



REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

April 2015

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In memory of Robin Allen

News from COFI Bureau: follow up of the Bureau meeting and COFI Chair on RSN Chair letter

Dear RSN Colleagues and Friends,

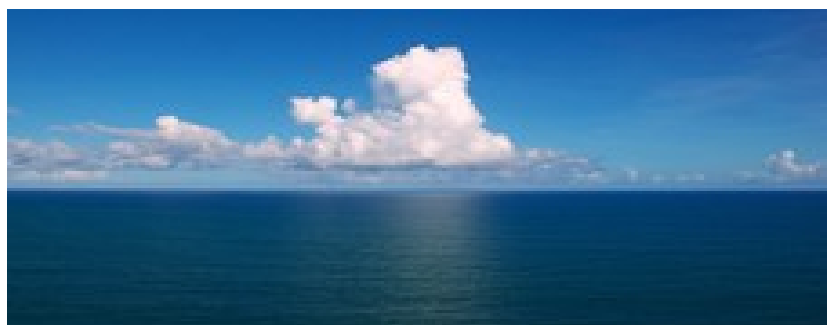
I wish to inform you that, in response to the letter sent by the previous RSN Chair, Mr Andrew Wright to relay the views of the RSN on the presence of RFBs in COFI, the Chair of COFI 32, Mr Fabio Hazin, together with the COFI 32 Bureau agreed to:

- Reinstate name plates for inter-governmental organisations present at COFI;
- Ensure that inter-governmental organisations are given precedence on the Speaker's List ahead of non-governmental organisations;
- Make an electronic version of the List of Meeting Participants available on the COFI meeting webpage, or other suitable facility accessible to meeting participants, on the first day of the meeting; and
- Make an electronic version of the Draft COFI Meeting Report available on the COFI meeting webpage, or other suitable facility accessible to meeting participants, when it is circulated on the last day of the meeting.

We are looking forward to working with you in all the necessary preparations and arrangements leading to the next COFI.

Kind regards,

Piero Mannini, RSN Secretary



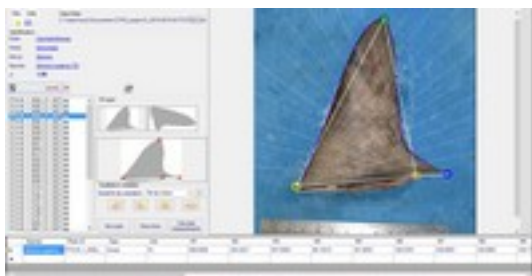
Assistance Fund under Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

What is the Assistance Fund under Part VII?

The Assistance Fund under Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003. This Fund plays an important role in assisting developing States Parties to the UNFSA in the implementation of this instrument. [Continue...](#)

Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

The Capture Fisheries Group of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics of the FAO met in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 25 to 27 February, 2015, and agreed to take steps to develop global information standards for science (e.g., scientific observer) and fisheries management (e.g., Monitoring Control and Surveillance - MCS) with the aim to foster better data harmonization amongst international fisheries bodies, and national fisheries authorities. [Continue...](#)



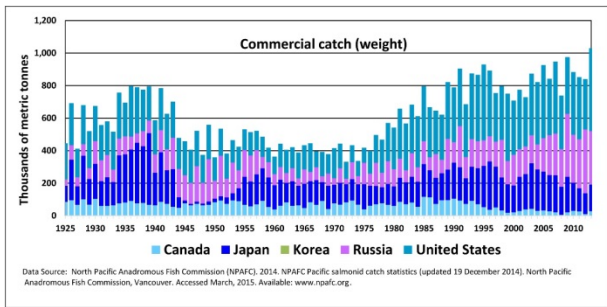
iSharkFin

iSharkFin, an innovative software for the identification of shark species from the fins, has been made available by FAO last January. The software has been developed by FAO in collaboration with the University of Vigo with financial support of the Government of Japan and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). [Continue...](#)



La Pêche dans le Bassin Actif du lac Tchad

L'importance de la pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad est reconnue depuis longtemps. Selon une étude de l'Office de la Recherche Scientifique Technique d'Outre-Mer (ORSTOM) rebaptisé Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) dans les années 70. [Continue...](#)



NPAFC

A time series of Pacific salmon and steelhead catch and hatchery release data from North Pacific salmon-producing countries has been made available by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Commercial catch and hatchery release statistics are available for Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and USA. Sport and subsistence catch data are available for Canada, Russia and USA. [Continue...](#)



OSPESCA

In order to enhance joint cooperation between the MarViva Foundation and the Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America Isthmus (OSPESCA), an Agreement of Understanding was signed, to promote the protection, conservation and rational use of marine resources and fisheries, through a series of actions aimed at combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the member countries of SICA. [Continue...](#)



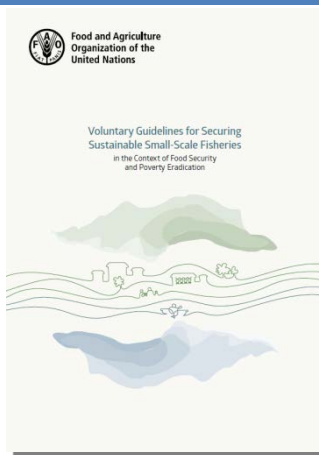
IWC

Last month, the International Whaling Commission attended the fourth annual Whalefest event to call attention to the increasing number of collisions between whales and vessels. As ocean-going traffic increases, so does the risk of collision between ships and whales, and the IWC is raising awareness and support for a long term research and mitigation programme. [Continue...](#)

UN-DOALOS

Updates from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the law of the Sea

In December 2014, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/109 on sustainable fisheries and resolution 69/245 on oceans and the law of the sea. These resolutions both contained important provisions which may be of relevance to the work of regional fishery bodies. Some of the principal developments in this regard are set out below. [Continue...](#)



SSF Guidelines – an international instrument for small-scale fisheries:

What are they and what is the role of regional organizations in their implementation?

[Continue...](#)

Global Conference on Inland Fisheries

In partnership with Michigan State University, FAO hosted two hundred participants at a ground-breaking conference: the first ever meeting held to address the challenges and opportunities for freshwater fisheries on a global scale. The conference, entitled “Freshwater, Fish, and the Future: A cross-sectoral conference to sustain livelihoods, food security, and aquatic ecosystems”, took place 26-28 January at FAO headquarters. [Continue...](#)

ABNJ Capacity Workshop

In partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Global Oceans Forum, FAO hosted over a hundred participants for a Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. Marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) comprise 64 percent of the oceans' surface and contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural importance. [Continue...](#)



Meeting of Regional Fisheries Organizations in ATLAFCO

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), a meeting of coordination and consultation with institutions and organizations involved in Regional Fisheries in ATLAFCO's area of competence, was held on 21- 22 February 2015. [Continue...](#)



Fourth annual meeting of GFCM

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (GFCM/FAO) held the fourth annual meeting of its Working Group on the Black Sea in Tbilisi, Georgia from 9 to 11 March 2015. The meeting was hosted by Georgia, one of the three Black Sea riparian States not yet Members of the GFCM – the other two being the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. [Continue...](#)

Fourth session of CACFish

The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) will hold its fourth session in May 2015. At this Session the Commission will evaluate the progress with the Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) and will discuss for adoption the second-term Work Programme covering the period from 2016 to 2020. The Fourth Session of Commission will adopt, among others, its inter-sessional period work programme, which is expected to include regional workshops, expert group meetings and pilot studies. [Continue...](#)



In memory of Robin Allen

Our colleague and friend Robin Allen passed away on 18 March, 2015, in New Zealand. He was a remarkable person both professionally and personally, respected and cherished, and all those privileged to know him and work with him have only the best of memories. The fishing community has suffered a great loss.

