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**1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of
the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 1)**

26 May 2021

Minutes of WG 1

Minutes of 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 1)

12:00-14:16 (CEST), Wednesday, 26 May 2021

On Zoom

Registered Participants: Appendix 1

Discussion:

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft Provisional Agenda was adopted without any change as attached in **Appendix 2**.

2. Review of past discussion at JTF1, JTF2, JTF3, JTF4 and COFI 34 (the Secretariat will update COFI/2020/10 submitted to COFI 34)

The Secretary of COFI introduced the background document (WG 1/1) (**Appendix 3**), including the options, as attached in **Appendix 4**.

3. Suggested way forward, including the adoption of the terms of reference for WG

The Chairperson introduced the draft Terms of Reference of the WG (TOR) and the Roadmap of the Meeting, as attached to the Chairperson's letter, dated 19 March 2021, to invite COFI Members to the meeting.

The Representative of the European Union (EU) proposed to change “analyze, discuss and consider” to “elaborate” in Item 1 of the draft TOR on “Purpose”. He also proposed to change the timing of the final meeting in the meeting schedule, which is currently scheduled in June 2022, to May 2022 because June 2022 is too close to the next session of COFI. The Representative of Chile supported EU with regard to the change of the verb in Item 1 and also suggested to have an additional meeting in December 2021, in order to review all options proposed in 2021 and prepare for discussion on the potential proposal for COFI 35 from January 2022. The Representative of EU supported the additional meeting in December 2021, but also proposed to organize the 1st meeting in 2022 in February rather than January.

The Representative of Argentina supported EU with regard to the change of the verb in Item 1 of the TOR. He also underscored the importance of the multilingualism and proposed to change the sentence of Item 4, Interpretation and translation, as “In principle, the meeting will have interpretation and translation, depending on funding availability”. He requested the Secretariat to prepare an accurate and comprehensive minutes of each meeting of the WG. The Representative of Brazil also underscored the importance of the interpretation and the minutes. The Chairperson proposed to add the new item, Minutes of the Meetings, as Item 8, which says “Draft minutes

will be circulated among participants for their review and finalization” while noting that the minutes should not be too much detailed.

The Representative of the United Kingdom expressed her interest in how the Secretariat will follow up the outcome of the post-COFI 34 survey, and, in particular, underscored the importance of the wider participation in the COFI related meetings. In this context, she suggested the Working Group to consider issues affecting future participation in any new sub-committee or alternative option, such as time zone and resources. The Chairperson responded that while understanding the time zone issue, it would be difficult to find a time good for every participant and the central European time would be a realistic one.

The meeting adopted the revised TOR and the roadmap as attached in **Appendix 5**.

4. Identification of any intersessional work, including needs for additional analysis

- **Further analysis on options**

The Representative of Japan proposed that the Secretariat should make evaluation of the six options listed in the background paper while recognizing that they are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The Representative of the United States of America (USA) supported Japan and stressed that the options are not mutually exclusive. She also indicated that the virtual meeting could be organized efficiently and the need for feedback from the existing sub-committees. The Representative of Norway indicated the possibility of a hybrid meeting between a physical meeting and a virtual meeting. He also supported Japan and USA and mentioned that the different options were not mutually exclusive. The Representative of New Zealand (NZ) also supported Japan, USA and Norway about the possibility of virtual meetings and that the options are not mutually exclusive. He also underscored that the good work done by the JTF should not be wasted. The Representative of Brazil also supported that the options are not mutually exclusive, but she also raised some concern about the virtual meeting, which has pros and cons, and proposed cost analysis among a physical, hybrid and virtual meetings. The Representative of Argentina echoed Brazil and pointed out that a virtual meeting is very useful, but also has some disadvantage, and a physical meeting should not be replaced by a virtual meeting. The Representative of Senegal mentioned that some work needs physical presence and therefore physical participation should be pursued. The Representative of EU called the attention of the meeting to the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA, scheduled to be held from 31 May to 4 June 2021 in a fully virtual manner, which could provide some lessons learned.

- **Mechanism to support participation from developing countries**

The Representative of Brazil expressed preference to Option A, given the difficulties in having in-depth discussion at COFI. At the same time, she manifested concerns about achieving a significant level of participation, given the lower level of representation at the current Sub-Committees’ meetings. Therefore, she underscored the need to establish a mechanism to support participation from developing countries and requested an analysis on the costs for financing such participation and the possible means to create and finance such mechanism. The Representative

of Argentina supported Brazil and proposed to organize sessions of the new sub-committee in Rome. The Representative of Chile supported Brazil and Argentina. The Representative of Indonesia supported Argentina to organize the sessions in Rome. The Chairperson pointed out that the problems for developing countries should not be only for the cost for participation but also the limited human resources, and thus establishment of a funding mechanism would not solve the latter. The representative of Argentina asked the Secretariat to make clarification if an agreement with a host government to support participation is ad hoc or already established beforehand. The Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (SCFT) clarified that such an agreement is made in an ad hoc manner on a case-by-case basis.

- **Terms of Reference (or Virtual Agenda) for a new sub-committee**

The Representative of EU proposed to prepare “virtual agenda” for the new sub-committee before analyzing options, i.e. listing the substantial elements that should potentially be handled by the new sub-committee and assess the implications for the work of the other sub-committees and the COFI in terms of added value, time gains and policy preparation (form follows function). The Representative of Argentina supported EU and underscored the need to identify the substance (terms of reference) for the new sub-committee. The Representative of Chile supported EU and Argentina. The Representative of the USA also supported to develop the terms of reference of the new sub-committee. The Secretary of SCFT suggested for the consideration of the Bureau Members a possible idea of focusing first on framing the new sub-committee by elaborating the terms of reference and then consider a modality. The Representative of EU supported the idea. The Representative of Senegal also supported to elaborate the terms of reference because it is important to clarify the mandate given to the new sub-committee and the link to other sub-committees. The Representative of Brazil supported the suggestion of the Secretary of SCFT and affirmed this could be done together with an analysis on costs. The Representative of Chile proposed that two analyses, namely on terms of reference and the cost for participation, should be conducted in parallel. The Representative of Japan suggested that the terms of reference of the new sub-committee was already discussed in the JTFs and such existing resources be used, and supported Chile’s idea that the substance and cost are analyzed in parallel.

- **Creation of a specific subpage for WG**

The Representative of Chile underscored the importance of what had been already achieved in the JTF and therefore the need to create a specific subpage for the WG in the COFI website, where all relevant documents, including the minutes of the Joint Task Force, could be available. The Representative of Argentina and the Representative of Indonesia supported Chile. The Representative of Chile requested the Secretariat to prepare the subpage as soon as possible and inform the Members once the subpage is ready, as well as all relevant documents prepared so far and to be prepared should be posted on the subpage. The Secretariat responded that he would contact the IT experts of FAO for possible solutions.

The Chairperson summarized the discussion as follows:

- Several delegates stressed that Options A-E are not mutual exclusive, and there could be more options, including a hybrid meeting. New options should not be excluded. The cost for participation is very important issue, but it relates to the modality of the meeting. If the

meeting is organized in a virtual manner, this issue may not be so critical. In any case, the cost is one of the benchmark for the further analysis. With these in mind, possible options should be reviewed, including A-E and any new options, focusing on merits and demerits of each option including cost implication;

- What the new sub-committee should discuss, namely “virtual agenda” or terms of reference, will be essential for considering its modality; and
- JTF has already done some analysis, the discussion of JTF should be taken account, and any new analysis should be based on their work.

He then proposed that he work with the Secretariat to circulate two documents by mid-July 2021, namely the one on the analysis of pros and cons of each possible option (this includes cost implication analysis) and another on the terms of reference, for the next meeting. He also requested the Members to submit papers, if there is any new idea on options, also by mid-July 2021.

