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EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Report of the

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Stare Jablonki, Poland, 6–8 September 2017

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY
COMMISSION

Report of the
TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
ADVISORY COMMISSION

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Twenty-ninth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), which was held in Stare Jabłonki, Poland, on 6–8 September 2017.

The material in the appendices is reproduced as submitted.

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Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, Stare Jabłonki, Poland, 6–8 September 2017.
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ABSTRACT

The Twenty-ninth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Stare Jabłonki, Poland, from 6 to 8 September 2017. The session reviewed the progress in implementing EIFAAC projects in the intersessional period 2015–2017 (since the Twenty-eighth EIFAAC Session) and recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Adaptation of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change”. After revising EIFAAC goals and objectives, the session developed a new strategy for EIFAAC 2017–2021, approved a workplan for the intersessional period 2017–2019 and produced three recommendations for the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Germany offered to host the Thirtieth Session to be held in September 2019.

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The twenty-ninth session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Stare Jabłonki, Poland, 6–8 September 2017 with Mr Cathal Gallagher (Ireland) as Chair. The session was attended by representatives from Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland. The list of participants is provided in Appendix 2.
2. The Chair opened the session, welcomed the audience and cordially thanked the representatives of the Government of Poland for hosting the session. He also introduced the new EIFAAC Secretary, Ms Victoria Chomo to the Commission. Then Mr Igor Wawrzyniak on behalf of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation and the government of Poland welcomed the Session.
3. A revision of the agenda and the addition of a new agenda item on Thursday morning was proposed by the Chairman, namely an intervention of Germany to discuss hosting the 30th Session of EIFAAC. The Members agreed to move agenda item 4 to agenda item 5 to accommodate this intervention. The revised agenda as provided in Appendix 1 to this report was agreed. Although there was no quorum present in the session, the Commission decided to proceed with the approval of the report pending correspondence with other members.

II. EIFAAC WORKPLAN FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2015–2017

REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4. The Chair provided a brief overview of the history and current status, goals and objectives of EIFAAC since its inception in 1957. Key points were the major restructuring completed at the 27th Session in which EIFAAC moved towards a more efficient project oriented structure. The Chair also outlined the high level objective of EIFAAC along with the current goals and initiatives. The Chair introduced the membership of Management and Technical Scientific Committee and provided an overview of the structure of the organization.
5. The Chair confirmed the position of EIFAAC as the only platform for inland fisheries in Europe. The Chair went through the four Goals of EIFAAC from the intersessional period 2015–2017, which are higher level goals in the workplan and where projects need to fit into these goals and deliver against the goals. He presented the management structure and reminded the Members that a new chair will be elected at this session. He pointed out the difficulties of identification and engagement of operational focal points. The Chair reviewed the project templates and asked the members how distribution of information among general public could be improved.
6. The Chair presented the FAO strategic objectives and regional initiatives and emphasized the importance of the Commission aligning its projects and activities with FAO objectives. He invited the Members to consider these global goals when developing the intersessional workplan 2017–2019. Following an intervention by a member, the importance of the 17 UN sustainable development goals was agreed by the session.
7. The Chair informed the Commission on the necessity to update the strategic plan and workplan considering priority of member states as per the agenda and encouraged the members to give considerations to their priority issues.
8. The Chair delivered a report to the Commission on progress against the action items identified from the EIFAAC workplan 2015–2017. Some highlights included:
 - SOFIA chapter in FAO publications and many scientific publications and involvement in symposia
 - Increased engagement with many relevant organizations in inland fisheries and aquaculture
 - Management of 11 projects during the intersessional period in line with new efficient structure and governance
9. The Chair identified continued difficulty of engagement with EIFAAC operational focal points, also identifying the actions taken to rectify this issue. The Chair requested members to consider how to address this issue in the new EIFAAC strategic plan and workplan 2017–2019.

10. During the discussion of the workplan the Chair pointed out some pending difficulties facing EIFAAC as an Article VI body of FAO and in response to previous questions by members invited the Secretariat to discuss budget issues.

11. The Secretary explained the contribution of FAO EIFAAC in terms of staff resources (Secretariat, conference services, protocol, legal, IT and website support) and travel of Secretariat staff and highlighted that the mandate of FAO is to provide knowledge rather than funding. The Secretary confirmed the changes in the Secretariat during the intersessional period 2015–2017. She mentioned what UN FAO can provide for EIFAAC as an Article VI advisory body.

12. Upon completion of the discussion on the 2015–2017 Workplan, the Chair outlined other work completed since the last session including: management committee meetings, interaction with EIFAAC operational focal points and establishment of new contacts with the EU. The Chair noted the negative impact from the changes in the Secretariat in the intersessional period 2015–2017.

