

Expert Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries

Prospectus

Background

The goal of ecolabelling programmes is to create market-based incentives for better management of fisheries by creating consumer demand for seafood products from well-managed stocks. Ecolabels are seals of approval given to products that are deemed to have fewer impacts on the environment than functionally or competitively similar products. The goal of ecolabelling initiatives is to promote sustainably managed fisheries and highlight their products to consumers. The subject is more fully discussed in FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No 422 “Product Certification and Ecolabelling for Fisheries Sustainability” (for online access, please see: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y2789E/Y2789E00.HTM>)

The Expert Consultation is being convened at the request of many FAO members which called upon FAO to develop guidelines on ecolabelling on the basis of scientific information and with the coordination of governments. The request was voiced at the last session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, February 2003 (paragraph 39). The report of the Expert Consultation will be submitted to the next session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (February 2004).

Objective

The primary objective of the Expert Consultation is to consider draft elements of international guidelines for the ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries. These draft elements will relate to principles and criteria as well as procedural and institutional aspects of ecolabelling.

Scope

In its deliberations, the Expert Consultation will take into account the outcomes of the work relevant to ecolabelling of, inter alia, WTO, ISO and Codex Alimentarius as well as recent trends in ecolabelling as applied in the fisheries, forestry and agricultural sectors. The Expert Consultation will also consider the special requirements of developing countries and countries in transition to adopt ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries.

Participants

A small number of experts is being invited in individual capacity from different regions and having diverse disciplinary backgrounds and stakeholder affiliations.

Language

The Expert Consultation will be conducted in English.

Date and venue

The Expert consultation will be held in the period 14 – 17 October 2003, at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy.

Further information

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