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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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PROGRESS REGARDING THE GLOBAL WORK PROGRAMME TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE ON RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR FISHERIES (GWP)

Executive Summary

This information document complements COFI/2018/7 and provides information regarding recent developments in the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP). The goal of the GWP is to contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries, enhanced food security, and poverty eradication in alignment with attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 32) welcomed the GWP and underlined the importance of FAO's role as the neutral platform in providing knowledge, institutional support and assistance for developing rights-based fisheries management systems (COFI/2018/Inf.6 paragraph 119 and 121). One key area of work is the co-organization of the global conference "Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" (UserRights 2018) in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 10-14 September 2018. Other elements of the GWP include the development of a repository on existing rights-based management systems as recommended by COFI 32, collaboration with partner countries in Africa on transboundary resources through the EAF-Nansen Programme, and the development of proposals for regional and national workshops to support countries in the development of appropriate rights-based fisheries management systems.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This information document complements COFI/2018/7 and provides information regarding recent developments in the Global Work Programme to Advance Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries (GWP).
2. Marine and inland fisheries provide millions of people around the globe with food security and livelihood opportunities. Advancing knowledge on how the world's marine and inland capture fisheries are accessed, used, and managed using various types of rights-based approaches is a crucial step towards attaining food security and nutrition and livelihoods and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 10 Reduce Inequality within and among Countries, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14 Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, and SDG 14b Provide Access for Small-scale Artisanal Fishers to Marine Resources and Markets.
3. The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 32) welcomed the GWP and underlined the importance of FAO's role as the neutral platform in providing knowledge, institutional support and assistance for developing rights-based fisheries management systems (COFI/2018/Inf.6 paragraph 119 and 121).

II. THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE GWP

4. The goal of the GWP is to contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries, enhanced food security, and poverty eradication in alignment with attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to achieve this goal by providing support to FAO Members in designing, implementing, and/or strengthening appropriate rights-based approaches used in capture fisheries. It also emphasizes transparent and participatory processes that include all stakeholders as called for in various international instruments, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI).
5. To achieve this goal, the GWP has three outcomes: enhanced awareness, improved capacity and strengthened collaboration and cooperation. Each of the outcomes consists of three categories of concrete, executable and measurable outputs: i) information and knowledge products such as case studies, reports and analyses; ii) events and platforms such as workshops, forums and stakeholder networks; iii) trainings and related materials such as training courses, technical guidance and policy strategies. Each output has national, regional and global activities that cover various thematic areas of tenure and rights-based approaches in fisheries, including spatial tenure arrangements and area-based management (including marine protected areas), livelihoods, gender issues, responsible investment and financing, and fisheries rights in the context of transboundary resources.

III. TENURE AND USER RIGHTS IN FISHERIES 2018: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 (USERRIGHTS 2018)

6. FAO and the Republic of Korea are co-organizing the global conference "Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" (UserRights 2018) in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 10-14 September 2018. This event is a global activity under the GWP that

provides neutral platforms for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches in fisheries as welcomed by COFI 32(COFI/2018/Inf.6 paragraph 119).

7. FAO is calling for an extensive set of case studies on a diverse range of rights-based approaches in fisheries to be presented during the conference. The case studies are being drafted based on a questionnaire and case study template that FAO has created in collaboration with experts in fisheries management and governance of tenure. This approach will help to ensure that the information in the case studies is comparable and that subsequent analyses can be conducted using this information.

8. FAO welcomes all stakeholders around the world - including small-scale and artisanal fishers, commercial fishers, civil society organizations, fishing organizations, fishery managers, intergovernmental organizations and policy-makers - to write the case studies and attend the conference. FAO has been actively seeking financial resources to support the case study authors from developing countries to participate in the conference.

9. The conference programme consists of plenary and concurrent thematic sessions on history and experiences with 1) customary tenure rights and indigenous peoples' tenure rights in fisheries, 2) open access fisheries, 3) limited access fisheries: input controls, 4) limited access fisheries: output controls, 5) the post-harvest sector, 6) competing fisheries stakeholders, 7) multiple use in coastal zone management and rights, and 8) social aspects of tenure and user rights in fisheries. Information regarding UserRights 2018 is found on the conference website www.fao.org/about/meetings/user-rights.

IV. OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE GWP

10. COFI 32 recommended the creation of a repository on existing rights-based management systems (COFI/2018/Inf.6 paragraph 123). The repository will include the case studies from UserRights 2018 as well as additional information and will serve as an essential knowledge product of the GWP for increasing the evidence base for the design of appropriate tenure and rights-based fisheries management systems. FAO is intending to launch the repository in late 2018.

11. FAO is collaborating with partner countries in Africa on transboundary resources through the EAF-Nansen Programme. FAO is also developing concept notes to support countries in the development of appropriate rights-based fisheries management systems, such as outlined in the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and other texts.