



**Organización de las Naciones  
Unidas para la Alimentación  
y la Agricultura**

**Report on the**

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**SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SMALL-  
SCALE, ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF LATIN  
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (COPPESAALC)**

**Havana - Cuba, 3-6 September 2019**

Report on the  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SMALL-SCALE AND ARTISANAL FISHERIES  
AND AQUACULTURE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (COPPESAALC)

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## PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

This document contains the last version of the report of the XVI Regular Session of the Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC) held in Havana, Cuba, from 3 to 6 September 2019.

### SUMMARY

This document presents the report of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC), held in Havana, Cuba, from 3 to 6 September 2019. The Secretariat of the Commission provided information on the state of marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture in the member countries of the Commission and the main challenges for the sustainable development of the sector; as well as strategies to increase its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. The Commission discussed the challenges for the sustainable development of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in their countries, expressing gratitude to the Secretariat of the Commission for the efforts made to implement follow-up measures to the recommendations of the previous session. The Commission agreed to continue working along the lines agreed upon at the High Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular, capacity strengthening through South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms; the promotion of aquaculture, improving the capacities of fish farmers in terms of low-cost alternative food; the promotion of fish consumption, mainly in favour of vulnerable groups and the exchange of information and experiences to combat IUU fishing, among others. These activities resulted in the Work Plan formulated for the biennium 2020-2021. The Commission issued recommendations to the Secretariat, to the governments and to the 36th FAO-RLC Regional Conference to be held in the first quarter of 2020. The Regional Workshop on strengthening systems for monitoring indicators for the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in countries of the Commission was held in the framework of the session.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREPARATION OF THE REPORT.....	iii
SUMMARY.....	iii
OPENING OF THE MEETING.....	1
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	1
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.....	2
MEASURES TAKEN ON DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE XV REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	2
FOLLOW-UP ON THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE GLOBAL BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN .....	3
PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDED STATUTES OF THE COMMISSION AS APPROVED BY THE FAO COUNCIL, TO BRING ARTISANAL MARINE FISHERIES TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION AND OBJECTIVES .....	3
STATE OF MARINE, INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE COPPESAALC COUNTRIES. MAIN CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	4
PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS NEW THEMATIC SCOPES.....	5
FORMULATION OF THE COMMISSION WORK PLAN FOR THE 2019 - 2020 BIENNIUM.....	6
RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO AND GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	6
COPPESAALC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FAO/RLC REGIONAL CONFERENCE (XXXVI LARC).....	8
DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SESSION.....	9
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF COPPESAALC.....	9
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 14 TARGET INDICATORS IN COPPESAALC COUNTRIES.....	9
ANNEXES	
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS .....	11
ADOPTED AGENDA .....	14
COMMISSION WORK PLAN FOR THE 2019 - 2020 BIENNIUM.....	17



## **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The XVI Regular Session of the Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC) took place from 4 to 6 September 2019, in the City of Havana, at the courtesy of the Government of the Republic of Cuba (hereinafter Cuba).

2. The meeting was attended by 34 delegates from 17 COPPESAALC member countries, as well as a representative of the Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA); a representative of the Centro para los Servicios de Información y Asesoramiento sobre la Comercialización de los Productos Pesqueros de América Latina (Centre for Information and Consultancy Services on the Marketing of Fishery Products in Latin America (INFOPECSA)) and a representative of the Secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). The list of participants is attached as Annex I to the report.

3. The opening ceremony was chaired by H.E. Ms Iris Quiñones, Minister of Food Industry of Cuba and Mr Marcelo Resende, FAO Representative in Cuba.

4. At the opening ceremony, the FAO Representative in Cuba thanked the Government of the host country for its hospitality, the delegates of the countries for their presence and commitment to the Commission, and the representatives of the international organizations for their support through strategic partnerships with FAO and efforts to increase the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to Food and Nutritional Security (FNS) in the countries of the region. Mr Resende acknowledged the FAO team in the region assisting in the organisation of the meeting.

5. The Honourable Minister welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Cuba, expressing the honour of hosting the XVI Session of COPPESAALC, acknowledging FAO for the assistance received in her country in the areas of competence of the Organization and noting the importance of having forums such as COPPESAALC, as they allow countries to discuss and agree on strategies to promote the management and sustainable development of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. She reported on the recent approval of the first Law on Fisheries in her country, which was designed to promote the proper organisation, administration and control of the activity, within a framework of conservation and rational use of natural resources in the country's maritime, river and lake waters. Finally, she expressed the need to reach agreements on the implementation of policies that guarantee the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

6. The Assistant Director-General of FAO and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean Mr Julio Berdegué, delivered a virtual message in which he reiterated the importance of promoting the sustainable development of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture for food production and territorial rural development. He also reiterated the willingness of FAO to accompany countries in their efforts to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous future for the communities that depend on these sectors. The message is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIfBIC0aoyg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIfBIC0aoyg).

