



**RECOFI Workshop on Spatial Planning for Marine  
Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Doha, Qatar  
24–28 October 2010**



## **Workshop prospectus**

### **Background**

The application of sustainable fisheries management practices, such as the ecosystem approach to fisheries, can be greatly improved by the availability of credible and timely information on biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects, including their spatial distribution, and may form the basis for identification of effective measures to reduce negative impacts. The last session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) recommended that a joint workshop between the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) and the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) concerning the use of spatial planning tools (i.e. geographical information system, remote sensing and mapping) for marine capture fisheries and aquaculture should be undertaken, with the main focus being to conduct an assessment of spatial planning tools in the region, focusing on the issues and needs of both marine capture fisheries and aquaculture. The WGFM further identified training exercises on the handling of national data as an essential requisite to raise awareness and enhance spatial analytical capacity in the region.

Aquaculture is a food production sub-sector receiving considerable attention for its ability to assist in filling the growing fish supply gap. However, aquaculture cannot be practiced everywhere; it requires a unique set of natural, social and economic resources. These resources must be wisely used if the development of the sub-sector is to be sustainable. The RECOFI WGA concurs that recommending and finding sites for fish cage farming or other aquatic practices in the region has been and will be a challenge for the authorities and the industry. The WGA further acknowledge that coastal zoning through the use of appropriate spatial tools would allow the identification and possible allocation of specific geographical areas for aquaculture practices, particularly in those countries that have limited natural resources which are in high demand by competing users. Furthermore, zoning would also simplify the process of farm site selection, and the results of such zoning could also be matched to other demands on the marine space.

**Purpose:** The objectives of the workshop are to:

- (i) undertake a technical seminar on important and emerging issues concerning spatial planning.
- (ii) present the outcomes of the survey on regional spatial planning for marine capture fisheries and aquaculture;
- (iii) prepare and finalize a proposal and an initial action plan for a regional spatial planning development programme based on the outcomes of the regional survey, workshop brainstorming and deliberation;

**Approach:** The approach designed for this workshop is the formulation of a regional strategy to lay a solid foundation for the future use of spatial tools in the region. However, training will be provided during the workshop in the form of lectures and discussions, and additional more detailed hands-on training would be a subsequent stage as one of the key recommendations to the workshop.

**Participation:** The regional workshop will be attended by representatives of the eight RECOFI member countries (Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), FAO staff and selected technical staff of relevant GIS centres in Qatar. Attendance of the workshop is open to the WGA and WGFM focal points, but more importantly to relevant experts in the specific subject area (whether or not they are with the ministries/authorities relevant to the fisheries/aquaculture sector).



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**Process:** Plenary presentations, working group discussions, field trip (refer to Provisional Programme).

**Products:**

- RECOFI Regional Spatial Planning for Marine capture fisheries and aquaculture Survey Report.
- Draft proposal for a regional spatial planning development programme including activities at short-, medium- and long-term timeframe. This will provide possible national and regional recommendations for actions and targeted activities that will either (1) require funding, thus for consideration at the next RECOFI Session in May 2011 and/or (2) may be funded independently by single RECOFI member countries.
- Awareness and capacity building on spatial planning.
- Regional workshop report.

Further information (hotel venue, participant list, and other logistic arrangements) on the workshop will be circulated as soon as available; any specific inquiries can be done by writing to:

**Workshop organizers**

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**SHORT BIOGRAPHIES**

**FAO GIS TECHNICAL STAFF**

**José Aguilar-Manjarrez** (or Pepe Aguilar) – Ph.D. (1992-1996) and MSc (1991-1992) in Aquaculture planning and GIS from the University of Stirling in Scotland. Graduated in Oceanography in 1989 from the Faculty of Marine Sciences in Ensenada, Baja California Mexico. Thirteen years with the FAO/UN Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, first as a visiting scientist (1996-1998) then as a consultant (1998-2000) and from 2001 to date as a Fishery Resources Officer at the Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service (FIMA). His responsibilities at FAO-FIMA from 2001 to date cover two different areas: (i) GIS related activities and (ii) assistance to field projects on rural aquaculture in a number of countries in Latin America and Africa. Activities specific to GIS have broadly included: (a) the development of methodologies, technical papers, reviews and training materials on GIS applications to aquaculture such as FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 458 ([www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0906e/a0906e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0906e/a0906e00.htm)); (b) the construction of geo-referenced information systems like GISFish ([www.fao.org/fishery/gisfish](http://www.fao.org/fishery/gisfish)); and (c) the formulation, implementation and review of field projects that have a GIS and/or remote sensing component. Main current interest is in GIS and remote sensing approaches for estimating the potential for offshore aquaculture.

**Fabio Carocci**. FAO Fisheries Information Assistant, Fisheries Management and Conservation Service (FIMF). Graduated at the University of Rome in geological sciences, he has been engaged in the computer science applied to geography and cartography. His career has led him to specialize increasingly in the development of GIS data and applications to support the analysis of status of marine fish resources and formulation of fisheries management plan at international levels. He has also provided technical support to a number of field projects with GIS components at national and regional levels in different areas of the world. He has gained experience with training in GIS with particular emphasis on marine fisheries management, targeting different levels of expertise, from courses for postgraduates to seminars for fisheries managers. He is currently focusing on the development of principles and guidelines for the application of GIS in an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.



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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

**James McDaid KAPETSKY** - Is the founder and secretary-treasurer of Consultants in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences and Technologies, Inc., Leland NC, USA that has been in business since 1999. As a senior fisheries resources officer in the FAO Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service (now the Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service) he specialized in promoting the use of GIS, remote sensing and mapping applications in aquaculture and inland fisheries beginning in the early 1980s. After taking early retirement in 1999 he continued working in the same subject area mainly on contract to FAO but with other assignments with the US Agency for International Development and Hatfield Consultants, Ltd. In recent years he has focused on spatial approaches to improving estimates of marine aquaculture potential particularly in the open ocean. Kapetsky is an editor of GISFish, an FAO portal dedicated to spatial tools in fisheries and aquaculture (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/gisfish/index.jsp>), author of book chapters on GIS in aquaculture and inland fisheries, respectively, and a co-author with Dr. J. Aguilar-Manjarez of a number of FAO Fisheries Technical Papers (FTP), an FAO Workshop Proceeding, symposium proceedings and symposium presentations. The most recent symposium presentation was Spatial data needs for the development and management of open ocean aquaculture ([www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/sessions/Thurs/H08\\_Kapetsky.pdf](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/sessions/Thurs/H08_Kapetsky.pdf)), the most recent FTP is GIS Remote Sensing and Mapping for the Development and Management of Marine Aquaculture ([www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0906e/a0906e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0906e/a0906e00.htm)) and Spatial perspectives on open ocean aquaculture potential in the US eastern Exclusive Economic Zones has been submitted for publication.

**Geoff Meaden** - In 2008, Geoff retired from his post as Principal Lecturer in geography at Canterbury Christ Church University in the UK. Geoff completed a first degree and Masters degree in London University. His Ph.D. was on seeking “Optimum locations for fresh water fish farms in England and Wales”. He has done a number of assignments for FAO and he is still doing assignments for FAO to date. At the University he ran a “Fisheries GIS Unit” for 12 years. This unit has done a large number of small research projects. If you go to ‘Google – Scholar’ on your computer and type “Fisheries GIS” he is given as the leading author in this field. Geoff was the lead author of two key publications at FAO which are still relevant and in great demand: Meaden and Kapetsky, 1991 ([www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/T0446E/T0446E00.HTM](http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/T0446E/T0446E00.HTM)) and Meaden and Do Chi, 1996 ([www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/W0615E/W0615E00.HTM](http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/W0615E/W0615E00.HTM)).