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CRFM MANAGEMENT REPORT - 2013

REPORT OF THE CRFM INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

**CRFM Secretariat
Belize**

CRFM MANAGEMENT REPORT – 2013. Report of the CRFM Independent Performance Review

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
AECID	Spanish Development Agency
ASSC TMAC	Agriculture Disaster Risk Management Committee
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFIS	Caribbean Fisheries Information System
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCCC (or 5Cs)	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CFRAMP	CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Program
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations
CFP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (Project)
COFCOR	Council for Foreign and Community Relations
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
COPESCAALC	Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAF	Ecosystem approach to fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ENGO	Environmental Non-governmental Organisation
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FFO	fisherfolk organisations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HQ	Head Quarter
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
IDB	Inter-american Development Bank
IOCARIBE	Caribbean section of the International Oceans Commission
INFOPESCA	Centro para los servicios de información y asesoramiento sobre la comercialización de los productos pesqueros de América Latina
IPOA-capacity	International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)
IWC	International Whaling Commission
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LR	Licensing Regimes
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area

MTP	Medium Term Plan
NACA	The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NISP	National Integral Strategic Plan
NMFS	Nation Marine Fisheries Service (USA)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (USA)
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development
OSPESCA	Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
RAA	Aquaculture Network of the Americas
Ramsar Convention	The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat
RFAB	Regional Fishery Advisory Bodies
RFB	Regional Fishery Body
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organization
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TBTI	Too Big To Ignore
TOR	Terms of References
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UWI	University of the West Indies
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WB	World Bank
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WG	Working Group
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive Summary

After almost a decade of operation, the CRFM reached a clear turning point in its existence, namely the completion of its First Strategic Plan as well as the First and Second Medium Term Plans. The member states considered it essential to undertake an independent performance review to evaluate its performance. The initiative for the present review was taken by the member states during the Third CRFM Ministerial Council, held in Suriname in March 2011. The performance review is in line with continuing international calls for review of performance of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) in order to further strengthen their performance.

FAO was requested by CRFM to carry out an independent performance review and a 4 person panel was established. Terms of Reference, including specific criteria, were discussed and agreed upon. The panel's task was to identify gaps and achievements and highly areas where further improvements could be made, including recommendations for incorporation in the next strategic plan of CRFM.

The review panel based its work on the obligations of the CRFM members in relation to the international fisheries instruments, guidelines, best practices, theories, approaches and recent developments; those that are widely accepted and agreed by the CRFM member countries in their strive for sustainable management and conservation of the shared fisheries resources. The performance against the most essential components of fisheries management is reviewed, with an emphasis on the objectives and principles of the CRFM agreement and the performance against the second Medium Term Plan (2008 – 2011) of CRFM.

The panel prepared two draft versions of the report, which were discussed at two regional workshops with the CRFM members and the CRFM Secretariat; observations and comments received were addressed where appropriate. Various surveys were conducted among the CRFM membership to obtain their opinion on CRFM performance and on the recommendations put forward. A total of 78 recommendations were produced by the review panel. The recommendations that were considered of highest priority (scoring >4 out on a five point scale) to the future performance of CRFM in the future were the following:

Recommendations on scientific work and management advice

1. The current structure with Working Groups and Annual Scientific Meetings that report to the Forum should be maintained as it appears to function well. Similarly, the decision making, work planning, review and reporting lines between the Council, Forum and Secretariat are good and should be maintained.
2. The report of the annual scientific meeting should contain clear and specific technical advice and recommendations from each working group to the fisheries forum, in order to enable the forum to discuss and agree on research priorities and utilize the condensed and key research findings for regional policy and decision making purposes, keeping in mind that the Council is CRFM's policy and main decision making body. This approach should be informed by the respective national Fisheries Management Plans.
3. The process for producing fisheries management advice for endorsement at CRFM level needs to be streamlined. CRFM and member countries should ensure that the advice coming from these annual scientific meetings is formulated in a way that is easily understandable and useful for the decision makers in the Fisheries Forum and policy makers at the Ministerial Council.
4. Advice for small-scale fisheries management should be prioritized in the near future as there is uncertainty about current levels of resource exploitation in inshore and reef areas and the consequences this has for the future livelihoods of the fishers and the sustainability of the resources.

5. Socio-economic, environmental and climate change concerns should be incorporated in the management advice as these may receive less attention if not dealt with properly, which could result in reduced uptake by the stakeholders.
6. The 2012 Review of Current Fisheries Management Performance and Conservation Measures in the Western Central Atlantic Region, should be used by the CRFM Secretariat to provide clear advice to the CRFM members in terms of improvement and harmonization of fisheries management plans and filling gaps and addressing weaknesses.

Recommendations on strengthening collaboration with donors and fellow organizations

7. The Secretariat and working groups should continue to maintain and strengthen contacts with JICA, EU, USA, CDB and other potential donors in support of joint research in the region.
8. The CRFM should continue the recent initiative to foster closer cooperation with OSPESCA, as evidenced by the first joint fisheries and aquaculture ministerial meeting held on 3 - 4 September 2012. It is recommended that similar initiatives should be undertaken with the other advisory fishery bodies in the area, and foremost with WECAFC and OLDEPESCA. This initiative will expand the skills and technical support base.

Recommendations on fisheries data and statistics collection, analysis and dissemination

9. Member countries should ensure timely provision of statistics, other data and information to the CRFM Secretariat.
10. Member countries should ensure support for officers at the national level, even in the present scenario of limited financial resources, to allow them time and resources to complete their data and information related tasks, which should also include additional capacity building, preferably to be provided during the annual scientific meetings, in a consistent manner, using protocols, manuals and standard methodologies.
11. CRFM should continue to carry out socio-economic assessments of small-scale fisheries and ensure that the data and information enable valuation of the contribution of small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security in the CRFM member countries.

Recommendations on networking, reaching regional agreement and harmonized adoption of legally binding fisheries instruments

12. Efforts of the CRFM members towards ratification of the various legally binding fisheries instruments should be increased (always keeping in mind that these are political decisions of Member States), in line with calls made by the CRFM Secretariat and with the Resolution on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments made at the 14th session of WECAFC (2012)
13. CRFM should strengthen its role as networking mechanism among fisheries administrations of the member countries, providing opportunities to discuss informally and formally the positions of its members and reach agreements.

The main strength of the CRFM is the highly motivated staff in the secretariat and a well functioning governing structure. The regular meetings and workshops create a good ground for networking and for establishing a collaborative relationship between the Secretariat staff and the CRFM member countries' fisheries staff. The technical and operational work conducted by CRFM in recent years is extensive, considering the limited budget the CRFM operates on. The institutional capacities of the agencies responsible for fisheries in the CRFM member countries are generally weak and the agencies

have limited human, technical and financial resources, which has negative consequences in terms of uptake of advice and recommendations.

Overall, the Panel rates the performance of CRFM as satisfactory to good. There is certainly scope for improvement in a range of areas, but steps made in recent years by the CRFM Secretariat and members towards better management of the fisheries resources are promising. The Panel has tried to provide a well-balanced and comprehensive review report that positively contributes to the future performance of CRFM.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Performance Review

1.1.1 The Background

Regional fishery bodies (RFB) have been gaining in importance lately, especially since the adoption of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks¹. By not being willing to grant either the coastal state or the distant water fishing states any additional competence with respect to shared resources on the high seas, the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) were attributed enhanced competencies.² But together with increased powers came also ditto responsibilities. Many of these RFMOs had to adapt their structure in order to be able to live up to the new expectations that the international community are increasingly placing in these organizations as effective vehicles for attaining the goal of sustainable fisheries management, particularly for shared straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. Best practices were consequently developed in order to obtain improved governance of the oceans, which included performance reviews.³ The latter idea had been floated at the twenty-sixth session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries in 2005.⁴ It did not take long to see the idea of performance reviews applied by the 1995 UN Fish Stocks agreement review conference.⁵ More generally, reference to the desirability for performance reviews was for the first time included in a United Nations General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries during the same year.⁶ The relevant paragraph of the said yearly resolution of the UN General Assembly has in the mean time grown in robustness. The relevant paragraph of the most recent UNGA Resolution reads as follows:

- “111. Welcomes the 2010 performance review of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the 2011 performance review of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and the fact that a number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have completed performance reviews, and encourages the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of their respective reviews as a matter of priority;
112. Urges States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have not done so, to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, initiated either by the organization or arrangement itself or with external partners, including in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, using transparent criteria based on the provisions of the Agreement and other relevant instruments, and taking into account the

¹ Multilateral convention, 4 December 1995, 2167 *United Nations Treaty Series*, pp. 3, 88 - 137 (2003). This agreement entered into force on 11 December 2001. Hereinafter 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

² *Kristen Gustafson Juras, John E. Noyes and Erik Franckx*, *Law of the Sea in a Nutshell*, St. Paul, Minnesota, West Publishing Company, 2010, p. xxx.

³ *Michael W. Lodge, David Anderson, Terje Løbach, Gordon Munro, Keith Sainsbury and Anna Willock*, *Recommended Best Practices for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: Report of an Independent Panel to Develop a Model for Improved Governance by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations*, 2007, pp. 115 - 116 (available at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/10301_rfmo0807.pdf>).

⁴ FAO Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Rome, 7 - 11 March 2005, FAO Fisheries Report No. 780; Rome, FAO, 2005, paras. 111 - 112.

⁵ A/CONF.210/2006/15, 5 July 2006, Report of the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, para. 88 and in the Annex (Outcome of the Review Conference) paras. 29 and 32.

⁶ A/RES/60/31, 10 March 2006, Sustainable fisheries including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments, para. 60, which read: “Encourages States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to initiate processes for their performance review, and welcomes the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the development of general objective criteria for such reviews”.

best practices of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and, as appropriate, any set of criteria developed by States or other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, and encourages that such performance reviews include some element of independent evaluation and propose means for improving the functioning of the regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, as appropriate;

113. *Encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to make the results of those performance reviews publicly available and to discuss the results jointly and furthermore to consider undertaking performance reviews on a regular basis;*
114. *Urges States to cooperate, taking into account those performance reviews, to develop best practice guidelines for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to apply, to the extent possible, those guidelines to organizations and arrangements in which they participate”.*⁷

By 2009, six regional fisheries management bodies had already concluded performance reviews and many others had started the process.⁸

It is against this background that the present independent performance review of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), as documented in this report, has to be viewed. It should be noted that the developments described in the previous paragraphs mostly concern management bodies that have the competence to adopt regulatory measures that are directly binding on their members.⁹ The CRFM is categorized as a fishery advisory body which by its nature can only recommend policies and measures and provide advice on best fisheries management practices. The concept of performance reviews however is as relevant to Regional Fishery Advisory Bodies (RFAB) as it is to RFMOs. While certain of these so-called RFABs have taken¹⁰ or are taking the initiative to subject themselves to a performance review¹¹, others have argued against it since RFABs are only responsible for scientific advice and technical assistance and not for the management of the fishery resource proper.¹² Nevertheless the number of RFABs undergoing a performance review is growing, as illustrated by the recent completion of such process by the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), another advisory body.¹³ In line with this trend, the 30th session of COFI (July 2012) requested FAO to initiate performance reviews of the RFBs under its auspices that had not already been assessed. While the CRFM is not an FAO body, its performance review presented herein is an affirmation of the general trend and is consistent with the emerging views of the members of RFABs and their Secretariats which is that it is a useful exercise to review the performance of their respective RFBs.

1.1.2 The Terms of Reference

Because the CRFM had reached a clear turning point in its existence after almost a decade of operation, namely the completion of its First Strategic Plan as well as the First and Second Medium Term plans, it was believed essential for this body to undertake a review and evaluation of its

⁷ A/RES/66/68, 28 March 2012, Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments, para. 60

⁸ FAO, Report of the Second Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network, Rome, 9 – 10 March 2009, *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*, No. 908, Rome, FAO, 2009, p. 12.

⁹ For instance all the performance reviews already conducted by 2009, as mentioned above (see *supra* note Error: Reference source not found and accompanying text) fell into this category. These are generally labeled management bodies.

¹⁰ FAO, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Report of the thirty-fifth session, FAO Headquarters, Rome, 9 - 14 May 2011, *GFCM Report*, No. 35, Rome, FAO, 2012, pp. 9-10.

¹¹ See for instance International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, *A Vision Worth Sharing*, p. 8 (as available at <<http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/AVisionWorthSharing2008.pdf>>).

¹² The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) has been reported to fit this category. See *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, p. 12.

¹³ FAO, Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, 20th Session, Rabat, Morocco, 14 - 16 March 2012, CECAS/XX/012/5, March 2012, 33 pp. (as available at <<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/024/an154e.pdf>>).

performance. The initiative to the present performance review was taken by the member states during the Third Ministerial Council, held in Suriname in March 2011, by means of a request to the CRFM Secretariat to seek assistance on two specific points. The first concerned the assessment of the performance of the CRFM since its inception based on the objectives set out in its founding document, the first Strategic Plan and the international legal framework relevant to the sustainable development, conservation and management of the Caribbean fishery resources. The second related to the working out of the Second Strategic Plan (2013 - 2020). The CRFM Secretariat, acting upon this request, addressed a letter to FAO on 9 March 2012 in view of the latter's neutral position and extensive past experience in this particular domain. The Caribbean Fisheries Forum later the same month endorsed the draft terms of reference for the performance review and recommended these terms of reference to be submitted to the Ministerial Council.¹⁴

FAO reacted positively to this request of the CRFM and set up a Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCP/SLC/3401), entitled "*Independent Review of CRFM and Preparation of a New Strategic Plan*". In the framework of this TPC Facility, it was agreed between CRFM and FAO that a panel would be formed to carry out the review. It was agreed that the Panel would be comprised of:

- a senior fisheries management and policy expert of FAO (Ms Helga Josupeit)
- an independent legal expert (Dr. Eric Franckx)
- the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer for the Caribbean (Dr. Raymon van Anrooy)
- the Chief of the Development Law Branch (LEGN) of the FAO Legal Office (Dr. Blaise Kuemlangan)

The panel would work under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative to Barbados / Sub regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, the technical supervision of the Director Fisheries Policy Division (FIP) and the Chief LEGN, respectively, and in close cooperation with each other as well as in consultation with the CRFM Secretariat.

The main tasks of the Fisheries Management and Policy Expert were to review the functions and performance of the CRFM and its Secretariat and support the Legal Expert in the review of the functions and performance of the CRFM with a focus on compliance and enforcement, decision making and dispute settlement, international cooperation and financial and administrative issues. Those of the Legal Expert concerned the review of the founding document of the CRFM and analyse to what extent it implements international fisheries instruments and the review of the functions and performance of the CRFM with a focus on compliance and enforcement, decision making and dispute settlement, international cooperation and financial and administrative issues. The tasks of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer for the Caribbean comprised the overall coordination, providing logistical and administrative support and the technical review of the draft versions of the performance review, bringing in experience from the region and from his work with other regional fisheries bodies and arrangements (CACFish, NACA, EIFAC, GFCM and WECAFC).

1.1.3 Methodology of the Performance Review

Two experts from the panel visited the CRFM Secretariat in Belize in the period 30 August until 4 September 2012. They had the opportunity to interview the CRFM Executive Director, Mr. Milton Haughton, and the Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Susan Singh-Renton, and Mr. Terrence Phillips, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, who were assisted by two members of the CRFM Secretariat, namely: Mrs. June Masters, Statistics and Information Analyst, and Mr. Delmar Lanza, Manager, Finance and Administration. During the period, meetings were also arranged with the Fisheries Administration, namely: Mr. George Myvett, Senior Fisheries Officer, as well as the Regional Manager of the ACP Fish II Regional Facilitation Unit, Dr. Sandra Grant.

¹⁴ CRFM, CRFM Management Report, PY 2012/13, Vol. 1, Report and Proceedings of the Tenth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, Nassau, The Bahamas, 26 - 28 March 2012, pp. 113 - 114. Hereinafter Report Caribbean Fisheries Forum 2012.

A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to all member countries of the CRFM. Nine of the 17 member states completed the questionnaire (*Annex 5*). All these responses were subsequently compiled and analyzed for the purposes of the present Independent Performance Review Report.

The draft Performance Review Report was discussed at the CRFM Performance Review and Strategic Planning Meeting, held in Kingston, Jamaica on 5 December 2012. At that Meeting the draft recommendations were discussed with representatives of the CRFM member countries and the CRFM Secretariat and comments were integrated in the present version (second draft) of the Performance Review. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 29 January 2013, the second draft of the Independent Performance Review was validated and the prioritization of the relevant recommendations was discussed. The outcome of this prioritization is reproduced in the scoring of each recommendation and the highest priority recommendations, which are reproduced in Chapter 9.

The Secretariat will make the report available to the CRFM members in March 2013 in order to enable discussion of the report at the Eleventh (11th) Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, scheduled to be held in Barbados in April 2013.

The CRFM Performance Review Report will be published on the CRFM website in 2013 after the CRFM Ministerial Council has discussed and endorsed it.

The CRFM Secretariat was not part of the review panel but provided support to the activities of the panel, including access to information that was not available on the CRFM website, facilitated contacts with CRFM members, assisted in the organization of the two meetings (Belize and Jamaica) and provided facilities for the panel to conduct its work.

Because the CRFM is a body with an advisory mandate and not a management mandate this needs to be reflected in the performance criteria to be reviewed. For the CRFM, therefore, special emphasis will be placed on the manner in which the objectives and the general principles, as defined in the founding document, have generally been met.

1.1.4 Approach and structure of the report

The review panel has made use of a wide range of international fisheries instruments, guidelines, best practices, theories, approaches and recent developments at global level in the review process. The panel, however, also recognizes that implementation of global best practice and guidelines is case specific and depends on the circumstances at regional, national and local levels including the political, socio-economic, institutional, ecological environment which can either be conducive or inhibiting.

The panel focused its attention on those instruments, guidelines and approaches that are widely accepted and agreed by the CRFM member countries in their strive for sustainable management and conservation of the shared fisheries resources. The performance against the most essential components of fisheries management is reviewed, with an emphasis on the objectives and principles of the CRFM agreement and the performance against the second Medium Term Plan (2008 – 2011) of CRFM.

The panel prepared two draft versions of the report, which were discussed at two regional workshops with the CRFM members and the CRFM Secretariat; observations and comments received were addressed where appropriate. Moreover two surveys were conducted amongst members that informed the panel. Considering the independent nature of the review panel, the membership or the Secretariat of CRFM may not necessarily agree with some of the recommendations or aspects thereof. The panel has however tried to provide an objective, well-balanced and comprehensive review report that is informative and can positively contribute to the future performance of CRFM.

The report is structured as follows. First some background and a brief history of CRFM are presented in section 1.2 of this first chapter, which also includes a review against the CRFM agreement from a legal perspective. Chapter 2 reviews the CRFM Statutes in relation to international fisheries instruments. In chapter 3 the agreed list of review criteria is discussed. Chapter 4 describes the

performance of CRFM against the principles in the CRFM Agreement. Chapter 5 does the same, but looks instead at the second medium term plan. Chapter 6 reviews the CRFM decision making process and practices. Each section in chapters 1 to 6 is followed by specific recommendations. In Chapter 7 a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis of CRFM is presented to add issues to the review that otherwise were difficult to cover. In Chapter 8 the results of the first survey are presented and the final chapter (9) provides a summary of conclusions and recommendations derived from the performance review process.

1.2 The CRFM

The CRFM has been established in the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Even though it is not a formal institution of CARICOM,¹⁵ CRFM is generally regarded as an “Associated Institution” of CARICOM. Article 22 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas provides for certain entities with which the Community enjoys important functional relationships which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Community to be recognized as Associate Institutions of the Community.

1.2.1 Background and Brief History

The origins of the organization are to be found in a project funded by the Government of Canada and a need felt by the CARICOM Member States concerning the proper management of their fisheries resources. This resulted in the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and the Canadian Development Agency in 1991, entitled CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Program. During this 8-year project¹⁶, the field was prepared for the CRFM to start working independently at the end of the project.¹⁷

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism was established by means of an international agreement signed on 4 February 2002.¹⁸ This agreement entered into force upon signature of any seven Member States or Associate Members of CARICOM,¹⁹ which happened on the same day.²⁰ The organization adopted its own rules of procedure on 5 August 2002²¹ and was officially inaugurated in Belize City, Belize, on 27 March 2003.

The CRFM, in other words, is a relatively recently established RFAB.

¹⁵ *Contra* the CRFM Operations Manual, Vol. 1, pp. 16 and 91 (2008) where it is stated that, because it is a CARICOM institution, the CRFM “is therefore governed by all relevant agreement, conventions and principles which operate within the CARICOM Environment”. As will be argued below, this statement does not seem to reflect the reality for the institutional link between both organizations is tenuous at best.

¹⁶ Originally an 8-year project that got extended

¹⁷ See CRFM Administrative Report, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Second Medium Term Plan 2008 - 2011 including a Review of the First Medium Term Plan, CRFM Secretariat, p. 1 (2009). Hereinafter CRFM Second Medium Term Plan. This close initial link with CARICOM is also reflected in the fact that the Host Country Agreements with the Government of Belize and of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which date back to 1991 and 1992 respectively and are still operational today, are both concluded with CARICOM as a partner.

¹⁸ Agreement establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. Multilateral, signed on 4 February 2002, 2242 *United Nations Treaty Series* pp. 271, 273 - 290. This agreement entered into force on 4 February 2002 (as available at <<http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=k2y%2b0jOz%2ffY%3d&tabid=124>>. Hereinafter CRFM Agreement.

¹⁹ CRFM Agreement, Art. 35 *juncto* Art. 3 (1).

²⁰ Indeed, the following eight CARICOM Member States signed on 4 February 2002: Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

²¹ As available at <<http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=D%2bL10Jk32pk%3d&tabid=125>>. According to the founding document of the CRFM the Ministerial Council and the Caribbean Fisheries Forum should normally each establish their own rules of procedure (CRFM Agreement, Arts 7 (4) and 8 (2), respectively). Instead a single document was adopted covering both organs.

1.2.2 CRFM Objectives and Mandate

According to its founding document²², the objectives of the CRFM are three:

- “(a) *the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of Member States;*
- (b) *the promotion and establishment of co-operative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources;*
- (c) *the provision of technical advisory and consultative services to fisheries divisions of Member States in the development, management and conservation of their marine and other aquatic resources.*”²³

The formulation of these objectives make it clear that the primary aim of the Mechanism is the sustainable development through efficient management and conservation of the marine and other aquatic resources in waters within the jurisdiction of Member States. The objective of cooperation with respect to shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources is formulated to reflect the Mechanism’s advisory nature, by talking about promotion and cooperative agreements between Member States and non-members. The former statement of objective therefore leads towards an “*obligation de résultat*”, while the latter can be considered as an “*obligation de moyen*”.

It is noted also that Objective (b) was deliberately formulated to address the need for cooperative management of transboundary resources beyond the jurisdiction of Member States. The objective is, promotion and establishment of cooperative arrangements among interested States for the efficient management of the transboundary resources in question. Promoting cooperative arrangements requires the establishment of such arrangements for the efficient management of the resources. It specifically speaks of cooperative arrangements among “interested States” rather than among interested Member States or among member States. In this manner the Mechanism could provide for the cooperative arrangements involving non Member States and extending beyond waters under the jurisdiction of Member States.

1.2.3 Area of Competence

As already mentioned above (sub 1.2.2), the objectives of the CRFM indicate that the Mechanism is competent for marine or aquatic resources located within water areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Member States, but also looking after transboundary resources beyond the jurisdiction of Member States. This means that it is first of all competent for all fresh water resources living in the internal waters of the parties.²⁴ Secondly, as far as marine resources are concerned, the area of competence coincides with the territorial seas and continental shelves of member states as well as other jurisdictional areas such as the Exclusive economic zones (EEZs) claimed by the different Member States.

With respect to marine resources the competence of the coastal state extends over the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the sedentary marine living resources of the continental shelf in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.²⁵ The 1982 Convention does not automatically confer rights of a coastal state over an EEZ as it does with respect to the continental shelf.²⁶ State practice indicates that if states do not proclaim an EEZ beyond the territorial seas up to

²² Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism is reproduced under the following link <http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=k2y%2b0jOz%2ffY%3d&tabid=124>

²³ CRFM Agreement, Art. 4.

²⁴ During the most recent meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, for instance, it was decided to create an Aquaculture Working Group. Caribbean Fisheries Forum 2012, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, pp. 50 - 52.

²⁵ Multilateral convention, signed on 10 December 1982, 1833 *United Nations Treaty Series* pp. 397 - 581. This convention entered into force on 16 November 1994.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, Art. 77 (3).

200 nautical miles, this belt of waters remain part of the high seas. The situation of the EEZ claims, as far as the CRFM Member States are concerned is stated in Annex 4. As far as the territorial sea is concerned, of the 17 Member States 14 claim 12 nautical miles in principle and two claim only three nautical miles. All 17 states claim a 200 nautical miles zone, of which 14 Member States do so as exclusive economic zone and three as a fishing zone. This last group is comprised of territories belonging to the United Kingdom, which itself does not claim an exclusive economic zone but a fisheries zone. The area of competence of the CRFM is therefore the sum of the areas measured outwards from the territorial baselines of its Member States to 200 nautical miles, as indicated in blue shade in the map below prepared by FAO.²⁷



Source: FAO <<http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html>>

It is to be noted that the area of competence does not cover a continuous maritime space. It is instead composed of scattered large and small maritime areas which are separated from one another because of the maritime zones claimed by states lying in between. In addition the map does not present a complete illustration of maritime zones of the Member States (and therefore potential CRFM area of competency) as most of the CRFM Member States have adjacent or opposite coasts of less than 400 nautical miles between them and the delimitations of these areas remain to be determined by the concerned CRFM Member States.²⁸ Only two sets of Member States, namely between Barbados and Guyana²⁹ and more recently Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago have finalized delimitation of the maritime areas between them through negotiations. Barbados initiated unilateral arbitration proceedings pursuant to Part XV of the 1982 Convention against Trinidad and Tobago in 2004. The arbitral award, binding on the parties, became effective as of 11 April 2006. In the general context it is worthwhile mentioning the disputed maritime boundary between Guyana and Suriname that nearly led to hostilities, but in 25 February 2004, the Government of Guyana invoked arbitration against Suriname, under Article 287 and Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). The matter was settled peacefully by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague, Netherlands in September 2007.

It is evident that the situation of unsettled maritime boundaries between the CRFM member states is not conducive to the elaboration of co-operative arrangements with respect to shared, straddling or highly migratory fish species, as provided by its founding agreement.³⁰

²⁷ As available at <<http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html>> (adapted). Note that the designations employed and the presentation of material in the reproduced map is for illustration only and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO or the authors of this report concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

²⁸ This part is based on *International Maritime Boundaries* (Charney, J.I. & Alexander, L.M./Colson D. & Smith, R. eds.), Dordrecht/Leiden, Martinus Nijhoff, Vols I - VI (1993 - 2011). Also Vol. VII, awaited shortly, has been taken into account.

²⁹ Signed on 2 December 2003; entry into force on 5 May 2004.

³⁰ See sub 1.2.2. Indeed, access to marine living resources was at the core of the delimitation dispute between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

With respect to Objective (b), the CRFM is supposed to “promote the efficient management, conservation and development of shared, straddling and highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources of the Caribbean Region through attainment of competence over the resources and through co-operation with competent organizations as the case may be”.³¹ It can be deduced from the wording of Article 7 (3)(a) of the CRFM Agreement that the Mechanism is competent to deal with shared, straddling and highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources that are found within the national jurisdiction of Member States. In areas beyond the national jurisdiction of Member States, the CRFM has to co-operate with other competent organizations.

Recommendation:

1. The CRFM should give due attention to urge its Member States to enter into bilateral maritime delimitation negotiations in order to arrive at maritime boundary agreements, where necessary. Further assistance in this matter could be provided by the CRFM Secretariat upon request by the CRFM Member States. The importance of these issues was duly mentioned in several technical studies commissioned by CRFM, as well as in the CRFM Administrative Report concerning the Second Medium Term Plan 2008 - 2011.³² And even though an elaborated background paper was included in the Operations Manual,³³ limited initiatives have been taken by the Secretariat in this respect as the policy paper was prepared only in 2012. This subject area requires policy direction and guidance from the Member States via the Forum. The initiative for such concrete action probably rests with the Ministerial Council, responsible for the determination of the policy of the CRFM in general and more specifically for encouraging cooperation amongst Member States in order to resolve disputes between them in a peaceful manner.³⁴

1.2.4 Species and Fisheries Covered

There is no restriction as to the species covered by the CRFM, the only limitation being a spatial one, namely the areas falling within the national jurisdiction of Member States most of which is limited to the 200 nautical mile limit. This is a very wide range of species which may be covered, especially if one considers that such a range may include reef fishes, shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources.

1.2.5 Membership³⁵

Membership of the CRFM is open to Member States and Associate Member States of CARICOM. The CRFM agreement entered into force in 2002 between eight Member States, namely Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts and Nevis signed the agreement on 4 July 2003, with the instrument entering into force for them on the same date. Anguilla, Bahamas, Dominica, Haiti, Saint Lucia, and Turks and Caicos Islands joined at a later date, bringing the grand total to 17 Member States today. Even though it is envisaged by the founding document that “[t]he Ministerial Council may admit as an Associate Member of the Mechanism any State or Territory of the Caribbean Region which in its opinion is able and willing to discharge its obligations under this Agreement,” there are at present no Associate Members.

³¹ CRFM Agreement, Art. 7 (3)(a). “Competent organisations” are defined in Art. 1 as “any group or body formed by two or more States in a cooperative arrangement for the sustainable use of shared, straddling or highly migratory stocks or of a particular specie of marine or other aquatic resources and recognised as such by other States, fishers of the same stock or specie”.

³² CRFM Second Medium Term Plan, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, pp. 27, 31 and 34.

³³ CRFM Operations Manual, Vol. 2, pp. 97 - 127 (2008).

³⁴ CRFM Agreement, Art. 7 (3)(f). It should also be noted that the revised founding document of CARICOM obliges this organization to collaborate with its Member States with respect to the delimitation of maritime boundaries. See Art. 60 (3)(c) as reproduced *infra* note Error: Reference source not found.

³⁵ The CRFM has a formal relationship with the Dominican Republic through a MOU. In practice however they are only involved in some project activities.

Recommendation:

2. The CRFM should consider making more use of the notion of Associate Member in order to alleviate the problem created by the patchwork of management areas generated by the area of competence of the Mechanism and associated with the present membership. It is generally understood that if transboundary fisheries management is to become successful it should include all members, associate members and potential associate members in the region.³⁶ The founding document appears to be flexible enough to accommodate the interest of other states in the region in maritime living resources, especially with respect to the shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources in which they have a direct interest, without necessarily infringing on the issues that are of direct concern only to CRFM Member States.³⁷ In the same vein, the recommendation to provide for equal access to the CRFM arbitration procedure (Article 29 (2)) and third party intervention (Article 32),³⁸ is better limited to disputes relating to management regimes to which Associate Members are parties or fisheries which they share with other Member States.

*Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.2*³⁹

3. The CRFM Secretariat should promote the Associate Membership among Non-CARICOM Caribbean countries and territories that share fisheries resources with CRFM members -, such as the Caribbean Netherlands, Curacao, Aruba, United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the French Overseas Territories, with a view to encourage them to take up CRFM membership. These territories and countries are already participating in annual scientific meetings and various working group activities of CRFM.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.4

1.2.6 Institutional Structure

The institutional structure of the CRFM consists of three main organs, namely the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the Technical Unit/Secretariat.⁴⁰ The structure is presented in the figure below.

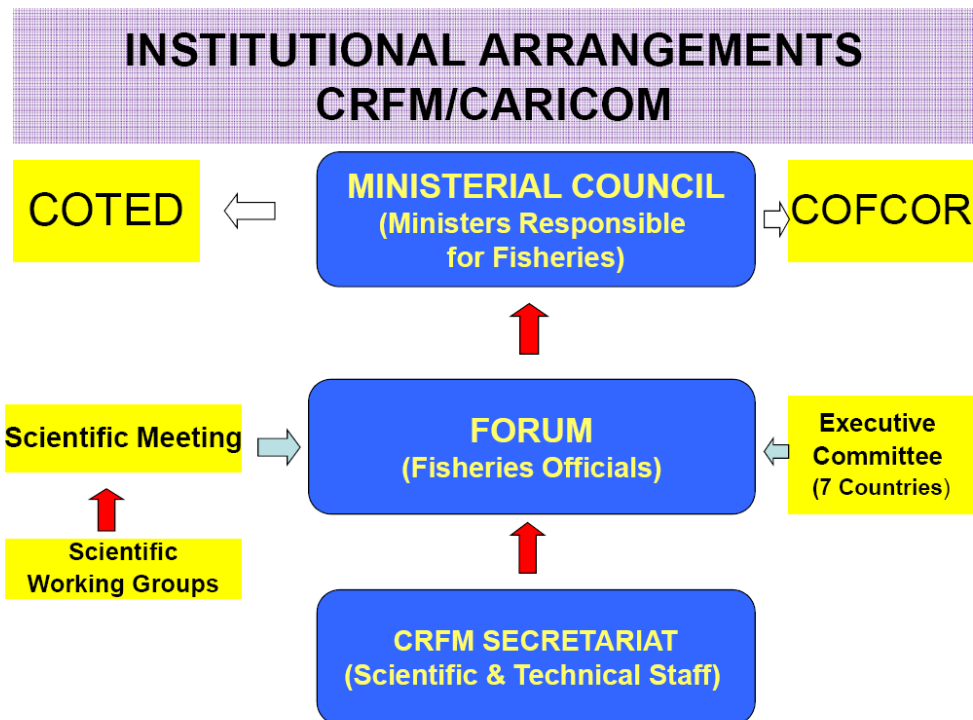
³⁶ See sub 1.2.3.

³⁷ Especially the voting procedure is helpful in this respect since Associate Members can only vote on decisions relating to management regimes to which they are parties or fisheries which they share with other Member States. CRFM Agreement Art. 14 (4) and CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (4). Moreover, their rights are fully protected for, just like Member States, they have the right to require decisions of any body, prejudicial to their interests, to be reviewed if they were absent when the decision was taken. CRFM Agreement, Art. 14 (6) and CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (6). Even though the Ministerial Council is not explicitly covered as far as voting right of Associate Members is concerned, the fact that they do have a right to require a review of decisions detrimental to their interest in any CRFM body seems to imply that right implicitly.

³⁸ As suggested by Flyingfish Technical Report, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, p. 19.

³⁹ During the validation workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 29 January 2013, the second draft of the independent performance review was validated and the priority of the review panel's recommendations was discussed. The Scoring was from 1 to 5, where 5 was highest priority and 1 lowest. Scoring figures listed are averages of the responses received. Recommendations which received an average score of 2 or lower have in various instances been adjusted to take into account concerns raised. For those recommendations scoring less than 2 the exact score is not presented.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, Art. 6.



The Ministerial Council is the organ that sets out the general policy of the CRFM.⁴¹ It is composed of the 17 Ministers that have fisheries under their competence and meets at least once a year.⁴² Every Member State has one vote. Substantial issues are normally decided by consensus. If no consensus can be reached voting shall decide the issue by a three-quarters majority of the Member States comprising the CRFM, with at least two-thirds of the CRFM membership being present.⁴³ When a Member State is absent when a decision is taken that is prejudicial to its interest, it can require a review of that decision.⁴⁴ Non-legally binding recommendations addressed to a Member State are taken by a ‘two-third’ majority.⁴⁵ Decisions on procedural matters are taken by simply majority. Whether an issue is procedural or substantive is determined by a two-thirds majority.⁴⁶

The Caribbean Fisheries Forum is a much more heterogeneous body. It is composed of one representative of each Member State, observers as approved by the Ministerial Council, Fisher Folk Organizations and private fishing companies within the Caribbean region, regional organizations and institutions whose work in the area of fisheries contribute to the work of the CRFM, and, finally, non-governmental organizations involved in the same area of work.⁴⁷ Despite this wide variety of possible participants, however, in practice the Caribbean Fisheries Forum remains a rather manageable group.⁴⁸ The main function of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum is to determine the technical and scientific work of the CRFM. The meeting frequency and voting procedure are quite similar to the ones just described with respect to the Ministerial Council, although the two-thirds majority quorum must include at least

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, Art. 7 (3).

⁴² *Ibid.*, Art. 7.

⁴³ CRFM Agreement Art. 14 (1-3) and CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (2).

⁴⁴ CRFM Agreement Art. 14 (6) and CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (6).

⁴⁵ CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (7).

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, Rule 24 (8).

⁴⁷ CRFM Agreement, Art. 8.

⁴⁸ The last Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum, for instance, held during the month of March 2012 in Nassau, The Bahamas, consisted of representatives of the 17 Member States with in addition a representative of Bonaire. As far as institutions were concerned, the following were represented at that time: ACP Fish II, Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organization, CRFM, Food and Agriculture Organization, NOAA Fisheries Service, University of the West Indies, and University of South Mississippi.

two-thirds of the Member States of the CRFM and that observers have no right to vote.⁴⁹ This body is a kind of interface between the Ministerial Council, to which it receives and reviews submissions and the Ministerial Council, to which it makes recommendations.⁵⁰ In order to safeguard continuity between the yearly meetings, an Executive Committee is established, consisting of seven members.⁵¹ The Caribbean Fisheries Forum may establish Sub-Committees of the Forum (Article 11 of the Agreement and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure), several species working groups have been established under this article⁵². For the flying fish fisheries management the CRFM Ministerial Council recently (2011) decided to establish a Ministerial Council Sub-Committee on Flying Fish. The Technical Unit constitutes the permanent Secretariat of the CRFM and is headed by an Executive Director, who bears full responsibility for the work of the CRFM, he is assisted by a Deputy Executive Director and an adequate number of managerial, technical, scientific and support staff in order to enable the Technical Unit to discharge the mandate of the Mechanism.⁵³ This is the body that has been described as being “responsible for day-to-day coordination of the execution of work programmes; collaborating with national fisheries authorities; mobilizing resources; and managing the institutional networking to promote its optimal involvement and the efficient functioning”.⁵⁴

The CRFM Agreement does not foresee the organization of Annual Scientific Meetings or the establishment of Working Groups or Parties but the Rules of Procedure of CRFM do. It is clear that under the Functions of the Forum the modality in which scientific and technical joint work is to be performed can be determined. Whether this has the form of projects or subsidiary bodies (e.g. working parties, working groups, task forces, etc.) appears to be flexible. Terms of references for the Working Groups (the most common modality used) are prepared by the Secretariat for review and agreement by the Forum. As such the Working Group structure is not formally incorporated under the CRFM Agreement, but in its Rules of Procedure. Considering the lengthy existence and well-functioning of the Working Groups within the institutional structure, they can be regarded an important part of this CRFM institutional structure.

It is evident from the structure described above that the body of the CRFM that would be and is most instrumental in accomplishing the bulk of the work, and consequently achieving the objectives set for the CRFM, is the Secretariat. It is indeed the only body which is operational on a daily basis, while the other two meet occasionally with large time intervals in between. But with a staff of 14 persons, of which slightly more than half possess a university degree and where at present many technical positions are not filled, it is clear that this is not an easy task.⁵⁵

There seems to be an imbalance between the Secretariat of the CRFM, which is manned by a small-group of people and the conceptual structure in place. The policy making and discussion fora are demanding for the Secretariat in terms of actual and potential participants and the resources needed to make them operationally efficient are limited.⁵⁶ The potential for growth of this organization seems theoretically to be strong, but the amount of work required is out of proportion to its present-day structure and resources available. More efforts seem to be needed in order to attract resources for core activities, in the present economic climate it seems unrealistic to expect increased contribution from Member States. Alternatively, the CRFM Forum and Ministerial Council have to clearly determine the priorities of work for the Secretariat within current budget limitations.

⁴⁹ CRFM Agreement, Art. 14 (3 and 5) and CRFM Rules of Procedure, Rule 24 (3 and 5).

⁵⁰ CRFM Agreement, Art. 9.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, Art. 10.

⁵² Even though these grouping were called working groups, their function is identical to those of sub-committees, working groups is a rather historical way of calling Sub-Committees.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Art. 12.

⁵⁴ CRFM Second Medium Term Plan, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, p. 3.

⁵⁵ Information based on the last Technical Progress and Financial Report available. See CRFM, CRFM Technical Progress and Financial Report, 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011, Appendix B (2011) (available at <<http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7uDV9rMRtxQ%3d&tabid=90>>).

⁵⁶ Mention can be made, besides of the CRFM Agreement and the CRFM Rules of Procedure, to the detailed headquarters and host country agreements, and the five volume CRFM Operations Manual, containing many appendices.

Recommendation:

4. To assess the CRFM core budget resources and re-allocate resources towards the technical and operational work of the Secretariat. This will allow the Secretariat to deliver high quality advice, not only on regional issues, but also advice Member States on national level technical issues upon request.
5. The current structure with Working Groups and Annual Scientific Meetings that report to the Forum should be maintained as it appears to function well. Similarly, the decision making, work planning, review and reporting lines between the Council, Forum and Technical Unit(= Secretariat) are good and should be maintained.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.3

6. The establishment of Ministerial Sub-Committee on Flying Fish provides as test-case for the establishment of more of such sub-committees. The role and functioning of this Ministerial sub-committee should be reviewed after two years to determine the usefulness of a sub-committee and gather the lessons learned. The practicality of the establishment of a Sub-Committee in addition to the already existing working group is doubtful.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.8

1.2.7 CRFM Relationship with Other Organizations Operational in the Region

The next section will examine other organizations operational in the region that might impact on the work of the CRFM. The two organizations that will be discussed first are CARICOM and OECS, with which the CRFM has a special relationship, either because of its origin or because of membership issues. Secondly regional and global fisheries bodies whose area of competence overlaps with that of the CRFM, namely WECAFC and ICCAT will be looked at. When necessary, attention will be drawn between bodies with an advisory mandate, as the CRFM itself, or a management mandate. Finally, it will be analyzed whether other conventions exist, not primarily related to fisheries, which might have an influence on the functioning of the CRFM. Overall, it should be noted that the philosophy of setting up CRFM was to create a network of organisations working in partnership with the Member States and with a core decision-making mechanism for regional issues. One of the challenges CRFM appears to have is that many of the institutions/organisations that are considered as key partners and stakeholders and participate in the Forum and scientific meetings do not see themselves as functional partners whose work is important to the achievement of the objectives of the CRFM.

1.2.7.1 CARICOM and OECS

As already alluded to above,⁵⁷ the link between the CRFM and CARICOM is rather tenuous. Certainly, during the years leading up to the creation of the CRFM, the relation between the Canadian funded CARICOM Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Program (CFRAMP) and CARICOM was rather tight.⁵⁸ But this clearly changed once the CRFM became operational.

Even though the founding document of the CRFM – the convention - defines the terms “the Caribbean Community”, which it abbreviates as CARICOM, as well as “the Secretary-General”, which means the Secretary-General of CARICOM, the convention is sparse in the actual use of these terms. The only substantial reference to CARICOM as an institution is to be found in the article on membership which requires full members of the CRFM to be CARICOM Member States or CARICOM Associate Members. The Secretary-General only has a limited role to play in the dispute settlement provisions⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Sub 1.2.

⁵⁸ See for instance *supra* note Error: Reference source not found.

⁵⁹ CRFM Agreement, Arts 30 and 32.

and in acting as the depositary of accessions.⁶⁰ The other non substantive interactions between CRFM and CARICOM occur where the Ministerial Council submits an annual report to the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR).⁶¹ These are CARICOM organs assisting the two main organs of that organization, namely the Conference of Heads of Government and the Community Council of Ministers.⁶²

The limited interaction between the CRFM and CARICOM comes as no surprise as it can be witnessed that there is a certain movement in practice towards greater autonomy of the CRFM. There may have been a “nesting” of the functioning of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM within the CARICOM Ministerial Council on Trade and Development between 2002 and 2008 but this changed because fisheries did not usually receive the attention it deserved within the CARICOM Council on Trade and Development.

According to the founding documents of CARICOM the Community was envisaged to be a regional fisheries management organization. Especially after the entry into force of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas,⁶³ a special article was devoted to fisheries management and development.⁶⁴ But with the creation of the CRFM, the founding document of which entered into force on exactly the same date as the revised treaty of Chaguaramas, CARICOM seems to have deferred to the CRFM as having the lead responsibility in this domain.⁶⁵

Finally it should be noted that the membership to CARICOM and the CRFM is not identical. As already mentioned above,⁶⁶ certain Associate Members of CARICOM are full members of CRFM.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, Art. 36.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, Art. 7 (3)(p).

⁶² As indicated on the website of CARICOM (as available at http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/community_organs_index.jsp?menu=cob).

⁶³ Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Multilateral convention, 5 July 2001, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 2259, 293, 295-443 (2006). The revised treaty was signed on 4 Feb 2002 but entered into force on 1 January 2006 (available at http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community/revised_treaty-text.pdf).

⁶⁴ Art. 60 of this agreement reads:

- “1. The Community, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international agencies and organisations, shall promote the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources in and among the Member States on a sustainable basis.
2. The Community shall effect the promotion and facilitation referred to in paragraph 1 by:
 - (a) enhancing the institutional capabilities of the Member States in areas such as policy formulation, registration and management systems, resource monitoring and assessment, and harvesting and post-harvesting technologies;
 - (b) establishing mechanisms to provide assistance in:
 - (i) the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources;
 - (ii) the discharge of obligations relating to fisheries resources arising under Articles 62, 63 and 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).
 - (c) effective regional representation at international fora;
 - (d) establishing development programmes for aquaculture;
 - (e) encouraging the establishment of protected aquatic habitats and associated terrestrial areas and fish populations for the sustainable development of fisheries resources of the Member States; and (f) establishing, facilitating and strengthening research and human resource development at the professional, technical and vocational levels.
3. The Community shall collaborate with the Member States in:
 - (a) the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks;
 - (b) ongoing surveillance of their exclusive economic zones;
 - (c) the delimitation of maritime boundaries; and
 - (d) safeguarding their marine environment from pollutants and hazardous wastes.
4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 56, COFCOR shall promote the establishment of a regime for the effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States.
5. For the purpose of this Article, “fisheries resources” includes all the fishable resources, natural and cultured, in the inland and internal waters, territorial seas and the exclusive economic zones of the Member States”.

⁶⁵ Flyingfish Technical Report, *supra* note Error: Reference source not found, p. 3.

⁶⁶ See *supra* sub 2.2.5.

Moreover, other Associate Members of CARICOM, such as Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands decided not to join the CRFM.⁶⁷

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), established in 1981, has a very broad mission, namely to strengthen cooperation between the Eastern Caribbean States and promote unity and solidarity among themselves. The OECS Secretariat has been given a mandate in a number of areas of fisheries including monitoring control and surveillance within the OECS Common Fisheries Surveillance Zones agreement which is still in force, fisheries data collection and management, development of marine protected areas, development of national level fisheries management plans and the development of the OECS Fisheries Management and Development Strategy and Action Plan. While the latter remains valid, the OECS Member States have agreed that the CRFM should take the lead for fisheries management matters on the proviso that the OECS Secretariat maintains an active role in ensuring that their developmental goals are not prejudiced by this arrangement.

This has been made even more pertinent with the coming into force of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing an OECS Economic Union and consequent mandate by the OECS Heads of Government to pursue the development and implementation of an integrated approach to governance. The OECS lately has been at the forefront of the development and sustainable financing of marine protected areas. As the OECS is currently developing an Ocean Governance Strategy and action plan that incorporates fisheries conservation-related strategic actions, collaboration between OECS and CRFM may provide for efficient use of scarce resources.

Recommendations:

7. In order to strengthen its lead role with respect to the efficient management and sustainable development of the marine and other aquatic resources and to avoid duplication of efforts in the Caribbean region, the CRFM should consider encouraging the British Virgin Islands to become a Member State. Since all the Member States of the OECS will in that hypothesis have become a party to the CRFM, the latter organization being a regional entity established with a founding agreement as a specialized fisheries entity or one that is focused on fisheries management, will naturally become the leading organization in that respect according to the Latin maxim *specialia generalibus derogant*.
8. The experience of OECS should be taken on board by the CRFM, and a stronger collaboration between the two organizations should be envisaged.
9. CRFM should continue to encourage all CARICOM members and associate members that are at present not a member of CRFM to become member as soon as possible.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.0

1.2.7.2 Regional and Global Fisheries Bodies

Because the area of competence of the CRFM represents a patchwork of areas under national jurisdiction including 200-mile zones in the region, it should not really come as a surprise that other organizations are also operational in the region or have competence in the area.

As far as other bodies having a similar advisory mandate as the CRFM are concerned, mention should be made first of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), whose area of competence not only totally encompasses the marine competence of the CRFM⁶⁸ but also includes high seas fisheries. Like the CRFM, the WECAFC mandate covers all species but unlike the CRFM it has not been created by a treaty, but rather by a resolution of and statute approved by the FAO Council

⁶⁷ See Annex 1.

⁶⁸ The area of competence of the WECAFC is restricted to marine waters.

under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution. The membership of both organizations overlaps to a certain extent, but not totally because neither Anguilla, Montserrat nor Turks and Caicos Islands are FAO or WECAFC Member States.⁶⁹ The United Kingdom is representing these island territories in WECAFC, thus in principle all CRFM members are also WECAFC member. As can be noted from the wider membership of WECAFC, its member states include the developed coastal states from within and outside the Caribbean region.

The situation is totally different in the case of two other regional advisory bodies, namely OLDEPESCA and OSPESCA. First of all, there is only a partial overlap of their areas of competence when compared with that of the CRFM. Secondly, they all cover inland waters and zones under the jurisdiction of the coastal states. Third, they are all established by treaty. And fourthly, the links with respect to membership of these two organization when compared with that of the CRFM is rather limited: Only two CRFM States are also member of OLDEPESCA, namely Belize and Guyana, and only one state is also a party to OSPESCA, namely Belize.⁷⁰ In recognition of the importance of collaboration at regional level and the joint objectives of CRFM and OSPESCA, these organizations signed in September 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), accompanied by a Joint Action Plan. At the same joint CRFM-OSPESCA Ministerial Meeting the Belize Declaration on CRFM-OSPESCA cooperation for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture resources was issued⁷¹.

Also the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) should be mentioned in this list of advisory bodies. Even though it only covers inland fisheries and aquaculture, this partly overlaps with the area of competence of the CRFM which also includes inland waters.⁷² Only two of the 17 Member States of the CRFM are also a party to this organization, namely Jamaica and Suriname.

Finally, in terms of advisory bodies in aquaculture, the recently established (2010) Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA) incorporates Cuba and the Dominican Republic as Caribbean island states at present. There is no overlap with RAA in terms of membership. The mandate area (aquaculture) of RAA seems to overlap slightly with CRFM as aquaculture promotion is mentioned under Article 5 (General Principles) of the CRFM Agreement.

Concerning fisheries bodies with a management mandate, mention must be made of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The areas of competence of both organizations include the areas falling under the purview of the CRFM, with the exception of the internal waters. As their names indicate, these two organizations, both established by treaty, are only competent with respect to one single species, namely tunas (and tuna-like species) and whales respectively. Even though both organizations have a direct impact on the competence of the CRFM within its own area of competence, given the management capacity of these two organizations, only a limited number of CRFM Member States are also a party to these organizations. Only Barbados, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago are also a party to ICCAT. The CRFM Secretariat has cooperated closely with ICCAT during the past years, in order to keep Member States informed of ICCAT's work. CRFM reports, Forum deliberations and the Council recommendations highlight this important function. Eight CRFM Member States are also members of the IWC.⁷³

⁶⁹ See Annex 2.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ http://www.caricom-fisheries.com/Portals/0/CRFM%20Files/documents/Press%20Release/CLME%20press%20release%20Belize%20meeting_final.pdf

⁷² See *supra* sub 2.2.3.

⁷³ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname

This overview clearly indicates that the patchwork approach, which characterizes the area of competence of the CRFM, is reinforced when the competence, the field of application and membership of other regional fisheries bodies, either with an advisory or management mandate, are considered and compared.

Recommendations:

10. The CRFM should continue the recent initiative to foster closer cooperation with OSPESCA, as evidenced by the first joint fisheries and aquaculture ministerial meeting held on September 3-4, 2012. It is recommended that similar initiatives should be undertaken with the other advisory fishery bodies in the area, and foremost with WECAFC and OLDEPESCA. This initiative will expand the skills and technical support base for the CRFM.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.4

11. With respect to the regional fisheries bodies with a management mandate and overlapping marine area of competence, the CRFM should urge its Member States to become parties to these organizations. This will ease the coordinating task the CRFM has at present to try to align the national policies of these different states. It will also enable it, as an organization, to act in a more coordinated way within the framework of these respective organizations. In this respect, the CRFM Working Group on ICCAT matters and the potential role it could play in representing the viewpoints of the CRFM members at ICCAT sessions, should be further elaborated upon.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.8

12. Development of strategic partnership and alliances with other suitable regional fisheries bodies and organizations with an interest in fisheries as mentioned in the CRFM Annual Work Plan and Budget 2012 -2013, should be pursued actively by the Secretariat, always keeping in mind that Member States should be able to determine with which organization they desire to be affiliated. The potential benefits of collaboration with each of these in terms of savings (time, effort, funds) and reduction of duplication of activities is substantial. It has to be noted however, that partnerships have also implications on technical staff time of CRFM Member States and the CRFM Secretariat.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.0

1.2.7.3 Other Global Conventions Not Primarily Related to Fisheries

Brief mention can be made here of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It has to be kept in mind, however, that other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) exist such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) that impact directly or indirectly on fisheries resources management, however a description of the relationships of CRFM with these MEAs is beyond the scope of this independent performance review.

CITES is particularly relevant as it covers marine species and there has been a number of attempts to list commercially exploited aquatic animals (fish species, but also the Queen Conch) with varying rates of success. This can have a certain impact on the future work of the CRFM especially when viewed in the light of the kind of species that have been recommended for listing so far.⁷⁴ FAO is involved through a MoU with the CITES Secretariat and is informing the CITES decision-making process on listing through the FAO convened advisory panel for listing aquatic animals.

⁷⁴ Such as certain species of tunas and lobsters.

All members of the CRFM are a party to CITES with the exception of Anguilla, Haiti and Turks and Caicos Islands. Montserrat on the other hand is included in the territorial application of CITES.⁷⁵ It seems worthwhile for the CRFM to follow developments in CITES closely for they might one day have a direct impact on the exploitation of certain aquatic animals to be found in its area of competence. Initial activities to this effect have taken place in the field of Queen Conch, (*Strombus gigas*), where CRFM as member of the joint CFMC / OSPESCA / WECAFC / CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch. In this Working Group, the CRFM is collaborating with the CITES Secretariat and involved in making recommendations to and drafting decisions for the 16th Conference of Parties of CITES (March 2013).

Recommendations:

13. The CRFM should urge its Member States to become a party to CITES. This in turn will facilitate the CRFM to obtain a mandate from its members in order to act as an organization in a more coordinated way within the framework of CITES. The CRFM should follow the developments in this area within CITES closely and try to work out a coordinated approach amongst its Member States when listing proposals of direct interest to its area of competence are being made.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.9

14. The CFMC / OSPESCA / WECAFC / CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch appears to contain all important Queen Conch producers and has active CITES Secretariat participation, which should be taken advantage of by CRFM.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.2

15. As a general recommendation spanning all regional and global fisheries bodies as well as other global conventional organizations not primarily related to fisheries, the CRFM should consider to expand its function towards international representation of its members in these other bodies. The Secretariat should coordinate a common regional CRFM position, if required. This presupposes that an internal procedure is worked out to come to common positions.

2 The Statutes of CRFM and Its Relation with Other International Fisheries Instruments and Initiatives

The CRFM agreement, as already indicated above, is relatively a recent document and modern in its approach compared to founding documents of other fishery bodies.⁷⁶ Moreover, the history leading up to the creation of this organization is testimony to the fact that a thorough 10-year preparation phase preceded the signing and entry into force of its founding document in 2002. It should therefore come as no surprise that this agreement reflects modern principles of international fisheries law.

The CRFM founding document draws, not only on the 1982 Convention and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, but also on the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.⁷⁷ Moreover, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) and its relevant provisions have been taken into account in the CRFM Agreement. Only the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal,

⁷⁵ See Annex 2.

⁷⁶ See *supra* sub 2.1.1.

⁷⁷ Multilateral convention, signed on 24 November 1993, 2221 *United Nations Treaty Series* pp. 91 - 129 (2003). This agreement entered into force on 24 April 2003. Hereinafter 1993 Implementation Agreement.

Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is not referred to as it was concluded at a later date. This instrument has not yet entered into force.⁷⁸

It is nevertheless remarkable to note that besides the 1982 Convention, which is adhered to by all CRFM Member States, the other two binding documents mentioned above, which are at present in force, are only adhered to by a minority of them: The 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement only attracts at present four CRFM Member States, namely Barbados, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia, while 9 CRFM members have ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.⁷⁹ Those CRFM members that are considered Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)⁸⁰ cannot be considered as having ratified the Port States Measures Agreement as part of the EU ratification (November 2009), as the UK has not ratified the Agreement as yet.

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), however, is not explicitly mentioned although elements of this approach are mentioned in the preamble to the CRFM Agreement and in the principles of fisheries management stipulated under Article 5 of the agreement. It is noted however that this notion clearly underlies the recent discussions about the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), as discussed below.

The CRFM Secretariat has been actively promoting the ratification of international legally binding fisheries instruments (listed above) and voluntary instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This active role is appreciated by the members; however formal processes for and limited capacity in a number of CRFM member countries to carry out the obligations under the binding agreements appear to cause slow progress in the ratification processes.

Recommendations:

16. Given the importance attached to the notion of the ecosystem approach to fisheries within the work of the CRFM, and especially in view of the poor ratification status by its Member States of legally binding documents making reference to it, the ecosystem approach to fisheries could be explicitly mentioned in the founding document of the CRFM as a general principle guiding the organization although it is noted that this is not critical as the elements of the ecosystem approach are already present in the founding document.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

17. Efforts of the CRFM members towards ratification of the various legally binding fisheries instruments should be increased (always keeping in mind that these are political decisions of Member States), in line with calls made by the CRFM Secretariat and with the Resolution on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments made at the 14th session of WECAFC (2012).⁸¹

⁷⁸ Multilateral, signed on 25 November 2009. This agreement did not yet enter into force. As available on Internet at <<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/018/k6339e.pdf>>. Hereinafter 2009 Port State Control Agreement.

⁷⁹ See Annex 3.

⁸⁰ OCTs are countries that have a special relationship with one of the Member States of the European Community. OCTs are constitutionally linked to four EU Member States (Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and they are not independent states. http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/barbados/eu_ots/index_en.htm

⁸¹ Please see: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fl/DOCUMENT/wecafc/resolution.pdf>

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.2

3 The Impact of CRFM in the Promotion of Sustainable Utilization of the Living Marine Resources in Its Area of Competence, by Proper Management and Development of the Living Marine Resources

3.1 Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing

The CRFM members generally consider statistics and information an important issue. “Collect and provide relevant data on fisheries resources, including sharing, pooling and information exchange” is therefore one of the functions of the CRFM Secretariat. It is clear that the Secretariat largely depends on the member countries contributions in terms of data and information in order to be able to provide for a regional analysis. Since 2005, the CRFM Secretariat has provided the Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum with reports of the annual scientific meetings and in 2012, a proposed draft “CRFM Statistics and Information report” was presented for review and discussion. Both reports were considered very useful and it is recognized that the Secretariat makes a major effort to contact the members and collect and update the data and information and analyses the data for region wide dissemination.

The scientific meeting report provides fishery management advice. It is noted that countries do not provide annual national reports to the Forum on their progress with implementing scientific meetings’ advice or other CRFM recommendations throughout the year.

However, the CRFM Statistics and Information report appears to have created some concern among member countries as it provided national statistics in a ready and accessible format, and if inaccurate, could lead to various misinterpretations and attendant undesirable consequences in international fora. The two reports serve different purposes.

The fisheries data and information provided by the Members to the CRFM Secretariat are often incomplete, show gaps or are provided in a format that is not appropriate. It is further noted that generally data provided are poor and do not meet the need of the scientific meetings; however the member states have no formal data reporting obligations towards the CRFM Secretariat so far.

Training and capacity building activities on fisheries statistics and data collection and analysis have been numerous and the issue has received regular attention at the annual scientific meetings. Despite the training received, some members still have difficulties with regards to compliance with the data and information requests. Low national level human resource capacities, time constraints, short deadlines and limited funding for statistics and information are generally blamed for by the members as reasons for non- or late reporting. Delays in reporting and none reporting by members and incompleteness/lack of data provided means that the annual scientific meetings and the fisheries forum are not properly informed and cannot carry out their duties properly.

CRFM set up a data database software system called Caribbean Fisheries Information System (CARIFIS), which was introduced in 2005. A working group was formed to develop CARIFIS, and the countries asked for many aspects to be included. Hence, this resulted in a broad and complex system. This system was established to harmonize data and information collection, computerization and to facilitate comparison between countries. Although it was introduced only a few years ago CARIFIS is using outdated software, which does not run on the common modern operating platforms and systems and cannot be made available on the internet as such. At present apparently only 7 countries have continued to use the system for which ad hoc support is currently provided by the CRFM Secretariat. The system is considered very broad and complex, probably going beyond the needs of the countries and their possibilities to contribute and keep the system up-to-date. The complexity of the system is probably one of the reasons why it is little-used by the CRFM member countries. In addition, fisheries officers have not been given enough time to become familiar with CARIFIS – probably because they are required to do other tasks. As very often in developing

countries, the priority given to data and information is low. The importance and manpower provided to this subject is inadequate among the CRFM member states. There appears to be a lack of support for officers at the national level to allow them time and resources to complete their data and information related tasks and to participate actively in CRFM's work in this subject area.

A recent survey conducted by CRFM (2011) and presented at the 10th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum noted that while 59% of the users would like to see an upgrade of the system, nearly a quarter of the respondents preferred to not invest longer into the CARIFIS system modernization. As a compromise, it was agreed to investigate a new platform but retain the CARIFIS structure.

The range of data being collected under CARIFIS is wide and encompassing. Production volume and value by species, landing sites, CPUE, number of vessels, gears used, employment, stock assessment data, etc. are all collected. IUU fishing and particularly the non-reporting of catches and landings is an issue that constrains the data accuracy of the data and information available at national level in the member states and thus also at regional level. This issue will require concerted action at both levels and encompasses much more than data and information collection difficulties. International agreements, such as the 2009 Port States Control Agreement and also the implementation of the CRFM Castries Declaration on IUU Fishing include requirements for a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and regional level registration of fishing vessels. Most Regional Fishery Bodies are managing regional fishing vessel registers and make these publicly available; CRFM is lagging behind on this subject, although initial steps in this direction have been made recently with support of the ACP Fish II project.

The fact that CRFM is not keeping a regional statistical data base is creating major problems, when the organization is requested to provide fisheries management advice on a regular basis.

Recommendations:

18. A regional database with a well defined standard data protocol, using harmonized data sets and supported by a regional repository (at the Secretariat) needs to be established.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.4

19. Member countries should ensure timely provision of statistics, other data and information to the CRFM Secretariat

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.6

20. Member countries should ensure support for officers at the national level, even in the present scenario of limited financial resources, to allow them time and resources to complete their data and information related tasks, which should also include additional capacity building, preferably to be provided during the annual scientific meetings, in a consistent manner, using protocols, manuals and standard methodologies.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.6

21. In view of the fact that fisheries data and information needs in the Caribbean are not different from those in most other regions the Secretariat should investigate which options exist to update CARIFIS or replace the software with an IT platform that has already proven its value and user-friendliness.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

3.2 Promotion and Coordination of Fisheries Research

The CRFM Annual Scientific Meetings, which started in the current form in 2004 are highly appreciated by the members and the scientists involved. In 2012 the 8th annual meeting was held.

The Scientific meetings include training in a range of fisheries statistics, stock assessment, data analyses and discussions on the progress made by a range of working groups. These include at present:

- Conch and Lobster Resource Working Group (CLWG)
- Large Pelagic Fish Resource Working Group (LPWG)
- Reef and Slope Fish Resource Working Group (RSWG)
- Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group (SGWG)
- Small Coastal Pelagic Working Group (SCPWG)
- Working Group on Data Methods and Training (DMTWG)

During 2007 to 2010, CRFM carried out work to determine a research agenda, leading the way of following scientific work. In addition, CRFM has a history of collaborating with FAO e.g. with regards to the Ad Hoc Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group (dating back from CFRAMP in the mid-1990s to present) and the Ad Hoc Lobster and Conch Working Group.

The Scientific meetings are the stronghold of the CRFM, and their importance in the region with regard to fisheries management advice is high. The CRFM Working Groups and scientific meeting process, achievements and challenges, have been significant despite the very poor support by member countries and partners concerned. The scientific meetings can develop fishery / stock specific research plans, but needs to do this under direction of the Forum; unless the Forum gives specific instructions not much progress can be made in this subject.

The active participation by CRFM members, regional and international institutions (e.g. UWI, IFREMER, NOAA, NMFS and others) in the Working Groups shows the importance attached to the work of these working groups.

The working Group structure has proven to be valuable in terms of gathering data, building consensus on methodologies used, updating on the resource status, making recommendations to the scientific community in the region. The fact that the working groups have been established and are still vibrant is good.

The uptake of advice from the working groups at national level is not always optimal, and not always the scientists / researchers participating in the working groups are also the relevant persons who will be involved in national level implementation of the advice and methods discussed in the member states.

The length of the annual scientific meetings has been an issue of discussion, as some participants consider it too lengthy. Annual scientific meetings are often held back-to-back with training of working group members. This is done so in order to save costs and accommodate as many needs as possible. Moreover most of the working groups only meet once per year at the annual scientific meeting and this means that participants in the various working groups are rather similar, meaning that a representative from a CRFM member who attends alone on behalf of his country the meeting will need to be expert in all species/resource issues; the latter is a bit unrealistic. It has to be considered that each country is asked to identify its fisheries management priorities for a particular meeting, and to ensure participation of the national expert for that fishery management issue and for whom CRFM will fund the participation.

Even though the Secretariat issued repeated reminders to countries about the meeting, preparations and inter-sessional activities, the feedback from members of the working group is limited and communication mainly focuses on the reporting from and preparation for the annual scientific meetings.

The report of the annual scientific meeting contains specific technical advice and recommendations from each working group to the fisheries forum, which enables the forum to discuss and agree on research priorities and utilize the condensed and key research findings for regional policy and decision making purposes.

The Working Groups (WG) do not all have specific Terms of References (TORs), as their TORs are general all encompassing as WGs reporting to the Forum. The specific activities are worked out annually. The CRFM Secretariat coordinates reporting of the annual scientific meetings is done properly and gives guidance to the discussions at the working groups. Recommendations are categorised according to Statistics, Research and Management. Unfortunately, it appears that only very few countries submit national reports to the scientific meeting, however, these national reports presented are useful for the countries, CRFM and other stakeholders and the practice of preparing and publishing these reports should continue.

Fisheries Research and Resource Assessment takes up about 15% of the CRFM core budget and nearly all the research funds are used to financing of the technical research staff, fund travel and accommodation of national scientists to participate in the annual scientific meetings. This means that in practice the budget for research is insignificant and that all joint research is to be funded at national level by the members or by donors / projects. Very rarely, some members have financed participation of their scientists in the annual scientific meetings. If all members could finance travel and participation by their scientists in the CRFM Working Groups, that would free-up funding for real joint research, however it has to be considered that countries, especially smaller countries, may not be able to source the funds to attend and this could lead to a break-up of the groups.

CRFM research projects have in recent years been covered by ACP Fish II, CTA, CLME, JICA, FAO and AECID. Considering that the CLME project and the ACP Fish II project are nearly coming to an end, the situation is critical and it is urgently needed that the CRFM Secretariat and its members seek opportunities for financing a research programme for the near future.

Participation by the CRFM Secretariat and members in the recently established joint working groups with OSPESCA, WECAFC and CFMC appears to be beneficial, although the real value of this participation still has to be proven.

CRFM has agreed to partner with other RFBs in various recently established working groups (at the 14th WECAFC session held in February 2012 in Panama City):

- OSPESCA / WECAFC / CRFM / CFMC Working Group on Spiny Lobster
- WECAFC / OSPESCA / CRFM / CFMC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries
- CFMC / OSPESCA / WECAFC / CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch
- CRFM / WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean
- CFMC / WECAFC / OSPESCA / CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations

CRFM took a leading role on the joint working Group on Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean.

The meetings and workshops of these working groups allow for discussion with scientists and researchers from neighbouring non-CRFM members, sharing of experiences in the wider Caribbean region, harmonization of approaches, development of joint regional management advice and recommendations, and they have the benefit that funding of workshops, projects and other activities of the working groups can be shared by the various partners. The main disadvantage is that CRFM does not have full-control over the findings and communications coming from these joint working groups, but as they work by consensus, there seems to be no immediate threat. There may be some overlap in work carried out by the CRFM and joint Working Groups, which needs to be rectified where possible. In this respect, it has to be considered that member countries have limited human resources available to follow up on each and every CRFM working group.

Recommendations:

22. The 11th Fisheries Forum should request the annual Scientific Meeting and the Working Groups to develop and/or update clear, realistic, budgeted and time-bound Terms of Reference and a research plan or agenda for members and the Working Group as a whole (combined or per Working Group). The assigned conveners of the Working Groups should collaborate and interact more with the Secretariat to reduce pressure on the limited human resources available there.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.9

23. The report of the annual scientific meeting should contain clear and specific technical advice and recommendations from each working group to the fisheries forum, in order to enable the forum to discuss and agree on research priorities and utilize the condensed and key research findings for regional policy and decision making purposes, keeping in mind that the Council is CRFM's policy and main decision making body. This approach should be informed by the respective national Fisheries Management Plans.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.5

24. Reporting by the conveners of the Working Groups directly to the Fisheries Forum is preferred; as this would allow immediate interaction, support technical in-depth discussion and will strengthen the feeling among scientists that some of their findings and advice really will be taken up at policy level for supporting sustainable management of the resources and be spread throughout the region.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.8

25. The Secretariat and working groups should continue to maintain and strengthen contacts with JICA, EU, USA, CDB and other potential donors in support of joint research in the region.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.3

26. CRFM should continue to work in partnership with OSPESCA, WECAFC, CFMC, UWI and others to support and promote the regional fisheries research. The joint Working Groups recently established by WECAFC need to be given time to show the CRFM member States that they get the work done. A mechanism of reporting of their findings to the Fisheries Forum needs to be determined.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.0

3.3 Assessment of the Fishing Capacity, of the State of the Fishery and of the Condition of the Exploited Stocks

“Managing fishing capacity and fishing methods so as to facilitate resource sustainability” is one of the principles for the Mechanism under the CRFM Agreement. However, no separate activities are carried out on this point, as stock assessments automatically examines the issue of fishing capacity and fishing methods, and so scientific meeting recommendations have addressed this when the analysis pointed to the need to do so. This is done through national reports for the commercially most important stocks (e.g. lobster, Queen conch, large pelagic, small pelagics) that are prepared annually by the participants to the dedicated working groups. The national reports are generally published integral or as supplements to the reports of the annual Scientific Meetings.

These research papers are of high quality and provide an important contribution to the information on the status of the stocks. Determination of the level of exploitation is a sensitive issue that is handled

with care by the Secretariat. It is recognized that the Secretariat should use the reports provided by the members as base for its regional analysis, but it is clear that not all national reports provided give accurate data and under-reporting and non-reporting causes gaps in an analysis that is very useful to show trends in exploitation levels and resources status for the region as a whole.

Information on non-commercial fish species (the non-target species and by-catch) is relatively poor compared to what is collected and analyzed for the main commercial species. No quantitative stock assessments have been undertaken so far. Therefore there is great uncertainty about the status of these non-target species stocks in the CRFM coverage area. Stocks like those of sharks, rays, billfish, grouper, parrot fish, sea urchins, etc. are not covered in the annual scientific assessments. Reasons given for this absence in the assessments are economic and manpower constraints.

Recommendations:

27. The Secretariat should bi-annually prepare a status overview of the stocks and fisheries in the CRFM member countries and publish this as a regional status report.
28. The Forum should instruct the Secretariat to facilitate and technically guide the preparation of regional management plans based on regional analyses conducted together with the countries.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.9

29. The exploitation level of the main commercial (target) stocks in the CRFM mandate area should be published bi-annually, using a traffic light system⁸² avoiding political discussion in this process and the exploitation status report should be send to the fisheries forum for “information only”.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.5

30. The inclusion of non-commercial species in the regional analyses is essential for proper fisheries management, in order to eliminate uncertainties at an eco-system level. Otherwise, biomass levels of these species may decline below BMSY levels before this is noticed. More attention to non-commercial species should be given in the annual scientific meetings and the donor community should be animated to provide funding for basic research activities on these species.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.5

3.4 Provision of Fisheries Management Advice, Based on the Best Scientific Information Available and Taking into Account Environmental, Social and Economic Concerns / Stocks Status and Evolution

One of the core functions of the Fisheries Forum is to “recommend for approval by the Ministerial Council, arrangements for sustainable fisheries management and development in Member States based upon the best available technical or scientific data and information”.

Member States prefer to use the CRFM as an advisory body providing scientific information, recommendations and other forms of support to the Member States, to allow them to make informed decisions and strengthen their capacity to govern and manage the fisheries themselves. Member States are more comfortable with this approach and have resisted attempts to move in the direction of giving greater attention to joint resource management and conservation issues, and actively implementing regional management schemes. In practice, Member countries prefer CRFM not to provide binding recommendations to its members. All management advice provided is therefore non-binding, or

⁸² Traffic light system: red for overexploited, yellow for fully exploited, and green for underexploited

voluntary, and it depends largely on the political will and capacities at national level to implement the advice. The preparation and implementation of fisheries management advice by CRFM is constrained by the incomplete and outdated policy and legislative frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the CRFM member states. Although the ACP Fish II project, CRFM and FAO have made an effort to assist the countries on this subject in recent years, there are still many gaps in these frameworks.

It has to be noted that general fisheries management advice for inshore fisheries, including small pelagics and demersal fisheries mainly targeted by small scale fisherfolk has been neglected so far by CRFM. Clear and comprehensive strategies and plans for dealing with these inshore and reef fisheries have not yet been proposed to the Fisheries Forum or the Ministerial Council for endorsement and application in the member countries, again as for these species as mentioned in 3.3 basic research has not yet been carried out. There is uncertainty about current levels of resource exploitation in inshore and reef areas and the consequences this has for the future livelihoods of the fishers and the sustainability of the resources can be dramatic.

Given its strength in fisheries management advice, the CRFM Secretariat has carried out several workshops with regard to fisheries management advice during the past decade, mainly organized under projects.⁸³ In the period 2004 – 2005 emphasis on socio-economic and demographic issues in fisheries was high and particularly community-based management approaches were promoted by CRFM.

The advice provided by CRFM to its members is mainly of a scientific nature, and an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAF/A) was not considered until very recently. The main exception to this is the Spanish project “Diagnostic Study to determine Poverty Levels in CARICOM Fishing Communities”. This project was carried out by three consultants hired by the Spanish Development Agency AECID from the consultancy firm TRAGSATEC. The CRFM Secretariat was involved in the delivery of the project, especially in coordinating, implementing and monitoring the field survey (data collection, data entry and review) and undertaking a detailed review the Draft Study Report (prior to and after the Workshop), the organization of the validation workshop (Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 1 - 2 February 2012), and the preparation of the Workshop Report. Unfortunately, the assistance provided by the CRFM Secretariat is not adequately acknowledged in the reports prepared under this project.

CRFM has been able to collect large volumes of scientific information on fisheries in the Caribbean and produce relevant analyses and suggestions, especially for national level interventions. In general, one can argue that the advice provided to national members is the best scientifically available at present within the region. While this is true for dedicated national level interventions, where CRFM (and then mainly its Secretariat – assisted by consultants) provides specific technical advice to the individual members, the evidence of specific management advice for regional harmonized interventions is limited.

A main weakness of the scientific / technical / management advice provided by CRFM, however, is the lack of a mechanism to assess to what extent the measures recommended were effectively adopted by member countries. There is evidence that scientific advice was not properly observed by members, a fact aggravated by the inexistence of a follow-up mechanism to assess the degree of implementation. Without a feedback on what is actually happening, in terms of measures and methods proposed being implemented in the field, the scientific advice becomes meaningless.

The effectiveness of any regional fisheries advisory (and management) body is judged by the evolution of the condition of the stocks under its responsibility. In the case of CRFM there is no comprehensive overview of the state of exploitation of most of the fisheries resources, apart from the few commercially targeted species. Therefore it is difficult to assess whether the management advice provided by the CRFM through the Fisheries Forum has been effective in improving the overall condition of the exploited stocks.

⁸³ An overview of completed projects (annex 6) and ongoing (Annex 7) can be found in the back of this report.

CRFM, as an advisory body, cannot enforce any of the recommended management measures. The member Countries should however be obliged to report the extent to which the proposed measures were adopted internally, in a systematic and well-structured manner. This is not taking place at present. It seems however that there has been a noticeable rise in the degree of awareness by CRFM members in recent years of the need to improve their fisheries management regimes. This is reflected also in the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy and the Castries Declaration on IUU fishing.

CRFM has been instrumental in preparing the way forward of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. The effort to establish a Common Fisheries Policy and Regime at the CARICOM level was initiated at the Fourteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Trinidad and Tobago, 14 - 15 February 2003. After eight years of sometimes difficult negotiations, stakeholders have agreed on the text of the draft Agreement on the Establishment of a CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy on 20 May 2011 by the CRFM Ministerial Council. This is a major achievement in which CRFM played a key role and deserves to be congratulated for.

Recommendations:

31. CRFM should adopt a procedure to monitor the extent of implementation, by member countries, of the management advice and measures adopted by the Fisheries Forum and the Ministerial Council. This should be linked to Member States' national Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and monitoring and evaluation in the fisheries management process.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.4

32. The process for producing fisheries management advice for endorsement at CRFM level needs to be streamlined. CRFM and member countries should ensure that the advice coming from these annual scientific meetings is formulated in a way that is easily understandable and useful for the decision makers in the Fisheries Forum and policy makers at the Ministerial Council.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.8

33. Advice for small-scale fisheries management should be prioritized in the near future as there is uncertainty about current levels of resource exploitation in inshore and reef areas and the consequences this has for the future livelihoods of the fishers and the sustainability of the resources.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.6

34. Socio-economic, environmental and climate change concerns should be incorporated in the management advice as these may receive less attention if not dealt with properly, which could result in reduced uptake by the stakeholders

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.3

35. The CRFM member states should continue to update their incomplete and outdated policy and legislative frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture and seek regionally harmonized approaches where such is possible.

3.5 Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) has been developed through a world-wide participatory process with many inputs from UWI / CERMES. The Caribbean large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) has Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and EAF approaches among its core working modality, and CRFM is an active partner in the CLME project. The EAF is accepted as useful fisheries management

and development tool in the region, which is also reflected in the fact that the EAF is mentioned in the CFP and the numerous training workshops and projects where the EAF applications are considered to a larger or lesser extent.

The CRFM has consistently embraced and been in the forefront of promoting the precautionary approach (and implicitly the EAF) in the region, including explicitly supporting various initiatives of UWI/CERMES and CLME on the EAF, and advising member states to incorporate EAF concepts in their national level policy and legislative reforms. The CFP embraces EAF and there was extensive discussion on the EAF during the process of developing the CFP. It is noted that the scientific meetings have been discussing EAF since 2010, and have incorporated activities to consider data needs for EAF since 2010.

Nevertheless, the EAF has not been explicitly included in the agenda of a CRFM annual scientific meeting or a Fisheries Forum meetings to date and there is a need to formally submit relevant policy recommendations on EAF / A from research projects in the region to the Forum and Ministerial Council to improve the uptake if relevant policy recommendations by policymakers.

It has to be taken into consideration that the CRFM operates as a mechanism / network. CRFM has also been involved in promoting the development of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO) which has committed to EAF. As CRFM is participating in the CLME that incorporates the EAF in its sub-projects, including the CRFM led (flyingfish and pelagics) and the FAO led CLME shrimp and groundfish Case Study being the EAF is becoming more and more part of the daily work of CRFM.

Many stakeholders, following awareness raising and capacity building by above mentioned project, recognize that a significant effort remains to be done in order to introduce and popularize the EAF in the work of the CRFM as well as in the management of fisheries resources by the CRFM members.

Recommendations:

36. The CRFM Secretariat should prepare a specific CRFM Policy document outlining its formal commitment to the EAF.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.6

37. Being a key principle in modern fisheries management, the EAF should be incorporated by CRFM and its Member States in their advisory and management efforts, including in the agenda of Fisheries Forum meetings, in order to discuss experiences and identify progress made in the application of the EAF in the region. This important incorporation could be done during a revision of the CRFM Agreement, which may be required as a result of the upcoming entry into force of the CFP Agreement. The new CRFM Agreement should be flexible enough to apply to this and any other principles that may emerge.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.6

3.6 The Application of the Precautionary Approach in the Provision of Management Advice

The precautionary approach is the basis of any scientific activities carried out by CRFM, as provided in Article 5 c of the CRFM Agreement. All workshops and other scientific work carried out by the CRFM use the precautionary approach to fisheries management and governance as a guiding principle. EAF nowadays is considered as the all encompassing notion through which the precautionary approach shall be applied, including in the provision of management advice.

Recommendation:

38. Continuing investment is needed in promoting the precautionary approach to fisheries in Member States.

Score of prioritization of recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.4

3.7 Provision of Advice on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

CRFM was instrumental in preparing the Castries Declaration on IUU fishing, which was adopted by the Second Special Ministerial Council Meeting (28 July 2010). This Declaration demonstrates the region's determination and commitment to protect the economic interests of CARICOM Member States and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

This includes:

- Enhance the effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance at the national and regional levels by creating and sustaining the necessary harmonized and contemporary legislative and regulatory regimes.
- Encourage the development of the required capacity in national fisheries administrations.
- Foster an attitude of compliance among fishers which is intended to facilitate and support the management of fisheries nationally and regionally.

The 4th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council (Antigua and Barbuda, May 2011), when responding to the IUU issues in the Castries Declaration, agreed that the actions taken by Member States should be comprehensive and address the immediate needs as well as the longer term requirements to improve on monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capacities to address IUU fishing. However, at the 6th Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council (Bahamas, June 2012) the Council called upon member States to take action to implement the recommendations of the Fourth and Fifth Meetings of the Council to strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capability and to eradicate IUU fishing. It appears that apart from the activities initiated by the CRFM Secretariat (including below mentioned project study) the countries have neither made much progress on this subject as a grouping or individually.

A study to update the 2005 CRFM MCS Study is being implemented by a consulting firm in collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat:

Activities included:

- Field mission to seven countries during the period 12 August – 4 September 2012; questionnaire circulated via email to the other countries of CARIFORUM / CRFM, and
- Regional Validation Workshop, in October 2012, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to review the updated MCS Study: fisheries situation; MCS and IUU; Strategy and Action Plan for enhancing the effectiveness of MCS.

The 1st Meeting of the Fisheries Forum (in 2003) already proposed the development of a regional Monitoring, control and Surveillance system. However, under the ACP Fish II, three projects were carried out regarding RPOA for the implementation of the Castries IUU Fishing Declaration and NPOAs; Licensing and Registration Systems and enforcement and prosecution manuals were developed.

Recommendations:

39. MCS work is instrumental in controlling IUU fishing, thus it is essential that the CRFM MCS Strategy and Action Plan is implemented by all member countries.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.1

40. In the revision of the mandate of The CRFM, the option should be considered of becoming a competent regional authority with regard to the control of IUU fishing, which would permit export of fishery products from the CRFM member countries to the EU, at present only very few member countries have the capability of certifying that fishery products landed are of legal origin. Recognizing national authority over this issue, the regional level needs on this subject require further study in the medium-term.
41. Establishment of national Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) should be promoted. The role of the Secretariat would be to provide advice and guidance. It has to be taken into account, however, that in a region, where over ninety percent of the production comes from small-scale fisheries, the establishment of VMS is less important than that of improvements of the national Licensing Regimes (LR).

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.1

3.8 Capacity Development

Capacity building is a stronghold of CRFM, many capacity building activities have been implemented in the decade under review. The response to the questionnaire gave very positive evaluation on the impact of the capacity building activities. Maybe in some cases more emphasis could have been placed on capacity building needs assessment, before starting capacity building activities, but in general the capacity building work is well appreciated. Inter-regional capacity building, such as was carried out with Australia, make it possible to learn from best practices elsewhere.

Recent single capacity building activities included (amongst others):

1. Fisheries Law and Management Training Workshop Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS);
2. Advanced Leadership Training for Fisheries Department Heads (Funded by Iceland);
3. Caribbean Stock Assessment Training Course (Funded by Iceland);
4. five (5) scholarships per year in Ocean Governance (Policy, Law and Management) (Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the CRFM and Dalhousie University (Canada));
5. Three post-graduate fellowships (UN University);
6. Ongoing training of fisheries officers in CRFM States in fisheries data analysis and stock assessment, facilitated through the annual scientific meetings and the UNU-FTP / CRFM / UWI course.

Recommendations:

42. The successful and recognized capacity building activities of CRFM should be continued. CRFM Secretariat staff should be used as trainers as much as possible.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

43. Study tours to other regions and similar entities and observation attendance at decision making processes in other RFBs, such as the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) could be highly beneficial for members of the Secretariat and/or the Council and Forum. Best practices should be emulated.

