



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sixty-eighth session

Bangkok, Thailand, 5-7 July 2000

**APFIC SECRETARIAT
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

*Report of the Sixty-eighth session of the APFIC Executive Committee,
Bangkok, Thailand, 5-7 July 2000.*

*FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, RAP Publication 2000/12, 20
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ABSTRACT

This document presents the final report of the Sixty-eighth session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) which was held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, from 5-7 July 2000. Major topics discussed were: progress reports on the inter-sessional activities of APFIC; reports of the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group and the study on the future role of APFIC; and progress report on preparations for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission. The summary of the main recommendations/decisions is shown in Appendix F.

Distribution:

Participants of the Session
Members of the Commission

FAO Fisheries Department
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its Sixty-eighth Session at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 7 July 2000 under the chairmanship of Mr. Malcolm I. Sarmiento, Jr., Chairman of APFIC. The list of participants is given in Appendix B.

2. At the Opening of the Session, Dr. R.B. Singh, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Director-General. He emphasized the importance of fisheries as a main source of food as well as important sources of export earning and employment in the region. As APFIC has provided assistance to its Member States for half a century, he commended the role played by the Commission in promoting fisheries and aquaculture development in the region and stressed the urgent need for the Member States to reinvigorate APFIC to face new challenges in its future programme. In this connection, he assured the Committee the continued support by FAO on its future role and requested all members of the Committee to advise and assist in obtaining more support from the Member States for APFIC's future programmes.

3. In his introductory address, the Chairman of APFIC recalled the establishment of the Commission in the Philippines in 1948 and expressed his appreciation for the services rendered by the Commission to foster the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region for the past 52 years. He noted the challenges faced by APFIC at present and suggested that the Commission should adapt itself to be more responsive to the new requirements with full support from FAO. He expressed hope that the Executive Committee would advise on future direction of APFIC to ensure its usefulness in assisting its Member States in the new millennium.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Executive Committee adopted the Agenda as given in Appendix A. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF APFIC

5. The Committee reviewed the activities undertaken by APFIC since the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission (Beijing, People's Republic of China, 24-30 September 1998) presented in document APFIC:ExCo/68/2.

6. A Special Session of APFIC was convened in Rome on 17 February 1999, in connection with the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), to discuss and approve the terms of reference and workplan of the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group established by the Commission at the Twenty-sixth Session. Subsequently, the meeting of this working group was convened by the Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6 to 8 July 1999. The reports of the Special Session and the meeting of the working group were presented as document APFIC:ExCo/68/3 for further discussion under the next agenda item.

7. The meetings of the three *ad hoc* technical working groups of experts established by the Commission were also convened by the Secretariat in 1999. The reports of these working groups were given as documents APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.6, 7 and 8.

8. The ***Ad hoc Working Group of Experts in Food Safety*** held its first meeting in Bangkok from 15 to 17 March 1999. The Working Group discussed issues concerning human parasitic infestation caused mainly by consumption of freshwater fish as well as food poisoning caused by pathogenic bacteria associated with fish products. In particular Trematodes, or liver flukes, and some pathogens were identified. The needs to study and control contamination of fish and fishery products in the region in order to protect the health of consumers and export markets were emphasized. As the result, three regional workshops were conducted, in collaboration with the Fish Utilization and Marketing Service (FIU) of the FAO Fisheries Department and the Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR), to develop research proposals for possible funding by donors.

9. The ***Ad hoc Working Group of Experts in Capture Fishery Data Collection*** convened its meeting in Bangkok from 7 to 9 September 1999. The Working Group reviewed national needs and international obligations for fishery data as well as the problems and constraints faced in collecting capture fishery statistics. The Working Group discussed the applicability of the new FAO Guidelines for the Routine Collection of Capture Fishery Data (document APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.7, Add.1). The Working Group strongly concurred with the structural approach and framework of this Guidelines and recommended that APFIC should actively promote the implementation of routine data collection programmes in Member States. Case studies as applied to a particular fishery should be presented at a regional workshop to be convened by APFIC. Moreover, APFIC should convene a workshop on alternative approaches on non-routine data collection for small-scale marine and inland fisheries, including socio-economic and environmental aspects, in order to strengthen fishery data collection systems in the region.

