

April 2007



منظمة الأغذية
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para la
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y la
Alimentación

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES (RECOFI)

Fourth Session

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 7 - 9 May 2007

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

MONDAY, 7 MAY 2007

Morning: 09.00 hours

1. Opening of the Session

The outgoing Chairperson will call the Session to order and invite the guest of honour, representative of the hosting country, to address the meeting. The Chairperson will next ask the officer representing FAO to provide an outline of the issues that will be of major concern during the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session

The meeting will review the provisional Agenda (document RECOFI/2007/1) for possible amendments and proceed to its adoption. Next it will elect a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Secretary of the Commission will inform the meeting of the arrangements for the Session and propose a timetable for the presentation and discussion of the adopted Agenda.

3. General discussion on regional issues of concern

Country Representatives will present summarized statements emphasizing the status of major stocks, aquaculture activities, joint operations, constraints encountered and future programmes. It is expected that the presentations will also place emphasis on regional aspects concerning harmonization of data collection and analysis and stress the importance of research and studies at regional level.

4. Review of the inter-sessional activities recommended by the Third Session

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/2007/2: Review of inter-sessional activities 2005-2007. The document reviews the major recommendations and relating activities implemented in the period between the Third and the Fourth Sessions (May 2005 to May 2007). The meeting will be invited to evaluate the progress in the implementation of the inter-sessional activities, identify the constraints encountered and provide guidance for the planning and implementation of its Programme of Work with the view of facilitating future operations.

Afternoon: 14.00 hours**5. Aquaculture in the RECOFI area****5.1 Statement on the outcome of the 3rd WGA back-to-back meeting**

The Chairperson of the RECOFI Working Group on Aquaculture will outline the major outcomes of the 3rd WGA Session that was held in Jeddah during 5-6 May, back-to-back with the Commission's 4th Session.

5.2 Progress in the development of the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS)

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/2007/3 and will report on progress in the development of the Regional Aquaculture System (RAIS). It will then present for comments the system components so far developed and their basic functions.

5.3 Project to strengthen legal and policy framework for aquaculture in the RECOFI area: Status and follow-up actions

The Chairperson of the WGA will review the status of the project proposal aiming at strengthening legal and policy framework for aquaculture in the RECOFI area. The meeting will be invited to examine the various constraints relating to the implementation of the project and suggest ways and means for resolving the problems.

TUESDAY, 08 MAY 2007**Morning: 09.00 hours****6. Fisheries management issues****6.1 National and regional measures to address IUU fishing**

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major impediment to achieving long-term sustainable fisheries. To date only one RECOFI Member has developed a National Plan of Action (NPOA) to address IUU issues and other Members are urged to do so. The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/2007/4 and draw the attention of Members to the 2005 Report of the FAO Regional Workshop on the elaboration of National Plans of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing: Certain Countries of the Near East Region.

6.2 Guidelines for reporting stock status

Assessment of and reporting on the status of stocks of regional relevance, and the likely effects of further fishing and of different fishing patterns and intensities, is considered a key function of the Commission. The Secretariat will present document RECOFI/2007/5 that proposes guidelines for reporting stock status by RECOFI countries. The Commission is invited to assess the feasibility of the suggested approach and its suitability for national reports on the current status of fisheries resources in the RECOFI area.

7. Fish utilization and marketing issues

7.1 Report on the regional workshop on food safety held in Cairo in April 2007

The Regional Workshop on Fish Food Safety will be held in Cairo during April 2007 and all RECOFI countries have been invited to attend. The Secretariat will present for discussion its major findings and conclusions that are of relevance to RECOFI countries.

7.2 Strengthening communications and networks in the sector of fish marketing and trade

Concerning communications and networks in the sector of fish marketing and trade, this sub-item stems from a recommendation of the 28th Near East Regional Conference (NERC – March 2006), in which all Near East countries (including RECOFI) are encouraged to promote the use of currently available mechanisms and instruments that facilitate the dissemination of information. Member countries will be invited to provide feedback concerning the extent of use of such mechanisms and indicate areas in which improvements are needed.

Afternoon: 14.00 hours

8. Capture fisheries statistics

8.1 Report on the regional workshop on fisheries statistics held in Cairo during 20 - 22 November 2006

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/2007/6 and present a synthesis of the proceedings of the regional workshop on fisheries statistics that was held in Cairo in November 2006 and was attended by all but one RECOFI countries. The meeting will be invited to comment on the major conclusions of the workshop, the majority of which point to short- and medium-term actions for improving the performance of national fisheries statistical systems in the RECOFI area.

8.2 Report on the RECOFI capture production database

The Secretariat will report on the current status of the RECOFI capture production database, indicate basic catch trends and distribute last update electronic copies as of April 2007.

9. Rebuilding and rehabilitating of fisheries infrastructure and institutions in Iraq

This Agenda item stems from the 28th Near East Regional Conference (NERC – March 2006). One of its recommendations calls upon FAO to encourage RECOFI countries to promote measures for rebuilding and rehabilitating the fisheries infrastructure and institutions in Iraq. RECOFI countries will be invited to examine alternate means for the formulation of technical assistance proposals.

10. Strategic issues and challenges for RECOFI

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/2007/7 that aims to stimulate a reflection on the role of the RECOFI and its future. The Committee is invited to review and comment on the analysis made on (i) FAO Constitutional position vis á vis its Regional Fishery Bodies, (ii) the importance and *raison d'être* of RECOFI, (iii) the challenges of RECOFI within a context that requires better interactions between the various stakeholders and, (iv) short- and medium-term activities that are required to strengthen the Commission's impact on the fisheries of the RECOFI area.

11. Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2007-2008

A proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the next inter-sessional period (2007-2008) will be presented by the RECOFI Secretariat. This PWB will reflect the views and priorities as identified by the Technical Meetings and direct contacts with the member countries. A tentative estimate of the costs of the Programme will also be presented.

12. Any other matters

13. Date and place of the Fifth Session

WEDNESDAY, 09 MAY 2007

Morning: Free

Afternoon: 14.00 hours

14. Adoption of the Report