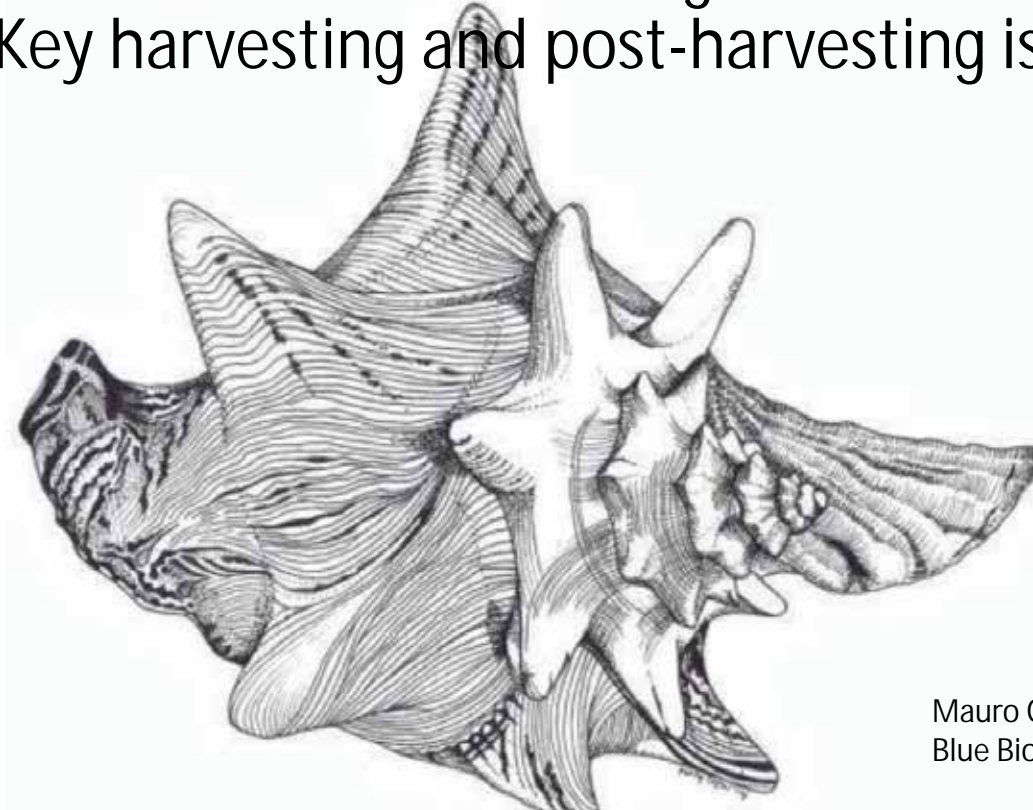


Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan: Key harvesting and post-harvesting issues



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Regional stakeholder webinar on Blue Bio-Trade
& Bio-Trade Principles and Criteria including
CITES requirements. 22-23 March 2021





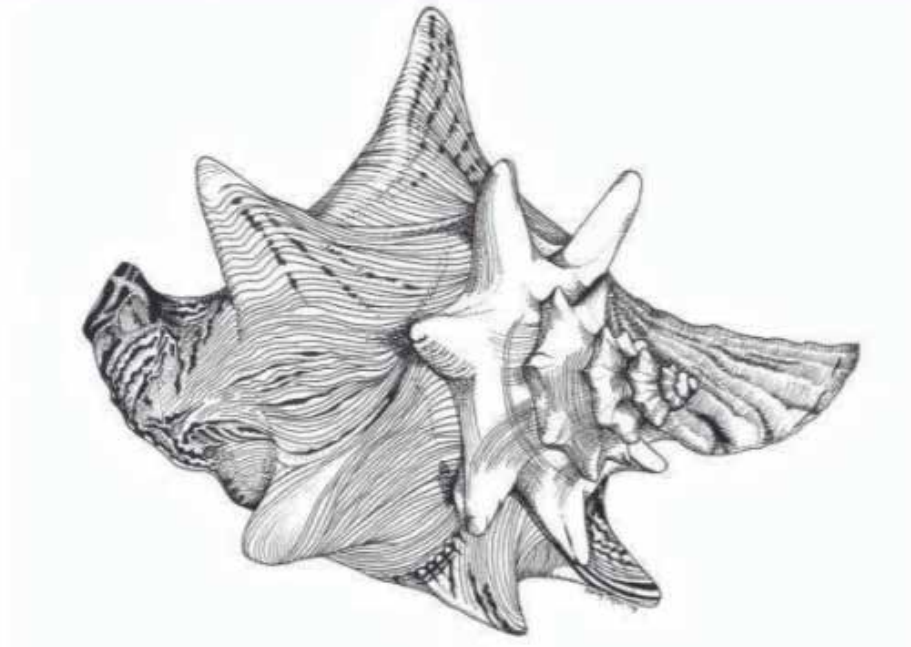
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Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan



Excerpts taken from FAO
Fisheries and Aquaculture
Technical Document 610

Goal of the Queen Conch Regional Fishery & Conservation Management Plan

To identify management measures that can be applied at the **regional or sub-regional** level for the **sustainability** of queen conch **populations**, and for the maintenance of a **healthy fishery** and the **livelihoods** of those people involved in the fishery.

