

October 2015



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
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)

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Panama City, Panama, 7-8 November 2015

First draft WECAFC work programme for the period 2016-2017

1. Introduction

1. The background paper on “Intersessional activities – review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2014-2015” (WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/4) showed progress made in the last intersessional period. The document showed that over 80 percent of the approved Programme of Work 2014-2015 was actually implemented, although sometimes to a lesser extent than originally planned for. Overall, the last Programme of Work seems to have been realistic and achievable. The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Work were received from various Trust Fund programmes, FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and FAO’s regular programme. Joint activities with CFMC, CITES, NOAA, CRFM, GCFI, IGFA, IFREMER, IADB, EU, GEF and the World Bank further contributed to the implementation of a range activities of the joint Working Groups.

2. The Working Groups continued to be effective tools for collaboration between members and relevant institutions. Major achievements have been reached and substantial progress has been made. However, the large dependence on the Secretariat in terms of supporting the initiation and implementation of the activities remains a weakness. The (draft) Terms of Reference of the Working Groups can be found in the annex to this document.

3. The 14th session background document containing the “Draft Programme of Work of WECAFC (2014-2015)¹”, as presented to and endorsed by WECAFC 15 contains the background information on the preparation process for the Programme of Work, detailing responsibilities, coordination and management aspects, funding and related arrangements, implementation of the technical work programme, and linkages with regional partners. That background document remains valid and provides along with the WECAFC 15 approved Strategic Plan 2014 -2020, and the endorsed Programme of Work (2014-2015) as provided in Appendix D of the Report of the 15th session² the basis for this updated (draft) work programme for 2016-2017.

¹ Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/wecafc/15thsess/14e.pdf>

² The report of the 15th session can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3790t.pdf>

2. Suggested Action by the SAG

4. The SAG is invited to review the draft programme of work (2016-2017) and amend it as considered necessary.

5. Particularly, the SAG is requested to:

- 1) Identify specific regional activities and conferences for 2016 and 2017 in which WECAFC as Commission or its Working Groups should be involved in
- 2) Advice on the maintenance, abolition or establishment of WECAFC Working Groups.
- 3) Review the current Terms of References of the Working Groups and recommend modifications to these TORs for consideration by the conveners and the 16th Session.

6. SAG members are requested to take into account the limited resources (financial and human) which are presently available to the WECAFC Secretariat. They are invited to consider volunteering their support, in-kind and/or financially, to specific activities of the various Working Groups and other activities under the proposed Work Programme or to other activities that they wish to include in the programme. This might also galvanize additional support where needed.

Draft Work Programme for the period 2016-2017

Technical Focus Area 1. Improve regional fisheries governance

Goal: Improved regional governance of the marine fisheries and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
1.1 Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines	Recommendations for improvement and harmonization of legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region	Emails and letters to members, making them aware of guidelines and instruments Response to FAO CCRF monitoring questionnaire	2016-2017	no	5 000	FAO SLC (secured)	
1.2 Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA)	EAF and EAA incorporated in national policies and strategies of WECAFC members EAF based fisheries management and conservation plans developed	National policy and strategy documents Fisheries management plans	2016-2017		400 000	CLME+ (shrimp & groundfish sub- project), FAO TCP Member countries	CLME, OSPESCA, CRFM, UWI, CANARI
1.3 Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members	Recommendations for changes in the policies, strategies, laws and regulations Review of fisheries legislative frameworks in the WECAFC area	Mission reports of consultants National strategies, laws and regulations Review report	2016-2017	Not applicable; submission for information in 2018	200 000	FAO TCP GEF World bank (Caribbean Billfish project) Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA

1.4 Facilitate the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas	<p>Start of reporting by WECAFC members on Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) catches in the high seas of Areas 31 and 41, using the form in appendix 3 of Report 1087.</p> <p>Effective functioning of WECAFC WG on deep sea fisheries in the high seas, including organization of the 2nd meeting of the WG</p>	<p>At least 10 members report about their DSF catches in the high seas.</p> <p>Agreed VMEs recognized formally by members and included in relevant databases DSF collaborative research programme developed</p>	2016-2017	Yes, in 2018	100 000	FAO/GEF ABNJ programme Member countries	UNEP and CBD, Government of Norway
1.5 Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members	<p>GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC)” realizes its objectives</p> <p>Draft regional management bycatch strategy developed</p>	<p>Adoption of bycatch management by REBYC II LAC countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago Recommendations for the WECAFC membership</p>	2016-2017	Yes, regional strategy for WECAFC endorsement in 2018	5.8 million	GEF FAO Member countries	
1.6 Promote the ratification and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members	<p>Capacity built among at least 3 WECAFC members for implementation of the PSMA in the WECAFC region.</p> <p>Ratification of the PSMA by a minimum of 3 WECAFC members</p>	<p>Capacity building materials for implementation of the PSMA Members listed among those countries that ratified the PSMA</p>	2016 -2018	No, just for information	20 000	FAO NOAAPEW	CRFM, OSPESCA NEAFC

1.7 Support to the application of the International guidelines on small scale fisheries	Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food promoted in the region, with a focus on strengthening of fisherfolk organizations	WECAFC members adopt the SSF and Tenure guidelines	2016-2017	No, just for information	100 000	FAO Government of Norway-FAO SSF Trustfund Too Big To Ignore (TBTI)	UWI/CERMES CRFM CANARI OSPESCA CINESTAV
1.8 Improve coordination and cooperation between national and regional organizations / institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS in support of their common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.	<p>Effective functioning of the joint Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.</p> <p>IUU mainstreamed in the work of other joint Working Groups</p> <p>Draft RPOA-IUU developed.</p> <p>Cost effective measures identified to combat in the short term IUU fishing</p> <p>Capacity built for regional collaboration on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fisheries</p>	WG meeting report CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) implementation monitoring reports (particularly Strategies 2 and 6)	2016-2017	RPOA-IUU for endorsement by WECAFC in 2018	400 000	CLME+ (shrimp and groundfish sub-project) NOAA	Joint Regional Working Group with CRFM and OSPESCA

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

Goal: Increased availability of essential information for fisheries management, through inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Wider Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	
2.1 Strengthening disaster risk management (DRM) capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean	Implementation of the strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region. Implementation of the GEF Special Climate Change (SCCF) project on “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector”(CC4Fish)	Fisheries mainstreamed in DRM and Climate Change adaptation plans in at least 3 Caribbean countries	2016-2017	No	5.6 million	FAO Member countries GEF	CRFM, TNC, CARIBSAVE, CDEMA, CCCCC, UWI/CERMES
2.2 Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy	Clear and comprehensive draft protocols prepared	Draft protocols	2016-2017	No, for information only	30 000	CRFM Member countries	
2.3 Improved management of	Increased capacity among fisherfolk and fisheries		2016-2017	No, for information	100 000	GEF FAO	UNEP, CAMPAN,

reef fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	managers to participate effectively in coastal/reef management and MPAs Effective implementation of Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/004/GFF)			only		Member countries	GCFI, CARIBSAVE, TNC, WWF
2.4 Improved fishery and aquaculture data collection, analysis and dissemination at regional and national level	A regional fisheries and aquaculture statistics database established at WECAFC Participation of WECAFC and its members in the Global Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem database. Participation in the FAO Global vessel record by WECAFC members	Response rate to FAO annual fisheries and aquaculture statistics requests has increased. Evidence of WECAFC member participation in the VME and Global Record databases	2016-2017	No, achievements will be reported upon to the session	400 000	FAO EU CLME+ project	FIRMS, CRFM and OSPESCA
2.5 Regional resources and fisheries inventories prepared and disseminated	Prepare and share regional fisheries inventories – through the Fisheries Resource Management System (FIRMS) Partnership – with all members and ensure up-to-date and accessible information in support of responsible fisheries management. Report of the workshop on Strengthening national data collection and regional data	Number of inventories published on-line	2015-2015	No, only for information	120 000	FAO, FIRMS, CLME+, EU member countries	OSPESCA, CRFM, NOAA, IFREMER

	sharing through FIRMS to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area published						
2.6 Increase the availability of information on the contribution of fish to food security and the social and economic value of the fisheries sector	Assessments of the fisheries sector value and the fish and fisheries products value chain.	Studies and reports	2016-2017	No, only for information	30 000	CLME+	ECLAC, INFOPECSA, CRFM, CERMES
2.7 Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies	Increased sharing of information and communication between the WECAFC Secretariat and other fisheries, aquaculture and environment stakeholders active in the region and neighbouring regions	Minutes of meetings Reports of activities of partner organizations and projects	2016-2017	no	10 000	FAO SLC Regular budget	

