



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Status of Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic Region

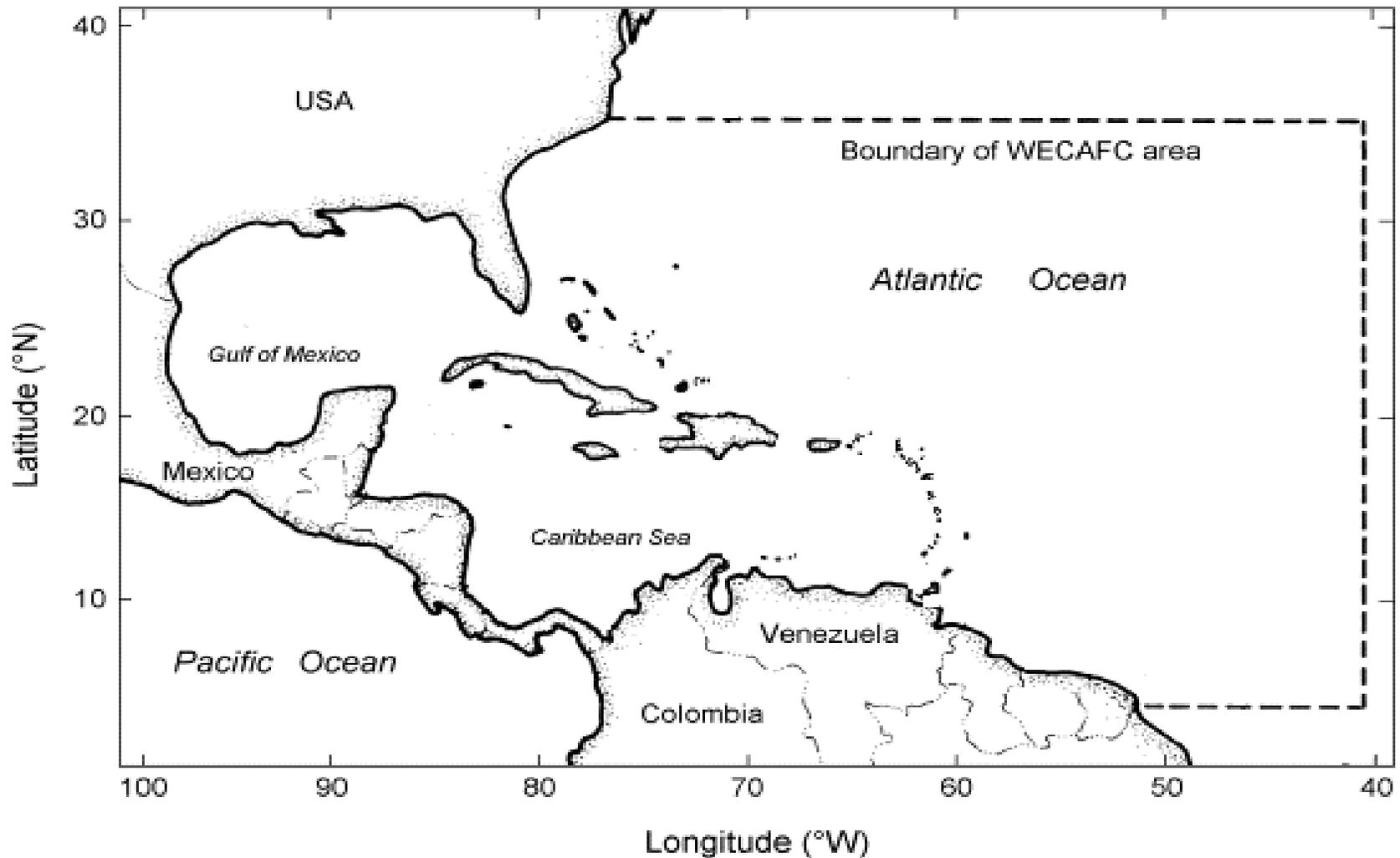
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Barbados

Status of Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic Region

- **Regional Review of Fisheries – *Status of Fish Stocks in the Western Central Atlantic Region, 2007*** (Cochrane & Chakalall, FAO)
- **Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)**

