

**Recommendation RECOFI/6/2011/1**  
**on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area**

The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI),

*RECALLING* that the purpose of RECOFI is, *inter alia*, to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture;

*RECALLING* that the third meeting of RECOFI's Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009) agreed that a recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI Area should be drafted for review by the fourth meeting of the WGFM (Muscat, Oman, 3–5 October 2010) for submission to the Sixth Session of RECOFI (Manama, Bahrain, 10–12 May 2011);

*REAFFIRMING* the strong desire of RECOFI Members to promote closer international cooperation and harmonization in fisheries of mutual interest;

*AWARE* that minimum data reporting requirements for the RECOFI Area are fundamental to promoting long-term sustainable fisheries, especially for species of common interest in the region (see Appendix 1);

*ADOPTS* in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of RECOFI Agreement that:

1. (a) Each Member shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure the collection and submission of information required under the paragraph 2, 3 and 4 of this recommendation.  
(b) Nothing in this recommendation shall constrain a Member pursuing data collection and sharing them with the Commission for the purpose of improving management of fisheries and fishery resources in the RECOFI area beyond the requirements of this recommendation.
2. (a) Each Member operating with shrimp trawl fishery shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to that fishery:
  - (i) opening and closing dates of the fishery;
  - (ii) number of vessels engaged in the fishery according to its own vessel type/ size categories (e.g. steel-hulled/speed boats/dhows);
  - (iii) annual average tow duration, annual average number of tows per day, and total number of days at sea, according to vessel type/size categories;
  - (iv) live-weight equivalent of annual catch of shrimp, swimming crab, cuttlefish, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, emperors, groupers, sharks, rays, and other finfishes, taken by the fishery;
  - (v) annual amount of discards, and
  - (vi) species composition of bycatch and discards, if available.  
(b) If any bycatch reduction device (BRD) is used or other mitigation measure taken, each Member should advise the Commission of details of such BRD/mitigation measure used and submit the catch and effort for those vessels with mitigation measures separated from those vessels operating normally.

3. Each Member shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to gillnets, wire-traps, and hook-and-line fisheries, respectively:
  - (a) annual effort in individual fisheries, in terms of “number of days at sea”, and if this is not possible, alternative effort with its brief description; and
  - (b) live-weight equivalents of annual total catch, and of annual catches of narrow-barred Spanish mackerels, emperors, groupers, sharks and rays taken by individual gears with species identification of emperors and groupers to the extent possible, and amount of discards if available.
4. (a) Each Member shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel *Scomberomorus commerson* taken in any fishery in the country:
  - (i) catch in live-weight equivalent on a monthly basis to the extent possible, if not on an annual basis;
  - (ii) fork length composition of catch on a monthly basis to the extent possible, if not on an annual basis, either based on fishery monitoring or obtained from other sources, and
  - (iii) for operations targeting narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (e.g. kingfish fixed net, gillnet and hook-and-line), monthly catch with fork length composition and effort by gear type, together with clear description of kinds of effort used, to the extent possible.

(b) Each Member shall make available to the Commission any results obtained through surveys and research works relevant to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, including fishery-dependent and fishery-independent stock indicators, biological parameters (e.g. growth rate, length frequency data obtained by projects, age-length relationship, reproductive information, natural mortality) and ecological information (e.g. distribution, feeding habitat, habitat preferences).
5. Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the Commission the following additional information:
  - (a) shrimp species composition within the shrimp trawl catch; and
  - (b) species composition of discards.
6. Each Member shall submit to the Commission the information required under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this recommendation, and any modification to information reported previously, before the end of August of the following year. Each Member shall cooperate in exchanging historical information relevant to those described in this recommendation.
7. Each Member shall cooperate in sharing survey plans and protocols prior to their implementation, as well as results of such surveys upon their conclusion, to the relevant Members through the Commission.
8. The Commission shall collate, maintain and promptly disseminate to Members the information provided under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this recommendation. The Commission may, subject to the request from a Member who provided information, impose restrictions on access to the information by the public.
9. The Commission shall monitor and evaluate regularly the status of implementation of this recommendation.

## APPENDIX 1

## List of key species supporting main reference fisheries in the RECOFI Area

FAO name	ASFIS code	Common name	Scientific name
Penaeid shrimps nei	PEZ	Shrimps	Penaeidae
Blue swimming crabs	SCD	Blue swimming crab	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>
Pharaoh cuttlefish	IAH	Cuttlefish	<i>Sepia pharaonis</i>
Stolephorus anchovies	STO	Anchovies	<i>Stolephorus</i> spp.
Indian oil sardine	IOS	Indian oil sardine	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>
Bludger	NGY	Jacks	<i>Carangoide gymnostethus</i>
Golden trevally	GLT	Golden trevally	<i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>
Indian mackerel	RAG	Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger Kanagurta</i>
Snubnose emperor	LBW	Orange finned emperor	<i>Lethrinus borbonicus</i>
Pink ear emperor	LTS	Redspot emperor	<i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>
Spangled emperor	LHN	Spangled emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>
Coral hind	CFI	Coral grouper/Bluespotted grouper	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
Orange-spotted grouper	ENI	Orange-spotted grouper	<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>
White-spotted spinefoot	SCN	Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus canaliculatus</i>
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	COM	King mackerel/Narrow-barred Spanish	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>
Longtail tuna	LOT	Longtail tuna	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>
Requiem sharks nei	RSK	Sharks	Carcharhinidae