

Report of the twenty-fifth session of the

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Antalya, Turkey, 21-28 May 2008



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The present text is the final version of the report presented on 28 May 2008 to the delegates of the twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.

FAO.

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ABSTRACT

The twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008, in concomitance with a Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture. The session reviewed EIFAC's activities since 2006 in the fields of fishery biology and management, aquaculture, protection of the aquatic environment and social and economic issues. The session revised and decided EIFAC's future programme of work, in particular the activities which should be carried out until the next session of the Commission in 2010, and reviewed the functioning of EIFAC. The twenty-sixth session will be preceded by a Symposium that will focus on multifunctional inland aquaculture.

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OFFICERS OF EIFAC AND CONVENERS OF AD HOC WORKING PARTIES AND LIAISON GROUPS

Chairperson:	P. Hickley
First Vice-Chairperson:	K. Pinter
Second Vice-Chairperson:	A. Jagsch
Secretary	G. Marmulla

Ad hoc Working Parties

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Poaching	Convener	P. Stachowiak
Climate change	Convener	to be nominated

Liaison Group

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	Liaison	I. Cowx
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SUB-COMMISSION I – BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Chairperson:	T. Brenner
Vice-Chairperson:	J. Caffrey
Rapporteur:	I. Navodaru
Technical Secretary:	G. Marmulla

Ad hoc Working Parties

Eels	Convener	R. Poole
Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters	Convener	P. Hickley
Introductions and Stocking	Convener	I.G. Cowx
Management of Sturgeon	Convener	M. Chebanov
Fish Passage Best Practices	Convener	A. Zitek
Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality	Convener	R. Fricke
Crayfish	Convener	M. Pursiainen

SUB-COMMISSION II – AQUACULTURE

Chairperson:	L. Váradi
Vice-Chairperson:	T. Hubenova
Rapporteur:	O. Schlumberger
Technical Secretary:	U. Barg

Ad hoc Working Parties

Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health	Convener	E. Hudson
Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture	Convener	M. Verdegem
Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture	Convener	L. Váradi
Eastern European Affairs: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe	Convener	L. Váradi

SUB-COMMISSION III – PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCE

Chairperson:	G. Castelnau
Vice-Chairperson:	E. Ciccotti
Rapporteur:	T. Vehanen
Technical Secretary:	U. Barg

Ad hoc Working Parties

Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture	Convener	R. Rösch
Prevention and Control of Bird Predation	Convener	P. Heinimaa
EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Convener	C. Argillier

SUB-COMMISSION IV – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

Chairperson:	I.G. Cowx
Vice-Chairperson:	M. Sipponen
Rapporteur:	R. Arlinghaus
Technical Secretary:	R. van Anrooy

Ad hoc Working Parties

Recreational Fisheries	Convener	R. Arlinghaus
Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries	Convener	M. Sipponen

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008 under the Chairmanship of Mr Phil Hickley. The session was attended by 35 representatives from 21 Members of the Commission and by one observer from one international non-governmental organization. The List of participants forms Appendix B to this report.
2. The Deputy Director-General of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Mr Cevdet Akdeniz, opened the session and welcomed all delegates to Turkey. His address is included in Appendix D.
3. Mr Tsukasa Kimoto, FAO Representative a.i. in Turkey and Coordinator a.i. of the Subregional Office for Central Asia (FAOSEC) in Ankara, welcomed the participants in the name of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf. His statement is included in Appendix D.
4. The Chairperson of EIFAC, Mr Phil Hickley, expressed his appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting this session. He thanked Mr Devin Bartley for his work as Secretary of EIFAC and welcomed Mr Gerd Marmulla as new Secretary. His address is included in Appendix D.
5. The Agenda which appears as Appendix A was adopted. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix C. It was noted that the session had a quorum.

II. SYMPOSIUM ON INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES OF INLAND COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

6. A Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture was organized in conjunction with the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC in Antalya, Turkey, and held from 21 to 24 May 2008. The Symposium, which was chaired by Mr Ibrahim Okumus (Turkey) and convened by Mr Ian Cowx (United Kingdom), was attended by 255 participants from 26 countries. The main documentation comprised 57 oral presentations and 24 posters. The summary report of the Symposium is attached as Appendix E to this report. The Report of the Symposium will be published as a supplement to this report.

III. BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (SUB-COMMISSION I)

7. Mr T. Brenner (Germany), Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, informed the Sub-Commission on progress in the activities agreed upon during the twenty-fourth session of the Commission. The report of the activities was submitted to the session as EIFAC/XXV/2008/3 and EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.4.

Ad Hoc Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eels (Convener: R. Poole)

8. This Working Party has remained active during the 2006–2008 intersessional period, providing scientific advice on eel stocks and support to eel management. It further provided advice in respect of the new European Union (EU) Regulation (EC No. 1100/2007), which was adopted in September 2007. The Working Party met at CEMAGREF, Bordeaux, in September 2007 and provided advice on a wide range of pertinent data and issues (e.g. recruitment and landings, stocking and aquaculture, eel quality, contaminants, parasites and diseases, barriers to migration, issues relating to eel passage and topics in support of the

development of eel management plans, such as local stock assessment methodologies, the restoration process and predation). The Working Party published a report in late 2007, including the Country Reports. This is available on the ICES Web site and from FAO (limited number of hard copies). The Working Party will continue to develop a framework for the collection of data and the monitoring of stocks. A meeting is proposed for Leuven, Belgium, in September 2008. Mr Russell Poole (Ireland) was appointed as Convener of this Working Party.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters (Convener: P. Hickley)

9. Following the joint EIFAC/CEN fisheries acoustics workshop held in Dorset, United Kingdom, in March 2006, the draft standard “Water Quality – Guidance on the Estimation of Fish Abundance with Mobile Hydro-acoustic Methods” was presented by Mr Hateley (United Kingdom) at the CEN TG4 Fish Task Group in Vienna on 14 June 2007. In November, Member States voted that the draft be accepted as a new work item. A further revised version of the draft will be circulated for a prEN (provisional European Normalised Standard) vote after the next CEN meeting in Hof, Germany, on 28 May 2008.

10. The Working Party assisted the Biology Centre of Sciences of the Czech Republic to conduct the conference “Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs: Towards the True Picture of Fish Stocks”. This was held in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, from 11 to 15 September 2007. Papers accepted for publication are currently being edited for inclusion in a special issue of Fisheries Research.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Introductions and Stocking (Convener: I. Cowx)

11. The Session endorsed the association of EIFAC with the conference entitled “Management of Alien Species for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries”, which should be held in Florence, Italy, in November 2008. The Convener will represent EIFAC at this conference. A number of presentations have been produced by this Working Party and are available at <http://www.hull.ac.uk/hifi/IMPASSE/index.html>.

Ad Hoc EIFAC/GFCM Working Party on Management of Sturgeon (Convener: M. Chebanov)

12. The Convener and members of the Working Party participated in a number of sturgeon-related international meetings and workshops. The papers presented at the Piacenza workshop (2006) will be published in the World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) Special Publication. The report entitled “Strains and Domestic Forms of Sturgeon” has been prepared for publication by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation. The delegates agreed to change the name of the Working Party to Ad Hoc EIFAC Working Party on Management of Sturgeon in accordance with a request by GFCM.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Passage Best Practices (Convener: M. Larinier)

13. Issues defined as immediate priorities in the Terms of References (TORs) were discussed at the first two meetings held in Toulouse, France, and in Salzburg, Austria. Based on outcomes of these meetings the Working Party is developing comprehensive guidelines on design criteria for nature-like fish passes. In other specific guidelines, particular attention will be paid to aspects of downstream migration of eel. In addition, it is proposed to develop a “checklist” to ensure that fish migration/passage is an essential item in the new water management plans. It was acknowledged that there are significant linkages between this Working Party and the Working Party on Eels.

14. The Convener, Mr M. Larinier, resigned during the intersessional period. The delegates expressed their gratitude for Mr Larinier's invaluable contribution to the work of this Working Party. Mr Andreas Zitek (Austria) was confirmed as the new Convener of the Working Party.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality (Convener: R. Fricke)

15. As the Convener assured the Sub-Commission that some activities are expected under the previously agreed Terms of References, the Sub-Commission agreed that the Working Party should continue its deliberations.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Crayfish (Convener: M. Pursiainen)

16. The twenty-fourth session of EIFAC decided on the re-establishment of the Working Party on Crayfish. The Working Party held an ad hoc meeting in connection with the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC on 24 May 2008. The meeting discussed the preliminary Terms of References and finalized it. The Sub-Commission approved the following Terms of References:

- Monitor the change in distribution of crayfish species to better protect the native species.
- Collect data on crayfish catch, effort and aquaculture production in the member countries.
- Facilitate and support studies on crayfish ecology and restoration activities.
- Determine the socio-economic value (catch, processing, marketing, etc.) of crayfish from inland waters (environment) and aquaculture.
- Prepare guidelines for the responsible usage of crayfish species in aquaculture and inland fisheries, and for conservation or sustainable management of native crayfish stocks.
- Improve communication between stakeholders and other interest groups in relation to crayfish aquaculture, management of stocks and in the early detection and control of diseases (especially plague).
- Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the crayfish field.

17. The preliminary programme, up to 2012, will include three meetings or workshops. The minutes of the meeting are presented in Appendix F. The Sub-Commission agreed that Mr Markku Pursiainen (Finland) will act as a Convener of the Working Party.

Election of Officers

18. The following persons were elected: Mr T. Brenner (Germany), Chairperson; Mr J. Caffrey (Ireland), Vice-Chairperson; Mr I. Navodaru (Romania), Rapporteur.

IV. AQUACULTURE (SUB-COMMISSION II)

19. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr L. Váradi (Hungary) introduced the activities and achievements of the Sub-Commission, as presented in EIFAC/XXV/2008/4 and EIFAC/XXV/2008/ Inf.5.

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health (Convener: E. Hudson)

20. No report from the Convener had been received during the intersessional period. The Convener could not attend the current session, but was actively involved as chairperson and speaker in the programme of the Symposium that preceded the twenty-fifth session. His work

now is focusing on the EU fish health regime arising from EC Directive 2006/88/EC. As this new directive will influence governance supporting the development of sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture, it was proposed that the Working Party will be dealing with the implications of the new EU fish health regime and facilitate the dissemination of information on the knowledge base and tools the directive offers. The Convener confirmed his willingness to continue the work under new Terms of References. It was also proposed to change the name of the Working Party accordingly.

21. Mr Hudson will be invited to elaborate specific Terms of Reference for the Working Party taking into account the proposed new activity.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture (Convener: M. Verdegem)

22. No report from the Convener has been received during the intersessional period. The outline of the book “Water use and reuse in aquaculture” had been finalized and the Convener is looking for new contributors. A new time schedule is under negotiation with the publisher (Blackwell). The Convener confirmed his readiness to continue his efforts to publish the book as planned even if there is delay.

23. The Terms of References of the Working Party had been slightly modified and then agreed by the EIFAC Executive Committee in May 2007. The Sub-Commission confirmed these Terms of References as follows:

- Assemble and review available information on freshwater use in aquaculture with emphasis on its interactions in the context of multiple users.
- Assess the degree of integration of aquaculture development into current approaches for water resource management, with particular emphasis on consequences for local water management.
- Based on the above reviews and assessments, identify and address specific issues and options for the integration of aquaculture in the management of water resources.
- Formulate recommendations and guidelines for further work by the Working Party.

24. It was agreed that the Working Party is dealing with a critical issue of inland aquaculture since the competition for freshwater resources is still increasing, therefore the continuation of the work is strongly recommended.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture (Convener: L. Váradi)

25. The activity of the Working Party is focusing on the active involvement in various European symposia and conferences with initiatives dealing with fish marketing issues. These events are the following:

- EUROFISH Aquaculture Conference in Riga, Latvia, 6–7 May 2008;
- EIFAC Symposium in Antalya, Turkey, 21–24 May 2008;
- EAS Aquaculture Europe Conference, Krakow, Poland, 16–18 September 2008.

26. The Convener already attended the Aquaculture Conference in Riga, Latvia, and the Symposium in Antalya, Turkey, where the possibility of the organization of a specific Workshop on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture in 2009 was discussed. After the EAS Conference in Poland, a specific proposal will be elaborated on the organization of the planned Workshop.

Eastern European Affairs: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE)

27. The Sub-Commission continued to maintain relationship with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) representing 41 institutions from 15 Central and Eastern European countries.

28. The Sub-Commission recognized that EIFAC/NACEE collaboration is a good contribution to the development of collaboration on aquaculture between EU and non-EU countries in Eastern Europe. The benefit of interregional collaboration was also acknowledged by the Symposium in Antalya. This Symposium further identified similar constraints in aquaculture development in both the CEE and Central Asian regions.

29. The organization of a subregional Workshop on Aquaculture Development in the Caspian Region was proposed in the frame of a joint exercise between FAO Subregional Offices in Budapest and Ankara, NACEE and the EIFAC Aquaculture Sub-Commission.

Structure and function of the Aquaculture Sub-Commission

30. Mr Váradi raised the issue whether the existing structure and function of the Sub-Commission provides a good operational and effective framework for future activities of the Working Parties dealing with aquaculture, considering that aquaculture-related works are carried out not only by Sub-Commission II but also by other Working Parties of other Sub-Commissions. In addition, there are numerous aquaculture-related organizations and initiatives in Europe. The question should be raised: What is the specificity of the EIFAC Aquaculture Sub-Commission? The delegates were invited to express their views whether this Sub-Commission should continue its work within the existing structure or could it be abolished and the activities of its Working Parties be integrated into other Sub-Commissions.

31. While some delegates supported the idea to abolish the Sub-Commission II and continue the Working Party activities of Sub-Commission II in the structure of other Sub-Commissions, others were in favour of the continuation taking into account that the abolishment would send a negative message to stakeholders and may result in a lower profile of aquaculture being given in EIFAC.

32. It was agreed, however, that the Sub-Commission should continue for the forthcoming intersessional period, and that the structure and function of the Aquaculture Sub-Commission, and also other Sub-Commissions, should be evaluated and revised as necessary. These issues were then also discussed under agenda item “Ongoing Functioning of EIFAC” of the session.

Election of Officers

33. The following persons were elected: Mr L. Váradi (Hungary), Chairperson; Mrs T. Hubenova (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairperson; Mr O. Schlumberger (France), Rapporteur. The Commission thanked Mr J.P. Proteau (France), former Vice-Chair, for his contributions to Sub-Commission II.

V. PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCE (SUB-COMMISSION III)

34. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr G. Castelnau (France), introduced the activities and achievements of the Sub-Commission, as presented in EIFAC/XXV/2008/5 and EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf. 6.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Methodologies for Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs (Convener: H. Lehtonen)

35. The Working Party worked on a final draft of the manual on Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs for Fish. The Sub-Commission thanked the Working Party for its work and agreed to discontinue this activity.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture (Convener: R. Rösch)

36. Mr Castelnau presented, on behalf of Mr Rösch, the Working Party's initial draft for an EIFAC position statement on "Welfare of fishes in freshwater aquaculture" (as reproduced in Annex 1 of EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf. 6).

37. The Sub-Commission welcomed the work by the Working Party, but felt that the focus of work should be on the preparation of a short and concise position statement by EIFAC on fish welfare issues in freshwater aquaculture and inland fisheries. It was recognized that there is no need for guidelines but recalled the original recommendation by previous sessions for the preparation of a comprehensive position statement by EIFAC. Therefore, the Working Party was invited to revise the current draft accordingly, taking into account efforts being pursued by other organizations, including the Council of Europe, the European Food Safety Authority and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). Fish welfare issues in inland capture fisheries should be addressed in a subsequent effort.

38. The Sub-Commission was informed that the Report of the EIFAC Working Party on Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture, produced under the convenership of Mr L. Raat, had been finalized and was about to be published as EIFAC Occasional Paper No. 40.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation (Convener: P. Heinimaa)

39. Mr Heinimaa summarized the Working Party's activities including the holding of the Workshop on an European Cormorant Management Plan in Bonn, Germany, in November 2007, which was attended by 29 experts from 13 countries. He invited the Sub-Commission to review the workshop report (EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.13) which will be published online in electronic format as EIFAC Occasional Paper No. 41. He presented the workshop's recommendations, in addition to suggested activities and proposed Terms of Reference for future work of the Working Party, for consideration and endorsement.

40. The Sub-Commission recognized the significant socio-economic and environmental repercussions of fish predation by cormorants and other effects of cormorant populations. After extensive discussions, the Sub-Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Bonn workshop (EIFAC/XXV/2008/5), recognizing that there is a need for the following actions:

- Coordinate the isolated national efforts by promoting the preparation and the implementation of an effective European Cormorant Management Plan (ECMP), involving all relevant stakeholders.
- Establish a central mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating actions on cormorants.
- Reduce the reproductive success of the Great Cormorant population to achieve a reduced population size and distribution, still compatible with a favourable conservation status for the cormorants.
- Explore the consequences of moving the cormorant to the status of Annex II, 2 of the EU Birds Directive (not protected species).

41. The Sub-Commission agreed that the Working Party should continue its work, with emphasis on follow-up activities to above recommendations, and approved the proposed Terms of References, as follows:

- Work towards the pan-European Cormorant Management Plan (ECMP).
- Collect information from different sources on the abundance and distribution of the cormorants in the member countries.
- Assess the interaction between cormorants and different stakeholders.
- Assess cormorant's influence on socio-economic conditions of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Gather information of the new developments and experiences in controlling the number of cormorants and their influence on fish stocks, fisheries and aquaculture.
- Identify possible knowledge deficits for different geographical regions.
- Disseminate information through National Correspondents, the Working Party Web site and publications.

Ad Hoc Working Party on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Convener: C. Argillier)

42. On behalf of the Convener, Mr Castelnau presented the proposed new Terms of Reference for this Working Party which would undertake the following activities:

- Identification of the European fisheries legislation applied to the transitional and freshwater ecosystems (e.g. stocking, catches limitation), with their consequences on the observed communities in terms of presence/absence of species, relative abundance and age structure of the dominant species populations at the European level.
- Compatibilities between the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) and fisheries legislation in the different European countries.
- Analysis of fish management practices (e.g. habitat modification, fish manipulations) as a function of the water body types and the natural environment, in the Member States involved in the implementation of the WFD including analysis of consequences on the fish community characteristics.
- Analysis of fishery activities as a potential indicator of the water body status and/or of the human pressure intensity.
- Evaluation of the impact of WFD on the socio-economical dimensions of inland fisheries.

43. The Sub-Commission endorsed the above Terms of References for this Working Party, with the understanding that the Working Party will base its work on a thorough review of ongoing related activities and relevant publications. The Sub-Commission appointed Ms C. Argillier (France) as Convener.

44. The Convener will continue to identify the members of this Working Party and plans to hold a first meeting before the end of 2008 to organize the work of the Working Party.

Election of Officers

45. The following persons were elected: Mr G. Castelnau (France), Chairperson; Mrs E. Ciccotti (Italy), Vice-Chairperson; Mr T. Vehanen (Finland), Rapporteur. The delegates thanked Ms C. Popa (Romania), the former rapporteur, for her contributions to the Sub-Commission III.

VI. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES (SUB-COMMISSION IV)

46. The chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr I.G. Cowx (United Kingdom), informed the Sub-Commission of the progress achieved during the intersessional period. The report was made available to the session as documents EIFAC/XXV/2008/6 and EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.7.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries (Convener: R. Arlinghaus)

47. In compliance with the terms of reference for the Working Party as endorsed by the EIFAC Executive Committee in May 2007, the Working Party developed in 2007 the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, which was presented to the Commission for discussion and endorsement under a separate agenda item (EIFAC/XXV/2008/7 refers).

48. Work on monitoring key research on recreational fisheries has continued. A number of papers and book chapters on recreational fisheries have been published by Working Party members including a substantive paper on fish welfare. The Convener has been invited for giving a key note presentation at the upcoming World Fisheries Conference in Japan on the topic of fish welfare and recreational fisheries. Also, the Convener was elected into the programme committee to organize a number of international conferences in 2008 such as the Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Conference in Colorado (United States) and the Fifth World Recreational Fisheries Conference in Florida (United States).

49. EU programmes that could be used to fund research on recreational fisheries have been monitored, but no appropriate call has been identified.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries (Convener: M. Sipponen)

50. The Working Party terms of reference were updated at the twenty-fourth session of EIFAC in Mondsee and were modified to include inland commercial fisheries. The Sub-Commission endorsed the following Terms of References:

- Produce methodological guidelines for the undertaking of social and economic surveys on recreational and inland commercial fisheries in collaboration with the Working Party on Recreational Fisheries.
- Prepare by April 2008 a report of the significance of private property rights on the alternative traits to manage inland commercial fisheries.

51. Considerable progress has been made towards completion of the first task and a draft of the methodological guidelines has been prepared by Mr M Sipponen, Convener, in collaboration with Messrs R. Arlinghaus, K. Parkkila and J. Vesterinen. The Sub-Commission was informed that final draft guidelines will be prepared before the end of November 2008 and presented at an expert workshop. The delegates were further informed that discussion of the final draft document and the finalization of the guidelines will take place at the expert workshop to be organized by the Employment and Economic Development Centre for Central Finland in Helsinki (Finland) in January 2009. The Sub-Commission recommended the workshop include both inland commercial and recreational fisheries, to maximize the benefits from the workshop. EIFAC endorsement of the guidelines will be sought by e-mail. Costs of publication of the document will be covered by FAOSEC, provided that the EIFAC members cover costs of translation.

52. Although little progress was made on the second task, the Sub-Commission encourages the Working Party Convener to continue the work.

Other activities

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and poaching

53. The delegates reviewed the proposed terms of references for the Liaison Group (LG) on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. It was recommended to upgrade the Liaison Group to a Working Party with the following title “Working Party on IUU Fishing and Poaching” because of the recognized complexity of the problem.

54. The terms of references endorsed by the Sub-Commission were:

- Identify criteria for IUU fisheries and poaching in inland waters.
- Collect information on IUU and poaching and liaise with other organizations regarding species specific issues.
- Report on methodologies to assess/evaluate/estimate IUU fishing, including estimating impact of activity.
- Provide information on measures to combat and prevent IUU fishing and poaching.

55. Mr Piotr Stachowiak (Poland) will act as Convener *ad interim*.

Ecosystem approach to fisheries management

56. The outcome of the symposium held in conjunction with the twenty-fifth session and other EIFAC/FAO activities raised the need for efforts to be put into holistic management approaches to inland fisheries and aquaculture, i.e. integrating ecological and socio-economic domains.

57. The Sub-Commission recommended that a LG on this subject be established. Mr I.G. Cowx (United Kingdom) was willing to function as liaison person on this issue.

Climate change

58. Considerable concern was expressed over the potential impacts of climate change on inland fisheries in Europe. Given the current importance of this topic, it was recommended by the Sub-Commission that a cross Sub-Commission Working Party be established with the following terms of references:

- Carry out a scoping study on the feasibility and viability of a Working Party to study the climate change affects on inland fisheries and aquaculture in the EIFAC region, and report to the next Executive Committee meeting.
- Review of the potential impact (ecological, social and economic) of climate change on the functioning of inland waters to support indigenous and non-native fish populations and fisheries, making use of existing studies and ongoing initiatives and projects, without duplicating efforts. Particular attention should focus on the impacts of changes in hydrology and limnology of rivers and lakes on fish life histories, as well as to changes in prevalence and distribution of aquatic animals and plants.
- Propose approaches of environmentally and socially acceptable management of potential impacts of climate change on inland fisheries.
- Development of a methodology to separate the impact of climate change from other wide ranging factors (including land-water interactions) affecting inland fisheries and aquaculture or the wider aquatic environment.
- Provide advice on the above issues to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

59. The Executive Committee will consider in which Sub-Commission be placed the Working Party on IUU fishing and poaching, the LG on ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the Working Party on climate change.

European fisheries fund

60. The Chairpersons of Sub-Commission I and IV, together with the Conveners of the Working Parties in the Sub-Commission were invited to make presentations at a European Commission Workshop on “EFF, Inland Fishing and Aquaculture Production Methods Enhancing the Environment” in Bucharest, Romania, 27–29 June 2007. The Workshop reviewed issues relating to inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe as a basis for funding through the European Fisheries Fund.

61. The Sub-Commission requested the chairperson to send a letter on behalf of EIFAC to the EC to seek for more information on the outputs of the meeting, offer collaboration by EIFAC in the follow-up activities of the Bucharest meeting, and emphasize the importance of recreational fisheries in the EIFAC zone.

Election of Officers

62. The following were re-elected: Mr I.G. Cowx (United Kingdom), Chairperson; Mr M. Sipponen (Finland), Vice-Chairperson; Mr R. Arlinghaus (Germany), Rapporteur.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE SUB-COMMISSIONS PROGRESS REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

63. The Session adopted the reports and recommendations of the Sub-Commissions.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SYMPOSIUM

64. The Session adopted the report of the Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture (Appendix E).

IX. EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

65. In 2007, the Working Party on Recreational Fisheries developed the EIFAC Code of Practice (COP) for Recreational Fisheries. A first draft was prepared by Mr R. Arlinghaus, and discussed by the Working Party. The revised draft was then presented at an international workshop attended by 28 experts from around the world. The workshop was hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Dutch Recreational Fishing Association (with thanks to Mr A. Rothuis and Mr F. Bloot of these institutions) and was held in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, on 5 and 6 November 2007. The third draft, developed during the workshop was sent to the international experts who attended the workshop in Bilthoven, the EIFAC Executive Committee Members and the EIFAC National Correspondents in February 2008 for a final round of comments and observations. Responses (when relevant) were incorporated in the COP. The final draft was technically edited by Mr R. Welcomme and cleared internally by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

66. The preparation of the EIFAC COP would not have been possible without the financial contributions from the Central Fisheries Board in Ireland (with thanks to Mr J. Caffrey) and the Adaptfish-project funded by the Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz-Community (Germany).