13. The Chair informed the Commission that the Management Committee has received good support from the new Secretariat and that FAO support is moving in a positive direction. Some members confirmed that there has been good support from the new Secretary. Members pointed out that EIFAAC members are willing to contribute to the indicators of the SDGs under FAO, but they need guidance. He proposed that it is the role of FAO Secretariat to proactively help Members in this respect.

14. The Chair requested the members to provide any additional comments to this agenda item. It was proposed to have closer association with the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, and further information on how this could be achieved was requested. The Chair informed that the Commission continues to build on these relations with FAO. For example EIFAAC Chair travelled to the Informal Consultation in Budapest in May 2017. The Chair requested the Commission to consider inclusion of an action item to support the continued development of relationships with FAO and the European Commission, as part of the new Workplan.

INTERVENTION BY WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY

15. The Chair invited an observer organization the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) to make an intervention. Mr Laszlo Varadi on behalf of WAS spoke on possible interactions of the two organizations, particularly in the area of inland aquaculture in the Central and Eastern European region, where he also mentioned the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) as a potential partner. The Chair pointed out that the presence of WAS at the 29th session of EIFAAC was evidence of a willingness to cooperate and is in line with EIFAAC objectives to engage other organizations.

16. Members welcomed this new initiative to collaborate as a good sign and asked if WAS could assist in identifying operational focal points through their network of contacts in aquaculture related institutions. It was proposed to try a bottom-up approach to identify government Focal Points as the top down approach of official FAO channels has been less successful than anticipated.

17. The Chair thanked WAS for their attendance and confirmed that EIFAAC looked forward to having further engagement.

III. EIFAAC ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 28TH SESSION

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

18. The Chair opened the floor for the Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee, Mr Teppo Vehanen to present a summary of the activities and achievements of EIFAAC projects since the last session. Mr Vehanen informed the Session about the procedures of submitting new proposals for EIFAAC projects and the process of reporting on already existing ones. Currently there are eight ongoing projects, three of them are new ones. Three projects have been closed during the last period, one due to inactivity and two were finalized successfully. A new project proposal was also received: “Workshop on Citizen Science in fisheries” and accepted with comments. He

also reminded EIFAAC members on the need of election of new members for the Technical and Scientific Committee.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

19. Mr Vehanen presented a report on meeting document EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/3 and went on to present the following details of four projects, namely:

- “Welfare of fisheries in aquaculture”, manager: Mr Helmut Segner (Switzerland)
- “Development of a European standard for fish pass monitoring”, managers: Ms Emma Washburn and Mr Jon Hateley (UK)
- “Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working group on eels”, manager: Mr Alan Walker (UK), EIFAAC representative (Ireland) Ms Ciara O’Leary
- “Fish passage best practices”, manager: Mr Andreas Zitek (Austria)

20. Four other projects were also introduced by project managers, as follows:

- “Aquatic Invasive Species in Europe”, presented by Ms Marina Piria (Croatia)
- “Development of eel stocks in Norway and Ireland”, presented by Mr Russell Poole (Ireland)
- “Developing Advice on Sustainable Management Actions on Cormorant Populations”, presented by Mr Petri Heinimaa (Finland).
- Symposium project “Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change” was presented under agenda item 5; manager: Mr Piotr Parasiewicz (Poland). Detailed information on project development is described in meeting document EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/3.

IV. INTERVENTION BY GERMANY

21. The Chair gave the floor to Ms Ulrike Weniger, Saxon State Ministry for Environment and Agriculture, Germany who announced that the German government is pleased to host the 30th Session of EIFAAC in September 2019 in Dresden. Ms Weniger explained that Germany would like to propose the topics of certification, food security and traceability for inland fisheries and aquaculture for the Symposium.

22. Discussion centered on inclusion of other subject matters such as contaminants, microplastics, etc. and Germany will confirm the topic one year before the Session. Germany explained that the topic is in line with the strategic objectives of FAO and UN SDGs. Germany asked Members to contribute to the refinement of the proposed topic.

23. The Chair thanked Germany for hosting the Session and the Symposium and was encouraged by the support of the members and added that an early agreement of hosting the Symposium is a positive development for EIFAAC.

V. SHORT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EIFAAC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “ADAPTION OF INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE”

24. Mr Piotr Parasiewicz gave a short report and recommendations from the EIFAAC international symposium on “Adaption of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change.” He informed the Session that the Symposium was very successful with positive feedback received from the 64 participants from 20 countries. Mr Parasiewicz briefed the session about the contents and final recommendations of the Symposium. The members agreed to include the Symposium report as Appendix 7.

25. The main Symposium recommendations are:

- Climate change is affecting fish, inland fisheries and aquaculture.

- Focused adaptation to climate change needs to begin immediately. There needs to be:
 - embedded in other environmental activities,
 - included into resource management policies,
 - embedded in evidence based adaptive and predictive management framework including economic and social aspect,
 - establish cooperation and communication strategy.
- Resource long term assessment and impact and mitigation measures.

