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منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-third Session

Rome, 9–13 July 2018

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, ROME, ITALY, 24–27 OCTOBER 2017

Executive Summary

This document contains an overview of the topics discussed at the Ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and makes reference to its main recommendations. The full report is available as document COFI/2018/Inf.13.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- Provide further guidance, as appropriate, with regard to the work of the Department in the field of aquaculture, and in particular the preparation of the Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines
- Take note of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and recommend the wide distribution of the Report, and recommend the preparation of a brief summary of the Report for policy makers.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org/cofi/en/*



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Working Document summarizes the decisions and recommendations of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SCA) of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) which was held in Rome, Italy from 24 to 27 October 2017. It was attended by 200 delegates from eighty-nine Members of FAO, by two associate Members, by representatives from two specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from seven intergovernmental and six international non-governmental organizations to review a full agenda of aquaculture-related items. The full report of the session is provided as document COFI/2018/Inf.13. Furthermore, the Working Document provides supplementary information in the annexes with regard to two key technical areas that have been specifically recommended for further action by the Secretariat.
2. The welcome address on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran was delivered by Mr Hossein Abdolhay, Iranian Fisheries Organization. The Islamic Republic of Iran thanked FAO for hosting the Sub-Committee at FAO Headquarters on account of unforeseen difficulties in holding the session in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. The Sub-Committee elected Mr Yngve Torgersen (the Kingdom of Norway) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and the Kingdom of Belgium, the Union of the Comoros, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Uganda as members of the Drafting Committee.

II. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE SESSION

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's efforts in implementing the recommendations of the past sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

4. The Sub-Committee (SCA) acknowledged the work carried out during the intersessional period covering a wide range of technical and policy issues and expressed their appreciation on the progress achieved, considering the limited financial and human resources available. The Sub-Committee underlined the important contribution of aquaculture to food security and nutrition and its great potential, and emphasized the need to support small-scale producers.

Progress reporting on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) provisions relevant to aquaculture and culture-based fisheries

5. The Sub-Committee commended FAO on its continuing efforts to develop the CCRF questionnaire on aquaculture and culture-based fisheries. Furthermore, it was recommended to improve access to Members to the data of this questionnaire through web-based technology, thereby increasing further the response from Members over those from 2013 and 2015. The Sub-Committee called for FAO to continue to support regional bodies attempt to ensure the CCRF and associated technical guidelines helped in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture.

Report from the secretariat of the COFI sub-committee on fish trade

6. The Sub-Committee underlined the importance of market access and the relevance of the work of FAO on post-harvest issues, including for small-scale producers, and the positive contribution to food security and livelihoods. The Sub-Committee highlighted the need to improve consumer perceptions of the aquaculture sector in general, and encouraged the Secretariats of the two Sub-Committees to initiate joint programmes and activities to this end, with the participation of FAO Members as well as external stakeholders.

Aquaculture, the sustainable development goals (SDGs)/Agenda 2030 and FAO's common vision for sustainable food and agriculture

7. The Sub-Committee recognized the growing global significance of sustainable aquaculture development to the achievement of a wide range of SDG targets, while also recognizing that there is a growing need for implementation of best practices in aquaculture in many regions and countries. The Sub-Committee recommended that FAO should develop global guidelines for the sustainable development of the sector (Annex 1). It unanimously endorsed FAO's Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture as a useful framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda. It also endorsed the FAO Blue Growth Initiative, as part of FAO's Common Vision and its five principles, and stressed its relevance in supporting Members to reach their SDGs.

Aquatic genetic resources for aquaculture development

8. The Sub-Committee acknowledged that the responsible use of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) can positively impact both aquaculture and fisheries resources, and the people depending on them. The Sub-Committee appreciated the summary of the recommendations of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies, the full report of which has been made available to this session of COFI.¹ The Sub-Committee welcomed the forthcoming report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Annex 2).²

Extension for aquaculture development

9. The Sub-Committee recognized the importance of extension for aquaculture development, and requested that FAO provide guidance and facilitate knowledge-sharing among Member countries. Members urged FAO to continue its efforts in mapping needs and strengthening extension for aquaculture through South-South Cooperation, field projects, capacity building workshops or other mechanisms, such as farmer field schools and farmer-to-farmer extension.

Special event on aquaculture in the small island developing states (SIDS): blue growth opportunities for SIDS in a changing climate

10. The Sub-Committee recommended that FAO continue its work in aquaculture development in SIDS providing support through capacity development, technical assistance, facilitating the exchange of experiences on aquaculture and supporting possible regional approaches, building upon existing and emerging networks.

Progress reporting on the implementation of the technical guidelines on aquaculture certification and the evaluation framework to assess conformity of aquaculture certification schemes with the guidelines

11. The Sub-Committee noted the increasing role of certification in national and international markets, and highlighted the need to strengthen the capacity of small-scale producers to attain certification and eventually improve market access.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

12. Mr Yngve Torgersen of the Kingdom of Norway was elected Chairperson of the tenth session of the Sub-Committee. The United Mexican States was elected first Vice-Chair. The Republic of

¹ COFI/2018/SBD.3

² COFI/2018/SBD.4

Turkey, the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Belgium were elected second, third and fourth Vice-Chairs, respectively.

