



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth Session

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11-13 November 2014

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – IMPROVING MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ISSUES

1. The Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) endorsed the proposed workplan presented by the secretariat, based on the recommendations of the Seventy-fourth Executive Committee Meeting.
2. The workplan is presented as an information document APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 05.

IMPROVED MONITORING OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS AND FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

3. The Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) recommended that:
 - a. Recommended that Member States should report back on the status of FADs and artificial reefs programmes in their countries
 - b. Requested the Secretariat to review success stories of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and Artificial Reefs together with scientific assessments of their impacts.
4. The Commission agreed to provide a uniform harmonized framework for reporting back so that there would be consistency in the information which can guide Member States in the deployment and management of artificial reefs. This has been drafted and is presented as APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 06.

REVIEW OF IUU FISHING IN THE APFIC REGION

5. The Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) recommended the development of better methods to estimate the types and scale of IUU fishing in the region.
6. In the endorsed biennial workplan, this activity would be initiated in October 2014 in collaboration with BOBLME.
7. The Secretariat, therefore, proposes to cooperate with the BOBLME IUU study for the Bay of Bengal as a pilot to test a methodology for assessing scale and scope of IUU.

8. The first activity would be to convene an IUU assessment methodology, development and validation workshop in collaboration with BOBLME in early 2015 (January). This workshop would:

- a. Agree on the approach to characterization of different forms of IUU, its geographic scope and scale
- b. Identify the forms of information required to monitor its prevalence as well as estimate its cost/value in country information collection.
- c. Agree on how this information could be gathered within participating countries.

9. Following the workshop, the in-country IUU scoping review would be initiated. This would cover the key information items identified by the assessment methodology workshop. If a full national review were not possible, then some keys or significant fisheries could be used as case examples. This would be based on the outline provided below:

- a. An account of the numbers and types of vessels fishing within the EEZ – both legally and illegally.
 - Flag: Domestic vessels, estimates of vessels under joint venture or charter arrangements, or with beneficial ownership outside the country; foreign vessels licensed to fish; illegal foreign vessels.
 - Vessel Size/gear: large-, medium-, small-scale and their gears used.
 - Estimate of national catch by fleet segment and/or by vessel type; gear type or fishing area: e.g. trawl, purse seine, gill net; vessels under 12 m; vessels in nearshore zone etc.)
- b. Definition of IUU in the national context/law i.e. which activities are considered illegal and which are not and which are considered to be most challenging/problematic in terms of undermining conservation measures.
- c. The nature of illegal fishing within the EEZ, e.g.
 - **Illegal actions or operations:** Encroachment into unauthorized fishing zones; encroachment into MPA; fishing in neighbouring waters without permit/license; use of illegal gears; fishing in closed season; payment of bribes or other illegal transactions to gain fishing access or avoid regulation; catch of banned/protected or endangered species, coral, fish, turtles etc.
 - **Illegal vessel:** Dual flagged; unregistered; unlicensed; duplicate/falsified licenses
 - **Illegal movement or documentation:** Non declaration/misreporting of catch; landing fish in neighbouring country; forged or counterfeit catch documents; transshipping without authorization on the high seas or within the EEZ.
 - **Non-compliance with RFMO measures** (IOTC, WCPFC, CCMLAR)
- d. For the identified IUU activities, describe:
 - Which fleet segments are involved, the typical fishing grounds and the type of resources being targeted
 - Estimated quantities of catch and estimate of value by the respective segments or types of IUU activity
 - Flag of the vessels involved: domestic, foreign, dual-flagged, unregistered/stateless vessels
 - Known or presumed impacts on fishery resource management
- e. Specific measures to prevent/deter the different forms of IUU.
 - Identification of particular measures/deterrents that appear to be working well.

- Specific measures identified in national action plans (such as NPOA-IUU or MCS framework).
- f. The evidence to support the estimates in the review e.g.
- Existence of a MCS framework and data from this, such as: number of reported incidents; existence of satellite imagery, VMS tracks or similar mapping that illustrates a particular IUU area/issue;
 - Possible proxy measures to estimate IUU fishing: records of sightings of illegal acts by fishers/authorities;
 - Number of arrests or reports of infractions – foreign vessels or domestic; estimation of IUU “prevalence”.
 - Literature review of, official reports and published material and grey literature.
10. The country reports, synthesis of the information and model developed, would be used to develop a BOBLME sub-regional assessment of IUU, in terms of scope and scale, using the indicators identified in the methodology workshop.
11. During 2015, APFIC would convene an ad hoc working group to:
- a. Review the findings and validate the pilot study for the Bay of Bengal
 - b. Propose next steps to use the method in other subregions of the APFIC area of competence
12. This ad hoc working group would comprise of:
- a. (in collaboration with BOBLME) ~10 regional professionals participating countries and organization in the BOB study
 - b. Representatives of additional member countries, representatives from member countries, which were not part of the pilot study, and who are currently working in the area of fishery management, combatting IUU fishing and Monitoring Control and Surveillance
 - c. Representatives of the RPOA¹ network
 - d. Representatives from other LME projects that have an interest in scoping of IUU in their sub-regions

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

13. The Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) 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 (VG-SSF).

14. Since the APFIC region is home to the majority of the world’s small-scale fishers, there is a challenge to APFIC member countries to effectively monitor the implementation of the voluntary guidelines. In many countries specific actions are taking place that are in line with

¹ The Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Region was endorsed by Ministers responsible for fisheries in Bali, Indonesia, May 2007. Eleven countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam and four regional fisheries organizations provide technical advice and assistance, i.e.: FAO/Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), INFOFISH and WorldFish.

the guidelines and it is important that ongoing or planned national actions are reported back to APFIC and FAO.

15. The guidelines contain 74 recommendations concerning obligations of the State (“States should”) and these could be considered the points to monitor. This is likely to be too many and since they are thematically linked, it may be preferable to report on general actions rather than the specific recommendations.

16. Reducing these to the major headings in the VG-SSF could enable reports on actions taken that respond to recommendations within the themes of:

- a. Responsible governance of tenure
- b. Sustainable resource management
- c. Social development, employment and decent work
- d. Value chains, post-harvest and trade
- e. Gender equality
- f. Disaster risks and climate change
- g. Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration
- h. Capacity development

17. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication were endorsed in June 2014 by COFI 31. The next steps call for a Global Programme to support the implementation of the guidelines.

18. The APFIC Secretariat recommends that the request to develop ways of monitoring the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines action be postponed until technical guidance becomes available from FAO.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

19. The Executive Committee is invited to:

- a. Review these three areas of work for improving information as requested by the Commission
- b. Propose modification to the methods or process if appropriate
- c. Suggest how the APFIC Secretariat might follow-up with regional partners, or develop specific initiatives to increase the impact of the work.