

- A. An overview of a regional fishery body, with emphasis on the type serving as a regional fishery management organization; and**
- B. A preliminary examination of the issues pertaining to establishment of a regional fishery management organization within the Caribbean region**

Discussion Paper (*REVISED 8 APRIL 2005*)

Prepared by S. Singh-Renton, CRFM Secretariat
for

The Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Common Fisheries Regime.

I. Introduction

1. A Regional Fishery Body (RFB) can be defined as a mechanism through which three or more States or international organizations that are parties to an international fishery agreement or arrangement collaboratively engage each other in multilateral management of fishery affairs related to transboundary, straddling, highly migratory or high seas stocks, through the collection and provision of scientific information and data, serving as technical and policy forum, or taking decisions pertaining to the development and conservation, management and responsible utilization of the resources (FAO, 1999).

2. At present, there are over 40 RFBs in existence (Table 1). Eleven (11) such bodies were established in accordance with the FAO Constitution and are therefore classified as FAO bodies, e.g. IOTC, WECAFC. The other existing RFBs are non-FAO bodies, having been established under international agreements among three (3) or more contracting parties, e.g. ICCAT.

3. All RFBs usually carry out advisory functions, while others may have the additional authority to carry out regulatory functions, i.e. adopt and enforce conservation and management measures. A RFB that carries out both advisory and regulatory functions as well is referred to as a regional fishery management organization (RFMO).

4. The convention or agreement establishing an RFB / RFMO specifies the organizations' objectives, powers and functions, the resources and geographic range over which the RFB/RFMO has competence. It includes regulations for membership, meetings, representation, decision-making, voting, and structure. The convention or agreement usually also makes provisions for adopting rules of procedures, financial rules, Contracting Party obligations, establishment of subsidiary bodies, collaboration with other international organizations and for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Some conventions make additional provisions for flag state duties, port state duties and measures taken by port states, rules of compliance, application of the precautionary approach, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing activities, special requirements of Developing States and of non-parties to the convention (e.g. SEAFRC, WCPFC).

II. Role of a RFB / RFMO at the global level

5. A number of international fisheries instruments identify specific and notable roles for RFBs, particularly RFMOs. For example, the Agreement to promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement) urges States: to participate in sub-regional, regional or global management arrangements to ensure achievement of international conservation and management measures, to co-operate with each other in the exchange of information, and to provide assistance to Developing States to fulfill their obligations under the Agreement. The first two roles obviously fall within the mandate of a RFB/RFMO. The third role is often effected through reduced membership fees to facilitate Developing State participation in the activities of the RFB/RFMO. Assistance should also be reflected in a reduced burden of conservation action, although this is not always the case.

6. Similarly, 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 (the UN Fish Stocks Agreement) stipulates that States should become members of RFMOs where these exist, or at the minimum, should comply with conservation and management measures adopted by such bodies. Furthermore, RFBs/ RFMOs should serve to promote an integrated ecosystem-based approach to management, and application of the precautionary approach in all aspects of their work. The UN Fish Stocks Agreement also makes provisions for the establishment, as well as the strengthening, of RFMOs where needed and relevant.

7. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which is a voluntary instrument, highlights the importance of RFMOs in promoting understanding of the Code, as well as monitoring its application by member states. The Code also urges countries to collaborate at the relevant sub-regional or regional level to ensure achievement of conservation and management objectives adopted by regional organizations. International Plans of Action (IPOAs), such as the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (FAO, 2001), also highlight the usefulness of RFMOs for ensuring coordination of actions taken by their member states in order to gain maximum impact from implementation of the IPOAs (see also Swan, 2000).

8. The pivotal role expected of RFMOs in ensuring the successful implementation of internal fisheries agreements and IPOAs, and hence effective realization of an agreed international fisheries order, therefore lies in recognition of the fact that they provide an essential practical link between global and national levels of fisheries governance (Bonzon, 2003).

9. In executing their advisory functions, RFBs/ RFMOs produce valuable reports on the status and management of stocks included in their mandates. Such reports are used as key references by FAO for preparing global overviews, and identifying trends and issues that need to be addressed at the global level through fora such as FAO's Committee on Fisheries

(COFI). Recent global fisheries conference debates have received worldwide attention, particularly in view of the growing evidence of the rapidly deteriorating status of many of the world's fisheries resources and the urgent need for improved fisheries governance (Watson *et al.*, 2001; FAO, 2002).

10. The convention or agreement establishing a RFB/RFMO usually prescribes collaboration with other regional fisheries bodies, as may be needed to help the RFB/RFMO fulfill its mandate. Hence, ICCAT collaborates closely with: FAO in respect of reported tuna fisheries statistics, GFCM in respect of tuna statistics, research and management issues pertaining to the Mediterranean Sea, CCLAMR regarding assessment and management of southern bluefin tuna. ICCAT also participates in meetings of other regional fishery bodies and organizations, e.g. ICES, whenever the issues being addressed are relevant to the work of ICCAT. Such a collaborative network arrangement allows valuable exchanges of information and experiences that help to advance regional governance efforts, harmonize their growth and development, and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

III. Role of a RFB / RFMO at the regional and sub-regional levels

11. As noted previously, RFBs carry out advisory functions, with some also able to perform regulatory functions.

RFB (provision of advice only)

12. A RFB would normally serve an advisory and possibly also a consultative function in respect of specified fisheries issues, such as research, development, and management. For example, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), which was established in 1947, is classified as a scientific body. The convention establishing the SPC endowed its Commission with both advisory and consultative powers in respect of matters pertaining to social and economic development of the territories within the scope of the Commission. Interestingly, the SPC activities are not limited to fisheries projects, but include activities in other areas such as agriculture, education and social development, economics, forestry, health and medicine.

13. The International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is also classified as a scientific body. The ICES Convention notes the duties of the body as follows:

“(a) to promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea particularly those related to the living resources thereof;

(b) to draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organise, in agreement with the Contracting Parties, such research and investigations as may appear necessary;

(c) to publish or otherwise disseminate the results of research and investigations carried out under its auspices or to encourage the publication thereof.” {Source: www.ices.dk}.

14. In respect of fisheries matters, the primary type of advice provided is scientific advice that is needed to inform development of management and policy directions. Such advice therefore includes various types of information: resource biology and ecology, resource

status, social and economic trends, the range of possible management options with their attendant risks, options for application of the precautionary approach, etc. In order to fulfill its advisory functions, the RFB normally engages in activities aimed at collecting the necessary data and information on the resources of interest.

15. There are three possible ways in which the RFB can gather and process scientific information. The RFB may use an external scientific body for data collection and analysis, e.g. the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) relies on a separate body, ICES, for collection and processing of the required scientific information. In other instances, such as ICCAT and IOTC, an internal scientific body, essentially composed of scientists of member countries, is responsible for handling the scientific aspects of the work. For most FAO RFBs, the development of scientific advice is normally managed through the use of ad hoc working groups and technical consultations (FAO, 1999). In all cases, the member states are responsible for collecting a certain amount of basic fisheries data and for reporting these data to the RFB concerned in a timely fashion, so as to facilitate regular updating of resource status information, required for management decision-making. In the case of scientific research, the RFB normally plays a coordinating and planning role, with implementation handled by individual member states.

