



Ministry of Agriculture

Permanent Secretary

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16th June, 2016

Ms. Christine Chan A Shing
WECAFC Chairperson
Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
2nd Floor, United Nations house
Christ Church
Barbados

Dear Ms. Shing,

The Ministry of Agriculture would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 20 May 2016 referring to the "CLME+ additional study to the cost-benefit assessment of an RFMO in the WECAFC area", in which members of WECAFC are requested that submit their preliminary opinion on the next steps in the process of strategic re-orientation of WECAFC.

Having perused this document and others and also having consulted with relevant stakeholders, The Ministry of Agriculture wishes indicate that while we recognize the importance of the re-orientation process of WECAFC at the current moment the following should be noted.


The Government of Guyana is currently contributing financially to various organizations within CARICOM inclusive of the CRFM. This organization has just concluded a Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy which was approved. The fact that its mission is "to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region", we question the need for an organization of a similar nature, even though WECAFC has more coverage.

It must be noted that Member States have already invested significant resources in the development and operation of CRFM to improve cooperation in fisheries management and ensure integration of the fisheries sector in the broader regional economic integration processes already underway in the Insular Caribbean and Central American sub-regions.

Amidst this and other uncertainties of this re-orientation, we would like to indicate we are not in a position to pronounce on what is required.

We would also like the CRFM to take the lead on this as a group representing the Member States and this will be communicated to them.

Yours sincerely,



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Mr. George Jervis
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Guyana