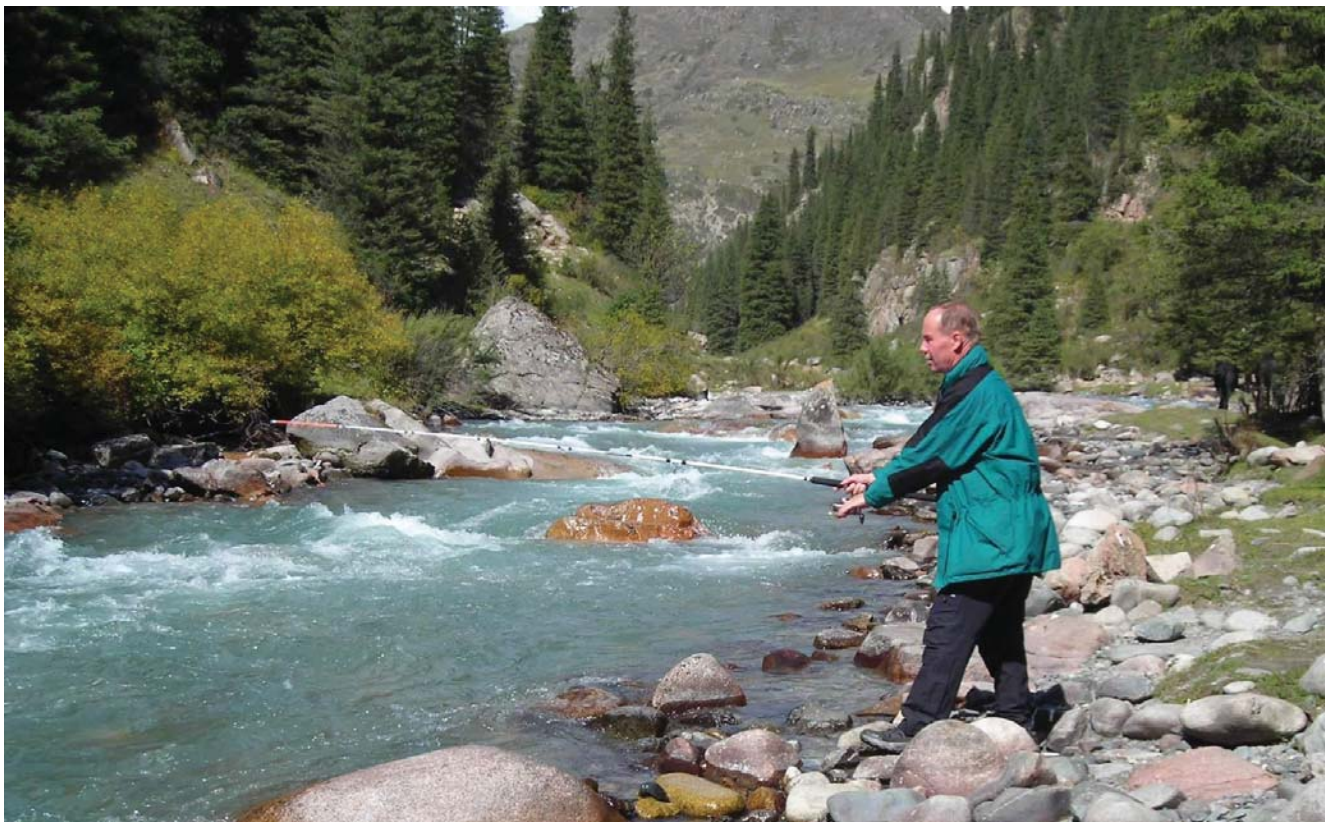


Report of the

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN CENTRAL ASIA
Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 14–16 September 2009

Отчёт по мероприятию:

**РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СЕМИНАР ПО ЛЮБИТЕЛЬСКОМУ РЫБОЛОВСТВУ В
ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ**
Иссык-Куль, Кыргызстан, 14–16 сентября 2009 г.



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia (Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 14-16 September 2009) was hosted by the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Kyrgyz Republic. The workshop was technically and financially supported by the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC) and the FAO Trust Fund Project GCP/KYR/003/FIN: “Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Management in the Kyrgyz Republic”

The recreational fisheries expertise from outside the region was provided by Dr. Phil Hickley (Chairman of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission – EIFAC -), Dr. Matti Sipponen (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland), Dr. Heimo Mikkola (FAO Project GCP/KYR/003/FIN) and Dr. Raymon van Anrooy (SEC). The administrative, logistical, translation and editorial assistance was provided by Dr Baialin Baitemirov, Ms Mairam Sarieva, Ms Gulbara Tagaeva, Ms Dinara Sarbagysheva, Ms Raushan Kozhombaeva, Ms Svetlana Erozhgen and Mr Peter Lengyel.

This report is the record of the workshop, which includes summaries of national recreational fisheries overviews, references to background documentation, summaries of presentations, statements and interventions by the participants, and conclusions and recommendations.

ПОДГОТОВКА НАСТОЯЩЕГО ДОКУМЕНТА

Региональный семинар по любительскому рыболовству в Центральной Азии (Иссык-Куль, Кыргызстан, 14–16 сентября 2009 г.) был проведен Департаментом рыбного хозяйства Министерства сельского, водного хозяйства и перерабатывающей промышленности Кыргызской Республики и Союзом обществ охотников и рыболовов Кыргызской Республики. Техническая и финансовая поддержка семинара была предоставлена Субрегиональным бюро ФАО по Центральной Азии и проектом GCP/KYR/003/FIN Трастового фонда ФАО: «Поддержка управлению рыболовством и аквакультурой в Кыргызской Республике».

Консультации по любительскому рыболовству были предоставлены иностранными специалистами проф. Филом Хикли (Председатель Европейской консультативной комиссии по рыбному хозяйству во внутренних водоемах – EIFAC), д-ром Матти Сиппоненом (Центр экономического развития, транспорта и окружающей среды Центральной Финляндии), д-ром Хеймо Миккола (Проект ФАО GCP/KYR/003/FIN) и д-ром Раймоном ван Анроем (SEC). Административную, логистическую поддержку семинара, перевод и редактирование обеспечивали д-р Баялин Байтемиров, г-жа Майрам Сариева, г-жа Гульбара Тагаева, г-жа Динара Сарбагышева, г-жа Раушан Кожомбаева, г-жа Светлана Эрозген и г-н Петер Лендел.

Настоящий протокол регистрирует события семинара и включает в себя краткое содержание национальных обзоров любительского рыболовства, ссылки на справочную документацию, краткое содержание презентаций, заявлений и выступлений участников семинара, а также выводы и рекомендации.

Van Anrooy, R.; Hickley, P.; Sipponen, M.; and Mikkola, H. (eds).
Report of the Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 14-16 September 2009. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*. No. 926. Ankara, FAO. 2010. 113 p.

ABSTRACT

The Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia (Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 14-16 September 2009) was organized in response to needs expressed in various national fisheries sector review studies in Central Asia. The workshop was attended by representatives from four of the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and some international recreational fisheries experts.

The workshop conclusions, amongst others, were that on average some 10 percent of the population in Central Asia is involved in recreational fisheries (including leisure- and sport fisheries); recreational fisheries harvests provide a significant contribution to food security (qualitative and quantitative) in remote rural areas; recreational fisheries stakeholders continue to have problems being recognized as an equal partner by other resource users; in the preservation of aquatic biodiversity the role of fishing and hunting associations and societies in Central Asia is of great importance; and that the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, as endorsed by the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) in 2008, is largely applicable also for the situation in Central Asia. The workshop also made recommendations for follow-up by governments, recreational fisheries organizations and international development agencies.