26. The Chair expressed his appreciation for all the efforts extended for a successful EIFAAC symposium. He congratulated participants for an excellent symposium and thanked the organizers for their patience during a period of change with EIFAAC Secretariat. The Chair thanked the host country Poland, S. Sakowicz Inland Fisheries Institute and Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation for their support.

27. The Session agreed to make the Symposium recommendation in relation to Climate Change a formal EIFAAC recommendation to EIFAAC member states.

VI.-VII. EIFAAC WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2017–2019

MEANS OF DELIVERY OF EIFAAC OBJECTIVES

28. The Commission reviewed and revised the high level EIFAAC goals, which resulted in the development of three new EIFAAC goals. Objectives of the Commission are the long term goals prepared in co-operation by the Management Committee (MC), Operational Focal Points and member countries and below goals approved at the 29th Session. Actions in the intersessional period workplans reflect decisions of each Session on what should be achieved under these general objectives. EIFAAC will strive to achieve the following goals:

- As a leading Pan-European Organization, EIFAAC provides policy and management advice in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO (strategic objectives, regional initiatives, SDGs) and other relevant international instruments.
- 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.
- 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.

29. The Chair presented information in the Working Document EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/4 and the Commission discussed EIFAAC objectives and developed a new strategy for EIFAAC 2017–2021 as well as EIFAAC priority areas (Appendix 4 and 5). The Chair explained FAO objectives and UN SDGs and the need to align EIFAAC with these global goals.

30. Following the above discussion the Commission went on to develop and revise a new EIFAAC Workplan 2017–2019 (Appendix 6).

31. The Chair opened the floor for comments and proposals for the workplan activities and work, which was followed by discussions. The Commission agreed on the continuation of the ongoing EIFAAC projects. In addition, the following new topics were proposed by the session to be considered for inclusion in the EIFAAC workplan for the intersessional period:

- **Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture:** The session acknowledged that increased focus should be placed on the socio-economic aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. This also comprises of the socio-economic relations and impacts between recreational fisheries, aquaculture and the commercial inland fisheries sector. A number of members indicated that in their home research institutes a focus had been brought to this area by internal socio-economic specialists. It was also noted that FAO fisheries projects normally included the important socio-economic pillar. In general, the members recommended that consideration should be given to the development of a project focused on an integrated cooperation between fisheries biologists, economists and sociologists.

- **Citizens to support fisheries science:** The members were supportive of the use of citizen science to facilitate sampling for fisheries research, the benefits of which were highlighted through a number of papers presented at the symposium. The discussion also clarified the need to ensure sampling programmes are well defined and citizens involved well trained. The members recommended that EIFAAC investigate and document the benefits and limitations of inclusion of citizen science when applied to fisheries research. The session also recommended the development of protocols and procedures to facilitate the efficient introduction of citizen science into applied fisheries research.

The Session also discussed the importance of riverine continuity. The Chair of TSC briefed the Commission on the on-going projects in this area and the Members were informed about a recent engagement with EU Horizon 2020 project on riverine continuity (AMBER). As the Members were satisfied with the level of on-going work in this area, it was decided not to include this as an additional item in the Workplan.

32. The FAO SOs and RIs, as well as the UN SDGs provided insight and guidance in the development of the EIFAAC workplan for the intersessional period 2017–2019. The Commission, wherever possible, identified potential synergies from linking the workplan to the SOs, RIs and SDGs and incorporated this into the workplan. It was agreed by all that the impact of the work of the Commission and especially the availability of financial resources to carry out the projects will be greater if synergies can be identified between EIFAAC objectives and objectives of the other actors.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 29TH SESSION

33. The session decided that the following recommendations be considered by EIFAAC Members in the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture:

Recommendation: EIFAAC requests the EU considers, as a member of EIFAAC, the dissemination of EIFAAC information and advice through its Common Fisheries Policy Data Collection Framework (DCF) national correspondents and aquaculture contact points. This action would be to the benefit of EIFAAC and the sector.

Recommendation: EIFAAC recommends that Members should coordinate to support an EIFAAC project to identify definitions and indicators on the social and economic valuation of inland fisheries and aquaculture for the region

Recommendation: EIFAAC acknowledges that Climate Change is affecting fish, inland fisheries and aquaculture. Focused adaptation to Climate Change needs to begin immediately and there needs to be consideration of impacts of Climate Change on the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector:

- embedded in other environmental activities,
- included into resource management policies,
- embedded in evidence based adaptive and predictive management framework including economic and social aspect,
- establish cooperation and communication strategy.

Resources are required to support long term assessment, impact and mitigation measures.

VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

34. There were none.

IX. ELECTION OF THE EIFAAC OFFICERS

35. Although there was no quorum present at the session, the Commission decided to proceed with the election of the EIFAAC MC and TSC.

36. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE MC

- Chair – Petri Heinimaa (FINLAND)
- 1st Vice Chair – Reinhold Hanel (GERMANY)
- 2nd Vice Chair – Igor Wawrzyniak (POLAND)

37. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MC

- Bela Urbanyi (HUNGARY)
- Gudni Magnus Eiriksson (ICELAND)
- Cathal Gallagher (IRELAND)

38. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE TSC

- Marina Piria (CROATIA)
- Piotr Parasiewicz (POLAND)
- Colin Bean (UNITED KINGDOM)
- Christian Skov (DENMARK)
- Robert Arlinghaus (GERMANY)
- Fiona Kelly (IRELAND)

Alternates: (pending confirmation)

- GianAndrea La Porte (ITALY)
- Andreas Melcher (AUSTRIA)
- Jan Kubecka (CZECH REPUBLIC)
- Russell Poole (IRELAND)
- Andrzej Kapusta (POLAND)

39. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE TSC

- Teppo Vehanen (FINLAND)

X. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

40. This was discussed under agenda item 4.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

41. The report was approved by the Members present at the 29th Session. The Chair thanked the MC and the members for their support. He thanked the TSC for all their work. The newly appointed Chair made a few comments to the members and thanked the members for his nomination.

REVISED AGENDA**Wednesday, 6 September 2017***Morning, 09.30-13.00***Excursion – Elblag Canal***Afternoon, 14.00-16.45*

- 1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. EIFAAC Workplan for the intersessional period 2015–2017**
 - Report from the Management Committee (MC)
 - Intervention by World Aquaculture Society
- 3. EIFAAC activities since the 28th Session**
 - Report from the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC)
 - Status of projects

Thursday, 7 September 2017*Morning, 09.00-12.30*

- 4. Intervention by Dipl.-Ing. agr. Ulrike WENIGER, Germany**
- 5. Short report and recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change”**
- 6. EIFAAC Workplan and Strategy for the intersessional period 2017–2019**
 - Means of delivery of EIFAAC objectives
 - Workplan and Strategy
 - New Projects
 - Strategic items

Afternoon 14.00-17.30

- 7. EIFAAC Workplan and Strategy for the intersessional period 2017–2019 (continued)**
- 8. Any other matters**

Cooperation among Technical Commissions

Friday, 8 September 2017

Morning, 09.00-12.30

9. Election of the EIFAAC Officers

- Election of Members of the TSC
- Election of the Chair of the TSC
- Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the MC
- Election of Members of the MC

10. Date and place of the Thirtieth Session

Afternoon, 14.00-17.30

11. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS**Working documents**

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/1 Tentative Agenda and Timetable

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/2 Provisional list of invited countries and organizations

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/3 EIFAAC activities since the 28th Session

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/4 EIFAAC Workplan and Strategy for the intersessional period 2017–2019

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/5 Report of 28th Session EIFAAC Norway 2015

EIFAAC/XXIX/2017/6 Provisional list of documents

EIFAAC STRATEGY PLAN

The EIFAAC Strategy Plan addresses the following areas:

1. Introduction
2. Stakeholders
3. Mission Statement
4. Objectives, Goals and Initiatives
5. Priority issues

1. Introduction

The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was established in 1957 by the FAO Council under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution and held its first session in 1960 in Dublin, Ireland.

The EIFAC reform process started at the Seventeenth Session in 1992. However, from 1992 to 2007 the issue of restructuring and strengthening EIFAC was addressed only briefly. The Twenty-fifth Session of EIFAC, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 21 to 28 May 2008, had finally agreed to change the name of EIFAC, introducing aquaculture in order to recognize the importance of aquaculture to the countries in Europe and to properly reflect the activities of EIFAC, and decided to approve the revised name of the Commission, whereby the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is now called European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC). Furthermore, the Session agreed that a process be initiated to review the possibilities for improvement of EIFAC. As a first step, a workshop was held in The Hague (The Netherlands) in March 2009, which made proposals for strategic orientations options, associated objectives and possible action plans. The workshop ideas and expectations were considered in an options paper as a basis for decision. Then the country delegates were invited to a second workshop in Mainz (Germany) in January 2010 to discuss the various options proposed.

The breakthrough could be achieved at the Twenty-sixth Session of EIFAC held in May 2010 in Zagreb where the Commission agreed to restructure EIFAC to a project-based organization while abolishing all Sub-Commissions and Working Parties with the aim to make the Commission's work more efficient. The Twenty-sixth Session also agreed to modernize Statutes, mission statement and objectives. The functioning of the Commission has further strengthened by setting up a Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC). A Management Committee (MC) replaces the former Executive Committee. The Management Committee has to implement the decisions of the Commission and coordinate and monitor the work of the TSC. The Technical and Scientific Committee main functions are the recommendation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes or projects. All former Working Parties were scrutinized by the MC and those that performed well were converted into projects.