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

Goal: Increased capacity of fisherfolk and aquaculturists to apply modern production technologies, better management practices and produce high quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
3.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations	Competent fisherfolk representatives participating professionally in regional and national level fisheries management decision making processes	Attendance lists of capacity building activities Manuals and other capacity building materials prepared	2016-2017	no	100 000	FAO/GEF CC4Fish support foreseen	
3.2 Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean	Investment/business plan study	Investment/business plan Grant/loan support from a development bank	2016-2017	No, for information only	100 000	Inter-American Development Bank Member countries	
3.3 Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities	Sustainable aquaculture practices by small-scale farmers in various WECAFC member countries	Adaptation of aquaculture practices following advice given Aquaponics and marine cage farming developed; various aquaculture	2016-2017	No, for information only	300 000	FAO TCP/Trust fund and Telefood support Brazil	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)

		manuals produced					
3.4 Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and Codes	Regional guidelines for responsible introduction of species in aquaculture developed; BMPs for specific species developed and Codes of Practices developed and adopted by aquaculturists	Codes of Practice and BMPs adopted and disseminated.	2016-2017	Some BMPS and guidelines for endorsement by the 18 th session	50 000	TCP Brazil	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)
3.5 Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures	Capacity built on Codex Alimentarius, HACCP, ISO, Good Hygiene Practices and other fish quality and safety measures Recommendations and advice for improving fish quality and safety	Increased number of facilities authorized to export to the EU, USA and Japan	2016-2017	No, for information only	100 000	EU FAO Member countries	IICA, CRFM
3.6 Sustainable Brazil-Guianas Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group General investment plan for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries developed. Pre-feasibility investment studies prepared for 2 countries Implementation of the CLME+ SAP strategy (No.6) to "Implement Ecosystem Based	Report of the WG published and disseminated General investment plan finalized Draft management plan prepared	2016-2017	Yes, general investment plan endorsed by WECAFC 16 Sub-regional management plan endorsed by WECAFC 17 in 2018	150 000	CLME IDB FAO Member countries	CRFM, IFREMER, UNEP

	Management (EBM)/ Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery”.						
3.7 Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster	Effective functioning of the WECAFC Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i> Resource assessment carried out and a draft regional management plan developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4A “Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries”	Reports of meetings Draft sub-regional management plan	2016-2017	Yes, management recommendations for endorsement by WECAFC 16	100 000	FAO TCP NOAA CLME+ (sub-project on spiny lobster, coordinated by OSPESCA)	Joint WG with CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC. UNEP-CEP/SPAW
3.8 Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CRFM/ WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish of the Eastern Caribbean Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5A: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries.	Reports on the implementation of the endorsed the Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	2016-2017	Yes, for regional endorsement by WECAFC 16	20 000	CRFM CLME+ (sub-project on flying fish – coordinated by CRFM) FAO SLC regular budget	Joint WG with CRFM
3.9 Increased knowledge of	Effective functioning of the IFREMER/WECAFC	Continuation of demonstrations in	2016-2017	Yes, recommendation	50 000	CRFM, IFREMER	JICA (CARIFICO)

and experience with offshore FADs	Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles Manual on the design and application of moored FADs	various CARIFICO project countries Findings and recommendations of the MAGDELESA Project Working group meeting reports		ns and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement		, Member countries	funded research
3.10 Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM/W ECAFC Working Group on Queen Conch, <i>Strombus gigas</i> ” Draft regional management plan for Queen Conch Agreement on conversion factors for processing and on Non-Detriment Findings format Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4B	WG reports Update for CITES	2016 - 2017	Yes, regional management plan, regional conversion factors and NDF format for endorsement by WECAFC 16	50 000	CFMC/NO AA FAO CLME Member countries	Joint WG with CFMC, OSPESCA, CITES, UNEP-CEP/SPAW and CRFM
3.11 Improved management and conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC/OSPESCA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Draft regional management and conservation plan for billfish developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5B: Enhance the governance	WG TORs and reports Effective implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Project (CBP)”; Letter of Intent signed on the CBMC	2016-2017	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	2 million	GEF World Bank Conservation international Member countries FAO	IGFA, ICCAT, CRFM, CFMC, OSPESCA, GCFI

