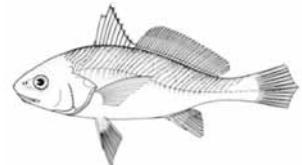
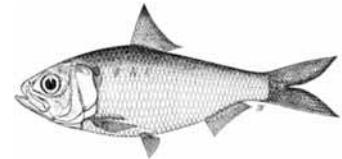


Regional fishery bodies and arrangements in Asia and the Pacific



**Handbook
on
regional fishery bodies
and arrangements
in Asia and the Pacific
2009**

Edited by

David Lymer and Simon Funge-Smith

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Bangkok, 2009**

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FOREWORD

Fishery production in the Asia-Pacific region continues to rise and remains an important contributor to the nutrition and food security of many countries in this region. In recognition of this, the 30th Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) concluded that cooperation and collaboration among fishery bodies in the region have intensified and that this positive trend should be continued.

The Commission recommended that APFIC should continue its role as a regional consultative forum to evaluate progress, monitor and advise member countries on fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Furthermore, APFIC should promote sub-regional management initiatives and facilitate coordination between regional organizations related to fisheries and aquaculture. To further facilitate the coordination and information exchange work of the forum, the APFIC Secretariat maintains a comprehensive fishery website (www.apfic.org) linking members to other organizations and projects that have an impact on fisheries and aquaculture in the region and is updated regularly and upon request. As an output of this maintenance activity, the APFIC Secretariat has now published a second version of the APFIC handbook on regional and sub-regional fishery bodies and arrangements for the benefit of the APFIC Members.

This handbook provides a convenient summary of those bodies and arrangements concerned with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development relevant to FAO members in the region. Some of the members of these bodies and arrangements are also members of the FAO. I trust that this handbook will serve as a useful tool for interested readers. I sincerely hope that the handbook will contribute to the continued success of the role of APFIC as a regional forum.

Indeed, with substantive contributions and inputs from its members, numerous development and technical partners such as regional fishery organizations, NGOs and other segments of civil society, the Commission offers a unique forum for an Asia-Pacific regional perspective on the outlook and policy implications of fisheries and aquaculture in the years to come.

He Changchui

Assistant Director-General and
Regional Representative for
Asia and the Pacific

Introduction

Following the adoption in 1982 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its ratification in 1994, several major international instruments and initiatives relating specifically to fisheries or to aspects of the conservation of aquatic life and the environment have been adopted by the international community. The most far-reaching agreements were made at the World Summit for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 where it was agreed to:

- By 2004 – Develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect FAO's International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the management of fishing capacity;
- By 2005 – Develop and implement national, and where appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect FAO's International Plan of Action (IPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- By 2010 – Encourage the application of the ecosystem approach [to fisheries];
- By 2015 – Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY); and
- Support the sustainable development of aquaculture, including small-scale aquaculture, given its growing importance for food security and economic development.

In addition, on a broader front, the world took on the challenge of meeting the Millennium Development Goals with respect to eradicating extreme hunger, achieving universal education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnership for development. In particular, with respect to goals relating to fisheries it was agreed to:

- By 2015 – Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.
- By 2015 – Reduce by half the number of people who suffer from hunger.
- By 2015 – Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Many States, especially developing States, are having considerable difficulties in meeting these targets and many have requested assistance from FAO and regional fishery bodies (RFBs). In response, FAO has paid increasing attention to the role of RFBs, especially in terms of their ability to help bridge the gap between international advice and national responsibilities for fisheries management and decision-making. RFBs can be particularly effective where there are shared stocks and/or shared or common management issues within a region. This publication provides information on their membership, regions of interest, mandates and activities.

Over the past century, more than 40 RFBs have been created. During 1902-1950, prior to the adoption of the 1982 UNCLOS, RFBs were formed to promote regional harmonization, with emphasis on the gathering of scientific information, and scientific collaboration. During the period that UNCLOS was being negotiated, several RFBs were formed that had a greater advisory role to promote better fisheries management, while those formed after the adoption of UNCLOS have tended to have a much clearer management mandate. However, they all have in common a coordinating function across States that share fish stocks or share common problems.

APFIC is one of the longest standing RFBs in the world. It has recently undergone a major review and is becoming a "Regional Consultative Forum" in support of its members. APFIC now maintains a website [<http://www.apfic.org>] in order to assist in policy formulation and fishery/aquaculture management. This provides links to the organizations, projects and activities that impact on fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region as well as information on APFIC programmes of work and useful publications.

The APFIC handbook includes initiatives or arrangements whose (i) members of the arrangement are also members of APFIC and/or (ii) members are also members of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. They are grouped as (i) Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), (ii) Economic cooperation arrangements and (iii) Coordinating arrangements. Following the scheme already adopted by FAO, the Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) have been further subdivided into three main categories:

- RFBs that have a mandate for fisheries management and are empowered to establish management measures;
- RFBs that have an advisory role and provide members with scientific and management advice; and
- RFBs that provide scientific advice and information.

All of the organizations in this handbook are challenged with the matter of inter-organization coordination, which is an area of increasing importance with the development of more proactive responses to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, global trade in fisheries products and the increasing realization of the connectivity of ecosystems. It is hoped that this handbook will facilitate understanding of mandates and roles and serve as a resource book for those wishing to improve coordination within the region.

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Summary table Countries' membership and participation in regional fisheries bodies and other arrangements that are related to fisheries

	Regional Fisheries Bodies										Regional Arrangements / Cooperation / Networks / Projects																			
	Regional Fishery Management Organizations					Fisheries Advisory Bodies					Scientific Bodies		Economic Cooperation			Fisheries / Environmental Arrangements				Scientific Networks										
	IATTC	IOTC	IPHC	NPAFC	PSC	WCPFC	APFIC	BOBP-IGO	FFA	MRC	RECOFI	SEAFDEC	INFOFISH	NACA	SPC	APEC	ASEAN	BIMSTEC	PIF	SAARC	BOBLME	COBSSEA	PEMSEA	SACEP	SPREP	YSLME	CTI	RPOA	IOC /WESTPAC	NPRF
South East Asia	Brunei DS									X					X	X												X		
	Cambodia						X		X	X	X						X						X	X				X		
	Indonesia	X				X				X	X	X				X	X			X	X	X					X	X	X	
	Lao PDR								X	X		X					X							X						
	Malaysia	X				X				X	X	X				X	X					X	X	X			X	X	X	
	Myanmar					X				X	X						X	X				X								
	Philippines				X	X				X	X	X				X	X					X	X				X	X	X	
	Singapore									X							X	X					X	X				X	X	
	Thailand	X					X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X		
	Timor-Leste																						X					X	X	
South Asia	Viet Nam					X			X	X		X				X	X					X	X				X	X		
	Bangladesh					X	X				X	X					X	X	X				X							
	Bhutan																	X	X					X						
	India	X				X	X				X	X					X	X	X				X							
	Maldives							X			X								X	X			X							
	Nepal					X						X						X	X					X						
	Pakistan	X					X				X	X							X					X						
Other Asia / China	Sri Lanka	X				X	X				X	X						X	X	X				X						
	China	X				X	X					X					X						X	X			X	X	X	X
	Taiwan POC						X											X												
	Iran	X							X			X																		
	Japan	X	X	X	X	X					X	X					X						X				X	X	X	
	Kazakhstan							X					X	X										X				X		
	Korea DPR								X				X	X										X				X		
	Korea, Rep. of	X	X	X		X	X					X		X	X							X	X		X		X	X	X	
	Mongolia																													
	Tajikistan																													
	Uzbekistan																													

Notes: States in bold are APFIC member countries

Summary table Countries' membership and participation in regional fisheries bodies and other arrangements that are related to fisheries (cont.)

