

EIFAC

Newsletter

Inland Water Resources and
Aquaculture Service
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INTERSESSION MAY 1996

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Commission held its 19th Session in Dublin, Ireland, on 11 - 19 June 1996. The report of this meeting is now available as FAO Fisheries Report 541 and a Supplement contains the executive report of the Symposium on Social, Economic and Management Aspects of Recreational Fisheries as well as reports of the Working Parties held during the stay in Dublin. The 19th Session continued the work of restructuring the Commission to correspond to the changing needs of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe. Probably the most significant change to the structure of the Commission was the funding of a fourth Sub-Commission - Social and Economic Issues - in recognition of the greater role of the social, economic and policy climate in the management of inland waters for fisheries and aquaculture.

The 19th Session also saw a change in Chairmanship of the Commission with Volker Hilge ceding his place to Christopher Moriarty at his express wish. The Officers of the Commission are now:

Chairman: C. Moriarty
First Vice-Chairman: M. Brinska
Second Vice-Chairman: K. Pintér
Secretary: R. Welcomme

Sub-Commission I - Biology and Management: T. Brenner (Germany) Chairman; R. Marini (Italy) Vice-Chairman; R. Aaltonen (Finland) Rapporteur.

Sub-Commission II - Aquaculture: H. Ackefors (Sweden) Chairman; L. Varadi (Hungary) Vice-Chairman; J-P. Proteau (France) Rapporteur.

Sub-Commission III - Protection of the Aquatic Resource: R. Müller (Switzerland) Chairman; J. Allardi (France) Vice-Chairman; P. Gérard (Belgium) Rapporteur.

Sub-Commission IV - Social and Economic Issues: I. Cowx (UK) Chairman; L. Kukk (Estonia) Vice Chairman; A. Wolos (Poland) Rapporteur.

As is customary the Executive Committee of EIFAC met at FAO Headquarters, Rome, on 29-30 April 1997 to formulate the Prospectus of the Symposium on Water for Sustainable Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture which will accompany the 20th Session of the Commission. The Committee also reviewed progress with the activities of the Sub-Commissions.

NEWS FROM THE SUB-COMMISSIONS

Sub-commission I

Working Group on Eel

The Second Session of the Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eel took place from 23 to 27 September 1996 in Ijmuiden (Netherlands). The Session was attended by 41 persons from 29 countries. Thirty-two papers were presented and seven posters exhibited. The Report of the Working Group is being edited for publication as EIFAC Occasional Paper 33. Future activities of the Group will consist in a Symposium on anguillid eels.

Working Group on Electric Fishing

It has not proved possible to organize the proposed Workshop on Harmful Effect of Electric Fishing in France and an alternative venue is being sought. Any Offers?. A literary review on harmful effects of electric fishing is nearly ready for publication either in "Fisheries Management and Ecology" or "Reviews in Fish Biology".

Working Party on Fishing Gear Selectivity

There has been no action in the intersession due to a heavy workload on the part of the Convenor. It was decided to look for an alternative Convenor.

Working Party on Introductions and Stocking

The Proceedings of the Conference on Stocking and Introduction of Fish (Hull, April 1996) have now gone to press with Fishing News Books and should be published in September 1997.

An intersessional Working Party meeting has been organized in conjunction with the Fifteenth European Ichthyological Congress (Trieste, Italy, 25-27 August 1997).

Working Party on Brackish-water Fisheries and Aqua-culture

A meeting of the Working Party in collaboration with EAM took place from 6 to 8 February 1996 in Messolonghi, Greece. The Convenor is now looking for financial support from the European Union for an expanded programme for the Mediterranean Region.

Synopsis on *Alosa alosa* and *Alosa fallax*

Mr. M.W. Aprahamian's draft will be completed by the end of 1997. The production of the final version is planned for 1998. This is proposed for publication in the FAO Species Synopsis series.

Maps on Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality

In response to the request of the 19th Session the Secretariat had asked countries to submit any maps of fish distribution and water quality available in Europe. Five countries have replied and maps were available for individual regions in Germany and Italy. These maps were all very different in approach



Field visit associated with the 19th Session in Dublin

and it would be difficult to summarize them at this stage. They could perhaps be completed with a pan-European guide to fishes. Although this approach may prove expensive, an alternative would be to update the EIFAC Technical Paper 52 "The Inland Fisheries of Europe", including much of the mapping and fish distribution information. The Convenor of the Sub-Commission agreed to raise these alternatives at the 20th Session.