Ван Анрой, Р.; Хикли, П.; Сиппонен, М.; и Миккола, Х. (ред.).
Протокол Регионального семинара по любительскому рыболовству в Центральной Азии, Иссык-Куль, Кыргызстан, 14–16 сентября 2009 г. *Доклад ФАО по рыболовству и аквакультуре*. № 926. Анкара, ФАО. 2010. 113 стр.

КРАТКОЕ СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

Региональный семинар по любительскому рыболовству в Центральной Азии (Иссык-Куль, Кыргызстан, 14–16 сентября 2009 г.) был организован в ответ на потребность, высказанную в различных национальных обзорных исследованиях рыбохозяйственного сектора в Центральной Азии. В семинаре приняли участие представители четырех из пяти стран Центральной Азии (Казахстан, Кыргызстан, Таджикистан и Узбекистан), а также некоторые международные эксперты в области любительского рыболовства.

Участники семинара, среди прочего, пришли к выводу о том, что в среднем около 10 процентов населения Центральной Азии занимается любительским рыболовством (включая спортивное рыболовство и рыболовство с целью досуга); добыча от любительского рыболовства вносит значительный (количественный и качественный) вклад в продовольственную обеспеченность в отдаленных сельских районах; заинтересованные стороны в области любительского рыболовства продолжают сталкиваться с проблемами, поскольку другие пользователи ресурсами не рассматривают их как равноправных партнеров; роль ассоциаций и обществ охотников и рыболовов в Центральной Азии имеет большое значение для сохранения водного биоразнообразия; а также, что Кодекс практики любительского рыболовства, принятый Европейской консультативной комиссией по рыбному хозяйству во внутренних водоемах (EIFAC) в 2008 г., может получить широкое применение также в случае Центральной Азии. Семинар также вынес рекомендации в отношении дальнейших действий правительств, организаций по любительскому рыболовству и международных агентств по развитию.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

1. Recreational fisheries is one of the most important sub-sectors of the fisheries sector in central Asia. Anecdotal evidence and some national review studies of fisheries and aquaculture suggest that the volumes of fish caught by recreational fishers may be larger than those caught by commercial inland fisheries in the Central Asian region. In some cases it is estimated that the recreational fisheries harvest is larger than the production from aquaculture. Unfortunately, official statistical data and information on recreational fisheries is not or hardly collected. It is, however, clear that the recreational fisheries sector provides a valuable source of leisure and contributes to employment and income generation in the Central Asian region.

2. Moreover, many recreational fishers (anglers) are well-organized in local or national associations and societies. In some of the Central Asian countries the number of associated recreational fishers adds up to tens of thousands. The organizational structures in recreational fisheries and their resource management activities (e.g. restocking of water bodies and spawning habitat creation) make recreational fisheries associations good partners for national authorities responsible for fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

3. Collaboration between the associations and the national authorities may improve sustainability in the management of the fisheries resources; this to the benefit of the whole fisheries sector. However, currently the limited information available on recreational fisheries in Central Asia, the limited knowledge of modern recreational fisheries management approaches and the few efforts made to share information and experiences make it difficult to develop and manage the sector. Besides, recreational fisheries is generally ignored in policy and legislative framework developments in Central Asia, which causes conflicts with other sectors and other resource users.

4. The Regional Workshop on “Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central-Asia: Status and Development Prospects” held in Beymelek, Turkey, in December 2007, and in which many policy makers from the region participated, noted among the weaknesses of the fishery sector that “Monitoring of recreational fisheries and restocking practices is lacking”. The above urged FAO and partners to organize a Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia.

5. The Regional Workshop had the following objectives:

- Share information, experiences and approaches on recreational fisheries and its management;
- Increase awareness on modern recreational fisheries management approaches and the functioning and operations of recreational fisheries associations from Europe;
- Increase awareness of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries and discuss possible dissemination in the Central Asian region;
- Discuss ways to reduce poaching through co-management of fisheries resources by recreational fisheries associations and national and local authorities;

OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The opening ceremony was led and facilitated by Mr Baialin Baitemirov, Director of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) of the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr Baitemirov welcomed the participants, thanked the co-organizers and referred to the need to raise awareness on recreational fisheries in the region. His short welcome address appears in Appendix C. Mikhail Nosovets, Deputy-President of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Kyrgyz Republic, then welcomed the participants on behalf of his Union. He expressed appreciation to the DoF for this joint event and looked forward to more constructive collaboration with the DoF in the future.

7. Mr. Raymon Van Anrooy, Regional Fishery and Aquaculture Officer for Central Asia of FAO, gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He thanked the host, co-organizers of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Kyrgyz Republic, participants and staff of the DoF and the GCP/KYR/003/FIN project for making this workshop possible. He further noted that the workshop was called for in earlier regional and national events in Central Asia and expressed his hopes that it would be the start of regional collaboration in recreational fisheries.

8. The recreational fisheries experts from Tajikistan, led by the Chairman of TajikRiba, which is the Department of Fisheries of Tajikistan, continued the opening session by thanking the organizers for hosting this workshop. He referred to the importance of recreational fisheries for food security, income generation and employment in rural areas of Tajikistan. He added that the organization of this workshop was timely and that it covered issues that have not received proper attention from national authorities in the region in the last decade. Together with the representative of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Republic of Tajikistan he invited the participants to the Pamir mountains in Tajikistan for a follow-up workshop.

9. The recreational fisheries experts from Uzbekistan, which included the president of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, welcomed the initiative of the organizers for this meeting which brought together governmental and non-governmental institutions active in recreational fisheries. The experts listed a range of problems with which recreational fisheries is being confronted, including legal, management and policy issues. The fact that the law on nature preservation of Uzbekistan forms the base for governmental policy in recreational fisheries in Uzbekistan, means that focus is on conservation instead of sustainable development of the sector. Reference was made to the Regional Workshop on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Central Asian Region: a Call to Action, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 8–10 April 2008. That workshop contributed to some change in the policy and legal framework development thinking in Uzbekistan, but on specific recreational fisheries issues nothing has changed in favour of the sector since then.

10. The workshop was attended by recreational fisheries experts and government officials from four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) and was supported by recreational fisheries expertise from outside the region, namely from the United Kingdom, Finland and FAO. The list of participants appears as Appendix B.

11. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Baialin Baitemirov, Director of the Department of Fisheries of Kyrgyzstan, and Ms Gulbara Tagaeva, National Project Manager of FAO Trust Fund Project “Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Management in the Kyrgyz Republic” (Project GCP/KYR/003/FIN). The agenda as presented in Appendix A was accepted without amendments by the participants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND INTRODUCTION

12. Mr van Anrooy, Fishery and Aquaculture Officer of the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia, then gave a presentation on the background of, justification for and objectives of the workshop. He also presented some information about recreational fisheries value and volume in Europe and referred to the work of various organizations and institutions on recreational fisheries.

13. The discussion which followed the presentation included a question on the figures presented, and particularly the data from the European Anglers Alliance (2004) which estimated that 25 million recreational fishers representing 6.5% of EU population spend an estimated 25 billion Euros per year. It was clarified that the value figure represented the direct expenditures by recreational fishers on recreational fishing, thus also included purchase of fishing permits, access to fishing sites, fishing tackle and fishing boats.

