



WECAFC Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS WG)

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Outline of Introductory Material

Background

Nomination of Rapporteurs

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Adoption of Proposed ToRs

Background

WECAFC 16th (Guadeloupe, France, 20-24 June 2016)

- Established a working group for fisheries data and statistics matters (FDS WG), based on the ongoing work of the “*WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership*”
- WECAFC 16 supported the development of a regional database (RDB) in collaboration with the Members and partners in the region.

European Commission General Directorate for Fisheries (DG MARE)

- Provided financial support for organization of the first meeting of the FDS WG in the context of the WECAFC-FIRMS project
- WECAFC-FIRMS project coordinated by a taskforce representing key entities involved in science-based Caribbean marine resources research and management.

Functions

Supporting regional data collection efforts aimed at strengthening science-based decision making process

- Essential asset for a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC region,
- 3 key reference documents drafted by WECAFC-FIRMS task force.

Including:

- Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), providing minimum data requirements for data collection by Member Countries in support to fisheries management and stock assessment, to be implemented in the RDB
- Regional data exchange and sharing policies draft to complement to the DCRF, and
- Guidelines to logbooks design to support Member Countries in the implementation of modern tools for fisheries monitoring

Objectives of the 1st meeting of the FDS WG are:

- Develop consensus upon the WG ToR and outline the priorities in supporting collection of fisheries data and statistics in the WECAFC region;
- Review and validate minimum data requirements in support to fisheries management and stock assessment with related policies and guidelines for implementation;
- Review existing technical solutions developed to collate and share minimum data requirements (Regional Databas
- Identify priorities (in terms of filling gaps in knowledge on a variety of topics, species, fisheries, and ecosystems) for fisheries data collection and statistical analysis in the WECAFC area.

Examples of short-term:

- Basic catch and effort statistics and capacity relevant to monitoring national fisheries and
- Sufficient statistics for stock assessment.

Examples for long term:

- Response to data needs for quantifying stock status, e.g., stock status relative to reference points,
- Proportion of stocks sustainable (SDG 14.4.1 and/or reporting on the indicators the “State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies” (SOME) report, and other indicators as defined.

FDS WG Expected OUTCOMES AND IMPACT OF THE MEETING

The FDS WG will engage the following activities in different working sessions:

- Review, propose possible adjustments to the mandate (ToR) of the FDS WG, and approve modifications for final endorsement by the Commission
- Identification of members of FDS WG Steering Committee and chairperson
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Collection Logbook Guidelines
- Review and validation of the WECAFC Data Sharing and Access Policies (DSAP)
- Review FIRMS^[1] activities conducted under the WECAFC-FIRMS Partnership
- Review of the technical tools in support to the regional database implementation
- Identification of priority issues of concern and/or challenges and best practices in data collection and/or data sharing in the region for initial focus work including development of roadmap/timelines
- Propose recommendations regarding minimum data requirements for a variety of fisheries monitoring indicators and stock assessment to WECAFC.

Nomination of Rapporteurs

- *Day 1 morning*
- *Day 1 afternoon*
- *Day 2 morning*
- *Day 2 afternoon*
- *Day 3 morning*
- *Day 3 afternoon*

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Monday 14 May 2018	
08.15	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
08.30 – 08.45	Registration of participants
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.00	1. Opening of the Session Welcome - FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA
09.00 – 10.00	1. Participants roundtable: presentation and countries expectations from the 1st Meeting of the WECAFC FDS WG
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 10.45	1. FDS WG introduction – Proposed ToRs, nomination of meeting Convener, and nomination of rapporteurs
10:45 – 10:55	1. Review and adoption of meeting agenda
10.55 – 12.30	1. ToRs of the FDS WG – review and consensus development
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
Afternoon Session 14.00 – 17.30	1. DCRF – review and consensus development
17.30	Return by bus to the hotel– no evening Programme foreseen