	Regional Fisheries Bodies												Regional Arrangements / Cooperation / Networks / Projects																		
	Regional Fishery Management Organizations						Fisheries Advisory Bodies						Scientific Bodies			Economic Cooperation			Fisheries / Environmental Arrangements			Scientific Networks									
	IATTC	IOTC	IPHC	NPAFC	PSC	WCPFC	APFIC	BOBP-IGO	FFA	MRC	RECOFI	SEAFDEC	INFOFISH	NACA	SPC	APEC	ASEAN	BIMSTEC	PIF	SAARC	BOBLME	COBSEA	PEMSEA	SACEP	SPREP	YSLME	CTI	RPOA	IOC / WESTPAC	NPRF	PICES
Oceania	Australia	X				X	X		X				X	X	X				X		X			X	X	X					
	Cook Islands	X						X		X					X				X					X							
	Fiji					X		X						X				X						X				X			
	FSM					X		X						X				X						X							
	Kiribati					X		X						X				X						X							
	Marshall Is.					X		X						X				X						X							
	Nauru					X		X						X				X						X							
	New Zealand					X	X	X						X	X			X						X				X			
	Niue					X		X						X				X						X							
	Palau					X		X						X				X						X							
	PNG					X		X					X	X	X			X						X	X	X					
	Samoa						X		X					X				X						X				X			
	Solomon Is.					X		X					X	X				X						X	X	X					
	Tonga					X		X						X				X						X				X			
	Tuvalu					X		X						X				X						X							
	Vanuatu	X	X				X		X					X				X						X				X			
Other	France	X	X				X	X																	X				X		
	UK		X						X																	X				X	
	USA	X		X	X	X	X	X						X	X								X			X	X	X			

Acronyms:

- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Mekong River Commission (MRC), Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization (WIOTO),
- Inter-Governmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia-Pacific Region (INFOFISH), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BOBLME), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme (SACEP), South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME), Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), The Regional Plan of Action for Responsible Fishing (RPOA)

A. Regional Fishery Bodies in the Asia-Pacific region

A1. Management Bodies

- IATTC Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- IOTC Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
- IPHC International Pacific Halibut Commission
- NPAFC North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
- WCPFC Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- PSC Pacific Salmon Commission

The regional fisheries bodies in this category are those that have a mandate for the management of a single species or species groups that migrate across or straddle State boundaries.

Three of these are of little relevance to the main Asia-Pacific region as they only involve one member country (USA and Iran) in areas near the edge of the area of competence of APFIC (loosely defined as the “Asia-Pacific area” under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution).

A fourth RFB, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) with members including Japan, Republic of Korea and USA lies north of 33 degrees in the North Pacific and lies at the periphery of APFIC’s main focal area for work.

This leaves only two tuna commissions (one covering the Western and Central Pacific and the other covering the Indian Ocean) which are the only management RFBs in the Asia-Pacific.

There remain substantial maritime areas within the region that are not covered by fishery management bodies, although much of this area lies within EEZ areas or constitutes semi-enclosed seas.



IATTC

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Establishment	1950 International Convention
Headquarters	La Jolla, California, USA
Address	8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla CA 92037-1508 USA
Tel / Fax	+1 858 546 7100 / +1 858 546 7133
E-mail	info@iattc.org
Website	http://www.iattc.org
Area of competence	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Membership	Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela
Objectives	<p>"To gather and interpret information on tuna; to conduct scientific investigation; to recommend proposals for joint action for conservation".</p> <p>The Antigua Convention, which will entry into force in the near future and will replace the current Convention, has the following objective:</p> <p>To ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law.</p>
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting documents and reports▪ Tuna catch reports and statistics▪ Vessel database▪ Research programmes and publications

Establishment	1993 International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)
Headquarters	Victoria, Seychelles
Address	P.O. Box 1011, Victoria Mahé, Seychelles
Tel / Fax	+248 225494 / +248 224364
E-mail	iotc.secretary@iotc.org
Website	http://www.iotc.org
Area of competence	Indian Ocean and adjacent seas, north of the Antarctic Convergence
Membership	Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Community, France, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman Sultanate of, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vanuatu
Objective	“To promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting documents and scientific committee/working party reports▪ On-line consultation of authorized vessel record▪ Databases and data related publications



IPHC

International Pacific Halibut Commission

Establishment	1923 International Convention
Headquarters	Seattle, Washington, USA
Address	Room 250, Oceanography Teaching Building University of Washington Campus Bottom of 15 th Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98195-7951, USA
	For mail use: P.O. Box 95009 Seattle, WA 98145-2009, USA
Tel / Fax	+1 206 634 1838 / +1 206 632 2983
E-mail	info@iphc.washington.edu
Website	http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm
Area of competence	North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea
Membership	Canada and USA
Objective	“To coordinate scientific studies relating to the biology, population dynamics and fishery of Pacific halibut; to formulate regulations designed to develop the stocks of Pacific halibut to those levels which will permit optimum yield”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Halibut landing data▪ Description of the halibut fishery▪ License application for halibut fishery▪ Scientific reports and technical reports



NPAFC

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

Establishment	1993 International Convention
Headquarters	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Address	Suite 502, 889 West Pender Street Vancouver, BC V6C 3B2 Canada
Tel / Fax	+1 604 775 5550 / +1 604 775 5577
E-mail	secretariat@npafc.org
Website	http://www.npafc.org/new/index.html
Area of competence	North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas north of 33 degrees North latitude
Membership	Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and USA
Objective	"To recommend to the Parties measures for the conservation of anadromous stocks and ecologically related species in the Convention Area; to promote the exchange of information on any activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention; to review and evaluate enforcement actions taken by the Parties; and to promote the exchange of catch and effort information and provide a forum for cooperation among the Parties with respect to anadromous stocks and ecologically related species".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Statistical data▪ Species information▪ Scientific Bulletin and technical papers



PSC

Pacific Salmon Commission

Establishment	1985 International Convention
Headquarters	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Address	600-1155, Robson Street Vancouver, BC V6E 1B5 Canada
Tel / Fax	+1 604 684 8081 / +1 604 666 8707
E-mail	info@psc.org
Website	http://www.psc.org
Area of competence	Northwest Pacific
Membership	Canada and USA
Objective	“To prevent overfishing and provide for optimum production and to provide for each country to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Annual reports and meeting reports▪ Test fishing reports▪ Species status reports



WCPFC

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Establishment	2004 International Convention
Headquarters	Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Address	1 Kaselehlie Street P.O. Box 2356 Kolonia Pohnpei State, 96941 Federated States of Micronesia
Tel / Fax	+691 320 1992 or 320 1993 / +691 320 1108
E-mail	wcpfc@wcpfc.int
Website	http://www.wcpfc.int/
Area of competence	Western and Central Pacific
Membership	Members Australia, China, Canada, Cook Islands, European Community, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu Participating Territories American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna Cooperating Non-member(s) Belize, Indonesia
Objective	“To ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish stocks Agreement”.
Information resources on the web	Convention Texts, Conservation and Management Measures, Meeting and Information Papers, Meeting Summary Reports, Statistics and Data

A2. Advisory Bodies

- APFIC Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
- BOBP-IGO Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization
- FFA South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
- MRC Mekong River Commission
- RECOFI Regional Commission for Fisheries
- SEAFDEC Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

In this category of regional fisheries bodies (which includes APFIC) there are a range of regional and sub-regional bodies. There are four main Asia-Pacific organizations in this category plus the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) which has only one FAO member country covered by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Some advisory RFB's such as the South Pacific Fisheries Forum (FFA) were formed with a mandate to harmonize fisheries management policies, while the others focus on more specific sub-sectors e.g. small-scale coastal fisheries in the case of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO). The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) has recently developed a forum for ASEAN member States to discuss issues of common interest and build consensus.

