

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

First Session

15-18 January 2024

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Executive Summary

- Delegates are kindly invited to note that the provisional timetable provides information on the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (COFI:FM), which will be held in virtual modality.
- In light of the decision to hold the 1st Session of COFI:FM in virtual modality, substantive consideration of the below agenda item will be undertaken by a written correspondence procedure:
 - Item 6 - Methodological updates in the FAO assessment of the State of the World's Fishery Resources
- Details of "Special Procedures for a virtual Meeting of COFI:FM exceptional to its 1st Session", including the written correspondence procedure, are set out in the Annex to this document.

Monday, 15 January 2024

Morning – 09.00-11:30 h (CET)

1. Procedures of the Session1.1. Opening of the Session¹

1.2. Statement by the Director-General

1.3. Arrangements for the Session

1.4. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(COFI:FM/I/2024/1/Rev.1, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.1/Rev.1 and COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.2)

1.6. Designation of Members of the Drafting Committee

2. Current fisheries management practices with special considerations for small-scale fisheries (for information and discussion) (COFI:FM/I/2024/2, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.5, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.6, and COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.7, COFI:FM/I/2024/SBD/1)

Midday – 12.30 -14:00 h (CET)

Voting procedure – 1.5. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the First and Second Sessions of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

Afternoon – 14.00-16:30 h (CET)

2. Continuation

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Morning – 09.00-11:30 h (CET)

2. Continuation

3. Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the context of effective fisheries management (COFI:FM/I/2024/3)Afternoon – 14.00-16:30 h (CET)²

3. Continuation

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

Morning – 09.00-11:30 h (CET)

¹ General statements by Ministers and Vice-Ministers will be made under this Agenda item.

² 1st session of the Drafting Committee from 17:30 to 20:00 h.

4. **Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (*for information and discussion*)
(COFI:FM/I/2023/4, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.8)

Afternoon – 14.00-16:30 h (CET)³

4. Continuation
5. **Climate resilient fisheries** (COFI:FM/I/2023/5)

Thursday, 18 January 2024

Morning – 09.00-11:30 h (CET)⁴

5. Continuation
6. **Methodological updates in the FAO assessment of the State of the World's Fishery Resources (WCP)**⁵ (COFI:FM/I/2023/6)
7. **Other matters**
 - 7.1. Election of the Bureau Members
 - 7.2. Arrangements for the 2nd Session of COFI:FM
 - 7.3. Any other business

Afternoon – 17.30-20:00 h (CET)

8. **Adoption of the Report**

Friday, 19 January 2024

Morning – 09.00-11:30 h (CET) (*to be announced*)⁶

³ 2nd session of the Drafting Committee from 17:30 to 20:00 h.

⁴ 3rd session of the Drafting Committee from 11:45 to 12:45 h.

⁵ “WCP” means that the items are proposed to be subject to Written Correspondence Procedure.

⁶ If necessary, reserved for an extra session of the Sub-Committee and/or 1st Meeting of COFI:FM 2 Bureau (BM 1), as appropriate.

ANNEX

NOTE ON SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT EXCEPTIONAL TO ITS 1ST SESSION

1. The special procedures outlined in this Annex apply on an exceptional basis for the 1st Session of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (COFI:FM) in light of the virtual modality of this Session resulting from the rotation in modalities between the three Sub-Committees agreed by the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). The adoption of such procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of COFI and its Sub-Committees for any of its future Sessions.

Function of COFI and its Sub-Committees

2. The virtual modality of the 1st Session of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management does not alter any of the functions of the Committee on Fisheries and its Sub-Committees as outlined in the Basic Texts.

Conduct of Debate

3. All plenary meetings of the 1st Session of COFI:FM will be conducted through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Please refer to the Zoom Meetings Guidelines for Participants with regard to the technical guidance on how the participants should join the meeting.

4. Members and Observers of COFI:FM will be granted equal accessibility and capability inside the Zoom meeting platform, ensuring their ability to be seen and to view who is in attendance in the virtual meeting. These participants will be able to request the floor using the "raise hand" function in the Zoom platform. According to the established practice of COFI and its Sub-Committees, the priority is given to Members' interventions and the Chairperson may pass the floor to Observers to intervene if time allows.

5. Simultaneous interpretation in all six official languages of the Organization will be provided for all virtual meetings of the 1st Session of the COFI:FM.

6. Brief oral introductions to Agenda items, other than those subject to the written correspondence procedure, may also be delivered in the virtual plenary at the opening of any agenda item, including on any new developments since the publication of the meeting documents, if required and/or necessary.

7. Given the virtual modality of the 1st Session of COFI:FM and the need to streamline the proceedings to ensure sufficient time during the Session to complete all Agenda items, a number of time management provisions shall be implemented. This includes restricting to one intervention per Agenda item for each Member, and limiting the time available for individual Member interventions from the floor to three minutes, with the exception of Ministers and Vice-Ministers for the opening segment of the Session (under Agenda item 1) on Monday, 15 January 2024 (see paragraph 14 below) and interventions on behalf of each Regional Group to six minutes. Statements on behalf of each Regional Group are particularly encouraged to maximise the efficiency of the proceedings. Interventions that focus on comments and questions rather than general statements are encouraged.

8. In line with established practice, the Chairperson will read a draft summary of the conclusions and recommendations emerging from the debate at the end of each Agenda item.

9. The meeting of the Drafting Committee of the 1st Session of COFI:FM will be held in virtual modality. It will convene its meeting(s) after the conclusion of the afternoon sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday (16, and 17 January 2024), and after the morning session on Thursday

(18 January 2024). The "share screen" function on the Zoom platform will be used to facilitate any adjustments to the conclusions considered necessary. The resulting Chairperson's conclusions will be displayed in all official languages to all Members and Observers of the 1st Session of COFI:FM through the same designated platform used for items under written correspondence procedure: <https://fao-cofi-fishmanagement.konveio.site>

10. To facilitate parallel consultations among participants, including regional groups, breakout rooms will be made available in the Zoom platform, upon request to the Secretariat at COFI-FishManagement@fao.org, clearly indicating "break out room request" in the subject line of the e-mails. Unfortunately, interpretation cannot be provided to breakout virtual rooms.

Documentation and Timetable

11. All documents for the session are prepared by the Secretariat as per established practice, in all six languages of the Organization, and made available on the Sub-Committee's website at <https://www.fao.org/cofi/fish-management/en>.

12. The meetings of the 1st Session of COFI:FM will be scheduled from 9.00 to 11.30 in the morning, from 14.00 to 16.30 in the afternoon. On Thursday 18 of January 2024, while the meeting in the morning will have the same schedule as the previous days, the meeting in the afternoon will take place from 16.30 to 19.00. The time zone applicable to the 1st Session of COFI will be Central European Time (UTC +1).

	Monday 15 January 2024	Tuesday 16 January 2024	Wednesday 17 January 2024	Thursday 18 January 2024
	Agenda Items	Agenda Items	Agenda Items	Agenda Items
MORNING SESSION (9:00-11:30)	1. Procedures of the Session 1.1. Opening of the Session 1.2. Statement of the Director-General 1.3. Arrangements for the Session 1.4. Adoption of the Agenda and timetable 1.6. Designation of Members of the Drafting Committee 2. Current fisheries management practices with special considerations for small-scale fisheries (COFI:FM/I/2024/2, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.5, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.6, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.7, COFI:FM/I/2024/SBD/1)	2. Continued (COFI:FM/I/2024/2, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.5, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.6, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.7, COFI:FM/I/2024/SBD/1) 3. Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the context of effective fisheries management (COFI:FM/I/2024/3)	4. Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries management in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COFI:FM/I/2023/4, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.8)	5. Continued (COFI:FM/I/2023/5) 6. Methodological updates in the FAO assessment of the State of the World's Fishery Resources (WCP) 7. Other matters 7.1. Election of the Bureau Members 7.2. Arrangements for the 2nd Session of COFI:FM 7.2=3. Any other issues
MID-DAY SESSION (Mon 12:30-14:00 & Thu 11:45-12:45)	Voting procedure - 1.5. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the First and Second Sessions of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (Red room 12:30-14:00)			Drafting Committee (11:45-12:45)

AFTERNOON SESSION (Mon-Wed 14:00-16:30; & Thurs 16:30-19:00)	2. Continued (COFI:FM/I/2024/2, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.5, COFI:FM/I/2024/INF.6, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.7, COFI:FM/I/2024/SBD/1)	3. Continued (COFI:FM/I/2024/3)	4. Continued (COFI:FM/I/2023/4, COFI:FM/I/2023/INF.8) 5. Climate resilient fisheries (COFI:FM/I/2023/5)	8. Adoption of the Report (17:30-20:00)
EVENING SESSION (17:30 - 20:00)		Drafting Committee	Drafting Committee	

General Statements

13. A further time saving measure to be applied to the 1st Session of COFI:FM shall be to forego the oral delivery of general statements by Members or Observers in the opening segment of the Session. General statements, as usually held during the opening of COFI Sessions, may be submitted in written format to COFI-FishManagement@fao.org by Thursday, 11 January 2024, clearly indicating “general statements” in the subject line of the e-mails. These written statements will be made available on the Sub-Committee's website and made available to all, in the original language.

14. These written statements may be made either in lieu of, or in addition to, oral statements in plenary. Written statements under this modality may be consulted for the purpose of preparing the Chairperson's draft conclusions and be treated in the same way as oral interventions.

15. Notwithstanding paragraph 13, Ministers and Vice-Ministers shall be allowed to make the oral delivery of the general statements in the opening segment of the Session on Monday, 15 January 2024, but the available time shall be limited to 3 minutes.

Written Correspondence Procedure

16. In light of the exceptional procedures in place for the virtual meeting of the 1st Session of COFI:FM, the Agenda item 6 will be addressed through a written correspondence procedure (WCP). This procedure is a time management measure with the aim to provide sufficient time during the plenary meetings of the 1st Session of COFI:FM to be able to conclude all items on its Agenda.

17. With the view to save time in the running of the sessions, for the Agenda item subject to the written correspondence procedure a written introduction will replace the oral presentation usually made at the beginning of each Agenda item. This written introduction was made available on the Sub-Committee's website in all FAO official languages on Wednesday, 22 of November 2023.

18. As soon as the written introduction to the agenda item under WCP was made available, Members were invited to submit written inputs, including any comments and questions, by Friday, 22 December 2023. Members and Observers submitted these written inputs to the Secretariat via the designated platform: <https://fao-cofishmanagement.konveio.site>. All written inputs by Members and observers are available on the platform.

19. The Secretariat provided written responses to Members and observers' inputs, as applicable, and these shall also be made available on the platform alongside Members' written inputs no later than 3 January 2024. Secretariat responses can be translated automatically by the platform in all six languages of the Organization.

20. Following this written exchange, the Chairperson's conclusions on relevant item will be addressed by the Drafting Committee at its meetings, in line with the procedure outlined in paragraph 9 of this Note and in the same manner as all the other Agenda items.

Reports and Records

21. The Draft Report for Adoption will be prepared by the Drafting Committee of the 1st Session of COFI:FM, and will be circulated to the Members of COFI:FM as soon as possible before the Adoption of the Report, in accordance with established practice.
22. The Report of the 1st Session of COFI:FM will be communicated in accordance with Rule VI.2 of the Rules of Procedure of COFI.
23. The Report of the 1st Session of COFI:FM will record the Sub-Committee's consensus on the amended modalities for the Session, adopted on an exceptional basis, outlined in this Note.
24. All other working methods of the Committee in relation to Reports and records of the meeting will be applied to the 1st Session of COFI:FM, in line with established practice.

Voting procedures

25. According to Rule I of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Fisheries and established practice, the COFI: FM will elect the members of COFI:FM Bureau, namely the Chair and Vice-Chairpersons, from among the representatives of its Members at the first session in each Biennium.
26. A call for nominations for members of the COFI:FM Bureau was communicated to the Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Groups on November 10, 2023.
27. Under conditions where there are more nominees than vacancies, the election of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee will be decided by secret ballot. The secret ballot election of the Chairperson will be conducted in person on Monday 15 January 2024, at 12:30 hours in the Red Room at FAO headquarters in Rome. The secret ballot elections will be conducted in full conformity with Rule V of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Fisheries, with Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, and with established practices of the Organization in respect of secret ballot elections. Please refer to the voting arrangements sent to all Members on 22 of December 2023 through the Members' Gateway. For the most updated list of COFI Members please visit: <https://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/committee-fi/en/>.
28. As per usual practice, the COFI:FM Bureau will consist of one representative each from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America and Southwest Pacific, nominated by the Regional Group Chair. The COFI:FM Chairperson will represent his/her region in the Bureau.
29. Until the Chair of the COFI:FM is elected, the proceedings of the Sub Committee will be chaired by Dr Mohammed Ahmed Alghamdi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO, in his capacity of Chair of the FAO Committee of Fisheries.