

CALL FOR EXPERTS FOR AN EXPERT CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE FISH TRADE

The purpose of this call for experts is to identify experts for an FAO expert consultation that will consider Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade. The expert consultation is scheduled for the week of 22-26 January 2007 in Washington DC, USA. The purpose of these Technical Guidelines is to provide practical guidance and advice for policy makers, the fish industry and fisheries managers on how to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries article 11.2 *Responsible International Trade* and article 11.3 *Laws and Regulations Relating to Fish Trade*.

The basis for the expert consultation will be the draft Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade that were discussed by the FAO's Sub-Committee on Fish Trade during its meeting in Santiago de Compostela on 30 May – 2 June 2006. All documents related to this meeting are available on: ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/cofift_10/Default.htm.

The outcome of the discussion at the meeting in Santiago de Compostela was that the current version of the draft Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade should be updated to reflect the current environment of international trade in fishery products and the dynamic nature of trade.

It was also suggested that the guidelines should take into account other important aspects of fisheries such as sustainability of fisheries, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU), and post-harvest practises. The guidelines also should take further account of the following issues, among others:

- Requirements of developing countries for active participation in international trade of fishery products and FAO's role in this respect (e.g. in relation to product quality, ecolabelling).
- Issues of international trade and reducing barriers to trade.
- Facilitation of market access to the fish and fishery products caught in a manner consistent with the management measures agreed in the regional fisheries management organizations.
- Occupational health and product safety.
- Implications of WTO case law, in particular regarding the interpretation of Article XX of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994.
- Reference to WTO provisions such as the Anti-Dumping Agreement and the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement.
- Integrated coverage of the value chain.
- United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) relevant provisions.

The goals of the expert consultation will therefore be to review the draft Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade and to update them taking into account the feedback that was provided by the COFI:FT.

Selection of Experts

FAO has developed procedures for designating experts that assure the transparency, excellence, and independence of the opinions delivered. This process was developed to ensure

that the pool of selected experts includes a diversity of viewpoints and includes representatives from all geographic regions of the world including both developing and developed countries.

Areas of Expertise

FAO is seeking specialists in the following areas of expertise to participate in this meeting : trade in fish and fishery products, knowledge of developing countries needs and requirements, fisheries economics, fisheries trade policy, WTO agreements, UNCLOS provisions, use of trade related measures to ensure compliance with conservation and management goals of RFMOs, use of trade related measures to combat IUU fishing, relationship between the WTO and MEAs, fish trade and food security relationship

Experts should have an advanced degree in economics, fisheries economics or trade law.

Experts shall be appointed in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their country or of the institution for which they are employed.

Funds for translation and interpretation are not available. At the present time, the meeting and correspondence will be carried out in the English language. Applicants should have a good working knowledge of English.

Application

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae including a description of education, work experience and a list of peer reviewed publications. The curriculum vitae submitted will be reviewed by a selection panel and the complete list of selected experts will be posted on the FAO website.

Applicants are also asked to provide any additional background material that may be relevant to their application or to the expert consultation.

Criteria for Selection of Experts

Education and professional background in the areas indicated above (see areas of expertise).

Technical expertise and professional recognition.

Ability to participate in group discussions and draft clear and concise reports.

Process for Selection of Experts

The curriculum vitae will be reviewed by a panel of FAO staff.

FAO will appoint experts from the pool of qualified applicants to participate in the consultations and/or to be member of the drafting group. In appointing experts FAO will consider diversity of backgrounds, conflicts of interest and representation from all geographic regions including developing and developed countries.

Contact Information

The submission of an application is requested before **31 October 2006**.

The application should be sent to:

Fish Utilization and Marketing Service

Attention: Lahsen Ababouch

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