RFB/ RFMO (advisory and regulatory function)

16. In addition to serving advisory functions as described in the previous section for a RFB, a RFB/RFMO carries out a regulatory function that normally involves adoption and enforcement of management and conservation measures, as well as settlement of disputes.

17. More often than not, fisheries management decisions need to take into account not only the biological status of the resource being exploited, but also social and economic conditions within the fisheries concerned, and the practicality of implementation. Political considerations can also complicate the process. Such decisions can be adopted either by consensus or by a majority vote: the former option is generally preferred as decisions tend to receive wider support, but the latter option offers the advantage of avoiding risky delays in urgently needed management action. Some RFMOs can make binding decisions. In other cases, the RFMO makes recommendations that become binding after an agreed time period has elapsed without objections from any member state, e.g. The International Whaling Commission (IWC), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Marine Resource (CCAMLR), the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic tunas (ICCAT), International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC). Except in a few cases, monitoring, control and surveillance of implementation of the agreed regulations is the responsibility of individual member states. Some RFMOs have established some level of agreed regional MCS capability, to nurture greater co-operation and confidence among the member states concerned; for example, the Scheme of Control and Enforcement, introduced by the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in 1999, makes provisions for standardization of vessel and gear markings, surveillance and inspection methods,

recruitment and duties of inspection officers, management of infringements, etc. (Swan, 2000).

18. In respect of settlement of disputes, the RFB/RFMO normally applies procedures such as arbitration, mediation, etc.

IV. Structure of a RFB / RFMO

19. The convention or agreement establishing the RFB/RFMO usually makes provisions for the creation, operation, and evolution of an organizational structure suitable for serving its needs. The activities and meetings of a RFB/RFMO are usually coordinated by a Secretariat based in one of the member states. To fulfill its advisory functions, various subsidiary bodies, such as working groups and committees, are also often established by the RFB/RFMO to facilitate concentrated effort in areas of work requiring special attention, such as statistics, species assessments, and application of the precautionary approach.

RFB – example of the structure of a scientific advisory body

20. ICES, which provides scientific advice and information, has established over one hundred (100) working groups, eight (8) science committees and three (3) advisory committees to deal with a range of technical and scientific issues. While it is impossible to provide a complete listing of the ICES working groups here, a list of the 8 science committees follow: fisheries technology, oceanography, resource management, marine habitat, mariculture, living resources, Baltic ecosystem, and diadromous fish resources. The names of the science committees provide some indication of the nature of their work.

21. Similarly, the 3 advisory committees are: (i) the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) which advises on the status of fish and shellfish stocks and which is the official scientific advisory body for four Commissions (Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), Commission of the European Union (EC); (ii) the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (ACME) which advises on the health/ status of the environment and which is an advisory body to two (2) Commissions (Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM); and (iii) the Advisory Committee on Ecosystems (ACE) which advises on the status and outlook of marine ecosystems.

22. ICES working groups report to the relevant science committees, which in turn report to the relevant advisory committees. A Consultative Committee oversees all aspects of the work of ICES, and a Management Committee on the Advisory Process (MCAP) serves to manage the ICES advisory processes, and to provide strategic direction and leadership for them. Figure 1 provides a schematic illustration of the ICES structure. As may be expected from a RFB that specializes in the provisions of technical and scientific

advice, ICES produces a number of information products, including the well-known scientific journal, 'Journal Du Conseil', annual reports, working group papers (C.M. documents); ICES Fisheries Statistics; CD ROMs; special publications (symposia reports and cooperative research reports), newsletter, etc. Such publications provide a chronological record of the science and information advice generated by ICES, as well as the evolution of this. Such publications therefore also serve as proof of fulfillment of the ICES mandate.

23. The ICES Secretariat consists of thirty-seven (37) staff for providing secretarial, administrative and scientific support at various levels. The present level of scientific support at the ICES Secretariat covers the following areas: data management, computer systems management; data systems analysis; science programme coordination; fisheries assessment; coordination of ICES advisory programmes and ICES contributions to global scientific programmes such as GLOBEC.

RFB – example of the structure of a scientific and management advisory body

24. An example of a RFB that is a scientific and management advisory body is the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). WECAFC facilitates the coordination of research, education and training, and advises on policy directions for promotion of rational management of shared resources. To assist the Commission to fulfill these objectives, WECAFC has established the following subsidiary bodies: the Working Party on Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources; the Working Party on Fishery Economics and Planning; the Committee for Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles; and a Scientific Advisory Group. In addition, several ad hoc working groups, which examine a range of issues ranging from fisheries technology to stock assessment, have been active in the provision of advice and information. Like ICES, the advice and information produced by WECAFC activities are documented in several information products, such as Commission meeting reports, and reports of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the ad hoc working groups. Being established in accordance with the FAO Constitution, the WECAFC structure receives additional technical support and expertise for its work from the central FAO structure that serves similar needs in fisheries at the global level (see Figure 2).

RFMO – example of the structure of an advisory and management body

25. A RFB, which carries out both advisory and regulatory functions and which is effectively a RFMO, establishes subsidiary bodies to address matters of advice, as well as formulation and enforcement of conservation and management strategies.

26. The example of ICCAT is presented here, owing to the author's familiarity with the activities of this Body. ICCAT is a RFMO with responsibility for conservation of Atlantic tuna and tuna like species. The ICCAT Convention Area includes the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas, such as the Mediterranean Sea, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. Figure 3 provides a schematic illustration of ICCAT's organizational structure.

27. ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), supported by three (3) sub-committees and eleven (11) working groups and ad hoc working groups, is the principal subsidiary body that provides scientific and management advice to the ICCAT Commission. The sub-committees and working groups address statistics, research and stock assessment issues similar to those examined by the ICES committees and working groups. The ICCAT SCRS produces an annual report that includes reports and specific recommendations from the various working groups and sub-committees. The SCRS report is then forwarded to the Commission to inform review, development, adoption and amendment of conservation and management measures, as needed. Both the SCRS and the Commission hold annual on-site meetings.

28. Other ICCAT subsidiary bodies include: (i) the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD), which as the name implies, is concerned with reviewing and managing the Commission's financial matters and prioritizing proposed work and related expenditures;

(ii) The Compliance Committee (COC), which reviews compliance by ICCAT Member States with agreed conservation and management measures, and determines punitive actions, as required;

(iii) The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), which reviews compliance by non-member states, and determines punitive actions, as required; and

(iv) Four species panels, which review the scientific and management advice produced by the SCRS, and formulate conservation and management regulations for formal adoption and enforcement by the Commission.

In addition, working groups to review and advise on handling of special management issues have also recently been established by ICCAT, e.g. Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures, Working Group on Process and Criteria for the Establishment of IUU Trade-restrictive Measures; Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management.

29. The ICCAT Commission is served by a Secretariat that is currently based in Spain. The Commission elects an Executive Secretary, who is responsible for managing all aspects of the operations of the secretariat and for reporting to the Commission on work progress. The ICCAT Secretariat consists of five (5) departments: the Department of Administration and Finance that manages budgetary, personnel and general office administration matters; the Language Department that is responsible for translation of all ICCAT meeting documents into the three official languages of the Commission; the Department of Scientific Coordination and Research that provides coordination support for the work of the SCRS and ICCAT research programmes; the Department of Compliance that manages data used for evaluating compliance, e.g. vessel lists, trade data; and the Department of Statistics that maintains the ICCAT scientific databases.