10. The ***Ad hoc Working Group of Experts in Rural Aquaculture*** convened its meeting in Bangkok from 20 to 22 October 1999. The Working Group reviewed the concept and development experience in rural aquaculture. It was recognized that rural aquaculture could contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the poor and to food security in rural areas. There is a need for adaptive research and extension strategies to develop integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems as well as a Code of Practice for Rural Aquaculture to raise awareness and farmer capacity. The Working Group recommended that an *Ad hoc* Working Group of Experts in Integrated Agriculture-Aquaculture Systems be established by APFIC to address these issues in more detail.

11. The Committee endorsed the reports of the working groups of experts.

12. In addition to the meetings of the *ad hoc* working groups of experts, the Secretariat had initiated a study on fisheries management frameworks in the Bay of Bengal which was endorsed by the Commission at the Twenty-sixth Session. The abolition of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) and its Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (BOBC) in June 1999 resulted in closer involvement of APFIC in this sub-region, as the functions of BOBC was transferred to APFIC by the FAO Council's Resolution 1/116

(document APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.10). Moreover, the Bay of Bengal Programme (GCP/RAS/150-151/DEN-JPN and GCP/RAS/117/MUL Projects of FAO) would be concluded in December 2000. Mechanism for regional cooperation on fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal is much needed.

13. The Committee was further informed that, in view of the abolition of IOFC, the participating countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) agreed to consider the possibility of establishing an intergovernmental organization for technical and management advisory services for fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region (document APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.11). They also requested FAO for support in the formulation and establishment of such organization. It was also noted that a new regional commission for the Gulf States has been established as the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Gulf area.

14. The representative of Sri Lanka informed the Committee that his government would support the establishment of an intergovernmental organization for fisheries management and development in the Bay of Bengal. He expressed his appreciation for action taken by FAO on this initiative.

15. The Committee was informed that, for the East Asian Seas, FAO has initiated a study on marine resources, their states of exploitation and management in the People's Republic of China. SEAFDEC has conducted fishery resources survey in the lower South China Sea. UNEP also prepared a review on the states of environment and exploitation of living resources in the South China Sea under the GEF South China Sea Project. The existing fisheries management frameworks of the countries bordering the South China Sea were reviewed by APFIC in 1997, in cooperation with the FAO Fisheries Department. It was pointed out that there are a number of key issues yet to be dissolved.

16. The Committee commended the Secretariat for the completion of various activities as directed by the Commission during the inter-sessional period.

17. The Committee directed that the reports of the working groups and the report on inter-sessional activities be submitted to the Commission at its next session.

REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* LEGAL AND FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP

18. To facilitate further consideration on the future role of APFIC in the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission established an *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group to discuss future programmes of actions and possible financial contributions by the Member States of APFIC at its Twenty-sixth Session. The terms of reference and workplan of the Working Group were approved by the Commission at its Special Session in February 1999 and the meeting of the Working Group was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, during 6-8 July 1999.

19. Although the membership of the Working Group was open-ended, only ten Member States accepted the invitations to participate. Most Members, however, responded to the questionnaires

on the future direction of APFIC as requested by the Secretariat. The summary of the replies was given as Appendix F of the report of the Working Group (document APFIC:ExCo/68/3).

20. The Working Group reviewed the current status of fisheries and aquaculture in the region and discussed the future role of APFIC in meeting emerging issues and new challenges in fisheries management and development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Working Group agreed that the priority areas for APFIC's programmes as identified at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission remained valid. For its future programmes, in the short-term, APFIC should lay emphasis on the harmonization of fishery policies and strengthening of fishery data collection. For the long-term programmes, APFIC should promote effective marine fisheries management, development of sustainable aquaculture and acceleration of technology transfer and capacity building in its Member States.

21. The Working Group reviewed the current structure and functions of the Commission and agreed that the membership, area of competence and functions of APFIC remain valid as stipulated in the Agreement. As regards possible contributions by the Member States to support the activities of the Commission, most Members indicated that they would consider providing voluntary contributions to support project activities of their interest but not annual assessed contributions as proposed by the Secretariat. No further amendments to the Agreement and the establishment of the Financial Regulations were therefore required at this stage.

22. Although the Agreement stipulated that the expenses of representatives attending the sessions of the Commission and committees be provided by their respective governments, the sessions of the Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Committee (AIFIC) and the Committee on Marine Fisheries (COMAF) of APFIC had to postpone twice due to lack of quorum. In order to reduce financial burden of the Member States, the Working Group recommended that these technical standing committees should be abolished. The Commission could established *ad hoc* Working Groups of Experts to assist the Member States on emerging issues as and when required.

23. Recognizing the need to strengthen regional fishery bodies to meet the new challenges, the Working Group recommended that APFIC should initiate activities to serve as the regional consultative forum on fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region. This forum would discuss emerging issues and coordinate activities with other international/regional and intergovernmental fishery bodies or arrangements in the region to avoid duplication of efforts.

24. The Working Group further recommended that the Secretariat should conduct a detailed review of APFIC's future functions and programmes of activities for consideration by the Commission and FAO in order to determine what further changes would be required to the status of the Commission in the future. In this connection, the Executive Committee was informed that the Secretariat had conducted the review and the report was submitted for consideration on the future role of APFIC under the next agenda item.

25. The Executive Committee commended the work carried out by the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group.

26. The Committee was of the opinion that many of the issues raised in the report of the working group had to be considered in conjunction with the proposal regarding future direction of APFIC.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF APFIC

27. In accordance with the recommendation of the Ad hoc Legal and Financial Working Group, the Secretariat conducted a study on future role of APFIC by examining activities that could be performed by APFIC in an effective manner, taking into consideration the programmes of activities being conducted by other fishery organizations in the region. The report of the study, entitled *APFIC: Its Changing Role*, was presented to the Committee as document APFIC:ExCo/68/4.

28. The review of major issues concerning fishery resources and environmental sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region revealed that the current pattern of resource use and environmental degradation will not lead to sustainability of fisheries nor to the environment. There is an urgent need to rehabilitate coastal fish stocks through effective fisheries management schemes. The rapid change in the state of fisheries and aquaculture in the region and the new order of ocean governance as adopted by the world community also posed major challenges for the countries in their efforts to attain fisheries and environmental sustainability. These would require a structural change in the fishery sector in the States concerned. Similarly, regional bodies concerned with fisheries and marine affairs had to improve services to their members. Regional cooperation should be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of global instruments and initiatives related to fisheries as well as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as agreed upon at the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries in March 1999.

29. The programmes activities of the existing thirteen international and regional bodies and arrangements concerning fisheries development and management in the Asia-Pacific region were reviewed. Although the main role of these bodies is similar, i.e., to promote cooperation amongst their individual members in the conservation and rational development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, each body has its own specific responsibilities and some overlapping in the activities amongst these bodies was noted. The wide-ranging activities of APEC, ASEAN and SEAFDEC may duplicate those of APFIC in some areas. It was therefore recommended that there is a need for regular consultation amongst the key organizations in the region to reduce the duplication of effort and rationalization of the use of the limited funds available for the fishery sector.

30. The study further suggested that APFIC, due to its continued financial constraint and lack of human resource, should concentrate its activities on three subregions of the Asia-Pacific. Similarly, its future programmes of activities should be scaled down to three priority areas that have a regional focus: marine fisheries management; fisheries information and data management; and fisheries policy and planning. In addition, APFIC should maintain close liaison on a regular basis with other regional bodies and arrangements in the region through the creation of a regional consultative forum. This forum could discuss regional fisheries and aquaculture issues of interest to the countries in the region and to donor agencies as well as gaps or possible areas on which all of the bodies and arrangements might focus in order to strengthen their efficiency and promote closer regional cooperation in fisheries.

31. The Committee recognized that countries bordering the Yellow Sea already concluded bilateral agreements on fisheries, thus there is no need for any APFIC programme. Nonetheless, APFIC could assist in providing information on fisheries in this sub-region as and when required. Similarly arrangements are being made by countries bordering the South China Sea. Only the Bay of Bengal remains without regional mechanism. The Committee agreed that the Bay of Bengal should be a priority geographical area for the activities of APFIC. In this connection, the Committee noted that, in accordance with FAO Council Resolution 1/116 entitled “Abolition of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies”, the functions of the former Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal would be performed in future by APFIC. The Committee requested that the matter be formally brought to the attention of the Commission.

32. The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed priority areas of work and agreed that there are urgent needs in strengthening the collection and dissemination of fishery statistics at both national and regional levels to support fishery management and aquaculture development programmes. APFIC should assist the Member States in the development and standardization of their fishery statistical systems and data management and promote data and information exchanges in the region as recommended by the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group.