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The Secretariat presented the provisional agenda and submitted it for approval as the first item on the agenda. The delegates of the member countries approved the proposed agenda with no amendments. The annotated agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

## **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

8. The Delegation of Panama and representative of the Pro-Tempore Chair of the Commission for the period 2018-2019 acknowledged the support received from participating delegates and the Secretariat of the Commission during the time his country acted as Chair. He invited the delegates present at the session to make proposals for the election of the delegation that would lead the Pro-Tempore Chair for the next regular period of the Commission, beginning on 4 September 2019 and covering the 2020-2021 biennium.

9. The Delegation of Peru proposed the Delegation of the host country, Cuba, to assume the Pro-tempore Chair for the above-mentioned period. The proposal was endorsed by several delegations and unanimously approved. The Delegation of Cuba accepted the motion, thanking for the confidence placed in its country to chair the Commission for the next biennium, and assumed to steer the XVI Regular Session of the Commission.

10. The Chair requested, as the next item on the agenda, the nomination of the Drafting Committee of the Session Report. The Commission approved the designation of the representatives of Guatemala, Honduras and Peru to form, together with the Secretariat, the Drafting Committee of the Session Report.

## **MEASURES TAKEN ON DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE XV REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

11. The Secretariat presented a summary of the measures taken on decisions and recommendations from the XV Regular Session of the Commission, as well as the activities carried out in the intersessional period. Delegates were invited to review the information presented and take note of activities of interest to COPPESAALC carried out by the Secretariat in the biennium 2018-2019. The summary is presented as a working document (COPPESAALC-XVI-6; [www.fao.org/3/ca5687es/ca5687es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca5687es/ca5687es.pdf)).

12. The delegates acknowledged the activities carried out by the Secretariat in response to the recommendations of the XV Regular Session of COPPESAALC. They agreed on the need to resume the work of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas (RAA), as it is an effective mechanism for cooperation in aquaculture in the region. The Brazilian Delegation informed that they would consult with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil on the steps to follow, given that, as the Secretariat of the Commission informed, the minimum of eight countries established in the International Convention of the RAA have already ratified its entry into force. They pointed out that institutional changes in their country had halted the formal process of setting up the Network.

13. The delegate of Brazil also mentioned that a technical cooperation project to strengthen the RAA actions, to be financed by the Government of Brazil and implemented by FAO, has been approved; however, due to institutional changes, it will be necessary to consult on funds availability.

14. The OSPESCA delegate acknowledged the actions taken by the Secretariat in response to the countries' requests, supporting the need to resume the work of the RAA and to continue strengthening the Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (IUU Fishing Network).

15. The Commission noted the need to promote the cultivation of native species, both for marketing and regional consumption, and for use in inland water body stocking programmes.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE GLOBAL BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

16. The Secretariat presented a summary of the actions stemming from agreements reached at the High-Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in November 2017, which have been managed and addressed in subsequent stages, including: i) assisting countries in the evaluation of their fishery resources and organising a regional course on modern methods for stock assessment as the basis for fisheries management; ii) systematising experiences on increasing fish consumption and its incorporation into school feeding programmes; iii) organising a regional workshop on micro-financing mechanisms for artisanal fishers and fish farmers with limited resources; and iv) managing funds for a regional project for the participatory design and validation of autogenous financing mechanisms for fishers and fish farmers in rural territories. Report available at [www.fao.org/3/i8963es/I8963ES.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/i8963es/I8963ES.pdf).

17. The Secretariat reported on the actions taken by FAO in response to the agreements mentioned in the previous paragraph, acknowledging the Government of Mexico, through its delegate participating in the session, for the cooperation provided to the countries of Central America through the fisheries resources assessment campaign by the Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel "Dr Jorge Carranza Fraser", which made it possible to gather information on fisheries resources of interest to the Central American countries and to strengthen their institutional capacities through the joint work of technicians from these countries and Mexican researchers.

18. The participating delegations joined the Secretariat in its appreciation to the Government of Mexico for its cooperation in the Fisheries Resources Assessment Campaign for the countries of Central America. They acknowledged the efforts of FAO to establish a regional roadmap to promote South-South Cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture, following up and complying with the agreements established at the Blue Growth Meeting.

19. The Secretariat informed that the International Meeting for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Fisheries and Aquaculture, in the framework of the Blue Growth Initiative in Latin America, will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 26 and 27 November of this year; as well as a regional course on methods for the assessment of fishery resources with limited data on a date to be determined in Panama City, in response to the agreements and requests of the member countries of the Commission.

