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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

## Thirty-second Session

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-7 May 2020

### Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 6th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)

#### Executive Summary

This document presents the Final Report<sup>1</sup> of the Sixth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), held in Izmir, Turkey, from 15 to 18 October 2018.

- The Commission encouraged all countries located in the wider Central Asia and Caucasus region that are not yet members to become members or, alternatively, to collaborate formally with the Commission as observers.
- The session approved the recommendations for priority activities in the biennium and revision to the CACFish Second Five-Year Regional Work Programme (RWP2) (2016–2020), while maintaining the annual budget at USD 180 000.

The Commission advised the Secretary to participate actively in regional events of interest to CACFish Members, such as the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the subcommittees on aquaculture (COFIAQ) and fish trade (COFIFT) and the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), and report back to the Commission.

#### Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The ERC is invited to review the CACFish report and to:

- discuss priorities of work for fisheries and aquaculture development in the CACFish subregion, in line with achieving the universal goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the FAO Regional Initiatives, for consideration by the Seventh Session of CACFish in October 2020 in Tajikistan; and

<sup>1</sup> The full report with annexes is available on the FAO CACFish website: [http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/CACFish/2018/report\\_E.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/CACFish/2018/report_E.pdf)

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- encourage relevant members of the ERC from Central Asia and the Caucasus to announce their intention to join the Commission.

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**CACFish/VI/2018/REPORT**

# **REPORT**

**Sixth Session of the  
Central Asian And Caucasus Regional Fisheries And  
Aquaculture Commission**

**Izmir, Turkey  
15-18 October 2018**

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### **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The Sixth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission was held in Izmir, Turkey, from 15 to 18 October 2018. The Session was kindly hosted by the Government of Turkey. The Session was officially opened and welcomed by Mr Rauf Hajiyevev, Chairperson of CACFish, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr Viorel Gutu, Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative in Turkey, and Mr Mustafa Altuğ Atalay, Director-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey.
2. The five Member countries attended the Sixth Session of the Commission: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. Ten countries were present as Observers, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Intergovernmental organizations with observer status that participated were EUROFISH International Organization and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). The list of participants is provided in Appendix C.
3. Ms Victoria Chomo, Secretary of the Commission highlighted that this Session was the best attended in CACFish history, with 29 delegates from 15 countries, 2 observer organizations and FAO representatives. She thanked the Government of Turkey for hosting the Sixth Session. The CACFish Chairperson then welcomed the participants to the Session and invited everyone to a group photo.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4. The Commission adopted the agenda without changes as shown in Appendix A.

### **REPORT ON MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEES**

5. The Commission heard a summary of the meeting document (CACFish/VI/2018/2) on main recommendations from FAO conferences and committees since the Fifth Session. This intervention included a presentation by Mr Rodrigo Roubach, Senior Aquaculture Officer, FAO Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture on recommendations from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome (9-12 July 2018), specifically information related to the aquaculture sector. The Members appreciated the summary by the Secretariat and the intervention by Mr Roubach.
6. The Members commended the Secretariat for facilitating the participation of the Commission in international events like the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) in Voronezh, Russian Federation in May 2018. Members encouraged the Secretariat to increase CACFish visibility in relevant international fora.

### **REPORT ON MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF CACFISH**

7. The Secretary gave a summary of decisions and recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Commission held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, October 2016. She raised attention of participants to a decision of the Fifth Session in which Members considered to increase the overall autonomous budget of CACFish to USD 200,000. This decision was postponed by the Fifth Session to be considered by the Sixth Session. The budget had not been raised since establishment of the Commission.
8. The Secretary also highlighted the decision made in 2016 to form an ad hoc Working Group on Administrative and Financial Matters, to determine the contributions to the autonomous budget of the potential new Commission members. As of the Sixth Session the Working Group has not been established.
9. Members requested information on detailed progress of programmes identified at the Fifth Session and potential cooperation with other relevant international Fisheries organizations. The Secretary responded with examples of participation in international events on behalf of CACFish.

### **REPORT ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2016-2017**

10. The Secretary informed Members on the status of activities approved in the Second Regional Work Plan (RWP2) by the Fifth Session for implementation during the intersessional period 2016-2017 (CACFish/VI/2018/3). She also reported on FAO projects in the CACFish region and publication of CACFish reports. The Secretary explained that some activities approved by the Fifth CACFish Session were not implemented due to administrative and financial difficulties.
11. Some Members expressed concern about the functioning of the Secretariat. Clarification was received from the FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia who is also the budget holder for the CACFish Trust Fund. He reassured the Commission that the Secretariat located in Ankara, Turkey has the necessary support from FAO. It was proposed that this topic be further discussed under Agenda Item 10 (Any other matters).

