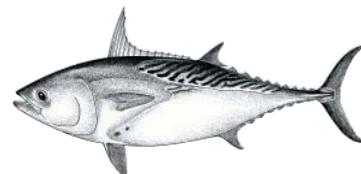
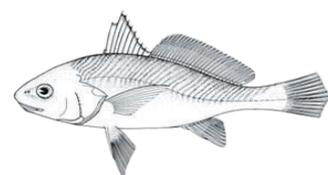
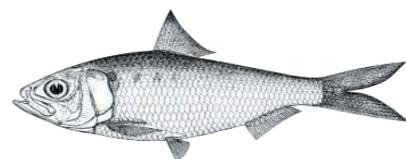


ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Report of the Executive Committee
Seventy-third session



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Seventy-third session

Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 23-25 August 2011

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ISBN 978-92-5-107057-4

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Citation:

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (2011). *Report of the Seventy-third session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 23-25 August 2011.* FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, RAP Publication 2011/23, 35 p.

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (2011).

Report of the Seventy-third Session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 23-25 August 2011, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, RAP Publication 2011/23, 35 p.

Abstract

This document presents the final report of the Seventy-third Session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) which was held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, from 23 to 25 August 2011.

The APFIC Executive Committee's main function is to direct the conduct of business and affairs of the Commission between its biennial sessions and provide advice to the Secretariat. The APFIC Executive Committee at its Seventy-third session is composed of Viet Nam (Chairperson), India (Vice-Chairperson), Bangladesh and USA (Members), Republic of Korea (the former Chairperson) and the Secretary of the Commission (as an Ex-officio member).

The agenda items discussed at the meeting were:

- Inter-sessional activities of APFIC
- Outcomes of the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and recommendations of the Thirty-first Session
- International fishery developments and recommendations of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
- Review of key areas for attention by APFIC and partner organizations
- Updating the APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018
- Improving the effectiveness of APFIC's role in the region
- APFIC budget
- APFIC ongoing workplan and preparations for the Fourth RCFM and arrangements for the Thirty-second Session of APFIC
- Date and place of the Seventy-fourth session of APFIC Executive Committee

The Executive Committee endorsed a number of recommendations relating to the direction of APFIC and how to strengthen its function. In addition, the Executive committee noted several key areas for attention under the forthcoming workplan. The Executive Committee also advised on the preparations for the Fourth Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirty-second Session of APFIC to be held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, in 2012.

Distribution:

Participants of the Session
Members of the Commission
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its Seventy-third session at the Michelia Hotel, Nha Trang, Viet Nam, from 23 to 25 August 2011 under the Chairmanship of Mr Nguyen Viet Manh, Director, International Cooperation, Science and Technology Department, General Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam, assisted by Mr Tarun Shridhar, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, India (Vice-Chairperson). The list of the participants is presented in Appendix A.

2. On behalf of the former Chair country, Republic of Korea, Ms Suh Mil Ga, Assistant Director, International Fisheries Organization, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea, addressed the Members of the Executive Committee and expressed her congratulations and gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam for its warm reception and organization of the meeting. She noted that during the period of its term as Chair country of APFIC, the Republic of Korea has recognized the important role that APFIC plays in promoting cooperation in sustainable fisheries and this is becoming increasingly important. She highlighted the relevance of APFIC in bringing regional challenges to the attention of members, including the effects of climate change and fishery livelihoods and other issues which the Executive Committee will review.

3. The Chairperson, Mr Nguyen Viet Manh, welcomed the Executive Committee and thanked them for taking time to attend the meeting in Nha Trang. He reminded the Committee that its main objective is to review the activities of APFIC and develop the plan of work for the coming biennium. Noting the importance of fisheries in the region, he stressed the important role of APFIC in reviewing the development of the fisheries sector and its role in food security and identifying policy priorities. He highlighted the role of APFIC in facilitating regional cooperation and how the Commission provides a regional voice on the fisheries issues of the region. The Chairperson thanked the APFIC Secretary for the continued support in organizing APFIC meetings and congratulated the Secretariat for the support to the Commission over the past years.

4. The Vice-Chair, Mr Tarun Shridhar, also welcomed the participants and thanked Viet Nam for hosting the Executive Committee meeting and their hospitality. He noted that the Executive Committee meeting comes at a critical time, when fisheries are increasingly becoming important in the global agenda. He stressed the important role of the Asia-Pacific region in sustaining global fish supplies from both fisheries and aquaculture. In this context APFIC should be strengthened, providing an appropriate forum for regional cooperation and support to harmonization between the different fisheries bodies in the region when addressing common challenges and issues. He further appreciated the competency of the Secretariat in providing technical advice in fisheries issues within the region. In identifying and focusing on the areas that require attention, he requested the Executive Committee to review the achievements of past biennia and look for synergies with regional partners when considering what should be done in the future.

5. The APFIC Secretary, Mr Simon Funge-Smith, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and thanked Viet Nam for hosting the meeting. He thanked the previous speakers for highlighting the importance of APFIC. He noted that in addition to the functions as highlighted above, the Executive Committee also guides the APFIC Secretariat on matters of reform, financing and operation. He emphasized that the Executive Committee meeting is an important biennial event which the Secretariat relies upon to provide advice on these matters. He stated that the Secretariat was confident that the Executive Committee will actively take on this challenge and provide the necessary guidance. The Secretary concluded by expressing his confidence in the quality of the outcome of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda as shown in Appendix B, agreeing to bring the timing of adoption forward on the third day. The Secretariat agreed that it would make the report available on the evening of the second day to ensure delegates had time to prepare their comments. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF APFIC

7. The Secretary reviewed the activities the Secretariat and Commission conducted since the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum and the Thirty-first Session of APFIC (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 1-8 September 2010). The detailed list and description of the activities reported were provided in the documents APFIC:ExCo/11/2 and APFIC:ExCo/11/2 Add 1.

8. The APFIC Secretariat has organized two APFIC regional consultative workshops, notable for the broad participation of APFIC member countries and the excellent partnership with a range of regional fishery organizations, institutions and projects: APFIC/FAO Regional Consultative Workshop on "Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development", Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 October 2010; APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop on "Implications of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture: challenges for adaptation and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific region", Kathmandu, Nepal, 24-26 May 2011.

9. The APFIC Secretariat has also provided direct advice to member countries addressing national level fisheries and aquaculture development issues through technical support and backstopping of nine FAO TCP projects and three trustfund supported national and regional projects. These include three regional projects which support the work and objectives of the Commission: 1) the 5-year "Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem" project (BOBLME); 2) the "Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia" (RFLP); and 3) a regional project "Reducing dependence of marine finfish culture on low-valued fish as feed". The Secretariat has produced nine publications (seven printed and two electronic) and the APFIC website continues to be the main source of information and communication sharing among member countries and the Secretariat.

10. The Secretariat has also supported the development of the recently approved FAO/GEF "Strategies for trawl fisheries bycatch management" (REBYC-II CTI) project, which will contribute to the more sustainable use of fisheries resources and healthier marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle and Southeast Asian waters by reducing bycatch, discards and fishing impact by trawl fisheries. The project contributes to the APFIC strategic plan for the South China Sea sub-region. It will be executed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), based in Bangkok, Thailand, and the governments in the participating countries Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

11. The Executive Committee noted the complementarity between the bycatch work with Tuna RFMOs under the Kobe 3 initiative, with that foreseen under the FAO/GEF "Strategies for trawl fisheries bycatch management" (REBYC-II CTI). The secretariat clarified that whilst the focus was different regarding the resources and fisheries under consideration, the common goals of bycatch reduction and improved management were similar and both supported the recently adopted FAO "International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards".

12. The APFIC Secretariat has also participated in the Twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the FAO Second Meeting of the Network of Secretariats of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RSN2) and the Fifth Session of FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

13. The APFIC Secretariat has engaged in coordination and collaborative activities with ten regional and international organizations and arrangements, providing advisory inputs or acting as technical resource persons.

14. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to clarify the relationship between APFIC activities and FAO activities. The Secretary explained that the reported APFIC activities were those endorsed under the workplan or related to the APFIC strategy. These activities either involved the participation of APFIC member countries or the APFIC Secretariat. The Secretary participates in COFI in his capacity as Secretary of the Commission. In other events, the Secretary and other Secretariat staff participate as FAO officers, although they are able to represent APFIC priorities and concerns and report these back to the Executive Committee or session of the Commission.

15. The Executive Committee also requested Secretariat to describe how the regional APFIC priorities were translated into projects or programmes of work using other sources of funding. The Secretary explained that APFIC provided the overall guidance on priority areas for work of the Commission and that when opportunities arose for funding such areas of work that were not budgeted or planned in the workplan of APFIC, the Secretariat was able to ensure APFIC membership participation in these activities, such that it contributed to the purpose of the Commission as described in the APFIC Agreement.

16. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation of APFIC's activities and progress, including the regional workshop and regional projects and agreed that the themes of workshops and projects responded to the priorities of the APFIC membership.

OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD APFIC RCFM AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

17. The Executive Committee discussed the recommendations of the Thirty-first Session of the Commission and the Third APFIC RCFM, based on working paper APFIC:ExCo/11/3, APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 4 and APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 5.

18. The Executive Committee was requested to consider how APFIC member countries might take pertinent actions to address the recommendations and how the APFIC Secretariat might follow-up with regional partners, develop specific initiatives to address priority issues and contribute regional perspectives to these processes.

19. The Executive Committee requested the Secretary to review the current actions in response to recommendations of the session, to provide some guidance in identifying priorities. The Secretary provided a review on the work being done through FAO and other partners.

- The development of a regional training course for using the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (BOBLME/US-CTI/APFIC)
- FAO work on development of the Global Register of fishing vessels (GR)
- FAO capacity building for implementation of Port State Measures Agreement
- The planned APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop "Strengthening Assessments of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific Region for Policy Development and Management" 4-6 October 2011, Yangon, Myanmar
- The recent approval of the FAO/GEF "Strategies for trawl fisheries bycatch management" (REBYC-II CTI)
- The APFIC/FAO Regional Consultative Workshop "Implications of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture: challenges for adaptation and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific region" (24-26

May 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal), which stressed the need to bring the importance and potential impact on fisheries and aquaculture by climate change to the attention of decision makers, as well as highlight fisheries/aquaculture interactions with other sectors such as water and forestry.

20. Regarding recommendations relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and fishery subsidies, the Secretary noted that this was directed to FAO and informed the Executive Committee that this is beyond the capacity of APFIC to address. The Executive Committee agreed that member countries should direct specific technical requests related to this issue to the attention of COFI, and that there was a need for improved representation of the fisheries sector in delegations sent to WTO negotiations.

21. The Executive Committee recommended that APFIC member countries should report to the Thirty-second session on their activities which support APFIC recommendations. The Secretary noted that this was an agenda item in the APFIC session, however, concurred that clear guidance should be provided to members to assist them in developing their response.

22. The Executive Committee desired improved coordination and communication between member countries and the Secretariat. In this regard, member countries were requested to regularly inform the Secretariat of their activities and the Secretariat was requested to develop a mechanism to facilitate this.

23. The Executive Committee also highlighted the need to improve the visibility of the work undertaken by APFIC and its member countries. Noting that the APFIC website was the principal medium of communication of the work of the Commission, the Secretary agreed to take a proactive role informing all members countries on important initiatives carried out by APFIC.

24. The Executive Committee agreed that APFIC will continue raising the profile of the Asia-Pacific region in international fora and reaffirmed that APFIC should facilitate cooperation mechanisms with other international and regional bodies.

25. The Executive Committee noted that the recommendations of the session covered many key areas, but that there was a need to focus on some specific priority areas. It further recommended that APFIC should, at this stage, avoid initiating new areas of work, but rather consolidate and build on the work that has been undertaken by APFIC and its member countries.

26. The Executive Committee agreed that APFIC will continue to identify priority areas for the region, and inform COFI of their recommendations. It further agreed that the recommendations of COFI would continue to be taken into account by APFIC.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERY DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTCOME OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI)

27. The Executive Committee discussed the agenda item referring to document APFIC:ExCo/11/4 on issues and recommendations of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). The Executive Committee was informed of the conclusions of the session and ongoing fisheries policy development relevant to the APFIC region.

28. The areas covered included the main agenda items of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI, as well as emerging regional level initiatives and issues. The full working paper (APFIC:ExCo/11/4) is appended in Appendix D.

29. The Secretary requested the Executive Committee to consider how APFIC could better support Members in effectively addressing international issues.

30. The Executive Committee noted that the rescheduling of the COFI session now effectively means that the APFIC session follows COFI, rather than preceding it. The Secretary responded that it was important to consider the adjustment of APFIC session to effectively provide inputs to COFI and that this would be discussed under agenda item 6. In the interim, the Executive Committee agreed that its report could be used by the COFI Secretariat as information relating to the work of APFIC.

31. The discussion focussed on the following areas:

- How the FAO technical guideline on aquaculture certification could be used to benchmark certification schemes, and the need to review the various standards of the schemes currently available.
- The need for more work on aquatic animal health management and regional cooperation in bio-security and management of movements. The need to strengthen the regional network for disease monitoring and control, harmonization of the laboratory standards for disease diagnosis and detection in the region, as recommended at the recent NACA/FAO Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture in Asia.
- Attention on the issue of improved feeds and feeding management, in particular how to improve the fish feeds and fishmeal produced in the region (including traceability), how to move mariculture towards compound feeds.
- The need for innovation in promoting lower intensity farming systems.
- Strengthening fisheries management, building on fishery assessments which support ecosystem management approaches, inclusion of habitat/spatial management and gear/technology improvements, bilateral management arrangements.
- How to promote the ecosystem approach to fisheries/aquaculture management, in particular the need to build considerable regional capacity to implement the approach and where the resources to do this might come from.
- The importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the region and the need to develop a programme for SSF in the region.
- Combating IUU and Port State Measures are regulatory issues and that APFIC was not well placed to take concrete actions beyond facilitating access to training and capacity building. It was noted that there are a range of bilateral capacity building activities ongoing in the region which might benefit member countries in this regard. APFIC could assist members in collating information on their activities and it was noted that many APFIC activities indirectly contribute to combating IUU fishing (e.g. strengthening management, fisheries assessments).
- Advocating the importance of the fishery sector and the importance of creating linkages with other regional organization in climate change dialogues was emphasized. It was noted that this is primarily a responsibility for national fishery agencies.

REVIEW OF KEY AREAS FOR ATTENTION BY APFIC AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

32. Based on the preceding discussions of the working papers on the recommendations of the Thirty-first Session of APFIC and issues of international significance (Working Papers ExCo/11/5, ExCo/11/Inf. 6 and ExCo/11/Inf. 7), the Executive Committee deliberated on key areas for attention by APFIC during the biennium 2013-2014.

33. The Executive Committee took into account those areas which have already been covered under previous biennial themes to avoid duplication or repetition, and agreed that there was a need to build on previous work of Commission. The Executive Committee also ensured that the recommended themes were consistent with the APFIC strategic plan.

34. The Secretary also informed the Executive Committee that an important consideration was how the proposed areas of work would benefit from synergy with ongoing programmes of APFIC partners and FAO in particular.

35. The Executive Committee identified two biennial themes (biennium 2013-2014) to be recommended to the Commission at its Thirty-second session and which will form the basis of the next series of regional consultative workshops and which will be covered during the Fifth APFIC Regional Consultative Forum in 2014. These were:

(i) Meeting the challenges of sustainable intensification of aquaculture

Two linked sub-themes will be addressed:

- *Improving health, bio-security (transboundary movements)*: development of regional cooperation for health; review the regional guidelines for movements; build on the regional initiatives (e.g. disease ADB-SAARC aquatic animal health, BOBLME transboundary dialogues on aquatic disease; NACA health network; FAO TCP support to member countries, assuring SPF quality seed for aquaculture).
- *Improving feeds for aquaculture*: Improved traceability of fish meal (in partnership with IFFO Improvers programme/REBYC II), formulated feed replacing fresh/trash fish; looking at feed alternatives supporting emerging aquaculture, FAO-NACA cooperation; USA-Republic of Korea joint research programme on mariculture feeds; ACIAR-NACA programmes and those of other APFIC Members.

(ii) Putting fishery management into action in the APFIC region

- Development of fishery improvement plans for specific fisheries in member countries (Building on stock/fishery assessment case studies; linking to SEAFDEC refugia work and other fishery spatial/area management projects; fishing gear improvements).
- Drawing on capacity building activities under several FAO/GEF projects (BOBLME/REBYC II/RFLP) as well as Coral Triangle Initiative work and the work of WWF.
- Promoting EAFM training in the region.
- Improved reporting.

36. The Executive Committee further recommended that there are a number of other key areas on which APFIC should seek to promote capacity building for member countries and APFIC partners such as:

- IUU capacity building and training. APFIC, however, will not undertake activities under its budget. APFIC will seek opportunities to promote capacity building through FAO trust fund work (e.g. Korea Yeosu 2012 – FAO collaboration) and collaborative activities with other institutions and countries.
- Review of aquaculture standards is not within APFIC's capacity, but the Commission can request that this be undertaken.
- The international SSF-instrument process is going ahead with FAO headquarters trust fund; it would be an opportunity for APFIC to contribute to the progress and ensure representation of APFIC regional issues.
- Climate change and fisheries including disaster reduction and mitigation. Resilience and adaptation guidelines are being developed by FAO headquarters units for provision to Members in the region; APFIC will be in the position to facilitate or suggest regional applications.

UPDATING THE APFIC STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2018

37. The Executive Committee was informed that the Secretariat had developed a draft update of the APFIC strategic plan for 2012-2018 (APFIC:ExCo/11/7). The first APFIC strategic plan 2006-2012 was originally endorsed at the Thirtieth Session of APFIC, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia from 11 to 13 August 2008. The updated draft strategic plan is presented in document APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 9.

38. The update of the plan provides a clear strategy document to assist in planning and coordination and enable APFIC to maintain a strategic direction into the next six years. It will facilitate the coordination of the Commission's work with FAO, other regional fishery organizations and member countries.

39. The strategic plan covered the following aspects of APFIC's work:

- The role of FAO Article XIV Fisheries Bodies
- The APFIC area
- The function of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
- Operation of APFIC Secretariat
- APFIC website
- APFIC as a Regional Consultative Forum
- Capacity building in responsible fisheries and aquaculture
- Facilitating the emergence of regional cooperation and arrangements
 - o Bay of Bengal sub-region
 - o South China Sea and East Asian seas
 - o Inland fisheries
 - o Aquaculture throughout the APFIC region
- Monitoring of status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture of the APFIC area
- APFIC's coordination role with other Regional Organizations

40. The Executive Committee endorsed the updated strategic plan with the inclusion of a number of minor alterations and additions. The Secretariat was requested to circulate the revised document to the Executive Committee and this appears as Appendix E.

41. The Executive Committee noted that the APFIC website was the principal means to access APFIC documentation, however, background information regarding the Commission might be made more easily accessible to visitors. Secretary agreed to look into the matter and improve the home page.

The need for a performance review of APFIC

42. The Executive Committee agreed that a review of APFIC's work would be timely. The Executive Committee considered that the cost of an independent review was such that this might only be considered should the results of an internal review indicate it was necessary.

43. An internal review should evaluate APFIC's performance related to its purpose and function as described in the APFIC Agreement. The review would also consider performance as per the APFIC strategic plan. The review would canvas opinion from member countries and relevant regional partners. It was agreed that a questionnaire format might be used for this purpose.

44. The Executive Committee requested the APFIC Secretariat to prepare terms of reference and draft questionnaire for consideration. It was proposed that the results of the review could be brought before the Thirty-second APFIC Session.

IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF APFIC'S ROLE IN THE REGION

45. The Executive Committee was informed of several areas relating to the effectiveness of APFIC based on working paper APFIC:ExCo/11/7, APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 9

Strengthening the role of APFIC reporting to the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

46. The Executive Committee was informed of the relationship of APFIC to the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) based on the information paper APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 9. The APRC is now the primary priority setting body for FAO's work in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the APRC does not consider fisheries matters directly, and the sub-sector has never been directly addressed during its sessions since establishment. The principal conclusion of this information paper was to encourage the APRC to include the work of FAO Commissions such as APFIC in their deliberations and to consider this a mechanism for establishing regional priorities for action in the sectors for which the Commissions are competent. The strong support of APFIC member countries endorsing this role might encourage FAO to address this matter in subsequent regional conferences.

47. The Executive Committee recommended that FAO takes steps to formally recognize the competence of APFIC as priority setting body for fisheries and aquaculture in the RAP region, and to bring this to the attention of the APRC.

Rephrasing the APFIC session to precede FAO Committees and Governing Bodies

48. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that as part of the FAO reform, the FAO Conference has been rescheduled and the FAO Technical Committees and Regional Conferences have now also been rescheduled so that they precede the FAO Conference. This now means that the APFIC session and RCFM are out of phase with both COFI (Thirtieth Session, July 2012) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (Thirty-first Session, Viet Nam, March 2012).

49. The Executive Committee agreed that in order to resynchronize the work programme of APFIC, it will be necessary to now schedule the 2013-2014 biennium, RCFM and session to take place in the early part of 2014. In order to complete an accelerated biennial work programme in only 18 months, this would probably require the Thirty-third APFIC Session to be scheduled during May 2014.

Improving the visibility of APFIC at FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

50. The Executive Committee was informed that APFIC's visibility was significantly improved at the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI, with seven FAO member countries specifically referring to the work of APFIC in their interventions.

51. The Executive Committee affirmed that APFIC's decisions should be more effectively communicated during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and recommended that the Secretariat continue to follow up with FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in ensuring that the work of APFIC was recognized during the development of working papers for COFI.

52. The Executive Committee also suggested that APFIC Secretariat could request the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to consider space for a poster display at the next session of COFI.

53. The Executive Committee recommended that the Chair country could invite the APFIC Members to join a meeting during the first day of COFI. COFI Secretariat would be requested to make some space available for this meeting.

54. The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to share a briefing note on the regional relevance of COFI recommendations with the APFIC Members.

Strengthening regional participation

55. The Executive Committee was informed that the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI and FAO reform documents emphasized that there remain significant challenges to the inclusion of developing countries in the global decision making bodies. This requires support and capacity building at regional level. The Executive Committee was informed that APFIC's role in this regard was noted by Members at the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI.

56. The Executive Committee recommended that APFIC could support member countries by co-organizing regional workshops in collaboration with FAO headquarters and other relevant organizations to improve regional coverage and participation. The Secretariat undertook to make efforts to source extra-budgetary fund to support workshops on important issues for the region.

APFIC's role in assisting in the monitoring of the implementation of the CCRF

57. The Executive Committee was informed that there is a declining trend in response rates for the regular reporting to FAO on progress of implementation of the CCRF. The Executive Committee was informed that APFIC could play a stronger role in assisting member countries to report on their progress in implementing the CCRF, and that this might be included as part of the APFIC update on status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture.

58. The Executive Committee supported the idea of a simplified questionnaire to enable Members to provide information on implementation of the Code of Conduct as well as implementation of the recommendations of APFIC.

59. It was stressed that the questionnaire should be relatively flexible, based around CCRF articles, and designed such that Members would have the possibility to report what they have been able to implement in support of the CCRF. In this regard, the questionnaire would complement the FAO CCRF questionnaire and will not duplicate it. Member countries were encouraged to complete both questionnaires.

60. The Secretariat agreed to prepare a questionnaire to be filled by the member countries. This questionnaire would be directed at the APFIC focal point for them to coordinate a response from their country. The pilot questionnaire results would be presented to the Thirty-second Session of the Commission.

Development of a "co-management recognition" scheme in the region

61. The Executive Committee was informed that the FAO Regional Fishery Livelihoods Programme is currently working in close collaboration with APFIC to develop a co-management recognition scheme. The intention is to provide recognition and encouragement to those fisheries (especially small-scale fisheries) and the Government units which oversee them, to improve their operational management and thereby contribute to the implementation of the CCRF.

62. The Secretariat emphasized that the scheme is intended to assist fisheries which meet the criteria to access preferential markets or other related benefits. This is not an eco-label scheme, as it does not place a primary requirement on demonstrated sustainable management of a stock or fishery. In this regard the scheme recognizes the effort and intention to work towards greater compliance with a broad set of objectives relating to sustainable development, and recognition that even within a fishery certain segments may be operating more sustainably than others.

63. The Executive Committee agreed that the results of the pilot co-management scheme would be presented to the Thirty-second Session for consideration by Members and for possible national implementation.

Acceptance of the APFIC agreement by Timor-Leste

64. The Executive Committee was informed that Timor-Leste has deposited its letter of acceptance with the Director General of FAO and that pursuant to paragraphs one and three of Article X of the APFIC Agreement, Timor-Leste has now become a member country of APFIC.

65. The Executive Committee welcomed the accession of Timor-Leste as the newest member of APFIC.

BOBLME Regional Fishery Management Advisory Committee

66. The Executive Committee was informed that as part of the APFIC strategy, the Thirty-first APFIC Session endorsed the recommendation that the Regional Fishery Management Advisory Committee of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project would report to the Thirty-second Session. This Advisory Committee is being constituted within the framework of the BOBLME. A report will be developed by the Advisory Committee for endorsement by the project steering committee in early 2012.

67. The Executive Committee agreed that the report would be presented at the Thirty-second Session of APFIC and that this report will add significant value to the sub-regional review of the Bay of Bengal in the 2012 biennial APFIC review of status and potential.

Incorporate additional seas areas – Timor-Arafura and Sulu-Celebes

68. The Executive Committee was informed that with the membership of Timor-Leste into APFIC, there is now a strong argument for APFIC to include a review of the fishery and aquaculture for two sea areas which were not covered in the previous APFIC 2010 biennial review of status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture. These two areas are the Timor-Arafura Sea and the Sulu-Celebes Sea.

69. The Executive Committee agreed on the inclusion of the two new areas and recommended that the Secretariat work with Indonesia and Australia to assist in developing a profile for the Timor-Arafura Sea, and with Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia to assist with the profile for the Sulu-Celebes Sea.

Capacity building in the ecosystem approach to fisheries

70. The Executive Committee was informed that in accordance with the recommendations from the Thirty-first Session of APFIC to build capacity in ecosystem approaches, the APFIC Secretariat is working in collaboration with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) and the US Coral Triangle Initiative (US-CTI) to develop a regional training course to build capacity in ecosystem approach to fisheries. This course is expected to be made available to training institutions in the region to run dedicated courses or incorporate into their programmes.

71. The Executive Committee recognized the contribution of APFIC Secretariat to the development of this training course and requested that these training materials and knowledge should be shared with APFIC Members when available.

Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

72. The Executive Committee was informed that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is looking to support pilot work on the development of the Global Record for Fishing Vessels and that interested Members may contact the APFIC Secretariat.

73. The Executive Committee considered that the record is a global initiative and therefore activities were best led by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The Executive Committee requested that the APFIC Secretariat update Members on progress on the development of the record.

APFIC BUDGET

74. The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item referring to document APFIC:ExCo/11/8. The Secretary reviewed the financial status of the Commission and the expected resourcing over the coming biennium. He noted that the Commission's budget breakdown of the past three biennia shows considerable in kind contributions made by member countries and the Regional Organizations of which they are also members.

75. The value of the APFIC activities in the biennium 2010-2011 totalled approximately \$547 000. FAO Regular Programme provided about 50 percent (\$172 000) of the cash contribution to activities of the Commission, although only 88 percent was directly allocated. The balance of the FAO support was accessed from other parts of FAO Regular Programme through collaboration of Secretariat with FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

76. Over the longer term, there is reduced expectation of availability of extra-budgetary resources (i.e. from FAO trust funds) as donor trust fund arrangements seem to be favouring other regions for support in the fishery/aquaculture sector. However, upcoming Asia-Pacific regional projects in fisheries could be encouraged to support some APFIC activities which are directly relevant to their programme objectives.

77. The Executive Committee appreciated the support provided by the FAO core funding of the work of APFIC and noted that there was also considerable support in kind from member countries and regional organizations. The Secretary expressed his appreciation for the support from member countries, especially the financial support provided to APFIC by the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

78. The Executive Committee enquired how Secretariat sought additional funding and whether donors were approached for support to the work of the Commission. The Secretary responded that there had been previous efforts, however, there are few donors interested in supporting arrangements such as APFIC, but there were opportunities to seek support for specific technical areas of work. This support was typically *ad hoc* and not provided as part of a programme.

APFIC ONGOING WORKPLAN AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF APFIC

79. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the Fourth APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (Fourth RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-second Session of the Commission in 2012 as outlined in document APFIC:ExCo/11/9.

80. The Chair country, Viet Nam, informed the Committee that the venue under consideration was Da Nang, Viet Nam and that the Fourth RCFM and Thirty-second Session were currently tentatively scheduled for the last week of September 2012. These two events would be three days each and run back to back over a period of six days at the same venue.

81. The Executive Committee requested modification of the working title of the Fourth RCFM to: *"Improving management and governance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific"*.

82. The Executive Committee discussed the proposed agenda for the Fourth RCFM and recommended additions and changes to the programme to fit into a slightly shortened and more focussed programme. The modified agenda circulated to the Executive Committee appears as Appendix F.

83. The Executive Committee considered the arrangements of the Thirty-second Session of APFIC as proposed by the Secretariat and agreed to the proposed agenda. The endorsed schedule of the session appears as Appendix G. The Thirty-second Session of APFIC will follow the RCFM and take place at the same venue.

84. The Executive Committee thanked the Government of Viet Nam for its arrangements and looked forward to a productive week for the Fourth RCFM and Thirty-second Session.

OTHER MATTERS

85. There were no other matters.

86. The Executive Committee appreciated the excellent chairmanship of Mr Nguyen Viet Manh, and thanked the Government of Viet Nam, in particular the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, for their excellent arrangements. The Executive Committee also appreciated the work of the APFIC Secretariat for its support in organizing the meeting.

87. The Secretary informed the Executive Committee that Ms Pornsuda Rose David would be retiring from her position as Technical Assistant to the APFIC Secretariat, after nearly 30 years of service. The Secretary expressed his great appreciation for the dedicated work and support to APFIC provided by Ms David over her long career. The Executive Committee also extended its appreciation to Ms David for her work.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

88. The Executive Committee recommended that, in accordance with the established precedents and subject to the concurrence of the Government of India, the Seventy-fourth Executive Committee Meeting should be convened in India, in or around September 2013. The Secretariat was requested to consult further with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson regarding the final date and location.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

89. The report of the Seventy-third Session of the Executive Committee was adopted by the Committee on 25 August 2011.

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AGENDA SEVENTY-THIRD APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

| TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2011 | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening statement by the outgoing APFIC Chairman – Welcome address by the APFIC Chair – Welcome comments from the APFIC Vice Chair – Introduction to the Seventy-third Executive Committee by the Secretary of APFIC | |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adoption of agenda – Introduction of participants – Meeting arrangements – Group photo | ExCo/11/1 ExCo/11/Inf. 1 ExCo/11/Inf. 2 |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | Coffee/Tea break | |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | Agenda Item 1 Inter-sessional activities of APFIC (for information) | ExCo/11/2 ExCo/11/2/ Addendum 1 |
| 12.00 – 13.30 | Lunch break | |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | Agenda Item 2 Recommendations of the Thirty-first APFIC Session and Third Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (for discussion and recommendation) | ExCo/11/3 ExCo/11/Inf. 3 ExCo/11/Inf. 4 ExCo/11/Inf. 5 |
| 14.30 – 15.30 | Agenda Item 3 International fishery developments and recommendations of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (for information and discussion) | ExCo/11/4 |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Coffee/Tea break | |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | Agenda Item 4 Review of key areas for attention by APFIC and partner organizations Recommendations for APFIC thematic focus for forthcoming biennial workplan (for discussion and decision) | ExCo/11/5 ExCo/11/Inf. 6 ExCo/11/Inf. 7 |
| 19.00 | Dinner | |

WEDNESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2011

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 09.00 – 09.30 | Agenda Item 5 Updating the APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018 (discussion and recommendation) | ExCo/11/6 ExCo/11/Inf. 8 |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Agenda Item 6 Improving the effectiveness of APFIC's role in the region (for discussion and recommendation) | ExCo/11/7 ExCo/11/Inf. 9 |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Coffee/Tea break | |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | Improving the effectiveness of APFIC's role in the region (cont.) | |
| 12.00 – 13.30 | Lunch break | |
| 13.30 – 14.00 | Agenda Item 7 APFIC budget (for information and discussion) | ExCo/11/8 |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Agenda Item 8 APFIC ongoing workplan and preparations for the Fourth RCFM and Thirty-second APFIC Session (for discussion and decision) | ExCo/11/9 |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Coffee/Tea break | |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Agenda Item 9 Any other matters | |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | Agenda Item 10 Date and place of the Seventy-fourth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee | |
| 19.00 | Dinner to be hosted by FAO | |

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 2011

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| 09.00 – 10.30 | Adoption of the report | |
| | Lunch break | |
| 14.00 | Departure of participants | |

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| APFIC:ExCo/11/1 | Provisional agenda |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/2 | Activities of APFIC since the last session |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/2 Add 1 | Detailed list of activities since the last session |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/3 | Outcomes of the Third APFIC RCFM and recommendations of the Thirty-first Session |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/4 | International issues of significance |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/5 | Review of key areas for attention by APFIC and partner organizations |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/6 | Updating the APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/7 | Improving the effectiveness of APFIC's role in the region |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/8 | APFIC budget and finance |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/9 | Preparations for the Fourth Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-second Session of APFIC |

Information Documents

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 1 | Provisional list of documents |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 2 | Provisional list of participants |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 3 | Report of the Seventy-second Session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23-25 September 2009 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 4 | Report of the Thirty-first Session of APFIC, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6-8 September 2010 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 5 | Summary conclusions and recommendations of the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 1-4 September 2010 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 6 | Summary recommendations of APFIC Sessions, Twenty-ninth – Thirty-first |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 7 | Potential areas/themes of APFIC activities during 2012-2013 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 8 | Draft APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018 |
| APFIC:ExCo/11/Inf. 9 | Strengthening the linkages between Technical Commissions and the APRC |

WORKING PAPER EXCO/11/4 – INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Seventy-third Session

Nha Trang, Viet Nam, 23-25 August 2011

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. The Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 31 January to 4 February 2011. The work of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) was specifically mentioned in seven country interventions.

Progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and related International Plans of Action (IPOAs)

2. COFI noted the continuing poor response rate to FAO questionnaire (even the online version). COFI secretariat was requested to simplify the CCRF questionnaires on aquaculture by concentrating on the most important criteria in order to increase the response rate from the countries. The APFIC Secretariat considers that there are gains and successes being made by RAP member countries that are not captured in the FAO questionnaires due to lack of reporting or poor structure of questions. COFI also noted:

- the need for capacity building, in particular with respect to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA).
- the need for participation of stakeholders in implementation activities and the need to enable the participation of developing countries in committees and consultations, especially through regional workshops were identified as a means for better participation.
- the central roles for regional fishery bodies and other relevant regional organizations.
- the importance of the work on safety at sea.

Sub-committee on Fish Trade

3. COFI expressed an interest in the ongoing FAO work to develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private eco-labelling schemes with the FAO guidelines for the eco-labelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries. There was some interest in the development of an international standard for sustainability based on science. Small islands States stated difficulties in coping with ecolabelling and noted that methods of fishing should be included in eco-labelling guidelines. COFI highlighted the need for more attention to be given to the impact of eco-labelling on developing countries and the need for more capacity building, in particular the artisanal fisheries sector.

4. COFI requested FAO continue to provide technical advice to CITES in relation to criteria for listing commercially exploited aquatic species and this to become regular programme funded. COFI also that FAO should work on complementing the work of WTO on subsidies.

Sub-committee on aquaculture

5. COFI recommended that FAO continues its work on the promotion of aquaculture development with emphasis on the sustainability of the sector. It was also noted that proper management at all levels would ensure the healthy growth of the sector in future. This is relevant to ongoing FAO TCPs in China and Thailand.

6. The importance of small-scale aquaculture was highlighted for its positive impact to rural livelihood improvement and it was further recommended that FAO continue to work in this area. COFI recommended for the FAO to give higher priority to aquaculture work by increasing the funding allocation in its future programme of work and budget (Asia was not identified as a priority). The need for continued collaboration between FAO, NACA and Asia was also mentioned.

7. Important aspects of aquaculture sustainability highlighted by many members include bio-security and aquatic animal health, aquaculture networking and introduction of alien species for aquaculture, feed management, interaction between fisheries and aquaculture, socio-economic issues, genetic issues and biodiversity protection. The need for continuous work on climate change and its impact on aquaculture was also highlighted.

8. COFI approved by consensus the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

Combatting IUU fishing and Global Record (GR) of fishing vessels

9. COFI identified IUU fishing as a major global threat and recognized that the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels is an essential tool to combat IUU fishing. FAO is currently looking for member countries which might be interested in initiating pilot work in bringing fishing vessels into the GR.

Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

10. The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was approved by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-sixth session on 22 November 2009. The Agreement provides that it shall enter into force thirty days after the date of deposit with the FAO Director-General of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. This number has now been reached, with six of the countries being APFIC members. Several other APFIC member countries indicated that they were in the process of acceding to the agreement. Several APFIC members emphasized the need to assist developing countries in the implementation of the PSMA as well as the work related to the Flag State Performance (FSP).

Climate change

11. COFI recommended to continue informing fishers, fish farmers and policy makers about the consequences of climate change and invited FAO to increase efforts to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation at regional and local levels.

12. COFI recommended to raise the profile and role of fisheries and aquaculture regarding food security under climate change. COFI emphasized the need to continue supporting members and specially developing countries with technical assistance and capacity building and stressed the relevance of regional bodies and regional fishery organizations in addressing adaptation and mitigation measures. APFIC support to this process was specifically mentioned by name in this regard.

Improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection

13. COFI endorsed the “Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards”. The role EAF was recognized as the framework for fisheries management and the need to adopt co-management approaches was also stressed.

14. A number of APFIC members recommended that FAO strengthen efforts in capacity building on MPAs and fisheries. FAO technical guidelines for the establishment and management of MPAs are under development.

Improving the certification and traceability of raw materials for use in feeds – fish meal and fish oil

15. IFFO (International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organization) is developing a programme of factories in developing countries to improve the traceability and labeling of raw materials used in fishmeal and fish oil production. Although this may often be associated with responsible sourcing and use of responsibly managed fishery products, the drivers are also linked to mandatory food safety traceability requirements, due to the use of fish meals and oils in animal and aquaculture feeds. IFFO has developed an “Improver’s programme” to assist fishmeal and fish oil producers and is encouraging Asian producers to become involved as this region has potential future challenges for the production of feed ingredients.

Small-scale fisheries

16. All members recognized the importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) and their contributions to livelihoods and economies, while recognizing the diverse and complex nature of the SSF sector. Many noted the need to clarify the term “small-scale fisheries” and how the international instrument would be applied to them. COFI noted that SSF can have impacts on fisheries resources and the sustainability aspects must be taken into account, requiring integration into national or international fisheries management. COFI requested FAO to increase efforts to monitor global SSF and increase visibility and advocacy of their importance and role. Several members noted the need for greater coherence between development partners in delivering assistance to SSF and noted FAO’s potential role.

17. Members requested that FAO fully engage with Regional Fishery Bodies and other organizations in its efforts to deliver a SSF global programme and development of SSF guidelines. Several APFIC members noted their preference for a COFI sub-committee for small-scale fisheries, although overall, COFI emphasized the preference for an international instrument. FAO has commenced a consultation process for the development of this instrument.

Labour conditions in fisheries, aquaculture and processing

18. This is rapidly attracting media attention with several newspaper and televised reports of labour conditions in fisheries as well as in primary processing of fishery and aquaculture products. The issues identified are diverse and include forced labour, withholding of documentation, illegal migration and sub-standard and unsafe working conditions on board fishing vessels. The issue has also been identified in some aquaculture operations. The use of child labour has also been discovered in some situations.

Suggested actions by the Executive Committee

19. The Executive Committee may wish to comment on:

- How APFIC might assist members effectively in addressing these matters of international significance.
- How APFIC could contribute regional perspectives to these processes.
- Specific priority areas for inclusion in the APFIC or FAO Regional Office work programme.

APFIC STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2018



DRAFT APFIC STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2018

THE ROLE OF FAO ARTICLE XIV FISHERIES BODIES

The FAO Constitution provides that the Organization shall collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture. The term “agriculture” in the FAO Constitution includes fisheries and marine products. The Constitution further provides that the Organization shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to *inter alia*: scientific, technological, social and economic research related to food, nutrition and agriculture, and; the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production.

Under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the FAO Conference or Council may approve and submit to Member Nations conventions and agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture. This procedure has been used to set up a certain number of commissions (by region and/or subject matter) in the Organization. Their functions are to recommend policy, to take measures, to advise Members on policy formulation and implementation, to facilitate exchange of information, and to recommend lines of inquiry and research. *The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) was established under this procedure.*

At its ninth session, in 1957, the FAO Conference recalled that the express purpose of multilateral conventions and agreements established within the framework of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution is to *create contractual obligations for those who become parties to them*. It follows directly from this principle that any agreement concluded under Article XIV of the Constitution among Member Nations of the Organization should entail financial or other obligations going beyond those already assumed under the Constitution of the Organization. Regarding their financial mechanisms, bodies established under Article XIV fall into one of the three following categories:

- a. bodies entirely financed by the Organization;
- b. bodies that, in addition to being financed by the Organization, may undertake cooperative projects financed by members of the body;
- c. bodies that, in addition to being financed by the Organization, have autonomous budgets.

The second half of the 1990s showed a radical shift in the FAO policy towards RFBs. At the Twenty Second Session of COFI, in 1997, the Committee was invited to consider the following actions taking into account *the need to strengthen the FAO fishery bodies and bearing in mind the financial and resource implications involved*:

- FAO regional fishery bodies to initiate action to make themselves more effective. This may involve: reducing their area of competence as well as promoting bilateral and trilateral arrangements for the conservation and management of fisheries resources.¹
- Within means available, FAO to provide existing non-FAO fishery bodies with technical/scientific support.
- Where both FAO and non-FAO fishery bodies exist in a region, FAO to make all efforts to examine the situation with the view to promoting further cooperation and reducing duplication.

Thus APFIC has a clear *mandate to support and encourage the emergence of bilateral, trilateral and other arrangements* for the effective management of fisheries amongst its member countries, and particularly within its geographical area of competence (see below).

