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**FIFTH MEETING OF THE GLOBAL RECORD INFORMAL
OPEN-ENDED TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY WORKING GROUP**

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13 and 14 May 2019

Report of the
Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group
Seoul, Republic of Korea 13–14 May 2019

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 14 May 2019. The conclusions of the meeting, as agreed by participants, are an integral part of the report.

The material in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

ABSTRACT

The fifth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 14 May 2019.

The meeting was attended by experts from FAO Members States, intergovernmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations. Issues discussed included: Progress report and state of affairs of the Global Record Programme; International standards used in the Global Record; Data exchange mechanisms and role of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs); and Support to PSMA implementation.

The GRWG called for States to continue uploading, maintaining and updating vessels and provide a wider range of information on their vessels and encouraged States to obtain IMO numbers for their vessels. The GRWG supported the planned developments to the system, to be completed by end of 2019, which will improve system performance and facilitate future exchange of information through automatic data upload mechanisms, including links with the IHS Maritime and Trade database, RFB databases and other existing regional databases. The GRWG approved the use in the Global Record Information System of the amendments to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) endorsed by the 25th Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP). In its review of the proposed amendments to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types (ISSCFV), the GRWG emphasised the importance that the conclusions from the Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Requirements (GRCG-DR) be reflected in its final recommendations to the CWP. The GRWG noted the importance of using standardised reference lists for the submission of data within the Global Record Information System. In this context, the group saw the potential of the UN/LOCODE as a suitable international standard for identifying ports in the system. The GRWG emphasised its preference for automated data exchange mechanisms, in particular through the use of APIs, such as UN/FLUX, to ensure accuracy and reliability of data, and efficiency of data upload. Finally, the GRWG noted the role of the Global Record, as one of the most important tools for the effective implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), facilitating the cross-check of information and risk analysis during decision-making prior allowing entry into port, or whether to inspect a foreign vessel. Some participants recognised the benefit of the Global Record becoming a mandatory tool.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
CSV	Comma-Separated Values
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics
DG-MARE	Directorate-General of the European Commission for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commission
EC	European Commission
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIAO	Fishing Operations and Technology Branch
FLUX	Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GISIS	Global Integrated Shipping Information System
GRCG	Global Record Specialized Core Working Group
GRCG-DE	Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Exchange
GRCG-DR	Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Requirements
GRCG-TP	Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Third Party Data
GRWG	Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group
GT	Gross Tonnage
IHSM	Information Handling Services Markit
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ISSCFG	International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear
ISSCFV	International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LOA	Length Overall
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America
PSC	Port State Control
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/LOCODE	United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations
USCG	United States Coast Guard
UVI	Unique Vessel Identifier
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
XML	eXtensible Markup Language

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The fifth meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) was hosted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 13 and 14 May 2019. The meeting was attended by 96 participants from 64 FAO Member Nations, six intergovernmental organizations, four non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and FAO delegation. A list of participants is attached as Appendix 3.

2. Mr Matthew Camilleri, Officer in charge of the FAO Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, called the meeting to order, welcomed the participants and expressed FAO's gratitude to the Republic of Korea for kindly hosting the meeting. He also thanked the European Union, Iceland, Spain, Sweden and the Republic of Korea for their kind contribution to the funding of the Global Record Programme.

3. Mr Joon-wook Choi, Deputy Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, gave a welcome address speech.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

4. Mr Matthew Camilleri briefed the participants on the arrangements of the meeting, recalling its informal and open-ended nature, clarifying that participants attend in their personal capacities with the objective to provide technical guidance for the development of the Global Record Information System.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The GRWG adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1.

PROGRESS REPORT AND STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE GLOBAL RECORD PROGRAMME

6. The FAO updated participants on the current status of the Global Record Information System. It was highlighted that 55 FAO Member States are participating in the Global Record Information System, distributed within FAO Regions as follows, seven from Africa, five from Asia, 26 from Europe, 12 from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from North Africa and the Near East, two from Northern America, and three from the South West Pacific. A total of 9 083 vessels have been uploaded into the Global Record Information System, including vessels both below and above 100 Gross Tonnage (GT). The GRWG welcomed the participation of additional States and the increased data upload, since the last meeting of GRWG in April 2018. However The GRWG also noted, that more States need to be encouraged to participate, in particular from certain regions, and that participating States should strive to provide a wider range of information into the system, while ensuring that this data remain up to date.

7. Certain Participants expressed challenges encountered at national level in uploading data into the Global Record Information System, including legal, technical and capacity constraints, as well as issues of accessibility due to low internet connectivity. It was highlighted that some of these challenges could be addressed by having automated data exchange mechanisms to facilitate data input into the Global Record Information System. FAO noted that interagency cooperation at national level is essential to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data submitted into the system. Furthermore, FAO confirmed that automated data upload mechanisms are being explored, including lighter versions of the system compatible with mobile devices.

8. Participants expressed concerns regarding difficulties encountered in obtaining IMO numbers¹ for their vessels, and expressed concerns regarding duplication of IMO numbers. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) participant clarified that procedures have been established to avoid the duplication of IMO numbers and explained that the size of fishing vessels eligible to obtain IMO numbers may soon decrease to below 12 metres.

9. The FAO presented a live demonstration of the Global Record Information System. Participants thanked FAO for the assistance during the data upload process into the Global Record Information

¹ IMO numbers can be requested at: <https://imonumbers.ihs.com/>

System. Participants noted difficulties in understanding error and/or inconsistency notification messages received during the uploading process. Additionally, participants requested clarification regarding whether a coastal State can input information into the Global Record on foreign-flagged vessels authorised to fish in their waters. FAO clarified that coastal States issuing fishing authorisation/licences to foreign flagged vessels, are entitled to directly upload information regarding these authorisations. However, coastal States are not permitted to upload vessel details of foreign flagged vessels.

10. The GRWG made suggestions to improve the Global Record, including: adding a search field for flag State within the basic search fields; availability of the system in all six UN languages; a clarification on the roles of data providers for the different modules; and the need for capacity development and further information material to support data upload. FAO noted the suggestions by the participants and confirmed that the system will be eventually available in all six UN languages, and that assistance is provided to countries through the FAO Global Development Programme for the implementation of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures and complementary international instruments.

11. The FAO announced the forthcoming release of the new version of the Global Record Information System within the second semester of 2019, describing the developments featuring within the new version. These included, system migration to the Cloud to increase server stability and offer better system performance, improvement of existing and establishment of new data upload mechanisms, a new system interface with improved data visualisations, and increased accessibility through compatibility with mobile devices.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS USED IN THE GLOBAL RECORD: ISSCFV, ISSCFG AND UNLOCODE

12. The FAO presented the amendments to the 1980 ISSCFG, endorsed at the 25th session of the CWP. The GRWG agreed that the amended ISSCFG should replace the previous version within the Global Record Information System as the reference list for fishing gear.

13. The FAO described the ongoing process relating to the amendment of the ISSCFV. Upon the request of GRWG4, GRCG-DR was reconvened to make recommendations on the proposed amendments to the ISSCFV. These recommendations along with the response from the CWP Secretariat were presented and opened for discussion during the meeting.

14. The GRWG stressed the need to consider the main recommendations made by the GRCG-DR. In this context, the GRWG5 made an in depth review of the ISSCFV. The resulting document, attached in Appendix 3, was provided to the 26th session of CWP for their consideration prior to the endorsement of the amended ISSCFV.

15. The FAO introduced the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), discussed in previous GRWGs in the context of its possible use as an international standard for port locations within the Global Record Information System. On the occasion of the revision of the UN/LOCODE in December 2018, a video presentation by Yan Zhang, officer from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), on the UN/LOCODE was shown to the GRWG.

16. The GRWG noted that a process was in place for States to request a UN/LOCODE for ports which do not currently have one assigned. In this context, it was noted that the designation of the national contact points and its communication to the UN/LOCODE Secretariat, was crucial to facilitating this process. Furthermore, it was noted that the inclusion of child codes were being considered to differentiate between different areas within a port.

17. Participants saw the potential of the UN/LOCODE as a suitable international standard for identifying ports in the system. However, as not all ports currently have a UN/LOCODE assigned, the GRWG showed concerns regarding its inclusion as the only reference code for port locations. Therefore, it was agreed that the UN/LOCODE should be included as a reference list and that it should be the preferred option, while leaving the possibility of utilising an alternative code.

