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COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-Second Session

Rome, 18-22 June 2007

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (Rome, 5-9 March 2007)

	<u>Page</u>
MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL	3
	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1-4
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE	5-7
OPENING OF THE SESSION	8-9
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION	10-11
PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES, RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGY	12-23
REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LIVELIHOODS IN THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI IN 2004	24-30
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE	31-42

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE	43-52
SOCIAL ISSUES IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES	53-62
COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING THROUGH MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE, PORT STATES MEASURES AND OTHER MEANS	63-72
IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES, INCLUDING DEEP-SEA FISHERIES, MARINE DEBRIS AND LOST AND ABANDONED GEAR	73-82
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOs) AND THEIR PERFORMANCES INCLUDING THE OUTCOME OF THE 2007 TUNA RFMOs MEETING	83-89
FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE	90-94
ANY OTHER MATTERS	95-98
DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION	99
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	100

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

FOR INFORMATION /DECISION

The Committee:

**Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,
related International Plans of Action and Strategy**

- i. **Agreed** that while there had been progress in implementation of the Code, there was more that needed to be done by Members individually and collectively (para. 13).
- ii. **Agreed** that, depending on cost and related considerations, best practice technical guidelines to support the elaboration of **NPOAs for seabirds** would be developed through continuing joint work between FAO and relevant bodies and organizations or an expert consultation (para. 14).
- iii. **Concurred** that efforts towards implementing the **IPOA-Sharks** were improving but that further intensive work was required (para. 15).
- iv. **Reaffirmed** linkages between overcapacity, allocations, overfishing and IUU fishing, **agreed** that States should match their **fishing capacity** to sustainable harvesting levels and **agreed** upon the need to ensure that the urgent actions required in the **IPOA-Capacity** were undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation was facilitated without delay (para. 16).
- v. **Agreed** that the incidence and extent of **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing** remained a grave threat to sustainability and that it should be addressed comprehensively (para. 17).
- vi. **Urged** FAO to continue its proactive engagement with WTO to allow for a better understanding of the **fisheries subsidy issues** and their potential impact on resource sustainability and **encouraged** FAO to continue its studies on the impact of **subsidies** on fishing capacity, IUU fishing, fisheries management and sustainable development in a manner that complemented, but should not duplicate, WTO's work (para. 18).
- vii. **Welcomed** the Secretariat's advice that it would submit to the Eleventh Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in June 2007 a general multi-year programme of work and a request for external funding for **genetic resource management** in fisheries and aquaculture (para. 19).
- viii. **Agreed** that the **Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and on Fish Trade**, respectively, should take responsibility for monitoring the implementation of Articles 9 and 11 of the Code with the format and frequency of more detailed monitoring to be determined by the Sub-Committees at their 2008 Sessions; and that future Sub-Committee reports presented to COFI would contain information on progress with the implementation of these Articles (para. 21).
- ix. **Urged** FAO to ensure that it continued to assert its international leadership as the only global fisheries body and **agreed** that FAO must maintain its high profile in global fisheries affairs in order to integrate debate from across the various fora dealing with fisheries and aquaculture issues (para. 23).

Rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the tsunami in 2004

- i. **Agreed** that **significant progress** had been made in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, as reported by affected Members, although complementary reconstruction effort was still needed in many areas (para. 25).
- ii. **Acknowledged** the need for the issue of an higher level of **fishing capacity** than prior to the tsunami in some of the areas affected by the disaster to be addressed, with FAO assistance as required, through the design and implementation of sustainable and effective fisheries management arrangements that included a gradually phasing out fishing overcapacity, monitoring, access and livelihood considerations (para. 26).
- iii. **Expressed** its concern for **safety-at-sea** issues in relation to the use of sub-standard vessels and **recommended** strongly that FAO, in consultation with other relevant UN agencies, continue to monitor and address the problem in close collaboration with affected countries (para. 27).
- iv. **Welcomed** the emphasis given in the programmes for **further long-term support** for reconstruction and sustainable development to areas such as fisheries monitoring and assessment, fisheries planning and institution building for sustainable development and fisheries management, habitat restoration, safety-at-sea, infrastructure rehabilitation, post-harvest activities and aquaculture development (para. 28).
- v. **Recommended** that FAO report more extensively on **lessons learned** from the post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction work and widely disseminate results so as to enhance preparedness (para. 29).

Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

- i. **Endorsed** the report of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (para. 32).
- ii. **Recognized** the importance of **traceability** for fish trade and **expressed** the view that **traceability schemes for small-scale fisheries** should be compatible with WTO rules (para. 34).
- iii. **Welcomed** the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and **recognized** the value of the **FAO ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel**'s work in reviewing and providing recommendations regarding any relevant proposals to amend the CITES Appendices; and noted that after each CITES Conference of the Parties, FAO should undertake an evaluation of whether the recommendations of the ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel had been taken into account and, if not, why they had not been (para. 35).
- iv. **Recommended** that FAO undertake further work in relation to the minimum substantive requirements and criteria for **inland capture fisheries ecolabels**, in the draft International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, in combination with similar outstanding work relating to the minimum substantive criteria laid down in the guidelines **for marine capture fisheries ecolabels** (para. 36).
- v. **Agreed** that FAO should convene a technical consultation to consider the **Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade** drafted by the Expert Consultation on Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade, which was convened in Washington DC, USA, from 22 to 26 January 2007 (para. 37).

- vi. **Endorsed** the findings of an FAO report examining the relationship between **fish trade and food security** and **recommended** that FAO continue work in this area (para. 38).
- vii. **Recommended** that FAO provide technical expertise and cooperation to the ongoing WTO negotiations on **fisheries subsidies** and be prepared, as necessary, to assist in the implementation of future fisheries subsidies disciplines (para. 40).
- viii. **Agreed** that future agendas for the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade meetings should be forward looking and attempt to identify emerging trade issues (para. 41).