APFIC is the longest-serving body in the region (established in 1949) and has undergone several major changes in its functions to accommodate changing priorities within the sector and of its members as well as with the establishment of other sub-regional bodies. These sub-regional arrangements may not provide full coverage in terms of resources or geographical areas.



APFIC

Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission

Establishment	1948 (as Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and changed to Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission in 1976. In 1994, the Agreement was amended again and title changed to Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission) International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand
Address	FAO Regional Office Asia and the Pacific 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel / Fax	+66 2 697 4176, 4119 / +66 2 697 4445
E-mail	FAO-RAP@fao.org
Website	http://www.apfic.org
Area of competence	Asia-Pacific area (including inland waters)
Membership	Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, USA and Viet Nam
Objective	"To promote the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources by the development and management of fishing and culture operations and by the development of related processing and marketing activities in conformity with the objectives of its members".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Meeting reports and technical papers■ Descriptions of fisheries/aquaculture■ Databases on RFBs, co-management sites and contacts to national fisheries agencies in the region



BOBP-IGO

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization

Establishment	2003 – as an intergovernmental programme
Headquarters	Chennai, India
Address	91, Saint Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram Chennai 600018, Tamil Nadu, India For mail use: BOBP, Post Box No. 1054, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel / Fax	+91 44 24936188 / +91 44 24936294
E-mail	boppysy@md2.vsnl.net.in yugraj.yadava@bobpigo.org
Website	http://www.bobpigo.org
Area of competence	Bay of Bengal
Membership	Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives
Objective	“Provide enduring regional cooperation among the Member countries of the Bay of Bengal region for fisheries development that aims at the socio-economic improvement of its fisheries and fish farmers”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Concise version of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in several vernaculars▪ Publications and software

Establishment	1979 International Convention
Headquarters	Honiara, Solomon Islands
Address	No. 1 FFA Road, West Koalá Ridge Honiara, Solomon Islands For mail use: P.O. Box 629, Honiara Solomon Islands
Tele / Fax	+677 21124 / +677 23995
E-mail	info@ffa.int
Website	http://www.ffa.int/
Area of competence	South Pacific (Central and West)
Membership	Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Objective	“To harmonize fishery management policies; to facilitate cooperation in surveillance and enforcement, processing, marketing and relations with third countries; to arrange for reciprocal access by member countries to their 200-mile zones”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tuna market news▪ VMS guidelines



MRC

Mekong River Commission

Establishment	1995
Headquarters	Vientiane, Lao PDR
Address	184 Fa Ngum Road Unit 18, Ban Sithane Neua Sikhottabong District Vientiane 01000 Lao PDR
Tel / Fax	+856 21 262 262 / +856 21 263 264
E-mail	mrcs@mrcmekong.org
Website	http://www.mrcmekong.org
Area of competence	Mekong River Basin
Membership	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam
Objective	“To promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries’ mutual benefit and the people’s well-being by implementing strategic programmes and activities and providing scientific information and policy advice”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting documents▪ Policy and research papers▪ Interactive information and knowledge system on participatory natural resource management

RECOFI

Regional Commission for Fisheries

Establishment	1999 Under aegis of FAO Council
Headquarters	Cairo, Egypt
Address	
Tel / Fax	+20 2 3316000 / +20 2 3373419
E-mail	FAO-RNE@fao.org
Website	http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/recofi
Area of competence	Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
Membership	Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates
Objective	“To promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Area of the Commission”.
Information resources on the web	



SEAFDEC

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Establishment	1967 Agreement establishing the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand Four technical Departments: 1) Training Department (TD) in Thailand, 2) Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) in Singapore, 3) Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines, and 4) Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Malaysia.
Address	P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office, Chatuchak Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel / Fax	+66 2940 6326 / +66 2940 6336
E-mail	secretariat@seafdec.org
Website	http://www.seafdec.org
Area of competence	Southeast Asian Region 1. Responsible fishing technologies and practices 2. Exploration and monitoring of fishery resources, and its utilization 3. Management for Sustainable Fisheries 4. Conservation and management of aquatic species under international concerns 5. Post-harvest technology and safety of fish and fish products 6. Sustainable aquaculture development 7. Fisheries for food security and poverty alleviation
Membership	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

Objective “To promote sustainable development of fisheries in the South East Asian region through research, training and information dissemination”.

Information resources on the web

- Meeting reports and documents
- Digitized Atlas

A3. Scientific Bodies

- CWP Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
- INFOFISH Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia-Pacific Region
- NACA Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
- SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community

This category of regional fisheries bodies includes the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP); the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia-Pacific Region (INFOFISH); the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA); and the fisheries section of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

These bodies undertake projects and advocate on behalf of their membership but tend to operate in technical areas where trans-boundary management is less of a priority (with the exception of aquatic animal health).

CWP

Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics

Establishment	1959 Resolution of FAO Conference (Under Article VI-2 of FAO Constitution)
Headquarters	FAO, Rome, Italy
Address	c/o FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Viale delle Terme di Caracalla Rome 00153, Italy
Tel / Fax	+39 06 570 55318 / +39 06 570 52476
E-mail	sachiko.tsuji@fao.org
Website	http://www.fao.org/fishery/cwp
Area of competence	All aspects of fishery and aquaculture data, information and statistics
Membership	Consists of 19 International Organizations: CCAMLR, CCSBT, FAO, GFCM, IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, ICES, IWC, NACA, NASCO, NEAFC, NAFO, OECD, SPC, SEAFDEC, SEAFO, Eurostat, and WCPFC
Objective	“To keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics for the purposes of research, policy making and management; to agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics; and to make proposals and recommendations for action in relation to the collection, collation and dissemination of fishery statistics”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards▪ http://www.fao.org/fishery/cwp/search



INFOFISH

Intergovernmental Organization for
Marketing Information and Technical
Advisory Services for Fishery Products
in the Asia-Pacific Region

Establishment	1987 Intergovernmental organization
Headquarters	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Address	Level 2, Menara Olympia 8 Jalan Raja Chulan 50200 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel / Fax	+603 2078 3466 / +603 2078 4614
E-mail	infofish@po.jaring.my / infofish@tm.net.my
Website	http://www.infofish.org
Area of competence	Asia-Pacific
Membership	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea DPR, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Thailand
Objective	“To provide marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry of the Asia-Pacific region”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marketing information▪ E-classified ads▪ On-line registration to Importers/Exporters Database



NACA

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

Establishment	1980 (as FAO-UNDP project); in 1990 as an Intergovernmental Organization
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand
Address	P.O. Box 1040, Kasetsart Post Office Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel / Fax	+66 2 5611728-9 / +66 2 5611727
E-mail	info@enaca.org
Website	http://www.enaca.org
Area of competence	Asia-Pacific region
Membership	Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea DPR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.
Objective	“To promote rural development through sustainable aquaculture. Core activities are i) Capacity building through evaluation and training, ii) Collaborative research and development through networking, iii) Development of information and communication networks, iv) Policy guidelines and support to policies and institutional capacities, and v) Aquatic animal health and disease management”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-line aquaculture forumseNews on aquacultureEvents and training information



SPC

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Establishment	1947 International Agreement
Headquarters	Noumea, New Caledonia
Address	BP D5 - 95, Promenade Roger Laroque Anse Vata, 98848 Noumea Cedex New Caledonia
Tel / Fax	+687 262000 / +687 263818
E-mail	spc@spc.int
Website	http://www.spc.int
Area of competence	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Membership	American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna
Objective	<p>Marine Resources Division: The goal of the Division is to contribute to the achievement of the regionally shared vision of “A Healthy ocean that sustains the livelihoods and aspirations of Pacific Island communities”. The Division consists of three programmes which have their own specific goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP): http://www.spc.int/coastfish/▪ Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP): http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/▪ Regional Maritime Programme (RMP): http://www.spc.int/Maritime/index.php

**Information
resources on
the web**

On-line Fisheries Digital Library (<http://www.spc.int/mrd/fishlib.php>), Newsletters and Information Bulletins, Handbooks and Manuals, Technical Reports, Fisheries Training Resources Materials, Brochures and Posters, Fisheries Meeting Papers, Fisheries Bibliographies, Fisheries Address Book, Tuna Fishery Yearbook, Strategic Plans and annual work plans for CFP and OFP, Donor reports for programmes and project funding, Country specific reports and GIS through PROCFish/C portal, (http://www.spc.int/coastfish/Sections/reef/PROCFish_Web/default.aspx)

B. Other selected entities carrying out activities relating to fisheries and other aquatic resources

B1. Economic Cooperation

- APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- ASEAN Association of South East Asian Nations
- BIMSTEC Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- PIF Pacific Islands Forum
- SAARC South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation

The region has five main economic cooperation arrangements – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) (formerly South Pacific Forum); and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Both APEC and ASEAN have fisheries working groups that are active in areas of economic interest, especially trade issues. ASEAN also works in partnership with SEAFDEC. These economic cooperation arrangements may play an expanding role in future regional arrangements for fisheries.



APEC

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Establishment	1989 (Fisheries Working Group created in 1991)
Headquarters	Singapore
Address	35, Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Tel / Fax	+65 6891 9600 / +65 6891 9690
E-mail	info@apec.org njin@apec.org (for fisheries working group)
Website	http://www.apec.org/
Area of competence	The Pacific and Pacific Rim countries
Membership	Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam
Objectives	<p>General: to give trade liberalization and economic cooperation further impetus and high-level commitment, to develop a spirit of community in the region and to promote sustainable growth and equitable development.</p> <p>The Fisheries Working Group focuses on i) the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, ii) sustainable development of aquaculture and habitat preservation, iii) development of solutions to common resource management problems, iv) the enhancement of food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products, v) sector-specific work relating to trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.</p>
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting reports▪ APEC newsletter and publications



ASEAN

Association of South East Asian Nations

Establishment	1967 (ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism was established 1998)
Headquarters	ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia (The ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG is hosted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat)
Address	70A, Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta 12110, Indonesia
Tel / Fax	+6221 726 2991 / 724 3372 +6221 739 8234 / 724 3504 (fax)
E-mail	public@aseansec.org secretariat@seafdec.org (for FCG)
Website	http://www.aseansec.org http://www.seafdec.org (for FCG)
Area of competence	The ASEAN region
Membership	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Objective	<p>"General: To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and to promote peace in the region. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG currently undertakes efforts: i) to regionalize the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; ii) fish-trade and environment; iii) information collection for sustainable pelagic fisheries for food security in the ASEAN region; and iv) 5-year programme on Sustainable Fisheries for food security – with a current emphasis on fisheries management projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Trade statistics and country profiles■ Transnational issues and functional cooperation■ Publications
Information resources on the web	



BIMSTEC

Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka,
Thailand Economic Cooperation

Establishment	1997. The Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC) was established in 1997. The name of the organization was changed to BIMST-EC with the admission of Myanmar in December 1997. Nepal and Bhutan became members in 2003
Headquarters	Authority resides within the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs
Address	c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sri Ayudhya Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel / Fax	+66 2 692 3162-3 +66 2 692 3161
E-mail	bimstecinfo@tradestrategies.org
Website	http://www.bimstec.org
Area of competence	Linking South and South East Asia
Membership	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand
Objective	“To promote socio-economic development and create an enabling environment for cooperation in various fields between the member countries in order to enhance the livelihoods of the peoples in the region. Strengthening fisheries development and management by South-South cooperation is a particular theme, for which Thailand is the lead country”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting reports and documents▪ Multi-sectoral cooperation arrangements



PIF

Pacific Islands Forum

Establishment	1972 (known until 27 October 2000 as the South Pacific Forum)
Headquarters	Suva, Fiji
Address	Ratu Sukuna Road Muanikau, Suva, Fiji
Tel / Fax	+679 3312 600 / +679 3305 573
E-mail	info@forumsec.org.fj
Website	http://www.forumsec.org.fj
Area of competence	Pacific Islands
Membership	Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Objective	“To promote regional cooperation among member states through trade, investment, economic development and political and international affairs”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A Reference Handbook for Forum Island Country Exporters



SAARC

South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation

Establishment	1985
Headquarters	Kathmandu, Nepal
Address	P.O. Box 4222, Kathmandu Nepal
Tel / Fax	+977 1 422 1785, +977 1 422 6350 +977 1 422 7033, +977 1 422 3991
E-mail	saarc@saarc-sec.org
Website	http://www.saarc-sec.org
Area of competence	South Asia
Membership	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
Objective	“Economic cooperation and trade encompassing a focus on environment (e.g. development of the Maldives Coastal Plan)”. ▪ Regional profiles and publications
Information resources on the web	

B2. Environmental/Fishery Arrangements

- BOBLME Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme
- COBSEA Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
- PEMSEA Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
- SACEP South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme
- SPREP South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- YSLME Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

There are a larger number of more general coordinating mechanisms that also involve fisheries in their mandate.

The Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) oversees the implementation of the “East Asian Seas Action Plan” while the more geographically broader organization the GEF/UNDP/IMO Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) has recently launched its “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia” and coordinating its implementation. In inland waters, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) operates a fisheries programme that provides advice and coordination amongst the riparian states of the Mekong River.

Several of these coordinating mechanisms are project-based and thus may be interim arrangements leading towards more formal convention, or agreement-based arrangements. These include the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project (YSLME); the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BOBLME); and the Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS).

There are also two broad environmental programmes, one in the South Pacific (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme) and the other in South Asia (South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme).



BOBLME

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme

Establishment	2009
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand (Interim secretariat)
Address	39 Phra Atit Road, Maliwan Mansion, 10200 Bangkok
Telephone	+66 2 697 4217 / 4238
Fax	+66 2 697 4445
E-mail	info@boblme.org
Website	www.boblme.org
Area of competence	Bay of Bengal
Membership	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand
Objectives	<p>To establish a Strategic Action Programme to protect the health of the ecosystem and manage the living resources of the Bay of Bengal on a sustainable basis to improve the food and livelihood security of the region's coastal population".</p> <p>The Project has been structured into five interlinking components: (1) Strategic Action Programme (SAP), (2) Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use, (3) Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME, (4) Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution, and (5) Project Management.</p>
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ National reports■ Workshop reports■ Thematic reports



COBSEA

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia

Establishment	Action plan adopted in 1981. The New Strategic Direction for COBSEA (2008-2012) was adopted in January 2008
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand
Address	COBSEA Secretariat, 2 nd Floor, United Nations Building Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel / Fax	+662 288 1889, 1860 / +662 281 2428
E-mail	kleesuwan.unescap@un.org or UNEP-COBSEA@un.org
Website	http://www.cobsea.org/
Area of competence	East Asian Seas
Membership	Australia, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Objective	“Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting reports and technical papers



PEMSEA

Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

Establishment	1999 – GEF and partner Regional Programme – superseding earlier (1994 to 1999) GEF Regional Programme for Marine Pollution Prevention and Management in the East Asian Seas region 2006 – Transformation into a regional mechanism with the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement 2008 to 2011 – Implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA)
Headquarters	Quezon City, Philippines
Address	DENR Compound Visayas Avenue, Quezon City 1101, Philippines For mail use: P.O. Box 2502, Quezon City 1165, Philippines
Tel / Fax	+632 929 2992 / +632 926 9712
E-mail	info@pemsea.org
Website	http://www.pemsea.org
Area of competence	Sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the Seas of East Asia through integrated coastal management (ICM)
Membership	11 Country Partners: Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Korea DPR, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam 16 Non-Country Partners: Conservation International (CI) Philippines, Coastal Management Center (CMC), IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC), International Ocean Institute (IOI), International Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS), Korea Environmental Institute (KEI), Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), Northwest Pacific Action

