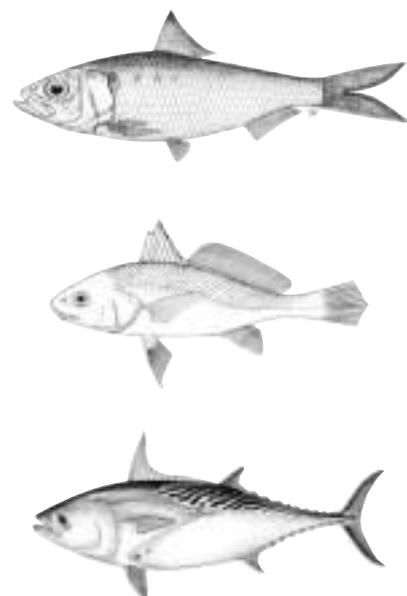


# ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

**Report of the Executive Committee  
Seventieth session**



# **ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)**

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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### ***Seventieth session***

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23–25 August 2005**

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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report adopted at the Seventieth session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

**Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.**

***Report of the Seventieth session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 23–25 August 2005. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, RAP Publication 2005/22, 21 p.***

### **Abstract**

This document presents the final report of the Seventieth session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 25 August 2005. Major topics discussed were: progress reports on the intersessional activities of APFIC; regional response to the tsunami; regional fishery bodies in Asia-Pacific; outcomes of the trash fish and co-management workshops; and preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC. The summary of the main recommendations/decisions is shown in Appendix G.

### **Distribution:**

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

## FOREWORD

This document presents the final report of the Seventieth Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 25 August 2005.

The APFIC Executive Committee's main function is to direct the conduct of business and affairs of the Commission between its biennial Sessions. The APFIC Executive Committee for 2004–2006 is composed of Malaysia (Chairperson), Indonesia (Vice Chairperson), India and Republic of Korea (Members), Thailand (the Out-going Chairperson) and the Secretary of the Commission (as Ex-officio member).

Major topics discussed at the Session were: progress reports on the intersessional activities of APFIC; regional response to the tsunami; the regional fishery bodies in Asia and the Pacific; outcomes of the trash fish and co-management workshops; and preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum meeting and the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC to be held in August 2006. A number of recommendations concerning future activities made by the Executive Committee need to be acted on by the Secretariat in close cooperation with participating members and in partnership with the regional fishery bodies in Asia and the Pacific.



He Changchui

Assistant Director-General and  
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

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## ACRONYMS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
CBNRM	Community-based Natural Resources Management Resource Center
CDC	Coastal Development Center
EU-CHARM	European Union – Coastal Habitats and Resources Management project
FACT	Fisheries Coalition Action Team
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
SUMA	Support for Brackish Water and Marine Aquaculture
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its Seventieth Session at the Legend Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 25 August 2005 under the Chairpersonship of Dato Junaidi bin Che Ayub, and Mr Parlin Tambunan, Vice-Chairperson. The list of the participants is in Appendix A.

2. At the opening of the Session, on behalf of the outgoing Chairperson, Mr Wimol Jantrarotai welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and thanked the Committee for their support during his term. He noted the increasingly active role of APFIC and the major outcome of the Twenty-eighth Session of APFIC in transforming it into a Regional Consultative Forum. In its new role, APFIC will be better placed to assist member countries in addressing the critical issues of fisheries governance and sustainability and in strengthening regional approaches to dealing with these issues. In conclusion, he looked forward to the new role of APFIC as consultative forum under its new chairpersonship of Malaysia.

3. The Chairperson then addressed the Committee and thanked them for the privilege of being appointed Chairperson and expressed Malaysia's pleasure at being given this responsibility. He warmly welcomed the participants to Malaysia and stated that Malaysia looked forward to the task of hosting the inaugural Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC and the support of the members during his term. He was confident that APFIC would provide greater awareness of regional fisheries issues and assist members in improving regional coordination and understanding of the needs for better fishery management.

4. The APFIC Secretary, Mr Derek Staples, addressed the Committee and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee. He apologized on behalf of the Chief of the Policy and Liaison group of the FAO Fisheries Department, who had to cancel his participation due to an urgent responsibility in another region. He expressed his anticipation of a productive meeting and the need for Executive Committee guidance to the Secretariat on a range of decisions and issues relating to the work and functions of the Commission.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Executive Committee adopted the Agenda as shown in Appendix B. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

## **INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF APFIC**

6. The Secretariat summarized the developments and activities since the Twenty-eighth Session of APFIC (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3-5 August 2004) detailed in documents APFIC:ExCo/05/2 and APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.5.

7. To facilitate the transformation of APFIC into a Regional Consultative Forum and to implement priority work in fisheries, the Secretariat carried out a number of activities in response to the recommendations of the above session of the Commission. The APFIC website, <http://www.apfic.org>, an information portal and repository for all forms of regional fishery information, has been launched. The website provides information that is targeted at fisheries professionals in the region, and also serves as a link to other regional fishery bodies, organizations and arrangements. The website is also providing coverage of fisheries related aspects of the devastation caused by the 26 December 2004 tsunami waves. The Secretariat demonstrated the site and informed the Committee of the possibility for members to be given access to the site to post national fishery related information.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the development of the website and agreed that it would greatly improve access to APFIC information. The Committee requested the Secretariat to contact the members formally regarding the possibility of providing login access to the site.

