



# REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

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## NEWS FROM FAO HQ

We have a very clever intern based with us at the moment and her specialty is Design. I asked her to do a nice logo for the RSN newsletter and she has come up with a couple of gorgeous designs. **Which one do you like best? Above or below?**



## Technical Consultations

After several years of negotiations, international guidelines have been developed through a FAO-led consultative process which aims to cut down on IUU fishing by improving the accountability of flag states. The Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance were agreed upon after over five years of consensus-building among FAO Member Countries. The guidelines will be presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) for endorsement at its next Session in June, 2014. The proposed guidelines are wide-ranging and include, among other things, performance assessment criteria and procedures for carrying out assessments, and the cooperation between flag states and coastal states. They also look at ways to encourage compliance and deter non-compliance by flag states; ways to cooperate with and assist developing states in capacity development, and the role that FAO can play in supporting these processes.

## And

After an extensive consultation process reaching out directly to nearly 4000 stakeholders, the final text of the international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF Guidelines) will be negotiated at the Technical Consultation in FAO on 20-24 May 2013. The SSF guidelines are expected to be adopted in 2014 by the FAO Committee for Fisheries and

will require commitment and investments from donors, governments, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders to become effective tools for change.

The SSF Guidelines support initiatives for poverty alleviation and equitable social and economic development, for improving governance of fisheries and promoting sustainable resource utilization at the sub-national, national, regional and international. Their objective is to provide advice and recommendations, establish principles and criteria, and information to assist States and other stakeholders to achieve secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries and related livelihoods. Building on technical guidelines for implementation of the Code (FAO, 2005), they are intended to provide more specific guidance on policies and practices to implement relevant provisions of the existing Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the SSF context.

#### Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC)

The Spanish-funded Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP) GCP/RAS/237/SPA has been operational since September 2009 in Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The four-year programme is strengthening capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions towards improved livelihoods and sustainable fisheries resources management. RFLP has six key areas of activity namely: co-management; safety at sea; post harvest; strengthened or diversified livelihoods; and access to micro-finance. In addition, RFLP seeks to share knowledge regionally on these areas and also places strong emphasis on gender equality issues. Notable achievements of RFLP to date include the development of a national fisheries statistical system in Timor-Leste as well as that country's first ever nationwide census of fishing boats; the creation of Fisheries Associations in Viet Nam; introduction of a safer, more stable fishing boat design in Cambodia; improved fisheries/seaweed products in Indonesia which have gained national exposure; strengthened livelihoods groups in the Philippines; and more effective micro-finance provision by fisheries societies in Sri Lanka. Key publications produced include a handbook on mainstreaming gender into project cycle management for fisheries projects, an advisory note and detailed report on the use of Fish Aggregating Devices by artisanal fisheries and a lessons learned note on the use of information and communications technology. Major lessons learned include the key role played by women in livelihoods diversification efforts; the demand for non-fisheries related livelihoods options and the shortage of institutional capacity to provide this in coastal areas; the vital link between livelihoods strengthening and access to capital; the underlying need for basic water/sanitation to underpin hygiene/post harvest efforts; and the willingness to embrace technology by fisher communities.

<http://www.rflp.org>

#### International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

Halibut lovers might be interested in some news from Bruce at IPHC. You may recall that the Commission had a performance review in 2012 and their annual meeting in January this year has looked at ways to further the recommendations from the review. The Commission has a new advice format, and there are links for the Commission's Management Strategy Evaluation and the formation of a Management Strategy Advisory Board. Even the January annual meeting format included some significant changes with all sessions being webcast

and interactive with the web audience, who could submit questions to participants in real time. **Is this the future of all RFB meetings?** (Tell me what you think) Links are below

#### Annual Meeting

<http://www.iphc.int/news-releases/312-nr20130204a.html>

Public document on annual meeting proceedings including stock assessment and research

[http://www.iphc.int/publications/bluebooks/IPHC\\_bluebook\\_2013.pdf](http://www.iphc.int/publications/bluebooks/IPHC_bluebook_2013.pdf)

#### New advice format

<http://www.iphc.int/library/bulletins/300-ib0070.html>

#### MSE/MSAB

[http://www.iphc.int/meetings/2013am/documents/P02\\_MSEFramework.pdf](http://www.iphc.int/meetings/2013am/documents/P02_MSEFramework.pdf)

[http://www.iphc.int/meetings/2013am/documents/3.4\\_MSAB\\_FL.PDF](http://www.iphc.int/meetings/2013am/documents/3.4_MSAB_FL.PDF)

<http://www.iphc.int/news-releases/314-nr20130205.html>

#### **Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**

CCAMLR Members are gearing up for a month-long series of meetings to be hosted in Bremerhaven, Germany in June and July. Two of the Scientific Committee's Working Groups (Statistics, Assessment and Modelling (WG-SAM) and Ecosystems Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM)) will meet over a period of just over three weeks from mid-June. These Working Groups meet annually to consider requests for analysis, information and advice that may have arisen from preceding meetings of the Scientific Committee and to inform the Scientific Committee of new and emerging issues. Their work is complemented by a third Working Group that meets annually in advance of the Scientific Committee, Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA).

At the conclusion of WG-EMM on 10 July this year, the Scientific Committee will convene inter-sessionally for the first time in CCAMLR's 31-year history. The purpose of the inter-sessional meeting of the Scientific Committee is to consider scientific matters associated with proposals to establish a system of marine protected areas in the Antarctic – in the Ross Sea (submitted by New Zealand and the USA) and in East Antarctica (submitted by Australia, France and the EU). The outcomes of the 3 days of deliberations of the Scientific Committee, commencing 11 July, will be forwarded to a Special Meeting of the Commission (15 and 16 July) for the Commission's consideration. This is the second time in the Commission's history that it has convened in a Special Meeting (the first was in 1986 to consider applications for membership).

CCAMLR is also pleased to announce that Panama is the latest country to accede to the CAMLR Convention – effective 19 April 2013. CCAMLR has 25 members and 11 additional countries have acceded to the Convention.

#### **Plus this latest news article from The Bahamas Weekly:**

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE - Global warming and sea level rise, fishing pressure and other human activities are among the major challenges facing the region's fisheries sector today, as it grapples with decreasing fish catch and other threats to the livelihoods of the many people who depend on the small scale fisheries for economic survival. Fisheries professionals must,

therefore, be properly equipped to cope with the new reality, and key players, such as heads of the national fisheries authorities, must build their capacity to provide leadership in the process of transforming the fisheries sector.

It is towards this end that the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the United Nations University –Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP), the University of Akuyreri, Iceland (UA), and the University of Belize (UB), through funding provided by the Government of Iceland, are convening an Advanced Leadership Training Workshop for senior fisheries officers from 17 CRFM participating member states. The event takes place from Monday, April 8 to Friday, April 12, 2013 at Palm Haven Hotel, Rodney Bay, Gros Islet, Castries, St. Lucia.

Minister of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development Moses Jn Baptiste will deliver the feature address. Deputy Programme of the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme Thor H. Ásgeirsson and CRFM Secretariat Executive Director Milton Haughton will also deliver remarks. In speaking of the upcoming training, Haughton notes that, “It is clear that in the Caribbean today we do not have the critical mass of leaders needed to achieve our long-term developmental objectives in respect of fisheries and marine resource governance.” He said that fisheries and aquaculture are complex and dynamic systems that require creative, innovative and systematic application of scientific knowledge, experience and new mental models to modernize and realize the full potential of the sector. “Achieving sustainable development and prosperity in our countries depend, to a great degree, on the extent to which we recognize the central role of our people in the development process,” the CRFM Executive Director added. “Our future in the Caribbean lies in our ability to develop and use the knowledge, mental capacity, and skills of our people to make the most of our limited resources and negotiate our way in an increasingly complex and competitive global economic environment.” Haughton explained that the CRFM’s objective in next week’s regional training workshop in St. Lucia is to ensure that senior fisheries officials from across the region develop new core leadership knowledge and skills, and where appropriate, renew and update their existing expertise, to provide transformational leadership in their departments and the fisheries sector under their portfolio. “Participants will, therefore, be taught the skills and endowed with confidence to lead their organisations through a process of change, personal growth and self-direction towards greater excellence and performance well beyond present levels,” he concluded. This training workshop is the second of its kind, and aims to build further on the outcome of the first workshop by providing leadership training to senior level fisheries officials in the CRFM States.

That is all for now. I hope to do our next newsletter in mid June, so please send me some news now! And photos, we haven’t had any pictures for a long time. I think that everyone should send me a single photograph of the sea / lake / river aquaculture farm or marine resources in your RFB. Enjoy the spring (or autumn) wherever you are.

Gail