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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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para la
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y la
Alimentación

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

Updated 2023-2025 Programme of work

Introduction

1. The working document on “Intersessional activities by WECAFC Secretariat: Coordination of the activities of the Advisory Groups, the IWG/Strategic reorientation process, the Executive Committee and other major actions to support the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Commission” (WECAFC/XIX/2023/13) presented the progress made in the intersessional period. A relatively appreciable share of the 2022-2024 workplan was achieved, consistent with the short span of the intersession, the pending assignments from the 18th Session¹, and the level of responsiveness of WECAFC members. This includes a continued increase in the periodic meetings of the Executive Committee, surpassing the required number (at least once a year) in the rules of procedure, and activity of four working groups, with a particularly engaging intersession of the working group of Fisheries using anchored/moored fish aggregating devices (aFAD). The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Work were received from various Trust Fund programmes mostly supported by the European Union Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EU DG Mare) and FAO’s regular programme. Joint activities with Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), and other partners engaged during the celebration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, further contributed to the implementation of a range of interventions of the joint Working Groups.
2. The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), at its 12th session held electronically on 19-20 June 2023, reviewed and approved the updated individual workplans of five of the 11 working groups. SAG also reviewed the draft instruments and recommendations made by two working groups. In their review, SAG recommended a few text edits to the recommendations and further consolidation of the conservation and management measures, requesting the amendments be submitted within 15 days of receipt of the suggested guidance.
3. The aforementioned workplans along with guidance from the Executive Committee and activities of the ad hoc Intersessional Working Group (IWG) established by WECAFC17 (which is tasked with implementing the Roadmap for progressing towards the development of a model for a regional fisheries management entity or arrangement in the WECAFC area), were the basis for this updated Work Programme for the period 2023-2025. The overall budget was maintained at the same level as the last approved 2022-2024 WECAFC Work Programme, according to which, excluding the working groups which did not provide actual estimates (about five of the 11 WGs), the budget was some USD 2 million.

¹ [Report of the EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION Managua, Nicaragua, 26–29 July 2022/Rapport de la DIX-HUITIÈME SESSION DE LA COMMISSION Managua, Nicaragua, 26-29 juillet 2022/Informe de la DECIMOCTAVA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN Managua, Nicaragua, 26-29 de julio de 2022 \(fao.org\)](#)

UPDATED WECAFC PROGRAMME OF WORK (2023-2025)

WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING ANCHORED/MOORED FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (AFADS)								
Activity	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/ Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
5th Working Group Meeting	2023	WECAFC Secretariat	Accomplished	Coordination/ Collaboration	2, 3, 4	High	-	Hybrid Meeting held 17-19 April. Key documents reviewed by participants, to be tabled at SAG and WECAFC
Publish and distribute Report of 5th aFAD WG meeting (2023)	Summer 2023	WECAFC Secretariat	In preparation	Technical/ Scientific Advisory		High		
Collect data on MFAD fishery from WECAFC members. Conduct analysis on aFAD fishery data	December 2022- June 2024	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER.	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific/Advisory	1, 2, 3	Medium	30,000	
Identify suitable experts/ consultants. Develop manuals in collaboration with fisheries authorities in member states engaged in aFAD fishery	September 2022 - February 2024	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific/Advisory	1, 2, 3	High	20,000	Discussed at the 5 th WG Meeting. For the existing manuals to be finalized, follow up action was taken by the Secretariat with the representative of IFREMER.

								These are Manuals on best practices on (1) fishing and business strategies for sustainable aFAD fisheries, (2) safety and working conditions of aFAD fishers, and (3) the governance of aFAD fisheries, which was presented at the 5 th meeting and tabled at SAGXII, then to be finalized for WECAFC19.
Advocate for the reporting of aFAD fisheries statistics at relevant regional fisheries forums WECAFC Reporting to the Coordinating WG Party (CWP) - June 2023	2022-2024	FDS Working Group CRFM, WECAFC Secretariat	To start soon	Coordination/ Collaboration	2	M		An important milestone would be that ICCAT adopts the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics
Identify ongoing co-management	2022-2024	CRFM with assistance of	Ongoing	Coordination/ Collaboration	1, 2, 3			

initiatives among aFAD members Create synergies and linkages		CFMC (to be confirmed), OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities						
Assessment/review of ICT applications in MFAD states such as Dominica and Montserrat Replicate in aFAD countries with relevant/ applicable Review the aFADs monitoring standards and integration into DCRF.	2023-2024	WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group		Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory	1, 2, 3	M		
Liase with FAO/CRFM/ICC AT to establish mechanism for sharing of aFAD data	2023-2024	CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities		Coordination/ Collaboration	2	M		Permanent Data/information sharing

Liaise with FAO/CRFM/ICC AT to establish mechanism for sharing of aFAD information on designs	2023-2024	WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group, in connection with WECAFIS		Coordination/ Collaboration	2, 3	Medium		This will give stakeholders access to information and experiences related to aFAD designs in the region and outside the region
Engage consultant for review and finalization of aFAD Regional MGT Plan, the guide for improved monitoring of aFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans	2022 – 2023	WECAFC Secretariat	Ongoing, presented at this 5 th WG; will be re-submitted to sag and WECAFC plenary	Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory	1,2,3	High		Mainstreaming of the Regional Management Plan for aFAD Fisheries in the Caribbean, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local aFAD fishery management plans
Local aFAD fishery management plan developed for Dominica	March 2023- July 2023	OSPESCA, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat, WECAFC members, FDS Working Group		Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory	1, 3	High		Effective technical support to Members to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-) management plans and improved

								monitoring systems for aFADs
Undertaking E-learning course on aFADS manuals	2024	WECAFC Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO Fisheries Division, Fish4ACP		Outreach/ Education	1, 2, 3	M		
Producing a Registry of experts, resource persons in aFADs in the region	2023-2024	WECAFC Secretariat		Outreach/ Education	2, 4	H		
Support to aFAD Fishery Assessment training	2023	CRFM , WECAFC Secretariat (with IFREMER)		Outreach/ Education	1, 2, 3	M		

WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS

Activity	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/ Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
Convene the 5 th meeting of the SAWG (Panama)	Jan-23	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; meeting supported by NOAA Fisheries	COMPLETE	Coordination/ Collaboration	1,2,3	HIGH	TBD	Organization of a meeting/ meeting report
Publish and distribute Report of 5 th SAWG meeting (2023)	Fall 2023	WECAFC + CFMC supported by NOAA Fisheries	IN PROGRESS	Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory	1,2,3	MEDIUM	No cost	Dissemination of the meeting report (mail and WECAFC website)
Maintain the SAWG network intersessional communications by regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists	2021 – 2025	GCFI(Acost a) Ongoing – ListServe established; postings ongoing	IN PROGRESS	Education/ Outreach	2	MEDIUM	No cost	Regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists(monthly/ bi-monthly etc.)

Final cooperative monitoring program and database (AFTER PILOT PROJECT)	2 nd Qtr 2024	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members and researchers, and others <i>Requires funding</i>	PENDING	Coordination/ Collaboration	2,3	MEDIUM	USD\$ USD\$70,000	Final Database set
Develop a FSA Protocol to: 1) report on the status of spawning aggregations and associated environmental factors, and 2) evaluate local management initiatives. Identify lessons learned and apply positive outcomes.	Present draft at 6 th SAWG meeting; adopt at 7 th SAWG meeting 2023-2024	WECAFC/- FDS/SAWG , CFMC, SAWG members and researchers, and others, WCS <i>EU DG MARE Funded</i>	PENDING	Technical/ Scientific Advisory	1,2	HIGH	USD\$25,000	Effective implementation of FSA protocol
Conduct a regional and national status and needs assessment of FSA sites in the WECAFC region (will continue beyond EU DG MARE)	2023-ONWARDS	WECAFC, CFMC, SAWG members and researchers, and others, WCS <i>Funding available for</i>	PENDING	Technical/ Scientific Advisory	1,2	MEDIUM	USD\$100,960	Mainstreaming the results of the status and need assessment of the FSA sites

		<i>pilot; requires funding beyond pilot</i>						
Establish clear and simple guidance to: 1) update and/or verify the status (timing and location, fish numbers, catches) of known spawning aggregations at the national level, and 2) facilitate prioritization of those spawning aggregations most urgently needing protective action.	2023 – 2024	WECAFC/-FDS/SAWG, CFMC, SAWG members and researchers, and others, WCS <i>EUDG MARE Funded</i>	PENDING	Technical/Scientific Advisory	1,2	HIGH	USD\$87,300	Guidance adopted and disseminated
Mobilize resources from bilateral and international agencies to assist with Activities called for in SAWG Work Plan	2021 - 2025	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members, and others <i>Initiated summer 2021</i>	IN PROGRESS	Coordination/Collaboration	4	HIGH		Funding mobilized and available/project start up

Secure financial support to develop Digital Hub in support of Communication Plan with downloadable resources and resource library	2023- 2024	SAWG, CFMC (support to A. Salceda, BelugaSmile) <i>EU DG MARE partial funding, Requires additional funding \$100,000</i>	IN PROGRESS	Education/ Outreach	4	MEDIUM		Operationali zation of the Digital hub
Production of one-hour film for International Broadcast	2023	Ana Salceda, BelugaSmile Productions, supported by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Terra Mater and PBS	COMPLETE	Education/ Outreach	4	MEDIUM		International Broadcastin g of the film

<p>Develop materials for Citizen Science Program aimed at fishers and enforcement officials: 1) Produce & distribute radio kits in Spanish and French; 2) Produce & distribute two short films: a) a 30-minute “call to action” film aimed at fishing communities to stop decline of mutton snapper; and b) a film that calls on the general public to protect FSAs by not consuming grouper and snapper during spawning periods</p>	<p>2022- 2024</p>	<p>CFMC (support to A. Salceda, BelugaSmile)</p> <p><i>Funding Required for French translation of radio kit</i></p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p>	<p>Education/ Outreach</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>HIGH</p>		<p>The material developed and disseminated helps in raising awareness around the mutton snapper to avoid catches during spawning season</p>
<p>Share resources to identify FSAs in regions where FSAs have not been documented or characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean)</p>	<p>2021- 2025</p>	<p>WECAFC</p> <p>Requires funding</p>	<p>PENDING</p>	<p>Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>LOW</p>		<p>New FSA identified through technical capacity</p>

Create resource channel for member states to build capacity to manage aggregating species, especially where FSAs have not been documented or characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean)	2021 - 2025	<i>WECAFC – task for FSAMP Coordination group under their TOR Requires funding</i>	IN PROGRESS	Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory		LOW		
Implementation of 1) Public Broadcasting Service’s Outreach plan and 2) The Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s (HHMI) Science Outreach Plan.	2023 - 2025	<i>Beluga Smile Productions will continue its coordination with HHMI & PBS.</i>	IN PROGRESS	Education/ Outreach	4	LOW		The stakeholders are effectively educated through the 02 outreach plans
Secure support to assist WECAFC members with FSAMP Implementation for most urgent actions needed	2022 – 2023	WECAFC, CFMC, SAWG members and researchers, and others, WCS, NOAA Fisheries <i>Funding available for pilot;</i>	IN PROGRESS	Coordination/ Collaboration	1,2,3,4	HIGH		Effective implementation of the FSAMP in most urgent actions

