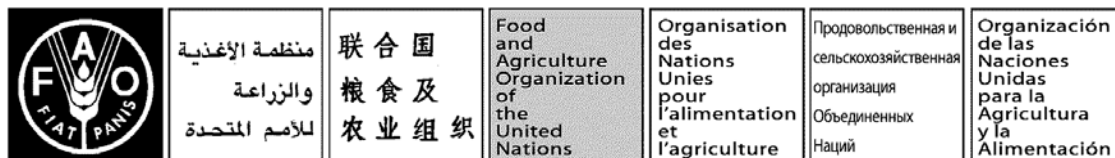


November 2016



# REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

## Tenth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Doha, State of Qatar, 6 - 8 December 2016

### Integration of current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS: Update

#### Executive Summary

This working document provides an update on the progress of the integration of the current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS and the establishment of a regional data information center, to be hosted by Kuwait. FAO and Kuwait have agreed that an outlined plan, in the form of a project outline, would be integrated into the FAO/Kuwait cooperation framework. The project outline includes the objective of the establishment of a regional database and information centre to strengthen the RECOFI Commission and support fishery management and aquaculture development in the region. The anticipated outcomes are that data compilation and management capacity will be integrated within a new regional information system along with a workplan and timeframe to secure the timely dissemination of data collected under the two binding RECOFI recommendations on Minimum Reporting on capture fisheries and aquaculture data and information. The outputs include that existing systems will be assessed, and the needs for new database determined, and capacity of human resources enhanced; as well as the establishment of an appropriate database to support the compilation and management of the data collected under the two binding RECOFI Recommendations and suitable information system for dissemination established and running.

#### The WGFM is invited to:

- consider the progress of this initiative and provide any feedback or guidance on the way forward.

## INTRODUCTION

1. At the eighth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 12-14 May 2015, the Commission decided that the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) would include the data collection and management under RECOFI Recommendations RECOFI/6/2011/1 and RECOFI/8/2015/1 on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area, considering that RAIS is well established and could provide any additional required functionalities.

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## **DISCUSSION AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE WGFM**

1. At the ninth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) held on 24-26 November 2015 in Kuwait City, Kuwait, the WGFM reviewed the road map proposed by the Secretariat, which included a simple expansion of the existing RAIS Web site to create a dedicated capture fisheries section by using currently available functions; two experimental exercises in data dissemination and sharing during the joint assessment of kingfish and the preparations for the next WGFM; and the formulation of proposals to cover the necessary information technology developments and long-term maintenance costs, for finalization at the tenth meeting of the WGFM and endorsement at the ninth session of RECOFI.
2. The WGFM agreed to move towards a single integrated RECOFI Web site, with the possible name of RECOFIS (the RECOFI Information System), RIS (the Regional Information System) or RAFIS (the Regional Aquaculture and Fishery Information System), to be decided at a later stage.
3. The WGFM generally concurred with the proposed roadmap, on the understanding that the current RAIS regional centre would have adequate capacity and resources to cover the required tasks. Kuwait confirmed its commitment to collaborating with FAO during this transition period towards the launch of a new official RECOFI Web site. Kuwait and FAO would further clarify and detail the tasks, activities and budget required for the transition period and integrate these needs into a FAO/Kuwait cooperation agreement. Considering the many similarities between the aquaculture and fishery components in terms of the structure and functions required, Kuwait considered that some components could be implemented immediately.
4. The WGFM acknowledged that establishment of the regional database and information centre was a core undertaking for RECOFI and an essential step in strengthening the Commission and supporting fishery management and aquaculture development in the region.
5. The WGFM agreed that the Secretariat, in full cooperation and consultation with the Kuwaiti counterpart at PAAFR, would detail the necessary activities to be implemented to establish the RECOFI regional data and information centre, including development of the capacities in data management and information technology needed to operate and maintain it. On this basis, a project outline, including a budget estimate, would be formulated with PAAFR and the relevant FAO technical units.

## **PROGRESS AND CURRENT STATUS OF INITIATIVE**

6. A concept note was prepared by the RECOFI secretariat and sent to Kuwait, in February 2016; it was confirmed by Kuwait that the activity and its components as outlined would be integrated into the Kuwait/FAO cooperation framework. The project outline is attached in Appendix 1.
7. The objective, as outlined in the document, is the establishment of a regional database and information centre to strengthen the RECOFI Commission and support fishery management and aquaculture development in the region. The anticipated outcomes are that data compilation and management capacity will be integrated within a new regional information system along with a workplan and timeframe to secure the timely dissemination of data collected under the two binding RECOFI recommendations on Minimum Reporting on capture fisheries and aquaculture data and information. The outputs include that existing systems will be assessed, and the needs for new database determined, and capacity of human resources enhanced; as well as the establishment of an appropriate database to support the compilation and management of the data collected under the two binding RECOFI Recommendations and suitable information system for dissemination established and running. The estimated total budget, including PAAFR in-kind contributions of staff, is just over USD 250 000. This will be supported by Kuwait through the Kuwait/FAO cooperation agreement.

