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EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Report of the

THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dresden, Germany, 11–13 September 2019

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COMMISSION

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Thirtieth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), which was held in Dresden, Germany, on 11–13 September 2019.

The material in the appendices is reproduced as submitted.

ABSTRACT

The Thirtieth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Dresden, Germany, from 11 to 13 September 2019. The Session presented and discussed the results achieved by EIFAAC, by its Management Committee as well as its Technical and Scientific Committee since the 29th Session of EIFAAC and reviewed the recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Food Safety and Conservation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture”, held in Dresden, Germany, from 9 to 11 September 2019. At this Session, new items such as Member & Observer Presentations on their inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector and Open Discussion on the role of EIFAAC have been successfully introduced as a way to stimulate discussion and interaction on the country and observer organization level. The Session reviewed and adopted the EIFAAC Strategy 2020-2024, including the newly formulated Communication Strategy, and the EIFAAC Workplan for the next intersessional period of 2020-2021. Ireland offered to host the Thirty-first session to be held in 2021.

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Thirtieth session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Dresden, Germany, 11-13 September 2019 with Mr Petri Heinimaa (Finland) as Chair. The session was attended by representatives from Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and EU. The session was also attended by six observers: five international organizations (Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), European Anglers Alliance (EAA), EUROFISH International Organization, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE) and European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP)) and one observer state (Georgia). The list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

2. The Chair opened the session and invited the delegate from Germany, Mr Reinhold Hanel, to speak on behalf of the host Government, represented by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Free State of Saxony.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Agenda was approved with no changes. Although there was no quorum present at the session, the Commission decided to proceed with approval of the report pending correspondence with other members.

III. MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL FAO CONFERENCES AND FISHERIES BODIES

4. The Secretariat referred the Commission to the meeting document EIFAAC/XXX/2019/4. Additional information was provided on the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture that took place in Trondheim, Norway in August 2019.

IV. MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 29TH SESSION OF EIFAAC

5. The Chair presented the key findings of the 29th Session in Stare Jabłonki, Poland (EIFAAC/XXX/2019/INF/2), focusing on social economic aspects of inland fisheries, citizen science, climate change, communication and financial support for long term assessment, impact and mitigation measures.

V. RESULTS ACHIEVED SINCE THE 29TH SESSION OF EIFAAC

REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

6. The Chair informed the Commission on ongoing problems with identifying the operational focal points (OFP) to EIFAAC namely only 22 OFPs out of 34 members were nominated for the 30th Session. He also informed on problems of funding projects and proposed the solution of multi-donor trust fund as well as increased cooperation with other FAO Commissions (GFCM, CACFish, EuFMD).

7. This was followed by discussions among members on the important role of operational focal points and ways to address the problem of engaging OFPs. Members commended Secretariat and Management Committee for efforts taken since the 29th Session in identifying and reaching OFPs. Members proposed other measures to be taken such as sending a list of unidentified focal points to OFPs for follow-up through their networks.

REPORT ON MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FAO/EIFAAC/EUROFISH CONFERENCE ON HABITAT RESTORATION

8. The Secretary of the Commission, Ms Victoria Chomo, presented the recommendations from the FAO Regional Conference on river habitat restoration for inland fisheries in the Danube river basin and adjacent Black Sea areas. Members discussed the value of having EIFAAC regional events that culminate into FAO publications, including collaboration with regional partners. This event was a good starting point and can serve as the blueprint for future EIFAAC regional activities. EUROFISH announced their plans to deliver a regional workshop in the Baltic states, based on the model of the Danube river conference in Romania. EIFAAC agreed to support this initiative.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (TSC)

9. The Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee, Mr Teppo Vehanen, presented an overview of the EIFAAC projects. He reported on the ongoing projects (EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/4), for example, the recent publication on the Welfare of Fishes in Aquaculture. One of the project managers, namely Ms Marina Piria, gave detailed information to the Commission on the ongoing project on invasive aquatic species. Members discussed how to disseminate information from EIFAAC projects to a wider audience, for example to non-governmental organizations and the European Union.

REPORT ON MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EIFAAC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

10. Mr Reinhold Hanel gave a short report and recommendations from the EIFAAC international symposium on “Food Safety and Conservation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture”, Dresden, Germany, 9-11 September 2019. He informed the Session that the Symposium was very successful with positive feedback received from the 91 participants from 15 countries. Mr Hanel briefed the session about the contents and final recommendations of the Symposium.

