;
- The impacts of fishing on non-target species and the wider marine environment;
- The costs of ensuring compliance by foreign and domestic vessels with fisheries management and conservation measures;
- The benefits of coordination and cooperation in fisheries-related monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS);
- The advantages of collecting and sharing MCS information; and
- The requirements of CRFM States to implement fisheries-related MCS measures pursuant to national, regional and international law, including:
  - Article 8.1.4 and other provisions related to MCS from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
  - The principles and rules of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the 1982 UN Convention); the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 1995 (UN Fish Stocks Agreement); and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 1993 (FAO Compliance Agreement); and
  - Article 24 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing; and

- Article 6 (viii) of the Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, where States agree to establish a Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RWG-IUU) to regularly consult on methodologies and approaches in relation to deterring, eliminating IUU fishing.

The WECAFC member States indicate their intention to create a Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU) with the view to define and drive national programs to collect information on foreign fishing vessel incursions into the Region's EEZ, and to propose options and courses of practical action that coastal States can (and should) take to engage pro-actively with relevant RFMOs and suspected (or proven flag States) to address and mitigate these forms of incursions as well as measures to monitor, control and survey their own vessels fishing in the waters of other coastal States, in waters under the auspices of an RFMO and the high seas.

## **2. Objective**

2.1 The objective of the RWG-IUU is to improve coordination and cooperation between national organizations/institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

## **3. Organization**

3.1 The RWG-IUU will comprise one member from a national organizations responsible for MCS nominated by each participating country, one member of key partner organizations (OECS, CNFO, CRFM).

3.2 Persons or organizations with expertise in matters pertaining to MCS and IUU fishing may be invited to participate as an observer in the deliberations of the RWG-IUU.

3.3. The WECAFC Secretariat will act as secretary to the RWG-IUU.

## **4. Functions**

The RWG-IUU shall:

- As a matter of priority, seek to identify and recommend cost effective measures that can be easily implemented in the short to medium term to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.
- Review and assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region. In particular, the specific areas and species that are targeted by illegal fishing, domestic and/or foreign, and the main market for these IUU products;
- Review current methods and arrangements for timely collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data and information relating to DWFN poaching activities;
- Assess the viability of adopting modern technologies and methodologies to increase data capture, coverage and reliability;
- Develop recommendations for the establishment of formal protocol to facilitate transmittal of information regarding IUU fishing from coastal and/or market States to the flag State.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the methods by which IUU products are harvested, handled and traded including potential loopholes in legal systems and make recommendations for cost effective strategies and mechanisms to address identified deficiencies;
- Review and assess best international/regional/national practices employed to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and determine the suitability for adoption and implementation in the WECAFC region;

- Review and assess systems and mechanisms used by WECAFC Member States to address IUU fishing and make such recommendations as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness;
- Provide advice and recommendations on viable methodologies to engage with flag States, regional fishery bodies and regional fishery management organizations in relation to data exchanges, in pursuit of reducing IUU fishing opportunities within the CRFM Region;
- Recommend mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation and coordination among WECAFC Member States and entities as may be necessary in regard to sharing of data and information;
- Promote the concept of collaborative policing approaches, with national fishers, and, where possible, through fisher organizations;
- Seek complementary funding to support activities relating to data capture, analysis and sharing at the regional, national and local levels;
- Promote technical assistance, training, experience exchange, and institutional development, to increase MCS knowledge and capability amongst participating parties; and
- Perform other tasks as may be determined by the member states.
- Develop plan to coordinated MCS actions in the WECAFC area by using as a model the regional fisheries surveillance plan of the southwest Indian Ocean. Such a plan would work to reduce the number of vessels fishing illegally in the region by at sea and aerial surveillance operations; by using satellite and oceanographic data to plan surveillance operations; by using surveillance infrastructures; by reinforcing national FMCs and improving the regional exchange of information and collaboration; by training inspectors and observers.

## **5. Meetings**

The RWG-IUU shall meet at least once every two years. However, the RWG may meet electronically and on an opportunistic basis afforded by the presence of members at other regional workshops or meetings as considered necessary. The deliberations and recommendations of the RWG shall be in writing.

## **6. RWG-IUU Costs**

The cost of participation in meetings of the RWG-IUU will be met by the WECAFC Members. Additional resources may be mobilized with support from the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats.

