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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Twenty-seventh Session

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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**
Rome, Italy, 7-11 March 2005

At its Twenty-sixth Session in March 2005, COFI made a number of recommendations to the Secretariat and Members. This note summarizes actions taken by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, usually in collaboration with Members, to address the principal recommendations directed to the Secretariat.

In the request/recommendations (**R**) section below, reference to the relevant paragraphs of the Report of the Twenty-sixth Session is given in brackets; in the action (**A**) section reference is made, wherever appropriate, to the Agenda Item under which the issue is to be addressed, as well as to the appropriate document (between brackets).

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTIONS AND STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF CAPTURES FISHERIES

R. Elaborate additional guidelines in support of the Code, including one for the implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Management of Fishing Capacity (para. 12)

A. The guidelines for the implementation of the IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity have been drafted and reviewed. It is expected that these guidelines will be published early 2007. Technical support in support of implementation has also been provided by FAO to developing countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in 2005-2006.

R. Convene a workshop to promote the further implementation of the IPOA-Sharks and workshops to encourage regional and national plans of action (para. 15)

A. An Expert Consultation on the Implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action – Sharks was held at FAO, Rome, Italy, 6 – 8 December 2005 to diagnose the status of implementation of the plan. It addressed deficiencies in, and documented opportunities to enhance, the effectiveness of the Plan and identified options for future improvements. There was concern that the promotion of the IPOA-Sharks must be strengthened.

R. Give consideration to undertaking studies and assessments to determine the impact of subsidies on fishing capacity, IUU fishing and on fisheries management generally (para.24)

A. The relevant activities are programmed for 2007.

R. Undertake follow-up work on the 2004 FAO Technical Consultation to Review Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, especially with respect to operationalizing the model scheme agreed at the Consultation (para. 25)

A. A series of regional workshops has been initiated under the Training and Awareness project of the TrainFish component of the FishCode programme. The pilot workshop was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 28 August to 1 September 2006: the FAO/FFA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Full and Effective Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing. Further regional workshops are planned for 2007, and their objective is to develop national capacity and promote regional coordination so that countries will be better placed to strengthen and harmonize port State measures and, as a result, meet the requirements of relevant RFMOs and implement the relevant tools of the 2001 FAO IPOA-IUU and the 2005 FAO Model Scheme. Additional funding for future workshops has been received from Sweden and Norway, and institutional partnerships are being developed, particularly in regions which are working to operationalize the Model Scheme. A multimedia presentation on port State measures has been produced, and the FAO Model Scheme has been published in three languages.

R. Cooperate with Japan for the organization of a joint meeting of the Secretariats of the tuna RFMOs and their members. The meeting should be held in January or February 2007 in Japan (para. 28)

A. As supported by the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI, Japan hosted a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs, with FAO technical cooperation, in Kobe, Japan, 22 – 26 January 2006. The participants included the Secretariats of the RFMOs, as well as their members and

cooperating non-members. Major issues for discussion were: a review of the current situation of stocks and markets and RFMOs as well as consideration of actions to improve the operation of each RFMO, including coordination and collaboration among RFMOs so as to ensure a proper management of tunas and more efficiency in addressing the need to control fishing capacity and fishing effort. The meeting adopted a comprehensive course of actions, including a specific set of provisions on RFMO Performance Review.

ASSISTANCE TO THE FISHING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND MEASURES TO REHABILITATE AND REACTIVATE THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED

R. Continue to collaborate closely with other UN agencies and international financial institutions (IFIs) in providing assistance to countries affected by the tsunami (para. 37)

- A. FI has created a Coordination and Technical Support Unit (CTSU), with staff in headquarters and RAP to assist FI in the coordination of fisheries rehabilitation activities and in the development of long term fisheries reconstruction strategies and programmes.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE INCLUDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO ECOLABELLING AND CITES

R. Continue the work on the harmonization of catch documentation (para. 46)

- A. The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade considered a document clarifying the terminology “catch documentation scheme”, highlighting recent developments in catch documentation and comparing different catch documentation schemes. The Sub-Committee also noted that a meeting of the tuna regional fishery bodies with the participation of FAO scheduled in Japan in January 2007 (the above).

R. Continue to monitor developments in food safety including residues of antibiotics in aquaculture products, the presence of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish and the relationship between fishmeal and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (para 49)

- A. The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade considered a document summarizing the recent developments in fish safety and quality in the context of international fish trade, namely the expansion of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems use worldwide, development in food traceability and risk analysis within the framework of a value chain approach, with particular mention for aquaculture and the increasing use of private standards particularly by major retailers. In relation to fishmeal and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the Secretariat reported that there is no epidemiological evidence of BSE being transmitted to ruminants or other animals by fishmeal and that there is no evidence for the transmission to humans of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) caused by prions using fish or fish products as vectors.

R. Organize the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in Spain (para. 52)

- A. The Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee was held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from 30 May – 2 June 2006, at the kind invitation of the Government of Spain. The Sub-Committee addressed several issues concerning international trade; environment and sustainable fisheries development (see COFI/2007/4, COFI/2007Inf.8, agenda item 6).