### **REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION, FINANCES, AND BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION**

12. The Commission reviewed meeting document (CACFish/VI/2018/4 and 5). The Secretariat provided information on the status of the CACFish Trust Fund that consists of Member mandatory and voluntary contributions. It was informed that there is a budget surplus of USD 403,826 as of 1 October 2018. Members discussed the current budget situation, including arrears, and unanimously decided to keep the annual autonomous budget at USD 180,000 for the period of 2019 onwards.
13. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft document explaining the calculation method for Member contributions to encourage new countries to join the Commission. The Secretariat will share this draft document with current Members for comments.



14. Members discussed the benefits of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on Administrative and Financial Matters that was requested by the Fifth Session. BSEC made an intervention about their experience with such a WG. The Commission decided the WG was not required at this time.

**REPORT ON THE MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FUTURE PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

15. The Chairperson of CACFish requested the Secretariat to present the main recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), held in Tbilisi, Georgia, November 2017. The Secretariat introduced Armenia as the newly-elected Chairperson of TAC and Turkey as the newly-elected Vice-Chair. Two points were raised for discussion and decision by Members.
16. The Fourth Meeting of TAC reviewed the Second Regional Work Programme (RWP2), prioritizing some activities and adding activity *1.1.2. Legal mechanisms for use of the waterbodies and lands, for the purposes of aquaculture*. Secondly, the Committee proposed activities for the intersessional period 2018-2019 from the prioritized list. It was clarified to the Members why some prioritized activities in RWP2 were not included in the intersessional workplan, namely budget constraints.
17. Members expressed appreciation for the technical work of the TAC and for the recommendations provided to the Commission. The revisions to the RWP2 and the activities for the intersessional period 2018-2019 were unanimously approved (Appendix D). In addition, due to some surplus in the CACFish Trust Fund, USD 150,000 was allocated to activity 1.1.2 in Azerbaijan to include a pilot study and regional workshop.

Table 1: Activities for intersessional period 2018-2019

Activity	Date	Estimated budget (USD)	Country
1.1.1. Review of Fisheries Law of Kyrgyz Republic		30 000	Kyrgyzstan
2.1.1. Provision of technical assistance for aquaculture production techniques and systems		45 000	Armenia
3.1.1. Inland stock assessment in selected large water bodies		60 000	Tajikistan
3.5. Provision of technical advice on restocking and culture based fisheries		40 000	Kyrgyzstan
4.1.1. Development/updating of post-harvest management by development/effective implementation of marketing measures, rules, standards for safe and quality fish and fish products		60 000	TBD
5.1.1 Advice and training on fish genetic resources		50 000	Turkey
Fifth Meeting of TAC	2019	20 000	Armenia TBC
Sixth Session of CACFish	16-18 October, 2018	60 000	Izmir, Turkey
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>365 000*</b>	
*member contributions for 2 years estimated at 360 000			
Activities financed from budget surplus			
1.1.2. Legal mechanisms for use of the waterbodies and lands, for the purposes of aquaculture		150 000	Azerbaijan+ Regional

### MEMBER PRESENTATIONS ON ACTIVITIES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

18. Five Members presented their national reports on fisheries and aquaculture sector to the Commission and these are included in the Appendix E. The information and data provided was much appreciated by the Commission and the Secretariat. There was a productive question-and-answer period which advanced knowledge sharing and evidenced synergies of South-South Cooperation within the Commission. It was highlighted during the discussion that CACFish membership facilitates information sharing when compared to bilateral relations between countries.

19. There was a brief intervention by Ms Yuriko Shoji, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia on the event of World Food Day. She praised the Commission for the high number of the Members and Observers at the Sixth Session. She added that the Commission belongs to the Members and that the Secretariat is there to assist. Her comments were appreciated by the delegates.

#### **REPORTS OF OBSERVERS**

20. Eight Observer countries presented information on their fisheries and aquaculture sector to the Commission and two Observer organizations, EUROFISH International Organization and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), reported on their activities related to the work of the Commission. Full national reports of presenting observer countries are included in the Appendix F.
21. Members thanked the Observers for attending the Session and for sharing their experiences. Observer countries were encouraged to become a full Member to benefit more from the activities of the Commission and strengthen the regional cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture. Observer organizations also thanked the Commission for inviting them to participate in the Session and proposed future collaboration with CACFish in areas of mutual benefit.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

22. The Member states expressed their serious concern that the CACFish Secretary is located in Budapest instead of Ankara and emphasized their strong demand for an arrangement that would make both the Secretary and the Secretariat be in the same location, in Ankara, as before. Members invited the relevant FAO departments to take necessary actions on this issue, as it has already been decided and adopted. Thus, the contracting Parties have demonstrated their belief that the efficiency of the Commission would be further increased.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE TAC**

23. Armenia offered to host the Fifth Meeting of the TAC pending the approval of the Government. If not, Turkey is ready to be the hosting country.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CACFISH**

24. Tajikistan kindly offered to host the Seventh session of CACFish in Dushanbe in October 2020.

#### **REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION**

25. The report was endorsed en bloc with changes in the paragraph 20, 21 and 22 by the Commission according to the comments made by Member States.