Any Other Matters

13. The Sub-Committee was informed of the outcome of the side event on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and aquaculture held on 25 October 2017. Seven presentations were given by national delegates from the Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, the European Commission and FAO. The presentations covered: One Health and related national and international action plans; measures and strategies on AMR risks and antimicrobial use; best biosecurity management practices; and the call for a paradigm shift towards a new aquaculture biosecurity management framework.

Date and Place of the Tenth Session

14. The Sub-Committee welcomed the kind invitation of the Kingdom of Norway to host its tenth session. The dates and venue will be announced at the next session of COFI. The United Mexican States offered to host the eleventh session of the Sub-Committee. The Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Indonesia expressed their interest to host future sessions of the Sub-Committee

Adoption of the Report

15. The report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee was adopted on 27 October 2017.

ANNEX 1**Towards Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines**

During the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SCA) of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome, Italy from 24 to 27 October 2017, the Sub-Committee underlined the important contribution of aquaculture to food security and nutrition as well as the importance of market access and post-harvest issues, and emphasized the need to support small-scale producers. The Sub-Committee recognized the growing global significance of sustainable aquaculture development and its potential contributions to both global food security and nutrition, as well as to the achievement of a wide range of SDG targets, while recognizing that there is a growing need for implementation of best practices in aquaculture in many countries and regions.

This calls for the development of Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines. The Guidelines would make use of the responses to the biennial Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) questionnaire as these responses are used for monitoring, follow-up and reporting on progress made in implementing the SDG targets relevant to aquaculture. Aquaculture is at present the fastest growing food production sector, but improved practices are needed to maintain the growth in a sustainable manner. A methodology will be devised to assess and identify countries that perform well against sustainability criteria. Best practices from these countries, while considering balance across regions, development status, production levels and production systems, will be compiled and summarized from the broad spectrum of different aquaculture social and economic environments, natural conditions, and regulatory frameworks.

These guidelines for policymakers will aim to engage and enable all agricultural sectors, such as livestock and crop production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and integrated approaches like integrated fish and plant farming and climate-smart agriculture, to effectively participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They will be developed within the broader framework of FAO's Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture and its five principles.³

FAO expects to continue to facilitate dialogue on this matter, especially in the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, and as part of its work programme with the Strategic Programmes, engagement with other technical committees, and with relevant stakeholders. All interested Members are invited to join this process and contribute to the development of these guidelines.

³ www.fao.org/3/a-i3940e.pdf

ANNEX 2

Preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW AqGR)**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Sixteenth Regular Session, welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Report). It invited countries that had not yet done so to nominate National Focal Points (NFPs) and to submit Country Reports by 30 June 2017, and encouraged countries that had already submitted a country report to submit a revised version.⁴
2. The Commission requested FAO to prepare a revised draft Report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (revised draft Report). It also requested that a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) be convened to review the revised draft Report.
3. This document provides an update on the status of preparation of the Report, for review by the Working Group. The revised draft Report is contained in the document *Revised draft report on The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.⁵

BACKGROUND

4. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission agreed that improving the collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) is of high priority and included the preparation of the Report into its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).⁶ At its Thirteenth and Fourteenth Regular Sessions, the Commission considered the scope of the Report and decided, at the latter session, “that the scope of the report would be farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction. Countries were also invited to provide a species list of nationally important aquatic genetic resources of capture fisheries within national jurisdiction.”⁷
5. At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission also agreed on the structure of the Report⁸ and requested FAO to adjust the draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports *for The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and to reduce the number of proposed Thematic Background Studies by prioritizing them in line with the agreed scope and focusing on the core issue of genetic diversity.⁹ The Commission called on countries to participate in the process by preparing Country Reports on AqGR and to strengthen related information systems.¹⁰
6. At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission endorsed a revised timeline for the preparation of the Report, an indicative list of Thematic Background Studies and cost estimates, and invited countries to prepare Country Reports for the Report with the involvement of all relevant

⁴ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 39.

⁵ COFI/2018/SBD.4

⁶ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 60–61.

⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 76.

⁸ CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix H.

⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 79.

¹⁰ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 78.

stakeholders.¹¹ The Commission also agreed to establish the Working Group specifically with the task to guide the preparation of and review the Report.¹²

7. The Working Group, at its First Session, held from 20 to 22 June 2016, reviewed the Draft Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, noted that it was a preliminary analysis based on a limited set of Country Reports, that a higher number of Country Reports was needed to finalize the Report and made detailed comments and recommendations with regard to the finalization of the Report.¹³

8. The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a revised draft Report, taking into account the information contained in the Country Reports, the Thematic Background Studies, information provided by international organizations, and the comments and recommendations provided by the Commission and the Working Group. It invited countries to comment on the revised draft Report, once it becomes available. The Commission also requested that COFI and, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, be consulted on the revised draft Report. Finally, the Commission requested that a second meeting of the Working Group be convened to review the revised draft Report in light of all comments and inputs received.

