

October 2017

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联合国  
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Food  
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Organisation  
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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)**

**EIGHT SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)**

**Merida, Mexico, 3-4 November 2017**

**Latest Terms of Reference of the (joint) Working Groups**

1. **OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**
2. **CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH**
3. **WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON SHRIMP AND GROUND FISH IN THE NORTHERN BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHELF**
4. **WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES**
5. **WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**
6. **CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS**
7. **CRFM/WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYING FISH IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN**
8. **CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS**
9. **REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)**
10. **WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON SHARK CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**
11. **WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER**

CONVENER: MANUEL PEREZ

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

##### **1 SCOPE**

The scope of the working group is the sustainable management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the code of conduct's article 6.4 of the general principles.

##### **2 THE GOAL OF THE WORKING GROUP**

Using a multidisciplinary approach the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster fisheries. In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the management of Caribbean spiny lobster stock and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC region under the code of conduct for responsible fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

##### **3 TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

Caribbean spiny lobster is a transboundary 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, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of Caribbean spiny lobster.

#### **SPECIFICALLY, THE WORKING GROUP WILL:**

- a) Share available data and information on Caribbean spiny lobster.
- b) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of spiny lobster stocks, which involve the private sector formally in data collection.
- c) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of spiny lobster in the Caribbean
- d) Compile and analyse data on spiny lobster capture fisheries and aquaculture operations in the member countries and monitor and evaluate changes, using an EAF approach.
- e) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of lobster fisheries.
- f) Provide management advice and advice on the implementation and performance of regional management regulations on spiny lobster to countries and regional organizations (e.g. OSP-02-09).
- g) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated.
- h) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
- i) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the spiny lobster field.

- j) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.
- k) The ToR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC.

## 4 MODE OF OPERATION

### 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:

- participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- implement, at the national level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the group;
- host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

### 4.2 ROLES OF FAO/WECAFC AND OSPESCA

The FAO subregional office for Mesoamerica and WECAFC secretariat will play supporting roles in the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with OSPESCA (the working group lead agency) 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;
- ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders.

### 4.3 ROLES OF OTHER SUBREGIONAL ORGANISATIONS (E.G. CFMC, CRFM)

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 technical assistance and support;
- facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- facilitating the decision-making process at the subregional level.

## 5 COMMUNICATION

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (video conference, skype and email), 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 and organization/ agency 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, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC secretariat.

## 6 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The working group should meet physically once a year or at a minimum, once every two years. The meetings should be of two to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**(Period 2015 - 2018)**

**CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP**  
**ON QUEEN CONCH**

**Convener:** Miguel A. Rolón (CFMC)

**1. Scope**

The purpose of the Working Group is to support the sustainable management and conservation of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) resources and its fisheries in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>1</sup>.

**2. The goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the working group will contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Queen Conch fisheries and trade. In pursuing this goal, the working group will contribute to the fulfillment of national, regional and international responsibilities and commitments for the management and conservation of and trade in Queen conch and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals including ensuring the livelihoods of the people depending on these resources.

In particular, the Working Group will aim to support with technical and scientific advice the implementation of Decisions adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to CITES on "Regional cooperation and management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)" (Thailand, 2013), and WECAFC 15 Recommendation (WECAFC/15/2014/3) "on the management and conservation of Queen Conch in the WECAFC area" (Trinidad and Tobago, 2014).

**3. Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Queen Conch is a transboundary resource with commercial and economic, as well as ecological, importance for most countries in the Wider Caribbean region. Therefore, these TORs apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC, CFMC, CITES, CRFM and OSPESCA, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management and conservation of Queen Conch.

The Working Group will carry out the following general tasks:

1. Share and disseminate available data and information on queen conch biology, ecology, management, fisheries, trade and other relevant areas.
2. Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of queen conch stocks and promote the involvement of the private sector in data collection.
3. Monitor changes in distribution of queen conch stocks and populations in the Caribbean region.

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<sup>1</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

4. Compile and analyze data on queen conch catch and effort and aquaculture production in the range states and monitor changes.
5. Compile information about the social and economic importance of queen conch fisheries, and provide advice for policy decision making accordingly.
6. Provide advice on the implementation of national and regional management measures and regulations for queen conch to countries and regional organizations.
7. Establish communication between the members of the working group and interested parties and stakeholders, including the private sector.
8. Develop and implement a work plan that will be monitored and evaluated by the WECAFC SAG and Commission.
9. Report to CFMC, OSPESCA, WECAFC and CRFM at each of their sessions (on the outcome of each Working Group meeting).
10. Invite selected experts to participate in the Working Group, ensuring that they have the necessary expertise, know-how and experience in areas relevant to the operation of the Working Group and the implementation of these Terms of Reference.