11. The main recommendations from the Symposium:

- In relation to inland aquaculture EIFAAC should collate knowledge relating to effective and efficient environmentally sustainable production, while adhering to food safety standards equivalent to marine species food safety programs. The participants identified deviations between risk assessment and risk management approaches in food safety for fish and fisheries products. Results require better integration, validation. New knowledge needs to be timely published for both the scientific community and the public.
- Surveys among anglers and other inland waterbody stakeholders should be standardized on a European level to better allow comparisons, while current practice is at national or sub-national level and allows for wide variation in data collection and methodologies for analysis. Angler surveys should also include social and economic queries to support enhanced evidence-based management decisions.
- The participants acknowledge the progress made in the establishment of aquaculture certification schemes and guidelines at a global level. However, especially for small scale producers in inland fisheries and aquaculture, the cost-effectiveness of existing certification schemes needs to be assessed. To support small scale freshwater fish farmers it is

recommended that regional or national certification labels should be developed, including labels of origin to help producers of locally-sourced species to compete with generic international imports.

- The symposium participants identified the need for the development of transdisciplinary, integrative, systematic and evidence-based management approaches creating win-win solutions for involved stakeholders with regard to conservation conflicts and other conflicts of interest arising from multiple uses of water resources and different perceptions on targets
- The participants identified a need for better coordination in the assessment and monitoring of fisheries and fish stocks between marine and inland waters, especially with regard to diadromous species. Where these result in management and conservation programs, they need to be coordinated in a comprehensive way.

12. The Chair expressed his appreciation for all the efforts extended for a successful EIFAAC international symposium. He congratulated participants for an excellent symposium. The Chair thanked the host country Germany, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Free State of Saxony for their support.

VI. MEMBER PRESENTATIONS ON ACTIVITIES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

13. The Agenda item on country presentations was moved by the Commission before the Agenda Item on EIFAAC Strategy and Workplan, as Members anticipated that findings of these national presentations would be useful in developing the EIFAAC strategy 2020-2024. For the first time in recent years, the Members were invited to present their inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector to the 30th Session. Ten delegations presented, some using the EIFAAC Guidelines for Session Presentations on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis), developed by the Management Committee. Presentations were given by the following: Croatia, European Commission, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Sweden and Switzerland. Some PowerPoint presentations can be found in the [Web Annex](#). This was a pilot exercise and will continue in the next sessions.

VII. EIFAAC STRATEGY 2020-2024 AND WORKPLAN FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2020-2021

14. The Chair reviewed the EIFAAC objectives as related to overarching UN and FAO objectives and regional initiatives per meeting document EIFAAC/XXX/2019/5, as an Article VI statutory body of FAO. He reminded the Session of the structural change of the Commission in 2012 from working groups to a project orientation. He stressed the need to identify how best to obtain results from EIFAAC projects, as a critical issue for development of future work and relevance of EIFAAC as the only pan-European organization focusing on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture research and evidence-based policy recommendations.

15. Members identified the need to enhance the Strategy by having a more streamlined list of strategic priorities identified through the five-year period 2020-2024 and a roadmap to guide prioritization and to focus EIFAAC work in a way that we can achieve and measure the regional objectives. These priorities can assist EIFAAC projects to be developed, based on linking their project to priority areas identified by EIFAAC as a regional fisheries body.

16. Thus, it is important for OFPs to distribute these priority lists of EIFAAC at national level, to guide research at country level that feeds into regional goals. Potential partners, such as international organizations and non-governmental organizations, could enhance the work of EIFAAC and its impact within the European region.

17. Members encourage EIFAAC to improve contact and interactions with other stakeholder groups, active in the sectors (such as Friends of Freshwater Fish, EAA, EATiP, NACEE, EUROFISH), e.g. by hosting joint symposia or workshops.

18. The Secretary presented the EIFAAC draft Communication Strategy based on FAO corporate Guidelines on communication. This was requested by the 29th Session of the Commission. The members discussed and adjusted the communication strategy, which was then approved by the 30th Session. The Communication Strategy is in Annex 1. Highlights of the communication plan:

- Members agreed to contribute articles on inland fisheries and aquaculture to the EIFAAC webpage, occasionally, and these will be uploaded to the webpage by EIFAAC Secretariat.
- Members formally request FAO to provide sufficient support for the update of the EIFAAC webpage.
- EIFAAC Twitter account needs to be supported and used more broadly, so that Members could easily put up information on the Twitter account.
- EUROFISH informed of its quarterly magazine, and offered to publish EIFAAC information to raise awareness of EIFAAC results, activities and events. Many countries are members of both EIFAAC and EUROFISH, which would benefit both organizations.

VIII. EIFAAC WORKPLAN 2020-2021

19. The Chair introduced the operational overview and TSC overview of the EIFAAC work plan since the structural reform in 2012. Three goals were presented to Members for discussion and revision of the results and work plan under each goal. The Commission discussed and approved the revised Workplan for the intersessional period 2020-2021. The approved Workplan is in Annex 2.

IX. OBSERVER PRESENTATIONS ON ACTIVITIES

20. The following observer organizations gave presentations on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector: BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation), EAA (European Anglers Alliance), EATiP (European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform), EUROFISH, NACEE (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe).