	<p>arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for large pelagics fisheries</p> <p>Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) functioning</p> <p>Data and information availability on recreational fisheries catches and landings has increased</p>						
3.12 Improved management and conservation of sharks	<p>Establishment of a joint working group on sharks conservation and management.</p> <p>A Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for the conservation and management of sharks developed</p> <p>Two additional WECAFC members have carried out shark stock assessments and developed and are implementing NPOAs – Sharks</p>	<p>WG TORs and reports</p> <p>A draft RPOA</p> <p>Number of NPOA's sharks developed by WECAFC members</p> <p>Implementation records</p>	2016-2017	Yes, RPOA endorsement in 2018 by WECAFC	80 000	Japan USA Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC and UNEP- CEP/SPAW PEW
3.13 Improved management and conservation of spawning aggregations of grouper and snapper	<p>Effective functioning of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA /CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations</p> <p>Implementation of the CLME+ work on reef fishes</p>	<p>Evidence of implementation of the regional closed season for Nassau grouper</p>	2016-2017	Regional management recommendations	80 000	CFMC NOAA Member countries	UNEP- CEP/SPAW CRFM CFMC NOAA

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

Goals:

1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, Scientific Advisory Group and the Working Groups.

2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among Members and other stakeholders through effective dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement required	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
4.1 Organize the 16 th session of the Commission in 2016	Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region	Approved work programme Report of the session	June 2016	yes	80 000	FAO Regular budget	Govt. of France (Guadeloupe)
4.2 Organize the 8 th SAG meeting in 2017	Scientific advice for consideration by the 17 th session of the Commission	Report of the meeting	November 2017	Yes, by WECAFC 17 in 2018	20 000	FAO Regular budget	
4.3 Prepare for the organization of the 17 th session of the Commission in 2018	Timely organized session which will discuss interesting subjects that meet the needs of the members of the Commission	Background papers prepared Host country confirmed	2017	Yes, in 2018	80 000	FAO Regular budget Member countries contribution	Host country contribution
4.4 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	An independent cost-benefit study of the various options for reform of WECAFC and how to move forward	A workshop Report of the 2nd WECAFC Strategic Reorientation	2016-2017	Yes, decisions in 2016 and 2018	200 000	FAO Regular Programme European Union	All members

	MoU implemented for an interim coordination mechanism between OSPESCA, CRFM and WECAFC	Workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1-2 December 2015 Agreement on the preferred option for reform of WECAFC and a process towards the reform Signed MoU					
4.5 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops	Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner	Reports of the events and workshops	2016-2017	No, for information only	--	Relevant projects	All stakeholders
4.6 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects	At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding	Draft project documents in the required format	2016-2017	No, for information only	--	WECAFC members	All relevant stakeholders

<p>4.7 Partnerships established with institutions in the environment and other sectors</p>	<p>A formal partnership established with the UNEP-SPAW Collaboration increased with international and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society as part of an effort to improve linkages and understanding of grass roots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and private sector investment in resource management.</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNEP-SPAW MoUs with other key partners Monitoring reports of the implementation of the CLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the CLME+ project</p>	<p>2016-2017</p>	<p>Yes, for endorsement by the 17th session</p>		<p>UNEP-SPAW FAO</p>	<p>CRFM, OSPESCA, TBF, IGFA, ICCAT, various NGOs</p>
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(Draft) **Terms of Reference of the 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 FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS)**
- 7. CRFM/WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON FLYINGFISH 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 WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

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

CONVENER: JOSÉ INFANTE

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.

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 principles³.

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 16th 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 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.

3. Monitor changes in distribution of queen conch stocks and populations in the Caribbean region.
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 of the Working Group

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

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 principles⁴ 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.

