



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

## WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

### SIXTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, 3 November 2013

#### Intersessional activities – review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2012-2013

#### Introduction

1. This document provides brief information on the intersessional activities of the Commission and FAO in the WECAFC area. The document needs to be read in conjunction with WECAFC/SAG/VI/2013/inf.3: Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission (Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1000) and particularly its appendix F.
2. The work of the Commission was largely (approximate 75%) conducted as planned in the approved WECAFC Work Programme 2012-2013.
3. The approved Work Programme of WECAFC, was subject to obtaining the required extra-budgetary funding support. Consequently, some of the earlier foreseen activities have not been carried out.

#### Review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2012 - 2013

4. Under work programme component 1 “Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments”, a range of activities has been undertaken. These activities included:
5. Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines (activity 1.1), through region-wide dissemination of the report of the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean (FAO fisheries and aquaculture report No. 999).
6. Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA) (activity 1.2), through organization of sustainable governance meetings with fisherfolk and their organizations in Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, Guyana, St Vincent & The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) provided the technical and logistical assistance to these meetings. In total more than 300 fisherfolk participated in the meetings, awareness raising and training sessions.

7. Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members (Activity 1.3) was provided under various Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects in Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica, Colombia, Perú, México, Bolivia and Paraguay as well as at regional level to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in their independent performance review and strategic planning process.
8. Development of NPOAs – Sharks (in 2008–2009 work Programme F1) (Activity 1.4). This activity received some attention in Antigua and Barbuda, where FAO, in collaboration with CNFO and the Fisheries Division, carried out a shark assessment and prepared identification guides and forms. The work has so far not resulted in the preparation at national level of National Plans of Action (NPOAs) on Sharks in the Caribbean. Activities on this subject has been limited in the intersession period as not any formal requests were received for assistance in this subject from any of the WECAFC members. Consequently, funding available to assist countries on this subject has been lost.
9. Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members (activity 1.6) received follow-up through formulation of a GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) with the title “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries” (REBYC-II LAC). This future GEF project will assist: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.
10. Improve the management of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region (activity 1.7) received generous support from the **WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**. The Working Group which is composed of 55 experts from 17 WECAFC member countries organized with support from The Billfish Foundation, International Game Fish Association and the World Bank two expert workshops. Other RFBs, including ICCAT, OSPESCA, CFMC and CRFM as well as ICES and GCFI collaborated actively in this Working Group.
  - The Expert Workshop on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing – the Caribbean, a Beginning, was held in Santa Marta, Colombia on 4 November 2012: it developed an economic impact assessment methodology for recreational fisheries, which has been tested in Bonaire and Trinidad and Tobago.
  - The 1st Workshop on the preparation of a billfish management and conservation plan for the Western Central Atlantic, was held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on 19-20 March 2013: it worked on the GEF/ World Bank pilot project proposal on the “Introduction of billfish management and conservation in the Western Central Atlantic Region”, the Establishment of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) and a draft structure of the billfish management and conservation plan for the Western Central Atlantic.
11. Under work programme Component 2: “Support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture”, the following activities were undertaken.
12. Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations (Activity 2.1), received attention through financing the participation of CNFO members at GCFI and through FAO TCP assistance to St. Kitts and

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Nevis. Moreover, representatives of fisherfolk organizations were invited to participate and benefit from most of the WECAFC and FAO fisheries carried out activities in the region.

13. Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean (Activity 2.2) received follow-up in the form of development of a project proposal with the title “Investment planning study for the establishment of a Regional hatchery for native shellfish species”, which was presented formally for funding to the Caribbean Development Bank. Unfortunately, the project did not obtain approval from the bank. Moreover, a diagnostic of the contribution of small scale fisheries and aquaculture to food security and family income in Central America was undertaken and an analysis of the political instruments related to smallscale aquaculture in Central America and Panama.
14. Support to the development process of the international Guidelines on securing sustainable small scale fisheries (Activity 2.3), received significant attention in the region. In partnership between FAO, CRFM and WECAFC a Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries took place in Kingston, Jamaica, on 6–8 December June 2012. It brought together more than 60 representatives from government, regional organizations, academia and civil society to further discuss structure, overall considerations and thematic coverage of the future SSF Guidelines. Advice was given concerning next steps and additional activities in the SSF Guidelines development process and implementation based on the experiences of the Caribbean region. Moreover, the 65<sup>th</sup> GCFI session, Santa Martha, Colombia, November 2012, organized a special session on small-scale fisheries in which the draft Guidelines were presented to more than 250 persons.
15. In addition, FAO organized in the WECAFC region two regional technical workshops to raise awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (“Guidelines”). These region workshops were held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 19 to 21 June 2013 and in Bogota, Colombia from 16 to 18 September 2013. The guidelines and their implementation should be considered by the countries in the region in close coordination with the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
16. Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities (Activity 2.4) did receive attention in the WECAFC region from various FAO projects, including the “Activation of services and consolidation of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas (RAA) Trust Fund Project (GCP/RLA/190/BRA) under the Brazil-FAO Cooperation Programme, as well as through regular program funds in the following countries: Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay.
17. Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures (Activity 2.5) benefited from TCP facility project “Assessment of the fisheries infrastructure and capacity building needs in the fish supply chain and fish inspection system in Barbados” (TCP/BAR/3301).
18. Under Component 3 “Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest” the following activities were undertaken.
19. Strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean (Activity 3.1) was undertaken in close collaboration with regional partners. A regional workshop on “Formulation of a strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region” was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on December 10-12,

2012. The workshop was organized by CRFM and FAO, in collaboration with the government of Jamaica, CDEMA, CCCCC, WECAFC and CERMES with the support from the Government of Sweden and the Government of Japan. The workshop brought together sixty-eight local, national and regional stakeholders from fisheries, aquaculture, disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA).
20. A regional project was developed for funding by the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). This project, with the title “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector” was developed in close collaboration with CARIBSAVE, CRFM and UWI/CERMES and is intended to benefit the following 7 Caribbean SIDS: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. GEF National Focal Point endorsement letters were received in 2012 from all 7 countries. The Project Identification Form (PIF) was submitted to the GEF secretariat in January 2013.
  21. Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (Activity 3.2) was carried out jointly with CRFM as part of the Strategic Planning process of CRFM for the period (2013 – 2021). FAO TCP assistance under project TCP/SLC/3401 component 2 “Independent review of CRFM and preparation of a new strategic plan” provided specific guidance, but did not include work on the draft protocols in support of implementation of the Policy, as such assistance was not requested.
  22. Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries (in 2008-2009 work programme A) (Activity 3.3) received significant attention from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). A case study on shared stocks of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guianas-Brazil shelf was undertaken by FAO, in collaboration with CANARI, CERMES and CRFM. The aim of the case study was to mainstream the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in the management of shrimp and ground fish fisheries of six participating countries/territories: Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, French Guyana and Brazil. National consultations were held in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil and a regional workshop was held in Port of Spain, 16-18 October 2012. The Case study findings were used in the CLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the CLME, which was endorsed by the countries in the region in 2013, contains a number of Strategies, including Strategy 6 “Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery”. WECAFC-FAO has been assigned a major role by the countries to develop with partners a sub-regional arrangement for the management of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries, and establish a decision-making capacity for policy formulation and management, as well as carry out other actions under this Strategy 6.
  23. Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (in 2008-2009 work programme B) (Activity 3.4) received inputs from the CLME project as well, under a case study led by OSPESCA. The CLME SAP Sub-Strategy 4A “Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries” provides a list of short and medium term actions for FAO-WECAFC, UNEP-CEP, OSPESCA, CRFM and their member countries in this respect. The OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC joint Working Group on Spiny Lobster, established by the 14<sup>th</sup> session of WECAFC initiated its activities in 2013 with a regional study. The study was coordinated by FAO and involved expertise from CRFM and the member countries. The Working Group obtained kind support from NOAA for a regional “Workshop on the Stock Assessment and Management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panilurus argus*) in the Western Central Atlantic”, which is scheduled to take place in Panama City, Panama, on 3-5 December 2013. Technical

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assistance is currently being provided to the government of Nicaragua regarding an overall plan for the elimination of hooka diving in the spiny lobster fishery in the country. An assistance agreement within the framework of South-South Cooperation is being implemented between FAO, the Government of Mexico and the Government of Nicaragua through which Nicaraguan fishermen will travel to Mexico to gather experience in safer lobster capture methods. Moreover, in the intersessional period FAO assisted with Regular programme funds the Government of Honduras with the development of an action plan for phasing out lobster scuba diving.

24. Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (in 2008-2009 work programme C) was contributed to by the joint CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean. This Working Group, convened by CRFM, held its first meeting in June 18-19, 2012, and the meeting report has been published as a CRFM technical and Advisory Document. The main tasks completed during the Meeting were:
  - An update of the sub-regional fisheries management plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean
  - A discussion on the national consultation process for review of the sub-regional fisheries management plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean
  - Drafting of a resolution on the Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for the flyingfish fishery in the Eastern Caribbean to be presented to the Ministerial Sub-committee on flyingfish
  - Discussion of and agreement on an inter-sessional workplan.
  
25. The Draft 2012 Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, which was prepared with support from the CLME project and was based on earlier work by FAO, CERMES and the countries, has been undergoing a national consultation process in the relevant WECAFC member countries. Its sub-regional endorsement has however been held up by delayed review processes in Barbados. The approved CLME SAP contains a specific Sub-Strategy 5A 'Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries' and CRFM has been assigned the lead role, while WECAFC would support the actions under this sub-strategy.
  
26. Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore FADs (in 2008-2009 work programme D). The IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles was active in the inter-sessional period. The working group has progressed along the lines of its mandate, with the launch of the multidisciplinary MAGDALESA project in late 2011 and the participation in the JICA-CRFM workshop for the launching of the CARIFICO project. Progress has been made on the FAD design for a greater life span and compliance with navigation rules. Blackfin tuna management improvements have been the focus (literature surveys, genetic studies, reproduction etc...) as it is the most promising species in FADs fishing and could, if necessary, replace other FADs species. Experimental FADs fishing for reducing juveniles catches and selecting fishing techniques that preserve protected species have been undertaken. With the CRFM support, the inclusion of FADs fisheries in national statistics has been suggested. The French Antilles and Dominica have been testing a fleet approach, in order to have an overview of all the trade strategies developed in fishing industries.
  
27. One of the preliminary conclusions is that most FADs fisherfolk of some of the islands also fish on the continental shelf and therefore add to the catch of already heavily exploited resources. The preliminary results on the study on products quality suggest that fish conservation is not optimal when the fish are not bled soon after being caught. Two

meetings are scheduled in the coming months, the first one with CARIFICO and MAGDALESA teams in December, and the second one for the MAGDALESA closing meeting in March 2014. Both meetings are expected to provide lists of advice and recommendations to professionals and developers in the FADs fishing sector. This information will be on the MAGDALESA project website (<http://www.magdelesa.eu/> and <http://en.magdelesa.eu/>), developed at the request of WECAFC for facilitating communication among countries in the region.

28. Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean (in 2008-2009 work programme E) (Activity 3.7). A First Meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch was held during 23-25 October 2012 in Panama City. The meeting, which was co-organized by Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC) of the United States of America, Aquatic Resources Agency of Panama (ARAP) and WECAFC had the following aims: (i) to review and endorse the report of the meeting of queen conch experts held in Miami in May 2012, as well as the recommendations made by that meeting; (ii) to review the present situation of queen conch management in the region via country presentations and presentations from CRFM, OSPESCA, and CITES, and how this would relate to current preparations for CITES. The meeting discussed a proposal put forward by Colombia for consideration of developments within the region; (iii) to formulate a regional declaration on queen conch that would take into account the results of (i) and (ii) and guide the way forward.
29. The meeting adoption of the Declaration of Panama City on further improving the management and conservation of the queen conch resource in the Wider Caribbean Region; and a draft decision to support the proposal by Colombia submitted to CITES to inform that body of recent activities and achievements in regional cooperation on the management and trade of queen conch. The WECAFC Secretariat ensured continuous updates on the issue and effective collaboration between the stakeholders involved. This resulted at the 16th Conference of Parties of CITES in global level appreciation for the work of the Working Group and endorsement of the draft decisions prepared. A major step forward was made by the countries in the Caribbean to conserve and manage this important regional resource of Queen Conch –*Strombus gigas*. Harmonization of Queen Conch processing conversion factors in the region is continuing with support from FAO Headquarters.
30. Moreover, in the intersessional period the CLME project' SAP development process led to a Sub-Strategy 4B "Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for the queen conch fisheries" in the approved SAP. FAO-WECAFC, UNEP-CEP, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, CITES were assigned major roles in the implementation of that strategy.
31. Reactivation of the CFMC/WECAFC Nassau Grouper Working Group (Activity 3.8) took place through establishment of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations, with clear Terms of Reference, at the 14th session of WECAFC. The Working Group was convened by CFMC and organized a first meeting in Miami in the period 29-31 October 2013. The recommendations from this Working Group will be passed to the SAG for consideration.
32. The Terms of References of the various joint Working Groups can be found in Annex A to this document.
33. Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies (Activity 3.9). In the intersessional period the WECAFC Secretariat ensured sharing of important information between the members of the commission and with other regional partners (OSPESCA, CRFM, CLME, CNFO, RAA, OLDEPESCA, ICCAT, UWI/CERMES, ACP Fish II, etc) and