8. Several publications have also been produced, notably, *inter alia* *A research agenda for small-scale fisheries* (RAP Publication 2004/21); *Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific* (RAP Publication 2004/25); *Regional strategic framework for the rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture in tsunami affected countries in Asia* (RAP Publication 2005/09); *Inland fisheries enhancement* (RAP Publication 2005/12); *Asian fisheries today: The production and use of low value/trash fish from marine fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region* (RAP Publication 2005/16).

9. The Secretariat also participated in and organized a number of workshops and technical consultations in the region either directly or in collaboration with other regional fishery bodies or arrangements; for example, Bangladesh national fishery strategy (13-17 December 2004 and 16-20 May 2005); Regional Workshop on IUU, Penang, Malaysia (10-14 October 2004); and DOF/EU-CHARM "Fishing Communities and Livelihoods in Tsunami Aftermath", Phuket, Thailand (14-15 February 2005).

10. The Secretariat successfully organized three major regional consultative workshops which would provide significant input for the forthcoming APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting. These were the Workshop on the Rehabilitation of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Coastal Communities of Tsunami Affected Countries in Asia (Bangkok, 28 February–1 March 2005); the APFIC Regional Workshop on Low-Value and "Trash Fish" in the Asia-Pacific Region, Hanoi, 7-9 June 2005; and the APFIC Regional Workshop on "Mainstreaming" Fisheries Co-management, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 9-12 August 2005.

11. Preparations for the First APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) are in progress (see Agenda Item 7).

12. The Senior Regional Fishery Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, concurrently Secretary of APFIC, participated in the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy (7-11 March 2005) which was immediately followed by the Ministerial Meeting (12 March 2005) and by the Fourth Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats (14-15 March 2005). The APFIC Secretariat also participated in the development of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and in the Consortium to Restore Shattered Communities in Tsunami-affected Nations (CONSRN), which will be covered further under Agenda Item 4. As directed by the Commission, close cooperation has been extended to other regional and international bodies and arrangements concerned with fisheries and the environment, including, amongst others, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the WorldFish Center.

13. During the intersessional period, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific assisted several countries in the region in the implementation of national and regional Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) in the areas of fish production, management, policy and planning, and legislation.

14. The Committee noted that priority should continue to be given to small-scale fisheries and rural aquaculture. It also emphasized that APFIC's monitoring of the tsunami impact should focus on fishery resources and the ecosystem. It appreciated the cooperation extended by APFIC to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem programme recently approved by GEF.

15. The Committee agreed that other information of interest should include the monitoring of fishing gear and management, with a view to preventing overcapacity and overfishing; the collaboration

with ASEAN food safety and quality issues, in which APFIC could have a role to play. The Secretariat might wish to explore the possibility of including some new areas of interest such as: policy and legislation; assistance to the Members in developing national fisheries strategies; studies on the cost-effective VMS and MCS systems and appropriate means for the saving of energy used by fishing vessels. APFIC would also support member countries by increasing awareness over issues such as the CITES listing process and food safety and quality issues related to regional and international trade.

16. The Committee noted with appreciation the initiatives and activities undertaken by the APFIC Secretariat and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific during the intersessional period and agreed that they would contribute substantially towards the implementation of the work of the Commission and the transformation of APFIC into a Regional Consultative Forum. It directed that the report on the intersessional activities be submitted to the Commission for approval at its twenty-ninth session.

17. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of increasing staff support to maintain the expanded range of activities of APFIC.

## **REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE TSUNAMI**

18. The Executive Committee was informed of the actions taken by FAO and APFIC in response to the disaster created by the earthquake and the resultant tsunami of 26 December 2004 to many coastal communities in the Indian Ocean region as detailed in document APFIC: ExCo/05/3. It noted that, besides the high death toll of more than 300 000 people, the livelihood of many of these coastal communities had been shattered. The disaster affected local natural resources (coral reefs, mangrove forests and sea grass beds) and seriously impacted some local fisheries and aquaculture. The APFIC Secretariat, through FAO, has worked closely with several UN agencies and the relevant governments in support of short-term relief operations as well as longer-term rehabilitation.

19. The Committee commended the prompt action taken by FAO and the APFIC Secretariat in response to the calamity caused by the 2004 earthquake and tsunami to many fishing communities in the affected countries of the region. It unanimously agreed that FAO, through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and APFIC, should continue to assist the affected countries of the region in both short-term relief and long-term rehabilitation operations.

20. The Committee noted further that APFIC has played an active role in networking and dissemination of information as well as in the creation of a consortium of five specialized fisheries and aquaculture agencies (CONSRN), comprising the Bay of Bengal Programme-Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO); FAO through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and APFIC; Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA); Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); and the WorldFish Center (WorldFish). The overall objective of CONSRN is to enhance efforts on well planned and well-targeted rehabilitation and sustainable development activities. In this connection, a fisheries/tsunami page was established at the APFIC website and 23 updated fishery and aquaculture impact reports for India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand were produced. The impact reporting was, however, discontinued when the official UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) system was fully integrated and operational in March 2005.

