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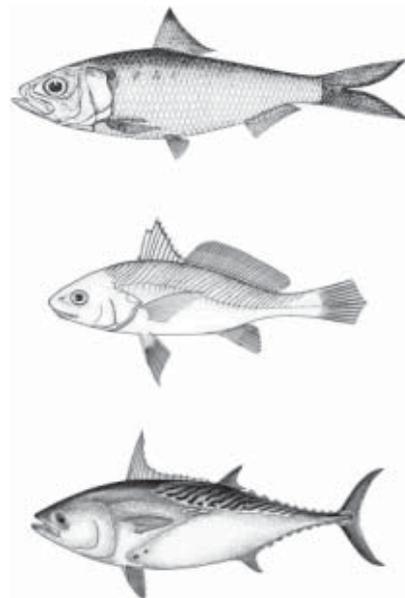
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ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Seventy-fifth Session

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11–13 November 2014



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report adopted at the Seventy-fifth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

This document presents the final report of the Seventy-fifth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) that was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 11 to 13 November 2014. The APFIC Executive Committee at its Seventy-fifth session comprised Sri Lanka (Chair), Philippines (Vice-Chair), Indonesia and Myanmar (Members), India (former Chair) and the Secretary of the Commission (as an ex officio Member).

The Executive Committee agreed that there were common objectives between the FAO/APFIC Regional Initiative on Blue Growth and the work priorities identified by the Commission. It recommended that the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth and APFIC's related work should be brought to the attention of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC), through the inclusion of an APRC agenda item on the contribution of fish to nutrition and food security.

The Executive Committee agreed that there was a need for monitoring in order to assess the benefits and risks of FADs and artificial reefs in the region and agreed with the development of an approach to assess the nature and extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the APFIC region.

The Executive Committee developed the agenda of the APFIC regional consultative workshop "Documentation and dissemination of successful sustainable aquaculture intensification practices in Asia" and reviewed the planned activity "APFIC regional consultative workshop on improving the contribution of culture-based fisheries and related fishery enhancements in inland waters to blue growth", noting that this was a timely contribution to the dialogue on blue growth and its potential in inland waters.

The Executive Committee noted the endorsed regional guidelines and training courses developed by APFIC and emphasized the importance of engagement with regional partners to ensure their promotion within the region and provide suggestions in that regard.

The Executive Committee reviewed the budget and expenses of the Commission and recommended that core allocation be sustained and suggested cost reduction strategies and means of encouraging greater contributions of in-kind support to the work of the Commission.

The Executive Committee discussed the preparations for the Sixth APFIC Regional Consultation Forum Meeting (RCFM) and the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission to be held in Sri Lanka in January/February 2016. The Executive Committee agreed that the Seventy-sixth Session of the Executive Committee would be convened in the Philippines in September 2016 subject to confirmation by the Philippines' government.

Distribution:

Participants of the Session
Members of the Commission
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) convened its Seventy-fifth Session at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 11 to 13 November 2014, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka.
2. The list of participants is presented in Appendix A.
3. The Seventy-fifth Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Mr H.M.B.C. Herath, on behalf of Mr D.M.R.B. Dissanayake, Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Government of Sri Lanka. He welcomed all the delegates of the Executive Committee and made special mention of the FAO Representative, Ms Beth Crawford, the Secretary of APFIC, and the important work of FAO and APFIC in the region.
4. The APFIC Secretary, Mr Simon Funge-Smith, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and reviewed the functions of the Executive Committee, noting that it is an advisory body whose main function is to assist in the work of the Commission and the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period. The specific functions of the Executive Committee are principally to advise on the biennial work programme, both ongoing and proposed, and to review the administrative and budgetary affairs of the Commission.
5. The Executive Committee was requested to develop recommendations and suggestions for the Commission and, more specifically, advise the Secretariat how it might achieve the recommended outcomes. The APFIC Secretary informed the Executive Committee that the report of the Seventy-fifth Session would confine itself mainly to the main conclusions and recommendations of the deliberations of the Executive Committee. Additional details are included where this is important in advising the Secretariat on options or lists of items to be considered or acted upon.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda as shown in Appendix B.
7. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.
8. The Executive Committee members, observers, and the secretariat briefly introduced themselves.

