

**Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission,  
a new Article XIV Regional Fishery Body under the FAO Constitution**



The FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC) with support from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs) Development Law Service (LEG) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division (FIP) and the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), organized since 2008 a number of regional intergovernmental and technical meetings on fisheries and aquaculture. Some of the Governments in the sub-region recognized the need for regional collaboration in fisheries and aquaculture and requested

FAO to support a meeting on the possibilities for regional collaboration. In response SEC technically assisted a first intergovernmental meeting (Dushanbe meeting) on this subject, hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in November 2008.

The Dushanbe Meeting received follow-up from three Regional Intergovernmental Meetings (held in Trabzon, Turkey, June 2009 and November 2010 and in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyzstan June 2011) and two Steering Committee meetings (held in Ankara, Turkey, March 2009 and Istanbul, Turkey, February 2010). Each meeting was attended by 7 to 12 official delegations representing the following countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, People's Republic China, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Ukraine. Having evaluated the various options for regional collaboration available, the countries requested in July 2009 the FAO Director General to support the establishment of a new article XIV body under the FAO Constitution.

The eighty-eighth session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) reviewed in September 2009 the draft Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission as endorsed by the Trabzon meeting (June 2009) and forwarded it for approval by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Thirty Seventh Session. The Agreement got approved by the Council at that session on 1 October 2009 through Resolution No 1/137 under Article XIV, paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution.

In December 2009 the Director General of FAO sent the Agreement and related information on the instrument of acceptance to the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, People's Republic China, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Ukraine.

In 2010 Governments of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia have deposited their instruments of acceptance of the Agreement with the Director-General of FAO. The Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission came into force on 3 December 2010. Following Turkey's membership to Commission in December 2011, the number of CACFish Member States raised to four.

The Inaugural Session, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 19 to 21 December 2011, encouraged Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to expedite their national processes of acceptance.



The Inaugural Session of the CACFish was held in 19-21 December 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey

**CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS REGIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE  
COMMISSION**

**INAUGURAL MEETING**

**Istanbul , Turkey 19-21 December 2011**

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/sec/CACFish/2011/default.htm>