14. The definition of recreational fishing was also discussed as in the Central Asian countries various definitions are used at present. It was argued that the currently most widely accepted definition is the one presented in the glossary of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries (2008). That

definition reads as follows: “fishing of aquatic animals that do not constitute the individual’s primary resource to meet nutritional needs and are not generally sold or otherwise traded on export, domestic or black markets. The unambiguous demarcation between pure recreational fisheries and pure subsistence fisheries is often difficult. However, using fishing activity to generate resources for livelihood marks a clear tipping point between recreational fisheries and subsistence fisheries. Globally, angling is by far the most common recreational fishing technique, which is why recreational fishing is often used synonymously with (recreational) angling”. This EIFAC definition was acceptable to the participants and was used in the further discussions at the workshop to ensure a common understanding of what kind of fishing was meant.

15. Questions were raised also about conflict resolution methodologies applied in Europe for conflicts between commercial and recreational inland fisheries activities. Some examples of collaborative mechanisms and arrangements on management of fisheries in inland water bodies were given by the experts from EIFAC and Finland.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tajikistan

16. On behalf of the Union of Hunters and Fishers Associations of Tajikistan, Mr Rustam Ibragimov made a presentation on the status of recreational fishing in his country. Mr Ibragimov started with detailing some general characteristics of his country, such as the following: Tajikistan has a territory of 143.1 thousand km² of which 93 percent is covered with mountains. There are some 300 large and small rivers, and the surface of the lakes and other inland water bodies area is some 705 km². He added that the population size of the country was 7.5 million in 2007 and that some 73.7 percent of the population was living in rural areas.

17. The total number of members in the Union of Hunters and Fishers Associations of the Republic Tajikistan is 15628 (2009). Of these members some 5280 are recorded as pure recreational fishers. The other members (10348) are registered as hunters and fishers; thus involved in both activities.

18. In addition, more than 3 000 people are organized in groups as recreational fishers, but are not registered with the Unions of Hunters and Fishers Associations. The total number of fish species which are of economic value in Tajikistan is estimated at 65. Fish species that commonly occur in catches of recreational fishers are the following in order of importance: common carp, pikeperch, roach or Caspian roach, Aral asp, bream, marinka, Prussian carp and bighead carp, white-eye, sabre fish, grass carp, wels catfish and trout.

19. Mr Ibragimov then listed the rivers and lakes frequently visited by recreational fishers in each of the regions of Tajikistan. Fishing gear commonly used by recreational fishers in Tajikistan are the following in order of importance: fishing rods, spinning rods and cast nets. In contrast, fishing methods used frequently by poachers include electro-rods, (gill) nets of various sizes and trawl nets.

20. Following up on the issue of illegal fishing, he presented an estimate by the Union for unregistered captures of fish by species; data collected by visiting bazaars and rural markets. The list presented added up to an estimation of over 125 tonnes of unregistered catch in inland waters per year.

21. Main problems encountered by the recreational fisheries sector included the following: Limited interest in the membership of hunters and fishers associations; lack of own fishing infrastructures and farms by associations; an obsolete legislation for the associations of hunters and fishers which does not provide incentives for long term memberships; large scale poaching in water reservoirs, rivers and lakes.

22. The complete status report of Tajikistan recreational fisheries can be found in Appendix D.

23. When being asked about the total estimated number of recreational fishers, it was confirmed that many fishers are not registered and that more than 10 percent of the population fishes; particularly in rural areas many people fish because they are forced to fish for household food security reasons. Poaching is widespread and even high value species such as trout are, when caught illegally, used for household consumption, because markets are often far away from the fishing sites.

24. Mr Ibragimov confirmed that no specific lakes or reservoirs were solely used by the recreational fishing sector. Commercial fisheries and recreational fishers are fishing the same water bodies. It was recognized that this provides difficulties for restocking. It was added that at present no restocking activities are being conducted as the Union does not have its own hatchery or lakes that may be used solely by the members of the Union. TajikRiba was requested to issue licenses that would allow the recreational fishers associations to use and manage lakes and reservoirs in a sustainable manner.

25. In terms of protective measures it was noted that there are no penalties for catch of endangered species, but that there are plans to introduce programs for restocking of these species (e.g. shovelnose) and penalties that are higher than a monthly salary for capture of such endangered species.

Uzbekistan

26. Georgiy Narmin, president of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Republic of Uzbekistan made a presentation on behalf of his country. He emphasized that the presentation and related status report was prepared by a group of qualified experts. Mr Narmin pointed out that almost all reservoirs available in Uzbekistan are used as recreational fisheries. He presented a list of 13 species that are of most interest to recreational fishers in Uzbekistan. The total estimated catch by recreational fishers in Uzbekistan in 2008 was around 90 tonnes, of which only a very small percentage (about 1 Percent) should be considered as catch-and-release. At least 90- 100 thousand recreational fishers are active in the country. It is recognized that this figure maybe a significant under-estimation, as no data are available and limited research into this subject was carried out. In terms of participation by gender in recreational fisheries, it was noted that 99% of the members of the Union were men. Moreover, it was shown that fishers under 20 years of age were hardly represented among the members of the Union, an issue which should obtain more attention from the union in the near future. The large majority of recreational fishers fishes between once and tree times per month.

27. Mr Narmin also presented the structure of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Republic of Uzbekistan (UzbekOkhotRybolovSoyuz), its activities, guidance to fishers and an overview of the fish tackle and methods used in Uzbekistan. He concluded his presentation by describing the policy, legal and institutional frameworks in place for recreational fisheries and pointed towards main opportunities for increasing the sector's sustainable development.

28. The complete status report of recreational fisheries in Uzbekistan, as presented to the workshop, appears in Appendix E.

29. The discussion which followed the presentation concentrated on areas where recreational fishing is allowed in Uzbekistan and where commercial fishing is prohibited. Moreover some clarification was presented on the number of members of the Union. The workshop was informed that in 2009 the Union has over 25 000 members, of which 23 000 have a license for both hunting and fishing and 2000 members have a license for only fishing. It was estimated that there are at least 100 thousand frequent recreational fishers in the Tashkent region in Uzbekistan; people that are not presently member of the Union.

30. In terms of its contribution to food security and income generation in rural areas, it was estimated that some 50 to 60 percent of the men are frequently or less frequent fishers. Food and income in support of household needs are considered higher objectives than just leisure or sport for most of these recreational fishers.

Kyrgyzstan

31. Mikhail Nosovets, Deputy President of the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Kyrgyz Republic made a presentation on the status of game and recreational fisheries in the republic. He started by listing the resources available and showing some beautiful pictures of recreational fisheries locations. Mr Nosovets listed common carp, Prussian carp, scaled osman, roach, Amu-darya trout and Balkhash perch as the main species caught and estimated the combined catch of 6 most common fish species by recreational fishers at around 4.4 thousand tonnes in 2008. Over 80% of the recreational fishers fishes more frequently than once per month. He added that some 90% of the catch is consumed at home and that some 10% of the catch is either given for free to relatives, sold or returned to water. He explained that the role of the Union is to bring together recreational fishers, promote an outdoor activity, support conservation and improve nature resources.