THE APFIC AREA

The APFIC area as described in the APFIC agreement is the “Asia-Pacific”. This is rather unspecific and the emergence of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in this region means that APFIC need to focus its work in those areas where it is needed and to ensure that its work does not duplicate or overlap that of the Fishery Management Organizations.

The issue of the geographical coverage of APFIC was addressed by the Seventy-first Meeting of the APFIC Executive Committee (Jakarta, 2007). As currently stated in the APFIC Agreement, the Commission shall carry its functions and responsibilities in the Asia-Pacific area. Following significant discussion, it was suggested that practically and for the purposes of its work, APFIC’s area could be described as follows:

- The EEZ waters of member countries in the Asian region and contiguous waters of northern Australia.
- In particular, the Large Marine Ecosystem areas of: the Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, Yellow Sea and the Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Marine Eco-region, the Arafura-Timor Sea and the Natuna Sea
- Asian inland waters of the APFIC member countries.

The Seventy-first Executive Committee agreed that this practical description of the area was consistent with the work of APFIC and noted the recommendation by APFIC members that APFIC should not have a management function. It further agreed that this should be compatible with the area of competence and work other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

The Seventy-first APFIC Executive Committee emphasized that it was crucial that the APFIC Secretariat and its members to coordinate their efforts to ensure that there is no overlap with the work of regional organizations (e.g. CCAMLR IOTC, WCPFC), but instead ensure compatibility.

The Seventy-first Executive Committee also noted that inland waters are generally under the managerial responsibility of a single sovereign country, a notable exception being the Mekong River, which is dealt with by Mekong River Commission. APFIC can still work on inland fisheries relating to matters of common interest of its members.

¹ With respect to FAO inland fisheries bodies, the document re-enforced their limitation to an advisory role: “Inland aquatic resources and water bodies (except in large lakes and some large rivers which often have independent authorities) are generally under the managerial responsibility of a single sovereign country and therefore, the role of FAO inland fishery bodies have been, and will remain largely that of an international forum where experiences and data are exchanged and where general advice for management is elaborated for consideration, but eventually for action by individual members. In addition, inland fishery resources are, to a large extent, conditioned by non-fishery activities affecting the aquatic system and the water resources, beyond the control of fishery managers.”

THE FUNCTION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

The secretariat of APFIC is housed in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. The Secretary of the Commission is the Senior Fishery Officer of the RAP fisheries group. The Commission is comprised of 21 member countries² with the chair and vice chair selected from among the members. As described above the intention of forming Article XIV Bodies is to facilitate the development of bilateral trilateral and regional agreements. As such the Commission's performance could be judged on this basis alone.

The *purpose of the Commission* is described in the APFIC Agreement³ and whilst not specifically mentioning the facilitation of arrangements and agreements, it can be understood that these would be the outcomes of the broad scope of work which the Commission is mandated to engage in:

The purpose of the Commission shall be *to promote the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources by the development and management of fishing and culture operations* and by the development of related processing and marketing activities in conformity with the objectives of its Members, and to these ends it shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- (a) *to keep under review* the state of these resources and of the industries based on them;
- (b) *to formulate and recommend measures* and to initiate and carry out programmes or projects to: increase the efficiency and sustainable productivity of fisheries and aquaculture; conserve and manage resources; protect resources from pollution;
- (c) *to keep under review* the economic and social aspects of fishing and aquaculture industries and recommend measures aimed at improving the living and working conditions of fishermen and other workers in these industries and otherwise at improving the contribution of each fishery to social and economic goals;
- (d) *to promote programmes* for mariculture and coastal fisheries enhancement;
- (e) *to encourage, recommend, coordinate* and, as appropriate, *undertake training* and extension activities in all aspects of fisheries;
- (f) *to encourage, recommend, coordinate and undertake*, as appropriate, research and development activities in all respects of fisheries;
- (g) *to assemble, publish or otherwise disseminate information* regarding the living aquatic resources and fisheries based on these resources;
- (h) *to carry out such other activities as may be necessary* for the Commission to achieve its purpose as defined above.

The purpose of APFIC as set down in the APFIC Agreement is reasonably broad and, in 1948 covered both the scientific and advisory aspects of fisheries and aquaculture development. The agreement also gives scope for APFIC to advise on the sustainable use of resources well as advise on fisheries management needs.

² Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States of America, Viet Nam

³ APFIC Agreement, Article IV

OPERATION OF APFIC SECRETARIAT

The APFIC Secretariat is based in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.⁴ It is responsible, *inter alia*, for the receipt, collation and circulation of documents, reports and resolutions of the sessions of the Commission and its Committees.⁵

The Secretariat also provides technical support to the workshops and meetings convened by APFIC and acts in a liaison function with FAO headquarters-based fisheries professionals. In this manner, technical support from FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department can be accessed in support of the Commissions activities.

The Secretariat officers also have regular functions as FAO officers and this do not provide a dedicated service to the Secretariat but rather the function is integrated into the work of the Regional Office fishery group. Additional regular staffing support is not available however the commission has considered a variety of possible arrangements including secondments from member countries or donor supported positions as part of assistance to the activities of the Commission.

APFIC WEBSITE

The APFIC Secretariat also manages the APFIC website (<http://www.apfic.org>), a portal for those interested in accessing information resources on the internet and for disseminating fisheries information relating to the work of APFIC, FAO and its members in the Asia-Pacific region.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Under the APFIC Agreement and the functions endorsed by its membership, APFIC is charged with the information needs relating to fisheries and aquaculture in those countries which form its membership and the geographic area of competence.⁶

Following an extensive review of the function of APFIC over the past few years, the Commission decided that it could best serve its Members by becoming a Regional Consultative Forum.⁷ The purpose of this forum is to provide its Members a neutral platform to examine issues affecting the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture across Member States.

One of the major changes in the *modus operandi* of APFIC, was to involve its regional partner organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations much more in its technical working activities as well as the consultative forum. It was also agreed that APFIC would hold a major Consultative Forum Meeting every two years. This forum meeting would be based on number of inter-sessional workshops on selected issues that the Commission considered to be of major regional importance. The Commission intends that the recommendations coming from the Regional Consultative workshops would be further considered at the APFIC biennial Consultative Forum Meeting and the subsequent Commission Session, so that decisions for concerted action could be developed and implemented.⁸

Over the period 2012-2018, APFIC will continue to act in its role as mandated by the Commission as a Regional Consultative Forum. The forum mechanism works at a number of levels aimed at promoting

⁴ APFIC Agreement, Article II

⁵ APFIC, Rules of Procedure, Rule IV

⁶ APFIC Agreement, Article IV

⁷ Twenty-eighth APFIC Session held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2004

⁸ This function of APFIC was endorsed by the APFIC Executive Committee in its Seventieth Session in Kuala Lumpur in 2005 and commenced implementation at the Twenty-ninth APFIC Session in Kuala Lumpur, 2006.

regional cooperation and addressing two key themes per biennium. These themes are suggested by the Executive Committee and approved and chosen by the Members at the APFIC session. The themes are typically identified and selected based on:

- Emerging issues of common interest to APFIC member countries
- Areas of emerging concern regarding resources, management, trade, where there is high uncertainty about the impact to fisheries and aquaculture in the region.
- Areas where the member countries would benefit from a regional perspective of the impact of an issue in the APFIC, or where there is a need to clarify a threat or raise awareness amongst the APFIC member countries about an emerging issue.
- An effort to balance coverage of aquaculture, marine capture fisheries and inland capture fisheries.

During the period 2005-2012 the themes which APFIC has covered so far are:

- 2005-2006: Co-management in fisheries; Low value/trash fish
- 2007-2008: Certification in aquaculture and fisheries; Capacity management and reduction of IUU fishing
- 2009-2010: Building resilience and improving coastal livelihoods; The ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture
- 2011-2012: Use of assessments for improved management; Addressing the implications of climate change in the APFIC region

MONITORING OF STATUS AND TRENDS IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

As a key part of its function,⁹ APFIC currently produces a biennial publication that reviews information fisheries and aquaculture in the APFIC member countries and the principle area of APFIC geographic focus (see APFIC area). This biennial review covers:

- Trend information for the member countries on key resources of aquaculture, marine and inland capture fisheries. Emerging issues of relevance to the member countries
- Updated lists of membership of regional organizations and accession to international agreements.

The trends in fisheries and aquaculture resources was originally based upon FAO statistics, and aggregated in various ways to provide indications of trends in key aquaculture and fishery species grouping.

In the 2010 issue, the fishery section was disaggregated into to sub-regional reviews and used key country information to aggregate a broader set of data related to resources, trends, management and other fishery management related indicators (such as: resource assessments, vessel numbers, employment, protected areas, management measures, fishery zoning etc.).

Subsequent issues will seek to update this information and populate gaps and refine estimates or assessments. The areas of Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea, Arafura-Timor Sea and Natuna Sea will be brought into the 2012 review.