The change of name and revised Statutes of EIFAAC were approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Fortieth Session on 3 December 2010 through Resolution No 3/140 under Article VI paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The new Rules of Procedure were adopted at the Special Session on 27 October 2011 in Rome. These Rules specify that a Strategy Plan should be elaborated for approval by the Session. The Strategy Plan is a recommendation with main achievable goals and covers the duties for the time period 2017–2019.

2. Stakeholders

Members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. EIFAAC Stakeholders further include:

- other international fishery organizations (e.g. NASCO, GFCM, FAO Regional Fishery Bodies),
- political, management and research institutions,
- NGOs as observers,
- inland fisheries (commercial and recreational), aquaculture and environmental organizations (national and international) in Europe.

3. Mission Statement

The mission of EIFAAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research.

4. Objectives, Goals and Initiatives

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.

The goals of EIFAAC are:

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

Actions:

- Improve and formalize collaboration with organizations relevant to:
 - the aquaculture sector (EAS, FEAP, NACEE, WAS, etc.)
 - the inland fisheries sector (EAA, GFCM, ICES, NASCO, etc.).
- Consider the FAO objectives and principles in the formation of EIFAAC projects.
- Liaise with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors that have influence on or utilize aquatic resources
- Encourage expansion of membership by inviting non-members.

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.

Actions:

- Deliver projects in line with EIFAAC's goals and governance procedures.
- Inform and advise policy and decision makers based on results from projects.
- EIFAAC will develop an organizational communication strategy.
- Collation and dissemination of relevant EIFAAC information.

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.

Actions:

- EIFAAC proposes that the EU consider circulating information related to EIFAAC activities to their appropriate national correspondents.
- EIFAAC will communicate directly with individuals interested in the inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- EIFAAC requests Members to identify and activate their operational focal points.
- Explore funding and financial structures to support projects and EIFAAC activities.

5. Priority issues identified by the Members

Members expressed a strong desire for EIFAAC to focus more on the following issues which should be incorporated in existing projects or should give rise for a new project. The Members acknowledged the necessity for review of these priorities and requested that MC facilitate a review of these priorities during the life of this strategic plan. (Appendix 5)

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture

These issues are described as "management-related" with suggestions focused on advancing management principles such as sustainability, biodiversity and ecosystem management, and included providing assessment and advice in relation to inland fisheries and aquaculture including their interactions.

II. Protection and restoration of the fresh water aquatic environment and species

Habitat protection and restoration to support self-sustaining aquatic communities.

III. Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture

Determination of economic, cultural and social values of inland fisheries and aquaculture.

IV. Adaptation of inland fisheries and aquaculture to climate change

Assessing, preparing and adapting to the impact of climate change on inland fisheries and aquaculture.

CATEGORIES OF PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

I. Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture
☐ Contributing to a management plan for Europe on piscivorous predators, especially cormorants
☐ Strengthening management plans, identify scenarios and methods for sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture
☐ Fish stocking, including general principles, best practices, economic aspects, interaction with natural stocks and safeguarding biodiversity
☐ Facilitating a wider introduction of principles of sustainable management and rational development in all freshwater fishing activities and aquaculture, including biodiversity issues
☐ Ecosystem approach: the impact of inland fisheries and aquaculture on the ecosystem; estimation of the fish and fisheries component
☐ Organic aquaculture: substitution of fish based protein
☐ 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)
☐ 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
☐ 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)
☐ The use of alternative energy resources in closed aquaculture systems
☐ Fish farming in ponds and in special aquaculture systems
☐ 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
☐ The potential role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the protection of aquatic resources
☐ Evaluation, sustaining and strengthening professional inland fisheries, noting impacts of environmental and socio-economic constraints
☐ 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

☐	Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the traditional fish-breeding and those related to managing the inland surface water ecosystems
☐	Diversification of inland aquaculture production
☐	Training of fish farmers and fisherman
☐	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

II. Protection and restoration of the fresh water aquatic environment and species	
☐	Strengthening activities in relation to certain species including eels, crayfish, invasive, exotic and alien/non-native species, aquatic species protected by the Habitats Directive
☐	Habitat protection and restoration and prevention of contamination of habitat and species, including animal welfare, biological invasions and sewage treatment plans
☐	Development and use of agents against fish diseases with focus on maximum environmental protection
☐	Identification and avoidance of environmental poisons and contaminants and chemicals in water and in fish, including implication for human food safety guidelines and limits
☐	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
☐	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
☐	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
☐	Introduction of new species and endangered fish species into aquaculture
☐	Monitoring of environmental impact of inland aquaculture facilities
☐	Managing rivers recovering from long-term degradation
☐	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
☐	Fish migration, coordinated automatic monitoring of fish migration, dismantling of barriers (and new methods and practices for barriers)
☐	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 as well as 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

EIFAAC WORKPLAN FOR 2017–2019

BACKGROUND

The mission of EIFAAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- delivery of effective research.

