



<b>COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS</b>
<b>Twenty-fifth Session</b>
<b>Rome, Italy, 23-26 February 2016</b>
<b>Intersessional Activities of the Fishery Group (Activities 2013-2016)</b>
<b>Draft Report</b>

### **INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

The CWP Fishery Capture Group met in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 25-27 February 2015. The meeting was hosted by the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

The intersessional meeting was attended by four CWP participating organizations (Eurostat represented by DG Mare, FAO, NAFO, and SEAFO), and three additional participants from Benguela Current Commission (BCC), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).

### **WORK PLAN REVIEW**

#### **1. CWP Handbook**

##### **a. Revisions to the Handbook agreed at CWP-24**

Following a presentation of revisions proposed by Mr. Hans Lassen, the CWP Handbook coordinator, the CWP-24 established a review mechanism to finalize the revisions of the CWP Handbook.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The Fishery Capture Group (CWP-FC) reaffirmed the CWP-24 agreement on the overall structure and content of the Handbook, and agreed to focus on finalizing the content for dissemination as soon as possible. To that end, the Group urged the Secretariat (FAO) to upload the latest version of the draft Handbook, revised by Mr. Hans Lassen, into the CWP wiki page as promptly as possible.

Action: *FAO agreed to upload the latest version of CWP Handbook to the CWP wiki*

#### **b. Dissemination of the Handbook on the CWP web page**

The FAO presented during the intersessional meeting a possible framework to support dissemination of the new CWP Handbook with enhanced capacity for dynamic searching and a new user interface.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC, in general, were supportive of enhancing search capacity, as long as the contents remained in line with the agreement made at the CWP-24. The Group believed that the suggested changes would provide an opportunity to improve the visibility of existing standards and their utilization, and allow for selected downloads, including to mobile devices. In addition, the Group proposed to add to this architecture the geospatial layer concept.

Action: *FAO agreed to provide a conceptual architecture and design for organizing the CWP Handbook content online. The new CWP website would allow for dynamic searching of classification standards, have a new user interface.*

#### **c. Further enhancement of the socio-economic section of the Handbook**

During the intersessional meeting Eurostat reported that no progress had been made in development of the socio-economic section of the Handbook.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: Eurostat confirmed that all available and relevant socio-economic material, at the DG Mare, had already been passed to the CWP for inclusion into the Handbook.

Action: *FAO agreed to lead a group tasked with developing guidelines on social and economic aspects of the fisheries sector. Core participating organizations for this group includes: FAO (Lead), DG Mare, GFCM and OECD. It was also recommended to make contact with Joint Research Centre (JRC)-ISPRA and ICCAT for possible interest to participate.*

#### **d. Standards for GIS data and geospatial presentation in the Handbook**

During the intersessional meeting, the leading organization, SEAFO, reported that no overriding geographic information system (GIS) standards existed specifically for fisheries.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC concluded that the focus of the GIS/geospatial section in the Handbook should include general geospatial references, and not be limited to GIS only. In addition, the Group considered it beneficial for the section to catalogue existing authoritative geospatial resources, including shape files, and to capture a general guidance of utilizing GIS technologies. Comparative description of different grid reference systems, pros and cons between grid reference system vs. area/zone approaches, access to web-services, and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards for metadata components are another potential area to be included.

Action: *FAO agreed to lead the group tasked with developing the GIS and geospatial section of the Handbook. Core participating organizations for this group includes: FAO (Lead), SEAFO, CCAMLR, ICES and NAFO. DG Mare and SPRFMO also agreed to participate. Since the issue is also relevant to aquaculture, the Group agreed that Aquaculture Group Members should also be invited to participate.*

## **2. Review and Revision of Existing Concepts and Codes**

---

#### **a. Fisheries Commodities classifications**

FAO informed the CWP-FC of its intention to modify the International Statistical Standard Classification of Fisheries Commodities (ISSCFC) in a way to provide more direct linkage with trade commodity classifications and ASFIS List of Species for Fishery Statistics Purposes. The ISSCFC has been developed for the collation of national data in the FAO fishery commodities production and trade database and covers more than 1,200 products derived from fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic animals, plants and residues.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC welcomed FAO's initiative and expected to receive a more concrete proposal in the future.