#### **4 Mode of Operation**

##### *4.1 Role of WECAFC Member Countries*

The members of the Working Group are to play a leading role in the Working Group activities through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Ensure involvement of both CITES and Fisheries Authorities in the work of the Group;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

##### *4.2 Role of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat*

The FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean and the WECAFC Secretariat will facilitate and support the activities of the working group by collaborating actively with the partner agencies CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM and CITES in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including securing funding for its operation);
- Providing a technical secretary;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training (as appropriate);
- Communicate outcomes to WECAFC, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and countries (as appropriate);
- Ensure the participation of appropriate experts and other stakeholders in Working Group Activities.

##### *4.3 Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM)*

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 technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding for working group activities;
- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

##### *4.4 Role of the convener*

The working group convener will:

- formally convene the meetings of the group,
- technically guide the group work and determine subjects to be discussed,
- represent the group in regional and international meetings (as appropriate),
- invite new members and *ad hoc* experts to participate in working group meeting,
- review and clear publications and messages produced by the working group, and
- take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings.

## **5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), 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 of WECAFC and organization/ agency identify a national focal point/expert through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, CITES, UNEP-SPAW and national fishery and CITES administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

## **6 Working Group meetings**

The Working Group should meet physically once every two years. The meetings should be of two to five days duration. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group**  
**on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf**

Period 2015 -2018

Convener: Fabian Blanchard (IFREMER, French Guyana)

**1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP**

**1.1 Scope**

The scope of the working group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf in the WECAFC Region. In undertaking its work, the working group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct's Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>2</sup> and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

**1.2 The goal of the Working Group**

Using a multidisciplinary approach the working group will contribute to the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of the Brazil-Guianas shelf by providing management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the working group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of the shrimp and groundfish resources and related or interacting species or fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

**1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)**

Some shrimp and groundfish resources are transboundary and therefore the TORs may apply at sub-regional and/or national levels as appropriate. The working group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CRFM and UNEP-CEP, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of the shrimp and groundfish resources.

Specifically, the working group will:

- (a) Share available data and information on shrimp and groundfish resources.
- (b) Develop common methods for assessment and monitoring of shrimp and groundfish stocks, possibly involving the private sector formally in data collection.

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<sup>2</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.



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- (c) Undertake, review and validate stock assessments of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
  - (d) Monitor changes in availability, distribution and abundance of shrimp and groundfish resources in the Brazil-Guianas shelf
  - (e) Compile and analyse data on catch, effort, size composition, changes in habitat and reproductive patterns () of shrimp and groundfish fisheries in the sub-region and monitor and evaluate changes.
  - (f) Compile and analyse data and information about the social and economic importance of shrimp and groundfish fisheries.
  - (g) Propose a sub-regional management plan for shrimp and groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas shelf, considering the recommendations from plan for investment in EAF management, and taking into account regional strategy on the management of trawl fisheries by-catch including co-management arrangement tested in pilote studies.
  - (h) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector.
  - (i) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues regarding the shrimp and groundfish resources, such as environmental changes of local or global economic context. Wherever relevant, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their impacts on the shrimp and groundfish resources in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions or stakeholders.
  - (j) Establish links with the CRFM continental shelf fisheries working group as appropriate, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and optimize use of technical and financial resources.
  - (k) Establish link with other sub-regional initiatives (ex. CLME+, ReByC II projects) for mutual benefits.
  - (l) Collaborate with IUU working group on development and implementation of the regional plan of action on IUU fishing.
  - (m) Report to WECAFC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

## **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:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement, at the National level, the work identified in the agreed work plan of the Group;
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the working group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating the inputs of the members of the working group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;
- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

#### *1.4.3 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.

#### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER, NOAA)*

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 technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

### **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), 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 and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the working group will be communicated through working group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, UNEP-CEP, IFREMER and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep sea fisheries**  
**2015 -2018**

Convener: Jorge Paraimo (Colombia)

**1. 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 is highly necessary in the WECAFC region.

**2. Role of the Working Group**

The objective of the Working group is 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.

***2.1 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2015 to 2018***

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:

- a) 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.
- b) Meet and analyse the data and information collected and make recommendations for the sustainability of the deep sea fisheries in the WECAFC region.
- c) Identify priority areas for future work and international funding and support for the work identified.
- d) Organize in 2014 a WECAFC Technical Workshop on Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas Areas of the Western Central Atlantic to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the working group, and to obtain inputs from the WECAFC members.

- e) Develop a Chapter on the Western Central Atlantic for the 2015 FAO Worldwide review of bottom fisheries in the high seas.
- f) Report to the Commission at its next session, its conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

### **3. Mode of Operation**

#### 3.1 Membership of the Working Group

Membership shall consist of all Members of WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with an interest in deep sea fisheries. Membership may also include representatives of deep sea fisheries stakeholders of Members, Non-members, as well as relevant regional and regional organizations and experts.