5. Any other matters

No other matter was proposed to be discussed.

6. Next meeting

The Chairperson proposed to organize the 2nd Meeting of WG (WG 2) on 20 September 2021. The meeting agreed on the proposed schedule.

With regard to interpretation service, the Secretary of COFI informed the meeting that he intends to take the same process, namely asking the Chairperson to send the letter of invitation and arranging interpretation service according to the list of registered participants, who reply to the Chairperson’s letter, but subject to approval by the Senior Management.

(APPENDIX 1)

List of Registered Participants in the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 1)

12:00-15:00 (CEST), Wednesday, 26 May 2021

On Zoom

Names of countries	Participants
Afghanistan	Mr Khalilullah Frough, Mr Mohammed Anwar Sadaf
Angola	Ms Maria de Fátima Jardim
Argentina	Mr Guillermo Rodolico
Brazil	Ms Luciana Andrade Fonseca, Mr Alex Augusto Goncalves, Ms Carolina Amorim da S. Bittencourt, Mr Carlos Eduardo Villaca, Mr Diogenes Lemainski, Mr Fabio Hissa Hazin, Mr Bruno Mourato
Canada	Ms Renée Sauvé, Mr Andrew McMaster, Ms Katharine Ferri, Mr Benny Guttman
Chile	Ms Tamara Villanueva, Ms Karin Mundnich
Czechia	Mr Jakub Moricky, Mr Petr Chalupa
Dominican Republic	Ms Berioska Morrison Gonzalez
Egypt	Mr Doha Abdu Hammam, Mr Atif Salah Megaed, Mr Abdel Razek Mohamed, Mr Fatimah Elzahraa Mohamed, Mr Ramzy Steno
Eritrea	Mr Asmerom Kidane
European Union	Mr Marc Richir, Mr Jorg Roos
Hungary	Mr Péter Lengyel
Indonesia	Ms Sitti Hamdiah, Ms Anindita Laksmiwati, Mr/Ms Djoko Arye Prasetyo, Mr/Ms Sofyan Rahman, Mr Muhammad Febrianoer, Mr Andreas Mahardika, Ms Novi Dwi Ratnasari, Ms Fathia Maryam Perdata, Mr Caka A. Awal, Ms Noan Gae Luna, Ms Ida Ayu Ratih, Ms Agnes Rosari Dewi
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr Morteza Azadi
Italy	Mr Mauro Bertelletti, Mr Massimo Ruggiero, Ms Iliaria Ferraro
Japan	Mr Shingo Ota, Mr Hideki Moronuki, Mr Naohito Okazoe, Mr Kento Otsuyama, Ms Sayako Takeda
Kuwait	Mr Sultan Alotaibi, Mr Salah Al Bazzaz
Malaysia	Ms Tengku Balkis binti Tunku Shahar, Ms Nur Fadhlina Chan binti Mahadie Chan
Malta	Mr Angelico Baldacchino, Mr Andreas Kotelis
Mexico	Ms Isabel Christina Reyes Robles, Mr José de Jesús Dosal Cruz, Mr Noemí Itzel Zamora García, Mr Migeul Ángel Huerta Bella, Mr José Luis Delgado Crespo, Ms María de los Angeles Gómez Aguilar, Mr Giovanni Fiore-Amaral
New Zealand	Mr Don Syme