Action: FAO agreed to provide, for endorsement by CWP, an updated version of the International Statistical Standard Classification of Fisheries Commodities (ISSCFC) that provides more direct linkage with trade commodity classifications and ASFIS List of Species for Fishery Statistics Purposes

#### **b. International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Gears**

Previous CWP discussions agreed to utilize the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Gears (ISSCFG). The FAO explained that the CWP could not formally the revised version of the ISSCFG at the CWP-24 as quorum was not met at the meeting.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC agreed with the ISSCFG being treated as an operational agreement, to enable preparation of the publication of the gear catalogue and web dissemination of the revised classifications.

Action: *The CWP-25 to consider, once again, the "formal" endorsement of the revised ISSCFG list for inclusion in the Handbook*

#### **c. Fishing Capacity**

The fleet statistics collected by FAO are aimed at providing some estimates of the fishing capacity of a given country or territory. However, some additional metrics including effective efforts and fishing capacity may be needed to describe the fishing operation and analyze the cost of production, economic and environmental sustainability of the fishery sector and the impacts and contribution through fishing operations.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: FAO sought the opinion to establish a task group working on suitable measures to describe the fishing operational aspect in an integrated way. The CWP-FC agreed that this would be useful.

Action: *CWP-25 to establish a Working Group of Experts (WGoE) to agree on suitable measures to describe fishing operations [see para. 3 – WGoE 1: Standard concepts for measuring capacity and fishing effort].*

#### **d. Conversion Factors**

The FAO informed the CWP-FC its intention to conduct a questionnaire survey to collect data on conversion factors during 2015. This is the first survey since 1992-1993 and is aiming to collect the conversion factors on different stages of production, including those for landed weight.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC recognized the wide variability of conversion factors according to processing methods, areas and species, it was considered

important to keep all of the details on products together with conversion factors, in particular, for the case of standardized conversion factors. The Group felt it not pragmatic to develop a set of standard conversion factors corresponding to global standard classification of fish and fishery commodities. It was noted that the Annex within the CWP Handbook is outdated and only indicative, and that particular care should be taken to highlight this in future revisions of the Annex.

*Action: The CWP-FC recommended that FAO also dispatch the conversion factor questionnaire to regional organizations, and for CWP-25 to establish a working group of experts to determine the utility of a questionnaire given the variability in conversion factors based on processing methods, areas and species etc. [see para. 3 – WGoE 2: Development of guidelines on conversion factors].*

#### **e. Harmonization of Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)**

The FAO explained during the intersessional meeting that previous attempts at developing standards for trade certification had not met with success. It was recognized that due to existing requirements and constraints, it may only be possible to achieve “loose” guidelines.

Outcome from the intersessional meeting: The CWP-FC noted that only few organizations, including CCAMLR, CCSBT and ICCAT, currently implement a CDS. The group agreed that establishment of a working group to attempt to develop standards for trade certification would be useful.

*Action: CWP-25 to agree to establish a group of experts to develop standards for trade certification [see para. 3 – WGoE 4: Meta-data standards for catch documentation schemes].*

### **3. CWP Working Groups to Develop Data Collection Guidelines and Standards**

During the intersessional meeting the CWP-FC Coordinator introduced discussions relating to CWP setting standards for data collection of scientific, management, and socio-economic data. The benefits of global data harmonization, standardization and coherence was highlighted.

**Outcome from the intersessional meeting:** The CWP-FC group acknowledged various ongoing efforts towards global meta-data standards (e.g., UN/CEFACT, SDMX, FiMES) and the need for CWP to endorse/develop global fisheries meta-data standards. To this end, the group agreed to establish the following Working Group of Experts (WGoE), *inter alia*:

1. Standard concepts for measuring capacity and fishing effort
2. Development of guidelines on conversion factors
3. Meta-data standards for science data (e.g. observer system data)
4. Meta-data standards for catch documentation schemes
5. Meta-data standards for global catch reporting
6. Global Record and associated meta-data standards
7. Meta-data standards for MCS
8. Master Data Management (MDM) enabling consistency among existing standards for the use of CWP standard classifications

**Action:** *The CWP-25 are requested to endorse the creation of the aforementioned Working Groups of Experts to develop/endorse global meta-data standards. The Secretariat (FAO) agreed to extend an invitation to all CWP Members to indicate their interest in leading or participating in the Working Groups of Experts. CWP Members are asked to nominate experts and initiatives relevant to these ad hoc groups.*

