


July 2022

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|  | منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة | 联合国 粮食及 农业组织 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture | Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций | Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación |
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| WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC) |
| EIGHTEENTH (VIRTUAL) SESSION |
| Managua, Nicaragua, 26-29 July 2022 |
| 2022-2024 Programme of work |

Suggested Action by the Commission

The Commission is invited to

* review, amend as appropriate, and endorse the draft programme of work of WECAFC (2022-2024). Its attention is particularly drawn to this template, which builds the tracking of the core work of the Commission around the intersessional activities of the working groups with reference to the draft new Strategic plan Focus Areas, other ad hoc working groups, the scientific advisory group, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, in comparison with previous editions of the programme of work where a diversity of activities, including more general (global, regional) initiatives were spread across focus areas.

* provide guidance on the most effective way to mobilize members support and commitments for the required financial efforts to successfully implement the programme of work.

Introduction

1. The background paper on “[Intersessional activities and progress made by members and working groups in implementing the 2019-2021 work programme](#)” (WECAFC/XVIII/2022/7) showed progress made in the last intersessional period. The document showed that the majority (over 80 percent) of the approved 2019-2021 Programme of Work has been implemented, with a remarkable high number of meetings of the Executive Committee and activity of many working groups. Overall, the last Programme of Work seems to have been realistic and achievable. The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Work were received from various Trust Fund programmes mostly supported by the EU DG Mare and GEF, and FAO’s regular programme. Joint activities with Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), The French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), further contributed to the implementation of a range of activities of the joint Working Groups.

2. The Working Groups continued to be effective tools for collaboration between members and relevant institutions. Major milestones have been reached and substantial progress has been made despite challenges and delays to implementation related to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Notwithstanding the shared responsibility in the convening role by the main regional fishery bodies (i.e. CRFM and OSPESCA), and active task forces in some working groups, support to the initiation and implementation of the activities remains heavily dependent on the WECAFC Secretariat.

3. The SAG, at its 11th session held electronically on 25-27 April 2022, reviewed and approved the draft individual workplans of nine of the 11 working groups. SAG also reviewed the tailored terms of reference and recommendations made by five of the working groups. In their review, SAG recommended a few minor text edits to the recommendations for two of the WGs, requesting the amendments be submitted within 15 days of receipt of the suggested guidance. Further, SAG also recommended each WG review their TORs and provide a supplemental page identifying specific modifications for the tailored TORs from the historical TORs.

4. The aforementioned workplans along with guiding deliverables from the activities of the Executive Committee and the ad hoc Intersessional Working Group (IWG) established by WECAFC17 (which is tasked with implementing the Roadmap for progressing towards the development of a model for a regional fisheries management entity or arrangement in the WECAFC area) were the basis for this (draft) Work Programme for 2022-2024.

5. This template of draft programme of work 2022-2024 was prepared in keeping with a recommendation by the Commission at its 17th Session, paragraph 98 of the proceedings¹, *requesting that in future years the Draft Work Programme of WECAFC be built mainly around the core work of*

¹<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8748t/> FAO. 2020. *Report of the seventeenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Miami, United States of America, 15-18 July*

the Secretariat, SAG and WGs of the Commission. This indeed eases the tracking of fulfilment of the objectives and identification of core work of the Secretariat, SAG, WECAFC thematic WGs and other ad hoc WGs, versus the more general (global, regional) initiatives, as well as presentation of those activities in a more thematic way.

DRAFT WECAFC Programme of Work (2022-2024)

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
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| CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH | | | | | | | | |
| Address any gaps in implementation of the management measures in the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan (endorsed by WECAFC 17, CRFM, OSPESCA and CFMC), and continue to monitor implementation of the plan. | | Call on a meeting to identify and address gaps in the implementation of the management measures in the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | 5,000\$ (at least two online workshops and active communication with country representatives) | | CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members | 1;2;3 |
| Finalize, publish and disseminate the report of the hybrid WG meeting hosted in Puerto Rico (in hard copies and on-line on http://www.strombusgigas.com/index.htm and at www.WECAFC.org ; including the national summary reports). | 8 | Reports published on the WECAFC webpage and strombusgigas.com | March 2022 | No, for information | | | CFMC and FAO with inputs from meeting participants | 2 |

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| <p>3. Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments, and support national consultations as needed in the region, to advance implementation of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> and relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by CITES and WECAFC.</p> | | <p>Effective implementation of the of the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> and relevant decisions and recommendations adopted by CITES and WECAFC.</p> | | <p>No, for information</p> | <p>15,000 (for expert consultation to conduct regional analysis)</p> | | <p>WG members (national fisheries and CITES authorities), CRFM, OSPESCA, CITES, CFMC, FAO/WECAF C, SSTAG</p> | <p>1,2,3</p> |
| <p>4. Report on progress with the implementation of relevant CITES and WECAFC decisions, and the outcomes of the Working Group – at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 18th session of WECAFC, July 2022; ● 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, November 2022; and consider the possibility of organizing a side-event ● 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee, 2023 | | <p>Effective Report on the progress drafted and shared</p> | <p>In advance of deadlines for reporting required</p> | <p>No, for information</p> | | | <p>CITES/Fisheries authorities of QC range States attending these meetings (as appropriate) ; CITES and WECAFC Secretariats</p> | <p>1,2,3</p> |

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| Support fishers and fisheries administrations in addressing the decent work, employment, and safety-at-sea problems in the queen conch fisheries, in particular; fisher organizations should be engaged as much as possible for these activities. | | Record of national officers and fishers and engaged in addressing the decent work employment and safety at sea. Record on the improvement of the fishers working conditions | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | | | NOAA Fisheries/ CFMC and FAO with the fisheries authorities in the region | 1,2,3,4 |
| Prepare a recommendation on the promotion of decent work, health, and safety in the fisheries sector for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC18. | | Effectiveness of the recommendation on the promotion of decent work, health, and safety in the fisheries sector prepared | January 2022 – February 2022 | Yes, recommendation for discussion and endorsement by the Commission | | | WECAFC/FAO with CRFM and OSPESCA | 1,2,3 |
| Support publication of the health and safety study and proposed project. | | Effective dissemination of the health and safety study and project developed | January – September 2022 | No, for information | | | | 2 |
| Continue the review and consideration of options for the development of a transparent “chain of custody” procedure to track catches from their harvest | | Clear communication between the different stakeholders while collecting the reviews on the development of a | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | | | OSPESCA, CRFM, NOAA Fisheries/CFMC with CITES, WECAFC/FA | 1,2,3 |

