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y la
Alimentación

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Antalya, Turkey, 21–28 May 2008

SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT

SUB-COMMISSION IV – Social and Economic Issues

Chairperson: I. Cowx (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairperson: M. Sipponen (Finland)

Rapporteur: R. Arlinghaus (Germany)

Technical Secretary: R. van Anrooy (FAO)

Ad Hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries

Convener: R. Arlinghaus (Germany)

The terms of reference for the WP as endorsed by the EIFAC EXCOM in May 2007 are:

- 1) Produce a European Code of Good Practice for Recreational Fishing until the end of 2007 in collaboration with various NGO's and key players.
- 2) Monitor key ongoing research world-wide related to social, economic and ecological aspects of relevance for recreational fisheries and its management.
- 3) Work closely with the WP on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries in producing methodological guidelines for the undertaking of social and economic surveys on recreational fisheries. Focus of this WP shall be on social-psychological approaches to measure basic concepts such as motivations, consumptive orientation, constraints experienced by recreational anglers etc.
- 4) Observe opportunities for funding a Pan-European study on the social and economic importance of recreational fisheries or similar endeavours on a European scale.

In 2007, the WP developed the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries. A first draft was prepared by Robert Arlinghaus and discussed internally by the WP. A second draft was then prepared and presented at an international expert workshop which was attended by 28 recreational fisheries experts from around the world. The international expert workshop was held in Bilthoven, the Netherlands, on 5 and 6 November 2007, where extensive discussions on the subject took place. A third draft was prepared by Robert Arlinghaus with support from other WP members based on the feedback received at the workshop. The third draft was sent to the international experts that attended the workshop in Bilthoven, the EIFAC EXCOM members and the EIFAC National Correspondents in February 2008 for a final round of comments and observations. Responses received included agreement with the Code and some positive remarks which were (when relevant) incorporated in the document. The final draft was technically edited by Mr Robin Welcomme. 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 has been submitted to EIFAC for endorsement at the Twenty-fifth Session in Antalya, Turkey.

The draft Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries is provided in EIFAC/XXV/2008/8 and will be discussed in relevant Agenda Item. Thanks must go to A. Rothuis of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and to F. Bloot of the Dutch Recreational Fishing Association for their financial and logistic support in hosting the workshop, as well as to the Irish Fisheries Board – particularly J. Caffrey – for partial funding of this project. Further funding was provided through the Adaptfish-project funded by the Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz-Community (Germany) through a grant to R. Arlinghaus.

Following the advice of some experts at the Bilthoven meeting the WP prepared also a proposal for promotion and global dissemination of the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries. This proposal has been sent in April 2008 to all EIFAC correspondents in search for a donor; allowing some time to the correspondents to discuss the possibilities for funding of the proposal within their respective governments.

Work in monitoring key research on recreational fisheries has continued. A number of papers and book chapters on recreational fisheries have been published by WP members including a highly visible paper on fish welfare. Fish welfare has been identified as a major area for the future. The convener has been invited for given a key note presentation at the upcoming World Fisheries Conference in Japan on the topic of fish welfare and recreational fisheries. Also, the convener was elected into the programme committee to organize a number of international conferences in 2008 such as the Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Conference in Colorado USA and the Fifth World Recreational Fisheries Conference in Florida, USA.

No further progress has been made on the requested input of the WP into the paper on methodological guidelines for inland fisheries that is being prepared by the WP on Socio-Economic Aspects.

EU programmes that could be used to fund research on recreational fisheries have been monitored, but no appropriate call has been identified to present a proposal that has been developed together with Bernd Überschär from the GEOMAR institute in Kiel (Germany) and Ian G. Cowx. The EU Cost programme proposal to fund a workshop on assessing the importance of recreational fisheries in national economies was not successful. The convener will continue to monitor the EU calls for placement of the proposal at earliest convenience.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries

Convener: M. Sipponen (Finland)

The WP Terms of Reference were updated at the twenty-fourth session of EIFAC in Mondsee but have been amended since. The following TORs were endorsed by the EXCOM in May 2007:

1. Produce methodological guidelines for the undertaking of social and economic surveys on recreational fisheries in collaboration with WP on Recreational Fisheries.
2. Prepare a report of the significance of private property rights on the alternative traits to manage inland commercial fisheries by April 2008.