##### *Working Group members from WECAFC members*

The members of the Working Group, on behalf of WECAFC members, will have expertise in deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs and/or high seas legal frameworks, in their respective countries. They will play an important role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and ensuring the participation of appropriate other experts from the country (if required);
- Support implementation of the draft recommendations prepared by the Working Group at the national level;
- Assist by hosting Working Group meetings on a rotational (periodic) basis (as appropriate).

##### *Working Group members from partner organizations and institutions*

The Working Group members from partner organizations at international and regional level will provide (in-kind) expertise, participate in information and data collection, facilitate funding, collaborate in the organization of workshop(s) and funding of experts participation (if appropriate), support the co-ordination and communication in the Working Group and support the decision-making process in the Wider Caribbean Region in order to reach well-balanced outputs and recommendations that are acceptable to the region and can account with the support from the various partners in terms of implementation and follow-up.

#### 3.2 Election of Convener of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener would be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on deep sea fisheries and its management, deep sea fish species and the vulnerability of stocks, VMEs, high seas legal frameworks, as well as to contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this working group.

#### 3.3 Role of FAO/WECAFC Secretariat

- a) To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;
- b) To assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- c) To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;

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- d) To liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and particularly on their ongoing work to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
  - e) To liaise with the FAO, UNEP and World Bank staff working on the GEF programme on “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”
  - f) To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
  - g) To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### 3.4 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group are foreseen to be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group.

#### **4. Amendments to these Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Members at the level of WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

## **Terms of Reference for the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries**

Convener: Roy Bealey (FAO/WECAFC)

TORs updated in April 2017

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

#### **1.1 Scope**

The scope of the Working Group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the Working Group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 6.4 of the general principles<sup>3</sup>, the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

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

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Working Group will contribute to the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region, by providing scientific and management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the Working Group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of recreational fisheries and resources, and related or interacting species, or other interacting fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

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

Many of the fish resources captured by recreational fisheries, such as billfish, dolphin fish and tunas, are transboundary and /or highly migratory and therefore the TORs may apply at the sub-regional and/or national levels, as appropriate. The Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of recreational fisheries.

##### Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (n) Compile, analyse and share available biological and socioeconomic data and information on recreational fisheries.

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<sup>3</sup> 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

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- (o) Develop common monitoring and assessment methods for recreational fisheries, involving commercial fisheries (industrial and artisanal) formally in data collection, wherever possible.
  - (p) Provide scientific and management advice to countries and regional organizations about the implementation and performance of agreed sub-regional management measures for recreational fisheries.
  - (q) Establish communication among members of the Working Group, between the Working Group and interested parties, including private sector.
  - (r) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues, including external environmental and economic drivers of change at local, national, regional or global levels. To the extent possible, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their socio-ecological impacts in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions and local stakeholders.
  - (s) Establish links with the appropriate working groups of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (ICCAT) and the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks while optimizing the use of technical and financial resources.
  - (t) Establish links with other sub-regional initiatives (e.g., Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+), Climate Change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) and the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (ReByC II LAC) projects) for mutual benefits.
  - (u) Collaborate with other WECAFC working groups (i.e., fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs), flying fish and shark fisheries) in issues of mutual interest
  - (v) Report to appropriate institutions at each session.
  - (w) Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance and recommendations about monitoring, assessment, and management of recreational fisheries.
  - (x) Support the organization of, and provide technical expertise during, the Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries Data and Statistics in the Caribbean.
  - (y) The working group will aim to advise and support implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan, the CRFM Sub-Regional FAD Management Plan and the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the WECAFC area.
  - (z) The working group will review and validate draft findings of the “Scenario Study on how to influence ICCAT decision making processes.
  - (aa) Support the Project Management Unit of the Caribbean Billfish Project.
  - (bb) Support activities of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC).
  - (cc) Support endorsement procedures for the draft Billfish Management and Conservation Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2017-2018.
  - (dd) Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory group to provide advice and recommendations
  - (ee) Promote closer relations with, and reporting to, the SCRS of ICCAT
  - (ff) Review and provide recommendations on the Business Case(s) developed through the Caribbean Billfish Project

The implementation of many of the tasks assigned to this Working Group will be supported by the Caribbean Billfish project, a component of the World Bank/GEF programme on Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform.

#### **1.4 Mode of Operation**

#### *1.4.1 Role of Countries*

The members of the Working Group will play a leading role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and facilitate, to the extent practicable, participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement the tasks agreed upon in the work plan of the Working Group at national level;
- Host Working Group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### *1.4.2 Role of Convenor*

The Convenor of the Working Group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating inputs of the members of the Working Group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;
- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

#### *1.4.3 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.

#### *1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, OSPESCA)*

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

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Sub-regional level;
- Promoting implementation of data collection and a resultant regional database for recreational fisheries.

### **1.5 Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), 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 and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, national fishery administrations and any other organization via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### **1.6 Working Group meetings**

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.