⁴ 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.

- (b) Develop common methods for assessment and monitoring of shrimp and groundfish stocks, possibly involving the private sector formally in data collection.
- (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) Provide management advice and advice on the implementation and performance of sub-regional management regulations on shrimp and groundfish resources to countries and regional organizations.
- (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.

WECAFC Working Group on the management of deep sea fisheries

Draft (updated) TORs

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 2014 to 2016

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 2014/2015 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 coordination 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;
- 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.

3. 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

2. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

2.1 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 principles⁵ 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 recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region, 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 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 and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)

Many of the fish resources in 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, analyze and share available data and information on recreational fisheries, including biological data and about the social and economic importance of recreational fisheries.
- (o) Develop common methods for assessment and monitoring of recreational fisheries, possibly involving commercial fisheries formally in data collection.
- (p) Provide management advice and on the implementation and performance of agreed sub-regional management measures on recreational fisheries to countries and regional organizations.
- (q) Establish communication between the members of the Working Group, and between the Working Group and interested parties, including the private sector.

⁵ 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.

- (r) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues, such as environmental changes of local or global economic context. To the extent possible, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their impacts in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions or stakeholders.
- (s) Establish links with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA) pelagic fisheries working groups as appropriate, in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks and to optimize use of technical and financial resources.
- (t) Establish links with other sub-regional initiatives (e.g. Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+), and The Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (ReByC II) projects) for mutual benefits.
- (u) Collaborate with other WECAFC working groups (i.e. fisheries using fish aggregating devices, flying fish fisheries, sharks, IUU fishing) in issues of mutual interest
- (v) Report to appropriate institutions at each session.
- (w) Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance in the monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for management for recreational fisheries
- (x) The working group will aim to further implementation of the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- (y) Support the Project Management Unit of the Caribbean Billfish Project
- (z) Support the establishment and implementation of a Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in the Western Central Atlantic established, comprising relevant organizations (RFB/RFMOs, INGOs, CSOs and private sector representatives)
- (aa) Support the preparation of a draft Billfish management and conservation plan for the Wider Caribbean Region for region wide endorsement by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2016-2017.

The implementation of many of the tasks of 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 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 Working 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, 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;
- 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, 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.

CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on Fisheries using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

Convener: Dominica Fisheries Division, with support from the CRFM Secretariat

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. The Sixth Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in Corpus Christi, Texas on 03 November 2013, discussed the TORs of the various Working Groups and made recommendations for their improvement and harmonization.

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 Dominica Fisheries Division was recommended to serve as convener for this working group with support from the CRFM Secretariat. 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 new Joint Working Group on FADs gives consideration to the SAG recommendations and the recommendations of the CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management, 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 over the period April 2014 to March 2016.

2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2014 to 2016

- a. To consider data on FAD fisheries in analyses of pelagic fish resources;
- b. To monitor progress in 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 manuals on best practices in the fisheries using FADs. The manuals are to address issues of safety in the construction and deployment of FADs, user conflicts associated with activities around FADs and improvements in FAD technology.

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;
- 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

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

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 Dominica Fisheries Division

- 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/WECAFC

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE⁶

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.

Flyingfish fisheries are concentrated in the southern end of the Lesser Antilles chain. Barbados, Tobago, Martinique and Saint Lucia all have large flyingfish fisheries and to a lesser extent Dominica and Grenada. Barbados accounts for about two thirds of the regional catch. In 2009 the total annual recorded catch in Barbados was 2292 tonnes. There were about 167 ice boats, which account for more than 90% of the catch, and 242 registered day boats in 2007. Compared to other countries in the region, Barbados also adds more value to flyingfish catches through processing and sale to the tourism sector. The annual value of the flyingfish catch in Barbados alone is estimated at USD 15 million. The flyingfish fishery is the most important fishery in Barbados employing 2000 fishers, 500 vendors as well as 325 persons employed as de-boners or workers in fish processing plants.

