

Intersessional activities – Review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2016-2017

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

8th SAG SESSION

Merida, 3-4 November 2017

Working documents

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/4 (Intersessional activities)

Information Documents

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf 3 (WECAFC 16 report)

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf 8 (CC4Fish report)

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf 9 (RWG IUU report)

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf 10, 13-17 (Caribbean Billfish Project reports)

WECAFC/SAG/VIII/2017/inf.20 (TORs of the Working Groups)



Review of intersessional activities

- 6 of the 10 (joint) Working Groups have been active
- 5 Working Group meetings were organized by WECAFC and partners
- 54 FAO projects have supported work on fisheries and aquaculture of WECAFC members

- 15 members received national level FAO TCP support in fisheries and aquaculture
- 30 WECAFC members participated in WECAFC activities
- 14 WECAFC publications were issued
- Some two-thirds of Programme of Work has been carried out

Technical Focus area 1: Improve fisheries governance

- Promotion of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries & Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)
- Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice
- Support application of the 2010 Bycatch Guidelines and the 2008 DSF Guidelines (VMEs)
- Ratification of and capacity building for the PSMA
- Strengthening fisherfolk organizations and SSF guidelines promotion (STEWARDFISH Project)
- Regional Working Group on IUU fishing – 2 meetings

Publication on VMEs

This publication includes a chapter on the Western Central Atlantic Ocean, the mandate area of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

FAO. 2016. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: Processes and Practices in the High Seas, by Anthony Thompson, Jessica Sanders, Merete Tandstad, Fabio Carocci and Jessica Fuller, eds. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 595. Rome, Italy.

PDF URLs:

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5952e.pdf>



1st meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. Barbados, 1- 2 March 2017

52 participating experts, representing 21 WECAFC members.

1. Increased awareness and understanding of the IUU fishing problem in the Caribbean region.
2. Increased capacity for dealing with IUU Fisheries (VMS/MCS/PSMA, etc)
3. Elements for a Regional Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU).



2nd meeting of the Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, Barbados, 19-21 September 2017

35 participants from 16 WECAFC member countries

Capacity built on:

- Global Record of Fishing vessels
- Vessel Marking and Identification
- MCS needs



Technical/Expert agreement reached on:

- 1) “ON THE MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISHING VESSELS IN THE WECAFC AREA”
- 2) “ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WECAFC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS OVER 12 METERS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE WECAFC AREA”
- 3) “ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LISTS OF VESSELS PRESUMED AND/OR CONFIRMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT IUU FISHING IN THE WECAFC AREA”



www.fao.org/3/a-i7783e.pdf

For more info,
please see:

<http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1039097/>

Technical Focus Area 2: Increase regional information and collaboration in fisheries

- Climate Change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries sector – (CC4Fish project started) GEF SCCF supported **Inception workshop held and implementation is ongoing**

Participating countries:

St Vincent and the Grenadines,
Grenada, Dominica, St Lucia,
Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda,
St Kitts and Nevis



- Recreational Fisheries statistics capacity building
- Collaboration with FIRMS on fisheries data collection and fisheries inventories

FIRMS-WECAFC regional workshop on Recreational Fisheries Statistics in the Caribbean. Nassau. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, 20 - 22 June 2017

38 representatives from 13 WECAFC member countries + partner organizations

- Opportunities for citizen science, holistic fisheries data capture and management,
- Effective data collection and analysis methodologies
- Regional data collection needs from recreational and artisanal fleets
- Agreement on technicalities for digital data systems applications, and the use of SmartForms
- Development of the “Fisheries information technology innovations for resource management and climate change adaptation in the Caribbean (FIT4CC)” project for EU DEVCO funding (10 million Euro)



Technical Focus area 3 Strengthen regional fisheries management and best-practice approaches for fisheries and aquaculture

- ❑ Technical Cooperation Projects to build capacity on SSF and Aquaculture in 15 member countries
- ❑ Collaboration with the CLME+ project, CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC, NOAA, World Bank, IFREMER, CITES and others on:
 - - Shrimp and groundfish + bycatch (REBYC II LAC)
 - - Queen Conch – CITES & CFMC
 - - Fish Aggregating Devices – CRFM, University of Miami
 - - Spawning Aggregations – CFMC/NOAA
 - - Recreational Fisheries (Caribbean Billfish project)
 - - Sharks and Rays - NOAA

