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**Report of the Thirty-second Session of the**

**COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**

**Rome, 11-15 July 2016**



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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries, held in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016.

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*Report of the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries. Rome, 11–15 July 2016.*

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### ABSTRACT

The Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 15 July 2016. The Committee:

- a) commended FAO for the 2016 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) publication, expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally and highlighted the threat of Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to the sustainability of marine resources;
- b) welcomed the improvement in the 2015 questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code), agreed that the data submitted through the questionnaire could be used by Members for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and recognized the need for capacity development in developing countries in implementation of the Code;
- c) endorsed the reports of the Fifteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Eighth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The Committee authorized the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (TC: CDS) to resume its session, finalize the Guidelines and submit the Guidelines to the FAO Conference in July 2017 for final adoption;
- d) welcomed the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA) and encouraged Parties to convene an inception meeting as well as establish the ad hoc working group under Article 21 by noting the requirement for capacity development;
- e) voiced strong support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessel and Supply Vessels (Global Record);
- f) endorsed the proposal to declare an International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing;
- g) reaffirmed its commitment to follow up on the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) by highlighting the valuable contribution of fish and fish products to meet nutrition requirements, diversity diets, and provide important health benefits. The Committee endorsed the key areas of work identified for ICN2 follow-up in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- h) reconfirmed the multi-dimensional function of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in poverty reduction and food security, etc. and stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The Committee welcomed the development of a FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF);
- i) welcomed the outcome of the 2015 Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and the Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries;
- j) commended FAO for the global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries and welcomed the Global Work Programme (GWP);
- k) endorsed the proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture;

- l) commended the role FAO plays in UN *fora* and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity and requested FAO to further enhance its participation and contribution;
- m) appreciated the role of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN), the establishment of new Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and emphasized the importance of performance reviews of RFBs;
- n) welcomed the proposed FAO corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the FAO draft Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017-2020;
- o) welcomed the work of FAO with respect to the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and the recommendations from the Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear;
- p) endorsed the priority areas of work for 2016-2017 by reiterating its support for the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and emphasized the importance of the work to address IUU fishing, implementation of PSMA, fish losses and waste, regional aquaculture network, implementation of SSF Guidelines, development of inland fisheries and the FAO Corporate Climate Change Strategy;
- q) took note of the statements by the FAO Secretariat and the Republic of Korea on the revised proposal for the establishment of a World Fisheries University and encouraged agreement on a roadmap for a step-by-step approach;
- r) approved the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW) 2014-2017 and the MYPOW 2016-2019;
- s) elected the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI.

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE	vii
PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL	viii
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1–4
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION	5
DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE	6
STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AND PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS	7–21
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, AGADIR, MOROCCO, 22–26 FEBRUARY 2016	22–51
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, BRASILIA, BRAZIL, 5–9 OCTOBER 2015	52–65
COMBATTING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING	66–79
ROLE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN FOOD SECURITY AND THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2) FOLLOW-UP: NUTRITION-RELATED IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, INCLUDING LOSS AND WASTE OF FOOD	80–91
SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES	92–126
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES	127–149
FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	150–157

PROPOSAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN FAO WORLD FISHERIES UNIVERSITY	158-160
MULTIYEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE	161
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF COFI	162
OTHER MATTERS	163-166
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION	167
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	168

## APPENDIXES

	<b>Page</b>
A Agenda	17
B List of delegates and observers	18
C List of documents	56
D Opening statement by Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO	59
E Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries 2016–2019	62



**GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS  
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE**

- i) The Committee supported and encouraged the close collaboration between FAO and other relevant international and regional organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), CITES, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and RFBs including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) (para. 20, 33, 34, 37, 39, 40, 62, 75, 76, 128, 136, 155).
- ii) State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (para. 12).
- iii) Catch Documentation Schemes (para. 48).
- iv) Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (para. 66, 67 and 74).
- v) Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up: Nutrition-related implications for fisheries and aquaculture, including loss and waste of food (para. 87, 91).
- vi) Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (para. 93, 97).
- vii) International year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (para. 126).
- viii) United Nations (UN) related matters (para. 128).

**PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS  
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- i) State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (para. 9, 13 and 21).
- ii) Decisions and recommendations of the 15th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Agadir, Morocco, 22-26 February 2016 (para. 23, 24, 25, 29, 31, 33 and 35).
- iii) Decisions and recommendations of the 8th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5-9 October 2015 (para. 51, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 63 and 64).
- iv) Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (para. 68, 70, 74 and 79).
- v) Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up: Nutrition-related implications for fisheries and aquaculture, including loss and waste of food (para. 80, 83, 84, 88, 89 and 90).
- vi) Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (para. 98, 99 and 101).
- vii) Outcome of and follow-up to the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries (para. 113 and 114).
- viii) Outcome of and follow-up to the Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on Rights-based approaches for fisheries (para. 119, 121 and 123).
- ix) International year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (para. 126).
- x) Climate change and other environment related matters (para. 18, 144, 148).
- xi) FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework (para. 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 156 and 157).
- xii) Proposal of the Republic of Korea for the establishment of an FAO World Fisheries University (para. 160).
- xiii) Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee (para. 161).