To support this mission the new EIFAAC Rules of Procedure were adopted at the Special Session on 27 October 2011 in Rome. The new Rules of Procedure, focused on modernization, are designed to improve EIFAAC's efficiency and its support to EIFAAC's stakeholders and members.

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 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.

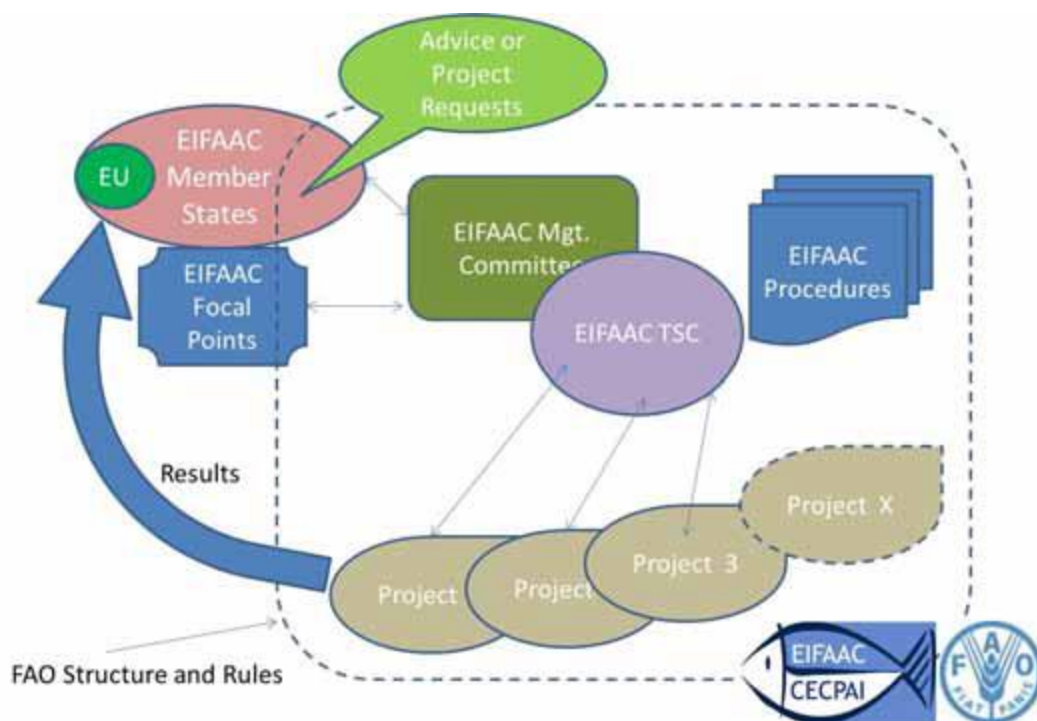


Figure 1: EIFAAC Operational Overview

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 captured and managed within projects. Figure 2 illustrates the operation of the EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee.

