



منظمة الأغذية  
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联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
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Agriculture  
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of  
the  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES RESEARCH

### Fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 10-13 December 2002

### THE ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES RESEARCH AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS (1997-2002)

#### ABSTRACT

The FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research (ACFR) was established by the FAO Council in 1993. The Committee held its first session in 1997. The first three sessions of ACFR (1997, 1999 and 2000) have enabled the Fisheries Department to present the scope and extent of its fisheries research work for scrutiny by an independent body that can report to the Director-General. The advice given in the First Session formed the processes for the development of FAO's Strategic Framework and the Department's Medium Term Plan. In particular, the Committee has set in train a programme of activities that have resulted in the general acceptance of a Strategy for Status and Trends Reporting, which will be considered by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2003. This Strategy will have significant implications for the work programme of the Department and the ways in which national, regional and international organizations will be able to contribute to better information and an improved understanding of fisheries at all levels, and in relation to all issues. In addition, ACFR has instituted a continuing consideration of other key research topics, in particular on trade issues and the recognition and use of new research methods. It has also identified research issues, both critical gaps and emerging issues that need further consideration.

These achievements are expanded on in the present paper. The paper begins with an introductory section in which the mandate and reporting requirements of the Committee's statutes are analyzed. This is followed by summaries of the approaches ACFR has taken towards research issues and the considerations and recommendations that each session has made in its final report. The paper then addresses the methods used to address research issues, including the ways in which intersessional working parties have developed, and the studies and reviews that have been conducted by the Fisheries Department for the ACFR. In this summary of the achievements of the Committee, no attempt has been made to evaluate the scope of research recommendations, the effect of its recommendations on work programmes or the pace of progress. The Committee may wish to address these issues in the ways outlined under the section "Advice sought from the Committee".

## INTRODUCTION

1. The mandate<sup>1</sup> of the ACFR is to consider all aspects of fisheries research and to advise the Director-General on the Fisheries Department's Programme of Work in this regard. The Director-General will then take this advice into account in the preparation of the draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and other submissions to the Council and Conference, including issues that have policy, programme or financial implications.
2. The scope of fisheries research is defined to include:
  1. conservation and management of marine and inland fishery resources;
  2. increasing fish productivity through enhancement of wild resources and through aquaculture;
  3. improving the means of converting fishery resources into human food; and
  4. the study of the dynamics of fishing communities and the socio-economic consequences of government fishery policies.
3. In addition, ACFR is required to pay special attention to the fisheries aspects of oceanographic research on which it is expected to advise the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of Unesco.
4. The ACFR Rules of Procedure currently provide that: the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, shall be transmitted to the Director-General and he shall circulate them to Members of the Committee, the IOC, and to other international organizations that were represented at the session, and, upon request, to Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization for their information; and the Committee may establish sub-committees on problems of major importance and general interest or working parties for the study of problems of a more specialized nature.
5. Taken together, these statutes and rules of procedure constitute a flexible framework of which ACFR has taken advantage in the conduction of its work since 1997. At its First Session, the ACFR agreed on its *modus operandi* and made an extensive review of the world fisheries environment. It identified eight areas of research emphasis. The Committee established three Working Groups to address themes of special importance. Thereafter, at each session, the ACFR reviewed the work undertaken by its Working Groups, and abolished, renewed the mandates of the Working Groups or established new Working Groups as appropriate.
6. As a result, and as is further described below, the Committee has made three focussed reports (in 1997, 1999 and 2000) to the Director-General that have affected the work programme of the Fisheries Department. In addition to the work of the Working Parties, the work programme has included the conduct of a major technical consultation, the outcome of which will be submitted to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries for consideration and, as appropriate, approval by the FAO Council. The Director-General has supported the Fisheries Department in the conduct of studies to address items of special importance and other issues on which priority advice has been given.

## SUMMARIES OF ACFR CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Between 1993 and 2002, the ACFR has met three times, on each occasion addressing issues considered to be key to advancing research issues of relevant to the Fisheries Department's work programme, and following up on intersessional activities, progress and emerging issues. The main issues addressed at each session are outlined in Appendix 1, and the research-focussed documents (working and information) presented to each session (including those of the Working Parties) by the Secretariat are listed in Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> See Article I – Statutes of the FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research presented at the Session as document ACFR/IV/2—2/Inf .