## **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its Thirty-second Session in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016. The session was attended by 113 Members of the Committee and one Associated Member, by observers from nine other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See and Palestine, by representatives from nine specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from 39 intergovernmental and 26 international non-governmental organizations. A list of delegates and observers is attached as Appendix B.
2. Mr Fabio Hazin, Chairperson, Thirty-second Session of COFI, opened the session and welcomed the participants.
3. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, inaugurated the session and delivered a statement. The text of his statement is attached in Appendix D.
4. The Chairperson gave an administrative report on the intersessional work by the Bureau, including nine sessions of the Bureau meeting and three sessions of open meetings for other COFI Members.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

5. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the session, with the following two changes: i) the addition of sub-item 9.3: International year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture; and ii) a change in the timing of Agenda item 12 from Thursday 14 July to the afternoon of Tuesday 12 July, immediately after Agenda item 7. The Agenda is attached as Appendix A to this Report. The list of documents which were placed before the Committee is shown in Appendix C.

## **DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

6. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Republic of Korea, Slovakia and Spain. Norway chaired the Drafting Committee.

## **STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AND PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS**

7. The Committee commended FAO for the *2016 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) publication which constituted a global reference for fisheries and aquaculture data, statistics and information. It called upon Members to strengthen national data collection systems in order to support the scientific and decision making processes in responsible fisheries and aquaculture management.
8. The Committee expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally, noting that the proportion of overfished stocks had increased. The threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to the sustainability of marine resources was highlighted. Several Members called for better management of fishing capacity in order for it to be commensurate with the availability of fisheries resources.

9. The Committee underlined that in order for FAO to fulfil its mandate as the lead global agency for fisheries and aquaculture, it was necessary that the Organization maintained and strengthened its technical capacity in these fields.
10. The importance of aquaculture in the provision of livelihoods and fish as food was underscored as the sector now provided more than half of all fish for human consumption.
11. The important linkages between fish and nutrition were also addressed, particularly in light of recommendations by the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).
12. The need for the development of international guidelines on post-harvest losses was stressed by some Members and FAO was urged to continue its work in this field.
13. The Committee welcomed the improvements in the 2015 questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and noted the all-time record in response rate. It requested FAO to continue improving the web-based questionnaire and related information systems and encouraged Members to maintain their commitment in reporting.
14. The Committee agreed that the data and information submitted through the Code questionnaire could be used by Members for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for which supplementary questions could be added, as necessary. In using the data for ad hoc reports and assessments, the Committee called upon FAO to consider confidentiality aspects in consultation with the Members concerned, as appropriate.
15. The Committee recognized the challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the Code and the need for capacity development.
16. The role of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and other regional processes for the management of common fisheries resources, through effective management and governance frameworks, was highlighted.
17. The Committee recognized the importance of the small-scale fisheries sector and the role of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) in improving the sustainability of capture fisheries and aquaculture.
18. The Committee requested FAO to draw up efficient climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
19. Some Members reiterated their request for mistakes concerning the assessment of certain species in SOFIA to be corrected, and other Members asked FAO to avoid using the previous SOFIA categories on stock status in their communications.
20. The Committee highlighted the importance of safety at sea in the fisheries sector and expressed its satisfaction with the close collaboration between FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
21. The Committee welcomed the offer of the United States of America to fund an expert workshop to review the findings of recent international marine mammal bycatch workshop.

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, AGADIR, MOROCCO, 22–26 FEBRUARY 2016**

22. The Committee endorsed the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, held in Agadir, Morocco (22–26 February 2016), and thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the session.
23. The Committee underlined the important function of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as a forum for Members on technical and policy-related trade issues, and some Members also highlighted the importance of the technical expertise of FAO in support of the Sub-Committee's work.
24. The Committee expressed support for the capacity-building activities of FAO on post-harvest and market access issues, in particular for small-scale producers and processors in developing countries.
25. The Committee highlighted the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition and welcomed the efforts of FAO to better integrate fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition strategies and programmes.
26. The Committee welcomed the increased cooperation between the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and called for further strengthening this cooperation.
27. The Committee welcomed the inclusion of a number of new items on the Sub-Committee of Fish Trade agenda, ensuring the continued relevance of the Sub-Committee's recommendations.
28. It was noted that the Sub-Committee expressed its support to the proposal of the Republic of Korea to create and host the FAO World Fisheries University, noting that it would be further discussed at the Thirty-second Session of COFI.
29. The Committee underlined the importance of trade in fisheries services and welcomed the work of FAO on conducting a literature review on the subject, including on aquaculture services.
30. The Committee noted the importance of including social and labour conditions into the agenda of the Sub-Committee.
31. The Committee highlighted the importance of reducing food waste and losses, in particular in the post-harvest value chain, and welcomed further work in this area.
32. The Committee emphasized the importance of resilience throughout the seafood value chain, especially for the small-scale sector and vulnerable coastal States and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the face of natural disasters and climate change.
33. The Committee reiterated its support for the work of FAO on commercially-exploited aquatic species of interest to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and underlined the useful and important role of the FAO Expert Advisory Panel (the Panel) in reviewing CITES listing proposals for those species.

34. The Committee requested FAO to continue its collaboration with CITES in order to support implementation of CITES requirements.

35. Once again, some Members recommended that the work of the Panel be funded by the FAO Regular Programme. Some Members also supported the exploration of alternatives for the possible funding mechanism of the Panel to ensure an equitable contribution from a diversity of FAO Members to the Panel.

36. Some Members encouraged FAO to conduct comprehensive reviews on the impacts caused by CITES listings on conservation and management of fishery resources, as well as on socio-economics of regional communities. However, this was opposed by some Members and there was no overall consensus.

37. The Committee expressed support for the collaboration of FAO with other international organizations and arrangements, including CITES, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and World Trade Organization (WTO) on trade issues in general, and on fisheries subsidies in particular.

38. The Committee recognized that fish trade was of importance to fisheries development. Many Members expressed concern on unilateral measures and requirements, including private, national and regional standards, which could not be consistent with international law and represent WTO inconsistent technical barriers to trade.

