



The FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

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Structure of the Presentation

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WECAFC – Establishment and Legal Framework

The WECAFC was established in 1973 by Resolution 4/61 of the FAO Council under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution. Its statutes were amended by the FAO Council at its Seventy-fourth Session in December 1978 and by the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the FAO Council in November 2006.

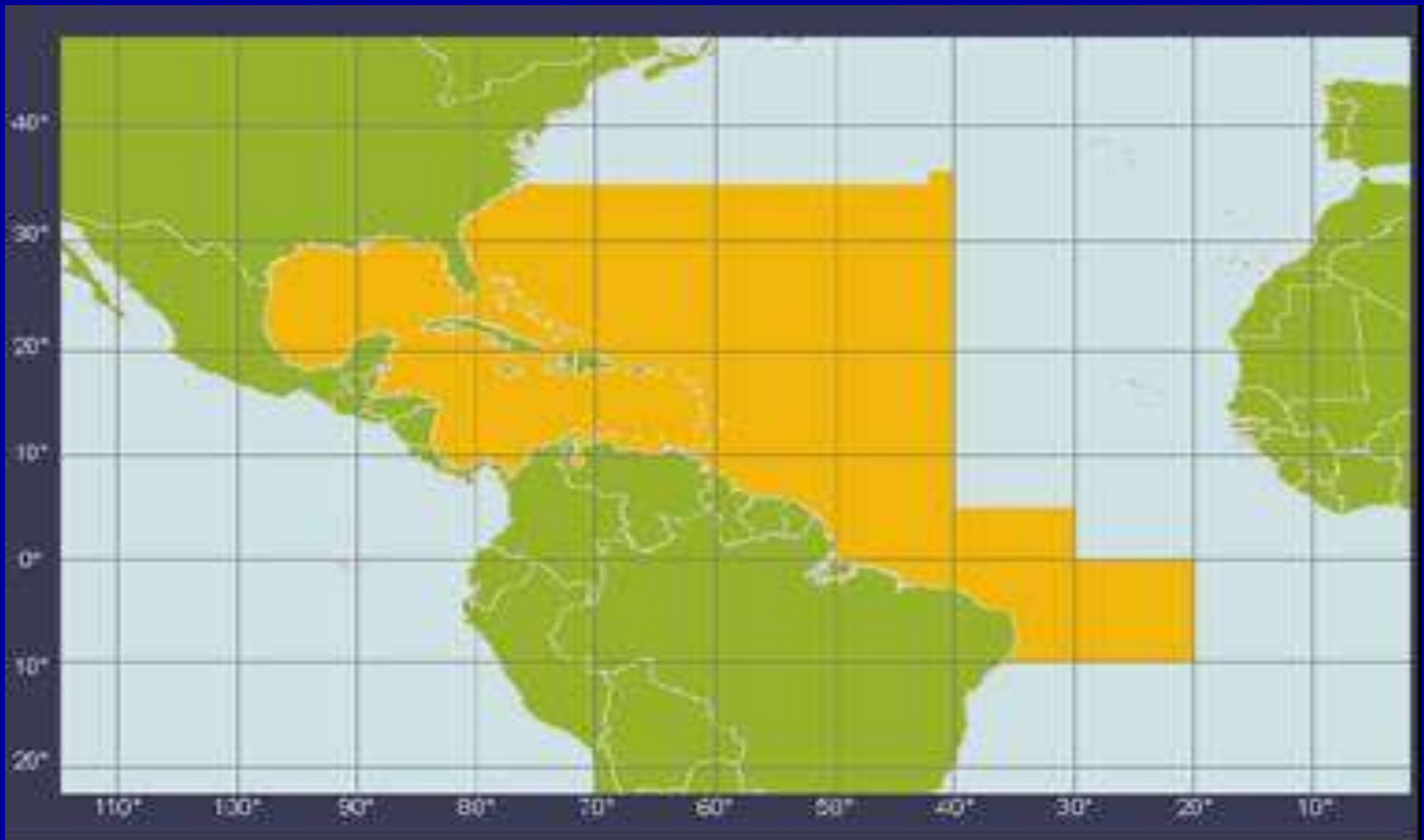
WECAFC - Objective

- To promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in its area of competence ,and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by its members .

The work of WECAFC is guided by three principles:

- promote the application of the provisions of the CCFR and its related instruments, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
- ensure adequate attention to small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries; and
- coordinate and cooperate closely with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest.

WECAFC – Area of competence Western Central Atlantic Ocean



WECAFC – Species and stock coverage and membership

Species and stock coverage: All living marine resources, without prejudice to the management responsibilities and authority of other competent fisheries and other living marine resources management organizations or arrangements in the area.

Membership: Membership is open to coastal States whose territories are situated wholly or partly within the area of the Commission or States whose vessels engage in fishing in the area of competence of the Commission that notify in writing to the Director-General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as members of the Commission

WECAFC – Current membership

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

WECAFC – Structure (1)

- **Principal body.** The main body is the Commission. It is composed of all members. Meetings are normally held every two years.
- **Scientific Advisory Group (SAG).** The SAG is constituted of five scientists who serve in their personal capacity. The SAG provides scientific advice to the Commission and its ad hoc working groups. The SAG meets every two years.
- **Secretariat.** The Secretariat is provided by FAO. It is based in the **Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SLC).**

WECAFC – Structure (2)

- Working groups. Fishery management advice and recommendations, are provided for members to implement through ad hoc working groups, established by the Commission. The groups are decided on the following basis:
 - *ecosystem boundaries* (e.g. Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish Fisheries in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem);
 - *species/stocks* (e.g. Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster; Queen Conch and Flying Fish); or
 - *specific subjects/issues* (e.g. Working Group on Anchored Fish Attracting Devices in the Lesser Antilles).

WECAFC – Functions (1)

(contribution to ocean governance)

- to contribute to improved governance through institutional arrangements that encourage cooperation amongst members;
- to assist its members in implementing relevant international fisheries instruments, in particular the CCRF and its related International Plans of Action;
- to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake the collection, exchange and dissemination of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information as well as its analysis or study;
- to promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, strengthen the development of institutional capacity and human resources, particularly through education, training and extension activities in the areas of competence of the Commission;

WECAFC – Functions (2)

(contribution to ocean governance)

- to promote and facilitate harmonizing of relevant national laws and regulations, and compatibility of conservation and management measures;
- to assist its members in and facilitate, as appropriate and upon their request, the conservation, management and development of transboundary and straddling stocks under their respective national jurisdictions;
- to seek funds and other resources to ensure the long-term operations of the Commission and establish, as appropriate, a trust fund for voluntary contributions to this end;
- to serve as a conduit of independent funding to its members for initiatives related to conservation, management and development of the living resources in the area of competence of the Commission.

WECAFC – Activities

The work programme of the WECAFC has its activities arranged under the following themes:

- Fisheries assessment and management.
- Capacity building.
- Technology/knowledge transfer.
- Coordination and liaison (with regional and international institutions and programmes/projects)

These activities are conducted in addition to the advisory services (policy advice, provision of information, management advice, legal, etc.) the Commission usually provides.

THANK YOU!