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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

**Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture
and Fisheries Subject Groups –
Joint Session**

**Seventh Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS)
and
Twenty-eighth meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)**

2 – 5 November 2021

**Terms of Reference of the CWP ad-hoc Task Group on the
revision of the aquaculture section of the
Handbook (TG-aquaculture)**

CWP ad-hoc Task Group on the revision of the aquaculture section of the Handbook (TG-aquaculture)

Terms of Reference Version 1.0

1. Background/Context

Comprehensive global and regional statistics on fisheries and aquaculture require national statistical programs to be coherent and consistent, and based on a common set of statistical standards which apply internationally recognized definitions, classifications and codes. The CWP Handbook was created to serve as the basis for this integration, initially for capture fisheries and now being extended to aquaculture.

The Handbook covers the concepts, definitions, classifications and data exchange protocols including the codes as applied to capture fisheries statistics and aquaculture globally, with a focus on the principles applicable to regional and global organizations. While national agencies often use statistical systems which are developed for specific national purposes and thus may differ from those employed internationally, the principles described in the Handbook may also be relevant to those national systems.

The intended users of the Handbook are CWP Member agencies, national fishery and aquaculture statistics offices, national administrations and other fishery and aquaculture agencies. The Handbook is also intended to assist in the development of national standards as logical extensions of the international standards.

The scope of the Handbook is to:

- Document concepts that are relevant to fishery and aquaculture statistics
- Define statistical standards for specialized concepts as adopted by CWP
- Define statistical standards for concepts that have a wider scope as adopted internationally (e.g. UN statistical standards)
- Review methodological issues that are specific to fishery and aquaculture statistics
- Define minimum requirements for data collection
- Define desirable levels of information.

The Handbook contains five sections which cover (1) General concepts, (2) Capture fisheries statistics, (3) Aquaculture statistics, (4) Socio-economic dimension, and (5) Tools and resources. The Handbook also includes a search facility which uses keywords and search terms defined at the sub-section levels including individual paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.

During the last few decades aquaculture has experienced an impressive growth, becoming one of the fastest growing food production sector in many countries. Currently aquaculture represents more than half of the total fisheries and aquaculture production if aquatic plants are included. However, despite this growing role, the sector still lacks internationally agreed definitions and classifications, as well as standard methodologies, that could be of support to international and regional organizations and countries in their collection of aquaculture statistics. In particular, the current aquaculture section of the Handbook consists of only one main page.

In 2008 CWP agreed to expand its initial mandate to analyse in more detail the needs of the aquaculture sector, and a specialized group on aquaculture (CWP Aquaculture Subject Group: CWP-AS) was established by CWP-23 in 2010. Despite the small number of CWP parties involved in aquaculture statistics, CWP-AS has made good progress in developing standard questionnaires, revising the International Standard Statistical Classification for Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP) and updating the international aquaculture farming systems classification in order to better serve the needs of aquaculture statistics. CWP-AS has also drafted an aquaculture section for the Handbook which was initially presented at CWP-24 in 2013 and later revised and considered during the CWP intersessional meeting in 2017. In 2019 (CWP-26), CWP-AS outlined a workplan to continue the work on the aquaculture section of the CWP Handbook, covering the following topics (FAO, 2019):

Concepts

- Definitions
- Culture environment
- Culture methods/Farming systems
- Production areas
- Measurement units and conversion

Data

- Seed production
- Wild seed production
- Artificial seed production
- Artificial seeds as input into culture-based fisheries
- Grow-out production
- Quantity
- Monetary Value
- Culture area and facilities
- Area or volume by culture method.

CWP-26 also agreed to improve and finalize proposals for the update of:

- International aquaculture farming system classification for production statistics
- International aquaculture production area and facility classification for statistics.

These classifications should be also taken into account in the development of the aquaculture section and other related sections (e.g. socio-economic dimension) of the CWP Handbook.

In addition, the CWP Fishery Subject Group (CWP-FS) discussed the Handbook structure and agreed that future revisions and additions to the Handbook, including development of the aquaculture and socio-economic sections, should take account *inter alia* of the following general points (CWP, 2019):

- Note that the FAO web policy requires no more than 3 levels of headings on its website and as a result the Handbook itself (published within the FAO website) is restricted to 2 levels of headings
- Use quick links to increase prominence of frequently visited sections of the Handbook
- Include aquaculture context in the section on conversion factors.

CWP-26 established an ad-hoc task group (TG) to develop the aquaculture section of the Handbook including farming systems classification (referred herein as TG-aquaculture) during the 2019-2022 intersessional period (CWP, 2019). CWP-26 also established four other TGs to develop its work during the 2019-2022 intersessional period. The membership of these TGs is open to all CWP parties, and CWP-26 identified a lead organization for each TG to convene and lead that TG with support from the CWP Secretariat.

CWP-26 identified GFCM as lead for the TG-aquaculture and nominated Mr. Massa of GFCM as Coordinator of the CWP-AS, in addition to a role of CWP Chair or Vice-Chair. After the CWP-26 Mr Massa retired as FAO GFCM Officer and he will continue his CWP role as FAO Consultant under the CWP Secretariat. In his current capacity, Mr Massa is available to convene the ad-hoc TG-aquaculture with support from the CWP Secretariat. Draft terms of reference (ToRs) for TG-aquaculture were developed in consultation with the TG Convener and are elaborated below (Section 2. Objectives, tasks and timeframe and Section 3. Organization of work).

2. Objectives, tasks and timeframe

The objectives of TG-aquaculture are to:

- Further develop the aquaculture section of the CWP Handbook including the farming systems classification
- Review, revise and where necessary further develop the Handbook's other sections which relate to aquaculture including the introduction, general concepts (including conversion factors), Capture fisheries statistics (with focus on Fishers¹) and socio-economic dimension
- Review and further develop the Handbook's tools and resources
- Review and further develop the Handbook's keywords and search terms applicable to all aquaculture-related sections of the Handbook.

It is anticipated that the work of TG-aquaculture will be reviewed and further developed during an intersessional meeting of CWP-AS and subsequently presented to CWP-27 in 2022 for consideration. Collaboration with other TGs (e.g. TG on reference harmonization for capture fisheries and aquaculture statistics; TG-RH2) may be required if any output from the work of TG-aquaculture has implications for the work of the other TGs and to ensure overall consistency in advice to CWP. TG-aquaculture will also take into account the revised sections of the Handbook relevant to capture fisheries currently at pre-publication stage with access available through a secure webpage. The overall contents of the revised CWP Handbook are listed in Appendix 1. Pending publication of these revised sections of the Handbook, access will be made available to members of TG-aquaculture. Proposed tasks and timeframe for the work of TG-aquaculture are outlined in Table 1.

¹ CWP-26 agreed to relocate the page Fishers from the socio-economic section to capture fisheries, noting that this page contained reference to fish farmers. Information on fish farmers could be further developed and moved to a separate page within the aquaculture section.

Table 1: Proposed tasks and timeframe for the work of TG-aquaculture

	Task	Timeframe
0.	Develop draft ToRs and work plan in consultation with TG Convener and circulate to members for validation. Call for TG participations and their contact details.	March 2021
1.	Finalise ToRs and establish TG membership	April 2021
2.	Critically review the draft aquaculture components of the Handbook which were presented at CWP-24 in 2013 and the CWP intersessional meeting in 2017, consider recent guidance on concepts, topics and structure from CWP-26, and develop a revised structure for the aquaculture components of the Handbook	June 2021
3.	Concurrently with 2, finalize the updates to the international classification or reference list of Farming systems which may guide the development of the aquaculture section of the Handbook	September 2021
4.	Draft the aquaculture components of the Handbook including the introduction, general concepts and socio-economic dimension	September 2021
5.	Circulate the first draft of the revised Handbook sections	October 2021
6.	Consider further development to the Handbook sections, including review and further develop the Handbook's tools and resources, and develop the Handbook's keywords and search terms applicable to all aquaculture-related sections of the Handbook.	Prior to the intersessional meeting (IS)
7.	Concurrently with 6, consider implications of any revised aquaculture concepts and definitions in the work of other TGs including TG-RH2	Prior to IS
8.	Present an advanced version of revised aquaculture Handbook and definitions at the intersessional meeting (IS)	IS Q4 2021
9.	Consider further developments including intersessional meeting feedback and enlarging the scope of contributions to other CWP parties	Post IS
10.	Incorporate relevant outputs of other TGs including TG-RH2	Post IS
11.	Present a final version of the revised aquaculture components of the Handbook to CWP-27 for consideration and, if possible, adoption	By mid-2022

3. Organization of work

3.1. Convener

Mr Fabio Massa, from FAO Secretariat, will convene the TG aquaculture, with support from the CWP Secretariat. Meetings will be called by the Convener and supported by the CWP Secretariat which will also ensure the progress of work and development of outputs, as stipulated by the CWP work plan and these ToRs.

3.2. Membership

TG-aquaculture is open to all CWP parties and those interested in this work are encouraged to actively contribute. At CWP-26, the following parties indicated initial interest in participating in the TG: European Commission, FAO, GFCM and SEAFDEC.

Interested CWP parties are requested to provide the name of the person(s) who will be actively involved in the work of TG-aquaculture. To the extent practicable, if a member of the TG is unable to attend a meeting, a substitute will be nominated to participate in the meeting, and inform the convener of this substitution prior to the scheduled meeting.

3.3. Role of group members

TG-aquaculture will make decisions in the spirit of consensus and cooperation. TG members will decide on the detailed work plan and may propose revisions of the ToRs for approval by the Coordinator of CWP-AS and the CWP Secretariat.

Each TG participant is encouraged to engage actively in the work of the TG, including by:

- Attending all web calls and meetings
- Sharing knowledge and practical examples to illustrate CWP needs
- Reviewing working documents co-prepared by the TG.

As a whole, the TG will develop the documents fulfilling its objectives including recommendations for presentation, discussion and decision at the CWP intersessional and session meetings.

3.4. Meeting agenda items

Meeting agendas, with attached meeting material, will be distributed at least five working days prior to a scheduled meeting, in coordination with the CWP Secretariat. At the end of each meeting, the TG will consider requirements for any follow-up meeting and, if required, will identify draft agenda items to be addressed at that meeting together with a proposed meeting schedule (date, time, duration).

3.5. Minutes and meeting papers

The minutes of each meeting will be prepared by the convener with support from the CWP Secretariat, or any other member on a voluntary basis, and shared with the TG members no later than ten working days following each meeting.

3.6. Working conditions

Most TG activities will be conducted through email exchange and online meetings; however, face-to-face meetings may be held as appropriate if deemed necessary and upon available resources. The frequency of the meetings will be determined by the TG work and progress.

3.7. Collaboration with other TGs

Some outputs from TG-aquaculture may have implications for the work of other Tgs including TG-RH2, and vice-versa. Collaboration between TGs may be required to ensure overall consistency in advice to CWP and may require a virtual joint-TG meeting.

References

FAO. 2019. *Report of the twenty-sixth session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics. Rome, Italy, 15–18 May 2019.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1293. Rome, FAO. 51 pp. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca6684en/ca6684en.pdf>).

FAO. CWP Handbook. [Cited 1 January 2021, under revision]. <http://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/introduction/en/>

Appendix 1: Contents of the revised CWP Handbook*

(*the revised version is currently at pre-publication stage with access through a secure webpage, details available from the CWP Secretariat)

Introduction

- Data collection systems
- Methodology for data collection
- Confidentiality

General concepts

- Conversion factors
- Date and time
- Currencies and funds
- Spatial reference systems
- Geographic coordinates
- Geographic systems
- Country or area
- Main water areas
- Identifiers for aquatic animals and plants

Capture fisheries statistics

- Catch and landings
- Nationality of catch and landings
- Fishery fleet
- Fishers
- Fishing gear classification
- Fishing effort
- Logbooks and VMS
- Integrated environmental and economic accounting for fisheries
- Fisheries statistics for an ecosystem approach

Aquaculture statistics

Socio-economic dimension

- Fisheries production
- Aquaculture production
- Food balance sheets on apparent consumption
- Fishery commodities classification

Tools and resources

Search