21. The Committee took note of the degree of impact generated by the tsunami especially on the fisheries sector in the affected countries of the Indian Ocean region and the direct support provided by FAO in the relief and rehabilitation operations.

22. FAO, through APFIC, organized the Regional Workshop on the Rehabilitation of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Coastal Communities of Tsunami Affected countries in Asia, in Bangkok from 28 February to 1 March 2005. The conclusions and recommendations of this Workshop were used in formulating a regional strategic framework for the rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture in these affected countries. Furthermore, FAO reported the findings and activities related to the relief operations and rehabilitation programmes to the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI (March 2005) and the ensuing Ministerial meeting. The Committee was gratified to note that the latter had adopted a statement in support of FAO tsunami rehabilitation activities and concurred with its caution, that the countries concerned should not relocate any excess fishing capacity as part of the tsunami relief and rehabilitation effort.

23. The Committee noted that, at the country level, some countries had undertaken monitoring studies on the effect of the tsunami on fish catches, whilst some other countries had participated in regional joint activities on resources assessment and effect of ecosystem impact. It noted that APFIC could collate this information and produce a regional overview. It was suggested that the lack of pre-tsunami baseline information might constrain the assessment, but that the use of fishers as informants can indicate some of the impacts and changes. It was recognized that whilst the relief and rehabilitation effort focused primarily on the return of fishers to the fishery, effort should be made to provide possible alternatives to fishing and aquaculture livelihoods.

24. The Committee discussed the need for appropriate early warning systems in fishing communities and noted that in several countries, in particular India, there was a lack of adequate arrangements at the grass roots level. Fishing communities and NGOs need to be targeted to integrate fishing communities into existing national early warning systems, together with appropriate training. The Committee requested the secretariat to seek support for such a system through FAO or other collaborative arrangements.

25. The Committee recognized that CONSRN is an informal arrangement set up to coordinate short-term relief and longer-term rehabilitation efforts, and that donors usually deal directly with affected countries in implementing donor-financed projects. The Committee recommended that CONSRN continue its activities. It also recommended that APFIC participate in the two subregional meetings that are to be organized by the CONSRN partners (SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO), which are scheduled during 2005.

26. The Secretariat advised that a coordination unit supported by full-time officers based at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok was currently under consideration. The role of the unit will be to undertake future long-term coordination efforts relevant to the tsunami rehabilitation programme and cross-sectoral (e.g. forestry and fisheries) activities which are anticipated to last about three to five years.

## **REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

27. The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item referring to documents APFIC:ExCo/05/4, APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.4 and APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.5. It recalled that the Commission at its twenty-eighth session in 2004, had reviewed and commented on the analysis made by the Secretariat on regional bodies, organizations and arrangements concerned with fisheries and the environment. In this respect, the Commission noted the emergence, since the late sixties and in particular after the adoption of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), of a number of coordination and advisory bodies and arrangements in the region, with varying mandates, scopes of work and membership.

28. It further noted that despite the fact that the APFIC region has the highest fishery and aquaculture production in the world, the region has only two Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), i.e., the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the recently established Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western Central Pacific Commission (WCPFC). A number of regional economic cooperation arrangements exist, notably the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF). In addition, there are several ongoing regional coordinating programmes and projects of varying durations such as the Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), Partnership for the Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the regional project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which have fisheries amongst their interests.

29. The Committee recognized a number of relevant issues relating to fisheries management which remain to be resolved and which require coordinated regional efforts including, *inter alia*, the implementation of the four FAO international plans of action and the FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (STF Strategy) and the management of transboundary fish stocks. It concurred with the view of the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI (March 2005) that the capacity of some regional fishery bodies and arrangements needs to be strengthened to address these issues. It welcomed the recommendation of that session of COFI regarding the need for undertaking a review of the performance of Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) in meeting their objectives, obligations and principles as set forth in relevant international instruments.

30. The Committee was of the opinion that the predominance of small-scale fisheries in the region requires APFIC to play a strong advocacy role in the international arena. APFIC should strengthen its coordination role between regional organizations and arrangements and the Member countries. The Committee agreed that APFIC as a Regional Consultative Forum is instrumental in bringing relevant regional organizations and arrangements to one place in order to improve understanding and recommend possible solutions of some regional fishery issues.

31. The Committee agreed that some of the regional economic cooperation arrangements might play a larger role in the regional or subregional fisheries management in the future. It reiterated the Commission's view, however, that APFIC should not evolve into a fisheries management body. The Committee believed that in the near future there would be a need for suitable mechanisms to provide subregional fishery organizations with the mandate for fisheries management. They would also play a facilitating role in assisting concerned countries with shared or transboundary stocks (or common issues) and in working towards collective agreements on the management of those stocks. The Committee agreed that APFIC could play this facilitating role in the initiative and a good entry point for this is assistance with the formulation of national fisheries strategies. The Committee recommended that APFIC retain this agenda item in the Executive Committee meeting for further discussion.

32. The Committee noted with appreciation that in compliance with the Commission's directives, the Secretariat had increased its efforts to foster closer partnership with other bodies and arrangements in the region, including ASEAN, BOBP-IGO, COBSEA, NACA, MRC, PEMSEA, SEAFDEC, SPC and WorldFish Center. It has discussed the need for regional fisheries management mechanisms with several major stakeholders, for example, at the UNEP First Regional Partners Workshop on Regional Coordination Mechanisms in the East Asian Seas Region (Bangkok, 9-10 May 2005) and worked closely with PEMSEA by highlighting fisheries issues in its "Integrated Coastal Area Management" programme.

33. The Committee was advised that the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) had agreed, from the next meeting onwards, to invite international organizations to join its meetings.

## **OUTCOMES OF THE APFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON LOW VALUE/TRASH FISH AND CO-MANAGEMENT**

34. The Executive Committee considered the above agenda item referring to documents APFIC:ExCo/05/5, APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.4, APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.6 and APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.7. It recalled that the Commission at its twenty-eighth session in 2004 had given high priority to the work on small-scale fisheries, and as part of the preparations for the inaugural meeting of the APFIC Regional Consultative Forum in 2006, had agreed that two major issues, namely, trash fish and discards and coastal and inland fishery co-management in the Asia and Pacific region needed to be properly addressed (para. 55 of the Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of APFIC). The Secretariat reported that, in response to the Commission's directives, the APFIC Regional Workshop on Low-Value and "Trash Fish" in the Asia-Pacific region had been held in Hanoi, Viet Nam from 7 to 9 June 2005 and the APFIC Regional Workshop on "Mainstreaming" Fisheries Co-management in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 9 to 12 August 2005.

35. The Workshops were joined by participants from the APFIC member countries, regional bodies (AIT, BOBP-IGO, MRC, NACA, SEAFDEC, WorldFish Center) and arrangements (CBCRM, CDC, EU-CHARM, SUMA, UNEP/South China Seas project), as well as other interested organizations (ACIAR, FACT, ICSF, IUCN, WWF). The outcome of these two Workshops, as detailed in documents APFIC/05/Inf.6 and APFIC/05/Inf.7, provides substantial input for the preparation of the 2006 Regional Consultative Forum, in which the two topics constitute the major issues to be discussed.

36. The Committee acknowledged that until recently information on the impact of low-value fish, trash fish and discards on rural food consumption and security as well as on the development of other economic activities in the region had not been consolidated. The variations in usage of the term for trash fish and the diversity of issues relating to the capture and utilization of low value/trash fish has implications on fisheries management and the sustainability of the fishery resources. The Committee expressed its appreciation that the Secretariat had, for the first time, collated this relevant information at the regional level on issues relating to low-value fish and trash fish, including demand for direct feed in aquaculture; demand for food by rural populations and as animal feed; sustainability of harvesting; ecosystem impact; post-harvest improvement; discards; and environmental and social impact on the use of low-value and trash fish.

37. The Committee agreed with the main findings of the Workshop and supported the need to address the very large issue of low value/trash fish across the region with management interventions that would reduce the demand for low value/trash fish for livestock/aquaculture through feed substitutes, reduce the capacity of the vessels that are catching a large part of the low value/trash fish (trawlers and push nets) and also introduce more selective fishing gear and better utilization of low value/trash fish in value-added products. The Committee also shared experiences of low value/trash fish reduction that were already occurring in the region. Some good examples that involved significant reduction in the number of vessels that were catching low value/trash fish were discussed.

38. The Committee endorsed the draft action plan and intervention points developed by the Workshop to address the above-mentioned issues. The Committee suggested that updated information, possibly through country situation reports, should be invited from the APFIC Members and other interested bodies for discussion at the first Regional Consultative Forum Meeting.

39. The Committee recognized that fisheries management has been traditionally practiced in inland and coastal communities in several countries of the region for a long time. However, fisheries

co-management has not yet been widely adopted as a fisheries management tool in the region, but has been practiced on an experimental basis with projects financed, in many instances, by external donors. Regarding the APFIC Regional Workshop on “Mainstreaming” Fisheries Co-management, the Committee concurred with the view of the Workshop that four essential pillars are required for successful fisheries co-management, namely, effective policies and legislation; effective institutional arrangements; devolution of core responsibilities including planning and implementation to communities/stakeholders; and sufficient resources including human capacity and funding. It recognized that the efficient partnerships between governments, public sectors, NGOs and fishing communities in fisheries management at the local level is essential in mainstreaming fisheries co-management. It was suggested that country reports highlighting progress in the implementation of co-management projects at the country level should be invited for discussion at the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting.

40. The Committee appreciated the report of the co-management workshop and agreed that community and stakeholder involvement was a critical requirement for effective fishery management and that positive lessons had been learned in countries where it had been effectively put in place. In this respect, co-management would be an important theme for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting.

41. The Committee acknowledged that strengthening of communities and government units that interact with them was required, in a sustained manner, that would extend beyond the lifetime of project type interventions. This raises the question as to how communities can be empowered and strengthened in a way that they can develop their own fishery management plans. The Committee agreed that appropriate policy and legislation are necessary for allowing effective co-management and encouraged policy-makers to take this into account.

