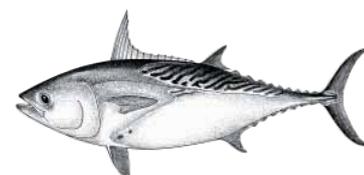
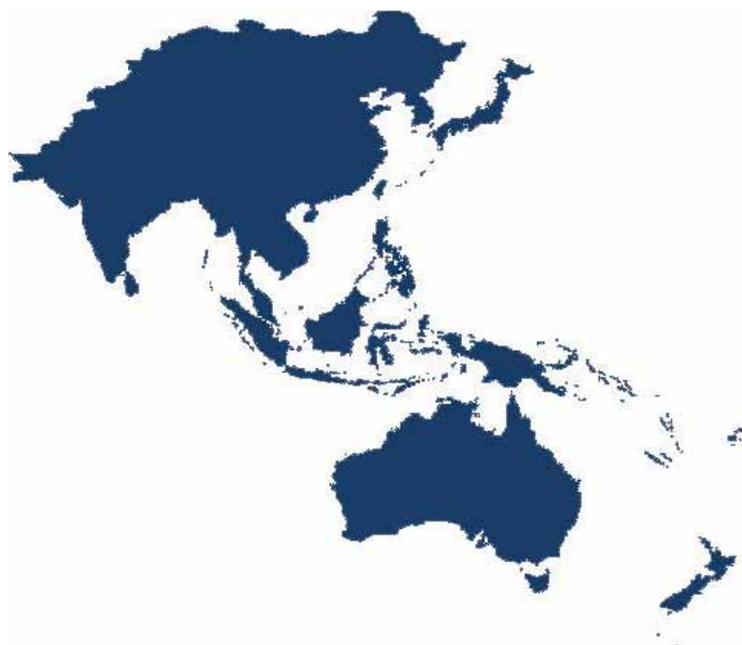


ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

**Report of the Executive Committee
Seventy-first session**



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Seventy-first session

Jakarta, Indonesia, 20–22 August 2007

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report adopted at the Seventy-first session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission.

Report of the Seventy-first session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Jakarta, Indonesia. 20–22 August 2007. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, RAP Publication 2007/17, 30 p.

Abstract

This document presents the final report of the Seventy-first session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 20 to 22 August 2007. Major topics discussed were: APFICs geographical coverage and mandate and related membership issues; progress reports on the intersessional activities of APFIC; outcomes of the *Fishing capacity management and IUU fishing* and *Certification of fishery and aquaculture production* workshops; and preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirtieth Session of APFIC to be held in August 2008.

Distribution:

Participants of the Session
Members of the Commission
FAO Fisheries Department
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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ACRONYMS

APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN WGF	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
BIMSTEC FiWG	BIMSTEC Fisheries Working Group
BOB-IGO	Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COFI-AQ	COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIEL	Policy and Liaison Service of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOFISH	Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IUU fishing	Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MFF	Mangroves for the future initiative
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific
NPOA	National Plan of Action
RAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RCFM	APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting
RFB	Regional Fisheries Body
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
RSAC	SEAFDEC Regional Scientific Advisory Committee
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SIFFS	South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WorldFish	WorldFish Center
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its Seventy-first Session at the Hyatt Aryaduta Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia from 20 to 22 August 2007 under the Chairpersonship of Mr Widi Pratikto, and Mr Jung-hee Cho, Vice-Chairperson. The list of the participants is presented in Appendix A.

2. The outgoing Chairperson, Dato Junaidi bin Che Ayub, Director-General Department of Fisheries Malaysia, welcomed the Members of the Executive Committee and thanked the Committee for their support during his term. On behalf of the members of the Executive Committee he expressed thanks to the Government of Indonesia and personally Mr Widi Pratikto for their hospitality and hosting of this event. The outgoing Chairperson recognized the significant contributions made to APFIC by former APFIC secretary, Mr Derek Staples during his term. He also noted that Mr Simon Funge-Smith as acting secretary had continued this good work. During the term of Malaysia's Chairpersonship, the Commission had started its transformation into a Consultative Forum; this process is ongoing and necessary to better position APFIC to assist member countries in addressing the critical issues of fisheries governance and sustainability. Importantly, APFIC should assist in strengthening regional approaches to dealing with these issues. In concluding, he looked forward to the continued activity of APFIC as a consultative forum under the new chairpersonship of Indonesia.

3. The incoming Chairperson, Mr Widi Pratikto addressed the Committee and thanked them for the privilege of being appointed Chairperson and expressed Indonesia's pleasure at being given this responsibility. He warmly welcomed the participants to Jakarta and stated that Indonesia looked forward to the task of hosting the Second Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the Thirtieth Session of APFIC and the support of the members during his term. He was confident that APFIC would provide greater awareness of regional fisheries issues and assist members in improving regional coordination and understanding of the needs for better fishery management. Mr Widi Pratikto wished the participants a fruitful meeting and a peaceful stay in Jakarta.

4. The APFIC Acting Secretary, Mr Simon Funge-Smith, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and the Chief and colleagues of the Policy and Liaison Service (FIEL) of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in Rome, who had come to participate in this important meeting. The APFIC Acting Secretary thanked the retired Secretary Mr Derek Staples, for his contribution to APFIC and friendship during his term. He expressed his anticipation of a productive and fruitful meeting and the need for the Executive Committee's guidance to the Secretariat on the range of decisions and issues relating to the work and functions of the Commission. In briefly reviewing the role of the Executive Committee, he clarified that the Executive Committee should provide recommendations both to the APFIC Secretariat and to the Commission for action and consideration at the next APFIC Session.

5. The incoming Vice-chair, Mr Jung-hee Cho, Republic of Korea, also welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Indonesia for hosting the session of the Executive Committee. He noted that despite budget constraints, APFIC has managed to provide excellent arrangements for creating awareness and understanding of fisheries issues in the member countries, and looked forward to the constructive outcomes of the Executive Committee's deliberations.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Executive Committee adopted the Agenda as shown in Appendix B. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF APFIC

7. The Secretariat summarized the developments and activities since the APFIC Regional Consultative Forum and the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21–23 August 2006). A detailed list and a description of the activities are given in the documents APFIC:ExCo/07/02 and APFIC:ExCo/07/02 Add 1.

8. The Secretariat has assisted in the organization of five international workshops and held one major regional consultative workshop on fishing capacity held in Phuket, Thailand, 13–15 June 2007. All these workshops had good participation from APFIC member countries and were also well supported with participation by a number of regional and international organizations.

9. The Secretariat has provided direct advice to member countries and is also backstopping six regional projects and four ongoing national projects addressing national level fisheries and aquaculture development issues. Two specific projects are being developed to support the work and objectives of the Commission (These are described in agenda item 7).