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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS

Convener: Eugenio Pineiro (USA)

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

FAD fisheries began to develop in the Caribbean Islands at the end of the 1980s. This activity is still developing in several states. Moored FADs allow small-scale, artisanal vessels easier access to offshore pelagic resources by aggregating them at fixed locations. Their use leads to different fishing practices and consequently, may impact different resources, depending on the local circumstances. The communities involved in this type of fishery, consist to a great extent of fishers with low incomes and limited other livelihood options, and the fishery contributes significantly to local food and nutrition security. Although the use of FADs increases the probability of catching fish and consequently the overall catches, increases the savings on fuel costs and reduces the search time when compared with other methods of targeting offshore pelagic species it has become evident that there is need to implement FAD management measures at the onset if the resources on which the fishery depends is to be sustained in the long term.

At the Fourteenth Session of WECAFC, convened in Panama City, Panama from 06 to 09 February 2012, the Commission agreed to *continue all Working Groups (Spiny Lobster, Flying Fish, FADs, Queen Conch, Nassau Grouper/Spawning Aggregations) as joint working groups of WECAFC with partner organizations. It was considered that a leading role could be played by these partners as well.* The Terms of Reference for the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles was articulated at that time.

Subsequently, the CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management was convened in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines from 9 to 11 December 2013. In light of the overlapping aims of the MAGDELESA project and its termination at the end of October / November, 2013, the joint workshop provided an opportunity to transfer knowledge and experiences, consolidate linkages among existing networks for FAD fishery management and also to discuss the future of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group. The Workshop proposed that the current IFREMER / WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored FAD Fishing in the Lesser Antilles be transformed into a joint Working Group on FADs with the possible participation of JICA, IFREMER, CRFM and WECAFC. The joint Working Group would consist of one participant from all Caribbean countries with FAD fisheries, IFREMER, WECAFC and JICA / CARIFICO. The Workshop also agreed that the Terms of Reference of the new Joint Working Group be made consistent with recommendations of the meeting.

This Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group on FADs gives consideration to the recommendations by the 2013 CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management and recommendations of the Seventh Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in Panama City, Panama on 7 to 8 November 2015, while giving due cognisance for maintaining transparency and accountability in the operations of the Working Group.

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

### ***2.1 Scope***

The scope of the ad hoc working group is the development and management of moored FAD fishing in the [WECAFC Area 31], in a manner that is consistent with the long-term sustainability of associated pelagic fish resources and through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. The working group will take a multidisciplinary and participatory approach to the sustainable development of moored FAD fishing for pelagics and will contribute to the fulfillment of national and regional management responsibilities for shared pelagic fish stock management under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and in particular Article 8.11: “Artificial reef and fish aggregation devices” as well as related management recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Working Group is to function in a technical and advisory capacity.

### ***2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2016 to 2018***

- a. To consider data on FAD fisheries in analyses of pelagic fish resources;
- b. To monitor progress and collaborate actively with the JICA-CARIFICO Project and provide technical advice and guidance;
- c. To collaborate with IFREMER on research of key pelagic species associated with FAD fisheries;
- d. To develop and finalize manuals on best practices in the fisheries using FADs. The manuals are to address interests in FAD design, construction and deployment, maintaining good quality of FAD-caught fish, fishing and business strategies for sustainable anchored FAD-fisheries, safety and working conditions of FAD fishers and governance of FAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers.
- e. To promote the reporting of FADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT.
- f. To collaborate on co-management within FADs projects [such as] in Haiti, Dominican Republic and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group.

### ***2.3 Mode of Operation***

#### **2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group**

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in fisheries which utilize FADs.

#### **2.3.2 Election of Chair of the Working Group**

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve over the two-year period.

#### **2.3.3 Role of Member States of WECAFC [Countries]**

- a. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for improving the quality of catch and effort data on the fisheries using FADs, including historical time series data;
- b. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for collecting socio-economic data on fisheries using FADs;
- c. To implement inter-sessional activities, agreed upon by the Working Group, at the national level;
- d. To maintain active discussion on assessment and management issues, share data and information, and monitor implementation of inter-sessional activities of the Working Group using available ICT tools or other cost-effective methods;

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- e. To facilitate expert participation by their designated representatives at meetings of the Working Group.

#### 2.3.4 Role of WECAFC Secretariat

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- b. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the regional level.

#### 2.3.5 Role of JICA-CARIFICO

The role of JICA will be effected under the auspices of the CARIFICO Project as follows:

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- b. To develop a FAD co-management approach, through pilot activities which facilitate registration, licensing, collection of catch and effort data, and also consensus building among fishers on fishing rules around FADs and FAD maintenance.

#### 2.3.6 Role of IFREMER

- a. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;

#### 2.3.7 Role of the CRFM Secretariat

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with the procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group, so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

#### 2.3.8 Role of the convener

- a. To convene meetings of the Working Group;

#### 2.3.9 Communication

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the intersessional periods, so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

#### 2.3.10 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Such meeting arrangements should be cost-effective. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group. Regional organizations and experts may be invited to participate in the meetings as required.