NGOs such as PEW, IGFA, TBF, CANARI and GCFI. Frequent and timely communications were provided in English and sometimes also in Spanish language. Participation in regional events increased the visibility of WECAFC in the region among sectoral stakeholders and those of other sectors. Participation in the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) ensured exchange of important information and lessons learned with other RFBs.

34. Under Component 4 “Manage the work programme and carry-out a strategic reorientation of the functions and mandate of the Commission” the following activities were undertaken.
35. The organization of the fourteenth session of the Commission in 2012 and the 6<sup>th</sup> SAG meeting in 2013 (Activities 4.1 and 4.2) has been carried out successfully and the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> session was prepared and send to all members. Recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> session have received followed-up from the Secretariat and many of the WECAFC members.
36. The preparation for the organization of the fifteenth session of the Commission in 2014 (Activity 4.3) started in December 2012. Formal confirmation from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago regarding hosting the session was obtained in September 2013 and in close collaboration with the Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago the session is being prepared for.
37. The WECAFC priority setting and work planning workshop in 2013 (Activity 4.4), although requested formally by 12 members of the Commission in February 2012 could not be organized in 2013 as no funding was available within FAO for this activity. WECAFC member support for the organization of a meeting that would cover this activity and activity 4.5, was requested but did not materialize in 2013.
38. Various efforts were made by the WECAFC Secretariat towards the Strategic reorientation of WECAFC (Activity 4.5) in 2012 and 2013. These efforts succeeded a formal request for FAO TCP assistance in support of strategic reorientation and adaptation of the Commission, made at the 14<sup>th</sup> session. Unfortunately, the request was not considered a priority by FAO management and the formulated project did not receive the required funding.

## Projects

39. A number of FAO projects have been carried out in the WECAFC region in the period 2012 - 2013. The most notable projects are described in summary below.

### (sub) Regional TCP projects

- Establecimiento de un Programa de Cooperación para el Manejo Sostenible de las Pesquerías Fluviales en los Tramos Limítrofes de los Ríos Paraná y Paraguay. (TCP/RLA/3302).

### Regional TCP facility projects

- Independent review of CRFM and preparation of a new strategic plan (TCP/SLC/3401 component 2)

### National level TCP and TCP facility projects

#### Antigua and Barbuda

- Fisheries Component - Zero Hunger Challenge (TCP/ANT/3401 facility component 2)

**Bahamas**

- Strengthening Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance in the Bahamas (TCP formulated in 2013 for starting in 2014)

**Barbados**

- Assessment of the fisheries infrastructure and capacity building needs in the fish supply chain and fish inspection system in Barbados (TCP/BAR/3301 facility component 2).

**Belize**

- Review and validation of draft fisheries regulations for Belize (TCP/BZE/3401 facility component 2)

**Colombia**

- Apoyo Técnico y estratégico de la FAO al Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural en la formulación e implementación del Plan de Desarrollo Agropecuario y pesquero de la Región de La Mojana en Colombia (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1)
- Soporte técnico a la Gobernación SAN ANDRES para implementación de estrategia integral de SAN, y la formulación participativa de un plan para el desarrollo agrícola y la pesca artesanal en el Archipiélago de San Andrés y Providencia. (TCP/COL/3401 facility component 1)
- Assistance to the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority of Colombia in the formulation of the National Sustainable Aquaculture Development Plan

**Cuba**

- Desarrollo del Programa Nacional sobre Genética para peces de agua dulce (TCP formulated in 2013 for starting in 2014)

**Dominica**

- Assistance to improve disaster risk management capacities in agricultural sectors (Phase II of TCP/DMI/3203)

**Dominican Republic**

- Asistencia para la formulación de una propuesta de desarrollo pesquero-acuicola del Lago Enriquillo (TCP/DOM/3401 facility)

**Guyana**

- Development of a Policy and a Strategic Plan for Inland Fisheries in Guyana, (TCP/GUY/3301).
- Assistance in support of Building Capacity in Agro-Processing and Upgrading of Fisheries Studies programme at the Guyana School of Agriculture (TCP/GUY/3401 facility component 3)

**Jamaica**

- Formulation of an aquaculture development plan for Jamaica (TCP/JAM/3301).

**Nicaragua**

- Technical assistance for the implementation of a Strategy for artisanal fisheries development in the RAAN (TCP/NIC/3305).

**Panama**



- Intervención piloto para la elaboración y validación de una propuesta de asistencia técnica integral dirigida a la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en las comarcas indígenas Gunayala y Ngäbe Buglé de Panamá (TCP/PAN/3401).

#### **St. Kitts and Nevis**

- Strengthening Fisherfolk Organizations in St. Kitts and Nevis (TCP/STK/3401 facility component 1)

#### **St Lucia**

- Strengthening the National Standards and Certification System for Major Agricultural Products in St Lucia (TCP/STL/3401 facility component 2) – includes aquaculture code of practice
- Enhanced capacities for disaster risk mitigation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. (TCP/STL/3202).

#### **Suriname**

- Strengthening Aquatic Animal Health Protection Systems in Suriname (TCP/SUR/3401).

#### **Venezuela**

- Fortalecimiento de Capacidades Nacionales para la ejecución de proyectos de acuicultura en zonas urbanas y periurbanas en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela (TCP/VEN/3301 facility component 2)

### **Regional and National level Trust Fund activities supported by FAO**

#### **Regional**

- Activación de los servicios y consolidación de la Red de Acuicultura de las Américas (RAA) (GCP/RLA/190/BRA) The beneficiary/signatory countries of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas are: Argentina, Brasil, Bolívia, Colômbia Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.
- FAO participated actively in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project of GEF.
- Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC). The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) of this GEF International Waters project was approved in September 2013. The Full project document is being worked on. The project beneficiary countries include: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

#### **Brazil**

- Increasing the national aquaculture competitiveness (UTF/BRA/084)

#### **Colombia**

- Support to institutional strengthening of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority of Colombia (UTF/COL/041)

#### **Haiti**

- Initiative OMD - programme d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire en Haiti (GCP/HAI/030/EC) – includes some fisheries and aquaculture activities

### **Mexico**

- Assistance to the Government of Campeche, Mexico in the formulation of the State Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy (UTF/MEX/099)

### **Trinidad**

- 'Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago'. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved in June 2012 the concept note of this project, which contains a Marine Protected area component. The project document for the full project was developed in 2013.

### **Global Trust Fund Projects with relevance to the WECAFC region and WECAFC membership**

- Various WECAFC members have supported FAO fisheries projects in the WECAFC region and at global level.
- The **Government of France** is financing a global project on "Development of a data base on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems of the high seas", 2011 -2014 (GCP/GLO/309/FRA).
- The **Government of Spain** is financing a national programme for food security in Nicaragua, which includes various fisheries/aquaculture activities. Ampliación del Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA) en la Zona Seca de Nicaragua (GCSP/NIC/027/SPA).
- The **Government of Japan** has been financing various global FAO programmes and projects in recent years, of which some are of relevance to the fisheries sector in the WECAFC area. Those with most relevance are the following:
  - Project "Promotion of sustainable fisheries: support for strengthening functions of and coordination among Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)/ Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)", 2008 -2012 (GCP/INT/069/JPN), supported amongst others the development of the Regional Fishery Body Network (RSN) in which the WECAFC Secretary participates.
  - Project "Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context", 2009 -2014, (GCP/INT/253/JPN), included two focus areas with activities of interested for the WECAFC region.
- The **European Union** is supporting the global project on Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN) (GCP /GLO/363/EC), which incorporates various WECAFC members.