OUTCOMES OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD APFIC SESSION AND ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE (APRC)

9. The Executive Committee was informed of the recommendations of the Thirty-third Session of the Commission (held from 23 to 25 June 2014 in Hyderabad, India) based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/14/02, APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 03 and APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 04.
10. The Executive Committee was invited to review these recommendations and suggest how the APFIC Secretariat might follow them up with regional partners, or develop specific initiatives to address priority issues.

Training programmes endorsed by the Commission

11. The Executive Committee noted the endorsed regional guidelines and training courses developed by APFIC and emphasized the importance of engagement with regional partners to ensure their promotion within the region, specifically:

- engagement with regional organizations such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the “Regional plan of action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing in the region (RPOA)” in the promotion of capacity building for port inspection of fishing vessels;
- development of the “Regional trainers for the essential ecosystem approach to fishery management” training course; and
- incorporation of the APFIC trawl guidelines into the development of trawl fishery management plans.

12. The Secretary noted that the “APFIC port inspection of fishing vessels” training course had been distributed to relevant organizations and that, based on preliminary feedback, it had proved useful in developing a similar training course in Indonesia. The training course was also to be the basis of training in the Maldives and possibly other countries in the region that have expressed interest in similar training such as Sri Lanka.

13. The Executive Committee noted the effort to improve national fishing vessel registration in the Philippines through the development of mobile vessel registration units coupled to an incentive system to encourage greater coverage.

Regional Initiative on Blue Growth

14. The Executive Committee welcomed the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth and emphasized its relevance to the APFIC member countries.

15. The Executive Committee recommended that the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth should adequately cover the issues of reducing post-harvest losses and the rehabilitation of abandoned aquaculture operations. It further noted that blue growth was not simply about increasing production, but also included conservation of biodiversity and ensuring environmental sustainability as part of its commitment to sustainable development.

16. The Executive Committee recommended that the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth and APFIC’s work should be brought to the attention of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) through the inclusion of an APRC agenda item on the contribution of fish to nutrition and food security and the potential of blue growth.

17. The Executive Committee recommended that this agenda item could cover:

- the opportunities for blue growth approaches in both capture fisheries and aquaculture, in both fresh and marine waters;
- suggestions for key areas that would be covered under a blue growth programme;
- how the ongoing Regional Initiative on Blue Growth could be strengthened to become a regional cooperation programme; and
- the endorsement of a strategic action plan for supporting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region that would be the outcome of a regional consultation process during 2014/2015.

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – IMPROVING MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ISSUES

18. The Executive Committee discussed ongoing and planned inter-sessional activities related to the improvement of monitoring of trends and issues that are the focus of the work of the Commission, based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/14/03 and APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 06.

Fish aggregating devices (FADs) and artificial reefs

19. The Executive Committee agreed that there was a need for monitoring in order to assess the benefits and risks of FADs and artificial reefs in the region. It recommended that the Secretariat commence by using the monitoring framework presented in APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 06 to determine the basic background status of the use of FADs and artificial reefs, as well as the extent to which these form national programmes.

20. This information would be consolidated and presented to the next session of APFIC, which could decide on the best ways to monitor and assess the benefits and threats of FADs and artificial reefs.

21. The Executive Committee noted the challenges for monitoring small-scale FADs in some countries because of the large number of these being constructed and deployed by fishers in some countries. It further noted the need for better scientific assessment of the impact of FADs.

Review of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region

22. The Executive Committee concurred with the approach described in the working document APFIC/14/03 to assess the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the APFIC region.

23. The Executive Committee noted that this review will inform countries on how best to address IUU, particularly in relation to dialogue with trading partners. It would also allow the identification of priority actions and strategies to combat IUU fishing. This would include scientific assessment of IUU fishing in the APFIC region.

Monitoring the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (VGSSF)

24. The Executive Committee noted the importance of the VGSSF for the Asian region as it was home to the overwhelming majority of the world's small-scale fishers, and looked forward to the development of an implementation programme.

25. The Executive Committee noted that the registration of fishers and fishing vessels, and better understanding of fisheries livelihoods are important aspects for the implementation of the SSF guidelines.

26. The Committee was informed that preliminary work has commenced on the development of an implementation programme for the VGSSF. It requested that the Secretariat follow this closely and keep the member states updated on progress in this area.