10. Several publications have also been produced by APFIC, notably, *inter alia* *The history of industrial fishing in Southeast Asia* (RAP Publication 2006/12); *Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission Report of the Twenty-ninth Session* (RAP Publication 2006/18); *APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting Reforming fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific* (RAP Publication 2006/19); *Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific 2006* (RAP Publication 2006/22); *Fisheries policy content and direction in Asia APFIC member countries* (RAP Publication 2006/23) and *Integrating fisheries into the development discourse* (RAP Publication 2007/03). The APFIC website is the main source of information and communication sharing among member countries and the Secretariat.

11. The Regional Aquaculture Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, concurrently Acting Secretary of APFIC, participated in the: FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture – 3rd Session (COFI-AQ) (September 2006); FAO COFI – Committee on Fisheries – 27th Session (March 2007) and the FAO Meeting of the Network of Secretariats of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RSN1) (March 2007).

12. The Executive Committee suggested that the Secretariat develop an executive summary or a briefing note for important meetings attended, to be posted as a news item on the APFIC website. These summaries could also then be included in the information paper on inter-sessional activities presented at the APFIC Session. The Executive Committee agreed that this was an effective way to raise awareness of regional meetings and initiatives amongst members.

13. The Executive Committee was informed that the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME) was a good opportunity for APFIC members to collaborate in a regional initiative for this area. It noted that this could result in a regional arrangement for management of the Bay of Bengal. The Executive Committee approved the participation of APFIC Secretariat in the development of this project.

14. The Executive Committee expressed strong support to the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and the shift towards a more consultative approach by APFIC. This was seen as a main achievement for APFIC and the RCFM was seen as an excellent forum to raise awareness and discuss difficult and emerging fisheries issues in the APFIC region. The Executive Committee also noted that the RCFM was an excellent venue to “showcase” ongoing and planned sub-regional management arrangements and initiatives. The Executive Committee approved APFIC working in a coordinating and facilitating role complementary to sub-regional management arrangements and initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE

15. The Executive Committee discussed the agenda item referring to document APFIC:ExCo/07/03 and APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.5. The Executive Committee was informed of the results from the FAO Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI). At this meeting, FAO was called upon by member countries to play a key role in cooperation amongst Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. COFI noted that the lack of management organizations in the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea, the Yellow Sea and other small ecosystems in the region continues to constrain effective fisheries management.
16. The Executive Committee agreed that one aspect of APFIC's work is to encourage better communication and sharing of information and agreed that a key role for APFIC was to promote and support increased cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture management in the region.
17. The role of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) such as APFIC and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO's) has been discussed both in FAO and other fora. It is recognized that RFB's and RFMO's can and will play an important role in the development of fisheries management at a regional level. Key issues are small-scale fisheries, IUU fishing, port state measures, vessels registration and overcapacity, and work on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
18. The Executive Committee recommended that APFIC members interested in working with any of these areas or projects should contact FAO/APFIC for further information.
19. Led by APFIC members countries, Indonesia and Australia; a series of Senior Officer's Meetings and a Ministerial Meeting have been convened, to develop a "Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing in the region". In the RPOA, it is recognized that Regional Organizations such as APFIC will play a key role in implementing the RPOA's with focus on technical input, development of guidelines, capacity building, sharing data and information and to strengthen regional networking. The Ministerial endorsement of the RPOA was concluded on 2–4 May 2007 in Bali, Indonesia and is appended to this report as Appendix D.
20. The Executive Committee commented that strong political will and commitment has already been given to RPOA and that the need now is to strongly focus on the implementation of its contents.
21. The Executive Committee endorsed the participation of APFIC's collaboration with member countries to implement the RPOA and its support in awareness raising and capacity building activities related to implementation.
22. The SEAFDEC Governing Council has supported a proposal to establish a Regional Scientific Advisory Committee (RSAC) for Fisheries management in Southeast Asia in response to the need for improving fisheries management particularly addressing issues related to fishing capacity and IUU fishing. The Executive Committee endorsed the participation of APFIC in advising SEAFDEC in the establishment and terms of reference of the RSAC.
23. FAO has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CITES to provide scientific information as part of the listing process. FAO has supported the listing of *Anguilla anguilla* (European eel) and saw fishes *Pristidae* spp. It was noted that several APFIC countries would investigate importing *Anguilla japonica* or other *Anguilla* species as an alternative to the European eel.
24. The Executive Committee highlighted the importance of APFIC members being aware of the work of CITES and also to communicate with FAO on matters of importance related to fisheries and aquaculture which might be relevant to the deliberations of CITES.

25. The Executive Committee noted further that vessel registration was a way to manage fisheries and a worthwhile approach. It was encouraged that IMO and FAO/APFIC should coordinate efforts on vessel registration to make it cover both large and smaller fishing vessels. Indonesia noted that there is already an ongoing project on vessels registration in Indonesia where more than 95 percent of the fishing fleet is small-scale. APFIC might be able to facilitate access to funds for further efforts to register the smaller vessels.

26. The Executive Committee was informed that the introduction of Port State Measures, as a means of controlling IUU fishing, was ongoing and that the upcoming meeting in Washington DC on 4–8 September 2007 was a first step towards the development of a legally binding instrument as agreed during COFI-27.

27. The Executive Committee noted that development in fisheries and aquaculture is moving very fast and there is increasing pressure from the international community to comply with existing international rules and regulations. Several APFIC members have informed APFIC Secretariat of the need for assistance and capacity building in this and other areas related to compliance with international instruments. The special issues of the APFIC region related to a large small-scale fishery sector and huge numbers of small vessels were commented upon. The Executive Committee commented that this will require prioritization of activities and a focus on those which will deliver the highest impact.

28. The Executive Committee agreed that APFIC could support members through focussed awareness raising workshops on these emerging matters of regional and international interest.

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES AND ARRANGEMENTS

29. FAO is currently reviewing the relationship between FAO and the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB) established under the FAO Constitution (APFIC:ExCo/07/04 and APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.6). Main issues faced by RFBs relate to the lack of financial and human resources. Most bodies established under the FAO Constitution are not autonomously funded and rely on FAO regular programme funding. RFBs, such as APFIC, can however improve their resourcing beyond the FAO regular programme allocation soliciting extra budgetary funding (being channelled through FAO).

30. The Executive Committee was informed that APFIC has already received *ad hoc* financial contributions from Members in support of specific workshops. APFIC has also received in-kind contributions from Regional Fishery Organizations and from member countries chairing APFIC, i.e. costs relating to the hosting of the sessions of the Executive Committee and of the regular session of the Commission. The Executive Committee noted that costs of hosting the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and the main APFIC Session were significant and thanked Malaysia for its generous contribution in the last biennium.