4 The principles from the Agreement establishing CRFM

4.1 Maintaining bio-diversity in the marine environment using the best available scientific approaches to management

Scientific advice from CRFM, and dissemination through various workshops is a strength of CRFM (as already spelt out in 3.4). The work on maintaining biodiversity in the marine environment is however constrained by the focus on a limited number of commercially important fishery resources and the availability of donor funding (e.g. CLME funding for large and small pelagics research). The CRFM is also participating as a partner in the CLME Shrimp and Groundfish of the Guianas - Brazil Case Study, being led by FAO. CRFM Member States Suriname, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago are part of this project

Apart from the research done on these commercial species and some of their predator-prey relationships little work has been done on aquatic bio-diversity in general. Interactions between fish and other aquatic animal populations are not well-understood and the work of the Reef and Slope Fish Resource Working Group (RSWG), which is expected to give specific attention to bio-diversity issues, does not reflect much of an effort in this direction.

A major weakness is found in this area of marine / aquatic bio-diversity maintenance; no research is undertaken in this area, thus not much advice can be given on this subject to the CRFM countries. It should however be noted that the CAMPAN84 Network with its work on Marine protected Areas (MPAs), the United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and some others have paid increased attention to aquatic biodiversity issues in the CRFM member states and are doing research on this subject. Participation of CRFM in these activities of others is limited and the findings and recommendations from the various projects in this field are not communicated formally to CRFM and its members for regional action.

Recommendations:

44. The CRFM should establish partnerships and informal intersectoral ties with environmental institutions dealing with the marine biodiversity and with coastal / reef issues in particular, to benefit from research and project findings and incorporate these in its management advice.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.8

45. The TORs and work programme of relevant Working Groups should be adjusted to ensure inclusion and discussion of scientific advice on marine biodiversity issues.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.0

46. The annual scientific meetings and fisheries forum meetings should allow for participation of environmental sector partners (including UNEP, ENGOs and relevant projects, and as observers if appropriate) in order to strengthen linkages and partnerships and receive updates on their scientific findings.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.4

4.2 Managing fishing capacity and fishing methods so as to facilitate resource sustainability

The advice with regard to fishing fleet management, including surveillance and reduction of fishing capacity is relatively limited (as already spelt out in 3.3). However, advice on fishing methods for the target commercial species is of high quality and the uptake of the advice (on e.g. lobster, conch, flying

⁸⁴ See <http://www.gcfi.org/Initiatives/CaMPAM.htm>

fish, dolphin fish) by national administrations and scientists in the CRFM member countries seems good.

Fishing vessel registration and managing of fishing capacity is considered a national level issue by most of the CRFM member countries. While a number of CRFM members have made efforts towards reducing fishing capacity in recent years, some with substantial success, the lessons learned in the process of capacity reduction are not always disseminated to other CRFM members. The annual scientific meetings sometimes touch upon fishing capacity issues in individual countries and for specific target stocks, but there does not seem to be a coordinated approach towards discussing fishing capacity. The International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-capacity FAO, 1999) has not received much attention in the region so far. The objectives of the IPOA-capacity are not met in the Caribbean region and what is most worrying is that there are no efforts made to avoid growth in capacity, a situation which is undermining long-term sustainability objectives.

Fishing methods and gears are discussed frequently at the annual scientific meetings and receive much attention by CRFM and its members and donors. The scientific work on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and vertical long-lining in the last few years has resulted in major improvements to fishing methods used and enabled the countries to tap into “new” resources, such as diamond black squid. Dissemination of scientific findings in relation to new or improved fishing methods requires some additional attention. On the other hand, advice on restrictive measures for those gears that are damaging to the resources status and harm long-term resource sustainability is limited. CNFO Project implemented a small project on identifying suitable fishing gear.

Recommendations:

47. The provisions of the IPOA - Capacity of should be considered for implementation by CRFM and its members.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.5

48. The CRFM should develop a policy on fishing capacity to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity, as indicated in the Common Fisheries Policy.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.4

49. The scientific work on fishing methods and gears needs to be continued and further developed in such a way that findings, positive or negative, are communicated in appropriate ways to fisheries authorities in the member countries and directly to fisherfolk as well.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.1

4.3 Encouraging the use of precautionary approaches to sustainable use and management of fisheries resources

Advice on the sustainable use and management of fisheries resources is the stronghold of CRFM work in the past decade. The work by CRFM on commercially attractive fishery resources is discussed under section 3.2 (research issues) and section 3.4 (management issues) and particularly the role of the annual scientific meetings and the working groups is considered important by all stakeholders involved.

An ongoing review of fisheries management performance in the Western Central Atlantic (jointly undertaken by CRFM and WECAFC / FAO), under which the situation in many CRFM members was surveyed, is expected to lead to regional fisheries management advice.

However, specific fisheries management advice for inshore fisheries, including small pelagics and demersal fisheries mainly targeted by small-scale fisherfolk has been neglected so far by CRFM, mainly due to economic constraints, as spelt out in section 3.3.

Recommendation:

50. The 2012 Review of Current Fisheries Management Performance and Conservation Measures in the Western Central Atlantic Region, should be used by the CRFM Secretariat to provide clear advice to the CRFM members in terms of improvement and harmonization of fisheries management plans and filling gaps and addressing weaknesses.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.4

4.4 Promoting awareness of responsible fisheries exploitation through education and training

Traditionally, the dissemination work of CRFM Secretariat was limited to the scientific community in the member countries, not really contacting the civil society in the member countries. However, it has to be acknowledged that in recent times, the CRFM Secretariat has substantially increased its public relation work and awareness building activities, particularly through traditional and non-traditional public media outlets across the entire region and beyond.

The most relevant work with civil society has been the work with Fisherfolk organizations, such as the *Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and Engaging Fisher Folk Organizations*. The joint work with Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) on establishment and strengthening of the CNFO is recognized and was well-received by the stakeholders. Education and training of fisheries administration staff, during annual scientific meetings, is well-organized in general and has a clear focus and target group of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, not much has been done in terms of developing awareness raising, education and training materials (e.g. manuals, videos, radio messages) that are of direct use to fisherfolk, apart from those developed under collaborative projects, particularly those carried out with JICA. The delivery approach by CRFM of its programmes / projects is in fact generally through partnerships with donors and other partners like CTA, JICA, EU, etc, which (in few cases) creates complications in terms of ownership of information and the right to disseminate information.

The present CRFM Website gives easy access to the main documents, but it is quite cumbersome to find additional information, such as project descriptions or insight on the present work of the CRFM Secretariat. Overall, the Website is technically out-dated. With support from ACP Fish II project "Strengthening the capacity of CRFM for information and knowledge sharing on sustainable management of fisheries in the Caribbean region" the CRFM communication strategy will be finalized in 2013 and the implementation tools for collaborative work will be improved. The strategy and improvements to the CRFM Website are likely to contribute to the education and training activities of the Mechanism.

Despite being an important activity in many CRFM member countries, fisheries and aquaculture development is generally overlooked in national level development policy discussions. CRFM has not assisted the countries in promoting the mainstreaming of fisheries and aquaculture issues in their country development plans.

Recommendations:

51. Fisheries administrations in the various national member governments have to be enabled to stand their case in the national policy discussion. Training courses in this respect (policy briefs preparation) should be held and information material developed. The utilization of policy briefs, similar to those being prepared by CERMES should be assessed.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

52. The CRFM communication strategy has to be finalized and implemented and the use of ICT tools (particularly web-based systems) that can contribute to education and training should be promoted.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.1

53. Fisheries is an undervalued resource in the Caribbean region. Its role has to be highlighted, this includes the work with the public, with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and with national media in the CRFM member countries. A detailed media package should be prepared.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.0

54. A State of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CRFM region, prepared on a biannual basis, and a press release based on this publication could be a useful tool for creating awareness on the status of the resources in the region among the general public.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.6

4.5 According due recognition to the contribution of small scale and industrial fisheries to employment, income and food security, nationally and regionally

This principle seems to be a bit neglected by CRFM at first sight, when going through the long list of activities, meetings and workshops held by CRFM. However with the diagnostic study to determine poverty levels in fishing communities (carried out in the last 4 years) some important and valuable work was done on this subject.

At present CRFM does not have agreed definitions for small-scale and industrial fisheries, although discussion has taken place on the definitions on various occasions. Therefore specific data collection efforts to disaggregate small-scale and industrial fisheries could not be initiated. The statistical database system developed (CARIFIS) could be a system for data collection on this subject, once the definition is clear. After the data collection, a proper evaluation of the importance of the small scale and the industrial fisheries to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should be done, in order to evaluate their contribution to the countries' economy; this work has not been carried out.

It is imperative that CRFM continues to take an active role in promoting sustainable small-scale fisheries, particularly after its efforts in December 2012 to support the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Caribbean region. Similarly, involvement in the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) global small-scale fisheries research project will ensure that Caribbean fishers of the CRFM member countries will benefit from the research findings on small-scale fisheries and particularly the governance and management of small-scale fisheries.

The CRFM Secretariat has actively stressed the current and potential contribution of fisheries to employment, income and food security, both nationally and regionally, at regional and national meetings and workshop, in press releases and media interviews. It is important that statements made are backed by data and information collected and analyzed by the CRFM Secretariat. The focus of the Secretariat has been, particularly in the first years of CRFM, on biological, stock assessment and general fisheries data and information. In recent years the social and economic aspects have received more attention.

Recommendations:

55. CRFM should continue to carry out socio-economic assessments of small-scale fisheries and ensure that the data and information enable valuation of the contribution of small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security in the CRFM member countries.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.3

56. CRFM should investigate the options, including financial implications and benefits, to participate in the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) global small-scale fisheries research project, in which CERMES of the University of the West Indies and FAO are partner as well. The sharing of global experiences on small-scale fisheries may be very valuable for the sector in the Caribbean.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

57. CRFM should continue its work in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the FAO international guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

4.6 Promoting aquaculture as a means of enhancing employment opportunities and food security, nationally and regionally

This principle of the CRFM Agreement stands out separately from the other principles and is clearly the subject which has received relatively less attention from CRFM since its formal establishment. JICA activities under the Master Plan Study, ACP Fish II Aquaculture Country Projects, and recent formation of the Aquaculture Working Group indicate that the focus on aquaculture development is increasing.

The reasons for relatively less attention to aquaculture are manifold, but the main reasons are that the sub-sector is very small in most CRFM member countries and its contribution to regional fish supply is limited, that many of the fisheries administrations in the CRFM countries do not dedicate much effort to support aquaculture development and give priority to fisheries and its management, that aquaculture was not prioritized in CRFM Ministerial Council meetings, and that the human resources in the CRFM Secretariat and the member countries for aquaculture subjects are very limited. The number of technical experts with knowledge on aquaculture technologies, production systems, hatcheries, feed management and processing and marketing of aquaculture products in the CRFM members is low and the declining trend in aquaculture production in Jamaica in recent years has not added to the interest of investors to invest into aquaculture.

The main activities of CRFM in aquaculture took place rather recently (2009 onwards) within the project on the “*Formulation of Master Plan on Sustainable use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean*” which was funded under the Japan – CARICOM Cooperation Agreement. Other recent activities are mainly through the ACP fish II project and address mainly national level aquaculture development planning in some CRFM member countries. It should be noted that CRFM involvement in the latter is very limited, due to the specific requirements of ACP fish II related to project implementation.

The 6th Ministerial Council, held in June 2012 endorsed the formation of the working group to promote sustainable aquaculture development at the national and regional levels; and underscored the importance of developing regional and national policies, programmes and projects to promote the development of environmentally sustainable aquaculture, including mariculture, in the CRFM Member States. The establishment of this working group is a good start and the establishment of linkages with RAA or NACA may provide benefits in the sense that transfer of technologies and best practices from elsewhere can be facilitated.

The working group is expected to promote aquaculture development at the national and regional levels, mainly for the purposes of:

- increasing food production and security;
- improving rural income and employment; -

- diversifying farm production; and
- increasing foreign exchange earnings and savings.

Aquaculture entrepreneurs in the CRFM members have generally not benefited from favourable policies and plans from the national administrations; instead they have been constrained in their aquaculture development activities by amateurism and non-interest in aquaculture from the administrations. There seems to be an increasing commitment to aquaculture development. In recent years, many CRFM member countries have made the development of policy and legislative frameworks to facilitate and promote aquaculture a top priority. Countries start recognising that a more focused approach is required in line with the policy and planning carried out under the JICA and ACP Fish II Programme.

Recommendations:

58. CRFM countries should follow a gradual approach towards aquaculture, benefiting from international best practice approaches and implementing guidelines, standards and certification efforts that meet the requirements of the markets.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.4

59. As it is too early to evaluate the work of the recently established Working Group on aquaculture, it is suggested that the CRFM should review the work and achievements of the working Group after 2 years and determine the need to invest effort, funding and time in a CRFM wide aquaculture promotion. It may be that aquaculture development can be better handled individually by the CRFM member countries and that these seek individually for technical assistance and transfer of technologies from countries with a well-established aquaculture sector or from the Aquaculture Network for the Americas.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

5 The Second Medium Term Plan

The panel also reviewed the performance of CRFM against the nine programme areas from the second medium term plan (2008 - 2011) of CRFM.

Programme areas 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been covered under the above sections already and will not be re-discussed here in this chapter. The programme areas not re-discussed are the following:

1. Research and Data Analysis for Policy Formulation and Decision Making (already discussed under chapter 3.1.)
3. Resource Assessment and Management; (already discussed under chapter 3.3.)
4. Human Resource Development and Institutional Strengthening; (already discussed under chapter 3.8.)
6. Promotion of Expansion and Utilization of Unutilized and Underutilized Aquatic Resources; (already discussed under chapter 4.3. and under 5.1. below)
and
7. Development and Promotion of Aquaculture. (already discussed under chapter 4.6)

5.1 Preparation for Global Competitiveness (Programme area 2)

The second MTP states that this programme [area] focuses on building institutional, infrastructural and technical capability and capacity to meet international standards of food safety and agricultural health. It will encompass the development and enactment of legislation, as well as processing standards and post harvest technologies to ensure that the community can overcome the technical barriers to entering foreign markets.

Most actions proposed under this programme and the related outcomes foreseen have not been done. However it has to be recognized, that CRFM and Member States have been dealing with these issues at the national level.

The actions and related outcomes were much too ambitious to be handled by a small Secretariat and member countries with limited expertise (inside their fisheries administrations) on this subject. Not surprisingly therefore, this programme area has been largely neglected by the CRFM Secretariat and CRFM Governing bodies (Council and Forum). Apart from the very recent organization of a joint training with JICA on “*Promoting the development of Good practices for quality assurance and marketing of fish and fish products*”, held in early 2012, the CRFM has not carried out substantial activities in this field of fish and fisheries products marketing and trade. Some efforts have been made in 2011 and early 2012 towards the development of a component of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Programme Interventions that relates to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems (SPS), in which fisheries SPS issues would be covered, but to-date not much progress has been made towards approval. The lead agency for the component is JICA and CRFM would, if the project is endorsed be one of the partners.

Given that the main challenges for food control in the Caribbean region remain centred on the legislative framework and standards, enforcement mechanisms, management structures, laboratories and infrastructure, the immediate need to develop expertise within CRFM in these areas remains of crucial importance to the region. Linkages with the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAFSA) and other regional and international bodies with expertise in fisheries SPS, such as INFOPECSA and FAO are essential in the process of development of CRFM capacity in this subject. This collaborative mode of delivery should be considered by the CRFM to ensure efficient and successful project delivery and building of capacity in the CRFM. The SPS Project will be utilising international, regional and national consultants in project delivery while seeking to build capacity at the national and regional levels.

Global competitiveness also involves participation in WTO events and in the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. The globalization is having a severe impact on CRFM countries, as it facilitates cheap imports of fishery products at minimal tariffs. On the other hand globalization constrains exports of fishery products from many small CRFM members to important markets, through non-tariff barriers to trade. Exports to the EU, due to the lack of competent authorities with regard to sanitary aspects and EU certified processors / exports are difficult for many of the CRFM members. Moreover, the IUU certification requirements call for a competent authority in each country as well. The issue is complex, and CRFM has not done much in this field up to now. The above mentioned up-coming EPA (EU funded) project will include assistance for establishing a competent authority for fishery products sanitary control and to give training to countries with regard to sanitary issues, and with regard to value addition to fisheries products will play an important role in coming years.

Recommendations:

60. The CRFM should ensure that capacity on fish quality and safety issues, as well as marketing and trade, be developed to such a level that the Secretariat can deliver basic technical assistance in this field and participate, along with CRFM members meaningfully in international fora on fish and fisheries products trade issues.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.3

61. A regional market information centre should be created, in order to provide CRFM Member States with adequate and transparent advice. However, the costs and benefits of such a centre require thorough investigation before action towards its establishment will be undertaken.
62. CRFM will have to rely on external expertise to carry out the project activities under the upcoming EU / EPA project, or source out the technical services completely on this subject in

the short term, as long as no capacity is developed on this subject in the Secretariat. Assistance from INFOPECA would be a suitable option.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.5

63. CRFM Member States should set realistic targets for the CRFM Secretariat on this subject and should not expect much direct assistance from the Secretariat staff in the short term. The second Medium Term Plan actions on this subject should be reviewed and refined for the third Medium Term Plan.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.5

5.2 Strengthening of Fishers' Organizations and Improved Community Participation (Programme area 5)

As mentioned under Chapter 3, the work of CRFM on fisherfolk organizations has increased substantially over the years. The CRFM has been able to attract donor assistance for this subject since 2004 and has done a tremendous job. It started in 2003 with a project that tried to involve fisherfolk in participatory planning and management, financed by Spain and an ACP / EU CTA funded project that assessed the needs of fisherfolk organizations in 2004 and continued with a range of project and activities until today, where the University of Florida Sea Grant is providing assistance for strengthening fisherfolk organizations capacity.

This programme area was and remains very important for CRFM. The Needs Assessment of Caribbean Fisherfolk Organisations (FFOs) concluded in 2005 that there was:

- Lack of critical mass of NFOs for launching the network;
- Fisherfolk organisations' weak management skills;
- Insufficient access to relevant information by fisherfolk; and
- Fisherfolk's limited communication and advocacy skills.

Based on these statements, CRFM decided to foster the Formation of a regional network of national fisheries organizations (recognizing the need for strengthening fisherfolk organisations' capacities through a strategy for addressing the issues revealed. These activities were carried out through various workshops and projects.

The second MTP had as core actions under this programme area:

1. Promotion of Community Participation and Public Support; and
2. Strengthening of Fishers' Organizations.

It can be easily concluded that CRFM managed to contribute significantly to the strengthening of fisher's organizations during the period 2008 - 2011 of the second MTP. Closely related, but not entirely, the efforts of CRFM in terms of promotion of community participation and public support have been satisfactory.

Recommendation:

64. CRFM should continue its highly valuable and well-recognized work in support of strengthening fisherfolk organizations at national and regional level in the CRFM member countries.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.0

5.3 Development and Promotion of Risk Reduction Programme for Fishers (Programme area 8).

This programme area is another example of an area in which the second MTP was much too ambitious and consequently failed to deliver against its promises. The number of activities foreseen was too high and the scope too wide for a small secretariat to produce meaningful outputs on all activities listed. Some, although limited, activities have been carried out in terms of the first core action “Reduction of Vulnerability to Disasters” under this programme area. In particular, the CRFM Secretariat has been working with CDEMA as a strategic partner in the area of CDM / DRM. CRFM is a member of the CDEMA ASSC TMAC.

In 2011 CRFM managed to attract donor support from FAO for the “Formulation of a strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management, climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region”. As part of the expertise needed for this work was not available in-house, and also bearing in mind the allocation of responsibilities among different organization in the region, the CRFM worked closely together with the 5Cs, CDEMA and CERMES. A large part of the assessment has been completed and a draft strategy and plan have been prepared and it seems likely that these will be finalized in 2013. In Jamaica (11 - 13 December 2012), CRFM co-organized with FAO a regional meeting on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Preparedness. CRFM will also collaborate with the fisheries component of the IDB / WB PPCR regional track project.

Nevertheless, the training of fisheries staff and fisherfolk in resilience to disasters and disaster risk management, as well as in climate change adaptation issues, has not been conducted as yet. The activities of the CRFM Secretariat on this subject have been insufficient and CRFM members have (in general) not made sufficient efforts to mainstream fisheries into national disaster management plans. Practical risk reduction efforts for fisherfolk have been limited to a couple of CRFM members and work on this subject was mainly driven by other organizations, including CDEMA and 5Cs. In this respect it has to be considered that CRFM aims to network with partners, donors, etc. in the delivery of its programmes / projects, but in order to do so effectively this should be clearly incorporated into its next medium term plan.

The panel is unaware of activities carried out by CRFM on 2nd core action under this programme area, being a “Harmonized Credit and Personal Insurance Scheme”.

Recommendation:

65. CRFM members should follow-up at national level to support approval of the “CARICOM strategy and action plan on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in fisheries and aquaculture” and national level implementation.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.3

66. The CRFM should take an active role in the coordination of disaster risk management activities in fisheries in the region and develop capacity within the Secretariat and among the members to support needs assessments and capacity building on practical interventions to increase resilience among fisherfolk.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.5

67. Partnerships with CDEMA, 5Cs, FAO and others should continue to be developed to effectively address climate change adaptation issues in fisheries and aquaculture and enable the CRFM to play a more active role in this subject.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.8

68. Credit and insurance issues in fisheries is a subject that is outside the scope and capacity of CRFM and can better be addressed by organizations that have more experience and capacity in these fields. CRFM should however provide, acting as a facilitator, support to the development of linkages between financial institutions and fisherfolk in the CRFM member states.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.5

5.4 Development and Promotion of Mechanisms for Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts at the National and Regional Levels (Programme area 9)

This programme area is important and at the core of CRFM's mandate and objectives. In Section 1.2.3 on the area of competence (see above) it has been made clear that CRFM can and should assume an important role here. The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy provides an opportunity for CRFM to assume a role in conflict management, although the CRFM will need to be appointed as "Competent Agency" and protocols need to be developed that will allow the Mechanism to play its role effectively.

Currently, the networking function of CRFM, and the frequent meetings of officials from the various member countries are the main mechanism for preventing conflicts on fisheries issues. This important function which includes the organization of regional workshops, regional forum meetings etc. play an outstanding role in this respect. CRFM has to be congratulated for its active role in creating a network among the CRFM countries, which is fundamental to prevent and reduce conflicts between its member countries. With regard to legal advice to countries with marine border conflicts, not much could be achieved in the period covered by the second Medium Term Plan.

While the CRFM Agreement includes opportunities for dispute settlement, the effective use of the opportunities provided under the agreement have not been used much. The Rules of Procedure do not have any reference to dispute settlement and avoiding of conflicts between members and between members and third parties.

Recommendations:

69. CRFM should strengthen its role as networking mechanism among fisheries administrations of the member countries, providing opportunities to discuss informally and formally the positions of its members and reach agreements.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 4.1

70. Efforts should be increased to develop procedural manuals for dispute settlement and a role for the CRFM Secretariat in dispute settlement between members and with third parties should be encouraged, as foreseen under the Common Fisheries Policy.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.6

6 CRFM Decision-making Process and Practices

6.1 Decision-making Process

The CRFM Secretariat is subject to the direction and supervision of Member States that come together for the purpose of addressing their common interests and desire to obtain sustainable benefits or other objectives from their fisheries. Therefore, the power and effectiveness of the organisation, the rules and procedures, the financial and human resources are all determined by the will of the member states expressed through the Forum and Ministerial Council. The decision-making processes of the three organs constituting the CRFM, namely the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the

Secretariat, the latter being the permanent Secretariat of the CRFM, have already been described in detail above (see 1.2.6). Part of the recommendations under this heading is based on the findings that were made at that occasion.

For a fisheries body with only advisory mandate, the decision-making process within the CRFM seems to be rather progressive. It could even be argued that such finding would still be the case were the CRFM to be upgraded to a fisheries body with a management mandate. This is because the decision making process is not based on unanimity, but rather on consensus with the possibility of qualified majority voting if no consensus can be reached. The possibility to review a decision prejudicial to a particular Member State is always possible at the mere request of the latter, as explained under 1.2.6, but this does not boil down to granting that particular Member State a veto power. Firstly, the conditions are very restrictive, namely that the decision must have been taken in the absence of that Member State and subsequently that the latter's interests must have been prejudiced. Secondly, the review does not equal a veto-power because the same majority voting will take place as when the first voting took place, the only difference being that the Member State whose interests are at stake this time participates in the vote. But if that Member State forms part of the minority, the decision remains applicable to it.

Recommendations:

71. The CRFM has a rather progressive decision-making procedure, which should be an advantage in the hypothesis that if the organization were, at a later stage, decide to transform itself into a regional fisheries management organization.
72. The CRFM Agreement should be adapted to allow the Council of Ministers to establish subsidiary committees and other bodies. This power, mentioned in the Rules of Procedure (Rule 10) is absent in the CRFM Agreement and, consequently, could theoretically be argued as being *ultra vires*, especially because such power is explicitly provided in the CRFM Agreement (Article 11) for the Caribbean Fisheries Forum. Since the Council of Ministers has recently started to make use of this competence by creating the Sub-Committee on Flying Fish, the time seems ripe to adapt to founding document to better reflect this practice. The Rules of Procedure could subsequently clarify the procedure to be followed by these bodies.
73. In the same vein, the CRFM Agreement only allows the Caribbean Fisheries Forum to establish sub-committees (Article 11), but not working parties or other subsidiary bodies as explicitly mentioned in the CRFM Rules of Procedure (Rule 11). To the extent that the latter can be subsumed under the former, the *ultra vires* argument explained above may not be as cogent here as with respect to the Council of Ministers discussed in the previous recommendation. Nevertheless, since the CRFM Agreement should be adapted with respect to the Council of Ministers in this respect, one could seize the occasion to include the establishment of working parties and other subsidiary bodies under the competence of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum as well.

6.2 Transparency

The present Performance Review had no difficulty in obtaining all the information requested to conduct its work. Documentation with respect to the decision-making process and practices of the CRFM did not form an exception to the rule. The organization has a clear policy of publishing publicly available documentation on their website. Examples are Secretariat Annual Reports (2003 - 2005), the Progress and Financial Reports (2005 - 2011), the Annual Work Plan and Budget (2003 - 2013), the reports of the Annual Scientific Meetings (2005 - 2012), and a number of technical and advisory documents (2006 - 2012). Also documents that are of a restricted nature, such as the Minutes of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and Minutes of the Ministerial Council, were being uploaded to the password-restricted part of the CRFM Secretariat's website during the time that the present performance review was being conducted. If certain documents are at present not to be found on that

website the reason seems to lie more with the limited secretarial resources than with a lack of transparency.

Recommendations:

74. The CRFM should continue to adhere to its present policy of transparency. It may be recommendable to publish at least summaries or the agenda of the meetings of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the Ministerial Council on the publicly accessible part of the CRFM webpages in order to allow the public at large to have an idea of the topics being treated.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.2

6.3 CRFM Secretariat

It is important to recognize that this performance review is taking place at a time when the staff of the CRFM Secretariat is at an all time low. This is partly an artifact of the review process itself, in which the hiring of new technical staff was frozen awaiting the outcome and direction offered by the review and new strategic plan. The review panel, being aware of the need for the CRFM to provide continuing support to its members, is not in favour of the freezing vacant posts that are obviously needed under any new structure or strategic plan, such as the post of a Scientific Advisor.

Already at the time of the CFRAMP, as explained above under 1.2.1, host country agreements were concluded with the governments of Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines respectively. These are still operational today as the Secretariat of the CRFM is located in Belize, with an Eastern Caribbean Office in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Only the location of the former is mentioned by name in the founding document of the CRFM (Article 2 (2)). The creation of “such other offices as may be considered necessary for the performance of its functions” is merely suggested as a possibility (Article 2 (3)).

As already remarked above under 1.2.6, there seems to be a certain imbalance between the structure of the CRFM and its operational and reporting framework. The small number of staff in the operational arm of that organization, i.e. the Secretariat, means that there are gaps in technical assistance, communication and particularly in project development and resource mobilization. A similar remark seems to apply as a consequence to the structure of the Secretariat. The division of so few staff over two offices seems difficult to justify. The division between Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has historical sentimental and political significance, but this does not mean that it is based on efficiency, considerations and effective delivery of services to CRFM constituents and should be continued indefinitely.

Recommendation:

75. Consideration should be given to undertaking a cost-benefit analysis to determine the best solution of having the Secretariat physically in one or two locations. The Secretariat, given its limited composition, could probably be run more effectively if physically located at one place.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 3.2

6.4 CRFM Finance

The CRFM works on a limited budget, which is more over burdened by a good number of arrears in the payment of the yearly contributions by the Member States. The figures presented at the Third Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the CRFM of 10 October 2012 for instance indicated that only three states had no outstanding balance and more than one country having arrears for more than two years. About half of the yearly budget of the organization comes from external funding. The Member Countries fees for the CRFM Secretariat, of US\$960,000 seem to be adequate to run the

office with the present staffing, however, if additional tasks have to be taken on, such as becoming the competent authority for the implementation of the CCCFP, member countries contributions have to be substantially increased.

Recommendations:

76. In order to reduce operational costs and carry out its work more efficiently, as indicated in 6.3 above, CRFM should evaluate the option to have the Secretariat in only one location.
77. Given the special importance attached by the CRFM Agreement to Article 18, as indicated by its Article 7 (4), the CRFM should either apply this article or adapt it in order to reflect the present status of affairs more accurately.
78. In view of the difficulty the organization has to collect the contributions of Member States and given the importance of outside funding for the normal working budget of the organization it is recommended to set up within the Secretariat a unit responsible for actively looking for outside funding and writing out proposals to be submitted to donor organizations to that effect.

Score of prioritization of this recommendation by CRFM Member States: 2.8

7 SWOT Analysis

The panel conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis of the CRFM (including its Secretariat, Forum, Ministerial Council and membership), which presents some overlap with the findings under above chapters. The SWOT also gives some insight in opportunities and threats that are not fully covered in the above chapters but deserve some attention.

Overall, the main strength of the CRFM is the highly motivated staff in the secretariat, and a well functioning structure. The regular meetings created a good ground for networking and for establishing a collaborative relationship between the Secretariat staff and the CRFM member countries' fisheries staff. The relationship with other organizations in the region and with donors is good.

It has to be noted on the negative side that the Secretariat is understaffed and that the technical expertise required for addressing the wide range the objectives and activities listed in the MTPs are not available in the CRFM Secretariat. The core budget of CRFM is limited when comparing the objectives and expectations from the CRFM members with the funding made available by the same members. The CRFM core budget level is at first sight comparable with other similar RFABs and some (non-tuna and non-high seas) RFMOs, but the mandates, scopes and objectives of the various RFABs are too different to really make any substantial statement on this subject now. The location in two HQs creates substantial problems in coordination and results in high travel costs.

Furthermore, Institutions responsible for fisheries and aquaculture in CRFM member countries are generally weak and have limited human, technical and financial resources. Fisheries do not have the required standing in the policy discussion of CRFM member countries, also because statistical underreporting does not show an appropriate picture of fisheries and aquaculture in the creation of the national GDP. The political will in many of the CRFM member countries to prioritize fisheries and really provide adequate resources and support to the sector to develop sustainably seems lacking.

Opportunities for the future can be found in increasing political commitment and political will for the development and management of fisheries through increasing awareness on the social and economic value, impact and benefits of the sector. Donor interest in the Caribbean region is generally strong, and CRFM can play an important role in coordinating, networking and implementing regional and sub-regional projects.

The present economic crisis is representing a threat, both with regard to donor willingness to finance projects and to the economic development in Member States. The large number and wide variety of

fisheries related requests (e.g. also in aquaculture, trade, fisherfolk strengthening, fish quality and safety, credit and insurance, economics, etc) mean that the few staff resources available in the Secretariat are spread out too thin and that their technical leadership / guidance is reduced.

Overall, a positive environment exists that enables the CRFM to carry out its duties successfully within the framework of its mandate, provided the financial situation of the organization is improved, the administrative set-up is streamlined, and additional financial contributions are made available by the members in order to build the critical technical capacity in the Secretariat, to carry out all activities under its present mandate, and eventually to take on board the functions of a competent agency in support of the implementation of the CCCFP.

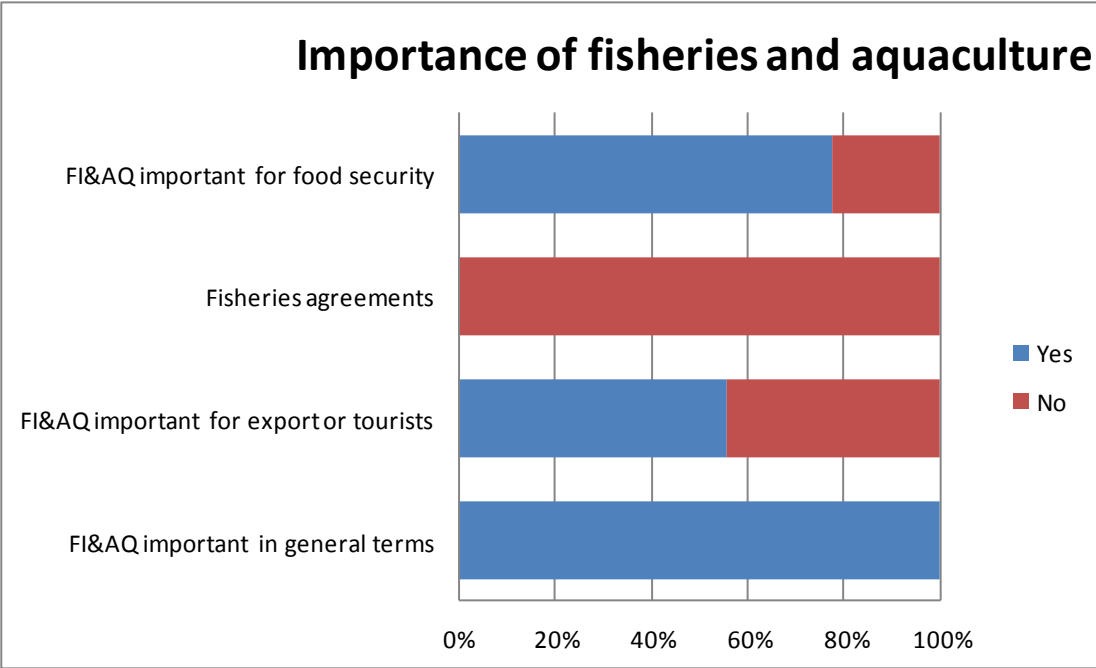
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated, competent and highly motivated Staff at the Secretariat • Scientific expertise available at the Secretariat • CARICOM provides a governance structure for the CRFM membership • Highly educated and well-trained fisheries chiefs and directors among the CRFM membership • CRFM structure is functioning well (with fisheries forum, annual scientific meetings, Secretariat and Ministerial Council) • Fairly stable governmental participation in meetings and workshops (with core budget support from CRFM), which allows for follow-up and reduces the need to repeat what has been achieved; turn-over of government staff in fisheries is low • Strong and positive relationship between the Secretariat staff and the Fisheries Chiefs and other fisheries staff of the CRFM member countries • Similar issues are important for member countries (Queen conch, spiny lobster, reef fisheries, large- and small pelagics, lionfish invasion) • Tourist industry provides a good market for fishery and aquaculture products • CRFM is an established regional organization with high recognition among member countries • The relationship between CRFM and ICCAT Secretariats is constructive, which contributes to effective information exchange on commercially important species. • Collaboration with donors and fisheries development partners in the region and internationally is good and constructive (e.g. OSPESCA, NAFO, ICCAT, WECAFC / FAO, EU, JICA, EU / ACP Fish II, Florida Sea Grant, Australia, Spain, etc) • The management style applied in the Secretariat is open and transparent, which is motivating for the staff and collaborating partners
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understaffing of the Secretariat • CRFM Secretariat staff expertise not in some fields that are now in the work plan (aquaculture, trade and product development, WTO, SPS, EAF / A, CCA etc.) • Two HQs (Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) causes organizational difficulties for the Secretariat • Location of administrative headquarter isolated in a physical sense (only two international flights a day) • Travel costs of Secretariat and members to meetings, workshops and other activities are high • The limited staff available in most fisheries administrations of CRFM members means that for many highly technical issues the same staff are involved. The burden on these staff is high and they cannot be expected to be specialist in and to follow-up on each issue • CRFM members include Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with limited budget and which are very dependent on tourism for their GDP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget of the CRFM is relatively small compared to other RFBs with similar tasks and duties • Sources of regular (core budget) funding are limited and external funding is inconsistent • Institutions responsible for fisheries in the CRFM member countries are generally weak and have limited human, technical and financial resources • Fisheries administrations in member countries are not high priority within the governments, thus also CRFM and its mandate (fisheries) are low on the agenda of the governments • Incomplete and outdated policy and legislative frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the CRFM member countries • Fish is not an important item in Caribbean food habits and consumption shows a declining trend in a number of CRFM member countries, some due to higher export demand and from bait fishery. The decline in consumption is also due to inadequate monitoring of production, distribution / marketing and consumption • Fish resources available are limited, close to overexploitation in some cases; very limited scope for increasing exploitation levels • Economies of scale work against small island states, as (imports of low price products) are often hard to compete with for local producers • Weak statistics in many countries do not give correct value to the importance of fisheries in the countries • Uncoordinated research efforts and limited sharing of information on responsible fisheries and its management among CRFM members, due to absence of a regional plan
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is donor interest to assist the CRFM and its members on fisheries issues, especially in the EU, USA, United Kingdom and Japan • Increase political commitment and political will for the development and management of fisheries through increasing awareness on the social and economic value, impact and benefits of the sector • Increase collaboration with OSPESCA, experienced body in attracting donor funding and lobbying in international fora • Increase collaboration with WECAFC / FAO and particularly divide tasks / duties in joint Working Groups, in order to benefit from the funding and support available in FAO and from non-CRFM members that have an interest in fisheries in the region • Participation on behalf of member countries in international and regional events (e.g. FAO Committee on Fisheries [COFI], GCFI, ICCAT, ICES, WECAFC, Small-Scale Fisheries Conference) • The Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy creates new opportunities for CRFM, particularly if CRFM gets assigned the role of “Competent Agency” under this Policy • ACP Fish II, FAO, CLME and other projects are supporting updates of national policy and strategy processes for fisheries and legal framework development in various CRFM member countries, which will benefit uptake of advice and recommendations at national level • The EU project on SPS including fisheries products creates possibility for the organization to become the competent authority for certification of fishery product for small member countries • Video / teleconferencing (including Skype) can reduce communication and travel costs and staff time of the Secretariat • The CRFM website can play a more prominent role in communicating the achievements and news about CRFM, along with the newsletter CRFM produces nowadays

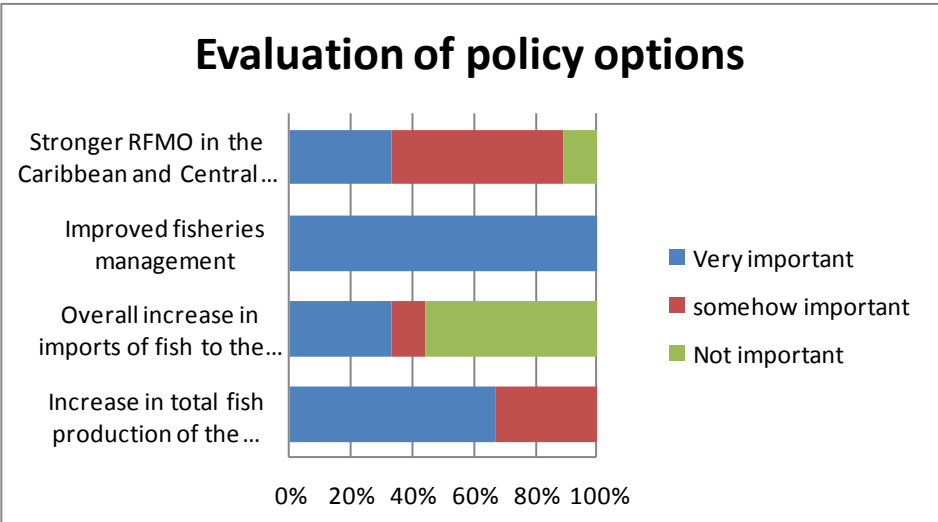
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic crisis will result in reduced donor funding becoming available in the coming years • The quality of the work and uptake of advice and recommendations is constrained by the high number of workshops, meetings and project activities; fisheries administration staff and the Secretariat cannot ensure sufficient follow-up • The large number and wide variety of fisheries related requests (e.g. also in aquaculture, trade, fisherfolk strengthening, fish quality and safety, credit and insurance, economics, etc) causes that the few staff resources available in the Secretariat are spread out too thin and that their technical leadership / guidance is reduced. • Communication overload by CRFM Secretariat and other stakeholders active in the region, including their requests for information and statistics, reporting on activities, monitoring and evaluation, causes low response rates from CRFM members • Funding available from member countries may be constrained by the current economic crisis (feeling) in Europe and the USA and the financial (budget deficit) situation many of the CRFM members are in • Being restricted to mere conference and workshop organizers does not increase CRFM staff professional competency • Competition for visibility / media attention between CRFM and other regional fishery bodies (OSPESCA, WECAFC) and other partners (CANARI, ACP Fish II, JICA) may create conflicts and / or reduce the recognition of the contribution to an achievement by CRFM (a communication strategy may help) • Inadequate representation at the national level of CRFM and its activities, due to counting on Permanent Secretaries and Chief Fisheries officers to take an active role in distribution of findings and achievements at national level
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8 Results of questionnaire, including the Relevance of CRFM Activities to the Needs of Its Members

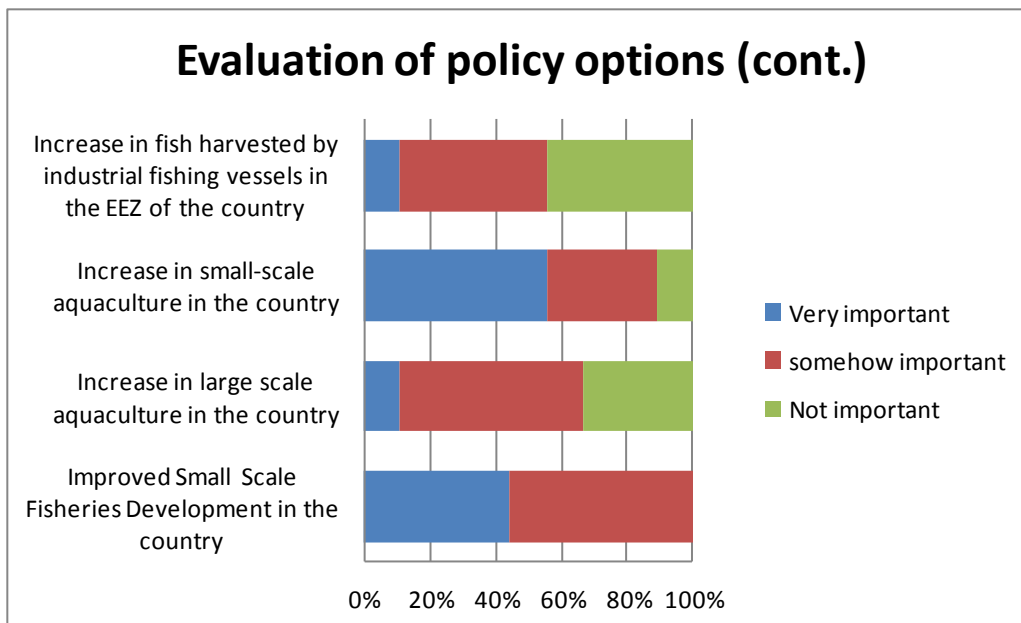
A questionnaire (reproduced – including responses - in Annex 5) was prepared and distributed to CRFM member countries during the First CRFM and OSPESCA Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministerial Meeting, Belize, 3 - 4 September 2012. Nine member countries filled in this questionnaire, representing a good sample of CRFM member countries (more than 50% of membership).