**UPDATED WORK PLAN (2018-2020) OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON  
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Proposed activity end date</b>
Develop a draft regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU)	Rescheduled to 2018	RWG IUU coordinated by the WECAFC Secretariat	Ongoing	
Organization of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the RWG-IUU – focus on the RPOA-IUU finalization	26-28 September 2018	WECAFC + CRFM (as convener): meeting supported by EU-DG Mare funded project, the CLME+ project sub-project for shrimp and groundfish and REBYC II LAC	Meeting held	
Design and carry out a review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region	2019	Convener + WG members	Had previously been postponed pending development[finalization] of FAO methodological guidelines	March 2019
Finalization of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners	2019	Convener + CRFM	Concept note developed; develop and finalise proposal	Dependent on outcome of assessment of the extent of IUU
Submission of advice and recommendations generated by the 3 RWG-IUU meetings for review/discussion and approval within CRFM and	October 2017 – January 2019	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries (CLME+ supported)	Recommendations from 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> meetings and the outcomes of 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting to be submitted to ICM once clarified	In time for WECAFC 17

OSPESCA					
Reporting to the 9th meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for review of advice and recommendations	November 2018	Convener WECAFC Secretariat	+	Recommendations from RWG IUU 3rd meeting submitted to SAG for endorsement	November 2018
Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, to ensure effective monitoring and control of transshipment activities, with FAO guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment.	2018 to 2020	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members		New activity pursuant to outcome of RWG IUU 3	End 2020; WECAFC 17
Identify information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of transshipment regulations	2018 to 2019	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members		New activity pursuant to outcome of RWG IUU 3	Mid 2019
Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear.	2018 to 2019	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members		New activity pursuant to outcome of RWG IUU 3	Mid 2019
Develop an IUU Vessel List for the region, using internationally applied criteria and procedures, and arrange with TM Tracking for maintaining the list	September 2018	WG Members with WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA and TM Tracking		t.b.d.	Probable review of the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels for the updated

Develop and finalise RPOA IUU	January 2019	WG Members with WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, Consultant(s)	New activity pursuant to outcome of RWG IUU 3	Submission to WECAFC 17 in April 2019
Develop NPOAs - IUU based on the RPOA-IUU and inform FAO/WECAFC after adoption	2018 to 2020	WG members	ongoing?	Dependent on completion of RPOA; end 2020?
Develop protocols for “cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing” under the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and OSPESCA, respectively	2018 to 2020	CRFM, OSPESCA plus relevant WG members; supported by WECAFC Secretariat	To be determined.	Pursuant to [and dependent on finalization of] RPOA; by May 2020?
Organize exchange of information and study tours for WG members to learn about successful and best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general	2018-2020	WG members, facilitate by the CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC Secretariats	To be determined	

## **10. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

### **1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

More than 150 species of sharks and rays are present within the WECAFC region. There is currently limited information regarding their stocks and more needs to be done to protect and manage shark and ray populations. This Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will provide, among others, a platform for supporting the conservation and sustainable management of shark fisheries in the Wider Caribbean region. Until an RPOA is adopted, the actions of the Working Group will be guided by the guidelines laid out in the FAO IPOA-Sharks. Sharks are a transboundary resource and as such, the TORs may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate.

#### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the working group is to provide advice on the management and conservation of sharks in the Wider Caribbean Region. This includes the development of national and regional plans of action in order to regulate target and bycatch fisheries, as well as manage existing populations within the region.

#### **1.2 The goal of the Working Group**

The objective of the Working Group is to provide a basis for the conservation and sustainable management of shark populations in WECAFC member countries. In pursuing this goal, the Working Group will be supporting the members in fulfilling the national and regional responsibilities for the conservation and management of sharks as specified by WECAFC.

#### **1.3 Terms of Reference (TOR)**

Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (a) Facilitate the sharing of available data and information on shark and ray stocks within the Wider Caribbean Region;
- (b) Provide support to the development National POAs for member states and the Regional POA;
- (c) Provide technical inputs to support the implementation of actions as defined in the RPOA.
- (d) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated;
- (e) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector;

The TOR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC

#### **1.4 Mode of Operation**

##### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Promote the implementation, at the National level, the work identified in the WECAFC endorsed work plan (as appropriate);
- Assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- Provide assistance and facilitate the organization of Working Group meetings in the languages of the Commission (to the extent possible);
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### *1.4.2 Roles of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat*

To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;

- To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
- To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### *1.4.3 Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, CRFM, OSPESCA)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

#### *1.4.4 Election and role of Convener of the Working Group*

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener will be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on sharks and rays, their fisheries and conservation. The convener should also contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this Working Group.

