



WECAFC Regional Data Access and Sharing Policies (RDASP)

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Introduction: need for regional data sharing and access policies

Definition of data access and sharing policy:

“As governing instruments, data access and sharing policies are meant to set principles and boundaries which shall govern the in-and-out flow of data by the WECAFC community, data security and confidentiality aspects, collaborative work through data sharing, and publishing.”

Such policies are in-line with **high level strategies**, implement a **vision and guiding principles** and are **technically implemented** in the Regional Database

High level strategies

Best practices for streamlining between national/regional/global levels

- **SOFIA 2016:** *“catch and effort data could be assembled, although a lack of agreed data sharing and confidentiality policies remains a hindrance. Enhanced information technology and data management capacities can also help”*

Best practices for streamlining between national/regional/global levels

SOFIA 2018: *“best practices on streamlining statistical data workflow are being developed. Formal data sharing agreements among agencies should eventually address the six main lines of activity in FAO’s vision of a streamlined reporting mechanism for fishery statistics:*

- *alignment of calendars;*
- *sharing of information on national focal points;*
- *consistency in concepts, standards and definitions;*
- *mainstreamed data provision serving several reporting requirements for Member Countries;*
- *improved accessibility through harmonized published formats;*
- *active collaboration for analysis of gaps and discrepancies;*
- *transparency through systematic processing and documentation of sources”*

- **Strategies specific to the regional context**
 - WECAFC-CRFM-OSPESCA MoU
 - CLME Strategic Action Plan and contribution to the CLME+ DSS and SOME E – (currently under CLME+ project)

***Vision and guiding principles
(High level Policies)***

Vision for a Regional Data and Access Sharing Policies

“facilitating regional fisheries data and information exchange to support evidence based fisheries policy making at national and regional levels, while ensuring non-disclosure of sensitive fisheries data and information”

Instrumental to the **Mission of WECAFC** to support regional fisheries management plans for the three priority species (Queen conch, Caribbean Spiny Lobster and Flyingfish), to support stock assessment activities and to fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. Respectively: *Strombus gigas*, *Panulirus argus*, and *Hirundichthys Spp* [*add link to the FMP documents*]

Regional Data and Access Sharing Policies Principle

First principle states that data and information have different status depending on its nature and sensitiveness: confidential or private data Vs public data

The second principle is also inspired from the article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and **ensures protection of confidential data**

The third principle is to ensure that needed data is shared and accessed by the audience in WECAFC that needs this data to support evidence based policy-making. Each level of confidentiality has a **corresponding level of security and authorizations.**

Regional Data and Access Sharing Policies Principle

Private data (sensitive) **with restricted access**: only to WECAFC secretariat – in coordination with CRFM and OSPESCA, WECAFC Countries Members representatives, Scientific Advisory Group, and Working Group members (e.g. log book data for species working group member)

→ **confidentiality level 1;**

Semi public (less sensitive) **data with less restricted access**: Above authorized users and working group attendees and resource persons (e.g. result of country stock assessment model computation)

→ **confidentiality level 2;**

Public data with public access (e.g. regional statistics, regional list of authorized vessels)

→ **confidentiality level 3.**

Regional Data and Access Sharing Policies Principle

The fourth principle defines that all users accessing / sharing restricted data must be formally identified.

The fifth principle stresses that data and information should be accessed and shared in consistent ways: concepts, standards and definitions should remain consistent across the years. Data are exchanged with its associated metadata describing these concepts, standards and definitions, and documenting and highlighting any changes in any of these three domains

Regional Data and Access Sharing Policies Principle

The sixth principle acknowledges the principle of subsidiarity for data access and sharing policies. National data can't be accessed and shared at regional level if national data access and sharing policies prevent it (i.e. national policies are more restrictive than the WECAFC ones).

The Seventh principle imposes that **any technical implementation** for any data management for the WECAFC has to implement the above principles.

***Technical implementation of the
Regional data access and sharing policies
(lower level policies)***

The central role of the RDB to implement DCRF and Policies

Data Collection Reference Framework : Definition of minimum data requirement for fisheries management and stock assessment (concept, standards and definition);

DCRF : DCRF data (and other types of data) should be accessed and shared (define the copyright and need for citation);

Regional Database : provides the technical environment to manage and publish data defined in the DCRF, and make these data available for access and sharing to the different users (man or machine) according to the RDASP

The RDB is implemented in the iMarine e-infrastructure (VRE).

The RDB host - iMarine data policies (access, sharing, security)

Shared and public data in iMarine e-infrastructure: Copyright and Terms of use

As regards the copyright and licensing of the content available through the iMarine e-infrastructure, all content on the Infrastructure is subject to copyright. Reuse and licensing terms are defined at a metadata record level, contained in the copyright notices and business metadata accompanying each item of content or dataset (see “license” or “constraints” field).

Except where otherwise indicated, content is licensed for display and reuse via the Infrastructure under the Creative Commons (CC) license. All derivative products intended for publication and dissemination through iMarine shall be licensed under a CC license. In addition to providing the licensing metadata required by the CC license, users must ensure accurate attribution and provide a recommended citation.

The RDB host - iMarine data policies (access, sharing, security)

Shared and public data in iMarine e-infrastructure: Data security in iMarine e-infrastructure

The iMarine platform also ensures the security at hardware and software level of the uploaded data from external attacks (proper firewall, hardware and software maintenance with regular or ad-hoc security patches applied, secured user registration process, etc.).

Need for Service Level Agreement (SLA) to secure services between IT supplier and FAO/WECAFC

The WECAFC RDB and FIRMS data policies

Policies governing the sharing of data and statistics

WECAFC RDB management of data access and sharing policies is done through the implementation of the **levels of confidentiality 1, 2 and 3** by the creation of the user (with an assigned role) by the regional data manager

WECAFC RDB Data dissemination: data are publicly available according to the DCRF; data and statistics dissemination falls under the general FAO terms of use (WECAFC article VI)

The WECAFC RDB and FIRMS data policies

Policies governing the sharing of data and statistics

Reporting data to WECAFC: under the responsibility of the national data manager and the control of the regional data manager

Sharing with other organizations (regional / international): not yet implemented but will follow the same principles



The WECAFC RDB and FIRMS data policies

Policies governing the sharing of information on status and trends (FIRMS)

Reporting data to FIRMS: under the FIRMS Information Management Policy
with definition of roles per stakeholder

Thank you for your attention