30. The above examples show underlying similarities in the RFB structures described. Essentially, the nature of the proposed activity of the RFB, whether advisory and/or regulatory, will determine the need for establishment of one or more subsidiary bodies,

which are often supported by working groups. The final decisions and outputs are reviewed and endorsed by a central principal organ which is usually also the decision-making body, e.g. the Bureau in the case of ICES and the Commission in the case of WECAFC and ICCAT.

V. FAO RFBs vs non-FAO RFBs

31. Of the eleven (11) RFBs established under the FAO Constitution, only three (3) carry out a regulatory role (Table 1). A recent review (FAO, 1999) of the performance of FAO and non-FAO RFBs revealed certain important differences worthy of mention here.

32. While the expenses of non-FAO bodies are covered by their member states, FAO bodies tend to rely solely on the parent body (FAO) for funding their activities. As FAO funding has become more limited in recent times, this has restricted the capability of FAO bodies to make independent progress with respect to capacity building and conduct of research needed to inform development of management strategies.

33. Additionally, FAO bodies are regarded as owned by FAO and not by the member states; hence, the ownership of and level of commitment to the FAO body is generally not as good as in the case of non-FAO bodies. Having noted this, FAO bodies tend to enjoy wider membership than non-FAO bodies. The more restricted membership of non-FAO bodies is likely related to the more specific management focus and limited geographic range in respect of the tasks and functions that characterize the responsibility of many such bodies.

34. At present, FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) provides a forum for coordinating the work of FAO bodies at the global level, and this has been very useful in nurturing international collaboration in handling common issues and problems, and fostering the establishment of international standards in fisheries governance. While it is true that FAO prepares global reviews using data, information, and regional fisheries status reports produced by the full range of RFBs, there is currently no formal global forum for coordinating the activities and exchange of information among non-FAO bodies.

VI. RFMO Membership and Contribution Formula

35. In respect of membership contributions to a RFB/ RFMO, the simplest arrangement requires equal contributions by all member states. This is practical only in instances where member states share an equal level of economic development, e.g. the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). In most cases, however, the membership contribution formula is developed in accordance with a suite of agreed criteria, e.g. ICCAT. Usually, there is a basic minimum amount paid by all member states. Remaining portions of the RFB/ RFMO's budget may then be allocated to member states based on other criteria: for example (i) membership of subsidiary bodies where this can differ because of the specific issues addressed by these bodies; (ii) level of fish

production; (iii) fish processing activities; and (iv) economic development status. Generally, member states with higher fish harvest levels contribute proportionally more to the relevant portion of the RFB/ RFMO's budget.

36. Again, given the author's familiarity with ICCAT, the current and proposed new ICCAT membership contribution calculation schemes are noted here for further illustration only.

Until 2005, ICCAT Contracting Parties pay annual contributions that are calculated based on the following formula:

- (i) Basic contribution of US\$1,000;
- (ii) US\$1,000 for each species panel membership (there are four species panels: tropical tunas; swordfish, billfishes and small tunas; northern temperate tunas; southern temperate tunas);
- (iii) One-third of remaining budget (i.e. that is not covered by the basic fee and panel membership fees) is divided proportionally in respect of the payment of the basic fee and panel membership fees;
- (iv) Two-thirds of the remaining budget is divided among Parties in proportion to the total reported catches of tuna and tuna-like species (in round weight) and the net weights of canned tuna products.

37. A new ICCAT membership contribution calculation scheme has entered into force, and will be put into effect from 2006. It should be noted that the new formula is intended to reduce the financial burden on less developed countries. The formula follows:

- (i) Basic fee of US\$1,000;
- (ii) US\$1,000 for each panel membership;
- (iii) 0.25% of budget is assigned to countries with per capita GNP < US\$2,000 and combined catch and canned production < 5,000 mt (Category D);
- (iv) 1.0% of the budget is assigned to countries with per capita GNP > US\$2,000 OR combined catch and canned production > 5,000 mt (Category C);
- (v) 3.0% of the budget is assigned to countries with per capita GNP > US\$2,000 AND combined catch and canned production > 5,000 mt (Category B);
- (vi) Remaining budget (after assignment to other groups) is assigned to countries with developed market economies (Category A).

VII. Need for RFB / RFMO within the Caribbean region

38. With the development of the 1982 (UNCLOS) and 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreements, as well as other related legal instruments (e.g. Compliance Agreement), all fishing countries are obliged to play a larger role in ensuring optimal and sustainable exploitation of fish resources within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). In respect of highly migratory and straddling fish resources, these agreements also oblige countries to establish appropriate regional management arrangements and to cooperate fully with such arrangements where they exist and are relevant.

39. Regional fisheries initiatives implemented by CFRAMP, ICRAFD, and FAO have all helped to establish common accepted standards for fisheries data collection, analysis, and reporting. Ad hoc research projects conducted at both the national and regional levels, have also contributed, and continue to contribute, to improved understanding of the biology and ecology of the region's living marine resources. However, until the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), there had been no formal channel for communication of the scientific advice to a decision-making forum within the region *at regular intervals*.

40. Apart from ICCAT, which is responsible for coordinating conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species within the Atlantic Ocean including the Caribbean Sea, no regional fishery management organization has been established to coordinate conservation and management of other types of shared fish, as well as shellfish, resources occurring throughout the entire Caribbean region. The ICCAT Convention covers tuna and tuna-like species within the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. The list of species of interest to ICCAT includes large tunas, billfishes, small tunas, tuna-like species, and sharks. The ICCAT mandate does not include dolphinfish. Moreover, ICCAT's SCRS has noted that because of the probable restricted distributions of stocks of small tuna species, these resources could be assessed and managed at the sub-regional and regional levels (CRFM, 2005; ICCAT, 2004). Furthermore, many of the shellfish fisheries within the Caribbean region, such as those for shrimp, lobster and queen conch, are of even greater immediate importance to the countries concerned because of the revenues gained. Given that these key shellfish resources are likely shared by two or more countries, regional cooperation for achieving sustainable fisheries management is an absolute necessity.

41. The resources of initial primary concern to a Caribbean RFMO would therefore likely include: shrimp, groundfish, lobster, conch, small coastal pelagic resources; small tunas recommended for sub-regional and regional evaluation by ICCAT; dolphinfish; some reef and deep water demersal resources. While it is possible to establish a RFMO for each resource type or even for a single species, it may be more efficient, as well as cost-effective, to establish a single RFMO to address the full range of shared living marine resources of importance with the Caribbean region.

VIII. Mandate of Caribbean RFMO

42. The information presented in section VII indicates the need for establishment of a RFMO within the Caribbean to coordinate statistics, research and management of all transboundary, straddling and high seas resources that occur within the Caribbean region, and which are currently not managed by another RFMO. Statistics and research would have to be included in the mandate if the management body is expected to depend on an internal scientific body for provision of the essential scientific and management advice. The high seas resources to be managed by the Caribbean RFMO, should be those resources that are either *not* included in the ICCAT mandate or which can be adequately managed at the regional and sub-regional level as stipulated by ICCAT. Hence, the

establishment of a Caribbean RFMO should include negotiations with ICCAT to reach an agreement concerning the sharing of RFMO responsibilities in respect of those small tuna and tuna-like species with distributions restricted within the Caribbean region and which are a management concern for the founding countries.

