



منظمة الأغذية
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联合国
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des
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et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Caracas, Venezuela, 24 - 28 April 2006

REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF LATIN AMERICA (COPESCAL)

1. The Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL) was established by the FAO Council at its seventeenth session (1976, Resolution 4/70), under Article VI-1 of the FAO Constitution. Its objectives are to promote, coordinate and support fisheries research and development programmes for the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; to assist Member Governments in establishing the scientific basis for regulatory measures; to support the development of aquaculture, recreational fishing and the capture, marketing and utilization of fish; to promote education and training; to help member countries formulate national and regional programmes to achieve the objectives set out in its Statutes. Its current members are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.
2. The Commission has promoted studies on the management and conservation of the living aquatic resources of the Amazon basins, the River Plate basin and the reservoirs of the region. It has examined and recommended measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of small-scale fisheries and rural aquaculture and promoted cooperative research and training activities in specialized aquaculture fields: prevention and control of disease and management of food and nutrition in aquaculture; handling, processing, marketing and quality assurance of fishery products; fisheries legislation; planning and management of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The results of the Commission's work have been published in the *FAO Fisheries Technical Papers*, *COPESCAL Technical Papers* and *COPESCAL Occasional Papers*.
3. The tenth session of the Commission was held from 7 to 9 September 2005 in Panama City, Republic of Panama, at the kind invitation of the Government of Panama. The session was attended by delegates from 16 member countries of COPESCAL and observers from the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA).
4. The main topics were the state and trends of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Latin America, options for the establishment of a regional cooperation network for aquaculture and options for strengthening the future role of COPESCAL.

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5. Because of the importance that the countries of the region attached to the fisheries sector in requesting that FAO establish the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America, it was thought appropriate to inform the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean of the decisions and recommendations of the tenth session of COPESCAL. The recommendations on specific agenda items are listed in paragraphs 6 to 31 below.

MEASURES ADOPTED REGARDING DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH SESSION AND INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

For the attention of Governments:

6. Emphasize the need for greater participation of member countries in the Commission's activities.

REVIEW OF THE STATE AND TRENDS OF INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

Inland fisheries

For the attention of FAO:

7. Conduct closer studies into inland fisheries to assess their role in social development and fighting poverty.

For the attention of Governments:

8. Improve the compilation and analysis of information on the state of exploitation of the resources and the economic and social aspects of inland fisheries and disseminate this information in a timely and effective manner.

9. Attach priority to inland fisheries in macroeconomic and sectoral plans and policies to exploit potentialities for economic and social development.

10. Consider recreational and ornamental fisheries in the formulation of fisheries management plans.

11. Facilitate an enabling environment for implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, by strengthening the institutional and legal framework and making appropriate use of available technical, economic and financial instruments.

For the attention of Governments and FAO:

12. Strengthen cooperation between countries for the management and sustainable use of transboundary basins.

Aquaculture

For the attention of Governments:

13. In line with the FAO/OSPESCA Expert Meeting on the Regional Review of Aquaculture Development Trends (Panama, 4-6 September 2005):

- Assess the socio-economic impact and the impact on local protein consumption.
- Address the environmental management of aquaculture in a coordinated and effective manner.
- Reinforce the government institutional framework.
- Strengthen sanitary and environmental care, especially in the movement of exotic species.

14. Act on the following aspects of institution building:

- Promoting the development of aquaculture networks.
- Facilitating access to markets and establishing soft loan windows.
- Training personnel in extension and training.

- Harmonizing aquaculture and environmental policies and enhancing interinstitutional coordination for aquaculture management.
- Strengthening the organization of producers.

OPTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF COPESCAL

For the attention of FAO:

15. Recall the proposal made during the last COFI session to establish a post of Aquaculture Officer in the FAO Regional Office in Santiago, Chile.
16. Define the profile of coordinators or correspondents and ask the relevant authorities to designate such coordinators and to draw up and distribute a list of names and other details.
17. Establish an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) to consider, among other topics:
 - the updating of the Commission's Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
 - the identification of measures to enhance the functioning of the Commission, in particular the functioning of its Secretariat, and evaluation of the costs of the identified options;
 - identification of permanent complementary mechanisms to finance the Commission's activities, to supplement FAO's contributions.
18. Prepare and secure funding for the IWG meeting.
19. Conduct the following activities relating to the IWG meeting:
 - ask the member countries to put forward proposals on the topics mentioned in paragraph 17 so that these can be considered by the IWG before the end of the current year. Pre-circulate the report of the tenth session of COPESCAL;
 - coordinate the elaboration of a working document for discussions of the Working Group which should include the recommendations of the member countries;
 - circulate the working document sufficiently in advance to all member countries.
20. Note the generous offer of the delegation of Colombia to host the IWG meeting which should take place during the first half of 2006.

For the attention of Governments:

21. Have a relevant authority designate national coordinators, topic coordinators or focal points.
22. Appoint these from selected institutions or units or positions established within units.

For the attention of Governments and FAO:

23. Propose the programming of activities by country subgroups or subregions or by topics or areas of common interest to identify the programme of work of COPESCAL.
24. Continue to step up work on inland fisheries and look into the possibility of establishing a regional network.
25. Establish greater and more systematic communication between the Secretariat and the coordinators and correspondents, and with policy-makers.

ESTABLISHING AN AQUACULTURE COOPERATION NETWORK IN THE AMERICAS

For the attention of FAO:

26. Continue analysing, in close cooperation with APEC¹, the feasibility of establishing the regional cooperation network proposed by the Panama workshop².

¹ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

27. Come to an institutional arrangement with APEC, if countries reach early agreement to establish its proposed network.

For the attention of Governments and FAO:

28. Note the endorsement of the recommendations of the Panama workshop to establish a network as an intergovernmental body open to all interested countries of the American continent.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

For the attention of Governments and FAO:

29. Take note of the election of Peru as Chair of the Commission and of Panama and Cuba, respectively, as first and second Vice-Chairs.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION

For the attention of Governments and FAO:

30. Take note that the date – preferably towards the end of 2007 – and place of the eleventh session will be determined by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the Chair of the Commission.

31. Take note of the Commission's preference for this session to be held in a country that has not yet hosted a COPESCAL meeting; failing that, take note of the delegation of Cuba's offer to host the meeting.

² FAO, Report of the Workshop on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Cooperation Network for Aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. Panama, Republic of Panama, 6-8 December 2004. FAO Fisheries Report No. 773. Rome, FAO. 2005.