20. The Delegation of Argentina requested, to the extent of the financial possibilities of the Commission, to conduct a course on the evaluation of fishery resources for South American countries, taking into account the peculiarities of fisheries in these countries. In addition, they offered to host this event. The need to develop a course for South American countries was supported by the Chilean delegation and the offer of Argentina to host this course was welcomed by the Commission.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDED STATUTES OF THE COMMISSION AS APPROVED BY THE FAO COUNCIL, TO BRING ARTISANAL MARINE FISHERIES TO THE COMMISSION'S ATTENTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Secretariat summarised the actions taken in response to the request made by the member countries during the XIV Regular Session of the Commission to request the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to include small-scale and artisanal marine fisheries in the mandate and objectives of the Commission (Document COPPESAALC-XVI-7: [www.fao.org/3/ca5453es/ca5453es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca5453es/ca5453es.pdf)). The amendments to the statutes were approved at the 159th Session of the FAO Council.

21. Countries acknowledged the efforts made by the Secretariat to incorporate small-scale and artisanal marine fisheries into the statutes, recognising the new challenges this entails, given that no additional resources have been allocated to the Commission.

## **STATE OF MARINE, INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE COPPESAALC COUNTRIES. MAIN CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

22. The Secretariat presented a summary of the regional situation of marine fisheries, inland fisheries, marine aquaculture and inland aquaculture in the countries of the Commission, in accordance with working documents COPPESAALC-XVI-3: Overview of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean ([www.fao.org/3/ca5452es/ca5452es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca5452es/ca5452es.pdf)), COPPESAALC-XVI-4: Overview of Marine and Inland Fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean ([www.fao.org/3/ca5450es/ca5450es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca5450es/ca5450es.pdf)), and COPPESAALC- XVI-5: Overview of Marine and Inland Aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean ([www.fao.org/3/ca5448es/ca5448es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ca5448es/ca5448es.pdf)). The sectoral challenges to strengthen sustainability and increase the contribution of these sectors to FSN and poverty eradication, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals were stressed.
23. The Commission recognised the need to advocate for the inclusion of the artisanal marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture sectors in national development agendas, prompting their political prioritisation, the generation of specific policies to promote them and the allocation of the necessary resources for their sustainable development.
24. The Commission recognised the need to incorporate fisheries and aquaculture into the territorial development dialogue, given the urgent need for national policies that offer economic and productive alternatives to fishers affected by eventual restrictions to fishing, defined by management measures to guarantee the sustainability of fishery resources.
25. The Commission pointed out the urgency of improving systems for data collection, analysis and use as the basis for the sustainable management of marine and inland fisheries resources, drawing attention to the need to improve fisheries recording systems and to strengthen management systems based on the best available scientific information.
26. The Commission stressed the importance of supporting the sustainable development of aquaculture, given its potential to meet the growing demand for food and the need to alleviate pressure on fish resources.
27. The Commission recognised the key role of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), stressing the importance of engaging users in the design of policies and legislation, ensuring their participatory implementation.
28. The Commission reiterated the importance of continuing efforts to combat IUU fishing, recognizing the Agreement on Port State Measures as the only binding international instrument to address these harmful practices. The Commission reiterated that Flag States should strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures on their vessels and areas of jurisdiction.
29. The Commission reiterated the need to incorporate accessible technologies that facilitate and strengthen MCS, in accordance with the characteristics of each country's fleet.
30. The Chilean delegation stressed the need to separate statistical information on artisanal, industrial and inland fisheries, proposing that, as far as possible, from the next Regular Session of the Commission, statistics should be submitted broken down by type and scale of production.
31. In support of the preceding proposal, the Delegation of Uruguay suggested the development of a guide for countries to submit disaggregated information, to be shared at the next regular session of the Commission. The Secretariat was requested to prepare the proposed guide to collect the information and circulate it in a timely manner.
32. The Commission recognised the need to address climate change mitigation and adaptation issues in fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on the vulnerability of inland fishers to climate change, given the limited scientific information available.

33. Some delegates pointed out that the reduction of inland fisheries catches in some regions has its origin in sectors other than fisheries. Agrochemical and industrial pollution, deforestation and change in land-use were mentioned as examples. This calls for a multi-sectoral approach with a territorial dimension for the harmonious management of natural resources to avoid cross-damages.

34. The Chilean delegation highlighted the need to develop guidelines on best management practices for the sustainable development of aquaculture, identifying successful strategies and experiences that could be replicated in other countries, as proposed at the 10th meeting of the FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ/X/2019/8; [www.fao.org/3/na137es/na137es.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/na137es/na137es.pdf)).

35. The Commission reiterated the need to promote the cultivation of native species, both for their possible greater climate resilience and for their potential to restore populations in inland water bodies through controlled stocking programmes.

## **PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS NEW THEMATIC SCOPES**

The Secretariat reflected on the advisability of opening deliberative and working spaces for each area of competence of the Commission: i) Small-scale Artisanal Marine Fisheries; ii) Small-scale Artisanal Inland Fisheries; and iii) Aquaculture, as developed in other FAO technical commissions. They mentioned, however, that as mandated by the FAO Council in agreeing to the incorporation of artisanal marine fisheries into the Commission's objectives, no additional financial resources would be available.

36. Due to budgetary constraints, the Secretariat suggested dividing the discussion period at the regular session of the Commission, as from the next session, devoting a full day to the discussion and debate on issues related to each sub-sector. The Delegation of Argentina endorsed the proposal, requesting to add a section for cross-cutting issues. The Commission unanimously approved the proposal.

37. The Delegation of Uruguay invited the countries to explore, through their national cooperation agencies, the availability of funds for the implementation of activities agreed in the Commission, including South-South Cooperation (SSC).

38. The Commission recognised the need to intensify coordination and interaction with regional fishery organisations and welcomes the proven linkage with OSPESCA and WECAFC through joint actions in areas of common interest, to the benefit of member countries.

39. The Commission concluded that, given the budgetary constraints, the existing structure should be maintained, without thematic working groups, but through efficient work planning, with few actions of greater impact.

## **FORMULATION OF THE COMMISSION WORK PLAN FOR THE 2019 - 2020 BIENNIUM**

40. The Secretariat invited delegates to reflect on and establish priority lines of work for the Commission in the 2020-2021 biennium, in line with FAO's strategic framework, in particular to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda). To this end, the Secretariat proposed a group dynamic to establish the thematic areas, actions, implementation mechanisms and scope.

41. The Secretariat facilitated the dynamic, which allowed, through the active exchange of ideas, to reach consensus and the approval of the COPPESAALC work plan for the 2020-2021 biennium. Six thematic areas were prioritised: i) improvement of statistical information systems for fisheries and aquaculture; ii) design and/or strengthening national strategies to increase fish consumption; iii) development of more effective mechanisms to promote fishery and aquaculture statistics; iii) development of more effective mechanisms to combat IUU fishing; iv) development of low-cost alternative aquafeeds;

v) incorporation of fisheries and aquaculture in territorial rural development; and vi) strengthening aquaculture health and the adaptive capacity of member countries to the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture. The Work Plan is attached as Annex III to this report.

42. The representative of INFOPECSA invited FAO to take joint steps to organise a regional event to exchange successful experiences in promoting fish consumption among the population, with emphasis on the inclusion of fish in school meals, based on the actions technically assisted by INFOPECSA and FAO in the region.

43. The Secretariat reassured that every effort would be made to comply with the Work Plan, while bearing in mind that the implementation of the proposed activities depends on the availability of funds, and therefore urged delegates to assist in the mobilisation of resources.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO AND GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES**

44. The Secretariat reviewed the main actions undertaken by the Commission during the previous biennium, stressing the importance of processes continuity and inviting member country delegates to provide views and recommendations in line with the agreed work plan for the 2020 - 2021 biennium.

45. The Commission agreed to recommend for the 2020 - 2021 biennium, that FAO should:

- Ensure the proper implementation of the work plan agreed by the countries for the 2020-2021 biennium.
- Draft a guide for the countries of the Commission to collect basic information on small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to be presented in disaggregated form at the next regular session.
- Continue the work with strategic partners to provide technical assistance to the countries of the region in the design and implementation of strategies to increase fish consumption in a responsible manner, focusing on vulnerable groups and populations with obesity problems.
- Continue the relevant steps for the consolidation of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas and the ultimate implementation of its strategic programmes.
- Continue to assist the IUU Fishing Network.

Continue to assist countries in strengthening their national MCS strategies and other capacities for the adoption of the Agreement on Port State Measures and other international instruments and tools, aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.

- Expand the geographical coverage of technical assistance for the development of low-cost alternative aquaculture feed, to strengthen the competitiveness of Aquaculture of Limited Resources (AREL) and Micro and Small Enterprises (AMyPE).
- Continue to facilitate the implementation processes of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the countries of the region.
- Continue to strengthen joint work with relevant regional bodies and promote the creation of new public-private partnerships for the development of the Commission's objectives.
- Continue to support member countries in the identification of the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture to climate change, as a basis for the formulation of national adaptation strategies.
- Provide technical assistance to member countries in the incorporation of fisheries and aquaculture into territorial rural development policies.
- Assist countries in the implementation of measures conducive to the fulfilment of their international commitments in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Explore the possibilities to provide technical assistance for the production of native species in aquaculture for food production and the stocking of inland water bodies.

