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Report of the

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Cairo, Egypt, 8-10 December 2014

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Eighth Meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), held in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 10 December 2014. The report was prepared by the WGFM Secretariat. The material contained in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

FAO/Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. 2015.

Report of the Eighth Meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 8–10 December 2014. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1108. Rome. 54 pp.

ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the Eighth Meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 10 December 2014. The WGFM addressed and made decisions on matters concerning relevant follow-up to Seventh Meeting of the RECOFI WGFM and to the Seventh Session of RECOFI, which was held in Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of) during the period from 14 to 16 May 2013.

A proposal for regional coordination of shrimp trawl fisheries in RECOFI was presented. The results of the socio-economic survey were presented and discussed. The follow-up for the regional joint assessment of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was agreed. The follow-up of the recommendation on minimum data reporting was reviewed. The need for a regional database for marine fisheries data in the RECOFI area was raised and ideas discussed. The possible cooperation of RECOFI in CITES was discussed, and the state of IPOA-IUU and the Port State Measures Agreement in the RECOFI area was discussed. A work plan for the 2015–2016 biennium was proposed.

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OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Eighth Meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was held at the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 10 December 2014. The meeting was convened by FAO and RECOFI. The meeting was attended by six delegates from three members of the Commission (Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia) and two observer organizations (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES], and North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, [NEAFC]). Iran (Islamic State of), Iraq and the United Arab Emirates apologized for their absence; Bahrain and Oman did not attend the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

2. Mr Piero Mannini, RECOFI Secretary and Senior Liaison Officer, FAO, Rome, Italy, made a statement on behalf of Mr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa. The opening statement is in Appendix 4. Mr Mannini reminded participants of the importance of regional fishery bodies (RFBs), and noted that RFBs such as RECOFI were recognized by the international community as the primary organizational mechanism through which States worked together to ensure the long-term sustainability of shared fishery resources. In line with this, he noted that member countries were not adequately providing their Commission, RECOFI, with the needed support to increase the regional capacity for the appraisal and management of common resources and that Members should be more actively involved in the work of their Commission to fully benefit from its services for the wealth and sustainability of regional fisheries and aquaculture and of their fishing communities.

3. Owing to the fact that, Mr Mohammed Al Kharafi, the current Chairperson of the WGFM was unable to attend, the Secretary of RECOFI proposed Mr Nabil Fita, Vice-Chairperson of RECOFI, and Director-General of Fisheries Research Center in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, to act as Chairperson of this WGFM meeting. Mr Nabil Fita kindly accepted to act as Chairperson of the Eighth Meeting of the WGFM.

4. The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his regret at the fact that only three member countries were present, owing to the importance of the meeting and the discussions that would take place during that time. He expressed his hope that despite this low attendance, participants would provide input and discussion on the important matters on the agenda. The Chairperson proposed that in consideration of the low attendance the current meeting would express the participants' opinions rather than the WGFM decisions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

5. The agenda, attached as Appendix 1, was adopted. The list of documents for the session is attached as Appendix 3.

6. The Chairperson invited the Secretary of RECOFI to explain administrative arrangements for the meeting.

7. The Secretary of RECOFI expressed regret at the low attendance of members at the WGFM meeting. He stressed that all efforts had been undertaken to facilitate an adequate

attendance and noted the meeting represented the lowest-ever attendance at any RECOFI meeting.

8. The absence of countries that had recently settled their arrears with the Commission or had submitted the requested data to the Secretariat was also noted.

KUWAIT PROPOSAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF TRAWL SHRIMP FISHERIES IN THE RECOFI AREA

9. Mr Usama Khalifa Sayed Ahmed, Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), Kuwait, presented the Kuwait proposal for the management of shrimp trawl fisheries in the RECOFI area.

10. Kuwait presented the review submitted to the Permanent Committee of Fish Resources, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) based on the outcome of the project: "Shrimp Stock Assessment in the Western Arabian Gulf by Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council" and provided information on the shrimp trawl fishery in the Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Fishery-independent information from the survey at sea was also presented and discussed, particularly with reference to stock identification and occurrence pattern.

11. The meeting noted the wealth of data available relevant for the shrimp fisheries in the RECOFI region at the country level and acknowledged the importance of harmonizing management measures at the regional level. The meeting commended the role of Kuwait to champion efforts to establish a regionally concerted management approach to the multispecies shrimp stock in the RECOFI area.

12. The meeting recognized the importance of taking measures for reducing bycatch in this fishery, stock genetic studies, and establishing a shrimp fisheries database. It was noted and appreciated that Kuwait through PAAF would raise the need for a regional DNA study of shrimp stocks. The meeting asked Kuwait to check the availability of the DNA mapping results with the Kuwait Scientific Research Institute (KISR).

13. The meeting concurred on the need to establish a regional shrimp database, while recognizing that a substantive amount of information on shrimp trawl operations had already been collected under the RECOFI Minimum Data Reporting. The review of current management measures adopted by some RECOFI Members (i.e. Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia) made evident the need to move towards the regional harmonization of current and future measures and that the participation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq is necessary. Stock discrimination appeared as a relevant issue to be cooperatively addressed by all the members concerned.

14. Finally, sharing of shrimp fishery information from all the relevant RECOFI shrimp fishing members was reiterated as an essential condition to progress toward the responsible and sustainable management of the shrimp fishery in the Gulf.

REGIONAL JOINT ASSESSMENT OF THE KINGFISH STOCK IN THE RECOFI AREA

15. Mr Piero Mannini, RECOFI Secretary, presented document RECOFI: WGFM8/2014/3. It is appended as Appendix 5.

16. The meeting was reminded of the importance that was given to this regional joint assessment at the Seventh Session of RECOFI, in May 2013, as well as the objectives of the workshop. The meeting was informed of the complementary work being undertaken by the Permanent Committee of Fish Resources, GCC, and the data collection of which should support the RECOFI assessment. The meeting also recalled the requests for management advice made at the Seventh Session of RECOFI, in particular for the need to formulate a regional management plan for the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel.

17. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of this regional joint assessment of the kingfish stock in the RECOFI area and emphasized the importance of holding the meeting in 2015. The meeting reconfirmed its support for the objectives, data requirements, skill requirements and draft agenda of the meeting.

RESULTS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMICS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

18. Ms Lori Curtis, Fisheries Socio-economist, FAO, Cairo, Egypt, introduced document RECOFI: WGF8/2014/4. It is attached as Appendix 6.

19. The background and survey results were presented and discussed. The socio-economic challenges, many of which are unique and common to the RECOFI area, were presented, as well as examples of how socio-economic information can be compiled and presented at a regional level. The meeting agreed that this survey questionnaire, while general, marked a good start to ascertaining the available information and to establish the foundations for the socio-economic work of RECOFI, and in particular the information on price, trade and crew composition were useful.

20. The meeting acknowledged the continued socio-economic work at the country level, and in particular the ongoing work on this matter that Qatar had been undertaking. The meeting recognized that the collection of these data at the country level facilitated the availability of data to be utilized at the regional level.

21. The meeting recognized that further information should be identified to collect and analyse at the regional level to build on this questionnaire, and could focus on operational/running costs and employment issues. The meeting agreed that the Socio-Economic Task Group should take this forwards, including the design and circulation of the new survey to be completed and analysed. The meeting acknowledged the need to ensure that the Task Group members were updated, played a more proactive role and were less reliant on the Secretariat.

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOFI RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING

22. Ms Sachiko Tsuji, Senior Fishery Statistician, FAO, Rome, Italy, introduced document RECOFI: WGF8/2014/5. It is appended as Appendix 7.

23. The meeting was informed that Iran (Islamic Republic of), Oman and Qatar had submitted the data required under the RECOFI Recommendation RECOFI/6/2011/1, entitled "Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area", in 2014 and that the Iraq had provided limited information on its fleet and operational status. The remaining members

have not yet submitted the required information at the point of meeting. In particular, it was noted that the two members, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, with proven capacity in data compilation and submission, had not submitted their updated data in two consecutive years. After the consultation, Saudi Arabia indicated its intention to submit the updated information covering both 2012 and 2013 activities at the earliest convenience. The meeting also noted that Kuwait had not yet provided any data despite its high capacity in data collection and compilation and urged Kuwait to make proper arrangement to ensure to fulfil its obligation of data reporting under the Recommendation.

24. The meeting stressed the importance of reliable and timely data on fishing operations to implement the responsible fisheries management in the Region and reaffirmed its commitment to comply with the Recommendation.

25. The meeting appreciated the need to establish a regional database and information network as early as practical. Recognizing the increasing needs for integration of various information, including that required for the Spanish mackerel joint assessment, and emerging interests on shrimp data sharing and socio-economic data collection, the meeting indicated a preference to establish an integrated centralized regional database and information network. The meeting welcomed the comment that Kuwait would consider hosting a regional database and information system for marine capture fisheries in the RECOFI area. The meeting noted the decision taken during the commission session but in view of the fact that no progress had been made in this regard, the meeting agreed to invite the Commission to reconsider the possibility of expanding the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) to accommodate capture fisheries data.

STATE OF IPOA-IUU AND PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT IN THE RECOFI AREA AND PREPARATION FOR THE ARABIAN SEA INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

26. Mr Matthew Camilleri, Fishery Liaison Officer, FAO, Rome, Italy, presented document RECOFI: WGF8/2014/6. It is attached in Appendix 8.

27. Mr Matthew Camilleri presented the status of implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and related instruments in the RECOFI area on the basis of document RECOFI8/2014/6. He highlighted the impact of IUU fishing on the fisheries management process and presented an overview of the existing international legal instruments, guidelines and tools related to the management and control of fisheries. In particular, he expanded on the benefits of implementing the IPOA-IUU, the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement and the 2014 Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance in the fight against IUU fishing. He recalled the initiatives undertaken by RECOFI and the WGF8 in relation to IUU fishing, including regional workshops and meetings that had focused on the issue. Finally, he introduced FAO's global capacity development programme on the implementation of port State measures and informed the participants of the plans to hold a capacity development workshop for the Arabian Sea region, including the Gulf, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, in the first quarter of 2015.

28. The meeting acknowledged the importance of addressing the issue of IUU fishing activities in the region and the possible landing of IUU-caught fish by non-coastal States in ports of RECOFI member countries. In this regard, it welcomed the convening of a capacity development workshop on port State measures, which would represent an important first step

towards strengthening cooperation in the RECOFI region and beyond to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

A ROLE FOR RECOFI IN CITES IMPLEMENTATION?

29. Mr Tom De Meulenaer, Scientific Support Officer, CITES, Geneva, Switzerland, presented document RECOFI: WGFM8/2014/7. It is attached in Appendix 9.

30. The meeting noted the relevance of the mandate of CITES to the work of RECOFI, in particular the emphasis on legality, sustainability and traceability of trade in CITES-listed marine species. The meeting appreciated the joint activities that CITES and FAO were undertaking to assist with the implementation of the recent listing of five species of sharks and all manta rays in CITES Appendix II, including targeted support for key-shark fishing nations and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), the creation of a dedicated website, and the development of innovative shark-identification tools. The meeting recognized that the individual member countries were responsible for effectively implementing these listings and managing shark fisheries, acknowledging that all member countries were contracting parties to CITES, and that Oman and Iran (Islamic Republic of), through their membership in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), had additional shark-specific measures to adhere to.

31. The meeting noted several suggestions for RECOFI to support the implementation of CITES for marine species. It also noted that CITES provisions for managing and controlling international trade in listed species were complementary to measures required under the Port State Measures Agreement, as well as the RECOFI Recommendation on minimum data reporting for sharks. The meeting was informed that the member States of the Permanent Committee of Fish Resources, GCC, had made a recommendation to ban targeted shark fishing and this had been endorsed by four GCC members.

WORKPLAN OF THE RECOFI WGFM FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2016

32. Mr Piero Mannini, RECOFI Secretary, presented document RECOFI: WGFM8/2014/8. It is attached in Appendix 10.

33. Mr Mannini presented the status of the activities approved at the Seventh Session of RECOFI and updated the WGFM on the activities approved by the Seventh Session of RECOFI, including: (i) pilot joint assessment of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, and workshop on the utilization of fishery-dependent data; (ii) follow-up and monitoring of a regional fisheries management framework; and (iii) development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing on the basis of the outcome of the IUU FAO/RECOFI workshop held in Oman in 2009.