### **3. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference may be amended as required by Member States at the level of CRFM and WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with meetings of the WECAFC.

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

Conveners: CRFM Secretariat

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE<sup>4</sup>

The four-wing flyingfish supports important small-scale fisheries in the region in terms of employment generation, food security and supply of bait for fisheries targeting large pelagic fish species. Like other small-scale fishers in the Caribbean, fishers involved in flyingfish fisheries often belong to the lower socio-economic strata of society.

Unlike many other commercial species in the region the flyingfish, and in particular the four-wing flyingfish, *Hirudichthys affinis*, which comprises the majority of the flyingfish catch, has been extensively studied. There is a rich information-base on its stock delineation, distribution and biology. Less has been documented however, on the socio-economic, bio-economic and, ecological aspects of the fishery and resource, including the impacts on the population and risks associated with climate change, extreme weather events, and other aspects of global environmental change.

At the Fourteenth Session of WECAFC, convened in Panama City, Panama from 06 to 09 February 2012, the Commission agreed to continue all Working Groups (Spiny Lobster, Flying Fish, FADs, Queen Conch, Nassau Grouper/Spawning Aggregations) as joint working groups of WECAFC with partner organizations. It was considered that a leading role could be played by these partners as well. The Terms of Reference for the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, among other joint regional Working Groups, was also agreed upon. [Between March 2013 and March 2014 the Working Group, in collaboration with countries with a real interest in flyingfish fisheries finalized, a Sub-regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean (ECFF-FMP). Development of this ECFF-FMP had been initiated since 2002 under the previous WECAFC Ad-Hoc Flyingfish Working Group of the Eastern Caribbean and was updated during the first phase of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME Project). The ECFF-FMP was endorsed for sub-regional implementation through Resolution by the 8th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council on 23 May 2014 in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

The [Sixth Seventh] Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in Corpus Christi Panama City, Texas Panama on 03 7 to 8 November 20132015, discussed the TORs of the various Working Groups and made recommendations for their improvement and harmonization. This revised version of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean gives consideration to the SAG recommendations, and supports the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (awaiting endorsement of Heads of Government) [and] the Draftagreed 2014 Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, Flyingfish (to be amended following Member State review and feedback and endorsed by the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and CRFM Ministerial Council Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flyingfish) while giving due cognisance for maintaining transparency and accountability in the operations of the Working Group

#### 2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

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<sup>4</sup> Information taken from the 2012 Draft Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean which should be consulted for the references to information sources.

## **2.1 Scope**

The scope of the Working Group is to facilitate the achievement of management objectives as outlined in the respective sub-regional management plan for flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, through the application of international best practices consistent with the precautionary, ecosystem and participatory approaches to fisheries management. These management objectives are: a) sustained flyingfish resources (biological objective), b) optimal use of the flyingfish resource for long-term benefit (socio- economic objective) and c) sustained ecosystem health (ecological objective). The Working Group is to function in a technical and advisory capacity.

## **2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2016 to 2018**

- a. Finalize and support the implementation of the 2012 agreed Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the 2012 agreed Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- c. Provide advice on the status of the fishery and its management to the CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and to WECAFC;
- d. Consider options for integrating environmental variables in assessment of the status of the resource;
- e. Support the regional and national level implementation of activities outlined under the CLME + (Implementation of Strategic Action Programme) that are aligned with the above Terms of Reference;
- f. Study and report on the impact of the influx of sargassum on flyingfish fisheries;
- g. Establish a strong linkage with FIRMS in terms of the development of data collection, analysis and sharing in support of the flyingfish management plan implementation; and
- h. Take other necessary actions on emerging issues pertaining to the sustainable use of Eastern Caribbean flyingfish.

## **2.3 Mode of Operation**

### 2.3.1 Membership of the Working Group

Membership shall consist of all Member States of CRFM and WECAFC, including Overseas Territories and Departments, with a real interest in the flyingfish fishery. Membership may also include representatives of key flyingfish stakeholders of Member States as well as relevant regional organizations and experts.

### 2.3.2 Election of Chair of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve over the two-year period.

### 2.3.3 Role of Member States and other Collaborating Countries

- a. To develop or update national fisheries management plans, based on the agreed Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. To implement national fisheries management plans;
- c. To monitor and evaluate implementation of the FMP at the national level;
- d. To report annually to the CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on the progress made in implementation of national FMPs;

- e. To improve the coverage and quality of data nationally to facilitate assessment of the fishery and associated stock as well as monitoring and evaluation of the FMP at the regional level; and
- f. To support the national level implementation of activities outlined under the CLME + (Implementation of Strategic Action Programme) that are aligned with the specific Terms of Reference.

#### 2.3.4 Role of the CRFM Secretariat

- a. To assist with coordination of activities of the Working Group, at the regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To continue efforts to formalize the relationship between France and the CRFM to facilitate involvement of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the management process;
- e. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified;
- f. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners; and
- g. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the sub-regional level.