31. It was noted in the FAO review that RFBs rely on administrative support to discharge their mandate and functions. In this respect, there is a need to clarify the amount of time the Secretaries (often a FAO Senior Officer) spend in support of the work of the Commissions and on other FAO work that may not be directly related to the work of the Commission.

32. It was noted in the review that RFBs established within the framework of the FAO should initiate action to make themselves more effective, including considering reducing their area of competence. It was further noted that, where both fishery bodies established within and outside of the framework of FAO exist, efforts should be made to promote further cooperation and reduce duplication. The Executive Committee agreed to clarify APFIC's area of work.

APFIC ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

33. Based on the review paper presented in the previous agenda item, the Executive Committee discussed in depth the administrative issues which currently confront the operation of APFIC. These include: the issue of inactive membership of some countries; the clarification of geographical area where APFIC should prioritize its work; and the allocation of FAO Secretariat staff time for the functions of the Commission.

34. There are a number of APFIC member countries which are essentially inactive and do not participate in the sessions of the Commission. This lack of participation potentially constrains the Commission, which needs a two-thirds majority of its total membership (i.e. a quorum) to take decisions. This is also considered to unfairly constrain the work of the Commission for those members which are active and for whom the Commission's activities are important. The Executive Committee therefore considers this is an issue which should be addressed. The Secretariat requested the Executive Committee to give recommendations on how to address this issue.

35. The Executive Committee recalled that at its 29th Session, the Commission recommended that the Secretariat should proceed with reviewing the issue of membership and possible withdrawal of members that no longer wish to be part of the Commission. It was also suggested that a possible criterion for identifying inactive members would be non participation in three consecutive APFIC sessions, as suggested at the Twenty-ninth session (para. 131). The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to look into the possibility of amending the rules of procedures of APFIC regarding the status of inactive members and the requirements for quorum in APFIC decisions, and requested that this would be reported back to the Commission at the Session. The Secretariat noted that a member's active status could be restored as soon as it participated in a subsequent Session of the Commission.

36. In the light of the Commission recommendation at its 29th Session, the Executive Committee recommended that FAO would write to member countries which had not participated in the last three Sessions of the Commission enquiring whether the country wished to continue its membership of APFIC. The Executive Committee also recommended the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission to address this issue, following consultation with the FAO legal department.

37. The Secretariat recalled that the Regular Programme of the FAO cannot support the travel costs for the participation of member countries to APFIC sessions. The Executive Committee recalled that in conformity with the APFIC agreement members shall participate at their own expense when attending Sessions of the Commission,

38. The issue of the geographical coverage of APFIC was addressed by the Executive Committee. As currently stated in the APFIC agreement that the Commission shall carry its functions and responsibilities in the Asia-Pacific Area. Following significant discussion, it was suggested that practically and for the purposes of its work, APFIC's area could be described as follows:

- The EEZ waters of member countries in the Asian region and contiguous waters of northern Australia.
- In particular, the Large Marine Ecosystem areas of: the Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, Yellow Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and the Arafura-Timor Sea.
- Asian inland waters of the APFIC member countries.

39. The Executive Committee agreed that this practical description of the area was consistent with the work of APFIC and noted the recommendation that APFIC should not have a management

function. It further agreed that this should be compatible with the area of competence and work of other regional fisheries management organizations. The Executive Committee emphasized that it was crucial that the APFIC Secretariat and its members to coordinate their efforts to ensure that there is no overlap with the work of other regional organizations (e.g. CCAMLR, IOTC, WCPFC), but instead ensure compatibility. The Executive Committee also noted that inland waters are generally under the managerial responsibility of a single sovereign country, a notable exception being the Mekong River, which is dealt with by Mekong River Commission. APFIC can still work on inland fisheries relating to matters of common interest of its members

40. In addressing ways to improve the activities of members in initiating their own action in response to the recommendations of the Commission, the Executive Committee recommended the following approaches be considered:

- The possibility to set up members working groups within APFIC (e.g. use of virtual working group discussing technical issues).
- Identify and network existing projects/activities within countries more effectively.

41. It was noted that the Secretariat currently has two technical officers assigned part time and therefore has more of a monitoring and facilitating function. It noted that the Secretariat should not become heavily involved in direct implementation.

APFIC BUDGET AND FINANCE

42. The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item referring to documents APFIC:ExCo/07/05 and APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.7. The RFBs established under the FAO Constitution, which are not autonomously funded such as APFIC, rely on FAO regular programme funds to cover their expenses. These funds are not sufficient to cover the work programme of the Commission as agreed by member countries and as a consequence, alternative sources of funding are being investigated.

43. The operational budget for APFIC for the two biennia 2004/05 and 2006/07 was respectively US\$257 000 and US\$307 000. The increased budget was due to increased funding from sources other than FAO, such as donors' *ad hoc* support to workshops and activities. Although FAO cash and in-kind contributions remains the most significant source of funding to the Commission, FAO Regular Programme financial support decreased over the two biennia. The Secretariat cost provided by FAO is still highly significant even though the Secretary does not work full time for APFIC.

44. The Executive Committee noted with appreciation that contributions for the RCF Meeting and the APFIC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia were approximately US\$30 000 from Malaysia for costs related to hosting the meetings and US\$10 000 from Republic of Korea. Contributions like these are of crucial importance for APFIC's work. In addition it was noted that a significant proportion of FAO funds to APFIC is via trust fund projects implemented by FAO.

45. Different opportunities exist for improving the ability of APFIC to lever finances to support its activities. Members of the Commission can contribute to the work of the Commission through *ad hoc* extra budgetary funding. For amounts not exceeding US\$200 000, all is required is a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with annexed a simplified project document. There are no project support costs involved as these funds are treated as a direct reimbursement of FAO regular activities. This implies also that there will be no financial reporting. For amounts exceeding US\$200 000, funds will be placed under a trust fund and liable to the project servicing costs rate which applies (13 percent) to reimburse additional burden placed on FAO technical and administrative units.

46. The Secretariat clarified that Paragraph 4 in the document APFIC:ExCo/07/05 relating to the possibility of an autonomous budget requires the establishment of mandatory contributions by the members. The member countries have already clearly responded to FAO rejecting mandatory contributions and thus the establishment of an autonomous budget is not an option.

47. The Secretariat took note that the in-kind contribution from members might be an underestimate. The figures only take into account travel arrangements and DSA, not staff time. In addition the cost of the last Regional Consultative Forum was certainly under-estimated. The Executive Committee recommended that the staff time used in all meetings and workshops should also be calculated into the estimates of in-kind contribution. This would provide a clearer picture of the “true value” of the work of the Commission and also emphasize that it is very much actively supported by its members.