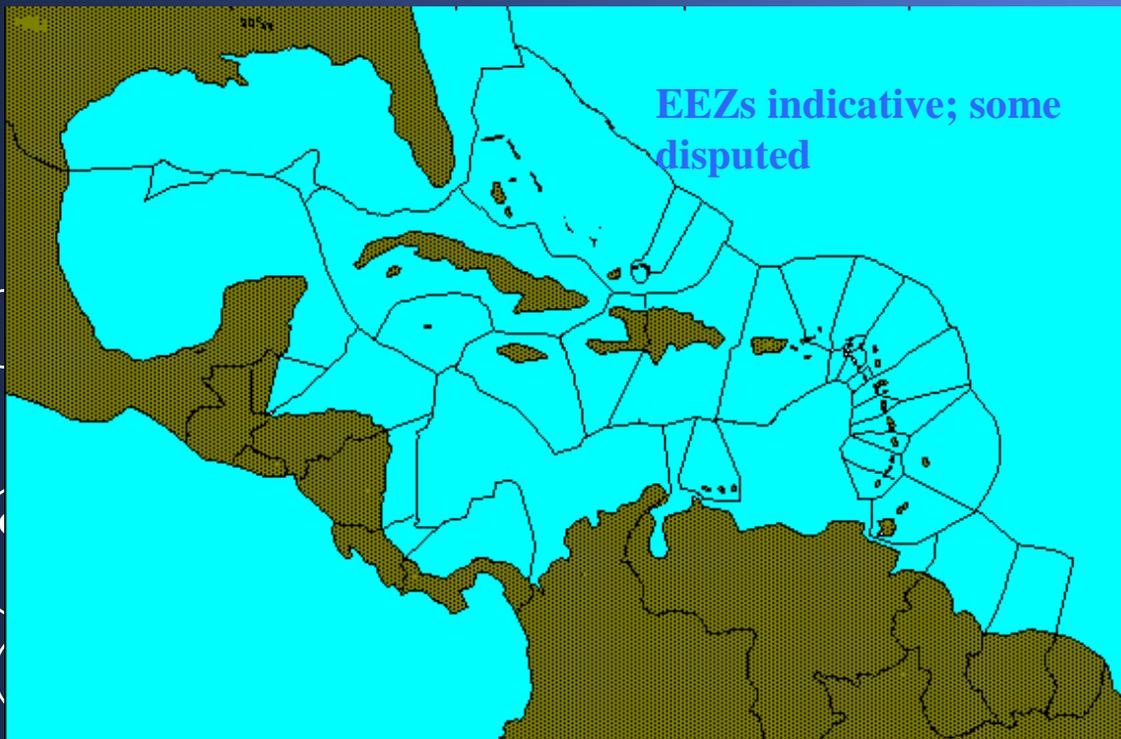


WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

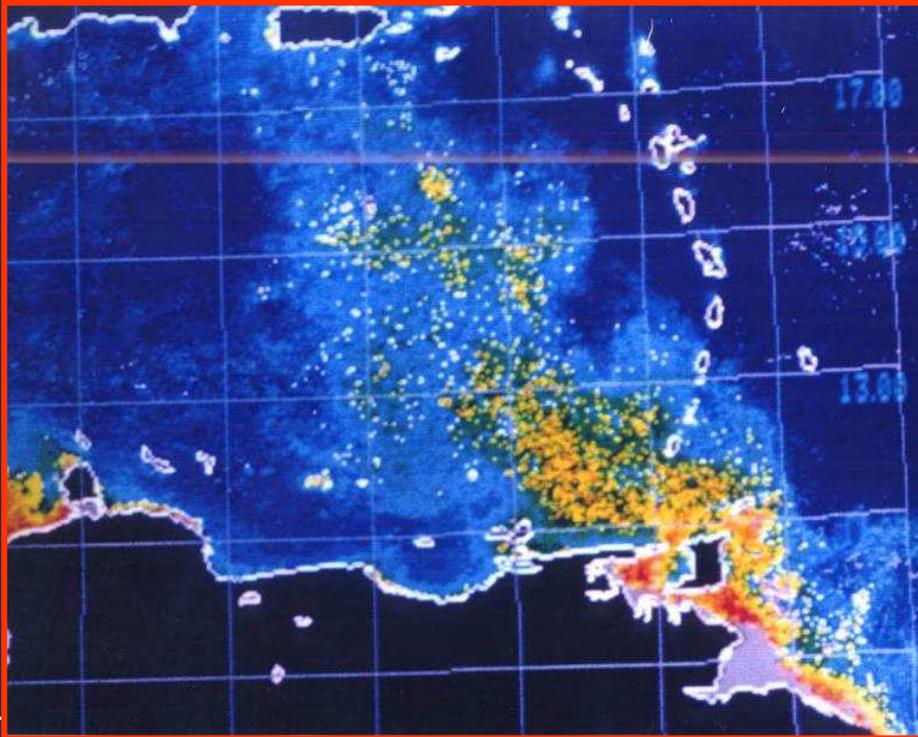


Region is complex and geographically and politically diverse

- Geopolitical
 - 33 states
- Cultural
 - Ethnicity, Language
- Size
 - smallest to largest
- Development
 - richest to poorest
- Natural Resources
- Capacity
- Many regional, sub-regional groupings
- SIDs

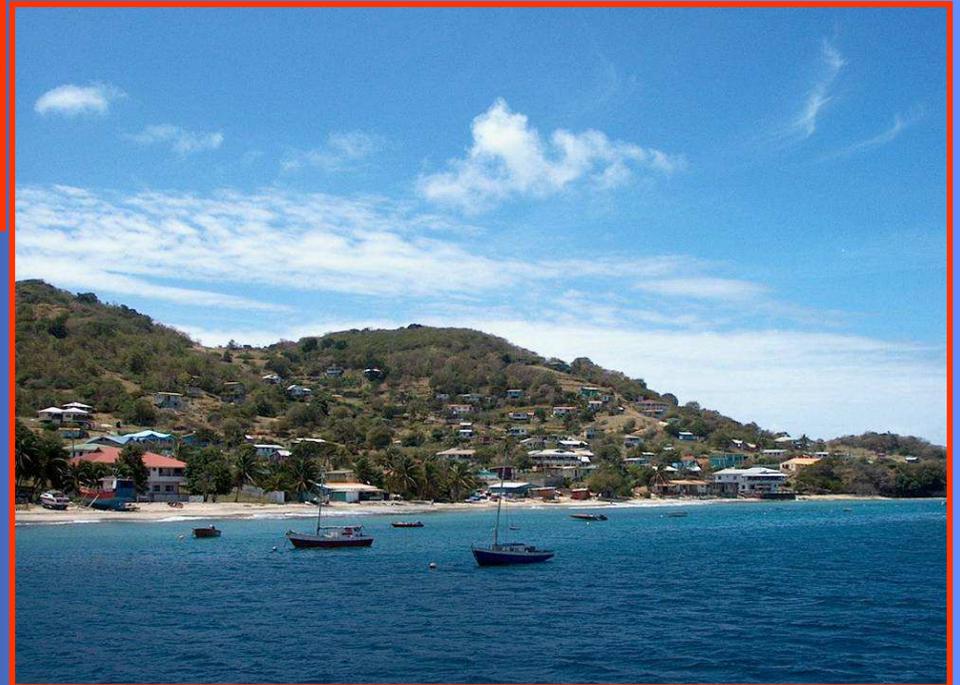


Complex land/sea interfaces



Numerous large river inputs bringing nutrients and pollutants that cross boundaries

Human activity concentrated in the coastal zone; impacts the marine ecosystems



The living marine resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem are the basis for much of the region's economy

Fisheries



Tourism

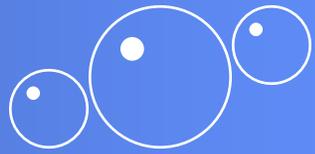


WECAFC FISHERY SECTOR

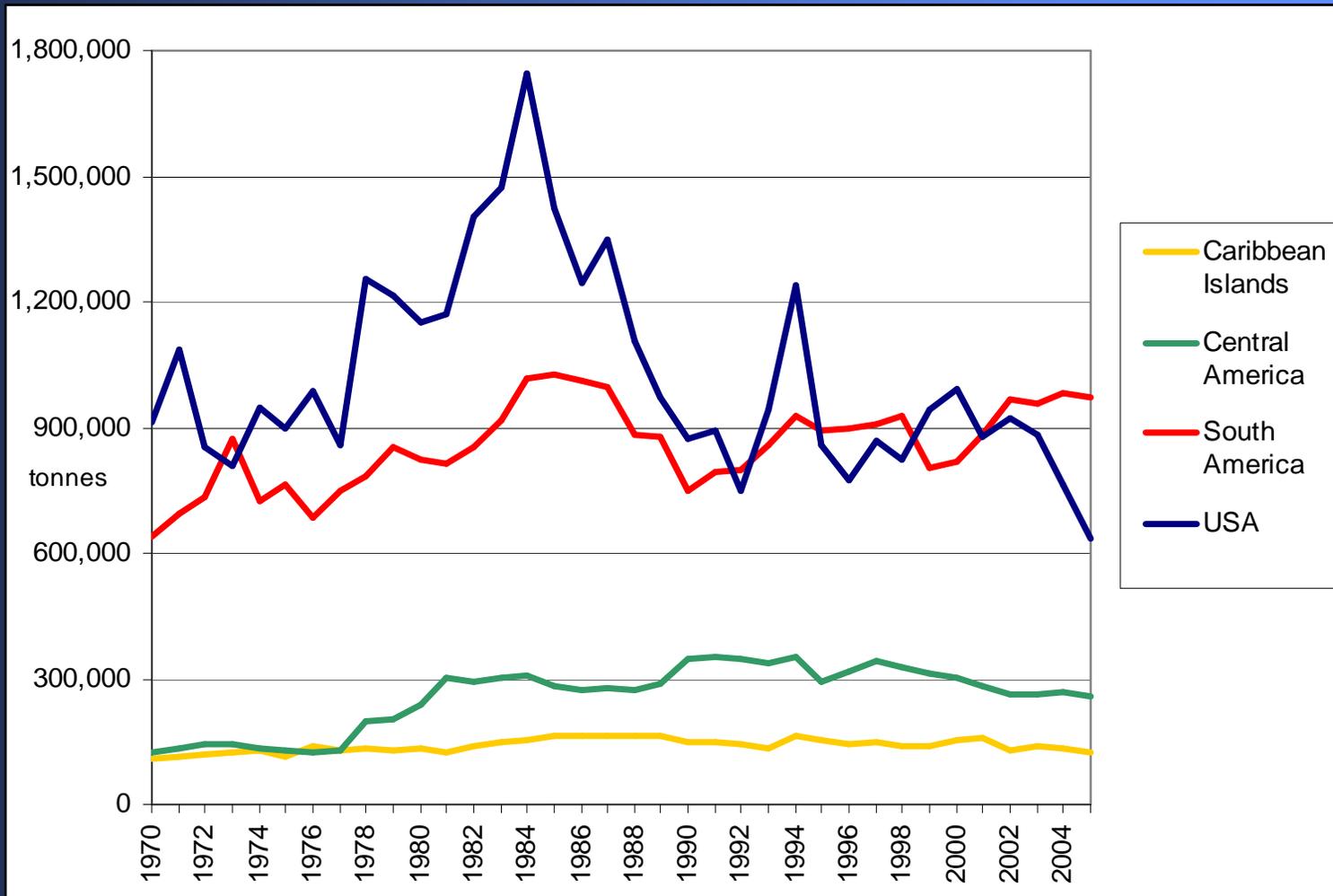
- Assortment of development stages
- Open Access
- Small-scale, artisanal fishery
- Resources are fully or over-exploited
- Social and economically important; food security
- Juxtaposed nature of EEZs
- Shared living marine resources
- Straddling/migratory fish stocks
- Oceanographic and ecological linkages



Fish Production

- Total – 8.2 million tonnes (2005); [plus one million tonnes from aquaculture]
 - Stable since mid 1980s at 1.8% of total world marine catch
 - US portion also stabilized around 43% of total production
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Trend of capture production by groups of countries



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Spiny Lobster Fisheries (FAO, 2006)

- Average recorded landings
 - **1992 - 2005: 36 827 tonnes**
- Estimated Value (ex vessel)
 - **500 million US\$**
- Fishers (estimated): **58 700**
- Other workers (estimated): **194 600**



Estimated status of Caribbean spiny lobster (FAO, 2006)

Status of Stock	Countries
Under-exploited	Venezuela (some areas)
Fully-exploited or stable	Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands; Turks & Caicos; United States of America; Belize; Mexico; Costa Rica; Cuba; Antigua & Barbuda; Venezuela (some areas)
Over-exploited	Nicaragua; Jamaica; Dominican Republic; Brazil; Colombia; Honduras

Estimated stock status of queen conch

(FAO, 2006)

Indicators/Reference Points	Cause for Concern
Biomass	Ongoing decrease
cpue	Ongoing decrease
Unplanned trend in landings	Ongoing increase
Mean density of stock	Uncertain. Likely to vary from locality to locality
Fishing Effort	Unplanned growth
Fisher opinion	Fishers report decline in availability in areas previously found

