

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

OFFICE OF THE SUBREGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE CARIBBEAN
AND
FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN BARBADOS AND THE OECS

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Letter of Intent

On the Establishment and Operations of the Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) for the Western Central Atlantic

This Letter of Intent (hereinafter referred to as "LoI") is made among the Parties listed below:

- *The International Game Fish Association (IGFA)*
- *The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*
- *The World Bank*
- *The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)*
- *The Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA)*
- *The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)*
- *The Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC)*
- *The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)*
- *The Conservation International (CI)*

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Considering that since the mid-1980s the catches of billfishes in the Western Central Atlantic are showing a declining trend; That billfish stocks are under pressure and that is why the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna ICCAT has determined that Atlantic blue and white marlin are overfished and has set quotas for billfish landings by their contracting parties;

Recognizing the current and potential socio-economic value of the species for income generation, food security and for recreational purposes, the governments in the Wider Caribbean Region (FAO area 31) decided that action has to be taken to secure sustainable use and conservation of this important species. The 14th session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), held in Panama City, 6-9 February 2012, called (amongst others) for action from the Commission on recreational fisheries and particularly on this subject and requested the establishment of a dedicated working group on recreational fisheries. The session then decided to establish a joint Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)/Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) Working Group on Recreational Fisheries;

Aware that efforts towards management and conservation of Billfish resources in the Western Central Atlantic can only be sustainable if the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the Precautionary Approach and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) are applied and all relevant stakeholders (including representatives of small-scale-, recreational-, and industrial fisheries, tourism, research, investment, management and conservation bodies and organizations) are included;

Acknowledging the existing political and legal frameworks for fisheries at national, sub-regional and regional levels in the Wider Caribbean Region/ Western Central Atlantic, as well as commitments under various international fisheries instruments and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) active in the region;

Recognizing the importance of the recent establishment of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) in June 2012 and the approval by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Program in November 2011, which offer entry points for the Caribbean region to participate in global level initiatives;

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Noting that The World Bank/Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Caribbean Billfish Project (GCP/SLC/001/WBK) is as such instrumental in bringing private and public stakeholders together from the Caribbean and establishing links with other regions;

Desirous of establishing a mechanism to strengthen cooperation among the parties to ensure effective implementation of the World Bank/Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Caribbean Billfish Project, and to foster better management and conservation of the billfish resources in the Western Central Atlantic;

DECLARE their intention to:

- (a) collaborate in the establishment of a Consortium on Billfish Management and Conservation (CBMC) for the Western Central Atlantic;
- (b) jointly agree and define the terms and conditions for the proposed Consortium, bearing in mind the privileges and immunities of a number of the Parties to this Lol, including the inapplicability of national laws;
- (c) the purpose of the proposed Consortium will be, generally, to implement the World Bank/Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Caribbean Billfish Project, and to foster better management and conservation of the billfish resources in the Western Central Atlantic;

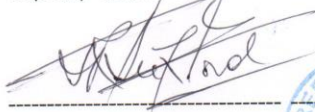
CONFIRM their common understanding that:

- a) this Letter of Intent does not create any financial or other commitments for any of the Parties.
- b) nothing in this Letter of Intent constitutes a waiver of the privileges and immunities that may be enjoyed by any of the Parties to this Lol.

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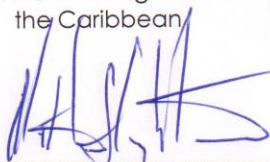
Signed _____ in _____ original copies in English and Spanish, all texts being equally authentic.



FAO Sub Regional Office
the Caribbean



International Game Fish
Association



Caribbean Regional Fisheries
Mechanism

Central America Fisheries and
Aquaculture Organization

The World Bank

The Caribbean Fisheries
Management Council

The Caribbean Network of
Fisherfolk Organizations

The International Commission for
the Conservation of Atlantic
Tuna

The Conservation International

The Billfish Foundation

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