R. *Explore the possibility of holding future sessions of the Sub-Committee in developing countries (para. 52)*

- A. The option of holding future sessions of the Sub-Committee in developing countries is considered to be highly desirable. However, to date, there have not been any offers from developing countries to host the meeting. It should also be noted that the host country is responsible for the costs associated with the meeting.

R. *Reconsider the FAO/CITES MoU at the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (para. 61)*

- A. The MOU was signed at the 54th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee on 3 October 2006.

R. *Review and further develop general criteria on ecolabelling of fish and fishery products in relation to “stock under consideration” and to serious impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem (para. 67c)*

- A. Further advice is sought on scope and details of improvements by FAO Members. If requested by COFI, an appropriate fora of consultation will be considered.

R. *Review the text of the guidelines on ecolabelling in the official languages of FAO, particularly those other than English, in order to ensure consistency between texts (para. 67.g)*

- A. The text was reviewed and the guidelines on the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products are published in all five official languages.

R. *Prepare international guidelines on the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from inland fisheries (para. 67.h)*

- A. An Expert Consultation convened by FAO in May 2006 produced draft guidelines for the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from inland capture fisheries. The draft guidelines have been made available to COFI in document COFI/2007/Inf.13. If required by COFI, the draft can be subjected to review by a Technical Consultation for subsequent submission to and approval by the Eleventh session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2008 or the Twenty-eighth Session of COFI in 2009.

R. *Continue to work, through the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, with the Codex Alimentarius Commission on issues pertaining to food safety and quality, markets and better reporting on status and trends (para. 73)*

- A. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department serves as focal point for Codex matters pertaining to fish safety and quality. It provides scientific advice and supports the organization of the sessions of the Codex Committee on Fish and fishery products, consultations and intersessional activities.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

R. Establish regional network organizations similar to the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)(para. 71)

- A. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department continues to work on assisting establishment of NACA-like networks in other regions of the world. Feasibility studies have been carried out in the Americas and Africa. A similar network has been established in the Eastern Europe. Possible network arrangement for Africa is currently being further elaborated by the Committee on Inland Fisheries for Africa (CIFA).

R. Organize the Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in 2006 (para. 75)

- A. The Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in New Delhi from 4 to 8 September 2006 at the kind invitation of the Government of India. The Sub-Committee made a number of recommendation and identified activities to be addressed (see COFI/2007/5, COFI/2007/Inf.9 - Agenda item 7).

DEEP SEA FISHERIES

R. Provide the UNGA with appropriate information and technical advice on deep sea fisheries and in general to provide leadership in this field and actively participate in the relevant international fora. (para. 84)

- A. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department continues to provide the UN General Assembly with the available information and appropriate technical advice regarding deep sea fisheries and other fisheries attracting international attention and maintains an active role in this field. During 2005 and 2006 the Organization published three volumes with the Conference Reports and the papers produced in connexion with the International Conference on Governance and Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries (Deep Sea 2003), Queenstown, New Zealand, 1-5 December 2003. The Department has also participated in several international meetings relevant to the matter and has convened an Expert Consultation on Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 November 2006. Furthermore, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is supporting the establishment of and will provide the Secretariat for a GESAMP (The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) Working Group on Deep-sea Fisheries due to have its first meeting latter in 2007.

R. Cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the development of the report as called for in paragraph 70 of UNGA Resolution 59/25 (para. 90)

- A. As requested, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department cooperated with the UN General Secretary in reporting to the UN Sixty-First Session on actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMOs) to give effect to the relevant provisions in paragraph 70 of UNGA resolution 59/25, aimed at facilitating the review of progress on those actions.

R. Consider appropriate measures regulating destructive fishing practices when revising the FAO Technical Guidelines on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (para. 92)

- A. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has noted the request by the Committee and when revising the FAO Technical Guidelines on Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management

proper consideration will be given to the inclusion of appropriate measures regulating destructive fishing practices.

SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION AND FISHERIES

R. Develop Technical Guidelines under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (para. 98)

- A. Based on this recommendation, and in order to facilitate the suggested reporting, FAO developed a questionnaire that was sent to relevant RFBs in order to receive information on progress at the national and regional levels. Of the 28 RFBs and IGOs contacted, three (IATTC, ICCAT and SWIOFC) replied to the questionnaire, three (IPHC, NASCO and NEAFC) replied that the sea turtle bycatch was not an issue for the fisheries covered by the respective organizations while others provided some information on progress made, without specifically using the questionnaire, in some cases indicating that it was largely not relevant to them.

FAO conducted activities on “Interactions between Sea Turtles and Fisheries within an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”. Two regional case studies have been undertaken, one in the South West Indian Ocean and one in Southeast Asia. Two regional workshops were held in the South West Indian Ocean. These included training, data collection on various sources of sea turtle mortality and initial modelling. As regards Southeast Asia, a first regional workshop will be held in late March 2007, in collaboration with SEAFDEC, with similar objectives. Additional case studies, including the Atlantic and another one in the Indian Ocean, are under planning.

