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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Collecting of statistic information on fisheries and aquaculture in OSPESCA's countries

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Since July 1, 2015 there is a new "Policy of Integration of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2015-2025" whose objective is to ensure the sustainable use of aquatic resources and aquaculture, strengthening the coordination and harmonization inside SICA, and to contribute to food security and improve the quality of life of the population. For that, has been formulated nine strategic components focused on institutional strengthening, management, sustainability, climate change, security, trade and international relations.

The policy, in its component of management, takes into account important actions related with statistical information such as the formulation of a regional plan of researches, a regional database, to promote harmonized methodologies for a program of statistical information, the use of modern technologies and the implementation of homologated forms, as well as in the field of climate change and information base to support inter and extra regional trade.

In the region have been established harmonized tools for collecting information, such as: the "Form of Landings Inspection of Hydro biological Resources (FID)" and the "Form of Biological and Fishing Sampling in landings" as well as a database with CIAT's support for data analysis.

Regarding artisanal fisheries, there is a pilot project held with the Confederation of Artisanal Fishers of Central America (CONFEPESCA), in order to collect data by fishers leaders about production, income, weather events (rain, winds and waves) and moon phases. This data is analyzed using a database designed with this purpose.

The MARPLESCA Plan "Regional Plan for the Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fishery (*Panulirus argus*)", sets different harmonized formats for the collection of information on vessels, and about the biology of the species and fisheries.