## **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national node or focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.



## **1.6 Working Group meetings**

The working group should meet physically at a minimum once every two years. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group. The reports of the meetings will be formally submitted to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM.

**UPDATED WORK PLAN OF THE WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management in the Caribbean Region (WGSCM)**

The joint Working Group intends to carry out the following activities over the period 2019 - 2020:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Workshop (3-days) to review and prepare final draft of WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Regional Shark Conservation and Management Plan (RPOA- Sharks). (Miami, USA. August, 2019)	August 2019	WECAFC Secretariat, WGSCM convener and FAO
Preparation, publication and dissemination of WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Regional Shark Conservation and Management Workshop Report	September - October, 2019	WECAFC Secretariat, WGSCM convener and FAO
WECAC members countries review of final draft RPOA – Sharks fisheries management and conservation recommendations	October – November, 2019	The recommendations will pass through the Fisheries ICM process (CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC) for review before adoption by WECAFC 17
Finalization, publication and dissemination of the Regional Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays (RPOA – Sharks)	December 2019 – January 2020	FAO WECAFC Secretariat with inputs from WG
Conduct evaluation (survey) of implementation of RSMCP in WECAFC member countries	April – May, 2020	FAO WECAFC Secretariat
Organize and execute in WECAFC member countries training workshops for preparation of National Plans of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays	June – December 2020	WECAFC Secretariat/CITES/FAO with support from WGSCM
Inform/Report to the: – 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), 2020. -18th session of WECAFC in 2020	As deadlines for reporting require	WECAFC Secretariat, WGSCM convener and FAO
Organize and execute shark and fins identification training workshop in selected WECAFC member countries	September – December, 2020	WECAFC Secretariat/CITES/FAO with support from WGSCM

<p>Prepare for WECAFC Regional Shark Stock Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training in stock assessment for WG Countries</li> <li>- Carry out planned selected stock assessments</li> </ul>	<p>December, 2020 onwards</p>	<p>WECAFC/FAO/CITES/CRFM/OSPESCA/CFMC with technical support from WGSCM and funding from regional and international shark conservation organizations</p>
<p>Increase collaboration with other partners (RFMOs) and other organizations (CITES, CMS, SPAW) on shark conservation and management</p>	<p>August, 2019 onwards</p>	<p>WGSCM supported by Shark Conservation Organizations through WECAFC and partners</p>

## **11. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (FDS-WG) (Period 2018-2019)**

### **Preamble:**

CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC, in January 2016, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate, support and strengthen the coordination of actions among the three RFBs to increase the sustainability of fisheries. WECAFC in its 16th session held in Guadeloupe, France, 20-24 June 2016 agreed to establish a working group for fisheries data and statistics matters (FDS-WG), based on the ongoing work of the WECAFC-FIRMS partnership and in support of the development of a regional database in collaboration with the Members and partners in the region.

The aim of the envisioned FDS working group was to strengthen collaboration on fisheries data and statistics matters among the three regional fisheries bodies. The European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) agreed to support financially the organization of the first meeting of the FDS-WG in the context of the WECAFC-FIRMS project phase II.

### **The FDS-WG will report to the WECAFC Commission**

- Formulate recommendations and guidelines for data collection and statistics.
- Develop standardized data collection formats and templates to be collectively considered for coordinated national and regional implementation.
- Conduct work under direction from the WECAFC Commission, and in close interaction with the WECAFC Secretariat emphasizing the prioritization of work activities in alignment and support of WECAFC towards becoming a fully functional and effective RFMO.
- Develop biennial work plans prioritizing activities and identify actions to be taken, and annually provide a report of activities, outputs, and prioritized future work plans with considerations for specified intervals (short term 1-2 years, medium term 3-5 years, as well as general directions for the long term) to the Secretariat.