Decisions and recommendations of the Third Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

- i. **Endorsed** the report of the Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (para. 43).
- ii. **Recognized** the ever increasing importance of the **aquaculture sector** and the need for its sustainable growth in a responsible manner and **reaffirmed** its trust in FAO to play a **coordinating role** in advancing the global aquaculture agenda (para. 44).
- iii. **Welcomed** the recent change in the **name** of the FAO Fisheries Department to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and **stressed** the importance of an adequate Departmental **budget** so that more resources could be allocated for aquaculture-related activities (para. 45).
- iv. **Highlighted** the importance of addressing **socio-economic impacts of aquaculture**, improving **planning and policy development** at national and regional levels, ensuring **food safety and human health**, and developing **best management practices, risk assessment methodologies and guidelines for the better management of aquaculture** and **requested** FAO to take appropriate action to prioritize and implement the **recommendations** made by the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture during its Third Session, recalling in particular the need for **technical assistance** to Members (para. 46).
- v. **Underscored** the need for better **information and data** on aquaculture in support of the sustainable development of the sector and **endorsed** the **draft Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture**, as well as the concept of establishing a **Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics** and called for speedy implementation of the Strategy (para. 47).
- vi. **Agreed** that high priority should be given to **aquaculture development in Africa** and a special programme with regular and extra-budgetary funding support should be established with the aim of providing special assistance to African countries to access financial services and markets, to boost investment in aquaculture as well as exchange knowledge and experience, particularly through South-South Cooperation (Para. 48).
- vii. **Requested** FAO to take appropriate action through conducting expert workshops and meetings to develop **guidelines on aquaculture certification** (para. 49).
- viii. **Supported** strongly the continuing work towards the development of **regional aquaculture networks in Africa and the Americas** similar to the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) (para. 50).
- ix. **Welcomed** the proposed work on **genetic resources management in fisheries and aquaculture** (para. 51).

Social issues in small-scale fisheries

- i. **Stressed** that policies and development programmes needed to be tailored to the specific needs in particular locations, countries and regions and types of small-scale fisheries that could range from occasional subsistence activities to year-round commercial operations targeting fish for export markets (para. 55).
- ii. **Recognized** that progress in the implementation of **international human rights instruments** including the conventions on the rights of seafarers and **working conditions** in fisheries were critical to both small-scale and large-scale fisheries and **stressed** that the recognition and adoption of **human rights principles** can help achieve poverty eradication and facilitate the adoption of responsible fisheries practices (para. 58).
- iii. **Expressed** its support for the **strategy of action** as noted in paragraph 23 of COFI/2007/6 that brought together responsible fisheries and social development and **stressed** the need to adopt a **rights-based approach** to managing small-scale fisheries that respects the interests of present and future generations and ensures resource sustainability, reduces vulnerability and optimizes the flow of benefits to fishing communities and the wider economy (para. 59).
- iv. **Highlighted** the importance of **disaster prevention and mitigation measures** and **safety-at-sea** for reducing vulnerability of fishers and coastal communities (para. 60).
- v. **Took note** of the strong support by many members to establish a dedicated COFI Sub-Committee and/or a specific programme of work on small-scale fisheries supported by dedicated extra-budgetary funding and **agreed** that the issue of small-scale fisheries was important and FAO should continue to work on this issue (para. 61).
- vi. **Welcomed** the proposal by Norway that FAO examine the convening of a broad-based international conference focussing specifically on small-scale fisheries of a format similar to the 1999 FishRights and 2006 Sharing the Fish Conferences (para. 62).

Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through monitoring, control and surveillance, port States measures and other means

- i. **Recognized** that all those involved in IUU fishing such as beneficial owners of fishing vessels, as well as of transshipment and support vessels, should be included in the scope of measures to fight against IUU fishing (para. 67).
- ii. **Acknowledged** the urgent need for a comprehensive suite of **port State measures** and **took note** of the strong support for the Norwegian proposal to develop a new legally binding instrument based on the Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing and the IPOA-IUU and **endorsed** the following timetable:
 - an **Expert Consultation** to be convened during the latter half of 2007 to prepare a draft agreement; and
 - a **Technical Consultation** to finalize the instrument's text during the first half of 2008 and present it to the Twenty-eighth COFI Session in 2009 (para. 68).
- iii. **Supported** the convening of an **Expert Consultation** to further develop the concept of a comprehensive **global record of fishing vessels** as described in FAO's feasibility study (para. 70).
- iv. **Requested** FAO consider the possibility, subject to the availability of funds, of an **expert consultation** to develop criteria for assessing the performance of **flag States** as well as to examine possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such criteria (para. 71).

- v. **Encouraged** Members to join or cooperate with the voluntary **International MCS Network**, make use of its work and support its enhancement, as a tool to improve enforcement globally (para. 72).

**Implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries, including deep-sea fisheries,
marine debris and lost and abandoned gear**

- i. **Urged** FAO to complete and distribute the **technical guidelines on social, institutional and economic considerations in EAF** as quickly as possible (para. 73).
- ii. **Supported** a proposal that FAO should undertake a scoping study to identify the key issues on **climate change and fisheries**, initiate a discussion on how the fishing industry can adapt to climate change, and for FAO to take a lead in informing fishers and policy makers about the likely consequences of climate change for fisheries (para. 76).
- iii. **Agreed** that FAO should convene an **expert consultation**, no later than August 2007, to prepare **draft technical guidelines including standards for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas**, to be finalized at a **technical consultation** in January or February 2008; **agreed** that the technical guidelines should include standards and criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems beyond areas under national jurisdiction and the impacts of fishing activities on such ecosystems, in order to facilitate the adoption and the implementation of conservation and management measures by RFMO/As and flag States (pursuant to paragraphs 83 and 86 of the UNGA Resolution A/RES/61/105) and **noted** that a meeting of States engaged in high sea deep-seas fisheries was referred to in paragraph 89 of the UNGA Resolution (para. 77).
- iv. **Agreed** that the issue of **derelict fishing gear** is particularly relevant to FAO and **requested** FAO to consult with IMO in its efforts to assess current international instruments or measures related to **marine debris** (para. 78).
- v. **Encouraged** FAO to complete its **technical guidelines on the design, implementation and testing of MPAs** in relation to fishing at the earliest opportunity (para. 79).
- vi. **Agreed** that FAO should, in cooperation with relevant bodies, develop **best practice guidelines** to assist countries and RFMOs in implementation of the **IPOA-Seabirds** and that the best practice guidelines should be extended to other relevant fishing gears (para. 80).
- vii. **Agreed** that FAO should continue its work on **biodiversity mapping** as an important contribution to implementation of EAF in collaboration with CBD and **agreed** that FAO should follow the request in: (i) paragraph 90 of the UNGA Resolution to create a **global database on vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction**, in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as IUCN, and (ii) paragraph 87 of the Resolution to create a **list of authorized vessels engaged in high seas deep-sea fisheries** (para. 81).

**Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and their
performances including the outcome of the 2007 tuna RFMOs meeting**

- i. **Was informed** by Japan about the joint meeting of five RFMOs with a mandate for the management of tuna stocks that was held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2007 (para. 84).
- ii. **Noted** that performance review processes of RFMOs and RFBs should be transparent (para. 86).

FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture

- i. **Expressed** dissatisfaction with the level of the **budget** assigned to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, which is not commensurate with the importance of its work and the expectations of the international community and **requested** strongly that the relevant FAO Governing Bodies allocate more resources to the Department (para. 91).
- ii. **Indicated** that it would like to receive, as a matter of course, ex-post and any other analysis of how the total fisheries budget had been spent in the preceeding biennium, including both field work and policy work (para.92).
- iii. **Reiterated** that all **activities** of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department were important and **emphasized** that the work programme of the Department should take due consideration of the **priorities** highlighted by COFI in its report (para. 94).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its Twenty-seventh Session in Rome from 5 to 9 March 2007.
2. The Session was attended by 119 Members of the Committee, by observers from 4 other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See, by representatives from 5 specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from 61 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.
3. A list of delegates and observers is attached as Appendix B.
4. The Session was called to order by the outgoing Chairperson Mr Glenn Hurry (Australia). He stressed that international cooperation was essential to achieve sustainable fisheries and underscored the need for FAO to play a key role in cooperation with regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

5. Mr A. Hettiarachchi, (Sri Lanka) was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Committee and Mr Z.S. Karnicki (Poland) was elected First Vice-Chairperson.
6. El Salvador, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand and United Republic of Tanzania were elected as other Vice-Chairpersons.
7. The Committee elected Mr Julien Turenne (France) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee with the following membership: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

8. The Session was addressed by Mr David A. Harcharik, FAO Deputy Director-General, who recalled the new name of the Fisheries Department (Fisheries and Aquaculture Department), stressing the fact that this better reflected new challenges and the broader framework of the FAO reform, especially the growing importance of aquaculture. He also highlighted the importance of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the identification of mechanisms and strategies that would facilitate and enhance its implementation as a comprehensive instrument directed to all those involved in fisheries and aquaculture.
9. Mr Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) addressed the Session. He acknowledged the good relationships and collaboration between FAO and IMO, as two of the major United Nations organizations concerned with marine affairs. He stressed the importance of two IMO instruments (the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995) and invited States present at the meeting to take action to ensure a prompt entry into force of these Conventions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

10. The Committee noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Community.

11. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the Session shown in Appendix A to this Report. The list of documents placed before the Committee is shown in Appendix C.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES, RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGY

12. The Secretariat introduced document COFI/2007/2. It also referred to a “made available” paper that provided a statistical analysis of responses by FAO Members to the 2006 questionnaire. The Committee observed, with satisfaction, that the response rate for this report (37 percent) had improved over the response rate for the last report (27 percent). Members were encouraged to improve their rates of reporting.

13. Many Members provided information concerning the measures they had adopted to implement the Code, noting in many cases that it now formed the basis for national fisheries policy and legislation. The Committee was advised that Members were making efforts to disseminate information about the Code, especially in small-scale fishing communities, as a means of deepening its implementation, enhancing livelihoods and improving food security. Regional groups were also seeking to harmonize policies and actions to strengthen the Code’s implementation. Some Members pointed out that these activities also extended to the international plans of action (IPOAs) and the strategy for improving information on status and trends in capture fisheries (Strategy). The Committee acknowledged the utility and importance of regional cooperation in facilitating the implementation of the Code and its related instruments. In general, the Committee agreed that while there had been progress in implementation of the Code, there was more that needed to be done by Members individually and collectively.

14. In relation to the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and on the matter of bycatch, the Committee focussed considerable attention on the IPOAs for seabirds and sharks and the sea turtle guidelines. Several Members advised the Committee on their progress to develop or implement their national plans of action (NPOAs) for seabirds. Many Members were of the view that FAO, in collaboration with BirdLife International, should seek to strengthen the implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds by developing best practice technical guidelines to support the elaboration of NPOAs. The Committee agreed that depending on cost and related considerations the guidelines would be developed through continuing joint work between FAO and relevant bodies and organizations or an expert consultation.

15. Similarly, many Members referred to their efforts to develop NPOAs to implement the IPOA-Sharks. Some of them outlined policies and practices in place to ban the catching of some shark species and other measures prohibiting finning and carcass dumping as a means of promoting sustainability. The Committee concurred that efforts towards implementing the IPOA-Sharks were improving but that further intensive work was required. Some Members also explained measures they had adopted to implement the sea turtle guidelines, pointing out that the use of bycatch excluder devices (BEDs) were already mandatory in most trawl fisheries.

16. The issue of capacity was addressed, with a number of Members stating that overcapacity was as important an issue as IUU fishing. The Committee reaffirmed linkages between overcapacity, allocations, overfishing and IUU fishing. The need for both national and regional action was highlighted. The Committee agreed that States should match their fishing capacity to sustainable harvesting levels. The Committee agreed upon the need to ensure that the urgent

actions required in the IPOA-Capacity were undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation was facilitated without delay. Some Members recalled that in addressing the problem of overcapacity, the right of developing States to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, should be taken into account.

17. The Committee agreed that the incidence and extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remained a grave threat to sustainability and that it should be addressed comprehensively. Many Members described national initiatives and measures to combat IUU fishing, including the development and implementation of NPOAs-IUU. Some Members also referred to their monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programmes and the adoption of mandatory vessel monitoring systems (VMS) that were considered basic tools in curbing IUU fishing. The importance of product traceability was highlighted by some Members in some cases as a means of blocking IUU-caught fish from entering national and international markets.

18. Many Members referred to FAO's technical work on subsidies. Recognizing the central role of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Committee urged FAO to continue its proactive engagement with WTO to allow for a better understanding of the fisheries subsidy issues and their potential impact on resource sustainability. Furthermore, the Committee encouraged FAO to continue its studies on the impact of subsidies on fishing capacity, IUU fishing, fisheries management and sustainable development in a manner that complemented, but should not duplicate, WTO's work.

19. The Committee welcomed the Secretariat's advice that it would submit to the Eleventh Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in June 2007 a general multi-year programme of work and a request for external funding for genetic resource management in fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee expressed its pleasure that the Code would serve as a guide for this work. The Committee will be kept informed of progress of this work.

20. The 2006 Review Conference of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and recent UNGA fishery resolution recommended that FAO enhance its role with respect to the establishment of a global capture fishery statistics database to provide information on relevant stocks, based on where the catch was taken. Recognizing the primary role of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) in detailed data collection for management and the coordination role of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department referred the matter to the Twenty-second Session of CWP (Rome, Italy, 26 February - 2 March 2007) for consideration. Its Chairperson advised the Committee that CWP recommended that FAO should consolidate the catch data of RFBs into a single database under the general guidance of CWP. The CWP further recommended to explore the utilization of VMS data, in addition to their MCS uses, for scientific and statistical purposes. Several Members expressed the view that catch data should be collected in a manner that allows to distinguish between catches taken within or beyond areas under national jurisdiction and recalled the relevant sections of the report adopted by the 2006 Review Conference of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The Committee took note that the implementation of the above described changes could constitute an additional collection and reporting burden for Members and would have financial implications for FAO.

