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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Twenty-eighth Session

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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
Rome, Italy, 5 – 9 March 2007**

At its Twenty-seventh Session in March 2007, COFI made a number of recommendations to the Secretariat and Members. This note summarizes actions taken by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, usually in collaboration with Members, to address the principal recommendations directed to the Secretariat.

In the request/recommendations (**R**) section below, reference to the relevant paragraphs of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session is given in brackets; in the action (**A**) section reference is made, wherever appropriate, to the Agenda Item under which the issue is to be addressed, as well as to the appropriate document (between brackets).

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTIONS AND STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF CAPTURED FISHERIES

R. Strengthen the implementation of the IPOA-seabirds by developing best practice technical guidelines to support the elaboration of NPOAs (para. 14, 80)

- A. An Expert Consultation titled “Best Practice Technical Guidelines for IPOA/NPOA-Seabirds” was held in Bergen Norway, September 2-5 2008. The report of the Expert Consultation has been published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 880. A review and assessment of mitigation measures to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries has also been published (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1040).

R. Submit to the 11th 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)

- A. FAO has produced strategies and guidelines for genetic resource management and participated with the CGRFA in an expert consultation on climate change and genetic resources and in preparation of documents for implementing their programme of work.

R. Enhance the role of FAO with respect to the establishment of a global capture fishery statistics database (para. 20)

- A. Since September 2008, FAO has been developing the integrated dissemination system of various catch statistics maintained by RFMO/As and FAO with the support of Japanese fund. The prototype is planned to be presented at the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) 23rd session in February 2010 for its review and feedback, before the final release to the public.

R. Monitoring the implementation of Articles 9 and 11 of the Code of Conduct (para. 21)

- A. An overview and analysis of the status of progress in implementing the aquaculture and culture-based fisheries provisions (Article 9) of the CCRF was made and presented to the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture at its 4th Session held in Chile in October 2008. In summary, over the past biennium, the surveys showed some progress on the implementation of CCRF provisions for aquaculture and culture-based fisheries. However, the low level of response and its quality has not permitted the formulation of a representative analysis of the sector globally. Therefore, it is considered important and timely to improve the reporting procedure. A proposal for a revised reporting mechanism with an interactive questionnaire format was also presented to the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. It was positively received by the Sub-Committee, and recommended a revised pilot version of the questionnaire format be tested in different regions reflecting different environmental conditions in order to ensure global applicability.

The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade agreed that a separate questionnaire should be developed to monitor implementation of article 11 (Post-Harvest Practices and Trade) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Sub-Committee also requested that the questionnaire be biennial and updated to reflect current developments and the dynamic nature of trade in fish products.

- R. *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)***
- A. FAO has provided technical expertise and cooperation on topics related to the ongoing negotiations of fisheries subsidies to the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules.

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

- R. *Continue to provide technical advice and assistance to improve market access for small-scale fisheries from developing countries (para. 33)***
- A. Technical advice and assistance has been provided to improve market access for small-scale fisheries from developing countries. This includes provision of market information and analysis of prices and trends. Workshops have also been convened to clarify market access requirements and recent trade related developments (e.g. ecolabels, private standards). In addition Common Fund for Commodities funded projects to promote the development of the value-added sector in developing countries.
- R. *Evaluate after each CITES Conference of the Parties, the impact of the recommendations of the ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel (para. 35)***
- A. Following the endorsement of the 26th Session of COFI, the 10th Session of the COFI:FT agreed that FAO should convene an ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel to assess listing proposals made to the CoP-14 and for subsequent meetings of the CITES CoPs. It was also agreed that the Sub-Committee should evaluate, after each CITES CoP, whether the Panel recommendations had been taken into account and, if not, why they had not been.

The second ad hoc Advisory Panel met in Rome, Italy, from 26 to 30 March 2007, hosted by FAO with funding from the FAO Regular Programme and the Trust Fund Project “CITES and commercially-exploited aquatic species”. The Panel consisted of a core group made up of nine members, thirteen species and implementation experts, a member of the CITES Secretariat, and members of the FAO Secretariat. The Panel considered seven proposals submitted to the CoP-14 (The Hague, 3-15 June 2007).

