



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

SEC/R1107 (Bi)

FAO
Fisheries and
Aquaculture Report

Доклад ФАО по
рыболовству и
аквакультуре

ISSN 2070-6987

**CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS REGIONAL FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE COMMISSION**
**РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ КОМИССИЯ ПО РЫБНОМУ ХОЗЯЙСТВУ И
АКВАКУЛЬТУРЕ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ И НА КАВКАЗЕ**

Report of the

**THIRD MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
THE CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS REGIONAL FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE COMMISSION**

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16–18 February 2015

Протокол мероприятия

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННАЯ И СЕЛЬСКОХОЗЯЙСТВЕННАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ОН
Ankara, 2016/Анкара 2016 г.

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ISBN 978-92-5-008987-4 (print/печатное издание)

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), which was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16–18 February 2015. The report was prepared by the CACFish Secretariat.

The material in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

FAO. 2016.

Report of the Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16–18 February 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1107. Ankara. 45 pp.

ABSTRACT

The third meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) was organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 16 to 18 February 2015. The meeting was attended by five Member States: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. Also attending were the following non-CACFish Member States: Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The TAC discussed and generated scientific recommendations on the following issues for consideration of CACFish: (i) fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) inland fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The TAC revised the progress with the five-year Work Programme of CACFish (2011–2015). The TAC approved with some modifications the second-term five-year Work Programme (2016–2020) prepared by the CACFish Secretariat. The TAC further adopted its programme of work for the intersessional period 2015–2017.

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OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 16 to 18 February 2015.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of five Members of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. Representatives of the following invited non-CACFish Member States also attended: Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The list of participants at the meeting is attached as Appendix 2.
3. Ms Chinara Imankulova (Kyrgyzstan), TAC Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed the audience.
4. Mr Edil Niyazov, representing the host country and on behalf of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic, welcomed all participants. He acknowledged the regional efforts dedicated to development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, emphasizing the synergic efforts provided by CACFish. He stressed the need for further technical assistance in certain areas, including development of aquaculture and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the Central Asian and Caucasus region. He also stressed the high relevance of the wide-range of technical issues handled by the TAC to the region. In addition, he expressed his appreciation to CACFish for enforcing the pilot study titled “Development of Methodologies for Fisheries Passport for Small Water Bodies of Kyrgyzstan”.
5. Mr Thomas Moth-Poulsen, the CACFish Secretary, welcomed the audience. He extended a warm welcome to the participants and cordially thanked the representatives of Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. A few amendments were made to the provisional agenda. The final agenda is given in Appendix 1.
7. The list of documents placed before the meeting is presented in Appendix 3.

UPDATES ON DECISIONS, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Main decisions and recommendations of the third session of CACFish

8. The meeting was provided with an update on the main decisions and recommendations taken by CACFish at its third session, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 2 to 4 June 2014. It was explained, that the third session had adopted technical and scientific advice on the following technical areas, which the TAC had submitted to the CACFish for its consideration: (i) inland fisheries stock assessment; (ii) regional strategic principles for climate change; and (iii) fish breeding and broodstock management. The meeting was further briefed on the decision that the proposal to change the name of the regular gathering module of TAC from “session” to “meeting” had been adopted by CACFish at its third session.

Meetings of FAO’s Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

9. The Secretariat provided the meeting with a briefing on the key activities, agenda items and outcomes of FAO’s Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and its subcommittees; namely the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. The Secretariat encouraged members and non-members to attend activities of COFI. The TAC reiterated the importance and relevance of regular attendance of the Central Asian and Caucasus States at the activities of COFI and its subcommittees. In this regard, attention was drawn to the eighth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, scheduled to be held in October 2015. Attendance from the Central Asian and Caucasus region was regarded as an occasion for echoing the voice of this region at such

international platforms.

Global Conference on Inland Fisheries (Rome, Italy, 26–28 January 2015)

10. Participants were briefed by the Secretariat on the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries, which was held in Rome, Italy, on 26–28 January 2015). The conference focused global attention on addressing the status, challenges and opportunities for freshwater fisheries, and was attended by researchers, decision-makers, experts, and representatives of the other stakeholders. It consisted of several thematic panels, general plenary sessions and poster presentations, as well as sessions with keynote speakers. The conference made calls for recognition and integrated management of inland fisheries while noting that the real magnitude of the inland fisheries had traditionally been undervalued. The Secretariat also drew attention to the conclusions of the Rome conference.

