

Modernizing Fisheries Information in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean

Modernización de la Información Pesquera en el Golfo de México y el Caribe

Moderniser l'Information sur les Pêches dans le Golfe du Mexique et les Caraïbes

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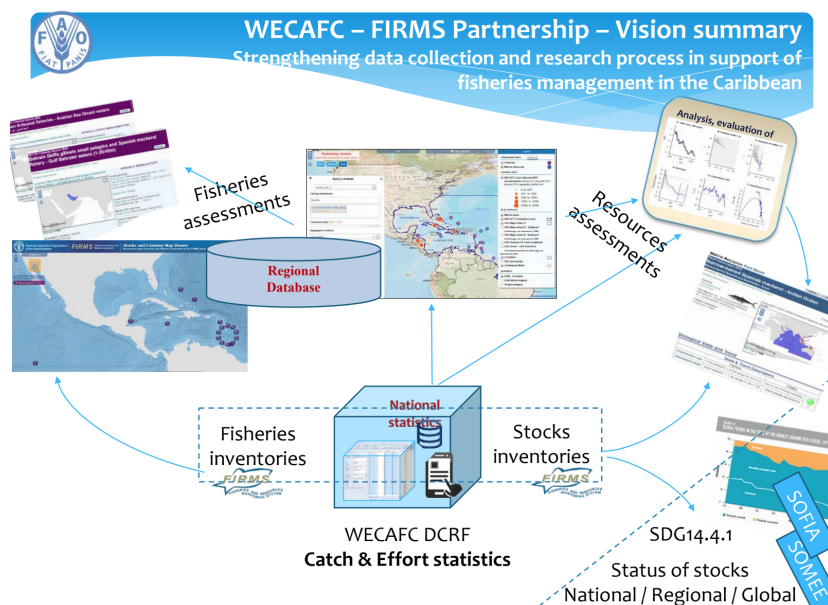
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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Modernizing data management practices and workflows yield more efficient information exchange for scientists, managers, and other stakeholders. The modernization of a workflow should consider the entire end-to-end process from data collection and reporting to processing, integrating, cataloging, documenting, sharing, preserving, storing, and archiving. Each component of this system poses its own set of technical, logistical, policy, legal, and social modernization challenges. Two important steps in modernizing fisheries information management systems are to identify the components of that system and define the key actions required to modernize each component (i.e. what resources will be required, a timeline for their completion, and metrics to measure their impact). The 2019 Fisheries Information Management Modernization organized by NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology brought together expertise across different data types and roles within the data lifecycle to collectively identify priorities for modernization such as improved data collection methods, infrastructure, data access, and increased communication amongst people and across regions. There is already work in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean to modernize information workflows and data collections methods. Two examples highlighted the presentation are electronic reporting in the USVI with Conservación ConCiencia and the partnership between the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and the Fisheries Inventory Monitoring System (FIRMS). The partnership between WECAFC and FIRMS has led to the creation of a regional database and an interim acceptance of a Data Collection Reference Framework, which will allow for more standard data collection methods across the WECAFC region. Both of these case studies are modernizing workflows and will yield greater access to more timely, accurate data.

KEYWORDS: Modernization, accessibility, workflow



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