33. The Committee recognized the needs to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks in response to recent international instruments and initiatives. The implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries would also require structural changes in the fishery sector. The success of the FAO Regional Workshop on the Code of Conduct held in Western Africa in 1997 was cited as an example at which APFIC should pursue, if find permits. Legal assistance in harmonizing fishery legislation in line with other international initiatives was also needed. The Committee agreed that APFIC should assist its Member States, upon request, in harmonizing their fishery policies and programmes to meet these new challenges.

34. It was further recommended that the activities related to the development and management of inland fisheries, aquaculture and post-harvest technology be referred to other competent regional fishery bodies such as NACA, SEAFDEC and INFOFISH.

35. In order to promote closer cooperation amongst the fishery bodies and arrangements in the region, the Committee fully supported the proposal that APFIC should function as the Regional Consultative Forum at which the Member States, regional fishery bodies and the donor agencies could exchange views on emerging issues in the region and actions to be undertaken, bilaterally or collectively. This forum could discuss and identify the gaps and needs for fishery programmes that could be performed by the relevant bodies, in cooperation with others, and avoid duplication of efforts. The APFIC Secretariat should initiate action to solicit possible financial support from interested donors to that effect.

36. The Committee recognized that the amendments of the APFIC Agreement in 1993 and 1996 have equipped the Commission to cope with new challenges confronting the sustainable development of the fishery sector in the new millennium. However, the continued financial constraints have prevented APFIC to fulfil its mandates. As APFIC was established by FAO under Article XIV of the Constitution and was thus expected to rely on financial contribution from its

Members, FAO called on the members of the Commission to increase their support to the Commission. The Resolution 13/97 of the FAO Conference invited the Contracting Parties to Conventions and Agreements establishing regional bodies under Article XIV to provide the Bodies with their own financial resources, whether through cooperative programmes or other voluntary contributions, or through the establishment of autonomous budgets financed from mandatory contributions. The Committee was further informed that the Commission had proposed for the establishment of both mandatory and voluntary funds to support its expanded activities since 1978. To date, however, the APFIC Members were not able to reach a conclusion on these financial issues.

37. The Committee recalled the current economic recession in Asia which resulted in financial difficulties experienced by many developing Members of the Commission. Among the present twenty Members, nine are low-income food-deficit countries that need assistance from the world community. Only six Members are classified by the World Bank as high-income countries. The reluctance of many delegations to discuss the mandatory contribution to APFIC at present was therefore well understood. The Committee, however, stressed the need for increased support by the Member States to the Commission and requested this matter be considered at the next session of the Commission.

38. It was also agreed that the Member States should provide support such as providing travel expenses for their representatives to participate in the APFIC sessions and in hosting the biannual sessions of APFIC. In this connection, the Committee expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Governments of China and the Philippines in hosting the Twenty-sixth and the Twenty-seventh sessions of the Commission in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

39. The Committee noted decline in support from FAO in recent years which resulted in the lack of some activities such as APFIC fishery information project which has been approved by the Commission since its Twenty-fifth Session. Bearing in mind that APFIC is the only FAO regional fishery body in the Asia-Pacific region, the Committee requested that FAO should consider the possibility of providing necessary funding to support the Commission.

40. In addition to the funding support under the regular programmes of FAO, the Committee advised that the APFIC Secretariat and the Member States should be more pro-active in developing pilot projects of common interest for the Member States to participate and to provide some financial support as well as by donors. The formulation of such projects should reflect specific characteristics of APFIC that are different from those of other regional fishery bodies and should cover the gaps in the existing regional programmes to avoid duplication of efforts. As example, the need for regional review on fishery resources and their potentials in the region, strengthening of legislation required for management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones (EEZ), management of transboundary fish stocks, the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international instruments/initiatives were cited for further consideration by APFIC.

PREPARATION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF APFIC

41. The Executive Committee was informed that the preparations for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission, to be hosted by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in

Cebu, from 8-16 November 2000, were in progress. In addition to the main Session to discuss the future role of APFIC, the Secretariat would organize an APFIC Seminar on Fisheries 2000s to discuss the issues concerning fisheries policies as requested by the FAO Regional Conference and on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The prospectus of the Seminar is given as Appendix D.

42. The Committee reviewed the provisional agenda for the Twenty-seventh Session. The representative of FAO suggested for a new item on global emerging issues on fisheries and aquaculture of relevance to the region in order to draw attention of the Member States to these issues. After discussion, the Executive Committee endorsed the provisional agenda (Appendix E) for consideration by the Commission at its forthcoming session.

