WECAFC-Secretariat

From: Nader, drs. G. (Gelare) <g.nader@minez.nl>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:46 AM
To: WECAFC-Secretariat
Cc: VanAnrooy, Raymon (FAOSLC); 'Pieter Van Baren'
Subject: Respond to your questions regarding the CLME+ additional study to the cost-benefit assessment of an RFMO in the WECAFC area

Dear Christine Chan A Shing,
We thank you for your letter of May 20th with regards to the " CLME+ additional study to the cost-benefit assessment of an RFMO in the WECAFC area", in which you requested the members of WECAFC to submit their preliminary opinion on the next steps in the process of strategic reorientation of WECAFC.
In response to your request we would like to share our preliminary ideas with you. We however wish to further be guided by the constructive discussions at the forthcoming meeting in Guadalupe.

1. Whether the member considers the establishment of an RFMO necessary (yes/no, and why).

Yes, the Netherlands underlines the benefits of the strategic reorientation of WECAFC with regards to the status of stocks and the value of fisheries, as addressed by Dr Kjartan Hoydal. The Netherlands is in favor of sustainable fisheries worldwide and in that respect is in favor of launching the process to convert WECAFC into an RFMO with a mandate to make legally binding decisions in the WECAFC Region. We are an active member of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and greatly value the collaboration in fisheries management with all relevant countries in the region.

2. If yes, what are the areas and stocks that should be covered by the RFMO.

The Netherlands emphasizes the need for an RFMO in the region to cover the high seas in Area 31 and the northern part of area 41, in order to end the overfishing of certain stocks. At the same time the straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not covered by ICCAT should be managed within the same RFMO to create synergy in the fisheries management schemes.

3. Whether the member has a preference for one of the options presented in the cost-benefit assessment study

The Netherlands appreciates the work carried out by authors of the costs and benefits study and the additional study of CLME + with regards to the options for strategic reorientation of WECAFC. As previously stated the Netherlands underscores the benefits of converting WECAFC into an RFMO with a mandate to make legally binding fisheries management measures. In view of the good experience we have with regards to fisheries with independent RFMOs, our primary preference is to have an independent RFMO. However we wish the discussions at the 16th session of WECAFC to provide additional information and guide us in our definite preference on whether the RFMO should be established under FAO constitution or outside its legal framework.

With sincere regards,

Gelare Nader
Senior Policy Officer
.....
Department of Sustainable Fisheries
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Prins Clauslaan 8 | 2595 AJ | The Hague
POB 20401 | 2500 EK | The Hague
The Netherlands
.....
T (+31) 70 378 54 57
M (+31) 6 38 82 53 05
Secreatary (+31) 70 379 89 81
g.nader@minez.nl
http://www.minez.nl