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Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Twentieth Session

Rabat, Morocco 14 – 16 March 2012

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Nineteenth Session held in Cotonou, Benin, from 4 to 6 November 2008, the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) made some recommendations for the Secretariat and Members. This document reviews these recommendations and actions undertaken. Numbers of relevant paragraphs of the Report of the Nineteenth Session are in brackets.

II. ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

2. The Committee recommended that CECAF Secretariat facilitates the formulation of regional plans of action on combating IUU fishing. (Paragraph 13)

In 2009 the Fishery Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was assisted by FAO to develop its regional plan on combating IUU fishing and to seek funds for its implementation. The FCWC Secretary-General present at this meeting could give more information on recent developments.

3. The need of ownership of the approach was emphasized and Members requested assistance in capacity building and strengthening of research structures. (Paragraph 15)

Through the EAF-Nansen project, which is the main vehicle for providing support from FAO for the implementation of an EAF management in Africa, several activities have been supported and initiated in recent years in the CECAF region concerning capacity building for EAF, including development partnerships with Universities, management planning and implementation and ecosystem surveys and assessments. In addition some activities have been initiated in 2010 in collaboration with the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project. More details of the EAF activities will be provided during the presentation on the outcomes of the Sixth Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) Session and interventions by the EAF-Nansen and CCLME project Coordinators, if necessary.

4. Many members requested FAO's assistance in improving resources evaluation and improving data collection. (Paragraph 16)

Following a request from CECAF to assist its member States with the implementation of the FAO Strategy-STF, a couple of activities supported by SIDA were implemented by FAO FishCode-STF, including sub-regional workshops and working groups, national frame surveys and pilot studies, and a regional training course. Delegates from FCWC and COREP member States could share with the Committee any improvement of resources evaluation and data collection in their respective countries following the implementation of FAO FishCode-STF activities.

5. The Members were encouraged to participate in the formulation and implementation of instruments and plans; implement the provisions of those instruments and be active in subregional and regional arrangements that work to implement these international instruments. (Paragraph 21)

Delegates are requested to inform the Committee on the last developments in their respective countries to address these issues.

III. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

6. The members of the working group have been requested to prepare a working paper on this issue at the next meeting of the working group. (Paragraph 26)

At the sixth SSC Session, the Demersal Working Group North recommended that the managers and politicians be made aware of the sharp decline of demersal stocks in their countries so that they can apply the recommendations made by the working group. The presentation on the CECAF performance review during this session (Item 5 of the meeting agenda) will be an opportunity to engage managers present at the meeting in discussions on the serious state of the demersal resources and learn of their expectations on management advice from scientists.

7. The SSC and its working groups also strive to improve the advice given and welcomed feedback on whether or not the advice provided is sufficient for managers to take decision and if it is transmitted in a useful way. (Paragraph 30)

It was agreed at the Sixth SSC Session to propose a new format for the reports of the assessment working groups and to review the publication procedures for the working group reports to shorten the publication period. The issue of improving advice given by the SSC should be addressed during discussions on the CECAF performance review and managers could share with the Committee their feedback on advice provided and the way to transmit the advice.

8. The importance of carrying out additional studies such as eggs and larvae surveys which could facilitate predictions and to incorporate environmental parameters was also raised by some members. (Paragraph 32)

Specific monitoring activities were conducted in the CECAF region to follow the evolution of ichthyoplankton in relation to environmental parameters. Some studies were recently conducted in Spain using historical information to look at this issue in

relation to Octopus stocks along the Moroccan and Mauritanian coasts. The delegate of Spain could give more information to the Committee.

9. Several members reiterated the importance of concerted management for shared stocks and that managers from the different countries concerned should agree on a sharing scheme for these stocks. (Paragraph 33)

An important work started with the CCLME project in April 2010. Countries of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem were assisted to address this issue. During his presentation to this meeting, the Regional Project Coordinator will inform the Committee of various activities carried out in the CCLME area in close collaboration with participating countries and partners.

10. The Committee suggested carrying out an analysis of how to improve implementation of the recommendations made in the context of policies for fisheries management. (Paragraph 34)

This issue will be part of discussions on the CECAF Performance review (Item 5 of the meeting agenda).