32. After having described the fishing activities Mr Nosovets provided information on the on-going conflicts with the DoF in Kyrgyzstan on the management of some reservoirs and on the revenues obtained from the resources. He described his views on the legal- and policy framework in place for recreational fisheries and how these should be further improved. He finalized his presentation by noting the importance of being able to discuss the opposing viewpoints and find a solution towards joint management of the resources, to the benefit of the whole sector.

33. The complete status report of recreational fisheries in Kyrgyzstan, as presented to the workshop, can be found in Appendix F.

34. The discussion which succeeded the presentation was diverse. It was argued that everyone agrees that the so called “Chinese” gillnets are one of the main causes for reduced stocks because these imported nets are very cheap and generally have mesh sizes that are so small that they do not allow the fish to reach even reproductive size. One Chinese gillnet of 100 meters length costs about the same in the local market as just a few kilogrammes of fish. The fishers therefore do not care much if a net gets lost and as a consequence many nets are left in the lakes and reservoirs. They are considered lost, but in effect remain fishing and damaging the stocks and biodiversity. Although recognizing the damage done by the nets, hardly any efforts are made to remove these “lost” nets from the lakes and at the other end the import of these nets cannot be stopped due to WTO regulations. A ban on using nets of mesh sizes that are considered unsustainable might be an option, as net wholesalers and retailers are known, but apart from that few ideas were raised on how to deal with this consistent problem.

35. The introduction of exotic fish species in the past (under Soviet rule) was, with current knowledge, judged as something which has harmed aquatic biodiversity tremendously. Following the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio “Earth Summit”) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) the introduction of exotic fish species in many reservoirs and lakes in Central Asia can, retrospectively, be regarded as bad resource management practice.

36. Nevertheless, it was considered as something of the past, which should not re-occur; but instead that the countries should aim at rehabilitation of indigenous fish stocks. Examples from Europe given by the experts, added that similar introductions without knowing the implications for biodiversity in the long term have also taken place in the European region. The ichthyologists among the participants then discussed the scientific names of various species; recognizing that inside and between the Central Asian countries species have different common names for the same latin/scientific name.

37. While the exact number of recreational fishers in Kyrgyzstan was not known, the Department of Fisheries confirmed that the level of organization of recreational fishers was low. Only few recreational fishers are registered as such, or are members of an association, while it is estimated that some 10 percent of the population is involved in recreational fishing from time to time. Particularly in rural areas almost all men are active recreational fishers; in the season fishers are found everywhere. In general the rural recreational fishers use the fish caught for household consumption, or they sell the fish cooked, smoked or dried in the local markets. As such it can be concluded that recreational fishing provides an

important contribution to food security in rural Kyrgyzstan. The socio-economic situation in Kyrgyzstan has forced many people into fishing. A recent survey on endemic fish species had many difficulties in getting information from fishers. When asking the people why they fish they sometimes show aggressive behavior and do not want to give information on their activities and what they catch and how much.

38. Following a statement of the Kyrgyz Department of Fisheries that all fish caught in Issyk - Kul Lake should be considered as illegal catch, caught by poachers (following the “Moratorium” decree), the participants discussed poaching issues. It was considered that “poaching” sometimes provides the main household income in remote areas of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Many Kazakh poachers sell their fish in Talas and Bishkek markets (Kyrgyzstan) and in Chinas market (Uzbekistan). Noted was a decreasing trend in illegal imports of illegally caught fish from Kazakhstan in the Bishkek market; the decrease of imports was attributed to increased domestic production in Kyrgyzstan.

Kazakhstan

39. Sergey Sokolov of «Ohotproject” Ltd. under the Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan made a presentation on the status of the recreational fisheries sector in Kazakhstan. He began with outlining the laws and regulations applied on recreational fisheries in his country, followed by the management structure and the social associations that are organizing the recreational and sports fishers in Kazakhstan. He described that under the Fishery Committee there exist 8 territorial bodies, which are established by basin and are so called inter-Oblast Fishery Inspection services. Mr Sokolov listed also the endangered fish species in Kazakhstan and the main target species of commercial fisheries and recreational fisheries in the country. Listing the main reservoirs and rivers an estimated total catch by recreational fishers was given; which was 916 tonnes in 2008. He then went on to describe research in recreational fisheries. He noted that the only research on recreational (sport) fisheries in recent years was made by LLP Kazakh Fisheries Scientific Research Institute in 2007-2008 on the Ili River delta. Mr Sokolov emphasized the victories of Kazakh sports fishers in international championships and added that catch-and-release principles should be promoted country-wide.

40. The complete report on recreational fisheries in Kazakhstan as presented to the workshop appears in Appendix G.

41. Recognizing the limited official data provided by the presentation, the delegation from Kazakhstan added that no surveys to monitor recreational fisheries are being conducted in Kazakhstan. Data could not be provided as they are not available. This made other participants question the status of recreational fisheries in Kazakhstan; particularly as the presentation provided did not reveal any problems or weaknesses of the sector.

42. The participants were informed of the internal struggle in Kazakhstan to distinguish between sport and amateur fishing (the latter for leisure). Sport fishing is characterized by catch and release practices, while amateur fishers generally consume the fish caught. At the same time it was mentioned that legal framework amendments were made recently to support the development of both sports and amateur fishing. Also efforts are being made at present to integrate the amateur fishing federation into the sport fishing federation in Kazakhstan. In general there is a tendency in Kazakhstan to value sports fishing higher than amateur fishing. Kazakhstan’s sports fishers have won many prizes in international competitions and the catch and release practice is considered more environmentally sustainable. Food security issues are of less importance in Kazakhstan as far as the harvests by recreational fisheries are concerned.

Examples from Finland

43. Modern recreational fisheries management in Europe (an example from Finland) was the title of a presentation by Dr Matti Sipponen of the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Central Finland.

44. Watercourses suitable for fishing are one of the national treasures in Finland. Of all the countries of Europe, the proportion of watercourses of the total land area is highest there, viz. 9.3 %. Watercourses consist of several hundreds of kilometers long chains of interconnected lakes. The total number of lakes exceeds 187 000, of which 47 have a surface area larger than 100 km². Institutions, in particular legislation and property rights, play an essential role in Finnish inland fisheries and the related administrative system is structured on the basis of this fact.

45. Various interests related to industrial and leisure activities have a stake in our waters, fisheries in particular among them. Fish stocks are harvested both by commercial and recreational fishers. The total recreational catch amounted to 42 million kg, of which 75 per cent was taken in inland waters. Perch and pike made up over half of the catch. In commercial harvesting marine fisheries dominates. However, it should be noted that even though the contribution of commercial inland catch is only 4% in terms of volume, it is 21% in terms of value. Altogether the share of inland catch is 66% of the total value of the Finnish capture fisheries. Food fish farming contributes essentially to total value of the fishing sector.

46. The institutional settings for fisheries management encompass the relevant authorities, fisheries regions management units, statutory fishery associations and advisory organizations. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for fisheries matters. Subordinated to it are 11 regional governmental fisheries authorities, Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. Fisheries region management units are institutions entirely unknown in the rest of Europe. A fisheries region constitutes a participatory system for relevant interest groups and occupies a central position in the administrative system set up in the Fisheries Act. They represent an intermediate level of public administration; they have public duties, but they are not an official branch of the government. Authority of the regions lies in its annual meeting. In the membership the statutory fisheries associations dominate, as they often comprise even 80-90% of the members. Associations of commercial and recreational fishers both have their representatives, but they are in a minority position. In the case where the State owns waters in the geographical area of the region, it has membership.