43. The most suitable geographic range of coverage by a Caribbean RFMO would appear to be the area currently defined by the WECAFC Convention, as follows:

“The Commission's area of competence shall be all marine waters of the Western Central Atlantic bounded by a line drawn as follows:

From a point on the coast of South America at 10° 00'S latitude in a northerly direction along this coast past the Atlantic entry to the Panama Canal; thence continue along the coasts of central and North America to a point on this coast at 35° 00'N latitude; thence due east along this parallel to 42° 00' W longitude; thence due north along this meridian to 36° 00'N latitude; thence due east parallel to 40° 00'W longitude; thence due south along this meridian to 5° 00'N latitude; [thence due west along this parallel to the original point at 5° 00'N latitude on the coast of South America]; thence due east along this parallel to 30° 00'W longitude; thence due south along this meridian to the equator; thence due east along the equator to 20° 00'W Longitude; thence due south along this meridian to 10° 00'S latitude; thence due west along this parallel to the original point at 10° 00'S latitude on the coast of South America.” {Source: WECAFC, Convention, 1973}

44. The area defined under the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean region, adopted in Cartagena in 1983 (1983 Cartagena Convention) may also be appropriate.

Article 2 of this Convention states that

“The "Convention area" means the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the areas of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent thereto, south of 30 deg north latitude and within 200 nautical miles of the Atlantic coasts of the States referred to in article 25 of the Convention.” {Cartagena Convention, 1983}.

45. Consideration should probably also be given to defining different geographic ranges based on the various resources of interest. For instance, the southern Caribbean stock of Spanish mackerel may extend along the northern coast of Brazil and hence successful management of this stock would necessitate close cooperation among countries located within the southern Caribbean and including Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil.

IX. Structure of Caribbean RFMO

46. Two options warrant further examination.

Option 1 –

47. This option facilitates the provision of the scientific and management advice via an internal scientific body, and hence both advisory and regulatory functions are undertaken

by the RFMO, e.g. the ICCAT model. At the minimum, the convention establishing the Caribbean RFMO would therefore have to include the establishment of: a Commission; a secretariat; and options for establishment of scientific and management subsidiary bodies, as required and to accommodate evolution and strengthening of the RFMO. The scientific subsidiary bodies would likely include one or more science committees or sub-committees, supported by several working groups set up to address specific tasks such as: statistics, assessment methods, research and assessment of selected resources. The management subsidiary bodies would likely include committees and/or sub-committees, also supported by working groups, to address issues pertaining to: finance and administration; bilateral management of selected relevant stocks; sub-regional management of selected relevant stocks; regional management of selected relevant stocks; and compliance by member states.

48. This option could offer the advantage of parsimony, minimizing the financial support burden to member states, and streamlining scientific activities geared towards management application.

Option 2 –

49. Alternatively, the Caribbean RFMO could be established to carry out regulatory functions only, obtaining its scientific and management advice from a separate scientific body, e.g. the IBSFC-ICES relationship model. The RFMO would then need to establish only management subsidiary bodies, while the external scientific body would be responsible for establishing the scientific subsidiary bodies.

50. This option facilitates some level of independence with regard to the evolution of the science.

51. Within the Caribbean, whether the scientific body is internal or external to the RFMO, it should be able to operate and evolve successfully through development of a regional scientific network in which regional and national institutions and organizations could have the opportunity to refine and strengthen their skills and expertise in serving as centres of excellence for agreed areas of research and science. By this means, also, the scientific contribution to fisheries management within the region would come from wide cross-section of the scientific community.

X. Caribbean RFMO membership and representation

52. The extent to which the resources of interest are shared should determine the RFMO's membership needs. For instance, all countries fishing within the region should be eligible for membership of the Commission and the subsidiary scientific bodies. Depending on the rules defining eligibility for membership of the RFMO, it may be necessary to make provisions to accommodate Co-operating Parties to the Convention, as applied by ICCAT.

53. Notwithstanding open membership of the Caribbean RFMO Commission and of its scientific subsidiary bodies, and considering that some of the resources of interest may occur entirely within country EEZs, i.e. requiring bilateral or sub-regional coordination only, it may be necessary to consider establishing eligibility criteria for membership of certain special subsidiary management bodies established. For instance, certain shrimp stocks may occur entirely within the EEZs of countries located within the western Caribbean, i.e. within a subset of the Caribbean region. Consequently, a management subsidiary body, e.g. the Western Caribbean Shrimp Sub-committee (or Panel), may have to be established to deal with conservation and management of these resources specifically, with suitability membership eligibility criteria being (i) countries having these stocks, and (ii) countries with a clear and demonstrated interest in fishing for these stocks. Such flexibility in the membership structure, which shares some similarity with that of ICCAT (e.g. not all ICCAT Contracting Parties are automatically members of every ICCAT species panel), may be essential to facilitate and give greater comfort to those involved in bilateral and sub-regional management arrangements. The eligibility criteria accommodate parties engaged in any shared access arrangements agreed under a common fisheries policy and regime, joint venture fishing arrangements, and vessel chartering arrangements.

54. If a single Caribbean RFMO could effectively also manage such special management subsidiary bodies, i.e. for bilateral and sub-regional management arrangements, this would offer two advantages: (i) the bilateral and sub-regional arrangement would benefit from the wider pool of scientific expertise available to the Caribbean RFMO; (ii) it would ensure close collaboration in respect of scientific research and management of the various living marine resources occurring within the Caribbean region, and hence the earlier application of such knowledge towards achieving an ecosystem-based approach to management for the region.

55. Regarding representation at meetings, consideration should be given to establishing regulations for the composition of member delegations at meetings. Moreover, Member States would be expected to fund their own participation in all RFMO activities and meetings.

XI. Caribbean RFMO membership financial contribution scheme

56. Given the very broad range of economic development status of countries within the Region, consideration should be given to adopting a similar formula to the new one proposed for ICCAT. The new ICCAT scheme makes provisions for

- (i) payment of basic fees in respect of Commission membership and membership of certain management subsidiary bodies;
- (ii) apportioning the remainder of the budget based on various combinations of economic development status, and fish harvest and processing levels.

Of course, the amounts quoted for basic fees, percentage shares of the budget, and measurement of economic status would need to be modified to fit the Caribbean context.

XII. Other provisions

57. In establishing the Caribbean RFMO, consideration should be given to making additional provisions, as described in earlier sections (sections I to V) of this paper: collaboration with other RFBs/ RFMOs; rules for decision-making and enforcement of regulations, including voting and rules of objection; rules of election to positions serving the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; rules for settlements of disputes; Contracting Party obligations (e.g. in terms of provision of data and information, contribution to research and management, port state duties, flag state duties, etc.); Co-operating Party obligations; special requirements of Developing States and of Non-Contracting Parties.

XIII. Relevance of CRFM agreement, mandate, structure, and current operations to that of a RFMO

58. By virtue of its mandate and structure, the CRFM is able to carry out both advisory and regulatory functions for its Member States: the Ministerial Council of the CRFM represents its principal decision-making organ, while the Caribbean Fisheries Forum is able to provide advice to inform the Council's decision-making process.

