

October 2005



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION Twelfth Session
WECAFC LESSER ANTILLES FISHERIES COMMITTEE Ninth Session
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 25-28 October 2005
DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF WECAFC, 2006-07

Introduction

1. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was established in 1973 by Resolution 4/61 of the FAO Council under Article 6 of the FAO Constitution with the purpose of promoting and assisting in the collection and interchange of information, education and training, assisting Member Governments in the development and utilisation of living resources of the Western Central Atlantic and promoting and coordinating international aid.
2. Since its establishment, WECAFC has contributed significantly to fisheries management and development in the region, for example, through the work of its working parties and working groups. Expert consultations were held on specific subjects, such as shared resources in the Lesser Antilles, the use of micro-computers in fisheries, the use of length-based stock assessment methods, and sustainable fisheries development in the WECAFC region. These activities also produced a substantial body of literature on fisheries management and conservation in the region.
3. The Commission also contributed significantly to human resource development and the strengthening of national institutional capacity through training courses in specific subjects such as tropical fish stock assessment and HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point).
4. Recent international instruments, and particularly, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, have all stressed the need for international co-operation among states through organisations at sub-regional, regional, and global levels, for the conservation, management and utilisation of living aquatic resources. These developments have generated renewed interest in collaboration at the regional level. All these instruments emphasise the need for collaboration and co-operation in the management of shared, transboundary, straddling and highly migratory stocks, which is typically the case of the WECAFC region. This need coincides with the stated purpose of the Commission.

The Strategy of the Commission

5. At the Ninth Session of the Commission, Saint Lucia, September 1999, the Commission adopted the following strategy:
 - a regional approach to management of many of the region's fisheries was a feasible arrangement for achieving sustainable fisheries in the region, and that WECAFC is in a unique position to serve as an umbrella organisation for this purpose.

- regional, technical cooperation was a crucial element if members were to benefit from the current globalisation process within the context of clearly defined national and regional objectives for sustainable development and responsible fisheries management.
- responsible fisheries management requires regional and sub-regional cooperation through working groups for the application of the precautionary approach to fisheries of the WECAFC region and recommended that the following ad hoc working groups should continue their activities:
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Shrimp and Ground Fish Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf;
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*;
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Flying Fish of the Eastern Caribbean;
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles; and
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*).

6. The Ninth Session of WECAFC also agreed, in view of existing constraints, that the Commission should have a simple structure consisting of a Secretariat, a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) which would act as advisory body to the Commission and ad hoc working groups with clearly defined Terms of Reference and time bound clauses, established as and when required.

7. The Secretariat of the Commission is now based in the region, at the FAO Sub-Regional Office in Barbados. Current FAO support to the Commission includes hosting the Secretariat and providing the Secretary of the Commission, a part-time (30%) stock assessment specialist, a part-time (30%) fishery economist, a part-time fisheries officer, a secretary, as well as ad hoc technical support from FAO Fisheries Department, the FAO library and documentation services, support of FAO network and contacts, and FAO communications infrastructure and network.

Draft Work Programme

8. The work of the Commission (see documents WECAFC/XII/05/7 and 8) over the last biennium was carried out primarily with the financial support of FAO Regular Programme Budget and extra-budgetary support from the FAO FishCode Programme, the US Department of State, through the Caribbean Fishery Management Council and Government of France, through IFREMER.

9. The draft work programme for the Commission for the next biennium (2006-07) and potential sources of funding are found in Table 1.

Suggested Action by the Commission

10. The Commission is invited to review the proposed work programme for the 2006-07 biennium. In this review, the members are requested to take into account the limited resources (financial and human) which are presently available to the WECAFC Secretariat. Members of the Commission may wish to volunteer their support, in-kind and/or financially, to specific activities of the Work Programme. These kind offers might be then used to galvanise additional support. Members may also suggest new activities for the 2006-07 biennium that they may wish to sponsor.

Table 1. Draft Work Programme of WECAFC, 2006-07
(Subject to obtaining the required extra-budgetary support).

A. Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish* (Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela)		
Activity	Time	Potential Funding
A1. Fishery Assessment and Management Workshop for developing/refining management plans for different species and fisheries	2006/07	EB, PC, RP
A2. Bilateral fishery Assessment Workshop Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuel	2007	EB, PC, RP
A3. Managers' Workshop on fisheries management to promote activities and cooperation in fisheries of the Brazil-Guianas shelf.	2007	EB, PC, RP
B. Caribbean Spiny Lobster* (Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, USA, Venezuela)		
B1. Fourth Assessment and Management Workshop on developing/refining management plans for each country	2006	EB, PC, RP
B2. Managers'/Ministers' Meeting on the Management of Caribbean Spiny lobster	2006	EB, PC, RP
C. Capacity Building in FlyingFish Working Group (Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago)		
C1. Assessment and Management Workshop – Preparation of Regional Management Programme	2007	EB, PC, RP
C2. Meeting of Managers and Ministers	2007	EB, PC, RP
D. Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles (Antigua & Barbuda, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago)		
D1. Third Meeting of the Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device Fishing in the Lesser Antilles	2006	EB, PC, RP
E. Working Group on Queen Conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i>		
E1. Capacity building workshops – Monitoring and Management of Queen Conch	2006	EB, PC, UNEP/CEP, CFMC, RP
F. Other Activities		
F1. Pilot activity on status and trends reporting in Coral Reef Fisheries in the Caribbean (FishCode/STF)	2007	EB, RP, PC
F2. Expert Consultation on national fisheries policy and policy instruments in Caribbean countries- the emerging requirements from the changing international normative fisheries framework.	2007	EB, RP, PC

G. Coordination and Liaison		
G1. Thirteenth Session of the Commission	October, 2007	RP, MC
G2. Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)	April, 2007	RP
G3. Liaison with projects and activities e.g. UNEP/GEF/FAO; FIINPESCA - GCP/RLA/150/SWE; LAPE Project – GCP/RLA/140/JPN; CLME - Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem; FishCode/STF - Status and Trends in Capture Fisheries; etc.	2006/07	RP
G4. Liaison with regional and international agencies. Representation at meetings	N/A	RP

Note: FAO will seriously consider providing technical support through its Regular Programme if extra-budgetary funding is available for the proposed activities.

Legend: CFMC – Caribbean Fishery Management Council
EB – Extra-budgetary
IFREMER – Institut Français pour la Recherche de la Mer
MC – Member Countries
N/A – Not applicable
PC – Participating Countries
RP – FAO Regular Programme Budget
UNEP/CEP – United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme