



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Muscat, Oman, 3-5 October 2010

UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2011-2013 IN RELATION TO WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

1. The third meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Doha, Qatar, 20-22 October 2009) reviewed the outcomes of the fifth session of RECOFI's (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-14 May 2009) programme of work and budget for the 2009-2010 biennium in relation to the work of the WGFM. This paper builds on that review with the goal of developing a coherent and forward looking set of activities to be implemented in the 2011-2013 biennium, consistent with the terms of reference for the WGFM and within the framework of the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a work plan. For ease of reference the terms of reference for the WGFM are in Appendix 1. They were amended, and then approved, by the fifth session of the Commission.

2. The purpose of this paper is to (i) consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM, (ii) review and update, as appropriate, the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan, (iii) consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2011-2013, and (iv) consider the frequency of meetings for the WGFM.

STATUS OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

3. At its fifth session the Commission either approved or postponed activities submitted for consideration by the WGFM. Except for an activity relating to the integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI Area that was agreed by the Commission, all other activities approved have been undertaken.¹ As a consequence of funding becoming available in 2010, it is anticipated that the activity on the integration of catch and effort data will be commenced in late 2010 and be completed prior to the sixth session of RECOFI in May 2011.

4. Activities that were postponed by the Commission because of a lack of funding should be reconsidered at the fourth meeting of the WGFM to determine whether they remain a priority for the WGFM's work programme. New activities, as appropriate might also be added.

5. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the WGFM activities that were approved for implementation or which were postponed by the Commission at its fifth session.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING A WORKPLAN

Consideration of progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM

6. Progress with the implement of approved activities is proceeding as planned. Funding for the integration of catch and effort data has been secured and a report will be available for the sixth session of the Commission. Unfortunately, because of the RECOFI meeting cycle and the non-availability of funds earlier in the biennium to finance this activity, the WGFM will not have opportunity to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Commission. However, Members will have access to the report before the session and would be expected to, comment substantively on it when the Commission considers it in May 2011.

Review and update, as appropriate, the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan

7. The Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan were considered in detail and agreed by the WGFM at its second meeting (Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 October 2008). They were endorsed by the fifth session of the Commission. Subsequently, at its third meeting the WGFM updated the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities to reflect RECOFI decisions and to incorporate new initiatives proposed by the WGFM.

8. To ensure that the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities (Appendix 3) reflect current regional fisheries needs, the WGFM should, in a stepwise approach:

- review the Strategy and assess if it remains adequate;
- consider the seven prioritized objectives to determine if they require amendment (note: that the Secretariat has proposed some amendments essentially to improve drafting);
- assess the regional activities under the prioritized objectives to evaluate if they require amendment (note: that the Secretariat has proposed some amendments to improve drafting);

¹ Activities completed include the workshop on stock status reporting and the third meeting on the WGFM. The joint activity between the WGFM and WFA on red tides was cancelled so as to avoid duplication with activities by other organizations in the RECOFI Area. The other joint activity, on GIS, will be undertaken in October 2010.

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- agree on regional projects, target implementation dates and locations for projects;
 - indicate tentative funding requirements (in US dollars) and if possible, a funding source;
 - after agreeing on projects, rank them according to regional priority, and
 - indicate the major outputs for each project.

9. An important aspect of the review of the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities is to provide a forward-looking approach to the work of the WGFM. While one of the primary purposes of the review process is to develop a solid set of recommended projects for submission to the sixth session of the Commission for consideration for implementation in the 2011-2013 biennium, a longer-term review of activities and projects will assist in ensuring that there is coherency and sequential linkages between activities and biennia.

10. For the first time the WGFM will consider making a Recommendation to the Commission on Minimum Data Reporting in the RECOFI Area (RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/4). The implementation of this Recommendation, if it is endorsed by the WGFM and the Commission, will have implications for the work of WGFM. Work associated with this Recommendation should be incorporated into the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities.