Activities and main outputs of regional fisheries projects

11. The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the status, activities and key outputs of FAO's regional fisheries and aquaculture projects, namely: "Strengthening Adaptation of Aquaculture and Culture-based Fisheries to Climate Change"; "Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development" (FishDev-Central Asia); and "Identification and Formulation of a Regional Project to Strengthen Scientific, Technical and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in Black Sea" (BlackSea). The TAC noted the contributions of such projects and programmes to cumulative institutional capacity building in the Central Asian and Caucasus region.

12. With regard to projects related to climate change, some participants suggested a basin-based approach be followed, and examples of historical basin-based projects were given. Involvement of non-signatory countries in the project was also found useful in terms of dissemination of project outcomes in a wider area. Attention was, however, paid to the international conventions that form a basis for transboundary water resources management and use. Some participants pointed out the need for inclusion of such international issues in the project. Despite the existing transboundary issues of political concern (which was not a part of the project), extension of the coverage areas of such projects in some ways to transboundary and shared areas such as the Caspian Sea was also suggested. Such an extended coverage was linked to conservation of certain endangered fish species, particularly sturgeons, while maintaining a proper balance with other sectors active in the shared areas, particularly the oil and gas sector.

13. The TAC was informed that preparation of a complementary regional programme to FishDev – Central Asia was underway. In this regard, the TAC was informed that the technical framework drawn by the fourth tri-partite meeting of FishDev – Central Asia, held on 5 June 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan, had been taken into account in the programme formulation. The TAC unanimously supported the implementation of the proposed complementary programme under the extended FAO–Turkey Partnership Programme. However, in the absence of such a regional umbrella programme, improvement of regional cooperation mechanisms through the existing instruments (i.e. regional projects) was suggested.

14. The Secretariat also provided a progress update on the Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Education and Training Programme, which was received with great interest by the audience. The TAC found it useful to explore a role for the TAC in the implementation of the programme when the programme is operational.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CACFish

Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

15. The Secretariat introduced working document CACFish/TACIII/2015/2, which was the basis for the discussions. The TAC agreed that the working document prepared by the Secretariat described well the status, challenges and trends of fisheries MCS and illegal, unreported and unregulated

(IUU)fishing in the Central Asian and Caucasus region while equally addressing the global scale of these issues.

16. The TAC noted that the Central Asian and Caucasus region lacked effective management instruments and systems for MCS to combat IUU fishing and related activities. There was a common perception that poaching was a widespread challenge across the region, although technical and economic data documenting this poaching were generally lacking. It was noted that hurdles remained to prevent, deter and eliminate more efficiently IUU fishing and related activities, owing to insufficient institutional, technical and financial resources as well as legal and policy frameworks. In this regard, the importance of the implementation of concrete policies, action plans or management frameworks, as well as the establishment and operationalization of modern MCS systems for combating IUU fishing and related fisheries activities, was highlighted.

17. The establishment and maintenance of information systems, databases, data exchange and control mechanism and networks, at both the national and regional levels, were found essential for long-term success. Active involvement by fisheries resource users, in the formulation process of legislations, regulations, management measures and policies, was seen as a central factor in increasing compliance. Development and implementation of effective MCS measures was found to be central to achieving more sustainable management of fisheries resources and more compliance with the existing fisheries rules and regulations. Fisheries MCS was regarded as a major issue affecting the reaching of regional and national fisheries management objectives. The TAC noted the associated legitimacy, ethical, moral and social factors in fisheries MCS and compliance.

18. Attention was drawn to the growing global and regional efforts to combat IUU fishing, and the resulting regulatory policies, standards, cooperation mechanisms and international fisheries instruments. Included were: FAO's International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; trade-related measures and schemes; and mandated tasks and actions of the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

19. It was argued that socio-economic conditions of local communities were the main key underlying factor leading to IUU fishing. In this respect, it was suggested that local communities' activities should be re-oriented towards aquaculture by creating legal and socio-economic conditions across the CACFish area competence, while raising awareness of the key stakeholders and creating enabling conditions for improved compliance. Participants gave several cases of inefficient MCS systems that had initially resulted in considerable depletion of living biological resources. Examples of the negative impacts of unsustainable resource use and improper monitoring and control on local communities were given. Some inadequate national practices of culture-based fisheries were also given as mismanagement examples linked to insufficient monitoring and control. It was stated that in the allocation of fishery licences, reliable science-based baseline estimates of fish abundance and biomass should be conducted. In the absence of such reliable information, the precautionary approach should be used to order to avoid irreversible damage to fisheries resources. It was stated that local community-based co-management could help to improve compliance with fisheries rules and regulations. The participation of the local communities as well as other key stakeholders in the management of the fishery resources was broadly seen as beneficial for a functional management model. Discussions took place regarding recreational fisheries in the context of fisheries MCS, IUU fishing and related activities. The TAC noted that more research was required for sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, particularly in the stock assessment. It was indicated that seemingly more management and development focus was given to aquaculture compared with inland fisheries. It was stated that this tendency should not create hurdles for regulation of inland fisheries supported by effective fisheries MCS tools.

