



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
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l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Fifth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of), 9-12 October 2011

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF RECOFI

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this document is provide information to the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGF5) on the outcomes of the sixth session of Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) that was held in Rome, Italy, from 10 to 12 May 2011.

BACKGROUND

2. RECOFI's sixth session was attended by 18 delegates from all RECOFI Member countries. Observers from Yemen and INFOSAMAK also attended. The Commission reviewed the work carried out since the fifth session in 2009 including RECOFI's administrative and financial reports; considered selected issues of particular relevance for the region, such as fish stock status reporting and trends of fisheries production, aquaculture development prospective, regional strategy for spatial planning for marine fisheries and aquaculture; addressed the functioning of the Commission including its consolidation and development and adopt the work programme for biennium 2011-2012.

MAIN OUTCOMES AND DECISIONS

3. The main outcomes of the session and decisions taken by the Commission were the following:

- The Commission Members **recognized** that regional dialogue had been facilitated through Commission activities that had helped Members identify national and regional actions required to move forward with the adoption of regulations and policies to support the sustainable management of shared fisheries resources and development of the aquaculture sector;
- The Commission **acknowledged** the comprehensive financial report concerning RECOFI's work over the 2009-2010 biennium and **noted** the significant FAO Regular Programme contributions to support RECOFI's work;
- The Commission **agreed** that capacity development remained a critical issue in the region and this was essential to enable fisheries personnel to promote policies aimed at facilitating long-term sustainability including the adoption of the ecosystem approach to fisheries;

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- The Commission **recognized** that the establishment of the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) was a significant accomplishment;
 - The Commission **endorsed** the FAO/RECOFI regional strategy on spatial planning for marine capture fisheries and aquaculture and **decided**, within available resources, to provide the necessary support for follow-up action for the strategy's implementation;
 - The Commission **adopted** its first fisheries management recommendation, RECOFI/6/2011/1, entitled "*Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area*". In accordance with Article V of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries, the Commission **agreed** that the recommendation would take effect on 1 January 2012;
 - The Commission **endorsed** the findings and outcomes of the Special Meeting on RECOFI Consolidation and Development (Rome, 11–12 May 2010);
 - The Commission **concurred** that many fisheries management and developmental challenges faced RECOFI. Members were calling upon the Commission more frequently to undertake additional work and for this reason it was necessary to reconsider the annual contributions paid;
 - The Commission **noted** that the current level of Members contributions was only sufficient to fund the implementation of a limited number of priority activities, and **resolved** that additional funds would be required if a more ambitious work programme was to be implemented;
 - In considering options considered by the Special Meeting on RECOFI Consolidation and Development, the Commission **decided** to continue applying fixed and equal contribution for Members, and **agreed** on a three-fold increase (i.e. from USD 5000 to USD 15 000) of the Members' annual contributions from 2013 provided that all arrears were liquidated by 31 December 2011;
 - The Commission **approved** a workplan for the next intersessional period and agreed to support activities focusing on: capacity development for aquaculture and fisheries spatial planning and management; stock status reporting; implementation of minimum data requirements and establishment of a regional database and information network to support management of major fisheries; development of regional management plans with agreed operational objectives and measures for fisheries management; pilot joint assessment of the shared stock of kingfish; fisheries socio-economic appraisal; risk analysis in aquaculture; environmental monitoring in cage aquaculture; and maintenance and development of the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS).
 - The **Seventh Session of RECOFI** will be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the second week of May 2013.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

4. The Working Group is invited to consider and comment on the outcomes of the Sixth Session of RECOFI, with particular consideration to the implications for the WGFM work to be implemented during the intersession period.