34. He pointed out that none of the above priority activities could be satisfactorily addressed during the intersession period and called upon RECOFI members to be more proactive to support and implement the Commission's decision and work.

35. The meeting recognized that with only three member countries in attendance, it was not possible to conclusively agree on the programme of work for 2015–2016, but rather would make proposals. The proposed details of the programme of work are included in Table 1. While the priority activities were agreed, in the absence of both Iran (Islamic Republic of) and

Oman, which had previously been proposed to host activities, it was determined that alternative locations should be proposed as alternates, to be further discussed at the upcoming Eighth Session of RECOFI.

36. The development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing was removed, as a result of the upcoming regional workshop on the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), mentioned above, which will cover similar topics.

Table 1
Programme of work and budget 2015–2016

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
WGFM	9th meeting of WGFM	November 2015	TBD	3		Annual Meeting
WGFM	10th meeting of WGFM	November 2016	TBD	3		Annual Meeting
WGFM	Regional joint assessment of kingfish stock	2015	Oman	3–4	30 000	1st priority
WGFM	Regional fisheries management framework workshop (shrimp)	TBD	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3	15 000	2nd priority
WGFM	Enhancement and standardization of fishing gear selectivity in the RECOFI area	TBD	TBD	3–4	30 000	3rd priority

ANY OTHER MATTERS

37. Mr Jassem Saleh Al-Mohamady, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment in Qatar, presented the results of its survey “Statistical data on Catch, Fishing Effort, Catch per Unit of Fishing Effort and Values in Qatari waters 2013 – 2014” and presented the Qatari public webpage that has been created and contains the fisheries information. The meeting recognized the efforts of the Qatari government in enhancing its data collection and data sharing.

38. Mr Stefan Asmundsson, NEAFC Secretariat Secretary, and Mr João Neves, NEAFC Secretariat MCS Officer, presented on NEAFC, and in particular on its port State controls and vessel monitoring system (VMS) and control activities and experiences. The framework of NEAFC was presented in terms of its role in fisheries management and regulation, as well its scheme of control and enforcement. The integration of IUU fishing controls in 2004 was presented.

39. The meeting noted the progress made by NEAFC since its inception, in particular its relationship with relevant scientific institutes as well as its cooperation with other RFBs. The meeting recognized that, despite the different fisheries existing in the RECOFI and NEAFC regions, the common interest in sustainable fisheries management created an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience on areas of common concern.

40. The meeting noted with interest the VMS used by NEAFC and appreciated the approach adopted by NEAFC, which deals with fisheries management in a holistic and pragmatic style,

in order to assess appropriately the means, costs and risks associated with addressing the existing challenges.

41. Mr David Currie, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Subregional office for GCC countries and Yemen (SNG), Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, informed the WGFM on the current status of the project Support to capacity development for fishery stock assessment and management in GCC countries and Yemen – Phase Two”. The meeting noted that the member countries that had not yet replied and would like to participate should contact the SNG office, and that the project could be extended beyond just GCC countries to all RECOFI member countries in order to include the occurrence area of many shared stocks in the region.

42. Ms Paula Anton, Junior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO , Cairo, Egypt, informed the meeting that the RECOFI Secretariat had been requested by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to inform member countries on the upcoming Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (ESBAs) in the North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas, from 20 to 25 April 2015, preceded by a training session on ESBAs on 19 April 2015, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. There was also a request for scientific information to support the objectives of the CBD regional workshop to facilitate the description of ESBAs.

43. The meeting suggest using as much as possible both Arabic and English languages in the communications and in all the relevant explanatory documents, as this would be extremely helpful to facilitate the work of the Commission and the Working Groups.

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

44. As a result of the low number of participants, the meeting concurred that it was not appropriate to suggest the place of the Ninth Meeting of the WGFM, and that it would defer to the Eighth Session of RECOFI to discuss further.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

45. The report of the meeting was adopted on 10 December at 17:30 hours.

The meeting noted with appreciation the kind support of the RECOFI Secretariat and FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa for hosting and providing administrative support to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the meeting
3. Kuwait proposal for the management of trawl shrimp fisheries in the RECOFI area
4. Regional joint assessment of the Kingfish stock in the RECOFI area
5. Results of the socio-economics questionnaire survey
6. Update on the implementation of the RECOFI recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting
7. State of IPOA-IUU and PSM in the RECOFI area and preparation for the Arabian Sea international workshop
8. A role for RECOFI in CITES implementation?
9. Work plan of the RECOFI WGFM for the period 2015-2016
10. Any other matters
11. Date and place of the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
12. Adoption of the report

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List of documents

RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/1	Provisional Agenda
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/2	Kuwait proposal for the management of trawl shrimp fisheries in the RECOFI area
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/3	Regional joint assessment of the Kingfish stock in the RECOFI area
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/4	Results of the socio-economics questionnaire survey
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/5	Update on the implementation of the RECOFI recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/6	State of IPOA-IUU and PSM in the RECOFI area and preparation for the Arabian Sea international workshop
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/7	A role for RECOFI in CITES implementation?
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/8	Work plan of the RECOFI WGFM for the period 2015-2016
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/Inf.1Rev1	Provisional List of Documents
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/Inf.2	List of participants
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/Inf.3	Report of the RECOFI Seventh Session, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 14-16 May 2013
RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/Inf.4	Report of the RECOFI Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management, Kuwait, State of Kuwait, 5-7 November 2013

Opening statement by Mr Piero Mannini, Senior Fishery Officer and Secretary of RECOFI on behalf of Mr Abdessalam Ould Ahmed Regional Representative FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa

Mr Nabil Fita, Director-General of Fisheries Research Center in Eastern Province, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Vice-Chairperson of RECOFI, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each and all of you on the occasion of the opening of the Eighth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), that is held in Cairo, Egypt, at the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food reported to the 67th session of the UN General Assembly (October 2012) that global marine and inland fisheries provide food security to millions of people. They do so through two channels. First, fish consumption accounts for 15 per cent of all animal protein consumed worldwide. Second, the fisheries sector provides 54.8 million people with employment in capture fisheries and aquaculture and an estimated 150 million people in upstream and downstream activities.

The Committee on World Food Security at its Forty-first Session in October 2014 recognized the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition, as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and as a provider of income and livelihoods, and also recognised that the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture is a fundamental condition for food security and nutrition.

It is widely recognized by the international community that regional fisheries bodies as RECOFI are the primary organizational mechanism through which States work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of shared fishery resources.

However, strengthening regional fisheries management organizations and their performance still remains the major challenge facing international fisheries governance. Numerous RFMOs are recognizant of the need for greater cooperation between member states and the need to reform their legal and institutional framework. RECOFI is no exception to this situation.

I wish to remind you that regional fisheries management organizations such as RECOFI were established by the Member Countries to facilitate and reinforce regional collaboration. RECOFI appears as a convenient and valid mechanism to promote and enhance the regional dialogue and cooperation for the sustainable development of regional fisheries in the Gulf and Sea of Oman.

Distinguished delegates I regret to note that Members are not yet adequately providing their Commission, RECOFI, with the needed support to increase the regional capacity for the appraisal and management of common resources. Much more can and should be done. Members should be more actively involved in the work of their Commission to fully benefit from its services for the wealth and sustainability of regional fisheries and aquaculture and of their fishing communities

The Food and Agriculture Organization stands ready to assist RECOFI; however the ultimate responsibility of state of regional fisheries and their stocks remain with the Member countries. I wish you a full and very productive meeting for the benefit of all. Thank you very much for your attention

Regional joint assessment of the kingfish stock in the RECOFI area

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 7th Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (May 2013) acknowledged that the joint assessment bringing together GCC work on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and that of the other RECOFI members such as Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq, and possibly also Pakistan and Yemen would be the first essential step toward establishing effective management for the stock of this species in the RECOFI region and adjacent areas, with a special emphasis on the importance of good communication and information sharing prior to the workshop. The Commission underlined the joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel will require by all members full commitment in submitting relevant data and information in a timely manner. The Commission reaffirmed the request made at the sixth session of RECOFI for the Secretariat to invite Pakistan and Yemen to this regional meeting. The Commission ranked the implementation of the kingfish stock assessment as the first priority in the intersession (2013-2014) workplan and acknowledged the kind offer of the Sultanate of Oman to host the meeting.

OBJECTIVES OF THE KINGFISH WORKSHOP

The objectives of the kingfish (narrow-barred Spanish mackerel) regional stock assessment are:

- To provide fishery scientists, managers and decision-makers of the RECOFI countries with an opportunity to meet and discuss the common issues related to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel fisheries from data collection, research, management strategy and regulations;
- To provide a platform for scientists to work together on real narrow-barred Spanish mackerel data, conduct stock assessment and develop science-based management strategy for the long term sustainability of the fishery and the social and economic benefits of the region;
- To discuss and develop a cost-effective and practical institutional arrangement and a regional plan for cooperation and collaboration in the sustainable management of the shared narrowbarred Spanish mackerel resource.

ACTIVITIES

The 7th WGFM meeting (5-7 November 2013, Kuwait) reviewed the preparatory work to the region kingfish stock assessment. In particular:

The WGFM acknowledged that the joint assessment bringing together GCC work on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and that of the other RECOFI members such as Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq, and possibly also Pakistan and Yemen would be the first essential step toward establishing effective management for the stock of this species in the RECOFI region and adjacent areas, with a special emphasis on the importance of good communication and information sharing prior to the workshop. Regarding a possible underestimation of juvenile mortality exerted by shrimp trawling, the WGFM was informed about the recent work (2013) by KISR.

Estimating 111 tonnes of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel by-catch of average 67 gram in the period from September 2010 to January 2011. The WGFM recognized such information could be vital to understand the current situation of this species and all Members were requested to provide any materials to the Secretariat that could have relevance for stock assessment and consideration of management of the fisheries exploiting this RECOFI priority species. The meeting approved the objectives of the workshop, the agenda, and the data and participant skill requirements.

Objectives, data and skills requirement of the Kingfish Workshop

Objectives of the kingfish (narrow-barred Spanish mackerel) workshop

- To provide fishery scientists, managers and decision-makers of the RECOFI countries with an opportunity to meet and discuss the common issues related to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel fisheries from data collection, research, management strategy and regulations;
- To provide a platform for scientists to work together on real narrow-barred Spanish mackerel data, conduct stock assessment and develop science-based management strategy for the long term sustainability of the fishery and the social and economic benefits of the region;
- To discuss and develop a cost-effective and practical institutional arrangement and a regional plan for cooperation and collaboration in the sustainable management of the shared narrow-barred Spanish mackerel resource.

Data requirements of the workshop

Each country should bring:

1. Length frequency data over a certain time period;
2. Full catch statistic time series data;
3. Fishing effort data or data on numbers of fishing vessels and fishermen engaged in the fishery;
4. Any other data available for example types of gear and vessels, fishing locations, market price.

Skill requirements

1. Knowledge of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel fishery;
2. Knowledge of basic stock assessment theory and models as this is not a training course, but a workshop;
3. Numerical skills, using Excel (better competent in R or other programming languages);

Draft Agenda of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel stock assessment workshop

I Presentation from country

- Landings and trends
- Current state of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel fishery
- Concerns and issues require management attention
- Research projects and their results if there is any
- Potential challenges to implement a kingfish regional management plan

II Review of the existing published results

- Growth estimation
- Mortality rate estimation
- Models applied
- Conclusions achieved

III Estimation of growth equation from length frequency data

- The von Bertalanffy growth equation
- Data requirements for fitting the equation
- Using software to estimate the equation from length frequency data

IV Estimation of total mortality from length frequency data

- The theory behind the estimation of total mortality from time series length frequency data
- Using a software to estimate total mortality from time series length frequency data
- Estimation of natural mortality
- Estimation of exploitation rate based on natural mortality, fishing mortality and total mortality rates

V Catch only methods for stock assessment

- Yield per recruit model
- Surplus production model
- How to fit these models to data
- Key parameters from the modelling that can be used for determining stock status and for management purposes

VI Designing management

- Management objectives
- Designing regulations to achieve the objectives

Current situation

The 7th Session of the Commission regarded the implementation of the regional assessment of the Kingfish stock as the first priority to deal with by the WGFM during the 2013-2014 intersession period. The Secretariat proposed the host country (Sultanate of Oman) to hold the workshop in November 2013. The proposed period date was not convenient for the host country and it was agreed with the Secretariat to postpone the meeting to 2014. Meanwhile the Secretariat had contacted Pakistan that confirmed the interest to participate in the regional stock assessment exercise. The first week of November 2014 was identified with the host country as a convenient period to organize the workshop. Eventually, in September 2014, upon request of the host country, the regional Kingfish stock assessment was postponed again.

