COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meeting

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Main activities to follow up CWP-21 Recommendations.

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This document discribes the major activities conducted by FAO activities to follow up the recommendations made at CWP 21 held in Copenhagen on 1-4 March, 2005.

1. Recommendations and follow up actions of CWP - FishCode STF workshop of February 2005 [83-84]

The FishCode-STF Project and FAO should assist RFBs in increasing the awareness of the importance of the implementation of the STF Strategy.

- In March 2005 all FAO regional fisheries officers were briefed on the FAO STF strategy and the FAO FishCode STF project. The implementation of FAO STF strategy was discussed at the third Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and FAO was requested to assist with the implementation. FishCode STF activities in the region are presently discussed with RECOFI and will start once additional funds are obtained.
- An awareness brochure on the importance of inland fisheries monitoring has been prepared. Once printed they will be provided to all RFBs for distribution
- The FishCode STF website providing background information on the importance of the Strategy and activities of the FishCode STF project was launched in May 2005

The FishCode-STF Project and FAO, together with the RFBs, should stress the importance of and promote actions on transparent and complete national data collection of fisheries.

- Since its start in November 2004, The FishCode STF project has organised a regional workshop in South East Asia in Collaboration with SEAFDEC and a regional workshop in Central America in collaboration with OSPESCA. Improvement of fisheries monitoring systems and actions to be undertaken were the major topics of the workshop. For 2006 a Regional workshop n the Pacific region in collaboration with SPC is planned.

The FishCode-STF Project should cooperate with RFBs on the carrying out of inventories of data collection systems and status of stocks, in particular in supporting their contribution to FIRMS

- Fisheries and marine resources inventories in the FishCode STF project are building upon the already advanced work of the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) partnership. During 2005 inventories were completed for Australia, the USA and Namibia through the use of

official governmental sources. South Africa and Angola should be completed within the next few months. The Project is also making contacts to conduct work covering China. National level inventories have been launched for most Southeast Asian countries. For Eastern Africa, lengthy discussions were held with IUCN and other stakeholders involved in developing the SWIOFC, with a view towards building global inventories based on the existing regional WIOFISH initiative. These discussions revealed political willingness to collaborate and activities identified should start early in 2006.As part of FIRMS, the design of the fisheries module has progressed with case studies and mock-ups developed. These were discussed at the FIRMS December 2005 working group meeting.

FishCode-STF Project should seek collaboration with interested RFBs for the development of monitoring systems for small-scale fisheries in developing countries. All RFBs may assist with the identification of expertise for technical assistance.

- It has been recognized by COFI that small-scale fisheries (SSF) have not been given due attention and that SSF in developing countries are not well monitored. FAO has begun to address these concerns by developing technical guidelines on small-scale fisheries, and by collaborating with the WorldFish Center on an initiative to develop a project for the interdisciplinary assessment of small scale fisheries. FishCode-STF embraced this initiative and in September 2005 organised, in association with the WorldFish Center, an "agency stakeholders" workshop on the role of SSF in food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable resource use, and on the development of simple and appropriate methods for collecting data in such fisheries. The Workshop constituted a first step in developing a collaborative project towards capacity-building for small-scale fisheries assessment in developing countries. Forty-five participants took part. They represented various international and national agencies and academic institutions as well as private firms, and were invited on the basis of their extensive experience in SSF either from a natural or social science background. The Workshop through its plenary and working group sessions addressed three main tasks: (i) preliminary development of a framework for interdisciplinary assessment of small-scale fisheries; (ii) identification of appropriate approaches, methods and research needs to help fill small-scale fisheries information gaps; and (iii) · preparation of an outline implementation strategy for a collaborative project on small scale fisheries. Two steps have been taken as immediate follow up to the workshop. (i) · The creation of a "Virtual Office on the Assessment of Small Scale Fisheries". The virtual office will serve as a contact point for persons/institutions dedicated to work on integrated assessment of small scale fisheries. www.OneFish.org. (ii)· Establishment of a "Small-Scale Fisheries Assessment Global Working Group E-Forum". The Group aims to: (a) develop a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to small scale fisheries assessment and related management advice; and (b) assemble related assessment methodologies and tools for use by fisheries researchers, planners, administrators, practitioners and other stakeholders. The proceedings of the workshop are published as an FAO Fisheries Report (no 787)
- The Regional FAO FishCode-OSPESCA Workshop identified improvement of Small Scale Fisheries monitoring as a priority. Presently the recommendations of this workshop are being used to formulated practical field actions to be supported by the FishCode STF project or other donor organisations
- In collaboration with IATTC the FishCode STF project will organise in 2006 a workshop on statistics for small scale tuna fisheries in Latin America

The FishCode-STF Project should consider developing guidelines for the establishment of data exchange protocols based on the CWP handbook on fisheries statistical standards

- FIGIS FIStat working system software components handling the aspects of domain, collection and formats, identified as central to protocols for statistical data exchange, were developed and successfully tested. Requirements for the data collection description module are being formulated.