59. Regarding the responsibilities of the Ministerial Council, the Legal Agreement establishing the CRFM states that the Ministerial Council shall, *inter alia*: (i) “*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 of the resources and through co-operation with competent organisations as the case may be*”; and (ii) “*consider the annual reports and make decisions in response to recommendations and requests from the Forum*” {source: CRFM Legal Agreement, CRFM, 2003a}. The first function clearly indicates a responsibility for informed (hence scientific-based) decision-making in respect of sustainable fisheries development and management. The second function makes provisions for the mechanism by which such advice should be processed and formulated prior to presentation to the Council, as well as permits the Forum to seek further guidance and clarifications from the Council, as required.

60. In addition, the Rules of Procedure of the CRFM (Rules 10 and 11) make provisions for the establishment of subsidiary bodies (sub-committees, working parties or other subsidiary bodies) of both the Council and the Forum {source: CRFM Rules of procedure, CRFM, 2003b}. Hence, further development, as well as specialization, of both the advisory and regulatory functions of the CRFM, are facilitated. To this end, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum (CFF) has already established a number of fisheries resource working groups (WGs) to address issues pertaining to statistics, research, and assessment of various resources: the CRFM Conch and Lobster Resource Working Group (CLWG); the CRFM Shrimp and Groundfish Working Group (SGWG); the CRFM Large Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (LPWG); the CRFM Small Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Resource Working Group (SCPWG); and the CRFM Reef and Slope Fisheries Resources Working Group (RSWG) (CRFM, 2003c).

61. In 2004, the CRFM continued to strengthen its advisory function by providing a forum, the First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting, which facilitated coordination and collaboration among the CRFM Resource WGs and afforded the opportunity for simultaneous formal coordinated review and adoption of the technical and scientific outputs of these WGs by all the states concerned. The report of this meeting therefore captures all the scientific advice and information generated by the CRFM WGs in 2004, and is being formatted to accommodate review by the next annual meeting of the CFF.

62. This new development allows the CFF to develop its scientific advisory role by directing and coordinating the work of the CRFM WGs through the CRFM annual scientific meetings, based on report reviews and presentations. The CFF's review and report would form part of the annual report of the CFF that would then be forwarded to the Ministerial Council for consideration of the recommendations and adoption of conservation and management measures, when needed.

63. At present, probably owing to its infancy, the CRFM Ministerial Council has not yet been presented with fisheries management advice and proposals. However, as the CRFM's scientific work progresses, there will be a greater demand for active responses by its Ministerial Council. Considering the range of resources for which CRFM-coordinated management is necessary, subsidiary bodies of the Ministerial Council, similar to the ICCAT Commission's species panels and Compliance Committee, may have to be set up in the near future. These subsidiary bodies could be used to engage different management groups that will be required to discuss and agree on regionally coordinated management strategies for the different resources of interest, e.g. a Southern Caribbean Shrimp Sub-Committee or Panel, a Western Caribbean Shrimp Sub-Committee or Panel, a Queen Conch Sub-Committee or Panel, a Caribbean Small Tuna Sub-Committee or Panel, etc. In this way, the CRFM can serve as a single RFMO handling a range of shared resources. A possible expanded structure of the CRFM is illustrated in Figure 4.

64. The mandate and structure of the CRFM equips it to serve both advisory and regulatory fisheries management functions for its current membership: the data, research and assessment being handled by CRFM WGs that report directly to the CFF; the review and endorsement of the scientific and management advice by the CFF and forwarding of this to the Ministerial Council; review and adoption of conservation and management measures by the Ministerial Council. However, the Legal Agreement establishing the CRFM is not equivalent to a RFMO Convention, and substantial changes are required to make it so: for example, specification of the Convention Area, which is normally a continuous area of sea, membership rules, rules for formulating and establishing agreement on fisheries management recommendations, rules of objection in respect of fisheries management recommendations, modification of the procedures for electing positions (e.g. Chairpersons) serving the various bodies and subsidiary bodies.

65. Additionally, it should be pointed out though that the current activities carried out by the various Bodies of the CRFM and the compositions of the delegations are not exactly

equivalent to that of a RFMO. That is to say, the CFF does not spend most of its time discussing the status of resources and the suitability of various stock management scenarios, and country representation at the CFF is not currently composed of the scientists who actually perform fisheries assessments. Similarly, at present, the Ministerial Council does not discuss the enforcement of fisheries management recommendations and related compliance issues, and members of the Ministerial Council are often not the persons who are directly involved in formulating fisheries policy and management decisions. If, therefore, the CRFM Structure is to serve adequately in the capacity of a RFMO, fish stock assessment scientists within CRFM countries should attend CFF meetings as members of their national delegations. Similarly, Chief Fisheries Officers and Fisheries Directors should be members of the national delegations represented at meetings of the Ministerial Council.

66. The impact of the scientific and management outputs generated by the CRFM could be broadened, as well as strengthened, by promoting participation in CRFM by other states fishing the same resources within the Caribbean region. In order to determine the span of countries that should be invited to participate in the CRFM, careful consideration should be given to the types of resources included in the CRFM mandate, and the occurrence and distribution of these resources, i.e. whether they are found only in country EEZs, or also on the High Seas.

XIV. A cursory examination of existing organizations with RFMO potential and their present limitations in respect of this role

67. At present, no single organization within the Caribbean has been established to serve as the Caribbean RFMO, with a specified geographic area and with competence for specific stocks. A FAO project examined the issue of management of large pelagic resources by CARICOM countries, and presented some possible options for establishing a RFMO for these resources (FAO, 2004). It is important to consider the options again, in view of the need to manage other shared resources that are of significant commercial importance to CARICOM countries but which, for most of their adult lives, are predominantly located within country EEZs, e.g. shrimp, lobster, and conch.

68. While the CRFM is equipped to perform the functions of a RFMO for its member states, the current membership rules and hence geographic areas involved fall short of what is required to achieve coordinated management of living marine resources throughout the entire Caribbean. That is to say, the CRFM is responsible for the efficient management and sustainable development of marine and other aquatic resources within the jurisdictions of its Member States, and is expected to promote and establish co-operative arrangements among interested states for the efficient management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine and other aquatic resources (CRFM Legal Agreement, CRFM, 2003a). The restricted membership of the CRFM implies that the agreed co-operative management arrangements will be handled on a stock by stock basis, as required. While this can still lead to the achievement of RFMO-type goals, it may not be a cost-effective way of doing so. The CRFM Legal Agreement also does not provide

specific rules for adoption and enforcement of fisheries management regulations, including objections procedures, in the same way as other RFMO Conventions do. If adjustments to the CRFM mandate, structure and membership are desired to make it a RFMO, this would have implications for the current structure and functions of the CRFM Secretariat, including staff recruitment procedures and staff composition.

69. WECAFC, which is a FAO RFB operating within the Caribbean region, also falls short of a RFMO capability because its mandate does not currently allow it to carry out regulatory functions. In view of this, the WECAFC Convention does not specify a distinct set of resources for management by the Commission, nor does it include specific rules for adoption and enforcement of fisheries management regulations, including objections procedures. If adjustments to the WECAFC mandate and structure are desired, this would have implications for the current structure and functions of the WECAFC Secretariat, and possible including staff recruitment and staff composition.