		<i>requires funding beyond pilot</i>						
Charter of a 10-person FSAMP Coordination Committee (FSAMP-CC)	2023-2025	CFMC, WECAFC	PENDING	Coordination/ Collaboration		HIGH		a) Design of TOR b) First Meeting of FSAMP-CC
6 th Meeting of the WECAFC-SAWG (in Miami?)	Tentative Q3 2024	WECAFC, NOAA Fisheries, CFMC <i>Requires Funding; CFMC can host if in MIA or PR</i>	PENDING	Coordination/ Collaboration		LOW	TBD	

Workshop at GCFI 2024 – Involve fishers and scientists – Mobilise around FSAMP	Q4 2024	WECAFC, CFMC, GCFI <i>Requires Funding</i>	PENDING					
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FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

Activity	Proposed Activity Timeframe	Responsible Entity	Status	Group / Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective Focus Area	Priority (low, medium, high)	Link to other activities	Estimated Cost	Notes
1. Vessel mapping Content	2022-2024	WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries	ongoing	Technical	1, 2	medium	Needed for 6	Unknown	
a. Liaise with FDS WG focal points for additional submissions									
b. Review submissions from WECAFC Members and highlight where revisions are needed									
c. Implementations in the WECAFIS database with corresponding metadata									
d. Discussion of adding vessel type information into FIRMS									

tables, including vessels images when available									
2. WECAFC Subarea Boundaries	2023-2025	FDS-WG and member countries	ongoing	Technical Coordination	/ 1, 2	medium	Needed for 6	Unknown	
a. Finalize the proposal in the Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala sub-region under the OSPESCA umbrella									
b. Review feedback from member countries on sub-areas related to area 31 and 41, and if the case appears feasible, prepare for presentation at CWP									
c. Discuss a recommendation for SAG and the Commission, or any other									

	plan to move forward								
d.	Conduct inter-session discussions on Venezuela sub area delimitations								
3.	FIRMS Inventories	2023-2025	WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries	ongoing	Technical/Collaborative	1, 2	high	Needed for 6	Unknown (FIRMS)
a.	Continue to review and Summarize inputs by member countries, highlight latest submissions, discuss/elaborate specific FIRMS services for the region (delivered through WECAFC map viewer)								
b.	discuss/identify/implement a path for updating inventories in OSPESCA region- e.g.,								

<p>consultant to further inventory development on a country by country basis possibly, considerations of focus groups working with fleet segments (across multiple member countries) to enrich inventories</p>									
<p>c. Also noting that FIRMS Secretariat may develop a pilot demonstrating how a possible future addition of FIRMS fishery Ids (optional) in certain Tasks of the DCRF can be exploited, for presentation</p>									

	at next FDS-WG								
4.	Small Scale Fisheries Matrix	2022-2024	FAO and FDS-WG	No new progress	Technical/ Collaboration	1, 2	low		Unknown
a.	Summarize list of member countries which submitted highlighting latest submissions and new pilot testing								
b.	Present a synthesis of the level of adaption of the SSF matrix to the WECAFC region and what would need to be changed in the SSF matrix for it to be of practical application for the region								
c.	Discuss a recommendation for submitting to FAO for consideration								

WECAFC DCRF									
5. WECAFC Reference list of aquatic species, annotation of important Subareas by species and DCRF tasks	2023-2025	FDS-WG and member countries	ongoing		1, 2	medium	Needed for 6	Unknown	
a. Review submissions by member countries and WGs for additional species, and sub-areas for species, and proceed with member countries endorsements for the proposals. The use of the FIRMS map Viewer will help to obtain additional input on annotation of area by species.			Two new species added to group 1						

<p>b. Review inputs from relevant Working groups, for the list of species and their sub-areas and identification of specific DCRF tasks</p>			<p>Two new species added to group 1</p>						
<p>c. Annotation of relevant standard conversion metrics by species/subarea for inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of conversions</p>			<p>No new progress</p>						
<p>d. Annotation of relevant biological parameters for select set of species in main list of species by important subareas (e.g., reproductive ogives, growth parameter estimates) for inclusion in DCRF</p>									

catalogue (Tables) of biological parameters									
6. DCRF	2023-2025	FDS-WG and member countries	DCRF finalized as v1.0 and FAO Circular under preparation	Technical	1, 2	high		Unknown	
i. two proposed e-TWGs:									
a. for elaboration on measures of fishing effort per Fleet segment or Gear type									
b. for refinement of Biological tasks – member countries with experience invited to be part of this WG									
I. Operationalization of the DCRF and Contributions to WECAFIS	2022-2024	FDS-WG and member countries	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1, 2	high		Unknown	
a. Finalize the Maps viewer (through e-TWG?) for public release as soon as possible									