27. In this regard, the Executive Committee member for Indonesia stated that Indonesia was ready to host a regional consultation workshop to support the development of the implementation programme for the VGSSF in the APFIC region. The Executive Committee requested the APFIC Secretariat to coordinate with FAO headquarters regarding the potential timing and arrangements.

28. The Executive Committee was also informed that Indonesia had translated the VGSSF into Bahasa Indonesia and printed these and distributed them to stakeholders.

29. The Executive Committee, taking into account the fact that an implementation programme for the VGSSF is not yet operational, agreed that the monitoring of implementation should be postponed until a global monitoring mechanism is established. It agreed that the thematic areas identified in the working document would be an appropriate level for monitoring progress.

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – AQUACULTURE INTENSIFICATION AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO BLUE GROWTH

30. The Executive Committee discussed ongoing and planned inter-sessional activities related to aquaculture intensification based on Working Paper APFIC:EXCO/14/04 and APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 07.

APFIC/FAO/NACA/DOF “Regional consultation on strategy and action plan for sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia-Pacific”

31. The Executive Committee looked forward to the outcomes of the APFIC/FAO/NACA/DOF “Regional consultation on strategy and action plan for sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia-Pacific” (Bangkok, 27 and 28 November 2014), supported by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

32. The Executive Committee noted that the background review proposed for this workshop could also include references to the work of APEC and Indonesia, under their blue economy initiatives.

APFIC Regional consultative workshop “Documentation and dissemination of successful sustainable aquaculture intensification practices in Asia”

33. The Executive Committee agreed to the Secretariat’s proposal to re-task the proposed feed-focused regional consultative workshop, planned for 2015, and broaden its themes to cover the documentation of sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia.

34. The Executive Committee agreed to the proposed workshop title of “Documentation and dissemination of successful sustainable aquaculture intensification practices in Asia” to be convened in June 2015.

35. The Executive Committee further endorsed the purpose of the consultation to identify and document how sustainable intensification of aquaculture (SIA) contributes to blue growth in the member countries and to promote awareness of successful SIA practices that contribute to blue growth in the region.

36. The Executive Committee commented on the suggested scope and content of the workshop, with specific recommendations that the following amendments be made to the proposed themes:

- a. Improved management at an area level
 - Benefits/need for aquaculture zonation
 - Area level/zonal management of aquaculture production
 - Health management/biosecurity control
 - Environmental management and regulatory frameworks
 - Land and water policy reform to promote aquaculture (e.g. use of saline land and conversion of areas designated exclusively for agricultural use)
 - Economic dimensions of blue growth through sustainable intensification.

- b. Improved management of culture systems
 - Semi-closed culture systems (addressing biosecurity and environmental impacts, reduced water use)
 - Heterotrophic culture systems (application of bioflocs, lower protein feeds)
 - Multitrophic culture systems (mariculture, polyculture)
 - Integrated systems (e.g. fish culture in rice system, aqua-silviculture, the potential of organic production systems as a means to capture environmental services)
 - System carrying capacity (the minimization of external impacts from production systems).

- c. Improved inputs and their application
 - Improved feed and feeding practices (e.g. alternatives to fish meal; change from fresh trash/low-value fish to compound feed, particularly in mariculture; the reduction of effluent impacts through better feed conversion)
 - Production and use of SPF seed stock
 - Improved breeds and quality genetic seed stock (and the scope for regional cooperation)
 - More effective biosecurity
 - Mechanization
 - Efficacy (or redundancy) of other inputs (e.g. probiotics, vaccines, antibiotics chemotherapeutants)
 - Reduction of energy use (including the carbon footprint).

37. The Executive Committee recommended that the outcomes of both consultative processes be reported to the FAO APRC as part of an agenda item on blue growth.

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – CULTURE-BASED FISHERIES AND FISHERY ENHANCEMENTS

38. The Executive Committee reviewed the planned activity relating to culture-based fisheries and fishery enhancements referring to document APFIC:EXCO/14/05. The draft prospectus was presented as APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 08.

39. The Executive Committee was informed that the title of the workshop is *“APFIC regional consultative workshop on improving the contribution of culture-based fisheries and related fishery enhancements in inland waters to blue growth”*. The venue and date of the workshop has now been established and is 24–27 May 2015 in Colombo, in consultation with the host country Sri Lanka.

