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Naciones
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

APFIC Regional Expert Workshop on Tropical Trawl Fishery Management

30 September - 4 October 2013, Phuket, Thailand

Prospectus & agenda

Background to the expert workshop

The 32nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission strongly highlighted the issues associated with trawl fisheries in the region and agreed to take trawl fisheries as a model through which to directly address the management of trawling and indirectly to build capacity in fishery and ecosystem management approaches .

The 4th Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) of APFIC suggested that the Asia-Pacific region should develop a regional vision for more effective management of the trawl sector. This regional vision, would seek to balance the demand for fish for human consumption (e.g. fresh/frozen and surimi) and feeds for aquaculture, with the need to sustain ecosystem functions in the marine fishery and improve capture fishery quality. Addressing this challenge will require approaches relating to spatial management, better assessment of fisheries, innovative gear approaches and, importantly, how multi-gear multi-species fisheries can be managed in way that yields catch from multiple trophic levels and segments of the fishery (“balanced harvest”).

APFIC has identified regional outcomes for the enhancement of the marine capture fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region, including ways to reduce bycatch and improve trawl management. The key outcomes identified by the RCFM on trawl-management and by-catch reduction were:

- Trawl fishery risk-based assessment method developed and available.
- Best practice advice for trawl management available.
- Reduction of trawl by-catch (REBYC II regional outcome).
- Reduction of juvenile catches prioritized over reduction of total effort.
- The composition (species) and locations of capture of the low value and trash fish component needs to be more clearly elaborated.
- Ecosystem assessment methodology developed, used.
- Ecosystem indicators developed, used to monitor fisheries performance
- Private sector engaged with management (capture and post harvest) and driving responsible practice as a regular part of doing business.
- Co-management increasingly implemented as the principal management model for fisheries in the region, inclusive of large, medium and small-scale operators as well as women.

In addition, APFIC has noted that spatial and seasonal measures applied in fisheries should be assessed in terms of their fishery effects. The use of science-based approaches to the establishment of protected areas and artificial reefs was strongly encouraged. Science and

local knowledge should be used to determine key habitats or areas that should be protected/closed.

Key outcomes identified by the RCFM to enhance protected fisheries habitats were:

- Science-based management methods (which incorporate local knowledge) developed for MPA development, including evaluation of effectiveness for fisheries
- Science-based refugia/habitat-based spatial measures (including artificial reefs) for fisheries developed
- Seasonal or periodic fishing closures and other temporal measures developed based on scientific information and local knowledge.
- Key habitats (based on depth, spawning or nursery areas or sensitive habitats) are identified and integrated into fishery management plans
- Artificial reef construction follows science based planning and supports the separation of large and small scale-fishing operations.
- Fishery resources conservation areas are placed/aggregated so that they contribute to local stock recruitment and other fishery benefits

Outputs of the expert workshop

In order to attempt to address these recommendations within the current biennium of the APFIC work plan, will convene an APFIC ad hoc Expert Working Group on Trawl Fishery Management. The ad hoc expert working group will be tasked to deliver an output which would be relevant and usable by the member countries and the Commission.

The eventual product of the ad hoc expert working group will be regional guidance on strategies for the management of trawl fisheries in the tropical regions of the APFIC areas.

The target audience

The target audience for this guidance are fishery managers who are not necessarily highly trained but who nevertheless need concrete advice on options that are available to address typical issues concerning tropical trawl fisheries in developing countries. The guidance is also meant to be accessible to fisher associations and the general public.

Scope

The scope of these guidance covers:

- The range of typical management issues, problems and potential solutions in tropical trawl fisheries (especially, but not exclusively, those in developing countries).
- Partly related to bycatch from trawling (noting that many of the problems associated with trawling concern bycatch)
- But they also cover habitat impacts, ecosystem effects, IUU fishing, conflicts with other fishers, and
- the demand for trawl bycatch for aquaculture and agriculture.

