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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

Dresden, Germany, 11 – 13 September 2019

EIFAAC Draft Workplan for the intersessional period 2020-2021

Executive Summary

This document provides a draft EIFAAC work plan for the upcoming intersessional period 2020-2021 to be in line with FAO's biennium work planning 2020-2021.

Suggested action by the Commission

- Discuss, revise and approve the draft Work Plan for the intersessional period 2020-2021.

BACKGROUND

1. The Commission operates via the Management Committee (MC) and the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC). The Management Committee has to implement the decisions of the Commission and to coordinate and monitor the work of the TSC. The detailed operation of the Commission is outlined in the Rules of Procedure and is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

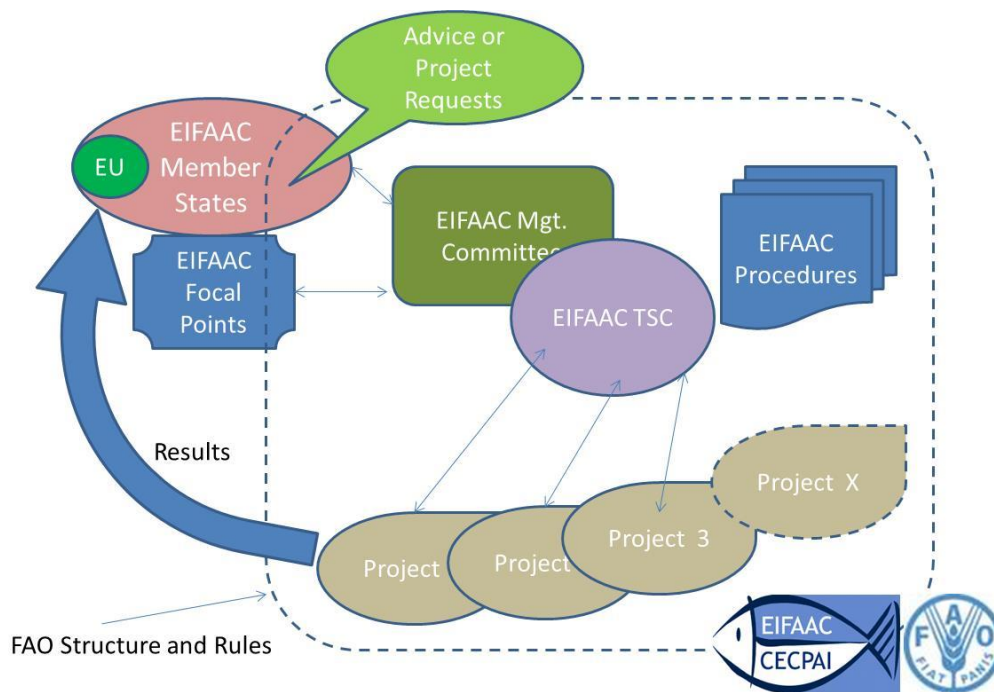


Figure 1: EIFAAC Operational Overview

2. Main functions of the Technical and Scientific Committee are the recommendation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes or projects. All work of the Commission is now managed within projects. Figure 2 illustrates the operation of the EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee.

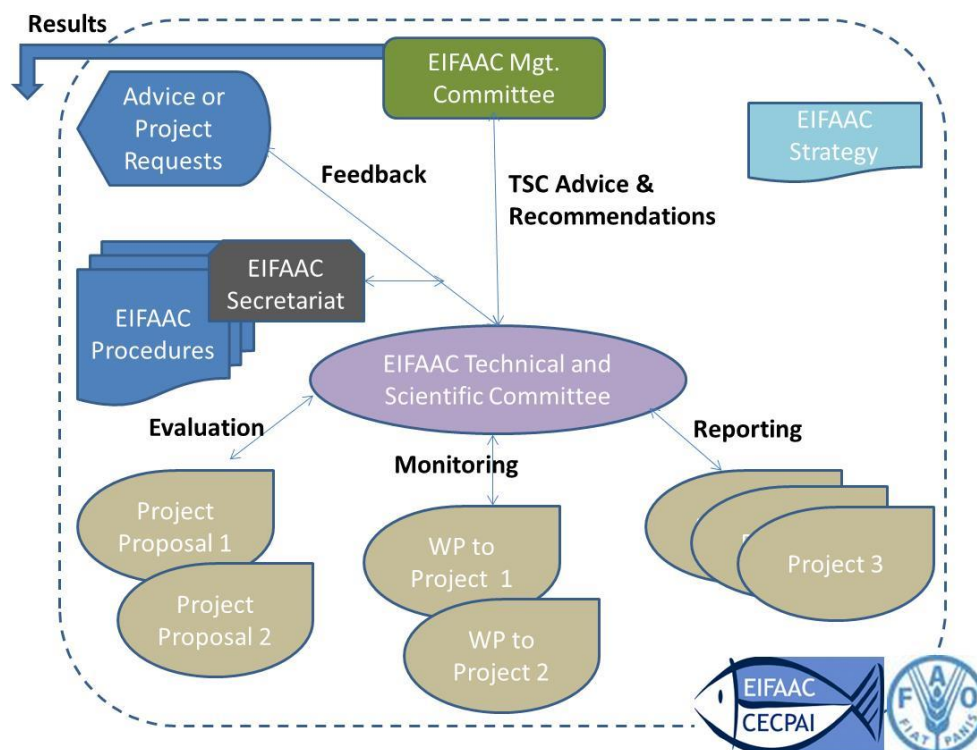


Figure 2: EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee operational overview