Nicaragua	Mr Roberto Chacón Rivas, Ms Itzamna Ubeda
Norway	Mr Krisoffer Bjoiklund, Mr Alf Hakon Hoel
Oman	Mr Abdulaziz Said Al-Marzouqi, Mr Dawood Suleiman AlYahayai, Mr Hussain Mohammed Almuscati,
Panama	Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado, Ms Flor Torrijos, Mr Raúl Delgado, Mr Darío López, Mr Rudick Kant
Peru	Ms Rosa Francisca Zavala Correa, Ms Sharon Dale Gonzales, Ms Patricia Iliushka Villasante Meza, Mr José Edgardo Allemant Sayán, Ms Silvana Quinteros Malpartida, Ms Maria de Fátima Do Nascimento Berrospi, Ms Rosa Ramírez Ontaneda, Mr Juan Camilo Río Horna, Ms Pemela Isabel Carrillo Aguilar, Mr Walter Hiram Barrera Lozada, Mr María Antonieta Paliza Huerta, Mr Miguel Angel Lleellish Juscamayta, Mr Ever Arboleda Ludena, Mr Omar Ricardo Rios Bravo de Rueda, Mr Alejandro José Velásquez Barrionuevo, Ms Rossy Yosenia Chumbe Cedeno
Poland	Mr Leszek Dybiec
Portugal	Mr José Alexandre Rodrigues, Ms Emilia Batista, Ms Fernanda Guia
Russian Federation	Mr Vyacheslav V. Nikulin, Ms Anastasia S. Podolyan, Mr Damir K. Bekyashev, Ms Anna O. Laeva
Senegal (TBC)	Mr Diéne Ndiaye
South Africa	Mr Belemane Semoli, Ms Michelle Pretorius, Ms Fatima Daya
Spain	Ms Carmen Paz Martí, Mr Juan Prieto, Mr Gonzalo Eiriz
Thailand	Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Mr Pholphisin Suvanachai, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat
Turkey	Mr Erdinc Gunes, Ms Burcu Bilgin Topcu, Mr Korkut Gokham Kurtar
United Kingdom	Ms Kathryn Holdsworth, Ms Heidi Richardson, Ms Catherine McMullan
United States of America	Ms Cheri McCarty, Ms Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Ms Rebecca Wintering, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi

(APPENDIX 2)

**Agenda for 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the
Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (WG 1)**

12:00-15:00 (CEST), Wednesday, 26 May 2021

On Zoom

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review of past discussion at JTF1, JTF2, JTF3, JTF4 and COFI 34 (the Secretariat will update COFI/2020/10 submitted to COFI 34)
3. Suggested way forward, including the adoption of the terms of reference for WG
4. Identification of any intersessional work, including needs for additional analysis
5. Any other matters
6. Next meeting

(Background Paper (WG1/1))

Introduction of the background document for WG 1 under Agenda item 2, Review of past discussion at JTF 1-4 and COFI 34, including updated of COFI/2020/10

1. Introduction of the background document: Background and current status of the consultation process on the proposal of the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management:

- (1) In order to review the past consultation process and the current status, this document was prepared based on the document (JM 2021.1/4) submitted to the Joint Meeting of 130th Session of the Programme Committee (130 PC) and 186th Session of the Finance Committee (185 FC) held on 23 March 2021, as well as in consultation with the Chairperson.
- (2) It presents background information concerning the proposal of the establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management, summarizes the consultation process held in FAO, including Members' recommendations agreed in the 34th Session of COFI, in February 2021, as well as the following discussion in the Joint Meeting of the 130 PC and 185 FC in March 2021. Paragraph 7 on the Options were added by the recommendation made by the Chairperson based on the relevant COFI document (COFI/2020/10) and the minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Joint Task Force held on 14 January 2021.

2. Introduction on the options more in details (for WG 1):

- (1) The Options A-C listed in Paragraph 7 were originally proposed in the 1st Meeting of the Joint Task Force (JTF) on 25 and 26 March 2019 and elaborated by the Secretariat in its non-paper, "Possible Options of Having COFI Bodies to Deal with 'Capture Fisheries'", submitted to the 2nd Meeting of JTF, held on 14 June 2019. They were further evaluated in the non-paper, "Evaluation of Proposal to Establish a Sub-Committee on Capture Fisheries", submitted to the 3rd Meeting of JTF, held on 23 September 2019, and eventually reflected in Paragraph 23 of COFI/2020/10 on this matter.
- (2) Option A to create a specific and new sub-committee on fisheries management (SCFM) is a straightforward option, but the need for further examination of potential overlapping in its terms of reference with the existing two sub-committees as well as COFI itself. The financial implication should be also further examined from both the Members' aspect and the Secretariat's aspect. It is also important to recognize an in-force FAO policy of restricting the creation of new statutory bodies.

- (3) Option B to enhance the utilization of the existing bodies (COFI and the two Sub-Committees, namely the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (SCFT) and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SCA) is an option without any institutional change, and have three sub-options. Sub-option 1 is to have discussion on fisheries management in a separate session back-to-back with the session of one of the sub-committees. Sub-option 2 is to have discussion on fisheries management in a separate session back-to-back with the session of COFI, with a shortened period of the session of COFI, if necessary. Sub-option 3 is to keep the status quo and having the discussion on fisheries management being carried out at the plenary session during COFI.
- (4) Option C to keep two sub-committees, but rearrange the Terms of Reference of COFI and its two sub-committees, as appropriate, to include capture fisheries management into one of the sub-committees.
- (5) Option D on the virtual trial session was not included in the options in Paragraph 23 of COFI/2020/10, but added based on the discussion in the 4th Meeting of JTF, held on 14 January 2021. During the meeting, one of the representatives proposed piloting the new sub-committee in the form of several virtual meetings, and a couple of other Members supported the idea of the trial session in a virtual manner. Based on this fact, the Chairperson instructed to add this option.
- (6) Option E to establish a working group under one of the Sub-Committee to discuss specific topic was proposed based on the practices of some of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), where they create a working group, even in an ad hoc manner, to address a specific issue and report back to the main meeting of the commission.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose

To elaborate a proposal to establish a new sub-committee on fisheries management under COFI, and to submit a proposal to COFI 35 with recommendations regarding the establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management, based on the outcome of the working group's deliberations.

2. Membership

The Working Group (WG) will be open to all COFI Members to ensure that the consultation process is transparent and inclusive.

3. Meeting modality

The meetings will be virtual for transparency and inclusiveness.

4. Interpretation and translation

In principle, the meetings will have interpretation and translation, depending on funding availability.

5. Meeting schedule

In principle, each meeting will be no longer than part of a day, per the schedule provided below. However, depending on the work's progress, the meeting can be carried out through multiple days.

- May 2021: 1st meeting
- September 2021: 2nd meeting
- December 2021, 3rd meeting
- February 2022: 4th meeting
- April 2022: 5th meeting
- May 2022: 6th meeting (if necessary)

6. Meeting hour

12:00 to 15:00 h (CET/CEST)

7. Preparation of documents

Documents will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and circulated two weeks before each meeting.

8. Minutes of the Meetings

Draft minutes will be circulated among participants for their review and finalization.

Roadmap of the Meetings

In order to accomplish its results in due time for COFI35, a draft roadmap of the meetings of the Working Group is provided in the Attachment.

Roadmap of the Meetings

(REFERENCE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT EACH WG MEETING)

1st WG Meeting (May 26, 2021)

- (1) Review of past discussion at JTF1, JTF2, JTF3, JTF4 and COFI34 (the Secretariat will update COFI/2020/10 submitted to COFI34)
- (2) Suggested way forward, including the adoption of the terms of reference for WG
- (3) Identification of any intersessional work, including needs for additional analysis

2nd WG meeting (September 2021)

- (1) Review of available options for advancing the discussion on the proposal on the establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management
- (2) Identification of any intersessional work, including needs for additional analysis

3rd WG meeting (December 2021)

- (1) Consideration of the available options based on the results from the review and additional analysis, if any
- (2) Identification of any intersessional work, including needs for additional analysis

4th WG meeting (February 2022)

- (1) To produce a zero draft of the proposal

5th WG meeting (April 2022)

- (1) Formulation of a proposal to COFI35

6th WG meeting (May 2022 if necessary)

- (1) Formulation of a proposal to COFI35