



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development



WESTERN TROPICAL ATLANTIC REGION

REGIÓN ATLÁNTICO TROPICAL OCCIDENTAL

RÉGION ATLANTIQUE TROPICALE OCCIDENTALE

LEVERAGING THE VISION OF **FAO-WECAFC** TO SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND SYNERGIES FOR SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED AND PRODUCTIVE OCEANS IN THE **WTA**

ERIC WADE & YVETTE DIEI OUADI
FAO-WECAFC SECRETARIAT

One Planet, One Ocean / Un Planeta, Un Océano / Une planète, un océan

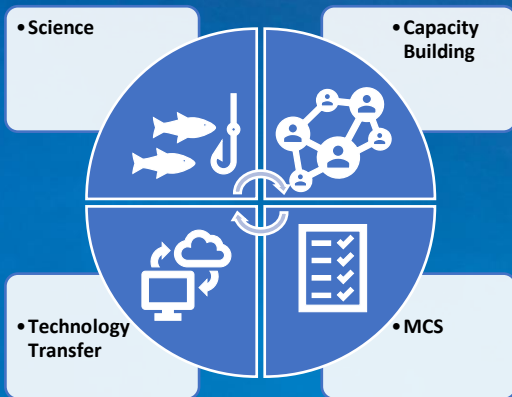
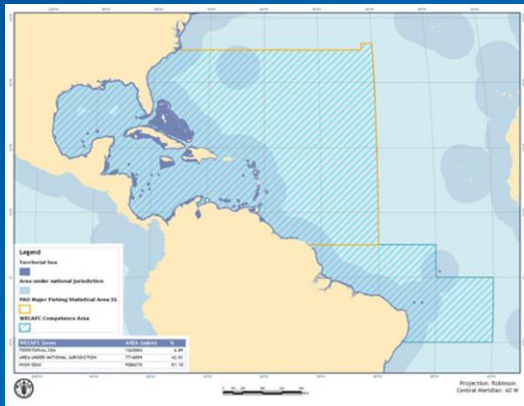
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THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WECAFC

- WECAFC mandate is built on sound coordinated actions and regional cooperation
- Promotion of effective conservation, management, and development of living marine resources of the area of competence



LINKING FAO-WECAFC VISION & THE WTA REGION

- Fisheries production in the Wider Caribbean Region has declined by 40 percent over the last two decades. Fifty-five percent of commercially harvested fishery stocks are overexploited or depleted, and 40 percent of stocks are currently fully exploited. WECAFC is tagged to be among one of the world's most overexploited regions.
- "...fisheries is fully recognized for its contribution to fighting poverty, hunger and malnutrition, its ability to prepare for and respond to changing climate and ocean conditions, and its commitment to sustainability" (FAO, 2021).
- "Acknowledge that in order to scale up recent fisheries sustainability successes we need to implement and improve fisheries assessment and management systems in all regions, particularly in those where fish stock status is declining or unknown..." (FAO, 2021).



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OPPORTUNITIES & SYNERGIES

- Regional partnerships to develop concerted approaches on both the resources and the health of marine environments, cross fertilization, and capacity building, economies of scale in effectively achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- Positions the WTA, WECAFC, and partners with the right access to data and information
- Harnessing the power of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in supporting and tackling sustainability (IUU fishing, traceability, and data management)



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OPERATIONALIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES

- The WECAFC Secretariat has taken an active role in the facilitation of regional partnerships to accomplish sustainable fisheries and ocean systems.
 1. The WECAFC Scientific Advisory Group: combining regional expertise of member States and partners including CRFM, CFMC, OSPESCA, CITES, IFREMER, NOAA-Fisheries
 2. The development and endorsed Strategic Action Plan for the CLME+ region, leveraging partnerships of more than 20 countries, UN agencies, and IGOs.
 3. Technical and scientific contributions to enable the Programme of Work



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CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- WECAFC mandate supports coordinated action and cooperation
- FAO vision acknowledges the existing and emerging issues facing fisheries and aquaculture. It reiterates the need to scale up sustainability measures
- Concerted approach to leverage the power of ICT in tackling new and emerging issues in WECAFC and the WTA.



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MUCHAS GRACIAS

THANK YOU

MERCI BEAUCOUP

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