Plan (NOWPAP), Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA), UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), UNEP Global Programme of Action (UNEP/GPA), UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea LME Project (YSLME)

Objective	"To support the development of a sustainable regional mechanism that augments the regional commitment to implementation of the SDS-SEA related to the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment of the East Asian Seas. The focus is on sustainable use of coastal and marine resources through intergovernmental, interagency and inter-sectoral partnerships".
Information resources on the web	eUpdates (PEMSEA News), Partner News, Young environmentalist hub (http://www.pemsea.org/easy-hub), Tropical Coasts Magazine (PDF version), PEMSEA publications PDF brochures: Manila Bay Area Environmental Atlas; Dynamics of Integrated Coastal Management; Securing the Oceans: Essays on Ocean Governance (http://www.pemsea.org/publications), Case studies, workshop proceedings (PDF version)



SACEP

South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme

Establishment	1982
Headquarters	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Address	#10, Anderson Road Colombo – 5, Sri Lanka
Tel / Fax	+94 11 2589787 / +94 11 2589369
E-mail	sacep@eol.lk and info@sacep.org
Website	http://www.sacep.org
Area of competence	South Asia
Membership	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
Objective	“To promote and support the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the Member States of the South Asian Region in a co-operative manner, to achieve sustainable development”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meeting reports and documents



SPREP

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Establishment	1995 As a technical and coordinating intergovernmental body on environmental issues in the Pacific
Headquarters	Apia, Samoa
Address	P.O. Box 240, Apia, Samoa
Tel / Fax	+685 21929 / +685 20231
E-mail	sprep@sprep.org
Website	http://www.sprep.org
Area of competence	South Pacific
Membership	American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna
Objective	"To promote cooperation in the Pacific Islands region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP operates two programmes: Island Ecosystems and Pacific Futures, and a wide array of projects on the marine environment".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Publications and reports▪ South Pacific news



YSLME

Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

Establishment	Sept 2004 (in development since 1992) A GEF project implemented by UNDP
Headquarters	Ansan, Republic of Korea
Address	UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project, KORDI Compound, 1270 Sa2-dong, Sangnok-gu, Ansan-si Gyeonggi-do 426-744 Republic of Korea
Tel / Fax	+82-31-400-7829 / + 82-31-400-7826
E-mail	info@yslme.org
Website	www.yslme.org
Area of competence	Yellow Sea
Membership	People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea
Objective	"To address critical threats to the coastal and marine environment and to promote ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources in the Yellow Sea".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Activity reports■ Technical publications■ Regional news and events■ Yellow Sea Partnership, Ocean Colour website

B3. Scientific Arrangements

- AFS Asian Fisheries Society
- IOC/WESTPAC IOC Sub-Commission for Western Pacific
- NPRF North Pacific Rim Fisheries
- PICES North Pacific Marine Science Organization
- WFC WorldFish Center

The WorldFish Center is probably the most pre-eminent global fisheries research organization with a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) is a scientific society organized for fishery professionals in Asia to communicate, share information and cooperate with each other. Since its establishment the Society has grown from the fourteen charter members who signed the constitution to over 2 800 members from seventy-five countries and territories. It has three national sub-branches (India, Taiwan Province of China and Japan), two subject-specific sections, namely the Fish Health Section, and the Asian Fisheries Social Science Section (AFSSRN), and Asian chapters of global societies (like the World Aquaculture Society) which are all active in scientific exchanges, workshops and publications.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) Sub-commission for the Western Pacific and its Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is an international framework for the systematic acquisition and dissemination of data relating to the past, present and future states of the marine environment. It consists of two parts or modules: a global ocean module concerned primarily with detecting and predicting changes in the ocean-climate system and improving marine services and, secondly, a coastal module concerned with the effects of large-scale changes in the ocean-climate system and of human activities on coastal ecosystems. FAO is a joint sponsor of the coastal module which includes the collection of data on living marine resources. There are opportunities for collaboration between GOOS, RFBs, the Regional Seas Programmes and the large marine ecosystem initiatives.



AFS

Asian Fisheries Society

Establishment	1984
Headquarters	Quezon City, Philippines
Address	Unit A, Mayaman Townhomes 25, Mayaman Street, UP Village Quezon City, Philippines
	For mail use: P.O. Box 2725, Quezon City Central Post Office 1167, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel / Fax	+63-2 921 1914 / +63-2 920-2757
E-mail	info@asianfisheressociety.org
Website	http://www.asianfisheressociety.org/
Area of competence	The wider Asian region
Membership	Scientific Society – not a national members organization
Objective	“To act as a fisheries society for the wider Asia-Pacific region. Holding of a regular triennial forum, holding of symposia, workshops and publication of outcomes”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Fisheries general information■ Network formation



IOC/WESTPAC

IOC Sub-Commission for Western Pacific

Establishment	1989
Headquarters	Bangkok, Thailand
Address	c/o National Research Council of Thailand 196 Phaholyothin Road Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 Thailand
Tel / Fax	+ 66 2-2982637 / + 66 2-2986313
E-mail	westpac@unescobkk.org
Website	http://westpac.unescobkk.org
Area of competence	Western Pacific area
Membership	Australia, China, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korea DPR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, USA and Viet Nam"
Objective	"To promote and coordinate programmes that demonstrate and enhance the value of marine scientific research and systematic observations of the ocean in resolving the needs of member states".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ News and events▪ Publications



NPRF

North Pacific Rim Fisheries

Establishment	1989
Headquarters	Anchorage, Alaska
Address	c/o Alaska Pacific University 725 Christensen Drive, Suite 4 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 USA
Tel / Fax	+907 677 1131 / +907 677 9640
E-mail	PRFisheries.APU@gci.net
Website	http://prfisheries.alaskapacific.edu/
Area of competence	
Membership	Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and USA
Objective	“To promote the exchange of information to the mutual benefit of all Pacific Rim nations. Knowledge of changes in the management and use of a country’s fishery, regulatory and business practices, foreign investment, and other market related changes lead toward better management decisions for all fisheries government and business sectors of these nations”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Directory of fishing companies▪ Fishery statistics



PICES

North Pacific Marine Science Organization

Establishment	1992
Headquarters	Sydney, BC, Canada
Address	c/o Institute of Ocean Sciences 9860, West Saanich Road Sidney, British Columbia, V8L 4B2 Canada
	For mail use: P.O. Box 6000, Sidney, BC, Canada
Tel / Fax	+1 250 363 6366 / + 1 250 363 6827
E-mail	secretariat@PICES.int
Website	http://www.pices.int
Area of competence	North Pacific and adjacent seas
Membership	Canada, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and USA
Objective	"To promote and coordinate marine scientific research in order to advance scientific knowledge of the area concerned and of its living resources and to promote the collection and exchange of information and data related to marine scientific research in its area of competence".
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Scientific reports and publications

Establishment	1977 (as ICLARM) (Incorporated into the CGIAR in 1992) (WorldFish Center from 2000)
Headquarters	Penang, Malaysia
Address	Jalan Batu Maung Batu Maung, 11960 Penang, Malaysia For mail use: P.O. Box 500, GPO 10670, Penang, Malaysia
Tel / Fax	+604 626 1606 / +604 626 5530
E-mail	worldfishcenter@cgiar.org
Website	http://www.worldfishcenter.org
Area of competence	Global, with substantial research activities in Asia and the Pacific
Membership	A donor funded Center of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
Objective	“is committed to contributing to food security and poverty eradication in developing countries through research, partnership, capacity building and policy support on living aquatic resources management”.
Information resources on the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Databases on coral reefs and bibliography of related publications (ReefBase)▪ Fisheries Resources Information System and Tools (TrawlBase)▪ On-line information services▪ Training courses

C. The APFIC agreement and rules of procedure



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC) AGREEMENT¹

PREAMBLE

The contracting Governments having a mutual interest in the development and proper utilization of the living aquatic resources of the Asia-Pacific area and desiring to further the attainment of these ends through international cooperation by the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Commission

1. The contracting Governments agree to establish within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") a Commission to be known as the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, for the purpose of carrying out the functions and duties hereinafter set forth in Article IV.
2. The Members of the Commission shall be such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and such non-member States of the Organization as are Members of the United Nations, or any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency that accept this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article X thereof. As regards Associate

¹ Agreement as last amended at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Commission (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 15-24 October 1996) and approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Twelfth Session (Rome, Italy, 2-7 June 1997).