Other countries in the area also have important flyingfish fisheries. In Trinidad and Tobago, the flyingfish fishery is located on the Caribbean Sea coast of the island of Tobago. The number of boats involved in the fishery between 1988 and 2008 averaged 50 boats per season while in Saint Lucia, 331 vessels were engaged in the flyingfish fishery in 2007. According to figures provided by the department of fisheries, the total flyingfish catch of Saint Lucia was 109.35 tonnes in 2010. The total annual catch of flyingfish in Martinique was 47.6 tonnes in 2009 and 64.6 mt in 2010. There are no targeted flyingfish fisheries in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In the case of Dominica there has been a shift from the flyingfish fishery to the large pelagic fishery within the last eight years due to the increased use of FADs. The annual flyingfish landings in Dominica were reported to be 54.22 tonnes in 2011.

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. Although the stock has been assessed in 2008, the capacity in terms of the maximum number of fishing vessels that should be allowed in the fishery without jeopardizing its long term sustainability has not yet been estimated.

Results of the 2008 stock assessment suggested that the stock of flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean is not experiencing overfishing, that catch rates have remained fairly stable even with increased overall catches,

⁶ 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.

and it is unlikely that catches have ever exceeded MSY for this stock. The study identified an annual catch trigger reference point of 5,000 t at which further management action should be taken to ensure the stock does not become overfished, since development beyond this level would have unpredictable consequences. The maximum recorded annual catch to date is 4,700 t. A 2011 preliminary assessment explored the bio-economic dynamic impacts of managing the multi-fleet and multispecies flyingfish fishery and undertook risk analysis of alternative fishery management decisions. Results indicated that, among other things, under open access, harvest rates in the neighbourhood of 5000 ton /year could result in collapse of this pelagic fishery but that this could be averted with catch quotas, or effort controls to reduce exploitation rates by 30% to allow the resource to recover its natural fluctuations over time. The most significant uncertainty in the 2008 and 2011 assessments stem from the poor data available on catches and effort. Improved data collection and monitoring is required to ensure sustainable use of this and other fishery resources.

Under the CLME Project a Flyingfish Case Study was completed by the CRFM. The study included a bio-economic assessment of the fishery (mentioned above); a Multi-Criteria Analysis; a Stakeholder Analysis; a review of existing policies and legislation and establishment of a CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on flyingfish.

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 February 2014 two joint meetings of the CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group and the CRFM-WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean were convened. The joint meetings focused on review of the Draft Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean, initially drafted in 2002 by Dr Hazel Oxenford and updated in 2008 by Dr Paul Medley (WECAFC Consultants) under the previous WECAFC Ad-Hoc Working Group on Flyingfish, and subsequently updated again in 2012 by Dr Uwe Tietze (CRFM Consultant) under the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME Project). The joint meetings also gave direction in respect of national consultations to review the Draft Sub-Regional FMP and associated Draft Resolution of the respective CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee. As at February 2014, national consultations were convened in four CRFM Member States and the reports made available to the Working Group to continue its work.

The Sixth Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in Corpus Christi, Texas on 03 November 2013, 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), the Draft Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plan for 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

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 over the period April 2014 to March 2016.

2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2014 to 2016

- a. Finalize and implement the [2012] Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- b. Finalize and seek adoption by CRFM and WECAFC of a Management Resolution on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish based on the best available scientific information;
- c. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the [2012] Sub-Regional Management Plan for Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean;
- d. Provide advice on the status of the fishery and its management to the CRFM Ministerial Sub-Committee on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and to WECAFC;
- e. Consider options for integrating environmental variables in assessment of the status of the resource;
- f. 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; and
- g. [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.

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.

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

Convener: Miguel Rolón (CFMC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 2014–2015 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 16th session of WECAFC in 2016 for review, consideration and regional adoption.

Draft
Terms of Reference
Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU)

1. Preamble

Recognising:

- 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) systems in the WECAFC Region have made Caribbean States particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing;
- That IUU fishing is practiced by both domestic 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 and 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; and
- The requirements of CRFM States to implement fisheries-related MCS measures pursuant to national, regional and international law, including:
 - Article 8.1.4 and other provisions related to MCS from the 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); and

- Article 24 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing; and
- Article 6 (viii) of the Castries (St Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, where States agree 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.