20. A more gradual approach to combating IUU fishing and related activities was recommended in the Central Asian and Caucasus region. To tackle these issues, establishment of a committee on MCS or compliance under CACFish, or under the respective organizational FAO structures, was recommended. In this respect, the Secretariat provided some information about the structuring and

varying roles of the compliance committees of the RFMOs. In addition, attention was drawn to the International Network for the Cooperation and Coordination of Fisheries Related Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Activities (MCS Network). It was suggested that regional initiatives aiming at strengthening fisheries MCS systems and combating IUU fishing and related activities be supported. The broadening of such collaborative efforts to shared transboundary waterbodies (i.e. the Caspian Sea) was found useful.

21. The TAC recommended that an overall regional capacity building on the fisheries MCS management be strengthened, taking into consideration the social and economic characteristic of fisheries, and the challenges in a multilevel context, e.g. at the local, national and regional levels. Fisheries MCS, IUU fishing and related issues were found to be essential to the work of CACFish. The TAC therefore agreed to continue working on these issues in future.

22. The recommendations, which were produced by the Regional Workshop on Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2–4 October 2012) and, to a lesser extent, by the Regional Workshop on Management, Assessment, and Monitoring of Inland Fisheries Resources (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 26–29 May 2014) referred to in the working document CACFish/TACIII/2015/2, were reviewed by the TAC. Although re-arrangement of the recommendations in a priority order was suggested, the TAC ultimately accepted them as they stood. The recommendations are provided in Appendix 4.

23. The TAC recommended the following actions for building a region-wide MCS capacity in support of fisheries management:

- Development of guidelines for controlling and inspecting capture fisheries and aquaculture.
- Development or updating of fishing permits, national logbooks, landing declarations and sale notes.
- Promotion of fisheries co-management for increased compliance.
- Development of national and regional cooperation mechanisms for preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing and related activities.
- Development, implementation and updating of national MCS strategies and national action plans to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.
- Promotion of increased compliance with international best practices and regulatory frameworks with respect to IUU fishing (i.e. FAO International Plan of Action against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing).
- Promotion of baseline stock and ecosystem assessments before issuing fishing or waterbody utilization licences.
- Implementation of specific MCS measures for rare and endangered fish species as well as aquatic ecosystems.
- Promotion of socio-economic research in fisheries.
- Regional capacity building for research, data collection and analysis in respect of fisheries MCS and IUU fishing.
- Promotion of voluntary compliance with applicable fisheries law, rules and regulations.
- Promotion of coordination and exchange of information and data among respective national agencies.
- Promotion of increased fisheries control, inspection and monitoring.

Inland fish hatchery management

24. Discussions were based on the working document CACFish/TACIII/2014/3. The TAC noted the crucial role of effective hatchery management in the sustainable development of inland aquaculture and culture-based fisheries in the CACFish area or competence. The TAC further noted the increasing efforts of countries in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, in the promotion of both the establishment of hatcheries and in the management of implementation of sustainable hatchery management processes and practices as part of the development of sustainable aquaculture and culture-based fisheries. With particular regard to the Central Asian region, the TAC took note of the predominant need for modernization and rehabilitation of the existing hatcheries and systems, while at the same time taking full account of the existing challenges and great enhancement potential for inland hatcheries and their sustainable management.

25. The use of hatcheries under a strategic plan was directly linked with the sustainable management of inland fisheries, culture-based fisheries, fisheries enhancement and conservation. In this connection, the development and implementation of minimum technical criteria for hatcheries were recommended, together with the proper implementation of environmental impact assessment practices. Ensuring sustainable supply of seed and fry was also regarded as an essential strategic component of such planning. The need for simplification and acceleration of licensing procedures for establishment of fish farms and/or hatcheries was also noted. Promotion of the implementations of internationally recognized respective standards and certification schemes for enterprises and fish seed was recommended. Enhancement of institutional capacity building and delivery of training was found useful in this regard.

