

The Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

Why?

In FAO, for many years, aquaculture issues have been discussed under the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the highest governmental meeting on fisheries which meets biennially. During the past decade, as aquaculture gained serious momentum and developed as a strong food producing sector, FAO Members realised that the time allocated for discussing global issues of aquaculture during COFI is inadequate and a separate sub-committee should be created to exclusively discuss aquaculture issues, as it does for aquatic products trading issues by the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. The FAO Members in 1999, during the 23rd Session of COFI requested FAO to look at the feasibility of a sub-committee on aquaculture and report to COFI.

How?

In response to this request, thirty three participants from 14 countries, two regional inter-governmental organizations and two international non-governmental organizations attended an expert consultation from 28-29 February 2000, in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the setting up of a sub-committee on aquaculture for COFI.

The consultation confirmed the growing importance of aquaculture, including culture-based fisheries, and its interactions justified a focused global intergovernmental mechanism to provide the opportunity for information exchange, discussion and consensus-building among various parties interested in aquaculture development and to establish an efficient means to advice and guide COFI and FAO. The consultation concluded that the establishment of such a sub-committee would be in line with the FAO Conference Resolution 13/97 and the expenditure of funds on the sub-committee would be justified. The consultation identified major issues and prioritized six key areas that need to be addressed and stated that the role of aquaculture for enhancing food security and economic development in FAO member countries was a primary priority.

When?

The **Sub-Committee on Aquaculture** was established by FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its Twenty-fourth Session in 2001 in accordance with Rule XXX-10 of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule VII of the COFI Rules of Procedures.

Who?

Sub-Committee membership is open to all Member Nations of the Organization. Non-Member states of the Organization that are member of the United Nations, or any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, may be admitted by the Council of the Organization to membership in the Sub-Committee.

What?

Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

The Sub-Committee shall provide a forum for consultation and discussion on aquaculture and advice COFI on technical and policy matters related to aquaculture and on the work to be performed by the Organization in the subject

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Pearl oyster farming in China



Seaweed farming in the Philippines

matter field of aquaculture. In particular the Sub-Committee shall:

- ⊙ identify and discuss major issues and trends in global aquaculture development;
- ⊙ determine those issues and trends of international importance requiring action to increase the sustainable contribution of aquaculture to food security, economic development and poverty alleviation;
- ⊙ recommend international action to address aquaculture development needs and, in this regard:
 - ⊙ to advise on mechanisms to prepare, facilitate and implement action programmes identified, as well as on the expected contribution of partners;
 - ⊙ to advise on the liaison with other relevant groups and organizations with a view to promoting harmonization and endorsing policies and actions, as appropriate;
 - ⊙ to advise on the strengthening of international collaboration to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- ⊙ advise on the preparation of technical reviews and of issues and trends of international significance;
- ⊙ address any specific matters relating to aquaculture referred to it by its Members, the Committee on Fisheries or the Director-General of FAO".

Sessions of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture:

Where?

FIRST SESSION: 18-22 APRIL 2002, BEIJING, CHINA PR

The First Session was attended by 49 Members of FAO, by an observer from one non-Member Nation of FAO, by a representative from one specialized agency of the UN and by observers from 8 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The First Session, the Sub-Committee recognized the important role that aquaculture could play in improving livelihoods, generating income and stimulating national and regional development and identified the following key areas for future work:

- ⊙ creating an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable aquaculture development and management
- ⊙ establishing a framework for sustainable rural aquaculture development
- ⊙ education, information sharing and capacity-building
- ⊙ data collection and reporting to improve knowledge and management of the sector.

SECOND SESSION: 7-11 AUGUST 2003, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

The Second Session of the Sub-Committee was attended by 64 Members of FAO, by an observer from one Non-Member nation of FAO, by a representative from one specialized



Reservoir fishing in Lao PDR

agency of the UN and by observers from 6 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations. The Second Session of the Sub-Committee identified and discussed a number of issues such as:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the First Session;
- Efforts by regional fishery bodies in responsible aquaculture and culture-based fisheries;
- Progress in implementing the provisions of FAO's CCRF relevant to aquaculture and culture-based fisheries;
- Improving status and trends reporting on aquaculture;
- Strategies to improve safety and quality of aquaculture products; and
- Responsible practices in culture-based fisheries.

In addition, the Sub-Committee discussed and made recommendations on emerging issues concerning: (a) exotic aquatic species, their introductions, transfers and movement; the risks and benefits, including introduction of pathogens and management of health; and (b) shrimp aquaculture sustainability, including follow-up activities recommended at the Expert Consultation on Good Management Practices and Good Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Sustainable Shrimp Culture held in Brisbane, Australia in December 2000. The Sub-Committee also requested FAO to

review and analyse the various certification systems in place with a view to ensure harmonized approaches and procedures for the development and implementation of shrimp aquaculture products certification systems. The Sub-Committee requested the Secretariat to provide a prospective analysis of future challenges in global aquaculture as a basis for a discussion of the longer term direction of the Sub-Committee's work.

THIRD SESSION: 4-8 SEPTEMBER 2006, NEW DELHI, INDIA

The Third Session of the Sub-Committee will discuss the FAO Fisheries Department's efforts in implementing the recommendations of the first and second sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the progress made on the implementation of the aquaculture related provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries during the intrasessional period. It will also discuss, debate and decide on several other timely issues on

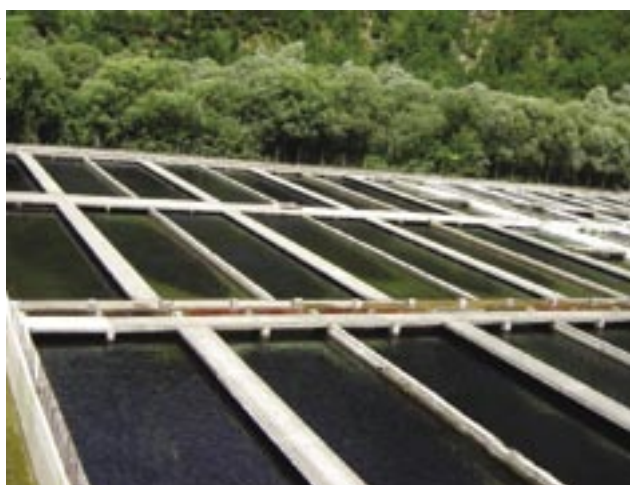
- improving information on the status and trends in aquaculture development,
- increasing the socio-economic impacts of aquaculture,
- improving planning and policy development in aquaculture: opportunities and challenges,
- better management of aquaculture: the future; and
- prospective analysis of the future aquaculture development and the role of COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

REFERENCE

- Report of the Expert Consultation on the Proposed Sub-Committee on Aquaculture of the Committee on Fisheries. Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 February 2000. FAO Fisheries Report. No. 623. Rome, FAO. 2000. 36p.
- Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 18-22 April 2002. FAO Fisheries Report No. 647. Rome, FAO. 2002. 66p.
- Report of the Second Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 7-11 August 2003. FAO Fisheries Report No. 716. Rome, FAO. 2003. 91p.

For further information about the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, please contact Rohana P. Subasinghe, Technical Secretary of COFI: AQ, at Rohana.Subasinghe@fao.org

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Trout farming in Bosnia and Herzegovina