48. The Executive Committee suggested that additional funding could be sought from the introduction of registration fees to attend APFIC workshops to cover basic costs. The Committee also requested to the APFIC Secretariat to formally request member government to consider *ad hoc* contributions based on activities identified in the workplan to be presented at the APFIC session. In this way, members could indicate where their government might be able to provide financial or in-kind support to APFIC activities of the coming biennium.

49. It was noted by the Secretariat that the willingness by APFIC members to support their participants or additional participant at regional consultative workshops was already an excellent indicator of this type of in-kind commitment to the work of the Commission. The official time of resource persons from member countries could also included in estimation of actual in-kind contributions by members.

50. The Secretariat clarified that FAO's secretarial costs are excluded from the calculations in APFIC:ExCo/07/05 since it is hard to clearly distinguish between the work of FAO RAPI and the Secretariat responsibilities of APFIC. The Executive Committee suggested that subsequent the financial reporting should also include recognition and clarification of Secretariat amount of work (in-kind and cash), including the work on the APFIC website.

51. The Executive Committee was informed that APFIC can apply for Technical Cooperation Projects with FAO. The Executive Committee also suggested that member countries and the APFIC secretariat could make proposals to donors to provide funding for specific activities or programs. Such proposals should be well targeted and complement the recommendations of COFI as well as be in-line with APFIC member priorities.

APFIC STRATEGIC PLAN

52. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee on a draft strategic plan for APFIC, as outlined in document APFIC:ExCo/07/06. This task has been undertaken to develop and monitor APFIC's role in the region and as a response to requests by member and donor countries.

53. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that over the period 2007–2012, APFIC will continue to act in its role as mandated by the Commission as a Regional Consultative Forum. The forum mechanism works at a number of levels aimed at promoting regional cooperation and addressing two key themes per biennium. These themes are suggested by the Executive Committee and approved and chosen by the members at the APFIC session.

54. The Secretariat asked the Executive Committee to provide guidance and suggestions as to the future or emerging themes which need to be considered for the biennium 2009–2010 (These are listed in Appendix F).

55. The Committee endorsed APFIC to continue to work as a Regional Consultative Forum and recognized the work of the Commission in this respect.

56. It was reported to the Executive Committee that APFIC also functions as a regular coordination between RFB's and regional organizations liaising with BOB-IGO, WorldFish, NACA, SEAFDEC, COBSEA, MRC, MFF, ASEAN WGF, BIMSTEC FiWG. It was mentioned that this was an effective, low cost way to communicate between different regional organizations. This is done by a number of yearly telephone link-ups.

57. The Executive Committee commented that APFIC should continue in its coordination role. It was suggested that contact was also made with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to include them in the networking activities. The committee recommended APFIC to continue the telephone link-ups in the form of phone/e-conference's and work as an umbrella organization for the regional organizations.

58. APFIC has a capacity building function as well in supporting member countries in addressing the global normative expectations for responsible fisheries as laid out in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the other relevant global norms. APFIC can assist in identifying technical assistance capacity building with members.

59. APFIC has a clear mandate to support and encourage the emergence of bilateral, trilateral and other arrangements for the effective management of fisheries amongst its member countries, and particularly within its geographical area of competence. The Executive Committee supported APFIC's role in the promotion of regional arrangements and working with regional processes aimed at improving responsible fisheries in the region.

60. The Executive Committee recommended APFIC to continue its work and collaborate with SEAFDEC on the Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia. The foreseen role for APFIC is to identify common issues and assist in the coordination of these.

61. It was suggested that APFIC's strategy will be to work on aquaculture issues that have a clear interface with fisheries or where there may be common issues. APFIC will be working closely with its members and NACA, specifically working on aquaculture statistics, promotion of better management practices and specific projects on improving feeds for marine fish culture.

62. The Executive Committee advised the Secretariat to seek Regional Technical Cooperation Programme support to capacity building efforts in member countries. The focus of such requests should be identified and approved by the APFIC session.

63. The Executive Committee emphasised the role of APFIC in identifying new priorities and creating awareness of emerging issues in the APFIC region. When these issues/projects are well underway and ongoing with support by member countries, the APFIC Secretariat may no longer need to be directly involved in the implementation at local level of projects or initiatives.

64. The Executive Committee suggested that the APFIC Secretariat should develop a "Strategic plan" type document that clearly states the objective, goals and activities of APFIC. This should be a short and concise document that would help donors, members and partners to see where they can help and benefit from APFIC. It was suggested that the Secretariat would develop the document, circulate to members of the Executive Committee, and after including comments prepare the document for the APFIC session.

APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS

65. The Executive Committee considered the above agenda item referring to document APFIC: ExCo/07/07 and recalled that the Commission at its Twenty-ninth Session in 2006 had put high priority to the issues of improving and reforming the management of fisheries and aquaculture in the region and agreed that two major issues, namely, fishing capacity management and IUU fishing and certification of fishery and aquaculture production in the Asia and Pacific region.

66. The Secretariat reported that, in response to the Commission's directives, the APFIC Regional Workshop on "Fishing capacity management and IUU fishing" in the Asia-Pacific Region was held in Phuket, Thailand from 13 to 15 June 2007 and the APFIC Regional Workshop on "Certification of fishery and aquaculture production" will be held 18–20 September 2007 in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), and the outcomes of the meeting will be reported to APFIC members at the 30th APFIC Session to be held in Indonesia in August 2008.

67. The Executive Committee acknowledged the in-kind contributions from Thailand and Viet Nam to these two regional workshops and also the in-kind contribution of other member countries through the funding of additional participants.

68. The workshops have been or, will be, joined by participants from the APFIC member countries, regional bodies (BOB-IGO, INFOFISH, NACA, SEAFDEC) and arrangements (Ministry of Fisheries, Viet Nam), as well as other interested organizations (ICSF, Marine Stewardship Council, SIFFS, Shanghai Fisheries University, University of British Columbia "Seas Around Us" Project, WWF International). The outcome of these two Workshops, as detailed in document APFIC:ExCo/07/07 and a report to the 30th Session, will provide substantial input for the preparation of the 2008 Regional Consultative Forum, in which the two topics constitute the major issues to be discussed.

69. The Executive Committee agreed with the main findings of the IUU fishing workshop and supported the need to address the very large issue of fisheries management and IUU fishing in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshops were seen as very useful and being an important part of the regional discussions also outside the meetings themselves.

70. The Executive Committee advised the Secretariat on how the outputs of these two workshops and future workshops can be communicated to the APFIC members. It was noted that the soft copies of the reports made available on the website was an effective way of distributing APFIC information material. The successful implementations of the workshops were seen as an important criterion for a successful Regional Consultative Forum Meeting where they should also be reported back to members.