46. The Commission agreed to make the following recommendations for the attention of the governments of member countries:

- Establish and/or strengthen mechanisms to collect fisheries and aquaculture data and information to enable them to make decisions for the sustainable management of these sectors, based on the best scientific information available and on a regular basis, including biological, economic and social aspects.
- Carry out sectoral censuses, or update existing ones, to improve decision-making in the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Strengthen fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems to ensure compliance with management measures that guarantee the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture resources and safeguard the livelihoods that depend on them.
- Establish or strengthen national campaigns for the consumption of fishery and aquaculture products, promoting the nutritional benefits of these foods and encouraging the inclusion of fish in school meals.
- Create regulatory and institutional mechanisms to link artisanal and small-scale fishers and AREL/AMyPE to public procurement programmes.
- The Commission encourages its Member States in a position to do so to adhere to or ratify and implement the AMERP, as well as the IUU Fishing Network and the RAA.
- Establish support mechanisms for the development of fishing and aquaculture communities, especially for the most vulnerable populations such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants.
- Design and implement actions to include artisanal fishers, as well as AREL and AMyPE, in their social protection systems.
- Include aquaculture in territorial development agendas, as one of the pillars of FSN and rural poverty alleviation.- Support strategies to promote research and cultivation of native species.
- Mainstream natural disaster and climate change risks related to fisheries and aquaculture into the objectives of their policies, plans and programmes.
- Incorporate in their nationally determined contributions, objectives related to fisheries and aquaculture as sectors contributing to the 2030 Agenda.

## **COPPEAALC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FAO/RLC REGIONAL CONFERENCE (XXXVI LARC)**

47. Once the recommendations to FAO and the Governments had been defined, the Commission's Work Plan for the 2020-2021 biennium, the Secretariat asked the delegates to open a space for collective reflection in order to issue the Commission's recommendations to the 36th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean on FAO's priorities in the area of fisheries and aquaculture for the 2020-2021 biennium.

48. The Commission considered that, in view of: i) the growing importance of fisheries and aquaculture in food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation and territorial rural development in general, ii) that environmentally and socially sustainable aquaculture is an important driver of rural economies, particularly those in extreme poverty, iii) that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing represents one of the main scourges and threats to the sustainability of fisheries; and iv) that the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda represent challenges for the member countries of the Commission and that fisheries and aquaculture contribute in a cross-cutting manner to the achievement of these goals, the Commission recommends to the 36th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean,

- Assist countries in the implementation of measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the area of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Take actions leading to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Achieving Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.
- Adopt a regional initiative on fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the request made in the political declaration of the High-Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean and with the recommendation of the XXXV FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Support the region in the formulation of plans for adaptation to climate change, mitigation of its effects, including the use of clean energy and risk analysis of natural disasters in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; facilitating the mobilisation of resources from global financial sources related to climate and the environment.
- Ensure continued assistance in the formulation of national and regional strategies to increase fish consumption, with emphasis on the inclusion of fish products in school feeding programmes and for other vulnerable groups.
- Ensure the strengthening of aquaculture-based food systems as a pillar of FSN and poverty alleviation in rural territories under migratory pressure.
- Ensure FAO support to Member Countries to improve their fisheries and aquaculture research and statistics systems, as well as their monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) mechanisms, as these are the foundations for the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the protection of the livelihoods that depend on them.
- Ensure continued assistance for the adoption and/or implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures and other complementary international instruments that contribute to combating IUU fishing.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

49. The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Delegation of Peru to host the XVII Regular Session of the Commission in 2021, at a venue and date to be determined.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF COPPESAALC**

50. This report was adopted on 6 September 2019.

## **REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 14 TARGET INDICATORS IN COPPESAALC COUNTRIES**

51. The objective of the workshop was to learn about internationally agreed methods for monitoring and reporting indicators related to the SDG 14 targets, as well as to adopt measures for their implementation and share experiences on national efforts to achieve this Sustainable Development Goal.

52. The agenda of the workshop included the following elements: 1) Background presentations; 2) Exchange of national experiences; and 3) General comments and recommendations.

53. The secretariat gave two background presentations: 1) SDG 14: Targets and indicators under FAO's stewardship, which are: i) Indicator 14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, ii) Indicator 14.6.1. Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, (iii) Indicator 14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP, and (iv) Indicator 14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries, and (2) Aquaculture in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

54. Delegates shared the progress made in their countries in terms of capturing information in the framework of SDG 14, recognising the efforts made and the importance of continuing to strengthen them, even though in most cases, they acknowledge that since they are not the entities primarily involved in the progress reports of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the political participation of their institutions is marginal.

55. The Commission recognised that, apart from the efforts made by the fisheries and aquaculture authorities of the member countries to increase food availability, contribute to rural employment and assess and manage their fisheries resources, the coordination with the national focal points responsible for

reporting on SDG targets is limited and, in some cases, nonexistent.

56. The Commission recognised the need to sensitise national authorities on the importance of considering fisheries and aquaculture as two sectors with high potential contribution to the achievement of various SDGs by adding them in their nationally determined contributions.

57. The Commission recognised that beyond the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to national GDP, these sectors are important because of their contribution to food and nutritional security and to the generation of self-employment and family income for rural families. It reiterates the importance of making this real contribution visible, in order to generate public policies to address their development and sustainability, in harmony with the other sectors of the territorial economy.

58. The Commission requests the Secretariat to accompany, to the extent of specific demands, member countries in their efforts to achieve their SDG-related targets, through the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**ARGENTINA**

Juan Bosch  
Undersecretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture of  
the Government of the Nation

Julia Mantinian  
Specialist Technician  
Undersecretariat of Fisheries and  
Aquaculture of the Government of the  
Nation

**BRAZIL**

Mauricio Nogueira da Cruz Pessoa  
Director of the Department of  
Aquaculture Development and  
Management  
Secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture

**CHILE**

Marisol Álvarez  
Head of the Policy and Management Unit  
Aquaculture Division  
Undersecretariat of Fisheries and  
Aquaculture

**COLOMBIA**

Maria Claudia Merino  
Director of the Technical  
Administration and Development  
Directorate  
National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority

**COSTA RICA**

Alvaro Otárola  
Chief Technical Officer  
Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries  
and Aquaculture

**CUBA**

Iris Quiñones Rojas  
Minister of the Food Industry  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Elisa García  
Adviser  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Ariel Padrón Valdés  
Director of Fisheries Regulations and Science  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Nora Yong Mena  
Director of Coordination, International  
Affairs and Communication  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Mercedes Fernández Olivera  
Specialist of the Coordination, International  
Affairs and Communications Department  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Gilda Dieppa Sanabria  
Head of the Legal Department  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Danaira Miranda  
Communicator of the Coordination,  
International Affairs and Communications  
Directorate  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Gloria Almandoz  
Specialist in the Coordination, International  
Affairs and Communications Directorate  
Ministry of the Food Industry

Juan José Mena Lorenzo  
Head of the Fisheries Division  
Business Group of the Food Industry

Jesús Rodríguez Rull  
Head of the Aquaculture Department  
Business Group of the Food Industry

Marelis Milán Rodríguez  
International Affairs  
Business Group of the Food Industry

Raidel Borroto Bejerano  
Director  
Centre for Fisheries Research

Raúl Bobadilla  
IMPAGL Director  
Centre for Fisheries Research

## **ECUADOR**

Pablo Aníbal Lombeida Terranova  
Technical specialist  
Vice-Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture

## **EL SALVADOR**

Norma Idalia Lobo Martel  
Director General CENDEPESCA  
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

## **GUATEMALA**

Carlos Marín Arriola  
Director of Fisheries Regulations and Standards  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock  
and Food

David Soler Munguía  
Adviser to the Vice-office VISAR  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock  
and Food

Luisa Fernanda De La Vega Lanuza  
Adviser to the Vice-office VISAR  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock  
and Food

## **HONDURAS**

Kenia Nicole Peña  
Official of the General Directorate of  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock

## **JAMAICA**

William J.C. Hutchinson  
Minister  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Agriculture and  
Fisheries

Roy McNeil  
Acting Chief Technical Manager  
Special Projects  
Ministry of Industry, Trade, Agriculture and  
Fisheries

## **MEXICO**

César Julio Saucedo Barrón  
Director General for Fisheries and  
Aquaculture Management  
National Commission for Aquaculture and  
Fisheries

## **NICARAGUA**

Edward Alexander Jackson Abella  
Vice-President (Minister)  
Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Luis Cabrera González  
Ambassador of Nicaragua in Cuba  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

## **PANAMA**

Hamed Leopoldo Tuñón Pinzón  
Deputy Administrator  
Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama

## **PARAGUAY**

Juan Simón Ponce  
National Aquaculture Plan Officer  
Vice-Minister of Livestock

## **PERU**

José Humberto Romero Glenny  
Director General of Supervision, Control and  
Sanctions  
Ministry of Production

## **URUGUAY**

Walter Andrés Domingo Balestra  
National Director  
National Directorate of Aquatic Resources

**OBSERVERS**

Carlos Fuentevilla  
FAO Fishery Officer  
Representative of the Technical Secretariat of the  
Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission  
(COPACO)

Graciela Pereira Executive Director of the  
Centre for Information and Advisory Services  
on Marketing of Fishery Products from Latin  
America and the Caribbean (INFOPECSA)

Manuel Perez Moreno  
Technical Project Coordinator  
Technical Coordinator of the Eco-langosta  
Project  
Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture  
Sector of the Central American Isthmus  
(OSPESCA)

**FAO**

Alejandro Flores Nava  
Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer  
Regional Office for Latin America and the  
Caribbean

José Aguilar Manjarrez  
Sub-Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer  
for South America

Javier Villanueva García Benítez  
International Specialist in Fisheries for Latin  
American and Caribbean countries

## APPROVED AGENDA

**Wednesday 4 September 2019**

**08:30 to 12:30 hr**

### **Regional Workshop to strengthen monitoring systems for SDG14 target indicators in COPPESAALC countries**

The aim of the workshop is to learn about internationally agreed methods to monitor and report on indicators related to the SDG 14 targets, to adopt measures for their implementation and to exchange experiences on national actions to achieve this Sustainable Development Goal.

The workshop will include the following thematic components:

- Background presentation: Fisheries and aquaculture in the 2030 Agenda.
- SDG 14: Its targets and indicators under FAO's stewardship
  - **Indicator 14.4.1** *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.*
  - **Indicator 14.6.1.** *Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.*
  - **Indicator 14.7.1** *Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP.*
  - **Indicator 14.b.1** *Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/ policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries.*
- Exchange of national experiences.
- Group dynamics to formulate technical guidelines to apply the monitoring and reporting methodology.
- Final comments and recommendations derived from the workshop to governments, FAO, COPPESAALC and the FAO Regional Conference.

**14:00 to 17:00 hr**

1. Opening of the XVI Session of COPPESAALC
  - a. Procedural Issues
  - b. Introduction and expected results
2. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of the Session
  - a. Procedural Issues
  - b. Election of the Chair of the Session and the Report Drafting Committee
3. Measures taken on decisions and recommendations from the XV Regular Session of the Commission and inter-sessional activities.

The Secretariat will present a summary of measures taken on the decisions and recommendations from the XV Regular Session, as well as activities carried out in the 2017-2018 biennium. Delegates are invited to review the information presented and take note of activities of interest to COPPESAALC undertaken by FAO in the intersessional period.

4. Follow-up to the Agreements arising from the High-Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

A brief summary of the measures taken by the Commission and FAO in response to the agreements of this regional session will be presented, including the ongoing and planned activities for the coming months.

5. Presentation of the amended statutes of the Commission, as approved by the FAO Council, to incorporate artisanal marine fisheries into the focus and objectives of the Commission.

The Secretariat shall submit the amendments approved by the FAO Council to the statutes of the Commission, as requested by its member countries.

6. General Comments

**Thursday, 5 September 2019**

**08:30 a 17:00 hr**

7. Opening Session – day 2
8. State of Marine Fisheries in the COPPESAALC countries. Main challenges for Sustainable Development.

The situation of marine fisheries in the member countries of the Commission will be analysed in this item. The main challenges for the sustainable development of this sector will also be analysed. Participants are invited to complement the information and to make any recommendations deemed relevant.

9. State of Inland Fisheries in the COPPESAALC countries. Main challenges for Sustainable Development.

The situation of Inland Fisheries in the member countries of the Commission will be analysed in this item. The main challenges for the sustainable development of this sector will also be analysed. Participants are invited to complement the information and to make any recommendations deemed relevant.

10. State of Aquaculture in the COPPESAALC countries. Main challenges for Sustainable Development

The situation of Aquaculture in the member countries of the Commission will be analysed in this item. The main challenges for the sustainable development of this sector will also be analysed. Participants are invited to complement the information and to make any recommendations deemed relevant.

11. Proposals to improve the functioning of the Commission in the framework of its new thematic areas.

The delegates will be asked to contribute to the joint reflection on the convenience of opening deliberative and working spaces for each area of competence of the Commission (Small-scale Fisheries, Artisanal Marine Fisheries, Small-scale Fisheries, Artisanal Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture). This reflection will include joint and complementary work with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC).

**Friday, 6 September 2019**

**08:30 a 17:00 hr**

12. Formulation of the Commission's Work Plan for the 2020-2021 biennium.

The Secretariat will facilitate a dynamic for delegates of member countries of the Commission to establish priority lines of work for the Commission in the 2020 - 2021 biennium, in line with FAO's strategic framework, in particular to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals ( 2030 Agenda).

13. Recommendations of COPPESAALC to the FAO/RLC Regional Conference (XXXVI LARC).

The FAO Regional Conference (LARC) is the regional governing body made up of Ministerial-level officials representing member countries, which defines the priority lines of attention for FAO technical assistance in the region. Its deliberations are fuelled by recommendations from various bodies and actors, including FAO's Statutory Technical Commissions, such as COPPESAALC.

Delegates are invited to reflect collectively on relevant issues for FAO's work in the region and advise the Regional Conference on priority areas for FAO's attention in the area of fisheries and aquaculture in the Latin American and Caribbean region, within the strategic framework defined by the FAO Council for the Organization.



**PLAN DE TRABAJO DE LA COMISIÓN PARA EL BIENIO 2019 – 2020**

<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Financing Mechanisms</b>
Improvement of Fishery Statistics.	COPPESAALC countries have identified their challenges to improve inland fisheries statistical information.	Guidelines for the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative information for the sustainable management of inland fisheries, validated through pilots in representative territories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing criteria for the selection of territories.</li> <li>- Methodological Design and Terms of Reference.</li> <li>- Identification of key synergies with institutions in each selected territory.</li> <li>- Implementation of specific consultancies</li> <li>- Study of the current state of inland fisheries in a representative territory of each sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean (Caribbean Basin; Mesoamerica and South America).</li> <li>- Preliminary study on indigenous fisheries in Central American Atlantic territories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional TCP</li> <li>- GCP</li> </ul>
Promoting seafood consumption in the countries of the region.	COPPESAALC countries strengthen strategies to increase the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food and nutrition security and healthy food consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Document with successful experiences derived from strategies to increase the consumption of fishery and aquaculture products (WEBINAR).</li> <li>- Document that systematizes the lessons learned in the inclusion of fishery and aquaculture products in school feeding programmes in the region. (FAO).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of a webinar or regional face-to-face meeting to present achievements and lessons learned from the strategies implemented in member countries, aimed at increasing the consumption of fishery and aquaculture products.</li> <li>- Systematisation of successful experiences from the Webinar and review of available information.</li> <li>- Integration of outcomes from FAO pilot projects</li> <li>- Articulation with INFOPECSA to develop a document of lessons learned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PR, Sinergy with INFOPECSA, OSPECSA, COPACO</li> </ul>

Combating IUU Fishing.	COPPESAALC countries have more effective mechanisms for MCS in artisanal and small-scale fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Document on technologies applicable to MCS in small-scale or artisanal fisheries (WEBINAR).</li> <li>- Identification of possibilities for SSC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of a Webinar to exchange experiences in the implementation of various technologies, particularly low-cost and easy-to-implement technologies, in the fisheries MCS.</li> <li>- Information compilation document</li> <li>- Process Facilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PR, Synergy with the Information and Experience Exchange Network to Combat IUU Fishing; Secretariat of ORP-FAO; OSPESCA; WECAFC; CRFM,</li> </ul>
Capacity strengthening of ARELs and AMyPEs in the field of alternative aquaculture feeds.	COPPESAALC countries strengthen their capacities to improve sustainability and competitiveness of ARELs and AMyPEs,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catalogues of non-traditional ingredients and low-cost alternative aquaculture diets available and disseminated in COPPESAALC countries.</li> <li>- Strengthened national capacities in artisanal aquaculture nutrition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mainstreaming outcomes of actions to incorporate non-commercial diets and alternative aquaculture feeding.</li> <li>- Dissemination of outcomes, diets and catalogues by electronic means.</li> <li>- COPPESAALC course for national trainers (extensionists) in formulation and artisanal processing of alternative aquaculture feeds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-PR, GCP (Course would depend on availability of resources).</li> </ul>
Mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in territorial rural development,	Fisheries and aquaculture in COPPESAALC countries contribute to improving local economies and FSN, especially in the most vulnerable territories.	Document summarising the outcomes of studies on the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to FSN and household income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of criteria for the selection of territories.</li> <li>- Case study in at least three rural territories of employment generation and economic spillover from fisheries and aquaculture chains, implemented and published.</li> <li>- Publication of a study on youth employment in fisheries and aquaculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-PR, GCP.</li> </ul>

Health, environmental and climate change aspects.	Strengthening aquaculture health management, including disease risk analysis in the region.	Provide information from national epidemiological surveillance systems on the basis of risk analysis in aquaculture.	- Systematising risk studies as a basis for prevention, surveillance and control of diseases in each country.	- SSC
	Increase the adaptive capacity of COPPESAALC countries to the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.	Documents on climate change impacts on two fisheries and one aquaculture chain.  Assessment of the state of progress in the formulation of policies and plans for adaptation to climate change in fisheries and aquaculture.	- Organisation of a Webinar to share experiences in the formulation of national policies and plans for adaptation to climate change.	- PR - SSC

This document presents the report of the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC), held in Havana, Cuba, from 3 to 6 September 2019. The Secretariat of the Commission provided information on the state of marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture in the member countries of the Commission and the main challenges for the sustainable development of the sector; as well as strategies to increase its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. The Commission discussed the challenges for the sustainable development of small-scale, artisanal and aquaculture fisheries in their countries, acknowledging the efforts of the Secretariat of the Commission to implement follow-up actions to the recommendations of the previous session. The Commission agreed to continue working along the lines agreed at the High-Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly capacity strengthening through South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms; the promotion of aquaculture, improving the capacities of fish farmers in terms of low-cost alternative foods; the promotion of fish consumption, mainly in favour of vulnerable groups; and the exchange of information and experiences to combat IUU fishing, among others. These activities were reflected in the Work Plan formulated for the 2020-2021 biennium. The Commission issued recommendations to the Secretariat, governments and the 36th FAO-RLC Regional Conference to be held in the first quarter of 2020. A regional workshop was held in the framework of the meeting to strengthen the monitoring systems of indicators for the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in countries of the Commission.