



**WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)**

**FOURTEENTH SESSION**

**Panama City, Panama, 6-9 February 2012**

**Report**

1. The Fourteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission was held in Panama City, Panama, from 6 to 9 February 2012. The meeting was kindly hosted by the Government of Panama and officially opened by H.E. Oscar A. Osorio, Minister for Agricultural Development of Panama.
2. The following 20 members attended the Session: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Dominica, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras,

**Main decisions and recommendations of the twenty-ninth session of COFI and the thirteenth session of WECAFC**

6. The Commission

**WECAFC logo**

16. The Commission thanked the designers from FAO, Panama and OSPESCA for the original designs prepared and for the proposal from the delegate from St. Lucia. The following logo for WECAFC was chosen by the members, as designed by Ms

WECAFC by attending sessions, a process was favoured for the termination of membership that seeks to work with the members to resolve hurdles to their regular participation. Such measures should not prejudice the least developed countries and small island developing countries that may have difficulty in obtaining financial support for their attendance.

23. Discussion took place on a proposed *de facto* procedure regarding the use of working languages in Working Groups and other WECAFC activities. The Commission did not make a decision on this matter. The Secretariat emphasized that the reduced funding under FAO's Regular Programme for the region would not allow FAO to continue to supply the translation and interpretation services as in the past. The Secretariat called upon the members to provide for extra-budgetary resources in support of covering translation and interpretation related necessities, or to be flexible when organizing Working Groups

29. The United States delegation stated that it would support the Queen Conch Working Group.

30. It was agreed to expand the scope of the Nassau Grouper Working Group to a Spawning Aggregations Working Group.

31. The issue of lion fish was raised, underlining that it requires mitigation projects because of the severe threats this species represents for fisheries. It was suggested to establish linkages between WECAFC and other ongoing initiatives in the Region. The meeting was informed that lion fish is included in the agenda of the next CRFM Ministerial Council in A11(i)-a31 in A11(108(i)6(n))-108