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| location to their eventual destination. | | transparent “chain of custody” procedure to track catches from their harvest location to their eventual destination. | | | | | O and the fisheries authorities in the region | |
| <p>Advance research to determine genetic connectivity of queen conch across the Caribbean,</p> <p>Identify stocks, and design/implement a protocol to trace illegally harvested queen conch in trade.</p> <p>Engage countries to identify points of contact to assist with sample collection and participation in this research.</p> | | <p>Effective of the research will enable to determine genetic connectivity of queen conch across the Caribbean</p> <p>Effective Identification of stock/ implement a protocol to trace illegally harvested queen conch in trade</p> <p>National focal points identify to assist with sample collection</p> | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | <p>200,000 – 250,000</p> <p>(cost has increase this year.. inflation high)</p> <p>Need update from CITES on progress?</p> | | SSTAG with support of WECAFC/FAO and CITES | 1,2,3 |

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| <p>Create a Task Force – comprised of members from the QCWG and Regional Working Group on IUU fishing – to intersessionally draft a recommendation prioritizing genetic identification of queen conch to improve traceability and combat IUU fishing in the region for the QCWG to consider for potential endorsement by the Commission at WECAFC 18.</p> | | <p>Task force created to intersessionally draft a recommendation prioritizing genetic identification of queen conch to improve traceability and combat IUU fishing in the region for the QCWG</p> | <p>January 2022 – February 2022</p> | <p>Yes, a recommendation for discussion and endorsement</p> | <p>15,000-20,000 One in person workshop plus online follow-up?)</p> | | <p>SSTAG, WECAFC, CFMC, CRFM, OSPESCA</p> | <p>1,2,3</p> |
| <p>Expand the collection of socio-economic information to analyze contribution of queen conch fisheries to income, livelihoods, and trade.</p> | | <p>Effective collection of socio-economic to help analyzing conch fisheries to income, livelihoods, and trade.</p> | <p>January 2022 onwards</p> | <p>No, for information</p> | <p>15,000-20,000 (for compiling existing information and plan to collect new and standardized info)</p> | | <p>CFMC, WECAFC, and CRFM, OSPESCA and the WG members</p> | <p>1;2;3</p> |
| <p>Provide training on the use of modules for the assessment of queen conch stocks through a regional conference.</p> | | <p>SSTAG to organize a training on the use of modules for the assessment of queen conch stocks</p> | <p>January 2022 onwards</p> | <p>No, for information</p> | <p>15,000-25,000 (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage, values depending on level of the expansion)</p> | | <p>SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO</p> | <p>2;3</p> |

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| Conduct two pilot studies for determination of fishery production as the basis for further analysis of the long-term sustainability of the species and its associated fisheries. | | Effectiveness of the pilot studies conducted, results disseminated | January 2022 | No, for information | 35,000-50,000 (Pilots already covered, need funding for higher coverage, values depending on level of the expansion) | | SSTAG with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO | 1;2;3 |
| Investigate and consider the impacts of climate change on the queen conch resources and the fishery. | | Effective Investigation carry out by WG members | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | 35,000-50,000 (Research on QC reproduction dynamics and changes at the regional level) | | WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO | 3 |
| Investigate the ecological and biological impacts of pollution on queen conch resources. | | Effective Investigation conducted by the WG members | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | 35,000-45,000 (Microplastic pilots covered, need to expand at the regional level or inclusion of other pollutants) | | WG members with support from CFMC, WECAFC/FAO | 3 |

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| <p>Continue / expand the scientific support to apply updated conversion factors by all countries with a queen conch fishery.</p> <p>For this purpose, the Scientific and Statistical Sub-Group (SST Sub-group) has: Elaborated a series of technical documents on conversion factors that need to be applied and updated when reporting conch production / trade data across the region.</p> | | <p>Effective application of the technical documents on conversion factors</p> | <p>Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the next two years.</p> | <p>No, for information</p> | <p>20,000-35,000 (Linked with act. 12, need add funding for field work and expert support, depending on level of expansion and secure matching funds)</p> | | <p>CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership , CITES</p> | <p>1;2;3</p> |
| <p>Continue review of existing queen conch NDFs and guidance in order to develop a simplified template for making non-detriment findings for queen conch, in consultation with the CITES Animals Committee, dissemination of the template to the Working Group membership for their consideration, and supporting selected countries in applying the templates and sharing the results at the regional level.</p> | | <p>Development of a simplified template for making non-detriment findings for queen conch</p> | <p>Work in progress initiated in 2019 and will continue over the next two years.</p> | <p>No, for information</p> | <p>15,000-20,000 (Need a task force with country representatives for final agreements)</p> | | <p>CFMC/WEC AFC, SST Sub-group membership , CITES</p> | <p>1;2;3</p> |

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| Determine priority next steps to implement education and outreach as stated in the <i>Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan</i> . | | Effective implementation of education and outreach | January 2022 onwards | | | | CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group | 1;2;3 |
| Consult with the PROCARIBE+ project to identify potential areas for improving the sustainability of the queen conch fishery including contributions to the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOME) reporting mechanism, habitat impacts/restoration and an updated Strategic Action Program Monitoring and Evaluation framework. | | Effective collaboration with the PROCARIBE leading to the identification of potential areas for improving the sustainability of the queen conch fishery | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | | | CFMC, the WECAFC Secretariat too and/or the relevant sub-regional partners (CRFM, OSPESCA, Coordination Mechanism for Integrated Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean) | 1;2;3 |

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| Collaborate with the Blue BioTrade Project regarding improved trade and value-chain activities. | | Improved trade and value-chain activities. | January 2022 onwards | No, for information | (Linked with activ. 8) | | CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group | 1;2;3 |
| Continue support to the development of the WECAFC Strategic Plan 2021-2027 | | Effective implementation of the strategic plan | January 2022- February 2022 | No, for information | | Not Applicable | CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group | 1;2;3;4 |
| Review and finalize the new TORs for the QCWG | | The New ToRs for the QCWG approved and disseminated | January 2022- February 2022 | No, for information | | Not Applicable | CFMC/WEC AFC Secretariat and the Working Group | 1;2;3;4 |

CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM WORKING GROUP ON SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
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| Present Fishery Management Plan (FSAMP) to WECAFC18. | | Approval/ mainstreaming of the (FSAMP) | Spring 2022 | Yes, the FSAMP for discussion and endorsement | No cost | Not Applicable | WECAFC secretariat | 1,2,3 |
| Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to review the recommendations | | | | | | | | |
| Convene the 5th meeting of the SAWG | | Organization of a meeting/ meeting report | Jan-23 | No, for information | TBD | NOAA Fisheries & CFMC | WECAFC + CFMC as coordinator; meeting supported by NOAA Fisheries Deferred | 1,2,3 |
| Submit Fishery Management Plan to WECAFC 18 (Nicaragua) | | Approval of the Fishery Management Plan at WECAFC 18 | Summer 2022 | Yes, the FSAMP for discussion and endorsement | No cost | Not Applicable | Spawning Aggregations Working Group | 1,2,3 |
| Publish and distribute Report of 5th SAWG meeting (2023) | | Dissemination of the meeting report (mail and WECAFC website) | Spring 2023 | No, for information | TBD | | WECAFC + CFMC supported by NOAA Fisheries | 1,2,3 |
| Maintain the SAWG network intersessional communications by regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists | | Regularly posting FSA news and events to the GCFI, CAMPAM, and other lists(monthly/ bi-monthly etc.) | 2021 – 2025 | No, for information | No cost | Not Applicable | FWRI Ongoing – ListServe established; postings ongoing | 2 |

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| Final cooperative monitoring program and database | | Final Database set | Not started | No, for information | USD\$70,000 | EU Funding – application process begun | WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members and researchers, and others Requires funding | 2,3 |
| Develop a FSA Protocol to: 1) report on the status of spawning aggregations and associated environmental factors, and 2) evaluate local management initiatives. Identify lessons learned and apply positive outcomes. | | Effective implementation of FSA protocol | Present draft at 6 th SAWG meeting; adopt at 7 th SAWG meeting | No, for information | USD\$25,000 | EU funding – application process begun | FSAMP Team Funding application submitted (applicable to all relevant countries) | 1,2 |
| Conduct a regional and national status and needs assessment of FSA sites in the WECAFC region | | Mainstreaming the results of the status and need assessment of the FSA sites | Not started | No, for information | USD\$100,960 | EU Funding – application process begun | WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members and researchers, and others Requires funding | 1,2 |
| Establish clear and simple guidance to: 1) update and/or verify the status | | Guidance adopted and disseminated | 2022 – 2023 | No, for information | USD\$87,300 | EU Funding – application | FSAMP Team Funding | 1,2 |

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| (timing and location, fish numbers, catches) of known spawning aggregations at the national level, and 2) facilitate prioritization of those spawning aggregations most urgently needing protective action. | | | | | | process begun | application submitted (applicable to three pilot countries) | |
| Mobilize resources from bilateral and international agencies to assist with Activities called for in SAWG Work Plan | | Funding mobilized and available/ project start up | 2021 - 2025 | No, for information | | | WECAFC, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, SAWG members, and others Initiated summer 2021 | 4 |
| Secure financial support to develop Digital Hub in support of Communication Plan with downloadable resources and resource library | | Operationalization of the Digital hub | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | CFMC & EU Funding | CFMC (support to BelugaSmile) Requires additional funding | 4 |

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| Production of one-hour film for International Broadcast | | International Broadcasting of the film | Jan-Sept 2022 | No, for information | | BelugaSmile Productions, supported by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Terra Mater and PBS | BelugaSmile Productions, supported by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Terra Mater and PBS | 4 |
| Develop materials for Citizen Science Program aimed at fishers and enforcement officials: 1) Produce & distribute radio kits in Spanish and French; 2) Produce & distribute two short films: a) a 30-minute "call to action" film aimed at fishing communities to stop decline of mutton snapper; and b) a film that calls on the general public to protect FSAs by not consuming grouper and snapper during spawning periods | | The material developed and disseminated helps in raising awareness around the mutton snapper to avoid catches during spawning season | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | CFMC | CFMC (support to BelugaSmile) | 4 |
| Share to identify FSAs in regions where FSAs have not been documented or | | New FSA identified through technical capacity | 2021-2025 | No, for information | | | WECAFC Requires funding | 2 |

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| characterized (e.g. Eastern Caribbean) | | | | | | | | |
| Implementation of 1) Public Broadcasting Service's Outreach plan and 2) The Howard Hughes Medical Institute's (HHMI) Science Outreach Plan. | | The stakeholders are effectively educated through the 02 outreach plans | 2022 - 2023 | No, for information | | HHMI & PBS | <i>Ana Salceda will coordinate with HHMI & PBS.</i> | 4 |
| Secure support to assist WECAFC members with FSAMP Implementation for most urgent actions needed | | Effective implementation of the FSAMP in most urgent actions | 2022 – 2023 | No, for information | | EU Funding – application process begun | FSAMP Team, CFMC, NOAA Fisheries, WECAFC Funding application submitted | 1,2,3,4 |
| REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING (RWG-IUU) | | | | | | | | |
| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
| Design and carry out a review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region | | Mainstreaming the result of the review study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the WECAFC region | Had previously been postponed pending development[finalization]] of | No, for information | USD152,500 | | Convener + WG members | In coordination with NFIO's work towards methodology to estimate the extent of IUU fishing |

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| | | | FAO methodological guidelines - end date (Mid-2023) | | | | | |
| Develop NPOAs -IUU based on the RPOA-IUU and inform FAO/WECAFC after adoption | | NPOAs IUU developed and approved | Ongoing. 5 (CRFM) Member States have commenced development of NPOAs-IUU- end date (End 2024) | No, for information | USD19,060 | | WG members | Also to be informed by the ongoing work on NPOA-IUU development guidance and the findings of the members Readiness study. (1) |
| Finalization of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners | | Approval of the study proposal Determining cost effective measures to combat IUU fishing, and approaching of potential resource partners | Concept note developed ; develop and finalise proposal- end date (Mid-2023) | For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII/2022/25 | USD2,500 | | Convener + CRFM | Postponed. Achievement based on relevant info from the study to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing (1,2) |
| Encourage/support increased national regulations, to ensure effective monitoring | | Effective monitoring and control of | Ongoing- end date (2024) | No, for information | USD38,000 | | WECAFC Secretariat; WG Members | In progress in national support activities (1,2) |

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| and control of transshipment activities | | transshipment activities | | | | | | |
| Identify information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations | | Consolidation information that should be shared at regional level to facilitate enforcement of national transshipment regulations | To commence in 2022-end date (Mid-2023) | No, for information | USD25,000 | | Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members | Important for the work to be done to raise awareness on transshipment contributing to laundering IUU catch into the supply chain and improve the monitoring, control and regulation of transshipment activities (1,2) |
| Encourage/support alignment of national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear. | | Alignment of the national regulations, with voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear. | Ongoing-end date (Mid-2024) | No, for information | USD25,000 | | Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries; WG Members | In progress in national support activities (1,2) |
| Develop an IUU Vessel List for the region, using internationally applied criteria and procedures, and arrange with TM Tracking for maintaining the list | | Database of IUU vessel list in the region developed and shared | t.b.d. Guidance to be sought from WECAFC1 | No, for information | USD 57,180 | | WG Members with WECAFC, CRFM, OSPESCA | Probable review of the FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification |

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| | | | 8/ End-2024 | | | | and TM Tracking | of Fishing Vessels (2,3) |
| Develop protocols for “cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” under the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and OSPESCA, respectively | | Protocols developed | Ongoing-End date (Mid-2024) | No, for information | (USD47,650) | | CRFM, OSPESCA plus relevant WG members; supported by WECAFC Secretariat | 1 |
| Organize exchange of information and study tours for WG members to learn about successful and best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general (| | Stakeholders learn about successful and best-practice approaches in MCS and fisheries inspection in general | Ongoing-End date (2024) | No, for information | | | WG members, facilitated by the CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC Secretariats | Needs to be strengthened, with more collaboration, information generation by WG members or WECAFC focal points then coordination by WECAFC Secretariat (1,4) |
| Develop new draft recommendation for regional vessel record for WECAFC region | | New draft recommendation developed and approved | To be commenced- (In time for WECAFC 19 (2024)) | No, for information | USD19,130 | | WECAFC Secretariat together with FAO HQ, in consultation with WG Members | 1,2 |

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| Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU | | Guidance document for the development of NPOA-IUU developed and approved | Ongoing-December 2022 | No, for information | USD20,000 | | PROCARIBE + project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat | 10 |
| Engage in the ongoing process coming up to COFI 35 for the possible development of guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations | | Guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment operations developed and approved | Recommendation endorsed by SAG XI- End date (COFI 35) | No, for information | USD19,130 | | WG Members | 1,2,3 |
| Development of a GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area | | GEF proposal to combat IUU fishing in selected countries in the WECAFC area developed and submitted, approved | Concept Note was presented at the 4 th WG Meeting for expression of interest by WECAFC members End date (End-2022) | For information and discussion during the presentation of WECAFC/XVIII/2022/25 | USD 22,140 | | PROCARIBE + project together with FAO HQ and WECAFC Secretariat | 1,2,3,4 |

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| Development of an implementation plan of the RPOA-IUU | | Approval and implementation of the plan of the RPOA-IUU | Readiness study report includes the elements of an implementation plan End date - 5 th RWG-IUU (late-2022) | No, for information | USD30,340 | | WECAFC Secretariat and FAO HQ colleagues | 1,2 |
| Presentation of deliverables (recommendations and resolutions) to the 11 th Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC | | PPTs presented at SAG XI | End date (April 2022) | No, for information | USD2,500 | | WECAFC Secretariat and Convener of the RWG-IUU | As per WECAFC17 instructions, WG convener presented recommendations to SAG and is on hold for the Commission's deliberations (1,2,3,4) |
| Report on the work of the RWG-IUU and eventual support to SAG for the submission of recommendations to WECAFC18 | | Report presented to SAG XI | April 2022 | No, for information | USD2,500 | | SAG and WECAFC Secretariat in consultation with WG Convener | |

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| Organise the 5 th RWG-IUU and publication of the proceedings | | Meeting organized/ meeting report | To commence- End date (Mid-2023) | No, for information | USD 5,750 | | RWG-IUU | (1,3,4) |
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| WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA FISHERIES DATA AND STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (FDS-WG) | | | | | | | | |
| Vessel mapping Content | Liaise with FDS WG focal points for additional submissions | Additional submissions submitted | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries | 1,2 |
| | Review submission from WECAFC Members and highlight where revisions are needed | Effective reviews from WECAFC members | | No, for information | | | | |
| | Implementations in the Regional Database with | Effective implementation using the metadata | | No, for information | | | | |

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| | corresponding metadata | | | | | | | |
| | Discussion of adding vessel type information into FIRMS tables, including vessels images when available | Mainstreaming the use of the vessel type information into FIRMS | | No, for information | | | FDS-WG and member countries | 1,2 |
| WECAFC Subarea Boundaries | Finalize the proposal in the Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala a sub-region under the OSPESCA umbrella | sharing the proposal through emails/ adoption of the proposal | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | | 1,2 |

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| | Review feedback from member countries on sub-areas related to area 31 and 41, and if the case appears feasible, prepare for presentation at CWP | Circulation and approval of the different feedback | | No, for information | | | | 1,2 |
| | Discuss a recommendation for SAG and the Commission, or any other plan to move forward | Meeting reports approving the recommendation for SAG | | Yes, Recommendation for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | | 1,2 |
| | d. Conduct intersession discussion | Meeting reports approving the new delimitations | | No, for information | | | | 1,2 |

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| | Venezuela sub area delimitations | | | | | | | |
| FIRMS Inventories | Summarize inputs by member countries, highlight latest submissions, discuss/elaborate specific FIRMS services for the region (delivered through WECAFC map viewer) | Consolidated summary document approving specific FIRMS services for the region | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | WECAFC-FIRMS and member countries | 1,2 |

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| | <p>b. Discuss/identify/implement a path for updating inventories in OSPESCA region- e.g., consultant to further inventory development on a country by country basis possibly, considerations of focus groups working with fleet segments (across multiple member countries) to enrich</p> | <p>Effective implementation of inventories in OSPESCA region</p> | | <p>No, for information</p> | | | <p>Same as above</p> | <p>Same as above</p> |
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| | inventories | | | | | | | |
| | c. Also noting that FIRMS Secretariat may develop a pilot demonstrating how a possible future addition of FIRMS fishery is (optional) in certain Tasks of the DCRF can be exploited, for presentati | Presentation of the pilot demonstrating how a possible future addition of FIRMS fishery | | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | on at next FDS-WG | | | | | | | |
| Small Scale Fisheries Matrix | Summarize list of member countries which submitted highlighting latest submissions and new pilot testing | Compilation of member countries which submitted the matrix | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FAO and FDS-WG | 1,2 |
| | Present a synthesis of the level of adoption of the SSF matrix to the WECAFC region and what would need to be changed | Effective application of the changes in the SSF matrix in the region | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | in the SSF matrix for it to be of practical application for the region | | | | | | | |
| | Discuss a recommendation for submitting to FAO for consideration WECAFC iDCRF | Adoption of the recommendation | Same as above | Yes, recommendation for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | Same as above | Same as above |
| WECAFC Reference list of aquatic species, annotation of important Subareas by species and DCRF tasks | a. Review submissions by member countries and WGs for additional species, and sub-areas for species, and proceed with member | Endorsement of the proposals | 2022-2024 | Yes | | | FDS-WG and member countries | 1,2 |