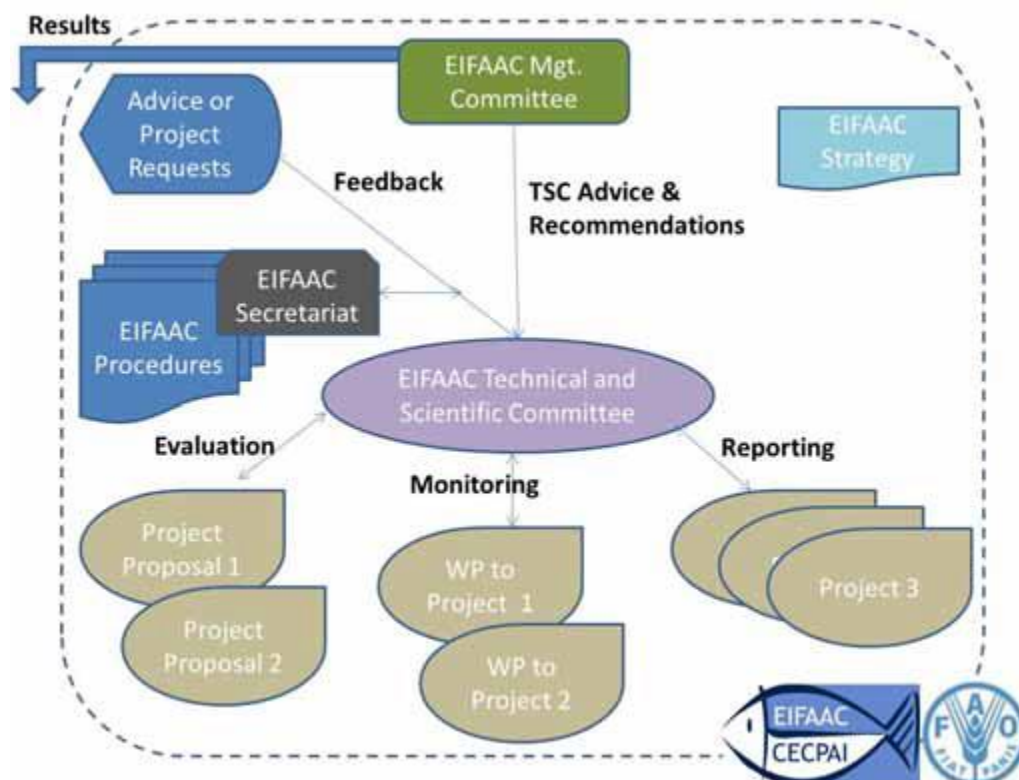


Figure 2: EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee operational overview

To support its work EIFAAC has a Strategy Plan for the period covering 2012–2016. 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 workplan which outlines how EIFAAC plans to deliver against this strategy in achievement of its goals. The strategy plan will cover the period 2012–2017 until the 29th Session. A new strategy plan will be developed for the next two intersessional periods 2017–2021.

OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND INITIATIVES

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.

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of the EIFAAC organisation the MC have developed a workplan to support the delivery against the EIFAAC strategic plan. The follow section details actions and time bound plans to support EIFAAC in its work.

WORKPLAN 2017–2019

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, SDGs) and other relevant international instruments.

Actions:

- Improve and formalize collaboration with organizations relevant to:
 - the aquaculture sector (EAS, FEAP, NACEE, WAS etc.)
 - the inland fisheries sector (EAA, GFCM, , ICES, NASCO etc.).
- Consider the FAO objectives and principles in the formation of EIFAAC projects.
- Liaise with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors that have influence on or utilize aquatic resources.
- Encourage expansion of membership by inviting non-members.

Plan 2017–2019:

- 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 symposia 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.
- 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. MC will discuss progress during MC meetings and potential delivery against this goal.

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.

Actions:

- Deliver projects in line with EIFAAC's goals and governance procedures.
- Inform and advise policy and decision makers based on results from projects.
- EIFAAC will develop an organizational communication strategy.
- Collation and dissemination of relevant EIFAAC information.

Plan 2017–2019:

- 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.
- MC in coordination with the Secretariat will draft a questionnaire for EIFAAC members on priority areas to be presented to the 30th Session for approval and distributed through official FAO channel.
- MC is requested to develop a communication strategy.
- The MC and TSC will ensure that all projects operate in line with EIFAAC Rules of Procedures.

- MC will ensure that focal points, decision makers and identified experts are annually provided with updates on EIFAAC projects.
- 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.

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.

Actions:

- EIFAAC proposes that the EU consider circulating information related to EIFAAC activities to their appropriate national correspondents.
- EIFAAC will communicate directly with individuals interested in the inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- EIFAAC requests Members to identify and activate their operational focal points.
- Explore funding and financial structures to support projects and EIFAAC activities.

Plan 2017–2019:

- MC will maintain and develop a list of individuals interested in EIFAAC activities and will communicate with these individuals directly in relation to EIFAAC's work.
- 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 on improvements in how EIFAAC's work is administered and coordinated.

The MC and the Secretariat will explore funding options for EIFAAC projects.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EIFAAC SYMPOSIUM ON ADAPTATION OF INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

1. A Symposium on Adaptation of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change was organized in conjunction with the Twenty-ninth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) in Stare Jablonki, Poland, from 3 to 6 September 2017. S. Sakowicz Inland Fisheries Institute in Poland convened the Symposium, which was chaired by Prof. Piotr Parasiewicz. The Symposium was attended by 64 participants from 20 countries. The Symposium was opened by Deputy Minister of Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation Ms Monika Moskwa.

2. The Symposium objectives were:

- Present the current state of knowledge.
- Create a basis for development of recommendations for inland fisheries management.

SESSION 1: IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

3. Climate change is multidimensional (thermal, hydrological, chemical) and so are its effects on freshwater fish. Evidence of Climate Change Impact on fisheries is documented by scientists worldwide.

4. Fisheries are overlooked in policy framework: need to improve mechanisms to communicate importance of fisheries to livelihoods, local economies and food security and influence decision making – use ecosystem services approach.

5. Floods and droughts play important role as drivers of the populations and change in their frequency and magnitude is apparent. Periodic flooding (flood pulse) plays a key role in the ecology of floodplain rivers. Flood pulse characteristics eg., magnitude, duration, are the primary driving force of the recruitment of commercially exploited fish in these systems. These flood pulse characteristics are primarily driven by climatic and resulting hydrologic fluctuations. Timing of these events and coordination with thermal patterns is essential.

