



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)
SIXTEENTH SESSION
Guadeloupe, 20-24 June 2016
Draft roadmap for the WECAFC strategic reorientation process

WECAFC strategic reorientation process

Current steps

February 2012	14 th session of WECAFC (Panama City) identifies need to carry out a strategic reorientation of WECAFC – 11 Members request FAO follow-up
2013-2014	WECAFC Performance Review carried out WECAFC Strategic Plan 2014 - 2020 prepared
January 2014	1 st WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop (Guadeloupe) discussed draft Performance Review, Strategic Plan, draft amendment of the WECAFC Rules of Procedure and scope and support for establishment of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the region.
February 2014	Information package in support prepared and circulated among Members
March 2014	15 th session of WECAFC (Port of Spain) endorses Performance Review, Strategic Plan and Rules of Procedure amendment, and requests as a way forward an independent cost-benefits assessment
September 2015	Expert meeting (Barbados) to assess the opportunities for a regional fisheries management organization in the Western Central Atlantic & 1 st meeting of the CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries (between CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC)
December 2015	2 nd WECAFC Strategic Re-orientation Workshop (Trinidad and Tobago) - discusses costs and benefits of 3 options for WECAFC and related governance aspects
January 2016	WECAFC Secretariat prepares a letter to Members and partners with outcomes and recommendations from the workshop
January – February 2016	Additional information paper is prepared, following guidance from the 2 nd WECAFC Strategic Reorientation Workshop
March-May 2016	Members and partners receive and review the information and give a preliminary indication of interest in the options (Yes/No) to the Secretariat before the 16 th Session. The positions of the WECAFC Members should be substantiated. The Secretariat will share the information received by the Members.
June 2016	Members review the options at the 16 th Session and agree/not agree to a transformation into an RFMO within or outside FAO or, to remain an Article VI body within FAO.

	A roadmap outlining the steps and timeframe for the process of change of WECAFC will be discussed.
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Option 1 – WECAFC remains an FAO Article VI Regional Fishery Body

July 2016 onwards	WECAFC continues to collaborate with CRFM and OSPESCA, now formalized through the CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries, set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding
2016-2017	Implementation of the agreed Programme of Work 2016-2017
November 2017	8 th session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC
March 2018	17 th session of WECAFC

Option 2– WECAFC transforms into an FAO Article XIV Statutory Body and becomes an RFMO

July 2016	If there would be (informal) consensus on the way forward under option 2, then one Member on behalf of the Members attending the 16 th session, submits a request to FAO expressing the desire to establish the RFMO and that FAO support the process to this effect
July 2016 onwards	WECAFC continues to collaborate with CRFM and OSPESCA, now formalized through an MoU as e CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries
August 2016	Report of the 16 th session is sent to all WECAFC Members and partners/observers
2016-2017	Implementation of the agreed Programme of Work 2016-2017
September 2016	The WECAFC Secretariat submits a project proposal for shared funding of the transition process to potential donors
Sept 2016	FAO formally informs the WECAFC members of the request for establishment of an Article XIV RFMO and, when it enters into force the abolition of WECAFC as Article VI RFB
Sept 2016 – November 2016 and onwards	FAO prepares the draft documents for the Special Session of WECAFC/1 st Preparatory Meeting and assists in reviewing the documents in the negotiation process.
December 2016	Special Session of WECAFC/1 st Preparatory Meeting to draft and negotiate the: - Agreement - Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations, including the Scheme and scale of contributions to the administrative/autonomous budget of the RFMO, to be adopted by the Article XIV body after its entry into force
June 2017	Special Session of WECAFC/2 nd Preparatory Meeting to further negotiate and finalize/preliminarily endorse the: - Agreement - Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations, Budget for the 1 st financial period of the RFMO, Scheme and scale of contributions to the administrative/autonomous budget of the RFMO, 1 st Programme of Work of the RFMO, and proposals for establishment of sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies.
November 2017	8 th session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC
Dec 2017	One member on behalf of the Members attending the 2 nd Preparatory Meeting, and after having reached informal consensus, submits the final Agreement to the Director General of FAO and requests the Organization to review and endorse it at the appropriate levels