ANY OTHER MATTER

43. There was no other matter raised for consideration by the Committee.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION

44. It was agreed that the Sixty-ninth Session of the Executive Committee should be held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2002. The exact date shall be discussed further with the Chairman and members of the Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

45. The report of the Sixty-eighth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee was adopted by the Committee on 7 July 2000.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Inter-sessional Activities of APFIC
4. Report of the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group
5. Future direction of APFIC
6. Preparations for the Twenty-seventh Session of APFIC
7. Any other matters
8. Date and Place of the Sixty-ninth Session
9. Adoption of the Report

List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<p>Atty. Malcolm I. Sarmiento, Jr. Director Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Quezon City, Metro Manila PHILIPPINES</p>	<p>Chairman of APFIC</p>
<p>Dr. Vu Van Trieu Deputy Director-General International Cooperation Department Ministry of Fisheries Hanoi SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM</p>	<p>Vice Chairman</p>
<p>Mr. Yang Jian Director-General Bureau of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture Beijing PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</p>	<p>Out-going Chairman</p>
<p>Mr. Kengo Tanaka Deputy Director International Affairs Division Fisheries Agency Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Tokyo JAPAN</p>	<p>Member</p>
<p>Mr. G. Piyasena Director, Planning and Monitoring Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Colombo SRI LANKA</p>	<p>Member</p>
<p>Dr. Veravat Hongskul APFIC Secretary FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p>	<p><u>Ex officio</u> Member</p>

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THAILAND

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Ms. Pornsuda David

Technical Assistant

Ms. Kesara Aotarayakul

Secretary

APPENDIX C

List of Documents

Working Documents:

APFIC:ExCo/68/1	Provisional Agenda
APFIC:ExCo/68/2	Intersessional Activities of APFIC
APFIC:ExCo/68/3	Report of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Legal and Financial Working Group, Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 July 1999
APFIC:ExCo/68/4	APFIC: Its Changing Role
APFIC:ExCo/68/5	Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-seventh Session of APFIC, Cebu, Philippines, 8-16 November 2000
APFIC:ExCo/68/6. Rev.1	Draft Prospectus of APFIC Seminar: Fisheries 2000s

Information Documents:

APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.1, Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 2, Rev.1	List of Participants
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 3	Report of the Sixty-seventh Session of APFIC Executive Committee, Bangkok, Thailand, 10-12 June 1998
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 4	Fish Utilization in Asia and the Pacific. Proceedings of the APFC Symposium, Beijing, PRC, 24-26 September 1998
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 5	Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of APFIC, Beijing, PRC, 24-30 September 1998
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 6	Report of the Meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group of Experts in Food Safety, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-17 March 1999
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 7	Report of the Meeting of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group of Experts in Capture Fishery Data Collection, Bangkok, Thailand, 7-9 September 1999
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.7, add.1	Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data, FAO Fisheries Tech. Paper 382
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 8	Report of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group of Experts in Rural Aquaculture, Bangkok, Thailand, 20-22 October 1999
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf. 9	Into the next millennium: fishery perspective
APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.10	Resolution 1/116 of the FAO Council at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session, Rome, 14-19 June 1999

- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.11 The Phuket Resolution of the Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme, 16 October 1999
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.12 International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; International Plane of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks; International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. FAO, Rome, 1999.
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.13 Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000: The Bangkok Declaration and Strategy. Conference on Aquaculture in the Third Millenium, 20-25 February 2000, Bangkok, Thailand
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.14 Questionnaire for Monitoring the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

APPENDIX C

List of Documents

Working Documents:

APFIC:ExCo/68/1	Provisional Agenda
APFIC:ExCo/68/2	Intersessional Activities of APFIC
APFIC:ExCo/68/3	Report of the <i>Ad hoc</i> Legal and Financial Working Group, Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 July 1999
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APFIC:ExCo/68/6. Rev.1	Draft Prospectus of APFIC Seminar: Fisheries 2000s

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- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.11 The Phuket Resolution of the Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Programme, 16 October 1999
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.12 International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries; International Plane of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks; International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. FAO, Rome, 1999.
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.13 Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000: The Bangkok Declaration and Strategy. Conference on Aquaculture in the Third Millenium, 20-25 February 2000, Bangkok, Thailand
- APFIC:ExCo/68/Inf.14 Questionnaire for Monitoring the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

