

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Report of the

THIRD MEETING OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009



Copies of FAO publications can be requested from:

Sales and Marketing Group

Communication Division

FAO

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy

E-mail: publications-sales@fao.org

Fax: +39 06 57053360

Web site: www.fao.org

Report of the
THIRD MEETING OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN 978-92-5-106472-6

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders. Applications for such permission should be addressed to:

Chief
Electronic Publishing Policy and Support Branch
Communication Division
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
or by e-mail to:
copyright@fao.org

© FAO 2009

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report of the third meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management that was held at the Merweb Hotel in Doha, Qatar, from 20 to 22 October 2009.

FAO.

Report of the third meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management. Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009.

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 922. Cairo, FAO. 2009. 63p.

ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the third meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 20 to 22 October 2009. The Working Group addressed and made decisions on important issues including the outcomes of the fifth session of the Commission relating to the future work of the WGFM, consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the activities of the WGFM, review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and implications for future work of the WGFM, a proposal by the Sultanate of Oman to develop a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations, a report on the outcomes of the tripartite meeting between three RECOFI Members, review of the findings of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain RECOFI Members, review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting, consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by RECOFI at its sixth session in 2011 and any other matters. Significantly the resolution on minimum data reporting to be addressed at the fourth session of the WGFM in December 2010 will be the Commission's first resolution.

CONTENTS

	Page
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING	1
OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES RELATING TO THE FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	2
CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009–2010 IN RELATION TO THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT.....	3
REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE FAO/RECOFI REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (MUSCAT, OMAN, 30 MARCH–2 APRIL 2009) AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	4
REVIEW OF FINDINGS OF THE FAO FISHERIES CIRCULAR RELATING TO FISHERIES LAWS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	6
REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE RECOFI WORKSHOP ON STOCK STATUS REPORTING (TEHRAN, IRAN, 26–29 JULY 2009) AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	6
CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO BE ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES AT ITS SIXTH SESSION.....	7
ANY OTHER MATTERS	8
DATE AND PLACE OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	9
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	9

APPENDIXES

A Agenda.....	11
B List of delegates.....	12
C List of documents.....	14
D Opening statement by Mr D. Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani, Director General, Research and Development, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Doha, Qatar.....	15
E Opening statement by Mr Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative and Officer-in-charge for the Near East and North Africa, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt.....	16
F Outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries relating to the future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management.....	18
G Decisions of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and follow-up activities for the Working Group on Fisheries Management, 2009–2012.....	22
H Consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the Working Group on Fisheries Management.....	24
I Updated RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan.....	30

J	Review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–2 April 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management.....	35
K	Proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to the development of a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations.....	41
L	Report on the outcome of the tripartite meeting “Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI” (Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009).....	43
M	Review of findings of the FAO Fisheries Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management.....	46
N	Review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management.....	48
O	Updated consultancy terms of reference: Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area.....	55
P	Consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by the Regional Commission for Fisheries at its sixth session.....	57

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The third meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management was held at the Merweb Hotel in Doha, Qatar, from 20 to 22 October 2009. The meeting was attended by all Members of Commission. A list of delegates is attached as Appendix B.

2. The meeting was convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and RECOFI under the auspices of His Excellency Mr Abdullah Bin Mubarak Bin Oabboud Al-Moadhadi, Minister for Environment, Doha, State of Qatar.

3. Mr D. Faleh bin Nasser Al-Thani, Director General, Research and Development, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment Doha, State of Qatar, made a statement in which he welcomed delegates to Qatar and the meeting. He pointed out that the fisheries sector was facing many challenges and that the concept of sustainable management should underpin the development and management of capture fisheries and aquaculture. He referred to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its important role in promoting sustainability. His statement is in Appendix D.

4. Dr Piero Mannini, RECOFI Secretary and Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt, made a statement on behalf of Mr Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative and Officer-in-charge for the Near East and North Africa, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt. *Inter alia*, the statement referred to the importance of fisheries in the RECOFI region and its rich marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems. It was noted that in recent decades the region had experienced rapid development in the coastal zone and a loss of potential to sustain coastal populations. An integrated ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) in the Gulf and Sea of Oman was essential. The Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was reminded that RECOFI was an Article XIV-type body under the FAO Constitution and that it could make management decisions for its Members. Mr Ahmed's statement is in Appendix E.

5. The Chairperson of the WGFM, Mr Saleh Z. Al-Hinai, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Muscat, Oman, welcomed delegates to the meeting. He noted that the meeting would address an important range of issues following up from the second meeting of the WGFM (Cairo, Egypt, October 2008) and the fifth session of RECOFI (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, May 2009).

6. Dr David Doulman, Technical Secretary of the WGFM and Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, FAO, Rome, Italy, explained that this meeting was scheduled as a special meeting to address some outstanding issues. He added that there would be a further meeting, probably in December 2010, prior to the sixth session of the Commission in May 2011. He noted out that there was a heavy agenda before the meeting focusing on follow-up to the second meeting of the WGFM and the outcomes of the fifth session of the Commission. The Technical Secretary expressed the view that the WGFM should seek to develop substantive recommendations to carry forward the work of the WGFM in a solid manner. He welcomed the proposal tabled by the Sultanate of Oman with respect to the development of a RECOFI record for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing violations.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

7. The Agenda, attached as Appendix A, was adopted. The list of documents for the session is attached as Appendix C.

OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES RELATING TO THE FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

8. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/2. It is attached in Appendix F.

9. The meeting was advised that at its fifth session RECOFI, in relation to the work of the WGFM, addressed the following topics:

- report of the outcomes of the second meeting of the WGFM;
- stock status reporting;
- review of capture fishery statistics in the RECOFI area;
- improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members; and
- IUU fishing including port State measures in the RECOFI region.

10. RECOFI deliberated on the WGFM activities grouping them into four main activity categories:

- actions directly related to the WGFM (mandate, terms of reference, workplan);
- activities related to stock status reporting;
- actions focused on improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members; and
- initiatives on IUU fishing including port State measures.

11. The WGFM noted with satisfaction that RECOFI had agreed and endorsed the Terms of Reference for the WGFM and for its National Focal Points, as well as the RECOFI Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management including the workplan.

12. Moreover, the WGFM acknowledged that the Commission had decided to pursue a pragmatic approach to the assessment of fishery stocks through standardized reporting of catch and other relevant data of the priority species identified by the WGFM. The Commission also deliberated to implement EAF in the RECOFI area. Finally, the WGFM supported fully and will endeavour to implement the Commission's statement that cooperation among Members should be improved for the appraisal of the state of fishery resources and the formulation of scientific advice for management.

13. The WGFM recognized the necessity, as reiterated by the Commission, to proceed with a systematic evaluation of all national fishery statistical programmes to formulate realistic recommendations for improving the performance of the national programmes and facilitating data harmonization at the regional level. The WGFM elaborated further the Commission's recommendation to develop an expanded regional database and, in consideration of the current financial constraints, hypothesized that the establishment of a simple information system holding basic fishery statistics could be achieved through extrabudgetary resources. In fact, this was the case for the development of the Regional Information System for Aquaculture (RAIS) that was possible owing to the contribution by Kuwait.

14. The WGFM noted that as a follow-up to the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–April 2009), RECOFI had welcomed Oman's proposal on IUU fishing reporting on violations and requested that a paper be submitted to the WGFM for review. In addition, the Secretariat informed the WGFM about the prompt action taken concerning RECOFI's agreement that the Secretariat

should support, on an ad hoc basis, a subregional meeting among Iran, Iraq and Kuwait to promote fishery management cooperation in the Commission's northern area.

15. The WGFM reviewed the decisions for follow-up actions from the second meeting of the Working Group and the fifth session of RECOFI. The decisions and actions taken or proposed to be taken for the period 2009-2012 to implement the decisions are in Appendix G.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009–2010 IN RELATION TO THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

16. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/3. It is attached as Appendix H.

17. The delegate from Kuwait reported on the Regional Symposium on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) that was held from 12 to 14 October 2009 in Kuwait City. The symposium had been coorganized by the Environment Public Authority, State of Kuwait, the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the West Pacific Algal Bloom Programme (WESTPAC-HAB). The delegate noted that representatives from all RECOFI Members had participated in the symposium. He expressed the view that in order to avoid duplication, it might not be necessary for the Commission to proceed with the proposed technical workshop that was agreed at RECOFI's fifth session. This workshop was to be jointly organized by the WGFM and the RECOFI Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA), taking account of the results of the recent ROPME-led red tide symposium.

18. The WGFM underscored the importance of closer collaboration with other regional organizations including ROPME and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a means of avoiding duplication. The WGFM requested the delegate of Kuwait to disseminate the report of the HABs symposium, noting that the issue of red tide extended beyond capture fisheries and aquaculture. The Secretariat advised the meeting that ROPME had been invited to RECOFI's fifth session but that it was unable to attend. The WGFM noted that in future the Secretariat should make every effort to coordinate planned activities with other regional organizations to avoid duplication and enhance cooperation.

19. The WGFM agreed that in view of the outcome of the HABs symposium the Secretariat should seek the opinion of the WGA as to whether the proposed technical workshop should be held. The WGFM agreed that an assessment should be made by the Secretariat at a later stage as to whether the workshop should be held. This decision should be communicated to the Focal Points of the WGFM and the WGA as soon as it had been made.

20. With respect to the joint workshop between the WGFM and the WGA concerning the use of the Geographical Information System (GIS) and spatial tool applications for capture fisheries and aquaculture, the WGFM was agreed that the purpose of the workshop should be to initiate capacity building in GIS in the region, focusing on the GIS needs of capture fisheries and aquaculture. To be held over a three-day period it was further agreed that the workshop should provide, with reference to capture fisheries:

- an introduction to GIS, including how it works and how it is used;
- the practical application of GIS in fisheries management including practical case studies on the use of GIS in fisheries management;
- the capabilities and constraints of GIS as a tool for fisheries management and aquaculture development;
- the criteria necessary for the design and planning of GIS projects;

- how biotic and abiotic data collected during surveys at sea could be used through GIS application for fisheries resource appraisal and management;
- a review of the GIS needs and challenges for the RECOFI region, including the identification of different levels of national GIS capacities and the opportunities for the transfer of knowledge and experience among RECOFI Members; and
- how to use GIS outputs to advise decision-makers in fisheries management.

21. The Secretariat noted that a longer, hands-on, training exercise of up-to ten days duration could be envisaged at a later stage addressing the handling and interpolation of national data. For such capacity-building exercises in a highly technical area, Members stressed that participants nominated for training should be aware of basic GIS applications.

22. The WGFM expressed its gratitude to the State of Qatar for its willingness to host the GIS workshop, noting a tentative date of October 2010.

23. In discussions relating to the EAF, RECOFI Members were encouraged to participate in the second phase of the FAO project entitled “Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Change Management”. Information about this project was provided to Members in a side event at the fifth session of the Commission. Further information about the project is available on the FAO Website. It was proposed that FAO contact Members to secure funding for the project. It was suggested that RECOFI Members that were interested in participating financially in the project should do so.

24. The WGFM was informed by the delegate of Kuwait that the Islamic Bank in October 2009 had organized a regional workshop on EAF in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Members were urged to follow up on this initiative and request a copy of the report of the workshop as it was relevant to RECOFI’s work.

25. The WGFM agreed that it would be highly beneficial to have the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4, Suppl. 2: Fisheries management. 2. The ecosystem approach to fisheries translated into Arabic and disseminated widely among RECOFI Members. The Secretariat agreed to follow up on this request.

26. The WGFM updated the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priority for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan to reflect RECOFI decisions at its fifth session and new initiatives proposed by the Working Group. The updated RECOFI Regional Strategy is in Appendix I.

REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE FAO/RECOFI REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (MUSCAT, OMAN, 30 MARCH–2 APRIL 2009) AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

27. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/4. It is attached as Appendix J.

28. The WGFM expressed gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in April 2009. It was noted that it had been a successful capacity-building initiative and that it had generated considerable first-hand information about IUU fishing and its proposed solutions in the region.

29. Recognizing that IUU fishing was a concern for RECOFI Members, the WGFM agreed that the problem should be kept under active consideration. It was pointed out that one way of combating and mitigating the effects of IUU fishing was to encourage Members to promote the

full and effective implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its subsidiary document the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. An important aspect of promoting these instruments was to encourage regional cooperation to ensure that IUU fishers did not benefit from their illicit activities. The WGFM agreed that efforts should be made to ensure that RECOFI was briefed at its sessions concerning developments with IUU fishing because it undermined fisheries management and the social and economic returns for countries from their fisheries.

30. The WGFM recognized that there were clear linkages between IUU fishing and efforts to restrict the trade of IUU-caught fish. To reduce flows of such fish into international trade, certification requirements and catch documentation schemes were increasing. These requirements had implications for RECOFI Members and the Near East Region. The WGFM agreed that there would be merit in investigating the implications of certification and related schemes and the relationship between IUU fishing and trade for the region. Such a study, if undertaken, could build on the results of the Muscat workshop including collating additional information from Members in an attempt to quantify the value of IUU fishing.

31. The WGFM referred to the European Community (EC) Council Regulation No. 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The regulation will take effect on 1 January 2010 and will be a main tool to establish a certification scheme covering all imports of fishery products into the EC. The regulation's aim is to halt the import of IUU fishery products. The scheme will place strong emphasis on checking, inspection and verification activities to be carried out according to common criteria governed by risk management and assessment. This would allow targeted trade flows of fish into the EC to be controlled as a matter of priority.

32. The delegate of Bahrain expressed concern about the introduction of regulation No. 1005/2008 noting that, like the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point introduced by the EC in 1990s, exports of fish from their countries could be interrupted. The Secretariat encouraged Members to seek information concerning the regulation, if they had not already done so, as a matter of urgency.

Proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to the development of a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations

33. The delegate from the Sultanate of Oman introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/5. It is attached as Appendix K.

34. The WGFM appreciated the proposal made by the Sultanate of Oman and after considerable discussion it was agreed that a stepwise approach should be followed with respect to the proposal to develop a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations. It was agreed that RECOFI should take steps to:

- initiate the development of a regional database of violations;
- establish a list of vessels authorized to fish by Members; and
- promote the establishment of a regional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) network.

35. The WGFM envisaged that following a feasibility review of options for these three initiatives, the Working Group should address concrete issues relating to their implementation.

Report on the outcome of the tripartite meeting “Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of RECOFI” (Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009)

36. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/6. It is attached as Appendix L.

37. The WGFM was advised that the first tripartite meeting for fisheries management cooperation in the northern area of RECOFI was held in Tehran, Iran, in July 2009. It had been a highly positive meeting and substantive outcomes had been reached including priority topics to be included in the agenda of future meetings aimed at fostering subregional cooperation to support sustainable fisheries. Furthermore a roadmap for future action had been identified. The WGFM was advised that a second tripartite meeting was held on 22 October 2009 in Doha, Qatar, at the time of the third meeting of the WGFM.

38. The WGFM expressed its pleasure at the success of the tripartite meetings and encouraged dialogue and cooperation among the three Members to resolve outstanding issues of common concern.

39. Iran, Iraq and Kuwait agreed that the next meeting would take place at the time of the ad hoc RECOFI intersessional meeting in Iran in 2010.

REVIEW OF FINDINGS OF THE FAO FISHERIES CIRCULAR RELATING TO FISHERIES LAWS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

40. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/7. It is attached as Appendix M.

41. The WGFM expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the report which it considered to be an excellent base to commence a review and revision of national legislation. The Working Group requested that the report be translated into Arabic as a means of maximizing its dissemination in the region. The Secretariat indicated that it would endeavour to have the report translated and available for Members by early 2010.

42. The WGFM was informed by the delegate of Kuwait that GCC was promoting a harmonized fisheries by-law for GCC countries and that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular could provide an important input to that process.

43. The WGFM agreed that RECOFI Members should consider reviewing and updating fisheries legislation as a means of closing gaps, providing a basis for the promotion of sustainable management, incorporating recent development in fisheries such as the EAF and as means of fostering harmonized approaches to fisheries management in the region.

REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE RECOFI WORKSHOP ON STOCK STATUS REPORTING (TEHRAN, IRAN, 26–29 JULY 2009) AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

44. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8. It is attached as Appendix N.

45. The Secretariat noted that the low reporting of required data prior to the workshop hampered its capacity to review the status of stocks and fisheries and to identify the information gaps in the region as originally intended. As a result, the workshop focused its attention on identifying key issues in the region and determining the minimum data requirement to address

those key issues from the perspective of monitoring stocks and fisheries status. A RECOFI regional resource monitoring strategy including minimum data reporting was developed to monitor:

- ecosystem-wide impacts of shrimp trawls;
- exploitation of coastal finfish resources using groupers and emperors (identified as the most vulnerable component within this group) as reference indicators of fishing pressure; and
- stock management of priority species with narrow-barred Spanish mackerels as the first target species.

The WGFM was requested to review and adopt the regional resource monitoring strategy, with special attention to minimum data reporting.

46. The WGFM noted that the workshop developed minimum data reporting based on Members national data collection systems. Although further harmonization and improvements would be needed, the WGFM supported strongly the need to initiate the process for the sharing of data and to move forward as quickly as possible.

47. After several technical clarifications, the WGFM adopted the minimum data reporting developed by the Workshop on Stock Status Reporting as it was and agreed to establish the regional database to maintain such information that directly supported fishery management in the region as a public asset of the Commission. The proposed follow-up workshop, including actual data reporting and examination to ensure the smooth implementation of the minimum data reporting, was also agreed. The terms of reference (TORs) for a consultancy was updated to reflect the progress made since the second meeting of the WGFM and decisions taken at this meeting of the WGFM. The TORs are attached in Appendix O.

48. The WGFM agreed that a resolution should be prepared concerning minimum data reporting and be submitted to the sixth session of RECOFI for consideration. The Secretariat advised the meeting that it would draft the resolution and submit it to the fourth session of the WGFM for review and approval.

49. The WGFM stressed the need for all Members to provide data, recognizing that the sharing of high-quality data on stocks and fisheries was the fundamental basis of solid management. The WGFM noted the importance of identifying suitably-qualified experts to attend meetings and workshops so as to ensure maximum engagement. The Secretariat was requested to enhance communication with Members in this regard. Moreover, the WGFM urged National Focal Points to contribute actively to the dissemination of information concerning the activities of the Working Group within their respective countries.

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO BE ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

50. The Secretariat introduced document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/9. It is attached as Appendix P.

51. The Secretariat informed the WGFM that the broad objective of EAF was the long-term sustainability and well-being of all components of the relevant ecosystems where fishing communities, including fishers and healthy stock conditions that supported fishing communities were key components. The RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26-29 July 2009) identified several key issues in the region with special emphasis on stocks and fisheries status. The WGFM took into consideration the outcomes of the workshop and

elaborated operational objectives (i.e. what goals should be achieved through the implementation of EAF), as follows:

Income and fish supply:

- maintain fishers' income above the reference level;
- ensure the quality of fish for food; and
- ensure maximize incomes generated per quantity of catch through improving quality.

Status of key species:

- maintain the stock of Spanish mackerels above the reference level; and
- maintain healthy conditions for coastal finfish communities, in keeping groupers and emperors stocks above the reference level.

Vulnerable components:

- maintain bycatch of shrimp trawls under the reference level;
- maintain a healthy ecosystem to support fish production of key species (including both physical and biological [e.g. feed] environments);
- minimize impacts of fishing gears on natural environments (i.e. the proportion of use of bycatch reducing devices); and
- marine protected areas (e.g. maintenance of biodiversity and the protection of marine habitats).

Other components:

- update regularly legislation and regulations on fisheries management;
- enhance MCS to enforce regulations;
- promote education and awareness raising among fishers for effective management and environmental-friendly operations;
- cooperate with other bodies/sectors on how to protect marine ecosystems;
- rehabilitate the ecosystems through enhanced collaboration with other sectors, as much as possible;
- enhance monitoring effects of river-flow, especially in the northern area of the Gulf, and land-based activities on marine ecosystems; and
- implement appropriate regulation and controls on recreational fishing activities.

52. The WGFMM agreed that Members should continue to review and update the operational objectives prior to the fourth meeting of the WGFMM in 2010. At this meeting, it is anticipated that more specific actions, reference points, status monitoring indicators and indicators to monitor achievements will be discussed further.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

53. Some Members raised the issue of the need to enhance communications among themselves and with the Secretariat. It was explained that the Secretariat was aware of the importance of promoting Web-based dissemination of information but that resources were required to maintain an up-to-date Web site. The Technical Secretary indicated that he would endeavour to establish an electronic mailing list of focal points for the WGFMM and disseminate information that could be of interest to RECOFI Members.

54. With respect to contributions from Members, the Secretariat noted that some Members had not paid their current and arrears contributions. Delegates were encouraged to take this matter up with their relevant authorities after returning home from the meeting because some

projects may not be implemented this biennium because of a lack of funds. The Secretariat also encouraged Members to consider the possibility of making voluntary contributions to RECOFI to support particular projects that would have an important impact for all Commission Members.

55. The delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran advised the WGFM that his country may be in a position to host the follow-up workshop on the compilation of minimum data reporting. The WGFM thanked the delegate for the tentative offer to host the workshop.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

56. The WGFM agreed that its next meeting will be held in December 2010, most likely in the Sultanate of Oman. The WGFM expressed its gratitude to the delegates from Oman for the tentative offer to host the next meeting of the Working Group.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

57. The report of the session was adopted at 12.30 hours on 22 October 2009.

58. The Chairperson expressed his thanks to the delegates for their contributions during the meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat for its support and the State of Qatar for hosting the third meeting of the Working Group. He pointed out that the Working Group had made excellent progress in deliberating on issues referred to it by the fifth session of RECOFI. He stated that he looked forward to the next meeting of WGFM in December 2010. He stated that RECOFI and the Working Group were playing a very important role in promoting long-term sustainable fisheries in the region. However, he noted that RECOFI Members needed to work together closely to promote harmonized approaches to fisheries management for stocks of common concern in the region. The Chairperson wished all delegates well and a safe journey back to their respective countries.

59. The delegate of Qatar thanked RECOFI Members, the Secretariat and FAO for their participation and support for making this meeting such a success. He added that it had been a pleasure for the State of Qatar to host the meeting. He wished all delegates and FAO staff a safe trip home.

Agenda

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the meeting

Outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries relating to the future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–2 April 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

- Proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to the development of a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations
- Report on the outcome of the tripartite meeting “Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of RECOFI” (Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009)

Review of findings of the FAO Fisheries Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by the Regional Commission for Fisheries at its sixth session

Any other matters

Date and place of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Adoption of the report

List of delegates

BAHRAIN

AL-RADHI Abdul Karim Habib
 Head, Fisheries Assessment Section
 General Directorate for the Protection
 of Marine Resources
 PO Box 20071
 Manama
 Tel.: +973 17815870
 Fax: +973 17728459
 E-mail: radhi58@hotmail.com

IRAN

MOJAHEDI Ali Asghar
 Director General for Fisheries Management
 and Fisher Affairs
 Iran Fisheries Organization
 No 250 Fatemi Avenue
 Tehran
 Tel.: +982 166941373
 E-mail: a_mojahedi@hotmail.com

IRAQ

MUSADDAK Delphi Ali
 Director General
 General Board for Fish Resources
 Development
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Baghdad
 Tel.: +964 7901616053
 E-mail: mmdmda@yahoo.com

MOHAMMED A. Abdulhusain
 Supporting Committee
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Baghdad
 Tel.: + 964 7801581252
 E-mail: alesnadcomm@yahoo.com

KUWAIT

MURAD Haider Ali
 Deputy Director General
 Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and
 Fish Resources
 PO Box 21422, Safat 13075
 Tel.: +965 22254100/22254111
 Fax: +965 22254103/22254113
 E-mail: drhmurad@yahoo.com

OMAN

AL-BALUSHI Abdullah Hilal
 Head, Section of Fishery Resources
 Development
 Ministry of Fisheries Wealth
 PO Box 427
 Muscat 100
 Tel.: +968 24688286
 E-mail: almazim2000@hotmail.com

AL-HINAI Saleh
 Director of International Cooperation
 Ministry of Fisheries Wealth
 PO Box 1414
 Muscat 130
 Tel.: +968 24688133/134
 Fax: +968 24601142
 E-mail: saleh@omaninfo.com

AL-JABRI Yaqoob Salem Saif
 Acting Manager of Fisheries Statistics
 Ministry of Fisheries Wealth
 PO Box 427
 Muscat 100
 Tel.: +968 24688362
 Fax: +968 24693048
 E-mail: yaqoob96@hotmail.com

QATAR

AL-MOHANADY Jassem Saleh Abdul
 Rahman
 Assistant Director
 Department of Fisheries
 Ministry of Environment
 PO Box 8703
 Doha
 Tel.: +974 4463320
 Fax: +974 4181986
 E-mail: jalmohamady@moe.gov.qa

AL-DEHAIMI Abdulaziz Mohamed
 Head of Statistics Section
 Ministry of Environment
 PO Box 90547
 Tel.: +974 4463377
 Fax: +974 5507253
 E-mail: adohaimi@moe.gov.qa

ABDALLAH Mohamed
 Fish Stock Assessment Expert
 Department of Fisheries
 Ministry of Environment
 PO Box 8703
 Doha
 Tel.: +974 5969085
 E-mail: mohamad.abdallah@gmail.com

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-NAZRI Hussain
 Director of the Division of Studies and
 Information
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Marine Fisheries Department
 PO Box 35286
 Zip 31982 Al Garah-Al Hassa
 Tel.: +966 506211910
 Fax: +966 4053619
 E-mail: alnazry@hotmail.com

FITA Nabil I. A
 Technical Affairs Manager
 Fisheries Research Centre
 Ministry of Agency Affairs Affluence
 Fisheries
 PO Box 134 Saihat 31972
 Tel.: +9663 8361307
 Fax: +9663 8361890
 E-mail: nabil_fita@hotmail.com

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL-ZABI Ahmad Mohammad
 Director of Fisheries
 Ministry of Environment and Water
 PO Box 1509
 Dubai
 Tel.: +971 4 2957202
 Fax: +971 4 2958352
 E-mail: amalzabi@moew.gov.ae

FAO

Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa

11, Al Eslah El Zerai St.
 PO Box 223 Dokki, Cairo
 Egypt

MANNINI Piero
 Senior Fisheries Officer and
 RECOFI Secretary
 Tel.: +202 3331 6141
 Fax: +202 3749 5981 33373419
 E-mail: piero.mannini@fao.org

Headquarters

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome
 Italy

DOULMAN David
 Senior Fishery Liaison Officer and
 Technical Secretary, RECOFI Working
 Group on Fisheries Management
 International Institutions and Liaison Service
 Fishery and Aquaculture Economics
 and Policy Division
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
 Tel.: +3906 570 56752
 Fax: +3906 570 56500
 E-mail: david.doulman@fao.org

TSUJI Sachiko (Ms)
 Senior Fishery Statistician
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and
 Statistics Service
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics
 and Policy Division
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
 Tel.: +39 06 570 55318
 Fax: +39 06 570 52476
 E-mail: sachiko.tsuji@fao.org

HERMANUS Gaëlle (Ms)
 Secretary
 International Institutions and Liaison Service
 Fishery and Aquaculture Economics
 and Policy Division
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
 Tel.: +39 06 570 56595
 Fax: +39 06 570 56500
 E-mail: gaelle.hermanus@fao.org

List of documents

RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/1	Provisional agenda
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/2	Outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries relating to the future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/3	Consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the Working Group on Fisheries Management
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/4	Review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–2 April 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/5	Proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to the development of a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/6	Report on the outcome of the tripartite meeting “Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI” (Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009)
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/7	Review of findings of the FAO Fisheries Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8	Review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/9	Consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by the Regional Commission for Fisheries at its sixth session
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.1	List of documents
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.2	List of participants
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.3	Statement by the Assistant-Director General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.4	Report of the second meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (Cairo, Egypt, 27–30 October 2008)
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.5	Report of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–2 April 2009)
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.6	Report of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009)
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.7	Report of the Workshop on Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009)
RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/Inf.8	Review of Fisheries Laws of Certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1049

Opening statement
by
Mr D. Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani
Director General, Research and Development
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Environment
Doha, Qatar

Brothers,
Peace, mercy and blessing of God,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the State of Qatar which is hosting this meeting. I hope that you will achieve the goal of the meeting and progress towards sustainable fisheries development in all countries of the region.

