



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, Italy, 31 January – 4 February 2011

ANNOTATIONS/GUIDE NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

This paper provides background information on the Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries¹. Leaving aside purely procedural matters, items 4 through 13 permit the Committee to fulfil its two principal constitutional tasks: (a) to consider and further strengthen international cooperation in fisheries, and b) to review the FAO Programme in fisheries and aquaculture and its implementation.

Several emerging and/or persistent issues pose major challenges which need to be addressed for world fisheries to be managed in a responsible manner and for the rational development of environmentally-sound aquaculture. The Committee will be requested to reflect on some of these issues.

¹ As for previous sessions of COFI, the Twenty-ninth Session will begin with a brief presentation on the contents of the document on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2010 which summarizes the results of the review and analysis undertaken by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The outgoing Chairperson will call the Session to order. He will inform delegates of the voting rights of the European Union and its Member States on each agenda item (*COFI/2011/Inf.15*).

After opening remarks by the outgoing Chairperson, the Deputy Director-General of FAO or his representative will inaugurate the Session (*COFI/2011/Inf.3*).

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Committee is required to elect the office bearers in accordance with Rule I (1) of its Rules of Procedure.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

Procedural (*COFI/2011/1*, *COFI/2011/Inf.4*).

4. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGIES, AND OTHER MATTERS

Article 4 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) states, *inter alia*, that FAO will report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries concerning its implementation. At its Twenty-second Session, in March 1997, the Committee agreed that a progress report on the implementation of the Code be presented every two years.

At this Session, the Committee will receive the Seventh Periodic Report on the progress achieved in implementing the Code and its related instruments. The Document *COFI/2011/2* provides a summary of activities by FAO Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and the Secretariat that were intended to support the implementation of the Code and its related instruments since the last report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries in 2009. A statistical summary of Members responses is made available to be read in conjunction with the document.

The Committee is invited to: *(i)* provide guidance on how to continue to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code, *(ii)* note, in particular, the need for Members to continue to address fleet and fishing overcapacity, to develop fisheries management planning frameworks for key fisheries, and to continue to address IUU fishing in the most effective ways including by giving full effect to NPOAs-IUU, *(iii)* note progress concerning safety at sea in the fisheries sector and acknowledge the development of the FAO/ILO/IMO Safety Recommendations and consider the early publication on this document (*COFI/2011/Inf.14*), and *(iv)* note the comments made by RFBs and NGOs in relation to the Code's implementation.

5. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 26-30 APRIL 2010

The Twelfth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 26 to 30 April 2010 at the invitation of the Government of Argentina.

Document *COFI/2011/3* contains an overview of the topics discussed at the Twelfth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and makes reference to its main recommendations. The main report of the Sub-Committee is also available as *COFI/2011/Inf.8*.

The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the report of the Sub-Committee and provide guidance with regard to issues discussed during the session, including consideration of the report of the Expert Consultation on the Development of FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, held from 25 to 27

May 2010 (*COFI/2011/Inf.13*) as well as the expanded questionnaire on fish trade as part of monitoring the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

6. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, PHUKET, THAILAND, 27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

The Fifth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held in Phuket, Thailand, from 27 September to 1 October 2010 at the invitation of the Government of Thailand.

Document *COFI/2011/4* contains an overview of the topics discussed at the Fifth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and makes reference to its main recommendations. The main report of the Sub-Committee is also available as *COFI/2011/Inf.9*.

The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the report of the Sub-Committee and provide guidance with regard to issues discussed during the session, including the Report of the Technical Consultation on the Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, held from 15 to 19 February 2010 (*COFI/2011/Inf.10*), as well as the expanded questionnaire on aquaculture as part of monitoring the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The outcome of the Global Conference on Aquaculture, held in Phuket, Thailand, from 22 to 25 September 2010 is also reported for information.

7. PROGRESS MADE WITH REGARD TO MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING, INCLUDING PORT STATE MEASURES, FLAG STATE PERFORMANCE, MARKET-RELATED MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SUPPLY VESSELS

Document *COFI/2011/5* provides information on current and ongoing actions to fight IUU including port State measures, flag State performance, market-related measures and the development of a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels.

The Committee is invited to *(i)* note progress with regard to measures against IUU fishing, including those relevant instruments and *(ii)* provide guidance on next steps to be taken, in particular the establishment of a comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels in consideration of the report of the Technical Consultation to Identify a Structure and Strategy for the Development and Implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, Rome, Italy, 8 to 12 November 2010 (*COFI/2011/Inf.11*).

8. FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

The Twenty-eighth Session of COFI, held in March 2009, reiterated the importance of climate change and its increasing impacts on fisheries and aquaculture and noted that implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries would increase resilience of the sector to climate change. COFI supported the conclusions and recommendations of the April 2008 Expert Workshop. COFI called for FAO to play an active role in this area, especially where the FAO has comparative advantages. Active collaboration with other organizations was advocated to avoid duplication of efforts.

At this Session the Committee will receive updated information in Document *COFI/2011/6* on actions undertaken by FAO to address this request, including publication of a seminal report on the implication of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture and of the Blue Carbon report ;creation of the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture; increasing the visibility of fisheries and aquaculture in the global climate change discussions and funding mechanism; and project development and implementation, in particular toward the development of a strategy and guidelines on climate change adaptation.