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| | countries endorsements for the proposals. The use of the FIRMS map viewer will help to obtain additional input on annotation of area by species. | | | | | | | |
| | b. Review inputs from relevant Working groups, for the list of species and their sub-areas and identification of specific DCRF tasks | Approval of the list of species and their sub-areas and approval of the specific DCRF tasks | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | c. Annotation of relevant standard conversion metrics by species/subarea for inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of conversions | Inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of conversions of the relevant standard conversion metrics by species/subarea | Same as above | Yes, DCRF for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | Same as above | Samen as above |
| | d. Annotation of relevant biological parameters for select set of species in main list of species by important subareas (e.g., reproductive, growth) | Inclusion in the DCRF catalogue of the relevant biological parameters for select set of species in main list of species by important subareas | Same as above | Yes, DCRF for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | Same as above | Samen as above |

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| | parameter estimates) for inclusion in DCRF catalogue (Tables) of biological parameters | | | | | | | |
| iDCRF | a. A revised DCRF document will be made available early December for review by Members, WGs and ICCAT by end January 2021, for consolidation in February and final review in March for adoption | Circulation of the revised DCRF(1st draft) | 2022-2024 | Yes | | | FDS-WG and member countries | 1,2 |

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| | at the extended session of FDS-WG2 (end March/early April) of a recommendation for SAG and the Commission, or any other plan to move forward | | | | | | | |
| | b. Further proofing DCRF (post extended session of FDS-WG2) with: | Circulation of the revised DCRF(2nd draft) | | No, for information | | | | 1,2 |
| | i. pilot testing starting with Data preparatory | Country submission/ organization of the data preparatory workshop | | | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | workshop and initial country submissions that will follow | | | | | | | |
| | ii. two proposed e-TWGs a. for elaboration on measures of fishing effort per Fleet segment or Gear type b. for refinement of Biological tasks – member countries with experience invited to be part of this WG | Effective application of the outcomes of the e-TWGs | | | | | | |

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|--|---|--|----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------|
| I. Operationalization of the DCRF (DCRF) and Contributions to RDB (RDB-1)- post Q2 2021, initiate June 2021 | a. Finalize the Maps viewer (through e-TWG?) for public release as soon as possible | Public release of Maps viewer | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FDS-WG and member countries | 1,2 |
| | b. Identifying member countries willing to commit in the intersession, to populate the RDB using local statistics in 2020 and 2021. Local statistics uploaded to RDB. Identification of local country | RDB populated by identified countries, using local statistics in 2020 and 2021. | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | data manager. | | | | | | | |
| | c. Liaising with and identifying Regional species WGs to combine their expectations for data with the member countries contribution (Shrimp and Groundfish, Lobster, ...), and organize joint activities | Compilation of expectations for data from Regional species WG | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | d. Identifying issues/challenges with member countries committing data to RDB during pilot tests | Document presenting the challenges and leveraging on these challenges to improve the RDB | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |
| | e. Developing road map including pilot data sets for implementing data uploads to RDB by end of 2021 | effective use of the road map and the pilot data | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |
| | (*) [Consider communication of OSPESCA Director of 12 June 2020 on | Effective collaborating on pilot data sets to test for RDB | Same as above | No, for information | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | topic of collaborating on pilot data sets to test for RDB that currently are already capturing statistics] | | | | | | | |
| II. Discussion of how the RDB information can contribute to informing SDG 14.4.1 (initiate Q1 2021 through the work of the FDS-WG via the DCRF? Has any progress been made yet, what is needed to begin to make progress (individual member countries operationalizing the DCRF through committing to contribute to the RDB). Develop some time tables and a path (roadmap) | 1. Consider if a sub-committee needed- perhaps focus on one of the pilots (e.g., OSPESCA lobster) | RDB information to contribute to informing SDG 14.4.1 | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FAO and FDS-WG | 1,2 |

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| III. Fostering Growth of FDS-WG throughout region | a. Co-convener shadow training to develop leadership in WG | WG empowered through the training session | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FDS-WG | 1,2 |
| IV. How can this WG interact or begin to interact with other regional/international WGs (species, topical, RFMOs) to further improve the regional statistics and information on fisheries | | | 2022-2024 | No, for information and discussion | | | FDS-WG | 1,2 |
| | 1. Under MoU with ICCAT- contribute to the planned joint ICCAT-WECAFC working group where respective species list might be examined | Signature of the MoU between the WGs and ICCAT or others regional international WG s | | | | | | 1,2 |

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| | <p>2. Should this WG contact ICCAT re' participating in ICCAT statistics WG as observer to learn how ICCAT develops/prioritizes and carries out its tasks/intersessional work on the topic of statistics (a question to ask to the participants? would anyone volunteer)</p> | <p>WG Effectively learn from ICCAT on the prioritization of its tasks on the topic of statistic</p> | | | | | | <p>1,2</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------|

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| V. Capacity building- other needs-this work is ongoing | a. Finalize the list of selection criteria and propose a short list of WECAFC Members meeting these criteria for final selection | Approval and circulation of the list of selection criteria | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FDS-WG, WECAFC-FIRMS, FAO-FIRMS | 1,2 |
| | b. For the selected WECAFC member(s), define the work plan and related budget for support | Approval of the WP and the related budget | Same as above | | | | Same as above | Same as above |
| | c. Seek for co-funding from other regional projects and agree on the | Regional projects Start up | Same as above | | | | Same as above | Same as above |

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| | shared investments | | | | | | | |
| VI. Review Logbooks guidelines and revisit FDS-WG 2 (LOG-1) Begin Q3 2021 | Review work done during FDS-WG 1 intersession-discuss LOG-1 (two pilot surveys) and LOG-2 (historical experiences) survey instruments in context of best practices in logbook implementation in region and identify needed revisions for survey instruments | Approved the comments on the reviews of LOG 1 and LOG 2 | 2022-2024 | No, for information | | | FDS-WG | 1,2 |

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| | ts LOG-1, LOG-2. | | | | | | | |
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WECAFC WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Workshop1: prepare a regional project | | Regional project start up | July 2022 | No, for information | USD 28,000 | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | sustainable manner. (1,2,3) |
| Project preparation | | | July-October 2022 | No, for information | | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | |
| Report Workshop1 | | report | November – December 2022 | No, for information | | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | |
| Workshop2: monitoring, management and conservation strategies | | report | April 2023 | No, for information | | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Same as above |
| Report Workshop2 | | | May- June 2023 | No, for information | USD 28,000 | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | |
| Training 1: Marine robotic technologies for ecological monitoring | | report | February 2022 | No, for information | USD 21,000 | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Same as above |

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|---|--|--------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| Report Training 1 | | | March 2022 | No, for information | | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | |
| Training 2: Fisheries Stocks assessment data-poor fisheries | | Report | July 2023 | No, for information | USD 21,000 | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Same as above |
| Report Training 2 | | | August 2023 | No, for information | | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | |
| Technical report/Publications | | Online Publication | DECEMBER 2022 October - December 2023 | No, for information | USD 2,000+ USD 1,000 (Stationery (paper, pens, pencils, envelops, banner, etc.)) | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Same as above |
| Documentary video | | Video broadcasting | November – December 2022 September – December 2023 | No, for information | USD 4000 | | Convener with OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat | Same as above |

| Moored Fishery Aggregating Devices Working Group (MFADS) | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
| To review data on MFAD fisheries and conduct analyses of pelagic fish resources including through collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working | Collect data on MFAD fishery from WECAFC member. Conduct analysis on MFAD fishery data | Data reviewed ready to be utilized for fisheries management | Dec 2022 – June 2023 | No, for information | | | Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER | 1,2,3 |
| To provide technical advice and guidance based on the outputs of the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project | Regional Workshop | Mainstreaming of the guidance and advices from the JICA-CARIFICO Project and the Billfish Project | | No, for information | | | WECAFC Members, CRFM, and OSPESCA | 1,3 |
| To collaborate with IFREMER, academia, and other research institutions on the use of technology on MFADs (e.g. satellite-linked echosounders) for improved assessment of abundance of key fish stocks associated with MFAD fisheries | Meeting with IFREMER to discuss collaboration. Identify academia and | Assessment of abundance of key fish stocks associated with MFAD fisheries improved | August 2022 – March 2024 | No, for information | | | Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER | 1,2,3 |

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| | research institution willing to provide support | | | | | | | |
| To develop and finalize manuals on best practices on (1) fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, (2) safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers, and (3) governance of MFAD fisheries. These manuals should be presented during training sessions with fishers | Identify suitable experts/ consultants Develop manual in collaboration with fisheries authorities in member states engaged in MFAD fishery | Manuals on best practices on (1) fishing and business strategies for sustainable MFAD fisheries, (2) safety and working conditions of MFAD fishers, and (3) governance of MFAD fisheries mainstreamed | September 2022 - Feb 2024 | No, for information | | | Convener with CRFM, OSPESCA, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER | 1,2,3 |
| To promote the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics to ICCAT | Advocate for the reporting of MFAD fisheries statistics at relevant regional fisheries forums | ICCAT adopts the reporting of MFADs fisheries statistics | 2022 - 2024 | No, for information | | | CRFM, WECAFC Secretariat, and IFREMER | 2 |

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| 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 | Identify ongoing co-management initiatives among MFAD members Create synergies and linkages | Effective collaboration within MFADS fisheries and Fisheries Working Group | 2022 - 2024 | No, for information | | | CRFM with assistance of CFMC, OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities | 1,2,3 |
| To collaborate on use of low-cost Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved monitoring of MFAD fisheries, noting the promising examples of Dominica and Monserrat and strengthen ties with Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group | Assessment/review of ICT applications in MFAD states such as Dominica and Montserrat Replicate in MFAD countries with relevant/applicable | Monitoring of MFAD fisheries improved | 2023 - 2024 | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group | 1,2,3 |
| To facilitate the sharing of data, information, and experiences related to MFAD | Liase with FAO/CRF | Permanent Data/information sharing | 2023 - 2024 | No, for information | | | CRFM with assistance of CFMC, | 2 |

| | | | | | | | | |
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| fisheries in the region in collaboration with the Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group | M/ICCAT to establish mechanism for sharing of MFAD data | | | | | | OSPESCA, and relevant fisherfolk organizations and National Fishery Authorities | |
| To facilitate the sharing of information and experiences related to MFAD designs in the region and outside the region | Liaise with FAO/CRF M/ICCAT to establish mechanism for sharing of MFAD information on designs | Stakeholders have access to information and experiences related to MFAD designs in the region and outside the region | 2023 - 2024 | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat and Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group | 2,3 |
| To review and finalize the Regional Management Plan for MFAD Fisheries in the Caribbean, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans | Engage consultant for review and finalization of MFAD Regional MGT Plan, | Mainstreaming of the Regional Management Plan for MFAD Fisheries in the Caribbean, the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of | September 2022 – December 2022 | Yes, mFAD Fishery management plan and guide for improved monitoring for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | WECAFC Secretariat | 1,2,3 |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|-----|
| | the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD fishery management plans | local MFAD fishery management plans | | | | | | |
| To support Members' efforts to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans and improved monitoring systems for MFADs | Expression of interest from members seeking to develop the guide for improved monitoring of MFADs, and the guide for implementation of local MFAD | Effective technical support to Members to develop (sub-) national FAD (co-)management plans and improved monitoring systems for MFADs | March 2023 – July 2023 August 2023 - 2024 | | | | OSPESCA, CRFM, and WECAFC Secretariat, WECAFC members | 1,3 |

| | fishery management plans Engage Consultant to assist members | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Shrimp and groundfish working group | | | | | | | | |
| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
| Provide technical and scientific advice to national governments and WECAFC Commission | | WG members to liaise with national government/ technical advices approved | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | WG members | 1,2,4 |
| 5th meeting of working group-intersessional meeting | | Organization of the 5th meeting of working group-intersessional meeting/ meeting report | November 2022 | No, for information | | | WECAFC, IFREMER, EAF4SG | ? |
| Review the terms of reference of the WG to reflect expected tasks on provision of advice to a formal S&G resources management mechanism in the North Brazil- Guianas shelf. | | Approval of the reviewed ToR | 5 th meeting of the WG in 2022 | No, for information | | | IFREMER/CR FM/WECAFC, WG members with support from the new project EAF4SG | |

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|--|--|--|-----------|---------------------|--|--|---|-------|
| Continue work on data preparation, training in stock assessment for WG countries and carry out periodic stock assessment | | Periodic stock assessment implemented | 2023 | No, for information | 80kUS dollar (3 meetings, 2 people by country and one expert) | | IFREMER/CRFM/WECAFC in collaboration with NOAA, FIRMS and potential funders | 1,2,4 |
| continued development/updating of Shrimp and Groundfish National Management Plans in line with the Sub-Regional Strategy and Management Plan for the S&G resources of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf | | Shrimp and Groundfish National Management Plans regularly updated | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | WG members with support from new GEF EAF4SG project | 2,3 |
| Update WECAFC stocks and fisheries inventory for shrimp and groundfish of Guianas-Brazil Shelf | | Regular update of the WECAFC stocks and fisheries inventory | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | FIRMS secretariat and working group members | 1,2,3 |
| Collaborate with : -Regional Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RWG-IUU) -WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Fisheries Data and Statistics Working Group (FDS-WG) | | Effective collaboration with the RWG -IUU and FDS -WG | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat primarily and Working group members | 1,2,3 |