The general part of the questionnaire gives some interesting data on the importance of fisheries in the countries and the consumption habits of the population (despite the recorded reduction in consumption, fish is still the second most important source of animal protein after chicken in the majority of countries). Improved conservation and management, better compliance and enforcement, improved investments in fisheries, and finally improved international and regional cooperation were identified as key factors for improving the role of fisheries in the economy and creating improved food security.



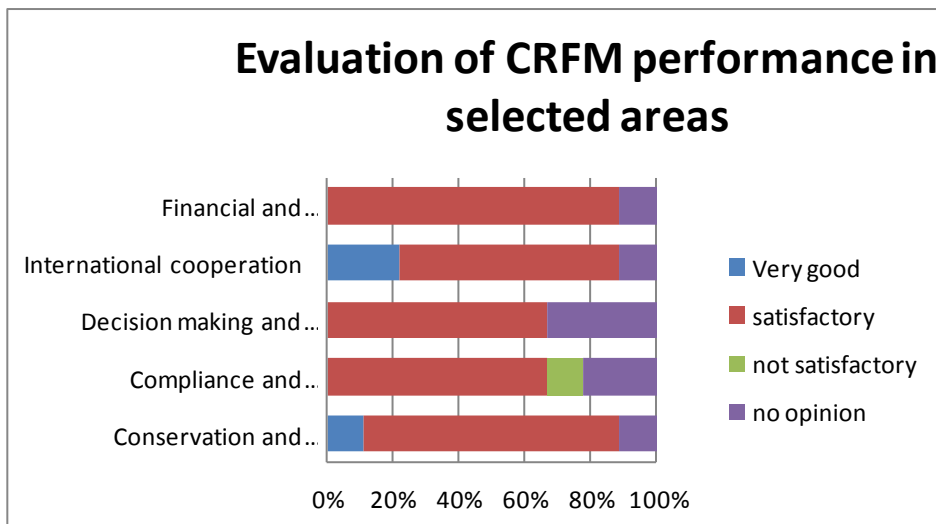
The following description is forward looking and concentrates on the specific comments that are relevant for the future strategy of the CRFM. Member countries identified the following issues as strategically important for improved management of the fisheries in their countries; these activities may form a basis for future activities of the CRFM.



All seven key activities (which are not represented in order of importance) can be used as the basis for describing the core function of the CRFM with regard to improved fisheries management:

- (a) Improved Legislation and the political will and buy in
- (b) Management Plan
 - (i) Strengthening CRFM
 - (ii) Socio-economic factors
 - (iii) Governance
 - (iv) Co-management
- (c) Surveillance and enforcement of existing laws, including revision of fines, licensing regimes and MCS
- (d) Capacity building for both fisheries staff and fishers in marine resources development, conservation and management
- (e) Education and public awareness especially among stakeholders
- (f) Greater resources for the Fisheries Department, fiscal and human
- (g) Data collection and analysis at sea and on land based sites

The practical suggestions provided by the CRFM members on how to improve fisheries management are very interesting. They include co-management: lower and more easily enforced fines; harmonized local and regional policies; registration of all fishers and all vessels used in fishing; the development of Fisheries Management Plans with attainable objectives; better licensing and registration; dubious language in the fisheries ordination should be corrected; management of MPAs livelihood; implementing Vessel Monitoring System (VMS); expand the enforcement capabilities of the Fisheries Departments; improve participation of key stakeholders in decision making; public awareness leading to cultural shift; alternative livelihood management initiatives.



The overall score for the CRFM performance from the questionnaires is between good and satisfactory, so about 7 out of 10. The work of CRFM in the field of ecosystem approach to fisheries got a far lower score, with one respondent indicating that this work had to be considered not satisfactory. The work of CRFM in the field of conservation and management got a score of 6, which is satisfactory. The effective work of the organization in promoting international cooperation got an even higher score of 6.5. Member countries were also satisfied with the CRFM financial and administrative issues. However, scores were very low for CRFM role in decision making and dispute settlement processes in the region. The performance with regard to compliance and enforcement, was judged not satisfactory in one occasion, which indicates the need to improve the performance of the CRFM in this field.

Specific comments and suggestions received on how to improve the performance of the CRFM are also interesting. One key comment repeated various times was the need for a better communication between Secretariat and Fisheries Forum. It was also noted that there is a need to better follow through on certain decisions made at the Forum and Scientific Meetings. Other comments indicated that structural succession planning should be put in place and that – and this is surely a key point – there is a need to ensure that the Secretariat/Technical Unit is appropriately staffed to provide maximum returns out of its work plan. One respondent recommended that CRFM create a unit that will be responsible for resource mobilization, projects development, monitoring, execution and reporting to the Executive Director. This unit will allow the Executive Director to dedicate valuable time to CRFM core activities. Another respondent underscored that there is a need that CRFM work with donors be coordinated and structured better. It was also noted that not all CRFM member states were treated equally by donors and CRFM was not able to provide a level playing field for all members.

Very important is the collaboration between the CRFM Secretariat and the CRFM member countries, and this collaboration was generally seen as insufficient. As prominent reason the lack of staff time within fisheries administrations was mentioned by various respondents, hence many times clashes appeared between national level and CRFM activities. Planning is a key issue, it seems. It was noted also that there is a need for a better reporting mechanism. In addition, there was a call for a re-organization/expansion of the Fisheries Forum and Executive Committee. Yet another suggestion indicated that CRFM should make better use of the regional pool of technical experts in the implementation of the regional and national activities. This needs to be transmitted to cooperating and donor agencies when programs / projects are executed in the region. It was also noted that the networking role of CRFM is important. The organization of the annual scientific meetings has led to increased collaboration in the region.

With regard to past capacity building activities, the judgment of those respondents who participate in such activities was generally very positive, giving it a score of 8 out of 10. It was observed that

building capacity in the fisheries division of CRFM member countries should be a priority, especially as it relates to fisheries dependent and independent data collection, data processing and analysis, fisheries stock assessment, report (technical) writing and management training. For future capacity building needs, it was pointed out that these should cater specifically to the needs of Member States, and that the training should be directed at the middle and junior levels of staff in the Fisheries Departments and divisions.

Respondents indicated that they are using CRFM reports and information material, and the majority found them very useful. The only CRFM information material that was scored as less important and useful was the newsletter. No additional comments on how to improve the information material or were made.

9 Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

Before entering into the merits of this specific review, the review panel would like to underline that they are impressed with the activities carried out so far, in view of the extreme understaffing of CRFM Secretariat / Technical unit. It is evident that CRFM staff is competent and has stretched itself to a limit trying to perform the wide range of activities put on its shoulders by different requirements and strategic plans and Ministerial Council decisions. New skills and activities to be carried out have to go hand in hand with additional funding and additional competent staff. Any reasonable way forward can only be successful if member countries are willing to invest more resources in CRFM and if donors are willing to fund project staff based in CRFM.

CRFM member countries, as shown in the questionnaires and in the personal interviews carried out do not to feel sufficient ownership of the Mechanism. A general feeling was voiced that certain decisions are not communicated and discussed with the member countries, and that the Forum is asked to sanction decisions already taken elsewhere.

It is also essential that the CRFM Secretariat strengthens ownership of the CRFM activities in its member countries. This includes increasing the use of the existing technical capacity in member countries for implementing projects. All countries that answered the questionnaire underlined the thin structure and limited capacity of their administrations. Therefore CRFM could play an important role of helping these small administrative structures to perform better by providing useful tools and methodologies for assessment and management of the fisheries resources.

The CRFM Technical Unit/Secretariat seems capable to represent member countries in international events, where the presence of each country becomes too expensive. Examples of such events include: COFI and its two Sub-Committees, CITES, WTO, FAO Technical Consultations, ICCAT. A good example on how this could be implemented is OSPESCA. Before international meetings, OSPESCA member states agree on a common view on each agenda item of the Committee, and then OSPESCA can speak on behalf of all member countries on the common issues; specific national viewpoints can still be presented by the members themselves. Similarly for CRFM representation on behalf of all the member countries, a common policy or strategy has to be determined before each international meeting and issues that can be dealt with by CRFM on behalf of the member countries should be discussed and agreed.

Increased ownership of CRFM activities by members is essential. The CRFM Secretariat has taken already a very transparent approach and provides a wide scope of information about projects and activities at the annual scientific meetings and at the Forum meetings. This contributes to increased stakeholder involvement during the implementation of these projects. It should be noted however that there is a responsibility by the CRFM members to carefully read and respond to information and requests. Modern technology can help in the communication and information sharing process, and the website can be used more effectively. Some lessons could be learned from OSPESCA, that every month provides a simple e-mail with a brief of activities, with a link for more reading, if desired.

The findings of the review show that CRFM Secretariat is severely understaffed and not sufficiently able to carry out all the activities that its member countries would like it to perform. The present technical staff, also in view of the fact that two technical staff members have been promoted to managerial positions, is reduced to the bare minimum. The impact of this is shown in the fact that the CRFM Technical Unit / Secretariat is practically performing as a workshop organizer rather than carrying out technical or scientific work. In most recent projects the technical work was carried out by consultants from other organizations / institutions and donor countries. In some instances CRFM Secretariat staff participated, however, in parts of the technical aspects / delivery of the project e.g. SPS Study; Poverty Assessment Study, ACP Fish II MCS Study, Policy Studies (preparation of TORs, some field activities and in workshop review, review of draft reports); FAO / CRFM Climate change adaptation, DRM, etc. Project; CLME Case Studies (Flyingfish, Pelagic, (also FAO led Shrimp and Groundfish Case Study).

As a result, the recognition of the organization as a technical organization among member countries has declined over the years. Obviously CRFM, as many other organizations including FAO, is using interns and volunteers in the work as a valuable source of manpower, which however does not guarantee the continuity, so much requested by member countries. An outstanding issue at the moment is the filling of the vacant posts, otherwise the organization will dry out, merely rubberstamping activities and projects implemented by other organizations or consultants firms.

CRFM should concentrate on its key functions and address its general principles. The CRFM should only be involved in / take up additional activities if these create some permanent (which means for the duration of a project, 2-3 years) staffing at CRFM headquarters.

During the review process, Member States were requested to validate and prioritize recommendations. From this process, it became clear that four areas of work were of primary importance for CRFM Member States:

- 1) the scientific work and management advice,
- 2) strengthening of collaboration with donors and fellow organizations,
- 3) the fisheries data and statistics collection, analysis and dissemination, and
- 4) networking for reaching regional agreement and harmonized adoption of legally binding fisheries instruments.

The main recommendations identified in the prioritization process were the following:

Recommendations on scientific work and management advice

79. The current structure with Working Groups and Annual Scientific Meetings that report to the Forum should be maintained as it appears to function well. Similarly, the decision making, work planning, review and reporting lines between the Council, Forum and Secretariat are good and should be maintained. (section 1.2.6)
80. The report of the annual scientific meeting should contain clear and specific technical advice and recommendations from each working group to the fisheries forum, in order to enable the forum to discuss and agree on research priorities and utilize the condensed and key research findings for regional policy and decision making purposes, keeping in mind that the Council is CRFM's policy and main decision making body. This approach should be informed by the respective national Fisheries Management Plans. (Section 3.2)
81. The process for producing fisheries management advice for endorsement at CRFM level needs to be streamlined. CRFM and member countries should ensure that the advice coming from these annual scientific meetings is formulated in a way that is easily understandable and useful for the decision makers in the Fisheries Forum and policy makers at the Ministerial Council. (section 3.4)

82. Advice for small-scale fisheries management should be prioritized in the near future as there is uncertainty about current levels of resource exploitation in inshore and reef areas and the consequences this has for the future livelihoods of the fishers and the sustainability of the resources. (Section 3.4)
83. Socio-economic, environmental and climate change concerns should be incorporated in the management advice as these may receive less attention if not dealt with properly, which could result in reduced uptake by the stakeholders. (Section 3.4)
84. The 2012 Review of Current Fisheries Management Performance and Conservation Measures in the Western Central Atlantic Region, should be used by the CRFM Secretariat to provide clear advice to the CRFM members in terms of improvement and harmonization of fisheries management plans and filling gaps and addressing weaknesses. (Section 4.3.)

Recommendations on strengthening collaboration with donors and fellow organizations

85. The Secretariat and working groups should continue to maintain and strengthen contacts with JICA, EU, USA, CDB and other potential donors in support of joint research in the region. (Section 3.2.)
86. The CRFM should continue the recent initiative to foster closer cooperation with OSPESCA, as evidenced by the first joint fisheries and aquaculture ministerial meeting held on September 3-4, 2012. It is recommended that similar initiatives should be undertaken with the other advisory fishery bodies in the area, and foremost with WECAFC and OLDEPESCA. This initiative will expand the skills and technical support base. (Section 1.2.7.2.)

Recommendations on fisheries data and statistics collection, analysis and dissemination

87. Member countries should ensure timely provision of statistics, other data and information to the CRFM Secretariat. (Section 3.1.)
88. Member countries should ensure support for officers at the national level, even in the present scenario of limited financial resources, to allow them time and resources to complete their data and information related tasks, which should also include additional capacity building, preferably to be provided during the annual scientific meetings, in a consistent manner, using protocols, manuals and standard methodologies. (Section 3.1.)
89. CRFM should continue to carry out socio-economic assessments of small-scale fisheries and ensure that the data and information enable valuation of the contribution of small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security in the CRFM member countries. (Section 4.5)

Recommendations on networking, reaching regional agreement and harmonized adoption of legally binding fisheries instruments

90. Efforts of the CRFM members towards ratification of the various legally binding fisheries instruments should be increased (always keeping in mind that these are political decisions of Member States), in line with calls made by the CRFM Secretariat and with the Resolution on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments made at the 14th session of WECAFC (2012) (Section 2)
91. CRFM should strengthen its role as networking mechanism among fisheries administrations of the member countries, providing opportunities to discuss informally and formally the positions of its members and reach agreements. (Section 5.4)

ANNEXES

CRFM, CARICOM and OECS membership

	CRFM (2002)		CARICOM (1973)		OECS (1981)
	Members	Associate Members	Members	Associate Members	
Anguilla	X			X (1999)	X
Antigua and Barbuda	X		X (1974)		X
Bahamas	X		X (1983)		
Barbados	X		X (1973)		
Belize	X		X (1974)		
Bermuda				X (2003)	
British Virgin Islands				X (1991)	X
Cayman Islands				X (2002)	
Dominica	X		X (1974)		X
Grenada	X		X (1974)		X
Guyana	X		X (1973)		
Haiti	X		X (2002)		
Jamaica	X		X (1973)		
Montserrat	X		X (1974)		X
Saint Kitts and Nevis	X		X (1974)		X
Saint Lucia	X		X (1974)		X
St Vincent and the Grenadines	X		X (1974)		X
Suriname	X		X (1995)		
Trinidad and Tobago	X		X (1973)		
Turks and Caicos Islands	X			X (1991)	

CRFM members are in bold

ANNEX 2

Membership of the countries and territories in the Caribbean of the various fisheries related regional bodies.

	[CITES ***]	COPESEC AALC*	CRFM *	[ICCAT **]	[IWC* *]	OLDEPE SCA*	OSPESCA *	WECAFC *
Anguilla			X					
Antigua and Barbuda	X		X		X			X
Argentina	X	X			X			
Bahamas	X		X					X
Barbados	X		X	X				X
Belize	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Bolivia	X	X				X		
Brazil	X	X		X	X			X
Canada	X			X				X
Chile	X	X			X			
Colombia	X	X			X			X
Costa Rica	X	X			X	X	X	X
Cuba	X	X				X		X
Dominica	X		X		X			X
Dominican Republic	X	X			X			X
Ecuador	X	X			X	X		
El Salvador	X	X				X	X	
European Union				X				X
Grenada	X		X		X			X
Guatemala	X	X		X	X		X	X
Guinea	X			X	X			X
Guyana	X		X			X		X
Haiti			X					X
Honduras	X	X		X		X	X	X
Jamaica	X	X	X					X
Japan	X			X	X			X
Mexico	X	X		X	X	X		X
Montserrat	X****		X					
Nicaragua	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Panama	X	X		X	X		X	X
Paraguay	X	X						
Peru	X	X			X	X		
Republic of Korea	X			X	X			X
Saint Kitts and Nevis	X		X		X			X
Saint Lucia	X		X		X			X
Saint Vincent and	X		X	X	X			X

the Grenadines								
Suriname	X	X	X		X			X
Trinidad and Tobago	X		X	X				X
Turks and Caicos Islands			X					
United States of America	X			X	X			X
Uruguay	X	X		X	X			
Venezuela	X	X		X		X		X

* *Bodies with an advisory mandate (scientific and / or management);*

** *Bodies with a management mandate;*

*** *Body with a management mandate not primarily focused on fisheries, but with clear impact on commercially exploited fisheries since the early 1990;*

**** *Included in the territorial application at the time of ratification by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;*

[] *Not all members are listed.*

Ratification by CRFM members of relevant international fisheries instruments

	1982 UN Convention	1993 FAO Implementation Agreement	1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement	2009 FAO Port State Control Agreement
Anguilla	X*		X**	
Antigua and Barbuda	X			
Bahamas	X		X	
Barbados	X	X	X	
Belize	X	X	X	
Dominica	X			
Grenada	X			
Guyana	X			
Haiti	X			
Jamaica	X		***	
Montserrat	X*			
Saint Kitts and Nevis	X	X		
Saint Lucia	X	X	X	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	X		X	
Suriname	X			
Trinidad and Tobago	X		X	
Turks and Caicos Islands	X*		X**	

* *The British Government deals with all international relations on behalf of these territories. At the time of accession to the 1982 UN Convention, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a declaration by means of which it indicated that its instrument of accession also extended to these territories;*

** *The British Government deals with all international relations on behalf of these territories. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement on behalf of these territories;*

*** *Signed.*

	Territorial sea	200 nautical mile zone	
		Exclusive Economic Zone	Fisheries Zone
Anguilla	3*		X
Antigua and Barbuda	12	X	
Bahamas	12	X	
Barbados	12	X	
Belize	12**	X	
Dominica	12	X	
Grenada	12	X	
Guyana	12	X	
Haiti	12	X	
Jamaica	12	X	
Montserrat	3*		X
Saint Kitts and Nevis	12	X	
Saint Lucia	12	X	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12	X	
Suriname	12	X	
Trinidad and Tobago	12	X	
Turks and Caicos Islands	12*		X

* *As determined by the United Kingdom*

** *3 nautical miles applies from the mouth of the Sarstoon River to Ranguana Caye*

Evaluation of questionnaire (distributed to CRFM member countries – 9 returned)

1. Are fisheries / aquaculture – marine and / or inland – an important economic activity in your country?

YES / 9 / NO / 0 /

2. Is fish processing for export or the tourist industry an important activity in your country?

YES / 5 / NO / 4 /

3. Do you have fishing agreements with other countries for undertaking fishing in your country's EEZ?

YES / / NO / 8 / TCI used to have but phased this out

4. Which animal protein is most preferred by the consumers in your country? Kindly rank in order of preference (1, 2, 3 etc.).

Chicken no.1 / 8 Beef no. 4 / 4 Fish No. 2 / 6

Mutton No. 5 or 0 / 5 Pork No 3 / 7 Others (specify)

5. Does fish play an important role in the food and nutritional security of your country today?

YES / 7 / NO / 2 /

6. In your opinion then, what are the three most important factors which will help to *properly manage the fishery resource in your country*?

- (a) Management Plan
- (b) Enforcement of existing laws
- (c) Legislation
 - (i) Governance
 - (ii) Co-management
- (d) capacity building for both fisheries staff and fishers in marine resources development, conservation and management
- (e) Education and public awareness especially among stakeholders.
- (f) Greater Resources for the Fisheries Department, fiscal and human
- (g) Surveillance and Law enforcement
- (h) Adequate funding for fisheries education directed towards fishermen and other stakeholders for fisheries law enforcement
- (i) Expansion of the data collection system for catch and effort and biological data for the major species of the capture fisheries, combined with this a comprehensive database incorporating landings data with socioeconomic to facilitate bio-economic analysis.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Enforcement (b) Revision of legislation to make fines more easy to enforce (c) Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Strengthening CRFM (ii) Socio economic factors (d) Development and revising fisheries legislations and policies and the need for political will and buy in. (e) Qualified trained personnel (f) Revised and modern legislation (g) Data collection and analysis (h) Appropriate fisheries research and data collection at sea and on land based sites (i) Strengthening of the monitoring control and enforcement systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Education of public (b) Public awareness (c) Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) MCS (ii) Finances (iii) Staffing for DOF (iv) Capacity building (d) Improve, coastal and marine resources monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programs (e) Appropriate legislation (f) More inputs by fishers and other stakeholders in the management process (g) Public education and outreach (h) Increased MCS to reduce IUU fishing (i) Improvement of the legislative framework

7. In the Table below we have given a list of factors that could have a bearing on the role of fisheries / aquaculture in your country's economy.

(Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate column)

No	Importance	Very important	Somehow important	Not important
1.	Increase in total fish production of the country from all water sources	6	3	
2.	Overall increase in imports of fish to the country	3	1	5
3.	Improved fisheries management	9		
4.	Stronger RFMO in the Caribbean and Central America	3	5	1
5.	Improved Small Scale Fisheries Development in the country	4	5	
6.	Increase in large scale aquaculture in the country	1	5	3
7.	Increase in small-scale aquaculture in the country	5	3	(1 NA)
8.	Increase in fish harvested by industrial fishing vessels in the EEZ of the country	1	4	4
9.	Improved Conservation and management	8	1	
10.	Improved Compliance and enforcement	9		
11.	Improved Decision-making and dispute settlement	5	4	
12.	Improved International/regional cooperation	6	3	1
13.	Improved Investment in Fisheries	5	4	

No	List of some factors which have a bearing on the role of fisheries / aquaculture in national economy	Will have Favorable impact	Will have Adverse impact	Will have No impact
1.	Increase in total fish production of the country from all water sources	9		
2.	Overall increase in imports of fish to the country	1	8	
3.	Improved fish management	9		
4.	Stronger RFMO in the Caribbean and Central America	6		3
5.	Increase in small-scale aquaculture in the country	9		
6.	Increase in fish harvested by industrial fishing vessels in the EEZ of the country	4	5	
7.	Improved Conservation and management	9		
8.	Improved Compliance and enforcement	9		
9.	Improved Decision-making and dispute settlement	9		
10.	Improved International/regional cooperation	9		
11.	Improved Investment in Fisheries	9		

8. Can you give examples of better fisheries governance and management measures that should be implemented in order to achieve sustainable fisheries?

1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Co Management (b) Lower more easily enforced fines (current fines for all violations is USD 50 000) (c) Better co-management initiatives (d) harmonized local and regional policies (e) registration of all fishers and all vessels used in fishing (f) the development of Fisheries Management Plans with attainable objectives (g) A better legislative framework that provides for mandatory licensing regimes, collection of resource rents, structured management of fishing capacity and institutional strengthening to discharge governance mandates including formal intersectoral collaboration among key agencies
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Better Licensing and Registration (b) Dubious language in the fisheries ordination should be corrected (c) Management of MPAs livelihood (d) Implementing Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) (e) Expand the enforcement capabilities of the Fisheries Departments (f) Improve participation of key stakeholders in decision making (g) Regional frameworks that foster transparency at all levels of interaction
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) MCS better legislation (b) Public awareness leading to cultural shift. Many believe they should take all they can get while the getting is good. A long term outlook is needed. (c) Alternative livelihood management initiatives (d) information sharing and improved communication amongst local regional and stakeholders (e) Political support including funding (f) Better MCS

9. Is there any specific legislation, regulation, policy or development plan in your country, which will **directly** contribute to enhancing the role of fisheries/aquaculture in the economy of your country?

YES / / (Kindly provide specific references below and as electronic copies if possible)

NO / / (Kindly give your opinion below on what needs to be done to make this happen)

Saint Kitts and Nevis Fisheries Regulation Act 1984
The Turks and Caicos Islands Fisheries Ordinance
St. Lucia Draft Fisheries Management Plan, Fisheries Act 1984, Fisheries Regulations 1994
Montserrat:

1. revision of existing legislation and regulations
2. finalizing the process of maritime boundary delimitation
3. development of draft integrated coastal zone management plan (ICZMP)
4. review and revise national fisheries management plan
5. development and drafting of ocean governance management plan

Fisheries Protection Act and Regulations
Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act
Draft Fisheries Management and Development Plan
Fisheries Act Aquatic Living Resource Bill 2012 currently under review (Belize)

Updated fisheries legislation has been developed and is at an advanced stage of legislative review.
(Trinidad and Tobago)

10. Have you participated in previous CRFM meetings:

No /...1... /

Yes / ...8. / all many times

11. Do you feel you are an active part of the CRFM and that your opinions are taking into account in the preparation of work plans and strategic plans?

Yes / 8.... /

No / 1... /

Any additional comments:

Have been part of the Scientific Meeting since the inception and have seen tremendous advancement in this area among peers / countries.

In time, I am sure I will feel my opinions are considered from what I have seen so far.

Need for better reporting mechanism and coordination.

As a member of CRFM countries are given the opportunity to participate at various levels. Countries vary at times in their fisheries and therefore all issues may not be relevant for a particular country. Sometimes decision are taken and the background information to inform such decisions is not provided in a timely fashion to allow for consultations at all levels at the national level so that better evaluation of the situation can be undertaken. At the meetings it seems that delegates are brought together to endorse decisions that have already been made. A particular concern is what can be considered manipulation of the approval process fostered by tardy provision of relevant details / documents to facilitate informed decision making. Many matters not fully ventilated at the level of the forum are taken to the Ministerial council and decision handed down which compromise the capabilities of the Fisheries Division as they are taken out of context.

12. Do you think you could/should be more active in the implementation of CRFM activities in your country?
Yes / 8.... /
No /...1... /

Any additional comments:

That may be so due to small staff hence many times activities clash i.e. Local and CRFM.

Turks and Caicos Islands is currently in a state of limbo due to the suspension of the constitution, leaving a lot of room for innovative action.

Need for better reporting mechanisms and coordination.

Reorganization / expansion of the Fisheries Forum and Executive Committee.

Sometimes depending on circumstances and issues.

Limited time does not allow department heads the luxury of spending the required time on CRFM issues as they may be seen as distant from everyday concerns.

CRFM should make better use of the regional pool of technical experts in the implementation of the regional and national activities. This needs to be transmitted to cooperating and donor agencies when programs/projects are executed in the region.

Many initiatives are pursued by the Secretariat without the knowledge of the key component of the CRFM the States that comprise the mechanism. The Secretariat is fully aware of the institutional shortcomings of all fisheries division of the region and are also fully aware that the responsibilities that keep emerging cannot be fully addressed by the division so documents may not be followed up given the number of emerging issues impacting fisheries and the range of responsibilities and changing priorities in small fisheries administrations.

13. Do you think the work of CRFM was
1. Very good /1...../
 2. Good /5...../
 3. Satisfactory /3...../
 4. Regular /...../
 5. Not satisfactory /...../

No	Your observations on the performance of CRFM organs, working programmes, etc. specifically with respect to:	Very good	satisfactory	Not satisfactory	No opinion
1.	Conservation and management	1	7		1
2.	Compliance and enforcement		6	1	2
3.	Decision-making and dispute settlement		6		3
4.	International Cooperation	2	6		1
5.	Financial and administrative issues		8		1

14. How do you judge CRFM work in the field of ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)?

1. Very good /1.../
2. Good /3.../
3. Satisfactory /4.../
4. Regular /...../
5. Not satisfactory /1.../

Any additional comments:

none

15. How do you judge CRFM cooperation with other organizations / donors?

No	Importance	Very important	somehow important	Not important
1.	FAO	9		
2.	WECAFC	8	1	
3.	ICCAT	8	1	
4.	OSPESCA	8	1	1 NA
5.	INFOPESCA	5	2	1 + 1 NA
6.	ACP FISH II	7	2	
7.	GEF	6	1	1 + 1 NA
8.	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project	6	2	
9.	Spain	5	4	
10.	JICA	7	2	
11.	USAID	5	3	1
12.	IFAD	3	4	1 + 1 NA
13.	DFID	4	4	1

Any additional comments on CRFM work with donors or organizations:

Needs to be coordinated and structured better.

All member states are NOT treated equally by donors and CRFM is not able to provide a level playing field for all members.

16. Any suggestions for improvements of CRFM performance if necessary?

Better communication between Secretariat and Fisheries Forum

- (i) Structural succession plan should be put in place
- (ii) Need to ensure that it is appropriately staffed to provide maximum returns out of its work plan.

More follow through on certain decisions made at the Forum and Scientific Meetings

There is a need for CRFM to create a unit that will be responsible for projects development, monitoring, execution and reporting to the Executive Director. This unit will allow the ED to dedicate valuable time to CRFM activities.

17. Have you participated in any CRFM capacity building activities?

No /.....1/

Yes / ...8./ (generally several times)

If yes, was the capacity building

6. Very good /...3.../

7. Good /...4.../

8. Satisfactory /...1.../

9. Regular /...../

10. Not satisfactory /...../

Any additional comments:

The Fisheries division has had a number of staff involved in capacity building interventions which were both relevant and appropriate for application at the national level

18. Any suggestions for future capacity building work of CRFM?

Should cater specifically to the needs of Member States

Training to be directed at the middle and junior levels of Fisheries Departments needs

More management training for fisheries staff, also statistics training and training for relevant staff in project writing or grant writing.

Building capacity in the fisheries division of CRFM member countries should be a priority, especially as it relates to fisheries dependant and independent data collection, data processing and analysis, fisheries stock assessment and report (technical) writing.

Further work in database development for catch and effort data clearly there remains a lacuna which needs to be addressed and some hard decisions taken in this regard learning from the past initiatives and building on the positive lessons.

Technologies extension methodologies

More socioeconomic studies

19. Are you using CRFM reports and information material?

	Yes	No	Sometimes
Printed workshop reports	7	1	1
Printed technical reports	8		1
Printed capacity building material	6	1	2
Website	8		1
newsletter	7	1	1

20. Do you think that the following CRFM information material is?

	Very useful	Useful	Not useful	No opinion
Printed workshop reports	3	5		1
Printed technical reports	5	4		
Printed capacity building material	3	5		1
Website	4	5		
newsletter	2	6	1	

CRFM: List of Projects carried out and closed in the period 2002 – November 2012

No.	Start Date	End Date	Title	Donor / Partner	Budget	Member States included
1.	March 1999	April 2005	Fisheries Component of the Integrated Caribbean Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme – First Cycle, Second Cycle, Extension and Third Cycle	European Development Fund	US\$5,853,973	CARIFORUM Countries
2.	October 2002	December 2002	Training Course in Fisheries Management in Japan	Japan International Cooperation Agency	US\$400,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
3.	February 2002	January 2005	Community-Based Coastal Resource Management – Caribbean: Phase II	International Development Research Centre	CAD 518,900	Countries of Wider Caribbean
4.	March 2003	June 2003	Training Workshop entitled: “Fisheries Statistics and Data Management”	SIFAR/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	US\$40,000 ⁸⁵	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
5.	July 2003	August 2003	Organization and implementation of an ACP Fish II Feasibility Study regional workshop on “Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries”	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	US\$80,000 ⁸⁶	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
6.	March 2004	July 2004	Implementation of Needs Assessment	Technical Centre for	Euro 25,100	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas,

⁸⁵ Estimated partial contribution of FAO⁸⁶ Estimated cost

			Research of Caribbean Fisher Folk Organisations	Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)		Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
7.	May 2004	May 2005	Fisheries Subsidy Negotiation (Regional Workshop on issues to trade in fishery product)	Commonwealth Secretariat	£80,000	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
8.	May 2004	August 2005	(i) Conduct a Comparative Study on the use of demographic indicators in coastal areas and fisheries management between the Caribbean and selected countries in Southeast Asia, i.e. Malaysia and the Philippines (ii) Organization of a regional workshop on the collection of demographic information on coastal fishing communities and its use in community based fisheries and integrated coastal zone management in the Caribbean	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	US\$83,485	The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
9.	October 2004	January 2013	Training Programme on Ocean Governance (up to 5 scholarships per year for fisheries personnel)	Dalhousie University / International Ocean Institute (IOI)	US\$801,618	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
10.	July 2005	July 2005	Queen Conch Underwater Survey	NOAA, CRFM and the Directorate of Fisheries in the Dominican Republic	US\$20,000	Dominican Republic

11.	January 2003	October 2003	Strengthening participatory management (involvement of fisherfolk in planning and decision-making)	Spanish Government	US\$45,000 ⁸⁷	CARICOM countries
12.	February 2006	January 2008	Support meetings of Ad hoc Legal Working Group on the Common Fisheries Policy	CARICOM Secretariat	US\$90,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
13.	July 2006	August 2006	Development of the Common Fisheries Policy (Study tour of Canadian fisheries)	CIDA funded CCDP Project	US\$30,000	CARICOM Secretariat and CRFM Secretariat
14.	September 2006	December 2008	Partnership Contract: Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organizations	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)	Euro 401,850	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
15.	June 2006	July 2006	Development of Common Fisheries Policy (Study of EU common fisheries policy)	EU	\$30,000	CARICOM and CRFM Secretariats
16.	March 2007	September 2007	Review of Turks and Caicos Islands Protected Area System	Gov of the TCI	US\$8,000	Turks and Caicos Islands
17.	March 2008	March 2011	Enhance Institutional capacity in fisheries in the Caribbean by providing post-graduate fellowships and short training courses to professionals from the CRFM Member States who are actively working in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector	United Nations University – Fisheries Training Programme	US\$330,000	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Island
18.	December 2008	May 2012	Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in CARICOM	Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID)	Euro 231,600	CARICOM Countries
19.	March 2009	March 2012	Formulation of Master Plan on Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources for Coastal Community Development in the Caribbean	Japan International Cooperation Agency	US\$4,900,000	CARICOM countries

⁸⁷ Local cost only. The cost of international experts were covered directly by the Government of Spain and are not included here.

20.	August 2009	December 2010	Launching and Capacity Development of the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organisations	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)	Euro 66,429	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
21.	November 2009	June 2011	Leadership Training for Heads of National Fisheries Department in the CARICOM states	Government of Iceland in partnership with UNU-FTP	US\$121,554	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
22.	November 2009	December 2011	Caribbean Stock Assessment Training Course	Government of Iceland in partnership with UNU-FTP	US\$148,774	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
23.	January 2012	June 2012	Project Cycle Management Training Workshop for Chief and Senior Fisheries Officers of CARICOM States	United Nations - Fisheries Training Programme	US\$89,600	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
24.	January 2012	March 2012	Promoting the Development of Good Practices for Quality Assurance and Marketing of Fish and Fish Products	Japan International Cooperation Agency	US\$27,113	Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada
25.	June 2012	August 2012	Promoting the Development of Good Practices for Fisheries Management	Japan International Cooperation Agency	US\$40,407	Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada
26.	September 2012	October 2012	A (1-day) Independent Performance Review Workshop	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	US\$16,000	Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname
27.	May 2012	October 2012	Joint High Meeting CRFM / OSPESCA	Multiple donors (OSPESCA/CLME, CRFM, PACT, Gov	US\$115,000	SICA / CARICOM/CRFM countries

				Belize, Rainforest Seafood, FAO)		
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CRFM: List of On-going Projects

No.	Start Date	End Date	Title	Donor / Projects	Budget	Member States Covered
1.	December 2007	May 2013	ACP Fish II Project	EU	€3,164,000	CARIFORUM countries
2.	October 2011	May-2013	Strengthen capacity of Chief and Senior Fisheries Officers from CARICOM Member States in international fisheries law and fisheries management, including monitoring, control and surveillance systems	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)	AUD 450,000	Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname
3.	August 2011	August 2013	An Outreach Solution to Strengthen the Capacity of Fisher Folks Organizations in Sustaining Caribbean Fishery Resources	University of Florida Sea Grant	US\$240,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
4.	July 2012	July 2015	Enhance Institutional capacity in fisheries in the Caribbean by providing post-graduate fellowships to professionals from the CRFM Member States who are actively working in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector	United Nations University – Fisheries Training Programme	US\$420,000	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
5.	September 2012	January 2013	(i) Regional Workshop to Validate the Draft Independent Performance Review of CRFM (ii) FAO / CRFM / WECAFC Regional Small-Scale Fisheries Workshop (iii) FAO / CRFM Regional Workshop to Validate Draft Report of Review of Current Fisheries Management	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	US\$268,420	Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France (Martinique), Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the

			Performance and Conservation Measures in the WECAFC Region (iv) FAO / CRFM / CDEMA / CCCCC / WECAFC Regional Workshop on Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM Region			Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, United States Virgin Island, Bolivia Republic of Venezuela
6.	October 2012	Dec 2013	Implementing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy: Positioning and engaging fisher folk organisations	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)	Euro 117,956	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
7.	November 2010	Dec 2012	Case Study on Large Pelagic Fishery	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions (CLME)	US\$243,047	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, French West Indies (Martinique and Guadeloupe), Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, The Turks and Caicos Islands, United States of America, Venezuela
8.	December 2010	Dec 2012	Case Study on Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions (CLME)	US\$265,000	Barbados, Dominica, France (Martinique), Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

List of reports and number of participants in Workshops / Annual Scientific Meetings (as of 9 September 2012)

CRFM Fishery Reports (from the Website)	LOCATION	DATE	NO. PARTICIPANTS	Male	Female	length of document (pages)	ISSN Codes
Report of Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	16 - 24 June 2011				65	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	16 - 24 June 2011				75	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	16 - 24 June 2011	33	18	13	169	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Sixth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	07 - 16 June 2010				55	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Sixth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	07 - 16 June 2010				41	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Sixth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	07 - 16 June 2010	26	15	10	109	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	09 - 18 June 2009	26	10	13	167	ISSN 1995-1434

Report of Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	09 - 18 June 2009				60	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Fifth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	09 - 18 June 2009				42	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Fourth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10 - 20 June 2008	29	16	13	221	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Fourth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10 - 20 June 2008				76	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Fourth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10 - 20 June 2008	18	9	8	48	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Fourth Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10 - 20 June 2008				54	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Third Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17 - 26 July 2007	36	18	14	183	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Third Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17 - 26 July 2007				61	ISSN 1998-1015

Report of Third Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17 - 26 July 2007	15	7	8	57	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Third Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17 - 26 July 2007				54	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Second Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	13 - 22 March 2006	39	24	15	188	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of Second Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 1	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	13 - 22 March 2006				48	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Second Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1, Supplement 2	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	13 - 22 March 2006	23	12	11	93	ISSN 1998-1015
Report of Second Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	13 - 22 March 2006	6	3	3	52	ISSN 1995-1434
Report of First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting	Villa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	28 - 30 June 2004	32	22	10	319	
Report of the Multidisciplinary Survey of the Fisheries of Haiti	CRFM Secretariat - Belize	24 November 2003				39	
Strategic Review for Upgrading the Organizational and Institutional Arrangements and Capabilities of the Department of Fisheries in Haiti	Bennekom, The Netherlands	20 August 2002	14	10	4	71	

Regional Overview of Queen Conch Resources in CARICOM / CARIFORUM Countries	McGill University Montreal, Quebec, Canada	August 2002					
Antigua and Barbuda Queen Conch Abundance Survey (1999) - Report No.7		February 2001				24	
Marine Fisheries Census of Jamaica, 1998 - CARICOM Fishery Report No. 8							
Report of the 2000 Caribbean Pelagic and Reef Fisheries Assessment and Management Workshop - Report No.9	Caribbee Hotel, Barbados	05 - 07 June 2000	27	17	10	135	
Report of the 2002 Joint Meeting of the CRFM LPWG / RSWG / SCPWG - Report No.10	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	25 - 29 November 2002	22	11	11	183	
Review of the data collection and Management Systems of the Marine Fisheries in Suriname						53	
Review of the data collection and Management Systems of the Marine Fisheries in Dominican Republic						53	
Review of the data collection and Management Systems of the Marine Fisheries in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas						57	

Report of the Multidisciplinary Survey of the Fisheries of The Bahamas						99	
Report of the Multidisciplinary Survey of the Fisheries of the Dominican Republic						87	
Report of the Multidisciplinary Survey of the Fisheries of Suriname						47	
Strategic Review for Upgrading the Organizational and Institutional Arrangements and capabilities of the Fisheries Department in Suriname						106	
Strategic Review for Upgrading the Organizational and Institutional Arrangements and capabilities of the Fisheries Department in Guyana						98	
A Regional overview of Spiny Lobster Resources in CARICOM / CARIFORUM Countries						17	
Stock Abundance and Potential Yield of the Queen Conch Resource in BELIZE		October 1996				15	
Catch, Effort, and CPUE trends for Offshore Pelagic fisheries in and Adjacent to the exclusive economic Zones of Several CARICOM states						94	

In addition to the above publications downloaded from the web-site of CARICOM there are also the following original copies of publications:

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Report of Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 1	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	16 - 24 June 2011	33	17	16	181	ISSN 1995-1426
Report of Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting - VOLUME 2	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	16 - 24 June 2011					ISSN 1995-1426
Report and Proceedings of the Tenth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum	Nassau, The Bahamas	26 - 28 March 2012	35	23	12	124	ISSN 1995-4808
Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in CARICOM Fishing Communities - VALIDATION WORKSHOP	Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	01 - 02 February 2012	40	23	17	26	ISSN 1995-1124
Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in CARICOM Fishing Communities - POLICY DOCUMENT		May 2012				25	ISSN 1995-1124
Diagnostic Study to Determine Poverty Levels in CARICOM Fishing Communities - TECHNICAL DOCUMENT		May 2012	41	24	17	398	ISSN 1995-1124

Report and Proceedings of: CANARI / CRFM / UWI - CERMES workshop on Regional Fisherfolk Org. Policy Influence and Planning	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	13 - 15 January 2009	20	14	6	104	ISSN 1995-1124
Report of the CRFM / CTA Training Workshop on Management, Comm. and Advocacy for Fisherfolk Organisations	Palm Haven Hotel, St. Lucia	22 September - 3 October 2008	34	25	9	77	ISSN 1995-1124
Workbook for the CRFM / CTA Training Workshop on Management, Communication and Advocacy for Fisher Folk Organisations in CARIFORUM - Supplement1	Palm Haven Hotel, St. Lucia	22 September - 3 October 2008				67	ISSN 1995-1124
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Second Medium Term Plan						129	ISSN 1995-5294