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para la  
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## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

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

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 8-10 December 2014

### Workplan of the RECOFI WGFM for the period 2015-2016

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to (i) consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM, (ii) consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2015-2016.

#### The WGFM is invited to:

- consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM;
- consider whether additional activities should be added in the revised plan of work and to be submitted for endorsement to the Commission at its 8<sup>th</sup> Session in May 2015;
- consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2015-2016, including regional projects, target implementation dates, location, indicative costing, ranking and major outputs.

## BACKGROUND

The seventh session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Kuwait, 5-7 November 2013) reviewed the outcomes of the seventh session of RECOFI's (Tehran, I.R. Iran, 10-12 May 2013) programme of work and budget for the 2013-2014 biennium in relation to the work of the WGFM. This paper builds on that review with the goal of developing a coherent and forward looking set of activities to be implemented in the 2015-2016 biennium, consistent with the terms of reference for the WGFM. For ease of reference the terms of reference for the WGFM are in Appendix 1. They were amended, and then approved, by the fifth session of the Commission in May 2009.

The purpose of this paper is to (i) consider progress with the implementation of activities approved by the Commission for implementation under the guidance of the WGFM, (ii) consider and agree upon a proposed programme of work for the WGFM for the biennium 2015-2016, also including additional activities that could be opportune to add in the plan of work.

## STATUS OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

At its seventh session the Commission approved and ranked by priority order activities submitted for consideration by the WGFM. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the WGFM activities that were approved for implementation.

*Pilot joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and workshop on utilization of fishery-dependent data.*

RECOFI Members acknowledged that the joint assessment bringing together GCC work on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and that of the other RECOFI members such as Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Iraq, and possibly also Pakistan and Yemen would be the first essential step toward establishing effective management for the stock of this species in the RECOFI region and adjacent areas.

The Commission ranked as first priority to carry out the cooperative regional assessment of the kingfish stock in the RECOFI area. Unfortunately and despite the necessary preparatory work was underway, the stock assessment workshop could not be held. Agenda item 4 of this WGFM meeting is devoted to discuss the modalities and options to implement this key-activity (RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/3 is referred).

*Follow-up and monitoring of a regional fisheries management framework*

The seventh WGFM meeting acknowledged the requests for management advice made at the seventh session of RECOFI, in particular for the need to formulate a regional management plan for the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, the advice to further develop concrete management procedures with regards to shrimp trawling, and to formulate specific management advice in relation to fishing effort control, taking into account the particular nature of fisheries and management plans in different countries.

The WGFM recognized that the data collection efforts under the Fisheries Resources Committee of the GCC on the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel could serve as a foundation for the work at the RECOFI level, and the scientists attending the upcoming RECOFI workshop can build on this work, using the data and preliminary work undertaken under the work of the GCC. Moreover, the WGFM concurred that standardization and harmonization of management objectives could be considered, while recognizing that the context may be different for different areas of RECOFI. In parallel, a monitoring scheme, in the form of a project for the whole RECOFI region, would serve to add the formulation and implementation of a management plan.

Consequently to the above, the WGFM agreed that Kuwait should take the lead to formulate management options with regards to shrimp trawling, according to the research currently being undertaken, and can present these for management recommendations to be considered at the eighth meeting of the WGFM, and if appropriate submitted to the eighth plenary session of RECOFI in May 2015. Agenda item 3 of the current eight meeting of WGFM is specifically focused on the Kuwait proposal.

Moreover, the WGFM agreed that within the framework of RECOFI, there is a need to develop a project for the whole of the RECOFI region to support capacity development in stock assessment, building on the current experience of the FAO sub-regional project “Support to capacity development for fishery stock assessment in GCC countries and Yemen (TCP/SNG/3402)”. The FAO Sub-regional Office for GCC Countries and Yemen has formulated a regional to strengthen fishery resources appraisal capacity in the RECOFI area and Yemeni waters.

*Development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing on the basis of the outcome of the IUU FAO/RECOFI workshop that was held in the Sultanate of Oman in 2009*

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has noted the interest expressed by RECOFI Members and countries in the Arabian Sea region in receiving support to understand better and implement port State measures. RECOFI had included in its work plan a workshop on IUU fishing in the Commission’s coverage area and as follow-up to a previous regional review carried out in 2009. The possibility is being explored to expand the envisaged RECOFI workshop on IUU and PSM to include the Arabian Sea countries (approximately 17 countries). Funds have been requested to the FAO global project, funded by Norway, “Support the effective implementation of the 2009 FAO agreement on port State measures to combat IUU fishing” (GCP/GLO/515/NOR). Should the necessary funds be confirmed, tentatively the event could take place during the first quarter of 2015. Agenda Item of the 8<sup>th</sup> WGFM meeting is dedicated this topic (RECOFI/WGFM8/2014/6 is referred).

#### **CONSIDER AND AGREE UPON A PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WGFM FOR THE BIENNIUM 2015-2016**

The WGFM should propose a list of activities to be undertaken between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission. The list of activities should be realistic and achievable, build on past activities to the extent that is possible and promote RECOFI’s strategic goals with respect to fisheries management. The activities need also to be costed accurately and timelines indicated so that their budget implications can be assessed and work programmed in a systematic and orderly manner. Where possible, if an activity is to be implemented with extra-budgetary support, this support should be indicated.

A format for the activities that the WGFM may wish to propose to the Commission for approval is in Appendix 3. Activities that were postponed by the Commission at its last session should be considered in this process.

## APPENDIX 1

**Terms of reference for the Working Group on Fisheries Management<sup>1</sup>****Adopted as amended**

The Working Group on Fisheries Management shall, taking into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments, as appropriate:

1. Exercise the role and functions conferred on the Working Group by RECOFI including the consideration of biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects of fisheries conservation and management with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of resources in the region, and
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to RECOFI. Specifically, the Working Group on Fisheries Management shall:
  - Review the state of fisheries, including the state of resources, making recommendations for appropriate research and development activities in support of effective management and sustainable fisheries, as well as the rebuilding of stocks.
  - Review on a regular basis national statistical systems and outturns, as appropriate, to enhance and harmonize fisheries data on a regional basis.
  - Formulate recommendations for the implementation of conservation and management measures that will be applied in conformity with the precautionary approach to fisheries, taking account of the best scientific evidence available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of fisheries resources.
  - Assess the need for harmonized conservation and management measures on a scientific basis and formulate recommendations as appropriate, including to but not limited to:
    - regulate fishing methods and fishing gear;
    - prescribe minimum sizes for particular species;
    - establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas;
    - implement marine protected areas;
    - regulate bycatch and discards;
    - prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
    - manage fishing capacity;
    - regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members; and
    - market-based measures.
  - Identify major fishery-related issues and emerging trends for fisheries management practice, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for follow-up action.
  - Identify and apply, as appropriate, a set of regionally-agreed indicators for sustainable fisheries development.

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<sup>1</sup> The terms of reference incorporate relevant aspects of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments as well as the fisheries management provision of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. They are forward looking in character, adaptable and able to deal with emerging issues in fisheries. They are intended to be a “living document” that can be reviewed and amended by the Working Group to take account of changing fisheries conditions.

- Promote closer regional cooperation and collaboration in fisheries conservation and management, including through coordinated and harmonized policies and programmes relating to fisheries legislation, acceptance and implementation of international fisheries instruments, adoption of fisheries and management measures and monitoring, control and surveillance including vessels monitoring systems.
- Monitor and report on adverse impacts induced by human-made activities on fisheries and their long-term sustainable management and utilization, as appropriate, and make recommendations concerning remedial measures and action.
- Encourage human capacity building and institutional strengthening and enhance extension services in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management and utilization, including making recommendations for appropriate regional programmes.
- Assemble, publish and disseminate information concerning the state of the region's fisheries.
- Promote collaboration with other regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the sustainable fisheries management and utilization in the region.
- Undertake other activities relating to fisheries management considered important and appropriate by the Working Group or as directed by RECOFI.

3. The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time to time and make recommendations for their amendment, as appropriate, to RECOFI.

## APPENDIX 2

## Programme of Work and Budget 2013–2014

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Priority as at seventh session of RECOFI
WGFM	Pilot joint assessment of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and workshop on the utilization of fishery-dependent data	September 2013	Muscat, Oman	3-4	30 000	Priority 1
WGFM	Follow-up and monitoring of a regional fisheries management framework	November 2014	Iran	3	15 000	Priority 2
WGFM	Development of a regional programme to address IUU fishing on the basis of the outcome of the IUU FAO/RECOFI workshop that was held in the Sultanate of Oman in 2009	May 2014	Iran	3	20 000	Priority 3
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>65 000</b>	
WGFM	7th WGFM	Oct 2013	Kuwait (TBC)	3	TBD	Annual meeting
WGFM	8th WGFM	Oct 2014	TBD	3	TBD	Annual meeting

## APPENDIX 3

Format for the activities that the WGFM may wish to propose to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for approval in May 2015

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
WGFM	9th WGFM					
WGFM						
WGFM						