3. To support its work, EIFAAC has a Strategy Plan for the period covering 2017–2019, which is in effect until the 30th Session. This strategic plan details the goals and initiatives of the Commission to support achievement of its mission. To support EIFAAC’s work, this document contains a work plan, which outlines how EIFAAC plans to deliver against this strategy in achievement of its goals. A new strategy plan will be approved at the 30th Session for the next two intersessional periods 2020-2024.

OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND INITIATIVES

4. The objectives of EIFAAC are:

- promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors; and
- serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation, dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, inter alia, proactively identify:

- relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
- common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

5. In order to achieve the goals and objectives of EIFAAC, the MC has developed a work plan to support the delivery against the EIFAAC strategic plan. The following section details actions and time bound plans to support EIFAAC in its work.

DRAFT WORKPLAN 2020-2021

6. **Goal 1: EIFAAC is a leading Pan-European Organization providing policy advice in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO (strategic objectives, regional initiatives, UN SDGs) and other relevant international instruments.**

7. Results:

- Improved and formalized collaboration with organizations relevant to:
 - the aquaculture sector (EAS, EUFMD, FEAP, NACEE, WAS etc.)
 - the inland fisheries sector (EAA, CACFISH, GFCM, ICES, NASCO etc.);
- All EIFAAC Projects fully compliant with FAO objectives and principles by 2020;
- Increased liaison with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors for improved uptake of EIFAAC research findings and evidence-based policy advice for freshwater aquaculture and inland aquatic resources;
- Two new members welcomed by 2021 – encourage expansion of membership by inviting non-members.

8. Plan 2020-2021:

- The MC will contact relevant organizations in inland fisheries and aquaculture sector to define areas of common interest and seek collaboration to benefit EIFAAC stakeholders;
- EIFAAC will seek to develop a theme for its next symposiums which will encourage participation of relevant organizations, institutions and stakeholders; these themes will be linked to the UN SDGs and EIFAAC priorities;
- The MC will liaise with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors that have influence on or utilize aquatic resources;
- The MC in coordination with the Secretariat will explore options for expansion of the membership;
- The MC will identify and assess key stakeholders relevant for EIFAAC goals (intergovernmental, international, civil society, private sector, communities), analyze their aims

and objectives and identify points of contact and areas for mutual collaboration. The MC will discuss progress and potential delivery against this goal during MC meetings.

9. Goal 2: EIFAAC delivers technical and managerial advice, information and coordination on matters related to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to its members and serves as an international network of organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations.

10. Results:

- Projects delivered in line with EIFAAC's goals and governance procedures and completed by agreed deadlines for publication of findings by the FAO Secretariat;
- Information and advice provided to policy and decision makers based on results from projects at various regional events, meetings and conferences;
- Draft Communication Strategy developed for EIFAAC for approval by 30th Session in September 2019;
- EIFAAC information at regional events, meetings and conferences collated and disseminated.

11. Plan 2020-2021:

- The TSC will review the progress and implementation of EIFAAC projects and assess the quality of their outputs in accordance with the EIFAAC Rules of Procedure. To be included in this process is a formal review of drafts intended for publication, and advice to insure they are consistent with the ethos, ethics, goals and objectives of EIFAAC and FAO.
- The MC in coordination with the Secretariat drafted a questionnaire for EIFAAC members on priority areas for presentation to the 30th Session for approval, and to be distributed through official FAO channels.
- The MC was requested to develop a communication strategy at 29th Session, to be approved by 30th Session.
- The MC and TSC will ensure that all projects operate in line with EIFAAC Rules of Procedures
- The MC will ensure that focal points, decision makers and identified experts are annually provided with updates on EIFAAC projects.
- The MC will seek opportunities to develop new projects and to identify funding sources while adhering to the Rules of Procedure and operating as an Article VI advisory body of FAO.

12. Goal 3: EIFAAC via its structures, processes and procedures implements efficient delivery of its organizations and Members' objectives in accordance with FAO principles and best international practices.

13. Results:

- Increased cooperation with the EU on circulation of information from EIFAAC activities to the appropriate EU national correspondents, to be monitored by the MC.

- Direct communication established with individuals interested in the inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture sector in Europe.
- Members have identified and activated their operational focal points.
- Funding opportunities are identified to increase support for EIFAAC regional projects and activities.