[Continue...](#)



Assistance Fund under Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

What is the Assistance Fund under Part VII?

The Assistance Fund under Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003. This Fund plays an important role in assisting developing States Parties to the UNFSA in the implementation of this instrument.

Is the Fund relevant to the functioning of RFBs?

The Assistance Fund aims, among other things, to support the following activities, which may be of particular interest to regional fisheries bodies and arrangements (RFBs/As) and their related work.

Supporting the travel costs and participation expenses of representatives from developing States Parties to UNFSA in:

- i) the meetings and activities of sub-regional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements; and
- ii) relevant meetings concerning high seas fisheries of relevant global organizations, (e.g. COFI, Review Conference on the UNFSA).

Supporting ongoing and future negotiations to:

- i) establish new regional or subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in areas where such bodies are not currently in place;
- ii) renegotiate founding agreements for such organizations and arrangements (e.g. implementing the decisions emerging from performance reviews); and
- iii) strengthen existing subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with UNFSA.

Building capacity for activities in key areas such as:

- i) flag State responsibilities and monitoring, control and surveillance
- ii) human resources development
- iii) technical training
- iv) technical assistance in relation to conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks; and
- v) development of fisheries for such stocks.

Utilization of the Fund and submission of applications

Since 2006 States Parties to UNFSA have benefitted considerably from the Fund to attend meetings of RFBs/As and other meetings. A few RFBs/As took advantage of the financial assistance provided by this Fund to support capacity development activities albeit in a limited fashion. Further details of the Fund can be found in the charts.

Applications for financial assistance from this Fund may be submitted by any developing States Parties to UNFSA. Moreover, RFBs may submit an application on behalf of their contracting Party/ies for a specific activity within the framework of the Terms of Reference of the Fund

(http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/tor_fund.pdf).

Status of the Fund

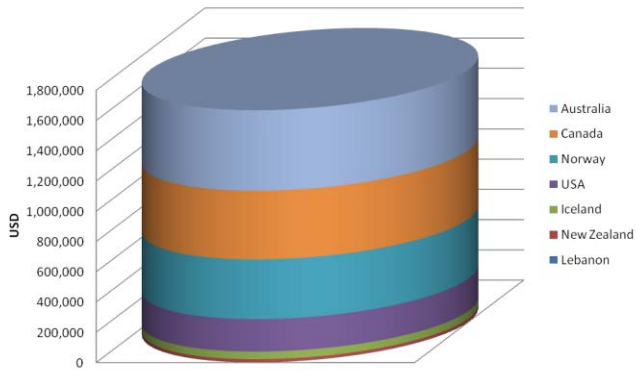
In an effort to secure funding for the Assistance Fund, a joint call for financial contributions to the Fund was made by the United Nations and FAO in December 2014. So far a voluntary contribution has been received from Norway which replenished the Fund.

All applications are to be submitted to the United Nations (doalos@un.org) at least one month in advance of the date of the event or activity for which assistance is requested. The Fund is administered by FAO (Fisheries and Aquaculture Department) as the implementing office for the Fund, in collaboration with the United Nations (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea).

Additional information on the Assistance Fund, including the Terms of Reference and the annual financial reports prepared by FAO, may be found at:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/fishstocktrustfund.htm

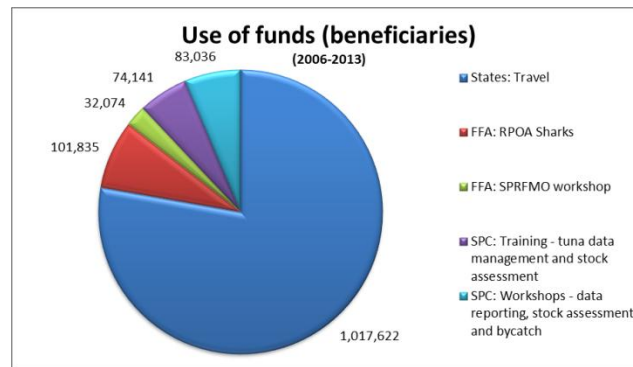
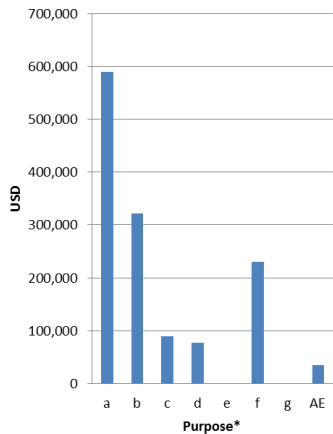
Donor Contributions (2006-2015)



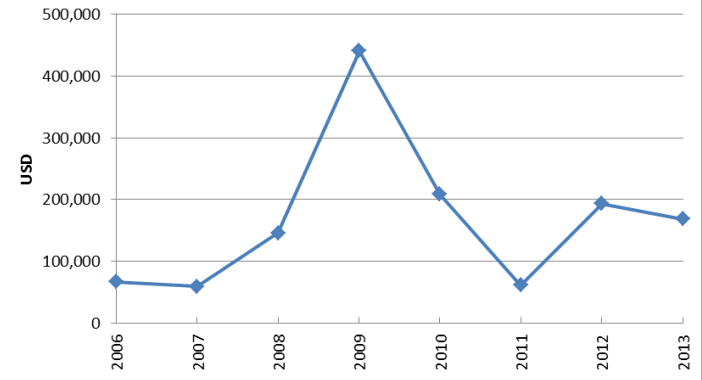
In November 2003, the United Nations General Assembly, in Resolution A/RES/58/14, established an **Assistance Fund under Part VII of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement**, to assist developing States Parties in the implementation of the Agreement.

To date, the Governments of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America, have made financial contributions to the Assistance Fund totalling about USD 1,670,000. The average annual expenditure was about USD 170,000. Assistance is provided in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 21 of the Fund's Terms of Reference.

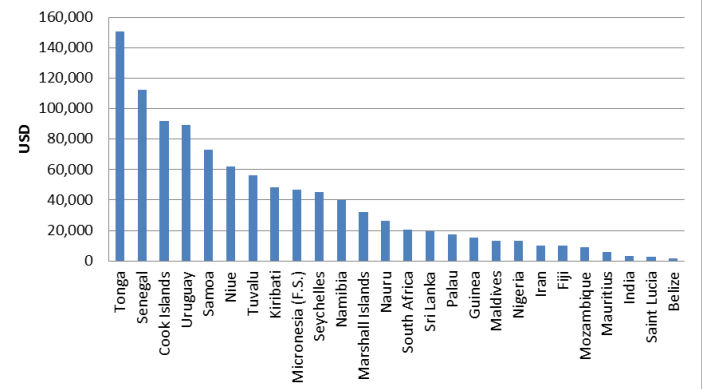
Use of funds (TORs*) (2006-2013)



Expenditure (2006-2013)



Travel support by Country (2006-2013)



TORs*

Description

- 14.a Participation in meetings / activities of RFMO/As
- 14.b Participation in high seas meetings of global organizations
- 14.c Negotiations / renegotiations for establishment / strengthening of RFMO/As
- 14.d Capacity building - flag State responsibility, MCS, data collection, research
- 14.e Facilitating information / experience exchange on implementing the FSA
- 14.f Supporting human resource development, technical training and assistance
- 14.g Dispute settlement