Members, this Agreement shall, in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV-5 of the Constitution and Rule XXI-3 of the General Rules of the Organization be submitted by the Organization to the authority having responsibility for the international relations of such Associate Members.

ARTICLE II

Organization

1. Each Member shall be represented at sessions of the Commission by a single delegate, who may be accompanied by an alternate and by experts and advisers. Participation in sessions of the Commission by alternates, experts and advisers shall not entail the right to vote, except in the place of a delegate during his absence.

2. Each Member shall have one vote. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, except when a greater majority is required by this Agreement or by the Rules governing the procedure of the Commission. A majority of the total membership of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

3. The Commission shall at each regular session elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall serve until the end of the next regular session.

4. The Chairman of the Commission in consultation with the Director-General of the Organization shall convene a regular session of the Commission at least once in every two years unless otherwise directed by a majority of the Members. The site and date of all sessions shall be determined by the Commission in consultation with the Director-General of the Organization.

5. The seat of the Commission shall be at the seat of the Regional Office of the Organization most conveniently situated within the area defined in Article VI.

6. The Organization shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission and the Director-General shall appoint its Secretary, who shall be administratively responsible to him.

7. The Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of its membership, adopt and amend its own Rules of Procedure provided that such Rules of Procedure or the amendments thereto are not inconsistent with this Agreement or with the Constitution of the Organization.

ARTICLE III

Committees and working parties

1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the immediately retired Chairman and two members elected by the Commission. In the unavoidable absence of one or two members of the Executive Committee from a Committee session, the Chairman shall have the power to co-opt the Chairman of one or two of the Committees which may from time to time be established in accordance with the Rules governing the procedure of the Commission, at his discretion, to substitute the absent Committee member or members for that Committee session only, provided that two permanent members of the Executive Committee shall always be present and that the number of voting members attending the Committee session shall in no case exceed five.
2. The Commission may in addition establish temporary, special or standing committees to study and report on matters pertaining to the purpose of the Commission.
3. The Commission may establish working parties to study and recommend on specific technical problems. These working parties shall be convened by the Director-General of the Organization at such times and places as are in accordance with the objectives for which they were established.
4. The establishment of committees and working parties referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization; the determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General. Before taking any decision involving expenditures in connexion with the establishment of committees and working parties, the Commission shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

ARTICLE IV

Functions

The purpose of the Commission shall be to promote the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources by the development and management of fishing and culture operations and by the development of related processing and marketing activities in conformity with the objectives of its Members, and to these ends it shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- (a) to keep under review the state of these resources and of the industries based on them;
- (b) to formulate and recommend measures and to initiate and carry out programmes or projects to,
 - (i) increase the efficiency and sustainable productivity of fisheries and aquaculture;
 - (ii) conserve and manage resources;
 - (iii) protect resources from pollution;
- (c) to keep under review the economic and social aspects of fishing and aquaculture industries and recommend measures aimed at improving the living and working conditions of fishermen and other workers in these industries and otherwise at improving the contribution of each fishery to social and economic goals;
- (d) to promote programmes for mariculture and coastal fisheries enhancement;
- (e) to encourage, recommend, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake training and extension activities in all aspects of fisheries;
- (f) to encourage, recommend, coordinate and undertake, as appropriate, research and development activities in all respects of fisheries;
- (g) to assemble, publish or otherwise disseminate information regarding the living aquatic resources and fisheries based on these resources;
- (h) to carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Commission to achieve its purpose as defined above.

ARTICLE V

Reports

The Commission shall transmit after each session to the Director-General of the Organization a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, and make such other reports to the Director-General of the Organization as may seem to it necessary or desirable. Reports of the committees and working parties of the Commission provided for in Article III of this Agreement shall be transmitted to the Director-General through the Commission.

ARTICLE VI

Area

The Commission shall carry out the functions and responsibilities set forth in Article IV in the Asia-Pacific Area.

ARTICLE VII

Cooperation with international bodies

The Commission shall cooperate closely with other international bodies in matters of mutual interest.

ARTICLE VIII

Expenses

1. The expenses of delegates and their alternates, experts and advisers occasioned by attendance at sessions of the Commission and the expenses of representatives on committees or working parties established in accordance with Article III of this Agreement shall be determined and paid by their respective governments.

2. The expenses of the Secretariat, including publications and communications, and of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the immediately retired Chairman of the Commission and of the other two members of the Executive Committee when performing duties connected with the Commission's work during intervals between its sessions, shall be determined and paid by the Organization within the limits of a biennial budget prepared and approved in accordance with the Constitution, the General Rules and Financial Regulations of the Organization.

3. The expenses of research or development projects undertaken by individual Members of the Commission, whether independently or upon the recommendation of the Commission, shall be determined and paid by their respective governments.

4. The expenses incurred in connexion with activities undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, paragraphs (e) and (f), unless otherwise available shall be determined and paid by the Members in the form and proportion to which they shall mutually agree. Cooperative projects shall be submitted to the Council of the Organization prior to implementation.

Contributions for cooperative projects shall be paid into a trust fund to be established by the Organization and shall be administered by the Organization in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization.

5. The expenses of experts invited, with the concurrence of the Director-General, to attend meetings of the Commission, committees or working parties in their individual capacity shall be borne by the budget of the Organization.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

The Commission may amend this Agreement by a two-thirds majority of all the Members of the Commission. Amendments to this Agreement shall be reported to the Council of the Organization which shall have the power to disallow them if it finds that such amendments are inconsistent with the objectives and purposes of the Organization or the provisions of the Constitution of the Organization. If the Council of the Organization considers it desirable, it may refer these amendments to the Conference of the Organization which shall have the same power. However, any amendment involving new obligations for Members shall come into force with respect to each Member only on acceptance of it by that Member. The instruments of acceptance of amendments involving new obligations shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Organization, who shall inform all the Members of the Commission as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the receipt of acceptances and the entry into force of such amendments. The rights and obligations of any Member of the Commission that has not accepted an amendment involving additional obligations shall continue to be governed by the provisions of this Agreement as they stood prior to the amendment.

ARTICLE X

Acceptance

1. This Agreement shall be open to acceptance by Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization.

2. The Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of its membership, admit to membership such other States that are Members of the United Nations, of any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency as have submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that they accept this Agreement as in force at the time of admission. Participation by such States in the activities of the Commission shall

be contingent upon the assumption of a proportionate share in the expenses of the Secretariat, as determined by the Organization.

3. Acceptance of this Agreement by any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General of the Organization and shall take effect on receipt of such instrument by the Director-General.

4. Acceptance of this Agreement by non-member nations of the Organization shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General of the Organization. Membership shall become effective on the date on which the Commission approves the application for membership, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article.

5. The Director-General of the Organization shall inform all Members of the Commission, all Member Nations of the Organization and the Secretary-General of the United Nations of all acceptances that have become effective.

6. Acceptance of this Agreement may be made subject to reservations, which shall become effective only upon unanimous approval by the Members of the Commission. The Director-General of the Organization shall notify forthwith all Members of the Commission of any reservations. Members of the Commission not having replied within three months from the date of the notification shall be deemed to have accepted the reservation. Failing such approval the nation making the reservation shall not become a party to this Agreement.