47. Fisheries regions prepare and adopt management plans for their waters. They collect data on fishing and draw up regulations governing fishing practices (including mainly restrictions concerning the mesh size of gillnets, increasing the minimum size of fish or crayfish species from that enacted in a decree, and closed seasons). Regions supervise fishing and carry out managerial assignments. Although the formation of the regions is mandatory, regions are quite free to choose their own ways of carrying out their public duties and other activities.

48. Legislation is an important tool to improve fisheries management. Its goal is stated in the Fisheries Act (286/82) to the effect that the maximum sustainable productivity should be obtained from water areas when engaged in fishing. This goal integrates fisheries management into the wider concept of the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. The concept of productivity, traditionally interpreted biologically, is presently considered also to encompass social dimensions, including economic efficiency and value judgments.

49. Both land and water areas are subject to private ownership and the fishing right is bound to land ownership. The land parceling system has resulted in a mosaic-like structure of ownership units for inland fishing grounds. The proprietor of each fishing ground is usually a shareholders association for areas held in common by a registered village. There are 10 500 registered villages in Finland, and the number of shareholding estates in a village may vary between two to several thousand. Consequently, in a single lake there may be hundreds of owners. This joint possession of privately owned waters is peculiar to Finland and to some extent, Sweden.

50. In 2006, there were over 1.8 million recreational fishers in about one million households in Finland. About 230 000 fishers participated in fishing only by rowing or steering boat. The proportion of recreational fishers was 35 per cent, indicating a decline from the long term rate of 40%. Forty-seven per cent of men and 25 per cent of women engaged in fishing. Fishing was the most, or almost the most, important hobby for 76 000 fishers. The high participation rate can be explained by good availability

of water areas, relative low barriers for accessing fishing sites and rural cultural traditions. The fishers' proportion of population has decreased in age groups under 10 years and 18–44 years. In other age groups the proportions has been stable.

51. The basic characteristics for today's recreational fishers are fishing in order to obtain nature experiences, fishing while spending time at summer cottages, and the relatively high use of passive gear, especially gillnets.

52. The most important motives for fishing were to enjoy the closeness of the nature and the beauty of the landscape, relaxation, and being able to forget all one's worries. The catch and the excitement of catching fish were especially important considerations for both young and slightly older boys. The most important features of especially successful fishing trips were the release from time pressures, good company, and beautiful nature.

53. The management goals of recreational fishing as adapted by fisheries authorities are:

- recreational fishing utilizes fish stocks in a sustainable manner and maintaining biodiversity
- management of fish stocks
 - is based on a plan
 - is based on real need
 - results are monitored regularly
- improvement of the water quality of the watercourses
- recreational fishing maintains its role as a significant nature-based activity also in urban society
- recreational fishing provides opportunities for businesses
- co-operation between different players in the sector

54. Finland applies a fishing management fee system. Fishing management fee is a tax-like fee payable to the State. The fee must also be paid when fishing in one's own waters. The funds may not be used to support the national fisheries administration. About a third of the funds collected as fishing management fees are used directly for the management of fish populations, while certain other activities funded from these promote the population management indirectly. Today these funds are being used for increasingly diverse purposes, including support for the activity of fisheries organizations and fisheries regions management units.

55. A recreational fisher must pay the fishing management fee plus the appropriate license. The need for license depends on the type of fishing and the age of the fisher:

- Angling, jigging and ice-fishing (everyman's right)
- Lure fishing (many alternatives: e.g. license from fisheries region)
- Other fishing and Cray-fishing (private owner)

56. Public rights of access and the related common rights of citizens are traditional features of the Nordic legal system. Among owners the lack of perception of societal development and need for improved access to recreational fishing led, finally, to a private member's bill resulting in increased supply in the form of the state lure fishing license.

57. Altogether government-led intervention into the market supplying fishing licenses has taken place in three stages within the past 15 years, introducing access to private fishing grounds as well:

- licenses for ice-fishing 1983-1993, legislation enacted in 1982;
- licenses for angling and ice-fishing 1994-1996, legislation enacted in 1993; and
- licenses for lure fishing 1997 onwards, legislation enacted in 1996. Lure fishing for fishers under 18 and over 64 years became a public right. Angling and ice-fishing became a common right of all citizens from 1997.

58. Provincial lure fishing fee gives a general right for fishing within a certain province with one rod, reel and lure. Persons under 18 or over 64 years of age may practise lure fishing free of charge. Provincial lure fishing fee does not allow fishing in rapids and currents of salmon and whitefish waters or in water areas where fishing is prohibited under other provisions. The funds are returned to the owners of fishing waters after the costs due to the collection and allocation have been deducted.

59. The most common tackle was the hook and line, which was used by 63 per cent of recreational fishers. The spinning rod was used by 45 per cent of fishers. In last years the proportion of fishers using hook and line has slightly decreased, whereas the proportion of fishers using spinning rod has increased. The jig was used by one in three fishers, the gill net by one in four and trolling gear by one in five fishers.

60. Fifty-five per cent of the total fish catch was taken with gill nets, fish traps and trap nets; 43 per cent was taken with rod and line. The rather large proportion of gillnet catch even in recreational fishing is a special feature of the Finnish fishing culture. The catch of half of the fishing households did not exceed 9 kg (median). The average catch per fishing household was 41 kg. Of the fishing households, 9 % did not catch fish at all. The recreational catch is usually consumed as food in the households. Recreational fishers spend annually a considerable amount of money in their hobby: 316 M€.

61. Both recreational and commercial fishers have mutual interest as regards good environmental quality and the strong and healthy fish stocks. Education and promotion are the responsibility of mainly two national organizations, the Finnish Federation for Recreational Fishing, and the Federation of the Fisheries Associations. Both of them thrive to maintain and increase the participation of young people in fishing. A relatively recent event, based on a parliamentary initiative, is the national fishing day, the theme of which was this year to make observations of the fish species in your everyday surroundings.

62. The foreseeable trend is that the interaction between the fishery industry and environmental concerns will continue to deepen. This emphasizes the importance of research focusing in more detail on the economic value of recreational fishing, and on the values of anglers. The balance between utilization and conservation depends greatly on international development and stipulation. The ideas of catch-and-release fishing have primarily led to new voluntary practices rather than management actions. In Finland, there is support for the traditional culture where the fish catch is consumed in fishers' household.

63. The discussion which succeeded the presentation by the expert from Finland was diverse again. Questions were raised about how the private sector would guarantee sustainability of the resources. Mr Sipponen explained that fish resources are generally underutilized in inland waters in Finland; that there are no threatened fish stocks except certain Salmonid species; that voluntary agreements between private water owners are used and that management plans are made by so called "fisheries regions", which are adhered to by the water ownership units (including recreational fisheries associations).

64. The way the study of Economic value of recreational fishery in the Nordic countries was done triggered some discussion on whether replication in Central Asia would be possible. Many participants in the workshop regarded that such a survey would provide all necessary data and information for recreational fisheries managers.

65. Returning to the subject of recreational fisheries management in Finland clarifications were asked about the validity of permits outside the "fisheries region", how awareness is raised about regulations, how managers go about stocking fishing in shared water bodies, use of gillnets by recreational fishers and other gears allowed in Finland. Often comparisons were made between the situation in Finland and in Central Asia and it was discussed whether certain measures or approaches from Finland could work in the region.

The EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries

66. The EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries was presented by Dr Phil Hickley, Chairperson of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC).

67. The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It provides an inter-governmental forum for collaboration and information exchange on inland fisheries and aquaculture among all European countries, linking policy-makers, managers and scientists working on inland fisheries and aquaculture. Scientific work is undertaken in Working Parties by specialists from member countries. The EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries is a recent working party output.

68. The fisheries sector comprises commercial, subsistence and recreational fisheries. Commercial activity has predominated in marine and inland capture fisheries but in most developed countries recreational fishing is now the principal form of exploitation. This provides social, economic and ecological benefit to society and harvests millions of fish on a global scale but in international policies on the sustainable management of resources, recreational fisheries have been largely overlooked. Recreational fishing in terms of catching fish as a leisure activity has two principal components – a fishing factor which relates to the fish caught, and a recreational factor of personal satisfaction. Any form of fishing gear can be used, e.g. hook and line, gill nets, spears, bow-fishing and various types of trap. Globally, however, angling with a rod and line is by far the most common practice.

69. FAO has defined recreational fisheries as those in which fishing is conducted by individuals primarily for sport but with a possible secondary objective of capturing fish for domestic consumption but not for onward sale. An improved definition is: Recreational fisheries are those where fishing is conducted during times subjectively defined by the individual as being leisure and for aquatic animals that do not constitute the individual's primary resource to meet nutritional (physiological) needs. The recreational fisheries sector is the entire network of stakeholders.

70. Approximately a tenth of the population across all countries engages regularly in recreational fishing. In Europe there are 25 million anglers; in USA, 30 million; in Australia, 3.5 million. The economic value of recreational fisheries is high. For example, in USA anglers generate \$45 billion (\$900 angler-1) in retail sales annually (overall economic impact, \$125 billion). In Europe annual expenditure by anglers is €25 billion (€1000 angler-1) and in Australia, As\$1.8 billion, (As\$552 angler-1).

71. The basic recreational fisheries resource needs to be managed to optimize the social, economic and environmental benefits from its sustainable exploitation; improving the quality of life and enhancing wildlife. The resource comprises not just fish stocks but, also, their habitat and all the economic and social features of the fisheries which the stocks support. An ecosystem approach to recreational fisheries management should be adopted wherever feasible. The ecosystem approach strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems, and their interactions.

72. The recreational fisheries sector has a number of key responsibilities. Within the limits set by ecology, economics and society, the sector should:

- promote high quality recreational fishing experiences;
- adopt measures for long term conservation and sustainable use;
- adopt the ecosystem approach as the guiding philosophy;
- identify all stakeholders and engage them in the management process;
- base management action on pre-defined fisheries management plans;
- consider all values and impacts in the appraisal of management measures;

73. There are many issues to be considered for the future. To encourage participation it is necessary to understand types and desires of anglers. Fishery development in urban areas can increase access and

opportunity. Conflicts between users need to be addressed; horizontal conflicts between potential users, vertical conflicts between authorities and users. Stocking to meet the demands of fishers can conflict with protection of the environment. In particular, the stocking of non native fish for recreation can have serious detrimental effects. Commercial fishing has caused fishery collapse but the recreational sector also has potential to negatively affect fish and fisheries. Fish welfare is an important aspect. Public influence is having increasing impacts in different countries and public acceptance of recreational fishing is essential. Catch and release fishing is increasingly important, both mandatory release of protected fish and the voluntary catch-and-release of non-protected fish. Education at all stakeholder levels is necessary to help strengthen the sector for the benefit of fish, the environment and those that enjoy recreational fishing.

74. Voluntary codes of practice already existed in some countries and organizations. Behavioural, conservation and fish welfare recommendations appeared in leaflets and guidebooks, produced either by the authorities or angling associations. For example, Australia introduced a national code of practice as a joint initiative between the authorities and the fourteen national and state fishing associations. However, it was perceived that there was a need for more international agreement on good practice. Accordingly, facilitated by EIFAC, a new international Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries was developed.

75. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries states that users of living and aquatic resources should conserve aquatic ecosystems and that the right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources. Thus, the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries aims to establish best practice principles among nations for responsible management and fishing practices, taking into account all relevant biological, technological, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. The Code has to fit alongside national legislation and regional best practice guidelines. It is designed to prescribe the minimum standards for environmentally friendly, ethically appropriate and socially acceptable recreational fishing. The Code works from an assumption that recreational fisheries provide a vital source of recreation, employment, food and social and economic well-being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations. It is acknowledged that recreational fishing and its associated social, cultural, psychological and physiological benefits provide quality of life for its participants.

76. To continue being viable, recreational fishing must minimize its ecological impacts and harmonize stakeholder interactions whilst delivering maximum benefits to the sector. Although a voluntary instrument, the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries should facilitate this. It is hoped that the content of the Code is useful and transferable to regions outside Europe and can form a basis for guidance in Central Asia.

77. The presentation by the EIFAC Chairman caused a variety of questions. It was asked how many countries adopted the EIFAC COP and how it would add to the national legislations in France or Germany on recreational fisheries. It was explained that the COP was a voluntary instrument and that national governments can decide on implementation of the complete COP or part of it. It was added that the COP has been translated in Croatian, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian, which is an indication of application of the Code in Europe. Countries like the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands and Germany indicated that they are happy with the English version and apply it where possible.

78. Referring to the articles on awareness raising and education it was argued by some that not many efforts in this respect have been made by the Central Asian countries. When one wants to develop recreational fishing not only is tourism awareness of the opportunities of recreational fisheries needed, but also the necessary infrastructure (e.g. access roads, shelters, hotel accommodation and lodges) should be developed in support of the tourism.

79. The issue of ownership of fish from state owned water bodies was discussed. It was noted that fish caught with a license from state owned water bodies should be considered as legally caught fish and then be the property of the fisher. Other ownership issues of reservoirs, lakes and the fish caught in these were discussed, bringing up examples from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

80. When more questions were asked about terminology, reference was made to the glossary in the back of the EIFAC COP and to the FAO Glossary of Aquaculture ¹.

81. On a question about how to attract anglers from Europe to fish in Central Asian waters, it was argued that bigger fish, different fish species that are more sporting to catch and different sceneries are main reasons for why anglers would come to the region.

WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

82. Discussion guides for three working groups were provided in English and Russian language to facilitate working group discussions.

83. The section below presents the findings of the working groups as presented and discussed to the workshop in a plenary session after the discussions.

Working Group 1

84. This working group discussed how governmental agencies and recreational fisheries associations could work better together to reduce poaching (illegal fishing).

85. The working group members addressed the following questions:

1) What measures are being taken by recreational fisheries associations in your countries to combat illegal fishing in the water bodies owned/rented by you?

Kazakhstan:

86. Fisheries Associations are NGOs, but have participated in the formulation of some 30 normative acts. Poaching is still a problem, although the Associations have their own rangers. For commercially important fish, like Sturgeon, poaching is more a problem than for many other species. Moreover, the neighbouring countries have different laws and regulations.

Kyrgyzstan:

87. The Union of Hunters and Fishermen Societies of the Kyrgyz Republic has rangers, but they have no enforcement power. The rangers have to report illegal fishing activities to the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry or Department of Fisheries' Inspectors or to the Police. Informer should officially get 30% from the value of fines issued.