39. The Committee commended the work of FAO in improving the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) for fish products in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and encouraged FAO to continue this activity with a focus on refining harmonized tariff schedules for endangered species which require improved monitoring in trade, and on a possible distinction between farmed and wild species.

40. Many Members underlined the fundamental role of RFMOs in fisheries management and encouraged FAO to continue to collaborate with them, including on trade-related matters.

41. The Committee welcomed the kind invitation of the Republic of Korea to host the Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Committee.

### **Catch Documentation Schemes**

42. The Committee reiterated the critical role that Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) could play in combating IUU fishing. The Committee agreed that the Voluntary Guidelines for CDS (the Guidelines) could serve as a fundamental guiding document for Members and the international community, and specifically benefit working groups of RFMOs.

43. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Chair of the Technical Consultation on the Guidelines and commended him and FAO on the great efforts made in supporting Members' efforts in developing the Guidelines.

44. The Committee noted that after two sessions of the Technical Consultation and two informal meetings, an agreement had not been reached on two outstanding paragraphs. The Committee agreed that the Technical Consultation should resume briefly, to allow Members to table new proposals aimed at solving the two outstanding paragraphs. The Committee expressed strong support for the Technical Consultation to continue the work and called for greater flexibility and cooperation amongst Members to finalize the Guidelines.

45. Some Members stressed that the Committee should seek consensus during its Thirty-second Session since the majority of the text has been agreed upon. Members expressed a strong reservation on deferring this item to the Thirty-third Session of COFI in 2018. Members also expressed concern over the limited availability of financial resources that would be necessary in order to reconvene another technical consultation session for the two pending paragraphs.

46. Some Members underscored that more time was needed to finalize the Guidelines and stressed that different fishery situations and responsibilities along the supply chain should be considered. Members also expressed concerns on the procedure adopted to develop the Guidelines which did not enable the participation of many Members, in particular developing countries and SIDS. Some Members suggested submitting the Guidelines to the next Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2017 and seeking adoption at the Thirty-third Session of COFI.

47. Some Members reiterated the importance of capacity building and technical assistance in implementing the Guidelines for developing countries and small-scale fisheries.

48. The Committee authorized the Technical Consultation to: i) resume its session again as soon as possible and address and resolve the two outstanding paragraphs; ii) finalize the Guidelines; and iii) submit the Guidelines to the FAO Conference at its Fortieth Session in July 2017 for final adoption.

49. Members highlighted the need to be informed of the next meeting of the Technical Consultation and to receive the working documents translated in all FAO official languages well in advance in order to allow the necessary analysis and preparation by the country representatives.

50. Some Members noted that it would be extremely difficult to attend the Technical Consultation during the rest of 2016.

51. The Committee invited Members to offer financial support to resume the Technical Consultation and called for cooperation amongst all Members to finalize the Guidelines as soon as possible. Some Members highlighted the need to access the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA).

#### **DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, BRASILIA, BRAZIL, 5–9 OCTOBER 2015**

52. The Committee endorsed the Report of the Eighth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, held in Brasilia, Brazil (5–9 October 2015), and thanked the Government of Brazil for hosting the session.

53. The Committee recalled the importance of aquaculture for food security, nutrition, poverty alleviation, income generation, employment and trade, and noted the need to improve the contribution of small-scale aquaculture towards these benefits.

54. The Committee also highlighted the need to ensure that continued growth of aquaculture production was done in a sustainable manner, noting that aquaculture could have a positive impact on the environment.

55. The Committee appreciated the work and endorsed the proposed work plan of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (WG-AqGR). Some Members stressed that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) should not be a part of its work.

56. The Committee also expressed the need for close collaboration between the WG-AqGR and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

57. The Committee welcomed the increased cooperation between the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and called for further strengthening of this cooperation.

58. The Committee supported the Sub-Committee's strategic framework and priority areas for future work.

59. The Committee stressed the need for improving aquaculture production efficiency and requested the assistance of FAO in establishing sustainable aquaculture development, particularly in SIDS.

60. The Committee underlined the need for enhancing youth and women employment, capacity development in aquaculture, farmer networks, access to markets, biosecurity, addressing occupation and safety hazards, and requested the assistance of FAO in these areas.

61. The Committee highlighted inadequate data on aquaculture production and its effects on employment and poverty alleviation, and called upon Members to improve such data collection and reporting.

62. The Committee called for enhanced collaboration between FAO and relevant international and regional organizations, such as regional fishery bodies (RFBs), to facilitate better data collection, information and knowledge dissemination, and to avoid duplication.

63. Many Members requested the assistance of FAO to provide guidance on the production of good quality, environmentally-friendly and economically-sustainable fish feeds.

64. Many Members called for the implementation of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification and requested the assistance of FAO in implementing these guidelines.

65. The Committee welcomed the kind invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in Tehran, from 23 to 26 October 2017.

### **COMBATTING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING**

66. The Committee welcomed the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) and encouraged the non-Parties to join the Agreement. Several Members informed that they had initiated or were completing their internal processes to become a Party.

67. The Committee encouraged Parties to the PSMA to convene an inception meeting as soon as possible, to address various aspects of the implementation of the PSMA and to establish the ad hoc working group under Article 21, and called on FAO to establish points of contact for reporting and electronic exchange of information.



68. The Committee noted that both Parties and non-Parties to the PSMA required capacity development assistance. In this regard, the Committee called for support to the global capacity development umbrella programme of FAO on the PSMA and related international instruments to combat IUU fishing. The Republic of Korea offered to contribute financially to this programme.