26. The growing competition with other sectors for water resources and for suitable locations for fish farming was underlined. In this context, the promotion of the use of recirculating systems and water treatment systems for aquaculture production was noted as an alternative approach to conventional fish farming in the region. Reliable supply of high-quality fish seed and feed was described as one of the key challenges in terms of inland aquaculture production, particularly in the Central Asian region. The TAC agreed that robust broodstock management should be an essential element of sustainable hatchery management. It noted that research and development had not been duly applied to fisheries and aquaculture in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, indicating a need for development of new innovative techniques to meet local needs and produce higher yield. The TAC noted the relatively limited number of hatchery freshwater fish species. However, it was expected that more novel hatcheries would be operational, some of which could produce new species, given the expansion potential for aquaculture in the region. Attention was drawn to the need for capacity building in inland hatchery management and in the diversification of fish production. Regular training on hatchery production systems was viewed as a major need.

27. The TAC identified the following prioritized research needs in respect of inland hatchery management in the CACFish area of competence:

- Undertaking an inventory of fish hatchery research activities in the CACFish area.
- Undertaking a study on economic profitability of fish hatcheries.
- Upscaling of certified fry production.
- Fish hatcheries development strategy.
- Introducing modern full hatchery production cycle.
- Larval production and feeding of new species.
- Developing technical criteria and minimum requirements for aquaculture site selection.
- Developing technical criteria and minimum requirements for hatcheries.
- Undertaking research and on-farm trials for possible species for diversification of aquaculture production.

- Science-based broodstock management, including pedigree-based genetic selection.

28. Development and implementation of effective plans, measures and guiding principles were seen as essential in terms of the future steps for improved inland hatchery management. With these considerations, the following actions were recommended:

- Development of national and regional hatchery programmes.
- Assessment of impact of farmed-fish on wild aquatic genetic resources.
- Development of technical guidelines and protocols on hatchery production cycles.
- Promotion of better management practices for hatchery production and operations.
- Implementation of standards for certification.

29. The meeting adopted the technical recommendations that had been generated by the Regional Workshop on Inland Fish Hatchery Management, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 27–30 October 2014, referred to in the working document CACFish/TACIII/2015/3.

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

30. The Secretariat introduced this agenda item referring to the background paper CACFish/TACIII/2015/4. The TAC welcomed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and acknowledged the great deal of global effort devoted to the development and recent enforcement of the SSF Guidelines.

31. The TAC welcomed the SSF Guidelines and the framework, which was found useful for the development of small-scale fisheries both in the CACFish area of competence and in the wider Central Asian and Caucasus region, but also noted, that the inland fisheries and fishing communities of the region contained different capacities, which were not fully applicable to the common definitions of small-scale fisheries, poverty alleviation and food security. However, the integration of the framework into existing management policies, strategies, plans and operational processes, was seen as central to the success of sustainable management and development of small-scale fisheries while respecting the rights of the small-scale fishers. The TAC suggested more focus be given to small-scale fisheries in the future by further analysing the key issues addressed by the SSF Guidelines (i.e. responsible governance, sustainable resource management, value chains and trade, disaster risks, etc.) in order to link them to a more regional, national and local context.

32. Discussions took place on several aspects of the SSF Guidelines. These included the definition of small-scale fisheries, poverty, and quantitative criteria for small-scale fisheries at both the national and regional levels. Inland fisheries in Central Asian and Caucasus region, to a great extent, are classified as small-scale fisheries. It was stated that small scale-fisheries in shared fisheries resources (e.g. the Caspian Sea) should be based on social justice and observe the rights of fishers in order to improve their socio-economic conditions.

33. The urgent need for combining social and economic development with management and protection of small-scale fisheries resources was noted in the context of food security. The TAC recognized that small-scale inland fisheries were often overlooked in national policy consideration. In this context, the TAC suggested that due consideration be given to small-scale fisheries in respective national plans, policies, strategies, priorities, and development and fisheries management plans, while ensuring the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Development and implementation of further management measures were viewed as difficult but essential. Regional-level actions and guidance by CACFish in this regard were also suggested in order to pursue full integration of the SSF Guidelines in the CACFish area of competence. Efforts to be linked to the promotion of FAO's ecosystem approach to fisheries were seen critical for ensuring the success of stronger implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Development and application of specific incentive schemes for small-scale fisheries were

found useful in terms of enhancement of the objectives foreseen by the SSF Guidelines. It was suggested that the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines be transposed into national legislation and policy and development documents.

34. Climate change, gender, food security, rights of fishers and economic development were seen as cross-cutting issues, as originally inspired by the SSF Guidelines, for more sustainable small-scale fisheries. It was pointed out that improvements in these cross-cutting issues would clearly have a positive influence considering the success of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Central Asia and Caucasus region. However, the TAC noted with concern the institutional and financial capacity difficulties facing the region in improving inland fisheries, which typically fall under small-scale fisheries. Building stronger cooperation mechanisms among stakeholders was found important to the proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The TAC suggested that more focus be placed on social and economic analysis of small-scale fisheries in support of fisheries decision-making and development of the sector. There was a common view that raising the profile of small-scale fisheries and prompt implementation of the SSF Guidelines would require high-level priority attention and action by governments.

35. The TAC agreed that the Central Asian and Caucasus region had its own distinctive socio-economic features as far as small-scale fisheries were concerned. For the encouragement of the wider implementation of the SSF Guidelines, establishment of an expert group under TAC was suggested, considering the need for a set of recommendation and actions. The working group was given the following mandate: (i) elaboration of the status and (ii) in-detail description of small-scale fisheries parameters; and (iii) identification of national-level and regional-level actions for the proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines. A need was stated for launching a collaborative initiative to encourage the proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines in support of Caspian Sea small-scale fisheries. Preparation of a glossary of fisheries terms was also recommended.

36. The TAC recommended the following actions with respect to implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the CACFish area of competence:

- Enforcement of the framework for a regional strategy and associated principles for aquatic animal health management in CACFish area.
- More management attention on less-focused areas (i.e. decent work, gender roles in fisheries, etc.).
- Analysis and characterization of small-scale fisheries in the Central Asian and Caucasus Region.
- Collection, analysis and dissemination of small-scale fisheries data and information.
- Promotion of co-management and traditional knowledge.
- Promotion of the implementation of integrated fisheries management systems in line with the international fisheries instruments, including the SSF Guidelines, FAO's ecosystem approach to fisheries, and FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- Development and implementation of technical measures and applications (i.e. certification systems for fish introductions; certification in the export and import of live fish, seed and eggs) and technical guidelines for these trade-based measures.
- Networking among research institutions and researchers with a focus on interdisciplinary fisheries research with respect to small-scale fisheries.

REVIEW OF COUNTRY REPORTS

37. Participants both from CACFish Member States and invited States summarized the key information presented in their annual national reports submitted to the Secretariat. The oral reports briefly touched upon, among others: the latest fisheries and aquaculture production statistics; and current data on employments in fisheries and aquaculture. In addition, new regulatory measures and

actions across a number of areas were underlined: development or update of technical fisheries measures; fisheries information and data systems; new policy approaches; fisheries research areas; etc.

REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME (2011–2015) OF CACFish

38. The Secretariat provided an update on the progress with the five-year Regional Work Programme (2011–2015), referring to the background paper CACFish/TACIII/2015/5. The Secretariat stressed that parts of the first five-year programme had not entered their active implementation phase because of budgetary limitations. However, it was noted that the programme delivered considerable outputs, particularly under the components of governance and aquaculture, mostly through the contributions made by regional FAO projects and other cooperation mechanisms. The limited autonomous budget allocation for the programme was noted as the main reason for partial implementation. A need for sustaining collaboration and technical contributions of CACFish Member States to the programme was underlined, linking it with the second five-year Regional Work Programme (2016–2020). The TAC noted the crucial importance of ownership and collaboration for acceleration of progress with the programme.

SECOND FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME OF CACFish (2016–2020)

39. Discussions were initially based on the working document CACFish/TACIII/2015/5. The second five-year Regional Work Programme prepared by the CACFish Secretariat was reviewed by the TAC, which expressed its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat. The Secretariat explained that previous monitoring evaluation points and feedbacks of TAC were taken into consideration in the second programme. The programme was found to be instrumental in the enhancement of regional capacities in the management and development fisheries and aquaculture and conservation of fisheries resources. Further support for enhancement of an enabling environment for research and development (R&D) in fisheries and aquaculture was also regarded as critical. However, the TAC reiterated its concern about the lack of insufficient funding for the full implementation of the Regional Work Programme, suggesting further attention be given to the external financial resources. It was noted that the programme could be subject to review during its future implementation phase on the basis of the evaluation by CACFish. The TAC was broadly supportive of the new work programme. In addition, the TAC made certain amendments to the original programme activities during its final review, as provided in Appendix 5.

40. The adopted version of the second five-year Regional Work Programme will be submitted to CACFish for further review and subsequent adoption. It was also noted that CACFish would continue to be provided with regular updates on the progress with the programme and monitoring, evaluation of the TAC, which is tasked with technical supervision of the programme.

INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAMME (2015–2017)

41. The TAC took the note of the intersessional work programme activities carried out after the second session of the TAC (April 2014).

42. The TAC agreed on the following intersessional period (2015–2017) activities:

Activity	Date	Estimated budget (USD)	Place
1. Regional expert meeting on conservation of genetic resources of fish	September 2015	30,000	Turkey
2. Regional expert group work on small-scale fisheries	2015	10,000	TBD
3. Workshop on the collection of fisheries data and information	September 2016	25,000	Kyrgyzstan
4. Workshop on habitat rehabilitation	May 2016	30,000	Tajikistan
5. A pilot study of inland stock assessment in Tajikistan.	2016	30,000	Tajikistan
6. Fourth meeting of the TAC	February 2017	30,000	TBD

OTHER MATTERS

43. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

44. The TAC agreed to organize the fourth meeting in February 2017. The place of the meeting will be determined at a later date.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

45. The report, including its appendixes, was adopted on 18 February 2015.

APPENDIX 1**Agenda****16 February 2015****Morning Session: 9.00-13.00**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Updates on:
 - Main decisions and recommendations of the Third Session of CACFish
 - Meetings of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
 - Global Conference on Inland Fisheries (Rome, Italy, 26-28 January 2015)
 - Activities and main outputs of regional fisheries projects

Afternoon Session: 14.30-17.30

4. Discussion and endorsement of technical and scientific advice to the Commission:
 - Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)
(document: CACFish/TACIII/2015/2)
 - Inland fish hatchery management (document: CACFish/TACIII/2015/3)

17 February 2015**Morning Session: 9.30-13.00**

5. Discussion and endorsement of technical and scientific advice to the Commission (Cont'd):
 - Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (document: CACFish/TACIII/2015/4).

Afternoon Session: 14.30-17.30

6. Review of annual country reports.
7. Review of the Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) of CACFish
8. Review and adoption of Second Five-year Work Programme (2016-2020) for consideration of CACFish (document: CACFish/TACIII/2015/5)
9. Intersessional Work Plan for 2015-2017.
10. Any other matters.
11. Date and place of the next Meeting.

18 February 2015**Morning Session: 9.30-13.00**

12. Study tour

Afternoon Session: 15-30-17.00

13. Adoption of report.

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APPENDIX 3**List of documents**

Working documents	
CACFish/TAC3/2015/1	Provisional Agenda of Third Meeting
CACFish/TAC3/2015/2	Fisheries Monitoring, Control And Surveillance (MCS)
CACFish/TAC3/2015/3	Inland Fish Hatchery Management
CACFish/TAC3/2015/4	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
CACFish/TAC3/2015/5	Second Five-year Regional Work Programme of CACFish (2016-2020)
Information documents	
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Inf.2	Provisional list of participants
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Inf.3	Five-year Regional Work Programme of CACFish (2011-2015)
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Inf.4	Report of the Second Session of TAC (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 21-23 April 2014)
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Inf.5	Report of Third Session of CACFish (Baku, Azerbaijan; 2-4 June 2014)
Reference documents	
CACFish/TAC3/2015/Ref.1	Rules of Procedures of the Commission

APPENDIX 4

Adopted recommendations on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance:

- Development of more directed works on MCS and combatting IUU Fishing under CACFish,
- Consideration of establishment of a Compliance Committee under CACFish,
- Participation of Central Asian region into the universal MCS network,
- Establishment of a regional MCS network in Central Asia,
- Encouragement of attendance of experts of Central Asian and Caucasus region to the related works of FAO, i.e. expert meeting, technical consultation, and sub-committee meetings,
- Application of precautionary approach in the absence of updated scientific national data and information,
- Development/improvement of fishing licensing system,
- On-board overseas training of ministerial staff on fisheries MCS,
- More regional and national focus on MCS in small-scale fisheries,
- Study visits and observations on MCS tools, including vessel monitoring system, fisheries information system, fishing license system, and vessel registry system,
- Formulation and implementation of a regional project on MCS and combatting IUU fishing,
- Review and updating of national fisheries legislation for strengthened frameworks for deterring, eliminating and preventing IUU fishing,
- Harmonization of national technical regulation at regional level,
- Development of better management practices for MCS,
- Promotion of development of national policies to combat IUU fishing.
- Promotion of the development and implementation of internationally agreed market-related measures to combat IUU fishing,
- Strengthening institutional, administrative structuring for MCS and enforcement against IUU fishing,
- Review of current national fisheries legislation for strengthened frameworks for MSC,
- Promotion of preventative controls and monitoring,
- Ad-hoc trainings on vessel monitoring system, fisheries information system, fishing license system, and vessel registry system, and fisheries controlling,
- Promotion of the establishment national/regional databases and other information systems, including data/information on fishing vessels, catch, effort, etc.,
- Promotion of voluntary compliance with law and management rules through a process of education, awareness and participatory approach, and
- Promotion of public awareness of the impacts of IUU fishing.