APFIC SEMINAR ON FISHERIES 2000s**PROSPECTUS****BACKGROUND**

The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982 paved the way for a legal framework to better marine resources management. This legal regime of the ocean has given coastal States rights and responsibilities for the management and use of marine living resources within their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) which embrace some 90 percent of the world's marine fisheries. However, many coastal States continue to face serious challenges such as lack of experience as well as financial and physical resources they sought to retract greater benefits from fisheries within their EEZs. By the late 1980s, it became clear that fishery resources could no longer sustain the rapid and often uncontrolled exploitation, and that new approaches to fisheries management embracing conservation and environmental considerations were urgently needed.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its Nineteenth Session in March 1991 called for the development of new concepts which would lead to responsible, sustained fisheries. Subsequently, the global Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was developed and unanimously adopted at the FAO Conference in October 1995. The FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, held in Rome in March 1999, called upon all users of fishery resources to apply the Code of Conduct and asked FAO to continue its efforts to strengthen the functions and responsibilities of FAO regional fishery bodies and their cooperation with other regional fishery management bodies in order to effectively implement the Code.

The Declaration on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries in March 1999, further stressed the needs to seek the optimum and sustainable use of the world's fishery resources, to reduce wastage and destructive fishing practices by promoting responsible fishery practices, effective and integrated fishery monitoring, adopting an ecosystem approach in fisheries management and encouraging further growth in sustainable aquaculture, thus securing the contribution of fisheries to national economic and social goals and to attainment of world food security as committed by the global community at the World Food Summit in 1996. However, the full implementation of the Code and the subsequent International Plans of Action would require considerable resources as well as a reorientation of the current fishery policies and programmes in many Member States to ensure effective implementation of the measures adopted.

The Ministerial Roundtable on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Next Millennium, organized by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 1999, exchanged views and experiences of various countries in the Asia-Pacific region in coping with the challenges of sustainable agricultural development. It was pointed out that, beyond the current Asian economic crisis, developing countries in the region would have to confront enormous development problems and policy challenges. Rising population levels, shrinking agricultural lands, increasing demand on limited water and living resources, widespread land degradation and inadequacy of governance infrastructure appear to be more pressing. These issues,

however, cannot be divorced from policy matters impinging on poverty and food security in the region.

In order to face these challenges, sectoral reviews on policies concerning major agricultural components such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, livestock, and irrigation in the region should be conducted. Moreover, the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, at its Twenty-fourth Session in 1998, has recommended the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) to seek harmonization of national fishery policies with a view towards attaining the sustainability of fishery resources, including transboundary and straddling and highly migratory fish stocks (Para. 30 of the Report). In accordance to this recommendation, APFIC will convene a Seminar on Fisheries 2000s in conjunction with its Twenty-seventh Session in Cebu, the Philippines, from 8 to 10 November 2000.

OBJECTIVES

The Seminar aims to discuss fishery perspective for Asia and the Pacific in the new millennium and to address fishery policies and programmes required to meet the new challenges in implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international agreements or arrangements to ensure sustainable fisheries and their contribution to food security in the region.

For these purposes, the Seminar will:

- Review the current status of inland and marine capture fisheries, emerging issues and challenges facing the fishery sector;
- Discuss problems and constraints facing Member States in implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- Develop frameworks for fishery policy research and sectoral outlook study on fisheries; and
- Recommend actions to be undertaken at both national and regional levels to ensure sustainable fisheries in the region.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

The Seminar will be organized by APFIC, in cooperation with the FAO Fisheries Department and the Policy Assistance Branch (RAPP) of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. It will be based on global and regional overview reports, national/regional assessment reports and experiences from implementation of fishery programmes/projects in Member States and regional fishery bodies.

TENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Contribution of fisheries to food security in the region;

2. Overview of current status and trends in capture fisheries in Asia and the Pacific;
3. Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international plans of action;
4. Fishery policies and planning in facing new challenges; and
5. Fishery Sector Outlook Study.

PARTICIPATION

Participation will be open to senior officials concerned with fishery administration in Member States of APFIC, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies, bilateral agencies and donor governments.

The costs involved in the attendance of participants at the APFIC Seminar will be the responsibility of the participants themselves or of the Agencies they represent.