71. It was recommended that the Secretariat should distribute reports as soon as possible following a workshop and it was the responsibility of the APFIC focal points to distribute these further within their respective governments. It was recommended that member countries actively should take the advice from the workshops and try to implement the findings in their national action plans. The Executive Committee noted that reporting back to the APFIC session was a way to monitor impact of these workshops.

72. The Executive Committee endorsed the recommendations and action plan of the "Fishing capacity management and IUU fishing" workshop and encouraged APFIC to prioritize some key areas for an achievable plan of action through the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting. It requested the Secretariat to submit these for approval by the Commission at the 30th Session.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF THE 27TH FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

73. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee on recommendations and decisions of the 27th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) which are of importance to the region as outlined in document APFIC:ExCo/07/08.

74. The 27th Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome, Italy, from 5–9 March 2007. Of special importance to the APFIC region it was noted that the lack of management organizations in Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, Yellow Sea and several other small ecosystems in the region continues to constrain effective fishery management at national and regional level. Resolving this is likely to be a significant overall thrust of APFIC's work for the next decade at least.

75. The Secretariat further informed the Executive Committee that COFI, in its 27th Session identified the following points: 1) evaluation of state of implementation of the CCRF provided some insight into how countries are trying to apply the code, but mainly focused on the IPOA aspects; 2) Called upon FAO to assist in the area of catch documentation as a means to prevent sale of products from IUU fishing. FAO was also requested to provide technical inputs to the area of fishing subsidies for submission to the WTO negotiations; 3) Endorsed the strategy in aquaculture for information and statistics and requested FAO to support the area of aquaculture certification; 4) Highlighted the importance of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries as means to increase fishery production to generate income and foreign exchange to alleviate poverty, to increase food security and to provide for diversification of employment; 5) Called for greater application of NPOA's though introduction of the related measures for controlling IUU fishing. Since many countries in the APFIC region do not yet have a functioning NPOA on IUU fishing this is somewhat redundant and the members in the region need to reflect on how they may develop or implement an NPOA more effectively; and 6) Placed focus on recent evaluations of performance of RFMO's and the conclusion that they were not adequately performing their management role due to the lack of appropriate compliance or support from their member countries.

76. It was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee that additionally, during COFI, the following issues of relevance for the APFIC members were: i) Fishing capacity has increased in some areas over that prior to the Tsunami catastrophe; and ii) One agenda item on the ecosystem approach at COFI was covered.

77. The Executive Committee was informed of the FAO planned work on the socio-economic impacts of aquaculture and the intention to convene a meeting of socio-economic impacts in aquaculture in Thailand during 2008. It is expected that this will include country case studies in some APFIC member countries.

78. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that COFI identified a need for the development of a Coordination Party for aquaculture statistics. The CWP-Aquaculture will be a collaboration between FAO and NACA and the first meeting, with APFIC participation, will be held in early 2008.

79. The Executive Committee acknowledged the Secretariat's ongoing collaboration with the PROFISH global project on the global number on small-scale fishers including participation and economics. It was informed that the APFIC Secretariat would review data for a similar project on aquaculture, which will be part of the APFIC publication *Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific, 2008*. The result of this work will be communicated to the members during the next RCFM and session.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF APFIC

80. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the second APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirtieth Session of the Commission in 2008 as outlined in document APFIC:ExCo/07/09. The working title of the RCF Meeting will be *“Adapting to emerging challenges – promoting effective arrangements for managing fisheries and aquaculture in the Asian-Pacific Region”* was endorsed by the Executive Committee.

81. The Government of Malaysia, which hosted the last RCFM and the Session described their experience in convening these two meetings. The two meetings/sessions were held back to back and the RCFM, which is the larger of the two meetings, will be around 120 participants (guests) and if many local officers are attending the total number of participants could be up to 200 participants in total. The Session has around 25 participants and follows on directly from the RCFM.

82. The Executive Committee developed and endorsed the major topics to be discussed at the RCFM as well as the meeting agenda of the three-day RCF Meeting which appears as Appendix E.

83. The Executive Committee suggested the thematic areas for APFIC to work on in the biennium 2008/2009 themes as:

- 1) Practical implementation of the Ecosystem management approach to fisheries
- 2) Improving resilience and reducing vulnerability of livelihoods in small-scale fisheries.

84. There were a number of potential emerging issues mentioned by the Executive Committee. A full list of the suggestions is given in Appendix F.

85. The Executive Committee suggested that the outcome of the APFIC regional workshops that would be presented at the RCFM would be presented by the member countries hosting the workshops (e.g. Thailand and Viet Nam for the coming RCFM). It was further suggested that a representative country from each sub-region of APFIC made a presentation instead of including all countries. Additional country information could be provided in the form of posters.

86. The Executive Committee discussed the options for the location of the RCFM and the two options suggested were Manado and Yogyakarta. The tentative dates for the RCFM and the APFIC Session were set to take place late August or early September 2008. These will be confirmed by the hosting country and APFIC Secretariat.

87. The Executive Committee considered the arrangements of the Thirtieth Session of APFIC as proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed the tentative schedule of the Session (Appendix G). The session will be back-to-back with the RCFM at the same venue in end of August or early September 2008.

OTHER MATTERS

88. The Government of Indonesia distributed the “Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing in the region” and a draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) for fishing capacity management to the Committee Members; The Government of Malaysia drew attention to their NPOA for management of Sharks. The Secretariat thanked the Committee members for sharing their documents and encouraged all members to share any important documents produced in English with other APFIC members and the APFIC Secretariat.

89. It was noted by the Executive Committee and the Secretariat that the hosting arrangements done by the Government of Indonesia for the meeting were excellent. The Government of Indonesia expressed its gratefulness for having the honour of hosting this important meeting and was looking forward to working with the Executive Committee members and APFIC member countries in the future.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION

90. It was agreed that Seventy-Second session of the Executive Committee would be convened in Republic of Korea in August 2009. The Vice-Chairperson welcomed the next Session of the Executive Committee and looked forward to Republic of Korea's term as chair. The Secretariat was directed to consult further with the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the Committee regarding the exact date and location.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