42. Effective communication is essential for enabling communities and government to effectively interact. The Committee emphasized the importance of providing awareness and training. In particular, attention should be paid to capacity building at local government levels to enable them to effectively interface with fishers’ groups and fishing communities.

43. The Committee requested further information regarding the APFIC co-management GIS database. The Secretariat explained that the database is currently being developed and that the intention is to eventually make this available on the APFIC website. Currently, other organizations are being contacted to provide their information on various sites.

44. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Workshops and encouraged APFIC to prioritize some key areas for an achievable plan of action through the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting. It requested the Secretariat to submit these for approval by the Commission at the 29<sup>th</sup> session.

## **PREPARATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF APFIC**

45. The Executive Committee was advised of the preparations for the first APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Twenty-ninth Session of the Commission in 2006 as outlined in document APFIC:ExCo/05/6. It is noted that the preparations for the RCFM Meeting (RCFM) have involved the Members of the Commission, regional bodies and arrangements and other international organizations concerned with fisheries and coastal management in the formulation of appropriate agendas and in the conduct of the RCFM. The Committee agreed to the broad objective of the RCFM, which is to identify trends, methods, capacity building opportunities, research gaps and overlaps amongst players in order to improve the state of fisheries and aquaculture and to enhance the integration of fisheries into national and regional management

and decision-making. It expected that the outcome of the meeting would contribute significantly toward the future work of APFIC.

46. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Secretariat to charge a small registration fee to some participants to cover the costs of the meeting venue package and other associated organizational costs. The Committee endorsed the Secretariat's suggestion that a conference management group would be used to assist with the logistics and organization of the RCFM.

47. The Committee developed and endorsed the major topics to be discussed at the RCFM as well as the schedule of the three-day RCF Meeting which appears as Appendix D.

48. The Committee discussed the options for the location of the RCFM and it was decided that with the large number of participants that it would be most efficient to hold the meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The dates for the RCFM were set to take place during the week of 16-19 August 2006.

49. The Committee considered the arrangements of the ensuing Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC as proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed the tentative schedule of the Session (Appendix E), which will take place on the 21-23 August 2006.

50. The Committee reiterated that the main focus of APFIC's activities would remain small-scale fisheries and rural aquaculture for the next biennium, which would be pursued through partnerships with competent regional organizations. It was also agreed that the emerging need for an additional focus on fisheries trade and food safety (both aquaculture and capture fishery) and that this would be brought into an expanded portfolio of activities for APFIC in the coming biennium. The Committee encouraged APFIC to seek technical support from FAO in collaboration with ASWGFi to convene a workshop on food safety and standards during 2006.

## **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

51. As this was his last Executive Committee meeting, the Secretary thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their support and hard work that had contributed to the successful emergence of APFIC as a Regional Consultative Forum.

52. The Committee expressed its deep gratitude for the excellent facilities and generous hospitality accorded by the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Malaysia which rendered success in the conduct of its meeting.

53. As a final action for the meeting, the Committee reviewed all the suggestions put forward by members during the previous two days as possible items for consideration by APFIC for future work. It was concluded that most of the items had been included as topics for the RCFM or for action by FAO, either through the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific or through its headquarters in Rome. A summary list of these items is presented in Appendix F.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION**

54. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairperson would explore the possibility of hosting the next session of the Executive Committee in Indonesia in 2007. The Secretariat was directed to consult further with the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the Committee regarding the exact date and location.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

55. The report of the Seventieth Session of the Executive Committee was adopted by the Committee on 25 August 2005.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## Members of the APFIC Executive Committee

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**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Intersessional Activities of APFIC
4. Regional response to Tsunami
5. Regional Fishery Bodies in Asia-Pacific
6. Outcomes of the APFIC Regional Workshops on Low Value/Trash Fish and Co-management
7. Preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC
8. Any other matters
9. Date and place of the Seventy-First Session
10. Adoption of the Report

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

APFIC:ExCo/05/1	Provisional Agenda
APFIC:ExCo/05/2	Intersessional Activities of APFIC
APFIC:ExCo/05/3	Regional Response to the Tsunami
APFIC:ExCo/05/4	Regional Fishery Bodies in the Asia-Pacific Region
APFIC:ExCo/05/5	Trash Fish and Co-Management Workshops
APFIC:ExCo/05/6, Rev. 2	Preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and Arrangements for the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC

***Information Documents***

APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.1, Rev. 1	Provisional List of Documents
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.3	Report of the Sixty-ninth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Pattaya, Thailand, 15-16 December 2003
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.4	Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of APFIC Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3-5 August 2004
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.5	Relevant outcomes of the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI and the Regional Fisheries bodies Meeting, Rome, March 2005
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.6	Draft report of the Regional Workshop on Low Value and "Trash Fish" in the Asia-Pacific Region, Hanoi, Viet Nam, 7-9 June 2005
APFIC:ExCo/05/Inf.7	Draft report of the APFIC Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Fisheries Co-management, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 9-12 August 2005

## APPENDIX D

### MAJOR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE RCF MEETING AND THE SCHEDULE OF RCF MEETING

#### APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING: REFORMING FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 16-19 August 2006

