

5. Terms of Reference for the WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries

TORs updated in April 2017

1. ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP

1.1 Scope

The scope of the Working Group is to provide scientific and management advice for the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC region. In undertaking its work, the Working Group will pay due attention to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 6.4 of the general principles³, the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

³ 6.4 Conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate.

1.2 The Goal of the Working Group

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the Working Group will contribute to the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the WECAFC Region, by providing scientific and management advice to Members of WECAFC based on the best available knowledge.

In pursuing this goal the Working Group will contribute to the fulfilment of national and regional responsibilities for the marine environment and for the management of recreational fisheries and resources, and related or interacting species, or other interacting fisheries in the WECAFC Region under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in line with the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and in accordance with agreed, documented management goals.

1.3 Terms of Reference (TORs)

Many of the fish resources captured by recreational fisheries, such as billfish, dolphin fish and tunas, are transboundary and /or highly migratory and therefore the TORs may apply at the sub-regional and/or national levels, as appropriate. The Working Group, with the support of FAO, WECAFC Secretariat, will act in an advisory capacity to guide and facilitate the sustainable management of recreational fisheries.

Specifically, the Working Group will:

(n) Compile, analyse and share available biological and socioeconomic data and information on recreational fisheries.

(o) Develop common monitoring and assessment methods for recreational fisheries, involving commercial fisheries (industrial and artisanal) formally in data collection, wherever possible.

(p) Provide scientific and management advice to countries and regional organizations about the implementation and performance of agreed sub-regional management measures for recreational fisheries.

(q) Establish communication among members of the Working Group, between the Working Group and interested parties, including private sector.

(r) Evaluate and make recommendations on emerging issues, including external environmental and economic drivers of change at local, national, regional or global levels. To the

extent possible, address issues dealing with pollution and habitat degradation and their socio-ecological impacts in collaboration with appropriate national, sub-regional and/or regional institutions and local stakeholders.

(s) Establish links with the appropriate working groups of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (ICCAT) and the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) in order to avoid duplicating efforts and tasks while optimizing the use of technical and financial resources.

(t) Establish links with other sub-regional initiatives (e.g., Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+), Climate Change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) and the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (ReByC II LAC) projects) for mutual benefits.

(u) Collaborate with other WECAFC working groups (i.e., fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs), flying fish and shark fisheries) in issues of mutual interest

(v) Report to appropriate institutions at each session.

(w) Seek partnerships with other institutions that could provide assistance and recommendations about monitoring, assessment, and management of recreational fisheries.

(x) Support the organization of, and provide technical expertise during, the Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries Data and Statistics in the Caribbean.

(y) The working group will aim to advise and support implementation of the Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation Plan, the CRFM Sub-Regional FAD Management Plan and the 2012 “FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries” in the WECAFC area.

(z) The working group will review and validate draft findings of the “Scenario Study on how to influence ICCAT decision making processes.

(aa) Support the Project Management Unit of the Caribbean Billfish Project.

(bb) Support activities of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC).

(cc) Support endorsement procedures for the draft Billfish Management and Conservation Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region by WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC and ICCAT in 2017-2018.

(dd) Report on the 8th meeting of the WECAFC Scientific Advisory group to provide advice and recommendations

(ee) Promote closer relations with, and reporting to, the SCRS of ICCAT

(ff) Review and provide recommendations on the Business Case(s) developed through the Caribbean Billfish Project

The implementation of many of the tasks assigned to this Working Group will be supported by the Caribbean Billfish project, a component of the World Bank/GEF programme on Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Models for Innovation and Reform.

1.4 Mode of Operation

1.4.1 Role of Countries

The members of the Working Group will play a leading role through the following activities and commitments:

- Participate in agreed activities of the Working Group, and facilitate, to the extent practicable, participation of appropriate experts;
- Implement the tasks agreed upon in the work plan of the Working Group at national level;
- Host Working Group meetings on a rotational basis.

1.4.2 Role of Convenor

The Convenor of the Working Group will play a leading role during the organization of the meetings by coordinating inputs of the members of the Working Group:

- Call for meetings as appropriate;

- Ensure that contributions are received in a timely manner and in the appropriate format;
- Ensure that outputs are delivered as agreed during each meeting;
- Collaborate closely with FAO-WECAFC and other sub-regional and regional organizations as appropriate.

1.4.3 Role of FAO

The FAO/WECAFC Secretariat will play a supporting role in the activities of the Working Group by assisting in:

- Co-coordinating the activities of the working group (including facilitate procurement of funding);
- Providing a technical secretary and technical backstopping;
- Providing technical assistance and support to research;
- Facilitating training.

1.4.4 Role of other organisations (e.g. CRFM, OSPESCA)

Sub-regional organisations have an important role to play in assisting their member countries to participate fully in the activities of the working group by:

- Providing technical assistance and support;
- Facilitating procurement of funding when possible;
- Facilitating the decision-making process at the Sub-regional level;
- Promoting implementation of data collection and a resultant regional database for recreational fisheries.

1.5 Communication

A mechanism for on-going communication among Working Group members (Video conference, Skype and email), is essential to ensure that the work of the group is sustained between meetings. It must include all Working Group members.

The successful functioning of the Working Group also requires that each member country and organization/ agency identify a national focal point through which communications will be directed. The outputs of the Working Group will be communicated through Working Group reports to WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA, national fishery administrations and any other organization via the WECAFC Secretariat.

1.6 Working Group meetings

Working Group meetings will be organized according to the workplan and depending on resources available.