Outline of the guidance

This proposed structure of the guidance will cover :

- SECTION 1: Background
- SECTION 2: Purpose
- SECTION 3: Scope, target audience and principles
- SECTION 4: Identifying and prioritizing key management issues
- SECTION 5: Management approaches to resolve identified issues
- SECTION 6: Information, science and assessment
- SECTION 7: Monitoring, compliance and surveillance
- SECTION 8: Capacity building
- SECTION 9: Developing Management Plans - including examples
- SECTION 10: Implementation

Key management areas which will be addressed in the guidance

Advice on the options and types of management interventions which a fishery management institution (at local scale or even national level) may be able to put in place to reduce the impacts and sustain benefits of trawl fisheries.

- Use of Productivity-Susceptibility Assessment approaches to establish priorities for management or mitigation of impacts
- Management and gear related methods to effectively reduce by catch of juveniles of commercial species and ecologically threatened species.
- Use of spatial and seasonal measures, to reduce conflicts between artisanal and industrial segments of the fisheries.
- How to limit interactions between trawling and other types of fishing gear.
- The potential contribution of protected areas, habitat enhancement and seasonal closures to more effective trawl management and how they would benefit from more science based approaches
- Options for reducing the impact on habitat and seabed from trawling, including inter-alia trawl exclusion zones (this links to the other measures above).
- Fishery management zoning and planning that separates the scales of fishing and mitigates impacts/conflicts (see trawl strategy above). The allocation and/or safeguarding of rights to resources, fishing zones,
- Policy coherence between fisheries and aquaculture

Timeline - Expert Workshop and development of the APFIC guidance document:

June – August

- Regional experts contacted and request to prepare case studies from their countries that cover the following key areas of trawl management.
- These will be used to advice specific management guidance and generally inform the advisory content of the APFIC trawl management guidance document. The thematic areas covered by the case examples are **presented in Annex 1.**

September 2013

- Regional experts submit their case studies to the APFIC Secretariat

- APFIC Secretariat circulates the first draft of the trawl management guidance document for review by the regional experts who will participate in the expert workshop
- Comments from the regional experts received by 25 September.

September 30 – 4 October 2013

- The agenda is presented in Annex 2
- Convene expert working group. The composition is to be determined but would include representatives from:
 - 1) APFIC overview fishery assessment workshop participants
 - 2) Regional trawl fishery and fishery improvement specialists
 - 3) Technical specialists associated with the FAO/SEAFDEC/GEF Strategies for Trawl Management Project (REBYC II)
 - 4) Resource persons previously associated with the Trawlbase project
 - 5) SEAFDEC Refugia project
 - 6) Specialists associated with the ex-South China Sea GEF project working group
 - 7) Specialists from relevant regional organizations

January 2014

Finalize report and collate guidelines for presentation to APFIC 33rd Session.

Annex 1: Country case examples will cover the following areas/issues:

Type of measure	Examples of how this may be applied
Spatial measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • zoning of trawling to avoid conflicts with other fisheries, • zoning to protect species and habitats (especially nursery grounds, river basins, seagrasses, mangroves) • zoning to allow trawling in productive areas • trawl exclusion obstacles
Temporal measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seasonal closures to avoid spawning and nursery times of key species • resting areas of high productivity in a shifting mosaic management schemes
Catch measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TACs, quota systems • Bycatch limits • Size limits (set at size of 50% sexual maturity)
Gear-related measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of low-impact, fuel-efficient gear • Designs of otter boards, sweeps, ground chains, foot ropes, etc. • mesh size • BRDs (grids and panels to reduce impacts on juveniles, TEPs, low-value species)
On-deck operational practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting catches in seawater • Revival and handling of TEPs (ETPs)
Policy measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity reduction schemes • fuel subsidies (plus linking these to compliance) • focus on MEY not MSY • Alternative management models (co-management, rights-based management) • use of bycatch to subsidize crew wages • incentives
Data collection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logbooks • catch documents, • port-based sampling, • Observer programs, • advanced technology (e.g. VMS, GPS, Electronic Monitoring)
MCS measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wheelhouse markings • vessel licensing, records and registers, • catch certification and reporting, logbooks • advanced technology (e.g. VMS, GPS, Electronic Monitoring) • Enforcement./compliance
Governance and communication processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • governance and committee structures and processes, • prioritization processes, • risk assessments • capacity building • communication, education and training systems

Annex 2: DRAFT AGENDA “APFIC Regional Expert Workshop on Tropical Trawl Fishery Management”