APPENDIX 5**Adopted activities of the Second Five-year Regional Work Programme of CACFish (2016-2020)****Component 1: Fisheries management**

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
<i>1.1. Technical assistance for enhancing legal, regulatory frameworks and institutional structures</i>	Improved legal, institutional and regulatory framework				
1.1.1. Review of Fisheries Law of Kyrgyz Republic	Updated national laws and regulations governing the fisheries and aquaculture in Kyrgyzstan and other Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft national law - Draft updated national bylaws and technical regulations 	2016-2020	55,000	Regional Fisheries Project “Strengthening Regional Capacities for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia” (FishCap) or other external budget
<i>1.2. Capacity development for fisheries policy, management, and planning</i>	Improved institutional capacity for fisheries policy, management, and planning				
1.2.1. Review of technical fishing regulations, licensing and logbook systems	Updated technical fishing regulations, licensing and logbook systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions and/or recommendations 	2017	35,000	RWP budget
1.2.2. A preliminary study on Geographic Information Systems in fisheries management and planning	A preliminary project on Geographic Information Systems is in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary study report - Recommendations for TAC and CACFish 	2018	40,000	RWP budget

1.2.3. Regional Workshop on Incorporation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into planning and management	Strengthened capacity for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into planning and management.	- Workshop and TAC recommendations, - Number of participants	2019	30,000	RWP budget
1.2.4. Capacity development of key stakeholders to enhance co-management	Improved involvement of key stakeholders in fisheries decision-making and research and improved fisheries management mechanisms	- Number of new Fisher's Organization established - Number of fisheries management and advisory committees	2018	30,000	FishCap
<i>1.3. Fisheries data collection and management</i>	Strengthened fisheries data collection and management				
1.3.1. Technical assistance for establishment and improvement of fisheries and aquaculture data and information systems at national level	Improved capacity for Fisheries data collection and management	- Mission reports of experts	2016- 2020	40,000	RWP budget
Sub-total budget:				230,000	

Component 2: Aquaculture

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
2.1. Capacity building for production systems	Improved inland aquaculture production systems	Renewed or new facilities and production systems			
2.1.1. Provision of technical assistance for aquaculture production techniques and systems	Enhanced capacity building for inland aquaculture production systems of hatchery, pond, cage culture, polyculture and recirculating		2016-2020	45,000	RWP budget
2.1.2. Capacity building for artificial propagation of fish seeds	Ad-hoc training on artificial propagation of fish seeds of cold-water and warm-water species	- Number of participants - TAC report	2017	35,000	FishCap or other external budget
2.1.3. Ad-hoc training on hatchery production of trout	Improved hatchery production capacity	- Number of participants - TAC report	2018	30,000	FishCap or other external budget
2.1.4. Farming of new fish species	Diversified aquaculture production	- Mission reports of experts	2016-2107	30,000	RWP budget
2.2. Provision of technical advice on broodstock management	Increased capacity of aquaculture entrepreneurs and hatchery managers on broodstock management	- Mission reports of experts	2016- 2020	50,000	RWP budget
2.3. Provision of technical advice on fish feed manufacturing	Increased capacity for fish feed development	- Mission reports of experts	2016-2020	30,000	RWP budget
Sub-total budget:				220,000	