Material is being collected to produce various technical guidelines to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fishing operations. These include one document, mainly aimed at fisheries managers, that provides an overview of the issues across different fisheries and a range of possible management measures and considerations to reduce negative impacts on sea turtles. Other documents target specific fisheries. Draft technical guidelines to reduce bycatch in longline fisheries is being finalized.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND FISHERIES

R. Develop technical guidelines on the design, implementation and testing of MPAs (para. 103)

- A. A “Workshop on Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Management: Review of Issues and Considerations” was held in Rome, Italy, on 12-14 June 2006 in order to review and synthesise the existing state of knowledge on design, implementation and testing of MPAs. Sixteen invited experts from a variety of disciplines, backgrounds, and geographic regions participated in the workshop which was a joint undertaking of the FAO project on the “Promotion of sustainable fisheries: support for the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development” and the FAO/Japanese Government Cooperative Programme. The workshop report is being printed and should be available in the first quarter of 2007. A group of three experts, supported by the FAO Secretariat, is currently preparing an annotated framework which will form the basis of the final guidelines scheduled to be completed by early 2008.

R. Assist Members in achieving the relevant WSSD goals by 2012, in particular the establishment of representative networks of MPAs (para. 103)

- A. The key activities planned in response to this recommendation are the publication and dissemination of the Guidelines and, subject to the availability of funds, technical support to countries in implementation of them. In the interim, the FAO Secretariat has participated in

several relevant international workshops and seminars, providing information on the potential role of MPAs in fisheries and conservation. This interaction will be continued as required and feasible. A website is being created and will be published during the first quarter of 2007 under the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department web site. The web site will document issues of interest for the use of MPAs as a tool for fisheries management, with a special focus on policy aspects and methodologies. It will include links to a selection of external documents and web sites, and highlight gaps and areas for further research.

R Collaborate with other IGOs working on the topic of MPAs, in particular CBD and UNGA (para. 103)

- A. A representative of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department participated in the First Meeting of the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Montecatini, Italy, 13-17 June 2005. The objective, following the above recommendation, was to ensure that FAO was informed on developments within CBD in relation to proposals on marine protected areas (MPAs) in areas beyond national jurisdiction and to bring to the attention of CBD the activities and perspectives of FAO on this topic. FAO was also represented at the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, 20 - 31 March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil. While it was not possible for a member of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to attend, the FAO representatives at the meeting were in close contact and consultation with FI staff in connection with discussions on MPAs throughout the event. FAO is also collaborating with other IGOs on the topic of MPAs. The World Bank and IUCN are providing funding to assist in the development of the annotated framework for the guidelines and provided technical input through participation in the June 2006 workshop, for which IUCN also prepared one of the background documents. Such collaboration will be continued in the future and expanded to include additional IGOs as appropriate.

**List of Meetings, Workshops and Seminars organized in the framework
of the Code of Conduct**

- Regional Workshop on the Collection of Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities and its Use in Community-based Fisheries and Integrate Coastal Zone Management in the Caribbean (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 13-17 June 2005)
- FAO Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Nadi, Fiji, 29 August - 2 September 2005)
- Workshop on the Strategy for Sustainable Management and Development of Aquaculture in Latvia (Riga, Latvia, 11-12 October 2005)
- Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 7-11 November 2005)
- Workshop on Fish Technology, Utilization and Quality Assurance (Bagamoyo, Tanzania, 14-18 November 2005)
- FAO Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Accra, Ghana, 28 November-2 December 2005)
- FIRMS Technical Working Group Meeting - 1st Session (Rome, Italy, 5-8 December 2005)
- Experts Meeting for the Re-Establishment of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture [CAQ] Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean [EAM] (FAO Rome, 7-9 December 2005)
- 95th EAAE (European Association of Agriculture Economists) Seminar titled the Economics of Aquaculture with Respect to Fisheries (Civitavecchia, Italy, 9-10 December 2005)
- FAO Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Cairo, Egypt, 11-15 December 2005)
- Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action (San Salvador, El Salvador, 12-16 December 2005)
- FAO Fishcode-STF- OSPESCA Regional Workshop on the Improvement of Fishery Data and Information Collection Systems (El Salvador, 23 – 26 January 2006)
- FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting - 3rd Session, (Madrid, Spain, 13-15 February 2006)

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- Regional Workshop on Guidance for Credit and Microfinance Programmes in Support of Sustainable Use of Inland Fishery Resources and Poverty Alleviation (Beijing, China, 14-17 February 2006)
 - National Workshop on Micro-Enterprise Development in Coastal Communities: Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned (Davao City, Philippines, 7-10 March 2006)
 - FAO - SPC Regional Workshop on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Fisheries in the Pacific Region (Apia, Samoa, 22-26 May 2006)
 - FAO Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Bangkok, Thailand, 19-23 June 2006)
 - International Workshop on Emerging Concerns of Fishing Communities: Issues of Labour, Gender, Disaster Preparedness, Biodiversity and Responsible Fisheries, Convened by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) (Fortaleza, Brazil, 4-6 July 2006)
 - FAO/FFA Regional Workshop to promote the full and effective implementation of Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Nadi, Fiji, 28 August–1 September 2006)
 - FAO/CSF Workshop on Chinese Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics (Kunming, China, 12-15 September 2006)