40. The Executive Committee thanked Sri Lanka for supporting the workshop, noting that this was a timely contribution to the dialogue on blue growth and its potential in inland waters. It also noted the need for regional guidance on responsible culture-based fisheries and the enhancement of open-water inland fisheries.

41. The Executive Committee commented on participation in the workshop and recommended that relevant regional organizations and representatives of national projects should be invited including the ACIAR/WorldFish project in Myanmar and the SEAFDEC Inland Fisheries Resource Development and Management Department in Palembang, South Sumatera, Indonesia.

42. The Executive Committee noted the importance of considering the threats to culture-based fisheries that were posed by other users of water resources, in particular threats of water pollution or contamination.

43. The Executive Committee concluded that industrial pollution and its potential impact on culture-based fisheries should be included as a specific agenda item at the workshop and considered comprehensively in the guidelines.

44. The Executive Committee was informed that the draft guidelines (to be developed) for responsible culture-based fisheries and fishery enhancement were based on the use of risk analysis as a tool for decision-making. Risk analysis could also be applied to threats of pollution or invasive species, or other potential impacts that could arise as a result of the stocking activity, or that might negatively impact a culture-based fishery.

45. The Executive Committee strongly recommended that the regional consultative workshop should provide clear guidance on ways to assess culture-based fisheries and how this could also contribute to the more effective assessment of production, economic viability, benefits and negative impacts.

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – CAPACITY BUILDING

46. The Executive Committee discussed inter-sessional activities relating to capacity building and training, referring to document APFIC:EXCO/14/06.

47. The APFIC Secretary informed the Executive Committee on the background and activities that have been ongoing and planned for training material developed for the *“Port inspection of fishing vessels”*, the *“Essential ecosystem approach to fisheries management”* training courses and the APFIC guidelines for *“Management of tropical trawl fisheries”*. These documents are now available and published on the APFIC Web site.

48. The APFIC Secretary reminded the Executive Committee that the products of the Commission’s work were aimed at member states for adoption and use. In this regard it was important to find national processes that could promote the various guidelines and courses.

APFIC guidelines for *“Management of tropical trawl fisheries”*

49. The Executive Committee noted and recognized the need for broader uptake and better incorporation of the APFIC guidelines into trawl management and planning at subnational level. It also noted that in several instances trawling is no longer a permitted gear, or there are actions being undertaken to reduce or limit trawling nationwide. The APFIC Secretary noted that the guidelines were targeted at countries that have trawlers and the purposes of the guidelines were to control and manage trawling sustainably.

50. The APFIC Secretary informed the Executive Committee of the work of the global Trawl Committee which is a research programme focussing on trawl impacts on the seabed and benthos. He noted that several APFIC member countries were scheduled to cooperate in this programme and that the results would contribute to more effective understanding and management of trawl fisheries in the longer term.

***“Port inspection of fishing vessels”* training course**

51. The Executive Committee noted that there is increasing stringency in requirements to demonstrate that fishery products destined for export are not derived from IUU fishing. It concurred that the use of port inspections of fishing vessels is one of the important tools which can demonstrate compliance and willingness to combat IUU, especially when linked to effective vessel registration, licensing and catch documentation systems.

52. The Executive Committee agreed that more training in port inspection of fishing vessels is needed at national level. Although there may be some benefits of a regional training approach, it was pointed out that the most practical level of training was at national level as the institutional context and methods of implementation were highly country specific. The Secretary advised the Executive Committee that member countries requests for support for training could be directed to FAO country offices, if it is given high priority by their respective governments.

“Essential ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EEAFM)” training course

53. The Executive Committee endorsed the various training activities under the EEAFM and welcomed the support from regional organizations to provide this training at national level. The Executive Committee noted that national training activities were already being undertaken in some member countries and emphasized that such training should be extended to countries that have not yet developed national capacity.

54. There are currently plans for translation of the EEAFM course into Bahasa Indonesia, Thai and Burmese, and possibly other regional languages. The Executive Committee was also informed that there was also a proposal to have a short EEAFM course tailored for policy-makers.

Other areas for capacity building

55. The Executive Committee emphasized the need for training in the area of improved post-harvest activities, management of harbours and landing centres, noting that reduction of post-harvest losses also improves efficiency without requiring increased fishing effort. The increasing requirements for hygiene by export and national markets requires attention along the value chain and this would also benefit APFIC members.

56. The Executive Committee recommended the development of a training course for the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA), noting that there was a strong need for capacity building in this area. It was considered that such a training course could be based on a similar structure to the existing ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) course. The APFIC Secretary commented that the development of an EAA course could be undertaken through a regional project mechanism.

57. The Committee also recognized that there was a need for capacity building in the development and management of culture-based fisheries and enhancements.

APFIC BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

58. The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item referring to document APFIC:EXCO/14/07.

Improved coordination and feedback between member countries and the APFIC Secretariat

59. The Executive Committee suggested that the member countries should nominate a national APFIC technical liaison focal point, whose function would be to facilitate internal communications within ministries and departments regarding their work with APFIC.

60. The APFIC Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that under such an arrangement APFIC communications would continue to be directed to the designated APFIC national focal point, but would also include a copy to the nominated national APFIC technical liaison focal point.

61. It was observed that several member countries already have this internal arrangement in place and that for these members it would only require the communication of the name and designation of the relevant person to the APFIC Secretariat.

APFIC budget

62. The Secretary reported the financial status of the Commission, the levels of co-finance leveraged for Commission activities and the expected resourcing over the coming biennium. The Secretary also drew attention to the fact that the APFIC biennial workplan does not coincide with the FAO regular financial planning biennium programme.

63. The Executive Committee recognized and appreciated the support to APFIC Secretariat provided by FAO.

64. The Executive Committee appreciated the generous support of the Government of India for hosting the Thirty-third Session of the Commission and the Fifth APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting.

65. The Executive Committee noted that the core allocation from the FAO regular programme to APFIC activities has tended to decline over successive biennia. It also noted that although overall allocation was higher in the 2012–2014 biennium, this was largely because of *ad hoc* allocations and linkage to regional initiatives rather than planned funding.

66. The Executive Committee recommended that in order to ensure that the work of the Commission could be planned strategically over a biennium (the usual work period) the core contribution from regular programme should be maintained between USD200 000 to USD250 000 per biennium. This will ensure that work planning can be conducted strategically and effectively and the work of the Commission would not run the risk of disruption.

67. The Executive Committee also recognized that there were a number of strategies that could reduce costs and encourage greater contributions of in-kind support to the work of the Commission. These were:

- Member countries that agreed to host an APFIC regional consultative workshop under the biennial workplan could also agree to cover the costs of the participants' accommodation.
- The report of the APFIC Session would act as the advance notice related to budgeting of APFIC regional consultative workshops and Session meeting. It would be communicated to the hosting member countries in order to ensure national commitment and timely allocation of in-kind resources.
- Member countries were encouraged to ensure that budgetary allocation covered the costs of participation of their delegations to the APFIC Session, as per their obligations with respect to the APFIC Agreement.
- The designation of a national APFIC technical liaison focal point would greatly assist in ensuring timely coordination to ensure budgeting by member countries hosting workshops and member countries participating in the work of the Commission.

FAO Regional Initiative on Blue Growth

68. The Secretary outlined the FAO Regional Initiative on Blue Growth that has required some slight modification of APFIC regional consultative workshop activities to accommodate the objectives of the regional initiative. One outcome of this is the re-tasking of the APFIC regional consultative workshops, which are addressed in earlier agenda items.

69. The Executive Committee agreed that there were common objectives between the blue growth initiative and the work priorities identified by the Commission. The Executive Committee

endorsed the Secretariat's approach of framing relevant Commission work within the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth, in order to access financial resources for activities.

Potential accession of new members

70. The Executive Committee was informed that several FAO member countries have indicated their interest in acceding to the APFIC Agreement and becoming members of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission. The Secretary noted that this is an indication of the value and relevance accorded to the work of the Commission by FAO member countries.

71. The Executive Committee was also informed that it is not expected to significantly increase costs of the Session of the Commission as members must pay for their participation, but it would increase the number of potential participants at regional workshops and consultations.

PREPARATION FOR THE SIXTH APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF APFIC

72. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the Sixth APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (Sixth RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission (Thirty-fourth APFIC Session) in 2016 as outlined in document APFIC:EXCO/14/08.

73. Considering dates/timing of traditional and national holidays in member countries, the Executive Committee agreed that the venue of the Sixth RCFM and the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session would be in Sri Lanka, with a venue to be determined by the host country in coordination with the APFIC Secretariat.