67. The final draft version of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries was welcomed by the Commission with appreciation and endorsed, with minor amendments.

68. A proposal for promotion and dissemination of the EIFAC COP was presented as EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.12 to the Commission. The Netherlands offered to contribute financially or in-kind to activity 2.1 of the proposal “Prepare simple leaflets and short promotional brochures in English and French on the COP” and Mr P. Stachowiak (Poland)

informed the Commission of the willingness of recreational fisheries associations and federations in his country to disseminate the COP to its members through their magazines and other communications.

69. The Commission requested its members to consult with their governments on the possibility of contributing to the various activities proposed. The Working Party Convener, Mr Arlinghaus, would appreciate comments from members before October 2008.

X. ONGOING FUNCTIONING OF EIFAC

70. The Chairperson introduced this Agenda item by stating that there was an urgent need for EIFAC to carefully review its functioning. This should be done by looking into possibilities for long-term as well as immediate improvements. As regards the former, the Chair sought suggestions for guidance on how to manage the process rather than agreement on concrete changes.

71. The delegation of the Netherlands proposed that EIFAC initiate a project to review its functioning, and to use the assistance of a consultant to be chosen in consultation with the EIFAC Secretariat to formulate a proposal for long-term improvements. A project outline was tabled, including draft terms of reference (TORs) for the consultant (Appendix G). The Chairperson of Sub-Commission III underlined the unique status of EIFAC and its scope within the European context. He then provided the session with a critical analysis of the role and functioning of EIFAC and made proposals for improvement by emphasizing the importance of the strengthened role of the Working Parties, the Sub-Commissions and the Symposium (Appendix H). The joint EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eel was mentioned as an example to analyze in improving the functioning of the Working Parties.

72. The Session very much valued the proposal from the Netherlands and confirmed that the project should be initiated. Mr A. Rothuis agreed to coordinate the project. The Netherlands offered financial support (€ 000) and Norway and Switzerland offered to investigate the same. The Chair thanked the delegates for their offers and encouraged other countries to seek financial assistance for the project.

73. Ongoing short-term improvements include putting country Government fisheries internet site links onto the EIFAC Web site, up-dating the EIFAC brochure and encouraging opportunistic publicity within member countries. Ms S. Borghesi (FAO) was thanked for the work of producing the original brochure. Issues of newsletters, attracting new Member States and encouraging improved communication with EIFAC National Correspondents will be dealt with by the project mentioned above. Delegated power of the Executive Committee was confirmed as being able to make rapid response to changes of Working Party Conveners and Terms of References.

XI. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF EIFAC

74. Mr Celebi (Turkey) gave a progress report on the work of the new Working Party on “Country Reports on Fisheries and Aquaculture”.

75. The Session endorsed the TORs as follows:

- Finalize the draft Country Report structure by October 2008 for circulation to the Executive Committee Members and National Correspondents.
- Assist EIFAC Members in updating their country reports.

- Assist those EIFAC Member Countries that were not covered by the 1993 country reports produced by Mr Dill.
- Publish results as an EIFAC Occasional Paper.

76. The Working Party was requested to include a bibliography of grey literature and to consider drafting the reports on a catchment basis. Mr Sedat Yerli (Turkey) was endorsed as Convener of the Working Party.

XII. SYMPOSIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

77. The Session agreed on an aquaculture-related theme. It was agreed that the title of the Symposium is “Multifunctional inland aquaculture”. Mr L. Váradí, Chair of Sub-Commission II, agreed to be the Convener of the Symposium and will elaborate together with the Steering Committee a symposium prospectus that contains the main topics for the symposium sessions.

XIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

78. In view of the increased importance of aquaculture, the Commission agreed to task the Secretariat with starting the process of changing the name of the Commission from European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission to European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission within FAO.

XIV. ELECTION OF EIFAC OFFICERS

79. The Commission re-elected Mr Phil Hickley (United Kingdom), Chairperson; Mr Karoly Pinter (Hungary), First Vice-Chairperson; and Mr Albert Jagsch (Austria), Second Vice-Chairperson.

XV. DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

80. The Croatian Delegation informed the session of Croatia’s intention to host the twenty-sixth session of EIFAC in 2010. The date will be determined by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the Chairperson of EIFAC. The Commission also welcomed the statement made by the Finnish delegation expressing the intention to host the twenty-seventh session in 2012.

XVI. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EIFAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

81. The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting mid-2009 in Rome.

XVII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

82. The report of the session was adopted on 28 May 2008. The session was closed at 15.00 hrs.

APPENDIX A
Agenda and timetable

1. **Opening and Adoption of the Agenda**
2. **Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture**
3. **Sub-Commission I (Biology and Management)**

Review of intersessional activities and decisions:

 - Joint EIFAC/International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Party on Eels
 - Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters
 - Working Party on Introductions and Stocking
 - Joint EIFAC/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Working Party on Management of Sturgeon
 - Working Party on Fish Passage Best Practices
 - Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality: Recommendation that this WP be abolished at the twenty-fifth session

Programme of the Sub-Commission

 - Endorsement of the re-established Working Party on Crayfish and approving of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party

Other matters

Election of Officers
4. **Sub-Commission II (Aquaculture)**

Review of intersessional activities and decisions:

 - Working Party on Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health
 - Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture
 - Working Party on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture
 - Eastern European Affairs initiative

Programme of the Sub-Commission

Other matters

Election of Officers
5. **Sub-Commission III (Protection of the aquatic resource)**

Review of intersessional activities and decisions:

 - Working Party on the Methodologies for Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs: Recommendation that this Working Party be abolished at the twenty-fifth session
 - Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation

Programme of the Sub-Commission

 - Liaison Group (LG) on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD): endorsement of newly established Working Party and integration of LG into new WP

Other matters

Election of Officers
6. **Sub-Commission IV (Social and economic issues)**

Review of intersessional activities and decisions:

 - Working Party on Recreational Fisheries
 - Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries

- Liaison group on IUU fishing: endorsement of the Terms of Reference by the twenty-fifth session

Programme of the Sub-Commission

- Discuss recommendation and analyse the need for establishing a Working Party on Ecosystem Approach and approval of the Terms of Reference by the twenty-fifth session
- Discuss recommendation and analyse need for establishing Working Party on Climate change and approval of the Terms of Reference by the twenty-fifth session

Other matters

Election of Officers

7. **Adoption of the reports and recommendations from the Sub-Commissions**

8. **Adoption of the Report of the Symposium**

9. **EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries**

10. **Ongoing functioning of EIFAC:**

- EIFAC Web site and publicity
- EIFAC brochure
- Electronic newsletter
- New members
- National correspondents
- Delegated powers of ExCom
- Collaboration with partners
- Emerging issues

11. **Symposium in conjunction with the twenty-sixth session**

12. **Any other matters**

13. **Election of EIFAC Officers**

14. **Date and place of the twenty-sixth session**

15. **Adoption of the Report**

APPENDIX B
List of participants

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 Curta, Caroline (Ms)
 Fearnside-Bitsios, Jenny (Ms)
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APPENDIX C

List of documents

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EIFAC/XXV/2008/6	Summary of Progress Report Sub-Commission IV
EIFAC/XXV/2008/7	EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries
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EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.13	Report of EIFAC Workshop on an European Cormorant Management Plan

APPENDIX D
Opening addresses

Address by Mr Cevdet Akdeniz
Deputy Director-General – MARA

Esteemed representatives of FAO, distinguished delegates, participants and members of press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin my speech, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, to welcome you all to the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC. It is our pleasure to host you in Antalya.

I would like to firstly thank FAO and the officials of the FAO Sub-regional office for Central Asia, the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institute and those who exerted their greatest effort to organize this meeting.

Distinguished participants,

Undoubtedly, as a result of rapid increase of world population, one of biggest problems of today is insufficient and unbalanced nutrition of societies. Therefore, the scientists and authorities in today's world are trying to develop the food production sector. The most severe problem in fisheries sector faced is overfishing, pollution, global warming etc.

The steps to be taken by international, regional and national organization in order to eliminate the negative effects of above-mentioned problems are utmost importance for our future.

In this framework, efforts made by EIFAC to develop sustainable fisheries in Europe are very important for our inland resources.

Since its establishment, EIFAC put extraordinary effort in terms of biology and management, aquaculture, protection of aquatic resources, socio-economic issues and so on for the sustainable development of inland fisheries in Europe. However, you might agree with me that these efforts are not enough in comparison to the problems we are facing.

Today, EIFAC should have some recommendation to the member countries to contribute their sustainable development of inland fisheries. Moreover, EIFAC should focus more on aquaculture which is the most rapid growing sector in the world.

In terms of fishing, EIFAC should discuss and define its central role more clearly and priorities in the development of inland fisheries in Europe.

It is very important to expand and accelerate EIFAC activities for European inland resources as discussed during the meeting of the EIFAC Executive Committee in Rome last year, and stressed by the Minister in his opening speech to Symposium. In addition to that, we have to find in such a way that to share information between member countries by preparing and publishing sectorial reports. We are ready to put our efforts in supporting these initiatives in every platform

Dear guests,

In order to provide sustainable exploitation of fisheries, resources, fishing and aquaculture activities are regulated by existing fisheries law and implementing regulation in Turkey.

Our country has rich inland resources of 200 lakes, 206 dam lakes, 953 small ponds and 33 main rivers. The production of inland fisheries in Turkey is about 100 000 tonnes, 44 000 tonnes from fishing and 56 000 tonnes from aquaculture. It has a share of 16 percent in the total production.

There are 21 672 registered vessels in Turkey. And 3 330 of them are fishing in the inland waters. In parallel with this, 16 500 of 100 230 fishermen are fishing inland waters.

Mostly carp, catfish, tench, pike perch, and freshwater crayfish are fished. And especially freshwater crayfish, pike perch, tench have export potential.

The most rapid developing food production sector of the world, aquaculture is also speedily developing in our country. As a result of these developments in the sector during last five years, 110 percent increase was realized in aquaculture production.

The total production of aquaculture reached almost to 140 000 tonnes in 2007. This production is expected to reach to a total of 600 000 tonnes in 2023, half of which is expected to be from inland waters.

Under the light of these developments, Turkey ranks 3rd as the country with the most rapidly increasing production in the world.

Distinguished Participants,

I would like to emphasize the importance of activities of EIFAC, which is putting extraordinary effort, since its establishment, in the sustainable development of inland fisheries in Europe. The most important issue for the future that, as I mentioned above, to discuss the duty of EIFAC and reorganize EIFAC itself if needed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to wish you all a successful meeting and I hope you to enjoy your time in Turkey.

Thank you very much.

Address by Mr Tsukasa Kimoto
Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for Central Asia
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Cavet Akdeniz, Deputy Director-General, General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey

Mr Phil Hickley, Honourable Chairperson of EIFAC

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, to the twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC).

At the outset I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Turkey, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), for hosting this twenty-fifth EIFAC session and the symposium of last week on "Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture". The increased commitment of Turkey to the Commission is very much appreciated, and I am sure all delegates share with me the pleasure to be in Antalya as the venue of our session.

The Commission at present has 34 members (33 countries plus the European Commission). I would like to express FAO's appreciation to the members for being here with us today. The EIFAC session is an important platform for discussion of responsible management and development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the European region. Europe is composed of many countries with not only a large diversity in fisheries and aquaculture practices and management, but also with many communities engaged in fisheries and aquaculture activities. As some countries are not yet members of our Commission, FAO would like to invite them to join this Commission. I am sure our new Secretary of EIFAC, Mr Gerd Marmulla, will make all possible efforts, together with the EIFAC Chairman, to encourage other countries in the region to join EIFAC.

We are meeting here at a time when world food security is facing new challenges due to soaring food prices. As we have recently witnessed, soaring food prices have caused not only socio-economic but political disturbances in many parts of the world. The situation is so alarming, requiring member countries and the international community to take urgent actions. Fish is an important element of foods and its importance in food security is increasingly recognized. Thus, not only this session but the works of EIFAC have relevant and timely opportunities to contribute to the improvement of global food security. In view of the alarming global food situation, the FAO Director-General is convening a food summit called "High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy", to be held in Rome next week from 3 to 5 June. The Summit, which is expected to be attended by many Heads of State and Government and Ministers, will discuss, identify and agree on the policies, strategies and programmes required to safeguard world food security. It is hoped that the Declaration of the Summit will duly refer to and emphasize the importance of the fisheries sector to play. In view of this I recognize that this session of EIFAC is being held at an important and challenging time in terms of world food security, although this is not a direct agenda item of this session.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about important changes that are taking place in FAO. In the recent past years the Organization has pursued organizational and structural changes under the so-called "FAO Reform", aimed at enabling the Organization to better serve its member countries. One of the changes that have taken place is the establishment of Subregional Offices. The FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC), of which I am currently Officer-in-Charge, was inaugurated in July 2007 in Ankara at the generous invitation and hosting by the government of Turkey. Similarly, in 1996 the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU) was established in Budapest, which is generously hosted by the Government of Hungary, covers

21 countries from Estonia in the north to Albania in the south and also the Russian Federation. Both offices are served by a Fishery Officer (Raymon van Anrooy and Thomas Moth-Poulsen) to coordinate and support the work of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in the large parts of Europe.

Yes, the FAO Fisheries Department has changed its name to Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, to reflect the increasing importance of aquaculture in total fish production and fisheries sector development. Also within the Department changes were made, as inland capture fisheries and marine fisheries are now combined in the "Fisheries Management and Conservation Service" (FIMF) and aquaculture is dealt with by the "Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service" (FIMA).

In this context, I wish to recall that FAO was again directed by the last session of the FAO Conference to make further efficiency savings. Many efficiency improvements were already made in the last decade. The directives for further efficiency savings would imply that in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department some posts will not be filled for some period of time or some can even be abolished, resulting in the fact that our technical expertise will be further limited and constrained. As a result of further efficiency savings, less funding of the FAO regular budget is available for activities, and hence there is an increased need for commitment to and ownership by the member countries to maintain, support and strengthen Regional Fishery Bodies and Advisory Bodies like EIFAC. Examples of such commitment from member countries can be found in the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) where the members pay for the secretariat and activities. And also in the Central Asian region, the establishment of a regional fisheries and aquaculture arrangement for that region is being contemplated. A first meeting to discuss this regional arrangement will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in November 2008. This may offer a timely opportunity for the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme, for which the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) is committed to make US\$10 million available, to consider providing certain financial support.

Coming back to EIFAC and its achievements, I am happy to see that the Commission has been active during this biennium with many activities and initiatives, including the preparation of an EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, the organization of a Workshop on an EIFAC Cormorant Management Plan, advice on eel management and recovery, collaboration in events with EuroFish, European Aquaculture Society (EAS) and a number of EC funded projects, and of course the organization of the well-attended EIFAC symposium of last week. The symposium, at the concluding session of which I had the opportunity to be present, was attended by some 255 participants from over 26 countries, which underlines the importance of the symposium as an effective mechanism for exchange of information among scientists in fisheries and aquaculture in the EIFAC region.

There are a few other activities that I would like to bring to your attention. First of all, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE), since its establishment in 2004 with support from FAO, has become an important means of exchange of information on aquaculture in Europe. NACEE's fifth meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in Ukraine in October 2008 with support from FAO.

Secondly, the FAO Regional Conference for Europe will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, next month; in this Conference one of the discussion issues will be on the impact of climate change on aquaculture and fisheries development in the region. This is an important subject as competition for water use is increasing. FAO sees a need for increased efforts on integrated basin management, which should include the participation of fishery sector stakeholders and ensure that the interests of the sector of commercial and recreational fisheries as well as aquaculture are taken into account along with the other multiple uses of aquatic ecosystems.

This brings me to the last point that I would like to raise here. The fifth World Water Forum will be held in Istanbul in March 2009, but it looks like so far that no fisheries issues will be discussed, unfortunately. FAO, through the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the related Technical Guidelines, is advocating that wherever and whenever relevant, "fishery" should be a key stakeholder as regards water and aquatic habitat issues. "Fishery" therefore has a role to play in management decisions pertaining to water, aquatic habitat and aquatic resource management. We

believe that we need to join efforts to bring the interests of the fishery sector to the attention of the water sector.

As the agenda of your session is quite full, I will stop here so that you may begin your important work. Please be assured that the FAO secretariat will assist you with the best of our ability over the next few days and into the future. I wish you a fruitful session.

Thank you for your attention.

Address by Mr Phil Hickley, United Kingdom

Chairperson of EIFAC

Esteemed Government representatives, Officers of FAO and EIFAC, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this, the twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, being held here in Antalya, Turkey.