Tajikistan:

88. Associations have their own water bodies where they have their own inspectors. Otherwise no combat against illegal fishing is undertaken by the Fisheries Associations.

Uzbekistan:

89. Each association has a contract for the use of a water body, and as NGO cannot fine or prosecute any violators. The informer (Association) of violations gets 35% from the consequent lawsuits, but often this incentive disappears into the pockets of the State inspectors.

¹ This glossary can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/fi/glossary/aquaculture/>

2) What measures are being taken by governmental agencies in your countries to combat illegal fishing in general?

Kazakhstan:

90. The government has inspectors to control the illegal fisheries.

Kyrgyzstan:

91. The State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry and the Department of Fisheries have their own inspectors, so does the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve Administration. In addition, four more institutions claim to have rights to control the fisheries, including the vice-governors etc.

Tajikistan:

92. The Authority responsible for Fisheries used to have fishery inspectors. The Environment Commission also had inspectors, but merely to supervise the fishery inspectors. These people worked under two different laws: (1) Fishery Law and (2) Wildlife (incl. fish) Protection Law. Informers got 25% incentive from any lawsuits, but the money received went to the Association. Since early 2009 a reform was initiated, and for time being there are no inspectors. If funding will be provided the State Unitary Enterprise 'Mohii Tojikiston' shall be in charge of fisheries inspection.

Uzbekistan:

93. State Inspectors are controlling even the waters allocated to the Association. The State Committee on Environmental Protection has the responsibility to combat illegal fishing.

3) Are governmental agencies responsible for fisheries and recreational fisheries associations already working together to combat illegal fishing?

- If yes, what activities do they carry out together?

Kazakhstan:

94. Government consults the Fisheries Associations before adopting any new legislations or rules on fisheries.

Kyrgyzstan:

95. There are too many state control bodies (7-8) to work with. If any illegal fishing is observed only the Police can help.

Tajikistan:

96. Recreational Fisheries Associations have no contacts with the Government authorities.

Uzbekistan:

97. Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and State Committee on Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan are responsible for fishery. However, until today, there is no reliable cooperation between them and UzbekOkhotRybolovSoyuz.

- If no why not? What are the difficulties?

Uzbekistan:

98. Associations want to have nothing to do with the regulatory authorities, as they tend to interfere in everything, leaving Associations no room to control even their own (leased) water bodies.

4) Do you see opportunities to increase collaboration between governmental agencies and recreational fisheries association to further reduce illegal fishing? What should be done?

Kazakhstan:

99. The public could monitor the resources better than the authorities. Research, Monitoring and Control should be well separated. Research institutes should be independent from any control or monitoring in order to determine the catch limitations.

Kyrgyzstan:

100. The moratorium on fishing in Issyk-Kul lake bans also the recreational fisheries by mistake. Only commercial fisheries should have been included under the moratorium. Recreational fishers are only enjoying themselves when fishing and should not be convicted as a poachers. Recreational fishers aim at catching mainly the predatory fish, so the moratorium should be lifted for them.

101. It is good that the Government has now established 5 year terms for leasing of water bodies and it is also good that there is a rotation system in the use of these water bodies by recreational fisheries. Local population involvement is very important in issues like the implementation of a moratorium. Policy exists to allow self governance of the water bodies by the local authorities.

Tajikistan:

102. People involvement is very important, i.e. voluntary inspectors should combat against the illegal fishing.

Uzbekistan:

103. Associations would like to extend cooperation with governmental institutions of fishery for further reduction of illegal fishing. However, occurring problems are too large to be solved for the time being.

Conclusions of Working Group 1:

104. Poaching is a social problem. It is bigger in the poor countries than in rich countries. Fisheries Associations have an important role in controlling illegal fishing, but that role is not fully recognized by the Government authorities in any of the countries. Association' rangers lack enforcement power, they can only inform state inspectors or law enforcement bodies that a violation of fishing rules and regulations has taken place. Different practices exist in rewarding the informers. All working group participants agreed that the way forward would be to increase the involvement of local people and communities in the fisheries monitoring, control and enforcement activities (on a voluntary basis), but with a reasonable reward in case lawsuits would follow.

Working Group 2

105. This working group discussed how recreational fisheries associations could work better together to protect their interests in governmental policy making and legal framework development processes that affect the recreational fisheries sector.

The working group members addressed the following questions:

1. Do the recreational fisheries associations in your country work together?

There exists co-operation between associations of recreational fishers in matters concerning for instance fishing competitions. In some countries recreational fisheries is promoted by the activities of nationwide recreational fishers' union, which provide a framework for the issue.

2. Are recreational fisheries associations taking part in general fisheries policy and legal framework development processes in your countries?

The role of recreational fishers and the ways of promoting their interests in policy formulation varies. In some countries even existing legislation includes regulations about recreational fishers' involvement in policy formulation by consultation and preparation of documents. However, the actual role of recreational fishers, and the significance and effectiveness of their participation depends greatly on the amount of information shared and the channels of delivering it between different players.

3. Do you have the capacity to lobby for the interests of your members within the Government? If no, what capacity is lacking?

It was recognized that in each country there are qualified human resources, which are provided with excellent contacts for lobbying.

4. Are your lobbying activities (to protect the interests of your recreational fishers/members) effective?

In spite of some lobby successes in some regions, recreational fishers have faced difficulties in their efforts to ensure access to fishing grounds for their members.

5. Do you see opportunities to strengthen the collaboration with governmental agencies working in the field of promoting recreational fisheries? How and on which specific subjects?

106. The working group considered that one of the most effective ways to improve co-operation between recreational fishers' organizations and the government would be the establishment of an advisory committee (or alternatively of a consultative committee). It should focus on developing norms and creating recommendations for the improvement of recreational fishing, as well as to follow the implementation of the existing legislation as concerns to recreational fisheries.

Working Group 3

107. This working group discussed the usefulness of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries for the Central Asian region.

108. The working group members addressed the following questions:

1) Are the articles that are included in EIFAC Code of Practice (COP) for Recreational Fisheries also relevant for the Central Asian countries?

- It was confirmed by the Working Group that the contents of the Code are applicable to Central Asia. Some articles might however need further editing in Russian language. It was argued that the main objective of Code is conservation of fish resources and stimulation of recreational fisheries.
- It was suggested that for Central Asia a COP could be more compact (simpler and shorter) for articles 1 until 7. However, it was also explained that the reason for the length of articles 2, 3 and 4 was to avoid wrong interpretation of the meaning.

- It was further considered that a number of articles can be accepted without changes (e.g. article 8, 9 and 12) as well as the chapter on definitions.
- Some working group participants argued that the manuals on recreational fisheries used in the Soviet time were easy to read; articles 8 and 9 of the COP provide a kind of manual. Moreover it was added that Article 10 is perhaps too advanced for the Central Asian region – it may be more applicable in the future.
- In conclusion it was confirmed that the EIFAC COP can form a good basis for the development of a similar COP for Central Asia.

2) Are there any subjects that are relevant for the Central Asian Region which are missing in the EIFAC Code of Practice?

