

January 2017

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION						
Executive Committee						
Seventy-sixth Session						
Manila, Philippines, 21-23 February 2017						
OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH APFIC SESSION AND ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 34TH FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE						

1. The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its 34th Session on 12-14 February 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The report of the session is presented as information paper APFIC:EXCO/17/INF03. The 34th Session was informed by the recommendations of the 6th RCFM which was held immediately before (APFIC:EXCO/17/INF 04)

2. The 34th APFIC Session was attended by 27 participants and 9 observers including 24 delegates from 15 Member countries of APFIC (Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam). Those not present included: Australia, France, India, New Zealand, Timor Leste, United Kingdom. Two non-APFIC observers from FAO member countries attended (Lao PDR & Maldives). Six Observers from Regional Fisheries and Environmental Organizations participated including BOB-IGO, INFOFISH, IUCN, NACA, SACEP and SEAFDEC. Three FAO staff participated (2 RAP Secretariat, 1 consultant).

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION: OVERVIEW OF AQUACULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2015

3. The Commission considered and welcomed the Regional Review of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific 2015 prepared by the Secretariat as a periodic update on trends in production for the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission recommended it could be improved by reporting on a number of other species that are of interest to the region (to be reported separately). These included seaweeds, ornamentals and sea cucumber, fishmeal trends, aquaculture import/export (and consumption) and flood plain fisheries.

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION APFIC: REGIONAL REVIEW OF ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS

4. The commission welcomed the draft review report which detailed the action taken by the APFIC Secretariat to develop a regional review in response to this recommendation of the

Commission. A major conclusion of the review is that many of the actions that could be taken by member countries to address their IUU issues, would be identified under a National Plan of Action NPOA-IUU process, and this is a major recommendation of the review

5. The Commission welcomed the draft review, noting that it is a start to open dialogue that the review needed to be revised and improved. It was noted that the review did not include domestic IUU issues as these are usually poorly reported. The commission made specific recommendations to the secretariat with respect to finalization of the report.

6. The Secretariat noted that future updated information on IUU should be provided by member countries and that the Commission could take steps to commit to provide updates in the future. This issues is discussed further in Agenda item 2 on monitoring and Agenda item 6 which cover the FAO Regional programme (and global programme) in support of combating IUU and implementing the PSAMA.

7. The Commission further recommended that capacity building was needed and significant capacity development was needed for issues such as port inspections, at sea inspections, improving licensing and registration systems and the effective use of VMS as part of MCS.

8. The Commission recommended two options for APFIC Member Country follow up. One option was the development of an ASEAN MOU on combatting IUU fishing', and a second alternative or supporting action, the broadening of the membership of the RPOA-IUU was also proposed.

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION APFIC: APFIC MEMBER COUNTRY FEEDBACK ON PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

9. The commission welcomed the regular reporting to the Commission, member countries are invited to report on any significant actions or development related to key recommendations of the Commission.

10. The Commission welcomed and endorsed the recommendations of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop and the accompanying technical guidance documents on the development of regional guidance on responsible enhancement of inland water.

11. The Commission welcomed the work of the secretariat, member countries and partners on the Ecosystem approach to fishery management, noting its relevance to strengthening fishery management and the promotion of Blue Growth in both marine and inland fisheries in the region.

12. The Commission recommended the development of better methods to estimate the types and scale of IUU fishing in the region. A methodology for characterizing types and drivers of IUU fishing has been developed and a draft regional review of IUU fishing by foreign owned or operated fishing vessels in the Asian region was prepared.

13. An APFIC Questionnaire on FAD's and artificial reefs did not receive a high response rate and it was concluded by the Secretariat that there was insufficient information to prepare a report. There remained an interest to review these through a regional workshop.