**First Session - 25-28 November 1997**

8. Of necessity the First Session spent considerable time establishing its *modus operandi* after receiving reviews of the then-current programmes within the Fisheries Department. Eight areas of research emphasis to address critical scientific gaps were identified as of particular importance to the future work of the Committee, as follows:

- (a) Economic aspects of trade in fish and fish products
- (b) Aquaculture Sustainability
- (c) Inland and Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries
- (d) Status and Trends of Fisheries
- (e) Globalization - implications for fisheries
- (f) Research Methods
- (g) Marine Fisheries Management
- (h) Ecosystem Effects of Fishing

9. To address these critical scientific gaps the ACFR identified nine possible working party topics that were further divided into two sets upon judgement of priorities, as follows:

**High Priority** - to be undertaken during the 1998-1999 biennium:

- (a) Implications of Globalization on Trade and Distribution of Benefits
- (b) Status Reporting Methodology and Data Needs
- (c) New Research Methods, Traditional Knowledge and Approaches

**Second priority** - to be undertaken as the opportunity arises or with other organisations, noting where some activities by FAO and other organisations were already underway:

- (a) Shrimp Aquaculture and the Environment
- (b) Rights Based Fisheries Systems
- (c) Performance Indicators for Fisheries Management
- (d) Ecological Impacts of Fishing
- (e) Meaning of Sustainability in a Varying World
- (f) Inland Aquatic Systems - Threats and Solutions

10. The ACFR report provided general research briefs for these 9 topics. It also provided detailed proposals for the scope of work for the three high priority issues, which it recommended, should be completed intersessionally.

**Second Session - 6-9 December 1999**

11. The Second Session reviewed four main issues:

- (a) The results of the three intersessional working parties;
- (b) The recent development of three International Plans of Action on Fishing Capacity, Seabirds and Shark Fisheries;
- (c) Research in relation to FAO's recently adopted Strategic Framework, and the Fisheries Department's Medium-Term Perspective; and
- (d) Appraisal of FAO programmes containing fisheries research.

## **Intersessional Working Parties**

### ***Working Party on Status and Trends of Fisheries***

12. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the report of the working party, and noted:
5. the large number of issues that had been presented through several working papers, and information documents which will be published at a later date as a single report<sup>2</sup>;
  6. the objectivity and transparency demands being increasingly placed on status and trends reports at all levels, and concluded that appropriate quality assurance procedures should always be applied, where practicable, including processes of peer review, certification and authentication of data, analytical methods and results;
  7. the development of improved systems for fishery reporting through the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS);

and recommended that:

8. Members of ACFR should be used to supplement the expertise of the Working Party (Status and Trends) in those areas that were under-represented, such as in inland fisheries and the social and economic dimension of fisheries;
9. future work of the working party should broaden its attentions to include areas other than resources, and ensure that the domain of inland fisheries is always considered; and
10. work be undertaken to develop and present to the next ACFR Session an International Plan of Action on Status and Trends Reporting, which would include: (1) continuation of the development of a status and trends information database, including capacity-building in its use; (2) development and expansion of the scope of reporting, including for small-scale and multi-species fisheries (including inland fisheries); and (3) the development of partnerships, practical guidelines for quality assurance and the role of working parties at all levels.

### ***Email Conference on Fish Trade and Food Security***

13. The Committee noted that:
11. the detailed results contained a large amount of useful information and opinion on food security, eco-labelling, Hazards Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and other issues, but that there were fewer responses on the issue of trade barriers (tariff and non-tariff);
  12. although research-related activities were indicated in the report, the summarised outcomes fell short of a research agenda in this regard, as this was an initial attempt to use this method;

and recommended that:

13. the working group should continue against a recommended research agenda;
14. further investigation should be undertaken by FAO in the application of email conferences to this and other research issues and that future conferences of this kind should seek even wider participation, particularly involving less-developed country respondents. The Committee recommended further consideration of how the Community Directory Server project of SIFAR might be used in this regard.

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<sup>2</sup> Now published as Status and Trends Reporting in Fisheries. A Review of Progress and Approaches to Reporting the State of World Fisheries. FAO Fisheries Circular, No. 967, Rome, FAO 2001, 74 pp.

