

INFORMATION NOTE

I TENTH SESSION OF THE WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WECAFC)

Caribbean Development Bank(CDB), Bridgetown, Barbados, 24-27 October 2001

Venue

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Conference Centre, Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados.

Registration and Opening Ceremony

Registration will take place at the Venue of the Meeting from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. The Opening Ceremony will also be at the Venue and will start at 9:30 a.m.

Languages

The session will be conducted in English, French and Spanish.

The official language of Barbados is English.

Meeting Documents

Please check the FAO Home Page (www.fao.org) under Statutory Bodies for WECAFC. The meeting documents will be posted periodically on the WECAFC site, when available.

Hotel Accommodation and Rates

The following hotels have agreed to provide accommodation for participants at a special rate:

- Blue Horizon Hotel
Rockley
Christ Church, Barbados
Tel: (246) 435-8916
Fax: (246) 435-8153
E-mail: gemsreservations@caribsurf.com

Standard Room - Single US\$77 plus 17.5% tax (7.5% Barbados vat & 10% service charge)
(king or two double beds)

Standard Room - Double US\$91 plus 17.5% tax (7.5% Barbados vat and 10% service charge)

Deluxe Room - Single US\$91 plus 17.5% tax (7.5% Barbados vat and 10% service charge)

(king bed with kitchenette)

Deluxe Room - Double US\$104 plus 17.5% tax (7.5% Barbados vat and 10% service charge)

Reservations Manager – Ms. Sonja Leach
Reservation Agents – Ms. Tracia Dear and Ms. Tracy Duff
Tel: (246) 435-8080; Fax: (246) 435-8822

The Blue Horizon Hotel is located on the South Coast of Barbados, a stone's throw away from one of the more popular beaches. For more information, please visit the following Web Site www.gemsbarbados.com.

- The Coconut Court Beach Hotel
The Garrison Historic Area
Hastings
Christ Church, Barbados.
Tel: (246) 427-1655/56
Fax: (246) 429-8198
E-mail: ccourt@sunbeach.net

Standard Studio Apartment US\$50 (Single Occupancy) plus 7.5% government tax
(Garden View only)

Ocean View Efficiency US\$59 (Single/Double Occupancy) plus 7.5% government tax

Ocean View Studio Apt. US\$59 (Single/Double Occupancy) plus 7.5% government tax

Ocean View Efficiency and Ocean View Studio apartments do not have air-conditioning but are equipped with two ceiling fans (additional standing fans are available upon request) and have a good view of the ocean. The rooms have excellent natural ventilation in that they are single in line units with no buildings or rooms on the Windward or Leeward side.

Please note that there are no televisions in the rooms. However, television can be made available as an option and for a small fee. There is a common television room.

The Coconut Court Hotel is located on the South Coast of Barbados on the beach. For more information, please visit the following Web Site: www.coconut-court.com.

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations should be made as early as possible. It can be made directly with the Hotel or through the Liaison Officer in the FAO Sub-regional Office in Barbados. When making hotel reservations, the hotel should be informed that you would be attending the Tenth Session of WECAFC in order to qualify for the special rate. Please inform the Liaison Officer of reservations that are made directly with the hotel.

Ms. Sonya Goodridge
Liaison Officer
FAO Sub-regional Office for
the Caribbean
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E-mail: Sonya.Goodridge@fao.org

Health Certification

No vaccinations are necessary for entry into Barbados or returning home from Barbados.

Flights/Travel

There are several major airlines that fly regular, scheduled service into Barbados from North America, Europe, South America and the Caribbean. These are American Airlines, British West Indies Airlines (BWIA International), Air Canada, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Air Jamaica and LIAT.

Visas

A valid passport and return ticket are required for presentation to the Immigration authorities as well as information on where you will be staying. Visas are not required for North Americans, Europeans or persons from Commonwealth countries. Check the nearest consulate or your travel agent on visa requirements for citizens of other countries, as the list changes frequently. The following Web Site may also be helpful to you: www.travelpaperwork.com.

Banking and Exchange Rate

The exchange rate of the Barbados dollar is pre-set at BDS\$1.98 to the US dollar. You can usually pay in US\$ or local cash when dealing with most ancillary services such as taxis and vendors. Most major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, etc.) are readily accepted.

Geography and Climate

Barbados is the most eastern island in the Caribbean, with an area of 430 square kilometres. The island is balmy most of the time. Average temperatures run from 84 to 88 F (29-31 C) during the day and about 75 to 80 F (24-26 C) at night. Cooling tradewinds keep temperatures pleasant most of the year. The rainy (hurricane) season starts in June and ends in November with the greatest concentration of rain usually occurring from August through October. Dry season is from December to June.

Electricity

The electricity supply is dependable. Barbados runs on the odd system of 110 volts/50 cycles and uses the North American style 2-prong plug and outlet. Most 60 cycle items will work here, and many hotels provide a 220 volt outlet in the bathrooms.

Airport Tax

There is an airport departure charge of BD\$ 25.00. US cash is also accepted.

Transportation from Airport

Delegates/Participants will be met at the airport providing they inform the Liaison Officer of their flight details (flight number, date, time) at least one week prior to the start of the meeting.

Transportation to Meeting Venue

Transportation will be provided from the Blue Horizon and Coconut Court hotels to the meeting venue. There are other hotels where you may prefer to stay. However, please note that the transportation will only be provided to the Caribbean Development Bank from these two hotels.

II COUNTRY REPORTS

Please note that the Ninth Session of the Commission requested members to provide, at future sessions, a short country report highlighting their main achievements. This report should identify a maximum of five to ten priority needs in the areas of technical assistance and issues related to fisheries conservation and development. This should contribute to information exchange and enhance TCDC (para. 73 of the Report of the Ninth WECAFC Session). The report should be only two pages maximum. For obvious reasons, it would not be feasible for individual country reports to be presented and discussed. However, we anticipate that country reports would be circulated and discussed under agenda Item 4 – Inter-sessional activities of WECAFC and matters referred to the attention of the Commission.

III PROJECT TCP/RLA/0070 – PREPARATION FOR EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC FISHERIES FOR LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES BY CARICOM COUNTRIES

The principal objective of this project is to acquire and synthesise information on large pelagic fisheries in the CARICOM countries in order to decide on a strategy for the management of large pelagic resources in the region. The enclosed blurb contains more information on the project.

Given the nature and characteristics of the large pelagic resources, the results of this project may be of importance and interest to WECAFC member countries. Therefore, WECAFC members that are not directly involved in the project are given the opportunity to share the results of the project and be involved in the formulation of any regional fishery management arrangement for the large pelagic resources in the WECAFC region.

WECAFC members are invited to participate in the two workshops envisaged under the project. The first workshop is planned for 29 to 31 October 2001, immediately after the Tenth Session of WECAFC,

and at the same venue. Additional information on the workshop will be provided later. Please make arrangements to participate in the first workshop and let us know of your plans. Please note that the project does not have funds to sponsor countries that are not participating in the project.

IV NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

The WECAFC Secretariat is in the process of preparing a list of National Correspondents. National Correspondents are focal points, usually in the government ministry responsible for fisheries, where technical communication and information are sent periodically by the Secretariat. We would be most grateful if you assist us in preparing the list by completing the enclosed form.

If you require any additional information, please contact the Secretary of WECAFC:

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