	Tentative Partners & presentations
<b>Day 1</b>	
<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	<i>Senior officials</i>
<b>Keynote address – historic perspective</b>	<i>Regional expert (TBC)</i>
<b>Forum arrangements</b> – RCFM objectives and arrangements	<i>APFIC Secretary</i>
<b>Theme 1: Future of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific</b>	<i>NACA, WorldFish, SEAFDEC, Trash fish Workshop partners, APFIC members</i>
<b>Overview paper</b> – status, trends and major issues (particularly ecosystem changes and trash fish)	<i>APFIC Secretariat</i>
<b>Future of fisheries/aquaculture in the APFIC region</b> – <i>Future potentials of fisheries/aquaculture</i> – <i>Offshore resources/feeds etc.</i> – <i>Constraints to realising that potential</i>	<i>WorldFish Center (models/projections)</i>
<b>Trash fish workshop outcomes and actions fisheries/aquaculture/utilization/information</b>	<i>APFIC Secretariat</i>
<b>Management tools and interventions (focus on trash fish)</b> – <i>Tool kit: e.g. zoning to reduce conflict etc.; restocking; fish refugia/MPAs/closed areas</i> – <i>subsidies/buy backs, VMS/MCS</i> – <i>Pellets and fish meal substitutes</i> – <i>Utilization</i>	<i>Panel - FAO?</i>
<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>Theme 2: Co-management, governance and institutions</b>	<i>WorldFish, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO and Co-management workshop partners, WWF, IUCN, NACA, APFIC members</i>
<b>Overview paper – Mainstreaming</b> – <i>Trends in management approaches</i> <i>What is co-management? Legislation/policy</i> – <i>Empowerment/organisation</i> – <i>Up-scaling</i>	<i>Invited key note speaker</i>

	<b>Tentative Partners &amp; presentations</b>
<b>Day 2 (continued)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Linkages</i></li> <li>– <i>Costs and financing</i></li> </ul>	
<b>What are the issues of fishery rights?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>What are rights?</i></li> <li>– <i>Customary systems</i></li> <li>– <i>Allocation issues</i></li> <li>– <i>Examples – Use/access rights</i></li> </ul>	<i>FAO/SEAFDEC</i>
<b>Co-management in aquaculture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>trends</i></li> <li>– <i>larger scale aquaculture (allocation)</i></li> <li>– <i>smallholder organizations</i></li> </ul>	<i>NACA/APFIC Secretariat</i>
<b>Country experiences with co-management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Brief presentations of specific experience of successful examples of implementing/mainstreaming co-management</i></li> <li>– <i>What works and what does not (range of systems/waters)</i></li> </ul>	<i>APFIC members (both fisheries and aquaculture)</i>
<b>Summary and actions plans –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Co-management workshop</i></li> <li>– <i>Action plan plus aquaculture equivalents</i></li> </ul>	<i>APFIC Secretariat</i>
<b>Theme 3: Policy challenges</b>	
<b>National policy directions and initiatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Policy trade offs and implications</i></li> <li>– <i>Aquaculture promotion</i></li> <li>– <i>Capacity reduction</i></li> <li>– <i>Moving effort offshore</i></li> <li>– <i>Diversification in the fishery</i></li> <li>– <i>Sustaining fishing communities/livelihoods</i></li> <li>– <i>Case studies of specific countries policy initiatives in these areas</i></li> </ul>	<i>Invited key note and Country case studies – to be presented as posters</i>
<b>Implementation of CCRF – some possible indicators for progress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Incorporation of CCRF into national legislation/policy</i></li> <li>– <i>Implementation of COFI recommendations</i></li> <li>– <i>Alignment with MDG's &amp; WSSD goals</i></li> <li>– <i>Fishery management plans</i></li> <li>– <i>Capacity reduction</i></li> <li>– <i>Dealing with IUU (regionally relevant IUU)</i></li> <li>– <i>IPOA's &amp; NPOA's</i></li> <li>– <i>Role of Regional Fishery Bodies</i></li> </ul>	<i>APFIC Secretariat plus APFIC members (for suggestion and feedback)</i>  <i>Possible parallel working group sessions</i>
<b>Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>implications to fisheries</i></li> </ul>	<i>Invited keynote</i>

