

October 2008



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC) Thirteenth Session
WECAFC LESSER ANTILLES FISHERIES COMMITTEE Tenth Session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 21–24 October 2008
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NASSAU GROUPER
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 20–21 October 2008
INFORMATION NOTE

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Thirteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the Tenth Session of the WECAFC Lesser Antilles Fisheries Committee will be held at **Hotel Caribe**, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 21 to 24 October 2008. The session will commence at 1400 hours on Tuesday, 21 October and followed by the Opening Ceremony at 1800 hours.
2. The proposed working hours of the Sessions will be from 09.00 to 12.00 hours and from 14.00 to 17.00 hours, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting.

WORKING LANGUAGES

3. The Sessions will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. The documentation will also be issued in English, French and Spanish.

DOCUMENTATION

4. The meeting documents will be posted periodically on the WECAFC website, as they become available. Participants, who are not able to access the website, should inform the FAO Subregional Office and the meeting documents will be sent to them via E-mail. Please check the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Home Page www.fao.org/fi under Regional Fishery Bodies, click on WECAFC and then navigate to meetings.
5. Participants are being requested to travel with all background documents as copies of these documents will not be provided at the session.

CORRESPONDENCE

6. All correspondence concerning the sessions should be addressed to:

FAO SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN (SLC)

2nd Floor, United Nations House
Marine Gardens
Hastings, Christ Church BB 11000/
P.O. Box 631-C
Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: (246) 426-7110/11
Fax: (246) 427-6075

Mr Bisessar Chakalall
Senior Fishery Officer/Secretary of WECAFC
E-mail: Bisessar.Chakalall@fao.org

OR

Mrs Sonya Thompson
Secretary
E-mail: Sonya.Thompson@fao.org

FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY INTO COLOMBIA

7. A valid passport and return ticket are required for all visitors. Please verify with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country whether an entry visa is required for travel to Colombia. A quick review of one website suggests that citizens of the majority of WECAFC member countries do not require visas to enter Colombia. You should access the following websites for more information: www.learn4good.com/travel/colombia visa.htm and www.colombianconsulate.co.uk/main.html

8. Generally no vaccinations are required. However, the Colombian government recommends yellow fever vaccinations for travellers who may visit areas considered to be endemic for yellow fever.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND BANKING FACILITIES

9. The local currency of Colombia is the peso. The approximate exchange rate, which fluctuates frequently, is 1600 Colombian pesos to US\$1.00. Major credit cards are generally accepted and ATMs are prevalent. The hours of banking are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

10. Taxis are available from the airport. Please note that the approximate taxi rate from the Rafael Nuñez International Airport, Cartagena to Avenida San Martin, where most of the hotels are located, is 14,900 pesos (approximately US\$10).

11. Transportation from the airport will be arranged for participants who inform the National Liaison of their arrival details at least one week in advance.

12. Participants should be aware that there is an airport departure tax of US\$33. Note, however, that if one enters Colombia as a tourist, he/she may be exempt from this tax.

13. When arranging travel, participants should verify whether an airport tax of US\$45 approximately is included in their airticket cost. If not, you will be required to pay this tax upon departure from Rafael Nuñez International.

REGISTRATION AND OPENING CEREMONY

14. Registration for the session will be held on Monday, 20 October (PM) and Tuesday, 21 October (AM) at **Hotel Caribe**. The session will commence at 1400 hours on Tuesday, 21 October and followed by the Opening Ceremony at 1800 hours.

ELECTRICITY

15. Electricity in Colombia is 110 Volts, alternating at 60 cycles per second.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

16. **Hotel Caribe**, the venue for the meeting, is offering both Single and Double room accommodation at a preferential, nightly rate of \$278.000 pesos. These rates include a welcome cocktail and a daily buffet breakfast. However, the rates are subject to a nightly rate of \$4.000 pesos per person for hotel security. Non-nationals are exempt from the 10% VAT charge.

Hotel Caribe

Cartagena de Indias
Bocagrande Cra. 1a. No. 2-87
Tels: (+57 5) 6650155/6650131
Fax: (+57 5) 6654970/6657707
E-mail: mercadeo@hotelcaribe.com
Web: www.hotelcaribe.com

Contact: Neira Lenis Ustate Arregoces

17. There are nearby hotels (3–10 minutes walk to the meeting venue), some offering rates inclusive of breakfast and taxes, where participants can also stay. These hotels are as follows:

