



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the Expert Workshop on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing – the Caribbean, a Beginning.

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. The Workshop was co-organized by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and The Billfish Foundation (TBF). The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) facilitated the workshop arrangements. The workshop was attended by experts from 8 countries and territories as well as Working Group founding- and partner institutions¹.

The workshop was the first major activity of the joint WECAFC, Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) Working Group on Recreational Fisheries. This joint Working Group was established by the 14th session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), held in Panama City, 6 -9 February 2012, in recognition of the increasing importance of recreational fisheries in the sustainable development and management of fisheries the Caribbean region.

The members of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries:

Appreciate the work carried out by Rob Southwick and Brad Gentner in the drafting process of a manual on economic impact assessment of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Consider the manual a very useful tool for assessing the level of expenditures and associated economic impacts related to recreational fishing in the region, which application will a) increase awareness and understanding among decision makers and the general public about the economic

¹ Participating experts were from the following countries and territories: Caribbean Netherlands, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France (Martinique), Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America (including Puerto Rico) and Venezuela. CRFM, CFMC, TBF, ICCAT, IGFA, GCFI, World Bank and FAO were represented as well.

importance of recreational fisheries to their countries and b) help fisheries managers contribute better to public policy discussions affecting fisheries management, conservation and economic policy.

Agree to test the manual on economic impact assessment of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region, in the following countries and territories: Caribbean Netherlands, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Agree that the manual on economic impact assessment of recreational fisheries in the Wider Caribbean Region is finalized (after testing) for immediate implementation by Working Group members and partners and for regional wide endorsement in 2014 by the 15th session of WECAFC.

Solicit to FAO/WECAFC and TBF to finalize the manual and publish it in (English, Spanish and French versions) in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular Series for regional dissemination, as well as make it available on-line.

Endorse the Work Plan for (2012 - 2013) of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries.

Welcome the initiatives of the World Bank and its upcoming Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on “Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation - Models for Innovation and Reform”.

Agree to take part actively in the World Bank/GEF pilot project on “Introduction of billfish management and conservation in the Western Central Atlantic Region”. This includes a multitude of strategies, such as Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, allocation schemes, rights based management, time-area closures, protecting spawning grounds and promoting economic efficiency while achieving conservation goals. The Working Group requests the WECAFC Secretariat to take a leadership/coordinating role in the further development and implementation of this pilot project in the region.

Gratefully accept the offer from TBF to provide expert assistance to the drafting process of the “Billfish management and conservation plan for the Wider Caribbean Region” and the offers from TBF and IGFA to host and support the first two expert workshops in the drafting process starting in January 2013 with a first workshop in Florida.

Recommend that a similar Working Group approach be adopted for the development of a dolphin fish conservation and management plan for the Wider Caribbean Region.

Take note of the organization of the 7th World Recreational Fishing Conference (7WRFC), scheduled to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 at the State University of Campinas (São Paulo State, Brazil), and recognize the opportunities for awareness raising on and promotion of the work of the joint Working Group.

Solicit the WECAFC Secretariat to present a request to the 15th session of WECAFC to formally endorse the inclusion of the acronyms/names of partner organizations in the title of the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries; extending the partnership further into a consortium.