- If yes, which issues?
- If no, do you think the EIFAC Code of Practice could also be a good tool in the promotion of responsible recreational fisheries in Central Asia?
- It was considered difficult to list whether any issue is missing; the COP was considered a complete document which can form a good basis for a COP for Central Asia.
- It was noted that the situation in terms of regulations of recreational fisheries is different in each country; countries in Central Asia have different priorities and ways to handle management and pollution issues. One participant suggested that water ownership issues should be discussed in the COP as well.
- It was further considered that if you call it a “Codex” or Code this means that it would semi-legal publication and should be in line with national laws and would have obligations attached to it – it cannot be voluntary instrument.
- The main challenge is to have the different governments to accept the COP (after its preparation) and build the various recommendations into their legislations.

3) Please read Article 11 –Management

- List which issues are most problematic in the management of recreational fisheries in Central Asia?
 - It was agreed that Article 11 provides guidance for the development of management regimes for recreational fisheries – a good basis- . It was added that countries are already using and applying most of the principles under this article in practice.
 - It was further agreed that the COP and articles have been developed by a competent group of experts, for specialists who know the subject.
 - In terms of specific provisions it was noted that:
 - ✓ Article 11.10 training should be done by specially trained people.
 - ✓ Article 11.14 The Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission could play a role in these issues.
 - ✓ Article 11.15 Introduction and implementation of co-management in the fisheries sector is difficult in some countries in Central Asia.

- Which management subjects need immediate attention from fisheries authorities and recreational fisheries associations? And why?

It was suggested that awareness raising and training of recreational fishers is needed – e.g. on the red list of species and on sustainable fishing practices.

4) Do you think that international Guiding principles on Recreational Fisheries would be a useful tool for fisheries managers in governments and recreational fisheries associations in support of promoting responsible recreational fisheries?

- A simplified (simpler language, include figures and pictures) Code or Codex for Central Asia and the Caucasus would be a useful tool for the associations and fishers.
- A global level guidance document or Code for governments on recreational fisheries may be of good use as well. FAO could play a role in the development of such a document and influence governments to work on improving recreational fisheries.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

109. Recreational fisheries is an important fisheries sector in Central Asia. At present it is estimated that on average some 10 percent of the population in Central Asia is involved in recreational fisheries (as leisure or sport fisheries). In remote rural areas sometimes all men are active in recreational fisheries. Recreational fisheries harvests are generally consumed by the households of the fishers. Recreational fisheries harvests provide a significant contribution to food security (qualitative and quantitative) in remote rural areas; besides, it is estimated that at least 10 percent is sold at local markets. As such, recreational fisheries brings additional income to many rural households. The socio-economic situation in some rural areas in Central Asia (particularly in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) means that many people there are forced to fish in support of their livelihoods. Nevertheless, the fisheries should generally be regarded as recreational fisheries rather than commercial or subsistence fisheries.

110. The main problems that confront the recreational fisheries sector in Central Asia are widespread poaching (illegal fishing), pervasive sale of cheap “Chinese” nets of prohibited mesh sizes, increasing construction of infrastructural works on migration routes of fish in rivers, excessive use of water by irrigation and hydropower sectors without coordination with the fisheries sector, poor legal frameworks for responsible recreational fisheries (except in Kazakhstan), badly defined ownership and property rights for inland water bodies, and continuing conflicts between national authorities responsible for nature protection and fisheries management and recreational fisheries associations.

111. Management of recreational fisheries continues to have problems being recognized as an equal partner by other users who fail to take full account of multiple user needs and objectives. Many of the above mentioned problems arise from poor communication and dialogue between user groups and recreational fisheries interests, lack of empathy of the needs and aspirations of each other and lack of finance and knowledge on integrated management of recreational fisheries.

112. Fishing and hunting associations and societies in Central Asia generally have similar objectives as associations in Europe, which include (amongst others) management of water bodies under their control, increasing fishing opportunities for recreational fishers, protecting fish stocks and aquatic biodiversity, creating a good environment for angling, lobbying for the interests of recreational fisheries, supporting restocking, awareness raising, education and promotion of recreational fisheries among the population. In the preservation of aquatic biodiversity the role of fishing and hunting associations and societies in Central Asia is of great importance.

113. Only a small percentage of the total number of recreational fishers in Central Asia are members of

a fishing (and hunting) association or society – meaning that the organizational degree of recreational fishers is relatively low. Nevertheless, the associations and societies have competent management and staff, which conduct many fisheries resources management tasks at low cost and in an efficient manner.

114. The Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, as endorsed by the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) in 2008, is largely applicable also for the situation in Central Asia. It provides a very good basis for development of specific national Codes of Practices for Recreational Fisheries.

Recommendations

115. The regional workshop recommends the following actions:

By the Governments of the Central Asian region

116. Develop and promote a more structured approach towards recreational fisheries management, taking into account the importance of the activity to local and regional economies and the positive contributions recreational fisheries organizations can make to the management of the resources.

117. Support aquaculture of native species for restocking of fish (culture based fisheries) by promoting the adjustment of the range of products, species and sizes of fish for restocking to address the needs of recreational fisheries, conservation and rehabilitation objectives.

118. Involve recreational fisheries associations and societies in policy and legal framework development at national and local level, as equal partner, and accept the advisory role, knowledge and expertise available in those organizations.

119. Ensure that recreational fisheries interests will receive proper support from the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission.

120. Establish an inter-agency Advisory Committee including relevant authorities and associations to develop norms and recommendations for the improvement of recreational fishing and to follow-up on the implementation of relevant legislation.

121. Increase efforts to raise awareness and build capacity, in close cooperation with the recreational fisheries organizations, among recreational fishers on a range of issues (e.g. red list of species, good fishing practices).

122. Prepare, in close cooperation with the recreational fishing organizations, simplified (simpler language, including figures and pictures) Codes of Practice for Recreational Fisheries for national level implementation; codes which should be practical and useful tools for the associations and fishers.

By Recreational fisheries organizations in the Central Asian region

123. Increase the organizational level of recreational fishers, by promoting membership of the associations and societies and work in a professional manner, ensuring benefits of being member of the association and representing the interests of the recreational fisheries sector and other sectors' objectives and interests.

124. Take a pro-active role in the development of co-management plans and establishment of management measures in inland water bodies that are used by recreational fisheries and other sectors. People and community participation is the only way to tackle poaching and unsustainable fishing practices.

125. Promote recreational fishing for economic and social benefit, including the development of

programmes and infrastructure for recreational fishing including fish tourism.

By FAO and other relevant international agencies

126. Assist the Governments in the Central Asian Region and the fishers and hunters associations and societies in the monitoring of recreational fisheries activities, by carrying out a regional survey on recreational fisheries (using the example of the Nordic countries survey).

127. Develop global “Technical guidelines on recreational fisheries” in support of the responsible development and management of this sub-sector of the fishery sector.

128. Develop and disseminate “Guidelines for introductions and fish stocking” that are suitable for recreational fisheries stakeholders.

CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

129. The Summary of conclusions and recommendations of the workshop (as presented above) was adopted by the workshop participants. Ms Gulbara Tagaeva, on behalf of the host and Mr Raymon van Anrooy on behalf of FAO thanked the participants for their active participation, the project and DoF staff for their hard work in the organization of the regional workshop and the co-organizers for their contributions to the programme and the success of the workshop.

130. From each participating country one representative recorded its vote of thanks to the host government and FAO for a well-organized workshop and for the various hospitalities accorded to the participants. They thanked the Government of Kyrgyzstan, and particularly the Department of Fisheries for offering to organize with FAO the workshop.