DATA EXCHANGE MECHANISMS AND ROLE OF REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES (RFBS)

18. The FAO provided an overview of function and status of the various data upload mechanisms, as summarised below:

- Online form: manual input through a web form. Currently only available in the development environment of the new version of the Global Record Information System.
- Upload file: manual upload through CSV files. Operational since the launch of the system in April 2017.
- Through the United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) for automatic transfer of data from a vessel register. Pending implementation and testing with States and RFMO's using or intending to use UN/FLUX.
- Through regional record systems: importation of selected national data from a regional system to the Global Record Information System, subject to States' review and approval. Pending creation of a link between the Global Record Information System and relevant regional systems.
- Through IHS Maritime and Trade: importation of the five essential data fields of all national vessels that exist within IHS Maritime and Trade's database to the Global Record, subject to States' review and approval. Under progress.
- Through an application program interface (API): with well-established vessel registers, wanting to create a "system-to-system" connection. Under progress.

19. Ms Marjoleine Karper, expert from the Team of Specialist on Sustainable Fisheries created to promote, facilitate and support the implementation of UN/FLUX, presented on the benefits of using UN/FLUX for the exchange of fisheries information. The GRWG reiterated its preference for automated data exchange in particular through the use of APIs, such as UN/FLUX, to ensure accuracy and reliability of data, and efficiency of data upload.

20. Mr Hrannar Asgeirsson, the participant from the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Secretariat, informed the GRWG on the implementation of UN/FLUX within NEAFC, for information exchange on fisheries data with and among NEAFC Contracting Parties, as well as other relevant bodies, and reiterated the importance of fisheries information and data to support risk analysis. Some Participants reinforced the importance of the use of UN/FLUX to optimise efficiency and to ensure accuracy and reliability of data exchange in a standardised manner.

21. Ms Nora Palacios, the participant from the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), presented the new version of the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Register Integral System (SIRPAC), a regional record of fishing vessels that intends to be linked to the Global Record Information System. The registry does not currently incorporate IMO numbers, however it is expected that this data field will become mandatory when available.

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES

22. The FAO presented the potential role of the Global Record Information System to support the effective implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), through the facilitation of vessel identity verification and risk analysis, essential to support decision-making in order to allow the entry of a foreign vessel into port, or its inspection. The potential of the Global Record Information System as a link between vessel identification and its compliance history was also highlighted.

23. The GRWG recognised the potential of the Global Record Information System to play an important role in supporting implementation of the PSMA. In order to fulfil this potential, the GRWG encouraged States to upload and continuously maintain their data so that the Global Record Information System can support the implementation of the PSMA and encouraged increased participation of States. However, some participants stressed that its voluntary nature should become a limitations for the implementation of the PSMA.

ADOPTION OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

24. The GRWG adopted the conclusions of the meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2019 as follows:
25. The GRWG welcomed the positive news on the increased participation, and increased number of vessels, in the Global Record Information System. The group encouraged participation from additional States, and called on currently participating States to continue uploading additional vessels and provide a wider range of information on their vessels.
26. The GRWG reflected on difficulties with data upload into, and with data updates in, the Global Record Information System. The group noted that the planned developments to the system, to be completed by end 2019, will improve system performance, introduce wider editing capabilities, provide additional search facilities, be compatible with mobile platforms, and improve current upload mechanisms while introducing additional ones. In particular, these developments will look to facilitate future exchange of information through automatic data upload mechanisms, including links with the IHS maritime database, RFB databases and other existing regional databases.
27. Noting that to date 27 000 fish-catching vessels² have been allocated an IMO number, the GRWG stressed the need for better understanding of the allocation of IMO numbers and noted that some States experience difficulties in obtaining these numbers for their vessels, especially vessels from non-English speaking States. IMO and The Pew Charitable Trusts reiterated their availability and eagerness to facilitate the process. Recalling the requirement of the IMO number for a vessel to be included in the Global Record Information System, the GRWG encouraged States to obtain IMO numbers for their vessels.
28. For the purposes of the revision of the ISSCFV, the final text of which is anticipated to be adopted during the 26th session of the CWP, the GRWG stressed the importance that the conclusions from the GRCG-DR be reflected in its final recommendations to the CWP. These recommendations were developed with the aim of ensuring that the ISSCFV is applicable not only to fisheries statistics, but also to fisheries compliance.
29. The GRWG recognised the importance of using standardised reference lists for the submission of data within the Global Record Information System. In this context, the group saw the potential of the UN/LOCODE as a suitable international standard for identifying ports in the system, taking into account recent developments e.g. national focal points and child codes. However, as not all ports currently have a UN/LOCODE assigned, the GRWG proposed the possibility of the UN/LOCODE being the preferred option or utilising an alternative code. The GRWG noted that where the UN/LOCODE is not available, the creation of this code can be requested.
30. Following the CWP's adoption of the amendments to the ISSCFG, the GRWG agreed on the use of this standard in the Global Record Information System.
31. The GRWG reinforced their preference for automated data exchange mechanisms, in particular through the use of APIs, such as UN/FLUX, to ensure accuracy and reliability of data, and efficiency of data upload.
32. The GRWG supported the role of the Global Record, which is voluntary, as one of the most important tools for the effective implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), facilitating the cross-check of information and risk analysis on vessels during decision-making on whether to allow a foreign vessel into port, or whether to inspect a foreign vessel. The GRWG encouraged States to upload and continuously maintain their data so that the Global Record can support the implementation of the PSMA and encouraged increased participation of States. Some participants recognised the benefit of the Global Record becoming a mandatory tool.

