

Report of the twenty-seventh Session of the

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Hämeenlinna, Finland, 24–26 October 2012



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TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
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ISBN 978-92-5-107420-6

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The present text is the final version of the report presented on 26 October 2012 to the delegates of the Twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission.

FAO. 2013.

Report of the twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission. Hämeenlinna, Finland, 24–26 October 2012.

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1028. Rome. 39 pp.

ABSTRACT

The twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Hämeenlinna, Finland, from 24 to 26 October 2012. The Session reviewed EIFAAC's intersessional achievements since the last Session in 2010 which included *inter alia* the approval by the FAO Council of the change of name from EIFAC to EIFAAC to include aquaculture and of the revised Statutes of EIFAAC, finalization and adoption of the amended EIFAAC Rules of Procedure, and the progress made on technical and scientific issues through the EIFAAC projects. The EIFAAC Strategy Plan for 2012–2016 was adopted. The twenty-eighth Session will be held in 2014.

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OFFICERS OF EIFAAC

Chairperson: Cathal Gallagher
First Vice-Chairperson: Petri Heinimaa
Second Vice-Chairperson: Tomás Brenner

Management Committee Members:

Cathal Gallagher (Chairperson)
Petri Heinimaa (First Vice-Chairperson)
Tomás Brenner (Second Vice-Chairperson)
Teppo Vehanen
Mirian Aprahmian
Arne Eggereide
Igor Wawrzyniak

Technical and Scientific Committee Members:

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Colin Bean
Joe Caffrey
Gérard Castelnaud
Raine Kortet
Piotr Parasiewicz
Marina Piria

Secretariat:

Gerd Marmulla (Secretary)
Raschad Al-Khafaji (Meeting Officer)
Cristiana Fusconi (Assistant)

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Hämeenlinna, Finland, from 24 to 26 October 2012 under the Chairmanship of Mr Tomás Brenner. The Session was attended by 31 representatives from 18 Members of the Commission. The quorum was achieved. The list of participants forms Appendix B to this report.
2. The welcoming speech of the host country was delivered by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr Jari Koskinen, who opened the Session and welcomed all delegates to Finland. His address is included in Appendix D.
3. The Secretary of EIFAAC, Mr Gerd Marmulla, welcomed the participants in the name of the Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and of the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Árni M. Mathiesen. His statement is included in Appendix D.
4. The Chairperson of EIFAAC, Mr Tomás Brenner, expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of Finland for hosting this Session and commended the local organizers for all their efforts. His address is included in Appendix D.
5. The Agenda which appears as Appendix A was adopted. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

II. REPORT ON EIFAAC RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES AFTER THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

6. Mr Tomás Brenner reported on EIFAAC restructuring activities after the twenty-sixth Session and stated that he was satisfied with the progress made during the intersessional period. He presented an overview of the twelve main activities and meetings during the intersessional period. They included approval by the FAO Council of the change of name and revised Statutes of EIFAAC, finalization and adoption of the EIFAAC Rules of Procedure, meetings of the Management Committee *ad interim*, and communications to Operational Focal Points and experts on behalf of the Technical and Scientific Committee.
7. The Session took note of the report.

III. REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE

8. Mr Gerd Marmulla informed the meeting of the approval of the new Rules of Procedure, in Appendix E, by the Director-General of FAO. He pointed out that Rule XIII remained unchanged and English and French continued to be the two official languages. Nevertheless an agreement had been reached with the French authorities that in future Sessions of EIFAAC will be held in English only, and that the final report will be published in English and French.
9. This new approach was approved by the Session.

IV. EIFAAC ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

History of the Management Committee (MC)

10. Mr Cathal Gallagher, Second Vice-Chair of EIFAAC, presented an overview report, with the objective of advising on the cooperation and process that should be undertaken following the transition

phase. He noted the aim of operational efficiency and acknowledged the active support of scientists, Members and all other stakeholders that contribute to the success of EIFAAC. The importance of bringing best practices to EIFAAC, encouraging stakeholders and effective time-bound research were underlined. Mr Gallagher reported on the development of project templates and a strong Strategy Plan based on agreed EIFAAC objectives and mission, and underscored the importance of promoting strategic issues, delivering advice and maintaining vision. He noted that the toolbox to implement activities was now available as a basis for future work, and the technical issues now needed to be addressed. In discussion, it was hoped that more active collaboration with the European Commission (EC) could be achieved in the future.

History of the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC)

11. Mr Gérard Castlenaud, Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee, presented a report on the history of the TSC and introduced the status of projects. In this regard he explained the process of evaluation and classification of former Working Party activities and the conversion of the Working Parties into projects. He referred to the adoption of project templates, and noting that several Working Parties had not produced deliverables or had completed their objectives, reported that the following former Working Parties were converted into projects during the intersessional period: “Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel”; “Prevention and Control of Bird Predation”; “Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture”; “Fish Passages Best Practices”. “Management Strategy for Aquatic Invasive Species in Europe”, however, was a new project. In discussion it was noted that the main objective is now to nominate as TSC members experts with real involvement in EIFAAC objectives. Concerning the broad scope of these objectives, and EIFAAC’s mission, it was acknowledged that the project objectives must be “smart”, i.e. specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timebound. The projects will be much more targeted in future and will be monitored against specific terms of reference.

Status of projects

12. A report on the Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel was delivered by Mr Russell Poole, Co-Convenor of the Group. He noted the history of the Working Group, including the outcomes of three meetings since the last Session, and its objective to report on status of the European and American eel stocks and provide technical and scientific advice to the European Union (EU). Data and trends from 2009–2012 show that recruitment is currently at an all time low, and major concerns include the critical status of the stock, traceability of landings and trade in glass eel, eel quality and contamination. Mr Poole described the breakpoint and recruitment decline in 1982–84 and noted that coordinated action was not taken until 2007. Such actions included an EU Regulation for the recovery of eel stock, national stock assessments that provide stock indicators for international stock assessments and proposed collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). However, there is little change in the overall trend, and eel stocks are critically low and in serious trouble. The Group identified the need for a project proposal on socio-economic aspects of the eel fisheries. In discussion, it was acknowledged that fishermen could play a valuable role in conservation exercises and in scientific studies, within the constraints of a very poor stock. Detailed information on the work of this Working Group is in Appendix F.

13. A progress report on the project “Prevention and Control of Bird Predation” was presented by Mr Petri Heinimaa, Convenor of the project. He recalled that cormorants are protected species and have increased very fast over the past four decades, and noted the losses suffered by fisheries and aquaculture as a consequence. The objective of the three year project (2011–2014) is to develop elements for sustainable management actions on cormorant populations on a pan-European level. There are participants from 13 EIFAAC Member States who will work on a draft European Cormorant Action Plan. The proposal to rename the project to “Developing Advice on Sustainable Management Actions on Cormorant Populations” was approved by the Session. The Convenor will solicit additional participation through the Operational Focal Points. There is an EU-funded project on “Sustainable

Management of Cormorant Populations in Europe” in which EIFAAC is participating as a member of the Stakeholder Liaison Group.

14. A report on the three year project “Welfare of Fishes in Aquaculture” was given by Mr Gérard Castelnau on behalf of Mr Roland Rösch, Project Coordinator. He explained its contribution to the broader field of welfare in animal husbandry, and its linkage to the EIFAAC Priority Issue II on interactions and avoidance or resolution of conflicts in inland fisheries and aquaculture. The outcome will include an EIFAAC statement on the welfare of fishes in freshwater aquaculture. In discussion, its value and linkage to the FAO Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification were emphasized. The delegate from the Netherlands undertook to seek contributions at national level in his country.

15. A report on the project “Development of Guidelines on the Design of Nature-Like Fish Passes” was presented by Mr Gerd Marmulla on behalf of the Project Coordinator, Mr Andreas Zitek. It aims at developing of a set of criteria for the design of natural fish passes for upstream migration and identifying a commonly agreed definition for natural fish passes. Its outcome will be best practice guidelines for the construction of nature-like fish passes for different fish species and different hydraulic conditions by the end of 2012. In discussion, it was explained that there is no focus on downstream migration in the framework of this project, but this could occur in a future project.

16. A report on the project “Managing the Threat of Freshwater Invasive Species in Europe” was presented by Mr Joe Caffrey, Convenor of the project. He introduced the global nature of the problem of freshwater invasive species and explained the increasing rate of introductions, the significant cost to the European economy (over Euros 12 billion annually) and the susceptibility of freshwater ecosystems. The urgent need to harmonize the European approach and importance of prevention and rapid reaction were emphasized. The main project objective was to convene an international conference “Freshwater Invasives – Network for Strategy” (FINS), to be held from 8 to 11 April 2013 in Galway, Ireland. Its themes will be policy, management and risk assessment, economics and biosecurity.

