



**2ND MEETING OF THE CFMC/WECAFC/CITES/OSPESCA/CRFM
WORKING GROUP ON QUEEN CONCH**

Hard Rock Hotel, Panama City, Panama, 18-20 November 2014

Information Note

VENUE OF THE WORKSHOP

The meeting will be organized at the Hard Rock Hotel (<http://www.hrhpanamamegapolis.com/>) and all participants funded by either FAO or CFMC will be accommodated here. The rooms are already paid for and breakfast, and Wi-Fi internet is included. However, any consumption from the minibar or room service will have to be paid by the participants themselves.

HOTEL RATES

For this event the Hotel is offering a special rate of US\$145.00 for single standard room accommodation (inclusive of taxes and breakfast). Check in at the hotel is 4:00 p.m. and Check out is 12:00 p.m.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reservations of nonsponsored participants, should be made as early as possible and can be made directly with any reservations agent of the hotel or through the CFMC office with Diana Martino at diana_martino_cfmc@yahoo.com. If reservations are made directly with the Hotel, it would be greatly appreciated if you could inform the WECAFC Secretariat and the CFMC office. Your e-mail should be directed to the following e-mail accounts: diana_martino_cfmc@yahoo.com with copy to WECAFC-Secretariat@fao.org.

For reservation with the hotel you can contact:

Anya Buitrago

Tel: +507-294-4176

E-mail: ventas.grupos02@hrhpanamamegapolis.com

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Airport – Hotel – Airport will be arranged for FAO and CFMC sponsored participants. You will be met at the airport by a driver from the Hard Rock Cafe Hotel.

The hotel is offering a \$32.00USD rate per person for transportation -airport-hotel-airport.

For this service, anyone who would like it has to send their flight itinerary to Anya Buitrago.

Anya Buitrago

tel: [+507-294-4176](tel:+507-294-4176)

email: ventas.grupos02@hrhpanamamegapolis.com

REGISTRATION AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

Registration will take place at the venue of the workshop from 9:00 a.m. and the Opening of the meeting will commence at 9:15 a.m.

LANGUAGES

The meeting will be conducted in English and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

MEALS

Breakfast – Included with the room

Lunch – All lunches will be paid for and will take place at the hotel.

Dinner – All sponsored participants travelling to Panama from abroad will receive a per diem, to pay for their dinners at a restaurant of their choice during the meeting days (Nov. 18-20, 2014).

FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY TO PANAMA

A valid passport and return ticket are required for all visitors.

Note that the yellow fever vaccination is required for people arriving from countries/areas where the disease is endemic.

AIRPORT TAX

No additional taxes apply.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of countries that require visas to travel to Panama. However, because of historical ties and bilateral agreements, citizens of several countries are not required to have visas for entry. If in doubt, please check with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country or visit following website:

<http://www.visitpanama.com/about-panamaen/getting-to-panama.html?lang=en>

It should also be noted that through Executive Decree 248 of July 21, 2009 it was established that: "all person independently of his/her nationality, who has a valid USA, Australian, Canadian or United Kingdom visa or from any other European Union country, and have used it at least once to enter the country of the pertinent visa, or can demonstrate legal residence in such country can enter Panama..."; with no need to have a Panamanian visa.

BANKING AND EXCHANGE RATE

The currency of Panama is the Balboa along with the United States dollar. The Balboa is pegged one-to-one to the US Dollar. The US Dollar is widely accepted throughout the country. Most credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, etc.) are accepted in hotels, restaurants and major stores and ATMs are prevalent.

Commercial banks are open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 4 pm, closing for an hour at lunchtime, and on a Saturday from 8.30 am to 1 pm.

CLIMATE

During the week of November 17-21, 2014, it is expected to be raining with some thunderstorms during the beginning of the week. The temperature should be around the 80s.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Panama is 110 Volts, alternating at 60 cycles per second. Most hotels and the meeting rooms we have make use of American style sockets. If your appliances have other plugs, please bring along an adapter.

SECURITY

Panama City is overall safe and has a lower crime rate than most of the capitals in the region. However, as everywhere, caution is necessary, especially when walking around at night. Armed violence in Panama City is not uncommon in certain parts of the city, which are best avoided. The high-crime areas are San Miguelito, Rio Abajo, El Chorrillo, Ancón, Curundú, Veracruz Beach, Panama Viejo, and the Madden Dam.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, you can contact the following persons at the FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean or the CFMC office:

Ms Bertha Simmons

WECAFC Liaison Assistant

Tel no: (246) 426-7110/11; Ext. 239

E-mail: Bertha.Simmons@fao.org

Mr Raymon van Anrooy

Fishery and Aquaculture Officer/
Secretary of WECAFC
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