#### 2.3.5 Role of WECAFC Secretariat

- a. To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among CRFM and Non-CRFM Members, at the wider regional level;
- b. To assist with procurement of funds for the activities of the Working Group;
- c. To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- d. To promote training in assessment methodologies and other relevant areas of interest identified; and
- e. To promote technical assistance and support to research and resource assessment through collaboration with regional and international research partners;
- f. To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### 2.3.6 Communication

Communication is critical to the efficient execution of the work programme of the Working Group, particularly during the inter-sessional periods so as to maximize the quality of outputs. Consequently, each country should designate a National Focal Point for this purpose. The National Focal Point is to liaise with the Convener/ Chair of the Working Group as well as the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to facilitate effective implementation of the Terms of Reference and communication among all entities. Available ICT tools, such as the CRFM DGroup and GoToMeeting, should be utilized for this purpose as far as possible. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

#### 2.3.7 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened at least once every two years, or as required, if resources are available. Where possible the use of available ICT tools to facilitate electronic meetings should be maximized. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair of the Working Group.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

Convener: Will Heyman (USA/CFMC)

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.

In the period 2016–2018 the Working Group will specifically work on:

- a) Update and publish a spawning aggregations monitoring manual for the WECAFC members.
- b) Follow up on the recommendation WECAFC/15/2014/1 on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers.
- c) Establish an outreach and communication campaign on the closed areas and regionally agreed closed season.
- d) Support the development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of fish species that aggregate to spawn (targeting groupers and snappers), in accordance with the best available scientific evidence to be presented to the 17th session of WECAFC in 2018 for review, consideration and regional adoption.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU)

Convener: Peter A Murray (CRFM)

#### Preamble

Recognizing:

- That illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is any fishing which undermines or disregards national, regional or international fisheries conservation and management arrangements and measures;
- That high demand for fish, the economic benefits derived from IUU fishing and the inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) as well as enforcement systems in the WECAFC Region have made Caribbean States particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing;
- That IUU fishing is practiced by both local and foreign vessels;
- The responsibilities of States to manage fisheries in which their nationals are engaged and/or benefit;
- The interest of States in providing for the long-term development of sustainable marine resources;
- The range and extent of fishing activities within and across coastal waters, EEZs and on the high seas;
- The impacts of fishing on non-target species and the wider marine environment;
- The costs of ensuring compliance by foreign and domestic vessels with fisheries management and conservation measures;
- The benefits of coordination and cooperation in fisheries-related monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS);
- The advantages of collecting and sharing MCS information;
- Article 8.1.4 and other provisions related to MCS from the FAO 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- The principles and rules of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the 1982 UN Convention); the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 1995 (UN Fish Stocks Agreement); and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 1993



(FAO Compliance Agreement);

- The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing;
- The 2009 FAO Agreement on port State measures to combat IUU fishing which entered into force in June 2016;
- The 2013 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;
- The Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, whereby CRFM Member States agreed to establish a Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RWG-IUU) to regularly consult on methodologies and approaches in relation to deterring, eliminating IUU fishing; and
- The WECAFC Resolution WECAFC/15/2014/9 “Resolution on the Implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance in the Region” of March 2014 and Resolution WECAFC/14/2012/1 “Resolution of the members of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments” of February 2012.

The WECAFC member States, at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, held in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2014 decided to establish a Regional Working Group on IUU fishing (RWG-IUU) with the view to define and drive national programs to collect information on foreign fishing vessel incursions into the Members’ EEZ, and to propose options and courses of practical action that coastal States can (and should) take to engage pro-actively with relevant RFBs and RFMOs and suspected (or proven flag States) to address IUU Fishing in the region.

## **2. Objective**

2.1 The objective of the RWG-IUU is to improve coordination and cooperation between national organizations / institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

## **3. Organization**

3.1 The RWG-IUU will comprise technical experts from:

- a) the national organizations responsible for fisheries MCS and IUU fishing in general nominated by each WECAFC member, and
- b) experts of key partner organizations (OECS, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations, CRFM, OSPESCA, FAO).

3.2 Persons or organizations with expertise in matters pertaining to MCS and IUU fishing may also be invited to participate as [experts] observer to the RWG-IUU.

3.3. The RWG-IUU will make use of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries, which was established formally in January 2016 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as mechanism for collaboration between CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC and which is supported by the CLME+ project. Technical advice generated by the RWG-IUU will follow the processes agreed under this Mechanism.