WORKING LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

The Seminar will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in that language.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF APFIC
Cebu, the Philippines, 8-16 November 2000**

Provisional Agenda and Timetable

8 November 2000

0900 hrs Opening of the Session (Informal)
0930 – 1700 hrs Seminar on Fisheries 2000s

9-10 November 2000

0900-1700 hrs Seminar on Fisheries 2000s (continued)

11 November 2000

Excursion (to be organized by BFAR)

13 November 2000

1000 hrs 1. Opening Ceremony (Formal)
1045 hrs 2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
 3. Report of the APFIC Seminar on Fisheries 2000s

1400 hrs 4. Inter-sessional activities of APFIC and matters referred for the attention of the
 Commission:

 4.1 Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Group of Experts in Food Safety,
 Bangkok, 15-17 March 1999;

 4.2 Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Group of Experts in Capture Fishery Data
 Collection, Bangkok, 7-9 September 1999;

 4.3 Report of the *Ad hoc* Working Group of Experts in Rural Aquaculture,
 Bangkok, 20-22 October 1999;

14 November 2000

0900 hrs 4. Inter-sessional activities of APFIC (con't)

 4.4 Report of the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group, Bangkok, 6-8
 July 1999; and

4.5 Report of the APFIC Executive Committee, Sixty-eighth Session,
Bangkok, 5-7 July 2000.

1045 hrs 5. Future Direction of APFIC

15 November 2000

0900 hrs 5. Future Direction of APFIC (con't)

1400 hrs 6. APFIC Subsidiary Bodies

7. Global Emerging Issues in Fisheries Development and Management
of Relevance to the Asia-Pacific Region

8. Other Matters

9. Election of Officers

10. Date and Place for the Twenty-eighth Session

16 November 2000

1400 hrs 11. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX F

Summary of Main Recommendations/Decisions

- (1) The Committee endorsed the reports of the three *ad hoc* technical working groups of experts established by the Commission. (paragraph 11 of the Report).
- (2) The Committee commended the Secretariat for the completion of various activities as directed by the Commission during the inter-sessional period and directed that reports of the working groups and the report on inter-sessional activities be submitted to the Commission at its next session. (paragraphs 16 & 17 of the Report).
- (3) The Committee commended the work carried out by the *Ad hoc* Legal and Financial Working Group. (paragraph 25 of the Report).
- (4) The Committee recognized that countries bordering the Yellow Sea already concluded bilateral agreements on fisheries, thus there is no need for any APFIC programme. Nonetheless, APFIC could assist in providing information on fisheries in this subregion as and when required. (paragraph 31 of the Report).
- (5) The Committee agreed that the Bay of Bengal should be a priority geographical area for the activities of APFIC. (paragraph 31 of the Report).
- (6) The Committee agreed that there are urgent needs in strengthening the collection and dissemination of fishery statistics at both national and regional levels to support fishery management and aquaculture development programmes. (paragraph 32 of the Report)
- (7) APFIC should assist the Member States in the development and standardization of their fishery statistical systems and data management and promote data and information exchanges in the region. (paragraph 32 of the Report).
- (8) APFIC should assist its Member States in harmonizing their fishery policies and programmes to meet the new challenges brought by recent international instruments and initiatives. (paragraph 33 of the Report).
- (9) Activities related to the development and management of inland fisheries, aquaculture and post-harvest technology be referred to other competent regional fishery bodies such as NACA, SEAFDEC and INFOFISH. (paragraph 34 of the Report).
- (10) The Committee fully supported the proposal that APFIC should function as the Regional Consultative Forum at which the Member States, regional fishery bodies and donor agencies could exchange views on emerging issues in the

region and actions to be undertaken, bilaterally or collectively. (paragraph 35 of the Report).

- (11) The Committee stressed the need for increased support by Member States to the Commission and requested this matter be considered at the next Commission Session. It also agreed that Member States should provide support such as travel expenses for their representatives to participate in the APFIC sessions and in hosting the biannual sessions of APFIC. (paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Report).
- (12) Bearing in mind that APFIC is the only FAO regional fishery body in the Asia-Pacific region, the Committee requested that FAO should consider the possibility of providing necessary funding to support the Commission. (paragraph 39 of the Report).
- (13) The Committee advised that the APFIC Secretariat and the Member States should be more proactive in developing pilot projects of common interest for the Member States to participate and to provide some financial support as well as by donors. (paragraph 40 of the Report).
- (14) The Executive Committee endorsed the provisional agenda of the Twenty-seventh Session of APFIC. (paragraph 42 of the Report).
- (15) The Committee agreed that the Sixty-ninth Session of the Executive Committee be convened at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in June 2002.