IV. PROPOSAL FOR A REVISION OF THE CECAF-FAO FISHING AREA 34 STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

11. The Committee recommended organizing an ad hoc working group, which should be held as a side event at the next meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee, to discuss emerging statistical issues, with the following terms of reference:

- clarification on reporting to FAO for both the global and CECAF capture databases;
- brief study information included in the CECAF capture database to examine availability and continuity of data series for major fishery resources at the national level;
- discussion on the proposal (as presented in CECAF/XIX/2008/4) for a revision of the CECAF-FAO Fishing Area 34 statistical divisions to provide advice on this issue to the next CECAF session. (Paragraph 40)

The proposal for the revision of the CECAF statistical divisions presented at the Sixth SSC Session was turned down. The SSC recommended the incorporation of a more detailed catch location in catch statistics submitted to FAO and that all countries which fished in the CECAF area outside their own national jurisdiction should also specify the EEZ in which their catches occurred instead of reporting only data from the statistical division. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics and Information Service will later examine the way to implement this recommendation and advise member countries on providing catch data accordingly.

V. FIRMS OWNERSHIP

12. The Committee recommended that the presented approach be further disseminated at national level to improve understanding of it. It was agreed that the Scientific sub-Committee be active in promoting understanding of the approach. (Paragraph 44)

The CECAF-FIRMS workshop, held in Accra in December 2009, enabled capacity building, enhancement of the Global Inventory guidelines and agreements on regionally shared conventions for fifteen countries of the region. At its sixth session the Scientific Sub-Committee agreed that another capacity building regional workshop in the short term was not necessary and that priority be given to publication of the first version of the inventory. The appointment of the Chairperson of the SSC as the FIRMS focal point for the CECAF region will help to ensure and represent the CECAF Corporate ownership, and keep the Scientific Sub-Committee and the FIRMS Steering Committee informed of reciprocal developments. The SSC Chairperson and vice-Chairperson who attended the seventh FIRMS Steering Committee (Rome, Italy, December 2011) will provide more information during the presentation of FIRMS activities in the region (Item 6 of the meeting agenda).

VI. SHARED SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN NORTH-WEST CECAF REGION: OUTCOME OF THE CASABLANCA SMALL PELAGICS SYMPOSIUM (MARCH 2008)

13. The participants encouraged regional and sub-regional bodies to continue reflecting on these issues. (Paragraph 49)

Representatives of regional and sub-regional bodies at the meeting are requested to inform the Committee of initiatives developed on harmonizing management and development approaches and facilitating agreements on shared stocks. The CCLME Regional Project Coordinator could also give more information on activities implemented to address these issues in his project area.

VII. REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING CECAF

14. However, it was recommended to prioritize the planned activities, taking into account existing initiatives in the region, and to specify in detail the role of the different stakeholders in the process. (Paragraph 53)

As the project proposal was to be submitted to the the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for funding, the elements were subsequently proposed for integration in the Programme in support of the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (GCP/RAF/463/MUL). This programme is a partnership between FAO, SIDA, NEPAD and African countries. It is in its inception phase, with a possible duration of five years, including the completed 2011 inception phase. The presentation of this project at the meeting will provide more information to member countries on its envisaged implementation.

15. Most members emphasized the urgency of a strong involvement of the Ministry in charge of the Economy and Finance in their respective countries in making the sector more visible through dissemination of updated information on the real contribution of the sector to economic and social development of the concerned country. (Paragraph 56)

Delegates are requested to inform the Committee of initiatives undertaken or planned to involve the Ministry in charge of the Economy and Finance in their respective countries.

16. It was requested that the Secretariat contacts donors, including Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs) in the region, to finance the proposed CECAF project. (Paragraph 57)

As said previously the project proposal is now part of the Programme in support of the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (GCP/RAF/463/MUL).

VIII. GLOBAL EMERGING ISSUES IN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT RELEVANT TO THE REGION

17. The Committee suggested a link between global emerging issues and the project proposal being formulated to reinforce the capacity of CECAF. It also recommended that the collaboration between CECAF and the regional and subregional fishery bodies in the region be strengthened. (Paragraph 62)

The link developed by the Programme in support of the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (GCP/RAF/463/MUL) with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) will facilitate integration between the RFBs, including CECAF on one hand, and between the RECs and RFBs on another hand in the different regions.

IX. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE CYCLE FOR THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES INVESTMENT FUND FOR LMEs IN AFRICA

18. In order to address the inherent uncertainties in an unclear environment, it was suggested for countries to define the potential natural, human and insitutional risks in their formulation of projects. In as much as the presentation focused on national projects, it was suggested for countries to formulate sub-regional projects that will cover common questions of countries and ones that are specific to respective countries. (Paragraph 65)

Delegates from eligible countries on the Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund for LMEs in Africa (Word Bank / GEF) are requested to inform the Committee of the design and implementation process of projects in their countries. This can be completed by the contribution of RFBs.

X. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE

19. The Committee is requested to take note of progress made and to make appropriate recommendations.

20. The Committee could also discuss actions taken at national level on recommendations made to member governments.