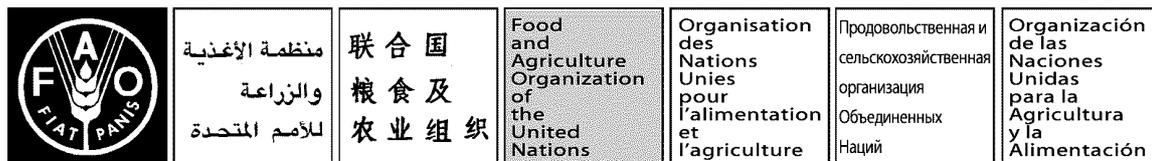


September 2008



REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Second Session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (formerly Working Group on Fishery Statistics)

Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 October 2008

IDENTIFICATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR A FUTURE PLAN OF WORK FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper is to identify a regional strategy¹ and to establish priorities and projects for a future plan of work by the Working Group.

REGIONAL STRATEGY, PRIORITIES, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

2. The rationale for the identification of a regional strategy and the establishment of regional priorities and projects for the Working Group to ensure that there is a coherent and transparent plan of work. As an initial step the Working Group should:

- agree on a regional strategy;
- agree on a list of regional priorities;
- list indicative regional activities to be undertaken to give effect to the priorities;
- agree on regional projects, target implementation dates, locations and funding options;
- rank the regional projects for implementation, and
- identify the major project outcomes.

3. Appendix 1 identifies a draft regional strategy for RECOFI Members and priorities for fisheries management. The strategy is the first step. It is necessary to identify the strategy so that priorities can be established. Without a strategy (or overall goal) the setting of priorities makes little sense. Usually in fisheries a draft strategy incorporates issues relating to good governance,

¹ A strategy is a broad non-specific statement of an approach to accomplishing desired goals and objectives. It usually involves a set of sequential activities that require monitoring and modification as circumstances change. A strategy provides direction and coherency, especially when information or resources are limited.

responsible behaviour and long-term sustainable development,² cultural and social values and economic benefits.

4. After agreeing on a strategy, priorities should be considered and agreed. In Appendix 1 the prioritized objectives are listed in alphabetical order. The list is not an exhaustive one. However, it reflects many of the priorities that are required to achieve the strategy. The list should be reviewed to determine if it is complete. Priorities should be adjusted as required: they can be added to, split, deleted or combined. However, all priorities should contribute to the strategy and before agreeing on them they should pass the “how test”: i.e., how will each priority contribute to the strategy. Once a list of priorities are agreed, they should be prioritized.

5. Appendix 1 also contains indicative activities that might be undertaken to achieve the priorities. The list can be adjusted as appropriate.

6. The next step in the process requires that projects be identified, costed and funding sources identified. They also require ranking so that highest priority projects are funded ahead of lower priority projects. Appendix 1 lists several projects that have been identified in the course of preparations for this meeting. It is through the execution of projects that concrete steps are taken to implement priorities and achieve the strategy. After a complete list of projects is compiled and agreed by the Working Group they should be ranked, which indicates their priority.

7. Finally, when projects are being developed major project outputs should be identified and if possible, quantified (e.g. the number of countries or people that will benefit, what percentage of fisheries will be covered by a project). Projects and their outputs should strengthen the objective or objectives to which they are related (e.g. a project may assist in fulfilling more than one objective). While a project is underway activities and interim outputs should be monitored to ascertain if it is on track and if it is being implemented as intended. Upon the completion of a project a comparison of the projected and actual outputs should be undertaken. If there is a wide margin of difference between the two sets of outputs explanations should be given.

8. Many factors influence fisheries management and there is a need to balance activities and projects to achieve responsible and sustainable management. This requires fisheries administrations to address management in a comprehensive manner focussing on the principles and standards enshrined in the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and not only particular aspects of management. Projects that have objectives and thrusts embedded in the Code will certainly promote greater responsibility and long-term sustainability in fisheries.

REVIEW OF STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

9. Strategies and priorities are not static: they change through time for a range of different reasons (e.g. new issues emerge and progress is made in achieving goals already established). For this reason the strategy and priorities should be kept under review so that adjustments, as appropriate, can be made. However, as a general rule strategies and priorities do not vary greatly over time and while they should be reviewed the probability of having to amend them on a regular basis is small.

10. The review of the strategies and priorities can be approached in at least two different ways. They can be reviewed (i) on an *ad hoc* basis or (ii) systematically at Working Group sessions. Both approaches have advantages and disadvantages. *Ad hoc* reviews, if undertaken as and when needs arise, are probably the most efficient means of undertaking a review. However, such an approach presupposes that there is the possibility to review and amend priorities at any time. Such

² These two concepts reflect the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the outcomes of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

reviews could be undertaken electronically but they would not have the benefit of face-to-face discussion and consensus building, especially when difficult issues and decisions are faced.

11. Alternatively, the Working Group is scheduled to meet biennially. Given the disadvantages of *ad hoc* reviews it is suggested that the reviews be undertaken on a regular basis at Working Group session. Furthermore, it is proposed that the reviews be incorporated into the Agendas of future meetings as a standing item.

DRAFT LIST OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE WORKING GROUP

12. Appendix 2 contains a draft list of activities and meetings relating to the Working Group over the coming years. The purpose of this list is to assist in the planning of work, projects and meetings of the Group. It is not a definitive list but only an indicative one to be used for planning purposes. It is proposed that it be reviewed and updated at each Working Group session.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group is invited to identify and agreed on a regional strategy and priorities to guide future work of the Working Group. It should:

- agree on a regional strategy;
- agree on a list of regional priorities;
- list indicative regional activities to be undertaken to give effect to the priorities;
- agree on regional projects, target implementation dates, locations and sources of funding, and
- rank the regional projects for implementation.

