

### **Japan's comments on Item 5**

#### **“Decisions and recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23–27 August 2019”**

- Japan welcomes the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture for its hard work and preparation of the report of the 10th session of the Sub-Committee meeting. It also thanks the Government of Norway for its generous offer to host the meeting in Trondheim.
  
- As we witness in the SOFIA 2020, production of aquaculture has been growing rapidly and hence contribution of aquaculture to food security has been already at non negligible level. It should be however also noted that such rapid growth of aquaculture in the global level has some time caused problems including negative impacts on fishery resources, on the environment of both marine and inland as well as even on human health. In this regard, it is quite important for us to pursue sustainable aquaculture based on the best scientific evidence available.
  
- Japan welcomes the activities on AMR by FAO. The Government of Japan (GOJ) established “National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2016-2020” in April 2016 and has taken relevant actions in integrated cross-sectoral manner. Among others, the GOJ has been publishing integrated health surveillance reports on AMR and AMU (Antimicrobial use), titled “Nippon AMR One Health Report (NAOR)” annually since 2017.
  
- Japan supports the endorsement of the report of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

### **Japan's comments on Item 6**

#### **“Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019”**

- Japan welcomes the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade for its hard work and preparation of the report of the 17th session of the Sub-Committee meeting. It also thanks the Government of Spain for its generous offer to host the meeting in Vigo.
- Japan’s general position on the management of fishery resources includes, among others, the followings;
- First, Japan would like to emphasize that FAO has the important role, as a sole technical agency for fisheries management in the UN system with ample knowledge and experiences should play a pivotal role in the management of fisheries based on the science.
- Secondly, Japan believes we should strengthen management of fishery resources through relevant RFMOs where we can elaborate and implement relevant conservation and management measures taking into account the actual state of fisheries, instead of the management through the listings in the CITES appendices.
- Thirdly, Japan wishes to raise, as it has done repeatedly, the necessity to conduct reviews and assessments on the effects of CITES provisions taken for listed aquatic species onto the conservation and management thereof as well on the socio-economic impacts of the listings onto the regions dependent on those species.
- Considering the above, Japan welcomes that the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade emphasized the importance on decision makings based on the scientific evidence in cooperation with CITES and IUCN.
- Furthermore, Japan expects vigorous involvement and participation by FAO, as the sole technical agency for the fisheries management in the UN system, in the discussions on BBNJ negotiations which are assumed to be resumed in 2021.

- Meanwhile, Japan is regretted to draw the attention of the COFI that, at the CITES-CoP18 in 2019, in spite of the scientific recommendations by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel and relevant RFMOs including ICCAT that there is no scientific evidence that the species meets the CITES Appendix II listing criteria thus they did not consider the listing of mako shark is appropriate, mako shark was agreed to be listed in the CITES Appendix II by a voting. Japan is seriously concerned the recent situation of CITES where, irrespective of scientific and technical recommendations and inputs by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel, such listings neglecting scientific evidences are made. Japan therefore would strongly requests FAO to more widely provide its Members of results of the Expert Advisory Panel well before the next CITES-CoP and urge Members to secure enough and close communications between their fisheries sector and their CITES authority when examining new listing proposals so that unnecessary listings of fishery species could be safely eliminated.
  
- With these comments, Japan supports the endorsement of the report of the Sub-Committee.

**Japan's comments on Item 14**  
**“Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee”**

- Japan congratulates the FAO Secretariat for its elaboration of MYPOW2020-2023 and supports it.
- In particular, Japan would like to emphasize the importance of more active participation and contribution of FAO, as the sole UN technical agency for fisheries management in the UN system, to relevant international fora such as UN General Assembly, CITES, CBD, WTO, IUCN, etc.
- Through the examination on the possible establishment of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, it has turned out that, under the current situation where the topics related to fisheries and aquaculture have been increasing and become more complex, it becomes more important to set agendas for the COFI and its sub-committees in appropriate and efficient manner.
- For this purpose, we propose to examine toward the next COFI in 2 years time how MYPOW can be utilized to streamline agendas for COFI and its sub-committees (e.g. mapping the agenda items under discussion in the COFI and its sub-committees and/or preparing proposed agendas for the COFI and its sub-committees for their future sessions in order to attach MYPOW for Members easy consideration). Japan believes that such consideration deeply relates to the examination on the proposal to establish a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

### **Japan's comments on Item 17.1**

#### **“Developments in *fora* of importance for the mandate of COFI : *for information*”**

- Japan congratulates the FAO Secretariat for its elaboration of the document COFI/2020/Inf. 16 which provides us of useful information for consideration of the future of the COFI system.
- Since various fisheries and aquaculture related issues have been discussed in various FAO governing bodies other than COFI, it is necessary and essential to re-recognize that fisheries sectors have taken an important position in tackling food security.
- Despite the important role of fisheries and aquaculture mentioned above, it is to be regretted that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department was abolished and downgraded to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division in the reorganization of FAO last summer. This “incidence” was much more regrettable than another “incidence” of the downsizing of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in 2018, from two divisions to only one division, and Japan is deeply concerned about the possible weakening of the technical unit throughout the organization.
- While it might be recognized that the objective of the consecutive reorganizations is to avoid the silos among sectors, Japan like other Members never wishes any reduction of capabilities and technical expertise of FAO. Japan strongly hopes, in spite of the downgrading of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division that FAO, as the sole UN technical agency for the fisheries management in the UN system, will be able to fulfill its responsibilities, including even in other fora than FAO.