

March 2008



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
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农业组织

Food  
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Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
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Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Antalya, Turkey, 21–28 May 2008

### PROPOSAL FOR PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

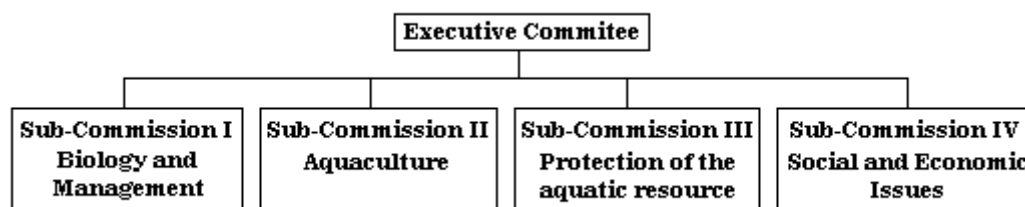
#### Ad Hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries

**Convener:** R. Arlinghaus (Germany)  
**Technical Secretary:** R. van Anrooy (FAO)

#### BACKGROUND ON EIFAC

The European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC)<sup>1</sup> was established in 1957 through Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution). Since then the Regional Fishery Body has served as the only international forum for collaboration and information exchange among all European countries. The main aim of EIFAC is to assist its member Governments in the collection of information, to promote cooperation among governmental organizations, and to advise on the development and management of inland fisheries and aquaculture. It currently has 34 members (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK) and it regularly works with scientists from North America, Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Belarus.

EIFAC has an Executive Committee and four sub-commissions (see figure).



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fi/body/eifac/eifac.asp>

## **BACKGROUND ON THE EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE**

The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) states in its introduction that “Fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations and should therefore be conducted in a responsible manner”. The CCRF, however, does not address specific recreational fisheries issues.

EIFAC recognizes the importance of the recreational fisheries sub-sector. The regional fishery body is aware that in the European Union more than 16 000 companies (manufacturers, and wholesalers, retailers) are involved in production and marketing/sales of recreational fishing tackle, representing around 100 000 jobs. Since the estimated total expenditure related to recreational fisheries in Europe is in excess of 25 billion Euros annually, it is clear that the recreational fisheries sector deserves proper attention from EIFAC members.

During the Twentieth session of EIFAC, held in Praia do Carvoeiro, Portugal, (23 June – 1 July 1998), EIFAC Sub-Commission IV on social and economic issues discussed as usual the socio-economic value of recreational fisheries and what has been done on this issue in the inter-sessional period. A number of members, primarily Eastern European countries, requested there that Sub-Commission IV work on a European Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries.

Unfortunately, due to several changes in Working Party Chairpersons, the established WP was only able to deliver a strategy to finalize the Code of Practice to the Twenty-fourth session of EIFAC in Mondsee, Austria, in 2006. This strategy was presented to the Commission as “Proposal for financing the production of a European code of practice for recreational fisheries” EIFAC/XXIV/2006/Inf.12. The proposal included three options: 1) abolition of the WP, 2) joint funding of the proposal by a donor, EAA and FAO to finally secure the desired output, or 3) take advantage of national level initiatives without a guaranteed output. The members recognised in Mondsee again the need for a Code and the delegate from the Netherlands indicated that he would seek financial support for the proposed project and report back to the Sub-Commission.

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, together with the Dutch Recreational Fishing Association offered to host an international workshop on the development of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries. They provided financial and logistic support in hosting the international expert workshop, which was held in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, on 5 and 6 November 2007. The Irish Fisheries Board provided financial and technical support, which made it possible to produce the draft that was presented at the workshop in Bilthoven.

The EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries was developed in the course of 2007 and the finalized in early 2008 by Robert Arlinghaus and was discussed internally by the WP, presented at the Bilthoven workshop (which was attended by 28 recreational fisheries experts from around the world), and revised following feedback and consultation with the international experts that attended the workshop in Bilthoven. The revised draft was submitted to the EIFAC EXCOM members and the EIFAC National Correspondents in February 2008 for a final round of comments and observations. The process of preparation of the COP was highly participatory, involving key stakeholders and their organizations, and was finalized in March 2008.

Following the request of the last EIFAC sessions and the expectations from the EXCOM meeting in May 2007, the final draft version of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries is submitted to EIFAC for endorsement at the Twenty-fifth Session in Antalya, Turkey.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON THE EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE**

The members of the Ad hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries (WP) and the international experts who participated in the Bilthoven workshop, recommended that (following the endorsement of the COP by the Commission) efforts be made to promote and disseminate the EIFAC COP.

In particular it was recommended that the following activities be undertaken by the Commission:

- 1) Translate and publish the EIFAC COP in the languages used by the EIFAC member countries<sup>2</sup> (on demand from the members), and also make the COP available on the EIFAC website in these languages.
- 2) Raise awareness and build capacity on the implementation of the COP through organization of special sessions on the EIFAC COP at major European and international recreational fisheries conferences, exhibitions and events.
- 3) Ensure, through its secretariat, that the EIFAC COP is made available to the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its next session in March 2009, for information.”

## **ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

In relation to Activity 1 (translation and publication of the COP) above:

- (i) Publication of the COP as an official EIFAC COP in English and French and arrange for dissemination through EIFAC correspondents.
- (ii) Identify and translate the COP into other languages as required/requested by the EIFAC members.
- (iii) Seek collaboration with national level anglers- and recreational fishing associations and federations of associations on the translation.
- (iv) Issue contracts with angler- and recreational fishing associations and federations of associations on the translation, publication and dissemination of the EIFAC COP.
- (v) Collect hard-copies and soft-copies of each translation and published version and make them available on the EIFAC Website.

In relation to Activity 2 (raise awareness and build capacity on the COP) above:

- (i) Prepare simple leaflets and short promotional brochures in English and French on the COP.
- (ii) Prepare a professional Powerpoint presentation and short documentary on the COP for use by national level anglers- and recreational fishing associations and federations of associations, and to show at international recreational fisheries conferences, exhibitions and events.
- (iii) Prepare a training manual to build capacity on the COP, for use by national level anglers- and recreational fishing associations and federations of associations, when informing their members.
- (iv) Present (on behalf of EIFAC) the COP at European and international recreational fisheries conferences, exhibitions and events.

## **ESTIMATED BUDGET REQUIRED**

EIFAC does not have the financial resources available for the activities proposed, and support from FAO cannot be expected as the Organization is under severe financial pressure.

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<sup>2</sup> Official EIFAC languages are English and French, which means that the COP (once endorsed) will be published with FAO support in these two languages only.

A conservative estimate of the budget required for the three activities is the following:

Activity 1: 50 000 Euros (for translation and publication in 20 languages)

Activity 2: 50 000 Euros

**Total budget required by EIFAC/FAO for the 3 activities: 100 000 Euros<sup>3</sup>.**

The activities can be financed separately, although it would be preferred that they would be covered under one project; this for administrative purposes.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Twenty-fifth Session of EIFAC is requested to:

- Discuss and endorse the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries
- Consider and seek financial and in-kind contributions to the proposals as presented above.

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<sup>3</sup> Details of above budget estimations can be provided upon request. The EIFAC secretariat will provide their technical, organizational and administrative support to the activities proposed. This contribution in kind from FAO to the activities proposed can be valued at around 20 000 Euros.