The Panel supported the inclusion of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in Appendix II (controlled trade) and of all species of sawfishes (Pristidae) in Appendix I (no commercial trade allowed). It did not support the remaining five proposals to include species in Appendix II because, according to the Panel evaluation of the proposals, the species did not meet the biological criteria for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species in Appendix II, as specified in CITES Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP-13).

Contrary to the assessments of the FAO ad hoc Panel, the recommendations produced independently by the CITES Secretariat on the listing proposals proposed that, with the exception of lobsters, all other 6 listing proposals be accepted by CITES Parties. In the view of the FAO Secretariat, the divergent recommendations from the CITES Secretariat were inconsistent with the agreed biological criteria for listing commercially-exploited species contained in CITES Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP-13). After failed attempts to resolve the divergences by means of exchange of letters between the two Secretariats prior to the CoP meeting, the issue was brought to the attention of COFI members and CITES Parties independently by each Secretariat.

After considerable discussions during the CoP-14 meeting, decisions made by Parties on the proposals for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species were all in line with the FAO ad hoc Panel recommendations. Two proposals were accepted (European eel and sawfishes) and five were either rejected (spiny dogfish, porbeagle, red/pink corals) or withdrawn by proponents (cardinalfish and Brazilian lobster populations).

R. International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Product from Inland Capture Fisheries (para. 36)

- A. The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, at its 11th Session, agreed to convene another Expert Consultation to undertake further work on the draft International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Product from Inland Capture Fisheries.

R. Convene a technical consultation to consider the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade (para. 37)

- A. A Technical Consultation to consider Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade was convened in Rome on 5-7 November 2007. Recognizing that the available time did not permit the Technical Consultation to complete its consideration of the draft guidelines in their entirety, the Technical Consultation adjourned its work. The outstanding paragraphs were adopted during a resumed Technical Consultation that was convened in Bremen, Germany from 2-3 June 2008. The 11th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade adopted the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade and recommended their publication.

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

R. Develop guidelines on aquaculture certification (para. 49)

- A. The draft technical guidelines on certification in aquaculture have been presented to the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture at its 4th Session in Chile in October 2008. The Sub-Committee requested FAO to invite members to submit their comments on the present draft guidelines by 31 January 2009, and that these comments be consolidated by FAO into a new version of the draft guidelines to be sent to FAO members by 31 March 2009. It is further recommended that the revised version will be discussed at a technical consultation to be held as soon as possible in 2009. During its 28th session in March 2009, COFI will be requested to consider delegating to the technical consultation authority to finalise and adopt the guidelines. The Secretariat has followed up with the Members as requested.

R. Continue the work towards the development of regional aquaculture networks in Africa and the Americas (para. 50)

- A. Since the 27th Session of COFI, FAO has made great effort in supporting the development process of regional aquaculture networks.

The 14th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) (Accra, Ghana, November 2006) unanimously endorsed the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group (WG) on an Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF). The WG was tasked to assess the conditions in which ANAF would be able to provide the much needed skills, technology and information for future development of aquaculture in the region, with the realization that the resources for its establishment must come from member countries. The WG held three meetings (Kribi, Cameroon, 28-29 June 2007, Akosombo, Ghana, 23-25 July 2008, Jinja, Uganda 26-28 August 2008) with core countries and representatives of partner organizations

such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), WorldFish Center, institutions from Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit/Germany (GTZ) (who sponsored the latter two workshops) in attendance. The WG members worked to accomplish the tasks assigned including drafting Terms of Reference and a work plan for the WG, drafting Terms of Reference for the network (ANAF), reviewing the status with regard to WG countries, and preparing the elements of a project in support of ANAF. In conclusion, a phased process was suggested, in which ANAF would start off as a project at modest level and gradually grow, leaving the decisions as to the final institutional arrangements to a later date. It was acknowledged that establishing ANAF is a longer-term process, recognized the importance of the remaining tasks for the Working Group and noted the need for appropriate funding of ANAF.