ARTICLE XI

Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of receipt of the fifth instrument of acceptance.

ARTICLE XII

Territorial application

The Members of the Commission shall, when accepting this Agreement, state explicitly to which territories their participation shall extend. In the absence of such a declaration, participation shall be deemed to apply to all the territories for the international relations of which the Member is responsible. Subject to the provisions of Article XIII below, the scope of the territorial application may be modified by a subsequent declaration.

ARTICLE XIII

Withdrawal

1. Any Member may withdraw from this Agreement at any time after the expiration of two years from the date upon which the Agreement entered into force with respect to that Member, by giving the written notice of such withdrawal to the Director-General of the Organization, who shall immediately inform of such withdrawal all the Members of the Commission and the Member Nations of the Organization as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Notice of withdrawal shall become effective three months from the date of its receipt by the Director-General.

2. A Member of the Commission may give notice of withdrawal with respect to one or more of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. When a Member gives notice of its own withdrawal from the Commission, it shall state to which territory or territories the withdrawal is to apply. In the absence of such a declaration, the withdrawal shall be deemed to apply to all the territories for the international relations of which the Member of the Commission is responsible, except that such withdrawal shall not be deemed to apply to an Associate Member.

3. Any Member of the Commission that gives notice of withdrawal from the Organization shall be deemed to have simultaneously withdrawn from the Commission and this withdrawal shall be deemed to apply to all the territories for the international relations of which the Member concerned is responsible, except that such withdrawal shall not be deemed to apply to an Associate Member.

ARTICLE XIV

Interpretation and settlement of disputes

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by the Commission, shall be referred to a committee composed of one member appointed by each of the parties to the dispute, and in addition an independent chairman chosen by the members of the committee. The recommendations of such a committee, while not binding in character, shall become the basis for renewed consideration by the parties concerned of the matter out of which the disagreement arose. If as the result of this procedure the dispute is not settled, it shall be referred to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the Statute of the Court, unless the parties to the dispute agree to another method of settlement.

ARTICLE XV

Termination

This Agreement shall be considered terminated if and when the number of Members of the Commission drops below five unless the remaining Members of the Commission unanimously decide otherwise.

ARTICLE XVI

Certification and registration

The text of this Agreement was originally formulated at Baguio the 26th day of February one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, in the English language. Two copies in the English and French languages of this Agreement as amended shall be certified by the Director-General of the Organization. One of these copies shall be deposited in the archives of the Organization. The other copy shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration. In addition, the Director-General shall certify copies of this Agreement and transmit one copy to each Member Nation of the Organization and to such non-member nations of the Organization that may become parties to this Agreement.



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC) RULES OF PROCEDURE²

RULE I

For the purpose of these Rules, the following definitions apply:

Agreement: The Agreement for the Establishment of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission formulated at Baguio, Philippines, 26 February 1948 as amended in conformity with Article IX thereof

Commission: The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission

Chairman: The Chairman of the Commission

Delegate: The representative of a Member as specified in Article II-1 of the Agreement

Delegation: The delegate and his alternate, experts and advisers

Member: Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and non-member states of the Organization that are Members of the United Nations, or any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency

Secretary: The Secretary of the Commission

Organization: The Food and Agriculture Organization

Conference: The Conference of the Organization

Director-General: The Director-General of the Organization

² As amended by the Commission at its Twenty-Fifth Session and concurred by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Twelfth Session.

Observer Nation, Associate Member or organization: A non-member of the Organization or international organization invited to attend a session of the Commission or a Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization attending a session of the Commission while not a Member of the Commission

Observer: The representative of an Observer Nation, Associate Member or organization

Session: A properly convened continuing assemblage of delegates which may be adjourned from day to day

Meeting: A period of a session during which delegates do not separate except for a short recess

RULE II

Sessions of the Commission

1. In pursuance of, and in accordance with, Article II-4 of the Agreement, the Commission, in consultation with the Director-General, shall at each session consider whether a session should be held in the second year following and shall decide the time and place for the next session in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's programmes and the terms of the invitation of the country in which the session is to be held. The Chairman, accordingly, shall issue the announcement of the session, provided that, if the Commission at a regular session is unable to fix a time and place for the next session, it shall, in consultation with the Director-General, take a decision as to the calendar year in which the next session is to be held, and the Chairman, in consultation with the Director-General, is then authorized to fix the time and place of the session, provided that the approval of the majority of the Members of the Commission has been secured.

2. The Chairman, in consultation with the Director-General, may call a special session of the Commission at:

- (a) the direction of the Commission;
- (b) the direction of the Executive Committee with the approval of a majority of the Members; or
- (c) the request of a majority of the Members.

The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Director-General, shall decide the time and place of such a session.

3. Invitations to a regular session of the Commission shall be issued not less than sixty days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of the session. Invitations to special sessions shall be issued not less than forty days in advance of the date fixed for opening of the session.

RULE III

Agenda

1. The Agenda of each regular session shall include:
 - (a) Adoption of the Agenda;
 - (b) The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman as provided for under Article II-3 of the Agreement and the election of two members of the Executive Committee as provided for in Article III-1 of the Agreement;
 - (c) A report of the Executive Committee on its activities during the intersessional period, including a report of the work performed on behalf of the Commission by the Secretariat;
 - (d) A report by the Secretary on the financial affairs of the Commission;
 - (e) Consideration of the proposed budget for the ensuing two years;
 - (f) Proposals for amendments, if any, to the Agreement, in accordance with Article IX of the Agreement and the provisions of Rule XIV of these Rules;
 - (g) Applications for membership, if any, in accordance with Article X-2 of the Agreement from States which are not members of the Organization;
 - (h) Reports of Committees;
 - (i) Consideration of the time and place of the next session;
 - (j) Items, if any, referred to the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission by the Conference, Council or the Director-General of the Organization.
2. The agenda shall also include, upon approval by the Commission:
 - (a) Items approved at the previous session;
 - (b) Items proposed by the Executive Committee;
 - (c) Items proposed by a Member.
3. A provisional agenda, consisting of items (a) to (j) of paragraph 1 of this Rule and such other items as may have been proposed shall be sent by the Secretary to Members and observer nations, Associate Members and

organizations not less than sixty days before the date fixed for the opening of the session, together with reports and documents available in connection therewith.

4. The agenda of a special session shall consist only of items relating to the purpose for which the session was called.

RULE IV

The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall consist of the Secretary and such staff responsible to him as may be determined by the Director-General and shall provide secretarial services for the Commission.

2. The duties of the Secretary shall include the receipt, collation and circulation of documents, reports and resolutions of the sessions of the Commission and its committees, the preparation of the records of their proceedings, the certification of expenditures and financial commitments and the performance of such other duties as the Commission or the Executive Committee may direct.

3. The originator shall send to the Secretary, for information and record, copies of correspondence concerning the affairs of the Commission.

RULE V

Plenary Meetings of the Commission

Plenary meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless otherwise decided by the Commission. When the Commission decides to hold a private meeting, it shall at the same time determine the scope of such a decision with respect to observers.

RULE VI

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and of other members of the Executive Committee

1. The Commission shall, during each regular session, elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission who shall serve until the end of the next regular session.

2. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall assume office at the end of the regular session in which they are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

3. The Commission shall, during each regular session, also elect the two members of the Executive Committee referred to in Article III-1 of the Agreement.

RULE VII

Functions of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1. The Chairman shall exercise the functions conferred on him elsewhere in these Rules, and in particular shall:

- (a) Declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Commission;
- (b) Direct the discussions at such meetings and ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;
- (c) Rule on points of order;
- (d) Subject to these Rules, have complete control over the proceedings of plenary meetings;
- (e) Appoint such ad hoc committees of the session as the Commission may direct.