The WECAFC member States indicate their intention to create 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 Region's EEZ, and to propose options and courses of practical action that coastal States can (and should) take to engage pro-actively with relevant RFMOs and suspected (or proven flag States) to address and mitigate these forms of incursions as well as measures to monitor, control and survey their own vessels fishing in the waters of other coastal States, in waters under the auspices of an RFMO and the high seas.

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 one member from a national organizations responsible for MCS nominated by each participating country, one member of key partner organizations (OECS, CNFO, CRFM).

3.2 Persons or organizations with expertise in matters pertaining to MCS and IUU fishing may be invited to participate as an observer in the deliberations of the RWG-IUU.

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

4. Functions

The RWG-IUU shall:

- As a matter of priority, seek to identify and recommend cost effective measures that can be easily implemented in the short to medium term to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

- Review and assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region. In particular, the specific areas and species that are targeted by illegal fishing, domestic and/or foreign, and the main market for these IUU products;
- Review current methods and arrangements for timely collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data and information relating to DWFN poaching activities;
- Assess the viability of adopting modern technologies and methodologies to increase data capture, coverage and reliability;
- Develop recommendations for the establishment of formal protocol to facilitate transmittal of information regarding IUU fishing from coastal and/or market States to the flag State.
- Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the methods by which IUU 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 international/regional/national practices employed to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and determine the suitability for adoption and implementation in the WECAFC region;
- Review and assess systems and mechanisms used by WECAFC Member States to address IUU fishing and make such recommendations as may be necessary to ensure 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 CRFM Region;
- Recommend mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation and coordination among WECAFC Member States and entities as may be necessary in regard to sharing of data and information;
- Promote the concept of collaborative policing approaches, with national fishers, and, where possible, through fisher organizations;
- 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 member states.

- Develop plan to coordinated MCS actions in the WECAFC area by using as a model the regional fisheries surveillance plan of the southwest Indian Ocean. Such a plan would work to reduce the number of vessels fishing illegally in the region by at sea and aerial surveillance operations; by using satellite and oceanographic data to plan surveillance operations; by using surveillance infrastructures; by reinforcing national FMCs and improving the regional exchange of information and collaboration; by training inspectors and observers.

5. Meetings

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. The deliberations and recommendations of the RWG shall be in writing.

6. RWG-IUU Costs

The cost of participation in meetings of the RWG-IUU will be met by the WECAFC Members. Additional resources may be mobilized with support from the CRFM and WECAFC Secretariats.

WECAFC Working Group for the conservation and management of sharks in the Wider Caribbean Region

Terms of Reference

1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

1.1 Scope

The scope of the working group is 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 fulfilling the national and regional responsibilities for the conservation and management of sharks as specified by FAO IPOA-Sharks, CITES 16th Conference of Parties and WECAFC 15.

1.3 Terms of Reference (TOR)

Many species of sharks and rays are present within the WECAFC region. There is currently minimal information regarding their stocks and very little has been 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 a platform for the development of regulations and facilitate the sustainable management of sharks and rays in the Wider Caribbean region. 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.

Specifically, the Working Group will:

- (a) Share available data and information on shark and ray stocks within the Wider Caribbean Region;
- (b) Develop National POAs for Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados;
- (c) Develop a Regional POA in accordance with the responsibilities agreed to in FAO IPOA-Sharks;
- (d) Develop common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of shark and ray populations, which involve the private sector formally in data collection;
- (e) Compile and analyze data and information about the social and economic importance of shark fisheries;
- (f) Focus a particular effort to monitor and protect the shark and ray species protected under current CITES regulations;
- (g) Provide management advice on the implementation and performance of national and regional management regulations to countries and regional organizations;
- (h) Develop and implement a biennial work plan that will be monitored and evaluated;
- (i) Establish communication between the members of the working group, and between the working group and interested parties including the private sector;
- (j) Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues regarding sharks and rays;
- (k) Report to OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC and CRFM on the outcome of each session.

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;
- 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 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 mobilization of resources for the activities of the Working Group;
- 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)

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 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, including their biology, ecology and methods for study of their populations, regional shark fisheries, the evaluation of stock vulnerability, current regulation and legal framework surrounding shark capture. 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 once a year or at a minimum, once every two years. The meetings should be of two to four days duration. 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.

