



# Data Collection Reference Framework Introduction

Nancie Cummings ([nancie.cummings@noaa.gov](mailto:nancie.cummings@noaa.gov))

Yann Laurent ([Yann.laurent@fao.org](mailto:Yann.laurent@fao.org))

Marc Taconet ([marc.taconet@fao.org](mailto:marc.taconet@fao.org))

## **1. Background**

## **2. Towards WECAFC becoming a RFMO**

## **3. Need for fisheries data and statistics in the WECAFC region - Process to build this proposal for a DCF**

## **4. Different needs for data in the WECAFC region**

## ***DCRF Background***

# Background

Inadequacy and gaps in fisheries data and statistics central issue to lack of fisheries management authority in WECAFC region (WECAFC 14 & 15)

At WECAFC 15 (Trinidad March 2014)- identified minimum steps needed to improve the capability of the Commission in becoming a functional management organization were identified as

- Increase and improve information content on fisheries data and statistics
- Increase accuracy of data and statistics via utilizing agreed practices in data collection
- Develop and implement agreed practices for data sharing
- Identify feasible stock assessment models for the region



**WECAFC-FIRMS “Partnership”** established by the FAO with direct involvement with the FIRMS Secretariat (Corpus Christi 2014)

- Facilitating a variety of significant improvements in the region focusing on fisheries – five pilot groups at beginning

**WECAF 15 endorsed** the WECAFC – Fisheries and Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) “Partnership” (2014) (<http://wecafc.org/en/statistics-info/firms.html>)

### **Three main outputs of the “Partnership” to date (Phase I):**

- FIRMS regional inventories published and capacity built for national inventories in a few pilot countries,
- National and sub-regional capacity strengthened in data collection and data sharing in support to WECAFC fishery management plans, and
- Foundations of a Regional Database proposed and tested with pilot data contributions.

## ***Toward becoming a RFMO***

## Towards WECAFC becoming an RFMO

- WECAFC 16<sup>th</sup> agreed to launch a process to establish a **Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)** in the WECAFC area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the Northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) and
- WECAFC 16 agreed to collaborate in fisheries management and conservation in the **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)** of straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not under the mandate of ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas)
- WECAFC 16 agreed to **establish a working group for fisheries data and statistics (FDS WG)** matters, based on the ongoing work of the “**WECAFC-FIRMS partnership**” and supported the development of a regional database in collaboration with the Members and partners in the region.

# *Need for a DCRF*



## ***Need for fisheries data and statistics in the WECAFC region – Process to build this proposal for a DCRF***

- WECAFC DCRF lays the foundation of fisheries data and statistics collection and collation
- WECAFC DCRF will feed the needs of developing, monitoring, assessing and reviewing regional fisheries policies such as FMPs as required by any RFMO.
- WECAFC DCRF incorporates inspiration from other RFMOs DCFs (e.g., the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (2016 GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework) and from International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) thus promoting best practices and harmonization of data collection throughout the world
- WECAFC DCRF incorporates the unique specificity of the WECAFC region country-level challenges and practicalities in the different types of data needs

<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/dcrf/en/>

<https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.htm>

Thank you for your attention