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|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-----|
| Further studies on fisheries policies | | Inclusion in fisheries policies of mainstreaming human well-being (including gender and working conditions) | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | Member countries | 1,3 |
| Search resources for collaborative research to complement and refine results on stock identification and extend research to additional shrimp and groundfish species | | Results on stock identification improved and additional shrimp and groundfish species extended | 2022-2023 | No, for information | | | Working group members | 2 |
| Report to the 19th session of WECAFC and 12 th meeting of the WECAFC SAG | | Meeting report | As deadlines for reporting require | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat | 4 |

OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC WORKING GROUP ON CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Organize and hold the third meeting of the WG-CSL | Review of the implementation of the regional management plan in | Meeting organized, Meeting report | December 2022 at the latest | No, for information | USD 5,000-7,000 (estimated budget for 3 day online meeting) | | WECAFC and OSPESCA | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------|--|---|---|
| | the countries. Presentation of the PROCARIB E+ project and identification of the role of WG-CSL/WECAFC in it. | | | | | | | |
| Prepare and endorse the WG-CSL Work Plan | List of activities for the period 2023-2024 | endorsement of the WP | Dec-22 | No, for information | no cost | | WG-CSL | 1 |
| Conduct sampling to assess the potential presence of the spiny lobster virus PaV1 in selected countries of the region | Detection of PaV1 in selected countries of the WECAFC region. | Sampling conducted lab results shared | July-December 2023 | No, for information | | | Interim Coordination Mechanism FAO/OSPESCA/CRFM with support from CFMC | 2 |
| WECAFC WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION | | | | | | | | |

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Responsible | Strategic Plan Focus Area |
|--|---------|--|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Collection of scientific and empirical information on relevant species' biology and ecology, including life history characteristics, behavior, feeding, identification. | | Compilation(database) and sharing of scientific and empirical information on relevant species' | S/M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2 |
| Collection of scientific and empirical information on population dynamics, distribution, spatial-temporal and/or migratory patterns of relevant species. Delineation of pupping and nursery areas and critical habitats, etc. | | Compilation (database) and sharing of scientific and empirical information on population dynamics, distribution, spatial-temporal and/or migratory patterns of relevant species. | M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2 |

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|--|--|--|-----|---------------------|--|--|--------|-------|
| Implementation of long-term fisheries data collection, verification and monitoring programs to collect commercial and recreational fisheries data, including total catches and effort, age/length compositions etc. at species level. | | Effective collection of commercial and recreational fisheries data | O/S | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2 |
| Ensure a scientifically appropriate level of observer coverage onboard fishing vessels to collect species-specific biological information and fisheries information for relevant targeted and/or incidentally caught sharks. | | Effective collection of species-specific biological information and fisheries information for relevant targeted and/or incidentally caught sharks | O/M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,3 |
| Development and/or implementation of existing standardized methodologies, such as abundance indices, quantitative or semi-quantitative stock assessments, or other appropriate approaches (e.g., data-poor methods, genetic methods etc.). | | Mainstreaming of existing standardized methodologies, such as abundance indices, quantitative or semi-quantitative stock assessments, or other appropriate approaches | M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2,3 |

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|---|--|--|-----|---------------------|--|--|---------------|-------|
| Collection of available trade data and market chain information for shark products at lowest possible taxonomic level, ideally species level. | | Effective/ systematic trade data, and market chain collection | M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2 |
| Implementation of appropriate labelling and custom coding for priority/relevant sharks species and products thereof. | | Effective labelling and custom coding for sharks species and product thereof | M/L | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2 |
| Collection of information about social and cultural practices related to sharks. | | Database on the information collected on the social and cultural practices related to sharks. | S/M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,2,3 |
| Reduction of shark by-catch in non-target fisheries and limiting directed catch and effort in target fisheries to sustainable levels. | | Stock assessment showing an improvement in the stock status | S/M | No, for information | | | Member States | 1,2,3 |

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| For relevant shark stocks, development of conservation and management reference points that could serve as a basis for deriving stock status and evaluating the achievement of management objectives. | | Implementation of the conservation and management reference points to achieve sharks management objectives | M/L | No, for information | | | WECAFC, Shark WG members, and others | 1,2,3 |
| Design, implementation and monitoring for compliance with appropriate, science-based conservation and management measures | | Mainstreaming and effective application of science-based conservation and management measures | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Member States | 1,3 |
| Implementation of the precautionary approach in the absence of adequate scientific information, where appropriate. | | Precautionary approach is implemented in the absence of adequate scientific information, where appropriate. | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,3 |
| Design and promotion of safe handling and release guidelines for shark species, appropriate. | | Guidelines approved | M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,3 |

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| Exploration of regional fisheries sustainability initiatives (e.g. certification, FIPs, etc.). | | Mainstreaming of regional fisheries sustainability initiatives (e.g. certification, FIPs, etc.). | L | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 3 |
| Development of national laws and policies in line with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries | | Approval of the national laws and policies in line with FAO CCRF | S/M | No, for information | | | Member states | 1,3 |
| 2 Binding international obligations (primarily under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) are codified into national law and regulations. | | Integration of the binding international laws into national laws and regulations | S/M | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,3 |

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| Full utilization is promoted and by-catch of sharks is reduced in other fisheries. | | Stakeholders are educated on the full utilization/ improvement of the shark stock | S/M/L | No, for information | | | WECAFC | 1,3 |
| Development of Non-Detriment Findings for the exports of CITES-listed shark products. | | Mainstreaming and implementation of the Non-Detriment Findings | S/M | No, for information | | | Shark WG members, and others Funding is required | 1,2,3 |
| Implementation of effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems (properly staffed, trained, equipped, financed and supervised), including observers, VMS, electronic monitoring, etc. that specifically include monitoring of shark catch and bycatch. | | Effective monitoring of shark catch and bycatch | S/M/L | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,3 |

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| Establishment/ improvement of institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of shark conservation and management measures, implementation of the RPOA, regulation of surveillance and enforcement activities, empowerment of staff to carry them out, and protect their physical integrity. | | Institutional and legal frameworks for the implementation of shark conservation and management measures are improved | S | RPOA for discussion and endorsement at WECAFC18 | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1 |
| Combat IUU fishing activities | | Tracking records of decrease of IUU fishing activities | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1 |
| Regional systematic sharing of information and data, including through the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework, with sub/regional organizations with a mandate for the conservation and/or management of sharks, in line with confidentiality rules. | | Use of the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework to share information and data | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |

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| Harmonization of data collection protocols and information exchange systems related to sharks | | Database showing the data collection protocols and information exchange systems | M | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,3 |
| Cooperate and coordinate on MCS activities and fighting IUU activities, including related to sharks, at bilateral, subregional and regional levels | | Effective Cooperate and coordinate on MCS activities and fighting IUU activities | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |
| Coordination of research priorities and activities related to the conservation and management of sharks | | Research and activities related to the conservation and management of sharks implemented | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2 |
| Development and coordination of capacity building activities related to sharks (e.g., training workshops, practical trainings etc.) by consolidating available resources and fostering | | Effective collaboration in the capacity building activities related to sharks in terms of sharing and consolidating available resources | O/M | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,3 |

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| expertise at subregional and regional levels. | | | | | | | | |
| Identification of policy, conservation and management issues related to sharks that require subregional/ regional cooperation to be effectively addressed. | | Effective collaboration to address conservation and management issues related to sharks | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |
| Ensure transparency and inclusiveness through the participation of relevant stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, fishers' organisations, fisheries managers, scientists, civil society/NGOs etc.) in the proceedings of subregional, regional fora addressing sharks-related issues. | | Relevant stakeholders to collaborate in the drafting of the proceedings | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |

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| Development/ strengthening of collaborative arrangements between subregional/ regional/ international organisations involved in the conservation and management of sharks | | Better conservation and management of sharks resulting from Further collaboration between subregional/ regional/ international organisations | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2 |
| Development/update of appropriate ToRs, methodologies (including indicators and metrics), to enable the assessment of progress towards RPOA objectives, identifying successes, shortcomings, gaps etc. | | Approval of appropriate ToRs, methodologies, to enable the assessment of progress towards RPOA objectives | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat and Sharks WG Convener | 1,2,3 |
| Assess progress towards the RPOA-sharks implementation, including through annual reports | | Reports showing the progress towards the RPOA-sharks implementation | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,3 |

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| Participation in deliberations relevant to sharks (e.g., SPAW Protocol, CITES, CMS). | | Reports of the deliberations relevant to sharks (e.g., SPAW Protocol, CITES, CMS). | O | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 4 |
| 3. Stakeholder meetings organized, as appropriate, on specific issues related to shark conservation and management. | | Reports meetings | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |
| Processes for regular stakeholder feedback on the decision-making process on conservation and management measures | | Operationalization of the stakeholder's feedback | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,3 |
| Use existing and, if needed, develop appropriate communication tools for raising awareness about sharks adapted to the targeted audience. | | Operationalization of a targeted communication tools | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2 |

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| Environmental education activities including surveys, information and awareness raising campaigns etc. to raise public awareness about shark conservation and management | | Stakeholders are educated on shark conservation and management | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC and Shark WG members | 1,2,3 |
| 4. Elaboration of a strategy for ensuring that adequate financial resources are made available for RPOA implementation at national level | | Fund available and RPOA implemented at national level | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat | 1,3,4 |
| Identify and seek commitment of potential donor agencies and organizations for supporting the implementation of the RPOA | | Implementation of the RPOA | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat | 4 |
| Organize regular training workshops and courses in shark biology, ecology, data collection, Identification, stock assessments methods, management, etc. for | | Workshop organized/ implementation of stock assessments methods, management, etc. for targeted audience including | S | No, for information | | | WECAFC Secretariat | 1,4 |

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| targeted audience including fisheries observers, researchers, fisheries managers, civil society and other relevant NGOs | | fisheries observers, researchers, fisheries managers, civil society and other relevant NGOs | | | | | | |
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MANAGEMENT FOCUS AREA 4: FOSTERING A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE WECAFC SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION.

Goals:

- 1) To deliver high-quality administrative, technical, logistical and scientific support to the Commission, SAG and the Working Groups.
- 2) To facilitate communication and collaboration among members and other stakeholders through effective and timely dissemination of information, education, outreach and capacity building.

| Activities | Outputs | Key performance indicator | Timeframe | Commission endorsement required | Total budget required | Budget sources and status | Partners |
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| 4.1 Organize the 18th session of the Commission in 2022 | Recommendations and advice to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region | Approved work programme Report of the session | July 2022 | No , for information | 85,000 | FAO Regular budget EU DG Mare INPESCA | EU Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional de la República de Nicaragua |
| 4.2 Organize the 11th SAG in April | Scientific advice for consideration by the 18th and 19th | Report of the meeting | July 2022 & April 2023 | Yes, by WECAFC18 and WECAFC 19 in 2023 | 30,000 | FAO Regular budget | |

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| 2022 & 12th SAG meeting in 2023 | sessions of the Commission | | | | | Extrabudgetary resources/projects | |
| 4.3 Inception of the preparation of the organization of the 19th session of the Commission in 2023 | Timely organized session which will discuss the reform (Strategic reorientation) of WECAFC as well as other essential matters for the members of the Commission | Background papers prepared Host country confirmed | 2023 | Yes, in summer 2023 | 130,000 | FAO Regular budget Extrabudgetary resources/projects Member countries contribution | Host country |
| 4.4 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC | Second Preparatory meeting of WECAFC Transformation | A workshop Report of the 2nd preparatory meeting of WECAFC transformation in a regional fishery management entity/arrangement Evidence of the implementation of the guidance from WECAFC18 | 2022-2023 | Yes, decisions for endorsement in 2023 | 60,000 | FAO Regular Programme European Union Other potential donors | All members |
| 4.5 Facilitate the implementation of dedicated work of the Executive Committee | Periodic meetings held and successful delivery regarding matters requiring direct intervention | Bimonthly/quarterly meeting minutes shared with the Commission | 2022-2023 | Some actions may need decisions in 2023/WECAFC19 | | FAO Regular budget | |

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| | of the Executive Committee | | | | | | |
| 4.6 Facilitate the organization of (joint) Working Group meetings and workshops | Successfully organized workshops, WG meetings and other events in which WECAFC is partner | Reports of the events and workshops | 2022-2023 | No, for information only | -- | FAO Regular budget Relevant projects | All stakeholders |
| 4.7 Develop projects and seek funding for long-term effective functioning of the Commission, implementation of its biennial programmes of work and prioritized projects | At least 2 Trust Fund projects prepared and submitted to potential donors for funding | Follow up to proposals from working groups Draft project documents in the required format | 2022-2023 | No, for information only | -- | WECAFC members | All relevant stakeholders |

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| 4.8 Partnerships established with institutions in the environment and other sectors | Follow up for a formal framework of partnership with ICCAT Collaboration increased with international and regional, governmental and non-governmental | Specific arrangement agreed for collaboration and cooperation with ICCAT MoUs with other key partners | 2022-2023 | Yes, for discussion at WECAFC18 and some issues may need endorsement by the 19th session | | FAO GEF Other donors | ICCAT, CRFM, OSPESCA, other various IGOs and NGOs |
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| | organizations and civil society as part of an effort to improve linkages and understanding of grass roots issues, environmental conservation, advocacy and private sector investment in resource management. | | | | | | |
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