Estimated stock status of queen conch

(FAO, 2006)

Indicators/Reference Points	Cause for Concern
Trends in market prices unrelated to production costs	Increase in price over time
Fishing grounds	Depleted inshore. Progressive shift towards deeper fishing grounds, Fishing further from port
Loss of Habitat	Ongoing destruction of nursery and fishing grounds
Changes in mean shell length	Noticeable reduction over time
Fishing gear/tactics	Unevaluated. Indications of increased fishing power

Trade in Fish and Fish products

Exports

- **Export Value – US\$ 6.9 billion (2005); 8.8% of world total**
- **US Main Exporter – US\$ 4.3 billion (2005); Mexico US\$ 0.6 billion; Brazil and Panama US\$ 0.4 billion each.**

**Fresh, Chilled, Frozen fish and molluscs –
most traded**

Trade in Fish and Fish products

- **US Main Exporter – US\$ 12.4 billion**
- **Rest of the Region – US\$ 1.3 billion**
- **Excluding US, all the other countries are net exporters in terms of value; most are net importers in terms of volume (Guyana, Belize, Suriname).**

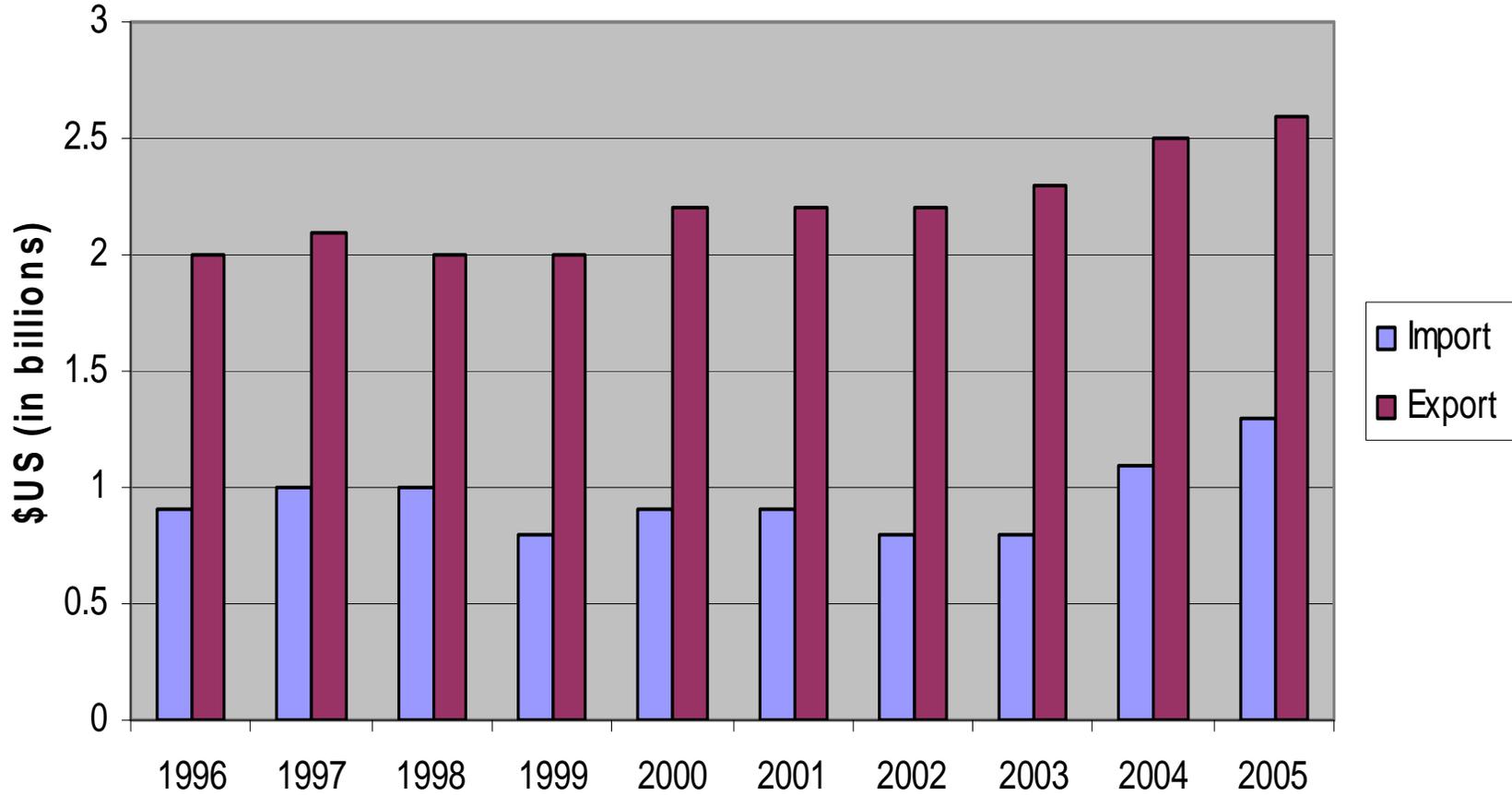
Top of list: frozen crustaceans and molluscs; fresh chilled and frozen fish – most traded