### **Regional and National level activities in the WECAFC region supported by the FAO Regular Programme**

40. The FAO regular programme financially and technically supported the following fisheries and aquaculture activities and events in the WECAFC member countries:
  - CNFO sustainable governance meetings with fisherfolk and their organizations in Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, Guyana, St Vincent & The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.
  - A review of current fisheries management performance and conservation measures in the WECAFC region (carried out in collaboration with CRFM).

- Preparation of a special session on recreational fisheries governance for the 7th World Recreational Fisheries Conference (WRFC) and background paper preparation.
- Annual compilation of catch statistics for area 31 (WECAFC) and dissemination to the member states.
- Organization of a special session on small-scale fisheries at the 65th GCFI session, Santa Martha, Colombia, November 2012.
- Regional workshop on national resource-limited aquaculture farmers policies. Guayaquil, Ecuador, May, 2013.
- Sub-regional workshop on the impact of national political instruments on the development of small-scale aquaculture in the Centralamerican countries, 17-18 septembre 2012, Panamá City, Panama.
- Subregional workshop with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Authorities: Creating a Regional Agenda for sustainable development of aquaculture and fisheries in Centralamerica.
- Assistance provision to OSPESCA members to better design and manage their national fishing vessel registries, and to further integrate the national registries from OSPESCA members into an integrated fishing vessels registry (as today's SICA).

#### **Some FAO Publications with relevance for WECAFC and its membership**

41. In the last few years a number of FAO publications and joint publications with partners of relevance to the WECAFC members have been published. These include the following:

- Report of the FAO/CRFM/WECAFC Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, Kingston, Jamaica, 6–8 December 2012. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1033. Rome, FAO. 2013.
- Report of the first meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, Panama City, Panama, 23–25 October 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1029. Bridgetown, Barbados. FAO. 2013.
- Report of the fourteenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Panama City, Panama, 6-9 February 2012. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1000. FAO, Bridgetown, Barbados. 2012.
- Report of the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean: Achieving Improved Fisheries Management and Utilization in the Wider Caribbean Region, Bridgetown, Barbados, 6–9 December 2011. Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 999. FAO, Bridgetown, Barbados. 2012.
- Report of the Final Regional Workshop: case study on shared stocks of the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guiana's-Brazil shelf, Port-of-Spain, 16-18 October 2012, CLME Case Study on shrimp and groundfish - Report. No.10, Rome, FAO. 2012. 25p.

- Report of the First Meeting of the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, 18 – 19 June 2012, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, CRFM Technical & Advisory Document - Number 2012 / 12.
- Flores-Nava, A. 2012. Diagnóstico Regional de la acuicultura de recursos limitados y la Acuicultura de la micro y pequeña empresa en América Latina. Serie Acuicultura y Pesca en Latinoamérica No. 7. FAO- Santiago, Chile. 26p.
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- Informe del Taller sobre Impacto de Instrumentos Políticos Nacionales en el Desarrollo de la Acuicultura de Pequeña Escala en los Países Centroamericanos. 17-18 de septiembre 2012, Ciudad de Panamá, PANAMÁ.
- Informe de la Reunión Regional de las Autoridades Pesqueras y de Acuicultura: Construyendo la Agenda Regional para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Acuicultura y la Pesca en Centroamérica.

#### **Suggested Action by the SAG**

42. The SAG is invited to review the inter-sessional activities and progress made on the implementation of the Work Programme for 2012–2013.
43. Particularly, the SAG is requested to:
  - 1) Identify trends and emerging issues from the intersessional work that should be addressed by the Commission in its next session.
  - 2) Identify specific regional activities and conferences for 2014 and 2015 in which WECAFC as Commission or its Working Groups should be involved in
  - 3) Advice on the maintenance, abolition or establishment of WECAFC Working Groups and Committees.
  - 4) Review the current Terms of References of the Working Groups (see Annex A) and recommend modifications to these TORs con consideration by the conveners and the 15<sup>th</sup> Session.
44. SAG members are requested to take into account the limited resources (financial and human) which are presently available to the WECAFC Secretariat. They are invited to consider volunteering their support, in-kind and/or financially, to specific activities of the various Working Groups and other activities under the proposed Work Programme or to other activities that they wish to include in the programme. This might also galvanize additional support where needed.

