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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Eleventh Session

Bremen, Germany, 2 - 6 June 2008

MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 11 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES

SUMMARY

The Twenty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed that the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade should take responsibility for monitoring the implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code). The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade will also determine the format and frequency of more detailed monitoring. The paper proposes a format and frequency for more detailed monitoring of the trade-related aspects of the Code. The Sub-Committee is invited to comment on the proposed format and frequency.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed that the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade should take responsibility for monitoring the implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code). The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade will also determine the format and frequency of more detailed monitoring. Future Sub-Committee reports presented to COFI will contain information on progress with the implementation of Article 11 (Post Harvest Practices and Trade).
2. The purpose of this document is to propose a format and frequency of the more detailed monitoring of Article 11.

EXISTING MONITORING ACTIVITIES

3. A report on Progress in the Implementation of the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is prepared by the Secretariat for COFI. The information contained in the report is supplied by the Secretariat, FAO Members, regional fishery bodies and non-government organizations. The information is collated and analyzed on the basis of responses to a questionnaire sent to FAO Members. Seventy FAO Members (37 percent of the FAO Members) responded to the questionnaire that was sent in 2006. The questionnaire is sent biennially.

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM EXISTING MONITORING ACTIVITIES

4. The monitoring activities related to Article 11 of the Code are based on the feedback related to four questions that address post harvest practices and trade¹. Two of the questions are qualitative and two are quantitative. As can be seen below, the replies to these questions only provide a limited basis to monitor implementation of Article 11. In addition, they do not provide respondents with the opportunity to more specifically identify areas where implementation remains a challenge.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

5. In relation to post-harvest practices and trade, close to 80 percent of the responding Members reported that an effective food safety and quality assurance system for fish and fisheries products was in place in their countries. For some Members, it remained unclear how far quality assurance systems were applicable to the entire national fisheries sector, as opposed to applying the standards only to the seafood export sector.
6. Eighty-four percent of the responding Members reported to have taken steps to reduce post-harvest losses in processing, distribution and marketing. The main measures taken referred to the improvement of handling and conservation methods, the enacting of food safety regulations and the establishment of procedures and standards. Other prominent measures include awareness-raising and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) implementation and training, reflecting earlier reported trends. However, a newly emerging trend was that Members were giving greater attention to by-product utilization and diversification of product use as a measure to reduce losses.
7. About 53 percent of responding Members have taken steps to promote the improved use of bycatch in processing, distribution and marketing, a contraction over the 2005 report. Core measures taken for achieving this objective remained vague, with awareness-raising, training, and research and

¹ The questions and responses for the 2007 CCRF questionnaire specific to Article 11 of the Code are listed in Annex 1.

development projects topping the list. Some 68 percent of responding Members indicated that they had implemented mechanisms to eliminate the processing of, and trading of, illegally harvested fish. The most prominent mechanisms used to achieve this goal were enhanced control and inspection regimes and the introduction of mandatory reporting schemes.

8. While a majority of processors were in a position to trace the origin of the fishery products they purchased (85 percent), more than half of the consumers were not able to do so (42 percent), showing little change over the past two years.

PROPOSED FORMAT AND FREQUENCY OF MORE DETAILED MONITORING

FORMAT

9. A revised questionnaire, focusing on trade related aspects of the Code will be developed. The questionnaire will be distributed to all FAO Members, regional fishery bodies and non-governmental organizations. The trade related questionnaire will be updated to:

- cover current and relevant trade-related issues;
- be a diagnostic tool that both monitors implementation and identifies challenges to implementation of the Code.

10. The Secretariat will develop the questionnaire with a view to making it more user-friendly.

11. The Secretariat will compile and analyze the feedback obtained from the questionnaire. The analysis will be submitted to the COFI:FT for its consideration. The analysis will then be submitted to COFI.

12. Two options are available to undertake the monitoring activity:

1. The overall monitoring questionnaire is updated so that the trade-related questions are more user-friendly and brought up to date. (The updated trade-related questions will be different from the questions that have been included in the original monitoring questionnaire to date.) With this option, FAO Members will continue to respond to one questionnaire as they have in the past.
2. A separate trade-related questionnaire is developed and sent to FAO Members. The main advantage of this option is that a trade specific questionnaire will be developed to address trade specific issues. With this option, FAO Members will have to respond to two separate questionnaires.

TIMING

13. If the Sub-Committee agrees on option 1 (including updated trade-related questions in the overall monitoring questionnaire), the questionnaire will be sent to FAO Members in the first half of 2010. The Sub-Committee will discuss the questionnaire's results during its 13th Session in 2012 and will report on its findings to the 30th COFI in 2013.

14. If the Sub-Committee agrees on option 2 (separate trade-specific questionnaire), the updated questionnaire will be sent to FAO Members during the first half of 2009. The Sub-Committee will discuss the questionnaires' results during its 12th Session in 2010 and will report on its findings to the 29th COFI in 2011.