Sub-commission II

Fish Diseases and their Control

The forthcoming *ad hoc* Meeting of the Working Party on Fish Diseases and their Control should be held in conjunction with the EAFP International Conference to be held in Edinburgh in September 1997. Dr. R. Richards, Convenor of the Working Party, is currently following up on this proposal.

Fish and Crustacean Nutrition

It has been proposed that the fish and crustacean nutrition training course, targeted to the needs of the Eastern European countries, be held in 1998 at the Fisheries Research Institute in Szarvas, Hungary. At present efforts are being made by Z. Jeney to locate funds for the implementation of the training course.

Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture

It was decided that the Working Party be postponed to 4 days in February 1998 in Berlin, in order to allow countries to make provisions for travel. At the Dublin meeting in 1996 it was decided that the Convenor of the Working Party would send out a questionnaire on aquaculture and water resources. This was sent out in July 1996 and a reminder was sent in January 1997. As of April only seven countries have sent their reports to the Convenor who would send out a further letter by the end of May to solicit a reply from non-reporting countries. The second part of the original questionnaire will be sent out in September for return by the end of January to be available at the Working Party.

Sub-commission III

Ad hoc Expert Consultation on Accumulated Toxicants in Fish

A report had been received from Ms. Z. Svobodová which is mainly limited to the Czech Republic and adjacent countries. It was felt that this should be expanded, in particular because of increasing concerns about mercury and in some areas caesium. It was therefore recommended that this activity be continued in the next biennium.

Working Party on Effects of Physical Modifications of the Aquatic Habitat on Fish Populations

Dr. H. Lehtonen will convene the sub-group of this Working Party on Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs.

The publication of the "Manual of River Rehabilitation Methods for Fish" prepared by the Working Party and edited by R. Welcomme and I. Cowx is expected for Summer 1997 by Blackwells.

A Third Meeting of the Working Party will be organized in conjunction with the International Symposium on Management and Ecology of River Fisheries in March 1998 in Hull.

Influence of Management Practices on the Environment

No progress has been made with this Working Group as the status of the Convenor was unclear. The Chairman of the Sub-Commission will try to find a Convenor to reactivate it.

Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation

No activity has been recorded in this Working Group other than the attendance of the Convenor, E. Staub, at a Conference on Cormorants. R. Müller agreed to contact Staub with a view to clarifying future activities.

Sub-commission IV

Recreational fisheries

The Proceedings of the Symposium held as part of the 19th Session are now with the publishers and should appear by October 1997. The Convenor, P. Hickley, is organizing an intersessional meeting in France together with D. Viard.

Education in fisheries management

No progress has been made with this group and the need for its continuation was questioned in view of changing priorities. The 20th Session should review this Working Group with a view to its abolition.

Resolution of conflicts within river basins

This topic will be a focus of the forthcoming Symposium on River Fisheries (Hull, 1998) and the Symposium on Water for Sustainable Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries (Portugal 1998).

Data base on social and economic information

In view of the undefined nature of the recommendations made by the 19th Session of EIFAC on this topic, the activity will be renamed "Social and Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries" and will focus on one of the following: valuation of inland fisheries; externalities; opportunity costs or partnerships in management.

Survey of Legislation Concerning the Aquatic Environment

Ms. A. van Houtte, of the FAO Legal Office, has continued to collect the relevant information for the Survey of Legislation concerning the Aquatic Habitat. The evaluation is making some progress and it is hoped to complete the report by mid-1997 and to publish it in the "EIFAC Occasional Papers" Series.

ORGANIZATION OF TWENTIETH SESSION OF EIFAC

The Government of Portugal has invited EIFAC to hold its 20th Session in Portugal for 10 days sometime between 15 June and 15 July.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Luxembourg has formally expressed its wish to become a member of EIFAC, bringing the total membership to 32 members including the EC.

EIFAC MAILING LIST

The mailing list has not been updated for three years. The relevant sections of the mailing list will be sent to the National Correspondents requesting inclusion of new names and elimination of old ones.

SYMPOSIUM ON WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Portugal, June 1998

First announcement and call for papers

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The prime objective of the Symposium is to establish the place of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the context of water management. The Symposium should focus on institutional, administrative and legal instruments for a fair allocation of water to these sectors. The Symposium aims at examining the requirement for water for inland fisheries and aquaculture, the social, economic and policy dimension of water use with particular reference to inland fisheries and aquaculture.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium will be conducted in English. It will consist of six consecutive sessions held over a period of four days in June 1998:

A. Assessment of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of water resources

This session shall focus on hydrological characteristics of lakes (natural and man-made), rivers and canals, and the sub-regional variation in per capita availability of water. Apart from growing pressure in quantitative terms, the vulnerability of the resource associated with pollution load will be examined to pinpoint (threats of) reduced use options of water. Case studies should illuminate how these

major aspects of the water resource may be identified and interpreted in the context of river basins and/or in other representative areas (within the EIFAC region).

B. Water requirements of inland aquaculture systems

In this session, the quantity, quality and availability of water required in aquaculture will be discussed for various technologies, grouped according to the degree of intensification into high-technology systems on land, intensive aquaculture (e.g. cages), semi-intensive aquaculture (ponds), extensive aquaculture (ponds), and integrated systems (e.g. rice-cum-fish culture).

C. Water requirements for inland fisheries

This session will address quality, quantity and seasonality of water supplies in support of commercial and recreational fisheries. Case histories for lakes, reservoirs, rivers and canals will be considered. Particular attention will be devoted to in-stream flow and other methodologies for evaluating the needs of fish communities for water. Impact on fish of altered flow regimes in natural, degraded and rehabilitated systems will also be considered.

D. Water resources issues and conflicts

The Session will discuss interactions with other users of water, in particular, competition for water, conflicts arising from multiple-use of water, and ways of cooperation between users of water, e.g. agriculture, hydropower companies, and urban supplies. As charges for water use are becoming increasingly common in Europe, schemes such as the Polluter Pay Principle (PPP) will be explored.

E. Strategic planning of water resources

The water policies with regard to development, allocation and use in various countries will be presented in this Session. Institutional arrangements needed at regional and national level for negotiating fisheries interests in the process of water resources allocation will be described. Case studies for successes in appropriate water resources planning and pollution reduction will also be included.

F. Conclusions and recommendations

3. PARTICIPATION

Persons intending to participate in this Symposium are requested to indicate their interest to the EIFAC Secretariat as soon as possible. Further information regarding accommodation, etc., will be sent to prospective participants later.

4. INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Participants are invited to submit written papers to the Symposium. Authors should send an **abstract of their proposed paper** (minimum 200, maximum 400 words, and including the author's full address), in English, to the Convenor of the Symposium and to the Technical Secretary of the Symposium (see Section 5) **before 30 September 1997**.

Authors can state their preference for one of the following means of presentation: (a) a short oral presentation (10-15 minutes), (b) discussion by an expert panel, (c) poster display. The Symposium Steering Committee reserves the right to reallocate the form of presentation depending on the number of papers submitted.

Authors should indicate the Topic, as listed in Section 2, which best describes the subject matter of their paper. The Steering Committee reserves the right to alter this allocation, depending in part on the nature of the contributions received.

Authors will receive confirmation of the acceptance of their paper as soon as possible after the deadline for the receipt of abstracts. They will also receive full details of format required. It is the intention of the Steering Committee that those papers meeting the required standard be published.

5. CONTACT ADDRESSES

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

FAO Fisheries Report No. 541 - Report of the Nineteenth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, Dublin, Ireland, 11-19 June 1996

FAO Fisheries Report No. 541 Supplement - Reports of the Symposium on Social, Economic and Management Aspects of Recreational Fisheries and the Intersessional Working Parties' Meetings

EIFAC OP32 - Report of the Workshop on Recreational Fishery Planning and Management Strategies in Central and Eastern Europe, Zilina, Slovakia, 22-25 August 1995

EIFAC OP33 - European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission and International Council for the Exploration of the Sea: Report of the Second Session of the Joint Working Group on Eel, Ijmuiden, the Netherlands, 23-27 September 1996 (in print)



The Ardnacrusa dam



Roscrea fish hatchery



"Fish ladder !!!"

MEETINGS

The International Symposium and Workshop on "Management and Ecology of River Fisheries", organized by Hull International Fisheries Institute, University of Hull, England, in collaboration with European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC), will be held in Hull (UK) from **29 March 3 April 1998**.