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**Main features, obligations and benefits under the  
*Agreement for the Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission***

## OVERVIEW

The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish or the Commission) is the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the region covering the Central Asia and Caucasus (the CACFish Area), one of about 50 Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) through which States cooperate for the development and adoption of conservation and management measures. RFMOs, such as CACFish, have competence to adopt legally binding conservation and management measures.

The [Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission](#) (the Agreement) was approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred Thirty-seventh session in 2009 and entered into force in 2010. There are currently 5 Members of the Commission.

## OBJECTIVES

The Agreement's main objective is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living aquatic resources, and sustainable aquaculture development in the inland waters and areas within the territorial boundaries of the States of Central Asia and of the Caucasus.

## MAIN ELEMENTS

The Agreement contains 18 Articles. Once they become Members of the Commission, each Party can contribute to the realization of the Commission's functions and responsibilities (Article III), including:

- keeping under review the state of living aquatic resources, the state of the fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the economic and social aspects of the fishing and aquaculture industry;
- formulating and recommending measures for the conservation and rational management of living resources and their implementation;
- encouraging, recommending, coordinating and undertaking activities relating to training and extension, research and development in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture;
- assembling and disseminating information on exploitable living aquatic resources and fisheries and aquaculture based on these resources;
- promoting programmes for aquaculture and fisheries enhancement;
- promoting women's participation in aquaculture and capture fisheries development;
- transferring appropriate technologies and techniques for development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture;
- contributing to knowledge generation and awareness on fisheries and aquaculture ;
- promoting liaison and cooperation among and within governmental organizations and with non-governmental organizations.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR PARTIES

On becoming a Party to the Agreement and implementing its provisions effectively, a State stands to gain numerous benefits, including:



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## A. PARTICIPATING IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCES IN THE CACFISH COMPETENCE AREA

Parties can improve the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, dependent and associated species, ecosystems and biodiversity in the CACFish Competence Area, by implementing the recommendations of the Commission through their direct involvement, ensuring that the national sectors comply with the applicable international and regional standards.

## B. PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE CACFISH COMPETENCE AREA

Parties can ensure that the inland fisheries and aquaculture sectors are developed and strengthened in a sustainable manner, in line with relevant international and regional instruments and guidance. Through increased sharing of information and good practices, the Parties ensure that the sectors strive and effectively contribute to food security and nutrition in the region, while ensuring genetic diversity is conserved and adverse impacts on the environment and local communities are minimized.

## C. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Parties demonstrate to the international community that they are committed to following the recommendations of CACFish that aim at improving conservation and management of fisheries and aquaculture in the CACFish Competence Area. Parties can attract the interest of market States that buy resources and products from fisheries and aquaculture legally and sustainably, owing to their commitment to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Consequently, Parties and their associated industries activities can benefit from increased income generated in more favorable market States.

## D. ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE FISHERIES

Reputation of Parties that are seen as law-abiding, transparent, reliable, and cooperative actors can attract foreign investment in their fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime sectors.

## E. IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS IN THE CACFISH COMPETENCE AREA

Ensuring the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Commission can significantly enhance fisheries and aquaculture governance in the CACFish Competence Area, through improved governance and related cooperative frameworks.

## F. REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

The Commission's Technical Advisory Committee has generated scientific and technical recommendations, guidelines and best management practices for consideration by the Commission. More broadly, the Commission provides a significant contribution to strengthening regional institutional capacity development.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the Agreement, model instruments for adherence to the Agreement and treaty processes in FAO, please contact: [treaties@fao.org](mailto:treaties@fao.org)



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