<p>b. Identifying member countries willing to commit in the intersession, to populate the WECAFIS using local statistics in 2020 and 2021. Local statistics uploaded to WECAFIS. Identification of local country data manager.</p>									
<p>c. Liaising with and identifying Regional species WGs to combine their expectations for data with the member countries contribution (Shrimp and Groundfish, Lobster, ...), and organize joint activities</p>									
<p>d. Identifying issues/challen</p>									

	ges with member countries committing data to WECAFIS during pilot tests								
e.	Developing road map including pilot data sets for implementing data uploads to WECAFIS DB by end of 2023								
II.	Discussion of how the WECAFIS information can contribute to informing SDG 14.4.1	2022-2024	FAO and FDS-WG		Technical/scientific advisory	1, 2	high		Unknown
a.	Consider if a sub-committee needed- perhaps focus on one of the pilots (e.g., OSPESCA lobster)								
III.	Fostering Growth of FDS-WG	2023-2025	FDS-WG	Ongoing	Communication/Outreach	1, 2	medium		Unknown

throughout region -									
a. Co-convenor shadow training to develop leadership in WG									
IV. How can this WG interact or begin to interact with other regional/international WGs (species, topical, RFMOs) to further improve the regional statistics and information on fisheries	2022-2024	FDS-WG//		Collaboration/Coordination/Outreach	1, 2	low		Unknown	
a. Under MoU /agreement with ICCAT- contribute to the planned joint ICCAT-WECAFC working group where respective species list					1, 2				

might be examined									
<p>b. Should this WG contact ICCAT re' participating in ICCAT statistics WG as observer to learn how ICCAT develops/prioritizes and carries out its tasks/interessional work on the topic of statistics (a question to ask to the participants? would anyone volunteer)</p>									
<p>V. Review Logbooks guidelines and revisit FDS-WG 2 (LOG-1)</p>	2022-2024	FDS-WG		Technical	1, 2	medium		Unknown	
<p>Review work done during FDS-WG 1 intersession-discuss LOG-1 (two pilot surveys) and LOG-2 (historical</p>									

experiences) survey instruments in context of best practices in logbook implementation in region and identify needed revisions for survey instruments LOG-1, LOG-2.									
VI. Capacity building-other needs-this work is ongoing	2023-2025	FDS-WG, WECAFC-FIRMS, FAO-FIRMS	Ongoing	Communication/Coordination/Collaboration	1, 2	high		Unknown	
1. Finalize the list of selection criteria and propose a short list of WECAFC Members meeting these criteria for final selection									
2. For the selected WECAFC member(s), define the work plan and related budget for support									

3. Seek for co-funding from other regional projects and agree on the shared investments									
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REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)							
Activities	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Responsible	Strategic Plan Focus Area
Design and carry out a review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region	Mainstreaming the result of the review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region	Had previously been postponed pending development[finalization]	No, for information	USD152,500		Convener + WG members	In coordination with NFIO's work towards methodology to estimate the extent of IUU fishing
		FAO methodological guidelines - end date (Mid-2023)					

Develop NPOAs -IUU based on the RPOA-IUU and inform FAO/WECAFC after adoption	NPOAs IUU developed and approved	Ongoing. 5 (CRFM) Member States have commenced development of NPOAs-IUU- end date (End 2024)	No, for information	USD19,060		WG members	Also to be informed by the ongoing work on NPOA-IUU development guidance and the findings of the members Readiness study. (1)
Finalization of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners	Approval of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners	Concept note developed; develop and finalise proposal- end date (Mid-2023)	For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII/2022/25	USD2,500		Convener + CRFM	Postponed. Achievement based on relevant info from the study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing (1,2)
Encourage/support increased national regulations, to ensure effective monitoring	Effective monitoring and control of	Ongoing- end date (2024)	No, for information	USD38,000		WECAFC Secretariat; WG Members	In progress in national support activities (1,2)
and control of transshipment activities	transshipment activities						

Identify information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations	Consolidation information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations	To commence in 2022- end date (Mid- 2023)	No, for information	USD25,000		Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members	Important for the work to be done to raise awareness on transshipment contributing to laundering IUU catch into the supply chain and improve the monitoring, control and regulation of transshipment activities (1,2)
Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear.	Alignment of the national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear.	Ongoing- end date (Mid- 2024)	No, for information	USD25,000		Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members	In progress in national support activities (1,2)
Develop an IUU Vessel List for the region, using internationally applied criteria and procedures, and arrange with TM Tracking for maintaining the list	Database of IUU vessel list in the region developed and shared	t.b.d. Guidance to be sought from WECAFC1	No, for information	USD 57,180		WG Members with WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA	Probable review of the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification
		8/ End- 2024				and TM Tracking	of Fishing Vessels (2,3)

Develop protocols for “cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” under the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and OSPESCA, respectively	Protocols developed	Ongoing- End date (Mid- 2024)	No, for information	(USD47,650)		CRFM, OSPESCA plus relevant WG members; supported by WECAFC Secretariat	1
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	Stakeholders learn about successful and best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general	Ongoing- End date (2024)	No, for information			WG members, facilitated by the CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC Secretariats	Needs to be strengthened, with more collaboration, information generation by WG members or WECAFC focal points then coordination by WECAFC Secretariat (1,4)
Develop new draft recommendation for regional vessel record for WECAFC region	New draft recommendation developed and approved	To be commenced (In time for WECAFC 19 (2024))	No, for information	USD19,130		WECAFC Secretariat together with FAO HQ, in consultation with WG Members	1,2

Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU	Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU developed and approved	Ongoing-December 2022	No, for information	USD20,000		PROCARIBE + project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat	10
Engage in the ongoing process coming up to COFI 35 for the possible development of guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations	Guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations developed and Approved	Recommendation endorsed by SAG XI- End date (COFI 35)	No, for information	USD19,130		WG Members	1,2,3
Development of a GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area	GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area developed and submitted, approved	Concept Note was presented at the 4 th WG Meeting for expression of interest by WECAFC members End date (End-2022)	For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII/2022/25	USD 22,140		PROCARIBE + project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat	1,2,3,4

Development of an implementation plan of the RPOA-IUU	Approval and implementation of the plan of the RPOA-IUU	Readiness study report includes the elements of an implementation plan End date - 5 th RWG-IUU (late- 2022)	No, for information	USD30,340		WECAFC Secretariat and FAO HQ colleagues	1,2
Presentation of deliverables (recommendations and resolutions) to the 11 th Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC	PPTs presented at SAG XI	End date (April 2022)	No, for information	USD2,500		WECAFC Secretariat And Convener of the RWG-IUU	As per WECAFC17 instructions, WG convener presented recommendations to SAG and is on hold for the Commission's deliberations (1,2,3,4)

Report on the work of the RWG-IUU and eventual support to SAG for the submission of recommendations to WECAFC18	Report presented to SAG XI	April 2022	No, for information	USD2,500		SAG and WECAFC Secretariat In consultation with WG Convenor	
Organise the 5 th RWG-IUU and publication of the proceedings	Meeting organized/ meeting report	To commence- End date (Mid-2023)	No, for information	USD 5,750		RWG-IUU	(1,3,4)

WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER								
Activity	Proposed Activity Timeframe	Responsible entity	Status	Group/ Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
Organize and hold the third meeting of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Working Group	December 2022 at the latest	WECAFC OSPESCA	Not carried out	Implementation and monitoring by the countries of the actions of the Regional Management Plan (MARPLESCA Plan)	1	High	USD 5 000 - 7 000 (estimated budget for 3-day online meeting)	Changes in the proposed timeframe due to delays
	December 2022	CSL-WG	Ready for presentation and endorsement	Preparation and adoption of the CSL-WG Work Plan	1	High	Free of charge	
Conduct sampling for possible presence of locust virus PaV1	July-December 2023	FAO/OSPESCA/CRFM Interim Coordination Mechanism with support from CFMC	Not started	Detection of PaV1 in selected countries of the WECAFC region	2	Low		Requires budget and effective implementation mechanism
Prepare the proposal for a Caribbean Spiny Lobster Reproductive Regional Survey in OSPESCA countries	2022 – 2023	OSPESCA CSL-WG	Ongoing	Update breeding season and size at first sexual maturity of this species	2	High	USD 353 000 (proposed fund for project implementation)	First draft submitted to OSPESCA Fundraising required
Review	2024	Interim Coordination	Not started	Coordination	1	Medium	USD 70 000 (as	Development

Regional Management Plan (MARPLESCA Plan)		Mechanism		for review by CSL-WG at a regional meeting			per MARPLESCA Plan)	every 5 years (as per MARPLESCA Plan)
Extend the updates of the Caribbean spiny lobster stock assessment model of the MARPLESCA Plan	2024	WECAFC OSPESCA CSL-WG	Not started	Training in the use of the stock assessment tool for member countries	1, 2	Medium	USD 100 000 (as per MARPLESCA Plan)	Development of a training and extension programme every year (as per MARPLESCA Plan)
Organize and hold the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Working Group	First quarter 2025	WECAFC OSPESCA	Not started	Implementation and monitoring by the countries of the actions of the Regional Management Plan (MARPLESCA Plan)	1	Low	USD 5 000 - 7 000 (estimated budget for 3-day online meeting)	Every 2 years (as per MARPLESCA Plan)

WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

Activities	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective	Priority	Cost	Notes
Workshop1: prepare a regional project	2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	USD 28,000	
Project preparation	2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	TBD	Medium	TBD	
Report Workshop 1	November – December 2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	TBD	

Workshop 2: monitoring, management and conservation strategies	March/April 2025	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Report Workshop 2	May- June 2025	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	USD 28,000	
Training 1: Marine robotic technologies for ecological monitoring	2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	USD 21,000	
Report Training 1	2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low		
Training 2: Fisheries Stocks assessment data-poor fisheries	July 2023	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	TBD	USD 21,000	

Technical report/Publications	December 2023 October - December 2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	TBD	USD 3,000+	
Documentary video	November – December 2023 September – December 2024	Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	TBD	USD 4000	

WORKING GROUP ON SHRIMP AND GROUND FISH IN THE NORTHERN BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHELF

Activities	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Plan	Priority	Cost	Notes
Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments and WECAFC Commission	2023-2025	WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
5th meeting of working group-intersessional meeting	2024	WECAFC, IFREMER, EAF4SG	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1, 2, 3, 4	Medium	TBD	
Continue work on data preparation, training in stock assessment for WG countries and carry out periodic stock assessment	2023-2024	IFREMER/CR FM/WECAFC in collaboration with NOAA, FIRMS and potential funders	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	80,000	3 meetings, 2 people by country and one expert

Continued development/updating of Shrimp and Groundfish National Management Plans in line with the Sub-Regional Strategy and Management Plan for the S&G resources of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf	2023-2025	WG members with support from new GEF EAF4SG project	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	2,3	Medium	TBD	
Update WECAFC stocks and fisheries inventory for shrimp and groundfish of Guianas-Brazil Shelf	2023-2025	FIRMS secretariat and working group members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Collaborate with : -Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU) -WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG)	2023-2025	WECAFC Secretariat primarily and Working group members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1, 4	Medium	TBD	
Seek for resources for collaborative research to complement and refine results on stock identification and extend research to additional shrimp and groundfish species	2023-2024	Working group members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	2	Medium	TBD	

Report to the 19th session of WECAFC and 12 th meeting of the WECAFC SAG	2023	WG Convener, Working group members	Not done	Technical/ Collaboration	1,4	Medium		
Report to the 20th session of WECAFC and 13 th meeting of the WECAFC SAG	2025	WG Convener, Working group members		Technical/ Collaboration	1,4	Medium		

WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

Activities	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Link to Commission's Strategic Objective	Priority	Cost	Notes
Collection of scientific and empirical information on relevant species' biology and ecology, including life history characteristics, behavior, feeding, identification.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Medium	TBD	
Collection of scientific and empirical information on population dynamics, distribution, spatial-temporal and/or migratory patterns of relevant species. Delineation of pupping and nursery areas and critical habitats, etc.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Medium	TBD	

Implementation of long-term fisheries data collection, verification and monitoring programs to collect commercial and recreational fisheries data, including total catches and effort, age/length compositions etc. at species level.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Medium	TBD	
Ensure a scientifically appropriate level of observer coverage onboard fishing vessels to collect species-specific biological information and fisheries information for relevant targeted and/or incidentally caught sharks.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	
Development and/or implementation of existing standardized methodologies, such as abundance indices, quantitative or semi-quantitative stock assessments, or other appropriate approaches (e.g., data-poor methods, genetic methods etc.).	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	

Collection of available trade data and market chain information for shark products at lowest possible taxonomic level, ideally species level.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Medium	TBD	
Implementation of appropriate labelling and custom coding for priority/relevant sharks species and products thereof.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Low	TBD	
Collection of information about social and cultural practices related to sharks.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Reduction of shark by-catch in non-target fisheries and limiting directed catch and effort in target fisheries to sustainable levels.	2023-2025	Member States	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium/High	TBD	

For relevant shark stocks, development of conservation and management reference points that could serve as a basis for deriving stock status and evaluating the achievement of management objectives.	2023-2025	WECAFC, Shark WG members, and others	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	TBD	
Design, implementation and monitoring for compliance with appropriate, science-based conservation and management measures	2023-2025	WECAFC and Member States	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	
Implementation of the precautionary approach in the absence of adequate scientific information, where appropriate.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	
Design and promotion of safe handling and release guidelines for shark species, appropriate.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Low	TBD	

Exploration of regional fisheries sustainability initiatives (e.g. certification, FIPs, etc.).	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	3	Low	TBD	
Development of national laws and policies in line with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	2023-2025	Member states	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	
Binding international obligations (primarily under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) are codified into national law and regulations.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	

Full utilization is promoted and by-catch of sharks is reduced in other fisheries.	2023-2025	WECAFC	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Low	TBD	
Development of Non-Detriment Findings for the exports of CITES-listed shark products.	2023-2025	Shark members, others	WG and	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	TBD
Implementation of effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems (properly staffed, trained, equipped, financed and supervised), including observers, VMS, electronic monitoring, etc. that specifically include monitoring of shark catch and bycatch.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	

Establishment/ improvement of institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of shark conservation and management measures, implementation of the RPOA, regulation of surveillance and enforcement activities, empowerment of staff to carry them out, and protect their physical integrity.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1	Medium	TBD	
Combat IUU fishing activities	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1	Medium	TBD	
Regional systematic sharing of information and data, including through the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework, with sub/regional organizations with a mandate for the conservation and/or management of sharks, in line with confidentiality rules.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	High	TBD	

Harmonization of data collection protocols and information exchange systems related to sharks	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	
Cooperate and coordinate on MCS activities and fighting IUU activities, including related to sharks, at bilateral, subregional and regional levels	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Coordination of research priorities and activities related to the conservation and management of sharks	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Low	TBD	
Development and coordination of capacity building activities related to sharks (e.g., training workshops, practical trainings etc.) by consolidating available resources and fostering	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Low	TBD	

Registry of expertise at subregional and regional levels.	2024-2025	WECAFC and WG convener		Technical/Scientific/Advisory	1,4	Medium	TBD	
Identification of policy, conservation and management issues related to sharks that require subregional/ regional cooperation to be effectively addressed.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	TBD	
Ensure transparency and inclusiveness through the participation of relevant stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, fishers' organisations, fisheries managers, scientists, civil society/NGOs etc.) in the proceedings of subregional, regional fora addressing sharks-related issues.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members		Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	

Development/ strengthening of collaborative arrangements between subregional/ regional/ international organisations involved in the conservation and management of sharks	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members		Coordination/ Collaboration	1,2	Low	TBD	
Development/update of appropriate ToRs, methodologies (including indicators and metrics), to enable the assessment of progress towards RPOA objectives, identifying successes, shortcomings, gaps etc.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members		Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Assess progress towards the RPOA-sharks implementation, including through annual reports	2024-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Medium	TBD	

Participation in deliberations relevant to sharks (e.g., SPAW Protocol, CITES, CMS).	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	4	Low	TBD	
Stakeholder meetings organized, as appropriate, on specific issues related to shark conservation and management.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Low	TBD	
Processes for regular stakeholder feedback on the decision-making process on conservation and management measures	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3	Low	TBD	
Use existing and, if needed, develop appropriate communication tools for raising awareness about sharks adapted to the targeted audience.	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2	Medium	TBD	

Environmental education activities including surveys, information and awareness raising campaigns etc. to raise public awareness about shark conservation and management	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,2,3	Medium	TBD	
Elaboration of a strategy for ensuring that adequate financial resources are made available for RPOA implementation at national level	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	1,3,4	High	TBD	
Identify and seek commitment of potential donor agencies and organizations for supporting the implementation of the RPOA	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members	ongoing	Technical/ Collaboration	4	Medium	TBD	
Organize regular training workshops and courses in shark biology, ecology, data collection, Identification, stock assessments methods, management, etc. for targeted audience	2023-2025	WECAFC and Shark WG members		Technical/ Collaboration	1,4	Low	TBD	

including fisheries observers, researchers, fisheries managers, civil society and other relevant NGOs								
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WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH

Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
1. Address any gaps in implementation of the management measures in the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> (endorsed by WECAFC 17, CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC), and continue to monitor implementation of the plan.	January 2022 onwards	CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$5k (at least two online workshops and active communication with country representatives) \$20-30k if translation costs (documents) are included	
2. Finalize, publish and disseminate the report of the hybrid WG meeting hosted in Puerto Rico (in hard copies and on-line on http://www.strombusgigas.co)	March 2022	CFMC and FAO with inputs from meeting participants	Complete	Communication/Dissemination	2	-		

WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH

Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
m/index.htm and at www.WECAFC.org; including the national summary reports).								
3. Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments, and support national consultations as needed in the region, to advance implementation of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> and relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by CITES and WECAFC.	January 2022 onwards	WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities), CRFM, OSPESCA, CITES, CFMC, FAO/WECAFC, SSTAG	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$15K (for expert consultation to conduct regional analysis) based on intersessional activities and needs identified	
4. (i) 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"> • 18th session of WECAFC, July 2022; • 19th meeting of the Conference of the 	In advance of deadlines for reporting required	CITES/Fisheries authorities of QC range States attending these meetings (as appropriate); CITES and WECAFC	Ongoing	Communication/Dissemination/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$20-30 K for training of range states on reporting	

WORKPLAN FOR THE WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH

Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
<p>Parties to CITES, November 2022; and consider the possibility of organizing a side-event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee, 2023 <p>4. (ii) Reporting of Range States to QCWG as part of new CITES decision and upcoming COP</p> <p>1. (iii) Training for countries to facilitate reporting to CITES and production of training materials/digital tools.</p> <p>4. (iv) Development of reporting template</p>		Secretariats						
5. Support fishers and fisheries administrations in addressing the decent work, employment, and safety-at-sea problems in the queen conch fisheries, in particular;	January 2022 onwards	NOAA Fisheries/ CFMC and FAO with the fisheries authorities in	Ongoing	Capacity Building	1;2;3;4	High		

WORKPLAN FOR THE WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH

Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
fisher organizations should be engaged as much as possible for these activities.		the region						
6. Prepare a recommendation on the promotion of decent work, health, and safety in the fisheries sector for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC18.	January 2022 – February 2022	WECAFC/F AO with CRFM and OSPESCA	Complete	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	-	Prepared as a Working Group recommendation	
7. Support publication of the health and safety study and proposed project.	January – September 2022		Complete	Communication/Dissemination	2	-		
8. Continue the review and consideration of options for the development of a transparent “chain of custody” procedure to track catches from their harvest location to their eventual destination.	January 2022 onwards	OSPESCA, CRFM, NOAA Fisheries/CFMC with CITES, WECAFC/F AO and the fisheries authorities in the region	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	Funding required	
9. Advance research to determine genetic connectivity of queen conch across the Caribbean, identify stocks, and design/implement	January 2022 onwards	SSTAG with support of WECAFC/F AO and CITES	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$200 - 250k Genetic study-	

WORKPLAN FOR THE WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
a protocol to trace illegally harvested queen conch in trade. Engage countries to identify points of contact to assist with sample collection and participation in this research.							Pilot project cost - \$80k- additional funding to be acquired	
10. Create a Task Force – comprised of members from the QCWG and Regional Working Group on IUU fishing – to intersessionally draft a recommendation prioritizing genetic identification of queen conch to improve traceability and combat IUU fishing in the region for the QCWG to consider for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC 18.	January 2024 – February 2024	SSTAG, WECAFC, CFMC, CRFM, OSPESCA	Completed	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	-	\$15-20K One in person workshop plus online follow-up?)	
11. Expand the collection of socio-economic information to analyze the contribution of queen conch fisheries to income, livelihoods, and trade.	January 2022 onwards Completed for Blue Biotrade	CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$ 15-20K (for compiling existing information and	

WORKPLAN FOR THE WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH

Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
	project countries & Jamaica						plan to collect new and standardized info)	
12. Provide training on the use of modules for the assessment of queen conch stocks through a regional conference.	January 2022 onwards	SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration /Capacity Building	2;3	High	\$15-25K (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage, values depending on level of the expansion)	

<p>13. (i) Conduct two pilot studies for determination of fishery production as the basis for further analysis of the long-term sustainability of the species and its associated fisheries.</p> <p>13. (ii) Conduct a similar pilot</p>	<p>January 2022</p>	<p>SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO</p>	<p>13 (i) Completed; 13 (ii) Outstanding</p>	<p>Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration</p>	<p>1;2;3</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>\$35-50K (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage values)</p>	<p>(i) Due to time and personnel constraints, pilot was</p>
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WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
to 13.(i) in an OSPESCA country.							depending on level of the expansion) Additional funding required	only done in one country
14. Investigate and consider the impacts of climate change on the queen conch resources and the fishery.	January 2023 onwards	WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	3	High	\$35-50K (Research on QC reproduction dynamics and changes at the regional level) Funding required	
15. Investigate the ecological and biological impacts of pollution on queen conch resources.	January 2023 onwards	WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	3	High	\$35-45K (Microplastic pilots covered, need to expand at	

WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
							the regional level or inclusion of other pollutants; degradation of habitat quality in coastal areas which would impact recruitment) Funding required	
16. Continue / expand the scientific support to apply updated conversion factors by all countries with a queen conch fishery. For this purpose, the Scientific and Statistical Sub-Group (SST	Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the	CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership, CITES	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration	1;2;3	High	\$20-35K (Linked with act. 12, need add funding for field	

WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
Sub-group) has: Elaborated a series of technical documents on conversion factors that need to be applied and updated when reporting conch production / trade data across the region.	next two years.						work and expert support, depending on level of expansion and secure matching funds) After QCWG-SSTAG expert meeting to be updated.	
17. Continue 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	Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the next two years.	CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership, CITES, GCFI	Outstanding	Technical/Scientific Advisory/Collaboration /Capacity Building	1;2;3	High	\$15-20K (Need a task force with country representatives for final agreements)	

WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
to the Working Group membership for their consideration, and supporting selected countries in applying the templates and sharing the results at the regional level.							Parties to participate in technical NDF workshop sessions are needed	
18. Determine priority next steps to implement education and outreach as stated in the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> .	January 2022 onwards	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	Outstanding	Communication/Collaboration/Education and Outreach	1;2;3	High		
19. Consult with the PROCARIBE+ project to identify potential areas for improving the sustainability of the queen conch fishery including contributions to the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) reporting mechanism, habitat impacts/restoration and an updated Strategic Action	January 2022 onwards	CFMC, the WECAFC Secretariat too and/or the relevant sub-regional partners (CRFM, OSPESCA, Coordination Mechanism for Integrated	Outstanding	Monitoring/Evaluation/ Collaboration	1;2;3	High	OSPESCA & CRFM to follow up with PROCARIBE+	

WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH								
Activity	Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/Theme	Strategic Plan Linkages	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
Program Monitoring and Evaluation framework.		Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean)						
20. Collaborate with the Blue BioTrade Project regarding improved trade and value-chain activities.	January 2022 onwards	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	Ongoing	Collaboration	1;2;3	High	(Linked with activ. 8)	
21. Continue support to the development of the WECAFC Strategic Plan 2021-2027	January 2022- February 2022	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	Ongoing	Collaboration	1;2;3;4	-		
22. Review and finalize the new TORs for the QCWG	January 2022- February 2022	CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group	Completed	Collaboration	1;2;3;4	-		

WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH/DOLPHINFISH								
Activities	Proposed timeline	Responsible entity	Status	Group/Theme	Link to the Commission Strategic Objective	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Estimated cost	Notes
Organize and hold the first meeting of the FFDF WG	Second quarter 2024.	WECAFC and partners	Postponed from 2023	Coordination /Collaboration	1, 2, 3, 4	High	60,000 Commitment of NOAA-Fisheries to support	Meeting organized, Endorsement of the WP Meeting report
WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES								
Activities	Proposed timeline	Responsible entity	Status	Group/Them e	Link to the Commission Strategic Objective	Budget sources and status	Estimated cost	Notes
Organize and hold the third meeting of the Recreational WG	2024-2025.	WECAFC and partners		Coordination /Collaboration	1, 2, 3, 4	Medium	40,000 To be mobilized for a hybrid session	No convener. Meeting organized, Endorsement of the WP Meeting report.

MANAGEMENT FOCUS AREA 4: FOSTERING A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE WECAFC SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION.

Goals:

- 1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, SAG and the Working Groups.
- 2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among members and other stakeholders through effective and timely dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

Activities	Proposed Activity Timetable	Responsible Entity	Status	Group/ Theme	Link to Commission Strategic Objective	Priority (low, medium, high)	Estimated cost	Notes
4.1 Organize the 19th session of the Commission in 2023	March to September 2023	WECAFC Secretariat	Ongoing	Coordination/ Collaboration	1, 4	High	50,000	Hybrid meeting. Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region.
4.2 Organize the 12 th (virtual) SAG	June 2023	WECAFC Secretariat and SAG Chair	Completed	Technical/Scientific/ Advisory	1, 4	High	15,000	Scientific advice for consideration by the 19th session of the Commission

Organize the 13rd SAG meeting	Late 2024/early 2025	WECAFC Secretariat and SAG Chair		Technical/ Scientific/ Advisory	1, 4	High	40,000 Partial funding needed	In-person meeting. Scientific advice for consideration by the 20th session of the Commission
4.3 Organization of the 20th session of the Commission	2025	WECAFC Secretariat and Host country		Coordination/ Collaboration	1,4	High	80,000 Partial funding needed	Timely organized session which will discuss the reform (Strategic reorientation) of WECAFC as well as other essential matters for the members of the Commission
4.4 Support to the Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	Late 2023/early 2024	WECAFC Secretariat and IWG		Coordination/ Collaboration	1,4	High	50 Funding needed	Report of the 2nd preparatory meeting of WECAFC transformation in a regional fishery management entity/arrangement

4.5 Facilitate the implementation of dedicated work of the Executive Committee	2023-2025	WECAFC Secretariat and Chair of the Executive Committee	Ongoing	Coordination/ Collaboration	1,4	High	Periodic (bimonthly or quarterly) meetings held and successful delivery regarding matters requiring action by the Committee and members.
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4.6 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops, and WG meetings with SAG	2023-2025	WECAFC Secretariat and WG conveners and SAG Chair	Ongoing	Technical/Scientific/Advisory	1, 4	Medium		Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner
4.7 Produce a Registry of experts, resource persons in any of the species/thematic Working Groups of the Commission	Late 2023-2024	WECAFC Secretariat and Advisory Bodies (Working Groups, SAG) leads		Outreach/Education	2,4	Medium	5,000	Inception date subject to change depending on the balance of the 2023 ring-fenced fund of WECAFC, and whether any young professional recruited by FAO to support.

4.8 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects	2023-2025	WECAFC Secretariat and WG conveners	Ongoing	Coordination/ Collaboration	1, 4	High		At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding. Follow up to proposals from working groups. Draft project documents in the required format.
4.9 Partnerships established and promoted with institutions in the environment and other sectors.	2023-2025	ICCAT, CRFM, OSPESCA, other various IGOs and NGOs	Ongoing	Coordination/ Collaboration	1, 4	Medium		Follow up for a formal framework of partnership with ICCAT. Collaboration increased with international and regional, governmental and non-Governmental

								organizations and civil society as part of an effort to improve linkages and understanding of grassroots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and private sector investment in resource Management.
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