The Committee will then be invited to: *(i)* comment on the intersessional work undertaken by FI, *(ii)* consider and comment on the roadmap and activities proposed within the FAO/FI Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change, *(iii)* consider, modify and supplement as necessary the recommendation to COFI members, and *(iv)* make recommendations on FAO/Fisheries future programme of work priorities in addressing the climate change issue in the context of fisheries and aquaculture.

9. FAO'S ROLE FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Fisheries and aquaculture generate considerable social and economic benefits for hundreds of millions of people around the world, including many struggling with poverty, and food insecurity. The sector, however, tends to be given low priority or even marginalized in policy making and resource allocation due to its relatively weak political influences. At the same time, fisheries and aquaculture have inevitable impacts on biodiversity and the environment, which, if not managed and controlled effectively, can cause irreversible damage to aquatic ecosystems and resources. Achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in which optimal benefits are obtained through responsible and sustainable practices has frequently proved to be difficult and many problems and conflicts between different interest groups are being encountered at local, national, regional and global scale.

FAO, guided by COFI, is working on many fronts to find solutions to these problems. Major areas of activity include, for example, development and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, eco-labelling and certification, cooperation with CITES on commercially-exploited aquatic species, management of bycatch and discards and others. A growing number of UN and other international organizations are also involved in related activities. These include UNEP, CBD, GEF, IUCN, CITES, WTO, WMO, IEAE and others. Under the ecosystem approach, the overlap in activities between the different agencies has grown. This is leading to both constructive and beneficial inter-agency cooperation but also to duplication and sometimes differing and confusing differences in approach being promoted by various agencies.

The Twenty-sixth Session of COFI in 2005 called for a “decade of implementation” of the various instruments developed to ensure responsible fisheries. For FAO to make good progress in implementation, it is necessary simultaneously to optimise the use of FAO’s human and financial resources in facilitating sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and to cooperate effectively with other agencies working in related fields. The Committee is therefore invited to review the current activities of FI aimed at improved integration, of , fisheries and aquaculture development and management, and, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, and to consider means to strengthen and improve the role of the Organization in achieving the desired objectives.

Document *COFI/2011/7* provides information on the current situation and potential ways forward in this context.

The Committee is also invited to endorse the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards as adopted by the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards which was held from 6 to 10 December 2010. The text of these International Guidelines is included in the Report of the Technical Consultation (COFI/2011/Inf.12). The Committee is also invited to (i) provide direction on the next steps that should be taken by FAO to assist with the effective implementation of these Guidelines; and (ii) consider, in particular, how best to address the concerns raised in the Technical Consultation by developing countries regarding constraints associated with human capacity building and funding that would be essential for them to effectively implement the management and technical measures set out in the Guidelines

10. GOOD PRACTICES IN THE GOVERNANCE OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At its Twenty-sixth session in March 2009, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviewed the outcome of the Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries - Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 13 to 17 October 2008. The 2008 Conference identified several critical ways forward in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries that integrate social, cultural and economic development, address resource access and use rights issues guided by human rights principles, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. The Conference also reaffirmed that human rights are critical to achieving sustainable development. In considering the outcome of the Conference at COFI, many FAO Members expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting. Many Members supported the need for FAO to establish a specific global programme dedicated to small-scale fisheries.

In response to this request, the FAO Secretariat convened three regional workshops for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean in October 2010. The workshops were a means to consult with national and regional stakeholders, to identify good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries and related elements of a possible international instrument, as well as to verify and/or expand upon the outputs and specific needs identified for each region both in the 2009 inception workshop of the FAO Extra-Budgetary Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security and in the 2008 Global Conference. Another aim of the Regional Workshops was to identify work that is already being done in the priority areas identified and to look for possible ways of creating partnerships and synergies with other programmes.

Document *COFI/2011/8* provides information on the workshops and potential ways forward in order to follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.

The Committee is invited to (i) review the outcomes of the regional workshops and of other FAO activities in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries, and (ii) offer its guidance on the actions

that should be taken at national and international levels to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and enhance their contribution to attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals.

11. PRIORITIES AND RESULTS UNDER THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2012-13

The Committee will review the Priorities and results under the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 as provided in Document *COFI/2011/9*, in the light of the ongoing reform of the Organization. Based on emerging issues, lessons learnt and other factors presented, the Committee is expected to provide further guidance on the identification of areas for emphasis and de-emphasis within Strategic Objective C with a view to ensuring the most effective utilization of available resources for complying with the global mandate and work of the Organization in fisheries and aquaculture. Achievements of the Fisheries and Aquaculture programmes (*COFI/2011/Inf.6*) and Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 2 to 6 March 2009 (*COFI/2011/Inf.7*) are also available for your consideration.

12. ANY OTHER MATTERS

13. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

In the light of the ongoing process for reforming FAO, particularly in order to follow up the recommendation made by IEE, the schedule of governing bodies, including COFI, will be reviewed.

The Committee is invited to decide the date and place of the next session in considering the above mentioned background as well as the decisions already made.

14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Procedural.