

WINNERS OF THE MARGARITA LIZÁRRAGA MEDAL

2015

The Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group

The SIF Working Group was selected in recognition of an excellent African example of what can be achieved to stop illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by demonstrating that much can be accomplished with relatively limited resources through good networking, the sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing. Its achievement is considered as a model for similar initiatives and will hopefully have a catalytic effect on other regions. The contribution of SIF to the application of the Code of Conduct is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic.



2013

La Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)

OSPESCA was selected with recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in the Central American countries. It is considered a model intergovernmental organization, emulated in other regions for the catalytic effect of its achievements. The contribution of OSPESCA to the application of the Code has been outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic for other regions to follow.



2011

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) was selected with recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable aquaculture development in the Asia and Pacific Region. NACA serves as a cohesive intergovernmental forum for the formulation of regional policies as well as cooperation and coordination in aquaculture research, development and training. In particular NACA has noteworthy achievements in the areas of environment and aquatic animal health, support to small-scale fish farming, promotion of better management practices (BMPs) and aquaculture certification. The NACA model as an intergovernmental organization and a regional aquaculture network has been and is being emulated in other region as a catalytic effect of the achievement. The contribution of NACA to application of the Code is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic for other regions to follow.



2009

Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia

Dr Iyambo was selected in recognition of his national, regional and international leadership with distinction in the application of the Code through implementation of responsible fisheries science, policies and management including the negotiations leading to the Reykjavik Declaration, his contribution to the establishment of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BCLME), the Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

2007

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2006-2007. The SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, which was established in 1967 with the mandate to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC has been devoted to the regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recently completed its process with the publication of four Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia relating to Fishing Operations, Aquaculture, Fisheries Management and Post-harvest Practices and Trade. It also prepared Supplementary Guidelines on Co-management. With the process of regionalization and Regional Guidelines as outcomes, SEAFDEC has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and its achievement is an outstanding and practical hands-on contribution to the application of the Code.

2005

The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)

The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2004-2005. The AIDCP is an international agreement whose objective is to reduce dolphin mortality in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and to ensure the sustainability of tuna stocks and associated species in the ecosystem. The Parties to the Agreement are Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the United States, Vanuatu and Venezuela. The AIDCP has been an unqualified success and has diligently applied the relevant principles set forth in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular those aspects relating to the precautionary approach and the utilization of fishing gear and techniques which minimize the catch of non-target species and allowed for the enormous reduction in dolphin mortality that was achieved. AIDCP was also commended for its active involvement with the fishing industry and environmental non-governmental organizations, which constituted a successful and exemplary interaction among the various stakeholders.

2003

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

The Margarita Lizárraga Medal for 2002-2003 was presented by the Director-General of FAO to the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) based in India, on 29 November 2003, during the Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference. ICSF is an International NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers all over the world. The medal was presented to ICSF in recognition of its comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives in support of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, through workshops, outreach and advocacy activities, as well as by mobilizing grassroots support and enhancing human capacity building, particularly in developing countries.

2001

The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat

The Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat was selected for its unprecedented grassroots approach to the development of a national Code of Conduct based on the FAO Code of Conduct, which is resulting in responsible fisheries management and new partnerships between industry and the Government in the fisheries sector.

1999

National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO) of Sri Lanka

NAFSO was selected for its outstanding and practical initiative in promoting and disseminating the Code. In particular, this NGO has taken very practical steps to translate the Code into the Sinhala language, to print it and distribute it. In addition, to ensure the application of the Code, NAFSO organized a series of meetings in fishing communities thereby promoting a better understanding of various aspects of the Code among poor, small scale fishing communities. Without this work, it is highly likely that these largely illiterate fishing communities would not have had access to the Code.