3.4. The WECAFC Secretariat will act as secretary to the RWG-IUU.

#### **4. Functions**

The RWG-IUU shall:

- As a matter of priority, identify and recommend cost effective measures that can be easily implemented in the short to medium term to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing;
- Review and assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC area. In particular, the specific areas and species that are targeted by foreign illegal fishing and the main market for these IUU fishing products;
- Review current methods and arrangements for timely collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data and information relating to Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFN) IUU fishing activities;
- Assess the viability of adopting modern technologies and methodologies to increase data capture, coverage and reliability;
- Develop recommendations for the establishment of formal protocols to facilitate the collection, compilation and transmittal of information regarding IUU fishing to the Flag State;
- Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the methods by which IUU fishing products are harvested, handled and traded including potential loopholes in legal systems and make recommendations for cost effective strategies and mechanisms to address identified deficiencies;
- Review and assess best practices employed to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and determine the suitability for adoption and implementation in the WECAFC area;
- Review and assess systems and mechanisms used by WECAFC Member to address IUU fishing and make such recommendations as may be necessary to improve their effectiveness;
- Provide advice and recommendations on viable methodologies to engage with flag States, regional fishery bodies and regional fishery management organizations in relation to data exchanges, in pursuit of reducing IUU fishing opportunities within the WECAFC area;
- Recommend mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation and coordination among WECAFC Members and entities as well as among national agencies within states as may be necessary to

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combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud including but not limited to sharing of data and information, capacity building, legal reforms, and enhancing prosecutorial success;

- Promote the concept of collaborative policing approaches, with national fishers, and, where possible, through fisher organizations;
- Recommend way of improving public education and awareness in order to strengthen community support and political will to marshal the resources and implement the legal and institutional reforms needed to eradicate IUU fishing;
- Identify and recommend policies and measures to ensure transparency in activities such as the allocation of fishing permits and licenses by official authorities; the reporting of catches, payment of fees, taxes and charges by fishers and fishing entities; and disclosure of the identity of the beneficial owners of fishing vessels and companies throughout the supply chain;
- Seek complementary funding to support activities relating to data capture, analysis and sharing at the regional, national and local levels;
- Promote technical assistance, training, experience exchange, and institutional development, to increase MCS knowledge and capability amongst participating parties; and
- Perform other tasks as may be determined by the members.

## **5. Meetings**

5.1 The RWG-IUU shall meet at least once every two years. However, the RWG may meet electronically and on an opportunistic basis afforded by the presence of members at other regional workshops or meetings as considered necessary.

5.2 The deliberations and recommendations of the RWG shall be in writing and passed through the process established under the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries.

## **6. RWG-IUU related expenses**

6.1 The cost of participation in meetings of the RWG-IUU will be met by the Members of WECAFC themselves.

6.2 The RWG-IUU meetings will be organized according to the workplan agreed by the session and depending on the resources available.

6.3 The WECAFC Secretariat will try to make an effort to mobilize resources in support of organization of the meetings, background studies, consultancies and travel of SIDS representatives to the meetings of the RWG-IUU. The responsibility for allocating adequate resources for participation in the RWG-IUU activities remains with the members.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Shark Conservation and Management

Convener: Mauro Gongora (Belize)

Updated (October 2017)

#### 1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

More than 150 species of sharks and rays are present within the WECAFC region. There is currently limited information regarding their stocks and more needs to be done to protect and manage shark and ray populations. This Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, CFMC, CRFM and OSPESCA, will provide, among others, a platform for supporting the conservation and sustainable management of shark fisheries in the Wider Caribbean region. Until an RPOA is adopted, the actions of the Working Group will be guided by the guidelines laid out in the FAO IPOA-Sharks. Sharks are a transboundary resource and as such, the TORs may apply at regional and/or national levels as appropriate.

##### 1.1 Scope

The scope of the working group is to provide advice on the management and conservation of sharks in the Wider Caribbean Region. This includes the development of national and regional plans of action in order to regulate target and bycatch fisheries, as well as manage existing populations within the region.

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

The objective of the Working Group is to provide a basis for the conservation and sustainable management of shark populations in WECAFC member countries. In pursuing this goal, the Working Group will be supporting the members in fulfilling the national and regional responsibilities for the conservation and management of sharks as specified by WECAFC.

##### 1.3 Terms of Reference (TOR)

Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (a) Facilitate the sharing of available data and information on shark and ray stocks within the Wider Caribbean Region;
- (b) Provide support to the development National POAs for member states and the Regional POA;
- (c) Provide technical inputs to support the implementation of actions as defined in the RPOA.
- (d)
- (e) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated;
- (f) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector;

The TOR may be amended as required by the members at the level of the WECAFC, following each two-year period coinciding with the meetings of the WECAFC

##### 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:

- Participate in agreed activities of the working group, and ensure the participation of appropriate experts;

- Promote the implementation, at the National level, the work identified in the WECAFC endorsed work plan (as appropriate);
- Assist with mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- Provide assistance and facilitate the organization of Working Group meetings in the languages of the Commission (to the extent possible);
- Host working group meetings on a rotational basis.