### Terms of References of the Working Groups

#### **OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster**

Convener: John Jorgensen (FAO Subregional Office for Central America)

##### **Terms of Reference**

- Share already available data and information on spiny lobster.
- Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of spiny lobster stocks. Involve the private sector in data collection.
- Monitor changes in distribution of spiny lobster species in the Caribbean
- Compile and analyze data on spiny lobster catch and effort and aquaculture production in the member countries and monitor changes.
- Compile information about the social and economic importance of lobster fisheries.
- Provide management advice and advice on the implementation of regional management regulations on spiny lobster to countries and regional organizations (e.g. OSP-02-09).
- Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the spiny lobster field.
- Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

Define a precise profile of the experts to participate in the Working group to ensure that the right experts participate.

#### **WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**

##### **Terms of Reference**

The working group will aim to further implementation of the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the Wider Caribbean Region.

In particular, the working group will carry out the following tasks in the period 2012–2013:

- Develop an agreed assessment methodology for the socio-economic value of recreational/sports/game fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- Test the assessment methodology in some of the eastern Caribbean/lesser Antilles states.
- Prepare a recreational fisheries data collection scheme, including information forms, for annual reporting by states to FAO (as is done for commercial catches, aquaculture, fisheries employment, fleets and import/export of fisheries products) for testing in the WECAFC region.
- Prepare a draft Billfish management and conservation plan for the Wider Caribbean Region for endorsement by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT.

## **CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch**

Convener: Miguel A. Rolón (FCMC)

### **Terms of Reference**

- Share already available data and information on queen conch.
- Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of queen conch stocks. Involve the private sector in data collection.
- Monitor changes in distribution of queen conch species in the Caribbean
- Compile and analyze data on queen conch catch and effort and aquaculture production in the member countries and monitor changes.
- Compile information about the social and economic importance of queen conch fisheries.
- Provide management advice and advice on the implementation of regional management regulations on queen conch to countries and regional organizations (e.g. OSP-02-09).
- Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the queen conch field.
- Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

Define a precise profile of the experts to participate in the Working Group to ensure that the right experts participate.

## **Terms of Reference for the Lesser Antilles Ad hoc Group on the Sustainable Development of Moored FAD Fishing (FAO, Fisheries Report No. 660)**

Convener: Lionel Reynal (IFREMER)

### **1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

#### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the ad hoc working group is the sustainable development of moored FAD fishing in the Lesser Antilles. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the conservation and management of large pelagic fisheries in the WECAFC Region and related or interacting species or fisheries. The working group will take a multidisciplinary approach to the sustainable development of moored FAD fishing for large pelagics.

#### **1.2 The goal of the Working Group**

The goal of the working group will be to contribute to the sustainable development and management of large pelagic fisheries associated with moored FADs. In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for shared pelagic fish stock management under the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Particular attention will be paid to Article 8.11: “Artificial reef and fish aggregation devices”.

### **1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Large pelagic fish is a shared resource and therefore the TORs may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat and IFREMER, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable development of moored FAD fishing in the Lesser Antilles.

Specifically, the working group would:

- (a) Use the best available scientific information, review periodically and report on the magnitude and state of moored FAD fishing in the Lesser Antilles.
- (b) Promote and facilitate national and regional monitoring and research programmes on FAD fishing, including the harmonization of methodologies.
- (c) Collect data and information on moored FAD fishing which can be used for the large pelagic fisheries assessment and management in the WECAFC Region (e.g. biological, environmental, socio-economic);
- (d) Review periodically the economic and social situation of the moored FAD fishing at national and regional levels;
- (e) Evaluate when necessary the impact of national and regional management measures on the economic and social aspects of these fisheries;
- (f) Integrate moored FAD fishing in national fisheries management plans;
- (g) Formulate projects and programmes as necessary;
- (h) Promote the sharing of information and expertise;
- (i) Promote and co-ordinate acquisition of international aid in support of its activities;
- (j) Promote an extensive exchange of ideas and experiences regarding moored FAD fishing, including appropriate technologies;
- (k) Submit reports on its intersessional activities for consideration by the WECAFC;
- (l) Organize any other relevant studies requested by the Commission; and
- (m) Inform other relevant regional fishery bodies, such as ICCAT of their activities and work.

Initially, the group will focus its attention on the following species associated with FADs due to their importance: yellowfin tuna, wahoo, dolphinfish, bigeye tuna, albacore, bluefin tuna, marlins, swordfish, sharks, kingfish, blackfin tuna, skipjack, barracuda, triggerfish.

### **1.4 Mode of Operation**

#### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the working group will play a leading role in its activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participating in agreed activities of the working group, and ensuring the participation of appropriate experts;
- Implementing, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Playing the role of host country for working group meetings on a rotational (periodic) basis.

It was suggested that countries should commit to the activities of the working group for a period of five years in the first instance.

#### *1.4.2 Role of FAO*

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the working group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training and seek the collaboration of Subregional training institutions, such as IRPM, UWI, UAG and CFTDI, in this regard.

#### *1.4.3 Role of Subregional organisations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS)*

Subregional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing expertise;
- Facilitating funding;
- Collaborating with the WECAFC Secretariat and IFREMER in co-coordinating the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

### **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for ongoing communication among working group members (e.g. internet), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all working group members.

The successful functioning of the working group also requires that each member country identify a national node or focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC and national fishery administrations via the Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

The working group should meet once a year or every two years. The meetings should be of 3–5 days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities.



## **CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean**

Conveners: CRFM/WECAFC

### **Terms of Reference**

- Update and finalize the draft Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, taking into account the need to develop an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) management and climate change issues.
- Establish and commence improved monitoring of fishery performance trends, consistent with agreed management objectives for the operation of the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish fishery.
- Monitor and advise on the implementation of the agreed Fisheries Management Plan.
- Provide advice on the status of the fishery and its management to the CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and to WECAFC.
- Take other necessary actions on emerging issues pertaining to the sustainable use of Eastern Caribbean flyingfish.

## **WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries**

### **Terms of Reference**

**Background and justification:** Deep-sea fisheries in the high seas are those where the total catch includes species that can only sustain low exploitation rates, and that are conducted using fishing gears that either contact or are likely to contact the sea floor during the course of the fishing operations. Eighty-nine percent of the waters in the WECAFC area of competence have a depth of 400 meters or greater. Eighty-six percent of the water surface area has a depth greater than 1000 meters. Fifty-one percent of the WECAFC area is considered high-seas.

The information available about deep sea fish stocks and their catches in the WECAFC area is insignificant. Hardly any data on deep sea fish stocks and catches in the region are collected or reported. The vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the deep sea areas and particularly in the high seas areas in the WECAFC competence area have not been identified. The current gaps in knowledge and information on this subject may have serious effects for the management of stocks and sustainability of fisheries operations in the waters concerned. While in many regions countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) have made efforts to increase knowledge and information on this subject, this is not the case in the WECAFC area.

The 2008 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas provide guidance on management factors ranging from an appropriate regulatory framework to the components of good data collection programs and include the identification of key management considerations and measures necessary to ensure conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats.

Making a joint effort towards implementation of these internationally accepted voluntary guidelines in is highly necessary the WECAFC region.

**Objective:** To inform and provide guidance for the management of deep-sea fisheries by WECAFC members in such a manner as to promote responsible fisheries that provide economic opportunities while ensuring the conservation of marine living resources and the protection of marine biodiversity and to facilitate the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

**Tasks:** The work of the Working Group will be guided by the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries of the High-seas and in particular will address the following aspects:

- Collect and review of existing (past and present) data and information on the deep-sea fisheries in the WECAFC area, in addition to identifying the potential of such fisheries in the region.
- Meet and analyse the data and information collected and make recommendations for the sustainability of the deep-sea fisheries in the WECAFC region.
- Identify priority areas for future work and international funding and support for the work identified.
- Organize a Regional Workshop towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks in the Western Central Atlantic in 2013 to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the working group, and to obtain inputs from the WECAFC members.
- Report to the Commission at its next meeting, its conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

### **CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations**

Convener: Miguel Rolón (CFMC)

#### **Terms of Reference**

The working group will carry out the following tasks:

- Compile and analyze data on spawning aggregations in the member countries and monitor any changes.
- Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance in the monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for management for protection and conservation of spawning aggregations.
- Provide advice on the management and implementation of regional strategies and regulations to protect spawning aggregations.
- Report to the appropriate institutions at each session.