

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Guadeloupe, 20-24 June 2016

Draft Programme of Work of WECAFC (2016 - 2017)

Introduction

1. The background paper on “Intersessional activities and matters referred to the attention of the Commission Intersessional activities – review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2014-2015” (WECAFC/XVI/2016/4) showed progress made in the last intersessional period. The document showed that over 80 percent of the approved Programme of Work 2014-2015 was actually implemented, although sometimes to a lesser extent than originally planned for. Overall, the last Programme of Work seems to have been realistic and achievable. The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Work were received from various Trust Fund programmes, FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and FAO’s regular programme. Joint activities with CFMC, CITES, NOAA, CRFM, GCFI, IGFA, IFREMER, IADB, EU, GEF and the World Bank further contributed to the implementation of a range activities of the joint Working Groups.

2. The Working Groups continued to be effective tools for collaboration between members and relevant institutions. Major achievements have been reached and substantial progress has been made. However, the large dependence on the Secretariat in terms of supporting the initiation and implementation of the activities remains a weakness.

3. The 15th session background document containing the “Draft Programme of Work of WECAFC (2014-2015)¹”, as presented to and endorsed by WECAFC 15 contains the background information on the preparation process for the Programme of Work, detailing responsibilities, coordination and management aspects, funding and related arrangements, implementation of the technical work programme, and linkages with regional partners.

4. That background document remains valid and provides along with the WECAFC 15 approved Strategic Plan 2014 -2020, and the endorsed Programme of Work (2014-2015) as provided in Appendix D of the Report of the 15th session² the basis for this updated (draft) work programme for 2016-2017.

¹ Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/wecafc/15thsess/14e.pdf>

² The report of the 15th session can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3790t.pdf>

5. The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), at its 7th session, held in Panama City on 7-8 November 2015 reviewed and approved the draft work programme with the following remarks:

42. The SAG recognized that the draft 2016-2017 Programme of Work is large and queried whether the Secretariat could manage the guidance of the ten working groups. The WECAFC Secretary expressed his appreciation of the collaborative work under joint working groups with CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC and stressed that without their leadership in some of the joint groups it would be impossible to operate all.

43. The SAG considered the possible abolition or merging of some Working Groups, but recommends to keep and support all working groups, particularly as some have been established only recently and need time to start-up and others have secured funding to carry out their TORs in the 2016-2017 biennium. It was noted that every Working Group should self-assess its tasks at each meeting, with a view to determine its continued usefulness.

44. The SAG emphasized that the Working Group work not only includes organization of meetings, but also attracting resources (human and financial) for the generation of background information, sharing of information between members via e-mail, videoconferences and assisting each other.

45. The SAG recommended that the Commission gives clear management information requests to the Working Groups, through their conveners, so that the Working Groups can focus on addressing these requests and strengthen the link between scientific work and decision-making processes.

Suggested Action by the Commission

6. The Commission is invited to review, amend as appropriate, and endorse the draft programme of work of WECAFC (2016 -2017).

Draft Work Programme for the period 2016-2017

Technical Focus Area 1. Improve regional fisheries governance

Goal: Improved regional governance of the marine fisheries and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
1.1 Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines	Recommendations for improvement and harmonization of legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region	Emails and letters to members, making them aware of guidelines and instruments Response to FAO CCRF monitoring questionnaire	2016-2017	no	5 000	FAO SLC (secured)	
1.2 Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA)	EAF and EAA incorporated in national policies and strategies of WECAFC members EAF based fisheries management and conservation plans developed	National policy and strategy documents Fisheries management plans	2016-2017		400 000	CLME+ (shrimp & groundfish sub-project), FAO TCP Member countries	CLME, OSPESCA, CRFM, UWI, CANARI
1.3 Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members	Recommendations for changes in the policies, strategies, laws and regulations Review of fisheries legislative frameworks in the WECAFC area	Mission reports of consultants National strategies, laws and regulations Review report	2016-2017	Not applicable; submission for information in 2018	200 000	FAO TCP GEF World bank (Caribbean Billfish project) Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA
1.4 Facilitate the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of	Start of reporting by WECAFC members on Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) catches in the high seas of Areas 31 and 41, using the form in appendix 3 of Report 1087.	At least 10 members report about their DSF catches in the high seas. Agreed VMEs	2016-2017	Yes, in 2018	100 000	FAO/GEF ABNJ programme Member countries	UNEP and CBD, Government of Norway

Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas	Effective functioning of WECAFC WG on deep sea fisheries in the high seas, including organization of the 2 nd meeting of the WG	recognized formally by members and included in relevant databases DSF collaborative research programme developed					
1.5 Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members	GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC)” realizes its objectives Draft regional management bycatch strategy developed	Adoption of bycatch management by REBYC II LAC countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago Recommendations for the WECAFC membership	2016-2017	Yes, regional strategy for WECAFC endorsement in 2018	5.8 million	GEF FAO Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA
1.6 Promote the ratification and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members	Capacity built among at least 4 WECAFC members for implementation of the PSMA in the WECAFC region. Ratification of the PSMA by a minimum of 4 WECAFC members	Capacity building materials for implementation of the PSMA Members listed among those countries that ratified the PSMA	2016 -2018	No, just for information	100 000	FAO NOAA PEW	CRFM, OSPESCA NEAFC Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF)
1.7 Support to the application of the International guidelines on small scale fisheries	Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food promoted in the region, with a focus on strengthening of fisherfolk organizations	WECAFC members adopt the SSF and Tenure guidelines	2016-2017	No, just for information	100 000	FAO Government of Norway-FAO SSF Trust fund Too Big To Ignore (TBTI)	UWI/CERMES CRFM CANARI OSPESCA CINESTAV
1.8 Improve coordination and	Effective functioning of the joint Regional Working Group on	WG meeting report CLME+ Strategic Action Programme	2016-2017	RPOA-IUU for endorsement by WECAFC	300 000	CLME+ (shrimp and groundfish sub-project)	Joint Regional Working Group with CRFM and

cooperation between national and regional organizations / institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.	<p>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.</p> <p>IUU mainstreamed in the work of other joint Working Groups</p> <p>Draft RPOA-IUU developed.</p> <p>Cost effective measures identified to combat in the short term IUU fishing</p> <p>Capacity built for regional collaboration on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fisheries</p>	(SAP) implementation monitoring reports (particularly Strategies 2 and 6)		in 2018		NOAA	OSPESCA
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Technical Focus Area 2: Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries

Goal: Increased availability of essential information for fisheries management, through inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Wider Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	
2.1 Strengthening disaster risk management (DRM) capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean	<p>Implementation of the strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region.</p> <p>Implementation of the GEF Special Climate Change (SCCF) project on “Climate</p>	Fisheries mainstreamed in DRM and Climate Change adaptation plans in at least 3 Caribbean countries	2016-2017	No	5.6 million	FAO Member countries GEF	CRFM, TNC, CARIBSAVE, CDEMA, CCCCC, UWI/CERMES

	Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector”(CC4Fish)						
2.2 Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy	Clear and comprehensive draft protocols prepared	Draft protocols	2016-2017	No, for information only	30 000	CRFM Member countries	
2.3 Improved management of reef fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Increased capacity among fisherfolk and fisheries managers to participate effectively in coastal/reef management and MPAs Effective implementation of Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/004/GFF)	(empty)	2016-2017	No, for information only	100 000	GEF FAO Member countries	UNEP, CAMPAN, GCFI, CARIBSAVE, TNC, WWF
2.4 Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national level	A regional fisheries and aquaculture statistics database established at WECAFC Participation of WECAFC and its members in the Global Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem database. Participation in the FAO Global vessel record by WECAFC members	Response rate to FAO annual fisheries and aquaculture statistics requests has increased. Evidence of WECAFC member participation in the VME and Global Record databases	2016-2017	No, achievements will be reported upon to the session	400 000	FAO EU CLME+ project	FIRMS, CRFM and OSPESCA
2.5 Regional resources and fisheries	Prepare and share regional fisheries inventories –through the Fisheries Resource	Number of inventories published on-line	2016-2017	No, only for information	120 000	FAO, FIRMS, CLME+, EU	OSPESCA, CRFM, NOAA, IFREMER

inventories prepared and disseminated	<p>Management System (FIRMS)</p> <p>Partnership – with all members and ensure up-to-date and accessible information in support of responsible fisheries management.</p> <p>Report of the workshop on Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through FIRMS to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area published</p>					member countries	
2.6 Increase the availability of information on the contribution of fish to food security and the social and economic value of the fisheries sector	Assessments of the fisheries sector value and the fish and fisheries products value chain.	Studies and reports	2016-2017	No, only for information	30 000	CLME+	ECLAC, INFOPECA, CRFM, CERMES
2.7 Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies	Increased sharing of information and communication between the WECAFC Secretariat and other fisheries, aquaculture and environment stakeholders active in the region and neighbouring regions	Minutes of meetings Reports of activities of partner organizations and projects	2016-2017	no	10 000	FAO SLC Regular budget	

Technical Focus area 3. Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture

Goal: Increased capacity of fisherfolk and aquaculturists to apply modern production technologies, better management practices and produce high quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
3.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations	Competent fisherfolk representatives participating professionally in regional and national level fisheries management decision making processes	Attendance lists of capacity building activities Manuals and other capacity building materials prepared	2016-2017	no	100 000	FAO/GEF CC4Fish support foreseen	
3.2 Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean	Investment/business plan study	Investment/business plan Grant/loan support from a development bank	2016-2017	No, for information only	100 000	Inter-American Development Bank Member countries	CRFM is lead agency – FAO WECAFC supporting only
3.3 Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities	Sustainable aquaculture practices by small-scale farmers in various WECAFC member countries	Adaptation of aquaculture practices following advice given Aquaponics and marine cage farming developed; various aquaculture manuals produced	2016-2017	No, for information only	300 000	FAO TCP/Trust fund and Telefood support Brazil	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)
3.4 Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and	Regional guidelines for responsible introduction of species in aquaculture developed; BMPs for specific species developed and Codes of Practices developed and adopted	Codes of Practice and BMPs adopted and disseminated.	2016-2017	Some BMPS and guidelines for endorsement by the 18 th session	50 000	TCP Brazil	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)

Codes	by aquaculturists						
3.5 Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures	Capacity built on Codex Alimentarius, HACCP, ISO, Good Hygiene Practices and other fish quality and safety measures Recommendations and advice for improving fish quality and safety	Increased number of facilities authorized to export to the EU, USA and Japan	2016-2017	No, for information only	100 000	EU FAO Member countries	IICA, CRFM
3.6 Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group General investment plan for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries developed. Pre-feasibility investment studies prepared for 2 countries Implementation of the CLME+ SAP strategy (No.6) to "Implement Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)/ Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery".	Report of the WG published and disseminated General investment plan finalized Draft management plan prepared	2016-2017	Yes, general investment plan endorsed by WECAFC 16 Sub-regional management plan endorsed by WECAFC 17 in 2018	150 000	CLME IDB FAO Member countries	CRFM, IFREMER, UNEP
3.7 Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster	Effective functioning of the WECAFC Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i> Resource assessment carried out and a draft regional management plan developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP	Reports of meetings Draft sub-regional management plan	2016-2017	Yes, management recommendations for endorsement by WECAFC 16	100 000	FAO TCP NOAA CLME+ (sub-project on spiny lobster, coordinated by OSPESCA)	Joint WG with CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC. UNEP-CEP/SPAW

	Sub-Strategy 4A “Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries”						
3.8 Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CRFM/ WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish of the Eastern Caribbean Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5A: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries.	Reports on the implementation of the endorsed the Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	2016-2017	Yes, for regional endorsement by WECAFC 16	20 000	CRFM CLME+ (sub-project on flying fish – coordinated by CRFM) FAO SLC regular budget	Joint WG with CRFM
3.9 Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore FADs	Effective functioning of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles Manual on the design and application of moored FADs	Continuation of demonstrations in various CARIFICO project countries Findings and recommendations of the MAGDELESA Project Working group meeting reports	2016-2017	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	50 000	CRFM, IFREMER, Caribbean Billfish Project, Member countries	JICA (CARIFICO) funded research
3.10 Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM/WEC AFC Working Group on Queen Conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i> ” Draft regional management plan for Queen Conch Agreement on conversion factors for processing and on Non-Detriment Findings format Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4B	WG reports Update for CITES	2016 -2017	Yes, regional management plan, regional conversion factors and NDF format for endorsement by WECAFC 16	200 000	CFMC/NO AA, CITES, FAO CLME Member countries	Joint WG with CFMC, OSPESCA, UNEP-CEP/SPAW and CRFM
3.11 Improved management and	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC/OSPE	WG TORs and reports	2016-2017	Yes, recommendation	2 million	GEF World	IGFA, ICCAT, CRFM, CFMC,

conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean	<p>CA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries</p> <p>Draft regional management and conservation plan for billfish developed</p> <p>Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5B: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for large pelagics fisheries</p> <p>Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) functioning</p> <p>Data and information availability on recreational fisheries catches and landings has increased</p>	Effective implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Project (CBP)*; Letter of Intent signed on the CBMC		s and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement		Bank Conservation international Member countries FAO	OSPESCA, GCFI
3.12 Improved management and conservation of sharks	<p>Establishment of a joint working group on sharks conservation and management.</p> <p>A Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for the conservation and management of sharks developed</p> <p>Two additional WECAFC members have carried out shark stock assessments and developed and are implementing NPOAs – Sharks</p>	<p>WG TORs and reports</p> <p>A draft RPOA</p> <p>Number of NPOA's sharks developed by WECAFC members</p> <p>Implementation records</p>	2016-2017	Yes, RPOA endorsement in 2018 by WECAFC	160 000	Japan USA CITES Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC and UNEP- CEP/SPAW PEW
3.13 Improved management and conservation of spawning aggregations of	<p>Effective functioning of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations</p> <p>Implementation of the CLME+</p>	Evidence of implementation of the regional closed season for Nassau grouper	2016-2017	Regional management recommendations	80 000	CFMC NOAA Member countries	UNEP- CEP/SPAW CRFM CFMC NOAA

grouper and snapper	work on reef fishes						
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Management Focus Area 4: Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission.

Goals:

1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, Scientific Advisory Group and the Working Groups.

2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among Members and other stakeholders through effective dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
4.1 Organize the 16 th session of the Commission in 2016	Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region	Approved work programme Report of the session	June 2016	yes	200 000	FAO Regular budget EU DG Mare France	Govt. of France (Guadeloupe)
4.2 Organize the 8 th SAG meeting in 2017	Scientific advice for consideration by the 17 th session of the Commission	Report of the meeting	November 2017	Yes, by WECAFC 17 in 2018	20 000	FAO Regular budget	
4.3 Prepare for the organization of the 17 th session of the Commission in 2018	Timely organized session which will discuss interesting subjects that meet the needs of the members of the Commission	Background papers prepared Host country confirmed	2017	Yes, in 2018	150 000	FAO Regular budget Member countries contribution	Host country contribution
4.4 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	An independent cost-benefit study of the various options for reform of WECAFC and how to move forward MoU implemented for an interim coordination mechanism between	A workshop Report of the 2nd WECAFC Strategic Reorientation Workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1-2 December 2015	2016-2017	Yes, decisions in 2016 and 2018	200 000	FAO Regular Programme European Union	All members

	OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC	Agreement on the preferred option for reform of WECAFC and a process towards the reform Signed MoU					
4.5 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops	Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner	Reports of the events and workshops	2016-2017	No, for information only	--	Relevant projects	All stakeholders
4.6 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects	At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding	Draft project documents in the required format	2016-2017	No, for information only	--	WECAFC members	All relevant stakeholders

<p>4.7 Partnerships established with institutions in the environment and other sectors</p>	<p>A formal partnership established with the UNEP-SPAW 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 grass roots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and private sector investment in resource management.</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNEP-SPAW MoUs with other key partners Monitoring reports of the implementation of the CLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the CLME+ project</p>	<p>2016-2017</p>	<p>Yes, for endorsement by the 17th session</p>		<p>UNEP-SPAW FAO</p>	<p>CRFM, OSPESCA, TBF, IGFA, ICCAT, various NGOs</p>
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