March 2018	17 th Session of WECAFC – an update on the status of the process is provided to the Members
June 2018	The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) of FAO reviews the proposed Agreement and passes it to the FAO Council or FAO Conference for endorsement. All WECAFC Members are Member of the FAO Conference, and some of the FAO Council. In either of the two the decision to abolish WECAFC as an Article VI body, and establish as an Article XIV body is made. The abolition would take effect upon entry into force of the Article XIV body.
Sept 2018	The FAO Director General notifies the WECAFC Members of the endorsement of the Agreement and invites them to become Member of the Commission through depositing an “instrument of acceptance” of the agreement. It is also possible to have a provisional entering into force upon signature. Members will decide on the approach.
Oct 2018/ 2021	The Members follow internal processes of ministerial/cabinet approval of the Agreement and inform the WECAFC Secretariat on progress made
Oct 2019/2021	Inaugural Session of the new RFMO/Final session of WECAFC as Article VI body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The inaugural session can be organized after a minimum number of members have accepted the agreement – (for instance 7 Members, as will be determined in the Agreement) - Those WECAFC Members that have not accepted the agreement by this session will participate as observers in the RFMO sessions until they accept the agreement - The CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries will be dissolved.

Option 3 – WECAFC is dissolved and a new IGO RFMO outside will be established

July 2016	One Member on behalf of the Members attending the 16 th session, submits a request to FAO expressing the desire to establish an IGO RFMO to replace WECAFC and that FAO continues supporting WECAFC (as currently is the case) until the new IGO has been formally established.
July 2016 - July 2017	WECAFC continues to collaborate with CRFM and OSPESCA, now formalized through the CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries
August 2016	Report of the 16 th session is sent to all Members and partners/observers
2016-2017	Implementation of the agreed Programme of Work 2016-2017
September 2016	One of the WECAFC Members assumes a leading role and sets-up a task force with potential members to seek funding for the establishment process of the IGO, including organization of preparatory meetings and drafting of the necessary documentation
Sept 2016	FAO formally informs the WECAFC Members of the request for abolition of WECAFC as Article VI RFB
2017	One Member calls for the 1 st Preparatory Meeting to prepare and negotiate the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention - Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations, including the Scheme and scale of contributions to the administrative/autonomous budget of the RFMO, to be adopted by the IGO after its Convention enters into force
June 2017	The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) of FAO reviews the request for abolition of WECAFC, endorses a resolution to this effect and passes it to the FAO Council or FAO Conference for adoption. All WECAFC Members are Member of the FAO Conference, and some of the FAO Council. In either of the two (Council/Conference) the decision to abolish WECAFC can be adopted. The abolition would take effect upon entry into force of the IGO RFMO. In the meantime, no further sessions of the WECAFC or its SAG sessions would be held anymore.
July 2017	The CLME+ SAP interim- mechanism for sustainable fisheries will be amended to exclude WECAFC as party and allow entry to the Task-force/arrangement that is coordinating the establishment of the IGO. This step needs further clarification/decision by the Members.
2018	One member calls for the 2 nd Preparatory Meeting to further negotiate and finalize/preliminary endorse the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention and depositary - Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations, Budget for the 1st financial period of the RFMO, Scheme and scale of contributions to the administrative/autonomous budget of the RFMO, 1st Programme of Work of the RFMO, and proposals for establishment of sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies.
2019	The depositary of the new Convention notifies the potential Members of the Agreement and invites them to become Member of the Commission through depositing an “instrument of acceptance”/ratification of the Convention
2020	The members follow internal processes of ministerial/cabinet approval of the Convention and inform the depositary in a timely manner
2021/2023	Inaugural Session of the new IGO RFMO