69. The Committee noted that the implementation of the PSMA would not eliminate IUU fishing on its own, and highlighted the importance of addressing IUU fishing through all appropriate means, including strengthened flag State performance, coastal State responsibilities and market measures. In this regard, the Committee was informed of the results of ITLOS Case 21 and of the increase in number of IUU fishing vessels in the North Pacific. The firm commitment and coordination at national, subregional and regional levels to combat IUU fishing was also underscored, including the need to address the demand for illegal products in the market.

70. The Committee voiced strong support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) and its continued development, and recognized that it could play an important role as a tool in combatting IUU fishing and supporting the implementation of the PSMA and other related international instruments.

71. The Committee commended the progress made on the Global Record, in particular the establishment and work of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG), specialized core working groups and pilot project, and urged broader participation, including in the provision of data by Members. Some Members encouraged the use of IMO numbers for the purpose of the Global Record.

72. Some Members expressed the need for collaboration with existing vessel record initiatives, particularly the ones provided under the FAO Compliance Agreement and those of RFMOs, in order to avoid duplication.

73. Some Members underscored the need for an in-depth cost-benefit analysis and agreement on a stable financing programme before further progressing with the Global Record's long-term operation.

74. The Committee endorsed the proposal to declare an International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing.

75. The Committee broadly welcomed the work of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters (JWG) and recommended that meetings should be more frequent and that the ILO formally joins the JWG.

76. Some Members noted that transnational organized criminal networks are also frequently associated with IUU fishing, but recognized that the mandates of FAO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) complemented and supplemented each other, and efforts should thus be coordinated and not duplicated.

77. Some Members considered that there should be a clear distinction between IUU fishing and transnational organized crimes.

78. Some Members referred to specific challenges that inland fisheries face with IUU fishing and that these should be urgently addressed.

79. The Committee supported the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators by FAO for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing. It also called for the reliable periodic estimates of IUU fishing, including at the regional level.

**ROLE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN FOOD SECURITY AND THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2) FOLLOW-UP: NUTRITION-RELATED IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, INCLUDING LOSS AND WASTE OF FOOD**

80. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to follow up on ICN2, its Rome Declaration on Nutrition, and the Framework for Action.

81. Members highlighted the valuable contributions of fish and fish products to meet nutritional requirements, diversify diets, and provide important health benefits.

82. Members also reported on efforts undertaken to prioritize fish consumption and increase the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to healthy diets, livelihoods and improved nutrition.

83. The Committee unanimously endorsed the key areas of work identified for ICN2 follow-up in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

84. The Committee recommended developing policies and field programmes that allowed countries to invest in nutrition-focused fish and aquaculture value chain development, giving particular attention to the role of small- and medium-scale enterprises.

85. The Committee further pointed to the need to give adequate consideration to policies and interventions that make the nutritional benefits of increased fish consumption available to all.

86. The Committee underscored the importance of adopting sustainable practices and food safety measures in fisheries and aquaculture.

87. In order to promote nutrition sensitive food production, the Committee encouraged cooperation across departments within FAO, among Rome-based agencies and among state and non-state actors, including the private sector and civil society.

88. The Committee recognized the benefits of close collaboration between COFI and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to maximize and sustain the focus on food security, and the nutrition-focus of fisheries and aquaculture.

89. The Committee supported the development of an FAO technical guideline addressing the causes of and remedies to food losses and waste, and noted Norway's offer to contribute financially towards this.

90. The Committee recognized the important role of FAO in coordinating existing databases on the nutritional composition of fish and fish products and in addressing information gaps and research needs related to the contribution of fish and seafood to improved nutrition.

91. The Committee also acknowledged opportunities provided by the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to reinforce the nutrition-focus of fisheries and aquaculture development.

## **SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

92. The Committee reconfirmed the multi-dimensional function of small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction, food security, nutrition, social cohesion, stability and development, cultural values, income and employment generation and livelihoods.

93. The Committee stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) as a tool for achieving sustainable small-scale fisheries in developing and developed countries.

94. The Committee commended FAO for the SSF Guidelines implementation activities and encouraged the continuation of these, in close collaboration with all appropriate stakeholders.

95. The Committee called for guidance on ecolabelling, market access, benefit distribution and competitiveness in the context of the SSF Guidelines implementation.

96. The Committee noted the progress by Members in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation, in particular the involvement of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in decision-making processes.

97. The Committee strongly welcomed the inclusion of the SSF Guidelines in regional and national policies and strategies and related implementation activities, including beyond the fisheries sector, and encouraged FAO to continue these mainstreaming efforts, including the involvement of FAO regional offices and regional organizations.

98. The Committee suggested that small-scale fisheries be included as a key component in the BGI and other FAO strategic plans.

99. The Committee welcomed the development of an FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) to be developed with the full and effective participation of all regions and in consultation with all small-scale fisheries stakeholders.

100. The Committee invited FAO to further spell out the purpose, role and structure of the SSF-GSF, stressing its function in relation to information and experience-sharing, and in promoting an inclusive and holistic approach.

101. The Committee confirmed the need for further funding and welcomed the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme as a mechanism to mobilize extra-budgetary resources and encouraged Members to join Norway in supporting projects under this Programme.

102. The Committee appreciated the commitment by some Members in supporting regional processes and the collaboration between FAO, IFAD and the civil society organizations (CSOs).

103. The proposal for an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture was noted as an opportunity to further consolidate efforts to improve small-scale fisheries.

104. Some Members called on FAO to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, including through awareness raising and capacity development.

105. The Committee stressed the prominent role of governments in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

106. The Committee also suggested exploring the role of the SSF-GSF in relation to monitoring the progress of achieving the relevant SDG targets, while recognizing that the responsibility of SDG reporting lies with the countries.