² IMO type of vessel.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GRWG

33. The GRWG agreed to reconvene in 2020 with the date and place to be decided at a later stage, as appropriate taking into consideration other international meetings.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

34. Mr Matthew Camilleri expressed his gratitude to all the participants for their valuable contributions, and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for hosting the meeting and for their kind support in organizing the meeting.

35. Mr Matthew Camilleri declared the meeting closed at 17.15 hours on 14 May 2019.

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**Monday 13 May 2019***Morning, 09.30 – 12.30*

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the meeting
3. Progress report and state of affairs of the Global Record Programme

*LUNCH**Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.00*

4. International standards used in the Global Record: ISSCFV₂, ISSCFG₃ and UNLOCODE

Tuesday, 14 April 2019*Morning, 09.30 – 12.30*

5. Data exchange mechanisms and role of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs).
6. Support to PSMA implementation

*LUNCH**(Preparation of draft conclusions and recommendations)**Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.00*

7. Adoption of conclusions of the meeting
8. Date and venue for the next meeting of the Working Group
9. Closure of the meeting

LIST OF DOCUMENTS**Working documents**

GRWG/5/2019/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
GRWG/5/2019/2	Discussion items

Information documents

GRWG/5/2019/Inf.1	List of documents
GRWG/5/2019/Inf.2	List of participants
GRWG/5/2019/Inf.3	Report of the fourth meeting of the Global Record Working Group
GRWG/5/2019/Inf.4	Report of the GRCG-DR consultation of the proposed amendments to the ISSCFV

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ISSCFV Review Recommendations:**Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Working Group (GRWG5)**

On the occasion of the revision by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types (ISSCFV), the GRWG4 agreed on the necessity to broaden discussions for the revision of the ISSCFV list among a range of experts in fields beyond fisheries statistics and noted that specific classification categories for non-fishing vessels would be necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Global Record and other instruments, initiatives and tools to fight IUU fishing. In follow-up to these recommendations, the Secretariat initiated an online consultation through the Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Requirements (GRCG-DR), the report of the consultation is presented in GRWG/5/2019/Inf.4. The CWP Secretariat reviewed the conclusions of the consultation and in consideration of these, further amended the ISSCFV, including the addition of specific classification categories for non-fishing vessel types. The final amended ISSCFV, as shown in appendix 1 of this document, along with the final feedback from the GRWG5, is to be presented for consideration to the 26th session of the CWP on the 15-18 May 2019, prior to endorsement.

General comments:

- The amendments, in track change modality, and comments, as footnotes, to the table reflect the views of the participants to the GRWG5.
- Inputs gathered in this review includes the views of multiple States, RFMOs, IGOs and NGOs.
- The participants from Brazil noted that prior to give any response regarding the new terms proposed in this process, further time was needed in order to conduct internal consultation about the definition for each term.