Third regional workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation of the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries. Barbados, 4-6 April 2017

35 participants from 13 WECAFC members + partner organizations

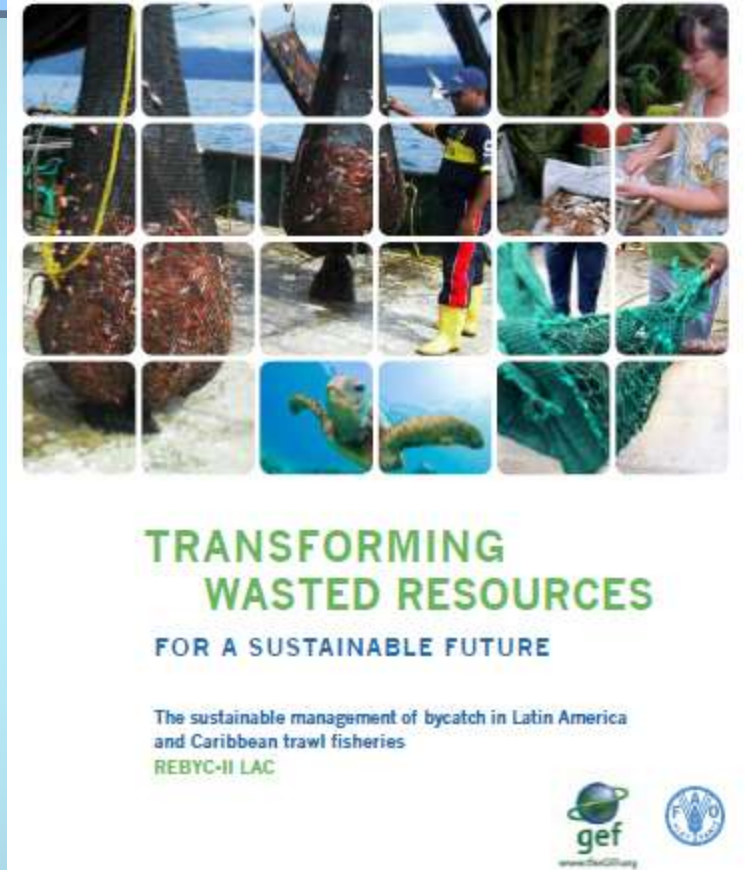
- Billfish stocks status in the Caribbean
- Regional management plan
- Business case opportunities



Shrimp and Groundfish Bycatch

Project on “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries” (REBYC-II LAC)

Organized 3 regional workshops on by-catch reduction technologies



Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Project of 5.8 million USD under the GEF International Waters Programme

Management Focus Area 4: Create an enabling environment within the WECAFC Secretariat to support the achievement of the goals and objective of the Commission

- Organization of the 16th session of the Commission in 2016 and the 8th SAG meeting in 2017
- Preparation for the organization of the 17th session of the Commission
- Preparations for the RFMO establishment process
- CLME+ Interim coordination arrangement for sustainable fisheries (CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC)
- Joint Working Groups facilitation/resources mobilization

Fisheries and Aquaculture projects in 2016 -2017 in WECAFC member countries

- 23 FAO Technical Cooperation Programme projects (national and regional). **Total value USD 5.3 million**
- 31 regional and national level Trust Fund projects implemented with support from FAO
Total value USD 18 million

Some remarks

1. Transfer of WECAFC Secretary to Belize led to reduced efficiency + high costs of operations, as team remained in Barbados
2. Increasing admin requirements FAO lead to reduced time for technical advice
3. Increasing bureaucracy in Caribbean member states slows down national level implementation of project activities
4. Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused postponement of various CC4Fish, Caribbean Billfish and TCP project activities and 2nd SPAG meeting

The SAG is invited to:

1. Review and comment on the inter-sessional activities and progress made on the implementation of the Work Programme for 2016–2017

and to:

2. Identify trends and emerging issues from the intersessional work that should be addressed by the Commission in its next session.
3. Identify specific regional activities and conferences for 2017 and 2018 in which WECAFC as Commission or its Working Groups should be involved in.