

WW2BW Fisheries governance session

Miami, Tuesday March 24th (11:00 – 15:30) and Thursday March 26th (19:00 – 20:30)

The purpose of the session was to explore the appropriate arrangement for fisheries governance in the Wider Caribbean region, and the partnerships that would be required for its successful implementation. There were presentations by several stakeholders regarding their perceived roles and activities in fisheries governance in the region: FAO WECAFC, CARICOM CRFM, OCES ESDU, SICA OSPESCA, US State Department, CFMC, TOC and TNC. Other organizational and national stakeholders provided their input from the floor. The deliberations of the session can be summarized as follows:

- There is the need to strengthen fisheries governance arrangements in the region if sustainable fisheries and WSSD targets are to be achieved:
- It was not feasible within the available time-frame to determine which among the possible framework options would be most appropriate, and there is the need to have a clear process that is inclusive, transparent and results oriented by which this will be achieved.
- Certain characteristics, among others, e.g. those noted in the plenary presentation on governance, are considered to be important for a Caribbean fisheries governance arrangement;
 - It should include all stakeholders at all levels;
 - It should seek to emphasize the value of fisheries as a means of promoting political commitment
 - It should be attentive to livelihoods of those who make a living from fisheries and should consider alternative livelihoods;
 - It should strengthen and build on existing arrangements and organizations, recognising their diversity and the important roles that they are already playing in fisheries governance ;
 - It should emphasize the sharing of information and awareness raising.
- The participants endorsed the WECAFC recommendation (11th Session, October 2003) for the establishment of a WECAFC Intersessional Working Group to study the feasibility of strengthening regional fisheries management in the region and to report to the 12th Session of WECAFC.
- The participants recommend that there be collaboration between the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) PDF-B project development process and the WECAFC intersessional activity to explore the strengthening of WECAFC in determining the most appropriate framework or arrangement for fisheries governance in the Wider Caribbean region. This should be to the extent that it does not divert funds from the objectives of the CLME project. The WECAFC intersessional activity should seek to contribute additional funds to the process.
- The participants noted that there is the potential for Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project to provide considerable support to implementing the arrangement that is decided upon, with a view to establishing a sustainable arrangement by the end of the project.
- The participants recommend that non-GEF eligible countries pay special attention to providing the resources required for their Caribbean territories to participate fully in the CLME project.