It is a great honour to have among us for the opening of the session Mr Kimoto, the FAO Representative and Sub-regional Coordinator in Turkey.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to ask you, Mr Akdeniz (Deputy Director-General of the General Directorate of Agriculture Production and Development) to convey to your government our gratitude for your kind invitation to hold the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC here in Turkey. Especial thanks go to Mr Celebi in the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, for being the focal point for the general organization of this EIFAC Symposium and session. The amount of work that this entails should not be underestimated. We must also extend our particular thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of Turkey for generously sponsoring many of the costs and activities of the Symposium and session. Also, I mention Mr Okumuş (Turkey), Chairperson of the Scientific Steering Committee and Mr Cowx (United Kingdom), Convenor of the Symposium, for putting together the stimulating programme that we experienced during the past week.

At this point I would like to welcome Mr Gerd Marmulla (FAO), who previously had supported the Commission as Secretary *ad interim* for several years, and who has now just taken over the function of Secretary of EIFAC from Mr Devin Bartley (FAO). I take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Mr Bartley whilst welcoming Mr Marmulla.

I would now like to say a few words about EIFAC itself.

An awareness of European fisheries initiatives and some degree of international consistency in the resolution of fisheries management issues are of increasing importance at the present time. The profile of the pressures on ecosystems and the services that humanity derives from them is being raised by considerations of Water Framework Directive, climate change and over-fishing, to name but a few. Collating, consolidating and cascading best practice to the inland fisheries sector and its stakeholders is where EIFAC can help.

EIFAC is a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Established in 1957, it is an inter-governmental forum for collaboration and information exchange on inland fisheries and aquaculture among all European countries. As such, EIFAC can call upon the expertise of specialized scientists, managers and practitioners from 34 member countries and other specialized groups. Organizations, institutions and agencies that are involved in managing inland fisheries periodically need to seek guidance, and EIFAC serves as a network, linking policy-makers, managers, scientists and others working on inland fisheries and aquaculture issues. The scientific work is undertaken in Working Parties by specialists from member countries.

These formal sessions of EIFAC, the first of which took place in 1960, are held every two years with different member countries acting as hosts. EIFAC is currently structured into four Sub-Commissions, embracing the themes of:

- Biology and management;
- Aquaculture;
- Protection of the aquatic resource;
- Social and economic issues.

It is within the Sub-Commissions that the Working Parties are established. It is these Working Parties, and the individual experts within, that are crucial to the work of EIFAC, producing everything from guidance documents to scientific reports. In the past EIFAC has made significant contributions on

issues such as the effects of toxic chemicals on fish, water quality, electric fishing, rehabilitation of rivers, pond aquaculture and fish farm effluents. The many topics being addressed at present include eels, introductions & stocking, recreational fisheries, bird predation, fish welfare and fish monitoring. In addition to Working Party scientific outputs, EIFAC has advised the European Commission, has provided periodic overviews of the state of inland fisheries and aquaculture in its member countries, and developed various codes of practice and manuals of procedures that have been adopted by FAO regional fishery bodies. Full details of the intersession activities will emerge during the presentation of the Sub-Commission reports.

A very important aspect of EIFAC is that, in conjunction with the sessions, a Symposium is convened on a specialized topic. This not only provides opportunities for scientists and managers to meet and discuss issues but also, results in the formulation of specific recommendations for the future. This establishment of recommendations as an output is what sets EIFAC Symposia apart from others.

Considering the Symposia that have been held, I would like to cite a couple of examples of their value. In 1996, in Dublin, the Symposium topic was “Social, economic and management aspects of recreational fisheries”. At the time, the value of recreational fisheries was not fully understood. Amongst the formal recommendations generated at the end of the Symposium was that the authorities responsible for the control of recreational fisheries should be active in seeking to have the true value included in decision making processes, taking into account the full economic and social value of the aquatic ecosystem. Twelve years on, the scientific programme of the recent few days included much that was a legacy of that Dublin symposium.

The attempt by EIFAC to target emerging issues is reflected by the theme of the recent Symposium held in Mondsee, Austria, in 2006. Entitled “Hydropower, Flood Control and Water Abstractions: Implications for Fisheries” the Symposium conclusions outlined perceived problems and developed appropriate recommendations for policy makers and stakeholders. The Symposium report expressed severe concerns about the negative impacts on fisheries, fish and other aquatic wildlife posed by the proliferation of small-scale hydropower installations throughout Europe. It recommended that member countries of EIFAC consider the issues that such developments raise for the sustainability of river fish communities when developing strategic power and water abstraction policies. The more detailed recommendations from the Symposium should help member countries to manage the issues effectively.

In the same way, I anticipate and look forward to the implementation of the recommendations derived from the presentations and discussion at the twenty-fifth session Symposium held last week. The Symposium was entitled “Interactions between social, economic and ecological objectives of inland commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture”, and the summary report is on the Agenda of this meeting.

I am grateful to you all for your attendance and would like to stress the importance of your participation. Work progress within EIFAC depends heavily on the enthusiasm, commitment and active involvement of its members.

I wish you all a pleasant and stay in Antalya and hereby conclude my opening address.

Thank you.

APPENDIX E

Summary report of the EIFAC Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture

Introduction

A Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture, was organized in conjunction with the twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 24 May 2008. The symposium was chaired by Mr Ibrahim Okumuş (Turkey) and convened by Mr Ian Cowx (United Kingdom) and was attended by 255 participants from 26 countries. The symposium programme comprised 57 oral presentations and 24 posters.

The symposium was opened by Mr Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey (MARA), Mr Phil Hickley (EIFAC Chairperson), Mr Gerd Marmulla (EIFAC secretary) and Mr Raymon van Anrooy (FAO secretary to the symposium).

The symposium objectives were the following:

- 1) To review the wide range of socio-economic and ecological interactions between fisheries and aquaculture and the roles of various stakeholders with respect to these interactions.
- 2) To identify where future research should focus and propose measures to decrease interactions that compromise sustainable development and management, and promote interactions that contribute to sustainability.
- 3) To provide information to policy and decision-makers to contribute to the general awareness of trends in socio-economic and ecological interactions within and between the sector and other rural sectors.
- 4) To facilitate dialogue between scientists, researchers, fisherfolk, aquaculturists and policy and decision makers on the motives, interactions and interests of stakeholders.
- 5) To advise EIFAC on appropriate management and development measures and tools for inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe.

The symposium made considerable progress towards understanding and resolving the interactions between ecological/environmental and socio-economic/governance objectives for fisheries and aquaculture. There was a broad recognition that inland fisheries and aquaculture need to shift from a sectoral view where they are treated in isolation to an integrated, multi-disciplinary systems view.

Conclusions and recommendations

The conclusions of the symposium can be summarized as follows:

- The symposium recognised the considerable number and range of inter- and intra-sectoral users. It also recognised the management conflicts and synergies that exist between recreational and commercial fisheries and aquaculture and other aquatic resource users. These arise, for example, from stocking and introductions to meet angler demand versus protection of biodiversity or development of hydropower production versus fisheries interests. As a consequence, there is a need to balance promotion of aquaculture and inland fisheries with biodiversity protection.
- One of the inherent problems recognised throughout the inland fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Europe was the lack of basic socio-economic data, and an understanding of socio-economic concepts on which to support promotion of the sectors. Economic research tends to be too narrowly focussed on the economic aspects and is poorly linked to social interactions and environmental issues.

- This problem is exacerbated by weak political, and often institutional, support (i.e. operational resources and finance) to help resolve conflicting ecological/environmental and socio-economic objectives arising from user interactions.
- The EU Water Framework Directive is a major driver of the inland fisheries sector management and development. As a consequence, the intrinsic ‘value’ of water and water bodies, is likely to increase, which will exacerbate competition over the resource and its environs.
- Aquaculture – like farming – is not immune to the growing trend towards intensification of resource use (e.g. water use limitation through recirculation, automatic systems, increasing productivity). This driver could help ameliorate conflicts over resources, but could also have adverse ecological consequences.
- There is a worrying increase in tensions arising from sectors of society that consider exploitation of fisheries to be unacceptable.
- For a variety of reasons, the preference of policy-makers seems to be moving from supporting commercial fisheries towards promotion of recreational fisheries. This has not necessarily been reflected in the co-opting of recreational fishers (or recreational fishers associations) into formal management structures.
- While there is a recognized growing demand for fish for consumption, it was also acknowledged that this trend might develop with respect to aquaculture for restocking purposes; this is in view of the common need to restore fish populations and improve the quality of aquatic ecosystems in many EIFAC member countries (under the EU WFD).
- River governance, particularly in terms of trans-boundary management of water resources that are used for fisheries purposes, is inadequate in large parts of the EIFAC region. In this respect, the construction of dams – and water retention and abstraction policies – may have severe consequences downstream, potentially causing conflicts and socio-economic and ecological hardships to the sector.
- The wider society has generally only limited understanding of inland fisheries issues, and particularly of how the inland fisheries sector is contributing to ecological and socio-economic objectives of society; this calls for an increase in efforts to raise awareness and education on inland fisheries.
- Management of inland fisheries continues to have problems to be recognized as an equal partner by other users who fail to take full account of multiple user needs and objectives. Many of these problems arise from poor communication and dialogue between user groups and fisheries interests, lack of empathy of the needs and aspirations of each other, lack of finance and knowledge on integrated management of inland fisheries and aquaculture that melds economics, social issues and biology.

The Symposium recommends to the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC that the appropriate responsible bodies take the following actions:

- Develop toolboxes, quantitative models and indicators for high quality socio-economic assessment of inland fisheries and aquaculture in data-poor situations. This should include best practice examples and case studies that are sufficiently robust to account for regional variability in ecological, social and economic conditions.
- Promote development of interdisciplinary fisheries research and management methods, approaches and decision-making that link economic, sociological and psychological expertise (coined socio-economics) with the traditional fisheries biological approach.
- Improve communication, information transfer and public outreach of inland fisheries and aquaculture issues to non-fishery stakeholders and to those charged with taking decisions on the development and management of the aquatic environment.
- Develop and promote a more structured approach to recreational fisheries management to take due account of the importance of the activity to local and regional economies.
- Develop and promote alternative employment opportunities for those currently engaged in commercial fisheries to maintain and enhance livelihoods and revenue opportunities. Also, due consideration should be given to gender equity.

- Carry out forward-looking research to examine the ecological and socio-economic implications for inland fisheries/aquaculture of attaining the 2015 targets from the EU WFD – at the national and local level – so as to support managerial decision-making in an ex-ante manner.
- Assess the future direction of European inland aquaculture – to ameliorate any likely ecological costs whilst maximizing the various (alternative) opportunities that aquatic ecosystems might generate.
- Generate and communicate research on the economic value of recreational fishing as a lever to promote the evolution of managerial decision-making in a manner that equates to stakeholder prevalence in the sector.
- Ascertain the nature of the interaction between commercial and recreational fishing in terms of participation in governance, management of the fisheries resource, and IUU fishing.
- Assess the demand on aquaculture for fish for stocking and adjust the range of products, species and sizes to address the needs of conservation, rehabilitation and (recreational) fisheries that apply stocking.
- Establish a European-wide mechanism for examining, preventing and mitigating of trans-boundary water resource access and availability issues and problems, which pays proper attention to fisheries sector needs and requirements.
- Address emerging issues via a project management type approach so as to better facilitate the availability of financial and other critical resources.
- Develop (technical) guidelines on recreational fisheries and inland capture fisheries related sectors, to contribute to responsible development and management of these sub-sectors.
- Translate key EIFAC documents into the Russian language in support of the inland fisheries sectors in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, which can learn from the research, development and management experiences in the Western and Central parts of Europe.
- Strengthen contacts and collaboration between EIFAC and the Technical Advisory Body on Fisheries Management in the Mekong Basin (TAB) and other Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) in view of their similar experiences and the many lessons to learn from each other.

APPENDIX F

Minutes of the Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Crayfish, Antalya, 24 May 2008

1. Opening and organizing the meeting

The Convenor, Mr Markku Pursiainen (Finland), opened the meeting. Mr Miran Aprahamian volunteered to take the minutes.

2. Participants

The following persons participated the meeting:

Miran Aprahamian (UK), Tomas Brenner (Germany), Tania Hubenova (Bulgaria), Elena Jecu (Romania), Gerd Marmulla (FAO), Markku Pursiainen (Finland).

3. Background information

The convenor briefly summarized the background of the former activity in crayfish within EIFAC and the other international bodies.

The International Association of Astacology (IAA) organizes international symposiums every second year. The first Symposium was held in Austria in 1972, the last one in 2006 in Australia. The next symposium will be organized in Kuopio, Finland, on 4-8 August 2008. The nature of the IAA is more or less scientific.

The tenth session of EIFAC established the Working Party on Crayfish in 1978, and it was active under the chairmanship of Dr Kai Westman (Finland) until 1996.

The European Thematic Network CRAYNET, funded by the EU, summarized many aspects of the crayfish in several conferences and publications in 2002-2006. One of the resolutions by the CRAYNET was the Atlas of Crayfish in Europe by Souty-Grosset *et al.* in 2006. The main emphasis of the project was the conservation of the European crayfish species.

Finally, the twenty-fourth session of EIFAC decided on the re-establishment of the WP on Crayfish (Report of the twenty-fourth session, paragraph 86). The basic focus in the background paper discussed was production and sustainable use of the crayfish populations within Europe. Mr M. Pursiainen (Finland) agreed to serve as the Convener.

4. Terms of reference (TORs)

The preliminary TORs were discussed and the meeting recommends to the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC that the Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Crayfish to focus the activities are:

- a. Monitor the change in distribution of crayfish species to better protect the native species.
- b. Collect data on crayfish catch, effort and aquaculture production in the member countries.
- c. Facilitate and support studies on crayfish ecology and restoration activities.
- d. Determine the socio-economic value (catch, processing, marketing etc) of crayfish from inland waters (environment) and aquaculture.
- e. Prepare guidelines for the responsible usage of crayfish species in aquaculture and inland fisheries, and for conservation or sustainable management of native crayfish stocks.
- f. Improve communication between stakeholders and other interest groups in relation to crayfish aquaculture, management of stocks and in the early detection and control of diseases (especially plague).
- g. Take other necessary actions involving the emerging issues in the crayfish field.

5. Participating countries, members and specialists

The Convenor has circulated e-mails to the National Correspondents of EIFAC for the participation of the Working Party. A number of the CRAYNET and IAA members have also received information about the re-establishing of the EIFAC Working Party.

The following persons have shown interest to participate in the Working Party:

Tania Hubenova (Bulgaria); Pavel Kozak (Czech Republic); Catherine Souty-Crosset (France); Julian Reynolds (Ireland); Aloyzas Burba (Lithuania); Pedro Anastacio (Portugal); Elena Jecu (Romania); Lennart Edsman (Sweden); Stephanie Peay (United Kingdom [by correspondence]); Paul Stebbing (United Kingdom).

The meeting encouraged the member countries to seek crayfish interested people to participate.

6. Activities until 2012

Several announcements of the interest to join the Working Party were received, and many proposals for the future work as well (see the list below).

Proposals for the future work:

- Problems in the introduction of the non-native crayfish for the aquarium trade (Stephanie Peay, United Kingdom).
- Deficiencies in legislation in relation to the spread of alien crayfish and plague (Julian Reynolds, Ireland).
- The changing attitudes on the exploitation in much of Europe (Julian Reynolds, Ireland)
- The protocols for restocking (Julian Reynolds, Ireland).
- Impacts of exploitation on the crayfish population (Julian Reynolds, Ireland).

Proposals for the future meetings:

- Meeting in connection with the next IAA symposium, Kuopio, Finland 4-8 August 2008 (several proposals).
- In connection with another crayfish meeting in Vodnany (Czech Republic) in 2009 Check Republic (by Catherine Souty-Crosset, France).
- A workshop in Poitiers, France, in 2010 (by Catherine Souty-Crosset, France).

The Convenor presented a preliminary plan for the activities until 2012 as follows:

- The Convenor will organize an ad hoc meeting in connexion with the seventeenth IAA symposium in Kuopio, Finland 4-8 August 2008. The items that need to be discussed are the participation, the activities and program schedule.
- In general the meetings and workshops should follow the focus of the TOR; in the first period items a. (distribution change) and b. (production figures), the second c. (role of crayfish in ecosystems) and d (socio-economic matters), and finally e. (responsible management) and f. (communication and diseases).
- The first meeting or workshop will be held in 2009. The possibility of organizing a meeting (workshop) in connection with the Vodnany (Czech Republic) meeting will be investigated by the convenor.
- The second meeting in Poitiers (France) in late 2010 as proposed by Catherine Souty-Crosset, and the last meeting in late 2011 in Finland.
- All meetings or workshops will report to EIFAC Sub Commission I and the presentations and other documents should be published in a suitable series.
- EIFAC www-pages should also be taken into account in distributing the results of the Working Party

7. Report of the meeting

This report will be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC.