Considerable progress has been made towards completion of task 1 and a draft of the methodological guidelines for undertaking social and economic surveys on recreational fisheries has been prepared by the Convener (Mr M Sipponen) in collaboration with Mr R. Arlinghaus. This draft will be circulated for comments in the near future with the aim of completing the final draft for publication as an EIFAC Occasional Paper, with a summary version to be published in the journal Fisheries Management and Ecology in 2008.

Little progress has been made on Task 2 but an update will be made by the Convener for presentation at the symposium on conjunction with the Twenty-fifth session of EIFAC in Antalya, Turkey, 2008.

Other activities

IUU fishing

At the twenty-fourth session of EIFAC it was suggested that a liaison group be formed to maintain a watching brief on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in relation to inland fisheries. Proposed Terms of Reference for the LG for endorsement by the Twenty-fifth Session of EIFAC are:

- Review issues regarding catch and aquaculture statistics in inland waters in EIFAC countries;
- Assessment of the incidence and impact of IUU fishing in river and lake fisheries;
- Develop framework for national plans of action to combat IUU fishing and reporting on their implementation;

In the meantime a draft contribution on IUU Fishing in inland waters, funded by FAO, has been prepared by Mr I. Cowx. It is intended that the final product will be published in the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Series, under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This will be made available once it has been endorsed.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

At the nineteenth session of EIFAC it was suggested that the WP initiate work on resolution of conflicts within river catchments. Some progress towards this has been forthcoming through the preparation of several publications:

R. Arlinghaus and I.G. Cowx (2007) Meaning and relevance of the ecosystem approach to recreational fisheries management, with emphasis on the importance of the human dimension. In: O. Aas and R.B. Ditton. (eds) *Global challenges in recreational fisheries*. Oxford: Blackwell Science.

I.G. Cowx and R. Arlinghaus. Overview of the ecosystem approach to inland fisheries – in review.

In this context, Sub-Commission IV recommends that EIFAC establishes a WP on the ecosystem approach to inland fisheries (including aquaculture), which is also of great interest to those people working on the ecosystem approach to aquaculture and marine fisheries. It was noted that GFCM was working on the former and that possible linkages with some ongoing projects would be possible. Moreover it was argued that the ecosystem approach to marine fisheries could use the experiences of River Basin Management Planning in inland fisheries. This WP would contribute to national obligations for preparing River Basins Management Plans for the WFD.

A project proposal (FORECASTER) has been submitted to the Integrated Water Resources Management Network¹ to partially meet these objectives. If successful the project will be used as a framework to support this proposed WP

Climate change

Considerable concern has been expressed over the potential impacts of climate change on inland fisheries in Europe. Given the current importance of this topic, Sub-Commission IV recommended that EIFAC establish a cross sub-commission WP on the impact of climate change on inland fisheries in the EIFAC member countries. Proposed TORs for the WP are the following:

1. Review of the potential impact (ecological, social and economic) of climate change on the functioning of inland waters to support indigenous and non-native fish populations and fisheries. Particular attention should focus on the impacts of changes in hydrology and limnology of rivers and lakes on fish life histories.
2. Develop environmentally and socially acceptable methods for ameliorating the potential impacts of climate change to protect and enhance aquatic biodiversity.
3. Development of a methodology to separate the impact of climate change from other factors (e.g. pollution) affecting inland fisheries and aquaculture or the wider aquatic environment.

European Fisheries Fund

¹ www.iwrm-net.eu

The Chairman of Sub-Commission IV, together with the Convenors of the WPs in the Sub Commission were invited to make presentations at a European Commission workshop on “EFF, Inland Fishing, and Aquaculture Production Methods Enhancing the Environment” in Bucarest, Romania, from 27 to 29 June 2007. The workshop reviewed issues relating to inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe and is expected to set the agenda for funding for these areas through the European Fisheries Fund for the future. The minutes of the meeting in English and French and the presentations are available on the DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs website at following URL: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/meetings_events/events/archives/events_2007/conference_270607_en.htm