Table 2. Final proposal from the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP)

ISSCFV 2005 (including 2007 amendment) revision		ISSCFV Code	Standard Abbreviation
Category	Sub-Category		
Fishing vessels ³	Trawlers	1	TO
		1.1	OT
		1.2	PT
		1.3	BT
		1.4	TS
		1.5	TT
		1.9	TOX
	Purse seiners	2	SP
		2.1	SPA
		2.2	SPE
		2.3	SD
		2.9	SPX
	Seiners (other)	3	SO
		3.9	SOX
Dredgers	4	DO	
	4.9	DOX	
Lift netters	5	NO	
		NS	
	5.9	NOX	
Gillnetters	6	GO	
	6.1	GD	
	6.2	GS	
	6.9	GOX	
Trap setters	7	WO	
	7.1	WOP ⁷	

³ Fishing Vessel: vessels engaged only in catching operations.

⁴ In the case that Side trawlers and Stern trawlers were retained, it considers that Otter trawlers should be removed.

⁵ GRWG considers that stern and side trawlers are different vessel types. Also separated in various RFMOs and still in use today, therefore asks the CWP to consider keeping these as separate vessel types.

⁶ Asks to reconsider this vessel type, as recommended by GRCG-DR, as it requires a specific deck arrangement.

⁷ As requested by the GRCG-DR. The code is still in use, therefore it would create challenges if it were changed.

ISSCFV 2005 (including 2007 amendment) revision		ISSCFV Code	Standard Abbreviation	
Category	Sub-Category			
	Trap setters nei	7.9	WOX	
Longliners	Bottom longliners	8	LL	
	Midwater longliners	8.1	LB	
	Longliners nei	8.2	LM	
		8.9	LLX	
Line vessels (other)	Jigger vessels	9	LO	
	Pole and Line vessels	9.1	LJ	
	Hand liner vessels ⁸	9.2	LP	
	Trollers		LH	
	Line vessels nei	9.3	LT	
		9.9	LOX	
	Multipurpose vessels	Purse seine/pelagic trawlers	10	MO
		Multipurpose trawlers (in combination with longline, trap, gillnet, dredge)	10.1	MTS
		Multipurpose non trawlers (longline, gillnet, trap)	10.2	MTW
		Multipurpose vessels nei	10.3	MLG
Recreational fishing vessels			10.9	
	Recreational fishing vessels nei ⁹		MOX	
Other fishing vessels		19	OV	
	Other fishing vessels nei	19.9	OVX	
Vessels supporting fishing related activities ¹⁰	Motherships		HO	
		Motherships nei	20	HOX
	Fish carriers and reefers		21	FO
Refrigerated transport vessels Fish carriers and reefers nei		21.9	FOX	

⁸ Requested to keep as it is important for certain RFMO (tuna).

⁹ Was considered as an important category due to the increasing relevance of these vessel types within fisheries management of certain countries and its specific characteristics. Relevant to be compliant with ICCAT, due to reporting obligations. Recreational vessels possess different accommodation designs. Sport fishing vessels are included in this category.

¹⁰ It was considered by the GRWG that this terminology would be in line with international instruments such as the PSMA.

ISSCFV 2005 (including 2007 amendment) revision		ISSCFV Code	Standard Abbreviation
<i>Category</i>	<i>Sub-Category</i>		
11		22 22.9	
Support vessels	Bunkering tanker vessels ¹² Towing vessels Support vessels nei	23 23.9	SO SB ST SOX
	¹³	24 24.9	TV TVX
Fishery research and survey vessels	Fishery research and survey vessels nei	25 25.9	RT RTX
Patrol vessels¹⁴	Patrol vessels nei	26 26.9	PX PXX
Fishery training vessels¹⁵	Fishery training vessels	27 27.9	CO COX
Multipurpose vessels supporting fishing related activities¹⁶	Multipurpose vessels supporting fishing related activities nei	28 28	NF NFX
Vessels supporting fishing related activities¹⁷	Vessels supporting fishing related activities, nei	29 29.9	VO VOX

¹¹ Moved below.

¹² To be consistent with IHS M&T vessel types.

¹³ Moved above.

¹⁴ To be consistent with IHS M&T vessel types and RFMOs.

¹⁵ It was considered that this related to the activity of the vessel rather than the vessel type.

¹⁶ Supports the inclusion of this vessel type as proposed by the GR CG-DR.

¹⁷ For the interest of consistency with the super category.

This document contains the report of the third meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG). At this meeting, experts from Member of and observers to the FAO Committee on Fisheries provided their view on the next steps towards the development of the Global Record as a tool to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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