### ***Participatory Research Methods***

14. The Committee noted:
  15. the value of this work and emphasised the need to (1) take into account investigating fisheries rights as part of the process of participatory research, particularly in small-scale fisheries; and (2) to increase fishery industry involvement;
  16. the need to refine the theoretical approach through the review and conduct of case studies and further specific investigations, such as the evolution of changes of peoples' involvement in the collection of basic data, particularly in all small-scale fisheries and aquaculture;
  17. that there are limitations to the role of participatory research and its use and that there are particular differences which should be made between research undertaken for development and for other purposes, such as regulation of fisheries; and
  18. participatory research should not be used as a substitute for other methods, including formal scientific methods, but as a supplementary to the range of research techniques.

### **International Plans of Action**

15. The Committee noted in relation to the three IPOAs (Management of Fishing Capacity, Conservation and Management of Sharks and Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds by Longline Fisheries) that FAO is undertaking work in these areas, including collaboration and the conduct of technical consultations, e.g. Rights-Based Fishing, the Measurement of Fishing Capacity and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and has conducted research into sharks and fishing technology in relation to seabirds.

### **Research and FAO's Strategic Framework**

16. The Committee considered the medium-term perspectives to be satisfactory. It also pointed out that the document did not clearly identify research issues needed to fulfil the perspective.

### **Appraisal of Programmes containing Fisheries Research**

17. The Committee reviewed the research elements of the Fisheries Department's work programme and made the following additional recommendations:
  19. Further consideration should be made on how the Community Directory Server project of SIFAR might be used in regard to fish trade and food security; and SIFAR should widely communicate all identified research issues.
  20. Further priority should be given to including socio-economic data in the Department's Fishery Information systems, including information on aquaculture and small-scale fisheries (marine and freshwater).
  21. Fisheries Department's studies on the economics of fisheries and trends in fleet size and value, including methodological studies, which are highly relevant to the issue of fishery subsidies, should be extended to smaller vessels, perhaps focussing on a limited sample of countries where better data is available.
  22. Efforts should be made to connect to other organisations that can contribute to the understanding of the aquatic environment.
  23. A research agenda should be developed to expand the work on the management of fishing capacity already begun, to include all forms of rights-based and other fishery management systems; and required further research on the nature, extent and effects of subsidies.
  24. Work should begin at the earliest opportunity to seek opinion on and develop a framework for the setting of medium-term research priorities for freshwater and marine aquaculture.
  25. The Director-General should continue the activities of the three Working Parties, including revised and enhanced directions. In particular, the Committee emphasised the importance of establishing an International Plan of Action for Status and Trends Reporting in Fisheries, as a means to enhancing advice to the Director-General and COFI of the most up-to-date and accurate view of the prospects for maintaining or enhancing fish production.

### **Third Session - 5 to 8 December 2000**

18. The Third Session addressed three main headline issues:

- (a) Review of the work of the Committee;
- (b) Advice on FAO's fisheries research-related programmes/activities;
- (c) Review of some emerging issues in capture fisheries and aquaculture.

### **Review of the work of the Committee**

#### ***ACFR Working Party on Status and Trends in Fisheries (WP/STF)***

19. The Committee reviewed the continuing work of the WP/STF and the Secretariat's draft proposal for improving global reporting on status and trends reporting of fisheries which contained: (i) a draft paper on this topic for submission to the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI (held in Rome, in February 2001); and (ii) as an annex to that paper, a draft International Plan of Action for Status and Trends Reporting on Fisheries (IPOA-STATUS&TRENDS).

20. The Committee recognized that there was also a need for improved status and trends reporting for aquaculture, but that this would be better handled at a later stage in a separate initiative such as an equivalent IPOA for aquaculture.

21. The Committee noted that, in finalizing the draft text of the IPOA-STATUS&TRENDS the Secretariat should address the following issues:

- 26. the guiding principles should include considerations of timeliness, flexibility, expanding scope (e.g. social and economic aspects, all fisheries segments to be adequately addressed) and feedback of data and research findings to stakeholders, fishers and fisherfolk, in particular;
- 27. more overt recognition of the role of traditional knowledge in ensuring sustainability and involvement of stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the Plan and the achievement of its objectives; and
- 28. an improved presentation of the special needs of small-scale fisheries and multispecies fisheries, emphasizing the need for human capacity-building to ensure priority attention of donors to these special needs in resource-lacking developing countries.

22. The Committee strongly endorsed that the proposal and draft IPOA-STATUS&TRENDS should be submitted to the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI for its consideration.

#### **Advice on FAO's fisheries research-related programmes/activities**

23. The Committee considered three major presentations by the Secretariat on research into poverty in coastal communities, traditional knowledge and sustainable livelihoods and genetic biotechnologies for the fishery sector in developing countries.

