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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-fifth Session

5–9 September 2022

### ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

## Executive Summary

This information paper provides background information on the Provisional Agenda for the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

**1. Opening of the Session**

- The Chairperson will call the Session to order. The Chairperson will inform delegates of the voting right of the European Union and its Member States on each Agenda item (*COFI/2022/INF/16*).
- After the opening remarks and an administrative report by the Chairperson on the inter-sessional consultation conducted by the Bureau, the Director-General of FAO or his representative will inaugurate the session (*COFI/2022/INF/4*).
- Ministers and Vice-Ministers are invited to make an oral delivery of general statements under this Agenda item.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session**

- Procedural (*COFI/2022/1/Rev.2*, *COFI/2022/INF/1/Rev.1*, *COFI/2022/INF/2/Rev.1*, *COFI/2022/INF/5/Rev.1*).
- Additional matters to be discussed under Agenda item 16, Any other matters, should be proposed under this Agenda item.

**3. Designation of Drafting Committee**

Procedural.

**4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the related instruments (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item is to combine the status of world fisheries and aquaculture and the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments, in order to respond innovatively to emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture, including innovation in fisheries and aquaculture sector on the global, regional and all national levels with particular reference to new technology.
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/2*) provides a summary of the status, trends and emerging issues of world fisheries and aquaculture according to the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (SOFIA 2022). Progress of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic is also addressed under this Agenda item.
- The relevant documents (*COFI/2022/2.1*, *COFI/2022/INF/7*) provide a summary of the analyses on the progress of implementation of the Code and related instruments by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) based on the results of the Code questionnaire, since the last report to the 34th Session of COFI in 2021.

**5. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and indicators under FAO custodianship. The relevant documents are *COFI/2022/3*.

**6. Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including in the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on small-scale and artisanal fisheries particularly in relation to the IYAFA 2022.
- The relevant documents (*COFI/2022/4*, *COFI/2022/4.1/Rev.1*, *COFI/2022/INF/9*) provide a summary of achievements of FAO to support marine and inland small-scale

and artisanal fisheries governance and development, as well as the progress under FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

- It further highlights the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to food system transformation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It also presents the progress of the IYAFIA 2022.
- A report on Illuminating Hidden Harvest project is also made under this Agenda item.

## **7. Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (for information, discussion and endorsement)**

- This Agenda item focuses on the fight against IUU fishing.
- Relevant documents (*COFI/2022/5, COFI/2022/INF/10*) provide an overview of the progress of, *inter alia*, (i) the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) and the Global Information Exchange System; (ii) the development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record); (iii) the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment; (iv) the activities of the FAO/IMO/ILO Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing Related Matters (JWG), including the development of the terms of reference of JWG; and, (v) marking/identification of fishing vessels.
- FAO's contributions towards achieving Target 14.6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aim to end IUU fishing by 2020, is also reported.
- The activities on International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing (ID-IUU) is also reported.

## **8. Enhancing COFI discussions including Recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (for decision)**

- This Agenda item focuses on the proposal of the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM).
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/6*) provides the recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM), as well as suggestions for improving the proceeding of future COFI. The minutes of the meetings of the Working Group are available on the relevant subpage<sup>1</sup>.

## **9. Addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on progress in the work on fisheries and aquaculture in relation to climate change, and its synergies with the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.
- The relevant documents (*COFI/2022/7, COFI/2022/INF/11/Rev.1*) provide an overview of the work carried by FAO on climate change in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, including update on the development of FAO Guidelines on Mainstreaming Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/sub-committee-on-fisheries-management-wg/en/>

**10. Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture.
- The relevant documents (*COFI/2022/8, COFI/2022/INF/12*), provide an overview of the work carried out by FAO on mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, including (i) update on progress and sector representation in the development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework; (ii) FAO's role in supporting area-based conservation measures, including an update on FAO's work on developing sector specific guidance on Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs); (iii) threatened species (CITES); (iv) marine litter (abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), marine plastics), including an update on FAO's work on reducing marine litter at national and regional levels, especially in relation to ALDFG; and, (v) FAO's Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

**11. Developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture (WCP)<sup>2</sup> (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on the global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture.
- The relevant documents (*COFI/2022/9, COFI/2022/INF/13*) provide an overview of the major global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture governance that are implemented with the involvement and support of FAO, including (i) global processes (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), UN Ocean Conference, UNGA and other global ocean frameworks; (ii) Regional processes (Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations/Arrangements (RFMO/As); (iii) UN Food Systems Summit; (iv) UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; (v) UN Decade of Ocean Science; and, (vi) an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Safety at sea and decent work in fisheries and aquaculture is also addressed under this Agenda item (*COFI/2022/INF/8*).

**12. Decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 24–27 May 2022 (WCP) (for information and endorsement)**

- This Agenda item focuses on decisions and recommendations of the 11th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/10*) provides an overview of the topics discussed in the 11th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and its main recommendations, including (i) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); (ii) Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture; (iii) Global Conference on Aquaculture; and (iv) Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources.
- The report of the 11th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture is available as *COFI/2022/INF/14*.

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<sup>2</sup> “WCP” means that the items are proposed to be subject to Written Correspondence Procedure.

**13. Decisions and recommendations of the Eighteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 8 April–9 May, 7–9 & 20 June 2022 (WCP) (for information and endorsement)**

- This Agenda item focuses on decisions and recommendations of the 18th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/11*) provides an overview of the topics discussed in the 18th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and its main recommendations, including World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on subsidies in the fisheries sector.
- The report of the 18th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade is available as *COFI/2022/INF/15*.

**14. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework (WCP) (for information and discussion)**

**14.1 Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–25) (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework.
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/12*) provides an overview of FAO's achievements in fisheries and aquaculture in the 2020–2021 biennium and a perspective on FAO's work in the fisheries and aquaculture sector during 2022–2023 under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031, including the biennial theme 2022–2023, *Agriculture Food Systems Transformation: From Strategy to Action*, in particular Blue Transformation.
- The relevance of the Global Action Framework for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–25) for the FAO programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture will also be considered under Agenda item 14.1 (*COFI/2022/12.1, COFI/2022/INF/16*).
- Information on a voluntary blue port network is also provided.
- Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the 34th Session of COFI and the report of the 34th Session of COFI (*COFI/2022/INF/6*) are also available for information.

**15. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee (WCP) (for information and discussion)**

- This Agenda item focuses on the MYPOW of the Committee.
- The relevant document (*COFI/2022/13*) provides a progress report of MYPOW 2020–2023 and a draft MYPOW 2022–2025.

**16. Any other matters (for information)**

**16.1 Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI**

- The information on developments in other fora of importance in FAO for the mandate of COFI, including the decisions and recommendations by other Governing Bodies of FAO in relation to fisheries and aquaculture is reported.

**16.2 Results of the World Fisheries University Pilot Programme**

- The Republic of Korea is invited to report the status of the World Fisheries University Pilot Programme.

**17. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 36th Session of COFI**

- The Committee is required to elect the office bearers for the 36th Session of COFI in accordance with Rule I.1 of its Rules of Procedure.

**18. Date and place of the 36th Session of COFI**

- The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the 36th Session of COFI.

**19. Adoption of the Report**

Procedural.