2. Follow-up for approved ISSCFV [94]:

The final draft of new International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV – 2005) was developed following to the agreement in the CWP-21, which was attached as Annex 1. In Annex 1, crossed sections indicate those vessel types removed from the ISSCFV-1984 and those in paranthesis are the proposed modifications, mainly inclusion of 'nei' (not else indicated) categories.

With the final approval from Members, the Secretary will proceed the updates of the "CWP Handbook of fishery statistical standards" and the FAO Fisheries Technical Paper number 267 "Definition and Classification of fishery vessel types".

3. Brief review of UN/LOCODE:

The meeting agreed that RFBs should study the propsed code system and the matter will be included in the agenda of CWP-22 for futher discussion in 2007.[106]

UN/LOCODE is developed and provided in the framework of trade facilitation effort and covers locations used for goods movement associated with trade, including ports, airports, inland clearance depots and freight terminals. The Code does not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat. This is a dynamic system and the Secretariat accepts requests for inclusion of additional locations and other changes. The version examined indicated changes in 179 records and addition of 931 records out of total 45,111 records. The request will be reviewed and evaluated following to its own criteria.

The code is a combination of 2-character country code (the ISO 3166 alpha-2 Country Code) and 3-character location code. In cases where no ISO 3166 country code is available, e.g. installations in international waters or international cooperation zones, the code "XZ" will be used. Multiple names of the same location due to more than one national languages used are shown in brackets. Changes of name of one location can be also traced.

Additional information available include the 1-3 character alphabetic and/or numeric code for the administrative division of the country concerned (state, province, department, etc.) (45.5%), the status code (i.e. the level of approval), the function code, the last entry/updated date, the IATA code if different from the UN/LOCODE code (0.8%), and the exact coordinates of locations (41.6%). The figures in parenthesis indicate the proportion of records containing relevant information. The proportion of approved records either by competent national government agency, Customs Authority, national facilitation body, International organizations (IATA or ECLAC), the UN/LOCODE Maintenance Agency, national standardization body, or unverified functions, counts for 37.5% of total records and additional 42.1% records are confirmed either by nominated gazetteer, other reference work, or credible national sources. Only 50 records do not carry this information. According to the function code, 22.1% indicate relating to port facility.

The availability of codes in UN/LOCODE was examined with registered ports of High Seas operating vessels reported to the FAO. This includes 741 location records reported from 21 countries. Total 74.8% of reported registered ports could be found corresponding UN/LOCODE, which including 2.8% cases where names in the High Seas Vessels Authorization Record (HSVAR) and UN/LOCODE did not exactly match. The proportion varied from 50% to 100% depending on countries. Lower matching rates were found in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Japan, suggesting some difficulty in translating their original names into roman characters expression. 21.6% of identified code indicate that the location does not include port functions, although some of US reported registered ports that accounts more than half of these cases are not considered as a port (e.g. Las Vegas).

This initial overview is quite satisfactory and FAO would like to encourage for other CWP members to examine this Code system from their own views. Background documentation and code sources are available at http://www.unece.org/etrades/download/downmain.htm#edifact . However, UN/LOCODE clearly and repeatedly indicates the objective of system to facilitate trade flow monitoring. Prior to CWP adopting UN/LOCODE as a standard coding system for vessel reporting, careful preparatory consultation with the UN/LOCODE Secretariat may be needed ion of potential impacts for both sides.

4. Contact with Task Force on IUU control:

The Task Force members visited FAO on 6-7 February, 2006, explaining their proposals on improved controls against IUU fishing activities and seeking for possibility of future collaborations. This Task Force is supported by a round-table for sustainable development in operational way and the current members of a round-table include UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Chile, Namibia and three additional NGOs and is based at OECD. The Task Force reviewed the currently available materials and came up with nine concrete proposals as follows:

1. Strengthen the International MCS Network.
2. Establish a global information system on high seas fishing vessels.
3. Promote broader participation in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and FAO Compliance Agreement.
4. Promote better high seas governance by:
   a) developing a model for improved governance by RMFOs,
   b) independent review of RMFO performance,
   c) encouraging RFMOs to work more effectively through better coordination and use of port and trade-related measures, and
   d) supporting initiatives to bring all unregulated high seas fisheries under effective governance.
5. Propose guidelines on flag state performance.
6. Support greater use of port and trade measures by:
   a) promoting the concept of responsible port states,
   b) promoting the FAO model Port State Scheme as the international minimum standard for regional port state controls and supporting FAO's proposal to develop an electronic database of port state measures,
   c) reviewing domestic port states measures to ensure they meet international minimum standards, and
   d) strengthening domestic legislation controlling import of IUU product.
7. Fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge and assessment.
8. Address the needs of developing countries.
9. Promote better use of technological solutions.