### **The FDS-WG will interact/liaise with:**

- All working groups under the WECAFC and regional fishery bodies (CRFM), OSPESCA, CFMC and their working groups with the aim to strengthen the coordination of actions among the three RFBs to increase the sustainability of fisheries.
- Intergovernmental institutions, including those that constitute the Interim Coordination Mechanism of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

### **The Membership of the FDS-WG:**

National Officers responsible of Fishery Statistics and Data in WECAFC Member Countries (e.g., statisticians, data managers, directors of fisheries statistics, or fisheries offices, etc.) with activities related to the following domains: statistical analyses of fisheries data, data collection, designing data collection systems, analysing statistics for statistical bulletins, report preparation, organizing and managing data collection, storage and dissemination according to a variety of needs (e.g., RFMO reporting, departmental, scientific meetings, etc.)

- Regional Officers from the three Regional Fisheries Bodies (CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC) involved in the same domains related to fisheries data and statistics as listed above;
- The WECAFC Secretariat.

### **Sessions of the FDS-WG:**

- The FDS-WG shall meet ideally annually face-to-face, and at least once every two years.
- The FDS-WG elects a convener (and vice convener) every two years among its members.
- The vice-convener will assist the convener in his/her roles and shall fulfil the duty of the convener if the convener is not able to carry-out the duty of the position;
- Meeting of the FDS-WG will be notified by the FDS-WG convener.
- The WECAFC Secretariat will organize the FDS-WG meetings.
- The WECAFC Secretariat will inform the FDS Members at least 3 months in advance and share the agenda and meeting documents at least 2 months before the meeting.
- The FDS-WG may include experts appointed as resource persons by the WECAFC Secretariat, on the basis of their knowledge in FDS matters and their expertise in FDS regional issues.
- The WECAFC Secretariat will organize with the support of CRFM and OSPESCA resource persons the drafting, translation, review, validation and distribution of the FDS-WG meeting report and its recommendations when relevant.

#### **Intersessions of the FDS-WG:**

- The WECAFC Secretariat supervises in close consultation with the FDS convener the intersession activities recommended by the FDS-WG, with the support of resource persons.
- The WECAFC Secretariat ensures coordination among regional projects and other thematic working groups related to fisheries data and statistics with the support of the WECAFC-FIRMS task force.

#### **The FDS-WG will assist with:**

**Data collection at national level** - Provide recommendations and guidelines to address national data collection and sharing challenges in the WECAFC region:

- Identify issues (gaps, deficiencies), challenges and best practices in data collection at national level in the region, and provide recommendations on how to address issues and challenges, and implementing best practices.
- Identify and recommend best practices for the region including how to involve private interests in data collection (of fisheries operational and socio-economic data from industry's stakeholders, intergovernmental groups, etc.).
- Review and make recommendations on standard data collection formats for use at national level and related minimum guidelines for collection.
- Review and make recommendations on coordination opportunities for new data and statistics projects coming into the region.

**Data sharing and harmonization at regional level** - Provide recommendations to address open data sharing challenges at international level for the benefit of fisheries, research and management communities and to improve the ability of WECAFC to manage fisheries resources:

- Identify and recommend a list of data to be shared among WECAFC countries in a regional data base (RDB), defining regional standards, classifications and data policies.
- Define formats, metadata, policies (including confidentiality matters) and best practices to exchange data.
- Provide recommendations on data harmonization to allow data collation at regional level including the mapping between national and regional classifications

**Countries data reporting to international bodies and global monitoring systems** (i.e., CRFM, FAO, ICCAT, OSPESCA, FIRMS) - Provide recommendations to streamline reporting from national to regional and international levels, including through collaborative arrangements promoting harmonization:

- Address issues of multiple reporting standards and formats among the various international organizations, including through review of documents, sharing experiences and lessons learned and formulate recommendations and guidelines in support to enhanced reporting on shared fisheries resources in the WECAFC area.
- Formulate mechanisms to coordinate / streamline exchanges among regional fishery bodies and other intergovernmental institutions operating at regional and global level, including methods, tools and procedures for the harmonization of national/sub-regional/regional data collection, storage formats and reporting approaches
- Participate in the development and implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme and in the regular reporting of the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE), making recommendations to ensure that data sets, information and assessment approaches follow statistically sound and regionally harmonized methods.