Hotel	Contact Information	Single Room per/person (Pesos)	Double Room per/person (Pesos)
San Martin Hotel Bocagrande Cra.2 No. 8-164 35 rooms Contact: Carlos Sanchez Ramirez	Tels: (+57 5) 6654631/6654142/6656884 Fax: (+57 5) 6654631 E-mail: hotelsanmartincartagena@hotmail.com Web: www.hotelsanmartincartagena.com	132.000 Inclusive of tax and breakfast	154.000 Inclusive of tax and breakfast
Hotel Charlotte Bocagrande, Av. San Martín No. 7-126 34 rooms Contact: Hector Carrillo	Tels: (+ 57 1) 6659298/6659365/6654080/6659201 E-mail: cartagena@hotelescharlotte.com Web : www.hotelescharlotte.com	155.000 176.900 (Corp. rate) Subject to tax Includes breakfast	175.000/ 205.000 199.800 (Corp. rate) Subject to tax Includes breakfast
Hotel Playa Frente al Mar Av. San Martín No. 4-87-Bocagrande 80 rooms Contact: Paula Andrea Villadiego	Tels: (+57 5) 6650552/ 6650112/ 6650593 Fax: (+57 5) 665 0036 E-mail: reservas@cartagenahotelplaya.com	89.000 101.000	125.000 143.000
El Dorado Hotel (Torre Andres) Bocagrande Av. San Martín No. 4-41 326 rooms (All-inclusive) Contact: Elsa Rivadeneira Meza	Tels: (57) 5 6656222/6550272/6650211 Fax: (57) 5 6656228/6656225 E-mail: eventos@doradoplaza.com Web: www.doradoplaza.com	169.000	119.000

18. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel and as early as possible. When making reservations, you should inform the hotel that you would be attending the WECAFC Sessions and request the corporate rate, where applicable. The FAO Subregional Office in Barbados, the National Liaison Officer and the FAO Representation in Colombia should also be informed of your hotel reservations, for security reasons. It is recommended that you visit the respective hotel websites before selecting your hotel, since the rates are subject to change.

NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER IN COLOMBIA

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FAO Representation in Colombia

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Fax: +57 1 2103064
E-mail: FAO-CO@fao.org

NOTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION

19. Please remember to notify the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean in Barbados of your participation and to provide us with your E-mail address so that you can be updated regularly regarding arrangements.

II. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NASSAU GROUPER

20. A Regional Workshop on Nassau grouper, which will be coordinated by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) and WECAFC, will be held on 20 and 21 October 2008, prior to the WECAFC Session. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the USA (NMFS) have limited funds to sponsor participation of some of the countries. Countries are being requested to make an application for funding to the CFMC (Miguel Rolón, Executive-Director) with a copy to the WECAFC Secretariat.

Mr Miguel Rolón
Executive-Director
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
268 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577
Tel: (787) 766-5926
Fax: (787) 766-6239
E-mail: miguel_rolon_cfmc@yahoo.com

21. Participants are also being requested to ensure that the national reports on Nassau grouper have been prepared according to the guidelines contained in Annex 1.

Contents for national papers on Nassau Grouper fishery

1 INTRODUCTION

Brief overview of national fisheries, including status of resources, estimate of total landings, number of fishers and contribution to GDP. Economic and social importance.

2 HISTORY OF THE [COUNTRY] NASSAU GROUPE FISHERY

2.1 *Overview of the fishery in [country]*

- Traditional fishery or relatively recent fishery
- Local knowledge and observations on biology, recruitment (aggregations, spawning, anecdotal information, link to moon phases, impacts of coastal pollution)
- Distribution including habitats (provide map)
- Status of Nassau Grouper stocks

2.2 *Fishing locations and season*

Include map of fishing areas and landing sites

2.3 *Fishing methods, vessel type and gear*

2.4 *Socio-economic importance of the Nassau grouper fishery*

Historical and current catch and effort:

- Number of fishers involved
- Number of trips per day/per week
- Total annual harvest (weight/numbers)
- Value of catch
- Trade: Indicate whether the Nassau grouper are used for local consumption, export or both. Indicate value of export, destination country.

3 Historical and current management

3.1 *Management measures*

Indicate the management tools adopted in the Nassau Grouper fishery:

- Closed seasons/areas
- Quotas
- Co-management
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Fishery management regulations/legislation
- etc

3.2 *Management evaluation*

- Success/failure of implemented management measures and reasons
- Suggestions/recommendations for improvement
- Evaluation of methods used to estimate the standing stock before opening the fishing season; indicators used to determine quotas, whether to open or not open the season
 - a. Monitoring program during the season
 - b. Post-evaluation of the season

4 RESEARCH NEEDS AND INFORMATION GAPS

5 APPENDIX 1

- Fishery management plan for Nassau grouper fishery

DRAFT

Nassau Grouper Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Agenda Item

Monday, 20 October 2008

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. National reports
4. Paper on Status of Nassau Grouper in the WECAFC region (to be prepared)

Tuesday, 21 October 2008 AM

5. Group Discussion
6. Plenary
7. Adoption of report
8. Closing of Session