Paragraph 21 Administrative expenses (AE)



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Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

The Capture Fisheries Group of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics of the FAO met in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 25 to 27 February, 2015, and agreed to take steps to develop global information standards for science (e.g., scientific observer) and fisheries management (e.g., Monitoring Control and Surveillance - MCS) with the aim to foster better data harmonization amongst international fisheries bodies, and national fisheries authorities. Towards this goal, the Group agreed to establish various ad-hoc working groups to examine relevant data collection standards. This is in response to the growing need for a globally accepted and ubiquitous standard within the fishery sector. The reality of developing globally accepted standards is now possible due to the rapid development of technological capacities, including electronic collection of data, their storage, processing and transmission. These improvements in technology are a catalyst for better science, better fisheries management, and better economic affordability. Thanks to its membership composed of intergovernmental fisheries bodies, the CWP is a natural and credible mechanism for developing global fisheries standards that are coherent and harmonised amongst all fisheries jurisdictions.



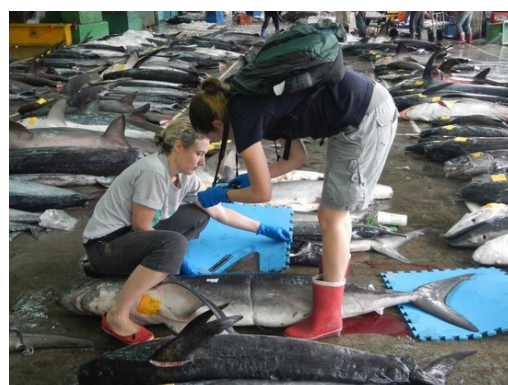
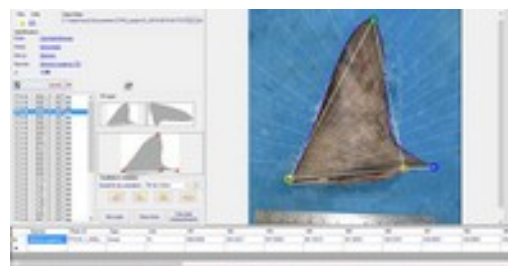
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iSharkFin

iSharkFin, an innovative software for the identification of shark species from the fins, has been made available by FAO last January. The software has been developed by FAO in collaboration with the University of Vigo with financial support of the Government of Japan and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

“The main purpose is to provide tool for custom officers and inspectors at fish markets”, said Monica Barone, who lead a team in FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in the development of the software. Thanks to iSharkFin, to verify that the shark fins were legally caught and traded, the users need to take a standard photo, select some characteristics of a fin and choose a few points on the fin shape. iSharkFin will then automatically analyses the information and identify the shark specie from which the fin comes.

iSharkFin is now available for the identification of 35 shark species from dorsal fins and 7 species from pectoral fins, commonly seen in international trade, including some species listed in the CITES Appendices. To download the software visit the iSharkFin [webpage](#).





La Pêche dans le Bassin Actif du lac Tchad

DESCRIPTION

L'importance de la pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad est reconnue depuis longtemps. Selon une étude de l'Office de la Recherche Scientifique Technique d'Outre-Mer (ORSTOM) rebaptisé Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) dans les années 70, les scientifiques ont estimé que les captures de pêche pouvaient atteindre 180.000 tonnes de poisson frais par an sans risque d'épuisement des stocks pour les périodes hydrologiques normales.

Avec une production de plusieurs centaines de millions de tonnes chaque année, la pêche est pratiquée dans le bassin du lac Tchad par plusieurs milliers de petits artisans. Ils utilisent des embarcations et des engins traditionnels sur le lac, les rivières, les plaines d'inondation.

Les pêcheurs capturent une grande variété d'espèces de poisson estimée à 176 selon une étude de l'ORSTOM dans les années 60. La pêche est pratiquée par de nombreux ménages. Une part importante des prises est soit fumée soit séchée. Ces produits rentrent ensuite dans un circuit de commercial bien organisé qui s'étend jusqu'aux marchés urbains du sud du Nigéria tels que Lagos, Ibadan, Onitsha, Enugu,, où le poisson fumé et séché est très prisé. Selon les estimations fournies par les rapports nationaux de référence¹ de l'Approche Eco systémique de Pêche (AEP) arrivent à une production annuelle d'environ 100 000 t/an avec une valeur d'environ 220 millions de \$EU. En effet cette activité procure de l'emploi, des revenus et de la nourriture à plus de 10 millions de personnes.

La pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad est liée aux régimes hydriques et à la répartition des eaux. Ces paramètres dépendent du climat, mais aussi des activités humaines comme l'irrigation, la construction des digues, le déboisement, etc. Ce qui l'expose actuellement à de difficultés énormes.

Actuellement le secteur bénéficie d'un appui financier de la Banque Africaine de Développement à travers le Programme de Développement du Bassin du Lac Tchad (PRODEBALT) et de la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad.

OBJECTIF

L'objectif global du développement du secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dans le bassin du lac Tchad est la réduction durable de la pauvreté des populations vivant de cette activité. Plus spécifiquement l'adaptation de son système d'exploitation aux changements climatiques.

SITUATION INITIALE

Cadre de gestion de la pêche.

Dans les quatre(4) pays (Cameroun, Niger, Nigéria, Tchad) riverains du lac, l'Etat est propriétaire légal des ressources naturelles. Les gouvernements et leurs administrations sont sensés gérer ces ressources par des politiques nationales appropriées. Ils ont souvent recours à un cadre conventionnel formé de législations et de réglementations. Les politiques nationales de la pêche mettent toujours l'accent sur l'importance économique de ce secteur et sur une gestion durable. Cependant, dans ces pays la mise en œuvre des politiques de pêche a souvent été limitée pour des raisons financières et des difficultés de traduire les déclarations politiques nationales en systèmes de gestion adaptés aux réalités locales.

Selon une étude réalisée par C. Béné et al en 2003, il existe trois systèmes de gestion de la pêche dans le bassin du Lac Tchad qui sont:

¹Encore une fois les chiffres sont indicatifs seulement en raison de préoccupations sur la fiabilité des données de captures totales

- Le système traditionnel : Ce sont l'administration ou les autorités traditionnelles (chefs de district, chefs de village, chefs de pêcheurs) qui assurent le contrôle des activités par des réglementations.
- Le système moderne : Ce sont l'administration ou le gouvernement central qui à travers leurs agents assurent la réglementation de la pêche.
- Le système mixte : Ce sont les autorités traditionnelles et gouvernementales qui participent à la gestion de la pêche.

Toujours selon cette même étude :

le système traditionnel s'applique à 70% au Cameroun, 38% au Tchad et 33% au Nigéria;

le système mixte s'applique à 30% au Cameroun, 45% au Tchad et 56% au Nigéria ;

le système moderne s'applique à 0% au Cameroun, 17% au Tchad et 11% au Nigéria.

Ce qu'il faut retenir de cette étude que la gestion de la pêche dans le lac Tchad est basée essentiellement sur les systèmes traditionnel et mixte. Ce qui n'est pas sans conséquence sur les communautés vivant de l'exploitation des ressources halieutiques. C'est ainsi que les bénéfices engendrés par la pêche profitent à une élite minoritaire formée des leaders locaux, leurs familles étendues ainsi que d'autres notables et leurs associés. C'est pourquoi malgré que la pêche génère des richesses significatives, au moins 40 % de la population rurale du bassin s'appauvrit et les ménages les plus pauvres souffrent de pénurie alimentaire chronique.