6. In Burkina Faso: there is a need for capacity building in developing countries and adaptive management. Climate change adaptations should be incorporated into Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Finland's climate will change more in winter than in summer. These changes have substantial effect on fish communities, fishing and fish farming. Fisheries management has an important role to play, as shift of community composition is to be expected.

8. Ireland: Climate change warming will favour mixed fish communities which are primary risk factor for Irish char.

9. The vast majority of Polish fishery managers have noticed changes in climate affecting the fishing economy.

SESSION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT, TOOLS AND ECOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE

10. Modified aquatic ecosystems are more vulnerable to climate change impact and require more reliable models of aquatic organism status and understanding of habitat requirements and ecosystem function.

11. These tools should among others capture change in intensity of frequency, duration and amplitude of extreme habitat deficits to determine intensity of biological response to change.

12. Habitat, hydrological and index based predictive models allow to investigate multiple types of modifications as covariates of Climate Change impact.

13. Changes in streamflow might favor invasive species or species with good adaptation capabilities.
14. Long term research projects providing necessary evidence base are required.
15. Rehabilitating degraded habitats can resist the change that would otherwise come quickly to those habitats.

SESSION 3: EXPANDING AND UTILIZING EVIDENCE

16. Systematic combination of expert knowledge with data with application of appropriate models helps reducing uncertainty by using all information available. This offers us the chance to move beyond a knowledge base, to the point of making robust predictions of how systems will respond to climate and other forcings. These predictions can be readily updated through application of the principles of adaptive management.
17. Two international research projects CERES and CLIMFISH gather currently the evidence for impacts on lake and marine fisheries.
18. Individual Based Models are developed to predict the impact on fish populations of harvested lakes.
19. Complex interactions between environmental variables are affecting fish growth.
20. Interaction between climate change effects and management needs to be considered
21. It is necessary to manage fishery in order to adapt to climate change: even positive effects (e.g. moderate temperature increase, positive growth) can be neutralised by an unsuitable management.

SESSION 4: ADAPTATION METHODS

22. Preparing strategies for adaptation to climate change we need to first identify where it is the greatest vulnerability and how to address it. Globally the most vulnerable are fisheries and societies on tropical regions of the planet. Not only that the expected changes are the most dramatic but also because of socio-economic limitations that reduce resilience of human communities.
23. Key factor shaping the adaptive capacity and resilience of fishers, households and communities is their access to, control over and ability to use productively the natural, human, social, physical and financial assets, i.e. natural v socio-economic capital.
24. In US review of current adaptation measures have been analyzed and concluded that agencies are lacking capacity to couple with challenges of adaptation to climate change. Capacity building programs are necessary to increase the resilience of management systems.
25. When proposing and introducing adaptation measures the side effects need to be considered. For example use of dams for increasing water retention creates numerous impacts that may actually increase the vulnerability of ecosystems.
26. Maintaining riparian corridors with canopy cover shading is a simple measure strongly reducing thermal exposure.
27. Outreach tools such as factsheets help agencies to easier comprehend the issues and act upon them.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

28. The Symposium recognized the importance of biological, environmental, social and economic aspects of climate change impact on inland fisheries and aquaculture. It was mutually agreed that impact on inland fisheries and aquaculture should be expected to be substantial and that the need for action is immediate.
29. During discussion session following research and management priorities were identified:
 - Conduct demonstration studies
 - Develop synergies between the sectors
 - Coordination of existing tools and founding programs (mars tools)
 - Add inland fisheries into SDG

- Develop simple messages for complex problems
- Create habitat type specific diagnostic tools
- Establish process flow charts (DPSIR)
- Ecosystem services scenarios simulation tools

30. Symposium participants prepared following conclusions and recommendations to EIFAAC:

- Climate Change is affecting fish, inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- Focused actions of adaptation to Climate Change has to begin immediately. They need to be :
 - Embedded in other environmental improvement activities
 - Included into resource management policies
 - Embedded in evidence based adaptive and predictive management framework including economical and social aspects
 - Include cooperation and communication strategy
- Resource long term assessment, adaptation and mitigation measures.

The Twenty-ninth Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was held in Stare Jablonki, Poland, from 6 to 8 September 2017. The session reviewed the progress in implementing EIFAAC projects in the intersessional period 2015–2017 (since the Twenty-eighth EIFAAC Session) and recommendations from the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Adaptation of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change”. After revising EIFAAC goals and objectives, the session developed a new strategy for EIFAAC 2017–2021, approved a workplan for the intersessional period 2017–2019 and produced three recommendations for the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

Germany offered to host the Thirtieth Session to be held in September 2019.

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