



## COMMISSION OF SMALL SCALE, ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### XVII SESSION

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### MEASURES TAKEN ON DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE XVI SESSION OF COPPESALC

## Introduction

During the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of COPPESALC, held in Havana, Cuba from 3 to 6 September 2019, delegates of the Commission's member countries established priority lines of work consistent with FAO's strategic framework and, in particular, to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The agreements resulted in the Commission's work plan for the biennium 2019-2020. The following is a compilation of the actions undertaken in the Commission's reporting period.

## Activities per thematic area

### Line of work A. Improvement of Fishery Statistics

1. A diagnosis was made of the **information gathering and analysis systems related to inland fisheries** in Central American countries, as a basis for recommendations to strengthen them, given the social importance of this activity. Following an international consultancy and with the technical guidance of FAO, this activity was carried out at the request of member countries, using primary information (surveys and virtual interviews, due to the mobility restrictions imposed by the COVID19 pandemic); information available in the literature and national technical reports. Information was gathered regarding fisheries registries and inland fisheries data collection systems, as the basis for fisheries management and decision-making in sector management. The resulting document has been distributed to the fisheries authorities of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama and is in the process of final editing for publication. FAO is ready to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the diagnostic's recommendations.



## Regional course on fishery resource assessment with limited data

2. This regional course was designed and held at the FAO premises in Panama in December 2019, at the request of the member countries, and was lectured by two international experts. Technical government officers from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Ecuador participated in the course. The objective of the course was to strengthen national institutional capacities regarding resource assessment, in a context common to most countries in the region, i.e. the limited availability of quality data for the sustainable management of fishery resources. As part of the course, participants became theoretically and practically familiar with methods of simplified data gathering, analysis and interpretation of biological-fisheries information for decision-making in fisheries management, developing the capacity to build and/or adapt information analysis systems with limited data; as well as to identify reliable sources of biological-fisheries information for decision-making and to understand and apply empirical stock assessment tools and become familiar with mathematical assessment models.

## Standardised manual for the collection, analysis and use of fisheries biology information in a context of poor availability of data

3. Complementary to the course described in point 2, this manual was formulated, with the support of an international consultant, with the objective of strengthening the collection, analysis, interpretation and use of biological and fisheries information systems for decisions made on sustainable management, with special emphasis on small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The manual, which is currently in the final editing for publication in the coming months, addresses two essential aspects: 1) the systematic collection of information and 2) the analysis of information to identify the state of resources exploitation. This document will be widely disseminated among the member countries of the Commission.

## Line of work B. Promotion of seafood consumption in the countries of the region

4. A virtual **Regional Seminar on Strategies to Promote Fish Consumption focused on Health and Nutrition** was held on 9 November 2020, aimed at i) providing an updated overview of the health benefits of seafood consumption; ii) exchange experiences on good policy practices and their instruments to encourage the consumption of seafood in countries of the region and iii) share successful communication strategies to stimulate seafood consumption among the most nutritionally vulnerable population.
5. The Seminar provided an opportunity to learn about the main elements and structure of the programmes to promote the consumption of seafood undertaken by the Governments of Brazil, Honduras, Tamaulipas (Mexico), Peru, Uruguay and FAO, with the objective of improving people's



nutrition and health. This forum included FAO experts in nutrition and fisheries/aquaculture, who provided a contextual framework on consumption in the region, its barriers and nutritional benefits, as well as organisational efforts to include fish in school diets linked to public procurement programmes.

6. In a second session, the heads of the fish consumption promotion programmes of the countries referred to, and the Director of INFOPECA shared the progress and lessons learned from the programmes under their responsibility. The information from the Seminar has been compiled and has been recently published (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb6305es/cb6305es.pdf>).
7. Two technical cooperation projects have been implemented in the region, which contribute to this line of work of the Commission. On the one hand, the inter-regional project TCP/INT/3605 to develop strategies for the inclusion of fishery and aquaculture products in school diets, which has been focused on the exchange of successful experiences and the design of strategies in the target countries: Honduras, Peru, Uruguay and Angola. The project achieved its objectives. National strategies for the inclusion of fish in school diets were formulated and/or improved and two face-to-face sessions to exchange experiences were held, one in Peru and the other in Uruguay.
8. On the other hand, the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is financing a project at the request of the Government of Honduras, which has made it possible, in close coordination with national and territorial authorities, to develop a pilot project that involves strengthening the productive capacities of small-scale fish farmers, food handling and preparation, as well as food education for parents and teachers. Evidence has been gathered on the technical feasibility and nutritional benefits of the systematic inclusion of fish in school meals, which is providing the basis for the territorial scaling-up of the project. The results of the first phase have been systematised. The scaling-up phase awaits the lifting of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.
9. The Mesoamerica Without Hunger Programme has also financed a pilot project for the productive improvement of small-scale fish farmers, to be linked to public procurement mechanisms associated with school feeding in a rural area of Guatemala. The project is already in the implementation stage.
10. The potential of using fish by-products as a source of micronutrients is being promoted through the FAO/GEF REBYC II LAC regional project, through which pilot sub-projects are being developed for fish silage in Suriname and for the use of fish discards in food preparation in Mexico.