**IT management and maintenance of the Regional DataBase (RDB)** - Provide recommendations for cost efficient and sustainable management and maintenance of the Regional DataBase

- Provide high level recommendations on technology and policy issues related to development, hosting and maintenance for the RDB.
- Provide RDB specifications, priorities, governance, policy mechanisms.
- Formulate project development phases and participation mechanisms.

#### **Administration of the FDS-WG**

The FDS-WG will be supported through the financial resources of the Commission.

#### **Performance review of the RDB**

- Conduct periodic review against a set of metrics of the data collection reference framework (DCRF) and best practices data collection guidelines.
- Recommend changes and adjustments to the RDB after review.

**WORK PLAN OF THE WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA WORKING GROUP ON FISHERY DATA AND STATISTICS (WECAFC FDS-WG)**

The FDS-WG will carry out the following activities in 2018–2021 intersessional period

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	Status
1. Consultation among their members to finalize their respective list of Priority and Other Reference species ( <b>Action item DCRF-1</b> ).	June 2018- November 2018	CRFM (June Master), OSPESCA (Ms. Jeanette Mateo), and WECAFC (Ms. Yvette DieiOuadi for the complementary countries)	
2. Finalize DCRF priority species list (from DCRF-1) and provide feedback ( <b>Action item DCRF-2</b> ),  i. <u>Coordinate with species working groups</u> to ensure final species listings are finalized.  ii. <b>Identify timing of working groups</b> such to timely incorporate all input into the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) document (e.g. CLME+ Shrimp and Groundfish next meeting planned for May 2019,  <u>III. Coordinate with WECAFC Secretariat to organize virtual meeting of the SAG (March 2019) to seek final input and comment of review of DCRF to further finalize DCRF, logbook guidelines and data access and sharing guidelines for dissemination to WECAFC 18th Commission.</u>	June 2018- January 2019	FDS-WG convener (Nancie Cummings), WECAFC Secretariat, FIRMS Secretariat	Document shared with Member countries between October and January 2019  Presented to SAG in November 2019, Consolidated feedback through April 2019  Virtual meeting organized in June 2019
3. <u>Consolidate the species list</u> , and share it with the various stakeholders and importantly with National authorities before final submission to WECAFC-SAG ( <b>Action item DCRF-3</b> )	June 2018- November 2018	FDS-WG convener	Species Listings shared with Member countries between October and January 2019  Presented to SAG in November 2019, Consolidated feedback through April 2019  Presented to Lobster, Shrimp and Groundfish, and Conch

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	Status
			Working group meetings (March 2018, June 2018, and October 2018 respectively)
4. Follow-up with their respective Legal offices on the <u>feasibility of delineation of areas</u> , according to options presented in the Report of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the FDS-WG or other identified area delineations as identified relevant ( <b>Action item DCRF-4</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	FAO, and CRFM and OSPESCA Secretariat	Ongoing
5. <u>Consult with its members regarding delineations of FAO sub-areas in the Central American – Caribbean sub-region</u> ( <b>Action item DCRF-5</b> )	January 2019 onwards	OSPESCA	To be Initiated
6. Consult the species WGs regarding <u>delineations of FAO sub-areas</u> ( <b>Action item DCRF-6</b> )	June 2018- January 2019	FDS-WG convener	Ongoing work-Request to stakeholders in Review stage to identify important <u>sub-areas</u>
7. Provide the <u>mappings of their national vessel categories to the agreed regional Fleet segment categories of the DCRF</u> ( <b>Action item DCRF-7</b> )	June 2018- January 2019	FDS-WG members	
8. Contribute to the CWP <u>survey on the “International Standards Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV)”</u> and provide general comments through WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA ( <b>Action item DCRF-8</b> ). Survey references documents <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt983e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt983e.pdf</a> / ISSCFV by GRT categories: <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt982e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt982e.pdf</a>	June 2018- May 2019	FDS-WG members	
9. Finalize through the task force and WECAFC regional / CRFM / OSPESCA sub regional focal points ( <b>Action item DCRF-9</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC-FIRMS Task Force	
10. Explore <u>best practice section for implementation of the logbook guidelines</u> : This could be in the form of Case studies or Pilot projects ( <b>Action item LOG-1</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC-FIRMS regional focal point (Ms. Nancie Cummings) and FDS WG Jamaica representative	Work ongoing; Calls held to draft preliminary plan. Identified two potential fisheries for testing (Jamaica reefish, OSPESCA



ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	Status
		(Ms. Anginette Murray)	lobster)
11. Preparation <u>template to collect feedback on logbook implementation experience</u> and to organize the distribution, filling-out and analyzing of this template from all the WECAFC Members. (October 2018) ( <b>Action item LOG-2</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC-FIRMS regional focal point (Ms. Nancie Cummings) and FDS WG Jamaica representative (Ms. Anginette Murray)	To Be Initiated
12. Conduct <u>testing of the “Matrix on small scale fisheries”</u> matrix with its members, and to consolidate the feedback ( <b>Action item MSSF-1</b> ). Reference documents: WECAFC/FDSWG/I/2018/6 and WECAFC/FDSWG/I/2018/Ref.19	June 2018- May 2019	FDS WG CRFM representative, June Masters	Matrix tested in 3 countries (Antigua, St Vincent and Dominica) and feedback was used to update the matrix
13. Liaise with the 3 CLME+ sub-projects to identify opportunities of funding regarding the regional training workshop for data upload in the RDB ( <b>Action item RDB-1</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC Secretariat through its Task Force	
14. Liaise with the USA and France to explore possibilities of automatic reporting to the RDB ( <b>Action item RDB-2</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC Secretariat through its Task Force	
15. Work on the mobilization of funding resources with the goal to strengthen few national data systems among WECAFC members ( <b>Action item RDB-3</b> ).  i. <i>Conduct second R training, and system training in Trinidad, March 2019</i>  ii. Conduct data collection design workshop (Trinidad, May 2019)  iii. Initiate data collection design pilot (Trinidad, July 2019- 6 months scale)  iv. New data collection design (Suriname, Guyana- February 2019, CLME+)	June 2018- July 2019	FAO, CRFM and OSPESCA	Fund secured with the CC4Fish project to conduct the mentioned activities – assessment done by Suriname, Guyana, St Lucia and Grenada. Training in T&T planned for late June, early July 2019
i. FIRMS Inventories and RDB training and Decision Support System (DSS) Implementation	June 2018- May 2019	FIRMS Secretariat	Inventories reviewed during mission to St

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	Status
<p>(Action item FIRMS-1)</p> <p>ii. Develop supplemental training on FIRMS inventories for the region.</p> <p>iii. Coordinate with FIRMS sub regional focal points to obtain updates on already published inventories (January – March 2019)</p> <p>iv. Identify synergies with the regional training on RDB (with possible support from regional projects as already highlighted) (January – March 2019)</p>		<p>FIRMS regional and sub regional Focal point (N. Cummings, J. Masters, J. Mateo)</p>	<p>Lucia (no changes)</p> <p>Inventories already developed reviewed at May 2018 Shrimp &amp; Groundfish Data Preparatory Workshop</p> <p>call held with Dominica representative on FIRMS xls templates (April 2019)</p> <p>al Focal Point reached out to Dominica to identify potential for developing inventories; held skype call April 2019 between FIRMS CRFM sub-regional focal point, Dominica representative, and FIRMS Secretariat. Identified fisheries to initiate inventories on, reviewed Inventory/Fact Sheet xls templates</p> <p>al Focal point prepared draft Letter for submission by Secretariat to CREM countries regarding already published inventory updates (December 2018)</p>

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE	Status
16. Coordinate with WECAFC-SAG chairperson and FIRMS Secretariat for the upload of stock status information in FIRMS ( <b>Action item FIRMS-2</b> )	June 2018- May 2019	WECAFC chairperson (also FDS member)	
<b>Planned activities for 2019-2020</b>			
1- Second FDS-WG meeting to be organized	By December 2019	FDS-WG convener	-
2- Regional data workshop back to back with FDS-WG 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	By December 2019	WECAFC secretariat	-
3- Statistics uploaded in the regional database	By June 2021	WECAFC secretariat with the support of the Species WG and the task force	-
4- FIRMS inventories updated	By June 2021	FIRMS secretariat with the support of the sub-regional and regional organization data managers and the task force	-
5- One or two countries supported to reinforce its capacities in fisheries statistics	By June 2021	WECAFC secretariat with the support of the task force	-
6- Mobilize additional funds for regional projects to support more countries	By June 2021	WECAFC secretariat with the support of the task force	-