14. Plan 2020-2021:

- The MC will maintain and develop a list of individuals interested in EIFAAC activities and communicate with these individuals directly in relation to EIFAAC's work.
- The MC will continue to work with FAO on migration of the EIFAAC website to the new FAO structure and modernize communication through business focused social media in line with the communication strategy.
- Focal points will be provided with updates and requested for feedback in relation to projects and other initiatives;
- Annually the MC will hold a meeting to review progress against this plan, key goals and objectives. This review will look specifically at the performance of the Commission, its processes, structures and procedures. This will include a review of progress on the projects and the operation of the TSC. The meeting will make recommendations for improvements on how EIFAAC's work is administered and coordinated;
- The MC and the Secretariat will explore funding options for EIFAAC projects in 2020-2021.

ANNEX I

**CATEGORIES OF PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
FOR REVIEW BY 30th SESSION:**

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributing to a management plan for Europe on piscivorous predators, especially cormorants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening management plans, identify scenarios and methods for sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish stocking, including general principles, best practices, economic aspects, interaction with natural stocks and safeguarding biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitating a wider introduction of principles of sustainable management and rational development in all freshwater fishing activities and aquaculture, including biodiversity issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem approach: the impact of inland fisheries and aquaculture on the ecosystem; estimation of the fish and fisheries component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic aquaculture: substitution of fish based protein
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modernization of farming facilities (implementation of new technologies, recirculation systems, hatcheries, diversification, modernization of processing and enabling its expansion on new subjects), equipment, tools and infrastructure (maintaining of channels, fish ponds, hydrotechnical facilities and roads in property of the State)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately address the issues of importance of fish ponds in terms of nature and biodiversity protection (fisheries as bird habitat, ichthyophag bird habitat, as well as habitat for other biological communities that harm the production). This issue links in particular with the necessity to adequately address the issue of piscivorous birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through conversion and reorganization conceive, modernize and maintain the existent aquaculture resources (alternative form of exploitation-cultivating fish for restocking of fishing areas, small family hatcheries etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of alternative energy resources in closed aquaculture systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish farming in ponds and in special aquaculture systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing new and updating existing codes of practices on different topics, e.g. fish genetics and biodiversity in inland fish stock preservation and enhancement, fish stocking, fish farming for stocking purposes and inland fish stock management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The potential role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the protection of aquatic resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluation, sustaining and strengthening professional inland fisheries, noting impacts of environmental and socio-economic constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application of applicable management principles and legal implications in private and public waters for recreational and commercial fisheries to facilitate better use of the resources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the traditional fish-breeding and those related to managing the inland surface water ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversification of inland aquaculture production
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of fish farmers and fisherman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactions between: inland fisheries and aquaculture; recreational fishing and tourism; fisheries and other users of inland waters, including territorial and spatial planning issues; and between fisheries/aquaculture and other interest issues/groups

<p>II. Protection and restoration of the fresh water aquatic environment and species</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening activities in relation to certain species including eels, crayfish, invasive, exotic and alien/nonnative species, aquatic species protected by the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat protection and restoration and prevention of contamination of habitat and species, including animal welfare, biological invasions and sewage treatment plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and use of agents against fish diseases with focus on maximum environmental protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and avoidance of environmental poisons and contaminants and chemicals in water and in fish, including implication for human food safety guidelines and limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact of hydroelectricity on fisheries and best practices for screening, passage estimates of turbine mortality; developing a guide to reduce the conflict between hydroelectric development and protection and restoration of fishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling inland fisheries to become a global indicator of the ecological state of socio-hydrosystems by evaluating the capacity of the fishers to address sustainable development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A study at European level to explore the costs for the implementation of environmental measures to the aquaculture producers and the differences among Member countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of new species and endangered fish species into aquaculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of environmental impact of inland aquaculture facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing rivers recovering from long-term degradation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-sectoral approach to the development of a legal framework, including interactions between inland fisheries and aquaculture and relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish migration, coordinated automatic monitoring of fish migration, dismantling of barriers (and new methods and practices for barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flow management problems with minimum flow requirements and aquaculture

III. Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture

- Determination of economic, cultural and social values of inland fisheries and aquaculture; and transnational promotion of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe to increase the market knowledge of designated species at European level
- The adaptation of freshwater aquaculture production to market requirements, in particular the development of new products (value adding), labelling, certification schemes, marketing strategies (niche-market or wide consumer market) and promotional producer organizations
- Social and economic surveys of recreational and commercial fisheries, including costs and benefits and an evaluation of gains and benefits from licensed angling activities
- Increase of added value in aquaculture (innovations, new products, diversification of the offer and services etc.)
- Threats to the future of commercial inland fisheries, and the economic consequences for different countries
- Health and welfare of fishes in aquaculture and fisheries

IV. Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change

- The problems and challenges of climate change, and its impact on aquatic flora and fauna, including species distribution and influence on recreational and commercial fisheries, and mitigation strategies
- Developing models for climate change and fisheries, including fish species distribution and an international genetic fish map
- Reduction of the potential impact of climate change on the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector
- Water resources management, including land water interactions, particularly in the light of climate change and development strategies