REALISATIONS

L'organisation de deux réunions ordinaires statutaires (15, 16 et 17 juin 2011 et les 13 et 14 juillet 2012) des experts en pêche et aquaculture des pays membres de la CBLT;

L'organisation d'un atelier régional sur les impacts des changements climatiques sur les communautés de pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad (15, 16 et 17 novembre 2011) en collaboration avec le département des pêches de la FAO;

La vulgarisation des fours Chorkor, des claies de séchage de poisson, des caisses isothermes. Ceci a fait l'objet de distribution de 35 fours, 75 claies de séchage et de 75 caisses isothermes à titre de démonstration en République du Tchad;



L'élaboration des plans types pour la construction de 15 débarcadères à raison de 3 par pays (Cameroun, Niger, Nigéria, République Centrafricaine et Tchad) participant au Programme et 20 antennes de surveillance de pêche à raison de 4 par pays.

PERSPECTIVES

La pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad est confrontée à plusieurs défis dont les principaux se résument comme suit:

Les changements environnements:

La réduction drastique de la superficie du Lac Tchad, constatée au cours des dernières décennies a entraîné une diminution de la production halieutique. En effet, la superficie du lac est passée de 25 000 à 2 500 km² en l'espace de 45 ans et d'une profondeur de 6 m en moyenne à moins de 3 m aujourd'hui. Au rythme actuel de récession du plan d'eau, le Lac pourrait disparaître d'ici une vingtaine d'années, d'après certaines prévisions climatiques de la NASA.

Facteurs exogènes: la pêche et le bassin du lac Tchad dans son ensemble sont menacés par d'autres facteurs d'origine anthropique tels que la croissance démographique, la déforestation, la pauvreté et les besoins alimentaires croissants ainsi que la production pétrolière à grande échelle dans un avenir proche ;

Politique de pêche et coordination: la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad est responsable de la politique de la pêche et de la coordination du développement de la région. Malheureusement elle manque des moyens (humain, matériel et financier) pour relever tous les défis.

Heureusement on constate une prise de conscience des différents exploitants des ressources naturelles du bassin et en particulier des Autorités des pays membres. C'est ainsi qu'il a été adopté par les différents sommets des Chefs d'Etat et des Gouvernements des pays membres de la CBLT plusieurs documents stratégiques dont entre autre la vision 2025 en 2003, le Programme d'Action Stratégique (PAS), la charte de l'eau du bassin et le Plan d'Investissement (PI) en 2012, la Stratégie de financement autonome (en cours d'élaboration), l'organisation de la table ronde des bailleurs de fonds sur la base du Plan Quinquennal d'Investissement 2013 – 2017 en avril 2014 en Italie, la réforme institutionnelle de la CBLT dont le rapport d'évaluation est en cours d'élaboration, le forum mondial sur le développement durable organisé en octobre 2010 à Ndjamena au Tchad sur le « la sauvegarde du lac Tchad », les plaidoyers sur le lac Tchad organisés en marge du forum mondial sur l'eau à Marseille en France en mars 2012 et celui du Brésil en marge du sommet de la terre de Rio +20 en juin 2012, etc.

En matière de politique et du cadre législatif et réglementaire sur la gestion des ressources naturelles du bassin en général et en particulier des ressources halieutiques, on constate des initiatives au niveau de chaque pays membre. Mais beaucoup reste encore à faire pour une gestion harmonieuse et équitable.

Actuellement la CBLT avec ses propres moyens et l'appui des partenaires financiers a lancé plusieurs chantiers dont entre autre :

- La construction et l'équipement de 15 débarcadères munis de fabrique de glace, de 20 antennes de surveillance de pêche;
- La distribution des fours Chorkor, des claies de séchage et des caisses isothermes aux groupements de pêcheurs à titre de démonstration dans le cadre de la réduction des pertes après capture;
- La mise en place d'un système de suivi permanent des statistiques de pêche en collaboration avec le programme poisson NEPAD – FAO sur la base d'un protocole de partenariat FAO-CBLT;
- La formation des groupements de pêcheurs sur le mécanisme de cogestion de pêche, le traitement et la conservation du poisson;
- L'élaboration du plan de gestion des pêcheries du lac Tchad par l'approche éco systémique conformément à la recommandation de la Conférence des Ministres Africains de Pêche et

Aquaculture (CMAP/A) tenue en septembre 2010 à Banjul en Gambie en collaboration avec le programme poisson NEPAD – FAO sur la base d’un protocole de partenariat;

- Mise en œuvre des microprojets sur l’extraction de l’huile de poisson, la récolte et la commercialisation de la spiruline, etc.;
- La participation de la CBLT au processus sur la réforme de politique africaine de pêche et d’aquaculture coordonné par l’Union Africaine à travers son Bureau Inter Africain de Ressources Animales (BIRA);
- L’espoir est permis si toutes les initiatives en cours passent de la phase théorique à la pratique;

Pour la version anglaise du rapport sur l’atelier régional sur les impacts des changements climatiques sur les communautés de pêche dans le bassin du lac Tchad, il faut consulter le site : www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3037e/i3037e.pdf



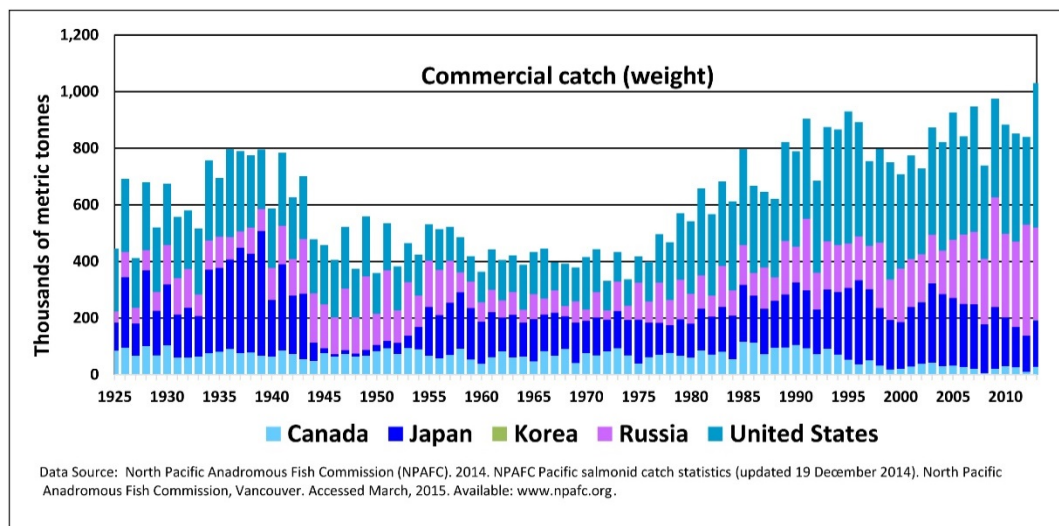
CAISSE ISOTHERME



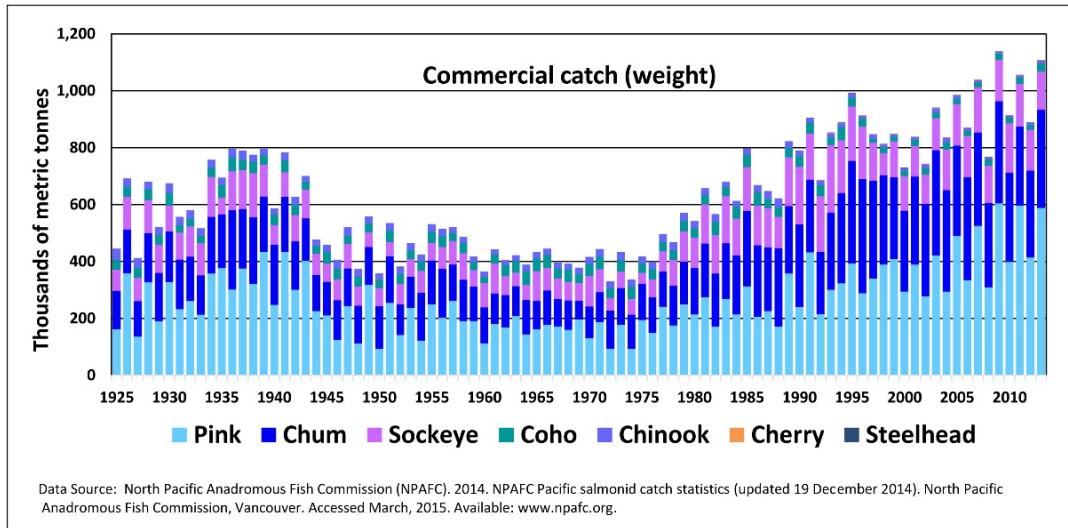
NPAFC - Time Series of North Pacific Wide Salmon and Steelhead Catch and Hatchery Release Data Now Online

By Nancy D. Davis and Vladimir I. Radchenko
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
Vancouver, BC Canada V6C 3B2
www.npafc.org

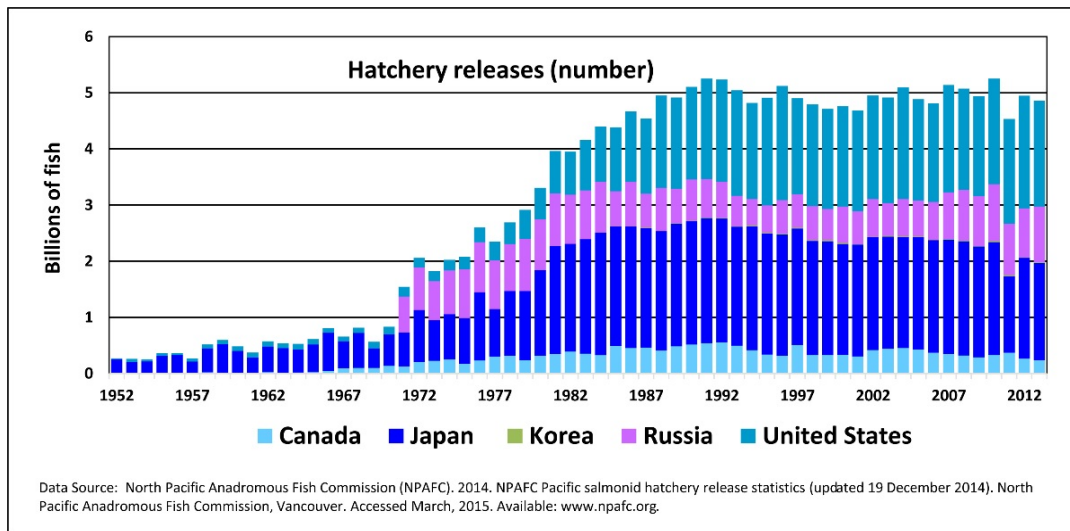
A time series of Pacific salmon and steelhead catch and hatchery release data from North Pacific salmon-producing countries has been made available for download by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) on its website (http://www.npafc.org/new/science_statistics.html). Commercial catch and hatchery release statistics are available for Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and USA. Sport and subsistence catch data are available for Canada, Russia and USA. Depending on the reporting area, some catch statistics are available for the period starting in 1925 and some hatchery release statistics are available starting from 1952. A metadata document describing data sources and data file organization is available for users on the website. The data show that Pacific salmon abundance, as indexed by aggregate commercial catches, remains at near all-time high levels and is dominated by odd-year pink salmon. The time series of catch and hatchery release statistics are a useful new tool for researchers interested in Pacific salmon and steelhead production under conditions of changing ocean climate and ecosystems. The NPAFC is an international intergovernmental organization (members: Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia and USA) whose primary objective is to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks (Pacific salmon and steelhead trout) in the North Pacific Ocean.



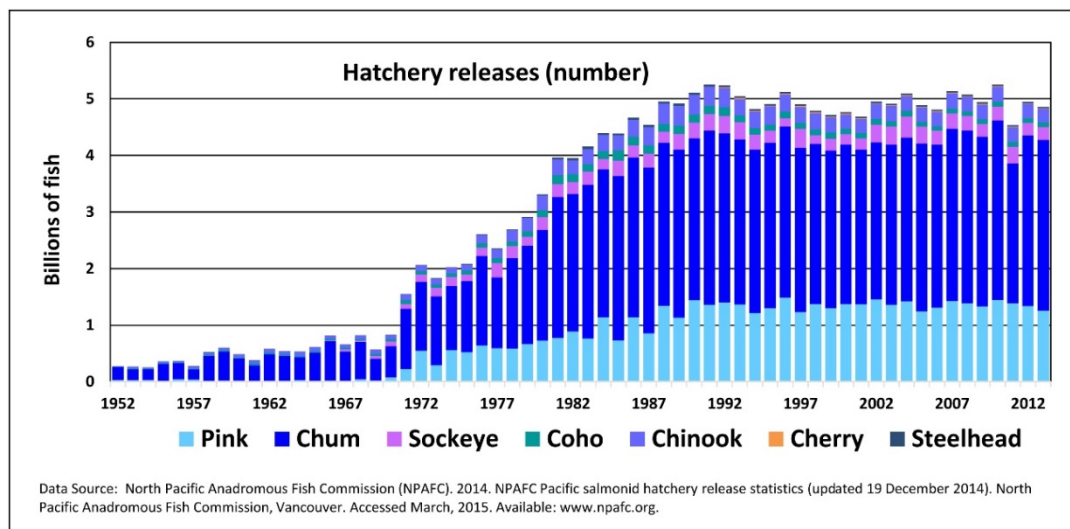
Annual commercial catch of salmon and steelhead by country in thousands of metric tonnes, 1925-2013.



Annual commercial catch of salmon and steelhead by species in thousands of metric tonnes, 1925-2013.



Annual release of salmon and steelhead trout by country in billions of fish, 1952-2013.



Annual hatchery release of salmon and steelhead trout by species in billions of fish, 1952-2013.



Agreement OSPESCA – MarViva (also Third Regional Meeting between the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Union and the fisheries authorities of the countries of SICA / OSPESCA)

Agreement OSPESCA - MarViva

In order to enhance joint cooperation between the MarViva Foundation and the Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America Isthmus (OSPESCA), an Agreement of Understanding was signed to promote the protection, conservation and rational use of marine resources and fisheries, through a series of actions aimed at combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the member countries of OSPESCA.

Among the actions to be taken are: the promotion and implementation of the Regional Regulation OSP-08-2014 to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing; and, the exchange of inputs that will allow fisheries authorities make a decision on the ratification of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Similarly, give the opportunity to members and observers of OSPESCA's countries to share experiences, skills and initiatives that promote institutional strengthening, regional cooperation, capacity building, information sharing and improving the regulatory framework necessary to promote the improvement of national and regional controls to combat IUU fishing.



Meeting between the European Union and OSPESCA

The third regional meeting between the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Union (DG MARE) and the fisheries authorities of the countries of OSPESCA has taken place, with an emphasis on reviewing the progress on the Regulation to combat and eliminate IUU fishing.

In this sense, the importance of establishing synergies within OSPESCA and the European Union for the development of joint programs concerning the development of policy, harmonized guidelines, certification systems, training of inspectors and shared campaigns on responsible fisheries was stressed.

Also the need of actions that would enforce the compliance with fisheries management measures based on national, international standards, mainly Regional and Sub regional Fisheries Management Organizations was also noted.

This meeting was also attended by other Caribbean countries such as St. Vincent & Grenadines, Curacao, St. Kitts & Nevis, together with the EU representation in Barbados.



Agreements for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the OSPESCA countries

Deputy Ministers and Directors responsible for fishing and aquaculture activities of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which constitutes the Steering Committee of OSPESCA, held their fifth Special Meeting where major projects to support the implementation of the integration of regional policy and community legislation were approved.

This meeting was the right time to also hold an important dialogue between the National Commissioner of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Mexico, Lic. Mario Aguilar, and the Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Dr Guillermo Compean. Dr Compean analyzed the problems of the sector and joint actions for the development of fishery and aquaculture, as well as the responsible use of migratory species in the IATTC area.





The IWC brings ship strikes to the agenda of Whalefest, Brighton.

The International Whaling Commission attended the fourth annual Whalefest event (Brighton, 14-15 March 2015) to call attention to the increasing number of collisions between whales and vessels. As ocean-going traffic increases, so does the risk of collision between ships and whales, and the IWC is raising awareness and support for a long term research and mitigation programme.

It is clear that the number of ship strikes rose as faster vessels were developed from the 1950s, but building a comprehensive understanding of the problem is not straightforward. Data gathering is very difficult because collisions between larger vessels and whales may go unreported and unnoticed unless the animal is carried into port on the bow of a large ship.

All species of whale and dolphin are affected, but those that swim more slowly, or stay longer at the surface, are most vulnerable. Whilst larger ships pose greater risks to whales, this is an issue for all vessels. Collisions are known to have occurred with racing yachts, hydrofoils, whalewatch boats, even kayaks and zodiacs.

In 2009, the IWC established a global database to build an accurate and comprehensive record of ship strikes. Some 1200 incidents have already been registered and each record is verified by scientists who are using the information to develop a better understanding of when, where and why collisions occur.

Long term, the data will help to map incident 'hot spots,' enabling scientists, policy makers, industry and other ocean users to work together on targeted, practical mitigation measures to reduce the risk of collision, whilst minimizing practical implications for ocean-users.

Whalefest has kindly invited one of the IWC's ship strike data coordinators to raise awareness of the issue amongst all ocean users. Fabian Ritter attended the Science Stage on Saturday 14th March, explaining what we have learnt about ship strikes so far. He also outlined some steps that sailors can take to avoid hitting whales, ask everyone to note the ship strikes database, and use it to report a ship strike if they are unfortunate enough to witness a collision.

To read more about ship strikes please click [here](#).

You can report a ship strike [here](#).





Updates from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the law of the Sea

In December 2014, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/109 on sustainable fisheries and resolution 69/245 on oceans and the law of the sea. These resolutions both contained important provisions which may be of relevance to the work of regional fishery bodies. Some of the principal developments in this regard are set out below.

Review Conference to be resumed in 2016

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to resume the Review Conference convened pursuant to article 36 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in New York for one week in the first part of 2016, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the Agreement in securing the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

An eleventh round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (ICSP-11) was held from 16 to 17 March 2015, to serve primarily as a preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference. It, inter alia, considered the draft provisional agenda and draft organization of work for the Conference. In addition, a round-table discussion was organized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Agreement in 2015 as part of ICSP-11. Additional information on ICSP-11, including a link to the webcast of the commemorative event, is available at:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fish_stocks_agreement_states_parties.htm.

The Secretary-General was also requested to submit to the resumed Review Conference an updated report, prepared in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and with the assistance of an expert consultant to be hired by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) to provide information and analysis on relevant technical and scientific issues to be covered in the report. In this connection, the Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly to develop and circulate to States and to regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements a voluntary questionnaire regarding the recommendations of the Review Conference in 2006 and 2010 taking into account the specific guidance proposed at the tenth round of informal consultations. Regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements are invited to respond to the questionnaire by 1 August 2015.

Bottom fishing review

In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to hold in 2016 its review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68. As in 2011, the review will be preceded by a two-day workshop in the second half of 2016 in order to discuss implementation of paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68. The workshop will be open to States, the FAO and other relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, other fisheries bodies, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with United Nations practice.

Further to this, the Secretary-General has been requested to prepare a report, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to the paragraphs mentioned above. A request for information relevant to this report will be sent to regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in due course.

Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction held its ninth and final meeting from 20 to 23 January this year. The outcome is now available on the DOALOS website as document A/69/780.

The Working Group recommended to the General Assembly that it decide to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. To that end, the Working Group recommended that, prior to holding an intergovernmental conference, the General Assembly decide to establish a preparatory committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and parties to the Convention, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group. The preparatory committee would start its work in 2016 and, by the end of 2017, report to the Assembly on its progress.

The Working Group recommended that, before the end of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, and taking into account the report of the preparatory committee, the General Assembly will decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention.

The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly decide that negotiations shall address the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

The Working Group further recommended that the General Assembly recognize that the process should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies. Additional information on the Working Group including its last meeting report are available at: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/biodiversityworkinggroup/biodiversityworkinggroup.htm>.

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

In paragraph 298 of its resolution 69/245, the General Assembly decided that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process would focus its discussions at its sixteenth meeting on “Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic.” The sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 10 April 2015. The panel discussion for the topic of focus included two segments on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of oceans and progress made in integrating the three dimensions, including an overview of activities and initiatives promoting their integration; and on opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans.

Additional information on the meeting, including the Format and annotated provisional agenda as well as the advance and unedited reporting material on the topic of focus of the sixteenth meeting will be posted on the website of DOALOS at http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm.

The Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects

The Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, was established by all the Member States of the United Nations in 2004. Following a start-up phase, the Assessment of Assessments, the General Assembly in 2009 set up the Regular Process as an intergovernmental process accountable to the General Assembly and guided by international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is overseen and guided by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, comprised of representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organization accredited by ECOSOC. The General Assembly decided to adopt a cyclical approach to the Regular Process, with the first cycle covering 2010-2014 and culminating with the production of the first global integrated marine assessment (“World Ocean Assessment”).

The first World Ocean Assessment will look at the current state of the marine environment, building on existing regional assessments. Since the end of 2013, the Group of Experts of the Regular Process and members of the Pool of Experts have drafted close to sixty chapters. The preparation of the first World Ocean Assessment is currently at an advanced stage, with draft chapters completed and reviewed for comments by Member States, peer reviewers and intergovernmental organizations, among which the FAO. The entire assessment will be considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, at its sixth meeting, from 8 to 11 September 2015, and the summary of the assessment will be considered by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventieth session at the end of this year. Part IV concerns the assessment of the cross-cutting issues: food security and food safety. This part draws substantially on assessments carried out by the FAO.

More information on the Regular Process or the first World Ocean Assessment can be found on the website: www.worldoceanassessment.org.



SSF Guidelines – an international instrument for small-scale fisheries:

What are they and what is the role of regional organizations in their implementation?

In June 2014 the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* – in short, [SSF Guidelines](#). In 2011, COFI tasked FAO to facilitate the participatory development of a voluntary instrument on small-scale fisheries. Between 2011 and 2013 over 4000 stakeholders from over 120 countries, including representatives of regional organizations, directly contributed to developing the content and the principles of the SSF Guidelines. In some cases, regional fisheries organizations (RFBs) partnered with FAO in order to carry out regional consultations, thus making sure that the experiences and ideas of their Member States and regions were accurately reflected.

Examples of RFB leadership in the SSF development process

- SEAFDEC/APFIC– [Regional Consultative Workshop for Asia-Pacific](#) (2010)
- OSPESCA - [Regional Consultative Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (2010)
- WECAFC/CRFM- [Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries](#) (2012)
- SPC – [Pacific Islands Regional Consultation on the Development of the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries](#) (2012)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean - [First Regional Symposium on sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea](#) (2013)

Various RFB's have already included the SSF Guidelines in their plans of work, are planning to explore their implementation in the region or have begun the development of a regional strategy for action. These will be highlighted in an upcoming RSN newsletter feature.

Purpose and contents of the SSF Guidelines

The SSF Guidelines are the first international instrument dedicated entirely to the immensely important – but until now often neglected – small-scale fisheries sector in which over 90% of all capture fisheries actors operate. The SSF Guidelines represent a global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development. They are directed at all those involved in the sector and intend to guide and encourage governments, fishing communities and other stakeholders, including regional organizations, to work together and ensure secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries for the benefit of small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities as well as for society at large. Underpinned by a human rights approach, the implementation of these guidelines is critical to empower small-scale fishing communities to participate in decision-making processes, and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources.

The SSF Guidelines

- Emphasize the important role of small-scale fisheries for food security and poverty eradication: a source of nutrition, income and economic growth
- Complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to achieve sustainable fisheries through a human rights based approach
- Provide guidance on the development and implementation of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable small-scale fisheries policies, legislation and legal frameworks

- Are a product of extensive consultations between governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations(CSOs), academia, regional organizations and fisher-communities

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three main parts:

Part I: Introduction - specifies the objectives, the nature and scope, the guiding principles by which the SSF Guidelines are to be implemented as well as their relationship with other international instruments.

Part II: Responsible fisheries and sustainable development - provides guidance for fisheries-specific topics such as responsible governance of tenure and sustainable resource management, but also for crucial intersectoral issues: social development, employment and decent work; value chain, post-harvest and trade; gender equality and disaster risks and climate change.

Part III: Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation - provides guidance on how to realize the principles and recommendations of the SSF Guidelines through policy coherence, institutional and supporting implementation; information, research and communication; capacity development and implementation support and monitoring.

Towards implementation

The overall *strategic approach* for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines will build on the inclusive and consensus-seeking spirit and environment that characterized their development process. Accordingly, implementation must be based on participation and partnerships, with implementation anchored at the national and local levels within a framework of regional and international collaboration, awareness raising, policy support and capacity development. This strategic approach aims to have the principles of the SSF Guidelines mainstreamed in policies, strategies and actions at international, regional, national and local levels. This requires support and collaboration between a diverse group of actors including regional organizations and the private sector.

It is important to note that Section 13 in Part III also calls for the promotion of regional plans of action to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It is expected that, where mandate allows, RFB's play a particularly active role in this regard.

We will feature the involvement of various regional organizations in the SSF Guidelines development and implementation process in more detail in the next issues of this newsletter.





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Global Conference on Inland Fisheries

Global conference on inland fisheries, freshwater, fish and the future - co-organized with Michigan State University (MSU) 26-28 January 2015.

In partnership with Michigan State University, FAO hosted two hundred participants at a ground-breaking conference: the first ever meeting held to address the challenges and opportunities for freshwater fisheries on a global scale. The conference, entitled “Freshwater, Fish, and the Future: A cross-sectoral conference to sustain livelihoods, food security, and aquatic ecosystems”, took place from 26 to 28 January 2015 at FAO Headquarters.

As he welcomed participants on Monday morning, Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the FAO’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Department noted that “the health of our planet and food security depends on how we treat our aquatic ecosystems.” Mr Mathiesen stressed the importance of going beyond the most recognizable pillars of marine fisheries and aquaculture, to better integrate inland fisheries into a broader development agenda.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon indicated that inland fisheries have the capacity to uplift the rural poor, adding that “inland fisheries place low demands on the environment, and are highly renewable resources with a low carbon footprint.”

Please visit the website for additional information: <http://inlandfisheries.org/>.



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ABNJ Capacity Workshop

Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction 17-20 February 2015, FAO HQ, Rome.

In partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Global Oceans Forum, FAO hosted over a hundred participants for a Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) comprise 64 percent of the oceans' surface and contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural importance.

Their management requires a concerted effort by all nations with a long-term interest in their future, presenting challenges to the effective management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in these areas.

In recent years, FAO and many of its member countries have been emphasizing Blue Growth as the best method to achieve the sustainable and socioeconomic management of our living aquatic resources. But the world's oceans, seas and coastlines are inextricably linked. Without the careful management of areas beyond national jurisdiction, national and regional Blue Growth initiatives can never hope to reach their full potential.

The need to strengthen capacity for managing these areas was one of the reasons for creating the GEF-funded Common Oceans Program, technically led by FAO and encompassing a wide range of key stakeholders.

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy-Director General of Natural Resources opened the workshop, welcoming the many partners of the FAO/GEF initiative, "The Common Oceans Program is an excellent example of how a wide range of stakeholders with different mandates and activities and different communities of practice can work together to address long-term challenges of managing areas beyond national jurisdiction in a sustainable manner."

The workshop attracted expertise from around the globe – presenting the challenges they face and highlighting regional priorities and best practices that could help inform policies in other regions. Sessions also highlighted various challenges and threats to these regions, including IUU fishing, marine biotechnology, the effects of climate change, heightened shipping and trade, and the future of deep sea mining.

Common Oceans Program Manager, Jeremy Turner spoke about the breadth of experiences and regional approaches discussed over the course of the workshop. He concluded that "Areas beyond national jurisdiction are critically important for a host of biodiversity and public welfare outcomes which extend far beyond the limits of these areas. Putting it simply, we cannot achieve sustainability of global fisheries and their ecosystems without addressing ABNJ management".

Many participants stressed the need for greater collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders – not only those engaged in work in areas beyond national jurisdiction. They urged partners to seek creative ways to work out of silos and across sectors to embrace a truly inclusive ecosystem approach.

Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department summarized the extensive three-day discussions, highlighting how participants had frequently called for a firm political will to safeguard the vulnerable marine areas. He also noted that "while data in certain regions is crucial to inform decisions, data itself will not help us unless we are committed to strengthening capacity development, and ensuring it is well structured and targeting the right people."

Closing the workshop, the Grenadian Ambassador to the United States and workshop co-chair Angus Friday urged all those working in the sector to closely align themselves to the climate change and SDG agendas. "This is most likely the first time in history that oceans are so high on the global agenda, and we should take advantage of this opportunity to safeguard this valuable natural resource for the benefit of future generations."

The wide range of regional presentations is available on the webcast of the event, and through a lively social media discussion on Twitter at #CommonOceans. One interesting side event included a report of the Nansen research vessel survey of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the southern Atlantic. The survey voyage was recorded in the month-long EAFNansen blog.





Meeting of Regional Fisheries Organizations in ATLAFCO

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO) organized on 21- 22 February 2015

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), a meeting of coordination and consultation with institutions and organizations involved in Regional Fisheries in ATLAFCO's area of competence, was held on 21- 22 February 2015.

This initiative aims to strengthen the partnership and cooperation of regional actors involved in fisheries for better coordination of interventions in that area, in line with the reform of fisheries and aquaculture policies initiated and adopted as part of the Pan-African initiative.

This meeting brought together the main fishing sub-regional organizations operating along the Atlantic coast of Africa, which are:

- The Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP)
- The Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
- Commission Sub-regional Fisheries (CSRP)
- The Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (Infopêche)
- The Network on Fishery Policies in Africa (REPAO)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Institutions and Regional Fisheries Organizations participating in this meeting.

The main objective of this MoU is to harmonize the various positions on major issues relating to the fisheries sector in the region and to catalyze efforts and resources for the establishment of good regional governance.





Fourth annual meeting of GFCM - A decisive step towards enhanced regional cooperation for the management of Black Sea fisheries

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (GFCM/FAO) hold the fourth annual meeting of its Working Group on the Black Sea in Tbilisi, Georgia from 9 to 11 March 2015. The meeting was hosted by Georgia, one of the three Black Sea riparian States not yet Members of the GFCM – the other two being the Russian Federation and the Ukraine.

Against the backdrop of the numerous challenges facing the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources, it is increasingly essential to pursue concerted efforts both in fisheries management and in aquaculture development. This is of particular significance in areas such as the Black Sea. As Ms Maya Bitadze, Georgian Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, highlighted, this event was instrumental in boosting cooperation between Black Sea riparian states towards the responsible management of fisheries resources and sustainable aquaculture. The working group meeting renewed and reinforced GFCM and FAO's commitment to achieve this objective. The event was marked by the receipt of formal requests by Georgia and the Ukraine to become "cooperating non-Contracting Parties" within the GFCM. This represents a historical milestone since it effectively paves the way forward towards their full membership and towards the achievement of a level playing field throughout the Black Sea region.

The meeting also presented an important opportunity for all participating countries to discuss key issues related to the main Black Sea commercial fisheries – including turbot and small pelagic species – and endorse sound scientific advice regarding their status and management. Other important topics such as the development of regional management plans to recover and protect the most vulnerable resources, and combat IUU fishing were also covered. In light of the major role that aquaculture is called upon to play for food security, employment and economic development, the group welcomed the creation of the GFCM Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform, citing it as an innovative tool for working towards the sustainable development of this sector. "The outcomes of this meeting bear a particular significance in light of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative to promote sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sector" said Ms Iamze Mirazanashvili, from the FAO Representation in Georgia.

Participants left the meeting feeling confident that the foundations had been laid for strengthening the existing framework for dialogue and cooperation in the Black Sea basin and pursuing efforts to consolidate the synergies in place. "I trust that all the Members of our Commission will build on this momentum to move ahead towards more visible and concrete action" concluded Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM.





Fourth session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) in May 2015

The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) will hold its fourth session in May 2015. At this Session the Commission will evaluate the progress with the Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) and will discuss for adoption the second-term Work Programme covering the period from 2016 to 2020. The Fourth Session of Commission will adopt, among others, its inter-sessional period work programme, which is expected to include regional workshops, expert group meetings and pilot studies.

The technical and scientific advice generated by the Technical Advisory Committee at its third Session held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 16-18 February 2015 will be submitted to the Fourth Session of Commission for adoption consideration. These include recommendations on: (i) Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) Inland fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

The Technical Advisory Committee has a key role in overseeing the implementation of the Five-year Regional Work Programme of Commission. The Commission regularly extends invitations to non-CACFish Member States with an aim to extending regional cooperation, which has gained momentum over the last years.

Efforts are under way to have more members and to enforce a Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Education and Training Programme. Besides, a number of manuals and better management practices are being prepared.



In memory of Robin Allen



Our colleague and friend Robin Allen passed away on 18 March, 2015, in New Zealand. He was a remarkable person both professionally and personally, respected and cherished, and all those privileged to know him and work with him have only the best of memories. The fishing community has suffered a great loss.

Dr Robin Allen was born in Tauranga, New Zealand, in 1943, and studied mathematics and statistics at Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Otago. He began his career in fisheries as a statistician with the New Zealand Fisheries Management Division. Subsequently he earned his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia, where he studied modeling

of fish population dynamics under the late Professor Peter Larkin. His research involved the application of age-structured models, including stock-recruit relationships, to fisheries data.

The then Director of the IATTC, Dr James Joseph, encouraged him to make use of data for the eastern Pacific Ocean yellowfin tuna in his thesis work, initiating his connection with the IATTC. After completing his degree, Dr Allen returned to New Zealand and became involved in the population dynamics of a number of commercial and recreational fisheries, and in particular that for the New Zealand oyster. In 1976, Dr Joseph invited him to join the staff of the IATTC where, initially, he investigated the use of linear models to make standardized estimates of abundance of tunas. In 1978, he was asked to establish a tuna-dolphin program for the IATTC, fulfilling the mandate that the Commission adopted when it decided that it should concern itself with the problems arising from the tuna-dolphin relationship in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Dr Allen returned to New Zealand in 1981 as Assistant Director, and subsequently Director, of the Fisheries Research Division. At that time New Zealand had recently introduced a 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone; the domestic industry was growing rapidly to take advantage of expanded opportunities in deep-water fisheries that had been revealed by the presence of foreign vessels, and was suffering from the consequences of overfishing in inshore waters. Together with a few other fisheries officials, he advocated the introduction of a comprehensive system of management using individual transferable quotas, which remains the heart of New Zealand's current fishery management system. He assumed a number of other positions within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, culminating in his appointment as Group Director of Fisheries Policy, where he was responsible for policy development and drafting of what eventually became the New Zealand Fisheries Act of 1996.

He was invited to return to the IATTC as Assistant Director in 1995, and upon Dr Joseph's retirement in 1999 was appointed Director. He remained in that position until 19 September 2007, when he retired. During his tenure, there have been several important changes within the IATTC. The number of member countries increased from 10 to 15, the Commission's new Convention, the "Antigua Convention," was negotiated and adopted, and the legally-binding Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program replaced the previous "La Jolla Agreement."

He was appointed by South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) at its first meeting in January-February 2013 as its Acting Executive Secretary until such time as a permanent Executive Secretary was recruited in 2014.

Dr Allen was well known internationally, particularly in the area of cooperation among Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. He chaired the second and third Meetings of FAO and Non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies or Arrangements (2001, 2004) and was the first Chairman of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee (2004 -2006), being instrumental in establishing a global list of vessels authorized to fish for tunas. He worked closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, particularly with its project on the management of tuna fishing capacity, and chaired a Technical Advisory Committee for that project.

He has published numerous papers and articles in scholarly and trade journals.

Written by Jean- François Pulvenis, Senior Policy Advisor, IATTC

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