11. A further consideration for the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities are the recommendations stemming from the report of the independent consultant who was engaged by the Secretariat to undertake a technical review of RECOFI. The recommendations and outcomes of this review were discussed at the Special Meeting on RECOFI Consolidation and Development (Rome, Italy, 12-14 May 2010). However, it was agreed that Members would review the report in their countries and provide written comments on each of the eight points raised in (RECOFI:2010/2) to the Secretariat before 30 September 2010. The Secretariat in turn would collate and analyse the national responses to develop a paper and recommendations for consideration and decision at the sixth session of the Commission (RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/3). For this reason it would be premature to incorporate the report's recommendations into the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities. This task can be undertaken after the sixth session of the Commission and prior to the next meeting of the WGFM.

Consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2011-2013

12. The WGFM should propose a list of activities to be undertaken between the sixth and seventh sessions of the Commission. The list of activities should be realistic and achievable, build on past activities to the extent that is possible and promote RECOFI's strategic goals with respect to fisheries management. The activities need also to be costed accurately and timelines indicated so that their budget implications can be assessed and work programmed in a systematic and orderly manner. Where possible, if an activity is to be implemented with extra-budgetary support, this support should be indicated.

13. A format for the activities that the WGFM may wish to propose to the Commission for approval is in Appendix 4. Activities that were postponed by the Commission at its last session should be considered in this process.

FREQUENCY OF WGFM MEETINGS

14. The WGFM is scheduled to meet once each biennium. In the last biennium the WGFM has met twice in order to reorientate its focus of work (i.e. broaden its focus from statistics to fisheries management) and to recover from several years of inactivity. Normally regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, such as RECOFI, meet annually in general session. This is done to ensure that there is a high level of effective control over the work of the Commission. Working groups, working parties, sub-committees etc often meet more frequently than once a year (e.g. twice annually).

15. An increase in the frequency of meetings for the WGFM has logistical considerations for the Secretariat and financial implications for the Commission and its Members. It would be prudent to consider these issues before making a recommendation to the Commission, if that is the desire of the WGFM.

16. On the other hand, there would be considerable merit in having the WGFM meet on an annual basis (i.e. twice in each biennium). An increase in the frequency of meetings would enhance the WGFM's supervision over its work programme, enabling decisions to be taken more rapidly if and when required. More frequent meetings in fisheries management would raise the profile of the Commission and its work.

17. It might be noted that the RECOFI Working Group on Aquaculture meets annually and annual meeting for the WGFM would standardize meetings for both Working Groups.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

18. The Working Group is invited to:

- consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM;
- review and update, as appropriate, the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan;
- consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2011-2013, including regional projects, target implementation dates, location, indicative costing, ranking and major outputs,
- consider the frequency of meetings for the WGFM.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT²

Adopted as amended³

The Working Group on Fisheries Management shall, taking into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments, as appropriate:

1. Exercise the role and functions conferred on the Working Group by RECOFI including the consideration of biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects of fisheries conservation and management with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of resources in the region, and
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to RECOFI. Specifically, the Working Group on Fisheries Management shall:
 - Review the state of fisheries, including the state of resources, making recommendations for appropriate research and development activities in support of effective management and sustainable fisheries, as well as the rebuilding of stocks.
 - Review on a regular basis national statistical systems and outturns, as appropriate, to enhance and harmonize fisheries data on a regional basis.
 - Formulate recommendations for the implementation of conservation and management measures that will be applied in conformity with the precautionary approach to fisheries, taking account of the best scientific evidence available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of fisheries resources.
 - Assess the need for harmonized conservation and management measures on a scientific basis and formulate recommendations as appropriate, including to but not limited to:
 - regulate fishing methods and fishing gear;
 - prescribe minimum sizes for particular species;
 - establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas;
 - implement marine protected areas;
 - regulate bycatch and discards;
 - prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - manage fishing capacity;
 - regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members; and
 - market-based measures.
 - Identify major fishery-related issues and emerging trends for fisheries management practice, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for follow-up action.

² The terms of reference incorporate relevant aspects of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments as well as the fisheries management provision of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. They are forward looking in character, adaptable and able to deal with emerging issues in fisheries. They are intended to be a “living document” that can be reviewed and amended by the Working Group to take account of changing fisheries conditions.

³ Fifth session of RECOFI, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-14 May 2009.

- Identify and apply, as appropriate, a set of regionally-agreed indicators for sustainable fisheries development.
- Promote closer regional cooperation and collaboration in fisheries conservation and management, including through coordinated and harmonized policies and programmes relating to fisheries legislation, acceptance and implementation of international fisheries instruments, adoption of fisheries and management measures and monitoring, control and surveillance including vessels monitoring systems.
- Monitor and report on adverse impacts induced by human-made activities on fisheries and their long-term sustainable management and utilization, as appropriate, and make recommendations concerning remedial measures and action.
- Encourage human capacity building and institutional strengthening and enhance extension services in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management and utilization, including making recommendations for appropriate regional programmes.
- Assemble, publish and disseminate information concerning the state of the region's fisheries.
- Promote collaboration with other regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the sustainable fisheries management and utilization in the region.
- Undertake other activities relating to fisheries management considered important and appropriate by the Working Group or as directed by RECOFI.

3. The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time to time and make recommendations for their amendment, as appropriate, to RECOFI.

Appendix 2

**RECOFI WGFM ACTIVITIES APPROVED AND POSTPONED BY THE COMMISSION
FOR THE 2009–2011 BIENNIUM**

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration	Indicative cost (USD)	Status⁴
Fisheries Management	Fourth WGFM meeting	3-5 October 2010	Oman			Approved
Joint fisheries management and aquaculture	Geographical Information System and spatial tools applications for capture fishery and aquaculture	24-28 October 2010	Qatar		30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area	2010/2011	RECOFI countries	TBD	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Review of national fisheries programmes	2009	RECOFI countries	TBD	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Workshop on RECOFI fisheries economics	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Training workshop on fishery resources appraisal	2010/2011	TBD	4 days	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Pilot joint assessment of shared stocks	2011	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed

⁴ Approved or postponed by the Fifth session of RECOFI, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-14 May 2009

**UPDATED RECOFI REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING A
WORKPLAN⁵**

STRATEGY: Promotion of sound and effective regional fisheries governance by:

- ensuring that fisheries are exploited and utilized in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner,
- ensuring that fisheries generate maximum social and economic benefits for RECOFI countries, and
- ensuring that ecosystem considerations are incorporated into conservation and management decisions.

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
1. To implement effective fisheries management through regional cooperation and harmonization, including shared stocks and fisheries of common interest, based on the ecosystem approach	Awareness building about the need for effective fisheries management (e.g. publications, media, etc)				
	Development and implementation of information system to support regional fisheries management plans	Preparatory exercise for implementation of minimum data requirements (Follow-up to Iran Workshop)	20 000 (Source: TBI)		Initial data set to be incorporated into regional database
		Establishment and maintenance of a regional database to support management of major fisheries	Cost to be determined (Source: TBI ⁶)		Regional database
		Review of national fisheries monitoring programmes	40 000 (Source: TBI)		