70. To establish a Caribbean RFMO, countries and other interested parties would therefore need to enter into negotiations, to determine whether an existing organization such as the CRFM or WECAFC should be strengthened to serve this role, or whether a new organization is warranted. The CRFM Legal Agreement already provides a level of commitment to the RFMO process for a subset of countries within the region. Other countries of the Caribbean may wish to build on the progress that has already been made by the countries that established the CRFM and join in an effort to amend and upgrade the CRFM Legal Agreement to a full RFMO Convention.

71. On the other hand, other countries of the Caribbean may consider it more acceptable to strengthen WECAFC or establish a new organization altogether. In reviewing the possibilities of restructuring WECAFC, Marashi (1996) submitted that WECAFC's Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles could be made a management body, financed by its member states, in accordance with Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. It would also be possible to convert WECAFC to a management body, or to establish an independent Commission with assistance from FAO. Each option would have financial implications for its Member States, which would have responsibility for the activities of the organization so established.

72. If the WECAFC or other organization is selected to serve as the Caribbean RFMO, consideration would have to be given to the cost and benefits associated with maintaining the CRFM. Certainly, the CRFM offers CARICOM countries some clear advantages with regard to more effective participation in a Caribbean RFMO:

- (i) The CRFM is already directly involved in coordinating statistics, and research among its member states, and this will assist countries to fulfill their basic obligations to a Caribbean RFMO Convention;
- (ii) The CRFM has the capacity to coordinate the implementation of management measures and fisheries development opportunities within the CARICOM sub-region, and these can be done within the context of agreed conservation and management measures agreed by the Caribbean RFMO;

- (iii) The CRFM provides a forum for developing and consolidating CARICOM strategies for presentation and negotiation within the Caribbean RFMO forum. This can help to ensure that CARICOM plays a major role in leading the evolution of the any RFMO established within the Region.

Alternatively, the CRFM could evolve into an external scientific body, specifically structured to provide scientific and management advice for review and adoption by the Caribbean RFMO.

XV. The relationship between a Caribbean RFMO and the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP&R) being considered by CARICOM

73. CARICOM countries are currently engaged in the elaboration of a common fisheries policy and regime (CFP&R). The essential difference between the RFMO and the CFP&R arrangements is that the former is primarily responsible for adopting and enforcing conservation and management measures, while the latter is responsible for determining and implementing a suitable shared resource access arrangement for its participating countries. Hence, the RFMO advises on the measure to be taken, while the CFP&R is involved in ensuring equitable access in respect of the agreed measure.

74. From the previous statement, it is clear that a Caribbean RFMO is absolutely essential for providing the necessary guidance regarding management regulations, including determining sustainable levels of total catch and fishing effort, as well as catch quota allocation schemes. Without such information, it would be virtually impossible to conclude access agreements among countries interested in harvesting shared resources. Of course, the precautionary approach could be applied by the CFP&R, but there would still remain the need to devise an appropriate strategy for implementing the precautionary approach and the need for quantitative monitoring of resource trends to guarantee sustainability. Both formulation of a precautionary approach implementation strategy and monitoring of resource trends are usually the tasks of a RFMO, as the CFP&R would be more directly concerned with monitoring adherence to a shared access arrangement by its member states.

75. In the absence of a Caribbean RFMO, the CRFM will no doubt be required to play a key role in provision of management advice for implementation of the CFP&R.

XVI. Conclusions and Recommendations

76. At present, there currently exists no RFMO with the authority and structure to coordinate conservation and management of those shared living marine resources found to occur within the Caribbean region and adjacent waters, and which are either not managed by ICCAT or which are included in ICCAT's mandate but for which ICCAT's SCRS has recommended evaluation at the sub-regional and regional levels. In this regard, the resources of initial primary concern would include: shrimp, groundfish, lobster, conch, small coastal pelagic resources; small tunas recommended for sub-regional and

regional evaluation by ICCAT; dolphinfish; some reef and deep water demersal resources. These resources provide: an irreplaceable source of affordable protein to the developing countries of the Caribbean; employment for the rural poor and hence social stability; and not least of all, a valuable source of revenue earned mainly from fish processing, export, and tourism.

77. In view of the range of shared resources that is also of immense value to the countries concerned, there is an urgent need to establish a Caribbean RFMO with competence to coordinate conservation and management of these resources. The strengthening of an existing organization to perform this role should be considered, as this may help negotiations to proceed more quickly.

78. Given that the adoption and enforcement of regulatory measures, application of the precautionary approach, and monitoring of resource trends constitute the work of a RFMO, and that any common fisheries policy and regime operating within the region would be more directly concerned with monitoring adherence to a shared access arrangement by its member states, the establishment of a Caribbean RFMO is essential for successful practical implementation of the CFP&R being considered by CARICOM.

XI. References

Bonzon, A. (2003). Cooperation between National Administrations and Regional Organizations. A Paper presented at the COPEMED Dialogue Forum on “ Regional cooperation: the future of fisheries in Western Mediterranean” (23-25 July 2003). 7 p.

CRFM, 2003a. Agreement establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. CRFM: Belize. 32 p.

CRFM, 2003b. The rules of procedure of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. CRFM: Belize. 13 p.

CRFM, 2003c. Minutes of the First Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. CRFM: Belize. 25 p.

CRFM, 2005. Report of the First Annual CRFM Scientific Meeting. CRFM: Belize.

FAO, 1999. Report of the Meeting of FAO and Non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies or arrangements, FAO Fisheries Report No. 597 FIPL/R597. FAO: Rome. 58 p.

FAO, 2001. International Plan of Action to prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. FAO: Rome. 16 p.

FAO, 2002. State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA). FAO: Rome. 150 p.

- FAO, 2004. Management of Large Pelagic Fisheries in CARICOM countries. FAO Technical Paper No. 464. FAO: Rome. 149 p.
- ICCAT, 2004. Report for Biennial Period, 2002-03 PART II (2003) –Vol. 2. ICCAT: Madrid. 207 p.
- Marashi, S.H. 1996. The role of FAO regional fishery bodies in the conservation and management of fisheries. *FAO Fisheries Circular*. No. 916. Rome, FAO. 1996. 65p.
- Swan, J. 2000. The role of national fisheries administrations and regional fishery bodies in adopting and implementing measures to combat IUU fishing. Paper presented at the Expert Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, organized by the government of Australia in cooperation with FAO. Document AUS:IUU/2000/10. 22 p.
- Watson, R. and D. Pauly. 2001. Systematic distortions in world fisheries catch trends. *Nature*, 414, p 534-536.

Table 1. List of major FAO and non-FAO RFBs, their functional classification (type of body), and the general ocean/sea area in which they operate.