#### ***Poverty in coastal fishing communities***

24. The Secretariat offered a research approach on this issue and sought the Committee's advice on how best to proceed. The Committee concluded that:

- 29. the conceptual framework within which 'poverty' was considered was of utmost importance, but the proposed approach was too passive, noting that more meaningful research could be achieved considering that: (i) poverty is dynamic condition; (ii) poverty cannot be usefully analysed separately from the public economic and social policies affecting development in poor fishing communities; (iii) poverty research in fishing communities should distinguish between the situation of marine (and large lake) fisheries and that of inland fisheries, as the two groups competed with different resource use groups, and that therefore more research on the conceptual framework of poverty is required; and
- 30. empirical research on poverty in fishing communities could be divided into several areas of research, including studies on:
  - i) the institutional/governance setting for the origin and persistence of poverty;
  - ii) processes that had permitted fishing communities to escape poverty or to become poor;
  - iii) the potential impact of effort modulating fishery management schemes;
  - iv) community organizations and customary management regimes;

- v) comparing the economic and social rationale of industrial fishing versus small-scale fisheries;
- vi) aquaculture as a mechanism for escaping poverty; and
- vii) the scope of occupational opportunities outside the harvesting.

25. The Committee recommended that it might be useful to look into the possibility of developing an instrument for “poverty impact assessment” analogous to environmental impact assessment.

***Using local and traditional knowledge in improving sustainable livelihoods in fishing communities***

26. The Committee noted:

- 31. that there was a need for more sociology/methodology work on how to obtain successfully and accurately such information from fishing communities;
- 32. the need to recognize the limitation of local and traditional knowledge in dealing with new problems arising from new and non-traditional technology/changes;
- 33. the potential usefulness of local and traditional knowledge when looking at fisheries in the broader ecosystem framework, and in the development of appropriate resource conservation methods such as marine protected areas.

27. The Committee underlined:

- 34. the need for a more systematic approach to including traditional/local knowledge in research and management systems through collaborative research between scientists and fishers;
- 35. research on rights-based fisheries regimes in small-scale fisheries as one of the most important opportunities for such collaboration; and
- 36. research could cost less, have greater credibility and potentially greater impact when fishers participated in both the choice of research to be carried out and in the collection of the information needed.

***Research and development of appropriate genetic biotechnologies for the fishery sector in developing countries***

28. The Committee noted:

- 37. the progress being made in the development of genetic technologies for the further domestication of aquatic species and to help manage and conserve the genetic resources found in wild populations, but that it should be applied in an environmentally sound manner with due protection of native aquatic diversity, that the social impact should be considered and that examination of certain agriculture sectors could provide insight into this issue; and
- 38. research on genetic technologies was beyond the capacity of FAO at present but that FAO should keep abreast of developments and monitor the application of research results in order to assist members.

**Review of some emerging issues in capture fisheries and aquaculture**

***Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing***

29. The Committee noted:

- 39. the development of an international plan of action (IPOA) to combat IUU fishing within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and that a draft IPOA would be presented to the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI in February/March 2001 for its consideration and possible endorsement;
- 40. the draft IPOA addressed research because the quality of science was impacted adversely by poor data, and IUU fishing served to reduce the reliability of data;
- 41. the need for social science, especially in small-scale inland and coastal fisheries where Vessel Monitoring Systems would not generally be used;
- 42. legal research to support the implementation of the IPOA was required; and
- 43. research is required in support of the forensic identification of fish products not only in connection with the marketing of fish suspected or known to have been taken by IUU fishers but also for food safety and health reasons.

***CITES criteria for commercially-exploited aquatic species***

30. The Committee considered and noted that:
44. the issues of endangered species and sustainable fisheries management were part of the conservation and management continuum and that sound and objective scientific information should underpin both;
  45. the existing criteria for CITES listing were not well suited to exploited aquatic species and did not make adequate allowance for full use of the tremendous amount of relevant data on many exploited aquatic species, or on the population dynamics tools and experience developed in fisheries;
  46. proposals for listing species on CITES Appendixes should be primarily based on sound and objective scientific information, evaluated through a clearly defined, transparent and peer-reviewed process that involved experts on the species being considered;
  47. FAO should share with CITES its experience in fisheries management to assist CITES to improve their listing criteria and procedures; and the proposal that CITES listing criteria and their implications for fisheries should be discussed at the next meeting of regional fishery management organizations, to be held at FAO Headquarters in February 2001.

***Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management***

31. The Committee noted that the outcomes from the Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, from 1 to 4 October 2001, might have research implications for the FAO Fisheries Department, and that these might need to be considered by the Committee at a later date.

***Updates to ACFR working group on the impacts of trade and benefit distribution***

32. The Committee noted that a survey based on a questionnaire was being conducted in 60 countries involving 30 to 60 companies, that this was expected to be completed in spring 2001, and that the results would be transmitted to the Committee at its Fourth Session.

**METHODS USED TO ADDRESS FISHERIES RESEARCH ISSUES**

33. The previous three sessions of ACFR (1997, 1999 and 2000) provided the Director-General with advice on a comprehensive array of fisheries research issues, many of which have been taken up and developed by various forms of intersessional activities. The Secretariat has responded to the Committee's call for further work by organizing intersessional activities that have included:

48. the establishment and conduct of Working Parties;
49. studies and reviews of activities of the Fisheries Department.

## **Working Parties**

34. The establishment of working parties has been undertaken according to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee by determining their terms of reference and reporting procedures. Three working parties were established at the First Session in 1997 and the Committee has recommended that they continue their work. In addition, at its Third Session, the Committee suggested that it was necessary to undertake research aiming to obtain a more detailed nuanced understanding of the various types and states of poverty in fishing communities. A Joint Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme/FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research Working Party met in Rome in April 2002 to review the issue.

35. These working parties were conducted in quite different ways, as detailed in paragraphs 36 through 43 below.

### ***Working Party on Status and Trends of Fisheries***

36. The Secretariat prepared background papers (see Appendix 2), which were considered by an invited panel of experts that constituted the working party. The working party prepared a detailed report to the Second Session of ACFR, which then recommended that an International Plan of Action (IPOA) on Status and Trends Reporting be prepared. The Secretariat produced a draft IPOA which was considered at the Committee's Third Session, which then recommended that it be revised and submitted to COFI in 2001.

37. COFI 2001 considered the IPOA and instructed that this important issue required the attention of a general Technical Consultation. The Technical Consultation on Improving Information on the Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries conducted in Rome, Italy, on 25-28 March 2002<sup>3</sup>, revised the approach, considering that the contents of the IPOA would be better described as a Strategy, and instructed that it be referred to the Twenty-fifth Session of COFI in 2003 for consideration and, as appropriate, approval.

### ***Working Party on Implications of Globalization***

38. In response to the terms of reference for the working party established at the First Session, the Secretariat commissioned three papers, one on each of the identified topics (trade and food security, the distribution of benefits from trade, barriers to international fish trade), and these papers were put forward as starting points for discussion in an e-mail conference. The results of the email conference were presented to the Second Session of ACFR.

39. The report of the Second Session of the Committee then recommended that work continue against a revised agenda. The Third Session learned that this work had not been completed and that it would receive a final report in the Fourth Session.

### ***Working Party on New Research Methods***

40. The terms of reference of this working party established at the First Session noted that new methods for fisheries research included the possibility of using rapid rural appraisals, participatory data collection and assessments, compilation of traditional knowledge, inter-disciplinary focused group discussions. The Ad Hoc Working Party on Participatory Research Methods produced a report that was considered by the Committee's Second Session<sup>4</sup>, which recommended that work continue on this issue.

41. The Third Session then received and considered two papers on poverty alleviation and the use of local and traditional knowledge in improving sustainable livelihoods in fishing communities, both of which continued the theme of these new research methods. The Committee then instructed that further work was needed on the conceptual framework within which poverty and sustainable livelihoods would be researched, and recommended further empirical studies.

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<sup>3</sup> FAO. Report of the Technical Consultation on Improving Information on the Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries. Rome, 25-28 March 2002. FAO Fisheries Report No. 680, Rome. FAO. 2002. 75p.

<sup>4</sup> FAO Report of the Second Session of ACFR, Rome, Italy, 6-9 December 1999, Appendix G. FAO Fisheries Report No. 614. Rome, FAO. 2000. 73 pp.

## **Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme/ACFR Working Party on Poverty in Small-scale Fisheries**

42. At its Third Session, December 2000, ACFR suggested that it was necessary to undertake research aiming to obtain a more detailed nuanced understanding of the various types and states of poverty in fishing communities and recommended that the subject be considered as a prime international activity. The Steering Committee of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme - SFLP - (GCP/INT/735/UK), at its Third Session in December 2001, approved a normative 3-year project on "Promoting the Contribution of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Poverty Alleviation.