⁵ Updated September 2010

⁶ TBI= to be identified

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	Development and implementation of agreed management scope, operational objectives and conservation measures (e.g. closed areas, seasons, restrictions on species and sizes)	Regional fisheries management plan	15 000 (Source: TBI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fisheries management plan ▪ Harmonization and cooperation to strengthen management
	Assessment and implementation of fishing capacity reduction programmes				
	Implementation of the precautionary approach to fisheries when conditions are uncertain				
	Implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems (based on agreement at WGF3 whereby a feasibility review of options was to be undertaken)	Project to implement a regional MCS network	15 000 (Source: TBI)		Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region
		Project to implement regionally VMS: phase 1 to ascertain feasibility	30 000 (Source: TBI)		Report with recommendations and options concerning the implementation of regional VMS
		Annual regional meeting of MCS officers to exchange information of common interest and consider the possibility of promoting a harmonized regional MCS approach	15 000 (Source: TBI)		Strengthened approach to addressing regional MCS problems through enhanced cooperation and harmonization of activities
	Implementation of measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including port States measures and flag State performance criteria (based on agreement at WGF3 whereby a feasibility review of options was to be undertaken)	Project to develop a regional database on fisheries violations	15 000 (Source: TBI)		Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region
		Project to establish a regional list of vessels authorized to fish by Members	15 000 (Source: TBI)		Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	Establishment of a regional scientific network for cooperative fisheries appraisals	Sharing plans, protocols and results of surveys, biological parameters and stock assessment results	15 000 (Source: TBI)		Regional scientific network intended to improve regional cooperation for fisheries of common concern
		Pilot joint assessment of kingfish	30 000 (Source: TBI)	Recommendations and options for the assessment of joint stocks	
		Pilot joint assessment of ecosystem impact of shrimp fisheries	30 000 (Source: TBI)		
2. To facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the capacity to implement management measures	Workshops, country attachments and other training opportunities to enhance human resource development	National applied training programme for fish data collectors for the identification of priority species	25 000 (Source: TBI)		Fish data collectors capable of identifying priority species
		Workshop on fishery resources appraisal	40 000 (Source: TBI)		
		Workshop on RECOFI fisheries economics	30 000 (Source: TBI)		
		Workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data	30 000 (Source: TBI)		
	Promotion of national and regional library and information resources to support fisheries management				
3. To promote good science to underpin decisions for fisheries	Promotion of applied research (related to biodiversity and conservation and management measures)				

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
management	Stock assessment to evaluate the status of stocks and development of management measures: follow-up to the October 2010 GIS Workshop				
4. To promote legal discussion and review and revise fisheries legislation to reflect policy and international commitments	Acceptance and implementation of international instruments				
5. To encourage the reduction of impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity	Promotion of bycatch and discards reduction (related to improve utilization)	A study to evaluate and promote options to improve utilization of bycatch and discards	15 000 (Source: TBI)		
	Implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries				
	Promotion of gear types to mitigate bycatch and ecosystem impacts	Evaluation and promotion of options of gear types with lower ecosystem impacts	15 000 (Source: TBI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced undesirable impact of fisheries on the ecosystem ▪ Greater responsibility and sustainability in fisheries
	Facilitation of practices to promote safety at sea				
	Promote improved post-harvest fish handling and food safety				
6. To reflect cultural and social values and economic consideration in fisheries management	Recognition of the cultural role played by fisheries especially in inshore areas and more isolated communities	Workshop on fishery economic performance, dynamics and trends	10 000 (Source: TBI)		Enhanced understanding of the economic dimensions of the fishing industry in the region with a view to the development of economic indicators

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	Promotion of fisheries activities to continue to support food security and nutrition				
	Collection and analysis of economic data and related information (e.g. employment, trade, value, cost of operations, losses due to poor handling, etc)				
	Promotion of responsible and sustainable fisheries development and value added activities (e.g. processing)				
	Implementation of measures to maintain the contribution of fisheries to livelihoods especially where alternative employment opportunities are limited				
7. To coordinate and promote information exchange and fish trade in the RECOFI Area	Promote better cooperation in regional fish trade	Implication of certification and related schemes to be investigated together with the relationship between IUU fishing and trade and the estimated value of IUU fishing in the region	20 000 (Source: TBI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understanding of impacts of certification and related schemes ▪ Assessment of the effects of IUU fishing on trade ▪ Estimation of the value of IUU fishing in the region
	Establish regional standards for fish exports and imports				