⁹ APFIC Agreement, Article IV (a),(c),(g).

It is expected that the bulk of the update work will be done under contract initiated by APFIC Secretariat, although for some areas, updating information may be provided by APFIC member country fishery agencies or sub-regional arrangements such as:

- Bay of Bengal LMR working Group on Fisheries Management
- SEAFDEC
- Working groups or ad hoc initiatives by fishery projects and programmes in the region

An important outcome of this work is that the improved information will give a more coordinated, “ecosystem”-type view of the fisheries and aquaculture of the region, as well as indicating interactions between resources. Importantly, this information would supplement FAO routine statistics and provide additional quality and depth to country profile information of FAO.

FACILITATING THE EMERGENCE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ARRANGEMENTS

As a fundamental article of the APFIC Agreement, APFIC has a clear mandate to support and encourage the emergence of bilateral, trilateral and other cooperation arrangements for the effective management of fisheries amongst its member countries, and particularly within its geographical area of competence.

As a key part of the APFIC strategy, identified sub-regions will be a focus of the APFIC Secretariat’s work to develop and promote greater sub-regional cooperation. A key factor in these activities is the identification of those areas where the members of a sub-region have common interests which would benefit from a regional cooperative approach.

The overall objective is the promotion of regional arrangements and regional processes aimed at improving responsible fisheries and aquaculture in the identified sub-region.

MARINE FISHERIES AREAS

Although APFIC is competent to act on matters of common interest within the national waters of all its member countries, it does have some specific waters which are considered its main area of competence – these are the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal.¹⁰ APFIC has thus a strategic interest to facilitate the development of regional arrangements for these geographical areas.

Bay of Bengal sub-region

The development of a regional cooperation programme, the “Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project” has provided a strong foundation for encouraging cooperation within this sub-region. The BOBLME approach itself is one of promoting the coordination and cooperation of relevant sub-regional organizations with competence in their various geographic or technical areas to support knowledge development and cooperation for the environment and fisheries sub-sectors of the Bay of Bengal. As part of this process of developing greater understanding of the sub-regions and their management needs, the Thirty-first Session of APFIC, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 2010 agreed to invite the BOBLME Regional Working Group on Fisheries Management, to report to the Thirty-second Session of APFIC.

There are other sub-regional bodies or arrangements that are also identified through the BOBLME work or directly as part of the work of FAO or APFIC including: BOBP-IGO; SAARC; BIMSTEC WGF; ASEAN-WGF; UNEP GPA, NACA.

¹⁰ Mandated to APFIC upon the closure of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and its sub-committee on the Bay of Bengal and endorsed at the Twenty-sixth Session of APFIC (1999).

China Sea and East Asian Seas

This area contains several sub-regions (Yellow Sea LME, South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand SME) and can be variously divided according to geopolitical boundaries or more functional ecosystem or eco-region type boundaries.

There are a number of initiatives relevant to the marine environment in this broad region and some specifically linked to fisheries. For this area, APFIC's strategies is to work closely with competent organizations that have an interest or mandate to work in fisheries of which have the need for fisheries/aquaculture input to their work. APFIC will therefore cooperate with:

- SEAFDEC – coordinating capacity building, management planning, status and trends reporting in fisheries for south china seas are and ASEAN related advisory work.
- ASEAN-WGFi – in areas of ASEAN interest and priority setting related to the AMAF process, as well as harmonization, standard setting and responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

Several regional projects for this region are ongoing or will become operational during this phase of the APFIC strategic plan. These projects also foresee considerable cooperation between regional partners and member countries and overall their outputs will contribute strongly to the priority areas of responsible fisheries and aquaculture, identified by APFIC member countries.¹¹

Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea, Arafura-Timor Sea and the Natuna Sea

APFIC could broaden its scope of work to include other semi-enclosed seas beyond the South China Sea, e.g. Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea, the Arafura-Timor Sea and Natuna Sea. This can be justified as the seas lie within the EEZ waters of APFIC members, and especially so with the accession of Timor-Leste (2011). APFIC's initial focus for these waters will be included in the biennial review of status and potential (endorsed the Seventy-third APFIC Executive Committee, 2011). These waters are also a strong focus of the RPOA as well as being the focus of the Coral Triangle initiative.

INLAND FISHERIES THROUGHOUT THE APFIC REGION

Inland waters in the APFIC are generally under the managerial responsibility of a single sovereign country, a notable exception being the Mekong River, which is dealt with by Mekong River Commission (MRC).

APFIC will work on inland fisheries relating to matters of common interest of its members as follows:

- Enhancements of inland fisheries
- Inland fishery valuations, for food security and nutrition
- Strengthening reporting of the status and trends in inland fisheries
- Improved advocacy of inland fisheries with other competing water sector users

Focal geographic or thematic areas might be identified by the commission, especially if these inland waters were of a transboundary nature.

AQUACULTURE THROUGHOUT THE APFIC REGION

Although aquaculture is generally a national matter and has relatively few issues that relate to regional cooperation (except health management, movements and introductions), there are still many areas of common interest amongst the APFIC members. APFIC's strategy for coordination and cooperation in the sub-sectoral area of aquaculture will be:

¹¹ Reduction of Bycatch project second phase (GCP/RAS/269/GFF); GEF supported Coral Triangle Project and related initiatives in the region; GEF South China Sea project Second Phase; SEAFDEC UNEP/GEF Refugia project; PEMSEA.

- To promote the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA), improved management practices, governance and regulation to ensure sustainable benefits to both people and the environment.
- To work on aquaculture issues that have a clear linkage or interface with fisheries
- To identify and improve understanding of issues and challenges common amongst the APFIC members
- To seek to promote aquaculture development as a means of rural livelihood diversification and wealth creation, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas, which are unable to benefit from mainstream aquaculture economic development (e.g. highly market-linked or export-focussed aquaculture, driven by the private sector).
- To work closely with its members and NACA, specifically working on aquaculture statistics, promotion of better aquaculture management practices and specific projects on improving feeds for marine fish culture.
- Strengthening regional cooperation in transboundary disease and movements of aquatic animals

CAPACITY BUILDING IN RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

APFIC has a capacity building function¹² to support member countries to address the global normative expectations for responsible fisheries and aquaculture as laid out in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the other relevant global norms.

- APFIC can assist in identifying technical assistance capacity building with members to implement the CCRF.
- In this regard, capacity building in the institutionalization and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) are the vehicles for promoting strengthened implementation of the CCRF.
- Promote the development of training courses and training opportunities in EAF and EAA.
- Promote strengthened ability to undertake assessments of fisheries and aquaculture for management improvement including encouragement of better management/co-management recognition and certification schemes.
- Support to regional inputs to the development of international guidelines and instruments (particularly pertaining to small-scale fisheries and issues relevant to the APFIC region).

APFIC Secretariat has sought to develop a coordinated Regional Technical Cooperation Programme¹³ to support the above capacity building efforts in member countries. Whilst there is no specific donor support to an overall programme of capacity for the region, APFIC Secretariat and FAO have been able to coordinate a number of regional level technical projects which in combination have been able to support capacity building activities in the above area.

Other key areas for facilitating technical assistance would target areas which directly relate to the overall function of improving responsible fisheries and facilitating member countries in according to their international/regional obligations and the agreements which are currently emerging in the region. APFIC will also assist Members with planning for implementation of the following:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in particular Articles 61 through 64, 116-119 and 123

¹² APFIC Agreement, Article IV (e), (f).

¹³ APFIC Agreement, Article IV (d).

- United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 'Compliance Agreement'
- The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries & the SEAFDEC Regional Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Article 7 in particular)
 - o FAO International Plans of Action for the management of Fishing Capacity
 - o FAO International Plans of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
 - o IPOA for 'Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries
- The ASEAN Agreement and ASEAN/SEAFDEC Resolution and Action plan (June 2011)
- Implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement to Combat IUU Fishing

In the field of aquaculture, whilst there are no global agreements beyond the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Article 9 (Aquaculture Development) there are a number of initiatives and issues which have been identified by the COFI Sub-committee on Aquaculture and APFIC itself. APFIC will therefore be working closely with member countries to promote the following:

- Improving the information, zoning and regulatory frameworks for sustainable aquaculture.
- Promotion of Better Management Practices in aquaculture and aquaculture certification.
- Regional support to improving understanding of the viability of aquaculture feeds for marine fish culture.
- Strengthening regional cooperation in transboundary disease and movements of aquatic animals (in cooperation with NACA).

There are some specific ongoing developments in these areas regarding which APFIC is committed to provide support/facilitation to its relevant members. APFIC Secretariat foresees that these initiatives will benefit from APFIC involvement in areas of which APFIC is specifically competent to support commissioned studies/reviews or facilitate workshops and meetings.