We take into account and appreciate efforts concerning careful scientific assessment of the current status of fisheries resources in the region and the requirements for development, in accordance with the regional and international needs of the fisheries sectors

We are aware of the multiplicity of challenges facing the fisheries sector including globalization, trade liberalization and international agreements on standards for handling marine trade, food security requirements and monitoring, control and surveillance needs. These considerations are in addition to the challenges posed by natural phenomena such as climate change, global warming and red tides as well as the shift from the traditional concept of fisheries management to the concept of environmental sustainable management for capture fisheries and aquaculture development.

Despite all of these issues we look forward to RECOFI's continuing efforts to lead the region in achieving sustainability for living marine resources in our countries for the present and future generations, and at the same time, ensuring the safety of the marine environment and its components.

Dear Brothers, the burden assigned to you at this meeting are many but your cooperation under the RECOFI umbrella gives us the right to trust in your abilities to overcome the challenges being faced and to take effective steps to fulfil your national needs, just like other regional fishery bodies elsewhere in the world.

I hope you take into account your national aspirations and the need to strengthen RECOFI so that it will take its place in the ranks of successful fisheries organizations ensuring that the resources of our region are rationally managed and that marine wealth is protected.

I wish you a fruitful meeting and pleasant stay in Qatar.

Opening statement
by
Mr Ould Ahmed
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative and Officer-in-charge for
the Near East and North Africa
FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
Cairo, Egypt

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization, I have the pleasure to welcome you in Doha in occasion of the third meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management that is being hosted by the Government of the State of Qatar.

As you know the Working Group was renamed and its mandate broadened. It was known formerly as the Working Group on Fishery Statistics. In broadening the Working Group's focus, fisheries management is considered in a more comprehensive and integrated framework addressing biological, statistical, development, economic and social aspects, thus dealing with all factors that influence and impact fisheries management.

In the RECOFI region, marine fisheries production in 2007 was about 700 000 tonnes. This is a substantial volume of fish contributing significantly to food security. Furthermore, capture fisheries employ more than 100 000 fishers and generate around 400 000 jobs in secondary activities such as processing. Overall, fisheries in the region assure the livelihoods of probably more than one million people.

The RECOFI region is characterized by rich marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems, supporting valuable fishery stocks. Coastal countries benefit from the good and services from these ecosystems, share many of the fishery resources as well as the responsibility for their sound management.

Over the past four decades, the region has also experienced rapid development in the coastal zone, which has led to the degradation of the marine and coastal environment and a loss of its potential to sustain coastal populations. Among other things, the region's coastal and marine resources are threatened by oil pollution, land-based sources of pollution, habitat degradation, overexploitation of some fishery stocks, and climate change. Most acute ecological problems have arisen from the loss and degradation of productive coastal habitats, caused by coastal landfills, dredging, and sedimentation.

It is of concern that there are reports indicating that RECOFI capture fisheries are relying increasingly on low-value species, thereby concealing the slow degradation of demersal high-value resources. The depletion of fishery stocks in the region constitutes a loss of regional wealth. Coastal zone modification, declining fish stocks and climate change challenges further reinforce the need for concerted national and international efforts to rebuild and conserve the fishery resources.

An integrated ecosystem approach to the management of the Gulf and Sea of Oman ecosystem is essential. This would require countries to perceive the ecosystem as a regional commons and approach fisheries management and resources conservation from a holistic perspective, requiring collective action. The key objective of this ecosystem approach would be to foster a shared vision of the strategic importance of the region's resources as well as the principles and values relating to sustainable management among the stakeholders.

It is widely recognized that regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements such as RECOFI, are the cornerstones of international fisheries governance and for this reason regional cooperation in the area should be strengthened. We know that many regional fisheries problems can be solved through effective consultation and the timely exchange of information.

In conclusion, I would like to remind the Working Group that RECOFI was established in accordance with Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. In Article III (b) of the Commission's Agreement I want to underscore that RECOFI is empowered to formulate and recommend measures for the conservation and management of living marine resources. The Commission has effective management powers and should start to exercise them.

I assure you that I will follow your deliberations with keen interest. I exhort you to be forthright in your discussions and to propose innovative and forward looking solutions to the fisheries problems and constraints that confront us. The recommendations that you make this week will be very important because they will be transmitted to RECOFI's sixth session in Bahrain in May 2011 for consideration and review.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and distinguished participants, I am certain that you will have a very productive and fruitful meeting. I wish to extend my thanks to those in RECOFI and FAO who have worked together to ensure that enduring outcomes will be achieved for the benefit of all. I wish to thank again the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting the workshop.

Thanks for your attention

Outcomes of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries relating to the future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 12 to 14 May 2009. In relation to the work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) the Commission addressed:

- report of the outcomes of the second meeting of the WGFM (Cairo, Egypt, 27–30 October 2008);
- stock status reporting;
- review of capture fishery statistics in the RECOFI area;
- improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members; and
- illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing including port State measures in the RECOFI region.

2. In addition, the Commission reviewed the prioritized draft work programmes submitted by the WGFM and the Working Group on Aquaculture. The Commission's agreed work programme for the 2009–2010 biennium in relation to the work of the WGFM is considered in paper RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/4.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

3. In reviewing the activities of the WGFM in the intersessional period the Commission made the following decisions and recommendations:

Report of the outcomes of the second meeting of the WGFM (Cairo, Egypt, 27–30 October 2008)

- adopted the terms of reference for the WGFM;
- endorsed the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan; and
- adopted the terms of reference for the National Focal Points on Fisheries Management.

Stock status reporting

- agreed that it should adopt a pragmatic approach to stock assessment focusing on standardized reporting of priority species identified by the WGFM;
- agreed that a regional workshop on stock indicators and stocks status reporting be held;
- agreed that an ecosystem approach to fisheries and adaptive management procedures be adopted; and
- agreed that cooperation among RECOFI Members be improved for the appraisal of the state of fishery resources and the formulation of scientific advice for management.

Improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members

- agreed that a systematic evaluation be undertaken of all national statistical programmes to provide national authorities with realistic recommendations for improving the performance of their fishery statistical programmes and facilitating data harmonization at regional level;
- agreed that an expanded regional database be developed;

- endorsed the simple questionnaire that had been developed at the second meeting of the WGFM to describe national fisheries in a standard format and to facilitate the recording of information by Members; and
- suggested that Members concentrate on the collection of catch and other relevant data for the priority species listed by the WGFM.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including port State measures

- restated its concern about the presence and impact of IUU fishing in the region and encouraged Members to take steps to combat it at all levels and in all fisheries;
- welcomed Oman's forward-looking proposal on IUU fishing reporting¹ and agreed that Oman should submit a paper on it to the October 2009 WGFM meeting for its review and consideration; and
- agreed that the Secretariat should support, on an ad hoc basis, a subregional meeting among the three Members (Iran, Iraq and Kuwait) with the view to promote enhanced cooperation. The Commission agreed further that the Secretariat should liaise directly with the three Members concerning arrangements for the meeting.

4. Decisions made by the Commission in relation to capture fisheries should be incorporated into the work programme of the WGFM to ensure that they are implemented. Attachment 1 lists the proposals made by the second meeting of the WGFM in relation to the papers prepared for the fifth session of the Commission, its decisions in relation to capture fisheries and information on action that has been taken to implement or should be taken to implement them. Input from the WGFM is required to complete the column relating to action in Attachment 1.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

5. The Working Group is invited to:

- review the decisions and recommendations of the Commission and offer comments as appropriate;
- propose ways and means to ensure that appropriate follow-up action is taken at the national and regional levels, as appropriate, to implement the decisions and recommendations, including through providing information to complete Attachment 1; and
- provide guidance to the Secretariat, as appropriate, on further steps for implementation.

¹ Oman proposed that RECOFI initiate a reporting system for IUU fishing violations. It was suggested that Members report violations to the Secretariat who would maintain a record of reports. It was noted that such reporting was common in other fisheries commissions and that it would enhance transparency and strengthen dialogue among Members to reinforce fisheries management.

**DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES AND
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT,
2009–2010**

Activity	WGFM proposals (second meeting October 2008)	Commission decisions (fifth session May 2009)	Action taken or to be taken
Working Group on Fisheries Management	Terms of reference (TORs) for the Working Group on Fisheries Management	Adopted the terms of reference for the WGFM	No action required. The TORs can be reviewed as and when the WGFM considers this to be necessary.
	RECOFI regional strategy and priorities for fisheries management including a work plan and a list of activities for the WGFM	Endorsed the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan	Regional Strategy and Priorities to be updated for third meeting of the WGFM List of activities to be updated for review at the third meeting of the WGFM
	Terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management	Adopted the terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management	No action required. The TORs can be reviewed as and when the WGFM considers this to be necessary
Stock status reporting	Regional workshop to develop stock status reporting	Agreed that the Commission should adopt a pragmatic approach to stock assessment focusing on standardized reporting of priority species identified by the WGFM	1. Establishment of minimum data reporting requirement 2. A recommendation is required for the Commission's sixth session on minimum data collection and reporting
		Agreed that a regional workshop on stock indicators and stock status reporting should be held	Workshop held (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009). The report on the meeting is available (document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8)
		Agreed that an ecosystem system approach to fisheries and adaptive management procedures be adopted ²	
		Agreed that cooperation among Members should be improved for the appraisal of the state of fishery resources and the formulation of scientific advice for management	

² With reference to the issue raised by some Members on the need to develop an ecosystem approach to fisheries in the RECOFI region, the Secretariat informed the Commission that FAO RNE would hold a regional multidisciplinary workshop titled "Adapting to Climate Change: the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Near East and North Africa Region". The Workshop will be held in Abassa, Egypt, 10–12 November 2009. FAO RNE will extend invitations to all Members well in advance of the workshop.

Activity	WGFM proposals (second meeting October 2008)	Commission decisions (fifth session May 2009)	Action taken or to be taken
Improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members	Terms of reference for a study to improve the cost effectiveness and reliability of statistical programmes in RECOFI Members	Agreed that a systematic evaluation be undertaken of all national statistical programmes to provide national authorities with realistic recommendations for improving the performance of their fishery statistical programmes and facilitating data harmonization at regional level	Systematic evaluation to be carried out (provided that adequate financial resources are available)
		Endorsed the simple questionnaire developed by the second meeting of the WGFM to describe national fisheries in the region in a standard format and to facilitate the recording of information by Members	
		Agreed that an expanded regional database be developed	
		Suggested that Members should concentrate on the collection of catch and other relevant data for the priority species listed by the WGFM	
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing		Welcomed Oman's proposal on IUU fishing reporting requesting that a paper on it be submitted to the October 2009 WGFM for review	1. Oman invited to prepare paper for third meeting of the WGFM 2. A recommendation is required for the Commission's sixth session on the Omani proposal
		Agreed that the Secretariat should support, on an ad hoc basis, a subregional meeting among Iran, Iraq and Kuwait to promote enhanced fisheries cooperation	Initial meeting held in Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009. The report on the meeting is available (document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/6)

**Decisions of the fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and follow-up activities
for the Working Group on Fisheries Management, 2009–2012**

Activity	WGFM proposals (second meeting October 2008)	Commission decisions (fifth session May 2009)	Action taken or to be taken
Working Group on Fisheries Management	Terms of reference (TORs) for the Working Group on Fisheries Management	Adopted the terms of reference for the WGFM	No action required. The TORs can be reviewed as and when the WGFM considers this to be necessary
	RECOFI regional strategy and priorities for fisheries management including a workplan and a list of activities for the WGFM	Endorsed the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan	Regional Strategy and Priorities to be updated for third meeting of the WGFM List of activities to be updated for review at the third meeting of the WGFM
	Terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management	Adopted the terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management	No action required. The TORs can be reviewed as and when the WGFM considers this to be necessary
Stock status reporting	Regional workshop to develop stock status reporting	Agreed that the Commission should adopt a pragmatic approach to stock assessment focusing on standardized reporting of priority species identified by the WGFM	1. Establishment of minimum data reporting requirement 2. A recommendation is required for the Commission's sixth session on minimum data collection and reporting.
		Agreed that a regional workshop on stock indicators and stock status reporting should be held	1. Workshop held (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009). The report on the meeting is available (document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8) 2. List of activities to be updated for review at the third meeting of the WGFM
		Agreed that an ecosystem system approach to fisheries and adaptive management procedures be adopted	FAO Regional Workshop "Adapting to Climate Change: the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Near East and North Africa Region". The Workshop will be held in Abassa, Egypt, 10–12 November 2009
		Agreed that cooperation among Members should be improved for the appraisal of the state of fishery resources and the formulation of scientific advice for management	1. Members are already cooperating for this purpose but intend to strengthen collaboration 2. Establishment of minimum data reporting. 3. Harmonized fisheries management measures

Activity	WGFM proposals (second meeting October 2008)	Commission decisions (fifth session May 2009)	Action taken or to be taken
Improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among RECOFI Members	Terms of reference for a study to improve the cost effectiveness and reliability of statistical programmes in RECOFI Members	Agreed that a systematic evaluation be undertaken of all national statistical programmes to provide national authorities with realistic recommendations for improving the performance of their fishery statistical programmes and facilitating data harmonization at regional level	Systematic evaluation to be carried out (provided that adequate financial resources are available)
		Endorsed the simple questionnaire developed by the second meeting of the WGFM to describe national fisheries in the region in a standard format and to facilitate the recording of information by Members	The questionnaire to be updated as required.
		Agreed that an expanded regional database be developed	To be addressed following the systematic evaluation of national statistical programmes and drawing on the experience of similar work in aquaculture
		Suggested that Members should concentrate on the collection of catch and other relevant data for the priority species listed by the WGFM	To be addressed by Members as required as some countries may have difficulty covering all priority species
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing		Welcomed Oman's proposal on IUU fishing reporting requesting that a paper on it be submitted to the October 2009 WGFM for review	1. Oman invited to prepare paper for third meeting of the WGFM 2. A recommendation is required for the Commission's sixth session on the Omani proposal
		Agreed that the Secretariat should support, on an ad hoc basis, a subregional meeting among Iran, Iraq and Kuwait to promote enhanced fisheries cooperation	Initial meeting held in Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009. The report on the meeting is available (document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/6)

Consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the Working Group on Fisheries Management

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009) considered a programme of work and budget for the 2009-2010 biennium. The Commission approved and postponed discrete activities proposed by the Working Groups on Fisheries Management (WGFM) and Acquaculture (WGA). The Commission also approved activities to be executed jointly by the Working Groups.

2. The purpose of this document is review RECOFI's decisions in relation to the programme of work and budget for capture fisheries and to put in place a plan to implement the Commission's decisions. Progress on implementation will be reported to the sixth session of the Commission (Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, May 2011).

APPROVED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009–2010

3. Attachment 1 shows the activities approved for implementation and postponed by the Commission for the 2009–2010 biennium.

Joint activities

4. The Commission approved two activities to be implemented jointly by the WGFM and the WGA. These activities are:

- a workshop in Kuwait in 2010 on red tide focussing on its impact on capture fisheries and aquaculture and counter measures to be taken to mitigate its effect. The Commission requested that the workshop take account of the outcomes of two red tide workshops to be undertaken by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in 2009; and
- a workshop in Qatar in 2010 addressing Geographical Information System (GIS) and spatial tools applications for capture fisheries and aquaculture.

In approving these joint activities it might be inferred that the Commission saw them as priority activities for both capture fisheries and aquaculture, even though this was not stated explicitly in the session's report. With this understanding the Secretariat proposes that the joint activities be given funding priority for implementation.

WGFM activities

5. For the WGFM the Commission:

- amended and adopted the terms of reference for the WGFM (Attachment 2);
- adopted the terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management; and
- endorsed the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management (Attachment 3). However, the Strategy and Priorities require updating at this meeting to ensure that they remain current.

6. For discrete activities to be undertaken by the WGFM, RECOFI approved the:

- Workshop on Stock Status Reporting. This activity was undertaken in July 2009, as planned, but follow-up work was proposed in the workshop. This work will be considered by the WGFM when reviewing the report of the workshop (document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8).
- Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area. This activity was ranked highly by the second meeting of the WGFM and was costed at approximately US\$30 000. The Secretariat is of the view that this activity should be implemented without delay. The updated terms of reference for the consultancy to implement this activity are in Attachment 4. They were reviewed previously at the second meeting of the WGFM.
- Third meeting of the WGFM.

Following the conclusion of this WGFM meeting there will be only one discrete activity to be undertaken in this biennium to implement the approved programme of work in capture fisheries.

7. Activities, many of which had a strong human resource development element, that were proposed for implementation by the second meeting of the WGFM but which were postponed by RECOFI included a:

- review of national fisheries programmes;
- workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data;
- workshop on RECOFI fisheries economics;
- training workshop on fishery resources appraisal; and
- pilot joint assessment of shared stocks.

If the WGFM considers it appropriate, these activities will be retained in the planned programme of work for implementation in subsequent biennia and will be re-prioritized. The activities will need to be re-prioritized along with new activities that might be proposed by the WGFM.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

8. The Working Group is invited to:

- take note the activities in Table 1: Table of RECOFI Activities to be Undertaken in the 2009-2010 Intersessional Period that were approved by the Commission and which should be implemented (Attachment 1);
- take note of the terms of reference, as amended by the Commission, for the WGFM (Attachment 2);
- review and update the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan in Attachment 3;
- endorse the terms of reference for the consultancy for the integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area; and
- endorse, if appropriate, that the joint WGFM and WFA activities be given funding priority for implementation.

TABLE 1: TABLE OF RECOFI ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE 2009–2010 INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
Joint	Red tides: Impacts on capture fisheries and aquaculture and counter measures (technical workshop)	2010	Kuwait	3–4 days	20 000	Approved
Joint	Geographical Information System and spatial tools applications for capture fishery and aquaculture	2010	Qatar	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Workshop on stock status reporting	Jul 2009	Iran	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area	2009/2010	RECOFI countries	TBD	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Third WGFM meeting	Oct 2009	Qatar	3 days		Approved
Fisheries Management (4)	Review of national fisheries programmes	2009	RECOFI countries	TBD	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management (7)	Workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management (8)	Workshop on RECOFI fisheries economics	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management (9)	Training workshop on fishery resources appraisal	2010/2011	TBD	4 days	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management (10)	Pilot joint assessment of shared stocks	2011	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Aquaculture	Risk analysis in aquaculture (training)	TBD	Oman	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Aquaculture	Environmental monitoring in aquaculture (training)	TBD	TBD	10–14 days	20 000	Approved
Aquaculture (4)	Development of a national strategy on aquatic animal health (planning workshop)	TBD	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Aquaculture (6)	Aquaculture recirculation technologies (technical workshop)	TBD	TBD	2–3 days	20 000	Postponed

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
Aquaculture	Regional Aquaculture Information System (development and consolidation)	TBD	TBD	5 days	5 000	Ongoing

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to original ranking of activities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT³

The Working Group on Fisheries Management shall, taking into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments, as appropriate:

1. Exercise the role and functions conferred on the Working Group by RECOFI including the consideration of biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects of fisheries conservation and management with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of resources in the region, and

2. Provide technical and scientific advice to RECOFI. Specifically, the Working Group on Fisheries Management shall:

- review the state of fisheries, including the state of resources, making recommendations for appropriate research and development activities in support of effective management and sustainable fisheries, as well as the rebuilding of stocks;
- review on a regular basis national statistical systems and outturns, as appropriate, to enhance and harmonize fisheries data on a regional basis;
- formulate recommendations for the implementation of conservation and management measures that will be applied in conformity with the precautionary approach to fisheries, taking account of the best scientific evidence available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of fisheries resources;
- assess the need for harmonized conservation and management measures on a scientific basis and formulate recommendations as appropriate, including to but not limited to:
 - regulate fishing methods and fishing gear;
 - prescribe minimum sizes for particular species;
 - establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas;
 - implement marine protected areas;
 - regulate bycatch and discards;
 - prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - manage fishing capacity;
 - regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members; and
 - market-based measures.
- identify major fishery-related issues and emerging trends for fisheries management practice, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for follow-up action;
- identify and apply, as appropriate, a set of regionally-agreed indicators for sustainable fisheries development;

³ The terms of reference incorporate relevant aspects of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments as well as the fisheries management provision of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. They are forward looking in character, adaptable and able to deal with emerging issues in fisheries. They are intended to be a “living document” that can be reviewed and amended by the Working Group to take account of changing fisheries conditions.

- promote closer regional cooperation and collaboration in fisheries conservation and management, including through coordinated and harmonized policies and programmes relating to fisheries legislation, acceptance and implementation of international fisheries instruments, adoption of fisheries and management measures and monitoring, control and surveillance including vessels monitoring systems;
 - monitor and report on adverse impacts induced by human-made activities on fisheries and their long-term sustainable management and utilization, as appropriate, and make recommendations concerning remedial measures and action;
 - encourage human capacity building and institutional strengthening and enhance extension services in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management and utilization, including making recommendations for appropriate regional programmes;
 - assemble, publish and disseminate information concerning the state of the region's fisheries;
 - promote collaboration with other regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the sustainable fisheries management and utilization in the region; and
 - undertake other activities relating to fisheries management considered important and appropriate by the Working Group or as directed by RECOFI.
3. The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time to time and make recommendations for their amendment, as appropriate, to RECOFI.

Updated RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan¹

STRATEGY: Promotion of sound and effective regional fisheries governance by:

- ensuring that fisheries are exploited and utilized in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner,
- ensuring that fisheries generate maximum social and economic benefits for RECOFI countries, and
- ensuring that ecosystem considerations are incorporated into conservation and management decisions.

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
1. To implement effective fisheries management through regional cooperation and harmonization, including shared stocks and fisheries of common interest	Awareness building about the need for effective fisheries management (e.g. publications, media, etc)				
	Development and implementation of fisheries management plans for major fisheries	Preparatory exercise for implementation of minimum data requirements (Follow-up to Iran Workshop)	0	2	Initial data set to be incorporated into regional database
		Establishment and maintenance of a regional database to support management of major fisheries	Total cost to be determined (Source: TBI ²)	2	Regional database
	Assessment and implementation of conservation measures (e.g. closed areas, seasons, restrictions on species and sizes)	Regional fisheries management plan for kingfish	15 000 (Source: TBI)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fisheries management plan ▪ Enhanced management for shared kingfish stocks
	Assessment and implementation of fishing capacity reduction programmes				

¹ Updated October 2009

² TBI= to be identified

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	Implementation of the precautionary approach to fisheries when conditions are uncertain				
	Implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems	Project to develop a regional database on fisheries violations	15 000 (Source: TBI)	5	Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region
		Project to establish a regional list of vessels authorized to fish by Members	15 000 (Source: TBI)	5	Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region
		Project to implement a regional MCS network	15 000 (Source: TBI)	5	Mechanism to assist in the reduction of IUU fishing in the region
	Implementation of measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including port States measures and flag State performance criteria				
	Regional discussions concerning harmonization and cooperation to strengthen management, including the identification of areas for harmonization				
	Establishment of a regional scientific network for cooperative fisheries appraisals	Sharing plans, protocols and results of surveys, biological parameters and stock assessment results	0	1	Regional scientific network
2. To facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the capacity to implement management measures	Workshops, country attachments and other training opportunities to enhance human resource development	National applied training programme for fish data collectors for the identification of priority species	25 000 (Source: TBI)	2	Fish data collectors capable of identifying priority species
	Promotion of national and regional library and information resources to support fisheries management				

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
3. To promote good science to underpin decisions for fisheries management	Promotion of applied research (related to biodiversity and conservation and management measures)				
	Collection and analysis of fisheries-dependent and independent data in support of fisheries appraisal and fisheries management	Project for the integration of annual catch and fishing effort data (already considered by the Commission) (2010 throughout region). TORs updated at the WGFM3	25 000 (Source: TBI)	1	A prototype regional database containing basic functionalities for data storage, integration and retrieval accompanied by an operations guide on other related documentation
	Stock assessment to evaluate the status of stocks and development of management measures	Workshop on GIS (tentative October 2010 in Qatar)	10 000 (Source: RECOFI)	1	Increased knowledge of GIS. Steps to be taken to implement progressively GIS in support of fisheries management and aquaculture development
	Assessment of red tide on capture fisheries and aquaculture and counter measures	Workshop on red tide (possibly 2011 in Kuwait). Consultation with WGA required to determine if workshop should be held.	10 000 (Source: RECOFI)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased knowledge of the impacts of red tide ▪ Development of counter measures
	Harmonization of data collection and sets for regional analysis and management of shared stocks				

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
4. To promote legal discussion and review and revise fisheries legislation to reflect policy and international commitments	Acceptance and implementation of international instruments	Translation into Arabic of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular on Fisheries Laws	5 000 (Source: FAO)	1	FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular in Arabic
5. To encourage the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries	Bycatch management and discards reduction (related to gear and food security issues)				
	Implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries including the protection of biodiversity	Translation into Arabic of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4, Suppl. 2: Fisheries management. 2. The ecosystem approach to fisheries	5 000 (Source: FAO)	1	Authoritative text on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries
	Promotion of gear types to mitigate bycatch and ecosystem impacts	A study to evaluate options of gear types to promote sustainable fisheries	15 000 (Source: TBI)	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced undesirable impact of fisheries on the ecosystem ▪ Greater responsibility and sustainability in fisheries
	Facilitation of practices to promote safety at sea				
	Promote improved post-harvest fish handling				
6. To reflect cultural and social values and economic consideration in fisheries management	Recognition of the cultural role played by fisheries especially in inshore areas and more isolated communities	Workshop on fishery economic performance, dynamics and trends (2012 at a location to be determined)	10 000 (Source: TBI)	7	Enhanced understanding of the economic dimensions of the fishing industry in the region with a view to the development of economic indicators

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	<p>Promotion of fisheries activities to continue to support food security and nutrition</p> <p>Collection and analysis of economic data and related information (e.g. employment, trade, value, cost of operations, losses due to poor handling, etc)</p> <p>Promotion of responsible and sustainable fisheries development and value added activities (e.g. processing)</p> <p>Implementation of measures to maintain the contribution of fisheries to livelihoods especially where alternative employment opportunities are limited</p>				
<p>7. To coordinate and promote information exchange relating to fish trade in the RECOFI region</p>	<p>Promote better cooperation in regional fish trade</p> <p>Establish regional standards for fish exports and imports</p>	<p>Implication of certification and related schemes to be investigated together with the relationship between IUU fishing and trade and the estimated value of IUU fishing in the region</p>	<p>20 000 (Source: TBI)</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understanding of impacts of certification and related schemes ▪ Assessment of the effects of IUU fishing on trade ▪ Estimation of the value of IUU fishing in the region

Review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Muscat, Oman, 30 March–2 April 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from from 30 March to 2 April 2009.¹ It was attended by 14 participants from six RECOFI Members (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates).
2. The workshop, undertaken at the request of the fourth session of the Commission, was tailored specifically to meet the needs of its Members. The workshop was comprehensive in its coverage, addressing the following issues:
 - IUU fishing: its nature, scope and the role of RECOFI in combating it;
 - the international legal and policy framework to combat IUU fishing;
 - the IPOA–IUU, FAO Fisheries Technical Guidelines No. 9 on IUU fishing and national plans of action to combat IUU fishing;
 - the main IUU fishing problems in the RECOFI area, possible solutions and the role of the Commission;
 - the role of port State measures in combating IUU fishing;
 - flag State performance to combat IUU fishing;
 - fisheries legislation in RECOFI countries; and
 - regional cooperation to defeat IUU fishing;
3. In addition to the provision of up-to-date information on the above topics, working groups were formed to enhance the workshop's participatory nature. A problem-solving exercise on how to deal with IUU fishing at the national and regional levels was undertaken. This exercise was followed by a brainstorming session that focussed on IUU fishing issues that impact small-scale and industrial fisheries in the region.

NATIONAL RESPONSES TO THE PRE-WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE ON IUU FISHING

4. Prior to the workshop participants were invited to complete a questionnaire and return it to the Secretariat. The questionnaire sought to gather information about the main IUU fishing problems in the region, solutions to the problems and possible actions that might be taken by RECOFI to prevent, deter and eliminate them.
5. Table 1 summarizes the information provided to the Secretariat by participants from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

¹ FAO. 2009. Report of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 903. FAO. Rome. 30p.

Table 1: Summary of national responses to the questionnaire

Countries	IUU fishing problem	Possible solutions	Possible RECOFI measures and action
Kuwait	Using illegal fishing gear	Require stricter regulations and rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply strong and new regulations and rules for fishing activities ▪ Apply strict punishment against law breakers ▪ Inform RECOFI members of any updates in regulations or rules regarding fishing ▪ Members are obliged to provide the organization with information about fishing status on a regular basis and report any incidents concerning fishing of shrimps and <i>P. argentius</i> ▪ Emphasize the importance of monitoring and surveillance equipment
	Fishing in forbidden area (Kuwait bay and three nm zone)	Require remote monitoring system on the fishing boats	
	Communication problems with foreign fishers	Providing proper regulation manuals in different languages	
	Catching shrimp during breeding season with some neighbouring countries	Unify the breeding seasons among the countries	
	Catching the Zubaidy (<i>Pampus argentius</i>) problems	Active communication between Kuwait – Iraq – Iran	
	Fishing for Zubaidy during the breeding period	There should be stricter regulations and punishment	
Saudi Arabia	IUU fishing of Bahraini boats	Regulating season between neighbouring countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doing with all previous studies and suggestion
	IUU fishing of pleasure boats	Determination of the quantities	
	Bycatch dumping	Using methods that lead to a decrease of bycatch as well as studies on mesh size	
Bahrain	Illegal fishing: 1.Unauthorized gears 2.Fishing without licence 3.Catch in closed season	Political will to implement the fisheries law no. 20 of 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing seasons for commercial species (i.e. groupers, kingfish) in GCC countries or ROPME sea area ▪ Uniformity of fisheries regulations in GCC countries and if possible in ROPME sea area ▪ Improve communication between Member States regarding shared stocks ▪ Encourage marine protected areas in all countries ▪ Provide human resources budget and training to control illegal fisheries ▪ Financial compensation to solve the overfishing problem in the Gulf region ▪ All countries in the Gulf should implement the same guidelines in their countries for the benefit of the public
	Unreported fishing from recreational sector	Provide logistics and resources to enable the officials to collect data	
	Unregulated fishing: 1.Catch of fingerling 2.Catch in protected areas 3. Catch without a permit	Implementation of laws, provide resources and enhance fisheries management	
	Target species:groupers; coral fishes; kingfish	Closing seasons and areas	
	Overfishing	Reduce number of licences through compensation	
	Sand mining in fisheries grounds	Find other alternatives for sand filling and reduce pressure on dredging activities	
	Reclamation of shallow waters	Eliminate reclamation activities to allow marine resources to recover	
	Limited unauthorized fishing in territorial waters	Increase marine control through satellite images	
Qatar	Recreational fishing is the only activity not reported in Qatar, which can affect fish statistics data	Regulation to manage and control recreational fishing and to collect fish catch data of recreational fishing boats	The implementation of VMS by all RECOFI Members for all fishing boats, including speed boat (recreational fishing) to

Countries	IUU fishing problem	Possible solutions	Possible RECOFI measures and action
		in all fishing ports of Qatar	strengthen control of fishing vessel and to combat IUU fishing
Oman	Using unauthorized fishing boats in territory waters	Improve law enforcement activities and implement high penalties and punishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved cooperation between members of RECOFI ▪ Strategic programming, tactical targeting and sampling strategy ▪ Extend use of modern technologies and comprehensive data validation system ▪ Standardized and coordination inspection activities and procedures at sea and on land (transport and market) ▪ Action plan for RECOFI Members to improve their implementation to combat IUU fishing ▪ Improve framework for port control system ▪ Sharing information about IUU fishing activities between RECOFI Members
	Using prohibited fishing gears	Control markets and import boarders and cease all prohibited gears used by fishing boats and vessels	
	Fishing unauthorized species (seasonal species)	Improve law enforcement activities by control locale markets and exports and implement high penalties and punishments	
	Fishing without licences	Improve law enforcement activities	
	IUU fishing in EEZ and territorial waters	Improve MCS by cooperation between national agents and implement high penalties and punishments	
	Re-export of unauthorized species		

6. An analysis of the information provided indicates that there is a degree of commonality in the IUU fishing problems across the region. This is not surprising given that some fisheries are shared and those that are not shared have similar exploitation modes. A recurring theme in countries underpinning the fisheries sector was a general weakness in management. In summary, some of these problems highlighted by participants included:

IUU fishing:

- violation of closed fishing seasons and areas;
- fishing without authorizations; and
- use of prohibited fishing gear.

Unregulated fishing:

- recreational fisheries;
- fishing capacity in some fisheries;
- bycatch handling; and
- minimum species sizes and other basis management measures.

Unreported fishing:

- limited bycatch reporting;
- limited recreational fish catch reporting; and
- catches from foreign fishing vessels violating national waters.

7. The information submitted in the questionnaires was consolidated in the workshop. It gave a good snapshot of the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the region. The information ensured that there was a solid and informed base for discussions and, in the brainstorming session, for the elaboration of realistic measures to respond to IUU fishing.

SUMMARY OF THE BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON IUU FISHING

8. Taking account of the information provided by participants and building on discussion during the workshop, the brainstorming session addressed the major IUU fishing problems facing small-scale and large-scale fisheries in the RECOFI region. The problems were classified as national, regional and international. To ameliorate the effects of these problems the workshop proposed action to combat them, some of which were quite specific indicating that participants had a good understanding of the issues and their impacts and consequences.

9. The outcomes of the brainstorming session constitute the workshop's recommendations. They are likely to remain valid for sometime. Major changes in conditions in the region vis-à-vis IUU fishing are not anticipated. However, the outcomes should be reviewed and updated from time to time to ensure that they reflect the situation in the region.

Table 2: Outcome of the brainstorming session in relation to IUU fishing in the RECOFI area

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES		
LEVEL	PRIORITY ISSUES	PROPOSED ACTION
NATIONAL	Economic gain from IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening legislation to provide sufficiently high penalties to deter and punish the activities
	Catch during the closed season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthened control of landings, including inspection ▪ Deterrent penalties ▪ Improved laws
	Overlap of responsibilities and insufficient coordination among competent authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National planning on coordination priorities and budget to combat IUU fishing, with a view to the centralization of responsibilities
	Use of illegal fishing gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved laws ▪ Improved training for inspectors ▪ Research on improved gear
	Excess capacity leading to IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stock assessment ▪ Assessment of fishing capacity, with the view of reduction as appropriate ▪ Reduction of licences
	Use of unlicensed vessels for IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining a register of fishing vessels with sufficient information ▪ Designate authorized inspection officers
	Lack of awareness of all stakeholders about the consequences of IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a communications strategy, including awareness raising through all types of media
	Catch during the closed season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harmonized legislation, including penalty levels ▪ Improve inspection capacity and training for the marine control team ▪ Cooperation in harmonizing marketing measures to prohibit trade, including through customs
REGIONAL	Use of illegal fishing gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved coordination and regulation through RECOFI and GCC States
	Use of unlicensed vessels for IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop minimum standards, a regional database for vessel registers and catch
	Insufficient reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a regional database for catch with cooperation of RECOFI
	Illegal fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish an information centre within RECOFI

	Export of IUU caught fish and fish products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require catch certification and other documents required by the importing countries
INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES		
LEVEL	PRIORITY ISSUES	PROPOSED ACTION
NATIONAL	Lack of awareness of all stakeholders about the consequences of IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a communications strategy, including awareness raising through all types of media
	Bycatch (taking prohibited, undersized or endangered species, unreported and misreported catch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proper implementation of the laws ▪ Development of capacity for implementation; ▪ Use of bycatch reduction devices, including in the shrimp trawl fishery
	Market incentives to engage in IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce opportunities for the marketing of IUU caught fish, including through laws and trade measures
	Lack of awareness of all stakeholders about the consequences of IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a communications strategy through RECOFI
REGIONAL	Bycatch (taking prohibited, undersized or endangered species, unreported and misreported catch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination of the use of by-catch reduction devices ▪ Development of regional capacity for the control and reduction of bycatch
	Need for strengthened cooperation and coordination in the region to combat IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen RECOFI
	Unlicensed fishing in the RECOFI area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint and harmonized enforcement
	Destruction of coral reefs by IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote closer cooperation between RECOFI and ROPME
	Market incentives to engage in IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce opportunities for the marketing of IUU caught fish, including through laws and trade measures
	Lack of acceptance of international instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage acceptance of international instruments through RECOFI
INTERNATIONAL	Market incentives to engage in IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce opportunities for the marketing of IUU caught fish, including through laws and trade measures
	Lack of international coordination to combat IUU fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination between RECOFI and other RFBs or organizations (such as the GFCM, IOTC and proposed Red Sea Fisheries Commission)

IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP

10. IUU fishing is a major fisheries issue worldwide and the international community is addressing it on a range of fronts including through the United Nations General Assembly, FAO and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements. IUU fishing is inconsistent with sound resource management because it undermines national and regional efforts to promote greater responsibly and sustainability in fisheries. This point was recognized by RECOFI at its fourth session in 2005 when it requested the Secretariat and the Working Group to address IUU fishing.

11. It would be prudent for the Working Group to keep IUU fishing under review and report, as appropriate, to the Commission on a regular basis so that it is briefed on the matter. The information compiled in the workshop could serve as a reference point for future initiatives by the Working Group. Moreover, within the Work Programme for capture fisheries it may be appropriate to

recommend to the Commission at its sixth session that Members consider undertaking certain harmonized activities at the national and regional levels to combat IUU fishing. Such activities could include, for example, the implementation of an awareness building campaign in small-scale and industrial fisheries about the impacts of IUU fishing. In this way the output of the workshop would have a practical effect by feeding directly into policy formulation RECOFI. More proactive and ambitious proposals could also be considered if this was the will of the Working Group.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

12. The Working Group is invited to:

- review the report of the workshop and comment, as appropriate;
- provide guidance to the Secretariat on follow up action on IUU fishing; and
- recommend further and concrete steps to combat IUU fishing, as appropriate, to the sixth session of RECOFI.

Proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to the development of a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations

INTRODUCTION

1. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of considerable concerns of global community. It undermines the rational and legitimate objectives of fisheries management as it imposes serious threats to the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and the socio-economic welfare of coastal fishing communities. Within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) a coastal State has sovereign rights to the fisheries resources and it is responsible for the conservation and management of fisheries resources. However, to ensure effective management of shared resources and effective control of IUU fishing activities within EEZs including incursions by foreign vessels in to EEZs, a cooperative approach is essential.

RATIONALE FOR THE RECORD OF VIOLATIONS

2. The Regional Commission on Fisheries (RECOFI, “the Commission” hereafter), as a regional fisheries body, has a strong role in regional fisheries management. In line with international agreements and initiatives with regard to IUU fishing the Commission could initiate the development of a regional database that keeps full record of all types of fishing violations by traditional vessels and other key information in relation to vessel operators, vessel characteristics, details of fishing operations, and catch compositions and amounts. This type of information could be shared among Member States and could be used as a part of early alert system to reduce risk and improve efficiency of management measures.

HOW THE RECORD WOULD BE OPERATED AND MANAGED

3. We would like to propose that the Commission would be responsible for the overall management of the recommended database with the help of Member States. In this context, the Commission should, amongst others:

- request each Member State to provide necessary information on traditional fishing vessels fishing in its water;
- negotiate regulatory arrangements with the Member States in relation to the effective implementation of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) as appropriate;
- strengthen provisions for sharing information among Member States;
- develop mechanisms to improve monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures and establish a regional MCS network; and
- adopt appropriate trade related measures and promote exchange of fishery specific management related information among Member States to improve traceability of all fishery products traded with the regional countries.

BENEFITS OF THE RECORD TO RECOFI MEMBERS

4. A cooperative and regional approach would enhance resource and technical capacity to address IUU fishing in a cost-effective and efficient manner. This will also establish transparency in effective decision-making regarding IUU fishing in the region and ensure sustainability of shared fisheries resources.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

5. The Working Group is invited to:

- review the proposal along with the actions stated above and provide recommendations to the Commission for appropriate actions, measures and procedures to combat IUU fishing in the region; and
- provide guidance for the effective implementation of decisions and measures regarding IUU fishing.

Report on the outcome of the tripartite meeting “Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI” (Tehran, Iran, 29 July 2009)

INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-eighth Near East Regional Conference (NERC – March 2006) called on FAO to encourage Members to promote measures to rebuild and rehabilitate the fisheries infrastructure and institutions in Iraq. At the fourth RECOFI session, the Commission expressed the hope that Iraq would resume its concern by participating in future Commission sessions and stressed that it would welcome further information from Iraq on the most immediate needs concerning efforts needed to rebuild and rehabilitate its fisheries institutions.

2. At the fifth session of RECOFI (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009) the delegate of Iraq, with the support from the delegates of Iran and Kuwait requested the Secretariat to facilitate subregional cooperation among the three countries on fisheries issues of common concern, including IUU fishing. After considerable discussion on the matter, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should support, on an ad hoc basis, a subregional meeting among the three Members, with the view to promote enhanced cooperation. The Commission agreed further that the Secretariat should liaise directly with the three Members on arrangements for the meeting.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING

3. The RECOFI Secretariat convened the preliminary meeting on the *Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI* at the time of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop on “Stock Indicators and Stock Status Reporting” (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26–29 July 2009).

4. The meeting was held on 29 July 2009 and attended by participants from Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Kuwait headed respectively by the following officials:

- Mr Ali Asghar Mojahedi, Director General, Fishing and Fisher Affairs, Iran Fisheries Organization;
- Mr Mehdi Shirazi, Deputy Director General, Public and International Relations, Iran Fisheries Organization;
- Mr Ali Musaddak, Director General, General Board for Fish Resources Development; and
- Mr Haider Murad, Under Secretary, Deputy Director General, Fisheries Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources of Kuwait.

5. Mr Piero Mannini, with the assistance of Ms Tara Mirfenderesk (FAO Representation, Tehran) participated in the meeting. Mr Mannini was present in his dual capacity as Secretary of RECOFI and Senior Fisheries Officer, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO, Cairo.

6. Mr Mannini chaired the meeting using the Agenda proposed by the Secretariat (Annex 1). Due to a lack of time and limited relevance in the immediate future, discussion on Agenda Item 7 was postponed to the next meeting (October 2009). Participants expressed satisfaction for the prompt and timely response of the FAO/RECOFI Secretariat, which enabled the meeting to be held only two months after it had been raised at the fifth RECOFI session.

7. The meeting agreed that current and future discussions should pertain exclusively to fisheries issues appropriate and coherent with the RECOFI and the FAO mandate, with no reference to legal status of territories and boundaries.

8. Furthermore, the meeting agreed to name the current undertaking as the FAO/RECOFI “Initiative to Promote Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI”. Discussion focused on the identification of the priority topics, as listed below, to be included in the agenda of this initiative aimed at fostering subregional cooperation to support sustainable fisheries:

- 1) fisheries management in the northern area of RECOFI including the review of effectiveness of current conservation and management measures to preserve the resources and aquaculture;
- 2) subregional trade (dynamics, constraints, opportunities);
- 3) promotion of sustainable inland, brackish and marine waters aquaculture, including stock enhancement; and
- 4) establishment of scientific cooperation and implementation of joint activities.

9. With reference to topic 3 the meeting was advised that the mandate of RECOFI did not include inland waters. In the sub-region, however, inland waters are an essential component of the northern RECOFI’s ecosystem much affecting marine fisheries production. The meeting concurred on the need to pursue an integrated and holistic approach in accordance with FAO’s mandate concerning freshwater fisheries and aquaculture.

10. The meeting deemed it necessary to substantiate the selected topics with quantitative information. This would create a solid base for discussion and analysis. Mr Haider Murad (Kuwait) offered to coordinate the preparation of a survey questionnaire to gather and compile the available and relevant data and information on the fisheries and aquaculture of the three in countries in the area under discussion.

11. The roadmap to follow to implement the initiative was outlined including the basic steps to be undertaken jointly by the three countries. The short-term workplan accepted by the meeting consists of five actions to be carried out during the next eight to ten months:

- a) formulation of a questionnaire to acquire the relevant fisheries and aquaculture data in the subregion concerned;
- b) review of the questionnaire and preliminary data at a side meeting to be held during the planned “Third Meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management”, Qatar, October 2009;
- c) completion of the survey questionnaire and data analysis;
- d) discussion of results of the survey questionnaire at the meeting of the “FAO/RECOFI Initiative to Promote Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI” that will take place back to back, at the envisaged ad hoc intersessional meeting to consider ways and means to enhance the RECOFI’s role to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first semester of 2010; and
- e) identification of the resources necessary for the implementation, within the established cooperation framework, of the multiyear work plan for the promotion and support of fisheries management in the northern area of the RECOFI.

12. The meeting designated a temporary Secretariat to support and coordinate the initiative. Members of the Secretariat are Messrs Ali Asghar Mojahedi (Iran, I.R.), Ali Musaddak (Iraq), Haider Murad (Kuwait). The FAO/RECOFI Secretariat will assist in coordination and will provide backstopping as necessary and feasible.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group is invited to:

- consider the outcome of the preliminary meeting on Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of the RECOFI and comment on it, as appropriate;
- propose ways and means to ensure that appropriate follow-up action is taken at the national and regional levels; and
- provide guidance to the Secretariat on further steps for implementation.

Review of findings of the FAO Fisheries Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and implications for future work of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

INTRODUCTION

1. In the context of combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related activities, prioritized objectives of the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management included promotion of legal discussion and review and revision of fisheries legislation to reflect policy and international commitments. Accordingly, it was agreed to activities to be undertaken included a desk study to review fisheries laws of RECOFI Members, with a focus on gaps and shortcomings in fisheries legislation and measures to be taken to strengthen and harmonize it.
2. The draft desk study was prepared and delivered at the FAO/RECOFI Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing that was held in Muscat, Oman from 30 March to 2 April 2009. The study was later finalized, taking into account comments sought during the Workshop, and published in an FAO Fisheries Circular.¹

METHODOLOGY AND OUTCOME OF THE ANALYSIS

3. Fisheries laws were provided for the study by seven RECOFI Members,² and individual reviews as well as a general synthesis were each undertaken in the context of a framework of key elements of fisheries laws including use of terms; objective, scope and application of the law; institutional and policy provisions; fisheries conservation, management and development; access regime; licensing systems; international aspects; monitoring, control and surveillance; post-harvest, trade; evidentiary provisions; judicial/administrative processes, and violations and fines/penalties.
4. The synthesis identified general gaps and constraints in legislation across the RECOFI region, with reference to the existing provisions, international instruments and best practices. Possible options for reviewing and overcoming the constraints were suggested, including reference to the implementation of international instruments and strengthening relevant legislative provisions.
5. Four of the seven original laws reviewed were adopted in the 1980s, with some of the older laws being almost identical. Some laws have been amended or expanded through subsequent regulations. Most countries are not parties to many international fisheries instruments that have been developed over the past two decades, with six countries having ratified and one having signed, but not ratified, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UN Convention), none having accepted the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and one having ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement. In addition, one country has elaborated a National Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA–IUU) to implement the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA–IUU). Two new areas being developed on the international front involve port State measures and flag State performance.
6. The 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement focus primarily on high seas fishing activities. However, definitions, principles, management approaches and concepts contained in the latter have been extended, adapted and applied in many national and regional laws and international instruments such as the IPOA–IUU and the draft FAO

¹ Swan, J. 2009. Review of fisheries laws of certain Members of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular*. No. 1049. Rome, FAO. 81p.

² Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, including by non-parties. This has generally not occurred yet among RECOFI Members, and even the 1982 UN Convention has not been fully implemented by any law.

7. A need therefore emerged from the analysis for most national legislation to be updated to include best practices and implementation of relevant international law and instruments, including new instruments that are being developed to combat IUU fishing. It was recognized that updated national legislation could serve also as a basis for enhanced sub-regional or regional cooperation in fisheries management.

8. At the Oman Workshop, participants expressed appreciation for the review and underscored its usefulness for reviewing legislation at national level and its relevance for the harmonization of fisheries regulation at regional level. It was anticipated that RECOFI Members would review the paper in greater depth. The Workshop acknowledged that there was a need for improvement to the laws and that the review would provide a sound basis for moving forward with RECOFI activities such as the harmonization of management and application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

9. As the Working Group on Fisheries Management continues its work to identify ways and means of subregional and regional cooperation for fisheries management, including combating IUU fishing, the legal basis for such cooperation will be important. Harmonized legal requirements would be needed for such activities as fisheries reporting, information sharing, adopting management measures, licence requirements, offences and penalties. Importantly, laws would need to authorize certain activities beyond areas of national jurisdiction consistent with international law such as requiring nationals to hold licences and authorizing monitoring, control and enforcement in such areas.

10. The momentum already established by the legal review could be helpful as a basis for further review and agreement on key areas in fisheries laws that need strengthening and harmonization in order to provide a basis for enhanced regional cooperation in fisheries management, and possible processes or mechanisms for harmonization.

11. Of particular importance for enhanced regional cooperation would be components of the laws relating to the use of terms, scope and application of the laws, fisheries conservation, management and development, access regime, licensing, monitoring, control and surveillance and fines/penalties.

12. In parallel, national reviews of fisheries and related legislation could be encouraged, based in part on the findings in the FAO Fisheries Circular. This may be accompanied by an institutional review, to ensure that institutional and human capacity, as well as national institutional and policy coordination, would support any measures or actions taken to enhance subregional or regional cooperation in fisheries management.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group is invited to:

- consider the review of fisheries laws of certain RECOFI Members and comment on it, as appropriate;
- consider, as appropriate, implementing the review's findings to enhance and strengthen legislation, and
- provide guidance, as appropriate, to the Secretariat for follow-up action.

**Review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting
(Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009) and implications for future work of the Working Group on
Fisheries Management**

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009) agreed to shift toward an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) with adaptive management procedures and decided to hold a workshop specifically focusing on a review of data and statistics available in the region and stock status reporting. Accordingly, the Workshop on Stock Indicators and Stock Status Reporting was held in Tehran, Iran, from 26 to 29 July, 2009, with the participation of experts from seven Members of the Commission.
2. The objectives of the workshop were to:
 - review the availability of data on biology of the identified priority resources, catch and effort statistics for the relevant fisheries, other social-economic statistics, results of stock assessments and other research activities in Member countries;
 - analyse and assess the status of fisheries in the region and stock status of identified priority resources based on available data;
 - identify the components that require immediate management actions, stock assessments, and/or improved monitoring in the region;
 - formulate scientific advice on management strategies and measures when appropriate;
 - identify major gaps in knowledge and information, priority areas for regional cooperation and potential joint activities;
 - formulate the RECOFI work programme for regional cooperation in assessment of stocks and fishery status in the short- and medium-term; and
 - discuss and develop a draft regional resource monitoring strategy based on the current fishing practices and data collection capacities and common interests and concerns in the region.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

3. The low reporting of required data sets to the Secretariat prior to the workshop hampered the capacity of the workshop to review the stock status of priority species. Therefore, the workshop focused its discussion on developing a pragmatic strategy to enable regional stock assessment and management to be undertaken by setting agreed data reporting protocols based on based current fishing practices and data collection capacities and common interests and concerns in the region.
4. Initially, the workshop reviewed the status of fisheries currently in operation in the region, the status of data collection and monitoring of catch and effort, the relative importance of these fisheries to food security, the economy and livelihoods both for fishing communities as well the countries at large. Common concerns identified included the:
 - status and impact of shrimp trawls in relation to substantial catch rate declines, overcapacity and a large amount of bycatch including juveniles of commercially important coastal fish species;
 - general difficulty in managing multispecies, multigear fisheries with special concerns on stock status for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, silver pomfret and Indian shad;
 - degradation of marine habitats, in particular, of the coastal zone and the inter-tidal zone; and
 - appraisal of stock enhancement and the utilization of artificial reefs that have been practised for substantive periods in some places in the region.

5. The impact of stock enhancement was noted as potentially important but basic information on their positive and negative effects and the extent of actual implementation of stock enhancement practices was inadequate. It was concluded that it was premature to establish monitoring indicators. The degradation of marine habitats was in principle not under the control of the fisheries sector and this should be dealt with through enhanced communication at the national level as well as with other relevant regional organizations such as Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME). Therefore, the first two issues were identified as priority common concerns in the context of the workshop.

6. The qualitative rough productivity-susceptibility analyses revealed that shrimp trawls and driftnets were the two main gears that could give greater impact on priority species and that sharks were the most sensitive, on the whole, to gears used in the region, followed by groupers and emperors. Based on this finding together with the common concerns identified, the workshop agreed the followings as the primary initial target areas for stock status reporting:

- given their regional and ecosystem-wide impact, the impacts of shrimp trawls should be carefully monitored;
- the exploitation of finfish resources should be monitored through CPUE of groupers and emperors;
- the enhanced data collection of sharks; and
- the assessment of the stock status of priority species, with the first target species being narrow-barred Spanish mackerel.

7. Accordingly, the workshop agreed on the sets of indicators and minimum data reporting protocols.

8. In order to make an initial step as feasible and pragmatic as possible, consideration was only given to type of data obtainable through existing data collection systems. Indicators could be modified and expanded in future when more extensive experience and better data were accumulated. Indicators and corresponding data requirement should be reviewed once the operational objectives of management and corresponding references would be identified. With this strategy of targeting the data requirement for above indicators, it is possible that some additional indicators could be derived from the set of minimum required data (e.g. the occurrence of reference species that are subject to fishing gears but less commercial values).

9. The agreed protocols of minimum data reporting are as follows:

Ecosystem wide impacts of shrimp trawls:

- dates of opening and closure of the season;
- species composition of discards, if available;
- total number of vessels operating shrimp trawls as well as the number of vessels by size categories (e.g. steel/speed boats/dhows);
- annual effort in terms of the average tow duration and number of tows per day, and the number of days at sea, according to vessel size categories;
- quantity of annual catch of shrimps, swimming crabs, cuttlefish, Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, emperors, groupers, sharks, rays, other finfishes and the annual amount of discards;
- shrimp species composition within the shrimp catch, if available [optional]; and
- catch composition of discards, if available [optional].

Exploitation of finfish resources

- annual effort of driftnet/gillnet gear, wiretraps, and hooks and line fisheries, respectively, and description of efforts used. Members may decide to define the type of effort used but are encouraged to include the “number of days at sea”;

- annual total catch, the amount of catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerels, emperors, groupers, sharks and rays, and amount of discards. For emperors and groupers, species should be identified as much as possible; and
- species composition of discards, if available.

Stock status of selected species (Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel)

- monthly catch amount and its fork length composition;
- for operations targeted on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (e.g. kingfish fixnet, driftnet/gillnet and hooks and line gears), monthly catch with length composition and effort according to gear, together with a clear description of types of effort used; and
- any results obtained through surveys and research work relevant to Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel that could include fishery-dependent and fishery-independent stock indicators, biological parameters (e.g. growth rate, age-length relationship, reproductive information, natural mortality) and ecological information (e.g. distribution, feeding habitat, habitat preferences).

10. It was agreed that the data should be reported annually to the Secretariat, possibly in a standard format provided by the Secretariat. In principle, data and information that support directly regional management decision making should be housed in the Secretariat as a public asset of the Commission. The workshop recommended taking appropriate action to establish adequate data handling and managing capacity at the Commission with adequate support of human and financial resources.

11. The workshop adopted unanimously the draft regional resource monitoring strategy. It is attached to this document for consideration by the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM).

12. The workshop recommended specifically to:

- adopt the protocols and minimum data reporting identified in the draft regional resource monitoring strategy;
- hold another workshop to finalize the process, by redefining data requirement in the view of decisions taken by the WGFM, examining the agreed protocols with actual data reporting, and developing a RECOFI guideline for the preparation of minimum indicators, prior to the Commission's sixth session in 2011; and
- take appropriate action to establish data handling and management capacity at the Commission.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

13. The Working Group is invited to:

- review the draft regional resource monitoring strategy in the light of data needed for the management of fisheries and fishery resources and to offer comments, as appropriate;
- provide guidance, as appropriate, to the Secretariat on further steps to implement the workshop's recommendations; and
- recommend further and concrete measures to establish data and information sharing mechanism to support possible harmonized fisheries management measures in the region, as appropriate, to the sixth session of RECOFI in 2011.

**RECOFI Regional resource monitoring strategy
(DRAFT)**

The fifth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 12 to 14 May 2009, agreed the shift towards an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) with adaptive management procedures. The Workshop on Stock Indicators and Stock Status Reporting held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 26 to 29 July 2009, discussed and developed this draft Regional resource monitoring strategy based on current situation of fishing practices and data collection capacities and common interests and concerns in the region.

While monitoring indicators within an EAF context need to cover a whole spectrum fisheries sector, this strategy only focuses on monitoring of biological aspects of fisheries and fishery resources including non-target species. Key strength of monitoring indicators in the context of EAF as well as in adaptive management procedures is direct link between monitoring indicators and management actions which would be implemented when a given monitoring indicator reaches pre-determined reference points. This strategy tries to define minimum set of data which can serve to produce a range of potential monitoring indicators directly linked with operational objectives which should be discussed at the forthcoming session of RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM). In an absence of agreed operational objectives, this strategy has not attempted to finalize detailed set of indicators.

Key issues identified

First, the meeting reviewed status of fisheries currently in operation, data collection and monitoring of catch and efforts, their relative importance in food security and economy of country as well as livelihood in community and main issues in a context of relevant regional ecosystem. Key issues identified include:

- Shrimp trawls in relation to decline of catch rate, and over-capacity and impacts on a large number of species including commercially important coastal fish species through by catch removal before the maturity. Difficulty in managing multispecies, multigear situation. Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was identified as the species required the highest attention on its stock status, due to its commercially high values, recognition of severe decline of catch rate, and shared interest throughout the region. In the northern area of the region, there was marked decline of silver pomfret and Indian shad.
- Degradation of marine habitat, in particular, of the coastal zone and inter-tidal zones which are critical for many of marine organisms and protected from fishing pressure. This includes frequent harmful algae bloom and destruction of mangrove and/or sea grass areas through coastal development and increased pollution and discharges.
- Appraisal of stock enhancement and utilization of artificial reefs which have been exercised substantive period in some place of the region.

Impact of stock enhancement was noted as potentially important but basic information on their positive and negative effects and extent of activities is inadequate. Further clarification will be needed especially on goals and principle how and what to manage. It is not in the stage to consider monitoring indicator. The degradation of marine habitat is in principle not under control of fisheries sector and this should be dealt in enhancing communication with the responsible national sectors within the region as well as with other relevant regional organizations such as Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment. Therefore, the first two issues were identified as priority common concerns in the context of this strategy.

The meeting recognized the need to improve communication and coordination within the fishery sector in the region as well as with the other sectors concerned, in general.

Selection of monitoring indicators

In the process to develop monitoring indicators to address those two issues identified above, the meeting focused to minimize the set of indicators. Set of indicators can be modified and expanded in the future when more experiences and data to be accumulated. It is important to initiate a whole process of EAF, i.e. setting operational objectives and corresponding monitoring indicators and management strategy, with implementation and follow-up evaluation. In an absence of agreed operation objectives, it is not possible to set up a specific set of monitoring indicators. Therefore, the attention was focused to identify key reference species and fisheries to address the issue.

In order to make an initial step as feasible and pragmatic as possible, the consideration was only given to type of data obtainable through the existing data collection systems. Observation from the several analysis conducted at the meeting including rough Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) to identify the most sensitive species to fishing practices in the region, and influential gears to them, include:

- most of shrimp was taken by shrimp trawls which also taking a broad range of marine species;
- shrimp trawls and driftnet are two top gears which can give more impacts on the priority species;
- sharks is the most sensitive, as a whole, to types of gears used in the region, followed by groupers and emperors;
- type of gears commonly used throughout the region are driftnet/gillnet, wire traps and hooks and lines who mainly harvesting coastal fish, as well as shrimp trawls. Although “driftnet” and “gillnet” would be consolidated into one gear group in consideration of monitoring indicators, Members may apply its own national gear classifications currently in use. The harmonization of terminology including this should be one of priority tasks in near future.

Based on those observations together with the issues and concerns identified during a review process, the meeting decided the initial focus of this strategy to data collection targeting toward the following monitoring indicators:

- Ecosystem wide impacts of shrimp trawls: no consideration on specific monitoring indicators to address this issue but collecting data of whole spectrum of catch (i.e. targeted, retained, and non-retained) and extent of operational activities.
- Exploitation of finfish resources: through CPUE of groupers and emperors as indicator of exploitation pressure to the coastal fish species, together with enhanced data collection of sharks mainly for better understandings.
- Stock status of priority species – Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel: although the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was not identified as one of most sensitive species and species groups, there is strong interest and concerns in the region. Majority of catch in fact was taken by highly targeted operation with high selectivity which is more suitable for stock assessment and many of biological and ecological information has already accumulated. Therefore, data collection specified for stock assessment is considered as high priority.¹

While this strategy targeting the data requirement for above indicators, some additional indicators may be able to derive from the set of minimum required data, e.g. occurrence of reference species which are subject to fishing gears but less commercial values, once reference species identified corresponding to operational objectives.

¹The selection of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel does not mean the lower priority of other species including silver pomfret and shad but reflect that the fisheries situation is more suitable for single-stock assessment approach.

Protocols of minimum data reporting

A set of **mandatory** data required to monitor those three targeted components is as follows:

Ecosystem wide impacts of shrimp trawls:

- dates of opening and closure of the season;
- species composition of discards, if available;
- total number of vessels operating shrimp trawls as well as number of vessels by size categories (e.g. steel/speed boats/dhows);
- annual efforts in terms of average tow duration and number of tows per day, and number of days at sea, according to vessel size categories;
- quantity of annual catch of shrimps, swimming crabs, cuttlefish, Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, emperors, groupers, sharks, rays, and other finfishes, and annual amount of discards
- shrimp species composition within shrimp catch, if available [optional]; and
- catch composition of discards, if available [optional].

Here, vessel size categories indicate those used in relevant country. In case of no multiple size categories, data should be treated as one size category.

When any of bycatch reduction devices (BRD) or any other mitigation measure are taken, the catch and effort data obtained from those with mitigation measures should be separated from those of normal operations. In this case, clear description of BRD/mitigation measure should be provided together with data.

Species compositions of shrimps as well as catch composition of discards are optional. If those are obtained from surveys and researches other than normative monitoring, supplementary information on samples taken should be provided.

Exploitation of finfish resources:

- annual efforts of “driftnet/gillnet”, wiretraps, and hooks and line fisheries, respectively, and description of efforts used. Members may decide to define kinds of efforts used but are encouraged to include “number of days at sea” to be included;
- annual total catch, amount of catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerels, emperors, groupers, sharks and rays, and amount of discards. For emperors and groupers, species should be identified as much as possible; and
- species composition of discards, if available.

The above indicates a minimum standard of data to be reported and will not limit to go beyond. All Members are strongly encouraged to provided further detailed information, especially further breakdown of total catch into species group, species identification within species group catch, as well as breakdown of gear categories by boat-size or gear-size. If decided to report efforts in further disaggregated categories within each gear (e.g. small and large wiretraps), catch data must be reported in the same categories.

Once the database is established, a workshop may be required to review indications of a range of “effort” terms and agree on standard “effort” definition for those three gears, in order to assure a certain level of comparability among catch rates of different countries.

Stock status of selected species – Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel:

- monthly catch amount and its fork length composition;
- for operations targeted on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (e.g. kingfish fixnet, driftnet/gillnet, and hooks and line), monthly catch with length composition and efforts according to gears, together with clear description of kinds of efforts used; and
- any results obtained through surveys and research works relevant to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel which include fishery-dependent and fishery-independent stock indicators, biological parameters (e.g. growth rate, age-length relationship, reproductive information, natural mortality) and ecological information (e.g. distribution, feeding habitat, habitat preferences).

Data requirement in this component was established based on data requirement for stock assessment rather than information on data currently collected. Members should make best effort to develop a system and capacity to accommodate this requirement in earliest possible. Data should be reported to the Secretariat once a year possibly in the standard format provided by the Secretariat.

In principle, data and information that directly support regional management decision making should be housed in the Secretariat as a public asset of the Commission. The meeting recommends taking an appropriate action to establish adequate data handling and managing capacity at the Commission with adequate support of human and financial resources.

On the possible establishment of the regional database, Members should provide any of historical data together with the most updated data, and then should continue reporting all required data annually.

The Secretariat should incorporate them into the central database in region which is accessible by all relevant institutes in the region promptly.

Additional information sharing:

In addition to those required above, Member should provide information on survey plans and protocols prior to the survey and the results of survey on its conclusion to the Secretariat/WGFM who should distribute information to relevant institutes. This allows for all relevant institutes to note the ongoing as well as planned activities and to modify survey procedures to make them comparable, when appropriate and possible.

Data reporting of catch by species by RECOFI Subdivisions to FAO/RECOFI should be continued, together with number of vessels by gears, if possible.

A common regional work plan needs to be developed on the appraisal of the bio-ecology and population dynamics of those species of common interest and/or listed as RECOFI priority species. This would permit to compare and integrate results and localized knowledge and to maximize the use and effectiveness of the data collected.

**Updated consultancy terms of reference:
Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area**

BACKGROUND

The fourth session of RECOFI (May 2007, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) endorsed the implementation of activities to improve the quality, reliability and utility of fisheries statistics both the national and the regional levels. In particular the Commission proposed that further work should be undertaken by Members to improve the cost-effectiveness and reliability of their statistical programmes. In this regard it was further proposed that use made of FAO reference material and expertise. Furthermore, with respect to issues relating to the harmonization of national data for establishing regional statistical data sets, RECOFI agreed that this would mainly concern classification practices of boat types and fishing gears. The Commission also recommended that best use be made of available statistics. Finally, the Commission considered that guidelines were needed for the effective use of RECOFI Capture Fisheries Production Database compiled by FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service (FishStat Plus software).

The fifth session of RECOFI (May 2009, Dubai, United Arab Emirates) approved the activity to integrate fisheries catch and effort data in the region.

ACTIVITIES

Under the supervision of the Senior Fisheries Officer, RNE, and RECOFI Secretary and in cooperation with the Technical Secretary of the WGFM, and in consultation with the FAO/FI technical units, as appropriate, the consultant shall undertake the following tasks:

- coordinate the first data gathering exercise based on the agreed minimum data requirement to identify the implementation problems;
- review current methods of data collection adopted by RECOFI Members;
- elaborate scenarios for data harmonization and integration identifying the most suitable stepwise approach, based on the RECOFI regional resource monitoring strategy, including the assessment of data preparation effort and cost implications;
- prepare RECOFI questionnaires for minimum data reporting;
- follow-up to the first data gathering exercise by contacts with national counterparts that have problems in data provision within two months from receipt date and assist to resolve issues; and
- draft a practical manual of data preparation report addressing the above issues identified. The manual will include appropriate guidelines and recommendations for the continued and sustainable use of the national and regional fisheries statistics data and information.

CONSULTANCY OUTPUT:

The consultancy output shall consist of a comprehensive technical document appraising RECOFI national and regional fisheries statistics (data characteristics, quality and trends), with a focus on how to implement the strategy developed at the workshop for their integration/use at the regional (RECOFI) level. Upon its completion and acceptance by the Secretary of RECOFI, the report will be presented at the meeting of the WGFM.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced university degree/studies in statistics and a minimum 10 years of experience in the design and implementation of fisheries statistical programmes;
- good technical knowledge of English;
- ability to write clear technical reports;
- comprehensive computer skills; and
- ability to work effectively with persons of different cultural backgrounds.

CONSULTANCY DURATION

Thirty (30) days including travel time in the region.

Consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by the Regional Commission for Fisheries at its sixth session

INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) was established in accordance with Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. In Article III.1(b) of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries, the Commission, within its area of competence, is empowered to formulate and recommend appropriate measures for the conservation and management of living marine resources, including measures to regulate fishing methods and fishing gear, prescribe the minimum size for individuals of specified species, establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas, and regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members, for the purpose of implementing recommendations.
2. Furthermore, the Commission has the power to review the economic and social aspects of the fishing industry and recommend measures for its development, encourage, recommend and coordinate training and extension activities; encourage, recommend, coordinate and undertake research and development activities; assemble, publish and disseminate information regarding living marine resources and fisheries based on these resources and carry out any other activities as may be necessary for RECOFI to achieve its purpose as define in the Commission's Agreement. Importantly, the Commission shall apply the precautionary approach to conservation and management decisions and take into account the best scientific advice available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of marine living resources.
3. At its fifth session (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009), the Commission agreed that:
 - future work on stock assessment should focus on priority species supporting main fisheries of common interest. These species were identified at the second meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Cairo, Egypt, 27–30 October 2008) following a request by the fourth of the Commission (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 7–9 May 2009);
 - there was considerable merit in standardizing information and reporting at the regional level in relation to stock assessment and that RECOFI should promote such harmonization; and
 - an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and adaptive management procedures should be adopted. This approach should provide the framework within which fisheries management is persued within the region.
4. To commence implementing fully the Commission's mandate with respect to its fisheries mandate, Members should consider appropriate harmonized fisheries management measures that could be adopted and implemented in a coordinated way for stocks of common interest. Such harmonization can be expected to yield important benefits including, for example, enhanced resource sustainability including fewer stock declines and collapses, more stable and improved financial returns for fishers and fishing communities and a more reliable contribution of fisheries to food security.
5. To encourage broader support for the identification, development and implementation of management measures, Members are urged also to promote stakeholder consultation (e.g. with fishers' associations and industry groups) and involvement in decision making. If stakeholders have been engaged in a consultative process, they are likely to champion and support the implementation of management measures, going so far as to monitor and enforce them among their membership. In addition, it has been demonstrated in fisheries that support from stakeholders can reduce significantly the cost of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and improve the impact of management measures.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMISSION'S FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MANDATE

6. To give effect to the Commission's mandate and its subsequent decisions on fisheries management and taking account of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stocks Status Reporting (Tehran, Iran, 26–29 July 2009),¹ RECOFI Members are encouraged to consider the types of regionally-agreed fisheries management measures that might be appropriate for adoption and implementation. At the practical level, and taking guidance from the Commission's deliberations, management measures should focus on stocks:

- that are common and shared among most or all Members;
- that are defined to be priority species and of high importance for regionally-exploited fisheries;
- that are subject to heavy fishing pressure, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and/or other uncoordinated practices that prejudice the status of stocks; and
- for which there is a reasonable to good database of information to support analysis and studies necessary for the development of measures.

7. Other considerations could be important for the identification of stocks that should be prioritized for regional management. Members are encouraged to identify such considerations on a stock by stock basis and bring them forward for discussion in the WGFM.

8. The RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting identified four major and common concerned areas:

- i) the status and impacts of shrimp trawls;
- ii) general stock status of coastal fish resources;
- iii) degradation of marine habitats in coastal areas; and
- iv) appraisal of stock enhancement and utilization of artificial reefs.

9. The workshop also agreed on the minimum data and their reporting protocols in an attempt to define the data that may be required to support management measures and monitoring indicators especially in the first two areas on concerns. However, in the absence of agreed management scope, priorities and operational objectives, no attempt was made to identify potential indicators and corresponding references. The workshop strongly urged for the WGFM to agree on management scope and to develop a set of operational objectives, which enabled to establish the agreed set of indicators directly linked to those objectives.

10. The principle outcome of implementing the EAF should be the development of comprehensive fishery management plans that seek to ensure the sustainable use of the whole system, not just the targeted species. Therefore, the full implementation of the EAF can often require cooperation with other any agencies that manage some of the impacts on the aquatic ecosystem (e.g. environment agencies). Moreover, the EAF considers that humans are an integral part of the ecosystem and it is important to take into account the non-ecological components of sustainability, including social, economic and institutional considerations. In this connection it must be recognized that there can be multiple competing interests for both access to the ecosystem and outcomes concerning the use of aquatic systems' goods and services.

¹ See document RECOFI:WGFM3/2009/8 for the report on the Workshop.

POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT SCOPE AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES TO BE ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED REGIONALLY

11. The overall goal of management should be the long-term sustainability of the fishery and aquaculture communities and supporting ecosystems. Still, it will be useful to consider explicitly what fishing activities, areas, groups that will, or will not, be included in the EAF process and what key community values will to be achieved. A summary of the questionnaires on the social and economic aspects of fisheries that was conducted during the RECOFI Stock Status Reporting Workshop is attached for information.

12. The RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting identified four major and common concerned areas, i.e. the issues to be resolved through the EAF, mainly from a biological perspective. Members are encouraged to consider further whether these four areas are appropriate to form the regional management scope and whether any important component has been overlooked, especially from the perspective of comprehensive management of fishery communities and supporting ecosystems. Non-fishing impacts including natural (e.g. climatic) and man-made impacts on the fishery, ecological (e.g. pollution), social (e.g. attitudes) or economic impacts (e.g. fluctuations in currency exchange rates, fuel costs and fish prices), as well as the fishery's effective governance and administration (e.g. legislation, management plans, consultation processes, monitoring, control and surveillance, etc) should be taken into account.

13. Operational objectives should indicate management outcomes. They should be identified for each of the management issues adopted and be addressed directly through EAF. Examples of possible operational objectives corresponding to the four issues identified by the RECOFI Stock Status Reporting Workshop could be:

- i) The status and impacts of shrimp trawls:
 - realizing maximum sustainable production of shrimp catch;
 - reducing a proportion of juvenile fish catch in total shrimp trawl catch to x %;
 - utilizing fully all organisms caught; and
 - monitoring fully species composition of whole catch and shrimp catch rate.
- ii) General stock status of coastal fish resources:
 - avoiding catch rate of key species to go below a pre-determined level; and
 - conducting region-wide stock assessment.
- iii) Degradation of marine habitats in coastal areas:
 - preserving the well-being of spawning and nursery habitats;
 - seeking to maintain red tide occurrence below a predetermined level; and
 - incorporating appropriately the fishery sector's interests into coastal development planning and management.
- iv) Appraisal of stock enhancement and utilization of artificial reefs:
 - placing stock enhancement and artificial reefs where they are most effective for the enhancement purpose and are likely to have minimum impacts on other ecosystems in the area.

14. The indicators to monitor the performance of each operational objective, targets and specific management actions should be developed. The EAF should be seen as an extension of conventional fisheries management, not an alternative. Whatever existing fishery management system or plan is in place, it should be used as a starting point with the management system evolving and adapting to become EAF compliant. Where no management plan exists this would be a key outcome from the process.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

15. The Working Group is invited to:

- provide a recommendation of set of operational objectives with specific targets for consideration of the sixth session of RECOFI;
- recommend the regional resource monitoring strategy that was drafted by the Workshop on Stock Status Reporting, after appropriate modifications corresponding to the set of operational objectives above, for the adoption at the sixth session of RECOFI;
- provide guidance to the Secretariat to raise awareness on the impacts of coastal zone development on fisheries and fishery resources and enhance communication to those institutions concerned, including the Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment; and
- recommend further and concrete steps to establish harmonized fishery management measures with the region.

Results of preliminary survey on fisheries characteristics with questionnaires

Table 1 Importance of fishery from social and economic aspects. Figures in the table indicate average score based on qualitative assessment by participants with three categories defined as High (score 3), Medium (score 2) and Low (score 1)

	Shrimp trawl	Finfish trawl	Beach seine	Gillnets	Drift nets	Fixnet	Spanish mackerel fixnet	Wire traps	Crab traps	Barriers	Hook and line	Longline	Average score	Rank
Sample size	3	0	2	4	5	3	2	6	2	2	6	5		
Direct employment	<u>2.7</u>	-	1.5	2.5	2.4	1.3	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.20	3
Indirect employment	<u>2.7</u>	-	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.77	6
Local food supply	<u>2.7</u>	-	2.0	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.6</u>	2.0	<u>3.0</u>	2.5	2.0	<u>3.0</u>	2.0	1.6	2.40	2
Contribution to national food supply	<u>2.7</u>	-	2.0	<u>3.0</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>3.0</u>	2.3	2.0	<u>3.0</u>	2.0	2.0	2.52	1
Contribution to export	<u>2.7</u>	-	2.5	2.0	1.8	1.3	2.5	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.98	4
Supply to local industry	<u>2.7</u>	-	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.2	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.38	8
Contribution to national GDP	1.3	-	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.50	7
Illegal operations	2.0		1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.30	9
Oil consumption	2.3	-	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.82	5
Average Score:	2.41	-	1.67	1.94	2.02	1.48	2.17	1.89	1.78	2.06	1.57	1.62		
Rank:	1	-	8	5	4	11	2	6	7	3	10	9		

Table 2 Importance of fishery from ecological and environmental impacts. Figures in the table indicate average score based on qualitative assessment by participants with three categories defined as High (score 3), Medium (score 2) and Low (score 1)

	Shrimp trawl	Finfish trawl	Beach seine	Gillnets	Drift nets	Fixnet	Spanish mackerel fixnet	Wire traps	Crab traps	Barriers	Hook and line	Longline	Average Score	Rank
Sample size	3	1	2	4	5	3	2	6	2	2	6	5		
Impacts of red tide	1.0	1.0	<u>3.0</u>	1.5	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.0	<u>3.0</u>	1.3	1.5	1.81	4
Negative impacts of coastal development	<u>2.5</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.5</u>	2.0	2.2	2.0	<u>2.5</u>	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.21	1
Positive impacts of coastal development	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.46	7
Impact to mangrove	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.04	9
Impact to coral reef	1.8	1.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.72	5
Impact to other natural environment	2.3	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.5</u>	1.5	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.95	3
Discards	<u>3.0</u>	<u>3.0</u>	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.03	2
Bird bycatch	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.03	10
Turtle bycatch	2.0	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.19	8
Bycatch of other sensitive species	2.3	2.0	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.0	2.0	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.58	6
Average Score:	1.88	1.70	1.85	1.45	1.64	1.70	1.75	1.57	1.35	1.70	1.30	1.33		
Rank:	1	4	2	9	7	4	3	8	10	4	12	11		

Table 3 Administrative and management tools and measures currently utilized for individual fisheries. Figures in the table indicate the percentage of countries that utilize relevant tools/measures for individual fisheries

	Shrimp trawl	Finfish trawl	Beach seine	Gillnets	Drift nets	Fixnet	Spanish mackerel fixnet	Wire traps	Crab traps	Barriers	Hook and line	Longline
Sample size	3	0	2	4	5	3	2	6	2	2	6	5
Subsidies	67%	-	0%	50%	20%	33%	50%	50%	50%	50%	17%	20%
Buy-back programme	67%	-	0%	25%	20%	33%	100%	33%	50%	50%	17%	20%
Onboard observer	33%	-	100%	25%	40%	67%	50%	50%	50%	50%	33%	60%
Gear inspection	100%	-	50%	75%	80%	67%	50%	83%	100%	100%	67%	60%
Port inspection	100%	-	100%	75%	60%	33%	100%	50%	0%	50%	33%	60%
Sample survey at landings	100%	-	100%	75%	80%	67%	100%	83%	50%	100%	67%	60%
Logbook	0%	-	0%	25%	20%	0%	0%	17%	50%	0%	33%	40%
Licence for operation	100%	-	0%	75%	80%	33%	50%	67%	100%	100%	33%	80%
Licence for boats	100%	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%
Gear restriction	100%	-	50%	50%	60%	67%	50%	67%	50%	100%	67%	60%
Closed season	100%	-	0%	25%	40%	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%	17%	20%
Closed area	100%	-	50%	50%	40%	67%	50%	50%	50%	100%	17%	40%

This document contains the report of the third meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 20 to 22 October 2009. The Working Group addressed and made decisions on important issues including the outcomes of the fifth session of the Commission relating to the future work of the WGFM, consideration of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2009–2010 in relation to the activities of the WGFM, review of the outcomes of the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and implications for future work of the WGFM, a proposal by the Sultanate of Oman to develop a RECOFI record of IUU fishing violations, a report on the outcomes of the tripartite meeting between three RECOFI Members, review of the findings of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular relating to fisheries laws of certain RECOFI Members, review of the outcomes of the RECOFI Workshop on Stock Status Reporting, consideration of a draft fisheries management measure to be adopted by RECOFI at its sixth session in 2011 and any other matters. Significantly the resolution on minimum data reporting to be addressed at the fourth session of the WGFM in December 2010 will be the Commission's first resolution.

ISBN 978-92-5-106472-6 ISSN 2070-6987



9 789251 064726

I1346E/1/12.09/300