14. The commission welcomed the work on increasing capacity for information and management in inland fisheries. Work delivered under this recommendation include the

convening of an APFIC Regional consultation on “Improving the contribution of culture-based fisheries and related fishery enhancements in inland waters to blue growth” in Sri Lanka. In addition to this, several FAO country and regional TCP projects (Bhutan, Lao PDR, MRC) have been executed in the biennium in support of management of inland fisheries. The Commission was informed that a FAO/GEF inland fisheries project is being developed with Indonesia

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION APFIC : IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR BLUE GROWTH IN AQUACULTURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

15. The Commission welcomed actions taken on the recommendation for further regional consultation to prioritize necessary actions at regional and national levels and to develop a strategic action plan for supporting the sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region.

16. The Commission endorsed the regional strategy and action plan developed by the regional consultative workshop "Promotion of sustainable intensification of aquaculture for food and nutritional security in Asia-Pacific".

17. The Commission recognized the potential for promoting integrated systems to achieve blue growth outcomes, ranging between rice-fish culture, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) and aqua-silviculture to promote food diversity and ecological benefits. The Commission also noted the opportunities of integration of fish-livestock systems, but noted that these systems may raise food safety challenges unless managed effectively.

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION APFIC: APFIC WORKPLAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

18. The commission welcomed and endorsed the report of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) Regional Consultative Forum Meeting, “Promoting blue growth in fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific”.

19. The commission welcomed the ongoing work of FAO and the Secretariat with respect to the partnership with the GEF and the ongoing and pipeline projects in the region relevant to the programmes of APFIC

20. The Commission noted the successful transfer of the APFIC website to the FAO servers. The Commission further requested that the website be used to communicate upcoming events and to carry the working papers and prospectus and background documents for such events.

SUMMARY DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

21. The commission decided on the following:

- The Commission endorsed the report of the meeting of the Seventy-Fifth APFIC Executive Committee.
- The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Sixth Regional Consultative Forum Meeting in full and recommended that these should inform the future biennial workplan of APFIC.
- The Commission recommended two options for APFIC Member Country follow up on cooperation to combat IUU fishing. One option was to support development of an ASEAN MOU on combatting IUU fishing; a second alternative or supporting action could be the broadening of the membership of the RPOA-IUU.

- The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop “Improving the contribution of culture-based fisheries and fishery enhancements in inland waters to blue growth” convened in 25–27 May 2015 in Negombo, Sri Lanka, and the accompanying technical guidance document
- The Commission endorsed the regional strategy and action plan developed by the regional consultative workshop "Promotion of sustainable intensification of aquaculture for food and nutritional security in Asia-Pacific".
- The Commission requested the Secretariat to proceed with an update of the APFIC Strategic Plan, which would be reviewed by the 76th Executive Committee
- The Commission endorsed the March 2016-March 2018 biennial APFIC workplan with a number of amendments
- The Commission agreed that the 35th Session of APFIC will be convened in Philippines March 2018. Date and Venue to be communicated by the Host Government.

ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

22. The 31st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) recommended that the FAO Regional Technical Commissions (e.g. APFIC) should be considered as regional priorities for FAOs work in the sub-sector. The Conference also encouraged FAO to forge stronger linkages between FAO regional technical commissions (e.g. APFIC) and their parent global committees (e.g. COFI). During the 33rd APFIC session recommendations and priorities were endorsed by for the next APCR.
23. The Commission noted with concern, that fisheries and aquaculture have not yet been substantively covered in the work of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC).
24. The Commission reiterated the importance of the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture for food and nutrition security in the APFIC region and urged FAO to ensure adequate visibility of the sub-sectors in regional and global dialogues on food security and nutrition.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

25. The Executive Committee is invited to review these conclusions and recommendations and suggest how the APFIC Secretariat might follow-up with regional partners, or develop specific initiatives to address priority issues.
26. The Executive Committee may consider how the recommendations of the APFIC 34th Session can be brought to the attention of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the 34th Session of the APCR.
27. The Executive Committee may consider recommending items for inclusion on the 34th FAO APCR agenda.