17. Other objectives of this project to be addressed will depend on the outcomes of the conference: inform national and European policy development; harmonise approach to forecasting future invasions; coordinate reaction, mitigation programmes in EIFAAC countries; and develop coordinated international biosecurity principles and procedures. Deliverables include: a peer reviewed publication; informed input to the development of an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species; a Europe-wide network of scientists, managers and policy makers; formation of an international group/system to drive EIFAAC’s approach to freshwater invasive species issues; and coordinated international biosecurity protocols and procedures. In discussion, it was noted that the EC is involved in the planning and presentation of the Conference.

18. The Session took note of the work and the progress made by the five projects.

Other scientific, management and organizational matters

19. No other matters were discussed.

V. EIFAAC STRATEGY PLAN

20. The Chairperson of EIFAAC introduced the EIFAAC Strategy Plan for 2012–2016 (EIFAAC/XXVII/2012/2), in accordance with the EIFAAC Rules of Procedure (Rule III 2(a)). He noted that its proposals were based on issues relevant to the work of EIFAAC identified by Members and included in the Decision Paper considered at the twenty-sixth Session of EIFAAC. They had been given high, medium and low priority to reflect the number of Members that had identified each issue.

21. In discussion, it was reaffirmed that the initial duration of the Strategy Plan would be for 2012–2016, after which time it should be reviewed and renewed as appropriate, depending on whether the goals are achieved. At that time other goals may be set that include new issues.

22. Concern was expressed about the broad scope and prioritization of the issues, and the fact that they had not been formally discussed in an EIFAAC Session. It was also noted that some projects could fall within several of the headings. To address these concerns, it was agreed to transfer Chapter 5 of the draft Strategy Plan to an Annex, with a non-prioritized list of issues. The Session adopted the Strategy Plan as amended (Appendix G).

VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SYMPOSIUM “TOWARDS A RESPONSIBLE FUTURE IN INLAND FISHERIES”

23. Mr Rudolf Müller introduced the report and recommendations from the Symposium “Towards a Responsible Future in Inland Fisheries”: management-related collaboration in inland fisheries and aquaculture held in Hämeenlinna, Finland, from 22 to 24 October 2012 in conjunction with the twenty-seventh Session of EIFAAC. It was attended by 105 experts from 16 countries.

24. The Symposium provided a timely forum for exchanging facts and views on how the future of inland fisheries should be organized, and towards which goals it should develop. In all contributions, one specific point was addressed explicitly or implicitly: the management of aquatic organisms in question - fish and crayfish - should be done in a sustainable manner. Also, restoration of degraded habitats should be initiated as soon as possible and feasible.

25. The Symposium was arranged in four sessions and the major points discussed under each were elaborated. The sessions were: (1) views on the management of freshwater fisheries; (2) collaboration and fisheries management; (3) fisheries management and fish populations; and (4) the role of crayfish in the freshwater fisheries management.

26. The first session dealt with the threat of global warming and the effect it may have on rivers and on the fish populations living in them. Other contributions described methods for assessing fish population size, e.g. by electric fishing or gillnetting. Also, the effect of cormorants on fish stocks and on the fishing yield was presented. However, a satisfying solution to the problem of overexploitation of stocks by the birds is still to be found.

27. In the second session, collaboration between the different stakeholders was found to be the key for properly managing fish populations in certain freshwaters. Collaboration between aquaculture stakeholders in different countries opens up the possibility to overcome regulatory difficulties between countries. This showed that collaboration between different countries is an important basis for properly managing fish populations in common waters.

28. In the third session, a case was presented where the bulk of the fish stock is made up of non-predatory fish, mainly cyprinids. Anglers may influence or shape such stocks to a certain degree, while the stock of predatory fish seems to be generally too low to have an impact on the cyprinid stocks. Stocking of whitefish, brown trout and arctic char may yield good catches if food is abundant. Eel management in the Netherlands was presented with a novel approach to ease pressure on the eel population.

29. In the fourth session, the damage caused to crayfish populations by the crayfish plague was addressed. The cases presented show that native and non-native crayfishes usually cannot exist together, and that the noble crayfish needs great efforts to be maintained or to be restored. The Symposium has shown that great efforts are needed in order not only to restore noble crayfish populations in waters where they occurred previously, but even more so in waters that have never been populated by the noble crayfish.

30. The Symposium made the following recommendations:
1. Fisheries are impacted by other water users. Fisheries, as stakeholders in the shared inland aquatic resource, need to be considered and respected by all water users. Research, including ecosystem approaches, is required to support this goal.
 2. The legislative framework and implementation rules regulating aquaculture differ between member countries. Stakeholder consultations are required to support the sustainable development of aquaculture.
 3. Fish stock assessments should be undertaken to support management of fisheries (commercial and recreational) in a sustainable manner.
 4. Alternative fishing management measures and practices (e.g. slot length instead of minimum length) should be evaluated and considered.
 5. Crayfish should be included in management schemes for finfish where appropriate.
31. The Session adopted the recommendations.

VII. MEANS OF DELIVERY OF EIFAAC OBJECTIVES

New projects

32. Mr Miran Arahamian referred to the modernization process of EIFAAC and emphasized the objective of Members to become much more focused on the delivery of projects that have relevance to stakeholders. He recalled that an initiative under Goal 2 in the Strategy Plan for 2012–2016 was to identify a priority list of projects, convenors and team members, and reviewed some project priorities that had been put forward. These were grouped under the headings of aquaculture, inland fisheries, climate change and the development of databases on inland fisheries and aquaculture.

33. Mr Arahamian proposed that, in order to provide an effective basis for decision on new projects for the TSC's consideration, delegates should indicate in which of the projects they are involved. It would be important to generate projects with outcomes relevant to members over the next few years, and this would be an effective way forward. In future, it would also be useful to determine on a broader level issues in which countries are prepared to invest.

34. In discussion, it was emphasized that regional aspects of new projects should be considered. The Session took note that there might be an opportunity to advise the EC on the preparation of guidelines for developing national strategic plans for aquaculture that must be submitted to the EC by 2014. Furthermore, the Session took note of initiatives by some Members in relation to the impact of hydroelectricity on fisheries and aquaculture and a proposed database on inland fisheries sustainability, including statistics with basic biological and socio-economic indicators. Possible initiatives to identify funding targets and lobby for funding were raised, as well as the potential support of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

35. Concerning the role of the Operational Focal Points in identifying experts for project work, it was considered that they do so on the basis of formulated projects, rather than just identifying a pool of experts within their countries.

36. Mr Piotr Parasiewicz, Poland, introduced a project proposal for consideration as an EIFAAC project. The project's objective would be to define standards for environmental impact investigations and develop performance standards for hydropower to ensure it is compatible with a future EC framework directive. It would be based on biological requirements. It has eight components and will involve partners representing Government, the hydropower industry and other stakeholders. It is planned to be initially supported by Polish and Norwegian funds with possible collaboration by Canada. The project proposal was supported as a potential EIFAAC project by other Members, and it

was agreed that the hydropower certification component would not be included. Mr Parasiewicz was asked to submit the project proposal to the TSC, using the EIFAAC project template.

Network of Communications

37. Mr Miran Aprahamian drew the attention of Members to the need to operationalize Goal 3 on “Development of an international network of organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations that have an interest in inland fisheries and aquaculture to promote EIFAAC’s objectives in coordination with these bodies” in the Strategy Plan. He reviewed the relevant initiatives in the strategy document and noted that EIFAAC products comprised projects, guidelines and publications. He encouraged stronger relations with other organizations and better use of the web, including strengthening the EIFAAC website by including linkages, a database on fish catches and publications, and using social media to the extent permitted by organizations. He called for suggestions on approaches to such activities.

38. In discussion, the issue of whether an evaluation or review of EIFAAC products should be carried out was raised. It was noted that FAO publications contain a disclaimer stating that the views were those of the author and not the Organization, and that adequate monitoring and assessment processes were integrated in the EIFAAC Rules of Procedure. It was therefore agreed that clearance should be an EIFAAC internal process.

39. Concerning the use of communications and media, it was recognized that although social networking may not be possible in some organizations, it should be pursued individually to facilitate experts in working together and encourage youth. The value of the use of tools such as WEBX or Skype for business or meetings was acknowledged.

VIII. EIFAAC WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

40. The Chair proposed three main topics for consideration as the EIFAAC Work Plan for the intersessional period:

- continue the work of the projects;
- realization of the Strategy Plan 2012–2016, mindful that some outcomes may be realized during the forthcoming intersessional period;
- implementing the recommendations of the Symposium.

41. He invited the delegates to express their views, and recalled that the functions of the MC included implementing decisions of the Commission between Sessions. The Strategy Plan provided a standard for measuring progress.

42. In discussion, the role of the Commission in considering advice given under EIFAAC projects was raised, and it was suggested advice that has policy implications should be taken to the Commission for approval before publication. Also, the Commission may require that advice relating to harmonization among Members be referred to it for approval before publication. Otherwise the Rules of Procedure state the responsibilities of the MC and the TSC in relation to intersessional responsibilities, including Rule III.2, III.4 and IX.4 (d) and (e).

43. It was agreed to direct the MC to develop a work plan, based on the Strategy Plan and taking into account the work plan proposed by the Chair and the recommendations of the TSC, and to finalize and circulate it by December 2012. It was further agreed to direct the MC, as a priority, to work on strengthening the network of operational focal points in order that the latter will more actively promote EIFAAC.

IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS

44. The Session adopted a new EIFAAC logo, as shown in Appendix H.

45. Some issues relating to elections were discussed, including whether the same person could serve on the MC and the TSC. It was explained that while there was no legal barrier to this in the Rules of Procedure, they had been carefully developed and balanced to reflect integrated and structured responsibilities for each Committee. The TSC was already represented in the MC by its Chair. The aim of forming the Committees was to allow the broadest participation in each by EIFAAC Members, as well as a focus by Committee Members on carrying out the functions of their respective Committees.

46. The Secretary of EIFAAC drew the attention of the Session to the recently published FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 13 on Recreational Fisheries which were developed based, *inter alia*, on work done by EIFAAC in the past.

X. ELECTION OF THE EIFAAC OFFICERS

Election of members of the TSC

47. Elections were held for the seven members of the TSC according to the General Rules of FAO. Nine candidates had been nominated for election. Following four rounds of voting, five members of the TSC were elected. Realizing that following the same formula as provided by the General Rules of FAO it was not possible to elect the remaining two members, the Session agreed, with no objection, to elect the last two candidates with a simple majority. Using this method, the two remaining candidates were elected in the fifth round of voting. The elected members of the TSC are: Mr Colin Bean, United Kingdom, Mr Joe Caffrey, Ireland, Mr Gérard Castelnau, France, Mr Raine Kortet, Finland, Mr Piotr Parasiewicz, Poland, Ms Marina Piria, Croatia, and Mr Teppo Vehanen, Finland.

Election of the Chair of the TSC

48. The Commission elected Mr Teppo Vehanen, Finland, as the Chair of the TSC.

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of EIFAAC

49. The Commission elected Mr Cathal Gallagher, Ireland, as Chair of EIFAAC, Mr Petri Heinimaa, Finland, as First Vice-Chair and Mr Tomás Brenner, Germany, as Second Vice-Chair.

50. Mr Gallagher made an acceptance statement noting the serious responsibility of the position and acknowledging the contribution made by Mr Tomás Brenner as current Chair of EIFAAC and his role as a main driver in the restructuring and modeling of the new EIFAAC. Mr Gallagher stated that without such a strong and dedicated Chairperson this work would not have been completed. Mr Gallagher also stated that he would not have accepted this nomination had Mr Brenner not decided to move aside as a potential candidate due to his pending retirement in September next year. On behalf of the MC and the TSC, Mr Gallagher expressed appreciation to Mr Brenner for his agreement to act as a Vice-Chair in EIFAAC, as his experience and knowledge is required to support him in this new role. Mr Gallagher expressed his own personal appreciation for the professional and personal attributes that have made him a pleasure to work over the past number of years. Mr Gallagher offered his commitment to support Members, the MC and the TSC in the achievement of EIFAAC's objectives.

Election of members of the MC

51. The Chair of EIFAAC, the two Vice-Chairs of EIFAAC and the Chair of the TSC are by default members of the MC. The three other positions needed to be filled by election.

52. The Commission agreed that elections to the MC could be done by acclamation, since there were three candidates to fill the three remaining positions. The elected members are Mr Miran Aprahamian, UK, Mr Arne Eggereide, Norway, and Mr Igor Wawrzyniak, Poland.

XI. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

53. The date and place of the next Session will be determined by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the Chairperson of EIFAAC.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

54. The report was adopted on 26 October 2012. In closing the Session the outgoing Chair of EIFAAC thanked the delegates for their active participation. The Session was then closed at 15.10 hours.

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda**
 - 2. Brief report on EIFAAC restructuring activities after the twenty-sixth Session**
 - 3. Revised Rules of Procedure**
 - 4. EIFAAC activities since the twenty-sixth Session**
 - Report from the Management Committee
 - History of the Management Committee (MC)
 - History of the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC)
 - Status of projects
 - Other scientific, management and organizational matters
 - 5. EIFAAC Strategy Plan**
 - 6. Short report and recommendations from the Symposium “Towards a Responsible Future in Inland Fisheries”**
 - 7. Means of delivery of EIFAAC objectives**
 - New projects
 - Network of communications
 - Influencing plan
 - 8. EIFAAC Workplan for the next intersessional period**
 - 9. Any other matters**
 - Decision on new EIFAAC logo
 - 10. Election of the EIFAAC Officers**
 - Election of members of the TSC
 - Election of the Chair of the TSC
 - Election of Chair and Vice- Chairs of EIFAAC
 - Election of members of the MC
 - 11. Date and place of the next Session**
- Side Event:** Joint Meeting of the MC and the TSC
- 12. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session**

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EIFAAC/XXVII/2012/3	Short report and recommendations from the Symposium Towards Responsible Future in Inland Fisheries
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**Address by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Jari Koskinen**

Distinguished Representatives of FAO, Dear Delegates of Member countries, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to open this twenty-seventh Session of European inland fisheries and aquaculture advisory commission. It is a pleasure to welcome honoured representatives of FAO and delegates and experts from the member countries in Finland to discuss current issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture. Inland fisheries have an important role in Finland. Our country is known as the land of 1000 lakes. Fishing is one of the most popular outdoor activities and almost half of the Finnish population goes fishing. About 90 percent of the total catch comes from the recreational fishery, but our inland water resources are used also commercially. Total catch is about 30 000 t a year, pike, perch and roach are the most common species caught. We have also good crayfish stocks especially in this area around Hämeenlinna.

We have a strong and rich fishing culture with long traditions. Finland is a Nordic country, for a large part also an arctic country. This northern dimension can easily be seen in our fisheries, as well. We have skills to go fishing, when the lakes are frozen and how to get well-being and also delicious fish to eat, even if somebody might find the weather conditions harsh or freezing. As we have good resources for fishing, we are aware that these resources must be used wisely and sustainably. According to our new strategy, the mission of Finnish Ministry for agriculture and Forestry is to secure domestic food production and sustainable use of renewable natural resources and create the preconditions for economic activities and well-being derived from these. This mission fits well for inland fisheries. To support this, we need an efficient administration and active interaction with fishing-right owners and fishers. Especially in inland fisheries, also fish research is needed to support the management of our fish resources. As most of the fishing is recreational fishery, there is especially need for socio-economic research, so that preconditions for economic activities and well-being emerging from this very popular outdoor activity can be enhanced. At the moment a major overhaul of Finnish Fishing Act is being prepared. We are aiming at a knowledge based management system to enhance sustainable use of our fishery resources. We have also recently published our new fish-pass strategy that gives important guidelines for management of salmonid fish.

EIFAAC has had an important role in developing the European inland fisheries. From the recent achievements, the code of practise for recreational fishery and a manual on methods for assessing socio-economic benefits of European inland recreational fisheries are worth to mention. I hope that the organisation can continue its work on co-operation and exchange of best practises among its Members. Finland is willing to promote this important interaction in practise and we organized an EIFAAC related symposium earlier this week here in Hämeenlinna. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this successful symposium and show my gratitude to FAO for co-operating with the arrangements.

I encourage FAO to continue seeking resources to support this important co-operation among European countries, so that EIFAAC can produce remarkable contributions to European inland fisheries in the future, as well. The Commission has renewed its rules of procedure in the last meeting and this meeting in Hämeenlinna is the first one to be implemented according to these new rules. I hope that the Commission can find a suitable way to continue its work in the present situation where public administration has to work with the decreasing resources all over Europe. Also in troubled times the importance of co-operation and exchange of information should be remembered.

With these words, I wish all representatives and delegates of European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission a very successful Session in these beautiful surroundings of Aulanko, Hämeenlinna.

**Address by Mr Gerd Marmulla
Secretary of EIFAAC**

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Jari Koskinen,
Distinguished Government Representatives,
Chairperson of EIFAAC, Mr Tomas Brenner,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take great pleasure in welcoming you on behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and the Assistant Director-General of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Arni Mathiesen, to the twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission.

First of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Finland for hosting the twenty-seventh Session of EIFAAC here in Hämeenlinna. We are the more grateful as this is already the second attempt to hold this Session and we understand that the postponement of the Session from June to October caused some headache and inconveniences to the organizers. This is extremely regrettable, especially as regards the financial resources affected, but we are confident that the costs for postponing the Session were well invested money as the Session can now be held on the basis of the new Rules of Procedure.

I also wish to take this opportunity to recall that Finland's involvement in EIFAAC has a long tradition as EIFAC was established in 1957 following a meeting held in Helsinki in 1956 and Finland hosted the ninth Session of the Commission in Helsinki in 1976. The venue here in Hämeenlinna on the shores of the beautiful Lake Vanajavesi is well chosen, not only because the hotel is comfortable and provides all necessary meeting facilities in an excellent manner, but also because it is sufficiently far away from the city centre of Hämeenlinna so as to make it difficult for all involved in the Session to escape easily from the meeting for more interesting distractions.

The twenty-seventh Session of EIFAAC is a very important one because it marks the end of a very interesting but also challenging period for EIFAAC during which the Commission not only changed its name to EIFAAC with two "A" to include "aquaculture" in its name but also discussed and agreed upon new Statutes and new Rules of Procedure. Through this process, the Commission was very much strengthened *inter alia* by replacing the former "Executive Committee" with a more powerful "Management Committee" with increased competences. The functions of this Management Committee, which are clearly defined in the new Rules of Procedure, are *inter alia* to ensure that policies and decisions of the Commission are operationalized, propose, implement and adjust a strategy plan as appropriate and, in particular, coordinate and closely monitor the work during the intersessional periods. This also includes that the Management Committee is in close contact with all Members of the Commission and informs them regularly of actions taken. Furthermore, a "Technical and Scientific Committee" consisting of seven experts in European inland fisheries and aquaculture was set up to deal intimately with the technical work of the Commission by making, reviewing, evaluating and recommending to the Management Committee proposals for programmes or projects to be carried out by the Commission in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. The "project approach" adopted by the Commission will greatly help to make EIFAAC's work even more efficient in future. With these new instruments in place, the restructuring and the strengthening of the Commission are greatly achieved and form the basis for a new and even better performing EIFAAC that will continue to strengthen its role as "Centre of Excellence" in European inland fisheries and aquaculture.

It is globally acknowledged that inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture are important to satisfy nutritional needs and recreational demands. In Europe, it can be expected that recreational fisheries and aquaculture continue to grow. Freshwater capture fishery resources in Europe, however, continue to be under pressure as can clearly be seen with the European eel for which the Joint EIFAAC/ICES project on Eel provides advice to the EC for the development and implementation of sustainable management measures. Besides well managing recreational fisheries and aquaculture, there is an

urgent need in Europe to further protect and preserve aquatic ecosystems, and with them their aquatic resources for the benefit of all users. This is where EIFAAC also has an important role to play in future.

After a transitional period following the twenty-sixth Session during which still much effort was devoted to finalizing the restructuring and strengthening of the Commission, the technical work of EIFAAC will now have to be put again in the forefront for the benefit of all stakeholders in European inland capture fisheries and aquaculture. It would now be desirable that EIFAAC's work quickly gains speed on technical issues in the vast field of European inland fisheries and aquaculture. This Session is, in fact, expected to define and pave the way forward, even far beyond the next inter-sessional period. I am deeply convinced that the twenty-seventh Session of EIFAAC will be fruitful and help advance inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe, possibly with implications even on a much broader scale and that EIFAAC will continue to be an important and useful tool for providing advice to make aquatic resource management more sustainable.

FAO and the EIFAAC Secretariat in particular will continue to play their role in facilitating the work of EIFAAC. However, some changes may occur. As FAO also undergoes a restructuring process, with more importance and responsibilities given to the FAO Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for better serving the Members, it is intended that EIFAAC will in future be served by the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest or the Sub-Regional Office in Ankara. But rest assured that the Secretariat shall do whatever is feasible to facilitate also in future the work of EIFAAC in the best possible manner.

With this, I wish the twenty-seventh Session best possible success in its deliberations.

Thank you.

**Address by the Chairperson of EIFAAC
Mr Tomás Brenner**

Honourable Minister Jari Koskinen and Government Representatives, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission.

On behalf of EIFAAC, I would like to express my deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland for the kind invitation to hold the twenty-seventh Session and for generously placing these meeting facilities at our disposal here in this beautiful landscape of Hämeenlinna. Mr. Minister, I would ask you to convey the sincere thanks of this Commission to your Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I regret the inconveniences caused because of the postponement of this Session which was due to the longer adoption process of the new Rules of Procedure of EIFAAC by FAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland is well known for its plenty inland waters and the importance of fisheries. Therefore, it is worth mentioning that Finland has been at the beginning of the establishment of EIFAC. At the international inland fisheries meeting convened by FAO on invitation of the Government of Finland in Helsinki in 1956 the representatives of thirteen European countries, decided to request the Director General of FAO to establish an inland advisory body for Europe. In the year 1957 the Council endorsed the Director General's proposal and adopted Resolution No. 2/26, whereby the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission was established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution. This is the second time that Finland hosts a session and a symposium. The Ninth Session took place in Helsinki in 1976 in conjunction with a symposium on biological monitoring.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the membership in the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission is open to all European member nations of FAO and, at this moment, the Commission has 34 Members. EIFAAC is, and I repeat the words of my predecessor Phil Hickley at the Session in Zagreb 2010, the only management orientated, knowledge based and officially recognized forum for European inland fisheries and aquaculture, is the only recognized forum representing consensus, and is the only official body capable of making pan-European recommendations". But, he also mentioned, the lack of corporate vision, strategic plan (which is now included in the new ROP) and formal budget for funding activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the last Session of EIFAAC in Zagreb definitely decided to restructure EIFAAC to a project-based organization while abolishing all former Sub-Commissions and Working Parties with the aim to make the Commission's work more efficient. Member countries had decided to keep EIFAAC under article 6 and, as I could realize in the course of the existence of EIFAC, this did not happen not only for the first time. A round-table discussion with the Assistant Director-General (Fisheries) of FAO and the delegates of the member countries of the Commission held during the Fifteenth Session in 1988 in Göteborg, Sweden – approximately 25 years ago –, revealed that it was the explicit wish of the delegates that EIFAC remain an advisory commission under Article VI of the FAO Constitution. I don't want to open the discussion on this issue again. But, as you all know the major constraints are still the increasing workloads for the individuals and shortage of money. The work within EIFAAC depends on the personal commitment of individuals, volunteers and funding must be provided. However, Since April 2012 the new Rules of Procedure became applicable. The expectations on EIFAAC from the member countries are high, by reviewing their identified priority issues.

But, the main question is who is EIFAAC? The answer is very easy: EIFAAC are the member countries and their personnel support and financial contribution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the restructuring is still in process and the activities after the twenty-sixth Session will be reported on the next agenda item. But, by this occasion I would like to thank my colleagues from the Management Committee *ad interim*, now MC, and the EIFAAC Secretariat for their valuable work and active involvement. In the next days the members of the newly created Management Committee and Technical Scientific Committee will be elected. On behalf of EIFAAC, I would like to thank the candidates for the nomination and their future cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

please allow me a short review of the activities of EIFAAC since the twenty-sixth Session (inter-sessional period).

In May 2010 the Ad Hoc Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries had finalized the report on „Commercial inland fishing in member countries of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) – Operational environments, property rights regimes and socio-economic indicators“. The report contains the country profiles covering the sections: 1. Inland waters and commercial fishing areas, 2. Administration and legislation, 3. Ownership and access, 4. Employment, 5. Catches and important species and 6. Current status and future trends. In place of all colleagues involved in the preparation and publication of this report I would like to express my thanks to Mark Mitchell, Johan Vanberg and Matti Sipponen.

Many thanks also to Phil Hickley, convener of the Project on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters for finalizing the editing of the conference proceedings on „Fish Sampling with Active Methods“, which was held in the Czech Republic, in 2010 and published in a special issue of Fisheries Research in July 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

some of you may have attended the Symposium “Towards a responsible future in inland fisheries, Management-related collaboration in inland fisheries and aquaculture” which has been organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland together with the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute under the umbrella of EIFAAC. Finally, in concluding my remarks I would like to express my thanks to the chairman of the organizing groups, Tapio Hakaste from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Petri Heinimaa and Markku Pursiainen from the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute for their work.

I would like to thank again the organizers for their hospitality and all those who contributed their time, expertise and efforts to bring EIFAAC forward.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

EIFAAC Rules of Procedure as of 19 April 2012**Rule I
Membership**

1. Membership in the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission is open to European Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Organization. Membership shall comprise such eligible Nations as have notified in writing the Director-General of their interest in becoming a member of the Commission.

2. Each Member Nation of the Commission shall, before the opening of each session, communicate to the Director-General the name of its representative who should, as far as possible, have responsibilities related to inland fisheries.

**Rule II
Officers and Operational Focal Points**

1. The Commission shall elect, at the end of each session, a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson and a second Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives to the Commission who shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairpersons at the next session. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election for a term of two years, but not exceeding a total of four consecutive terms.

2. The Chairperson, or in his/her absence a Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Commission and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Commission. The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

3. In the event that both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons are unable to serve, the Director-General or his or her representative shall act as Chairperson, until an *ad hoc* Chairperson is elected.

4. The Director-General shall appoint from among the staff of the Organization a Secretary of the Commission who shall be responsible to him or her.

5. The Commission may appoint one or more rapporteurs.

6. Each Member shall appoint an Operational Focal Point for purposes of communication of relevant matters relating to the Commission, who shall have the following functions and duties:

- a) facilitate the representation of his/her country at each Session by a National Delegation and regular participation in such Sessions;
- b) develop and maintain a national network of fisheries and aquaculture institutions, scientists and practitioners to facilitate communication and the flow of information to and from EIFAAC and in this regard make full use of electronic means, including developing a national website as appropriate that provides information links and resources on EIFAAC and on inland fisheries and aquaculture matters of interest to their country and may be used for information exchange;
- c) promote national and international collaboration among fisheries and aquaculture scientists, managers and administrators by providing the necessary contacts, either directly or with the help of the EIFAAC Secretariat;

- d) make use of the advice and information provided by EIFAAC, including reports and publications and inform national partners regularly of new EIFAAC inland fisheries and aquaculture publications;
- e) periodically brief the relevant Government bodies or agencies on the work and achievements of EIFAAC;
- f) notify EIFAAC of existing or emerging problems and issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture and inform EIFAAC of relevant new publications and projects from their country;
- g) encourage participation by experts from Members in EIFAAC projects and activities; and
- h) brief the incoming Operational Focal Point on the ongoing activities of EIFAAC and on the duties of a Operational Focal Point.

Rule III

Management Committee

1. There shall be a Management Committee consisting of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons, the Chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee and three members elected by the Commission for a term of two years. The members shall be eligible for re-election for a term of two years, but not exceeding a total of four terms. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member without vote. The Chairperson of the Management Committee shall be the Chairperson of the Commission.
2. The functions of the Management Committee shall be to implement the decisions of the Commission between its Sessions, carry out such other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission and to:
 - a) propose a strategy and work plan with the assistance of the Secretariat for review and consideration by the Commission, and monitor its implementation;
 - b) review and decide upon recommendations and advice of the Technical and Scientific Committee;
 - c) prepare estimates of expenses for the next succeeding two years for presentation to the Commission for submission to the Organization, in accordance with the Statutes of the Commission;
 - d) ensure that policies and decisions of the Commission are operationalized; and
 - e) coordinate and monitor the work of the Technical and Scientific Committee and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission;
3. The Management Committee shall meet at least once a year, and the quorum for each meeting shall be four persons. In the unavoidable absence of up to four members of the Management Committee from a Committee session, the Chairperson shall have the power to co-opt such alternate as may be proposed by the Government or institution of the relevant member or such other person that may be involved in relevant intersessional work, programmes or projects of EIFAAC.
4. When the Management Committee deals with special issues, the Chairperson of the Management Committee may, in consultation with the Vice-Chairpersons, invite not more than two additional members of the Commission to attend in an advisory capacity the meetings of the Management Committee at which such issues are considered.
5. The Management Committee shall periodically inform all Members of the Commission, through the Secretariat, of any action taken.
6. The Management Committee shall report to the Commission on its activities at each session of the Commission.

Rule IV

Sessions

1. The Commission shall hold regular sessions at least once every two years.

2. Extraordinary sessions of the Commission shall be held at such other times as the Commission may decide, or at the request of the Management Committee, provided that adequate funds are available for such extraordinary sessions in the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization, or from extra-budgetary funds.
3. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened by the Director-General, who shall decide on the place where they are to be held, in consultation with the Chairperson and the competent authorities of the host country, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission.
4. Notice of the date and place of each session of the Commission shall be communicated at least two months before the session to all the Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.
5. Each Member of the Commission shall have one representative who may be accompanied by an alternate and advisers. An alternate or adviser shall not have the right to vote except when substituting for the representative.
6. Meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless the Commission decides otherwise.
7. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.
8. In exceptional circumstances, when unforeseen urgent matters require intersessional action, the Commission may apply an electronic decision-making process with respect to scientific advice and procedural and administrative matters other than matters relating to the interpretation of and the adoption of amendments to the statutes of EIFAAC and its rules and regulations.

Rule V

Agenda

1. The Director-General shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the Commission.
2. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. No matter referred to the Commission by the Conference or Council of the Organization may be omitted from the agenda.
3. Any Member of the Commission may request the Director-General to include specific items in the provisional agenda.
4. The provisional agenda shall be circulated by the Director-General at least two months before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, to all Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.
5. Any Member of the Commission and the Director-General may, after the dispatch of the provisional agenda, but not later than one month before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, propose the inclusion of specific items in the agenda. Such proposals shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons why the inclusion of the items in the agenda is considered desirable. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be dispatched by the Director-General to all Members of the Commission, other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization attending the session and to such non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, failing which the items shall be communicated to the Chairperson for submission to the Commission.

6. Documents to be submitted to the Commission at any session shall be furnished by the Director-General to the Members of the Commission, the other Members of the Organization attending the session and to the non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, at the time the agenda is dispatched, or as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Rule, the Commission may, at any session, decide by a two-thirds majority to amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item.

Rule VI

Voting and procedures

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Rule, each Member of the Commission shall have one vote.

2. Voting by Member Organizations of the Organization that are Members of the Commission shall be governed by the provisions of Article II.10 of the Constitution of the Organization.

3. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided in these Rules.

4. Upon the request of any Member of the Commission, voting shall be by roll-call, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.

5. When the Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret ballot.

6. Voting in the Commission shall be carried out *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

Rule VII

Observers

1. Any Member or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission may, upon request communicated to the Director-General, attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings, in an observer capacity. Such Members of the Organization or Associate Members may submit memoranda and participate without vote in the discussions.

2. States which, while not Members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request and with the approval of the Commission, attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies, and *ad hoc* meetings in an observer capacity. The status of States invited to such sessions or meetings shall be governed by the relevant provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization.

3. Intergovernmental organizations having an interest in the work of the Commission shall be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings, in an observer capacity.

4. International non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission shall, upon request communicated to the Director-General, be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings, in an observer capacity.

5. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference and Council of the Organization. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General.

Rule VIII
Records and reports

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views. Such other records for its own use as the Commission may on occasion decide, shall also be maintained.
2. The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General at the close of each session, who shall circulate them to Members of the Commission and to nations and international organizations that were represented at the session and, upon request, to other Member Nations of the Organization for their information.
3. Recommendations having policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council.
4. The Director-General may request Members of the Commission to supply information in order to keep the Commission informed on action taken on the basis of its recommendations.

Rule IX
Technical and Scientific Committee

1. There shall be a Technical and Scientific Committee consisting of seven experts in European inland fisheries and aquaculture, elected by the Commission for a term of two years, but not exceeding a total of four consecutive terms.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, meetings of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall be open to all Members of the Commission, and each Member may designate a representative who has to be expert in European inland fisheries and aquaculture. Decisions at the meetings of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall be taken by all Members present and, as applicable, voting.
3. The Secretary shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote. The Chairperson shall be elected by the Commission from among the seven experts elected pursuant to subregulation (1) for a renewable term of two years, but not exceeding a total of four consecutive terms.
4. The functions of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall be to:
 - a) make, review, evaluate and as appropriate recommend to the Management Committee proposals for programmes or projects to be carried out by the Commission in accordance with these Rules;
 - b) develop Terms of Reference for programmes/projects and monitor project implementation against the Terms of Reference;
 - c) provide technical oversight, monitoring and evaluation of projects and related programme of work activities;
 - d) formulate and draft technical and scientific advice for consideration by the Management Committee; and
 - e) function as an editorial and publications committee.
5. Proposals for programmes or projects to be implemented wholly or partly by the Commission may be developed by the Technical and Scientific Committee, a Member, a donor, a partner organization or an independent partner institution.
6. Each project proposal shall specify the following:
 - a) purpose of the proposal;
 - b) expected outcome;
 - c) benefits of outcome;

- d) funding source(s) and budget;
- e) Terms of Reference of the proposal;
- f) time frame and benchmarks;
- g) methodology;
- h) project manager and Terms of Reference as appropriate, including authority to select experts and others involved in project implementation;
- i) administrative arrangements;
- j) partners; and
- k) such other requirements that may be recommended by the Technical and Scientific Committee and agreed by the Commission.

7. The Secretariat shall review each proposal to ensure it fulfils the requirements in these Rules or as may be otherwise agreed by the Technical and Scientific Committee in accordance with these Rules, and where such requirements:

- a) are not fulfilled shall return the proposal with an explanation and request the originator to re-submit as appropriate; or
- b) are fulfilled shall forward the proposal for the consideration of the Technical and Scientific Committee.

8. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall review and evaluate each project proposal, taking into account the following criteria:

- a) the project proposal is consistent with the objectives and functions of the Commission and with the terms of its Agreement;
- b) the project outcomes shall have relevance to one or more Members of the Commission;
- c) to the extent possible, the project proposal is forward-looking, proactive and results-oriented; and
- d) the total financial and other support for the project is identified and shall not require any contributions or additional resources from EIFAAC.

9. The Technical and Scientific Committee may recommend a project to the Management Committee or, where a project proposal does not meet the criteria and other requirements of these Rules, reject the project proposal or request further information or modifications.

10. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall review each EIFAAC Working Party in existence at the time these Rules are adopted, and recommend to the Management Committee the continuation as projects under the Agreement of those that are active and meet the requirements of these Rules.

11. Where it has been agreed to recommend a project proposal or continuation of an EIFAAC Working Party as a project under this Agreement pursuant to Rule 8 or 9 above, the Technical and Scientific Committee shall identify the terms of reference of the project for recommendation to the Management Committee, including the following:

- a) objective and expected outcome;
- b) programme/project management;
- c) budget;
- d) administrative requirements;
- e) reporting to the Committee at regular intervals, including on the implementation of benchmarks and on completion of the programme/project; and
- f) follow-up as appropriate.

12. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall require each project manager to report through the Secretariat on the implementation of the approved Terms of Reference no less than twice a year,

and shall monitor the implementation of approved programmes/projects no less frequently based on such reports.

13. The Technical and Scientific Committee may, where it considers that the Terms of Reference and other conditions of the programme/project are not being fulfilled, recommend to the Management Committee the imposition of conditions for reform on the programme/project, or suspension or termination.

14. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall meet at least once each year between regular sessions, but shall hold meetings more frequently where the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the Secretary deem it necessary to effectively carry out the mandate and functions of the Committee.

Rule X

Subsidiary bodies

1. The Commission may, on an *ad hoc* basis, establish such other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives.

2. Membership in such other subsidiary bodies may be made up of all or selected Members of the Commission or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity.

3. The Commission may recommend to the Director-General the convening of *ad hoc* meetings, either of representatives of Members of the Commission or of experts serving in an individual capacity, in order to study problems that because of their specialized nature could not fruitfully be discussed during the normal Sessions of the Commission.

4. Experts who are to serve in their personal capacity as Members of any subsidiary body or who are to be invited to attend *ad hoc* meetings shall be chosen by the Commission unless the Commission decides otherwise, and shall be appointed by the Director-General in accordance with established procedures.

5. The Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies and the questions to be discussed by *ad hoc* meetings shall be determined by the Commission.

6. The establishment of subsidiary bodies and the convening of *ad hoc* meetings shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization, or to the availability of extra-budgetary funds. The determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General.

7. Before taking any decision involving expenditures in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies or the convening of an *ad hoc* meeting, the Commission shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

8. Each subsidiary body and *ad hoc* meeting shall elect its own officers.

9. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to its subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings.

Rule XI

Trust Fund

All voluntary contributions, donations and other forms of assistance, in particular those referred to in Article 6 (i) of the Statutes, shall be placed in a Trust Fund administered by the Director-General in conformity with the Financial Regulations of FAO.

Rule XII
Expenses

1. Expenses incurred by representatives of Members of the Commission, their alternates and advisers, when attending Sessions of the Commission, Management Committee, Technical and Scientific Committee, subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective Governments or organizations.
2. Expenses of experts invited by the Director-General to attend sessions or meetings in their individual capacity shall be borne by the Organization.
3. Any financial operations relating to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Rule XIII
Language

1. English and French shall be the official languages of the Commission.
2. The Commission shall at the beginning of each session decide which of the official languages shall be used as working language or languages. Any representative using another language than one of the working languages shall provide for interpretation into one of the working languages.

Rule XIV
Amendment and suspension of Rules

1. Amendment of, or additions to these Rules may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the amendment or addition has been given. Amendments or additions to these Rules shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council of the Organization, as appropriate.
2. Any of the above Rules of the Commission, other than Rules I-1; II-4; IV-1, 2, 3, 5 and 7; V-2; VI- 1, 2 and 3; VII, VIII-3 and 4; IX-5 and 6; X; and XII-1, may be suspended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. Such notice may be waived if no Member of the Commission objects.

**Report of the Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel (WGEEL)
Russell Poole and Cedric Briand, Co-Chairs**

The EIFAAC Working Group on Eel (WGEEL) has been active since the 1970's and acted as a major focus for collation of eel data and biology through its symposia in the 1980s and 1990s – a task it continues to achieve through its comprehensive annual reports. A widespread severe decline in recruitment was observed between 1983 and 1985 along with a longer term decline in landings. By 1993, this decline in recruitment, along with the stock-wide reduction in landings, was leading to serious concern and since 1998, the EIFAAC Working Group has operated on a joint basis with ICES, providing scientific advice on stock data and eel management, particularly in relation to the EU Action Plan for the Recovery of Eel (EU 2007: COM(2005) 472). Russell Poole (Ireland) and Cedric Briand were the convenors for 2010-2012.

The Working Group met three times in the intersessional period in Hamburg, Germany (Sept. 2010), in Lisbon, Portugal (Sept. 2011), and in Copenhagen, Denmark (Sept. 2012), and has produced a full report for each meeting. Thirty nine experts attended the 2010 meeting from fifteen countries, forty five experts from seventeen countries in 2011, and thirty six experts from sixteen countries in 2012. In 2010, the Working Group also collaborated with an ICES Study Group on international post-evaluation of eel (SGIPEE) focussing on international stock assessment following the implementation of Eel Management Plans and also with a second Workshop on Age Reading of European and American Eel (WKAREAI). Reports for the 2009, 2011 and 2012 meetings are available on both the EIFAAC and ICES websites and the ICES technical advice is available at <http://www.ices.dk/advice/icesadvice.asp>.

Over the three year period, the main focus of the Working Group was in documenting the status of the European eel stock and fisheries and compiling draft scientific advice for ICES-ACOM. The WGEEL recruitment index (five year average) is currently at its lowest historical level, less than 1 percent for the North Sea and 5 percent elsewhere in the distribution area with respect to 1960–1979. Why the North Sea series dropped in the 1980s faster than elsewhere is unknown. In 2012, recruitment for the series outside the North Sea ('Elsewhere Europe') returned to 2007–2008 level. Recruitment of young yellow eel has been declining continuously since the 1950s. Reported data on landings show that they have declined to about 4000 t, a level which has not changed in the recent years.

The status of the eel stock is critical. All anthropogenic mortality (e.g. recreational and commercial fishing, hydropower, pollution) affecting production and escapement of eels should be reduced to as close to zero as possible until there is clear evidence that both recruitment and the adult stock are increasing.

Eel stocking was traditionally carried out using glass eel but this declined in the late 1980s and stocking with young yellow eel increased. Since the entry into force of the eel regulation, stocking with glass eel has increased again.

Traceability and reporting of eel trade and use of glass eel for stocking is required under the EU Eel Regulation and under CITES. In spite of these requirements, in 2012 the WG best estimate of the total catch of glass eel was 45.4 t representing a 6.4 percent increase on 2011. Of the 45.4 t caught, 36.5 t could be accounted for through exports, internal usage in the donor country and from seizures, a loss rate of ~20 percent. Some of this loss may be explained by mortality and weight loss post-capture, some through underreporting of exports and through illegal activities. Of the 2012 catch 16 percent went to stocking, 22 percent went to aquaculture and the destiny of 62 percent remains unknown. Some of the glass eel currently classified as going to aquaculture will be stocked in future.

There are a number of different environmental impacts on eel. Habitat alteration (including barriers to eel passage), deterioration in water quality, bioaccumulation of contaminants, non-native diseases and

parasites contribute to the anthropogenic stresses and mortality on eels and these factors may affect their reproductive success. It is likely that there is a negative relationship between eel contaminant levels (and *Anguillicoloides crassus* and diseases), body size and condition (i.e. lipid levels) and spawning success (effective spawning stock biomass) but this has yet to be quantified. Contamination by hazardous substances is so high that an effect on reproduction is likely to occur, but hard scientific evidence (dose/response studies) is not available. There is an urgent research need to better quantify the effects of parasites, diseases, and contaminants on migration and reproduction success. When the effects of stress factors can be quantified they should be included in eel stock assessments and management.

EC Regulation No. 1259/2011 (EC, 2011), setting maximum concentrations of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin like PCBs in food, has led to closures or restrictions of eel (or fish in general) fisheries. During the last years (2010–2012) fisheries restrictions/bans have been issued for an increasing number of water bodies.

In addition to documenting the status of the stock and fisheries and compiling management advice, the WGEEL has provided scientific advice in support of the EU recovery plan for the stock of European Eel, examining methods of stock assessment and local stock targets and setting up an international assessment of the eel stock and post-evaluation of the Regulation. In 2011, the Working Group updated the eel quality database and made progress on issues relating to eel spawner quality, provided the latest information and advice on optimizing stocking for conservation purposes and reviewed information pertinent to stock assessment and estimation of silver eel escapement such as natural mortality, silvering, mark-recapture, habitat and eel in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In 2012, the WG reviewed, in anticipation of a stockwide assessment in 2013, options for quality control and validation of reported stock indications (i.e. silver eel biomass, anthropogenic mortality rates) ranging from full check to pragmatic acceptance with some creative solutions in between, such as data score card and assessment method scenario checking. The WG, using the available new data, also reconsidered the basis for applying reference limits to eel, following the lines of standard ICES advice procedures where possible. In particular, the relationship between glass eel recruitment from the ocean and the biomass of the escaping silver eel was reconsidered, and new, appropriate indicators related to low biomass and recruitment were suggested in the report. A full update of the international assessment and advice is planned for 2013, using the new information; pending completion, no new advice on reference points is provided.

Proposal for new Chair

Mr Martin de Graaf, the Netherlands, has volunteered to chair WGEEL for the next three years and Mr Russell Poole, Ireland, has offered to co-chair until after the 2013 WGEEL meeting; Mr. Alan Walker, UK, has volunteered to then co-chair with Mr De Graaf for the following three years 2014-2016. This stepwise handover of chairs will ensure some continuity and will also help the stockwide assessment of eel planned for 2013, following the 2012 reporting by EU Member States.

Terms of Reference 2013

Below are outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for 2013, focussing on two meetings, the first in spring reviewing available data for international stock assessment and the second in the autumn providing a full stock assessment and scientific advice.

WGEEL draft ToRs – Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eels 2013

The Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eels (WGEEL), chaired by Martin de Graaf, The Netherlands and Russell Poole, Ireland, will meet in Sukarietta, Spain, 18–22 March 2013 and in ICES Copenhagen, Denmark, 5–11 September 2013, to:

In preparation for undertaking the international stock assessment, the joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel (WGEEL) requires access to the most up to date stock indicators for each Eel Management Unit. To achieve this, ICES will issue a data call to the EU for these data and for supporting information to facilitate quality assurance of the stock indicators.

Preparatory work

- a) Develop data call in conjunction with ICES for stock indicators and supporting information on local/national methods used to derive indicators;
- b) Support ICES to issue data call to MS via EU in first week of December 2012 for return deadline 1st February 2013;
- c) Collate the returns from the data call and from the Member States 2012 Reports to the EU.

Spring Meeting

- d) Complete the broad-brush quality assurance checking of the reported Eel Management Unit biomass and mortality estimates, and prepare the data for the international stock assessment;
- e) Provide a summary report on the reported data and stock indicators and the quality assurance of the indicators;
- f) Provide a first compilation of the best available biomass and mortality data, along with additional data from the Baltic and GFCM areas;
- g) Further develop the S/R relationship and reference points, following the ICES peer-review, and using the latest available data.

Autumn Meeting

- h) Evaluate the EU Regulation (EC No. 1100/2007) and its consistency with the precautionary approach, following the plan developed in WGEEL 2012;
- i) Apply the reported biomass and mortality data to the precautionary diagram using PA limits and the EU Regulation derived target/limits if different (WGEEL 2011) and provide appropriate advice on the state of the international stock and its mortality levels;
- j) assess the latest trends in recruitment, stock (yellow and silver eel) and fisheries, including effort, indicative of the status of the European stock, and of the impact of exploitation and other anthropogenic factors; analyse the impact of the implementation of the eel recovery plan on time-series data (i.e. data discontinuities). Update international databases for data on eel stock and fisheries, as well as habitat and eel quality (EQD) related data;
- k) In conjunction with WGBEC and MCWG, review and develop approaches to quantifying the effects of eel quality on stock dynamics and integrating these into stock assessments. Develop reference points for evaluating impacts on eel;
- l) Respond to specific requests in support of the eel stock recovery regulation, as necessary.

EIFAAC Strategy Plan

The EIFAAC Strategy Plan addresses the following areas:

1. Introduction
 2. Stakeholders
 3. Mission Statement
 4. Objectives, Goals and Initiatives
- Annex 1: Categories of priority issues identified by individual Members

1. Introduction

The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was established in 1957 by the FAO Council under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution and held its first session in 1960 in Dublin, Ireland.

Over the past two decades, EIFAC Members have consistently addressed the need to reform the Commission. They felt that it was time to carry out an in-depth review of the Commission's functions and means for action. The EIFAC reform process started at the Seventeenth Session in 1992. However, from 1992 to 2007 the issue of restructuring and strengthening EIFAC was addressed only briefly. The twenty fifth Session of EIFAC, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008, had finally agreed to change the name of EIFAC, introducing aquaculture in order to recognize the importance of aquaculture to the countries in Europe and to properly reflect the activities of EIFAC, and decided to approve the revised name of the Commission, whereby the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is now called European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC). Furthermore, the Session agreed that a process be initiated to review the possibilities for improvement of EIFAC. As a first step, a workshop was held in The Hague (The Netherlands) in March 2009, which made proposals for strategic orientations options, associated objectives and possible action plans. The workshop ideas and expectations were considered in an options paper as a basis for decision. Then the country delegates were invited to a second workshop in Mainz (Germany) in January 2010 to discuss the various options proposed.

The breakthrough could be achieved at the twenty-sixth Session of EIFAC held in May 2010 in Zagreb where the Commission agreed to restructure EIFAC to a project-based organization while abolishing all Sub-Commissions and Working Parties with the aim to make the Commission's work more efficient. The twenty-sixth Session also agreed to modernized Statutes, mission statement and objectives. The functioning of the Commission has further strengthened by setting up a Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC). A Management Committee (MC) replaces the former Executive Committee. The Management Committee has to implement the decisions of the Commission and coordinate and monitor the work of the TSC. The Technical Scientific Committee main functions are the recommendation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes or projects. All former Working Parties were scrutinized by the MC and those that performed well were converted into projects.

The change of name and revised Statutes of EIFAAC were approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Fortieth Session on 3 December 2010 through Resolution No 3/140 under Article VI paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The new Rules of Procedure were adopted at the Special Session on 27 October 2011 in Rome. These Rules specify that a Strategy Plan should be elaborated for approval by the Session. The Strategy Plan is a recommendation with main achievable goals and covers the duties for the time period 2012–2016.

2. Stakeholders

Members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland,

Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

EIFAAC Stakeholders further include:

- other international fishery organizations (e.g. NASCO, GFCM, FAO Regional Fishery Bodies)
- political, management and research institutions,
- NGOs as observers
- Inland fisheries (commercial and recreational), aquaculture and environmental organizations (national and international) in Europe.

3. Mission Statement¹

The mission of EIFAAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research.

4. Objectives, Goals and initiatives

The objectives of EIFAAC are:

- promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors; and
- serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation, dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, inter alia, proactively identify:
 - relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

¹ As decided at the Session 2010 in Zagreb

The goals of EIFAAC are:

Goal 1: Continue to develop EIFAAC as the leading pan-European Organisation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe.

Initiatives:

- Initiate or enhance formalized collaboration with other organizations (e.g. EU, GFCM)
- Build stronger partnerships with fisheries-related institutions and stakeholders
- Maintain and improve the release of EIFAAC advice and Technical Papers
- Alert, inform and gather specialists on inland fisheries and aquaculture from all over Europe
- Develop new, and improve existing, communication facilities

Goal 2: To implement processes and procedures to provide advice through projects and networks in accordance with the requirements of the Members.

Initiatives:

- Identify a priorities list of projects, convenors and team members
- Transfer the current prioritised working groups into successful projects
- Support the EIFAAC National Focal Points in the development of a network of experts and stakeholders to assist EIFAAC's specific projects
- Enhance the communication and the participation of the Focal Points in the decision-making process
- Inform and advice policy-makers
- Seek funding for the realization of the projects

Goal 3: Development of an international network of organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations that have an interest in inland fisheries and aquaculture to promote EIFAACs objectives in coordination with these bodies.

Initiatives:

- Identify organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations which have an interest in inland fisheries and aquaculture and catalog their aims and objectives, points of contact and their relevance for EIFAAC.
- EIFAAC will brief these organization on the Role of EIFAAC as an FAO regional fisheries organization and the rational for potential cooperation
- EIFAAC will develop a system of communication with these organizations.

Goal 4: Implement EIFAAC structures, process and procedures, in coordination with the FAO secretariat, to ensure efficient delivery for the Members objectives in accordance with best international practice.

Initiatives:

- Engage and motivate all EIFAAC stakeholders and familiarize them with the New EIFAAC
- Inform and convince the Members of the need for financial and human resource (e.g. secretarial, scientific, engineering) support for EIFAAC
- Monitor and seek to improve the performance of EIFAAC structures, process and procedures
- Efficiently administrate and coordinate the EIFAAC business in close cooperation with the National Focal Points

CATEGORIES OF PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Priority issues identified by the Members

Members have expressed a strong desire for EIFAAC to focus more on the following issues which should be incorporated in existing projects (see Goal 2) or should give rise for new projects.

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture

These issues are described as “management-related”, acknowledging that EIFAAC does not have a management mandate but may provide management advice to the Members. Many suggestions focused on advancing modern management principles such as sustainability and biodiversity and ecosystem management, and included providing assessments and advice.

II. Interactions and avoidance or resolution of conflicts in inland fisheries and aquaculture

The interactions within inland fisheries and aquaculture, and between inland fisheries and aquaculture and other sectors were approached from different perspectives. These included recognition of the need to identify and evaluate the interactions, and where there is potential conflict developing good management or other practices.

III. Harmonization of cross-border and cross-sectoral governance and legal aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture

The harmonization of governance and legal aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture figured prominently in the responses. They suggested a number of cross-border and cross-sectoral considerations.

IV. Protection and restoration of the environment and species

Protection and restoration of the habitat environment and certain species was a strong theme throughout many of the responses. A number of specific suggestions were made in this regard.

V. Trade and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture

Although EIFAAC is not an organization focused on trade, some Members suggested that its priorities could include playing a supportive role in issues relating to trade and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture.

VI. Development of databases on inland fisheries and aquaculture

The development of new databases was encouraged by Members as a priority activity, and suggestions were made on the type of information that could be maintained.

VII. Climate change

Assessing and preparing for the impact of climate change on inland fisheries and aquaculture was considered by some Members to be a necessary and proactive priority.

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to a management plan for Europe on piscivorous predators, especially cormorants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening management plans, identify scenarios and methods for sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish stocking, including general principles, best practices, economic aspects, interaction with natural stocks and safeguarding biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating a wider introduction of principles of sustainable management and rational development in all freshwater fishing activities and aquaculture, including biodiversity issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem approach: the impact of inland fisheries and aquaculture on the ecosystem; estimation of the fish and fisheries component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic aquaculture: substitution of fish based protein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernization of farming facilities (implementation of new technologies, recirculation systems, hatcheries, diversification, modernization of processing and enabling its expansion on new subjects), equipment, tools and infrastructure (maintaining of channels, fish ponds, hydrotechnical facilities and roads in property of the State)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequately address the issues of importance of fish ponds in terms of nature and biodiversity protection (fisheries as bird habitat, ichthyophag bird habitat, as well as habitat for other biological communities that harm the production). This issue links in particular with the necessity to adequately address the issue of piscivorous birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through conversion and reorganization conceive, modernise and maintain the existent aquaculture resources (alternative form of exploitation-cultivating fish for restocking of fishing areas, small family hatcheries etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of alternative energy resources in closed aquaculture systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish farming in ponds and in special aquaculture systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing new and updating existing codes of practices on different topics, e.g. fish genetics and biodiversity in inland fish stock preservation and enhancement, fish stocking, fish farming for stocking purposes and inland fish stock management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the protection of aquatic resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation, sustaining and strengthening professional inland fisheries, noting impacts of environmental and socio-economic constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of applicable management principles and legal implications in private and public waters for recreational and commercial fisheries to facilitate better use of the resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the traditional fish-breeding and those related to managing the inland surface water ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification of inland aquaculture production
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of fish farmers and fisherman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and management of species of “conservation” interest as defined by the Habitat Directive

II. Interactions and avoidance or resolution of conflicts in inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions between: inland fisheries and aquaculture; recreational fishing and tourism; fisheries and other users of inland waters, including territorial and spatial planning issues; and between fisheries/aquaculture and other interest issues/groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of inland fisheries and aquaculture within rural development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive management issues between recreational and commercial fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery of local and traditional knowledge to improve interactions between fisheries and other users of the aquatic environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition for the water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use management, particularly the problem of sedimentation and the development of a standard for sediment for fresh waters

III. Harmonization of cross-border and cross-sectoral governance and legal aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectoral approach to the development of a legal framework, including interactions between inland fisheries and aquaculture and relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish migration, coordinated automatic monitoring of fish migration, dismantling of barriers (and new methods and practices for barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow management problems with minimum flow requirements and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and strengthening of integrated methods for monitoring, control and surveillance of fish and aquatic organisms (e.g. water inspection, fisheries inspection and nature protection)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of the legal framework in freshwater aquaculture, especially standards and practices for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health issues (water usage fees, concession mechanisms, food safety, and hygiene) • environmental licensing • predator control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization or coordination of management, including on transboundary rivers and compliance with the European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 (establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of relevant international agreements and guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment of the legal framework towards priority goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of social, environmental and economic factors to sharpen policy making

IV. Protection and restoration of the environment and species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening activities in relation to certain species including eels, crayfish, invasive, exotic and alien/non-native species, aquatic species protected by the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat protection and restoration and prevention of contamination of habitat and species, including animal welfare, biological invasions and sewage treatment plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and use of agents against fish diseases with focus on maximum environmental protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and avoidance of environmental poisons and contaminants and chemicals in water and in fish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of hydroelectricity on fisheries and best practices for screening, passage estimates of turbine mortality; developing a guide to reduce the conflict between hydroelectric development and protection and restoration of fishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling inland fisheries to become a global indicator of the ecological state of socio-hydrosystems by evaluating the capacity of the fishers to address sustainable development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A study at European level to explore the costs for the implementation of environmental measures to the aquaculture producers and the differences among Member countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of new species and endangered fish species into aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of environmental impact of inland aquaculture facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing rivers recovering from long-term degradation

V. Trade and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of economic, cultural and social values of inland fisheries and aquaculture; and transnational promotion of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe to increase the market knowledge of designated species at European level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adaptation of freshwater aquaculture production to market requirements, in particular the development of new products (value adding), labelling, certification schemes, marketing strategies (niche-market or wide-consumer market) and promotional producer organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and economic surveys of recreational and commercial fisheries, including costs and benefits and an evaluation of gains and benefits from licensed angling activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of added value in aquaculture (innovations, new products, diversification of the offer and services etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats to the future of commercial inland fisheries, and the economic consequences for different countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the aquaculture development should be strictly associated with the veterinary issues and organization of the market in fishery products, taking into account the impact of angling

VI. Development of databases on inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger development of scientific studies and research, including harmonization of data gathering and introduction of comparable methods of fisheries-based and scientific-based data gathering methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inland fisheries and aquaculture statistical digital databases and data collection methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop adequate manuals and procedures for data gathering as well as adequate monitoring and control measures, particularly relating to food safety, nature protection and market mechanisms, with a wider participation and stronger inclusion of scientific and research institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include socio-economic data into regular production data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new approaches in the measurement of the importance of inland fisheries, such as crayfish, which values production as a price per weight and takes into account the recreational, economic, social and cultural values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear and precise methodology for research on particular subjects/issues and for information exchange in this respect (at the scientific and administrative levels), as well as for the procedure of the obtained results presentation (reports, recommendations, advisory documents, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of inland stock assessment plan

VII. Climate change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problems and challenges of climate change, and its impact on aquatic flora and fauna, including species distribution and influence on recreational and commercial fisheries, and mitigation strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing models for climate change and fisheries, including fish species distribution and an international genetic fish map
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of the potential impact of climate change on the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector

New EIFAAC logo

This is the new EIFAAC logo as adopted by the Session:



EIFAAC logo:

Colour CMYK	Background	Fish outline	CECPAI
C	73	100	100
M	36	84	84
Y	0	35	13
K	0	25	2

The twenty-seventh Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Hämeenlinna, Finland, from 24 to 26 October 2012. The Session reviewed EIFAAC's intersessional achievements since the last Session in 2010 which included *inter alia* the approval by the FAO Council of the change of name from EIFAC to EIFAAC to include aquaculture and of the revised Statutes of EIFAAC, finalization and adoption of the amended EIFAAC Rules of Procedure, and the progress made on technical and scientific issues through the EIFAAC projects. The EIFAAC Strategy Plan for 2012–2016 was adopted. The twenty-eighth Session will be held in 2014.

ISBN 978-92-5-107420-6 ISSN 2070-6987



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