FREQUENCY

15. If the Sub-Committee opts for option 1, the frequency of the monitoring activity will be determined by COFI as the trade-specific monitoring activity will be included in the overall monitoring questionnaire.
16. If the Sub-Committee opts for option 2, it is invited to consider whether the trade-related questionnaire should be administered every two years or every four years.

OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

17. In addition to the trade-related questionnaire, the monitoring activity could also, as necessary, focus on specific aspects of Article 11 (Post-Harvest Practice and Trade) that the Sub-Committee determines will benefit from more detailed monitoring. The benefit of this approach is that it permits a more careful consideration of specific challenges FAO Members face in implementing specific components of Article 11 of the Code.

SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION

18. The Secretariat recommends option 2 for the trade-related monitoring activity. Under option 2, a separate trade-related questionnaire is developed and sent to FAO Members. This will require FAO members to complete two questionnaires (the overall monitoring questionnaire and the trade-related questionnaire) but will allow for a more in-depth monitoring activity in relation to Article 11. Option 2 will also permit the monitoring activity to be initiated a full two years earlier than under option 1.
19. The Secretariat furthermore recommends that the monitoring activity be undertaken every two years to coincide with COFI.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

20. The Sub-Committee is invited to comment on the proposed format and frequency of more detailed monitoring of the trade related aspects of the Code. The Sub-Committee is, in particular, invited to comment on the Secretariat's recommendation to develop a separate questionnaire for Article 11 of the Code and to undertake the monitoring activity every two years.

ARTICLE 11 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT – POST-HARVEST PRACTICES AND TRADE

	Yes	No
21. Is an effective food safety and quality assurance system for fisheries products in place?	80%	
22. What measures have been taken to encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to reduce post-harvest losses and wastes, starting with the most effective.		
1. Improvement of handling and conservation methods. 2. Enacting of food-safety regulations and the establishment of procedures and standards. 3. Awareness raising and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) implementation and training. 4. By-product utilization and diversification of product use as a measure to reduce losses. None ____		
23. What measures have been taken to encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to improve the use of bycatch, starting with the most effective.		
1. Awareness-raising, training, and research and development projects. 2. 3. None ____		
24. Can processors and/or consumers easily identify the origin of the product raw material?	Yes	No
Processors	85%	
Consumers	42%	
25. Please describe measures that have been taken to ensure that fisheries processors, brokers and dealers do not process or trade in illegally harvested fisheries resources.		
1. 68% report implementation of mechanisms to eliminate the processing of, and trading in, illegally harvested resources (68%). The most prominent mechanisms used to achieve this goal were enhanced control and inspection regimes and the introduction of mandatory reporting schemes. 2. 3. None ____		

**REGIONAL STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES BY FAO MEMBERS TO THE 2006
QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES
IMPLEMENTATION²**

TABLE 3
Ranking of the Objectives of the Code of Conduct by decreasing order of top priority
(Ranking: 5=extremely relevant, 3=relevant, 1=not very relevant)

Objectives	Region (number of responses in brackets)	5 (%)	4 (%)	3 (%)	2 (%)	1 (%)
Objective H: Promote trade in fish and fishery products in conformity with relevant international rules.	Africa (26)	42.3	15.4	23.1	11.5	7.7
	Asia (7)	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	
	Europe (4)		75.0	25.0		
	Latin America & Caribbean (17)	11.8	35.3	47.1	5.9	
	Near East (4)		50.0			50.0
	North America (2)	100				
	Southwest Pacific (4)	75.0	25.0			
	Total (64)		31.3	28.1	26.6	7.8

TABLE 4
Ranking of themes in the Code of Conduct by decreasing order of top priority

Theme	Region (number of specified responses in brackets)	Top Priority (%)	Priority (%)	Low Priority (%)
Post-harvest Practices	Africa (26)	42.3	38.5	19.2
	Asia (7)	28.6	57.1	14.3
	Europe (4)	25.0	50.0	25.0
	Latin America & Caribbean (17)	23.5	41.2	35.3
	Near East (4)		75.0	25.0
	North America (2)	50.0	50.0	
	Southwest Pacific (4)	50.0	50.0	
	Total (64)		32.8	45.3
Trade	Africa (24)	25.0	58.3	16.7
	Asia (7)	14.3	57.1	28.6
	Europe (4)	50.0	50.0	
	Latin America & Caribbean (17)	23.5	52.9	23.5
	Near East (4)	25.0	75.0	
	North America (2)	50.0	50.0	
	Southwest Pacific (4)	50.0	25.0	25.0
	Total (62)		27.4	54.8

² For this report, the EU has replied in the name of its now 25 Member countries, except for questions relating to the legal frameworks in place for integrated coastal zone management, conflicts in coastal areas and resolution mechanisms, summarized in table 21. Each EU response has been computed as a single response (despite the fact that each response embodies the response of 25 EU Members), much the same as the United States and Canada have been computed on an equality basis (despite their 10:1 population ratios) for the North America region. Doing otherwise would invariably have skewed results to either side of the spectrum (producing results close to zero or close to 1), given the relatively few responses obtained from EU non-Members.