91. The report of the Seventy-first Session of the Executive Committee was adopted by the Committee on 22 August 2007.

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APPENDIX B

AGENDA

MONDAY, 20 AUGUST 2007		
09:00 – 09:30	Agenda 1: Opening of the Session and Introduction of Participants	
09:30 – 10:00	Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements Group photo	ExCo/07/01
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee/Tea break	
10:30 – 11:00	Agenda 2: Inter-sessional Activities of APFIC (For information) <i>Paper on APFIC activities since last Session</i>	ExCo/07/02 ExCo/07/02 Add 1 ExCo/07/inf.3 ExCo/07/inf.4
11:00 – 11:30	Agenda 3: International issues of significance (For information) <i>Paper on significant developments on the global scene including RPOA</i>	ExCo/07/03 ExCo/07/inf.5
11:30 – 12:00	Agenda 4: Review of the functions of regional fishery bodies and arrangements (For information) <i>Paper on FAO review of FAO RFBs</i>	ExCo/07/04 ExCo/07/inf.6
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 15:00	Agenda 5: APFIC administration issues (Based upon previous paper for decision) <i>(i) Membership & geographic coverage</i> <i>(ii) Staffing</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee/Tea break	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda 6: APFIC Budget and finance (For decision)	ExCo/07/05 ExCo/07/inf.7
TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2005		
09:00 – 10:30	Agenda 7: APFIC strategic plan (For decision) <i>Developing and monitoring APFIC's emerging role in the region.</i> <i>Paper on ideas for the role and work of APFIC including:</i> <i>(i) Coordinating arrangements with other RFBs</i> <i>(ii) Facilitating the emergence of regional fisheries management agreements and arrangements</i> <i>(iii) Monitoring progress</i>	ExCo/07/06
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea break	
11:00 – 12:00	Agenda 8: APFIC Regional Consultative Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Fishing capacity management and IUU fishing (including workshop outcomes)</i> ● <i>Certification schemes for capture fisheries and aquaculture (including workshop arrangements)</i> 	ExCo/07/07
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	

13:30 – 14:00	Agenda 9: Recommendations and outcomes of the 27th FAO Committee on Fisheries (For information) <i>Paper on recommendations from COFI</i>	ExCo/07/08
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda 10: Preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and arrangements for the Thirtieth Session of APFIC (For decision) <i>Paper on next RCFM including discussion on emerging issues</i>	ExCo/07/09
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee/Tea break	
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda 11: Any other matters <i>Date and Place of the Seventy Second Session of the APFIC Executive Committee</i>	
19:00	Dinner hosted by FAO	
WEDNESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2005		
10:00 – 11:30	Adoption of the Report	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
14:00	Departure of participants	

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

APFIC:ExCo/07/01	Provisional Agenda
APFIC:ExCo/07/02	Inter-sessional Activities of APFIC
APFIC:ExCo/07/02 Add 1	Detailed Inter-sessional activities
APFIC:ExCo/07/03	International fishery developments
APFIC:ExCo/07/04	Review of the functions of Regional Fishery Bodies and arrangements
APFIC:ExCo/07/05	APFIC budget and finance
APFIC:ExCo/07/06	APFIC strategic plan
APFIC:ExCo/07/07	APFIC Regional consultative workshops
APFIC:ExCo/07/08	Recommendations and outcomes of the 27 th FAO Committee on Fisheries
APFIC:ExCo/07/09	Preparations for the Regional Consultative Forum Meeting and arrangements for the Thirtieth Session of APFIC

Information Documents

APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.2 ¹	Provisional List of Participants
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.3	Report of the Seventieth Session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23–25 August 2005
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.4	Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of APFIC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21–23 August 2004
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.5	Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region & DRAFT Ministerial Statement on the above
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.6	FAO and its Regional Fishery Bodies
APFIC:ExCo/07/Inf.7	FAO Administrative Circular No. 2007/14, Date: 19 April 2007

¹ Available at the Session

REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (RPOA) TO
 PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FISHING PRACTICES INCLUDING COMBATING IUU
 FISHING IN THE REGION²

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² Republic of Indonesia, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region

Introduction

1. Fishing activity makes an important contribution to the food security and economic well-being of the region. However, increases in overexploitation and illegal fishing practices, have hastened the depletion of many fish stocks. For this reason, fishery resources must be managed sustainably, and responsible fishing practices need to be promoted.
2. Regional cooperation is critical for the long-term sustainable protection of the living marine resource and the marine environment. Whilst some of the root causes of the depletion of fisheries resources can be addressed at the national level, many can only be successfully addressed through regional action. This is particularly the case in the areas with interdependent marine ecosystems, adjoining maritime boundaries and shared fish stocks.

Objective and framework

3. The objective of this RPOA is to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in the region, in order to sustain fisheries resources and the marine environment, and to optimise the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices. The actions cover conservation of fisheries resources and their environment, managing fishing capacity, and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the areas of the South China Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (Celebes Sea) and the Arafura-Timor Seas.
4. This RPOA is a voluntary instrument and takes its core principles from already established international fisheries instruments for promoting responsible fishing practices, including the 1982 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea' (UNCLOS), in particular Articles 61 through 64, 116-119 and 123, the 'United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement' (UNFSA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 'Compliance Agreement' and the FAO 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries'. The RPOA is consistent with existing treaties, agreements and arrangements and all other plans and programmes relevant to the sustainable management of the region's living marine resources.
5. This RPOA also draws upon the FAO International Plan of Actions, (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks', the 'IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity', and the 'IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing', the 'IPOA for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries', which contain internationally agreed measures, applicable to national and regional plans to promote responsible fishing practices and, more recently, the FAO 'Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing'.

Action Plan

Current resource and management situation in the region

1. The RPOA notes and affirms that the shared fish stocks are a very important source of food for people in the region, utilized by countries in the region and also traded both in and outside the region. Both overfishing and illegal fishing are seriously depleting the region's fish stocks. In this regard, the promotion of responsible fishing practices, and prevention, deterrence and

elimination of illegal fishing are essential to ensure food security and poverty alleviation in the region and countries in the region should:

- 1.1 work together on compiling an overview of artisanal and industrial fishing, the current status of fish stocks, trade flows and markets.

Implementation of international and regional instruments

2 International instruments contain structures and measures upon which to build long term sustainable fisheries. The key global instruments that countries should consider when implementing responsible fishing practices include the 1982 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea' (UNCLOS), the 'United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement' (UNFSA), the FAO 'Compliance Agreement', the FAO 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries', the 'International Plan of Action (IPOA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing', the 'IPOA for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries', the 'IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks' and the 'IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity'. Relevant regional instruments include the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Agreement Establishing the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). To support these measures, Countries in the region are encouraged to:

- 2.1 work toward ratification, accession, and/or acceptance and full implementation, of UNCLOS and UNFSA;
- 2.2 work towards ratification and/or acceptance of regional fisheries management instruments, where appropriate; and
- 2.3 work toward acceptance and full implementation of relevant regional and multilateral arrangements, where appropriate.

Role of regional and multilateral organizations

3. Implementing responsible fishing practices and combating IUU fishing are issues for the whole region. Articles 63, 64 and 116-119 of the UNCLOS requires countries to cooperate in the conservation and management of shared stocks and highly migratory species. The management expertise and technical capacity built up over the years by regional organizations should be harnessed to assist with the problems of the region.

- 3.1 Countries should work closely and collaboratively with regional organizations to develop conservation and management measures for fish stocks to promote optimum utilization.