GENERAL OCEAN/ SEA AREA	RFB	FAO/ NON-FAO BODY	TYPE OF BODY
<u>Global and trans-ocean</u>			
	ACFR – Advisory Committee on Fishery Research	Non-FAO	Scientific
	CCAMLR – Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	Non-FAO	Management
	CCSBT – Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	Non-FAO	Management
	CWP – Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics	FAO	Scientific
	IWC – International Whaling Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	OLDEPESCA – Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero	Non-FAO	Advisory
<u>Atlantic Ocean Region</u>			
	AAFC – Atlantic Africa Fisheries Conference	Non-FAO	Advisory
	CECAF – Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries	FAO	Advisory
	WECAFC – Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission	FAO	Advisory
	ICCAT – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	Non-FAO	Management
	NAMMCO – North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission	Non-FAO	Advisory
	SEAFO – South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization	Non-FAO	Management
	CARPAS – Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee for the Southwest Atlantic (<i>now defunct</i>)	Non-FAO	Advisory
	COFREMAR – Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo	Non-FAO	Advisory
	ICES – International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	Non-FAO	Scientific
	NASCO – North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	Non-FAO	Management
	SRCF – Sub-regional Commission on Fisheries	Non-FAO	

	COREP – Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea	Non-FAO	Advisory
	IBSFC – International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	NAFO – Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	Non-FAO	Management
	NEAFC – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission	Non-FAO	Management
<u>Mediterranean, Black sea and connecting waters</u>			
	GFCM – General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	FAO	Management
<u>Pacific Ocean Region</u>			
	APFIC – Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission	Non-FAO	Advisory
	IATTC – Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	NPAFC – North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	PSC – Pacific Salmon Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	(CEPTFA) – Council of the Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Agreement (not yet in force)	Non-FAO	Management
	CPPS – Permanent Commission for the South Pacific	Non-FAO	Advisory
	IPHC – International Pacific Halibut Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	NACA – Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific	Non-FAO	Scientific
	SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Non-FAO	Scientific
	FFA – South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency	Non-FAO	Advisory
	WCPFC – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	Non-FAO	Management
	PICES – North Pacific Marine Science Organization	Non-FAO	Scientific
	SEAFDEC – The Southeast Asian Fisheries development Center	Non-FAO	Advisory
<u>Indian Ocean Region</u>			
	BOBP-IGO – Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization	Non-FAO	Advisory
	SWIOFC – Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (not yet finalized)	FAO	Management

	IOTC – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	FAO	Management
	WIOTO – Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization	Non-FAO	Advisory
	RECOFI – Regional Commission for Fisheries	FAO	Advisory
<u>Inland regions</u>			
	APFIC – Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission	FAO	Advisory
	EIFAC - European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission	FAO	Advisory
	NACA – Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific	Non-FAO	Scientific
	CIFA – Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa	FAO	Advisory
	MRC – Mekong River Commission	Non-FAO	Advisory
	COPESCAL – Comisión de Pesca continental para América Latina	FAO	Advisory
	LVFO – Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	Non-FAO	Advisory

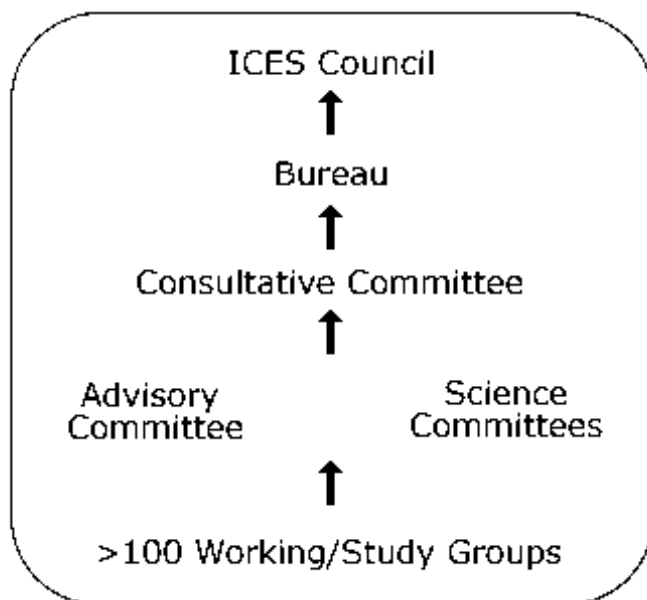


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the structure of the ICES {Source: <http://www.ices.dk/aboutus/structure.asp>}.

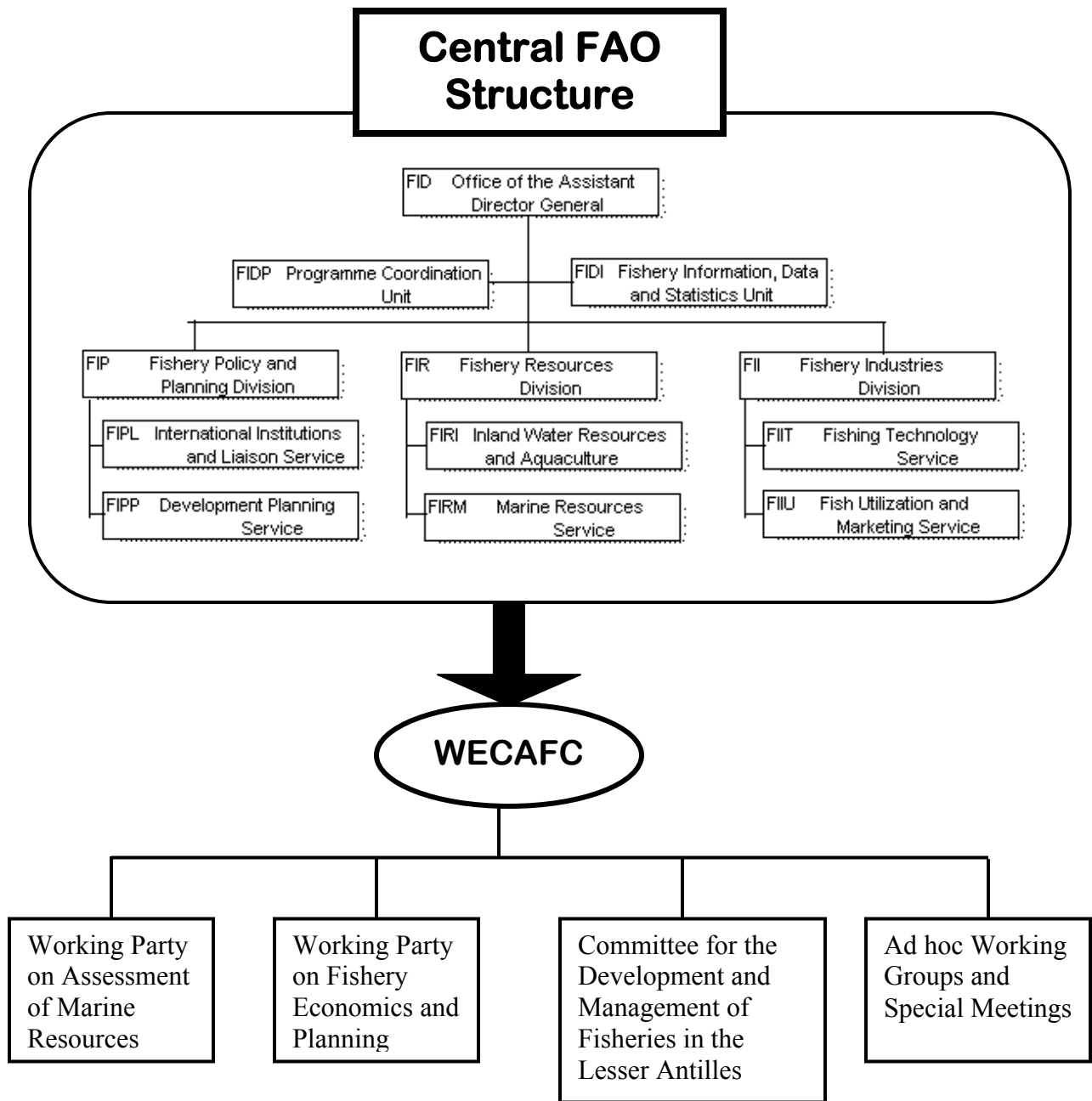


Figure 2. Schematic illustration of the structure of the WECAFC, and the structure of the supporting parent body, FAO. {Source: <http://www.fao.org>}

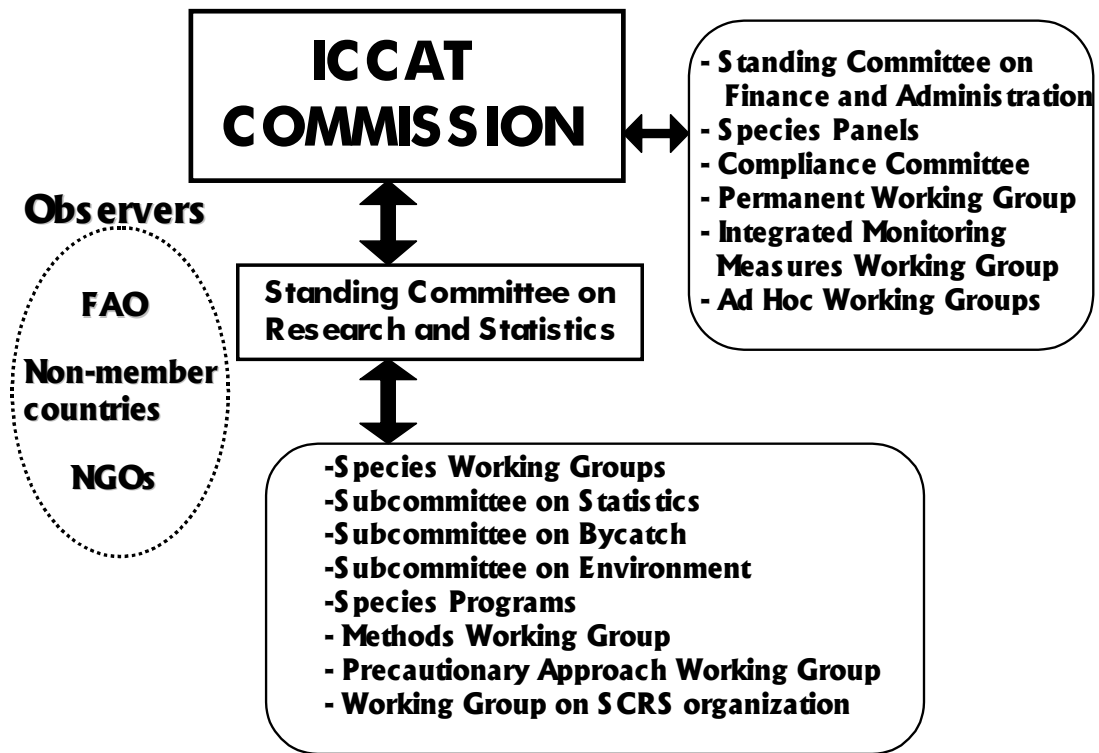


Figure 3. Schematic illustration of the structure of ICCAT.

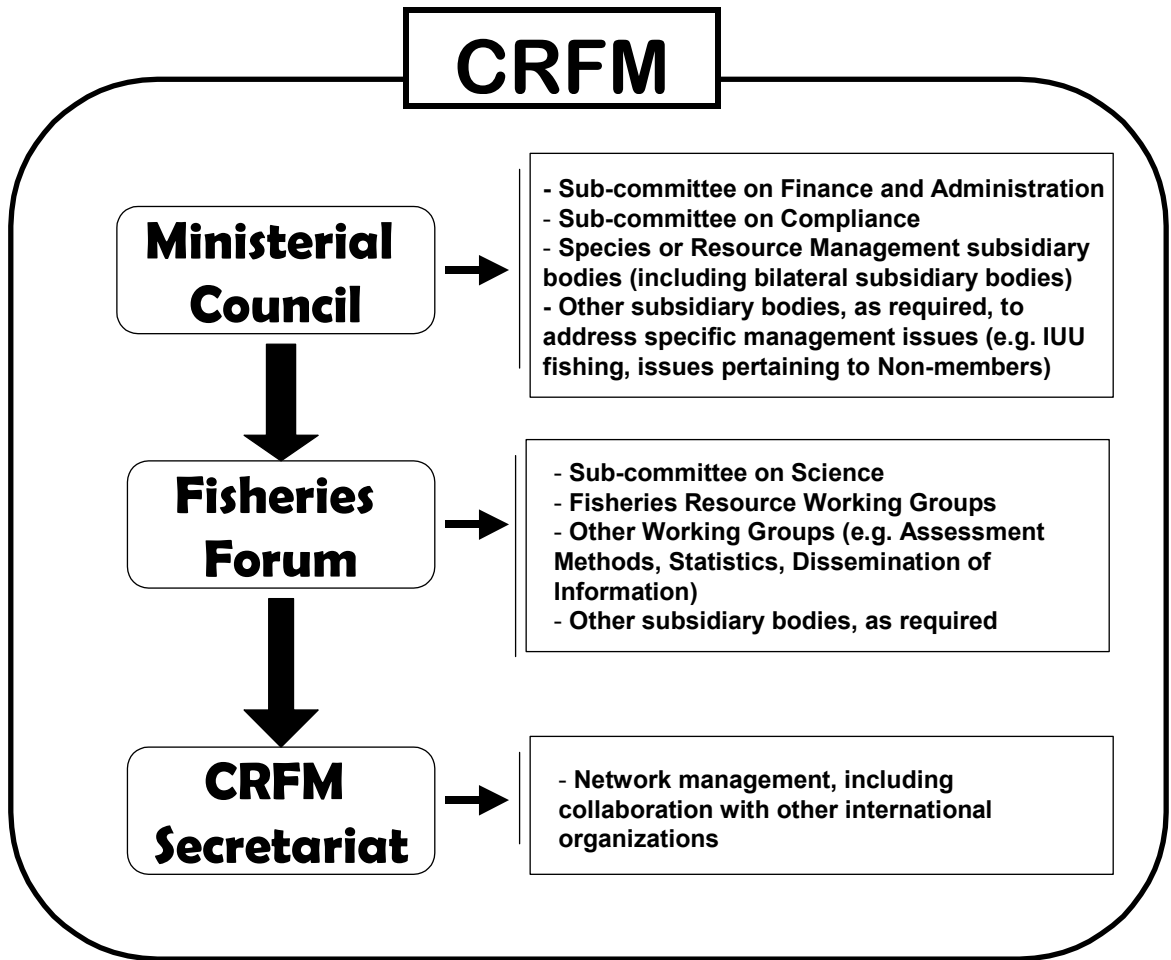


Figure 4. Schematic illustration of possible expanded structure of CRFM.