21. The Committee agreed that the Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and on Fish Trade, respectively, should take responsibility for monitoring the implementation of Articles 9 and 11 of the Code with the format and frequency of more detailed monitoring to be determined by the Sub-Committees at their 2008 Sessions. It was further agreed that future Sub-Committee reports presented to COFI would contain information on progress with the implementation of these Articles. To ensure that there was continuity in reporting and to enable the Sub-Committees to take responsibility for more detailed monitoring and reporting, the 2008 questionnaire on the Code will not change. The Committee noted that there would be no change to current

arrangements for the monitoring and reporting for the Code and that biennial reporting will continue.

22. Many Members thanked FAO for the technical assistance provided to support the implementation of the Code and its related instruments, especially with respect to the management of inland and marine capture fisheries and the development of sustainable aquaculture. They underscored the importance of Article 5 of the Code and called for a greater share of FAO's budget to be allocated to fisheries and aquaculture so that capacity building and institutional strengthening in developing countries could be enhanced.

23. Acknowledging the rising number of organizations engaged in international fisheries matters, the Committee urged FAO to ensure that it continued to assert its international leadership as the only global fisheries body. The Committee agreed that FAO must maintain its high profile in global fisheries affairs in order to integrate debate from across the various fora dealing with fisheries and aquaculture issues.

REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LIVELIHOODS IN THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI IN 2004

24. The Secretariat introduced document COFI/2007/3 and related documents Inf. 4 and 7, providing information on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the 2004 tsunami as well as on FAO's response to this major natural disaster.

25. Members affected directly by the tsunami expressed their gratitude to the international donor community for the assistance received following this tragic event and commended FAO for its prompt and sustained support in areas such as damage and needs assessment, planning for sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction, donor coordination and the provision of essential inputs. The Committee agreed that significant progress had been made in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, as reported by affected Members, although complementary reconstruction effort was still needed in many areas.

26. Many Members expressed concern about the level of fishing capacity. It is now higher than prior to the tsunami in some of the areas affected by the disaster. This occurred quite inadvertently due to the massive and uncoordinated assistance received for input replacement and as a result of the higher input efficiency of new vessels. Consequently, there was now concern about resource sustainability and the maintenance of livelihoods because the pre-tsunami levels of fishing capacity were already high and in some cases excessive. The Committee acknowledged the need for this issue to be addressed, with FAO assistance as required, through the design and implementation of sustainable and effective fisheries management arrangements that included a gradually phasing out fishing overcapacity, monitoring, access and livelihood considerations.

27. Members were informed that a significant percentage of the boats that were provided through the many organizations involved in emergency assistance and rehabilitation may be considered below minimum safety standards. The Committee expressed its concern for safety-at-sea issues in relation to the use of these sub-standard vessels and recommended strongly that FAO, in consultation with other relevant UN agencies, continue to monitor and address the problem in close collaboration with affected countries.

28. The Committee was advised of priorities and programmes being established by some Members for further long-term support for reconstruction and sustainable development. They expressed their appreciation for the role played by FAO's Coordination and Technical Support Unit (CSTU), especially with regard to needs assessment and strategic planning. The Committee welcomed the emphasis given in these programmes to areas such as fisheries monitoring and

assessment, fisheries planning and institution building for sustainable development and fisheries management, habitat restoration, safety-at-sea, infrastructure rehabilitation, post-harvest activities and aquaculture development. Several Members informed the Committee about the support they were providing to affected countries and the possibilities of further collaboration with these countries and with FAO.

29. The Committee recommended that FAO report more extensively on lessons learned from the post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction work and widely disseminate results so as to enhance preparedness. Some Members stressed the need for better donor coordination, inclusion of local expertise and a greater emphasis on technical assistance when faced with severe natural disasters while other Members emphasized that long-term considerations should guide short-term responses early in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Mention was also made by some Members of the need for FAO procedures to be adjusted when emergency responses were required to allow for increased flexibility and more rapid response.

30. Many Members referred to the importance of, and need for, further work on early-warning systems for fishing communities and they requested FAO in cooperation with relevant agencies to assist by providing guidance on coastal warning systems. It was also suggested that Members consider developing proper disaster management frameworks and supporting legislation.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

31. The item was introduced by the Chairperson of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Secretariat and discussed on the basis of documents COFI/2007/4, Inf. 4, 7 and 8.

32. The Committee, noting that the Sub-Committee was the foremost forum to discuss international fish trade issues, endorsed the report of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and expressed its appreciation for its work. The Committee thanked Spain for hosting and supporting the Session.

33. The Committee noted the importance of international trade in fish and fish products for developing countries. Many Members stressed the need for FAO to provide technical advice and assistance to improve market access for small-scale fisheries from developing countries. Many Members noted their concerns about the increasing complexity of safety and quality requirements for fish and fish products and the burden it imposed on developing countries to comply with these requirements.

34. The Committee recognized the importance of traceability for fish trade. Many Members also noted the need to develop simple and practical traceability schemes for small-scale fisheries. The Committee expressed the view that such schemes should be compatible with WTO rules. Some Members proposed that a technical consultation on traceability be convened.

35. The Committee welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Committee recognized the value of the FAO ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel's work in reviewing and providing recommendations regarding any relevant proposals to amend the CITES Appendices. The Committee noted that after each CITES Conference of the Parties, FAO should undertake an evaluation of whether the recommendations of the ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel had been taken into account and, if not, why they had not been. Some Members also noted that the Expert Advisory Panel activity was part of FAO's regular business and stressed that it should be funded by the Regular Programme. It was noted that it was important for States to develop coherent national positions for CITES that supported fisheries conservation goals.

36. Regarding the draft International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, the Committee recommended that FAO undertake further work in relation to the minimum substantive requirements and criteria for inland capture fisheries ecolabels. This work should be combined with similar outstanding work relating to the minimum substantive criteria laid down in the guidelines for marine capture fisheries ecolabels.

37. The Committee noted that an Expert Consultation on Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade was convened in Washington DC, USA, from 22 to 26 January 2007. The Committee agreed that FAO should convene a technical consultation to consider the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade drafted by the Expert Consultation.

38. The Committee endorsed the findings of an FAO report examining the relationship between fish trade and food security and recommended that FAO continue work in this area. Many Members emphasized the need for effective fisheries management to underpin sustainable and responsible trade.

39. Many Members noted the need to harmonize catch documentation, including elements of trade, to strengthen compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by RFMOs and to suppress trade in IUU-caught product. Many Members expressed the view that FAO should convene an expert consultation to this effect, the timing of which should be synchronized with ongoing work on this topic within RFMOs, in particular work under way in the wake of the Joint Meeting of Tuna Organizations held in Japan in January 2007.