FAO welcomed initiative taken by Task Force and saw strong benefit for collaboration especially in the data collection area. Both FAO and the Task Force representatives recognized the potential for overlap and duplication and agreed to avoid this as much as possible through close collaboration.

Annex 1. Comparison of new (draft) and old ISSCFV classifications.

ISSCFV (approved in CWP-12, 1984)	ISSCFV-2005 (draft)
TRAWLERS Stern trawlers Stern trawlers wet-fish Stern trawlers freezer Stern trawlers factory Outrigger trawlers Trawler nei Side trawlers Side trawlers wet-fish Side trawlers freezer	TRAWLERS Pair trawlers Otter trawlers ~~Stern trawlers~~ ~~Stern trawlers wet-fish~~ ~~Stern trawlers freezer~~ ~~Stern trawlers factory~~ Beam trawlers ~~Outrigger trawlers~~ (Trawler nei) ~~Side trawlers~~ ~~Side trawlers wet-fish~~ ~~Side trawlers freezer~~
SEINERS Purse seiners North American type Tuna purse seiners European type Seiner netters Seiner nei	PURSE SEINERS North American type ~~Tuna purse seiners~~ European type Drum seiners (Purse seiners nei) (OTHER) SEINERS ~~Seiner netters~~
GILLNETTERS Drifters Gill netter nei	GILLNETTERS Drifters Set netter (Gill netter nei)
TRAP SETTERS Pot vessels Trap setters nei	TRAP SETTERS Pot vessels (Trap setters nei)
LINERS Longliners Tuna longliners Pole and line vessels Japanese type American type Trollers Liners nei Handliners	LONGLINERS Bottom longliners Mid-water longliners ~~Tuna longliners~~ (Longliners nei) (OTHER) LINE VESSELS Pole and line vessels ~~Japanese type~~ ~~American type~~ Trollers Jigging line vessels (Other Line vessels nei) ~~Handliners~~

Annex 1. Comparison of new (draft) and old ISSCFV classifications. (continued)

ISSCFV (approved in CWP-12, 1984)	ISSCFV-2005 (draft)
MULTIPURPOSE VESSELS Seiner-handliners Trawler-purse seiners Trawler-drifters Multipurpose vessels nei	MULTIPURPOSE VESSELS Multipurpose non trawlers ~~Seiner-handliners~~ Purse seine-pelagic trawlers Multipurpose trawlers ~~Trawler-drifters~~ (Multipurpose vessels nei)
DREDGERS using boat dredge using mechanical dredge Dredgers nei	DREDGERS ~~using boat dredge~~ ~~using mechanical dredge~~ ~~Dredgers nei~~
LIFT NETTERS using boat operated net Lift netters nei	LIFT NETTERS ~~using boat operated net~~ ~~Lift netters nei~~
VESSELS USING PUMPS FOR FISHING	OTHER FISHING VESSELS - ~~VESSELS USING PUMPS FOR FISHING~~
RECREATIONAL FISHING VESSELS	- ~~RECREATIONAL FISHING VESSELS~~ - ~~Platforms for molluscs culture~~ - ~~Fishing vessels nei~~
FISHING VESSELS NOT SPECIFIED	~~FISHING VESSELS NOT SPECIFIED~~
MOTHERSHIP Salted-fish motherships Factory motherships Tuna motherships Motherships for two-boat purse seining Motherships nei	*MOTHERSHIP* *Salted-fish motherships* *Factory motherships* *Tuna motherships* *Motherships for two-boat purse seining* *Motherships nei*
FISH CARRIERS	*FISH CARRIERS* *OTHER NON-FISHING VESSELS*
HOSPITAL SHIPS	*HOSPITAL SHIPS*
PROTECTION AND SURVEY VESSELS	*PROTECTION AND SURVEY VESSELS*
FISHERY RESEARCH VESSELS	*FISHERY RESEARCH VESSELS*
FISHERY TRAINING VESSELS	*FISHERY TRAINING VESSELS*
NON-FISHING VESSELS nei	*NON-FISHING VESSELS nei*