### **Outcome of and follow-up to the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries**

107. The Committee welcomed the outcomes of the 2015 Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and the Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries, highlighting the linkages to the SSF Guidelines and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) in the context of national food security.

108. The Committee emphasized the importance of inland fisheries for food security, livelihoods and economic development, noting that they are particularly important for inland rural communities and landlocked countries.

109. The Committee further observed that inland fisheries have not been granted adequate attention in the past, and that their contribution and value is often underestimated.

110. The Committee took note of the Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries and requested FAO to develop a plan for their implementation.

111. With respect to Step 6 of the Ten Steps, the Committee noted that the management of inland fisheries in transboundary water resources was the competence of riparian countries and, where appropriate, competent regional arrangements.

112. The Committee noted the importance of recreational fisheries, especially in relation to tourism.

113. The Committee requested FAO to provide best practice guidance on the management of inland fisheries, particularly within broader planning frameworks.

114. The Committee noted the difficulties faced in accurately measuring inland fisheries production and recommended the development of an effective methodology to monitor and assess the status of inland fisheries, to underpin their value, to give them appropriate recognition and to support their management. It requested that FAO develop this assessment methodology, including broader ecosystem considerations that impact inland fisheries.

115. The Committee further recommended regional quantitative assessment, possibly through pilot studies and workshops. It agreed that this would also contribute in monitoring the progress of achieving the SDGs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

116. The Committee requested the inclusion of inland fisheries in subsequent sessions of COFI.

## **Outcome of and follow-up to the Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries**

117. The Committee commended FAO for the global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries hosted by Cambodia in collaboration with FAO and other partners and welcomed the initiative of FAO on the complex topic of rights-based approaches for fisheries.

118. The Committee noted that there was no one-size-fits-all form of tenure or rights-based approach and that rights' frameworks needed to be adapted to local contexts, through the use of inclusive, consultative and co-management approaches.

119. The Committee welcomed the Global Work Programme (GWP) and underlined that FAO was the appropriate forum and should serve as the neutral platform for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches.

120. Many Members provided regional experience and expressed appreciation of the global forum. They also welcomed the follow-up activities and highlighted that the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) already supported the promotion of rights-based approaches.

121. The Committee underlined the important role of FAO in providing knowledge, institutional support and assistance for developing rights-based fisheries management systems.

122. It was recommended that the title of thematic area 5 be changed to "Fisheries rights in the context of transboundary resources".

123. Members recommended the creation of a database for existing rights-based management systems.

124. The Committee noted that the term "governance" was broad and general and that it was not defined in any international agreements and other instruments relevant to the work of this Committee.

125. Some Members suggested that GWP should be integrated into SSF-GSF and the VGGT.

## **International year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture**

126. The Committee endorsed the proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, taking into account the existing FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years, and acknowledging that this proposal needed to be further considered by all relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

## **GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES**

### **United Nations (UN) related matters**

127. The Committee noted the delay in making available the relevant working documents for this agenda item.

128. The Committee commended the role FAO played in UN fora and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity. The Committee advised FAO to increase its leadership role in these processes, as well as its coordination and cooperation with other relevant bodies. In this context, it was suggested that FAO increase its

collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

129. Some Members noted the increase in the past decades of global instruments and processes focusing on fisheries, and highlighted that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) should be the corner stone of such international instruments.

130. The Committee welcomed the outcomes of the resumed Review Conference on UNFSA held in May 2016 and called on Members to contribute to the Assistance Fund under Part VII of UNFSA.

131. The Committee recognized the need to enhance the participation of FAO to provide technical expertise in the biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiating process.

132. Many Members noted that the BBNJ process should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectorial bodies, as agreed in UN resolution document 69/292 paragraph 3.

133. The Committee welcomed the submission of the FAO Secretariat document on the work of FAO relating to the elements of the draft BBNJ text.

134. The Committee highlighted the importance of the ongoing processes related to Agenda 2030 on SDGs and took note of the upcoming UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 to be held in Fiji in June 2017. The Committee encouraged FAO to continue to support the preparatory process and also to support Members in the preparation of national reports on the relevant SDG targets.

135. The Committee requested that FAO contribute to the upcoming review at the United Nations of the actions taken by States and RFMOs/RFBs to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems in order to inform on the progress achieved in this regard.

136. The Committee welcomed the outcomes and recommendations of the joint expert meeting on Aichi target 6, and invited FAO to strengthen cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and recommended that FAO make available suitable indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving relevant Aichi targets.

137. The Committee welcomed the initiative of CBD, FAO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for organizing a meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and RFBs in September 2016 in Seoul.

138. Some Members raised a concern on the preparation process of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. It was suggested that FAO cooperate with IUCN regarding the listing of fisheries species on the IUCN Red List.

### **Regional fishery bodies (RFB) related matters**

139. Many Members highlighted the crucial role played by RFMOs/RFBs and noted the expansion of the RFBs network. Members called upon FAO and RFMOs/RFBs to publicize the achievements of these bodies, while recognizing that challenges remain.

140. The Committee expressed appreciation for the role of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) in promoting cooperation within the RFMOs/RFBs community and praised the support of FAO. Members recognized the cooperation between RFMOs/RFBs and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP).

141. The Committee appreciated the establishment of new RFMOs/RFBs, such as the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). The Committee reiterated the calls for support to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the Caspian Sea and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) regions.

142. Several Members expressed concern with regards to the selection process of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Executive Secretary and its consistency with the established IOTC rules of procedure and called for an urgent solution that respects the legitimate rules and procedures of IOTC.

143. The Committee emphasized the importance of regular and transparent performance reviews of RFMOs/RFBs and implementation of their relevant recommendations in a timely and effective manner.