40. The Committee noted the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies and recommended that FAO provide technical expertise and cooperation to the ongoing negotiations and be prepared, as necessary, to assist in the implementation of future fisheries subsidies disciplines.

41. The Committee agreed that future agendas for the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade meetings should be forward looking and attempt to identify emerging trade issues.

42. The Committee thanked Germany for offering to host the Eleventh Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2008.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

43. The item was introduced by the Chairperson of the Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the Secretariat and was discussed on the basis of documents COFI/2007/5 and Inf. 4, 7 and 9. The Committee endorsed the report of the Sub-Committee and thanked India for hosting and supporting the Session. The Committee further appreciated the excellent work of the Sub-Committee and the Secretariat.

44. The Committee recognized the ever increasing importance of the aquaculture sector and the need for its sustainable growth in a responsible manner, and reaffirmed its trust in FAO to play a coordinating role in advancing the global aquaculture agenda.

45. The Committee welcomed the recent change in the name of the FAO Fisheries Department to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and stressed the importance of an adequate Departmental budget so that more resources could be allocated for aquaculture-related activities. The establishment of a trust fund dedicated to aquaculture should also be explored.

46. The Committee highlighted the importance of addressing socio-economic impacts of aquaculture, improving planning and policy development at national and regional levels, ensuring food safety and human health, and developing best management practices, risk assessment

methodologies and guidelines for the better management of aquaculture. The Committee requested FAO to take appropriate action to prioritize and implement the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture during its Third Session, recalling in particular the need for technical assistance to Members.

47. The Committee underscored the need for better information and data on aquaculture in support of the sustainable development of the sector and endorsed the draft Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture. It also endorsed the concept of establishing a Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics and called for speedy implementation of the Strategy.

48. The Committee agreed that high priority should be given to aquaculture development in Africa and a special programme with regular and extra-budgetary funding support should be established with the aim of providing special assistance to African countries to access financial services and markets, to boost investment in aquaculture as well as exchange knowledge and experience, particularly through South-South Cooperation.

49. The need for aquatic production to follow an ecosystem approach to aquaculture according to economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable practices was highlighted and the role of certification and better management practices was recognized. The Committee requested FAO to take appropriate action through conducting expert workshops and meetings to develop guidelines on aquaculture certification. Thailand and Brazil confirmed their readiness to host workshops by the end of March 2007 in Bangkok and by July 2007 in Brasilia.

50. The Committee supported strongly the continuing work towards the development of regional aquaculture networks in Africa and the Americas similar to the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). Several Members reiterated the need for an aquaculture officer to be placed at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. The Committee welcomed the proposed work on genetic resources management in fisheries and aquaculture. Many Members reaffirmed the need for the development of information and certification systems to ensure consumer confidence in aquaculture products, recalling also the concern expressed by several Members of the Sub-Committee on non-governmental certification schemes, which have often resulted in higher costs for producers, without much benefit to them. Some Members requested further work by FAO on issues of low-value trash fish in aquafeeds, ornamental fish and on the impact of climate change in aquaculture.

52. Chile confirmed it would host the Fourth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in the second half of 2008. Thailand confirmed its offer to host the Fifth Session in 2010.

SOCIAL ISSUES IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

53. The Secretariat introduced document COFI/2007/6. The Committee commended the Secretariat for highlighting the critical importance of addressing social issues in small-scale fisheries to improve livelihoods, reduce vulnerability and poverty, promote effective and equitable resource governance systems, increase the sector's contribution to local and national development and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Many Members observed that these fisheries were the main contributor to national fish production and to the generation of income and employment in their fisheries sectors. The Committee took note of a joint intervention on behalf of 14 NGOs stressing that the recognition of the social situation of the fisher peoples from FAO was valuable and welcomed.

54. Whilst recognizing the great diversity in cultural, social, political and economic conditions of fishing practices, the Committee noted that fishers engaged in small-scale fisheries

often faced precarious and vulnerable living and working conditions. This is because of insecure rights to land and fishery resources, inadequate or absent health and educational services and social safety nets, and exclusion from wider development processes due to weak organizational structures and representation and participation in decision-making. Some Members noted that women in fisheries could not be treated as a homogenous group in some countries. The Committee also noted the opportunity of small-scale producers, processors and marketers to benefit from globalization including expanding trade in fish and fishery products was often compromised by inadequate access to markets, financial services, know-how and capacity to meet increasingly demanding sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. It was also stressed that sustainable fisheries were a prerequisite for sustainable livelihoods of fishers.

55. The Committee stressed that policies and development programmes needed to be tailored to the specific needs in particular locations, countries and regions and types of small-scale fisheries that could range from occasional subsistence activities to year-round commercial operations targeting fish for export markets. Greater clarity in defining and classifying different categories of small-scale fisheries was suggested by some Members.

56. The Committee noted the positive experiences by several countries in mainstreaming small-scale fisheries into national development policies and the encouraging progress made in introducing co-management and community-based management regimes. The sharing of lessons learned on these experiences was desirable through case studies and South-to-South and fisher-to-fisher exchanges.

57. Many Members from West and Central Africa called for the continuation of the regional Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) that resulted in successful examples of activities carried out in favour of poverty reduction and sustainable management in small-scale fisheries and requested FAO to support this proposal within the framework of a special programme for small-scale fisheries.

58. The Committee recognized that progress in the implementation of international human rights instruments including the conventions on the rights of seafarers and working conditions in fisheries were critical to both small-scale and large-scale fisheries. The Committee stressed that the recognition and adoption of human rights principles can help achieve poverty eradication and facilitate the adoption of responsible fisheries practices.

59. The Committee expressed its support for the strategy of action as noted in paragraph 23 of COFI/2007/6 that brought together responsible fisheries and social development. It stressed the need to adopt a rights-based approach to managing small-scale fisheries that respects the interests of present and future generations and ensures resource sustainability, reduces vulnerability and optimizes the flow of benefits to fishing communities and the wider economy. It addressed broader human rights principles when defining and allocating fishing rights and supported empowerment of fishing communities through social inclusion, gender equality within fishing activities and capacity and capability-building. Several Members cited successful examples of capacity building and empowerment measures including literacy programmes, leadership training, and strengthening of fisher organizations. The continuing benefits from technological developments were also noted. Some Members expressed concern about the potential of small-scale fisheries to alleviate poverty while other Members reiterated their belief that small-scale fisheries had the potential to reduce poverty and food insecurity.

60. The Committee observed that any specific strategy at local or national level needed to recognize traditional forms of fishing rights and tenure where these exist or existed in the past and be informed by specific objectives and measurable social performance and impact indicators. It considered that it was imperative to protect the poor from adverse impacts of the transition to rights-based fisheries management in relation to access and rights allocation and through the creation of opportunities outside the harvesting sector including aquaculture. It noted cross-

sectoral policies were needed that recognized ecosystem considerations, anticipated potential climate change impacts, and were guided by Article 10 of the Code of Conduct on the integration of fisheries into coastal area management. Disaster prevention and mitigation measures and safety-at-sea were highlighted for reducing vulnerability of fishers and coastal communities.

61. The Committee considered different options to give greater prominence to small-scale fisheries in its deliberations and FAO's Programme of Work. The Committee also took note of the strong support by many members to establish a dedicated COFI Sub-Committee and/or a specific programme of work on small-scale fisheries supported by dedicated extra-budgetary funding. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed that the issue of small-scale fisheries was important and FAO should continue to work on this issue. Other Members highlighted the importance of integrating the concerns of small-scale fisheries into all aspects of fisheries discussed at COFI and relevant subsidiary bodies.

62. The Committee welcomed the proposal by Norway that FAO examine the convening of a broad-based international conference focussing specifically on small-scale fisheries of a format similar to the 1999 FishRights and 2006 Sharing the Fish Conferences.

COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING THROUGH MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE, PORT STATES MEASURES AND OTHER MEANS

63. The Secretariat introduced documents COFI/2007/7 and Inf. 12. In that respect, it informed for the record of this meeting that the certification process of Patagonian toothfish referred to in paragraph 20 of document COFI/2007/7 by the Marine Stewardship Council had been objected to, and rejected by, the Argentine Republic on the basis of the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

64. The Secretariat also informed for the record of this meeting that the reference made to a report quoted in footnote 11 of Document COFI/2007/7 and footnote 20 of Document COFI/2007/9 Rev.1 did not imply in any way recognition or acceptance by the FAO Secretariat of any assertion or comment contained in that report related to territorial disputes.

65. The Committee commended FAO on the paper and thanked the Organization for providing capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the IPOA-IUU and to strengthen MCS as well as technical assistance for the development of NPOAs-IUU and MCS programmes, VMS and port State workshops, and other initiatives. FAO was encouraged to continue these activities and a number of direct requests for assistance were made.

66. Many Members described their fight against IUU fishing as one of high national priority due to its adverse economic, biological and social consequences. Progress reports were given by a large number of Members on national or regional accomplishments but most admitted that despite these substantial efforts, IUU fishing remained a serious impediment to sustainability.

67. The Committee recognized that all those involved in IUU fishing such as beneficial owners of fishing vessels, as well as of transshipment and support vessels, should be included in the scope of measures to fight against IUU fishing. Moreover, IUU fishing was also an issue of contracting Parties to RFMOs that did not comply with the rules and measures of their organization.

68. Acknowledging the urgent need for a comprehensive suite of port State measures, the Committee took note of the strong support for the Norwegian proposal to develop a new legally binding instrument based on the Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing and the IPOA-IUU. The Committee endorsed the following timetable: an Expert Consultation to

be convened during the latter half of 2007 to prepare a draft agreement and a Technical Consultation to finalize the instrument's text during the first half of 2008 and present it to the Twenty-eighth COFI Session in 2009. Many Members stressed that the new instrument would represent minimum standards for port States, with flexibility to adopt more stringent measures and some Members also stressed that it should not detract from other previously agreed measures such as the need for capacity reduction. It was noted that Norway advised the Committee that it was prepared to contribute financially to the required process within FAO.

69. Satellite-based VMS was cited widely by Members as a cost-effective tool for MCS but one to be used in conjunction with other surveillance and management tools. Referring to the recommendation of the 2006 Expert Consultation on the Use of Monitoring Systems and Satellite Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, many Members expressed the view that a new binding instrument was not required. There was support for other activities to be undertaken by FAO including capacity building, further work on data harmonization and formats, updating the technical publication on VMS and drafting model legal provisions.

70. The Committee supported the convening of an Expert Consultation to further develop the concept of a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels as described in FAO's feasibility study, mindful of the need to clarify the project's objectives, sensitivity to costs, confidentiality requirements and the need to link it to other reliable information sources such as national registers and RFMO lists.

71. A number of Members spoke about irresponsible flag States. Many Members suggested the need to develop criteria for assessing the performance of flag States as well as to examine possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such criteria. An expert consultation was proposed. Subject to the availability of funds, FAO was requested to further consider this possibility.

72. As a tool to improve enforcement globally, Members were encouraged to join or cooperate with the voluntary International MCS Network, make use of its work and support its enhancement.

IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES, INCLUDING DEEP-SEA FISHERIES, MARINE DEBRIS AND LOST AND ABANDONED GEAR

73. In the discussion after introduction of document COFI/2007/8, there was broad agreement that EAF was the appropriate and necessary framework for fisheries management and many Members reported on the progress that they were making in implementation of EAF. Some members considered that the EAF should be based on existing effective management regime and measures, incrementally incorporating ecosystem consideration as knowledge and capacity grow, without prejudice to the application of the precautionary approach. The efforts by FAO to raise awareness of the need for EAF among Members and RFBs and to facilitate implementation were commended. FAO was urged to complete and distribute the technical guidelines on social, institutional and economic considerations in EAF as quickly as possible. On behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Norway proposed that FAO should cooperate with the Council in planning and implementing a conference about EAF, with an emphasis on socio-economic and institutional conditions and implications.

74. Many developing countries requested greater FAO support for capacity building, through awareness building and direct technical assistance at the national level, drawing attention to the increased institutional capacity required for implementation of EAF. Some Members suggested that FAO should organize regional meetings to allow for exchange of information and expertise. The announcement by Chile that it would implement a post-graduate programme on the social and economic aspects of EAF was welcomed by many delegations from the Latin American region.

Chile with the support of several Members requested technical support from FAO in developing the programme.

75. Some Members urged FAO to give attention to the implementation of EAF in coral reef ecosystems as a priority area. Concern was expressed by some Members that FAO was neglecting the potential importance of predator-prey relationships in an ecosystem approach. The Secretariat confirmed that food web interactions were a consideration in EAF, as indicated in paragraph 46 of COFI/2007/8 and demonstrated in the field projects, and that the relative priority of the different issues needed to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

76. The need to address threats posed by climate change were raised by several Members. There was support for a proposal that FAO should undertake a scoping study to identify the key issues on climate change and fisheries, initiate a discussion on how the fishing industry can adapt to climate change, and for FAO to take a lead in informing fishers and policy makers about the likely consequences of climate change for fisheries.

77. Many Members referred to UNGA Resolution A/RES/61/105, especially paragraphs 80 to 91, and to the need that FAO act on the requests in the Resolution. COFI agreed that FAO should convene an expert consultation, no later than August 2007, to prepare draft technical guidelines including standards for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas, to be finalized at a technical consultation in January or February 2008. This timing was to allow regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As) and flag States to develop measures by the deadline of 31 December 2008, as required by A/RES/61/105. Some Members noted that the UNGA timeframe for RFMOs under development was 31 December 2007 and that the interim measures to be developed could be informed by the expert consultation. It was agreed that the technical guidelines should include standards and criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems beyond areas under national jurisdiction and the impacts of fishing activities on such ecosystems, in order to facilitate the adoption and the implementation of conservation and management measures by RFMO/As and flag States (pursuant to paragraphs 83 and 86 of the Resolution). It was also noted that a meeting of States engaged in high sea deep-seas fisheries was referred to in paragraph 89 of the UNGA Resolution. Japan informed the meeting that it would make available the funds for these activities. Iceland informed the members that it was willing to contribute up to US \$ 100.000. Some Members called for a moratorium on high seas deep-sea fisheries until the impacts of fishing activities on these ecosystems could be assessed.

78. Many Members referred to the linked problems of marine debris and lost or abandoned fishing gear. It was agreed that the issue of derelict fishing gear is particularly relevant to FAO. There was widespread support for the proposal that FAO should convene an expert consultation on the marking of fishing gear although some Members stated that it had not yet been fully discussed by COFI and suggested that the topic should be a full agenda item at the next COFI Session. FAO was requested to consult with IMO in its efforts to assess current international instruments or measures related to marine debris.

79. The important role of marine protected areas (MPAs) in biodiversity conservation and fisheries management was reaffirmed by COFI. Many Members expressed the view that the establishment of MPAs must be based on the best available scientific and other information and be well designed and properly implemented with full participation by all stakeholders. It was noted that MPAs were one tool and should be used in combination with other appropriate management tools. FAO was encouraged to complete its technical guidelines on the design, implementation and testing of MPAs in relation to fishing at the earliest opportunity.

80. Bycatch was recognized by COFI as being a serious concern in many fisheries. It was agreed that FAO should, in cooperation with relevant bodies, develop best practice guidelines to assist countries and RFMOs in implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and that the best practice guidelines should be extended to other relevant fishing gears. Many Members expressed the view

that the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and BirdLife International were the most relevant bodies in that context.

81. COFI agreed that FAO should continue its work on biodiversity mapping as an important contribution to implementation of EAF in collaboration with CBD. It was also agreed that FAO should follow the request in: (i) paragraph 90 of the UNGA Resolution to create a global database on vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as IUCN, and (ii) paragraph 87 of the Resolution to create a list of authorized vessels engaged in high seas deep-sea fisheries.

82. A large number of Members expressed concern about the safety at sea for fishing vessels, especially small-scale fishing vessels. FAO was urged to continue collaboration with IMO and it was suggested that FAO should develop guidelines on best practices for safety at sea and that COFI should consider developing an IPOA on the subject.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOs) AND THEIR PERFORMANCES INCLUDING THE OUTCOME OF THE 2007 TUNA RFMOs MEETING

83. The Secretariat introduced document COFI/2007/9 Rev.1. In its introduction, the Secretariat also recalled the observations that it had already made in relation to footnote 20 of this document. The Secretariat highlighted the management role of RFMOs and the advisory role of RFBs. The awareness of the need to strengthen and increase the efficacy of these organizations was noted and it was recalled that the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI called for the performance of RFMOs to be evaluated.

84. The Committee was informed by Japan about the joint meeting of five RFMOs with a mandate for the management of tuna stocks that was held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2007. The meeting was held in order to consider ways to promote cooperation among these five tuna RFMOs beyond their individual frameworks. A Course of Actions describing key areas and challenges as well as follow-up actions by the five tuna RFMOs and their members, was adopted. Although it is not binding, many Members expressed strong support for it.

85. Many Members supported the idea of additional joint meetings of non-tuna RFMOs with similar mandates and objectives, including those responsible for small-scale fisheries. FAO was asked to play a role in providing assistance, participation and advice for this process.

86. Members emphasized the importance of conducting performance reviews of RFMOs and RFBs. Several Members stressed the need to develop common criteria for the evaluation of core functions and obligations, while recognizing that flexibility was needed for each RFMO or RFB to decide independently upon the methodology, criteria and frequency of reviews. The Committee also noted that review processes should be transparent with some Members recommending a mixed panel of experts consisting of both external and internal participants.

87. Some Members noted the work of the “Independent High Level Panel to Develop a Model for Improved Governance by RFMOs”, hosted by Chatham House, which could assist the review processes of RFMOs and RFBs.

88. Several Members emphasized that due attention must be paid to the rights and needs of developing countries, including small island developing States (SIDS), in particular to facilitate their full participation in the work of RFMOs and RFBs.

89. Many Members requested that FAO continue supporting RFMOs and RFBs and continue its work on issues of concern to them such as overcapacity, improvement of fleet statistics and the

issues of countries that undermine the effectiveness of RFMOs and vessels under “flags of non compliance”. Several Members requested that FAO should cooperate with IOTC members to develop a solution ensuring the efficiency and continuity of the activities of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

90. The Secretariat introduced Agenda Item 12 based on document COFI 2007/10 and Inf. 6 and highlighted the salient changes in both programme and structure. In this respect, it highlighted that the reduction in the number of programme entities did not reflect a reduction in the amount of work but rather a consolidation and harmonization of these programme entities.

91. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the level of the budget assigned to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, which is not commensurate with the importance of its work and the expectations of the international community. The Committee requested strongly that the relevant FAO Governing Bodies allocate more resources to the Department. Some Members emphasized the importance that national representatives to the upcoming meetings of these bodies be properly informed about the situation. In this connection, the Committee looks forward to the findings and recommendations of the on-going Independent External Evaluation (IEE).

92. The Committee indicated that it would like to receive, as a matter of course, ex-post and any other analysis of how the total fisheries budget had been spent in the preceeding biennium. The Committee needed this information to better understand the trends in its planning context and to be able to pose questions that would be helpful in understanding risks to the programme. This included both field work and policy work.

93. Many Members stressed the importance for the major activities of the Department to be funded by the regular programme. In this connection, they expressed concern for the increasing proportion of extra-budgetary funding for supporting these activities. Several Members noted the need, for the sake of more transparency and accountability, to be provided with a more detailed report on such funding.

94. Whilst reiterating that all activities of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department were important, the Committee emphasized that the work programme of the Department should take due consideration of the priorities highlighted by COFI in the previous paragraphs.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

95. The Committee was informed by the Kingdom of Denmark that the Faroe Islands had decided to seek associated membership of the FAO, and that the Permanent Representation of Denmark to FAO had taken up contact with the FAO Secretariat with a view to preparing a formal application to be lodged on behalf of the Faroe Islands by the Government of Denmark.

96. Some members noted the active role of NGOs to further promote responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture around the world. They stressed the need to develop, within the framework of COFI, a fair and equitable process to promote dialogue between Members and NGOs.

97. The Committee noted with regret that its 27th Session was the last one in which Mr. Serge Garcia, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Division, was participating before his retirement. It paid him a special tribute and expressed its sincere gratitude and thanks for his outstanding contribution and excellence of his work.

98. The Committee was informed of the retirement of Mr Glenn Hurry (Australia) and Mr Serge Beslier (European Community) in the near future and expressed its gratitude for their outstanding contribution to its work.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

99. It was agreed that the Committee should meet in Rome in the first quarter of 2009. The exact date would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

100. The report was adopted on 9 March 2007.

APPENDIX A**Agenda**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and designation of Drafting Committee
4. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Related International Plans of Action
5. Rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the Tsunami in 2004
6. Decisions and Recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 30 May – 2 June 2006
7. Decisions and Recommendations of the Third Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, New Delhi, India, 4-8 September 2006
8. Social issues in small scale fisheries
9. Combating IUU fishing through monitoring, control and surveillance, port States measures and other means
10. Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, including deep-sea fisheries, marine debris and lost and abandoned gear
11. Strengthening RFMOs and their performances including the outcome of the 2007 Tuna RFMOs Meeting
12. FAO's Programme of Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture
13. Any Other Matters
14. Date and place of the next Session
15. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B**List of Delegates and Observers**

The detailed list of delegates and observers (names and addresses) is available from:

**The Secretary
Committee on Fisheries
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
F-412; Tel: 52847**

The following attended:

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (119)

Afghanistan	Ghana
Algeria	Greece
Angola	Grenada
Argentina	Guatemala
Armenia	Guinea
Australia	Guinea-Bissau
Azerbaijan	Honduras
Bahrain	Hungary
Bangladesh	Iceland
Belgium	India
Brazil	Indonesia
Bulgaria	Iran
Burkina Faso	Ireland
Burundi	Italy
Cameroon	Japan
Canada	Kenya
Cape Verde	Kuwait
Chile	Latria
China	Liberia
Colombia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Congo	Lithuania
Costa Rica	Madagascar
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi
Croatia	Malaysia
Cyprus	Maldives
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali
Denmark	Mauritania
Dominica	Mauritius
Dominican Republic	Mexico
Ecuador	Monaco
Egypt	Morocco
El Salvador	Mozambique
Eritrea	Namibia
Estonia	Netherlands
Ethiopia	New Zealand
European Community	Nicaragua
Finland	Niger
France	Nigeria
Gabon	Norway
Germany	Oman

Pakistan	South Africa
Panama	Spain
Papua New Guinea	Sri Lanka
Peru	Suriname
Philippines	Sweden
Poland	Syrian Arab Republic
Portugal	Thailand
Qatar	Tonga
Republic of Korea	Turkey
Romania	Ukraine
Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Saint Lucia	United Republic of Tanzania
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	United States of America
San Marino	Uruguay
Saudi Arabia	Venezuela
Senegal	Viet Nam
Seychelles	Yemen
Sierra Leone	Zambia
Slovakia	Zimbabwe
Slovenia	

OBSERVERS FROM FAO MEMBER NATIONS (4)

Antigua and Barbuda
 Myanmar
 Saint Kitts and Nevis
 Tunisia

PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO FAO (1)

Holy See

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (5)

International Maritime Organization
 Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
 United Nations
 World Bank Group
 World Trade Organization

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (32)

African Union
 Agence de Gestion et de Coopération entre le Sénégal et la Guinée
 Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
 Atlantic Africa Fisheries Conference: Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation
 among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
 Bay of Bengal Programme
 Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector
 Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin
 America and the Caribbean
 Centre for Marketing information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region
 Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
 Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
 Commission Économique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques en Cemac

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
 Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for
 Fishery Products in Africa
 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
 International Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe
 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
 League of Arab States
 Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific Region
 Nordic Council of Ministers
 North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
 Permanent South Pacific Commission
 Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 South East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
 South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
 Southern African Development Community
 Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(29)**

Birdlife International
 Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements
 Cluster of Fishing Companies in Third Countries
 Environmental Development Action in the Third World
 European Bureau for Conservation and Development
 Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
 Fisheries Development Council International
 Greenpeace International
 International Alliance of Women
 International Association of Agricultural Economists
 International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
 International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
 International Confederation of Sport Fishing
 International Federation for Home Economics
 International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organization
 International Foundation for Conservation of Natural Resources
 International Fund for Animal Welfare
 International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
 International Transport Workers' Federation
 Marine Stewardship Council
 Oceana
 Redmanglar Internacional
 Seas at Risk
 Traffic International
 World Conservation Union
 World Federation of Trade Unions
 World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
 World Forum of Fisher Peoples
 World Wide Fund for Nature

APPENDIX C

List of documents

COFI/2007/1	Agenda and Timetable
COFI/2007/2	Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Related International Plans of Action and Strategy
COFI/2007/3	Rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the Tsunami in 2004
COFI/2007/4	Decisions and Recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
COFI/2007/5	Decisions and Recommendations of the Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture
COFI/2007/6	Social issues in small-scale fisheries
COFI/2007/7	Combating IUU fishing through monitoring, control and surveillance, port States measures and other means
COFI/2007/8	Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, including deep-sea fisheries, biodiversity conservation, marine debris and lost and abandoned gear
COFI/2007/9	Strengthening RFMOs and their performances including the outcome of the 2007 Tuna RFMOs Meeting
COFI/2007/10	FAO's Programme of Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture
COFI/2007/Inf.1	List of documents
COFI/2007/Inf.2	List of participants
COFI/2007Inf.3	Statement by the Director-General
COFI/2007Inf.4	Annotations/Guide Notes on Agenda Items
COFI/2007Inf.5	Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 7-11 March 2005
COFI/2007Inf.6	Achievements of Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries 2004-2005
COFI/2007Inf.7	Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 7-11 March 2005
COFI/2007Inf.8	Report of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 30 May-2 June 2006
COFI/2007Inf.9 Rev.1	Report of the Third Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, New Delhi, India, 4-8 September 2006
COFI/2007Inf.10	Synthesis of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research, Rome, 16-20 October 2006
COFI/2007Inf.11	Report on follow-up on actions on sea-turtles
COFI/2007Inf.12	Report on the Development of a Comprehensive Record of Fishing vessels
COFI/2007Inf.13	Report of the Expert Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 23-26 May 2006
COFI/2007Inf.14	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Community and its Member States