X. OPEN DISCUSSION ON HOW TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF EIFAAC

21. The Commission broke into three groups and discussed the following questions:

- a. How can EIFAAC provide more timely policy advice to Member Governments and the European Union as the only pan-European body specialized on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture?
- b. What are the priority needs of Member Governments and the European Union to be proposed as future EIFAAC projects, especially those that contribute to SDG targets and Sustainable Development?
- c. How can EIFAAC more actively engage national focal points, private sector, and/or civil society to improve awareness and uptake of EIFAAC research findings?

22. The group findings were then presented in the plenary and are attached as Annex 4. The Thirtieth Session of the Commission requests the Management Committee to follow up on these recommendations.

XI. ELECTION OF EIFAAC OFFICERS

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (TSC)

- Marina Piria (CROATIA)
- Colin Bean (UNITED KINGDOM)
- Christian Skov (DENMARK)
- Robert Arlinghaus (GERMANY)
- Fiona Kelly (IRELAND)
- Jan Kubecka (CZECH REPUBLIC)
- Teppo Vehanen (FINLAND)

Alternates: (pending confirmation)

- Andreas Melcher (AUSTRIA)
- Russell Poole (IRELAND)

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (TSC)

- Teppo Vehanen (FINLAND)

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

- Chair – Petri Heinimaa (FINLAND)
- 1st Vice Chair – Reinhold Hanel (GERMANY)
- 2nd Vice Chair – Igor Wawrzyniak (POLAND)

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

- Ruta Medne (LATVIA)
- Gudni Magnus Eiriksson (ICELAND)

- Cathal Gallagher (IRELAND)

XII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

23. The following paragraph will be added to the Rules of Procedure of EIFAAC: “If the situation arises where membership of the MC and/or TSC is not complete by election at the Session, the Session may consider requesting sitting members of the MC and/or TSC to serve a further term.”

24. The Commission advises the member countries to reflect on their operational focal points at least every two years.

25. The Commission would like to acknowledge the excellent support currently received from the Secretary of EIFAAC and team. The stability, continuity of the expert support provided has enabled the EIFAAC to grow and deliver for its members. As an organisation we look forward to building on this support to ensure the delivery of the next 31st EIFAAC Session and Symposium.

XIII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT EIFAAC SESSION

26. The delegate of Ireland invited EIFAAC for the 31st Session and International Symposium in 2021. The exact date and location are to be determined. The Chair thanked Ireland for the offer and the Session accepted the proposal.

XIV. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMISSION AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

27. The report was approved by the Members present at the 30th Session. The Chair thanked the MC and the members for their support. He thanked the TSC and the Secretariat for all their work. The re-elected Chair made a few comments to the members and thanked the members for his nomination.

EIFAAC STRATEGY PLAN: 2020-2024

Introduction

1. The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was established in 1957 by the FAO Council under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution and held its first session in 1960 in Dublin, Ireland. The EIFAC reform process started at the Seventeenth Session in 1992. However, from 1992 to 2007 the issue of restructuring and strengthening EIFAC was addressed only briefly. The Twenty Fifth Session of EIFAC, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008, had finally agreed to change the name of EIFAC, introducing aquaculture in order to recognize the importance of aquaculture to the countries in Europe and to properly reflect the activities of EIFAC, and decided to approve the revised name of the Commission, whereby the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is now called European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC). Furthermore, the Session agreed that a process be initiated to review the possibilities for improvement of EIFAC. As a first step, a workshop was held in The Hague (The Netherlands) in March 2009, which made proposals for strategic orientations options, associated objectives and possible action plans. The workshop ideas and expectations were considered in an options paper as a basis for decision. Then the country delegates were invited to a second workshop in Mainz (Germany) in January 2010 to discuss the various options proposed.

2. The breakthrough could be achieved at the Twenty-sixth Session of EIFAC held in May 2010 in Zagreb where the Commission agreed to restructure EIFAC to a project-based organization while abolishing all Sub-Commissions and Working Parties with the aim to make the Commission's work more efficient. The Twenty-sixth Session also agreed to modernize Statutes, mission statement and objectives. The functioning of the Commission has further strengthened by setting up a Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC). A Management Committee (MC) replaces the former Executive Committee. The Management Committee has to implement the decisions of the Commission and coordinate and monitor the work of the TSC. The Technical and Scientific Committee main functions are the recommendation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes or projects. All former Working Parties were scrutinized by the MC and those that performed well were converted into projects.

3. The change of name and revised Statutes of EIFAAC were approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Fortieth Session on 3 December 2010 through Resolution No 3/140 under Article VI paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The new Rules of Procedure were adopted at the Special Session on 27 October 2011 in Rome. These Rules specify that a Strategy Plan should be elaborated for approval by the Session. The Strategy Plan is a recommendation with main achievable goals and covers the duties for the time period 2017–2019.

Stakeholders

4. **Members:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. EIFAAC Stakeholders further include:

- a. other international fishery organizations (e.g. NASCO, GFCM, FAO Regional Fishery Bodies)
- b. political, management and research institutions,
- c. NGOs as observers,
- d. Inland fisheries (commercial and recreational), aquaculture and environmental organizations (national and international) in Europe.

Mission Statement

5. The mission of EIFAAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- a. providing advice, information and coordination;
- b. encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- c. the delivery of effective research.

Objectives, Goals and Initiatives

6. **The objectives of EIFAAC are:**

- a. promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and
- b. restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available
- c. scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- d. identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- e. provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors; and
- f. serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation, dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, inter alia, proactively identify:
 - i. relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - ii. common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

7. Members expressed a strong desire for EIFAAC to focus more on the following issues, which should be incorporated in existing projects or should give rise for a new project. The Members acknowledged the necessity for review of these priorities and requested that the MC facilitate a review of these priorities during the life of the draft strategic plan.

a) **Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture**

These issues are described as “management-related” with suggestions focused on advancing management principles such as sustainability and biodiversity and ecosystem management, and included providing assessments and management advice in relation to inland fisheries and aquaculture including their interactions.

b) **Protection and restoration of the fresh water aquatic environment and species**

Habitat protection and restoration to support self-sustaining aquatic communities.

c) **Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture**

Determination of economic, cultural and social values of inland fisheries and aquaculture.

d) **Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change**

Assessing, preparing and adapting to the impact of climate change on inland fisheries and aquaculture.

EIFAAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND PLAN

Introduction

1. The principal line of communication for EIFAAC are the appointed Operational Focal Points (OFPs), who are either from the relevant research institute or the respective line ministry. EIFAAC as an Article IV statutory body of FAO has other communication requirements that also need to be addressed by its technical commissions. Below is a simple Communication Strategy and Plan that will enable OFPs to satisfy these requirements.

The Communication Strategy

2. Based on the recommendation of the 29th Session of EIFAAC, the Commission requested the MC to draft a Communication Strategy for consideration at the 30th Session. Below is the draft Communication Strategy, which outlines the needs, the objectives and they key audience the strategy would address.

1) *Defines EIFAAC's communication needs:*

- Increasing awareness and visibility for EIFAAC outputs to support evidence-based policymaking
- Providing visibility for potential donors to finance EIFAAC projects
- Advocating for greater investment by the government in inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture for improved rural livelihoods and food security to achieve the UN SDGs

- Communicating key messages related to main issues in inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture such as eels conservation, cormorant predation, animal welfare, fish passes, eco-system approach for responsible fisheries, etc.
- Building partnerships with advocacy groups such as local government, community groups or NGOs who may be interested in forming or joining EIFAAC symposia or projects.

2) *Defines and prioritize the **objectives** of the strategy:*

- Ensuring that FAO's activities in the country are broadly known and supported throughout government and not just in the Ministry of Agriculture
- Ensuring that the donor community understands that FAO is an effective partner in implementing projects (bearing in mind that country-based donor representatives are often extremely influential when funding decisions are made)
- Ensuring that the sound economic arguments for investment in agriculture and the rural sector are known and understood by decision-makers in government.

3) *Identifies key stakeholders, who will be the **audiences** for EIFAAC communication efforts:*

- Political leaders and officials in the areas of inland fisheries and aquaculture of Europe to raise awareness of EIFAAC's capabilities and areas of comparative advantage
- Decision-makers across government, particularly in the European Commission, parliamentary committees and the EMFF concerned with budget priorities for fisheries and aquaculture
- The donor community, who influence funding decisions
- NGOs and civil society organizations, who can be partners both in programme implementation and in advocacy on behalf of inland fisheries and aquaculture sector
- The general public who may not be aware of the valuable contributions of the sector.

The Communication Plan

3. This section contains the draft workplan for communication for the period 2019–21 based on the draft communication strategy outlined in paragraph 20. It first outlines the main events, which would be covered for communication purposes. This is then followed by describing the relevant tools:

A. Main events to be covered in the intersessional period 2019–21

- EIFAAC Symposium, Dresden, Germany, 9-11 September 2019
- EIFAAC 30th Session, Dresden, Germany, 11-13 September 2019
- *EIFAAC Conference on linkages between inland fisheries and forestry management, Finland, 2020 (TBD)*
- EIFAAC Symposium, TBD, September 2021
- EIFAAC 31st Session, TBD, September 2021
- FAO websites (EIFAAC, REU, FIA Department) and publications (SOFIA, FAN, GLOBEFISH...) provide obvious opportunities to promote awareness of EIFAAC, its projects

and comparative advantage as the only pan-European platform for inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture.

- Other publications at national and/or regional level can raise awareness through active contributions by OFPs.

B. The appropriate **tools** for EIFAAC’s communication campaign and channels of communication

- World Fish Migration Day observance – distribute EIFAAC information at these events
- Year of the Salmon – participate by raising awareness to EIFAAC at these events
- Media field trips (print, radio, TV, internet)
- Media briefings and /or press conferences at EIFAAC Sessions and Symposia
- Commissioning video or photographic material for media distribution
- Distribution to local media of selected EIFAAC factsheets on project results in local languages (if necessary and possible) – build an email distribution list
- Preparation and distribution of country-specific press releases
- Preparation and distribution of an EIFAAC “brochure” for easy distribution by OFPs.
- Develop EIFAAC webpage using the new FAO standard: member states request FAO support for the delivery of the new EIFAAC webpage (particularly since Article VI bodies are not able to manage funds and thus will not be able to provide the funds for the support required).
- EIFAAC members request that EIFAAC Twitter account is activated and updated on a regular basis and the list of Twitter handles is collated for all OFPs, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, observers and interested parties.
- EIFAAC will commit to provide monthly brief communications to OFPs by email:
 - Communications by the Chairs of the EIFAAC/MC or TSC and/or the Secretariat
 - The communications will be on activities of EIFAAC.
- EIFAAC will engage with the NGOs to enable communication of EIFAAC activities through their communication channels
 - EIFAAC will provide a number of articles to be published in the relevant sectorial magazines such as EUROFISH magazine, EU monthly publications, FAO publications, etc.

WORKPLAN 2020-2021

Goal 1: EIFAAC is a leading Pan-European Organization providing policy advice in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO (strategic objectives, regional initiatives, UN SDGs) and other relevant international instruments.

Results:

- Improved and formalized collaboration with organizations relevant to:
 - the aquaculture sector (EAS, EFunds, FEAP, NACEE, WAS etc.)
 - the inland fisheries sector (EAA, CACFish, GFCM, ICES, NASCO etc.);
- All EIFAAC Projects fully compliant with FAO objectives and principles by 2020;
- Increased liaison with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors for improved uptake of EIFAAC research findings and evidence-based policy advice for freshwater aquaculture and inland aquatic resources;
- Two new members welcomed by 2021 – encourage expansion of membership by inviting non-members.

Plan 2020-2021:

- The member states will support a list of prioritized research topics and management objectives of the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector (the MC will develop processes to support this research)
- Formalized collaboration between EIFAAC and other stakeholders through memorandums of understanding or other tools leading to enhanced cooperation (the MC investigates and formulates procedures for collaboration with other stakeholders)
- The MC will contact relevant organizations in inland fisheries and aquaculture sector to define areas of common interest and seek collaboration to benefit EIFAAC stakeholders;
- EIFAAC will define specific topics of concern, priority areas for collaboration on a regional basis with other relevant organizations and stakeholders, for example EUROFISH, NACEE, EAA, EATiP, BSEC, CACFish, GFCM, etc.
- EIFAAC will seek to develop a theme for its next symposiums which will encourage participation of relevant organizations, institutions and stakeholders; these themes will be linked to the UN SDGs and EIFAAC priorities;
- The MC will liaise with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors that have influence on or utilize aquatic resources;
- The MC in coordination with the Secretariat will explore options for expansion of the membership;
- The MC will identify and assess key stakeholders relevant for EIFAAC goals (intergovernmental, international, civil society, private sector, communities), analyze their aims and objectives and identify points of contact and areas for mutual collaboration. The MC will discuss progress and potential delivery against this goal during MC meetings

Goal 2: EIFAAC delivers technical and managerial advice, information and coordination on matters related to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to its members and serves as an international network of organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations.

Results:

- Projects delivered in line with EIFAAC's goals and governance procedures and completed by agreed deadlines for publication of findings by the FAO Secretariat;
- Information and advice provided to policy and decision makers based on results from projects at various regional events, meetings and conferences;
- Communication Strategy adopted by 30th Session in September 2019 and to be implemented in the intersessional period 2020-2021;
- EIFAAC information at regional events, meetings and conferences collated and disseminated.

Plan 2020-2021:

- The TSC will review the progress and implementation of EIFAAC projects and assess the quality of their outputs in accordance with the EIFAAC Rules of Procedure. To be included in this process is a formal review of drafts intended for publication, and advice to insure they are consistent with the ethos, ethics, goals and objectives of EIFAAC and FAO.
- The MC in coordination with the Secretariat drafted instructions to Members who presented to the 30st Session, based on SWOT analysis of the inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector of their country/region. The results of the Member presentations will be used to guide the MC in formulation of priorities for EIFAAC projects in the coming years.
- Implementation of the communication strategy approved by 30th Session.
- The MC and TSC will ensure that all projects operate in line with EIFAAC Rules of Procedure
- The MC will ensure that focal points, decision makers and identified experts are annually provided with updates on EIFAAC projects.
- The MC will seek opportunities to develop new projects and to identify funding sources while adhering to the Rules of Procedure and operating as an Article VI advisory body of FAO.

Goal 3: EIFAAC via its structures, processes and procedures implements efficient delivery of its organizations and Members' objectives in accordance with FAO principles and best international practices.

Results:

- Increased cooperation with the EU on circulation of information from EIFAAC activities to the appropriate EU national correspondents, to be monitored by the MC.
- Direct communication established with individuals interested in the inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector in Europe.
- Members have identified and activated their operational focal points.
- Funding opportunities are identified to increase support for EIFAAC regional projects and activities.

Plan 2020-2021:

- The MC will maintain and develop a list of individuals interested in EIFAAC activities and communicate with these individuals directly in relation to EIFAAC’s work.
- The MC will continue to work with FAO on migration of the EIFAAC website to the new FAO structure and modernize communication through business focused social media in line with the communication strategy.
- Focal points will be provided with updates and requested for feedback in relation to projects and other initiatives;
- Annually the MC will hold a meeting to review progress against this plan, key goals and objectives. This review will look specifically at the performance of the Commission, its processes, structures and procedures. This will include a review of progress on the projects and the operation of the TSC. The meeting will make recommendations for improvements on how EIFAAC’s work is administered and coordinated;
- The MC and the Secretariat will explore funding options for EIFAAC projects in 2020-2021.

CATEGORIES OF PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture
▪ Contributing to a management plan for Europe on piscivorous predators, especially cormorants
▪ Strengthening management plans, identify scenarios and methods for sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture
▪ Fish stocking, including general principles, best practices, economic aspects, interaction with natural stocks and safeguarding biodiversity
▪ Facilitating a wider introduction of principles of sustainable management and rational development in all freshwater fishing activities and aquaculture, including biodiversity issues
▪ Ecosystem approach: the impact of inland fisheries and aquaculture on the ecosystem; estimation of the fish and fisheries component
▪ Organic aquaculture: substitution of fish based protein
▪ Modernization of farming facilities (implementation of new technologies, recirculation systems, hatcheries, diversification, modernization of processing and enabling its expansion on new subjects), equipment, tools and infrastructure (maintaining of channels, fish ponds, hydrotechnical facilities and roads in property of the State)
▪ Adequately address the issues of importance of fish ponds in terms of nature and biodiversity protection (fisheries as bird habitat, ichthyophag bird habitat, as well as habitat for other biological communities that harm the production). This issue links in particular with the necessity to adequately address the issue of piscivorous birds
▪ Through conversion and reorganization conceive, modernize and maintain the existent aquaculture resources (alternative form of exploitation-cultivating fish for restocking of fishing areas, small family hatcheries etc)
▪ The use of alternative energy resources in closed aquaculture systems
▪ Fish farming in ponds and in special aquaculture systems

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing new and updating existing codes of practices on different topics, e.g. fish genetics and biodiversity in inland fish stock preservation and enhancement, fish stocking, fish farming for stocking purposes and inland fish stock management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The potential role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the protection of aquatic resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluation, sustaining and strengthening professional inland fisheries, noting impacts of environmental and socio-economic constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application of applicable management principles and legal implications in private and public waters for recreational and commercial fisheries to facilitate better use of the resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the traditional fish-breeding and those related to managing the inland surface water ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversification of inland aquaculture production
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of fish farmers and fisherman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactions between: inland fisheries and aquaculture; recreational fishing and tourism; fisheries and other users of inland waters, including territorial and spatial planning issues; and between fisheries/aquaculture and other interest issues/groups

<p>II. Protection and restoration of the fresh water aquatic environment and species</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening activities in relation to certain species including eels, crayfish, invasive, exotic and alien/nonnative species, aquatic species protected by the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat protection and restoration and prevention of contamination of habitat and species, including animal welfare, biological invasions and sewage treatment plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and use of agents against fish diseases with focus on maximum environmental protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and avoidance of environmental poisons and contaminants and chemicals in water and in fish, including implication for human food safety guidelines and limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of hydroelectricity on fisheries and best practices for screening, passage estimates of turbine mortality; developing a guide to reduce the conflict between hydroelectric development and protection and restoration of fishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling inland fisheries to become a global indicator of the ecological state of socio-hydrosystems by evaluating the capacity of the fishers to address sustainable development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A study at European level to explore the costs for the implementation of environmental measures to the aquaculture producers and the differences among Member countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of new species and endangered fish species into aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of environmental impact of inland aquaculture facilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing rivers recovering from long-term degradation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-sectoral approach to the development of a legal framework, including interactions between inland fisheries and aquaculture and relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish migration, coordinated automatic monitoring of fish migration, dismantling of barriers (and new methods and practices for barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flow management problems with minimum flow requirements and aquaculture

III. Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determination of economic, cultural and social values of inland fisheries and aquaculture; and transnational promotion of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe to increase the market knowledge of designated species at European level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The adaptation of freshwater aquaculture production to market requirements, in particular the development of new products (value adding), labelling, certification schemes, marketing strategies (niche-market or wide consumer market) and promotional producer organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social and economic surveys of recreational and commercial fisheries, including costs and benefits and an evaluation of gains and benefits from licensed angling activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase of added value in aquaculture (innovations, new products, diversification of the offer and services etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Threats to the future of commercial inland fisheries, and the economic consequences for different countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health and welfare of fishes in aquaculture and fisheries

IV. Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The problems and challenges of climate change, and its impact on aquatic flora and fauna, including species distribution and influence on recreational and commercial fisheries, and mitigation strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing models for climate change and fisheries, including fish species distribution and an international genetic fish map
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction of the potential impact of climate change on the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water resources management, including land water interactions, particularly in the light of climate change and development strategies

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GROUP FINDINGS OF THE OPEN DISCUSSION ON HOW TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF EIFAAC

- a. *How can EIFAAC provide more timely policy advice to Member Governments and the European Commission as the only pan-European body specialized on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture?*
- EIFAAC requests clarification from the Secretariat on how EIFAAC can support with advice NGOs and observers
 - EIFAAC and EU have established a direct communication channel and plan to conduct regular meetings with a specific agenda with one meeting to be concluded within 2019
 - EIFAAC to serve as a forum for consultation, bringing together the industry and the other relevant stakeholders and taking important issues beyond the national level
 - EIFAAC Secretariat to identify the appropriate EU expert groups, and point of contact, to which EIFAAC could contribute
 - EIFAAC to establish contact with the Council of Europe with the view to provision of an overview of EIFAAC's role
 - EIFAAC Sessions need to include a review of EIFAAC advice as an agenda item at each session
 - EIFAAC Sessions should focus more on advice. Documents and procedural matters should be made available to members to review prior to the session
 - EIFAAC to consider the change of procedure on re-nomination of the focal points (to include the time frame)
- b. *What are the priority needs of Member Governments and the European Commission (i.e. as presented in Items 7-8) to be proposed as future EIFAAC projects, especially those that contribute to SDG targets and Sustainable Development?*
- Many countries are not even aware of currently running EIFAAC projects → concentrate more on already existing ones and increase communication on them
 - Some topics are not interesting to each country, could have cooperation among those countries eg evaluation of non-productive value of earth ponds
 - Difficult to find partners and funding
 - Try to include other organizations in EIFAAC work, better define research topics and come up with concrete results and recommendations – eg with cormorants focus on wild waters, not only ponds
 - Climate change is relevant – how to adapt or mitigate effects, preservation of waters even without economic relevance
 - Examination of sustainable fisheries management – high effect on natural waters (could be connected to climate change), holistic approach
 - Better evaluation of inland fisheries
- c. *How can EIFAAC more actively engage national focal points, private sector, and/or civil society to improve awareness and uptake of EIFAAC research findings?*
- To further develop the national net of scientists not to be only one way (from the OFP to the scientists). A survey could be organized to find the best way of distribution of data and information;
 - The identified actions needed:
 - development of the information sharing;
 - development of the net to be more a 2 sided communication;
 - To use already existing and well communicating local communities to transmit the information and get feedback;
 - EMAIL is not enough for the communication -> Twitter and LinkedIN, Facebook;
 - Conference list, not only a web page with regular updates;
 - EIFAAC is not well known within the region -> to raise awareness about EIFAAC;

- Not well known that the information provided by EIFAAC could have a great effect on the life and work within the sector;
- EIFAAC is too far away from the scientists, the role of OFP is to transmit the message, translate to local languages, promote, share, etc;
- To have different communication towards the three levels: OFP, private sector, CSOs;
- Special day on certain topic;
- How to engage new OFPs?
 - the OFPs may invite colleagues from neighboring countries;
 - through Embassies (also in Rome, Permanent Representations);
 - Some member countries never participate, but their scientists would prefer to work with EIFAAC;
 - few countries participate only in Ministry level.

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1) Opening of the Session

2) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

3) Main decisions and recommendations of regional FAO Conferences and Fisheries Bodies *(for discussion)*

A summary report from the deliberations of the following FAO conferences and meetings will be presented:

- 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), which took place from 16 to 18 May 2018, in Voronezh, Russian Federation;
- 6th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), which took place from 15 to 18 October 2018, in Izmir, Turkey;
- 33rd Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI), which took place from 9 to 12 July 2018, in Rome, Italy;
- 42nd Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which took place from 22 to 26 October 2018, in Rome, Italy.

4) Main decisions and recommendations of the 29th Session of EIFAAC *(for discussion)*

A summary report from the deliberations of the 29th Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), which took place from 6 to 8 September 2017, in Stare Jablonki, Poland, will be presented.

5) Results achieved since the 29th Session of EIFAAC *(for discussion)*

Report from the Management Committee (MC) on decisions taken since the 29th Session of EIFAAC.
Report from the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC) on outcomes of completed EIFAAC projects, status of projects in the pipeline, and new projects initiated by EIFAAC Member institutions.

Report on main findings and recommendations from the FAO/EIFAAC/EUROFISH Conference on “Habitat restoration for inland fisheries in the Danube River basin and adjacent Black Sea areas”, Bucharest, Romania, 13-15 November 2018.

Report on main findings and recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Food safety and conservation in inland fisheries and aquaculture”, Dresden, Germany, 9-10 September 2019.

6) EIFAAC Strategy 2020-2024 and Workplan for the intersessional period 2020-2021 *(for discussion and decision)*

Discussion of expected results and ongoing challenges facing pipeline projects (cormorants; fish passes, citizen science, invasive species) and development of new projects to achieve EIFAAC objectives, namely expected results contributing to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO regional initiatives for Europe and Central Asia.

7) Member presentations on activities at country level *(for discussion)*

Members are invited to share country level information on issues related to inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector, that they would like to report to the Session, as well as achieved results from completed or on-going national activities (national research projects, programmes, conferences, workshops). Shared country information will be included in the Final Report as an Annex.

8) Observer presentations on activities *(for discussion)*

Observers are invited to share information on issues related to inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector, that they would like to report to the Session, as well as achieved results from completed or on-going activities (national research projects, programmes, conferences, workshops). Shared information will be included in the Final Report as an Annex.

9) Open Discussion on how to promote the role of EIFAAC

The session will give an opportunity to the Members of EIFAAC to address in an open discussion their views.

Break into small discussion groups to answer the below questions:

- a) *How can EIFAAC provide more timely policy advice to Member Governments and the European Commission as the only pan-European body specialized on inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture?*
- b) *What are the priority needs of Member Governments and the European Commission (i.e. as presented in Items 7-8) to be proposed as future EIFAAC projects, especially those that contribute to SDG targets and Sustainable Development?*
- c) *How can EIFAAC more actively engage national focal points, private sector, and/or civil society to improve awareness and uptake of EIFAAC research findings?*

PLENARY: Brief presentations on results of group discussions (to be included as Annex in the Session Report).

10) Election of the EIFAAC Officers *(for decision)*

- Election of Members of the TSC
- Election of the Chair of the TSC
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs of MC
- Election of the Members of the MC

11) Any other matters

12) Date and place of the next EIFAAC Session *(for decision)*

13) Review and endorsement of the report of the Commission *(for decision)*

The draft Report will be introduced, reviewed and discussed for endorsement.

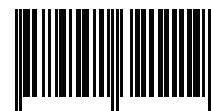
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

EIFAAC/XXX/2019/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EIFAAC/XXX/2019/2	Provisional Timetable
EIFAAC/XXX/2019/3	Provisional List of Documents
EIFAAC/XXX/2019/4	Main decisions and recommendations of regional FAO Conferences and Fisheries Bodies
EIFAAC/XXX/2019/5	EIFAAC Draft Strategy 2020-2024 and Communication Strategy
EIFAAC/XXX/2019/6	EIFAAC Draft Workplan for the intersessional period 2020-2021
Information Items	
EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/1	Information Note for participants
EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/2	Report of the 29th Session of the EIFAAC
EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/3	Report from the Management Committee (MC) on decisions taken since the 29th Session of EIFAAC
EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/4	Report from the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC) on outcomes of EIFAAC projects since the 29th Session of EIFAAC

The Thirtieth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Dresden, Germany, from 11 to 13 September 2019.

The Session presented and discussed the results achieved by EIFAAC, by its Management Committee as well as its Technical and Scientific Committee since the 29th Session of EIFAAC and reviewed the recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Food Safety and Conservation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture”, held in Dresden, Germany, from 9 to 11 September 2019. At this Session, new items such as Member & Observer Presentations on their inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector and Open Discussion on the role of EIFAAC have been successfully introduced as a way to stimulate discussion and interaction on the country and observer organization level. The Session reviewed and adopted the EIFAAC Strategy 2020-2024, including the newly formulated Communication Strategy, and the EIFAAC Workplan for the next intersessional period of 2020-2021.

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