



9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Virtual meeting
March, 19th 2021

SPAW STAC Exemptions Working Group reports

A stylized illustration of an underwater scene. A large sea turtle is swimming in the center, surrounded by various fish and coral reefs. The background is a gradient of blue, representing the ocean.

Sandrine Pivard, Director,
Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC)



Establishment and strengthening of MPAs

Ecosystem based management, spatial marine planning



Development of guidelines for the management of MPAs and species

Assessment and completion of the existing listings, develop cooperation between SPAW sites



REGIONAL COOPERATION

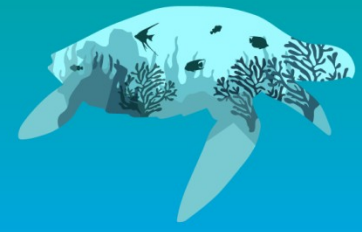
Preservation of threatened and endangered species

Marine mammals, (CARI'MAM), turtles (WIDECAS), sharks, birds

Preservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Coral reefs mangroves, seagrass coastal resilience, invasive species, sargassum control, sustainable development, BECC and Carib-Coast



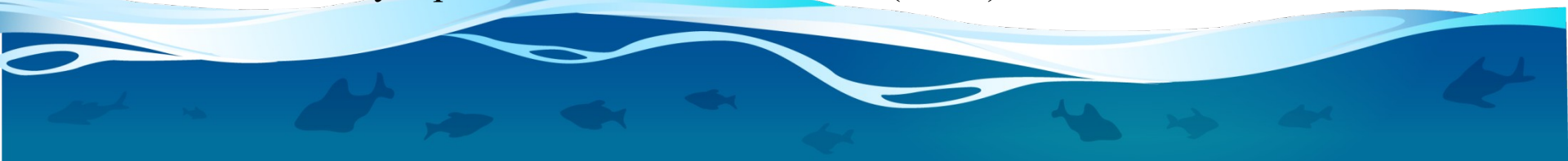


STAC Gouvernance strengthened and parties more involved though of the working groups => Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Parties

Terms of Reference of the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups:

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.12

SPAW-RAC's activity report: * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.42 INF.4





Number of experts: Eleven (11)

- 9 experts nominated by 6 members states
- 2 experts nominated by observers

Meeting held

- May 5th 2020 / Encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format

- Additional discussions on the Teamwork dedicated platform and contributions on online documents.

Focus

Curaçao Exemption
Report

USA Exemption
Report

Format

Assigned tasks

Mandatory tasks :

- Review for recommendation the exemptions reports submitted by contracting parties

Additional tasks from the priorities discussed during STAC 8 (not limited to):

- Encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (UNEP(DEPI/CAR WG 38/3)
- Review the United States Exemptions Report (2017) and report to the STAC on their findings, as well as the Curacao Exemptions Report (2016) and any additional information that may be provided by the Government of Curacao since the original exemption report submission.

Species Working Group

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42.5 Exemptions working group report

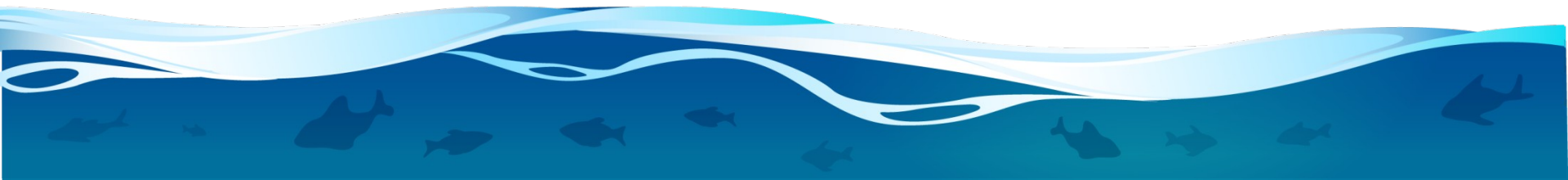
* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR INF 21





TASK 2 - Encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (UNEP(DEPI/CAR WG 38/3) Recommendations:

- Use existing information (use the country reports when existing at the Convention and the Protocol level) to identify what is implemented by countries to comply with the protocol and review the US and Curaçao reports both to identify recommendations to provide to the parties but also to review them formally for the next STAC
- Ask the Secretariat to reach out to countries not complying with the protocol and also provide more of the bi-annual reports received.
- Encourage the countries to report more and to nominate experts or representatives to the WG.
- Encourage the use of the reporting format but also to report even if they use another format, as long as it provides the necessary information.
- Clarify what stance the STAC should take in front of SPAW Parties still allowing protected species hunting. An assessment of the situation could be done to better tackle the lack of effective management and protection measures.
- Use networks on the ground level (example WIDECAST) in a collaborative way.





Tasks 1 and 3 : Review the United States Exemptions Report (2017) and report to the STAC on their findings, Review the Curacao Exemptions Report (2016) and any additional information that may be provided by the Government of Curacao since the original exemption report submission.

- One is ex-post and programmatic, the other one is ex ante and used the format.
- Both report accounts for the activities that the United States carried out or are planning to carry out and thus comply with the provisions of the SPAW Protocol (Article 11 (2)).
- Both are missing a Environmental Impact Assessment as an annex, which is cited in item 6. of Document UNEP (DEPI) / CAR IG.37 / 3 as a complement, but as for US it is a programmatic exemption report. Thus the EIA for each exemption can be accessed through the links to permits and other documents provided in the United States report to the individual exemptions.
- The US Exemptions Report is missing reference to public display facilities that may require a public display or import permit under the MMPA. When the United States ratified the SPAW Protocol, it took a reservation to Article 11(1) that reads: "The United States does not consider itself bound by Article 11(1) of the Protocol to the extent that United States law permits the limited taking of flora and fauna listed in Annexes I and I"
- In the Curaçao report there are conceptual differences against some terms (for example compensation, mitigation, restoration), as mentioned in the STAC Miami 2016



The STAC may wish to recommend to:

- Encourage the countries to report more and to nominate experts or representatives to the Working Group.
 - Encourage them to use of the reporting format but also to report even if they use another format, as long as it provides the necessary information.
 - Clarify what stance the STAC/COP should take in front of SPAW Parties still allowing protected species hunting. An assessment of the situation could be done to better tackle the lack of effective management and protection measures.
- Request the Secretariat to reach out to countries not complying with the protocol and also provide more of the biennial reports received.
- Request the Working Group to link with the Species working group, especially regarding its task 4 (improving management of species listed)
- Use networks on the ground level (example WIDECAST) in a collaborative way
- to revise the Terms of reference if deemed necessary and in particular its Annex (update the current tasks of the working group).



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The floor is yours...

SPAW-RAC

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<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Key-documents>