2. The Vice-Chairman shall exercise the functions of the Chairman in the Chairman's absence or at the Chairman's request.

RULE VIII

Voting Arrangements and Procedures

1. Except as provided in paragraph 4 of this Rule, voting in plenary meetings shall be oral or by show of hands, except that a vote by roll call shall be taken if a special majority is required by the Agreement of these Rules, or if a request of a vote by roll call is made by any delegation.

2. A vote by roll call shall be conducted by calling upon delegations in the English alphabetical order of the respective Members.

3. The record of any roll call vote shall show the votes cast by each delegation and by abstentions.

4. Voting on matters relating to individuals, except the election of officers, shall be by secret ballot.

5. When no nominee for an office obtains on the first ballot a majority of the votes cast, there shall be taken a second ballot confined to two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, on the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

6. If the Commission is equally divided when a vote is taken on a question other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting of the current session. If the Commission is then again equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

7. If the quorum of a two-thirds majority of all the Members of the Commission is not present at the time of the vote on a proposed amendment to the Agreement, as provided for in Article IX of the Agreement, the Commission may decide that absent Members be informed thereof and requested to vote by a written communication addressed to the Director-General of FAO within ninety days of the closing of the Session at which the proposal was put to vote, provided, however, that the vote must be either affirmative or negative and will not be valid if it were conditional. Such amendments will be considered as adopted only when the required majority has been obtained.

8. Voting arrangements and other related matters not specifically provided for by the Agreement or by these Rules shall be governed "*mutatis mutandis*", by the provisions of the General Rules of the Organization.

RULE IX

Committees

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the immediately retired Chairman and two members elected by the Commission. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member without vote. The Chairman shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) Meet at least once a year between regular sessions;
- (b) In addition to the duties prescribed elsewhere under these Rules, direct the conduct of the business and affairs of the Commission between its sessions, except that issues of policy, unless previously decided by the Commission shall be formulated by the Executive Committee as a motion

and referred to the Members. Upon receipt by the Secretary of affirmative replies from a majority of the Members, the motion shall be considered adopted;

- (c) Prepare estimates of expenses for the next succeeding two years for presentation to the Commission for submission to the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII-2 of the Agreement;
- (d) Co-ordinate the work of the committees and working parties; and
- (e) Function as an editorial and publications committee.

2. The Commission may establish such committees or working parties as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its tasks:

- (a) The terms of reference of such committees and working parties shall be laid down by the Commission at the time of their establishment.
- (b) Each committee or working party shall select a chairman from among its members, who shall act as rapporteur.
- (c) The committees and working parties shall report to the Commission through the Executive Committee either at the session at which they were appointed or at the next regular session, according to their terms of reference, and the Commission shall then decide whether or not they shall continue to operate during the ensuing period.
- (d) The committees and working parties may from time to time set up such sub-committees as may be required to comply effectively with their terms of reference as laid down by the Commission.

3. The establishment of committees and working parties referred to in paragraph 2 above shall be subject to the provisions of Article III-3 of the Agreement.

4. Each committee or working party may adopt and amend its own rules of procedure, which shall be consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission and the General Rules of the Organization. Such rules of procedure shall come into force upon approval by the Commission. In the absence of rules of procedure, the Rules of Procedure of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission shall apply "*mutatis mutandis*" to its committees and working parties.

RULE X

Budget and finance

1. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the Financial Regulations of the Organization, as implemented by the financial rules, manual and memoranda and the procedures based thereon, shall apply to the Commission.
2. A proposed budget of the Commission for the next two succeeding financial years consisting of proposed expenses of the Secretariat, including publications and communications, and of the proposed travelling expenses of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the immediately retired Chairman and the two other members of the Executive Committee when engaged in the work of the Commission between its sessions shall, after approval by the Commission, be submitted to the Director-General for consideration in the preparation of the general budget estimates of the Organization.
3. When adopted by the Conference in its biennial session as part of the general budget of the Organization, the budget of the Commission shall constitute the limits within which funds may be committed for purposes approved by the Conference.

RULE XI

Participation by observers

1. Members and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission may, upon their request, be represented by an observer at sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in an observer capacity, in accordance with the Statement of Principles adopted by the Conference relating to the granting of observer status to nations.
2. States that are not Members of the Commission nor Members or Associate Members of the Organization, but are Members of the United Nations, of any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon request, and with the approval of the Council of the Organization and of the Commission, attend sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in an observer capacity, in accordance with the Statement of Principles adopted by the Conference relating to the granting of observer status to nations.
3. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules

of the Organization as well as by the rules and relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference or Council of the Organization.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies may elect to hold meetings in private, without the attendance of observers. Except in these circumstances, observers may participate fully in the discussions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

5. In the furtherance of the activities provided for in Article IV (e) and (f) of the Agreement, arrangements may be made with governments that are not Members of the Commission.

RULE XII

Reports and recommendations

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations, resolutions and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views.

2. The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General of the Organization at the close of each session, who shall as soon as possible after the session circulate them through the Secretary to Members of the Commission, nations, Associate Members and international organizations that were represented at the session and make them available to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization for their information.

3. Recommendations having policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council of the Organization for appropriate action.

4. The Director-General may request Members of the Commission to supply the Commission or the Director-General with information on action taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission.

5. Pending the formal transmission of the reports of the committees and working parties, as provided for in Article V of the Agreement, the Director-General may, at the request of the Executive Committee, transmit informally these reports to the Members of the Commission.

6. Reports of committees, technical papers and other documents shall be published as the Executive Committee may consider practicable.

RULE XIII

Recommendations to Members

1. The Commission may make recommendations for action by Members on any matters pertaining to the functions described in Article IV of the Agreement.
2. The Secretary shall receive on behalf of the Commission the replies of the Members in respect of such recommendations and shall prepare a summary and an analysis of such communication for presentation at the next session.

RULE XIV

Amendments to the Agreement

1. Proposals for the amendment of the Agreement as provided by Article IX of the Agreement may be made by any Member in a communication addressed to the Secretary. The Secretary shall transmit to all Members and to the Director-General a copy of such proposals for amendment immediately upon their receipt.
2. No action on a proposal for the amendment of the Agreement shall be taken by the Commission at any session unless it has been included in the provisional agenda of the session.

RULE XV

Suspension and Amendment of Rules

1. Subject to the provisions of the Agreement, any of the foregoing Rules, other than Rules III, IV, X, XI, XII and XIV, may be suspended on the motion of any delegation by a two-thirds majority of the votes at any plenary meeting of the Commission, provided that announcement is made at a plenary meeting and copies of the proposal for suspension have been distributed to the delegations not less than 48 hours before the meeting at which action is to be taken.
2. Amendments of, or additions to, these Rules may be adopted on the motion of any delegation by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission at any plenary meeting of the Commission, provided that an announcement is made at a plenary meeting and copies of the proposal for the amendment or addition have been distributed to delegations not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

3. The Executive Committee may propose amendments and additions to these Rules, and any such proposals may be considered at the next session of the Commission.

4. Any amendment to Rule XIV, which may be adopted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Rule, shall not become effective until the next session of the Commission.

RULE XVI

Official languages

The official languages of the Commission shall be English and French.³

³ The CCLM, at its 66th Session (May 1997), gave very careful consideration to the proposed amendment to Rule XVI of the Rules of Procedure of APFIC by which, in future, only the English language would be the official language of the Commission. The CCLM agreed that, from a strictly legal point of view, the amendment was not contrary to the Basic Texts of the Organization. Nevertheless, it was of the opinion that the best solution would be to recommend that the official languages remain English and French with the possibility for the Commission to decide on the working language or languages to be used at each of its sessions.

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