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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, Italy, 7-11 March 2005

ANNOTATIONS/GUIDE NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The outgoing Chairperson will call the Session to order. He will inform delegates of the voting rights of the European Community and its Member States on each agenda item. After opening remarks by the outgoing Chairperson, the Deputy-Director General of FAO or his representative will inaugurate the Session.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

Procedural.

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

The Committee is required to elect the Office Bearers in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION (CAPACITY, IUU FISHING, SEABIRDS AND SHARKS), AND THE STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF CAPTURE FISHERIES

At its Twenty-second Session, in March 1997, the Committee on Fisheries agreed that a progress report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries be presented every two years. When the Committee, at its Twenty-third Session, adopted the International Plans of Action (IPOAs) on Capacity, Seabirds and Sharks (and eventually IUU Fishing at the Twenty-fourth Session), it directed that future reporting on the Code should particularly provide for specific reporting on development of national plans and other actions called for in the IPOAs.

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.

At this Session, the Committee will receive the Fourth Periodic Report on the Progress Achieved in Implementing the Code and its related IPOAs. The document *COFI/2005/2* submitted to the Committee summarizes activities undertaken by FAO to facilitate the implementation of the CCRF. It also reports on progress made by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies or arrangements (RFBs) and non-governmental organizations in implementing and promoting the implementation of the Code. Information relating to the Part VII Fund established under the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement is also addressed.

In this respect, the Committee, at its Twenty-fifth Session, endorsed the proposal by Japan that FAO should convene a Technical Consultation to review progress and promote the full implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) and the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity).

The Technical Consultation to review progress and promote the full implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity was held in Rome, Italy, from 24 to 29 June 2004. The full report is available as document *COFI/2005/Inf.8*.

Furthermore, the Committee, at its Twenty-fifth Session, urged FAO to accelerate its work in relation to the impact of subsidies on fisheries resource sustainability and sustainable development. The Committee also agreed that FAO should convene a Technical Consultation on this issue.

The Technical Consultation on the Use of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector was held in Rome, Italy, from 30 June to 2 July 2004. The full report is available as document *COFI/2005/Inf.9*.

Additionally, the Committee, at its Twenty-fifth Session, endorsed the proposal of the Expert Consultation to convene a Technical Consultation to address substantive issues relating to the role of the port State to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

The Technical Consultation to Review Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was held in Rome, Italy, from 31 August to 2 September 2004. The full report is available as document *COFI/2005/Inf.10*.

The Committee is invited to review the outcome of these three Technical Consultations. In particular, the Committee is invited to consider the recommendations of these Technical Consultations and advise on their implementation. With respect to the question of fisheries subsidies, the Committee is invited to give advice on the short term and long term work programme for FAO (document *COFI/2005/Inf.9/Add.1*).

5. ASSISTANCE TO THE FISHING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TO REHABILITATE AND REACTIVATE THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED

This Twenty-sixth Session of COFI is taking place less than three months after the unprecedented tragedy which affected several countries of the Indian Ocean and particularly their fishing communities.

The Committee is invited to consider the question of the assistance to these communities with a view to their rehabilitation and recovery and reactivation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the countries concerned (Tsunami Rehabilitation Plan). It is expected that particular emphasis will be placed on the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector. Discussions should be oriented towards:

- the situation of the sector following the disaster;

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- FAO's strategy for medium and long-term fisheries/aquaculture rehabilitation and reconstruction activities;
 - the coordination of international interventions to fund and implement such activities.

The Secretariat will prepare a document on this subject which at the time of writing has not been finalized.

6. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE (BREMEN, GERMANY, 10-14 FEBRUARY 2004) INCLUDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO ECOLABELLING AND CITES

At its Sixteenth Session in 1985, the Committee on Fisheries decided to establish a Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products.

The Sub-Committee, at its Ninth Session, took note of important recent events and issues concerning international trade, environment and sustainable fisheries development, as follows:

- Status and important events concerning international trade in fishery products;
- CITES issues with respect to international trade and the CITES/FAO Memorandum of Understanding;
- Safety and quality, with particular emphasis on fish meal and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy;
- Traceability and labelling in fish trade;
- Outcome of the Expert Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries;
- Report on collaboration with the World Customs Organization;
- Harmonization of catch documentation;
- COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as international commodity body and its relationship with the Common Fund for commodities;
- Fish trade and food security, including report on findings of an Expert Consultation;
- Access of fish caught in small-scale fisheries to international trade.

In addition, the Sub-Committee addressed, in particular, the recommendations made to it by COFI at its Twenty-fifth Session.

The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the report of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and provide guidance, particularly with regard to the issues mentioned in Paragraphs 7 through 17 of document *COFI/2005/3* and in the annexes to the document.

In addition, the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade recommended that FAO organize a Technical Consultation to further elaborate the work of the Expert Consultation, on the development of International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries, and finalize the draft guidelines for their consideration by the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI in 2005.

The Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries was held in Rome, Italy, from 19 to 22 October 2004. It was convened again in Rome, Italy, on 3 and 4 March 2005. The full report is available as documents *COFI/2005/Inf.13* and *COFI/2005/Inf. 13Add.1*. The Committee is invited to consider the outcomes of the Technical Consultation and, as appropriate, to adopt the International Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.

7. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY, 7-11 AUGUST 2003

The Committee on Fisheries, at its Twenty-fourth Session, decided to establish a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture to provide a forum for consultation and discussion on aquaculture and to advise COFI on technical and policy matters related to aquaculture, and on the work performed by FAO in the field of aquaculture.

The Second Session of the Sub-Committee was held in Trondheim, Norway, from 7 to 11 August 2003.

Document *COFI/2005/4* summarizes the main outcomes of the Second Session of the Sub-Committee and action taken by the Secretariat as requested by the Sub-Committee. The document further addresses and highlights areas for which guidance is sought from the Committee.

8. ENABLING RESPONSIBLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES THROUGH THE CREATION OF A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The Committee on Fisheries, at its Twenty-fifth Session, recognized that certain current policies do not always treat small-scale fisheries in accordance with the sector's importance to national economic and social development and, in particular, its contribution to food security and poverty reduction and requested that FAO allocate more resources to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries.

The Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research (ACFR), which held its Fifth Session in Rome, Italy, 12-15 October 2004, also paid a special attention to the issue of small-scale fisheries (Document *COFI/2005/Inf. 16*).

Document *COFI/2005/5* explores the importance of the context in which small-scale fisheries operate, and argues that only through the creation of an enabling environment can these fisheries fulfil their potential to contribute to reaching the important goals of poverty alleviation and food security as stipulated in the World Food Summit and the Millennium Declaration.

The Committee is invited to review this document and provide guidance as to strategies that might be promoted to ensure an enabling environment for small-scale fisheries. Agencies and international organizations may wish to indicate specific areas where they might be involved.

9. DEEP SEA FISHERIES

Deepwater demersal fisheries resources continue to be vulnerable to overexploitation, because of their low productivity and weaknesses in existing governance mechanisms. These fisheries are generally to be found on the high seas and the information needed for their effective management is frequently deficient and legal means to ensure that data are provided and that participants manage their operations responsibly are often lacking.

The Committee on Fisheries, at its Twenty-fifth Session, recommended that deep sea fisheries be included in the agenda of its Twenty-sixth Session recognizing that these species require conservation and management at international level.

In document *COFI/2005/6*, a number of actions are proposed to better identify the existing management challenges of these fisheries as a basis for defining future possible actions, in particular, with a view to developing more effective management regimes and to improving the sustainability of deep sea fisheries.

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the types of actions suggested and identify those requiring priority actions from FAO Members and the Secretariat.

10. SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION AND FISHERIES

The Committee on Fisheries, at its Twenty-fifth Session, noted that the incidental catch of some species of sea turtles in some regions was a matter of concern for many Members. The Committee agreed that, while taking into consideration existing work on sea turtle interactions and conservation, a Technical Consultation should be held in 2004.

An Expert Consultation on Interactions between Sea Turtles and Fisheries within an Ecosystem Context was convened by FAO and held in Rome, from 9 to 12 March 2004, to prepare the required background information for consideration by the Technical Consultation.

The FAO Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 29 November to 2 December 2004. The full report is available as document *COFI/2005/Inf.15*.

The Committee is invited to review the outcome of the Technical Consultation summarized in document *COFI/2005/7* and to provide guidance with regard to the direction and scope of future work. In particular, the Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, adopt the recommendations of the Technical Consultation.

11. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND FISHERIES

A number of international instruments of relevance to fisheries, including the 1992 Convention for Biological Diversity, and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD-2002), refer to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as useful tools to conserve marine resources and manage fisheries. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries does not refer explicitly to MPAs but provides for, *inter alia*, protection and rehabilitation of critical habitats from all degradation. The related technical guidelines for fisheries management and the ecosystem approach to fisheries recognize that MPAs could play a useful role in ensuring sustainable fishing. Many countries are responding to these calls and progressively integrating MPAs into their fisheries management systems.

The Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research (ACFR), at its Fourth Session, noted that MPAs could have significant positive and negative impacts on fishery resources and on the social and economic conditions of fishers.

Document *COFI/2005/8* addresses this issue. The Committee is invited to review this document and to reflect on the use of MPAs for both biodiversity conservation and fisheries management and on the WSSD target to establish a network of MPAs by 2012. It is invited to offer experience and comments, in particular on the *pros* and *cons* of MPAs as fisheries management tools. The Committee is also invited to suggest action by FAO members and Secretariat regarding the issue. The Committee may wish, in particular, to indicate its view regarding the future elaboration of technical guidelines on the testing and use of MPAs in fisheries management.

12. REVIEW OF MAJOR PROGRAMME 2.3 FISHERIES: PLANNED ACTIVITIES OVER THE PERIOD 2006-2011, AS REGARDS MAJOR PROGRAMME 2.3 “FISHERIES” AND PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2006-2007

Document *COFI/2005/9* provides information on the implementation of the Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries over the period 2006-2011 and preliminary information over the period 2006-2007. It is recalled that the Medium Term Plan is of a “rolling” nature, to be updated every two years to reflect evolving contexts. While the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 has already been considered and

endorsed by the FAO Council in November 2004, it is the expectation of the Council that the Committee on Fisheries review and make recommendations on fisheries programme priorities.

The Committee is invited to review and make recommendations on the fisheries programme priorities which would be taken into account in the finalisation of proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-2007.

13. ANY OTHER MATTERS

14. DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT