



REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Ninth meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management

Kuwait, State of Kuwait, 24-26 November 2015

Current work on RECOFI Priority Species

Executive Summary

This working document provides a brief background of the establishment of the list of RECOFI priority species as well as acts as a template for which member countries can complete, adding the requested information as available. This completed template will be used to inform the discussion on what scientific work is being undertaken at the national level, and possibly highlight research activities that countries are doing which is complementary to each other.

The WGFM is invited to:

- review the filled template with particular attention to information of common regional relevance;
- identify areas for scientific cooperation to improve the knowledge base of RECOFI priority species whose stocks support fisheries of common interest in the region .

Background

1. At the second meeting of the WGFM held in Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 October 2008, the Working Group proceeded with an identification and listing of priority species whose stock(s) supported fisheries of common interest to ensure coherency and to facilitate future work. The meeting agreed that the stocks of the key species, supported a main reference fisheries in the RECOFI area and should be given priority consideration at regional level. The Working Group proposed that the list of priority species be kept under review.

2. At the WGFM Workshop on fishery stock indicators and stock status, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26-29 July 2009, some of the recommendations of this workshop included:

- members to report stock assessment results and estimates of biological parameters for stocks of interest to the Secretariat and the Commission;
- member countries to provide information on survey plans and protocols prior to the survey and their results of survey on its conclusion to the Secretariat/WGFM who should distribute information to relevant institutes; and

- consider the development of joint studies on evaluation of impacts of stock enhancement including artificial reefs, and guidance regarding areas suitable for the deployment of artificial reefs.

3. The list of priority species was modified a number of times since it was originally proposed and the most recent changes were endorsed at the eighth session of RECOFI held in Muscat, Oman 12-14 May 2015. This table is included below as Table 1.

Table 1: List of RECOFI Priority Species

FAO name	ASFIS code	Common name	Scientific name
Green Tiger Prawn	TIP	Green Tiger Prawn	<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>
Blue swimming crabs	SCD	Blue swimming crab	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>
Pharaoh cuttlefish	IAH	Cuttlefish	<i>Sepia pharaonis</i>
Stolephorus anchovies	STO	Anchovies	<i>Stolephorus</i> spp.
Indian oil sardine	IOS	Indian oil sardine	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>
Bludger	NGY	Jacks	<i>Carangoide gymnostethus</i>
Golden trevally	GLT	Golden trevally	<i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>
Indian mackerel	RAG	Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger Kanagurta</i>
Snubnose emperor	LBW	Orange finned emperor	<i>Lethrinus borbonicus</i>
Pink ear emperor	LTS	Redspot emperor	<i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>
Spangled emperor	LHN	Spangled emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>
Coral hind	CFI	Coral grouper/Bluespotted grouper	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
Orange-spotted grouper	ENI	Orange-spotted grouper	<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>
White-spotted spinefoot	SCN	Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus canaliculatus</i>
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	COM	King mackerel/Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>
Longtail tuna	LOT	Longtail tuna	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>
Kawakawa	KAW	Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>
Requiem sharks nei	RSK	Sharks	Carcharhinidae
Silver pomfret	SIP	Silver pomfret	<i>Pampus argenteus</i>
Hilsa shad	HIL	Indian shad	<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>
King soldier bream	KBR	King soldier bream	<i>Argyrops spinifer</i>
Painted sweetlips	DGP	Painted sweetlips	<i>Diagramma pictum</i>
Smalltooth emperor	LEN	Smalltooth emperor	<i>Lethrinus microdon</i>
Indian white prawn	PNI	Indian white prawn	<i>Penaeus indicus</i>

Current work on RECOFI priority species: a template

4. In order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on these priority species, including research work related to these species and their stocks in the region, a template is provided below, which countries can complete to update the WGFM on ongoing work on the priority species. An example is provided for the sake of ease in filling out the template with the relevant information.

Species	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
Example Indian oil sardine <i>Sardinella longiceps</i>	Biomass estimate; Stock spatial distribution	Marine Reseach Institute	Acoustic survey; Mid-water trawling; Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea; Monthly commercial catch sampling	Biomass estimate; Biomass size composition; Stock spatial occurrent; Commercial catch age/size composition
Green Tiger Prawn <i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>					
Blue swimming crabs <i>Portunus pelagicus</i>					
Pharaoh cuttlefish <i>Sepia</i> <i>pharaonis</i>					
Stolephorus anchovies <i>Stolephorus</i> spp.					
Indian oil sardine <i>Sardinella longiceps</i>					
Bludger <i>Carangoide</i> <i>gymnostethus</i>					
Golden trevally <i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>					
Indian mackerel <i>Rastrelliger Kanagurta</i>					
Snubnose emperor <i>Lethrinus borbonicus</i>					
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Longtail tuna <i>Thunnus tonggol</i>					
Kawakawa <i>Euthynnus affinis</i>					
Requiem sharks nei Carcharhinidae					
Silver pomfret <i>Pampus argenteus</i>					
Hilsa shad <i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>					
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