

Recommendation WECAFC/17/2019/17 “ON THE MARKING OF FISHING GEAR”

The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC):

RECALLING that the objective of the Commission is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources within the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission;

CONSIDERING that gear marking fit within the context of broader fisheries management measures which support sustainable fisheries and healthy oceans, including the reduction, minimization and elimination of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)

MINDFUL of the Recommendations made by the FAO Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear Rome, 4-7 April 2016

COMMITTED to meeting obligations under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (1982 UN Convention), as well as contributing to improved safety at sea by reducing the navigation hazard caused by ALDFG and helping to identify Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing activities

ACKNOWLEDGING the established initiatives, measures and procedures in the region on the marking, tracing and recovery of fishing gears

RECALLING the outcomes of the third meeting of the Regional Working Group on IUU Fishing (RWG-IUU), held in Barbados in September 2018, supported by the European Union, UNDP/GEF/CLME project and FAO;

PENDING the delivery of additional information by the RWG-IUU;

ADOPTS in conformity with Article 6 of the WECAFC Revised Statutes this RECOMMENDATION that:

- WECAFC Members implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear.