



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Ninth Session

Rome, 24–27 October 2017

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Executive Summary

This agenda item seeks to regularly apprise the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI-SCA) of relevant activities of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI-FT). As of the 8th Session of the COFI-SCA held in Brasilia, Brazil, 5 – 9 October 2015, a standing item entitled “Report from the Secretariat of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade” was inserted on the agenda of all upcoming COFI-SCA sessions. Reciprocally, a corresponding item was inserted as a standing agenda item to future COFI-FT sessions. This brief document aims to inform participants attending the 9th Session of the COFI-SCA of the key issues and recommendations emanating from the 16th Session of COFI-FT and highlights selected key developments that occurred in between the 15th and 16th Sessions of COFI-FT. The draft report of the aforementioned 16th COFI-FT Session was circulated and may be accessed online at a later date. Members are invited to comment and make suggestions on improving collaboration and identifying future areas of common interest for COFI-FT and COFI-SCA.

1. The Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI-FT) was established in 1985 and its first session was held in October 1986. The most recent session (16th Session) of COFI-FT was held in September 2017, hosted by the government of the Republic of Korea in the city of Busan.

2. The COFI-FT provides guidance to the FAO work programme on trade and market access issues affecting member states and stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It serves as a forum for Members on technical and policy-related trade issues and provides a survey of capacity-building and

This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;

an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.

Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org



mu401

technical assistance and activities available to Members on post-harvest and market access issues. The COFI-FT raises awareness of the fisheries and aquaculture sector's vital contribution to economic growth, employment and the role of fish in nutrition and food security. Furthermore, COFI-FT highlights the activities and areas for collaboration with other international bodies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), CODEX Alimentarius, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on seafood trade issues.

3. The 15th and 16th Sessions of COFI-FT provided an overview of the recent developments in fish trade, covering recent trends in trade and consumption of fish and fishery products. This entailed discussion of a new strategy of the FAO for increasing the resilience of communities and their livelihoods and addressing the impact of climate change on the future fish supply, trade and consumption. The COFI-FT also discussed market access issues, with the Secretariat delineating FAO's work concerning fish quality, safety and provision of scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission based on outputs of joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) risk assessment bodies. The Sub-Committee welcomed FAO in pursuing areas that lacked accurate analysis and policy coherence, such as issues concerning trade in fisheries services, and supported any future work by FAO in these areas. On many of these issues, the COFI/FT called upon FAO to continue providing technical assistance to developing countries and for support to small-scale fishery communities. The COFI-FT also emphasized the coordination role of FAO in improving dialogue between importing and exporting countries that support international trade.

4. The COFI-FT reiterated the critical role that Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) could play in combatting IUU fishing. Members saw the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes serving as a fundamental guiding document in developing new schemes and sharing of best practices. Significant progress was made between the 15th and 16th Sessions of COFI-FT, with three resumed Technical Consultation sessions. During the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 32), the Committee called for the finalization of the Guidelines and for the Guidelines to be submitted to the FAO Conference in July 2017 for final adoption. The Guidelines were finalized during the resumed technical consultation during 4–5 April 2017.

5. During the second half of 2015, some Members presented proposals dealing with disciplines on fisheries subsidies to the Negotiating Group on Rules at WTO. The COFI-FT has supported growing collaboration of FAO with the WTO, highlighting FAO's important role in providing specialized technical expertise to the WTO and has delineated the importance of revitalizing negotiations on fisheries subsidies in the WTO. In this regard, the Secretariat highlighted FAO's recent activities to contribute to Members efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 14.6. This includes a UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Joint Statement emphasizing that "Regulating Fisheries Subsidies must be an integral part of the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda" and other initiatives that supported the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 14 ("The Ocean Conference") convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Secretariat shared various FAO actions in support of SDG 14, particularly concerning targets 14.4, 14.6 and 14.b. With the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures Agreement) coming into force on June 2016 and FAO's key role in capacity development in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), the COFI-FT recommended continued efforts by FAO in supporting Members to achieve SDG 14 targets.

6. During its Session in Agadir¹, the COFI-FT considered issues related to the impact of aquaculture supply on trade and consumption, and noted the growing role of aquaculture products in national, regional and international markets and welcomed further information and analysis on the post-harvest sector. The Sub-Committee highlighted the important contribution to the supply of aquaculture products by small-scale producers and their need for support and technical assistance in entering the formal economic sector and seafood value chain including achieving access to international markets.

¹ Please refer to COFI/AQ/IX/2017/Inf.6: *Report of the fifteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries. Agadir, Morocco, 22–26 February 2016.* www.fao.org/3/a-i5580t.pdf