

**WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION
(WECAFC)**

8th SAG SESSION

Merida, Mexico, 3-4 November 2017

**Main decisions and recommendations
of the 32nd session of COFI and the 16th
session of WECAFC**

32nd session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 11–15 June 2016

Para: 141. The Committee appreciated the establishment of new RFMOs/RFBs, such as the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). The Committee reiterated the calls for support to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the Caspian Sea and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and the **Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)** regions.

21 out of 34 WECAFC members attended this COFI session

However, only Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis of the Caribbean SIDS participated.

Some issues of Caribbean interest discussed at COFI 32 include:

- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries implementation
- Entry into Force of the Port State Measures Agreement
- Concern about the state of stocks and IUU fishing
- Support to the Global Record of fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport and Supply Vessels
- Support to the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines
- Emphasized the need for performance reviews of RFMOs and RFBs
- Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
- Collaboration through the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI)

The 33rd Session of COFI will take place in Rome, Italy, in the period 9-13 July 2018

more information can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/cofi/en/>

Issues on the agenda include, amongst others:

- SSF-Guidelines implementation
- Catch Documentation Guidelines
- Combating IUU fishing and PSMA
- Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security

+ the Role of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), UN System and Environment Agencies

- The Committee on Fisheries (COFI), a subsidiary body of the FAO Council, was established by the FAO Conference at its Thirteenth Session in 1965.
- The Committee presently constitutes the **only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined** and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fishworkers, FAO and international community, periodically on a world-wide basis.

WECAFC 16
Guadeloupe
20-24 June 2016



WECAFC 16 Main Decisions



The Commission adopted five regional fisheries management recommendations:

- 1) the regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen conch,
- 2) spiny lobster management and conservation,
- 3) the sub-regional fisheries management plan for flyingfish,
- 4) the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas, and
- 5) the management of shrimp and groundfish resources.

The Commission also adopted two resolutions on:

- 1) sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture, and
- 2) Marine Protected Areas as fisheries management tool in the Caribbean.

Another important decision at WECAFC 16

The Commission agreed to launch a process to establish a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the Northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) and to collaborate in fisheries management and conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not under the mandate of ICCAT

(see also agenda item 9)

Joint Working Groups in 2016-2017

1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster;
2. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries;
3. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Queen Conch Working Group;
4. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);
5. CRFM/WECAFC Flying fish in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group;
6. WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep-sea fisheries;
7. CFMC/WECAFC Spawning Aggregations Working Group;
8. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on shrimp and groundfish of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf;
9. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CITES/CFMC Working Group on Shark management and conservation;
10. Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU); and
11. WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)

Thank you for your attention



The SAG is invited:

To discuss the decisions and recommendations of the two meetings and propose actions from WECAFC and particularly the SAG to follow-up in 2018 - 2019 on the decisions and recommendations made.