74. The Executive Committee agreed that these two events would be three days each and run back-to-back over a period of six or seven days at the same venue in the second half of January 2016 or after the first week of February 2016.

75. The Executive Committee agreed to the working title of the Sixth RCFM, namely "*Promoting blue growth in fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region*". It further noted that this would place the Sixth RCFM in an excellent position to showcase blue growth initiatives within the APFIC region and draw greater attention to the activities of the region in pursuing blue growth goals.

76. The Secretary advised the Executive Committee that the agenda reflects the ongoing work of the Commission under its current workplan, but there is also scope for the inclusion of agenda items that the Executive Committee considers of importance or relevance to APFIC members.

77. The Executive Committee discussed the proposed agenda for the Sixth RCFM and provided recommendations for additions and amendments. The revised agenda is provided in Appendix D.

- The agenda for both fisheries and aquaculture sessions should make space for some presentations on the economic basis and justification for blue growth and these could cover:
 - o methodologies for valuations
 - o actual cost-benefit justifications
 - o valuation of ecosystem services provided through blue growth approaches in both aquaculture and capture fisheries
 - o the economic arguments that underpin blue growth policies and regulatory provisions.

- Additional time would be allocated in the agenda to allow for some selected country case studies on blue growth initiatives.
- In the aquaculture session, Theme 3 will be titled “Policy and regulatory frameworks for enabling blue growth” and Theme 4 will be titled “Economic dimensions of blue growth.”
- The economic justification of blue growth in the fisheries session would include valuation of the Strategic Action Programme of the BOBLME and other similar examples of valuation of ecosystem services that can be secured or recovered through sustainable practices.

78. The Executive Committee discussed the participation of potential donor organizations and arrangements and agreed that:

- potential donor organizations with interests relevant to supporting fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region could be invited to participate as observers in the Sixth RCFM;
- these donors may include philanthropic foundations, traditional donors especially the countries and foundations that are increasingly interested in fisheries and aquaculture management livelihoods, trade and resource conservation among others;
- the purpose of their participation would be to enable these participating organizations to learn from the regional experience presented; and
- these participating organizations and arrangements would not be invited to make presentations regarding their funding activities.

79. The Executive Committee was informed that China, Japan and other APEC members have blue economy initiatives and could be invited to present on these programmes as case studies.

80. In addition, the World Bank should be invited to participate in the Sixth RCFM based on its involvement in the global initiative on blue growth.

81. The Executive Committee considered the arrangements of the Thirty-fourth APFIC Session as proposed by the Secretariat and agreed to the proposed agenda. There were no amendments except the insertion of the agreed dates. The agenda is presented in Appendix E.

OTHER MATTERS

82. The Executive Committee was informed of a developing initiative between FAO, the World Bank and the governments of the Netherlands, Indonesia and Grenada entitled the “Voluntary global alliance/network/platform for action on blue growth and food security” (8–9 September 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia). This initiative is a follow up to “Global oceans action summit for food security and blue growth” (The Hague, Netherlands 22–25 April 2014). An action plan is currently being developed and will be discussed and endorsed in a follow-up meeting in Grenada in 2015.

83. The Executive Committee agreed that the APFIC Secretariat would coordinate with FAO headquarters and the Government of Indonesia in order to contribute Asian perspectives to the action plan. It is expected that progress under this initiative will also be presented to the Sixth RCFM.

84. The Executive Committee thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for its excellent arrangements and looked forward to a productive week for the Sixth RCFM and Thirty-fourth APFIC Session.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

85. The Executive Committee recommended that in accordance with the established precedents, the Government of the Philippines be invited to consider the hosting of the Seventy-sixth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee.

86. The Executive Committee member for the Philippines stated that the official response of the Government of the Philippines would be communicated to the APFIC Secretariat following the conclusion of the Seventy-fifth Session of the Executive Committee.

87. The Executive Committee agreed on November 2016 as a tentative date for the Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

88. The report of the Seventy-fifth Session of the Executive Committee was adopted by the Committee on 13 November 2014.

APPENDIX A – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX B – AGENDA OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2014

Opening of the Session

- Welcome Address by the APFIC Chairperson
- Introduction to the Seventy-fifth Executive Committee by the Secretary of APFIC

Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

- Adoption of agenda APFIC:EXCO/14/01
- Introduction of participants APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 01
- Meeting arrangements APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 02*
- Group photo

Agenda Item 1

Outcomes of the main recommendations of Thirty-third APFIC Session and items for the attention of the FAO Thirty-third Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
(for discussion and decision)

APFIC:EXCO/14/02
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 03
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 04

Agenda Item 2

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Improving monitoring of trends and issues
(for discussion and decision)

APFIC:EXCO/14/03
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 05
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 06

Agenda Item 3

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Aquaculture intensification and its contribution to blue growth
(for information and discussion)

APFIC:EXCO/14/04
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 07

Agenda Item 4

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Culture-based fisheries and fishery enhancements
(for information and discussion)

APFIC:EXCO/14/05
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 08

Agenda Item 5

APFIC inter-sessional activities – Capacity building
(for discussion)

APFIC:EXCO/14/06

Reception to be hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2014

Agenda Item 6

APFIC budget and administrative matters
(for discussion)

APFIC:EXCO/14/07

Agenda Item 7

Preparation for the Sixth APFIC RCFM and the Thirty-fourth Session
(for discussion and decision)

APFIC:EXCO/14/08

Agenda Item 8

Any other matters

Agenda Item 9

Date and Place of the Seventy-sixth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee

Preparation of the report of the Seventy-fifth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee

Dinner to be hosted by FAO

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2014

Adoption of the report

Departure of participants

APPENDIX C – LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents:

APFIC:EXCO/14/01	Provisional agenda and timetable
APFIC:EXCO/14/02	Recommendations of the Thirty-third Session of APFIC and items for the attention of the FAO Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
APFIC:EXCO/14/03	APFIC inter-sessional activities – Improving monitoring of trends and issues
APFIC:EXCO/14/04	APFIC inter-sessional activities – Aquaculture intensification and its contribution to blue growth
APFIC:EXCO/14/05	APFIC inter-sessional activities – Culture-based fisheries and fishery enhancements
APFIC:EXCO/14/06	APFIC inter-sessional activities – Capacity building
APFIC:EXCO/14/07	APFIC budget and administrative matters
APFIC:EXCO/14/08	Preparations for the Sixth APFIC RCFM and Thirty-fourth Session

Information documents:

APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 01	Provisional list of documents
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 02*	Provisional list of participants
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 03	Report of the Thirty-third Session of APFIC, Hyderabad, India, 23–25 June 2014
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 04	Asia and the Pacific regional initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture for blue growth
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 05	APFIC biennial plan of work endorsed at the Thirty-third Session
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 06	Framework for monitoring Fish Aggregating Devices and Artificial Reefs
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 07	Regional Consultation on “Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific”
APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 08	APFIC/FAO Regional Consultation “Improving the Contribution of Culture-based Fisheries and Related Fishery Enhancements in Inland Waters to Blue Growth”

* to be distributed at the Session

APPENDIX D – REVISED AGENDA OF THE SIXTH APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING

“Promoting blue growth in fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific”

OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION	
Day 1	
08.00–09.00	Registration
09.00–10.15	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Welcome remarks by the APFIC Chair, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Address by the representative of the Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department</p> <p>Opening speech by the Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka</p>
10.15–10.45	<p>Keynote address on “Blue growth for the future responsible management of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific”</p> <p><i>Representative of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department</i></p>
10.45–11.15	Coffee break
11.15–11.30	<p>Forum arrangements</p> <p><i>Presentation by the APFIC Secretary</i></p> <p><i>Group photo</i></p>
11.30–12.00	<p>Regional overview of fisheries in the subregions of Asia (2016)</p> <p><i>APFIC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></p> <p><i>Covers resource assessments, status and trends in fisheries of the region</i></p>
12.00–12.30	<p>Status and trends of aquaculture in the subregions of Asia (2016)</p> <p><i>APFIC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></p>
12.30–14.00	Lunch

FISHERIES SESSION	
Day 1	
14.00–17.00	<p>Session 1 – Achieving blue growth in inland fisheries</p> <p>Outcomes of the FAO Global conference on inland fisheries The APFIC regional guidelines on culture-based fisheries An EAF approach for inland fisheries Improved ways to assess culture-based fisheries</p>
Day 2	
09.00–12.30	<p>Session 1 (cont.) – Achieving blue growth in inland fisheries</p> <p>Country and regional examples of blue growth approaches in inland fisheries General discussion</p>
13.00–14.30	Lunch
14.30–17.30	<p>Session 2 – Blue growth in marine fisheries</p> <p>IUU in the APFIC region – nature and scope – APFIC/BOBLME/FAO review LME and GEF programme report back: ISLME – ecosystem approaches in the Indonesian Seas "Strategies for management of trawl bycatch" (REBYC II) findings BOBLME Strategic Action Programme and Phase II SEAFDEC REFUGIA South China Sea ATSEA Phase II Plenary discussion</p>
Day 3	
09.00–10.15	<p>Reports of global blue growth related initiatives in fisheries (e.g. APEC, Jakarta Compass etc.)</p> <p>The economic argument for blue growth-ecosystem valuation, economic analysis of advantages of blue growth, costs of blue growth.</p>
10.15–10.45	Coffee break
10.45–12.30	<p>Plenary identification of:</p> <p>Recommendations for promoting blue growth in the APFIC region Regional opportunities and needs for capacity building Regional capacity building and training Future direction and expected areas of work (to improve coordination/reduce overlap between projects and programmes) Identify areas of overlap and interest; Improving communications; Propose potential future cooperation; General networking</p>

AQUACULTURE SESSION	
Day 1	
14.00–14.45	Session 2 – Blue growth in Asian aquaculture Outcomes of FAO/APFIC regional consultation and regional blue growth initiative FAOs global blue growth programme
14.45–17.30	Theme I: Blue growth systems – traditional and modern Country and regional case examples of promoting blue growth aquaculture systems, traditional, modern As well as ways of restoring or rehabilitating systems Plenary discussion on key recommendations
Day 2	
08.30–11.00	Theme II: Operations and technology for enhancing blue growth Regional case examples of effective operations and technology for enhancing blue growth Plenary discussion on key recommendations
11.00–12.30	Theme III: Policy and regulatory frameworks for enabling blue growth How policies and regulatory frameworks can enable or constrain blue growth Examples of best practices from the region Plenary discussion on key recommendations
13.00–14.00	Lunch break
14.00–17.30	Theme IV: Economic dimensions of blue growth Economic valuations and justifications for blue growth Methods and results Plenary discussion on key recommendations
Day 3	
09.00–10.15	Selected country presentations on national blue growth developments e.g. Blue Economy
10.15–10.45	Coffee break
11.00–12.30	Plenary discussion on: Key recommendations for the themes to present to the Thirty-fourth Session

JOINT SESSION AND CLOSING	
12.30–14.30	Lunch
14.00–15.30	Presentation of the recommendations of the fisheries theme Presentation of the aquaculture sector public/private theme General discussion
15.30–16.30	Plenary discussion summary and recommendations for reporting to APFIC <i>Summary and recommendations for APFIC</i>

APPENDIX E – REVISED SCHEDULE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF APFIC

Day 1: MORNING, 09.00
Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome remarks by FAO Representative to Sri Lanka• Welcome and introductory remarks by the APFIC Chair, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development , Sri Lanka• Introductory remarks by the Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development , Sri Lanka• Inaugural speech by H.E. Agriculture Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development , Sri Lanka
Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
Agenda item 1: Inter-sessional activities of APFIC
Agenda item 2: Report of the Seventy-fifth Executive Committee Meeting
Agenda item 3: Regional overview of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific
Agenda item 4: Summary overview report of the outcomes of the Fifth APFIC RCFM and recommendations to the FAO APRC
Day 1: AFTERNOON, 13.30
Agenda item 5: Country feedback and progress on previous APFIC recommendations and action plans
Agenda item 6: APFIC regional guidelines for responsible culture-based fisheries and enhancement of inland fisheries
Agenda item 7: Regional IUU assessment method and results
Day 2: MORNING, 09.00
Agenda item 8: The Bay of Bengal Strategic Action Programme
Agenda item 9: Outcomes of the Regional Initiative on Blue Growth
Agenda item 10: APFIC's programme of work in the coming biennium
Day 2: AFTERNOON, 13.30
Agenda item 11: Reports on achievements of regional organization partners
Agenda item 12: Other matters
Agenda item 13: Election of officers
Agenda item 14: Date and place of Thirty-fifth Session
Day 3: MORNING, 09.00
Report available to delegates
Day 3: AFTERNOON, 14.00
Adoption of report
Closing of the session



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