



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**Sixth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus
Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)**

15-18 October 2018

Izmir, Turkey

**REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF
THE COMMISSION DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD
2016-2017**

Guidance Sought From The Commission

The Commission is invited to:

- (i) consider alternate means for supporting the work of the Commission through voluntary contributions or non-cash support such as Secretariat staff (APOs or JPOs);
- (ii) reflect on the status of the budget when deciding on activities for the next intersessional period;
- (iii) seek solutions to the ongoing problem of arrears for some Members;
- (iv) encourage new Members to join the Commission through invitations to CACFish activities and awareness raising.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides information on the status of administrative and financial affairs of the Commission since the Fifth Session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in October 2016. CACFish is an Article XIV statutory body of the FAO constitution and is governed within the rules and regulations of FAO. The Agreement, Rules and Procedures, and Financial Regulations of the Commission can be found on the FAO website in English (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cacfish/en>) and Russian language (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cacfish/ru>).

2. FAO is responsible for the Secretariat of the Commission. The main tasks of the Secretariat are: (i) effective and efficient operations of the Commission; (ii) preparation and submission of estimated annual budgets; (ii) regular monitoring and reporting of CACFish

autonomous budget; (iii) running of the 5-year Work Programme of the Commission with technical supervision from the Technical Advisory Committee; and (iv) reporting to the FAO Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Chairpersons of the Commission

3. The elected Chairpersons during the intersessional period 2016-2017 were:

Chairperson	: Mr Rauf Hadjiev (Azerbaijan)
First Vice-Chairperson	: Mr Mustafa Altug Atalay (Turkey)
Second Vice-Chairperson	: Ms Svetlana Balkhova (Tajikistan)
Chairperson of the TAC	: Ms Chinara Imankulova (Kyrgyzstan)
Vice Chairperson of the TAC	: Ms Susana Khachatryan (Armenia)

Elections were held at the 4th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in Tbilisi, Georgia, 28-30 November 2017. Mr Jon Mkrtychyan (Armenia) and Ms Binnur Ceylan (Turkey) were elected Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of TAC, respectively.

Secretariat to the Commission

4. The Secretariat of the Commission is located in Ankara, Turkey (CACFish-Secretariat@fao.org), within the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (FAOSEC). During the intersessional period there were several changes in the Secretariat of the Commission. Mr Thomas Moth-Poulsen, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, retired from the FAO (July 2016) after serving the Commission since 2012. Mr Raymon VanAnrooy, Fisheries Officer, was appointed ad interim Secretary and served the Commission from August 2016 to March 2017. Ms Victoria Chomo, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, was appointed Secretary of the Commission on April 2017 and currently holds this position.

5. FAO as Secretariat provides support to Commission Sessions, Committee Meetings, as it does to other Fisheries commissions, organizes and provides technical expertise for regional activities through a number of FAO staff and consultants in its offices in Ankara, Turkey (SEC), Budapest, Hungary (REU) and Rome, Italy (FAO Headquarters). During the intersessional period, Mr Haydar Fersoy was an international consultant and Ms Birce Yudum Eman was a Junior Technical Officer (Turkey) providing technical and administrative support to the Secretariat in Ankara, Turkey through October 2016 and July 2017, respectively. From August 2017 to April 2018, Mr Atilla Ozdemir served as an international consultant for the Secretariat.

6. The Secretariat continues to seek additional support for its Office in Ankara, Turkey. Turkey has already provided a JTO (Ms Eman) and other Members and Observers of the Commission are invited to provide extra-budgetary support through nomination of an Associate Programme Officer or FAO Volunteer to be financed by the Government. Serving as an APO or Volunteer in the Secretariat has benefits for the nominated staff in terms of developing technical expertise on fisheries and aquaculture sector, as well as experience working in an intergovernmental organization.

Events organized during the intersessional period

7. During the intersessional period 2016-2017, the Secretariat organized the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and three regional activities attended by delegates from CACFish Members and Observers:

- Regional expert meeting on conservation of genetic resources of fish was held in May 2017 in Trabzon, Turkey;
- Second regional expert group meeting on small-scale fisheries, September 2017 in Egirdir, Isparta, Turkey;
- Fourth meeting of TAC, November 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia;
- Regional training on best practices for cage culture in reservoirs and lakes, December 2017 in Elazig, Turkey.

8. The below-listed activities approved by the Commission at its Fifth Session (Paragraph 31 Programme of Work approved for the intersessional period, CACFish/VI/2018/Ref.1) have not yet occurred due to various administrative constraints explained above:

- Regional training on the establishment of national fisheries and aquaculture data and information management systems;
- Regional workshop on habitat rehabilitation for inland fisheries;
- Inland fisheries stock assessment plot study in Tajikistan and regional training;
- Analysis of available fisheries and aquaculture data and information in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

9. During the intersessional period, the following two reports were published as FAO Circulars: (1) Report of the Fifth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 10-12 October 2016. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1176, Ankara, 2017 (CACFish/VI/2018/Ref.1) and (2) Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, 28-30 November 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1227, Ankara, 2018 (CACFish/VI/2018/6). More information on publications of the Commission are included as an Annex to document CACFish/VI/2018/3.

Membership of the Commission

10. As of 1 July 2018, Commission Membership status remained unchanged since the Fifth Session in 2016. The Commission has 5 Members: Armenia (3 December 2010), Azerbaijan (8 March 2013 and accepted for deposit on 22 March 2014), Kyrgyzstan (3 May 2010), Tajikistan (9 March 2010) and Turkey (19 December 2011). The Secretariat encourages observers to submit their letters of accession to the Director-General to normalize their relations with the Commission. The Secretariat is available to provide background information and estimated budget contributions to countries considering membership.