STEPS TOWARDS THE FINALIZATION OF THE REPORT

Submission of Country Reports

9. In 2012, the Director-General of the Organization invited countries to nominate National Focal Points for the preparation of Country Reports for the Report. Information on National Focal Points officially designated by FAO members is being regularly updated and published online.¹⁴

10. In 2015, in endorsing the revised timeline for the preparation of the Report, the Commission agreed that Country Reports should be submitted by the end of 2015 at the latest. Only a limited number of Country Reports was received by that deadline. As of 15 April 2016, 47 officially endorsed Country Reports had been received by FAO and provided the basis of the draft Report, as presented to the Working Group and the Commission at their last sessions.

11. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission therefore invited countries that had not yet done so to submit their Country Reports, including updated versions, by 30 June 2017. By that date, 92 officially endorsed Country Reports have been received as listed in *Appendix I*. Importantly, the revised draft Report contains data from the 11 leading aquaculture production countries and accounts for more than 90 percent of the aquaculture production globally.

Consultations

12. In response to the Commission's request, FAO invited Commission Members and observers in the beginning of March 2018, through Circular State Letter, to comment by 31 May 2018 on the revised draft Report which was made available on the website of FAO on 13 March 2018.

13. The COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (COFI Working Group) considered the (first version of the) draft Report at its second meeting, held on 19 to 20 October 2017 and the report of the meeting¹⁵ as well as a summary¹⁶ of it are available to the

¹¹ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraphs 60–61.

¹² CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 63.

¹³ CGRFA/WG-AqGR-1/16/Report.

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs238e.pdf>

¹⁵ CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.3.

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/4.

Working Group. The COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture considered the status of preparation of the Report at its Ninth Session, held from 24 to 27 October 2017.¹⁷

14. As the revised draft Report could not be made available to the COFI Working Group and the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, comments were sought from these bodies in writing in March/April 2018; they are contained in the document *Comments from Members and Observers of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and Experts of the COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on the revised draft Report on The State of the World's The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹⁸

15. In response to the Commission's request to also seek relevant information from international organizations, FAO developed a simple survey form soliciting information on AqGR from International Organizations¹⁹ and distributed it to relevant organizations around the world. Six organizations responded to the survey: the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), the South Pacific Community (SPC) and the WorldFish Center (WFC).

Thematic Background Studies

16. The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, endorsed an indicative list of Thematic Background Studies to address specific aspects of the Report.²⁰ The approved Thematic Background Studies have been reviewed and edited and made available for review by the COFI Working Group and the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.²¹ Selected material from these studies has been incorporated into relevant sections of the revised draft Report. These studies, along with the Country Reports, include information on the use of AqGR and on the numbers of aquatic species for food and agriculture that often have not previously been reported to FAO.

17. The Working Group, at its first session, recommended that the Commission request FAO to continue its work towards the finalization of the Report, for consideration by the Working Group at its Second Session and by the Commission at its Seventeenth Session.

18. At the time of preparation of this document, the ITWG is scheduled to hold its second session from 23 to 25 April 2018, and provide further recommendations to the Secretariat on the finalization of the Report, which is made available to COFI as SBD 3. The SoW AqGR, its process of preparation, regional experiences on the relevance and importance of aquatic genetic resources and the options for follow-up to the SoW AqGR is slated to be presented by the Secretariat and partners at a side event during COFI 33.

¹⁷ COFI:AQ/IX/2017/6/Rev.1; COFI:AQ/IX/2017/Inf.8.

¹⁸ CGRFA/WG-AqGR-2/18/Inf.11.

¹⁹ COFI:AQ/IX/2017/Inf.8, *Appendix II*.

²⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 60.

²¹ www.fao.org/aquatic-genetic-resources/background/sow/background-studies/en/

APPENDIX I

LIST OF COUNTRY REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR THE FIRST STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE²²

CONTINENT					
Africa	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia	Europe	North America	Oceania
Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cabo Verde Cameroon Chad Democratic Republic of the Congo Djibouti Egypt Ghana Kenya Madagascar Malawi Morocco Mozambique Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone South Africa Sudan Togo Tunisia Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Zambia	Argentina Belize Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Mexico Nicaragua Panama Paraguay Peru Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Armenia Bangladesh Bhutan Cambodia China Cyprus Georgia India Indonesia Iran (Islamic Republic of) Iraq Japan Kazakhstan Lao People's Democratic Republic Malaysia Philippines Republic of Korea Sri Lanka Thailand Turkey Viet Nam	Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Czechia Denmark Estonia Finland Germany Hungary Latvia Netherlands Norway Poland Romania Slovenia Sweden Ukraine	Canada United States of America	Australia Fiji Kiribati Palau Samoa Tonga Vanuatu

²² As of June 2017, 92 Country Reports have been received.