The regional management measures oriented towards an **ecosystem-based management** approach and **enhancing partnerships** and collaboration throughout the Wider Caribbean region to improve the long-term governance of queen conch fisheries across the Caribbean.

1. To improve collection and integration of scientific data needed to determine queen conch population status as the basis for the application of ecosystem-based management.
2. To harmonize measures aimed at increase the stability of the queen conch population and to implementing best-management practices for a sustainable fishery.
3. To increase coordination and collaboration toward achieving, allowing for better education and outreach, monitoring and research, co-management and strengthening, and optimizing and harmonizing regional governance arrangements.
4. To adopt regional management measures that incorporate the precautionary principle.

Objective	Regional measure	Expected implementation		
		Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
1. To improve the collection and integration of scientific data needed to determine queen conch population status as the basis for the application of ecosystem-based management criteria.	1. Harmonized and simplified categories of queen conch meat conversion factors.	x		
	2. Improvement of catch and effort monitoring programs.	x		
2. To harmonize measures aimed to increase the stability of the queen conch population and to implementing best-management practices for a sustainable fishery.	3. A harmonized regional closed season (Jun 1- Sep 30)	x		
	4. Non-Detriment Finding for all export of queen conch meat and its by-products.	x		
	5. Licensing of all queen conch fishers, processors and exporters.	x		
	6. Adoption of stricter regulations on autonomous diving techniques.	x		
	10. National level queen conch conservation and management plans.		x	
	11. Traceability of queen conch throughout the value chain.		x	
3. To increase coordination and collaboration toward achieving better education and outreach, monitoring and research, co-management and strengthening, optimizing and harmonizing regional governance arrangements.	7. Coordination in patrolling.	x		
	8. Extended use of satellite based-VMS systems for boats with a length exceeding 10m-long.	x		
	9. Continuous education and outreach programmes for stakeholders.	x		
4. To adopt regional management measures integrating the precautionary principle.	12. Development collaborative arrangements needed to generate habitat maps at the scale needed for better fisheries management.		x	
	13. Adoption of sub-regional mechanisms to evaluate the fishery potential of queen conch using fishery dependent and independent factors.			x

State of the implementation of RQCMCP

- Some countries are making good efforts to implement the RQCMCP (E.g. Belize, Jamaica, Nicaragua)
- The licensing of all Queen conch fishers is a challenge for some countries (Nicaragua, Bahamas, Honduras).
- The development and implementation of national management plans is also another challenge for some countries.
- The evaluation of the fishery potential of queen conch using fishery dependent and independent factors is a main challenge for some countries due to lack of technical capacity.

Regional QC management and conservation measures and their linkages to Bio-Trade P&C

1. Harmonized and simplified categories of queen conch meat conversion factors. – P1 Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Improvement of catch and effort monitoring programmes. – P2 Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; P1 Conservation of Biodiversity
3. A synchronized regional closed season (1 June to 30 September).
4. Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) for export of queen conch meat and its by-products. – P1 Conservation of Biodiversity
5. Licensing of all queen conch fishers, processors and exporters. – P1 Conservation of Biodiversity; P3 Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity..
6. Adoption of stricter regulations on autonomous diving techniques
7. Organized patrolling
8. Extended use of satellite-based VMS systems for boats with a length exceeding 10 meters.
9. Continuous education and outreach programmes for stakeholders. 5Socio-economic importance of Queen conch in the wider Caribbean.
10. National level Queen conch conservation and management plans. – P1 Conservation of Biodiversity
11. Traceability of Queen conch throughout the value chain – P1 Conservation of Biodiversity
12. Develop collaborative arrangements needed to generate habitat maps at the scale needed for better fisheries management. P5 Compliance with national and international regulations
13. Adoption of subregional mechanisms to evaluate the fishery potential of queen conch using fishery dependent and independent Factors. P 4 Socio-economic sustainability (productive, financial and market management)
14. Progressive inclusion of co-management strategies

How BBT compliments and supports RQCMCP by focusing on post harvest sector

- The preparation of three country case studies.
- Information will assist the development of national QC management plans.
- Catch and effort data will improve QC management in the participating countries.
- Traceability of Queen conch throughout the value chain will help QC meat exports to attract better prices.
- The trade opportunities (meat and other parts) that will be developed will help to further increase the income generation capacity of fishers and other stakeholders.