8. Closing of the meeting

The Convenor closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their efforts.

APPENDIX G

Indicative outline for a project on the review of functioning and organizational strengthening of EIFAC

The twenty-second session of EIFAC recommended the establishment of a working group that had as task to review the role and functioning of EIFAC. However, not many of the recommendations of this working group have been implemented, and some of those being implemented are not resulting in the outcomes expected in terms of increasing efficiency and effectiveness of EIFAC as Regional Fishery Body. Given the continuing decline in feedback EIFAC receives from its Member States, the need for major restructuring of EIFAC in terms of its role and functioning is more urgent then ever.

Therefore, the Netherlands, as EIFAC member, proposes that the twenty-fifth session of EIFAC endorses that serious and immediate action will be taken by the EIFAC Chairperson and Executive Committee towards reversing the trend. It is suggested that first an organizational analysis will be made, followed by clear and comprehensive recommendations to the twenty-sixth session.

The Netherlands proposed that a small project is implemented, which would include the engagement of a consultant to assist with the assessment of the role and functioning of EIFAC, and to develop a number of possible alternatives for improved performance. The consultant will also assist with organizing a workshop.

The draft **Terms of Reference for the consultant**, could be the following:

Under the overall supervision of the EIFAC Chairperson and in close collaboration with the EIFAC Executive Committee members, EIFAC Secretariat and the EIFAC National Correspondents, the institutional development and organizational strengthening (ID/OS) expert will carry out the following tasks:

- Review earlier assessments of the role and functioning of EIFAC, including EIFAC reports and background papers.
- Carry out an analysis and a diagnosis of EIFAC's role and functioning, preferably using the Integrated Organization Model (IOM) and Strategic Orientation Logical Framework approach. This should include discussions with the EIFAC Chairperson, the ExCom, the EIFAC Members and the wider EIFAC secretariat at FAO, and also include the review of the organizational structure and mandate of EIFAC, the role of Members, the EIFAC Secretariat, the ExCom, and National Correspondents, as well as an analysis of financial aspects.
- Collect and analyse information on the role, structure, mandate and functioning of other regional fisheries bodies and networks and list the pros and cons of the various organizational structures.
- Prepare a draft paper in which a clear and independent diagnosis is given on the current organizational situation of EIFAC and provide it as guidance document to a workshop, hosted by the Netherlands in March 2009
- Assist in the organization and facilitation of the workshop on Strengthening the Role and Functioning of EIFAC, hosted by the Netherlands, as expert and incorporate the outcomes in a draft technical report of the workshop.
- Finalize, in close consultation with the EIFAC Chairperson, project leader and EIFAC secretariat, the technical report of the workshop, presenting the findings, results, conclusions and recommendations of the workshop for the ExCom meeting in May 2009 (following FAO/EIFAC standards, format and layout). The report will be forwarded to the EIFAC Chairperson and EIFAC Secretary within three weeks after the workshop has taken place.

The total number of working days for the consultant would be 17 working days, which will include seven days for travel and discussions/meetings in Brussels and Rome and participation in the two day workshop in the Netherlands. It is advised that the work starts in early 2009 and be completed by 31 March 2009.

Budget

The budget required for the complete project (including the work of the consultant and the organization of the workshop) would add up to 25 000 euros.

Of this 25 000 euros, the Netherlands offers to host the workshop, valued at 5 000 euros.

Request to the twenty-fifth session

The delegation of the Netherlands requests the other delegations to the twenty-fifth EIFAC session to:

1. Review, modify as appropriate and endorse the terms of reference for the independent expert on Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening (ID/OS) of EIFAC.
2. Identify a team-leader for this small project, which should be under the supervision of the EIFAC chairperson.
3. Come forward with financial contributions to this small project. It would be appreciated that four EIFAC member countries would each support this “key” project for the future of EIFAC with 5 000 euros each (contributions to be finalized before 1 September 2008).

APPENDIX H

Introduction to an analysis of the functioning of EIFAC through Working Parties and Symposia and proposals for the redirection of the Commission.

G. Castelnau, Chairperson of Sub-Commission III

1. Working Parties (WPs) and Symposia

1.1 WPs are key tools for EIFAC outputs. They need to observe certain conditions (criteria) and follow rules of procedure (operating specifications):

- definition of subject, objectives, terms of reference (TORs) with periodic updating and duration of mandate;
- relevance and originality of subject, assurance of its usefulness, coherence with EIFAC's field of interest;
- no duplication with other external WPs;
- identified participants representing the best experts in the relevant field (composition and representativeness);
- exchanges between members and periodic meetings.
- Finance, budget estimate

1.2 WPs are placed under the responsibility of a Convener but also the Sub-Commission officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Rapporteur) have a role in guiding and monitoring; at present, however, this role remains minor. The ExCom and Delegations simply endorse outputs during the sessions; the WPs should be subject to scrutiny and evaluation:

- in relation to their terms of reference;
- in relation to emerging scientific and technical issues;
- in relation to outputs and impacts;

This implies:

- Evaluation and adjustment of existing and already functioning WPs;
- Selection of new WPs and application of operating specifications.

1.3 Symposia are the means whereby the scientific and technical community (peculiarity of EIFAC) presents the latest findings on a topic identified by EIFAC and draws its conclusions. They require prospective analysis as well as reflection on choice and presentation of topic. As with the WPs, they should:

- be relevant to EIFAC's field of interest, address emerging scientific and technical issues, but also answer practitioners' queries;
- not be too ambitious, but be defined in scope and focused;
- select and classify contributions and structure the sessions;
- analyse results, lessons, failings and problems raised;
- make recommendations on strategy, methods, technical measures, etc.

1.4 WPs and Symposia should involve the scientific and technical community but also practitioners, and should permit access to, and dissemination of relevant and original information important to EIFAC, drawn from overviews, status reports, guides, recommendations, etc.

1.5 WPs and Symposia should also permit the collection and feedback of information from survey sheets, annual statistical reports, etc. This will require the development of standardized record keeping, the identification of resource persons, the creation of a much larger network than the one of national correspondents, liaison on the ground, the mapping of fishery and aquaculture sites and their cross-referencing with contact points.

2. EIFAC

2.1 EIFAC should be the reference body for fisheries and aquaculture in European inland waters. It should transmit this in its messages and products in order to boost its prestige and credibility.

2.2 EIFAC should form operational links with the EC so that its recommendations have more practical impact.

2.3 Fishery and aquaculture activities should serve as an indicator of ecological quality of inland waters, in addition to their nutritional, recreational, social and economic function.

2.4 Besides working on innovative and promising topics, EIFAC should have better means to visualize and gauge the status and trends of inland fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic habitats.

Monitoring and baseline data concerning fishery biology, pressure and socio-economics are lacking in many hydrosystems. How can we then evaluate interactions (see this symposium) properly, propose functioning models and conduct integrated management? This can be done on a local scale but, at the broader European level, we also need to collect such baseline data in such a way that they are complete, accurate and comparable by sector (river basins):

- from biological and socio-economic indicators that EIFAC does not possess and that need to be defined along the lines, for example, of the European INDICANG I (2004-2008) project;
- from the establishment of such indicators producing overviews, geo-referenced status reports;
- from standardized data compilation along the lines of the reports of the joint Working Party on Eels, with a description and evaluation of local monitoring methods and associated confidence levels;
- from networks of resource persons;
- from WPs, extraordinary sessions and symposia.

3. Synthesis of proposals for EIFAC

- Conduct an analysis and evaluation of EIFAC components, sub-commissions, working parties, liaison groups (take for example the functioning of the Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eels);
- introduce operating standards, secure greater interest on the part of member countries, their representatives and the scientific community;
- apply a degree of tightening and reorganization of activities before a possible redeployment to secure higher profile and appeal;
- promote the necessary bolstering of youth and women in membership of the ExCom;
- decide to use from this session on rules of choice, functioning, evaluation and decision for the new WPs and those in operation, define and codify those rules (operating specifications) before the next meeting of ExCom so that it can endorse them and apply them at the next session;
- provide appropriate opportunity for discussion at sessions and meetings of ExCom so that the structuring, specification and validation of EIFAC's work is a collective exercise, which will enhance its profile, prestige, effectiveness and usefulness.

The twenty-fifth session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008, in concomitance with a Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture. The session reviewed EIFAC's activities since 2006 in the fields of fishery biology and management, aquaculture, protection of the aquatic environment and social and economic issues. The session revised and decided EIFAC's future programme of work, in particular the activities which should be carried out until the next session of the Commission in 2010, and reviewed the functioning of EIFAC. The twenty-sixth session will be preceded by a Symposium that will focus on multifunctional inland aquaculture.

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