



منظمة الأغذية
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Organización
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES (RECOFI)

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GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING STOCK STATUS

SUMMARY

This paper provides a description of data to be collected that can be used to describe the status of the respective fish stocks exploited in the RECOFI area.

1. National reports should preferably have the following structure:
 - Introduction
 - Status of fisheries resources (Use attached Tables 1 and 2 and provide comments as necessary)
 - Issues or concerns related to the status of fishery resources
 - Recommendations for consideration by the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI)

Notes relating to completion of Table 1

2. **Background:** The purpose of this table is to enable the Commission to examine and report on the current status of fisheries resources in the Commission area using information from as many sources as possible obtained from member countries as well as collaboration with relevant competent regional organisations and regional NGOs. This will allow an assessment and report to the Commission on the status of stocks of relevance to the Commission and the likely effects of further fishing and of different fishing patterns and intensities”.

The term “stocks of relevance to the Commission” is broad and includes transboundary/straddling stocks, as well as stocks of species that are found in more than one country.

Table fields

3. The following notes provide guidance for completing Table 1.

Species: Provide the scientific name – genus and trivial name, e.g. *Penaeus semisulcatus*.

Stock: If there are more than one stocks of the species for which assessments are done, provide the name of the stock unit.

Transboundary and/or straddling stock: Indicate with a “T” if the stock extends to the waters of an adjacent country; indicate with an “S” if the range of the stock extends beyond the EEZ to the high seas; use EEZ if the stock is entirely within national territory or jurisdiction.

Abundance: If an absolute estimate of stock abundance exists, i.e. x tonnes, indicate with a “✓”; if not use an “×”. If a relative index of abundance exists, e.g. a catch-per-unit-effort measure, or trend, likewise use a “✓”; or “×” otherwise.

Current biomass: If there is a current estimate of stock biomass (i.e. estimated within the last 12 months) provide the biomass value in tonnes. It will be useful to indicate how the biomass was estimated.

Unfished biomass: The ‘unfished’ biomass is the biomass of the stock before fishing started. If this is known, indicate. Again, be able to provide supporting comments if appropriate.

Stock status

- U:** Underexploited, undeveloped or a new fishery. Believed to have a significant potential for expansion.
- M:** Moderately exploited, exploited with a low level of fishing effort. Believed to have some limited potential for expansion in total production.
- F:** Fully exploited. The fishery is operating at, or close to, an optimum yield, with no expected room for expansion.
- O:** Overexploited. The fishery is being exploited at above a level that is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse.
- D:** Depleted. Catches are well below historical levels, irrespective of the amount of fishing effort exerted.
- R:** Recovering. Catches are again increasing from after having been depleted or collapsing from a previous high.

Fishing mortality: If the current fishing mortality is estimated, please indicate, otherwise mark with a “x”. Likewise for fishing the estimated mortality at “MSY”.

Detailed stock assessment information

4. Table 2 provides an opportunity to provide more detailed information.

Table 2
Detailed Stock Assessment Indicator

Fishery Management Unit:

| | | Estimate | Comment |
|----------------|--|----------|---|
| Biomass | Unfished stock biomass (B_0) | | Exists? How estimated? |
| | Current stock biomass (B_{SB}) | | Note how estimated, e.g. trawl, acoustic survey? Stock Structure models – VPAs and derivatives |
| | Spawning stock biomass (B_{SSB}) | | Biomass of mature individuals |
| | Biomass giving MSY (B_{MSY}) | | |
| | Biomass at minimum SSB | | Minimum SSB is a limit reference point at which lower stock biomasses levels are considered highly undesirable. |
| | Target biomass | | What level of biomass provides a target reference point. |
| Mortality | Natural mortality (M) | | |
| | Fishing mortality (F) at MSY (F_{MSY}) | | |
| | $F_{0.1}$ | | Or some other fishing effort reference unit |
| | Current F | | |
| Fishing effort | Fishing Effort | | Indicate units of fishing effort ; provide time series |
| | Technological creep | | Analysis of changes in fishing power over time |
| | Fishing effort at MSY (F_{MSY}) | | |
| | Fishing effort at reference level of fishing mortality (F_{Ref}) | | |
| | Recruitment measure/index | | Implies some means of determining recruitment exists. |
| Yield | Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) | | Indicate model(s) used to provide the estimate |
| | Optimum Yield | | May involved economic (and/or social) considerations |
| | Total allowable catch (TAC) or effort (TCE) | | This should be the most recent value. |
| | Year when current MSY was determined | | |
| | Year when current TAC/TCE was determined | | |