4. Countries acknowledge the important roles of regional organizations in strengthening fisheries management and conservation in the region including the FAO/APFIC, WCPFC, IOTC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN, INFOFISH, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and WorldFish Center. The measures promoted by these organizations which may be applicable to this RPOA should be supported by all participating countries where relevant.

- 4.1 Countries should encourage relevant regional organizations to provide assistance in technical support and development of guidelines for conservation and fisheries management, capacity building, sharing data and information on fisheries and trade, and strengthening networking for the purpose of enhancing participation and ensuring implementation of conservation and management measures in the region.

Coastal State responsibilities

5. The collection, management and availability of accurate and timely information are essential in managing fishery resources and combating illegal fishing. Accurate data on the number of fishing vessels and fishing activity is required to provide for responsible fishing, hence the importance of maintaining comprehensive and up-to-date vessel registers and catch and effort information by all States, both coastal and flag. To help address this concern, countries in the region should:
 - 5.1 work together to improve their data collection systems and to share information about vessels, fishing effort, catch levels, fish landings and sales of fish and fish products, as appropriate, and;
 - 5.2 work to develop a regional approach to identify, compile and exchange information on any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing including support ships, carrier vessels and any other vessels directly involved in such fishing operations in the region on straddling and migratory stocks and across national jurisdictions.
6. Control of fishing capacity and fishing effort are fundamental elements of fisheries management. When the capacity of fishing fleets to harvest a resource exceeds the sustainable level, it results in unsustainable fishing activity and has the potential to 'spill-over' into illegal fishing activity. This RPOA acknowledges that countries should manage the fishing capacity of their fleets by:
 - 6.1 assessing the status of their fishery resources and fishing fleet capacity;
 - 6.2 introducing management measures to help prevent fishing capacity from exceeding levels that result in harvest rates that impede the ability of fish stocks to reproduce sustainably over the longer term;
 - 6.3 undertaking planning to reduce over-capacity without shifting that capacity to other fisheries whose resources may be already fished at the maximum sustainable rate or above that rate, taking into consideration potential socio-economic impacts;
 - 6.4 cooperating to assess, conserve and manage fishery resources where they straddle national boundaries or occur both within EEZs and in an area beyond and adjacent to the EEZ;
 - 6.5 undertaking to develop and implement national plans of action to accelerate their efforts to reduce over capacity and eliminate illegal fishing activity where these issues are known to occur;
 - 6.6 working on the collection, management and sharing of information on fisheries management, and the management of fishing capacity; and
 - 6.7 respecting traditional, artisanal and small-scale fisheries and providing assistance with the management of these fisheries resources.

Flag State responsibilities

7. Coastal States through their flag State responsibilities in the region are at the forefront in implementing sustainable fishing practices and combating illegal fishing. To address this need:
 - 7.1 all coastal States, relevant flag States and fishing entities operating in the region should actively cooperate in ensuring that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures, including engagement in or supporting illegal fishing.

Port State Measures

8. Port States play a key role in combating illegal and unreported fishing in the region, given the need to land catch and support fishing activities. In this regard, regional countries and fishing entities need to develop measures to regulate fishing vessels accessing their ports for transshipping and/or landing catch and collect and exchange relevant data. To address this need, countries should consider:
 - 8.1 adopting Port State Measures, where appropriate, based on the FAO 'Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing'³.

Regional market measures

9. In order to minimize unreported and illegal catches, countries should collaborate to implement regional market measures to identify and to track fish catches at all points in the marketing chain in a consistent way with existing international trade laws:
 - 9.1 As a priority, countries in the region should standardize catch and landing documentation throughout the region and implement catch documentation or trade certification schemes for high value product.
 - 9.2 In addition, countries should work with organizations such as INFOFISH to produce regular and timely market reports allowing trade flows to be analyzed.
 - 9.3 Countries should check trade discrepancies regarding export of fish and fish product and take appropriate action and, as a minimum, report these discrepancies to the flag State.

Regional capacity building

10. Capacity building in all aspects of fisheries management must be encouraged. Countries are aware that a fully effective system requires technically competent implementation and operation. Technical and administrative staff require access to both formal and on-the-job training to build the requisite experience and competence in matters such as fisheries resource assessments, introduction of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures and development of fish product tracking systems. To build these capacities, countries should:
 - 10.1 continue developing the appropriate core competencies for fisheries research, management and compliance, including MCS systems;
 - 10.2 either individually or jointly, seek technical and financial assistance from relevant international development agencies and donors as well as other countries in the region; and
 - 10.3 ensure that flag States from outside the region that operate in the region be urged to cooperate with, and assist technically and financially, those countries in the region in whose waters they conduct fishing operations.

Strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems

11. An MCS system, at both a national and regional level, supports and underpins a robust fisheries management regime. A strong enforcement network can share data and information on enforcement strategies and provide advice and capacity building. To better coordinate

³ Noting recent developments in the FAO to negotiate a binding international agreement on Port State measures, the Parties to the RPOA agreed to consider the provision of the FAO document once it is completed.

efforts against illegal activity, countries should develop suitable and relevant inter-agency arrangements to develop their networks to quickly share information such as locations, names of vessels, ports used (home and/or unloading port) and species targeted, and other information as appropriate. To develop these capacities, countries should:

- 11.1 enter into appropriate sub-regional MCS arrangements to promote the elimination of IUU fishing within the region;
- 11.2 develop a regional MCS network to promote the sharing of information and to coordinate regional activities to support the promotion of responsible fishing practices. Where possible, also participate in the work of the International MCS Network;
- 11.3 promote knowledge and understanding within their fishing industries about MCS activities to enhance sustainable fisheries management and to help combat IUU fishing; and
- 11.4 develop, as appropriate, observer programmes including the requirement for industry to adhere to inspection regimes and carry observers on board when required.

Transshipment at sea

12. Transshipment outside the territorial sea should be regulated to prevent illegal fishers from using it to launder their catches. Stronger monitoring, control and surveillance of both fishing and carrier vessels is a priority. To implement this, countries should:
 - 12.1 monitor and control the transshipment of fisheries resources; and
 - 12.2 establish control measures such as vessel registers, mandatory notification of the intention to tranship and the application of vessel monitoring systems.

Implementation

13. Countries agree to support the ongoing development of the cooperative arrangements embodied in this RPOA. The effective implementation of the RPOA will be reviewed as determined by a Coordination Committee to be comprised of officials from each participating country and communicated to the FAO's Committee on Fisheries and other regional bodies as appropriate.

