



Statutes of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

1. General objective of the Commission

Without prejudice to the sovereignty of its members, the Commission shall:

- a. promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources, including commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture, based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- b. identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- c. provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors;
- d. serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation, dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, inter alia, proactively identify:
 - relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers, taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

2. General principles

The Commission shall have due regard for and promote the application of the objectives and principles stated in the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, and in its related technical guidelines on inland fisheries and aquaculture development, and other relevant international instruments.

3. Area of competence

The area of competence of the Commission shall extend to the inland waters and areas within the territorial boundaries of its Members and transboundary water basins bordering those areas.

4. Focus of competence

The mandate of the Commission shall extend to all aquatic organisms and their related environment.

5. Members

Membership in the Commission shall be open to all European Members of the Organization.

6. Functions of the Commission

The functions of the Commission shall be to:

- a. promote and advise its Members and FAO on the sustainable utilization, conservation, management protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;

- b. identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues as requested by Members and FAO;
- c. promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake the collation, validation, exchange and dissemination of scientific, biological, socio-economic, legal and environmental data and information, including information on common challenges and solutions to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, as well as their analysis or study;
- d. initiate and/or carry out programmes or projects aimed at:
 - i. increasing the efficiency and sustainable productivity of fisheries and aquaculture;
 - ii. advising on the conservation and management of inland fisheries and aquaculture resources;
 - iii. protecting resources from pollution and habitat degradation;
 - iv. facilitating the restoration of degraded habitats and depleted resources;
- e. keep under review the state of the inland fisheries and aquaculture resources of its Members;
- f. encourage education and training including as appropriate by the promotion and the organization of seminars, workshops and other fora;
- g. promote liaison and cooperation among its Members;
- h. enhance communication and consultation with civil society organizations concerned with inland commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture;
- i. seek funds and other resources for possible projects outside the Organization's Regular budget and establish, as appropriate, a trust fund for voluntary contributions; and
- j. carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Commission to achieve its objectives and functions.

7. Institutions

1. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least once every two years. Intersessional decisions may be taken regarding specific projects through a written procedure.
2. The Commission shall consist of the following Committees:
 - a) Management Committee with authority to address organizational, financial, administrative and strategic issues, facilitate the approval of project proposals by the Commission and initiate and monitor the implementation of a long-term strategy; and
 - b) Technical and Scientific Committee with authority to make, evaluate and recommend project proposals to the Management Committee, develop terms of reference for projects and monitor project implementation against the terms of reference, which shall have such membership, additional functions and Rules of Procedure that the Commission may define.
3. The establishment of any subsidiary body shall be subject to the determination by the Director-General that the necessary funds are available in the relevant chapter of the budget of the Organization. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.
4. The Secretary of the Commission shall be appointed by the Director-General and shall be administratively responsible to him.

8. Reporting

Copies of reports of the Commission shall be circulated to Members of the Commission and to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and international organizations for their information as soon as they become available. The activities of the Commission shall be reported to COFI as appropriate. The Commission shall submit to the Director-General reports on its activities and recommendations at such appropriate intervals as to enable the Director-General to take them into consideration when preparing the Programme of Work and Budget and other submissions to the Governing Bodies. Recommendations of the Commission having policy or programme and budgetary implications shall be reported to the Conference or Council, as the case may be, through COFI.

9. Observers

1. Any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a member of the Commission may, upon its request, be represented in an observer capacity at meetings of the Commission.

2. States which, while not Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request, and with the approval of the Commission be represented in an observer capacity in accordance with the provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization relating to the granting of observer status to Nations.

3. The Commission shall provide for the participation of intergovernmental and, on request, international non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission in its meetings as observers in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.

4. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization as well as the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference and Council of the Organization.

5. Rules for the participation of observers shall be established in the Rules of Procedure.

10. Rules of Procedure

The Commission may adopt and amend its own rules of procedure which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization and with the Statement of Principles Governing Commissions and Committees adopted by the Conference. The rules of procedure and amendments thereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General.

11. Cooperation with International Organizations

The Commission shall coordinate and cooperate closely with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest, and such coordination and cooperation shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures of the Organization.

12. Performance assessment and review

Three years after the approval by Council of this Resolution an evaluation shall be made of the work undertaken against the objectives and functions of EIFAAC, including appropriate recommendations.