Tuesday 15 May 2018	
08.30	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.00	Day 1 wrap-up
09.00 – 10.00	6. DCRF – review and consensus development (cont.)
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 12.30	7. Regional logbook best practice guidelines – review and consensus development
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
Afternoon Session 14.00 – 15.30	1. Regional logbook best practice guidelines – review and consensus development (cont.)
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break
15.45 – 17.30	1. Regional Database – presentation of pilot, and discussion on requirements in support of further developments
17.30	Return by bus to hotel
19.00 – 20.00	Social diner

Wednesday 16 May 2018	
08.30	Pick-up by bus at the hotel and transport to the UN House
Morning Session 08.45 – 09.10	Day 2 wrap-up
09.10 – 10.00	1. Data Sharing and Access Policies – review and consensus development
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 12.30	1. Identification of priority issues of concern and/or challenges and best practices in data collection and/or data sharing in the region for initial focus work including development of roadmap/timelines
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	1. FDS WG intersession activities – review and validate FDS WG annual work plan
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break
15.40 – 17.00	1. FDS WG Draft Recommendations to the Commission – review and adoption
17.00 – 17.20	1. Nomination of Vice-Convenor - Time and Venue of next meeting
17.20 – 17.30	1. Conclusions and closure of the meeting
17.30	Return by bus to the hotel– no evening programme

LIST of WECAFC WORKING GROUPS

Detailed TORs and priorities of each working group may be consulted at WECAFC/SAG/VII/2015/8 available at

http://www.fao.org/fishery/docs/DOCUMENT/wecaafc/7th_sag_2015/8e.pdf

OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Spiny Lobster**

1. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Recreational Fisheries**

2. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM **Queen Conch** Working Group

3. IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Devices (**FAD**) **Fishing** in the Lesser Antilles

4. CRFM/WECAFC **Flyingfish** in the Eastern Caribbean Working Group

5. WECAFC Working Group on the management of **Deep-sea Fisheries**

6. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM **Spawning Aggregations** Working Group

7. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working Group on **Shrimp and Groundfish** of the North-Brazil Guianas shelf

8. OSPESCA/WECAFC Working Group on **Sharks**

9. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on **IUU Fishing**

Item 5: Review and Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the WECAFC Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group

Proposed Terms of Reference: Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group

The FDS WG will report to the WECAFC Commission

- *The FDS WG will interact/liaise with*
- *The Membership of the FDS WG*
- *Sessions of the FDS WG*
- *The FDS WG will assist with*
- *Administration of the FDS WG*
- *Performance review of the RDB*

Proposed Terms of Reference: Fishery Data and Statistics Working Group

FDS WG will report to the WECAFC Commission

Formulate recommendations and guidelines

Conduct work as per the directions received from the WECAFC

Commission, and in close interaction with the WECAFC Secretariat

FDS WG will interact/liaise with:

All working groups under the WECAFC

Regional fishery management bodies (CRFM), OSPESCA and their working groups with the aim to strengthen the coordination of actions among the three RFBs to increase the sustainability of fisheries

Intergovernmental institutions

The Membership of the FDS WG:

National Officers responsible of Fishery Statistics and Data in
WECAFC Member Countries

FDS Working Group will nominate a sub-group which shall represent the whole Membership as part of the TaskForce appointed by the Secretariat, which will be responsible for intersessional progress

FDS WG members will develop bi-annual work plans prioritizing activities and identifying actions and provide to the Secretariat annually a report of activities, outputs, and prioritized future work plans (1-2 years)

Sessions of the FDS WG:

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

The FDS WG will assist with:

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

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

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

Identify and recommend list of data to be shared among WECAFC countries in a RDB, including regional standards and classifications

Define formats, metadata, policies and best practices to exchange data

Provide recommendations on data harmonization to allow data collation at regional level including the mapping between national and regional classification

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

Address issues of multiple reporting standards and format to various international organizations, including through sharing experiences and lessons learned, and accordingly formulate recommendations and guidelines

Formulate mechanisms to coordinate / streamline exchanges among regional fishery bodies and other intergovernmental institutions operating at global level, including methods, tools and procedures for harmonization of national data to RFBs formats

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

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

Administration of the FDS WG

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

Performance review of the RDB

Conduct periodic review against a set of metrics of the data collection framework (DCF) and best practices data collection guidelines

Recommend changes and adjustments to the RDB after review

Thank you for your attention