Results of the socio-economic questionnaire

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The RECOFI Workshop on the Social and Economic Aspects of Fisheries in the RECOFI region was held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain from 22 to 24 April 2012, following the agreement at the sixth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries, held in Rome from 10 to 12 May 2011. The meeting was convened by the RECOFI Secretary. The meeting was attended by 18 delegates from four Member countries and two observers, as well as the RECOFI Secretariat.

The outcomes of this workshop were discussed at the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management, held on Doha, State of Qatar, where it was recognized that there is a need and purpose for this socio-economic work and agreed on the merit for including the consideration of the social and economic aspects related to management decisions based on considerations of the state of the fishery resources. The WGFM noted the need to integrate socio-economic information and data collection within fisheries data collection frameworks to better inform management approaches and decisions.

A Task Group was established, with a Terms of Reference which included the following elements:

- Keep informed the relevant national authorities and counterparts on the RECOFI socio-economic workplan and activities;
- Identify and liaise with the existing social and economic expertise in each country;
- Promote and coordinate the implementation of the fishery socio-economic activities in the member countries including basic information gathering, collation and compilation;
- Contribute to the implementation of the RECOFI socio-economic work including the revision and pilot execution a survey questionnaire;

To ensure the effective flow of communications regarding the RECOFI activities to and from national scientific and institutional counterparts, and from relevant stakeholders.

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF RECOFI AND SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WGFM

The Commission unanimously agreed that social and economic considerations are critical, noting that the success and effectiveness of management measures relies on how these factors are taken into account. The relevance of socio-economic work to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries/aquaculture (EAF/A) was stressed.

The Commission suggested developing guidelines for the social and economic aspects of fisheries for the RECOFI region, in terms of data collection and monitoring so that Member countries can adapt to their own contexts, while ensuring that tools are developed to facilitate comparability.

At the seventh meeting of the WGFM, the meeting briefly reviewed the draft questionnaire developed by the Task Group. The Task Group member from Oman, Ms Ruqaiya Al-Bulushi, with the support of the Secretariat, developed the revised version of the national questionnaire during the meeting. The meeting endorsed the revised version with the integration of the comments and proposed changes, to be circulated to Task Group members and filled out for each country. The WGFM recommended that some topics that would be omitted at this stage are relevant and important for socio-economic work and should be taken up at a later stage. The WGFM requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised questionnaire to the Task Group members. The Task Group would then report the results of questionnaire survey to the eighth meeting of the WGFM.

SOCIO ECONOMIC SURVEY RESULTS

The completed surveys were received by seven member countries, including Iraq, Iran (I.R.), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar (detailed survey results are attached below in Annex 1). The level of information from each country varied, and the information provided by member countries was encouraging, in particular as a starting point for gathering information on markets about pricing, as well as consumption by species. Additionally, information on management measures and fishers attitudes towards these measures was quite positive.

Some points to note:

- Iraq was not able to provide any pricing information for any of the fish species.
- Prices were higher in different member countries depending on the specific species and there did not appear to be any kind of regional trend with regards to pricing and seasons
- Prices for all species was not available in any country, however Oman and UAE had the most comprehensive information available.
- Three species, Orange-spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*), King mackerel/ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*), and Rabbitfish (*Siganus canaliculatus*) were the species were the most Member countries provided pricing data.
- In terms of destination markets, each country tended to have its own trends (UAE and Kuwait production was mostly destined for local markets, while other countries had a mix of domestic consumption and export), a few trends emerged in terms of common species for export, or high domestic consumption with additional imports needed to meet local demand. (For example King mackerel/ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*) was consumed entirely by local markets in the majority of countries, and imports were needed to meet local demand, while Green Tiger Prawns and Cuttlefish had a higher level of export.
- Most countries employed a combination of at least four management tools, and it was reported that most were either generally or fully accepted by fishers. The management measures that had some countries indicating a lack of acceptance were by-catch reduction measures, minimum mesh size, and minimum catch size. It was also noted there could be difficulty in gathering reliable statistics.
- The full details of the results are provided below in Annex 1.

WAY FORWARD

The preliminary information collected shows that there is comparability in the data collected, although it is still incomplete for some countries. Full pricing data would be useful.

Some of the information collected does not need to be collected regularly, but rather provides stand-alone information. Other information should be collected regularly to examine changes in trends that can affect socio-economic dynamics in the fisheries. Additional socio-economic information can be gathered, to build up the socio-economic profile of the RECOFI region, and in order to take next steps in identifying problems relevant at the regional level, as well as developing a means to address them.

The WGFM at this point is requested to:

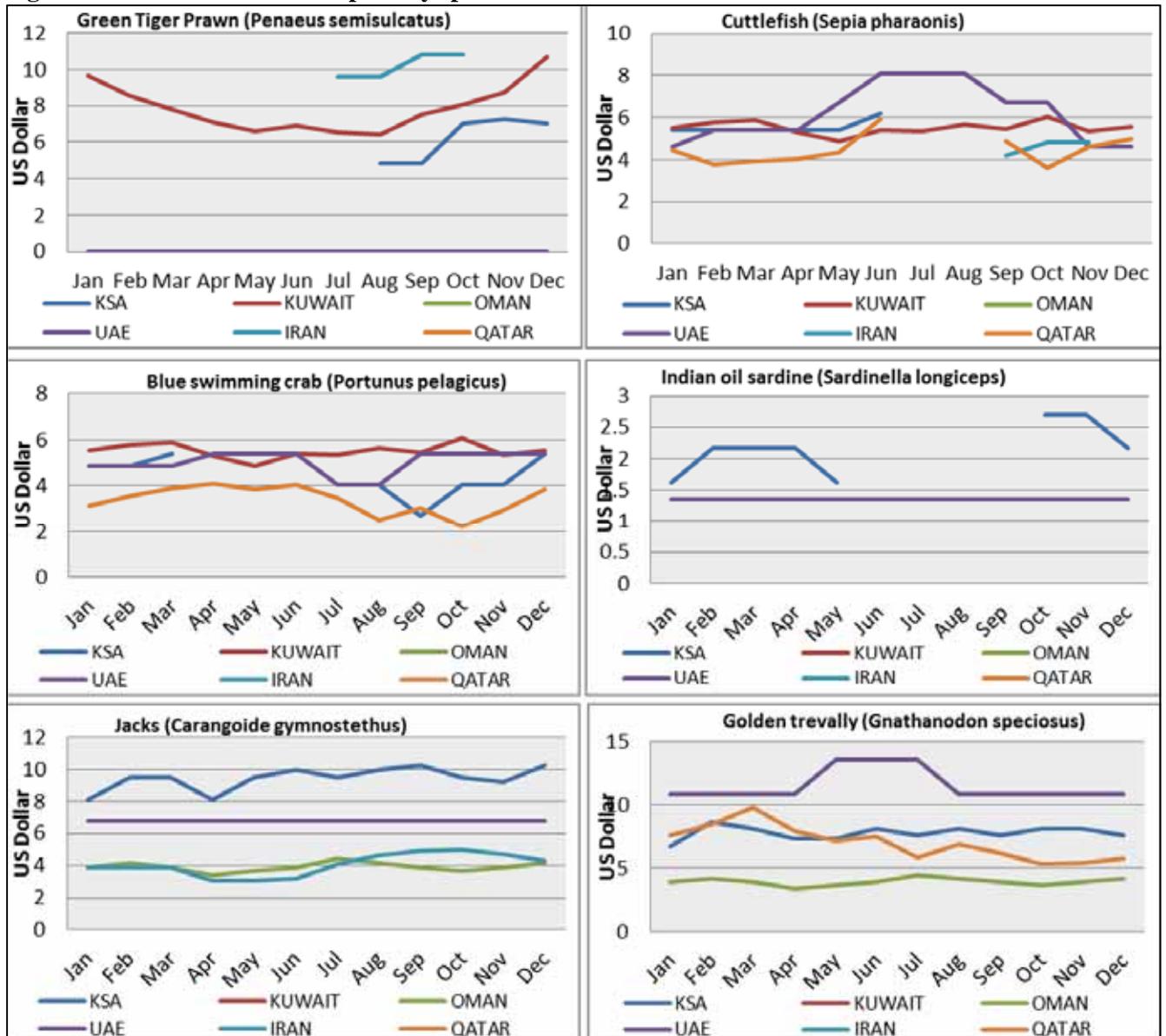
- comment and advise on the information collected and the format of the survey itself;
- discuss the usefulness of such information at the RECOFI level and what further information could be useful to collect.
- comment and advise on what further steps should be taken in order to utilize this information is utilized and next courses of action for the Task Group

Detailed Survey results

Question 1: Price: Indicate price (in local currency) per kg for 2013 of species. Specify lowest and highest price for the species in the year, and indicate where this price is obtained.

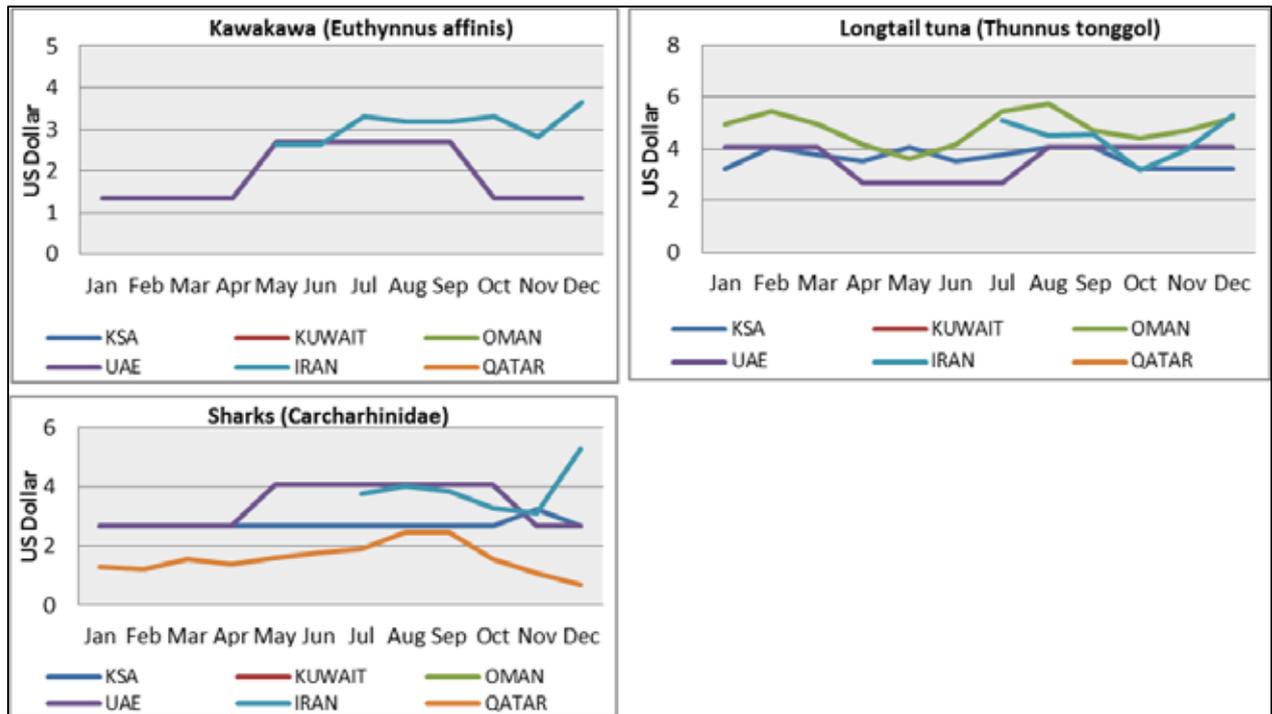
Local currencies were used, and converted to US dollars, using the rate as at July 2013.¹ The details are below in Figure 1. The majority of countries were able to provide a majority of the information, however price information was not complete for some countries; Iraq was unable to provide any pricing information. Countries provided as detailed information for each species as possible, however sometimes it was not possible to disaggregate the data to the level requested.²

Figure 1. Price information for priority species 2013



¹ 1 USD=3.75 SAR; .285 KWD, .384 OMR, .367 AED, .000067 IRR, .27 QAR

² In Oman, the price listed for Jacks (*Carangoide gymnostethus*) is for small Jacks, and the price listed for Golden trevally (*Gnathanodon speciosus*) is for Large Jacks. Also, in the case of both emperors and groupers, prices are not further disaggregated in Omani data, so the same prices are listed for all emperor species as well as all groupers.



Most countries indicated that price information was obtained at markets.

Question Two: Destination markets: for each species check all that apply in terms of the destination market, and also indicate if this species is also imported.

Information is detailed below in Figure 2 on the destination markets by species for each country. Respondents were requested to provide information on the proportion of the production which was for domestic consumption versus export, and to also indicate whether or not the species was imported. While certain countries, such as Kuwait and UAE, the trend for all species was almost entirely for domestic consumption with some additional imports, there were some regional trends which emerged for particular species, in terms of having higher demand domestically, or for export. For example, the King Mackerel and the Long Tail Tuna are commonly consumed domestically in all RECOFI Member countries, species such as the rabbitfish and orange grouper have a relatively higher rate of export.

Figure 2. Destination markets of priority species

Green Tiger Prawns (<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	
IRAN	Yes	26-50%	Yes	51-75%	No
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE					
OMAN	Yes	26-50%	Yes	51-75%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	26-50%	Yes	51-75%	Unsure

Blue swimming crab (<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN					Unsure
IRAQ					Unsure
Cuttlefish (<i>Sepia pharaonis</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	No	0	Yes	76-100%	No
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Yes
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Yes
Anchovies (<i>Stolephorus spp.</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Not Applicable	0	No	0	No
KUWAIT	No				
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
Indian oil sardine (<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT	No				
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	26-50%	Yes	51-75%	No
IRAQ	Yes	26-50%	Yes	51-75%	No

Jacks (Carangoides gymnotethus)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	51-75%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	1-25%	Yes	76-100%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	1-25%	Yes	76-100%	Unsure
Golden trevally (Gnathanodon speciosus)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	51-75%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
Indian mackerel (Rastrelliger Kanagurta)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
Orange finned emperor (Lethrinus borbonicus)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	No

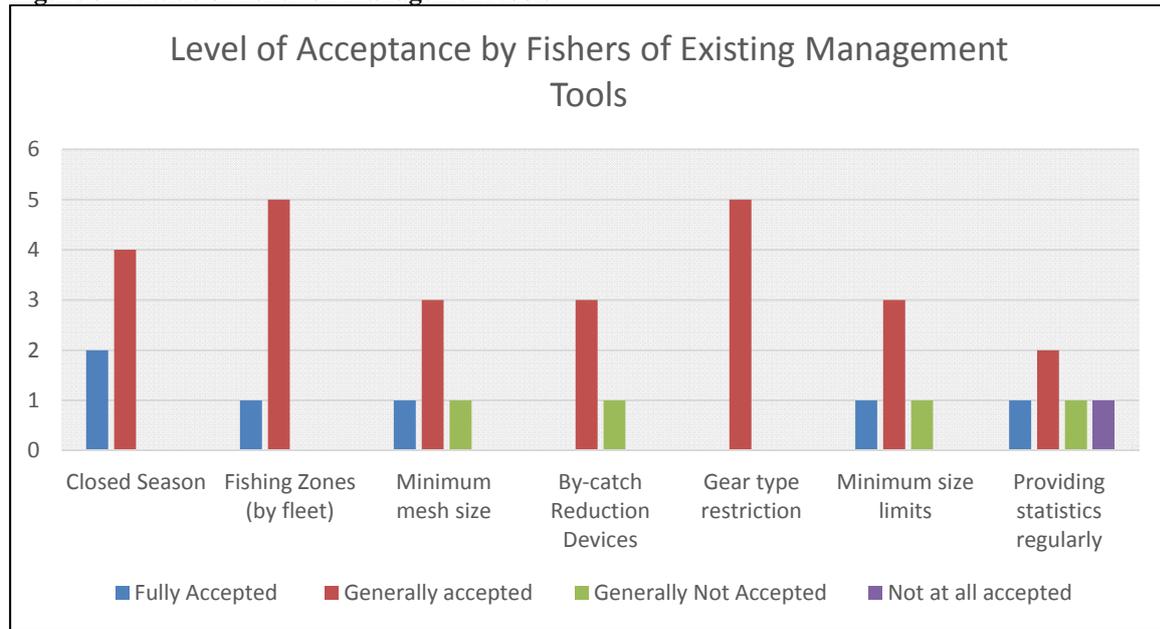
Redspot emperor (<i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
Spangled emperor (<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Yes	26-50%	Yes	26-50%	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
Coral grouper/Bluespotted grouper (<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	No	0	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	26-50%	Unsure
Orange-spotted grouper (<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	51-75%	Yes	51-75%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	51-75%	Yes	51-75%	Unsure
Rabbitfish (<i>Siganus canaliculatus</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	Unsure
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	Unsure

King mackerel/ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus Commerson</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Not Applicable				
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Unsure
QATAR	Not Applicable		Not Applicable		No
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	No	0	No	0	No
KUWAIT					
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	Unsure	0	Unsure
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	Yes	1-25%	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
Sharks (<i>Carcharhinidae</i>)					
	Destination market				Also imported? (Y/N)
	Local /Domestic	Percentage	International	Percentage	
KSA	Yes	76-100%	No	0	No
KUWAIT	Yes	76-100%			
IRAN	Yes	76-100%	No	0	Yes
QATAR	Yes	1-25%	No	0	Yes
UAE	Yes	76-100%			Yes
OMAN	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No
IRAQ	Yes	76-100%	Yes	1-25%	No

Question Three: Attitude of fishers: What is the view of fishers on existing management tools?

For each management measure, it was requested to choose from four options to indicate the perceived level of acceptance by fishers on each. With the exception of Iraq, all responding countries indicated a minimum of five management tools employed. As can be noted from the below graph (Figure 3), in most cases there was a high response of general acceptance for all management tools. The management tool with most mixed level of acceptance was 'providing statistics regularly'.

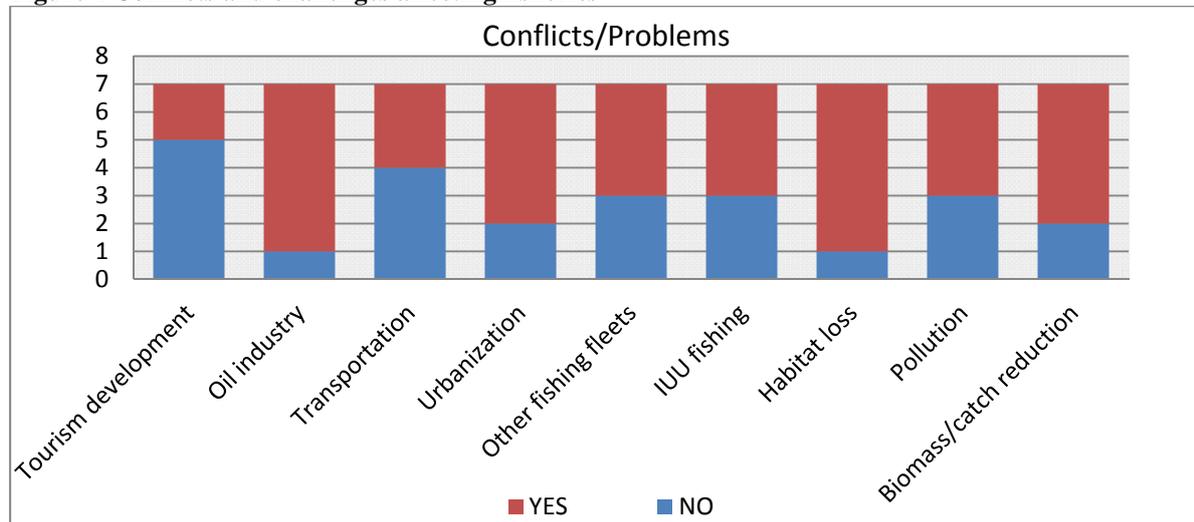
Figure 3 Attitude of fisher on management tools



Question Four: Conflicts/Problems: What are the most common conflicts that have appeared in the fisheries sector from 2010-2013 (check all that apply, and indicate any solutions or measures taken to address problem).

Respondents were requested to indicate which of the indicated challenges were applicable and if they were a problem, then which fisheries did they impact (small-scale, commercial/industrial, recreational). Common problems throughout the RECOFI area included the oil industry, urbanization, habitat loss and biomass/catch reduction (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Conflicts and challenges affecting fisheries



Additionally, respondents were requested to indicate whether any solution was attempted to mitigate the challenge faced. As highlighted below in Table 1, a variety of solutions were proposed by Oman, Qatar and Iran (I.R.) to address specific problems.

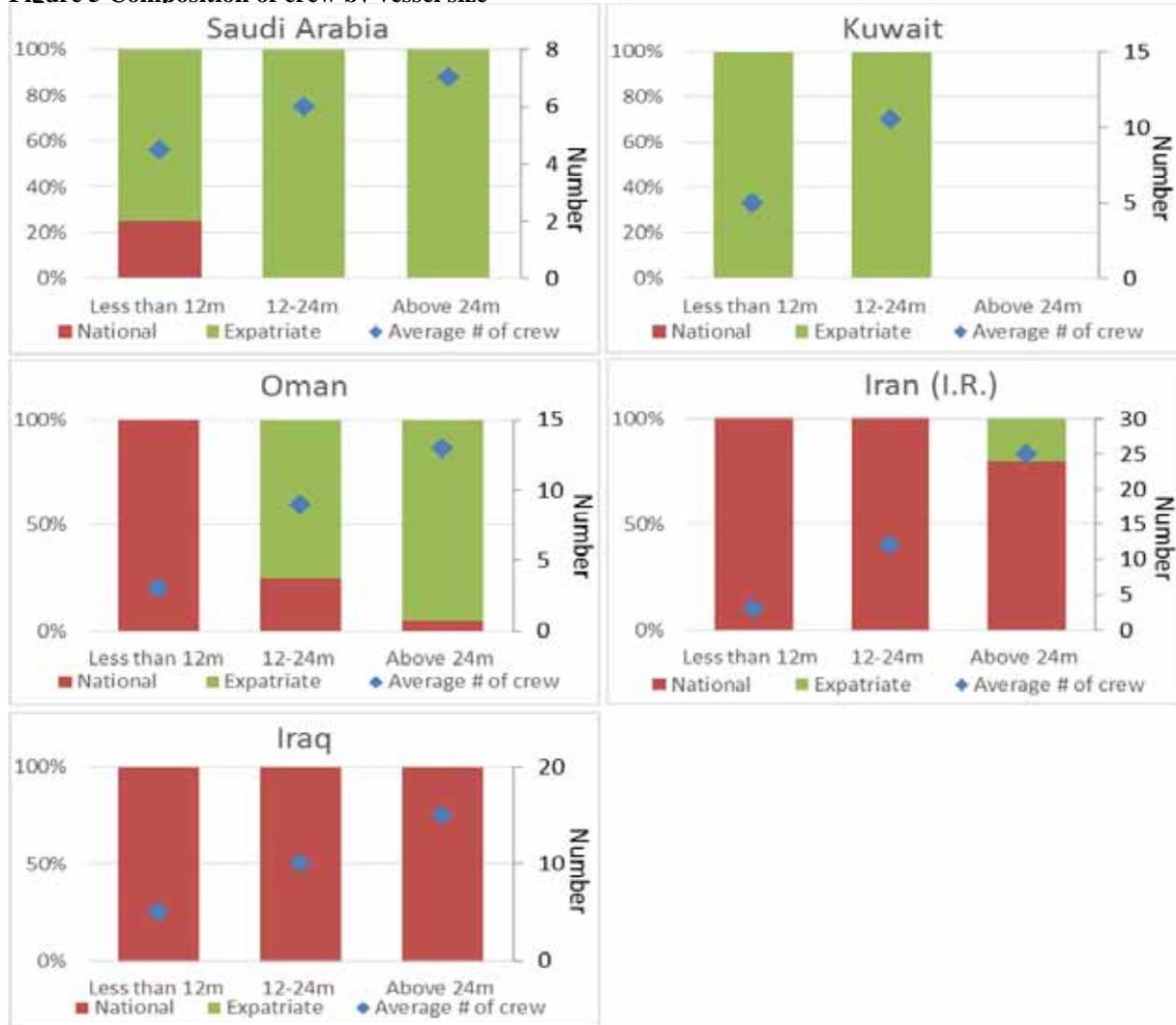
Table 1 Attempted solutions to address challenges

Problem	Attempted solutions
Tourism development	
Oil industry	Supporting socio-economic activities (Oman)
Transportation	
Urbanization	Rehabilitation of coastal areas, ICZM (Qatar)
Other fishing fleets	Setting fishing zones (Oman)
IUU fishing	Providing conservation and exploitation Act of Aquatic Resources and establishment of marine protected unit (Iran, I.R.)
Habitat loss	Artificial reefs projects (Oman), Rehabilitation of coastal areas, ICZM, Compensation (Qatar)
Pollution	
Biomass/catch reduction	

Question Five: Fleet composition and fisher income share: Indicate composition of fishers on vessel and method of income, by vessel size.

The composition of the crew of fishing vessels, in terms of whether they were nationals or expatriates was identified, as well as the total number of crew on board. Where a range was provided, the median number was used. The proportion of expatriates versus national crew varies from country to country. The highest proportion of expatriates were in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with the lowest being in Iraq.

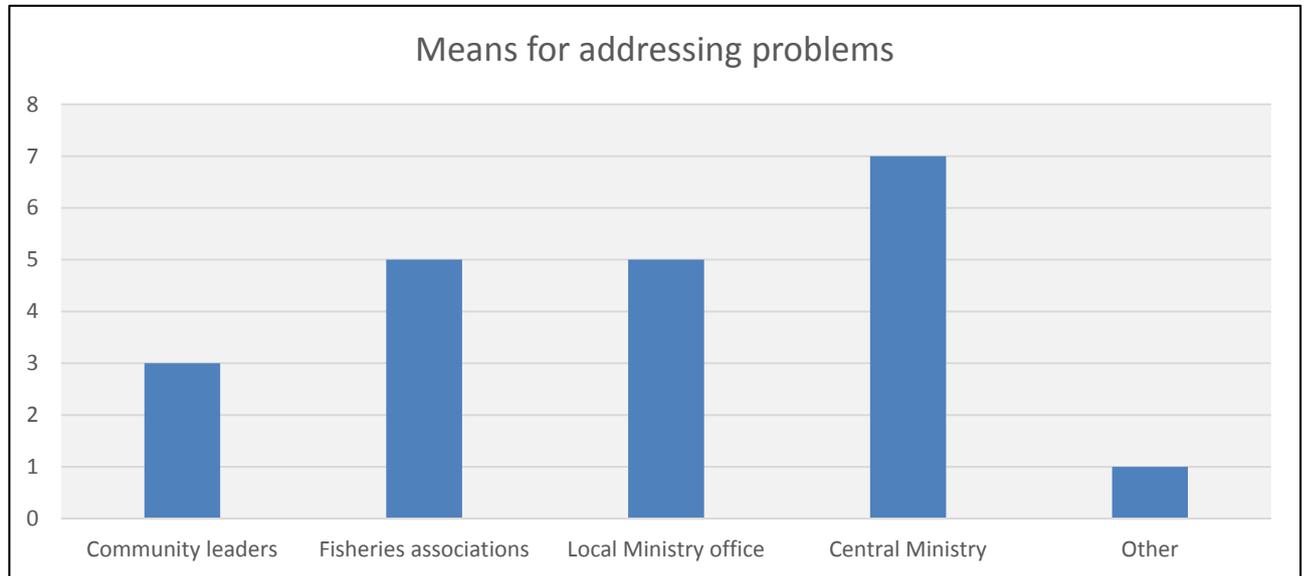
Figure 5 Composition of crew by vessel size



Additionally, in Oman the small-scale fishery crews are comprised entirely of national fishers, while the number of expatriates increases with the vessel size.

Question Six: How do fishers address the problems they face?

The means for addressing problems varied, as in some Member countries up to four means were employed, while some only one or two. The Central Ministry was the most commonly cited means for addressing problems, followed by the Local Ministry Office and Fisheries Associations.

**Question Seven:** Describe the process of designing, implementing or communicating any management policy to fishers.

This question was asked in order to try to get a picture of the means and level of influence at different levels of management. This varied greatly, whereby some Member countries employed an approach that focused on the central ministries and laws as the means for fisheries management, to other countries which used a method that was consultative and participatory at the different levels of management and governance.

Country	Method
KSA	Legislation and regulations from specialists and researchers of fisheries with cooperation of the legal department of ministry and formulated in an operational systems of fisheries.
KUWAIT	The management of fisheries is the fisheries sector in PAAF and the implementation is by coast guard, Ministry of commerce, Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Fishermen Union.
OMAN	Design (preparing): Managers, Research and consultation of Sunat Al bahar. Communication: Request of feedback from Sunata Al bahar on the draft proposal. Implementation: Ministry establishing decision/policy which is implemented through the local (Regional) representatives of the Ministry.
UAE	

IRAN	<p>Getting the fishing community comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing Commission and committees of fishery management with the participation of representatives of the fishing community -Determining annual Policies and programs - Notification of Annual policies and programs to the fishing cooperatives and fisheries management bodies in coastal Provinces -Monitor the implementation of projects in cooperation with fisheries cooperatives
IRAQ	<p>In Iraq, fisheries and aquaculture are currently dealt with under the General Fisheries Law no. 48 of 1976 (1976 Fisheries Law). The 1976 Fisheries Law comprises seven chapters and 36 articles. The 1976 Fisheries Law establishes the Company, a state enterprise that is responsible for the regulation of the sector and that has an executive role in carrying out fisheries and aquaculture activities. The 1976 Fisheries Law largely ignores sea fisheries, and only mentions fishing in the territorial sea, for which a license should be obtained in conformity with the relevant regulation (of which no English translation exists), and, in very broad terms, high seas fishing. Article 9 provides that the Company has the right to carry out fishing activities on the high seas, but does not provide any detail on how to regulate such fishing activities. The 1976 Fisheries Law thus leaves sea-fisheries unregulated, except for fishing activities in the territorial sea.</p> <p>2- A new draft policy and law was done with cooperation with FAO, first reading of this draft was finished with The Ministry of Justice, waiting to be issued.-</p>
Qatar	<p>Development precautionary measures, in the absence of scientific study;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct stock assessment study and develop management strategy including monitoring, control & surveillance as well as monitoring and evaluation indicators; - Develop and implement awareness programme for all the relevant stakeholders; - Issuance and application of ministerial decisions including fisheries management regulations.

Question Eight: The contribution of the artisanal/small-scale fishery sector to total fish production, employment and local food supply

This question was phrased in manner which was not completely clear, and thus the responses cannot be considered accurate. The question was intended to elicit responses on the contribution of the small-scale artisanal sector as a proportion of the total fisheries sector. However, as it is known that the small-scale fisheries sector has a generally higher contribution than larger scale fisheries, it seems that some of the responses are not completely reflective of the situation, particularly in the case of employment and local food supply.

	Total Production		Employment	Local food supply
	Quantity	Value		
KSA	99.80		100	
KUWAIT	93	95		
OMAN	98.8	96.9	54.3	52.4
UAE	100	100	100	
IRAN	85	80	90	92
IRAQ	10	12	40	10
QATAR	100	100		
RECOFI Average	83.80	80.65	76.86	

Update on the implementation of the RECOFI recommendation on minimum data reporting

BACKGROUND

The 2nd meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 October 2008) reviewed the major fisheries in the RECOFI region and identified a set of species of primary concern. The meeting further recommended a pragmatic management scheme based on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management with adaptive management procedures. The fifth Session of the RECOFI (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-14 May 2009) adopted this recommendation and decided to hold a workshop specifically focusing on a review of data and statistics available in the region and stock status reporting.

Facing the lack of information commonly accessible through the Region, the FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop on Stock Indicators and Stock Status Reporting (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26–29 July 2009) focused its attention on identifying key issues in the region and determining the minimum data requirement to address those key issues from the perspective of monitoring stocks and fisheries status. The concept of minimum data requirement was further developed through the 3rd meeting of WGFM (Doha, Qatar, 20-22 October 2009) and the 4th meeting of WGFM (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3-5 October 2010) and the 6th session of RECOFI (Rome, Italy, 10-12 May 2011) endorsed the Recommendation RECOFI/6/2011/1, entitled “Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area” together with its commitment to implement on January 2012.

In order to ensure that all Members would be capable to cope with minimum data requirement, a series of consultations and survey on national data collection system were held, utilizing the opportunity of other meetings, including ad-hoc discussion with the 6th session of RECOFI, the 5th session of WGFM, the Workshop on Minimum Data Collection and Reporting (Cairo, Egypt, 10-11 July 2011) and the Workshop on Social and Economic Aspects of Fisheries in the RECOFI Region (Manama, Bahrain 22-24 April 2012). Through this process, the individual Member agreed its own format of reporting according to the Recommendation and work plans to improve the national data collection system to completely fulfil the requirement defined by the Recommendation in near future.

DATA SUBMISSION IN 2014 ACCORDING TO THE RECOFI RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING

The Recommendation RECOFI/6/2011/1, entitled “Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area” as adopted by RECOFI at its Sixth Session (Rome, Italy, 10-12 May 2011) and that, in accordance with Article V of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries, was formally taken effect on 1 January 2012. The 2014 was the third round of data submission after the Recommendation entered into force. Like the case of the previous two rounds, the request for data submission focused on catch and effort data of shrimp trawls, wire-traps, gillnets and hook-and-lines and no information was specifically requested on those identified for stock assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, including monthly catch and effort data and size frequency data of Spanish mackerel.

The status of data submission at 5 December 2014 is summarized as below with the more detailed information by countries available in Annex 1.

- Oman submitted the monthly catch and effort data for the years 2013 before the due date of data submission. The data submitted cover the requirement of monthly catch data for Spanish mackerels (4-a.i). While Oman indicated in 2013 its intention to retrieve the historical monthly catch and effort data (2009 – 2010) in the same format, the Secretariat has not heard about the progress on this.

- Qatar submitted data based on sample-based surveys at four landing sites as the case of 2013 submission. Qatar adopts four fleet/ gear combined categorizations; i) large boats – traps, ii) large boats – kingfish (driftnet pelagic fishery including those targeting on Spanish mackerel), iii) large boats – other gears (gillnet and handlines), and iv) speedboats – multi gears. Following the agreement of WGF8, the 2013 data was aggregated based on calendar year.
- Iran submitted the 2013 catch and effort information in the same format as previous years.
- Iraq provided the update of fleet and operational information that could be utilized to estimate for 2013, while catch data was aggregated for all vessel classes and gears.
- No responses from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Kuwait indicated the availability of catch and effort data, both for current and historical period, and asked for coordination by the Secretariat to seek for a way to make them available to the RECOFI WGF8, however, no progress has been made.

REMAINING ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

Submitted data indicated that Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have now capacity to collect catch and effort information of their major fisheries, in the other words, capacity to monitor them reasonably satisfactory level. Iraq, Kuwait and UAE have not yet proved their capacity to comply with the RECOFI Recommendation on minimum data reporting. While Kuwait consistently indicated the existence of historical and current catch and effort data, including several publications, it would not be possible to evaluate its capacity without having such data with RECOFI.

It is great concerns that both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have suspended their data submission in two consecutive years. Reliability of stock assessment and effectiveness of fisheries management heavily rely on the availability of reliable information in timely manner. Both members are urged to take corrective actions promptly to fulfil their data reporting obligations.

The initial implementation of the Recommendation placed more emphasis for Member countries to establish their capacity to comply with the Recommendation and initiated in a way to accept any data format, gear/vessel classifications, and definition of efforts that would be acceptable for each Member as long as consistent with the overall framework of the Recommendation. Therefore, the data submitted contains different level of details especially in fleet/gear classifications. Annex 2 showed the extent of classifications currently utilized by Members.

The need to establish the Regional Database and Information Network has been recognized from the beginning of this exercise. In order to develop proper design of a common database, it is necessary to understand whether different national fleet/gear classifications can be combined together, how much details should be maintained, as well as general IT platform to be utilized. This also related with intended utilization of data in supporting decision making and monitoring of implementation of the Regional management plan.

Data submission of size frequency data of Spanish mackerel catch, defined in Article 4-a of the Recommendation, has been suspended due to lack of clear guidance on format of data reporting and data collection criteria. The 7th session of RECOFI agreed to hold the first joint assessment of Spanish mackerel in the first priority of 2013-2014 activities that would require all information to be collected under Article 4 of the Recommendation. Making inventories of existing information as well as possible way to collect size information at individual Member would be the first step to enhance a capacity to comply with Article 4.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

The WGFM is invited to review the current status of the implementation of the RECOFI Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area and to comment on it, as appropriate. In particular, the WGFM is requested to provide feedbacks / guidance to the Secretariat on:

- Confirmation of commitment to implement the RECOFI Recommendation on minimum data reporting and Regional collaborative management, especially from those who suspended their data reporting in the last two years despite of their proven capacity to do so;
- Logistics, functionalities and responsibility for preparing data and information identified under the Article 4 in support to conduct joint assessment of Spanish mackerel; and
- Logistics, functionalities and responsibility of the Regional database and information network to support the fishery and aquaculture management of the RECOFI Region, especially through the implementation of RECOFI Recommendation on minimum data reporting.

Amount of discards
5-b *Species composition of discards*

Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

4-a-i *Annual catch*
Monthly catch
4-a-ii Fork length composition
4-a-iii *Catch, effort and fork length composition of targeted gears*
4-b Relevant information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

Coloured cells and letter 'Y' indicated the type of data that the Member committed to submit and actual submission, respectively. Yellow indicating those expected submission of data in 2014.

ii) Islamic Republic of Iran

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004>
Shrimp Trawl										
2-a-i	Opening/closing dates	Y	Y	Y	Y					
2-a-ii	Number of vessels by types and size categories	Y	Y	Y	Y					
2-a-iii	Average tow duration by vessel type/ category	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*					
	Average number of tows per day by vessel type/ category									
	Total number of days at sea by vessel type/ category									
2-a-iv	Catch of shrimp	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of swimming crab, cuttlefish, emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of other finfishes	Y	Y	Y	Y					
5-a	<i>Shrimp species composition</i>									
2-a-v	Amount of discards	Y	Y	Y	Y					
2-a-vi	Species composition of bycatch and discard									
2-b	BRD related information	Y**	Y**	Y**	Y**					
* Total tow duration reported; ** General configuration										

Gillnets

3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Alternative annual efforts									
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Amount of discards									
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>									

Wire-traps

3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Alternative annual efforts									
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y	Y					
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y					

- Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays
 Amount of discards
 5-b *Species composition of discards*

Wire-traps

- 3-a Number of days at sea
 Alternative annual efforts Y* Y* Y* Y* ~2001
 3-b Total catch
 Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel
 Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays
 Amount of discards
 5-b *Species composition of discards*

Hook-and-line

- 3-a Number of days at sea
 Alternative annual efforts
 3-b Total catch
 Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel
 Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays
 Amount of discards
 5-b *Species composition of discards*

Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

- 4-a-i *Annual catch*
 Monthly catch
 4-a-ii Fork length composition
 4-a-iii *Catch, effort and fork length composition of targeted gears*
 4-b Relevant information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

Coloured cells and letter 'Y' indicated the type of data that the Member committed to submit and actual submission, respectively. Yellow indicating those expected submission of data in 2014.

iv) Sultanate of Oman

2013 2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004>

Shrimp Trawl

- 2-a-i Opening/closing dates
 2-a-ii Number of vessels by types and size categories
 2-a-iii Average tow duration by vessel type/category
 Average number of tows per day by vessel type/ category
 Total number of days at sea by vessel type/ category
 2-a-iv Catch of shrimp
 Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel
 Catch of swimming crab, cuttlefish, emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays
 Catch of other finfishes
 5-a *Shrimp species composition*

- 2-a-v Amount of discards
 2-a-vi Species composition of bycatch and discard
 2-b BRD related information

Gillnets							
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Alternative annual efforts						
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Amount of discards						
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>						

Wire-traps							
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Alternative annual efforts						
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Amount of discards						
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>						

Hook-and-line							
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Alternative annual efforts						
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1984
	Amount of discards						
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>						

Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel							
4-a-i	Annual catch	Y	Y	Y			
	Monthly catch	Y	Y	Y			
4-a-ii	Fork length composition						
4-a-iii	<i>Catch, effort and fork length composition of targeted gears</i>						
4-b	Relevant information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel						

Coloured cells and letter 'Y' indicated the type of data that the Member committed to submit and actual submission, respectively. Yellow indicating those expected submission of data in 2014.

v) State of Qatar

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004>
Shrimp Trawl										
2-a-i	Opening/closing dates									
2-a-ii	Number of vessels by types and size categories									
2-a-iii	Average tow duration by vessel type/category									

	Average number of tows per day by vessel type/ category
	Total number of days at sea by vessel type/ category
2-a-iv	Catch of shrimp
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel
	Catch of swimming crab, cuttlefish, emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays
	Catch of other finfishes
5-a	<i>Shrimp species composition</i>
2-a-v	Amount of discards
2-a-vi	Species composition of bycatch and discard
2-b	BRD related information

Gillnets		**	**			
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Alternative annual efforts	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Amount of discards					
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>					

* Sample at Khor and Shumal

** separated kingfish targeted for Dhow, gillnet for others combined with handline, all gears combined for Skiffs

Wire-traps		***				
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Alternative annual efforts	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y	Y*	Y*	Y*
	Amount of discards					
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>					

* Sample at Khor and Shumal

*** combined with all gears for skiffs

Hook-and-line						
3-a	Number of days at sea	Y	Y			
	Alternative annual efforts	Y	Y			
3-b	Total catch	Y	Y			
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Y	Y			
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays	Y	Y			
	Amount of discards					
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>					

Dhows - combined with gillnet; Skiffs - all gears combined

Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	
4-a-i	<i>Annual catch</i>
	Monthly catch
4-a-ii	Fork length composition

- 4-a-iii *Catch, effort and fork length composition of targeted gears*
 4-b Relevant information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

Coloured cells and letter 'Y' indicated the type of data that the Member committed to submit and actual submission, respectively. Yellow indicating those expected submission of data in 2014. Data for 2012 cover the period from September to December 2012.

vi) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004>
Shrimp Trawl										
2-a-i	Opening/closing dates		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
2-a-ii	Number of vessels by types and size categories		Y	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*	~1991
2-a-iii	Average tow duration by vessel type/ category									
	Average number of tows per day by vessel type/ category		Y	Y**	Y**	Y**	Y**	Y**	Y**	~1991
	Total number of days at sea by vessel type/ category		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
2-a-iv	Catch of shrimp		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
	Catch of swimming crab, cuttlefish, emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
	Catch of other finfishes		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
5-a	<i>Shrimp species composition</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1991
2-a-v	Amount of discards									
2-a-vi	Species composition of bycatch and discard									
2-b	BRD related information									
Gillnets										
3-a	Number of days at sea		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
	Alternative annual efforts		Y	Y	Y					
3-b	Total catch		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays		Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y*			
	Amount of discards									
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>									
Wire-traps										
3-a	Number of days at sea		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1994
	Alternative annual efforts		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1994
3-b	Total catch		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1994
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1994
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	~1994
	Amount of discards									
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>									
Hook-and-line										
3-a	Number of days at sea		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
	Alternative annual efforts		Y	Y	Y					

3-b	Total catch		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Catch of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Catch of emperors, groupers, sharks, and rays		Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y*
	Amount of discards						
5-b	<i>Species composition of discards</i>						

Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

4-a-i	<i>Annual catch</i>	Y	Y
	Monthly catch	Y	Y
4-a-ii	Fork length composition		
4-a-iii	<i>Catch, effort and fork length composition of targeted gears</i>		
4-b	Relevant information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		

Coloured cells and letter 'Y' indicated the type of data that the Member committed to submit and actual submission, respectively. Yellow indicating those expected submission of data in 2014.

Status of IPOA-IUU and Port State Measures in the RECOFI area and preparation for the Arabian Sea international workshop

INTRODUCTION

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a major global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy ecosystems, as well as to the stable socio-economic condition of many of the world's fishing communities. Motivated by economic gain, IUU fishing takes advantage of corrupt administrations and exploits weak management regimes, especially those of developing countries lacking the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). It is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries, occurs both on the high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction, concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilization of fish, and may sometimes be associated with organized crime.

The international community has put forward several initiatives, instruments and tools to combat IUU fishing worldwide in a cooperative way. Several countries, Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and other international entities have engaged in a wide-range of initiatives over the years to implement the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU). FAO is working on various fronts to combat IUU fishing through an integrated approach that includes awareness raising, knowledge building, and support to the development, adoption and implementation of global instruments such as the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). The worldwide implementation of the provisions of the PSMA, in conjunction with other tools such as the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), catch documentation schemes and other MCS tools, is believed to be one of the most cost-effective and efficient means of combating IUU fishing. Denying port entry to foreign fishing vessels engaged in IUU fishing and the prohibition of landing their catches are considered to be highly effective deterrents to the operators and owners of such vessels. In addition, the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, recently endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries, are expected to provide a valuable tool for strengthening compliance by flag States with their international duties and obligations regarding the flagging and control of fishing vessels.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPOA-IUU AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN THE RECOFI REGION

Regional workshops

In December 2005, an FAO Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) in the Near East Region was held in Cairo, Egypt¹. The purpose of the Workshop was to assist countries in the region to develop capacity to elaborate national plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. A review of the major IUU fishing problems in the region was undertaken and their possible solutions were also discussed. The Workshop agreed that, *inter alia*, the following action should be taken:

¹ FAO Fisheries Report No. 793

National level

- Identify and consult with stakeholders, including industry, NGOs, fishing communities, universities and research centres, concerning the development of the NPOA–IUU.
- Under the guidance of a lead agency, such as the Ministry of Fisheries, formalize a consultative process for the development of a NPOA–IUU and work on improving coordination among agencies.
- Review national policies and laws to ensure they matched with the objectives of the NPOA–IUU.
- Request that adequate resources were provided to develop and implement the NPOA–IUU.
- Maintain and strengthen existing MCS programmes and promote innovative means of approaching MCS in general, including promoting the role of fishers in MCS in small scale fisheries.

Regional level

- In the development of NPOAs–IUU, attempt to promote coordination through a RFB or other mechanisms, such as bilateral cooperation, to achieve a degree of harmony in NPOAs–IUU, particularly where fish stocks and fleets were shared.
- Promote broader regional cooperation in fisheries at all levels especially for the development of NPOAs–IUU where a degree of harmony was required.
- Promote regional cooperation in MCS and exchange of information relating to MCS.

Another regional workshop focusing on combatting IUU fishing was held between 30 March and 2 April 2009 in Muscat, Oman². The workshop had identified urgent national and regional actions to tackle the problem of IUU fishing which was contributing to the sharp decline of commercial species throughout the region. The workshop underlined that IUU fishing activities were widespread and included fishing during closed seasons, catching undersized species and the use of illegal gear. The workshop also underscored the importance of informal communications among countries, particularly for MCS operations in respect of IUU fishers that moved through the waters of different countries.

Port State Measures Agreement

Oman is the only country in the region which has become Party (1 August 2013) to the PSMA; the Agreement will enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Eleven FAO Members are currently Party to the Agreement but several others have their internal processes in train to become a Party in the near future.

Commission and WGFM guidance

In the light of the outcomes of the 2009 workshop, RECOFI, at its Fifth Session, encouraged Members to take steps to combat IUU fishing and considered the development of a reporting system for IUU fishing violations. Such a reporting system was discussed at the third and fourth meetings of the WGFM, and after lengthy deliberations participants agreed on the need to conduct a feasibility study “to review the development of regional databases for violations, establish a list of vessels authorised to fish by Members and the establishment of an MCS information exchange scheme³”. However, the Sixth Session of RECOFI was unable to reach consensus on whether the study should proceed. As a compromise, the Commission had agreed that (i) the matter be revisited at the next meeting of the WGFM; (ii) the concept for the study be modified to incorporate, as a first step, preliminary assessments by Members of the extent of IUU fishing in their respective national jurisdiction; and (iii) a framework for future work related to IUU fishing, and how it should be

² FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 903

³ Terms of reference drafted by the Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Sultanate of Oman.

addressed. As a follow up to this guidance, the WGFM agreed to carry out a survey on the status and extent of IUU fishing in their respective countries, however, to date, this initiative has not been undertaken. The Seventh Session of RECOFI (May 2013) recognised once again the threats posed by IUU fishing to the sustainability of fisheries in the region and agreed on the drawing up a regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing through the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM). At its seventh meeting (November 2013), the WGFM recognised the urgent need for capacity development in port State measures in the region and agreed that a regional workshop should be organised within the framework of FAO's global capacity development programme on the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and other related instruments which aim to combat IUU fishing. The possibility of inviting other countries from neighbouring regions to participate in the workshop was also considered.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

At its 31st Session in June 2014, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing as soon as possible. COFI also encouraged FAO to continue with the delivery of its capacity development programme to strengthen and harmonize port State measures. The Arabian Sea, including the RECOFI area, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, was identified as a priority region in this capacity development programme which is currently largely supported by a project funded by the Norwegian government. In this respect, and considering RECOFI's appeal, FAO, in collaboration with the RECOFI Secretariat and other regional and international entities, is moving ahead with preparations for a regional workshop on the implementation of the PSMA in the first quarter of 2015.

The main objective of the regional workshop shall be to improve the understanding of the provisions of the PSMA, to highlight the policy, legal, institutional and operational requirements for effective implementation of the provisions, and to enhance the necessary skills of national officers in the implementation of port State measures. It is expected that, following the workshop, countries will be better placed to strengthen and harmonize port State measures, thereby promoting enhanced social and economic development, and food security, which ultimately contribute to achieving improved fisheries conservation and management and reduced damage and stress on their related ecosystems. National experts from middle or senior management levels are expected to participate and should ideally have, between them, knowledge and work experience in matters related to the legal, operational and policy aspects of port State measures. The participation of administrators, fisheries managers and fisheries inspectors involved in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), as well as port authority personnel, shall be essential.

The 5-day workshop will be delivered by resource persons from FAO, regional organizations and internationally recruited experts. The workshop shall analyse port State measures from the legal, political and institutional perspectives as well as from the viewpoint of resource and operational capacities, in addition to addressing the benefits of implementing the Agreement through regional cooperation mechanisms. Participants shall be expected to identify national and regional strengths and weaknesses, and to propose actions to overcome identified weaknesses.

A role for RECOFI in CITES implementation?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, March 2013), the Conference of the Parties to CITES decided to list five species of sharks and all species of manta rays in Appendix II. The species concerned are: Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*); Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), Smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and Great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*) shark; Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*); and Manta rays (*Manta* spp.), including Giant Manta (*Manta birostris*) and Reef Manta (*Manta alfredi*). The entry into effect of these inclusions was delayed by 18 months until 14 September 2014 to enable Parties to resolve related technical and administrative issues.

Sharks (species in the subclass Elasmobranchii) began to be listed in the CITES Appendices since 2000, after the Conference of the Parties agreed to include the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in Appendix II. Two years later, the Great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharius*) was included in Appendix II. All species of sawfishes (Pristidae) have been listed in CITES Appendix I since 2007. RECOFI Member Countries, all of them being Parties of CITES, that wish to (re-)export or import specimens of CITES-listed shark species must comply with the provisions of the Convention, for which the collaboration between national CITES authorities and fishery agencies is essential. The key requirements for allowing trade in CITES-listed species relate to: (a) legality (all specimens entering international trade must have been legally acquired); (b) sustainability (the proposed trade should not be detrimental to the survival of the species concerned); and (c) traceability (appropriate CITES permits and certificates must be issued before international transactions take place, and trade has to be recorded and reported).

Numerous activities have been undertaken to assist countries with the implementation of CITES requirements. This includes a major project financed by the European Union and implemented by the CITES Secretariat in close collaboration with FAO, called “Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species”.

In the Asian region, FAO and CITES jointly organized the “FAO/CITES Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of New CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays” held in Xiamen, China, from 10-14 May 2014. Among the RECOFI Member Countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran attended the meeting. In the Xiamen Declaration, Asian countries “encourage all countries to closely collaborate with Regional Fisheries Bodies and fully use existing regional wildlife enforcement networks in relation to CITES-listed marine species, to enhance sharing of information and expertise with regard to the management and sustainable utilization of shark and ray species”. Another output of the meeting was represented by a detailed regional action plan advising on the short, medium and long-term activities to address identified limitation and needs in the Asian region. Other RECOFI Member Countries, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, attended the “International Fund for Animal Welfare Workshop: Prevention of shark and other marine species trafficking training”, held in Hurgada, Egypt from 9-11 December 2013. The CITES Secretariat attended as observer the fifth meeting of the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats’ Network (RSN-5) held in Rome on 7 and 14 June 2014 with the aim to strengthen the collaboration with RFMOs and RFBs. In this regard last October sent a letter to the RSN seeking for RFMOs more concrete definition of their role in the implementation of CITES listings.

The aim of this information paper is to explain the basic CITES requirements with regard to (re)export, import and “introduction from the sea” of shark species and products. Some consideration about the trade of sharks commodities in the region and a potential role of the RECOFI in the implementation of the CITES new listings of sharks and manta rays will be also presented.

CITES BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Trade of specimens of species listed in Appendix II is regulated by the Article IV of the CITES Convention (<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php#IV>). According to the Convention (Figure 1):

A) The **export (Scenario 1 and 2)** of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit. An export permit shall only be granted by the CITES Management Authority if it is accompanied by:

- a “non-detriment finding” (NDF) issued by a Scientific Authority of the State of export, certifying that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species;
- a “legal acquisition finding”(LAF) issued by the CITES Management Authority of the State of export, certifying that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that State for the protection of fauna and flora;
- and, in case of living specimens, the Management Authority shall certify that the specimens is prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

B) In case of **re-export**, the CITES Management Authority of the State of re-export is satisfied that the specimen was imported into that State in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, thus it must be accompany by the original NDF and LAF certificates.

C) The **import** of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior presentation of either an export permit or a re-export certificate

D) When a CITES-listed species that was taken on the high seas (in an area not under the jurisdiction of any State) is landed, this is referred to as an “**introduction from the sea**” (IFS) and is included in CITES’ definitions of “trade”. When a vessel catches an Appendix II listed species on the high seas and:

- lands the specimen(s) in a different State to the State to which the vessel is flagged, the transaction will be treated as an export. The Management Authority of the Flag State must issue an export permit, requiring an NDF and a legal acquisition finding (scenario 3).
- lands the specimen(s) in the same State to which the vessel is flagged, the Management Authority of the “State of introduction” (i.e. the State to which the vessel is flagged – the Flag State) must grant an IFS certificate, requiring an NDF to be prepared before the catch can be landed (scenario 4);

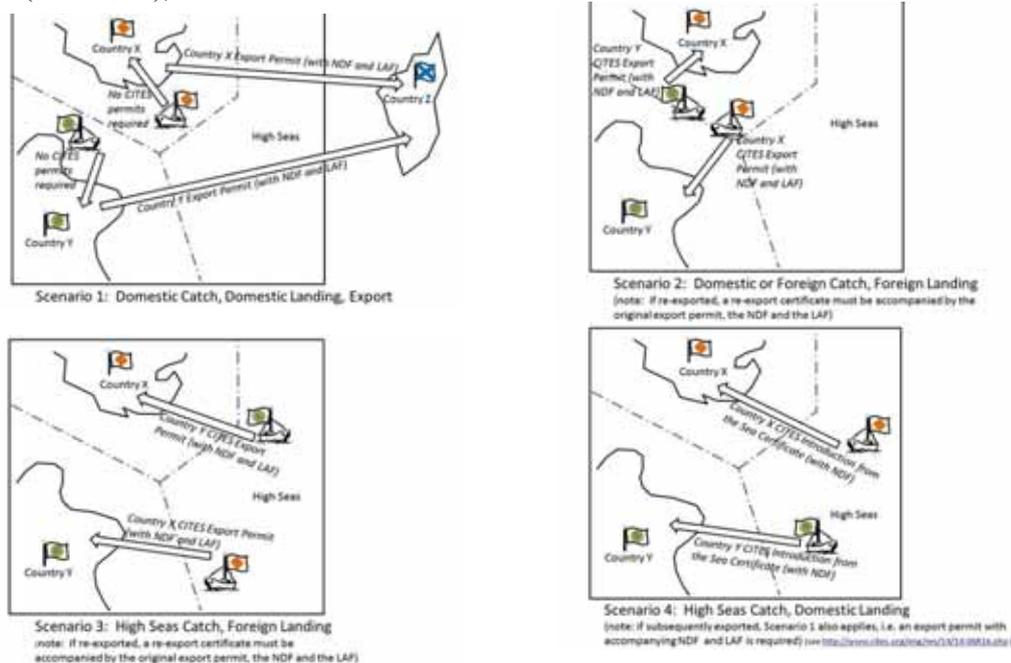
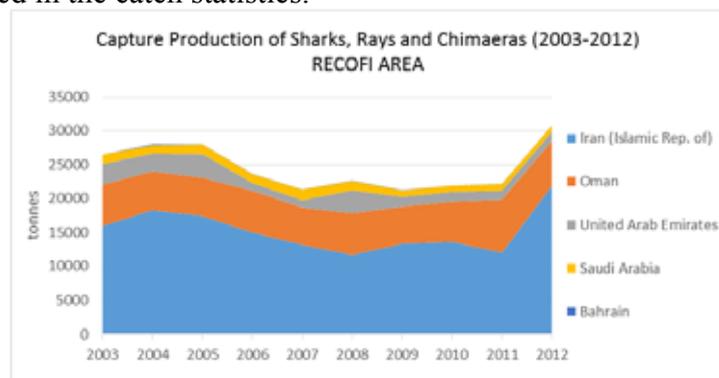


Figure 1 - Four scenarios of catch, landing and/or export and the documentation required by CITES for each (see Mundy-Taylor et al. (2014) for more information).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Shark fisheries

FAO official statistics indicate Iran as the world ninth largest producer of the ISSCAAP group “Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras” in 2012, reporting an average of more than 15 000 tonnes in the last ten years. In the region, Iran is followed by Oman, reporting about 6 500 tonnes, ranking twenty-fourth in the world capture production. The catches are mostly reported aggregated at high taxonomic level, with the exception of Iran that report 80 percent of shark captures as spot-tail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*). None of the species listed in CITES is specifically reported in the catch statistics.



Trade of shark commodities

Import of shark commodities	Bahrain	Iran	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates	Total
Sharks nei, frozen	2,3	477,8	0,0	2,1	1,0	3,5	24,6	511,2
Sharks nei, fresh or chilled			0,2	11,7	0,0	0,1	79,6	91,6
Sharks, rays, skates, fresh or chilled, nei	25,2					0,8		26,0
Shark fillets nei, frozen							22,0	22,0
Sharks, rays, chimaeras, skates, nei fillets frozen							10,0	10,0
Shark fins, frozen							4,0	4,0
Shark fins, dried, salted, etc.							2,0	2,0
Total	27,5	477,8	0,2	13,8	1,0	4,4	142,1	666,8

Export of shark commodities	Kuwait	Oman	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates	Total
Shark fins, dried, salted, etc.	0,1		6,8	487,8	494,7
Shark fins, dried, unsalted				1,8	1,8
Shark fins, frozen		15,8			15,8
Sharks nei, fresh or chilled		104,5	6,3	47,4	158,2
Sharks nei, frozen	2,2	8,6	1,6	9,7	22,1
Sharks, rays, chimaeras nei, frozen			4,2		4,2
Sharks, rays, skates, fresh or chilled, nei			0,0		0,0
Total	2,3	128,9	18,9	546,7	696,7

Source: Global Commodities Production and Trade (2002-2011). FAO (2014)

The United Arab Emirates is a major exporter and regional trader of shark fins, with a minimal domestic market and low shark captures. It ranks as the world’s eighth-largest exporter of shark fins by volume, exporting almost entirely dried shark fins, mainly to China, Hong Kong SAR. It does not report trade in shark fins, and exports are estimated from the statistics of major importers. The average annual exports of shark fins from the United Arab Emirates from 2003 to 2012 were about 490 tonnes, worth USD 14.2 million (Dent and Clarke, 2014). Oman is the second major exporter among the RECOFI Member Countries, the average annual exports of shark commodities from 2003 to 2012 were about 129 tonnes, worth USD 6.7million.

International management regime for the sharks listed in CITES Appendices

As IOTC Contracting Parties, Iran and Oman has to comply with IOTC Resolutions concerning data reporting and the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC:

- IOTC Resolution 13/06 (2013): Prohibits from retaining on board, transshipping, landing, storing, selling or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks. Encourages fishers to record incidental catches as well as live releases of oceanic whitetip. Implement research on oceanic whitetip sharks.
- IOTC Resolution 05/05 (2005): Encourages the live release of sharks, especially juveniles and gravid females that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence. Fishers shall fully utilise their entire catches of sharks. Shark catches have to be reported annually, in accordance with IOTC data reporting procedures, including available historical data. Requires a 5 percent fin-to-body weight ratio for sharks on board vessels up to the first point of landing.

Possible role of RECOFI

All exports of species listed in CITES Appendices II require permits to be issued by the flag State CITES Management Authority. Each party to CITES must designate at least one national Management Authority and one national Scientific Authority, providing the Legal acquisition and the non-detriment findings (NDFs) certificates, which must accompany the export permit. Following the guidance to the issue of NDFs provided by Mundy-Taylor et al. 2014, Regional Commission on fisheries might act as Scientific Authority and issue regional NDFs, ensuring that all sources of mortality for the shark shared stocks are considered. Considering the high level of collaboration and coordination required, and the difficulties that might arise in the determination of regional and national quotas, an immediate and achievable result in the region could be the enhancement of data collection of catches and trade at specific level for the species listed in CITES.

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Work plan of the RECOFI WGFM for the period 2015–2016

BACKGROUND

The seventh session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Kuwait, 5-7 November 2013) reviewed the outcomes of the seventh session of RECOFI's (Tehran, I.R. Iran, 10-12 May 2013) programme of work and budget for the 2013-2014 biennium in relation to the work of the WGFM. This paper builds on that review with the goal of developing a coherent and forward looking set of activities to be implemented in the 2015-2016 biennium, consistent with the terms of reference for the WGFM. For ease of reference the terms of reference for the WGFM are in Annex 1. They were amended, and then approved, by the fifth session of the Commission in May 2009.

The purpose of this paper is to (i) consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM, (ii) consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2015-2016, also including additional activities that could be opportune to add in the plan of work.

STATUS OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

At its seventh session the Commission approved and ranked by priority order activities submitted for consideration by the WGFM. Annex 2 provides a summary of the WGFM activities that were approved for implementation.

Pilot joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and workshop on utilization of fishery-dependent data.

RECOFI Members acknowledged that the joint assessment bringing together GCC work on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and that of the other RECOFI members such as Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq, and possibly also Pakistan and Yemen would be the first essential step toward establishing effective management for the stock of this species in the RECOFI region and adjacent areas.

The Commission ranked as first priority to carry out the cooperative regional assessment of the kingfish stock in the RECOFI area. Unfortunately and despite the necessary preparatory work was underway, the stock assessment workshop could not be held. Agenda item 4 of this WGFM meeting is devoted to discuss the modalities and options to implement this key-activity (RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/3 is referred).

Follow-up and monitoring of a regional fisheries management framework

The seventh WGFM meeting acknowledged the requests for management advice made at the seventh session of RECOFI, in particular for the need to formulate a regional management plan for the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, the advice to further develop concrete management procedures with regards to shrimp trawling, and to formulate specific management advice in relation to fishing effort control, taking into account the particular nature of fisheries and management plans in different countries.

The WGFM recognized that the data collection efforts under the Fisheries Resources Committee of the GCC on the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel could serve as a foundation

for the work at the RECOFI level, and the scientists attending the upcoming RECOFI workshop can build on this work, using the data and preliminary work undertaken under the work of the GCC. Moreover, the WGFM concurred that standardization and harmonization of management objectives could be considered, while recognizing that the context may be different for different areas of RECOFI. In parallel, a monitoring scheme, in the form of a project for the whole RECOFI region, would serve to add the formulation and implementation of a management plan.

Consequently to the above, the WGFM agreed that Kuwait should take the lead to formulate management options with regards to shrimp trawling, according to the research currently being undertaken, and can present these for management recommendations to be considered at the eighth meeting of the WGFM, and if appropriate submitted to the eighth plenary session of RECOFI in May 2015. Agenda item 3 of the current eighth meeting of WGFM is specifically focused on the Kuwait proposal.

Moreover, the WGFM agreed that within the framework of RECOFI, there is a need to develop a project for the whole of the RECOFI region to support capacity development in stock assessment, building on the current experience of the FAO sub-regional project “Support to capacity development for fishery stock assessment in GCC countries and Yemen (TCP/SNG/3402)”. The FAO Sub-regional Office for GCC Countries and Yemen has formulated a regional to strengthen fishery resources appraisal capacity in the RECOFI area and Yemeni waters.

Development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing on the basis of the outcome of the IUU FAO/RECOFI workshop that was held in the Sultanate of Oman in 2009

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has noted the interest expressed by RECOFI Members and countries in the Arabian Sea region in receiving support to understand better and implement port State measures. RECOFI had included in its work plan a workshop on IUU fishing in the Commission’s coverage area and as follow-up to a previous regional review carried out in 2009. The possibility is being explored to expand the envisaged RECOFI workshop on IUU and PSM to include the Arabian Sea countries (approximately 17 countries). Funds have been requested to the FAO global project, funded by Norway, “Support the effective implementation of the 2009 FAO agreement on port State measures to combat IUU fishing” (GCP/GLO/515/NOR). Should the necessary funds be confirmed, tentatively the event could take place during the first quarter of 2015. Agenda Item of the 8th WGFM meeting is dedicated this topic (RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/6 is referred).

CONSIDER AND AGREE UPON A PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WGFM FOR THE BIENNIUM 2015-2016

The WGFM should propose a list of activities to be undertaken between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission. The list of activities should be realistic and achievable, build on past activities to the extent that is possible and promote RECOFI’s strategic goals with respect to fisheries management. The activities need also to be costed accurately and timelines indicated so that their budget implications can be assessed and work programmed in a systematic and orderly manner. Where possible, if an activity is to be implemented with extra-budgetary support, this support should be indicated.

A format for the activities that the WGFM may wish to propose to the Commission for approval is in Annex 3. Activities that were postponed by the Commission at its last session should be considered in this process.

Annex 1

Terms of reference for the Working Group on Fisheries Management¹

Adopted as amended

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

1. Exercise the role and functions conferred on the Working Group by RECOFI including the consideration of biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects of fisheries conservation and management with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of resources in the region, and
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to RECOFI. Specifically, the Working Group on Fisheries Management shall:
 - Review the state of fisheries, including the state of resources, making recommendations for appropriate research and development activities in support of effective management and sustainable fisheries, as well as the rebuilding of stocks.
 - Review on a regular basis national statistical systems and outturns, as appropriate, to enhance and harmonize fisheries data on a regional basis.
 - Formulate recommendations for the implementation of conservation and management measures that will be applied in conformity with the precautionary approach to fisheries, taking account of the best scientific evidence available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of fisheries resources.
 - Assess the need for harmonized conservation and management measures on a scientific basis and formulate recommendations as appropriate, including to but not limited to:
 - regulate fishing methods and fishing gear;
 - prescribe minimum sizes for particular species;
 - establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas;
 - implement marine protected areas;
 - regulate bycatch and discards;
 - prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - manage fishing capacity;
 - regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members; and
 - market-based measures.
 - Identify major fishery-related issues and emerging trends for fisheries management practice, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for follow-up action.

¹ The terms of reference incorporate relevant aspects of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments as well as the fisheries management provision of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. They are forward looking in character, adaptable and able to deal with emerging issues in fisheries. They are intended to be a “living document” that can be reviewed and amended by the Working Group to take account of changing fisheries conditions.

- Identify and apply, as appropriate, a set of regionally-agreed indicators for sustainable fisheries development.
- Promote closer regional cooperation and collaboration in fisheries conservation and management, including through coordinated and harmonized policies and programmes relating to fisheries legislation, acceptance and implementation of international fisheries instruments, adoption of fisheries and management measures and monitoring, control and surveillance including vessels monitoring systems.
- Monitor and report on adverse impacts induced by human-made activities on fisheries and their long-term sustainable management and utilization, as appropriate, and make recommendations concerning remedial measures and action.
- Encourage human capacity building and institutional strengthening and enhance extension services in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management and utilization, including making recommendations for appropriate regional programmes.
- Assemble, publish and disseminate information concerning the state of the region's fisheries.
- Promote collaboration with other regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the sustainable fisheries management and utilization in the region.
- Undertake other activities relating to fisheries management considered important and appropriate by the Working Group or as directed by RECOFI.

3. The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time to time and make recommendations for their amendment, as appropriate, to RECOFI.

Annex 2

Programme of Work and Budget 2013–2014

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Priority as at seventh session of RECOFI
WGFM	Pilot joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and workshop on the utilization of fishery-dependent data	September 2013	Muscat, Oman	3-4	30 000	Priority 1
WGFM	Follow-up and monitoring of a regional fisheries management framework	November 2014	Iran	3	15 000	Priority 2
WGFM	Development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing on the basis of the outcome of the IUU FAO/ RECOFI workshop that was held in the Sultanate of Oman in 2009	May 2014	Iran	3	20 000	Priority 3
TOTAL					65 000	
WGFM	7th WGFM	Oct 2013	Kuwait (TBC)	3	TBD	Annual meeting
WGFM	8th WGFM	Oct 2014	TBD	3	TBD	Annual meeting

Annex 3

Format for the activities that the WGFM may wish to propose to the 8th Session of the Commission for approval in May 2015

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
WGFM	9th WGFM					
WGFM						
WGFM						

This document contains the report of the Eighth Meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 10 December 2014. The WGFM addressed and made decisions on matters concerning relevant follow-up to Seventh Meeting of the RECOFI WGFM and to the Seventh Session of RECOFI, which was held in Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of) during the period from 14 to 16 May 2013.

A proposal for regional coordination of shrimp trawl fisheries in RECOFI was presented. The results of the socio-economic survey were presented and discussed. The follow-up for the regional joint assessment of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was agreed. The follow-up of the recommendation on minimum data reporting was reviewed. The need for a regional database for marine fisheries data in the RECOFI area was raised and ideas discussed. The possible cooperation of RECOFI in CITES was discussed, and the state of IPOA-IUU and the Port State Measures Agreement in the RECOFI area was discussed. A work plan for the 2015–2016 biennium was proposed.

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