

Technical Meeting on the Measurement of Fishing Capacity

Mexico, 29 November-3 December 1999

FIRST PROSPECTUS AND CALL FOR PAPERS¹

FAO will hold a Technical Meeting on the Measurement of Fishing Capacity in Mexico from 29 November to 3 December 1999.

I. Introduction

FAO has been very much involved over the last two years in the development of a more appropriate framework for the management of fishing capacity. A Technical Working Group on the Management of Fishing Capacity met in April 1998 to review related issues². Its work contributed to the elaboration and the adoption by the FAO Committee for Fisheries (COFI) in February 1999 of an International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. To ensure timely implementation of the Plan of Action, COFI further recommended that FAO organize a technical meeting on the measurement of fishing capacity³. This proposal was also discussed at the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries held in Rome on 11-12 March 1999 and judged most appropriate in view of growing concern for overcapacity in fisheries and the need to proceed as planned with the implementation of the Plan of Action.

A Technical Meeting on the Measurement of Fishing Capacity [TMM] will be organized by FAO in this context. It will meet from 29 November to 3 December 1999 and will be hosted in Mexico at its the kind invitation. Precise date and location will be announced at a later date.

II. Objective of the Technical Meeting of Measurement

The TMM will review various issues related to measurement with a view of facilitating the monitoring and assessment of fishing capacity world-wide. It will do so in accordance with the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity and in reference to work conducted in 1998 by FAO on the management of fishing capacity⁴. The TMM will advise on simple and practical methods for the measurement of capacity and the assessment of any imbalance between actual and desired level of fishing capacity. New avenues and priorities for applied research would also be discussed.

The expected outcome will be: (i) a technical report which would serve as a basis for the subsequent preparation of technical guidelines by FAO; and (ii) reference material in the form of a single publication of all technical papers prepared especially for the meeting.

III. Participation

The topic of the TMM is strictly technical in nature. Participation will be limited to experts that have specific expertise and experience in the topic covered. Given the technical nature of the meeting, experts will participate in their individual capacity. FAO will seek contribution and participation by individuals from various fields (biology, technology, economics, socio-economics) and from various background (fishery administration; fishery research; academics; industry; national and regional fishery management organizations; and specialized non-governmental organizations).

Participation in the TMM will be conditional on: (i) acceptance by the Technical Secretariat of a proposed paper, based on consideration of the abstract submitted and (ii) the reception by the specified date of this paper, prepared in accordance with the requirements provided in Section V. FAO may also invite a small number of experts, if required to ensure appropriate technical coverage and geographic representation.

It is expected that the meeting will be attended by about 40 to 60 experts.

FAO strongly encourage Member States to provide appropriate support to technical contributions and participation by their nationals.

There would be no fees for participation. However, participants are expected to cover the cost of their travel and accommodation.

FAO will provide financial support for the participation of a limited number of experts from developing countries.

IV. Organization

The TMM will be organized by FAO, with the technical or financial support of international and national institutions. The TMM will work mostly in English, although interpretation facilities would be available in English, French and Spanish for plenary sessions as well as for a few of the working groups.

The TMM will be organized as follows:

- Papers will be submitted and distributed to all participants at least one month before the

meeting. These will serve as background material for discussion;

- A few selected papers will be presented at the meeting to serve as an introduction to major selected issues;
- During the meeting, emphasis will be given to group work. Each group will be asked to provide technical guidance on one selected sub-topic;
- A report of the TMM meeting will be prepared by FAO. The TMM report will be subsequently published in English, French and Spanish.
- After the meeting, the papers prepared by participants will be reviewed, edited and published, as submitted in either English, French and Spanish.

V. Call for papers

Interested individuals are invited to express to the Technical Secretariat of the TMM their interest to participate in the meeting and to prepare a contribution for that purpose. In doing so, participants should submit in English: (i) a short CV; (ii) an abstract of their proposed contribution (not to exceed 200 words and explicitly referring to one of the 6 topics indicated below); and (iii) an indication of whether or not they would be in a position to participate without financial support from the FAO.

Request to contribute and participate to the Meeting should reach the Technical Secretariat of the TMM before 15 July 1999. FAO will review all abstracts in relation to the objective and the topics of the Meeting. Initial endorsement of the Technical Secretariat for candidates to prepare a contribution in the form of a specific paper will be communicated by 15 August 1999.

Thematic topics

Papers should relate to one of the following topics, keeping in mind that measurement aspect to be addressed should relate strictly to the ultimate objective of managing fishing capacity at fishery, sectoral and regional levels:

1. Country (or regional fishery organization) experience on monitoring, measurement and assessment of fishing capacity:
 - (a) Presentation and analysis of method(s) and monitoring system used for measuring fishing capacity (in the fishery sector as a whole or in various fisheries).
 - (b) Presentation and analysis of method(s) used to specify target fishing capacity and to relate the measurement of both actual and target capacity.

(c) Relevance of existing fishery management units to the measurement and assessment of fishing capacity, including discussion on relevant issues such as mobility and overlapping management units.

2. Case studies of specific fisheries: analysis of method used in relating actual monitoring (fleet/stocks) to measurement of fishing capacity and to the measurement of target capacity.
3. Case studies or discussion papers on: key factors and features to account for in determining fishing capacity for various types of fisheries; considerations for standardization across vessels and fleets; considerations for the standardization of vessel capacity over time; considerations for the assessment of fishing capacity.
4. Relating fishing capacity to resource productivity and fishery management objectives: relating capacity to existing concepts (such as: fishing power, effort, fishing mortality, costs and revenues, as well as common reference points) in the measurement of actual and target levels of capacity. (Examples of practical methods and applications).
5. Measurement of fishing capacity in small-scale fisheries (commercial or recreational): special features and practical solutions to measurement and assessment; examples of methods.
6. Measurement of fishing capacity in fisheries based on highly fluctuating stocks: special features and practical solutions to measurement and assessment; examples of methods.

Format of papers

Papers should be written preferably in English. As translation services would not be available, we are encouraging this approach to facilitate review and work by participants⁵. Papers should not exceed 8000 words. Papers would be submitted in electronic form (in "Word"). Authors are encouraged to organize a peer review of their contribution.

Summary of indicative timing

- Submission of abstracts and related information to the Technical Secretariat.

Deadline: 15 July 1999.

- Acceptation of abstract and notification to candidates.

Prior to August 15, 1999.

- Submission of papers to Technical Secretariat.

Deadline: October 30, 1999.

- Transmission of papers to all participants.

Prior to 1 November 1999.

Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat of the TMM is based in FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. Correspondence should be addressed to the Convenor, preferably by e-mail.

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- 1 For up-dated information at a later stage, please consult our web site at:
<http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/FISHERY/FISHERY.asp>
 - 2 Report of the Technical Working Group on the Management of Fishing Capacity. La Jolla, USA, 15-18 April 1998. FAO *Fisheries Report*. No. 586.

- 3 The International Plan of Action is presently being published by FAO and is already available on the FAO web site:
<http://www.fao.org/ WAICENT/FAOINFO/FISHERY/FISHERY.asp>
- 4 Relevant FAO documentation can be made available upon request to the Technical Secretariat. Individuals interested in participating to the TMM are especially encouraged to review the aforementioned reports as well as *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No 386: "Managing fishing capacity: selected papers on underlying concepts and issues."*
- 5 Authors who prefer submitting papers in French and Spanish are kindly requested to submit an extensive summary in English so as to facilitate review by all participants.