Component 3: Inland fisheries and conservation

Project and activity Titles	Outputs	Key Performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
3.1. Support to inland fisheries management and conservation objectives	Increased regional capacity in inland fisheries management and conservation				
3.1.1. Inland stock assessment in selected large bodies	A stock assessment study in Tajikistan Review of national fish stock assessment models and techniques	- Results of assessments submitted to national fisheries authorities and TAC - Suggested fish stock assessment models and techniques	2016-2018	60,000	FishCap or other external budget
3.2. Provision of technical advice on preservation of genetic resources	Increased knowledge on preservation of fishery genetic resources	- Workshop recommendations - Number of trainers - IUCN Red List of threatened species	2016-2018	35,000	RWP budget
3.3. Workshop on the Habitat Rehabilitation for Inland Fisheries	Increased capacity of fisheries management authorities to guide rehabilitation works of water bodies	- TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions and/or recommendations	2019	35,000	RWP budget
3.4. Provision of technical advice on the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in inland fisheries	Improved fisheries inspection services through generated capacity on MCS systems among fisheries authorities in the region	- TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations	2016-2020	40,000	RWP budget.
3.5. Provision of technical advice on stocking, restocking and culture based fisheries	Increased knowledge of feasible restocking and culture-based fisheries practices in the region	- Study report - Draft Recommendations - TAC endorsement of recommendation	2016-2020	45,000	RWP budget
Sub-total budget:				215,000	

Component 4: Post harvest and marketing

Project and activity titles	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
4.1. Provision of post-harvest management, food safety and quality and HACCP certification	Increased availability of high quality and safe fish and fisheries products in the domestic markets in the region				
4.1.1. Development/updating of post-harvest management by Development/effective implementation of marketing measures, rules, standards for safe and quality fish and fish products	Enhanced post-harvest management and creased quality and safety of fish and fish products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAC recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations 	2016-2020	65,000	FishCap or other external budget
4.1.2. Provision of technical advice on fish marketing and fish processing and diversification of processed fish and fish products	Enhanced capacity for processing and diversifies processed fish and fish products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission reports of experts 	2016-2020	60,000	RWP budget
4.2. Provision of fish market information	Enhanced access to fish market information		2016-2020		
4.2.1. Development of a (national) fish market information system	An operational fish market information system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish market information system - TAC recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations 	2017	60,000	FishCap or other external budget
Sub-total budget:				185,000	

Component 5: Research & capacity development

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
5.1. Support to research, technology development, training and education in fisheries and aquaculture	Improved capacities for applied research and technology transfer				
5.1.1 Advice and training on fish genetics resources	Improved capacities for application of genetics techniques in fisheries and aquaculture	- Training reports - Number of people trained	2016-2018	50,000	RWP
5.2. Training of researchers, technical ministerial staff, hatchery managers and representatives of fishers' organization	Increased institutional and technical capacity	- Regional Training Programme	2016- 2020	800,000	External donor budget
Sub-total budget:				850,000	

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4.1.1. / / / , , ,		- - CACFish	2016-2020	65,000	FishCap
4.1.2		-	2016-2020	60,000	
4.2.			2016-2020		

4.2.1.	(,	,	- -	,	2017	60,000	FishCap
			CACFish	:	185,000		

5:

				()	
5.1 ,					
5.1.1		- -	2016-2018	50,000	
5.2 ,		-	2016- 2020	800,000	,
			:	850,000	

The Third Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) was organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 16 to 18 February 2015. The meeting was attended by five Member States: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. Also attending were the following non-CACFish Member States: Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The TAC discussed and generated scientific recommendations on the following issues for consideration by CACFish: (i) fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) inland fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The TAC revised the progress with the five-year Work Programme of CACFish (2011–2015). The TAC approved with some modifications the second-term five-year Work Programme (2016–2020) prepared by the CACFish Secretariat. The TAC further adopted its programme of work for the intersessional period 2015–2017.

Третье совещание Технического консультативного комитета (ТКК) Региональной комиссии по рыбному хозяйству и аквакультуре в Центральной Азии и на Кавказе (CACFish) состоялось в Бишкеке (Кыргызская Республика) с 16 по 18 февраля 2015 года. В работе приняли участие пять стран-членов: Азербайджан, Армения, Кыргызстан, Таджикистан и Турция. На совещании также присутствовали страны, не являющиеся членами CACFish, а именно: Грузия, Казахстан и Узбекистан. Комитет обсудил и разработал научные рекомендации на рассмотрение Комиссии, а именно: (i) Мониторинг, контроль и наблюдение (МКН) в рыбном хозяйстве, (ii) управление рыбными инкубаторами во внутренних водах, (iii) добровольные руководящие принципы обеспечения устойчивого маломасштабного рыболовства в контексте продовольственной безопасности и искоренения бедности. ТКК проанализировал прогресс, достигнутый в выполнении 5-летней рабочей программы (2011-2015 гг.) Комитет одобрил подготовленную Секретариатом вторую 5-летнюю рабочую программу (2016-2020 гг.) с некоторыми изменениями. ТКК также одобрил свою программу работы на межсессионный период 2015-2017 года