43. A Joint SFLP/ACFR Working Party met in Rome, in April 2002, to *inter alia*: (a) share experience and knowledge on the subject; (b) identify clearly how the Code could serve as a tool in poverty alleviation in fishing communities; (c) identify critical knowledge gaps and research needs; and (d) elaborate a project framework and research methodologies. The meeting benefited from earlier discussions of this subject matter at the Third Session of ACFR, in December 2000, and of the SFLP/FAO Workshop held in Cotonou in November 2001, as well as the background papers prepared for these two meetings. The Cotonou workshop was facilitated by the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE). The Joint Working Group agreed on the urgent need to obtain a better understanding of the manifestations and extent of poverty in fishing communities and on the casual factors of the dynamics of poverty. It recommended the development of appropriate guidance material on poverty assessment and poverty alleviation measures in small-scale fisheries, including the application of the SLA and the potential contribution of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

44. Although the Committee at its First Session had identified nine possible working party topics only the first three (paragraphs 36 to 41) were constituted. The other six topics have not received the same attention.

### **Studies and reviews of activities of the Fisheries Department**

45. At each ACFR Session the Secretariat has presented papers and documents related to:

- 50. the research-related activities in all Services and Units; and
- 51. the strategic framework of FAO and the medium term plan of the Department, with emphasis on elements of the future work programme related to fisheries research.

46. The Committee welcomed these presentations and made a number of recommendations and suggestions for further work by the Secretariat.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMITTEE**

47. The Committee is invited to discuss this paper and to consider ways to progress the working practices of the Committee in meeting its mandate. In doing so, the Committee might wish to assess progress in three ways: the focus on the issues; the effects of recommendations; and the pace of progress.

#### ***Focus on research issues***

Considering the key issues defined by ACFR in 1997:

- 52. Economic aspects of trade in fish and fish products
- 53. Aquaculture sustainability
- 54. Inland and small-scale coastal fisheries
- 55. Status and trends of fisheries
- 56. Globalization - implications for fisheries
- 57. Research methods
- 58. Marine fisheries management
- 59. Ecosystem effects of fishing

*Q1. Which issues have been best addressed at FAO and internationally, and why?*

*Q2. Which issues have been least addressed, and why?*

***The effects of recommendations***

On the effects of the ACFR:

- 60. Recommendations to the Director-General of FAO;
- 61. Raising awareness; and
- 62. Influence on research direction at FAO and internationally.

*Q3. Has the ACFR re-established a sufficiently recognised authority for its mandate?*

*Q4. Where (or on what issues) has it failed to live up to expectations?*

***The pace of progress***

On the pace of progress in:

- 63. Addressing key issues and elaborating new issues;
- 64. Follow up on recommendations for further work; and
- 65. Incorporating advice into the Department's work programme.

*Q5. Have recommendations been accepted or addressed in appropriate time-scales?*

*Q6. Have new or revised research projects/programmes responded to recommendations in a timely manner?*

**Main issues addressed by ACFR**ACFR 1 - 25-28 November 1997

- Role of FAO in global international fishery research
- Committee's vision of its own role
- Review of FAO activities related to fishery research
- International consultation on fisheries policy
- Research in developing countries
- FAO strategy for implementation of the Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1998-2002)
- Update on Strategy for International Fisheries Research (SIFR)
- Global programmes and issues that affect fisheries
- Identification of areas of research emphasis to address critical scientific gaps
- Establishment of working parties
- Future plan of work of the Committee

ACFR 2 - 6-9 December 1999**Review of the work of the Committee****Review of the intersessional working parties**

- a) Status and Trends Reporting in Fisheries
- b) Fish Trade and Food Security
- c) Participatory Research Methods

**International plans of action****Research and FAO's strategic framework****Appraisal of programmes containing fisheries research**

- a) The framework and process of fishery research
- b) Fishery information
- c) Inland resources and aquaculture
- d) Fishing technology
- e) Marine fishery resources
- f) Fish utilization
- g) Development planning
- h) Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR)

**Main conclusions and future work of the Committee**ACFR 3 - 5 to 8 December 2000

- a) Review of the work of the Committee

Proposal for improving global reporting on status and trends of fisheries

**Advice on FAO's fisheries research-related programmes/activities**

- a) Poverty in coastal fishing communities
- b) Using local and traditional knowledge in improving sustainable livelihoods in fishing communities
- c) Research and development of appropriate genetic biotechnologies for the fishery sector in developing countries

**Review of some emerging issues in capture fisheries and aquaculture**

- a) Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- b) CITES criteria for commercially-exploited aquatic species
- c) Ecosystem-based fisheries management
- d) Updates to ACFR Working Group on the Impacts of Trade and Benefit Distribution

### **Main research-focussed documents delivered to ACFR Sessions 1 to 3**

(Note: only relevant main and information documents are listed, excluding participant lists, agendas etc)

#### **ACFR 1 - 25-28 November 1997**

##### ***Main Documents*** ACFR/97/

4. FAO Activities Related to Fisheries Research

##### ***Information Documents*** ACFR/97/Inf.

4. Report of the FAO Expert Consultation on Fisheries Research, FAO Fisheries Circular No. 877, Rome 1994
5. FAO Fisheries Department Mid-Term Strategy in Support of the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1998-2002 (Draft)
6. A Brief for Fisheries Policy Research in Developing Countries
7. SIFR Changes to an Aquatic Research Support Unit at FAO

#### **ACFR Working Group on Status and Trends in Fisheries - 30 November to 3 December 1999**

##### ***Main documents*** ACFR:STF/99/

2. Current Reporting: FAO's Global Perspective
3. Current Reporting: National, Regional and International Organizations
4. Proposals for Information Sharing and Global Research Communication – A Database for Users
5. A Multifaceted Approach to Fishery Status and Trends Reporting
6. The Living Marine Resources Module of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

##### ***Information Documents*** ACFR:STF/99/Inf.

3. General Issues in Relation to Status and Trends Reporting on Fisheries
4. Data and Analysis Issues: Meeting Standards, Information Quality and Accessibility
5. Background and Reference Documents

#### **ACFR 2 - 6 to 9 December 1999**

##### ***Main documents*** ACFR/99/

2. Report of the Working Party on Status and Trends Reporting in Fisheries
3. Summary Report of Proceedings of the FAO E-mail Conference on Fish Trade and Food Security
4. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Party on Participatory Research Methods
5. Review of FAO's Fisheries Department Research-Related Activities 1998-2001; Part I: The Framework and Process for Research; Part II: Research-Related Activities for the Period 1998-2001

**Information Documents** ACFR/99/Inf.

4. Evaluation Report on Fisheries Resources and Aquaculture (Programme 2.3.2). Extract of C 97/4 (pp.22-44). Programme Evaluation Report 1996-97
5. Evaluation Report on Participatory Approaches to Development in FAO. Extract of C 99/4. Programme Evaluation Report 1998-99
6. A Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015 Version 4 (C 99/12)
7. A Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015 Version 4 Supplementary Information (C 99/12 - Sup.1)
8. Medium-Term Plan 1998-2003 (C 97/9)
9. Medium-Term Perspectives - Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries 2000-2005 (COFI/99/8)

**ACFR3 - 5 to 8 December 2000****Main documents** ACFR/III/2000/

2. Proposal for Improving Global Reporting on Status and Trends on Fisheries
3. Poverty Alleviation in Coastal Fishing Communities
4. Using Local and Traditional Knowledge in Improving Sustainable Livelihoods in Fishing Communities
5. Research and Development of Appropriate Genetic Biotechnologies for the Fishery Sector in Developing Countries
6. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
7. CITES Criteria for Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species

**ACFR Working Party on Poverty - 10-12 April 2002****Main documents** ACFR/02/

5. Fisheries and Poverty: Promoting the Contribution of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Poverty Alleviation. Project concept paper
6. Literature Review of Studies on Poverty in Fishing Communities and of Lessons Learned in Using the SLA in Poverty Alleviation Strategies and Projects (Fisheries and Rural Development)
7. Small-Scale Fisheries, Poverty and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
8. Communication by Peter Lanjouw, Development Research Group, World Bank, to Jean-Philippe Platteau, on the Potential of Applying Poverty Mapping Techniques to Fishing Communities
9. Progress and Problems of Artisanal Fishermen in the Asia-Pacific Region
10. Where are the Women in Fisheries ? ICLARM news release
11. Poverty of Fishing Communities: A Thought. Communication by John Kurien, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, India
12. Towards the Increased Policy Relevance of Fisheries Research (*FAO Fisheries Circular* No. 964. Rome. 2001).