8. The WGFM is asked to:

- consider the progress of this initiative and provide any feedback or guidance on the way forward.

**APPENDIX 1****Establishment of the RECOFI Fisheries and Aquaculture Information System****Background**

At the eighth session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 12-14 May 2015, the Commission decided that the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) would include the data collection and management under RECOFI Recommendations RECOFI/6/2011/1 and RECOFI/8/2015/1 on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area, considering that RAIS is well established and could provide any additional required functionalities. At the ninth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) held on 24-26 November 2015 in Kuwait City, Kuwait, WGFM Focal Points agreed to move toward one integrated fisheries and aquaculture RECOFI information system managed by a regional centre. The regional centre will be based within the premises of the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) in Kuwait. Funds will come from an FAO/Kuwait cooperation agreement.

**Rationale**

The RAIS was established corresponding to the request by the RECOFI Members on the development and interest in the aquaculture sector in the Region, as a regional repository system for storing and sharing information including that generated from RECOFI and other technical workshops/meetings. During the Third session of the Commission (Doha, Qatar, 9-11 May 2005) the State of Kuwait offered to host the RAIS in the premises of the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) and allocated extra-budgetary funds to develop the information system.

**Objective**

Establishment of a regional database and information centre to strengthen the RECOFI Commission and support fishery management and aquaculture development in the region.

**Outcomes**

Data compilation and management capacity integrated within a new regional information system along with a workplan and timeframe to secure timely dissemination of data collected under the two binding RECOFI recommendations on Minimum Reporting on Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Data and Information.

**Outputs**

1. Existing systems assessed, needs for new database determined, and capacity of human resources enhanced;
2. Appropriate database to support the compilation and management of the data collected under the two binding RECOFI Recommendations and suitable information system for dissemination established and running.

**Main activities**

- 1.1. Assessment of existing systems/resources and planning workshop.
- 1.2. Study tours and initial trainings:
  - Two weeks training in FAO Headquarters in Rome and at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM);
  - Database management, dissemination and maintenance of information systems, FishStatJ admin console, RECOFI catch database, iMarine platform;

- 2.1. Initial dissemination (without database):
  - All contents in RAIS;
  - RECOFI catch database;
  - Past Minimum data submitted; and
  - Basic information on RECOFI;
- 2.2. Establishment of appropriate database to support the Minimum data requirement for fisheries and the minimum data requirement for aquaculture.
- 2.3. Support data exchange for the two binding RECOFI recommendations.
- 2.4. Participation in RECOFI sessions and meetings of subsidiary bodies.

### Budget narrative (See Table 1 for details)

Total budget estimate is USD 250 000/year, and it assumes that professional (data manager and IT staff) and administrative clerk would be seconded from PAAFR, reducing the actual resources that would be required to USD 82 600. (If these are not seconded, these additional costs should be added).

### Human resources

- Data manager (Local staff, part-time 50%);
- IT support staff (Local staff part-time 50%);
- Administrative Clerk (part-time 50%); and
- Senior Consultant 95 days for Year One.

### Travel

- Study tour of data manager and IT staff;
- Technical support from HQ staff to Kuwait; and
- Senior Consultant to Kuwait.

### Technical Support Services

- HQ Staff

**Table 1: Budget breakdown**

Item	Account	Total USD
<b>Seconded from PAAFR</b>		
Professional Staff	5011	
National Officer (C level) Data manager		76000
General Service Staff	5012	
G-5		28760
Consultants	5013	
Consultant - Locally Recruited		64000
<b>Total PAAFR in-kind contribution</b>		<b>168760</b>
<b>Programme costs</b>		
Consultants	5013	
Consultant- Internationally Recruited		42750
Locally Contracted labour	5020	
Casual labour/Temporary Assistance		
Travel	5021	
Duty Travel of Staff		5250
Travel-Consultants-National		5250

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Travel-Consultants-International		16000
Travel-Technical Assistance		4560
Technical Support Services	5027	
TSS Standard		8736
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>251306</b>
<b>Less PAAFR in-kind support</b>		<b>168760</b>
<b>Resources required</b>		<b>82546</b>