### **Line of Work C. Combating IUU Fishing**

11. During the last biennium, FAO's regional agenda to assist COPPEAALC member countries in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been extensive. It includes technical assistance for the formulation of the new Fisheries and Aquaculture Laws of Panama and Ecuador, as well as their regulatory frameworks. It has also assisted the Government of Peru in the formulation of decrees for the implementation of the PSMA and the Government of Colombia in the formulation of the Bill on Infringement and Sanctions to Fishing activities.



Similarly, assistance has been provided to the Government of Costa Rica for the formulation of the National Port Inspection Plan. Technical assistance is currently underway to strengthen the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems of Ecuador and Panama. Similarly, technical assistance has been provided to the Governments of Colombia and Honduras in their processes to accede to the Agreement on Port State Measures (AMERP). Finally, technical assistance to the Government of Chile for estimating IUU fishing of South Pacific hake is in process.

12. The following capacity strengthening workshops have been organized and delivered:

- National Workshop on Catch Documentation Schemes in Chile.
- Workshop with the Colombian Congress and the PFH on "Tools for fisheries with an ecosystem approach and the combat against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and national and international legislation for the eradication of hunger and poverty".
- Virtual Regional Seminar on Innovation in control and enforcement procedures: Automation and remote control.
- Sub-regional Workshop on Flag State Performance (Dominican Republic and Jamaica).
- Two Workshops on risk analysis for the combat against IUU fishing in Panama and Costa Rica.

13. The Information and Experience Exchange Network to Combat IUU Fishing in Latin America (<https://redpescaindnr.org/>), promoted by FAO and hosted and managed by the Vice-Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Peru, continues its consolidation process, with regular monthly sessions and a very dynamic exchange of information and regular workshops to strengthen the institutional capacities of member countries.

#### **Line of Work D. Capacity strengthening of AREL (Resource-limited aquaculture farmers) and AMYPE (Micro and small-scale aquaculture commercial farmers) on alternative aquaculture feeds**

14. As part of this commitment, the technical guide "Use of Local and Non-Local Raw Materials for Tilapia Feeding in Aquaculture Systems with Limited Resources in Mesoamerica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic" was developed, which facilitates the production of balanced feed at minimum cost for aquaculture production. It contains an application manual for the production of artisanal feeds for tilapia, the climatological and bromatological characteristics of different feeds that are produced in the region of Central America, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, a template programmed in Excel® 2013 and instructions for the formulation of diets at minimum cost, which can be downloaded from this link:

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/FAO-countries/Panama/docs/Copy\\_of\\_Formulacio%CC%81n\\_Tilapia\\_FAO\\_0.8.5.xlsm](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FAO-countries/Panama/docs/Copy_of_Formulacio%CC%81n_Tilapia_FAO_0.8.5.xlsm) .

15. Likewise, following up on the actions established in Colombia's National Aquaculture Extension Programme, a project financed by the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP, acronym in Spanish) was developed with FAO's assistance, through which training was extended to AREL and AMYPE producers in the preparation of alternative, low-cost aquaculture feeds, using



locally available ingredients. The project has enabled the partial and, in some cases, total replacement of commercial feeds, strengthening the competitiveness of small-scale fish farmers in various regions of the country. One of the outputs of this effort has been published and is available at:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=planilla+alimentos+acuicolas+alternativos+AUNAP&sxsrf=ALeKk01IEiz31tmbEILvk6TDz0wQ2Bvww:1623685318969&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=pYVj287xyljD9M%252CV4AAzyoUmBTKTM%252C &vet=1&usg=AI4\\_kQVRg9Uc3dG010W7ChJR1500LNLw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjSzKeVu5fxAhXwQzABHalYDTMQ9QF6BAgaEAE#imgrc=ah0iloFEEbLZyM](https://www.google.com/search?q=planilla+alimentos+acuicolas+alternativos+AUNAP&sxsrf=ALeKk01IEiz31tmbEILvk6TDz0wQ2Bvww:1623685318969&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=pYVj287xyljD9M%252CV4AAzyoUmBTKTM%252C &vet=1&usg=AI4_kQVRg9Uc3dG010W7ChJR1500LNLw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjSzKeVu5fxAhXwQzABHalYDTMQ9QF6BAgaEAE#imgrc=ah0iloFEEbLZyM)

## Line of Work E. Mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in territorial rural development

16. Aquaculture extension services are once again playing a key role in supporting the development of the most vulnerable producers in rural areas; technical assistance has therefore been provided to Colombia, Jamaica and Peru to establish their national aquaculture extension systems. In Colombia, during the reporting period, the model of community self-extension farmers, originally piloted and adopted by producer organisations in two Departments, was expanded territorially as part of the strategic actions of the National Aquaculture Development Plan, which has brought the benefits of the programme to new territories. In Jamaica, work has been carried out with the National Fisheries Division to develop a National Aquaculture and Fisheries Extension Programme, which will begin with a capacity strengthening programme for government technicians in aspects of extension and community intervention. Peru has finalized its National Aquaculture Extension Strategy, developed by FAO and the General Directorate of Aquaculture of the Vice-Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. This strategy will become an instrument of the National Aquaculture Policy.
17. In general, artisanal fishers and small-scale aquaculture enterprises are marginalised from financial services, including development credit, either because they lack assets that can serve as collateral or because of their low payment capacity, creating a vicious circle, since without access to credit for working capital or the improvement of their productive infrastructure, they do not have access to technological improvement or productivity, and thus remain in poverty. In support of the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, AREL and AMYPE, the policy note **"Autogenous microfinance mechanisms in organisations of artisanal fishers and small-scale fish farmers in Latin America"** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9746es/CA9746ES.pdf>) was developed to guide the discussion for the development of a financing mechanism accessible to small and medium-sized producers stemming from their own organisations.
18. As part of its efforts to eradicate hunger and rural poverty, FAO carries out comprehensive actions that include the promotion of social protection and occupational safety for farm workers and fishers, considering the accidents rates and repercussions on human health resulting from dive-fishing, which is carried out under inadequate conditions, basically due to the lack of training, unfitness and inadequate technical and regulatory capacities. FAO developed the **"Reference guidelines to legislate or regulate diving in artisanal or small-scale fishing in the Latin American and Caribbean region"** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb0693es/CB0693ES.pdf>), which are contributing



to the formulation of sector legislative frameworks in Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. In Honduras, additional assistance was provided to the government in the formulation of the "**Guía práctica para el buceo seguro en la pesca en Honduras** (Practical guidelines for safe dive-fishing in Honduras)", which complements the "**Reglamento Nacional para la Pesca con Buceo en Honduras** (National Regulations for dive-fishing in Honduras)" officially adopted in 2020.

## Line of Work F. Health and environmental aspects and climate change

19. In view of the emerging diseases in aquaculture and the need to strengthen the capacities of countries to prevent their spread, various actions have been taken by the member countries of the Commission, in response to their requests. Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) affects the livelihoods of many AREL and AMYPE in LAC countries and threatens those countries where TiLV is not yet active. Therefore, within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Project TCP/SLM/3704, FAO in coordination with RIOPPAH, the support of OSPESCA and in consultation with the Governments of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, developed the "Action Plan for strengthening the prevention against emerging diseases, with emphasis on the Tilapia Lake Virus", to be submitted to the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) for implementation in Central American countries and the Dominican Republic.
20. A regional consultancy is currently being carried out in response to the Commission's request, to gather information on the location and installed capacities of laboratories for diagnostic and reference of aquatic diseases in Latin American countries, with the aim at compiling a catalogue for the identification of technical support centres accessible to the countries of the Commission.
21. In terms of adaptation to climate change, the project to strengthen the adaptive capacity to CC of fishing coves in Chile, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is being implemented. Its objective is to strengthen the adaptive capacities of actors of the sector in three coves, as the basis of evidence to promote the national escalation of outcomes and lessons learned.
22. An analysis of the vulnerability of Caribbean coastal communities to the effects of CC was carried out in Nicaragua as part of the baselines in the framework of the implementation of the NICAPESCA project, which is currently being evaluated by the Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
23. The concept note for the project "Strengthening the Resilience of the Caribbean Coastal and Island Communities of Honduras Dependent on Fisheries and Aquaculture" was formulated in Honduras and is under evaluation by the Green Climate Fund.
24. Annex I provides a selection of projects under preparation and implementation, relating to the thematic areas prioritised by the Commission.

## Annex I

Selection of regional projects implemented and under preparation by FAO in the thematic areas prioritised by the Commission, during the biennium 2019-2020

Selection of programmes and projects formulated and/or implemented in COPPESAAALC countries, which relate to the recommendations of the XVI Regular Session.

Project	Country(ies) concerned	General objective
Improving the management of shrimp fisheries in North-Western Mexico.	Mexico	Update population studies and encourage social participation in shrimp fisheries management.
From Bait to Plate: strengthening sustainable fisheries to safeguard marine biodiversity and food security (GEF).	Mexico	Guarantee the conservation of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity and ensure the sustainability of fishing communities' livelihoods through innovative co-management mechanisms in 3 priority areas.
Sustainable management of bycatch from shrimp fisheries (GEF).	Mexico, Costa Rica, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia and Brazil	Reduce bycatch from shrimp fisheries and use it as food; strengthen regulatory frameworks for bycatch under an EAF and strengthen fishing communities' capacities to diversify livelihoods.
Programme for the inclusion of fish in school feeding programmes (Regular Programme and FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme).	Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil	Promote the inclusion of fishery and aquaculture products in the SFPs from existing evidence.
Improving National Aquaculture Competitiveness	Brazil	Comprehensive programme to improve aquaculture value chains; as well as their regulatory frameworks in terms of national water concessions, health and safety of aquaculture products.
Strengthening Coastal Marine Biodiversity Management and Protection in Key Ecological Areas and Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.	Argentina	Strengthening marine biodiversity management and protection capacities in areas of ecological importance, through the creation of new marine protected areas (MPAs) and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).



Vulnerability study of coastal communities on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua.	Nicaragua	Assessment of the degree of exposure and response capacity of fishing and aquaculture communities in the Caribbean of Nicaragua, as a basis for establishing an adaptation strategy.
Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods: FAO SSF Guidelines Implementation Support Project	Belize Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras; Panama, Nicaragua	Guide to strengthen the governance of indigenous fisheries in indigenous territories in Central America.
Guidelines for the National Fisheries Management Plan of Honduras.	Honduras	General recommendations to strengthen the information collection system, institutional capacities and fisheries management measures in Honduras, to ensure its sustainability.
Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal and Island Communities Dependent on Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Caribbean region of Honduras.	Honduras	Under analysis by the Green Climate Fund. The objective is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of fishers and fish farmers to CC, through the diversification of livelihoods, the adaptation of living and productive spaces, and the creation of multi-stakeholder and multi-level mechanisms for disaster risk management.
Institutional Analysis of Panama's Aquatic Resources Administration.	Panama	Organisational and functional analysis to identify weaknesses and propose ways to strengthen institutions in the face of the new challenges for the national fisheries and aquaculture sector.
Low-cost alternative food for limited-resource aquaculture.	Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala; Honduras	Capacity strengthening of AREL for the identification of locally available nutritional sources and on-site manufacturing, to improve the competitiveness
Territorial expansion of the National Aquaculture Extension Programme in Colombia.	Colombia	Geographical escalation of the National Aquaculture Extension Programme, benefiting more communities, organisations, and families.
Formulation of the National Aquaculture Policy Proposal.	Peru	Instrument for steering governmental efforts in the development of national aquaculture. It is the basis for the national policy.
Formulation of the National Fisheries Policy Proposal.	Peru	Instrument for the steering of governmental efforts in the development



		of national fisheries. It is the basis for the national policy.
Formulation of the National Aquaculture Extension Strategy.	Peru	Sector policy instrument that, with a programmatic approach, lays down the basis for establishing a national aquaculture extension system.
Integrated Management of Marine and Coastal Areas of High Value for Biodiversity in Continental Ecuador.	Ecuador	Strengthening concession programmes for the use of mangrove ecosystems and fisheries sustainability.
Formulation of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Extension Strategy.	Jamaica	Sector policy instrument that, with a programmatic approach, lays down the basis for establishing a national aquaculture and fishery extension system.
Strengthening the Chilean fisheries and aquaculture sector's capacity to adapt to climate change.	Chile	Reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity to climate change in the small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sector.
Antimicrobial Use in Aquaculture in Latin America - Challenges and Future Perspectives.	Global	Organise a forum to report on respective mandates, share experiences and identify areas of collaboration relating to aquaculture biosecurity, aquatic organism health management and/or trade-related issues, including the challenges faced by COVID-19 for trade in aquatic organisms and their products.
Global umbrella programme to implement the PSMA and Complementary MCS Operations, Measures & Tools, including the Global Record.	Ecuador, Costa Rica and Peru	Enhancing the States' capacity for the effective implementation of Port State Measures and complementary monitoring, control and surveillance operations, measures and tools to combat IUU fishing.
Support FAO's PSMA Global Capacity Development Programme.	Colombia and Panama	Support FAO's Global PSMA capacity development programme.
Support for the implementation of PSMA and related instruments to combat IUU fishing.	Chile and Panama	Enhance the capacity of States to effectively implement Port State Measures and complementary monitoring, control and surveillance operations, measures and tools.