#### **Climate change and other environment related matters**

144. The Committee welcomed the proposed FAO corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the FAO draft Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017–2020. The Committee recognized the important role of the Ocean on climate change and the impacts of climate change on the Ocean, fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee requested that FAO provide guidance, including a more detailed roadmap and technical guidelines on adaptive management measures in response to the impacts of climate change on fisheries resources.

145. Members welcomed the inclusion of the Ocean and ocean-dependent communities in the global climate change discussions and looked forward to keeping momentum for the forthcoming Twenty-second Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakech. The specific role of coral reefs and their vulnerability to climate change was noted.

146. The Committee supported FAO's definition of resilience with particular reference to climate change, and expressed appreciation for the work of FAO on resilience and called on FAO to continue to support capacity development programmes aimed at strengthening resilience and disaster relief.

147. The Committee expressed concern for the increasing problem of marine litter and microplastics.

148. The Committee welcomed the work of FAO with respect to the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), as well as the recommendations from the Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear, noting that gear marking could be a critical tool for reducing ALDFG and IUU fishing. The Committee supported the proposed technical consultation to further develop the guidelines on marking of fishing gear. Members encouraged FAO to conduct pilot projects to avoid ghost fishing by retrieving ALDFG and on fishing gear marking in developing countries in order to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines.

149. The Committee noted concern over threats to marine life and ecosystems originating from oil spills, shipping and offshore oil platforms, as well as the lack of applicable effective international instruments to address this issue.

### **FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

150. The Committee considered FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework and appreciated the achievements in 2014–2015, which contributed to the accomplishment of the FAO Strategic Objectives.

151. The Committee reiterated its support for the BGI, with its four streams of work, as the mean to focus the work of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture in support of food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, sustainable management of living aquatic resources and resilience in the context of the SDGs.

152. The Committee endorsed the priority areas of work for 2016–2017 and emphasized the importance of the work of FAO to address IUU fishing and implementation of the PSMA, fish losses and waste in fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening regional aquaculture networks, promotion of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, support to Members towards the development of inland fisheries, as well as the FAO corporate Climate Change Strategy.

153. The Committee underlined the critical importance of the work of FAO in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics on fisheries and aquaculture, and expressed interest in having FAO provide guidance on catch monitoring and reporting in support of evidence-based decision-making.

154. The Committee requested the FAO Secretariat to take into account global and sector-specific developments and trends and the recommendations of the FAO Regional Conferences concerning fisheries and aquaculture in the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018–21.

155. The Committee encouraged FAO to work with other international organizations, RFBs and RFMOs to advocate the positive contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development.

156. The Committee emphasized the value of the technical competence of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture, stressed the importance of maintaining and further strengthening that capacity, and awaited the outcome of the independent assessment of FAO's technical capacity.

157. Many Members requested FAO for an equal emphasis on field level activities in the current biennium, including field level demonstration activities and capacity building for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, in addition to its normative work that has been the focus in the 2014–2015 biennium.



## **PROPOSAL BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN FAO WORLD FISHERIES UNIVERSITY**

158. The Committee took note of the statements delivered by the FAO Secretariat and the Republic of Korea on the revised proposal. The Committee also noted that no working document was provided for discussion under this agenda item.

159. The Committee welcomed the initiative and thanked the Republic of Korea for the proposal.

160. The Committee encouraged the Republic of Korea and the FAO Secretariat to cooperate and work together to agree on a roadmap for a step-by-step approach and to finalize it based on the evaluation of the results of the pilot partnership programme by the relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

## **MULTIYEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE**

161. The Committee approved the progress report of the MYPOW 2014–2017 and the MYPOW 2016–2019 as attached in Appendix E.

## **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF COFI**

162. The Committee elected Mr William Gibbons-Fly (United States of America) as Chairperson and Mr André Loua (Guinea) as First Vice-Chairperson. Egypt, Palau, Peru, Republic of Korea and Spain were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information**

163. The Dominican Republic, on behalf of the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), suggested that synergies and collaboration be strengthened between various bodies at national, regional and global levels, including RFBs and RFMOs.

### **Any other matters**

164. The United States of America suggested a proposal for FAO to work on transshipments and IUU fishing, covering: i) a review of current regulations and at sea transshipment practices, and consider which, if any, at sea transshipment activities should be authorized; ii) guidance on specific control mechanisms where transshipments are authorized and regulated; iii) review at sea transshipment authorization and notification procedures, reporting and transparency requirements and other tools used to provide independent monitoring and control over transshipment.

165. Many Members affirmed that their legislation prohibits transshipments in waters under their national jurisdiction. The Committee noted the United States of America proposal and provided additional suggestions regarding control mechanisms, the use of the Global Record and collaboration with RFMOs, and encouraged FAO to initiate work on transshipments.

166. Mexico invited Members and other interested parties to join the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico (4–17 December 2016), emphasizing that this meeting would also focus on the integration of biodiversity issues in fisheries and aquaculture.

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

167. The Committee agreed that the Thirty-third Session of COFI will be held in Rome during the second or third quarter of 2018. The exact dates would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the COFI Bureau, for presentation to the next FAO Council in December 2016 and the Fortieth FAO Conference in 2017.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

168. The report of the Thirty-second Session of COFI was adopted, after incorporating all changes agreed upon by consensus on 15 July 2016.

## Agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Designation of the Drafting Committee
4. State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments
5. Decisions and recommendations of the Fifteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Agadir, Morocco, 22–26 February 2016
  - 5.1 Catch Documentation Schemes
6. Decisions and recommendations of the Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5–9 October 2015
7. Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
8. Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up: Nutrition-related implications for fisheries and aquaculture, including loss and waste of food
9. Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries
  - 9.1 Outcome of and follow-up to the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries
  - 9.2 Outcome of and follow-up to the Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries
  - 9.3 International year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture
10. Global and regional processes
  - 10.1 United Nations (UN) related matters
  - 10.2 Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) related matters
  - 10.3 Climate change and other environment related matters
11. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework
12. Proposal of the Republic of Korea for the establishment of an FAO World Fisheries University
13. Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee
14. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Thirty-third Session of COFI
15. Other matters
  - 15.1 Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information
  - 15.2 Any other matters
16. Date and place of the next session
17. Adoption of the report

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**APPENDIX C****List of documents**

COFI/2016/1	Agenda and Timetable
COFI/2016/2	State of world fisheries and aquaculture and the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments
COFI/2016/3	Decisions and recommendations of the Fifteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Agadir, Morocco, 22-26 February 2016
COFI/2016/3.1	The Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes
COFI/2016/4	Decisions and recommendations of the Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5-9 October 2015
COFI/2016/5/Rev.1	Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
COFI/2016/6	Second International Conference on Nutrition Follow-up: The contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to improved nutrition
COFI/2016/7	Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)
COFI/2016/7.1	Outcome of and follow-up to the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries, Freshwater, Fish and the Future
COFI/2016/7.2	Outcome of and follow-up to Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: Advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches for fisheries for enhancing food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
COFI/2016/8	Global and regional processes
COFI/2016/8/Sup.1	FAO's work relating to the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instruments under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
COFI/2016/9	FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework
COFI/2016/11	Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries: a progress report of MYPOW 2014-2017 and a draft MYPOW 2016-2019

COFI/2016/Inf.1/Rev.1	Provisional list of documents
COFI/2016/Inf.2	Provisional list of participants
COFI/2016/Inf.3	Statement by the Director-General
COFI/2016/Inf.4	Annotations/guide notes on agenda items
COFI/2016/Inf.5	Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the Thirty-first Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 9–13 June 2014
COFI/2016/Inf.6	Report of the Thirty-first Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 9–13 June 2014
COFI/2016/Inf.7	Progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments
COFI/2016/Inf.8	Safety at sea in the fisheries sector
COFI/2016/Inf.9	Report of the Fifteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Agadir, Morocco, 22–26 February 2016
COFI/2016/Inf.11	Report of the Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5–9 October 2015
COFI/2016/Inf.12	The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record)
COFI/2016/Inf.13	Towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)
COFI/2016/Inf.14	The Rome Declaration: ten steps to responsible inland fisheries
COFI/2016/Inf.15	Advancing Knowledge on Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries: A global work programme for enhancing food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
COFI/2016/Inf.16	Regional Fishery Bodies established within the FAO framework
COFI/2016/Inf.17	Discussion paper on strategy for FAO's work on climate change
COFI/2016/Inf.18	FIA Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017–2020
COFI/2016/Inf.19	Expert Consultation on Gear Marking
COFI/2016/Inf.20	Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and fisheries and aquaculture
COFI/2016/Inf.21	FAO's considerations regarding UNFSA's issue of reporting distinctly catches inside and outside the EEZs

COFI/2016/Inf.22	Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI
COFI/2016/Inf.23	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States
COFI/2016/Inf.24	Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors
COFI/2016/Inf.25	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Opening statement by Mr José Graziano da Silva  
Director-General of FAO**

It is an honor to welcome you to the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. This is a remarkable COFI Session.

As we all know, the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the PSMA, has just entered into force.

This is the first-ever binding international instrument that specifically addresses IUU Fishing.

Let me congratulate all of you, in particular the Contracting Parties of the Agreement, for this historic achievement.

Illicit fishing may account for up to 26 million tons of fish a year, or more than 15 percent of the world's total annual capture fisheries output.

The Agreement provides an innovative and practical way to tackle this problem by preventing vessels from using ports and landing their illegal catches, thereby reducing the incentive of such vessels to operate and blocking products from reaching national and international markets.

Now it is time to work in order to guarantee the implementation of the Agreement. FAO has elaborated a Global Capacity Development Umbrella Programme to step up assistance to developing countries in the implementation of the PSMA and complementary instruments. This Programme will be implemented through national, regional and global projects in collaboration with FAO's partners.

More information will be provided later today, during the high-level Special Event to celebrate the advent of the Port State Measures Agreement. I invite all of you to participate. Also in this COFI Session, you will consider the approval of a declaration to establish the "International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing".

FAO has already received support letters from heads of state and ministers of more than 40 countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016, released last week, sets the scene for the Committee to review the status and the needs of world fisheries and aquaculture, as well as to provide guidance on FAO's work.

SOFIA 2016 shows us, for example, that aquaculture has gained fundamental importance in the supply of fish for human consumption.

In fact, there is a revolution going on in terms of fish production.

Terrestrial food production shifted from hunter activities to agriculture many millennia ago. But only in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has aquatic food production for human consumption definitely transitioned from being based on the capture of wild fish to the culture of farmed species.

Twenty years ago, aquaculture accounted for 26 percent of fish for human consumption. In 2014, aquaculture's contribution to the supply of fish for human consumption overtook that of wild-caught fish for the first time.

SOFIA 2016 also show us that, in 2013, fish accounted for about 17 percent of the global population's intake of animal protein and 6.7 percent of all protein consumed.

An estimated 56 million people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2014.

Small-scale fisheries are the source of employment for more than 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish workers, about half of whom are women.

All these people play an important role in our quest to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fisheries and aquaculture are not only important for the eradication of poverty and hunger and for the sustainable use of marine resources, they are also key to improve nutrition.