- Improved monitoring of implementation of the CCRF¹⁴
- Assisting members with developing NPOA's
- Training on implementation of improved port state measures (regional workshops with FAO headquarters technical assistance)
- Fishery legislation development and legal reviews of the various needs for regional fisheries arrangements
- Fisheries "visioning" workshops to develop longer term strategic vision of fisheries and their management
- Support to specific fishery assessments and information for improved management, including improved management of resources or fish meal and feeds
- Inventory of APFIC member countries Vessel Registration systems (FAO/IMO global fishing vessel registry project)
- The social issues (labour, migration, gender) relating to effective fisheries management and the implications these on management measures and regional initiatives.
- Other studies identified by APFIC during Executive Committee meeting and session.

¹⁴ Recommended by the Seventy-third Session of APFIC Executive Committee

The financing for this technical assistance is highly dependent on the identification of extra-budgetary funding since APFIC's core operation budget is wholly committed to the activities identified as part of the themes covered under the Regional Consultative Forum.

APFIC'S COORDINATION ROLE WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Communication and coordination are key roles of the APFIC Secretariat,¹⁵ as well as an important role as an FAO Regional Office for fisheries. In this regard the APFIC Secretariat acts as an FAO/APFIC liaison RFB's and relevant regional organizations, on a regular or *ad hoc* basis.¹⁶ Regular contacts with these organizations as a participant or observer in their Governing Bodies allows the work programme of APFIC and FAO in the APFIC regional to be effectively communicated and for synergies to be captured. It also offers the opportunity to communicate areas of mutual interest and also where there may be potential overlaps.

Regional economic cooperation

APFIC has worked with both ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF); and the BIMSTEC Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries. More recently additional contacts have been made with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

APFIC can also engage with APEC, however this will tend to be an *ad hoc* basis as the activities of APEC often take place in other regions. When APEC activities are initiated in the APFIC region and where they are in line with the APFIC strategic plan or APFIC recommendations, the Secretariat will seek to engage with APEC lead shepherd to seek cooperation.

Non-governmental organizations

APFIC also engages with international and regional, Non-governmental and Civil Society Organizations¹⁷ as part of an effort to improve the linkages and understanding of grass roots issues, environmental management, advocacy, particularly where related to small-scale fishers, and coastal or rural poor.

¹⁵ APFIC Agreement, Article VII

¹⁶ Including: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA); Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); Mekong River Commission (MRC); The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES); ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF); BIMSTEC Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries; Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asian and Pacific Region (INFOFISH); Bay of Bengal Programme Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO); WorldFish Centre; International Labour Organization (ILO); Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); IUCN.

¹⁷ Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP); International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF); WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF).

FOURTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING

“Improving management and governance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific”

Da Nang, Viet Nam, xx-xx September 2012

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| Day 1 | xx/xx September 2012 |
| 08.00 – 09.00 | Registration |
| 09.00 – 09.30 | <p>Opening ceremony (separate detailed programme)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welcome remarks by the APFIC Chairman, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) – Address by the Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries Department (or his Representative) – Opening speech by the Minister, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) |
| Theme 1 | Regional status overview of fisheries and aquaculture |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | <p>Status and potential of fisheries in the sub-regions of Asia <i>APFIC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i> <i>Covers resource assessments (from workshop), offshore resources workshop, status and trends in fisheries of the region.</i></p> |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | <p>Status and trends of aquaculture in the sub-regions of Asia <i>APFIC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></p> |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | <p>Forum arrangements Presentation by the APFIC Secretary</p> |
| 10.45 – 11.15 | Morning tea/coffee |
| Theme 2 | Regional initiatives promoting improved assessments for strengthening management |
| 11.15 – 11.45 | <p>Using assessments to inform management of fisheries and aquaculture in the APFIC region Results of the APFIC Regional consultative workshop <i>Paper/presentation prepared by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i> <i>Presented by workshop-hosting member country representative</i></p> |
| 11.45 – 12.15 | <p>The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem – RFMAC <i>Prepared by BOBLME, presented by an APFIC Member</i></p> |
| 12.15 – 12.30 | Discussion |
| 12.30 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 14.30 | <p>IFFO improves scheme and SFP pelagics assessments/trash fish <i>Understanding the management and demand for small pelagics, responsible fishmeal</i></p> |

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| 14.30 – 15.00 | REBYC II <i>Improving management in trawl fisheries , reducing bycatch</i> |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Transboundary cooperation and dialogue – making it work <i>MRC/Wetlands Alliance</i> Assessments in inland fisheries <i>MRC</i> |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Afternoon tea/coffee |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | Country experiences improving management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fisheries management – marine or inland – Aquaculture management – Environmental assessments – Governance – How is it being implemented? <i>Brief (10 minutes) presentations from APFIC Members 60 minutes</i> |
| 17.00 – 17.30 | Aquaculture models – zoning, EIA, IRA <i>Country case studies for APFIC Members – Miao Weimin</i> |
| Day 2 | xx September 2012 |
| 09.00 – 10.30 | Country experiences with improving management (cont.) <i>Brief (10 minutes) presentations from APFIC Members 90 minutes</i> |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Morning tea/coffee |
| Theme 3 | Adaptation and mitigation of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Implications for fisheries and aquaculture <i>Overview of climate issues in fisheries and aquaculture (SF-S/Rudi Hermes)</i> |
| 11.30 – 12.00 | APFIC Climate change action plans in APFIC member countries (workshop outcome) <i>FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, presented by hosting member country</i> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | RFLP regional synthesis – strategies for improving resilience in coastal communities <i>RFLP Project team</i> |
| 12.30 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| Theme 4 | Capacity building for implementation of the CCRF |
| 14.00 – 14.30 | Training and capacity building in ecosystem approach to fishery management <i>BOBLME/US-CTI/APFIC EAF training course</i> |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | ASEAN Resolution and fish to 2020 <i>SEAFDEC/ASEAN</i> |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Afternoon tea/coffee |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Recognizing local management – rewarding good governance and participation through a regional recognition scheme <i>RFLP/APFIC/co-management recognition scheme</i> |

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| 16.00 – 16.30 | Progress towards an instrument for SSF – its importance for fisheries in Asia region <i>FAO staff member</i> |
| 18.00 – 19.30 | Poster Session – country posters or exhibits on key issues that are being addressed by the Members <i>In conjunction with light buffet reception</i> |
| Day 3 | xx September 2012 |
| Theme 5 | Reporting on the country progress implementing the CCRF |
| 09.00 – 10.30 | Country progress on CCRF implementation <i>Reports from APFIC Members in response to APFIC questionnaire</i> |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Morning tea/coffee |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | Country progress on CCRF implementation (cont.) <i>Reports from APFIC Members in response to APFIC questionnaire</i> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | Discussion |
| 12.30 – 14.30 | Lunch |
| Final Session | Summary and recommendations for reporting to APFIC |
| 14.30 – 15.30 | Plenary discussion Summary and recommendations for APFIC |

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF APFIC

Da Nang, Viet Nam, xx-xx September 2012

| Day 1 | xx/xx September 2012 |
|---------------|---|
| 09.00 – 09.30 | <p>Opening ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welcome remarks by the Chairman and [title], APFIC Chairman, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam – Welcome remarks by the Secretary of APFIC – Opening speech by the Minister, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | <p>Inter-sessional activities of APFIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For information |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | <p>Report of the Seventy-third Executive Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For information and endorsement |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | <p>Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific Summary overview report of the outcomes of the Fourth APFIC RCFM</p> |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | <p>Country responses on implementation of previous APFIC recommendations action plans and CCRF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper on review of Member responses to CCRF implementation questionnaire and previous APFIC recommendations |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | <p>Assessment of fisheries and aquaculture to improve management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper plus relevant recommendations from RCFM |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | <p>Report of the Bay of Bengal LME RFMAC to APFIC session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | <p>A pilot co-management recognition scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper plus relevant recommendations from RCFM |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | <p>Regional opportunities and needs for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper plus relevant recommendations from RCFM |

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| Day 2 | xx/xx September 2012 |
| 09.00 – 10.00 | Emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper on emerging and ongoing issues on fisheries and aquaculture |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Strengthening APFIC and the APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For discussion – Working paper on APFIC strategic plan 2012-2018 |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | Major issues for APFIC focus of work in subsequent biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Working paper on two new themes for APFIC |
| 14.00 – 17.00 | Other matters Election of officers Date and place of Thirty-third Session |
| Day 3 | xx/xx September 2012 |
| 08.00 – 12.00 | Field trip (TBA) |
| 14.00 – 16.00 | Adoption of report |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | Closing of the session |

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ISBN 978-92-5-107057-4



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I2453E/1/11.11