14. In addition, the Working Group is invited to agree on a timeframe for the review of the strategy, priorities, activities and projects, as well as the list of activities for the Working Group in Appendix 2.

DRAFT RECOFI REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: Promotion of sound and effective regional fisheries governance by:

- ensuring that fisheries are exploited and utilized in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner, and
- ensuring that fisheries generate maximum social and economic benefits for RECOFI countries.

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
<p>To promote good science to underpin decisions for fisheries management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of applied research (related to biodiversity and conservation and management measures) ▪ Collection and analysis of fisheries-dependent and independent data in support of fisheries appraisal and fisheries management ▪ Stock assessment to evaluate the status of stocks and development of management measures ▪ Harmonization of data collection and sets for regional analysis and management of shared stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project for the review of national fisheries programmes (2009 throughout region) ▪ Project for the integration of annual catch and fishing effort data (2010 throughout region) ▪ Workshop on stock status reporting (July 2009 at a location to be determined) 	<p>40,000 (Source ??)</p> <p>30,000 (Source ??)</p> <p>30,000 (Source ??)</p>		
<p>To facilitate quality economic investigation to inform fisheries management decisions and maximize economic returns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collection and analysis of economic data and related information (e.g. employment, value, losses due to poor handling etc) ▪ Promotion of responsible and sustainable fisheries development and value added activities (e.g. processing) ▪ Implementation of measures to maintain the contribution of fisheries to livelihoods especially where alternative employment opportunities are limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop on fishery economic performance dynamics and trends (dates and location to be determined) 	<p>30,000 (Source ??)</p>		

To encourage comprehensive environmental investigation to support fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of current knowledge on environmental factors affecting fisheries productivity in the Gulfs ▪ Assessment of impacts of climate change on fisheries ▪ Assessment of land and marine pollution on fisheries 				
To facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the capacity to implement management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops, country attachments and other training opportunities to enhance human resource development ▪ Assessment of institutional structures and functions and review and updating of job profiles to promote robust and resilient administrations ▪ Promotion of national and regional library and information resources to support fisheries management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop on IUU fishing including port State measures (March or April 2009, location to be determined) 	<p style="text-align: center;">33,000 (Source ??)</p>		
To promote legal discussion and the review and revision of fisheries legislation to reflect policy and international commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and revision of fisheries legislation ▪ Acceptance and implementation of international instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desk study to review fisheries legislation in RECOFI Members 	<p style="text-align: center;">10,000 (Source ??)</p>		
To implement effective fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness building about the need for effective fisheries management (e.g. publications, media etc) ▪ Implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries including the protection of biodiversity ▪ Development of fisheries management plans for major fisheries ▪ Assessment and implementation of conservation measures (e.g. closed areas, seasons, restrictions on species and sizes) ▪ Assessment and implementation of capacity reduction programmes ▪ By-catch management and discards reduction (related to gear and food security issues) ▪ Implementation of the precautionary approach to fisheries when conditions are uncertain 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation on monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems (VMS) ▪ Implementation of measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing including port States measures and flag State performance criteria 				
To reflect cultural and social values in policy and management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognition of the cultural role played by fisheries especially in inshore areas and more isolated communities ▪ Promotion of fisheries activities to continue to support food security and nutrition (related to sustainable management) 				
To promote regional cooperation and harmonization in fisheries, especially for shared stocks and fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional discussions concerning harmonization and cooperation to strengthen management, including the identification of areas for harmonization ▪ Establishment of the regional scientific network for cooperative assessment of shared fishery resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional training course on fishery resources appraisal (dates and location to be determined) ▪ Pilot joint assessment of shared stocks (dates and location to be determined) 	40,000 (Source ??)		
To encourage the adoption of relevant technology choices and especially technology that minimizes and reduces adverse fisheries and environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of gear types to mitigate bycatch and environmental impacts ▪ Facilitation of practices to promote safety at sea, and improve food preservation methods and methods 				

**DRAFT LIST OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
(2008- 2012)³**

ACTIVITY	DATES	LOCATION	OUTPUTS
Second session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management	27-30 October 2008	Cairo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI
Review of fisheries legislation in RECOFI Members	January 2009	Desk study to be undertaken at FAO Headquarters, Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report with a focus on gaps and shortcomings in fisheries legislation and measures to be taken to strengthen and harmonize it
Workshop on IUU Fishing including port State measures	To be determined: possibly in March or April 2009	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Workshop: enhanced understanding of matter relating to IUU fishing and measures to combat it ▪ Paper for the third session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
Review of national fisheries programmes	Dates to be confirmed (possibly March 2009)	Consultancy with country visits to RECOFI Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the review with recommendations for follow-up activity
Fifth session of RECOFI	May 2009	United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the session including guidance and direction for the Working Group on Fisheries Management
Workshop on stock status reporting	July 2009	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Workshop ▪ Harmonized national approaches to stock status reporting for regional compilation of data
Third session of Working Group on Fisheries Management	October 2009	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI (reporting on both the third and fourth session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management)
Review for the integration of annual catch and fishing effort data	To be confirmed (possibly March 2010)	Consultancy with country visits to RECOFI Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the review with recommendations for follow-up activity
Fourth session of Working Group on Fisheries Management	January 2011 (in advance of twenty-ninth session of COFI)	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI (reporting on the third and fourth session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management)
Sixth session of RECOFI	May 2011	State of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the session including guidance and direction for the Working Group on Fisheries Management

³ Subject to ongoing review, updating and change as circumstances require.