THE AGENDA OF THE RCF MEETING

“Adapting to emerging challenges – promoting effective arrangements for managing fisheries and aquaculture in the Asian-Pacific Region”
(MANADO/JAKARTA), Indonesia, xx-xx August/September 2008

Day 1	xx/xx August 2008
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:15	<p>Opening Ceremony (separate detailed program)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome remarks – APFIC Chairperson and Secretary General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia ● Address – Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries Department (or his Representative) ● Opening speech – Minister, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Tea/Coffee
10:45 – 11:00	<p>Forum arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● APFIC Secretary
11:00 – 11:30	<p>Keynote address: Adapting to emerging challenges – promotion of arrangements for the management of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific <i>Ichiro Nomura, FAO Department of Fisheries (to be confirmed)</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific (2008) <i>FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (including results of big numbers project & WorldFish/RAP Asia fish model)</i> Capacity management and IUU Fishing in the Asia-Pacific Region</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Action plan to capacity reduction and combat IUU fishing in the APFIC region <i>Paper/presentation prepared by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Presented by workshop-hosting member country representative (e.g. Thailand)</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Regional initiatives promoting more effective fisheries management</p> <p>The RPOA <i>Paper/presentation prepared by Indonesia/Australia Presented by Lead member country representative (Indonesia)</i></p> <p>Regional Scientific Steering committee <i>SEAFDEC</i></p> <p>Development of a Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem programme <i>Prepared by FAO, presented by APFIC member</i></p> <p>Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion <i>Presented/prepared by Indonesia</i></p>

15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea/Coffee
16:00 – 17:00	Country experiences with implementing CCRF (?) IPOA <i>Brief presentations from APFIC Members</i> <i>One representative from each sub-region</i>
17:00 – 17:30	General discussion
Day 2	xx August 2008 Certification in fisheries and aquaculture
09:00 – 09:45	Regional review <i>Overview of fisheries certification</i>
09:45 – 10:15	Regional review <i>Overview of aquaculture certification</i>
10:15 – 10:45	Morning tea/coffee
10:45 – 11:00	Strategies and recommendations for certification in fisheries and aquaculture – outcomes of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop <i>FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i> <i>Presented by hosting member country (Viet Nam?)</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Country experiences with certification <i>Brief presentations from APFIC Members</i> <i>Representative from sub-region</i> <i>Additional posters from non-presenting countries</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Asian certification experiences Fisheries eco-labelling – Marine Stewardship Council Aquaculture certification guidelines – common framework and how Asia can implement – NACA/FAO Eco-labelling opportunities of fisheries and fisheries products – SEAFDEC General discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea/Coffee Theme 3: Policy section, CCRF and emerging issues
16:00 – 17:00	Paper on regionalizing: Port State Measures, vessel registry project, VMS, MCS network etc. – FAO staff member
18:00 – 19:30	Poster Session – country posters or exhibits on key issues that are being addressed by the Members <i>In conjunction with light buffet reception</i>
Day 3	xx August 2008 Policy section, CCRF and emerging issues (continued)
09:00 – 10:15	Presentation Presentation
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Tea/Coffee Emerging issues (IDENTIFIED BY THE #71 st ExCo)

10:45 – 11:15	Theme 1: Practical management in complex interacting systems (ecosystem approaches)
11:15 – 11:45	Theme 2: Market linkages, trade and finance – reducing vulnerability and Improving resilience of livelihoods (small scale fisheries)
11:45 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Final Session: Summary and recommendations for reporting to APFIC
14:00 – 15:30	Plenary Discussion Summary and recommendations for APFIC

LIST OF EMERGING ISSUES IDENTIFIED**by****APFIC ExCo 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia**

Member governments spend large amounts of funds on coastal resource management but new tools are needed to address global warming, interlinked markets. Internationally imported products have influence on national markets and prices. Management tools to address these new challenges.

Advice and policy, international instruments

- Port State Measures
- Assistance in development of National fishery strategies
- Developing NPOA's
- Effect of globalization

Regional Cooperation

- Regional Plan of Action
- Bay of Bengal Plan of Action/arrangements

Fisheries management intervention

- Growing awareness of ecosystem management approach. Practical tools on "how" to manage using the ecosystem management approach. There are some experiences from Australia and Republic of Korea on how to do this that might form a platform to work from. This together with a newly developed guideline from FAO could form a good starting point.
- Environmental issues like global warming and more local environmental degradation in local coastal areas should be addressed in a practical manner.
 - Marine waters (Ecosystem management tools)
 - Fresh waters (Water basin management)
 - Brackish water (Coastal zone management)
- Vessel registration.
- How to develop management tools that address new developments like integrated trade, climate change.
- Climate changes impact on marine fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- Are we using the right fisheries management tools to manage the fisheries resource especially the small-scale fisheries sector?
- Managing resources and sustaining livelihoods and food security.
- Economic trade-offs/-cost/benefits for management interventions.
- Tools for buy back, lessons and best practices.
- Cost effective VMS & MCS, VMS (follow up workshop and information).
- Effects of removal of fishing subsidies.
- Maintaining flow and connectivity in Inland fisheries/utilizing inland waters for fisheries Flow and connectivity of inland waters. New water bodies (esp. dams) and how to utilize them.

Aquaculture & fisheries trade

- Traceability.
- Market chain analyses and aqua-business. Traceability, business approach to fisheries and aquaculture.
- Value chain systems in a regional, sub-regional and national context.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF APFIC
xx-xx (month) 2008, (MANADO/JAKARTA) Indonesia**

Day 1	xx/xx August 2008
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome remarks – Chairman and Secretary-General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia ● Welcome remarks – Secretary APFIC ● Opening speech – Minister, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia
09:30 – 10:00	Inter-sessional activities of APFIC
10:00 – 10:30	Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific
11:00 – 12:00	Regional initiatives promoting more effective fisheries management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report from RCFM ● Country responses ● Partner's/donor comments ● Reporting by Member countries on country action (action-points)
13:30 – 14:30	Certification in fisheries and aquaculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report from RCFM ● Country responses ● Partner's/donor comments ● Reporting by Member countries on country action (action-points)
14:40 – 17:00	Policy section, CCRF and emerging issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report from RCFM ● Regional arrangements and initiatives ● Country responses ● Partner's/donor comments ● Reporting by Member countries on country action (action-points)
Day 2	xx/xx August 2008
09:00 – 10:30	Emerging issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outcomes & actions from COFI ● COFI-AQ & COFI Trade ● Emerging initiatives (e.g. Port State Measures, vessel registry, VMS) ● Member countries feedback
11:30 – 12:30	Major issues for APFIC focus in subsequent biennium
14:00 – 17:00	Other matters Election of Officers Date and place of 31 th Session
Day 3	xx/xx August 2008
08:00 – 12:00	Field trip (TBA)
14:00 – 16:00	Adoption of report
16:00 – 16:30	Closing of the Session

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