#### 1.4.2 *Roles of the FAO/WECAFC Secretariat*

To coordinate activities of the Working Group, among WECAFC and Non-WECAFC Members, at the wider regional level;

- To assist with convening of meetings of the Working Group;
- To liaise with other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) active in the Wider Caribbean Region and neighbouring areas will be involved as much as possible in the work of the group; these RFBs include amongst others OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC and CECAF.
- To coordinate the formulation and adoption of recommendations by the Working Group so as to facilitate the decision-making process at the level of WECAFC Area 31.

#### 1.4.3 *Roles of other Subregional organizations (e.g. CFMC, CRFM, OSPESCA)*

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 technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Subregional level.

#### 1.4.4 *Election and role of Convener of the Working Group*

The Working Group shall elect a Convener from among its Members to serve over the two-year period.

The first task of the convener will be to seek for experts among the WECAFC Members on sharks and rays, their fisheries and conservation. The convener should also contact potential partner organizations and solicit their interest to join in this Working Group.

### 1.5 **Communication**

A mechanism for on-going communication among working group members (Video conference, Skype and email), 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 and organization/ agency 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, OSPESCA, CFMC, CRFM, and national fishery administrations via the WECAFC Secretariat.

### 1.6 **Working Group meetings**

The working group should meet physically at a minimum once every two years. Meetings should use cost effective accommodations and institutional facilities and where possible take advantage of other meetings in the region. Meetings shall be chaired by the Convener of the Working Group.

The reports of the meetings will be formally submitted to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)**

#### **The FDS WG will report to the WECAFC Commission**

- Formulate recommendations and guidelines
- Conduct work as per the directions received from the WECAFC Commission, and in close interaction with the WECAFC Secretariat

#### **The FDS WG will interact/liaise with:**

- All working groups under the WECAFC
- Regional fishery management bodies (CRFM), OSPESCA and their working groups with the aim to strengthen the coordination of actions among the three RFBs to increase the sustainability of fisheries.
- Intergovernmental institutions

#### **The Membership of the FDS WG:**

- National Officers responsible of Fishery Statistics and Data in WECAFC Member Countries
- The FDS Working Group will nominate a sub-group which shall represent the whole Membership as part of the TaskForce appointed by the Secretariat, which will be responsible for intersessional progress
- FDS WG members will develop bi-annual work plans prioritizing activities and identifying actions and provide to the Secretariat annually a report of activities, outputs, and prioritized future work plans (1-2 years)

#### **Sessions of the FDS WG:**

- The FDS Working Group shall meet face-to-face at least once every two years.
- Meeting of the FDS WG will be noticed by the FDS WG Chairperson, to be elected by the Members
- Experts appointed by the WECAFC knowledgeable in FDS matters and having expertise in FDS regional issues can be appointed by WECAFC to act as resource persons. Among these experts are the members of the Task Force.
- The TaskForce shall conduct work via in-person and electronic meetings according to and as needed frequency, so to ensure progress of the FDS WG working agenda.

#### **The FDS WG will assist with:**

**Data collection at national level** - Provide recommendations to address national data collection and sharing challenges in the WECAFC region:

- Identify issues (gaps, deficiencies), challenges and best practices in data collection at national level in the region, and provide recommendations on how to address issues and challenges

- Identify and recommend best practices for the region including how to involve private interests in data collection (i.e., industry, intergovernmental groups)
- Develop standard data collection formats for use at national level and related minimum guidelines for collection
- Review and make recommendations on coordination opportunities for new data statistics projects coming into the region.

**Data sharing and harmonization at regional level** - Provide recommendations to address open data sharing challenges at international level for the benefit of fisheries communities, research and management communities and to improve the ability to manage fisheries resources:

- Identify and recommend list of data to be shared among WECAFC countries in a RDB, including regional standards and classifications
- Define formats, metadata, policies and best practices to exchange data
- Provide recommendations on data harmonization to allow data collation at regional level including the mapping between national and regional classification

**Countries data reporting to international bodies** (i.e. CRFM, FAO, ICCAT, OSPESCA) - Provide recommendations to streamline reporting from national, through to regional and international levels, including through collaborative arrangements promoting harmonization:

- Address issues of multiple reporting standards and format to various international organizations, including through sharing experiences and lessons learned, and accordingly formulate recommendations and guidelines
- Formulate mechanisms to coordinate / streamline exchanges among regional fishery bodies and other intergovernmental institutions operating at global level, including methods, tools and procedures for harmonization of national data to RDBs formats

**IT management and maintenance of the Regional DataBase (RDB)** - Provide recommendations for a cost efficient and sustainable management and maintenance of the Regional DataBase

- Provide high level recommendations on technology and policy issues related to development, hosting and maintenance for the RDB
- Provide RDB specifications, priorities, governance, policy mechanisms
- Formulate project development phases and participation mechanisms

#### **Administration of the FDS WG**

- The FDS WG will be supported through the financial resources of the Commission

#### **Performance review of the RDB**

- Conduct periodic review against a set of metrics of the data collection framework (DCF) and best practices data collection guidelines
- Recommend changes and adjustments to the RDB after review