A significant growth in fish consumption has improved people's diets around the world through diversified and nutritious food.

In addition to being a rich source of easily digested, high-quality proteins containing all-essential amino acids, fish provides essential fats, vitamins and minerals. It can thus play a major role in correcting unbalanced diets and in tackling obesity.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition stressed the benefits that fish provides for achieving healthy diets.

And the Committee will be invited to discuss key areas of work related to fisheries and aquaculture that were identified at ICN2, including food loss and waste.

Excellencies,

I would like to briefly refer to other issues that you will discuss during the week.

At the last Session of COFI, one of the outstanding achievements was the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the SSF Guidelines.

In this Session, progress towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines will be reported and your advice on further developments would be appreciated.

The Committee will also review various global and regional processes, as well as climate change and other environmental issues in which FAO is actively involved.

I would like to draw your attention to the Strategy for FAO's Work on Climate Change, which is presented for your consideration.

I look forward to receiving your guidance on the appropriate roles and functions that FAO can assume to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture governance at global and regional levels.

Finally, the progress of implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and its related instruments, will be reported based on the outcome of the questionnaires. The response rate to the questionnaires has greatly improved with the use of the electronic format.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The very busy agenda of the next five days reconfirms once again the paramount importance of the FAO Committee on Fisheries as the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and encourage you to actively participate in both the main sessions and side events.

Thank you for your attention.



## **Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Fisheries 2016–2019**

### **I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviews the Organization's work programme in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, oversees the implementation of such programmes and is mandated to review specific issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture that have been referred to the Committee by either the FAO Council, the Director-General, or pursuant to the request of a Member State(s) periodically.

### **II. RESULTS FOR 2016–2019**

#### **A. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning**

2. Result:

The Committee's recommendations provide a solid basis for Council's guidance and decisions on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization.

3. Indicators and targets:

The Committee further promotes the FAO's Questionnaire on Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) to solicit responses and reduce obstacles impeding responses.

Members respond to the FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code, including the Questionnaire regarding the Implementation of Article 11, Post-harvest Practices and Trade as well as the Questionnaire regarding the Implementation of Article 9, Aquaculture Development and provide the FAO with statistics and other information in fisheries and aquaculture via the Committee, its Sub-Committees and the regional fisheries bodies.

Clear and specific recommendations are made by the Committee to the Council regarding the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

The Committee's recommendations made on the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget are reflected in the Council Report.

4. Outputs:

Report of the Committee that provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Council on sectoral strategies, priorities, programmes and budgets.

5. Activities:

Review decisions and recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, statutory bodies and other relevant organs or institutions.

Review advice from the Regional Conferences in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

Review the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

Formulate recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes and budget in fisheries and aquaculture.

6. Working methods:

Close collaboration with the relevant FAO Departments through the Chairperson and the Bureau.

Liaise with Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and Aquaculture and other statutory bodies.

Liaise with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters.

Liaise with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters.

Report the outcome of the Committee on the programme and budgetary matters to the Council appropriately.

## **B. Review of the World Situation in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

7. Result:

The Council, the Conference and the international community at large are provided with updated information and specific advice on the world situation in fisheries and aquaculture and in relation to the specific issues of significance addressed during the scheduled sessions.

8. Indicators and targets:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations that are based on updated information of the State of world situation in fisheries and aquaculture are presented to the Council and the Conference as a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

9. Output:

Clear, precise and consensual recommendations are favourably considered by the Council and the Conference and provide a solid basis for its guidance and decision.

10. Activities:

The Committee undertakes general discussions on the current world situation in fisheries and aquaculture.

Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

11. Working methods:

Chairperson liaises with the Secretariat.

Intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, to identify topics of significance for agenda setting.

### **C. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters**

#### 12. Results

The Committee recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters.

#### 13. Indicators and targets:

Member Nations obtain value from the deliberations of the Committee, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic actions and policies as reported by FAO.

Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.

The Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

#### 14. Output:

The Committee provides clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

Members of the Committee undertake all necessary action in order to:

Facilitate further the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;

Facilitate further the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;

Facilitate the implementation of the Port States Measures Agreement once it has entered into force.

#### 15. Activities:

Review the status of relevant international instruments in areas of competence for the Committee.

Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies in areas of competence for the Committee.

Report the outcome of the Committee on global policy and regulatory matters to the Conference appropriately.

### **III. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF COFI**

#### 16. Result:

The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

#### 17. Indicators and targets:

The Committee's agendas are focused and reports are concise and containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.

Evaluation of results and implementation of MYPOW for the Committee.

## 18. Outputs:

Progress report on MYPOW 2014-2017 is endorsed in 2016.

Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for the Committee adopted in 2016.

## 19. Activities:

Review the Committee's practices and rules of procedure, if necessary.

Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available.

Recognizing the importance and usefulness of side events, facilitate more focusing and coordination of the side events in line with key issues addressed in the main sessions.

Facilitate further coordination and collaboration with the Sub-Committees and other Technical Committees.

Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report.

#### **IV. WORKING METHODS**

20. The Committee collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters as well as other relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

21. It liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

22. The Committee undertakes regular intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau with support from the Secretariat. Liaison amongst the Bureaus of the Committee and the Sub-Committees is also further strengthened.

23. It encourages and facilitates participation of observers including civil society's organizations.

24. The Chairperson liaises with FAO through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

**The Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 15 July 2016. This is a report of the Session reflecting the discussions which took place and containing all recommendations and decisions taken by the Committee. A synopsis of the outcome of the Session is presented in the abstract and all supplementary information is included in the appendixes.**

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