Recommendations adopted under Article V of the CACFish Agreement

11. As of 1 July 2018, there were no issues or proposals made by any Commission Member for inclusion in the agenda of the 6th Session of Commission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Monitoring of CACFish budget

12. The first autonomous budget of the Commission became operational in 2012. The annual budget of USD 180 000 has remained unchanged over the period 2012 to 2017. The Secretariat monitors the CACFish Trust Fund through an Oracle-based electronic budget

system (Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS)). The Head of FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (SEC) is the budget holder for the CACFish Trust Fund and manages this account in collaboration with SEC's administrative unit and respective financial divisions of FAO Headquarters. Ms Yuriko Shoji was Subregional Coordinator at SEC Office during the intersessional period 2016-2017. She was replaced by Mr Viorel Gutu in 2018.

Contribution payments and arrears

13. Total Member contributions received for 2016 were USD 239 299.87. An additional extra-budgetary contribution was made by Turkey in 2016 for the amount of USD 100 000. Total Member contributions received for 2017 were USD 140 593.42. Financial regulation V (article 3) of the Commission states that "Contributions shall be due and payable in full within 30 days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary". At the Fourth Meeting of TAC, the Committee requested the Secretariat to send letters for contributions by September at the latest, to insure adequate time to pay within country budget cycles. Timely payment of member's contributions is of high importance for the proper implementation of the scheduled activities of the Commission as the arrears bring technical and operational difficulties for the Commission.

14. Financial regulation V (article 3) of the Commission states that "As of 1 January of the following calendar year, the unpaid balance of such contributions shall be considered to be one year in arrears". Total arrears amounted to USD 181 549.27 as of 31 December 2017, as seen in the Annex Table I. During the intersessional period, no payment was received for arrears. The status of autonomous budget contributions per member is as follows:

- (i) Members that paid in full (Azerbaijan, Turkey);
- (ii) Members with partial arrears (Kyrgyzstan);
- (iii) Members with no contribution to the budget (Armenia, Tajikistan).

15. Under Article IX (7) of the CACFish Agreement, a Member State in arrears in the payment of its dues in an amount that equals or exceeds the contributions due for two preceding years can lose its vote right in CACFish Sessions. As of 20 June 2016, Armenia and Tajikistan fell under the provisions of this Article. It should be noted that the Agreement may allow the Commission to permit such a Party to vote if the Member State could show that conditions beyond its control contributed to this inability to pay. But the Commission in no case may extend the right to vote beyond the further two calendar years.

Expenditures

16. Commission expenditures in 2016 and 2017 (no expenditures in 2018 as of 1 July)

Expenditure	2016	2017
5013 Consultants	20,879	27,499
5014 Contracts	0	19,922
5020 Locally Contracted Labour	0	2,475
5021 Travel	24,539	68,643
5023 Training	24,828	13,223
5024 Expandable Procurement	0	0
5028 General Operating Expenses	2,922	1,437
5029 Support Costs	4,323	5,956
5040 General Operating Expenses - external common services	106	0
Total Expenditure	77,597	139,155

17. The Commission had expenditures in the order of USD 139 155 in 2017. This included USD 68 643 (49%) travel costs of Member delegates, FAO consultants and Secretariat staff to participate in the Fourth Meeting of TAC and in three regional training activities. Respectively USD 27 499 and USD 19 920 were spent on consultancies and contracts for the four regional events. In 2016 a total of USD 77 597 was utilized, mainly on consultancies in support of the technical work of the Secretariat, travel costs of Member delegations to the Fifth Session and one capacity building regional workshop. The Commission's expenditures in 2016 were lower than 2015.

18. As of 31 December 2017, the total balance available in the Commission Trust Fund (MTF/SEC/005/MUL) was USD 122 685. Since the establishment of the Trust Fund in 2012, the total expenses were USD 512 727. Financial highlights, namely income, breakdown of the expenditures and balances for the period 2015-2016 are presented in Annex Table II.

Annex Table I:
Status of member outstanding contributions as of 31 December 2017 (all figures are in USD)

Member Governments	Outstanding 31/12/2016	Contribution due for 2017	Received up to 31/12/2017	Outstanding 31/12/2017
ARMENIA	72,511.00	19,796.00		92,307.00
AZERBAIJAN	0.00	25,275.00	25,275.00	0.00
KYRGYZSTAN	25,609.69	11,091.00	2,966.42	33,734.27
TAJIKISTAN	44,022.00	11,486.00		55,508.00
TURKEY	0.00	112,352.00	112,352.00	0.00
TOTALS	142,142.69	180,000.00	140,593.42	181,549.27

Annex Table II:
Financial highlights for the period 2016-2017

	2016	2017
<i>Income</i>		
<i>Member contribution-received</i>	139,299.87	140,593.42
<i>Arrear contribution-received</i>	-	-
<i>Extra budgetary contribution</i>	*100,000.00	
<i>Total income</i>	239,299.87	140,593.42
<i>Expenditures</i>		
Consultants	20,879	27,499
Contracts	0	19,922
Locally Contracted Labour	0	2,475
Travel	24,539	68,643
Training	24,828	13,223
Expandable Procurement	0	0
General Operating Expenses	2,922	1,437
Support Costs	4,323	5,956
General Operating Expenses - external common services	**106	0
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	77,597	139,155
BALANCE	161,702.87	1,438.42

* Voluntary contribution made by Turkey.

** Generally includes postage, printing and stationery expenses.