

6. (Revised) **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING MFADS**

Period 2019-2020

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 (MFADs) 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 MFADs 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 MFAD 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, MFADs, 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.

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 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 Joint Working Group on FADs gives consideration to the recommendations by the 2013 CRFM-JICA CARIFICO/WECAFC-IFREMER MAGDELESA Workshop on FAD Fishery Management and recommendations of the Seventh Session of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group, which was convened in

Panama City, Panama on 7 to 8 November 2015, 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 MFAD 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.

2.2 Specific Terms of Reference for the period 2019 to 2021

- a. To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group;
- b. To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project;
- c. To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on research of key pelagic species associated with MFAD fisheries, encourage pluridisciplinary research on MFADs including ecological socioeconomic and governance issues, and to consolidate information on MFAD fisheries in order to accurately characterize MFAD fisheries in the region;
- d. To develop and finalize manuals on best practices in the fisheries using MFADs. The manuals are to address interests in MFAD design, construction and deployment, maintaining good quality of MFAD-caught fish, fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers.
- e. To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT;
- f. To collaborate on co-management within MFADs fisheries, noting the successful examples in Grenada, Dominica, and Bonaire, and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group;
- g. To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group;
- h. To review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean, adapt to a broader a WECAFC regional FAD management plan and support Member Members’ efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans.

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 MFADs.

2.3.1 Election of Chair of the Working Group

The Working Group shall elect a Chair from among its Members States to serve during the working group meeting.

2.3.2 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 MFADs, including historical time series data;
- b. To develop, implement, monitor and adapt accordingly, national systems for collecting socio-economic data on fisheries using MFADs;
- 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.

2.3.3 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.

2.3.4 Role of IFREMER

- a. To assist in research, technical assistance, and implementation of the Work Plan;

2.3.5 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.

2.3.6 Role of the convener

Over the two year period, the convener will:

- a. Convene meetings of the Working Group;

- b. Technically guide the group work and determine the subjects to be discussed;
- c. Represent the group in regional and international meetings, as appropriate;
- d. Invite new Members and other experts to participate in working group meetings;
- e. Take a leading role in securing funding for working group meetings;
- f. Review messages and communications regarding information on MFAD activities in the region.

2.3.7 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, OSPESCA, 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, OSPESCA, and WECAFC Secretariats to the respective Member States.

2.3.8 Working Group Meetings

Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group should be convened ideally once a year, or at least once every two years, or as 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 announced by the Convener and chaired by the Chair of the Working Group. Regional organizations and experts may be invited to participate in the meetings as required. The Convener shall coordinate intersessional activities of the Working Group.

WORK PLAN OF THE CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES USING FADS

The MFAD² Working Group will carry out the following activities in 2019–2021 period:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE
(a) To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	June to December 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Request data and detailed information on MFAD fisheries from WECAFC Members for further analysis.	June 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Submission of available data and detailed information related to MFAD Fisheries by Member States to WECAFC.	June to December 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, and OSPESCA
(b) To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project	2019 to 2021	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
(c) To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on research of key pelagic species associated with MFAD fisheries, encourage pluridisciplinary research on MFADs including ecological socioeconomics and governance issues, and to consolidate information on MFAD fisheries in order to accurately characterize MFAD fisheries in the region	2019-2021	
- Establishment of Points of Contact	June to July 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, OSPESCA
- Request information on best practices and ongoing MFAD fishery projects and research	June 2019	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Sharing information on best practices and ongoing MFAD fishery projects and research	June to December 2019	WECAFC Members, CRFM, OSPESCA, and anyone with relevant information
- Consolidating and compiling information related to ongoing projects and research	January to June 2020	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER
- Compiling and analyzing information to accurately	January to June	Convener with CRFM,

² Moored FAD

characterize MFAD fisheries with the help of the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	2020	OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER with the support of University of California, Santa Barbara
- Encourage Members to promote participation in the ICCAT Atlantic Tuna Tropical Tagging Program (AOTTP) in order to improve the knowledge of tropical tuna movements in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.	2019 to 2021	Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, and WECAFC Secretariat
(d) To develop and finalize manuals on best practices in the fisheries using MFADs. The manuals are to address interests in MFAD design, construction and deployment, maintaining good quality of MFAD-caught fish, fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers	June 2019 to June 2021	IFREMER, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat
- Provide edits on manual related to safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers and any other tools related to the sustainable management of FADs	By June 2019 to June 2021	WECAFC Members and fisherfolk organizations
- Finalize remaining manuals	December 2020	IFREMER
- Publish manuals	June 2021	WECAFC Secretariat
(e) To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT	2019 to 2021	WECAFC Members
- ICCAT Parties should submit all relevant data to ICCAT	2019 to 2021	ICCAT Parties
- Non-Parties of ICCAT should work with their relevant regional organization to submit available data	2019 to 2021	Non-ICCAT Parties with CRFM, OSPESCA, and the WECAFC Secretariat
(f) To collaborate on co-management within MFADs fisheries, noting the successful examples in Grenada, Dominica, and Bonaire, and strengthen ties with the Recreational Fisheries Working Group	2019 to 2021	OSPESCA, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat
- Encourage transfer of peer-to-peer knowledge of best practices among fishers and fisher organizations through Fisher Learning Exchanges.	2019 to 2021	CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations
(g) To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group	2019 to 2021	OSPESCA, CRFM, WECAFC Secretariat, and WECAFC Members
- Identify a website to host relevant information for the Working Group	May 2020	WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group

- Share information on the beaching and entanglements of lost or abandoned moored and drifting FADs and collaborate to address the issue.	2019 to 2021	WECAFC Members and MFAD Working Group
(h) To review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean, adapt to a broader a WECAFC regional FAD management plan and support Member Members' efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans.		
Request WECAFC Members to review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan for consideration in the development of a broader WECAFC FAD management plan.	June 2019	WECAFC Secretariat
Review the CRFM Sub-Regional Management Plan, taking into account other relevant information (gears, species, socioeconomics, FAD construction materials, etc)	January to June 2020	WECAFC Members
- Seek funding to advance the drafting of a broader WECAFC regional FAD Management Plan, including appropriate consultation with fisherfolk in the region	December 2019	Convener and WECAFC Secretariat