

FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Twelfth Session
Online, 18-21 October 2021
FIRMS RELEVANT ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY WECAFC DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD (May 2019 – September 2021)
Authors: Nancie Cummings/June Masters

I. Summary of Activities

- Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries
Fishery sheets updated for:
 - St. Lucia-Queen conch, Caribbean Spiny lobster, Flyingfish, Large pelagics fishery, Sharks, Sea Urchin, Whelks
 - St. Kitts and Nevis-Queen conch, Coastal pelagic, Coral Reef and demersal fisheries

New fishery fact sheets developed for:

- Dominica- Large pelagics and trolling,
- French Guiana (Bottom trawl shrimp, Coastal fish small scale, Handlines red snapper)

The full list of stocks and fisheries fact sheets reported for the WECAFC region is available at: <http://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/wecafc/en>

- Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources:
 - FIRMS Secretariat and FAO Consultant published new marine resource fact sheet for Seabob Coast of French Guiana to the Orinoco Delta,
- Development/review of standards:
 - Work continued through the FDS-WG on revisions of:
 - Interim Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)- first endorsed by WECAF 17 (June 2019),
 - WECAFC List of Species, fisheries and stocks
 - Interim List of Species -first endorsed by WECAF 17 (June 2019),
 - Spatial units for WECAFC fishing zones
 - Further revisions of fishing practice (gear, mode, effort units and measures)
 - Development of preliminary Biological references (length measurement standards, maturity classifications, standard growth models, conversion factors)
 - Information on iDCRF and Appendices available at: [DCRF and Appendices](#)
 - FIRMS Regional Focal Point as FDS-WG convener, with support of

WECAFC-FIRMS partnership convened three online meetings towards refinements of data collection standards:

- Preparatory Sessions for FDS-WG2 (September 2020)
 - FDS-WG2 Virtual sessions (October 2020)
 - FDS-WG2 Extended sessions for FDS-WG2 (May 2021)
 - Intersessional meetings (3) convened on Spatial units for WECAFC fishing zones (March and June 2021)
- Development of Applications (e.g. new module at Secretariat level, or enhancements in streamlining workflow at Partner level):
 - WECAFC-FIRMS focal point developed online communication platform (google share drive) under pilot testing, for FDS-WG towards increasing communication among FDS-WG members and ultimately across all WECAFC WGs and WECAFC-FIRMS task force (October 2021)
 - Development of case studies/prototypes:
 - WECAFC FIRMS focal point and Jamaica and CRFM national scientists prepared preliminary surveys to identify potential pilot projects for implementing logbooks (2020)
 - Training or skills development:
 - WECAFC-FIRMS focal point conducted one-on one sessions with national scientists on related to developing new fisheries inventories (Dominica) and updating inventories (Belize, Jamaica)
 - WECAFC-FIRMS focal point communicated with national scientists via email correspondence towards updating inventories (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Belize)
 - Promotional / fund raising activities:

CRFM Focal Point delivered updated information on Work of the WECAFC-FIRMS Taskforce:

 - 19th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum - electronic (gotomeeting) date of meeting: 27-28 April 2021.
 - The Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), (Electronic) Belize City, Belize, 21 May 2021.
 - Planned activities during the coming intersession period.

WECAFC-FIRMS focal point to continue outreach to national scientists towards:

 - Increasing awareness of need and importance of updating fisheries marine resource and fact sheets,
 - Increasing capacity of national scientists to update fact sheets in a timely manner- through implementation of scheduled data calls,
 - Initiating more formal discussions with CRFM and OSPESCA focal points toward identifying bottlenecks and barriers to updating inventories
 - Identifying outreach activities with national scientists towards producing required inputs for operationalization of the DCRF
 - Data preparatory training workshops for DCRF and FIRMS data submissions

II. Contribution to strategic directions for the FIRMS Partnership

III. Revised annex 2 (if applicable)