	<b>Tentative Partners &amp; presentations</b>
<b>Day 2 (continued)</b>	
<b>Integrating fisheries into Large Marine Ecosystem/Regional Seas arrangements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>future challenges</i></li> </ul>	<i>COBSEA, PEMSEA, UNEP-SCS</i> <i>Yellow Sea LME</i> <i>Bay of Bengal LME</i>
<b>Day 3</b>	
<b>Theme 4: Emerging issues – Food quality and safety in the context of trade</b>	
<b>Trends in the fishery trade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>e.g. rising prices, increasing consumption, emphasis on quality, consumer perceptions</i></li> </ul>	<i>INFOFISH, FIIU</i>
<b>Emerging issues and requirements relating to food safety and trade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>The CODEX process – how it works</i></li> <li>– <i>SPS, heavy metal standards, pesticides/dioxins, Antibiotic residues, HACCP</i></li> <li>– <i>Traceability (fisheries and aquaculture)</i></li> <li>– <i>Mechanisms for harmonization</i></li> </ul>	<i>FAO/FIIU (+ASEAN task force on CODEX)</i> <i>FAO/FIIU</i>  <i>FAO/FIIU</i> <i>FAO/FIIU</i>
<b>Improving production standards and consumer requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Aquaculture guidelines (for management)</i></li> <li>– <i>Implications of eco-labelling to the region (of fisheries – e.g. regional examples, potential areas)</i></li> <li>– <i>Certification (of aquaculture)</i></li> </ul>	<i>FAO/NACA</i> <i>FAO</i>  <i>FAO/NACA/WWF/SGS</i>
<b>Final Session: Summary and recommendations for reporting to APFIC</b>	<i>APFIC Secretariat</i>
<b>Day 4: Field trips</b>	
<b>Poster Session – country posters or exhibits on key issues that are being addressed by the members</b>	<i>APFIC members</i>

## APPENDIX E

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF APFIC 21-23 August 2006, Kuala Lumpur

<b>Day 1</b>
– Opening Ceremony (formal)
– Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
– Report of the Intersessional activities of APFIC
– Report of the 70 <sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee
– Report to the members of the outcomes of the COFI session
– Actions to address low value/trash fish issues in APFIC region
– Actions to “mainstream” fisheries co-management in APFIC region
– Responding to key policy challenges
<b>Day 2</b>
– Adoption of indicators for measuring progress on implementation of the CCRF
– Global activities of interest to APFIC
– Partner’s/donor comments
– Identification of the key areas for next biennium work of APFIC
– Development of the APFIC biennial workplan
– Consideration by the Commission of issues to be raised by members at COFI
– Other matters
– Election of Officers
– Date and place of 30 <sup>th</sup> Session
<b>Day 3</b>
– Preparation of the report of the 29 <sup>th</sup> session
– Adoption of report

**ITEMS DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS AREAS OF  
FURTHER WORK AND INTEREST OF THE COMMISSION**

**Advice and policy**

- Assistance in development of National fishery strategies
- Food safety/trade
- Effect of globalization
- Eco-labelling

**Costs and implications of management intervention**

- Economic trade-offs/-cost/benefits for management interventions
- Tools for buy back, lessons and best practices
- Cost effective VMS & MCS, VMS (follow up workshop and information)
- Effects of removal of fishing subsidies
- The economic implications of growth overfishing
- Fuel costs and fuel consumption reduction – implication for profitability

**Tsunami related**

- Tsunami early warning systems (especially communication/training for coastal communities)
- Impact of tsunami on fishery resources and ecosystems
- Review of tsunami responses
- Impact of climate change on fishery resources

### SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS, DECISIONS AND/OR DIRECTIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF APFIC

The Executive Committee:

1. Whilst expressing its satisfaction with the development of the APFIC website (<http://www.apfic.org>) and agreeing that it would greatly improve access to APFIC information by all concerned, **requested** the Secretariat to contact the Members formally, regarding the possibility of providing login access to the site. (paragraph 7)
2. **Noted** that priority (of APFIC) should continue to be given to small-scale fisheries and rural aquaculture and **emphasized** that APFIC's monitoring of the tsunami impact should focus on fishery resources and the ecosystem. (paragraph 14)
3. **Agreed** that other information of interest should include the monitoring of fishing gear and management, with a view to preventing overcapacity and overfishing; the collaboration with ASEAN food safety and quality issues in which APFIC could have a role to play. It **asked** the Secretariat to explore the possibility of including some new areas of interest such as: policy and legislation; assistance to the Members in developing national fisheries strategies; studies on the cost effective VMS and MCS systems and appropriate means for saving of energy used by fishing vessels. Increasing awareness of the Members on issues such as the CITES listing process and food safety and quality issues related to regional and international trade should be promoted. (paragraph 15)
4. **Directed** that the report on the intersessional activities be submitted to the Commission for approval at its Twenty-ninth Session. (paragraph 16)
5. **Requested** the Secretariat to explore the possibility of increasing staff support to maintain the expanded range of activities of APFIC. (paragraph 17)

#### REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE TSUNAMI

The Executive Committee:

1. In discussing the impact of the tsunami calamity, **unanimously agreed** that FAO through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and APFIC should continue to assist the affected countries of the region in both short-term relief and long-term rehabilitation operations. (paragraph 19)
2. **Was gratified to note** that the Ministerial Meeting held in Rome in March 2005 had adopted a statement in support of FAO tsunami rehabilitation activities and **concurred** with its caution that the countries concerned should not relocate any excess fishing capacity as part of the tsunami relief and rehabilitation effort. (paragraph 22)
3. **Was of the opinion** that the lack of pre-tsunami baseline information might constrain the assessment on the tsunami effects on fishery resources and ecosystems and **suggested** that the use of fishermen as informants could indicate some of the impacts and changes. The Committee **suggested further** that whilst the relief and rehabilitation effort focused primarily on the return of fishers to the fishery, effort should be made to provide possible alternatives to fishing and aquaculture livelihood. (paragraph 23)

4. **Requested** the Secretariat to seek support for appropriate early warning system in fishing communities through FAO or other collaborative arrangements. (paragraph 24)
5. **Recommended** that the consortium of five specialized fisheries and aquaculture agencies (CONSRN) continue its activities and that APFIC participate in the two subregional meetings that are to be organized by the CONSRN partners (SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO), scheduled during 2005. (paragraph 25)

## **REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

The Executive Committee:

1. **Concurred with** the view of the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI (March 2005) that the capacities of some regional fishery bodies and arrangements need to be strengthened to address relevant issues relating to fisheries management which remain to be resolved. The Committee welcomed the recommendation of that session of COFI concerning the need for undertaking a review of the performance of regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) in meeting their objectives and obligations and principles as set forth in relevant international instruments. (paragraph 29)
2. **Was of the view** that the predominance of small-scale fisheries in the region requires APFIC to play a strong advocacy role in the international arena. In this respect, APFIC should strengthen its coordination role between regional organizations and arrangements and the member countries. The Committee agreed that APFIC as a Regional Consultative Forum is instrumental in bringing relevant regional organizations and arrangements to one place in order to improve understanding and recommend possible solutions of some regional fishery issues. (paragraph 30)
3. **Reiterated** the Commission's view that APFIC should not evolve into a fisheries management body, but would play a facilitating role in assisting concerned countries with shared or transboundary stocks (or common issues) and in working towards collective agreements on the management of those stocks. Whilst agreeing that APFIC could play this facilitating role in the initiative and a good entry point for this is assistance with the formulation of national fisheries strategies, the Committee **recommended** that APFIC retain this agenda item in the Executive Committee meeting for further discussion. (paragraph 31)
4. **Noted** that the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) had agreed, from September 2005 onwards, to invite international organizations to join its meetings. (paragraph 33)

## **OUTCOMES OF THE APFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON LOW-VALUE/TRASH FISH AND CO-MANAGEMENT**

The Executive Committee:

1. **Agreed** with the main findings of the APFIC Regional Workshop on Low-Value and Trash Fish in the Asia-Pacific region (June 2005) and supported the need to address the large issues of low-value/trash fish (trawlers and push nets) together with solutions through appropriate management interventions. (paragraph 37)
2. **Endorsed** the draft action plan and intervention points developed by the Workshop to address the above-mentioned issues and **suggested** that updated information possibly through country situation reports should be invited from the APFIC Members and other interested bodies for discussion at the first RCF meeting. (paragraph 38)

3. **Concurred with the view** of the APFIC Regional Workshop on “Mainstreaming” Fisheries Co-Management (August 2005) that the four essential pillars are required for successful fisheries co-management, namely effective policies and legislation; effective institutional arrangements; devolution of core responsibilities to local communities and sufficient human and financial resources. The Committee **recommended** that country reports highlighting progress in implementation of co-management projects at the country level should be invited for discussion at the first RCF meeting. (paragraph 39)
4. **Considered** that co-management is an important theme for the first RCF meeting. (paragraph 40)
5. **Agreed** that appropriate policy and legislation are necessary for effective co-management and **encouraged** policy-makers concerned to take this into account. (paragraph 41)
6. **Emphasized** the importance of providing awareness and training to attain effective co-management, especially in capacity building at local governmental level with a view to enabling improved interface with fishermen’s groups and fishing communities. (paragraph 42)
7. **Endorsed** the recommendations of the two workshops and encouraged APFIC to prioritize some key areas for an achievable plan of action through the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and requested the Secretariat to submit these for approval of the Commission at its Twenty-ninth Session. (paragraph 44)

#### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF APFIC**

1. **Agreed** with the broad objectives of the RCFM as outlined by the Secretariat and believed that the outcome of the first RCF meeting would contribute significantly towards the future of APFIC. (paragraph 45)
2. **Agreed** to the proposal of the Secretariat to charge a small registration fee to some participants to cover the costs of the meeting venue package and other associated organizational costs. The Committee **endorsed** the Secretariat’s suggestion that a conference management group would be used to assist with the logistics and organization of the RCFM. (paragraph 46)
3. **Agreed** on the major topics to be discussed at and the schedule of the three-day RCFM. (paragraph 47)
4. **Agreed** that the RCFM be held from 16 to 19 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (paragraph 48)
5. **Endorsed** the tentative schedule of the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC which will be held from 21 to 23 August 2006. (paragraph 49)
6. **Unanimously agreed** that the main focus of APFIC’s activities for the next biennium would remain to be small-scale fisheries and rural aquaculture. The Committee **also agreed** that other issues of regional relevance such as fish trade and food safety (for both aquaculture and capture fisheries) could be added to the activities of APFIC in the coming biennium. It **encouraged** APFIC to seek technical support from FAO in collaboration with ASWGFi to convene a workshop on food safety and standards during 2006. (paragraph 50)

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION**

1. **Invited** the Vice-Chairperson of APFIC to explore with the authorities of the Government of Indonesia the possibility of hosting the next session of the Executive Committee in Indonesia. The Committee **directed** the Secretariat to consult further with the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the Committee regarding the exact date and location of the next session of the Executive Committee. (paragraph 54)