In Latin America, FAO has been promoting aquaculture networking through different mechanisms including regional workshops, the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL) activities, reviews, and others. Two recent initiatives have taken the floor. During the 4th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee of Aquaculture, a number of members recognized the relevance of creating aquaculture networks and stressed the importance of the establishment of the Aquaculture Network of the Americas (ANA). All countries in attendance from the Americas highlighted the need to formalize the Aquaculture Network of the Americas (ANA) to address issues of joint interest to all countries in the region such as exchange of technologies and facilitated access to markets.

FAO is organizing a meeting among all countries of the region that are interested in forming part of the aquaculture network. This meeting is planned for June 2009 and its purpose would be to agree on a memorandum of understanding and a concrete plan of action for ANA with activities in the short, medium and long term. Such plan is currently being prepared by FAO in consultation with member countries.

SOCIAL ISSUES IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

R. Examine the convening of a broad-based international conference on SSF (para. 62)

- A. A Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries – Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development - was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 17 October 2008. The Conference was co-organized by FAO and the Royal Government of Thailand and convened in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and The WorldFish Center. The Conference covered a wide range of issues including wider social and economic development and human rights issues. A special focus of the Conference was on securing access and user rights by small-scale fishers and fishing communities and indigenous peoples to coastal and inland fishery resources that sustain their livelihoods.

COMBATING IUU FISHING THROUGH MONITOR CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE, PORT STATES MEASURES AND OTHER MEANS

R. Continue to provide technical assistance to member States for the development of NPOAs–IUU and MCS programmes (para. 65)

- A. A key aspect of FAO's work to combat IUU fishing related to the development of NPOAs–IUU. A global series of workshops to assist countries elaborate national plans was concluded in 2007. Technical assistance, on a request basis, continues to be given to Members for the elaboration of national plans. Regional plans to combat IUU fishing, as appropriate, are also encouraged.

R. Development of a new legally binding instrument on Port State Measures (para. 68)

- A. An Expert Consultation to Draft a Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures was held in Washington, D.C., USA from 4 to 8 September 2007. The outcome of the Consultation formed the basis for the negotiations at the Technical Consultation to Draft a Legally-binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which was convened at FAO headquarters, Rome, in June 2008. The Consultation was unable to complete its work and it will resume in Rome in January 2009. An informal, open-ended technical meeting to review the annexes to the draft instrument was held in Rome in November 2008.

R. Convene an Expert Consultation on global record of fishing vessels (para. 70)

- A. An Expert Consultation on the Development of a Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels was held in Rome 25-28, February 2008. The Consultation noted the broad range of benefits to be derived by a Global Record (GR) and recommended that the GR be pursued as a high priority. It also outlined a series of interim activities to be undertaken to further develop information for COFI on conceptual and technical issues. The Government of the United Kingdom supported this programme of activities which will be summarized for COFI through a made-available paper.

R. Consider the possibility of convening an Expert Consultation on flag State responsibility (para. 71)

- A. Funding for the Expert Consultation on Flag State Performance has been secured and it will be convened at FAO Headquarters, Rome, in June 2009.

IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES, INCLUDING DEAP-SEA FISHERIES, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, MARINE DEBRIS AND ABANDONED GEAR

R. Undertake a scoping study to identify the key issues on climate change and fisheries (para. 76)

- A. An expert workshop on climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture was organized (Rome, 7-9 April 2008) to identify key issues and policy options, as summarized in the FAO Fisheries Report No. 870. Climate change impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods, and food security were analyzed and related measures to mitigate the sector's greenhouse gas contribution and to increase its adaptability were identified. The workshop concluded that the most urgent needs include (1) a better understanding of the interactions between climate change, fisheries and aquaculture and food and livelihoods security and (2) the mainstreaming of policy, legal and implementation frameworks at national, regional and international levels. A summary of the climate change implications and policy options was provided to the High-Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (Rome, 3-5 June 2008). A Fisheries Technical Paper, comprising the current knowledge on the physical and ecological impacts of climate change, their implications for capture fisheries and aquaculture, and the appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures, has been produced.

An international symposium on "Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-ecological Systems", was held in Rome from 8 to 11 July 2008, in combination with GLOBEC (Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics) and EUR-Oceans (European Network of Excellence for Oceans Ecosystem Analysis). The central goals of the symposium were to share experiences across

disciplines and to identify key next steps and common elements and approaches to promote resilience of marine social-ecological systems in the face of global changes.

FAO, WorldFish and World Bank are co-organizing a coordination meeting on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation in fisheries and aquaculture to be held in Rome from 9 to 11 March 2009. Invitees include other UN Agencies and IGOs, regional bodies in vulnerable areas and relevant NGOs. The goal of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for those international organizations and agencies leading initiatives addressing the threats of climate change to fisheries and aquaculture to discuss their work programmes and to agree on means of improve coordination and cooperation, including with other sectors, to maximize the effectiveness of their collective efforts and scarce resources.

R. 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 (para. 77)

- A. Two Expert Consultations on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas were organized in June and September 2007. This work as well as a number of workshops and reviews paved the way for the organization of a Technical Consultation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas. This Consultation was organized in two sessions (Rome, 4-8 February and 25-29 August 2008), where the Guidelines were reviewed and adopted.

R. Consultation with IMO on marine debris (para. 78)

- A. FAO continues to address the issue of marine debris with IMO through the Correspondence Group, established by the 55th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in 2006 tasked to develop the framework, method of work and timetable for a comprehensive review of MARPOL Annex V and the associated Guidelines for its implementation. FAO has also addressed the issue of marine debris through the Joint FAO/IMO ad hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG). The Correspondence Group is to make its final report to the Committee at MEPC 59 in London, July 13-17, 2009. Through these fora, FAO has expressed its concern over lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gears. FAO has made available to the Correspondence Group the findings of the FAO/UNEP study titled "Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears" (Fisheries Technical Paper 523).

R. Complete the technical guidelines on the design, implementation and testing of MPAs in relation to fishing (para. 79)

- A. A working version of the Technical Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas will be available for COFI. The document will present the emerging and complex issues related to the use of marine protected areas, in various forms, for fisheries management and other objectives. A global series of case studies examining lessons learned on the implementation of MPAs in relation to governance and institutional issues are being finalized and will be used to complement the final version of the Guidelines.

R. Continue the work on biodiversity mapping (para. 81)

- A. FAO has continued its work on biodiversity mapping through the Species Identification and Data Programme. However, this important activity suffers because of the very limited budgetary funding available for this type of work.

R. *Continue to collaborate with IMO for safety at sea (para. 82)*

- A. Currently, FAO is working together with ILO and IMO in developing new safety standards for small fishing vessels that are not covered by the revised FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety and Voluntary Guidelines. The target completion date for this work, which also includes the development of new guidelines to assist Competent Authorities in the implementation of Part B of the Code of Safety, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety recommendations, is 2010.

FAO took active part in the development of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188) and its accompanying Recommendation No. 199, which were adopted in 2007. FAO has also been assisting IMO in accelerating the entry into force of the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol and the most recent related activity is the development by IMO of a new Agreement on the implementation of the Protocol. This activity is a follow-up to the Second Joint FAO/IMO ad hoc Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters, which was held at FAO Headquarters in July 2007.

An Expert Consultation on Best Practices for Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector was held in Rome, Italy, from 10 to 13 November 2008 to develop a draft outline of guidelines for best practices to improve safety at sea in the fisheries sector. The Consultation noted with interest the quality of the findings of recent FAO regional workshops on safety at sea (the most recent being the FAO Regional Workshop on Safety at Sea in Artisanal and Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean in Paita, Peru, July 2007) and suggested that their outcome be reflected in the guidelines. The Expert Consultation also agreed that fisheries management has indirect and direct effects on fishing safety and strongly recommended the development of an IPOA on Safety in the Fisheries Sector of which the Guidelines, when developed, would be an integral component.

FAO is currently operating a global safety at sea programme for small-scale fisheries in developing countries. The programme, which is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with support from the Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA), is aimed at improving the livelihood of small-scale fishing communities by decreasing the number of accidents at sea and the effects of such accidents.