Trade in Fish and Fish products

Imports

- **Import Value – US\$ 12.4 billion (2005);**
- **Top of list: frozen crustaceans and molluscs; fresh chilled and frozen**
- **If US included list changes: fresh, chilled and frozen fish head the list, followed by dried, salted and smoked fish, frozen crustaceans and molluscs and canned fish.**
- Brazil - main importer of dried, salted and smoked fish**

**Figure 1. Annual import and export values WECAFC countries
(excluding US)**



Apparent Per Capita Fish Consumption

- **World Average - 16.6 kg**
- **Wider Caribbean - 14.4 kg**
 - **Excluding US – 8.6 kg**
- **North America – 19.7 kg**
 - **US – 22.6 kg**
 - **Mexico – 11.3 kg**

Apparent Per Capita Fish Consumption

➤ **Central America – 6.2 kg**

➤ **Greater Antilles – 8.3 kg**

- **Barbados 39.9 kg**

- **Grenada 46.9 kg**

➤ **Lesser Antilles – 22.0 kg**

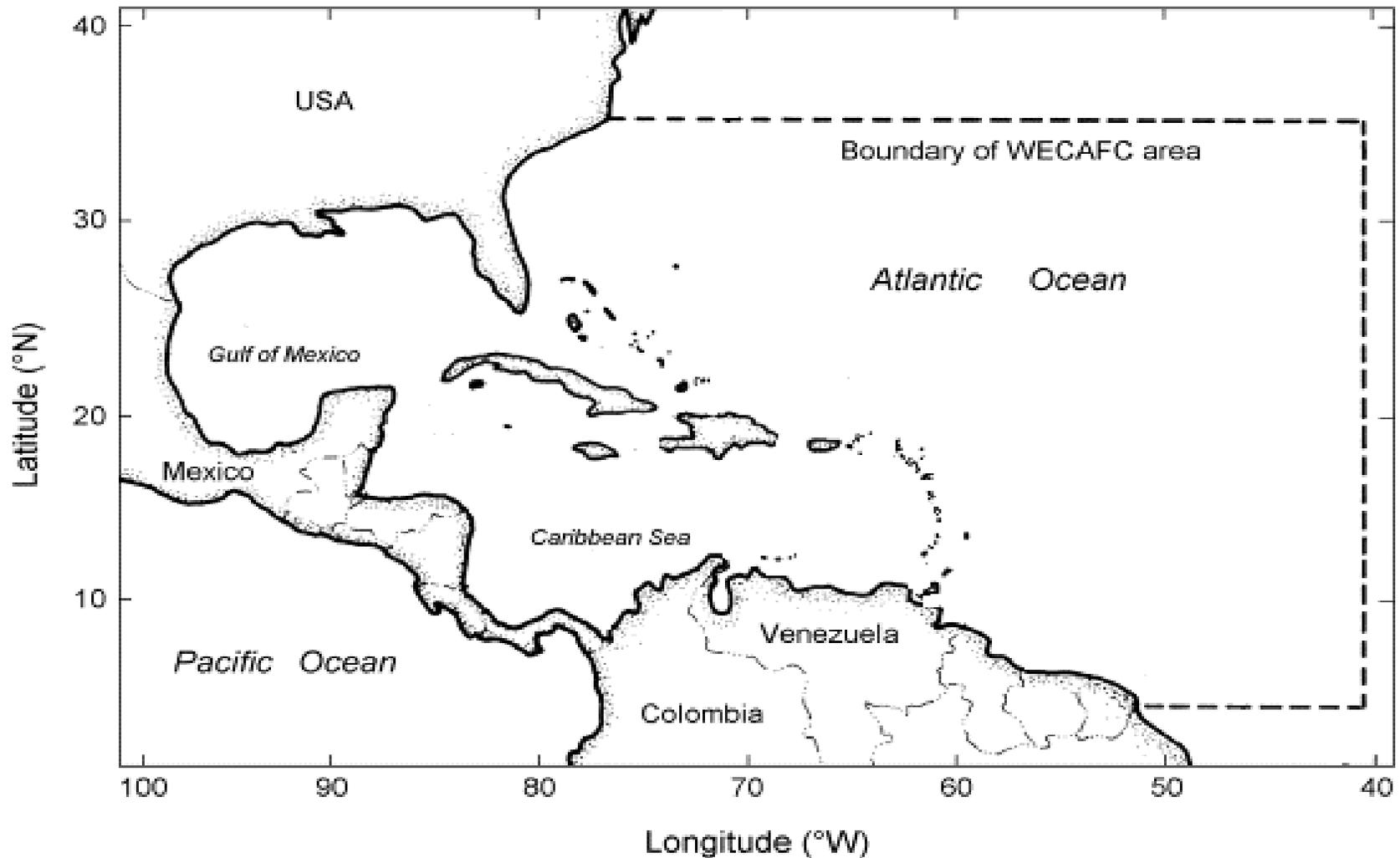
➤ **South America – 7.7 kg**

- **Guyana - 37.9 kg**

- **Brazil 6.9 kg**

➤ **Overestimated in countries with tourism**

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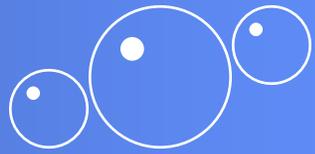




WECAFC

Goal is to promote international cooperation for the conservation, development and sustainable utilisation of living marine resources in the WECAFC Area, by:



- **Providing policy and management advice based on scientific analyses using the best available data and information; Precautionary Approach**
 - **Assisting members in establishing harmonised rational policies;**
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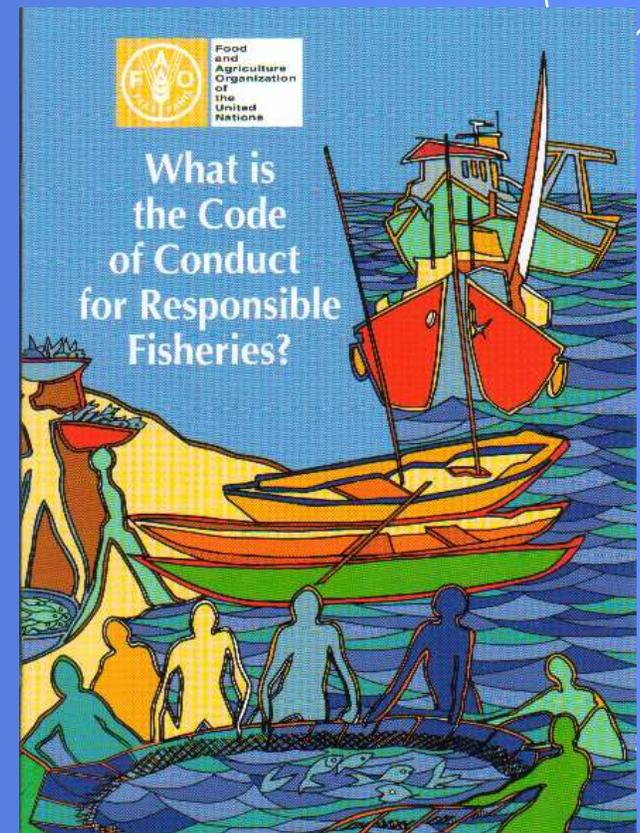
International Norms/Agreements

- **1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention**
- **1992, UNCED and Agenda 21**
- **1993, Biodiversity Convention**
- **1995, UN Fish Stocks Agreement**
- **1995, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**
- **2001, Reyjavik Declaration, EAF**
- **2001, WSSD**

1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

States and users of living aquatic resources should conserve aquatic ecosystems.

The right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources.



WECAFC Interdisciplinary Working Groups

- Ad Hoc Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Shelf
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Flying Fish in the Eastern Caribbean
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Queen Conch
- Lesser Antilles Ad Hoc Working Group on Moored FADs Fishing



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

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