

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE CFMC /WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations

The working group will carry out the following tasks:

- Compile and analyze data on spawning aggregations in the member countries and monitor any changes.
- Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance in the monitoring, evaluation, and recommendations for management for protection and conservation of spawning aggregations.
- Provide advice on the management and implementation of regional strategies and regulations to protect spawning aggregations.
- Report to the appropriate institutions at each session.

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

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

WORK PLAN OF THE OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS (SAWG)

The SAWG will carry out the following activities in 2018–2020 period:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
1. Convene the 2nd meeting of the SAWG in Miami	27-29 March 2018	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; meeting supported by NOAA <i>Completed</i>
2. Finalization, publication and dissemination of the report from March Meeting	November 2018	WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; (Moe, Heyman, Young, Bolden, Rolon) <i>Nearly completed</i>
3. Develop draft Regional Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Nassau grouper and other FSA-forming species	January 2019	CFMC (Sadovy, Azueta, Prada and Lindeman, and SAWG Members) <i>Nearly completed</i>
4. Finalization of the Regional FMP for aggregating species	2020	CFMC (Sadovy, Azueta, Prada and Lindeman, and SAWG Members)
5. Support contributions for the SOMEE Report	December 2018	Heyman, funding dependent
6. Draft regional cooperative monitoring protocol, database and data management systems to characterize and monitor FSAs	December 2019 (funding dependent)	Heyman and WG Members, funding dependent
7. Final cooperative monitoring program and database	December 2020	Heyman and WG Members, funding dependent
8. Conduct a regional and national status and needs assessment of FSA sites in the WECAFC region	2019 - 2020	CFMC and NOAA (W. Heyman, C. Young, S. Bolden, J. Azueta, R. Claro and others as appropriate; funding dependent
9. Presentation of recommendations generated by the 2 nd Meeting for review /	April – June 2018	Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries (supported by

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
discussion and adoption by CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC		CLME+)
10. Presentation to the meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to review the recommendations	November 2019	WECAFC secretary
11. Develop communications strategy and tools for FSA conservation and management including two short videos about the urgency to protect FSAs.	2019-2020	CFMC (support to A. Salceda, Beluga Smile and SAWG communications subcommittee) <i>work in progress</i>
13. Mobilize resources from bilateral and international agencies to assist Members of WECAFC	2018-2020	WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA, SAWG members, and others
14. Organization and planning of the 3rd Meeting of the SAWG	2019	WECAFC + CFMC
15. Share technical capacity to identify FSAs in regions where FSAs have not been documented or characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean)	2019-2020	WECAFC; L. Reynal; funding dependent
16. Maintain the SAWG network intersessional communications by regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists	June 2018	FWRI (Acosta) <i>completed</i>