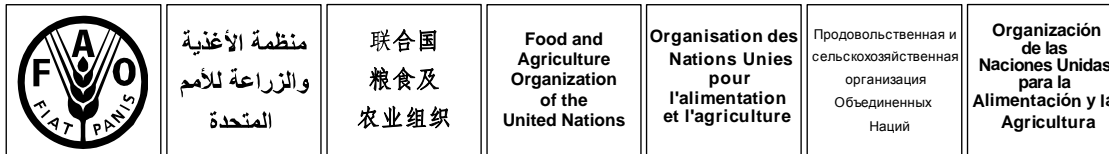


October 2012



## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

### Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Doha, Qatar, 5-8 November 2012

#### UPDATE OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2013-2014 FOR THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to review the implementation of projects agreed at the sixth session of RECOFI. Subsequently, the fifth meeting of RECOFI WGFM considered the projects and agreed on how and when they would be implemented. Good progress has been made with the six projects agreed by RECOFI for implementation. Only one project has not been implemented owing to a lack of funds (pilot joint assessment of narrow-bared Spanish mackerel and workshop on the utilization of fisheries-dependent data).

#### The WGFM is invited to:

- review the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Prioritized Regional Activities for Fisheries Management in Appendix 1 to ascertain if changes should be introduced in relation to prioritized objectives, regional activities, regional projects (including the deletion of existing projects or the inclusion of new projects), indicative costs, ranking and major project outputs, for the 2013-14 biennium; and
- consider the outlook the consequences for a lack of RECOFI funding and its implications for the WGFM activities and regional projects.

#### BACKGROUND

1. The fifth meeting of RECOFI's WGFM was held in Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of), from 9 to 12 October 2011. *Inter alia*, the Working Group addressed the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, the implementation of approved WGFM projects, and the impact of inadequate funding on the WGFM programme of work.

2. The purpose of this document is to review and update, as appropriate, (i) the Regional Strategy and Prioritized Activities for Regional Fisheries Management, (ii) progress with the implementation of approved activities by the WGFM, and determine priority projects for implementation during 2012-2013.

3. The draft RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan for 2012–13, is in Appendix 1.

## **REVIEW OF REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZED ACTIVITIES FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS**

### **Regional Strategy and Prioritized Regional Activities for Regional Fisheries Management**

4. The framework Regional Strategy was streamlined at the fifth WGFM meeting (2011). It was considered that the Regional Strategy remained relevant to the fisheries conservation and management needs of RECOFI Members.

5. There are five prioritized objectives underpinning the WGFM's activities, as agreed by the Working Group, are to:

- Implement effective fisheries management through regional cooperation and harmonization, including share stocks and fisheries of common interest, based on the ecosystem approach;
- Facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the capacity to implement sustainable fisheries;
- Promote legal discussion and review and revise fisheries legislation for harmonizing fisheries management, reflecting international instruments;
- Reflect social values and economic considerations in small-scale fisheries; and
- Coordinate and promote information exchange and fish trade in the RECOFI area.

These objectives are compact, yet comprehensive, reflecting the scope and broad areas of fisheries management and governance work that RECOFI Members wish to pursue.

6. Appendix 1 shows the prioritized objectives, prioritized regional activities, regional projects, indicative costs, ranking and major outputs. The projects approved for implementation at the WGFM fifth meeting have been deleted from the Appendix 1 and are reflected in Appendix 2.

7. The WGFM should note that prioritized objective number 4 (social values and economic considerations in small-scale fisheries) currently has no project attached to it. In keeping with past practice unless a project(s) is/are developed for implementation, the prioritized objective should be deleted at the sixth WGFM meeting.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED WGFM PROJECTS**

8. Appendix 2 shows the regional projects that were approved to be undertaken in the 2011-2012 period and their implementation status.

9. RECOFI (2011) gave highest priority to the funding of a joint Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA)/WGFM project on capacity development for spatial planning and management (RECOFI Technical Workshop on Spatial Planning for Marine Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture). It is the only jointly implemented activity and an ongoing commitment. It will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 25 to 27 November 2012.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The products of the workshop will be a draft proposal of a regional spatial planning development programme outline including preliminary budget estimates that will either require extra-budgetary funding, thus for consideration at the next RECOFI session in May 2013, and/or may be funded independently by single RECOFI Member countries, and a regional workshop report.

10. In addition to the joint project, RECOFI approved, four WGFM projects, in order of priority. These were :

- a) a preparatory exercise for the implementation of minimum data reporting and establishment of a regional database and information network to support management of major fisheries. This work underpins the implementation of the mandatory Resolution RECOFI/6/2011/1 entitled “Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area”. The Resolution took effect on 1 January 2012 (see document RECOFI:WGFM6/2012/4). Information provided by RECOFI Members will be analysed and presented at the sixth WGFM meeting.
- b) a workshop to develop regional management plans with agreed operational objectives and conservation measures for fisheries management. This workshop will be held within the structure of the sixth meeting of the WGFM.
- c) a pilot joint-assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and a workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data. This implementation of this workshop has been delayed because of a lack of funds but will be undertaken if funds become available.
- d) a workshop on social and economic aspects of small-scale fisheries that was held in Bahrain in April 2012 (see document RECOFI: WGFM6/2012/3); and
- e) a regional workshop on bycatch reduction and management and evaluation and promotion of options of gear types with lower ecosystem impacts. This workshop will be undertaken in Kuwait from 9-12 December 2012. It will be funded by RNE.

11. By the end of the 2011-12 biennium the WGFM will have made reasonable progress with the implementation of the projects requested by the last RECOFI session. However, a lack of funds had handicapped the implementation of a pilot joint-assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and a workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data. This is an issue beyond the Secretariat’s control.

12. Looking forward, the Secretariat proposes that the WGFM review Appendix 1, updating it as appropriate, for the 2013-14 biennium.

## Appendix 1

**Draft RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management,  
including a workplan: 2011–12**

STRATEGY: Achieve sound and effective regional fisheries governance by:

- ensuring that fisheries are exploited and utilized in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner;
- ensuring that fisheries generate maximum social and economic benefits for RECOFI countries; and
- ensuring that ecosystem considerations are incorporated into conservation and management decisions.

<b>PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>PRIORITIZED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>REGIONAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)</b>	<b>PROJECT RANKING</b>	<b>MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>
<b>1. To implement effective fisheries management through regional cooperation and harmonization, including shared stocks and fisheries of common interest, based on the ecosystem approach</b>	Development and implementation of information systems to support regional fisheries management plans	Review of national fisheries monitoring programmes	40 000 (Source: TBI)	8	Enhanced national fisheries monitoring programmes to support sustainable fisheries management
		Pilot joint assessment of ecosystem impact of shrimp fisheries	30 000 (Source: TBI)	7	Recommendations and options for assessing ecosystem impacts of shrimp fisheries
	Implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems	Project to implement regionally VMS: phase 1 to ascertain feasibility	30 000 (Source: TBI)	14	Report with recommendations and options concerning the implementation of regional VMS
		Annual regional meeting of MCS officers to exchange information of common	15 000 (Source: TBI)	13	Strengthened approach to addressing regional MCS problems through enhanced cooperation and

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIZED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
		interest and consider the possibility of promoting a harmonized MCS approach			harmonization of activities
	Implementation of measures against illegal, IUU fishing including port States measures and flag State performance criteria	Feasibility study to review development of regional databases of violations, establish a list of vessels authorized to fish by Members and the establishment of an MCS information exchange scheme (refer to FAO/INFOSAMAK priorities)	30 000 (Source: TBI)	10	Options and recommendations to address IUU fishing in a more comprehensive and effective manner
	Promotion of bycatch reduction in support of improved utilization	A study to evaluate and promote options to improve utilization of bycatch	15 000 (Source: TBI)	15	Reduced bycatch in fisheries
<b>2. To facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the</b>	Workshops, country attachments and other training opportunities to enhance human	Applied training programme for fish data collectors for the	25 000 (Source: TBI)	4	Fish data collectors capable of identifying priority species

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIZED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
capacity to implement sustainable fisheries	resource development	identification of priority species			
<b>3. To promote legal discussion and review and revise fisheries legislation for harmonizing fisheries management, reflecting international instruments</b>	Promotion of the acceptance and implementation of international instruments and harmonization of fisheries laws among Members	Comparative analysis of certain legal issues to promote further harmonization of legislation, building on initial work undertaken by RECOFI and taking into consideration other relevant work	20 000 (Source: TBI)	5	Enhanced understanding of requirements to promote greater harmonization of legislation to support regional approaches to fisheries management
<b>4. To reflect social values and economic consideration in small-scale fisheries</b>					
<b>5. To coordinate and promote information exchange and fish trade in the RECOFI Area</b>	Promote better cooperation in regional fish trade including consideration of regional standards for fish exports and imports	Evaluation of certification and related schemes to be investigated together with the relationship between IUU fishing and trade and the estimated value of IUU fishing in the	20 000 (Source: TBI)	12	Enhanced understanding of impacts of certification and related schemes  Assessment of the effects of IUU fishing on trade  Estimation of the value of IUU fishing in the region

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIZED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
		region			
		Workshop to consider regional standards for fish exports and imports as a means of promoting better cooperation and trade	15 000 (Source: TBI)	11	More rigorous standards for fish exports and imports

## RECOFI regional projects to be undertaken in the 2011–12 intersessional period and implementation status

Working Group	Regional projects	Dates	Locations	Duration (days)	Indicative RECOFI cost (USD)	Status (priority approved by RECOFI)	Status of Implementation (10 September 2012)
Joint (with RECOFI WGA)	RECOFI Regional Spatial Planning Development Programme for Marine Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture	25-27 November 2012	Cairo, Egypt	3	25 000	Approved	The survey questionnaire for the spatial planning the workshop were sent out in July 2012. International consultants started analyzing survey responses in September 2012 and will draft a document entitled “Regional Spatial Planning Development Programme for Marine Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture” to be discussed and completed at the workshop.
WGFM	Preparatory exercise for implementation of minimum data requirements and establishment of a regional database and information network to support management of major fisheries	Ongoing until mid-2012	N/A	N/A	20 000	Approved. WGFM priority number 1	Analysis of the information provided by RECOFI Members will be provided to the sixth RECOFI meeting.
WGFM	Workshop to develop regional fisheries management plans with agreed operational objectives for fisheries management	June 2012	United Arab, Emirates	3–4	15 000	Approved. WGFM priority number 2	Workshop will be held within the framework of the sixth RECOFI meeting. Its outcomes will be reflected in the report of the meeting.
WGFM	Pilot joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and workshop on the utilization of	February 2013	Muscat, Oman	4	30 000	Approved. WGFM priority number 3	The workshop will be confirmed depending on availability of funds.

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Regional projects</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Duration (days)</b>	<b>Indicative RECOFI cost (USD)</b>	<b>Status (priority approved by RECOFI)</b>	<b>Status of Implementation (10 September 2012)</b>
	fishery-dependent data						
WGFM	Workshop on social and economic aspects of small-scale fisheries	February 2012	Manama, Bahrain	3-4	10 000	Approved. WGFM priority number 4	Workshop took place from 22 to 24 April 2012 in Manama, Bahrain. It was attended by delegates from four RECOFI Member. A task group was formulated to carry out a regional socio-economic work plan. The report is forthcoming.
WGFM	Regional workshop on bycatch reduction and management and evaluation and promotion of options of gear types with lower ecosystem impacts	December 2012	Kuwait City, Kuwait	TBD	15 000	Approved subject to the availability of funds	Funds were made available by RNE and the workshop is scheduled from 9 to 12 December 2012 in cooperation with FIRO