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION	
DRAFT AGENDA APFIC Regional Expert Workshop on Tropical Trawl Fishery Management Phuket, Thailand, 30 September-4 October 2013	
Day 1	30 September 2013
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:00	Opening Department of Fisheries, Thailand APFIC Secretariat
09:00-09:30	Background to the expert workshop - why we need trawl management guidance <i>Simon Funge-Smith, Secretary, Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission</i>
09:30-10:00	Morning Tea/coffee
10:00-10:15	Introduction to the expert workshop process <i>Simon Funge-Smith, Secretary, Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission</i>
10:15-10:30	Structure of the guidance document <i>Presentation by Steve Kennelly, APFIC consultant</i>
SECTIONS 1&2:	Background and Purpose
10:30-11:30	Short presentation of draft content Discussion of text Recommendations for amendment
SECTION 3:	Scope, target audience, and general principles
11:30-12:00	Short presentation of draft content Discussion of text Recommendations for amendment
12:00 -13:30	Lunch
SECTION 4:	Identifying and prioritizing key management issues
13:30-15:30	Short presentation of draft content Case studies of examples of key issues for various countries Theme: Trawl fisheries management issues and how to prioritize them <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples(10 minutes each)</i>
15:00-15:30	Afternoon tea/coffee
SECTION 4:	Identifying and prioritizing key management issues (cont'd)
15:30-17:00	Case studies of examples of key issues and their prioritization for various countries Theme: Trawl fisheries management issues and how to prioritize them <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples(10 minutes each)</i>

Day 2	1 October 2013
SECTION 5	Management approaches
09:00-09:30	Short presentation of draft content on management options - Use of the three level approach
09:00-10:30	Case studies of country-based strategies for resolving the issues identified on Day 1 <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples(15 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
10:30-11:00	Morning tea/coffee
11:00-12:30	Case studies of country-based strategies for resolving the issues identified on Day 1 <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples(15 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
12:30-14:00	Lunch
SECTION 5	Management approaches (cont.)
14:00-15:30	Case studies of country-based strategies for resolving the issues identified on Day 1 <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples(15 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea/coffee
16:00-17:00	General discussion how to structure the management advice (Section 5) Develop the text
Day 3	2 October 2013
SECTION 6:	Information, science and assessment
09:00-10:30	Short presentation of draft content on Information, science and assessment Case studies of country-specific examples of Assessment / monitoring / science approaches <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
10:30-11:00	Morning tea/coffee
11:00-12:30	Case studies of country-specific examples of Assessment / monitoring / science approaches <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
12:30-14:00	Lunch
SECTION 7:	Monitoring, compliance and surveillance
14:00-15:30	Short presentation of draft content on Monitoring, compliance and surveillance Case studies of country-specific examples of Monitoring, compliance and surveillance approaches

	<i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
15:30-16:00	Afternoon tea/coffee
16:00-17:00	Case studies of country specific examples of Monitoring, compliance and surveillance approaches <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
Day 4	3 October 2013
SECTION 8:	Capacity building
09:00-10:30	Short presentation of draft content on Capacity Building Case studies of country-specific examples of Capacity Building Approaches <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
10:30-11:00	Morning tea/coffee
11:00-12:30	Case studies of country-specific examples of Capacity Building Approaches <i>Brief presentations of specific case examples (10 minutes each)</i> Discussion of points to be included in the guidance document
12:30-14:00	Lunch
SECTION 9:	Developing Management Plans - including examples
14:00-15:30	Presentation of some generic worked examples of Management Plans These are examples developed for some typical developing country contexts - they may also reflect levels 1, 2 & 3
15:30-16:00	Afternoon tea/coffee
16:00-17:00	Developing Management Plans - plenary
Day 5	4 October 2013
SECTION 10:	Implementation
09:00-10:30	Short presentation of draft content on describing the steps involved in implementing a Management Plan Plenary Discussion and comments on the draft text regarding Implementation
10:30-11:00	Morning tea/coffee
	Next steps in the process
11:00-12:30	How the guidance document will be finalized The review process, commitments on further inputs by the expert group, Presentation to the APFIC 33 rd Session
12:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-16:00	Field visit to trawl vessels in Phuket Port