



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-eight Session

Rome, Italy, 2 - 6 March 2009

## ANNOTATIONS/GUIDE NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

This paper provides background information on the Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-eight Session of the Committee on Fisheries<sup>1</sup>. Leaving aside purely procedural matters, items 4 through 12 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 their 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.

<sup>1</sup> As for previous sessions of COFI, the Twenty-eight Session will begin with a brief presentation on the contents of the document on the State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 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 Community and its Member States on each agenda item.

After opening remarks by the outgoing Chairperson, the Deputy Director-General of FAO or his representative will inaugurate the Session.

## **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.

## **4. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES, RELATED INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGY.**

Article 4 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 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 of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries be presented every two years.

At this Session, the Committee will receive the Sixth Periodic Report on the progress achieved in implementing the Code and its related instruments. The Document *COFI/2009/2* provides a summary of activities by FAO Members, Regional Fishery Bodies, Non-Government Organizations and the Secretariat that have supported the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments since 2007.

The Committee is invited to: *(i)* review the progress achieved in implementing the Code of Conduct and its related instruments, *(ii)* provide guidance on updating of the Code questionnaire and on possible electronic options for monitoring the implementation.

Furthermore, it is envisaged to include under this Agenda item discussion on other issue such as: *(a)* the issue of safety at sea in the fisheries sector, in particular the follow-up to COFI's recommendations at the Twenty-seventh session (*COFI/2009/Inf 13*) and *(b)* Strengthening of Regional Fishery Bodies and Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFBs/RFMOs).

## **5. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE.**

The Eleventh Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade was held in Bremen, Germany from 2-6 June 2008 at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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 adoption of the amendments to the Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.

## **6. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE.**

The Fourth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held in Puerto Varas, Chile, from 6 to 10 October 2008 at the invitation of the Government of Chile.

Document *COFI/2009/4* contains an overview of the topics discussed at the Fourth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and makes reference to its main recommendations

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 process to finalise the technical guidelines on certification in aquaculture.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF DEEP SEA FISHERIES IN THE HIGH SEAS.**

In response to the requests by COFI and the UNGA, to address the major concerns and challenges related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas, FAO undertook a series of activities over the past years.

The Committee is invited to: *(i)* review actions that have been taken since the 27<sup>th</sup> session, in particular the outcomes of the Technical Consultations held in Rome, Italy, 4-8 February and 25-29 August 2008 to develop International Guidelines for the Management of the Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Sea, *(ii)* provide direction on the next steps that should be taken by FAO to assist with the implementation of the International Guidelines, and *(iii)* make recommendations on the FAO/fisheries programme of work priorities in addressing deep sea fisheries issues.

## **8. COMBATING IUU FISHING, INCLUDING THROUGH A LEGALLY-BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS.**

International opposition to IUU fishing has been galvanized like few other fisheries issues in recent times. There is a shared sense of the problem, and COFI, its Member States and other stakeholders in the fisheries are joining efforts to try to minimize its effects and to stamp it out.

Document *COFI/2009/6* provides information on current and ongoing actions to fight IUU. It describes in detail two pending initiatives: the draft legally-binding instrument on port State measures and the establishment of a global record of fishing vessels. The paper also addresses another emerging IUU-related issue: bycatch and discards.

The Committee is invited to note progress with the development of a binding instrument on port State measures. It is invited to provide guidance on next steps in development of the global record of fishing vessels.

## **9. SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES/TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee, at its Twenty-seventh Session, welcomed the proposal by Norway that FAO examine the convening of a broad-based international conference focusing specifically on small-scale fisheries. In response, a Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries - Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development - was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 17 October 2008. The Conference was co-organized by FAO and the Royal Government of Thailand and convened in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and The WorldFish Center.

The Committee is invited to *(i)* review the outcomes of the Global Conference 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.

## **10. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

At its 27<sup>th</sup> Session the Committee raised the need to address threats posed by climate change and supported a proposal that FAO should undertake a scoping study to identify the key issues on climate change and fisheries, initiate a discussion on how the fishing industry can adapt to climate change, and for FAO to take a lead in informing fishers and policy makers about the likely consequences of climate change for fisheries.

At this Session the Committee will receive updated information on action undertaken by FAO to address this request, including *(i)* the outcomes of an Expert Workshop on Climate Change Implications for Fisheries and Aquaculture held in Rome from 7 to 9 April 2008, *(ii)* the outcomes of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy held at FAO Headquarters from 3-5 June 2008, and *(iii)* the conclusions of an International Scientific Symposium on Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-Ecological Systems co-organized by the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) programme, the European Network of Excellence for Oceans Ecosystem Analysis (EUR-OCEANS) and FAO, Rome, 8-11 July 2008.

The Committee will then be invited to: *(i)* consider and discuss the likely impacts of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture and their implications for FAO Member States, *(ii)* comment on the major conclusions and recommendations from the Expert Workshop on Climate Change Implications for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and *(iii)* make

recommendations on FAO/Fisheries programme of work priorities in addressing the climate change issue in the context of fisheries and aquaculture.

### **11. FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

The Committee will review the Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture, in the light of the ongoing process for reforming FAO as well as taking into account the development of a comprehensive strategy, at the level of the Organization as well as at the level of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. It will give guidance as it may deem appropriate, 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, the Committee is expected to give any guidance as appropriate, including the setting of priorities.

### **12. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

### **13. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

Procedural.

### **14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

Procedural.