



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth Session

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11-13 November 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF APFIC AND ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

1. The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its Thirty-third Session from 23 to 25 June 2014, in Hyderabad, India. The report is presented as information paper APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 03.
2. Twenty-eight representatives from 17 of the APFIC member countries attended the Session. Also attending were one observer country (Lao PDR) and the representatives of three partner regional organizations, namely the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), the Mekong River Commission Fisheries Programme (MRC-FP), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the APFIC Secretariat.

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION – CAPTURE FISHERIES

3. The Commission welcomed the “APFIC Regional guidelines for responsible tropical trawl management”. The Commission endorsed the “APFIC Regional guidelines for responsible tropical trawl management” and recommended that they be communicated to the member countries.
4. The Commission requested the Secretariat to review success stories of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Artificial Reefs together with scientific assessments of their impacts. The Commission recommended that all Member States should report back on the status of FADs and artificial reefs programmes in their countries
5. The Commission appreciated and welcomed the development of the Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” (EEAFM) training course for the APFIC region and noted the need to increase the number of competent regional trainers.
6. The Commission welcomed the regional “Training course for port inspection of fishing vessels”. The Commission agreed that there is an increasing need for port inspections of fishing vessels in the region and that this requires considerable capacity building. The Commission endorsed the regional “Training course for port inspection of fishing vessels”,

and recommended the development of a broader group and network of trained regional professionals capable of undertaking port inspections.

7. The Commission recommended the development of better methods to estimate the types and scale of IUU fishing in the region.

8. The Commission requested the development of ways to monitor the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION – AQUACULTURE

9. The Commission appreciated FAO's initiatives in promoting the sustainable intensification of aquaculture to contribute to food and nutrition security and livelihood in the region. The Commission recommended further regional consultation to prioritize necessary actions at regional and national levels and to develop strategic action plan for supporting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region.

10. The Commission recommended actions related to the development of low-cost, efficient fish feeds and the use of renewable energy or energy efficient systems, which would contribute to climate change mitigation or increased resource-use efficiency.

11. The Commission recommended the development of guidelines for improved aquatic biosecurity.

12. The Commission recommended moving forward in developing "Aquaculture planning and management toolkit" related training materials and an application manual of the tools. The Commission further recommended the commencement of pilot level application of selected tools in member countries with strong interest.

ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

13. The Commission noted with concern, that fisheries and aquaculture have not yet been substantively covered in the work of the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC).

14. The Commission reiterated the importance of the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture for food and nutrition security in the APFIC region and urged FAO to ensure adequate visibility of the sub-sectors in regional and global dialogues on food security and nutrition.

FAO "Regional Initiative on Blue Growth"

15. Recent FAO programming changes have seen the development of the "Regional Initiative on Blue Growth", a focused programme aimed at enhancing the sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the Asian region (APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 04)

16. This programme is based around ongoing, planned projects and programme outputs, including those of the Commission. There are also additional activities (such as a regional workshop "Regional Consultation on Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific", 27–28 November 2014, Bangkok, Thailand).

17. This "Regional Initiative on Blue Growth" is part of the FAO Global Initiative on Blue Growth in Support of Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and the Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources (BGI).

18. The BGI defines "Blue Growth" as "*Sustainable growth and development emanating from economic activities in the oceans, freshwaters, wetlands and coastal zones, that minimize environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of aquatic resources, and maximize economic and social benefits*".

19. The “Regional Initiative on Blue Growth” are relatively broad in scope and is informed by the work of the Commission, as well as being focused on similar objectives to those of the Commission. It is currently focused on sustainable intensification of aquaculture which is an APFIC theme from the preceding biennium.

20. In subsequent biennia, the “Regional Initiative on Blue Growth” will encompass fresh and marine waters and both aquaculture and capture fisheries.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21. The Executive Committee is invited to review these conclusions and recommendations and suggest how the APFIC Secretariat might follow-up with regional partners, or develop specific initiatives to address priority issues.

22. The Executive Committee may consider how the recommendations of the APFIC 33rd Session can be brought to the attention of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the 33rd Session of the APRC.

23. The Executive Committee may consider recommending the inclusion of an APRC agenda item, on the contribution of fish to nutrition and food security and the potential of blue growth covering:

- a. the opportunities for Blue Growth approaches in both capture fisheries and aquaculture, in fresh and marine waters.
- b. suggestions for key areas which would be covered under a blue growth programme
- c. how the ongoing Blue Growth regional initiative could be strengthened into a regional cooperation programme.
- d. endorsement of a strategic action plan for supporting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region, which would be the outcome of a Regional consultation process during 2014/2015.