

Report of the

**TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COORDINATING WORKING
PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS**

Hobart, Australia, 22–26 February 2010



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This document is the report of the twenty-third session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), held in Hobart, Australia, from 22 to 26 February 2010.

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ABSTRACT

The report of the twenty-third session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) held in Hobart, Australia, from 22 to 26 February 2010, is presented. Topics discussed were: review of CWP membership; general reviews of progress since CWP-22, of intersessional CWP activities and those of the participating organizations; progress in recommendations of CWP-22; report on the establishment of Capture Group and Aquaculture Group; revision of standards, concepts, and codes (gear classifications, definition of bycatch, Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange [SDMX], global standards on automated data transmission, international codes for fishing effort, modification of area boundaries [57, 71 and sub-areas of 47], and trade certificate/Harmonized System [HS] modification); methodology and new data requirements (responses to questionnaire on data collection systems, standard methodologies for capture-based aquaculture data collection, electronic logbook systems, estimates of catches taken by illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] activities, and ecosystem data requirements); revision of CWP handbook; integrating the regional databases; the introduction of FISHSTAT J; and improvement in visibility of CWP.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION AND WELCOME

(Agenda item 1)

1. The twenty-third session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP-23) was held in Hobart, Australia, from 22 to 26 February 2010. Representatives from the following organizations participated in the meeting:

- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

Participant list is in Appendix 1.

2. Members not present were:

- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

GFCM, IOTC, ICCAT, OECD and WCPFC provided their inputs prior to the meeting by correspondence.

3. Mr David Ramm, Vice-Chair of CWP, opened the meeting at 9.00am on Monday 22 February 2010. Mr Ramm introduced the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR, Mr. Denzil Miller who welcomed the participants to Hobart and CCAMLR headquarters. Mr. Ramm explained house-keeping matters and IT facilities available for the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

(Agenda item 2)

4. Mr David Ramm (CCAMLR) was elected as Chair and Mr Michael Hinton (IATTC) was elected as Vice-Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda item 3)

5. A draft Agenda was distributed to the meeting. It was agreed to discuss on collaboration with other sectors and ICES/FAO under Agenda item 15 "Any Other Business". The agenda was then adopted (Appendix 2).

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

(Agenda item 4)

6. The Secretary reported that four organizations had joined with the CWP since the previous session:
- GFCM (since April 2007);
 - SEAFO (since February 2008);
 - WCPFC (since May 2008); and
 - NACA (since August 2008).

In addition, there have been changes of focal points of CCSBT, NAFO, SPC and ICCAT.

7. The meeting noted that the Interim South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (a new organization) has expressed interest in joining the CWP when the organization would be formally established. It was suggested that the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) should be approached with regard to becoming a member.

8. Recognizing the importance of inland fisheries production to food security and poverty alleviation for developing countries in particular, and also in view of its development potential as a food source, the meeting encouraged to step-up statistical data collection and reporting on these fisheries to organizations that are dedicated to inland fisheries monitoring and development. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should identify and contact organizations relevant with inland fishery statistics.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS SINCE CWP-22

(Agenda item 5)

5.1 Intersessional activities of CWP

9. The Secretariat reported that the CWP held one Intersessional meeting (Dartmouth, Canada; 8–9 July 2008) and two ad hoc Aquaculture Group meetings (Puerto Varas, Chile, 3–4 October 2008 and Rome, Italy, 6 March 2009). The reports of these meetings are included herein (Appendixes 12, 13 and 14). In addition, an Expert Workshop for Drafting CWP Handbook on Standards of Aquaculture Statistics (Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; 10–14 November 2009) was held in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam; 10–14 November 2009 to develop a final draft of aquaculture component of CWP Handbook with a financial support through FAO.

5.2 Activities by participating organizations

10. The participating organizations reported the progress made since the CWP-22 in the areas relevant to information and statistics. Presentation and discussion on those issues relevant to the listed agenda items were deferred to appropriate agendas. Summaries of presentation are in Appendix 3.

5.3 Progress in recommendations of CWP-22

11. The Secretariat provided a brief review of actions taken to address recommendations made at the CWP-22 but deferred more detailed reports to appropriate corresponding agenda items.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPTURE FISHERY GROUP AND AQUACULTURE GROUP

(Agenda item 6)

12. The Secretariat reported on the background and progress made on this issue. The original idea to establish CWP-like mechanism for aquaculture statistics was presented as a part of the Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trend of Aquaculture (Strategy-STA) that was endorsed by the third Sub-Committee of Aquaculture (New-Delhi, 2006) and by the twenty-seventh session of the FAO

Committee on Fisheries (Rome, March 2007). The CWP-22 reviewed this request and recommended that FAO seek an appropriate form of such mechanism and its relationship with the existing CWP. Accordingly, FAO held an expert workshop in Nakorn Nayok, Thailand, from 8 to 10 January 2008 that recommended to establish such mechanism within the framework of the existing CWP-FS, but with its own terms of reference (TOR), rules of procedure and composition to reflect the specific needs of the aquaculture sector. The CWP intersessional meeting held in Dartmouth, Canada, from 8 to 9 July 2008, reviewed the outcome of the expert workshop. The meeting noted a substantial and increasing interrelationship between fisheries and aquaculture, while recognizing the need of different expertise to address aquaculture specific issues from those available in the traditional CWP which had more focus on marine capture fisheries and their management. Therefore, it was considered preferable to establish specialized groups, one on capture fishery and the other on aquaculture, as sister groups with independent equal status, and to use the main session for coordination and harmonization between the groups. It was agreed to formalize the new structure and way to operate at this twenty-third session of CWP.

13. The meeting reconfirmed the decision taken at the Intersessional meeting to establish the capture fishery group and aquaculture group within the CWP.

14. The Secretariat explained that the current CWP Statutes clearly indicate “aquaculture statistics” within the CWP mandate and that the meeting of subject group was referred as possible intersessional activities under the Rules of Procedures. In the other words, the current Statutes and Rules of Procedure do allow CWP to arrange the meetings of capture fishery and aquaculture groups as intersessional activities. Therefore, it is possible to establish capture fishery and aquaculture groups as operational decision without modifying the existing Rules of Procedure. The other option is to define clearly the nature of such groups by amending Rules of Procedure. The meeting was also advised that the Rules of Procedure can be amended within the CWP by two-thirds of majority and this process would require approximately six months to complete.

15. Recognizing that the decision on Rules of Procedures would not influence the CWP capacity to arrange subject groups, the meeting agreed to establish a capture fishery group and an aquaculture group. The session would remain the only decision making forum and both groups would be required to report back to the sessions for its adoption.

16. The meeting discussed two options and agreed to amend the existing Rules of Procedure, especially noting the benefits to be able to amend other components in need of revision. The meeting prepared a revised set of Rules of Procedure (Appendix 4) to be delivered by the Secretariat to participating organizations for their endorsement.

17. Regarding the operational aspects of the two groups, the meeting agreed that in the Intersessional period the two groups would operate independently, but convene during the main CWP Session which would oversee and coordinate the activities of the two groups, and promote the cause of the CWP as a whole. The meeting considered it important to ensure an adequate level of collaboration between two subject groups as well as between the session and subject groups. This includes holding back-to-back meetings as well as sharing of the CWP session Chair alternatively between each group. The meeting developed the operational guidelines attached in Appendix 5 that would guide the operation under the new structure. This rule should be reviewed and amended if necessary at the next session.

REVISION OF STANDARDS, CONCEPTS AND CODES

(Agenda item 7)

7.1 Gear classifications

18. The meeting was advised that in March 2009 the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)/FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB) had advised the CWP Secretariat of their effort since 2005 to update the technical contents of the revised edition published in 1990

(FAO Technical Paper 222/Rev.1). Since the original of this publication provided the basis of the CWP International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) adopted in 1980, the WGFTFB also developed the proposal of revision of ISSCFG and sought the advice of CWP Secretariat on the process to revise it.

19. The Secretariat was invited to join the WGFTFB discussion in May 2009 and explained that the ISSCFG was managed by the CWP and that its modification requires the adoption by the CWP itself. It was agreed that when the WGFTFB completed its revision of technical gear classifications, it would submit a proposal to the CWP for its consideration. At the consultation, the Secretariat suggested to constrain the level of considerations only into two, in order to leave the third level to be defined by users requiring more detailed gear classifications and/or codes according to the difference of targets. The draft gear descriptions and classifications together with draft proposal revision of ISSCFG were provided to the meeting. Those are still under development.

20. The meeting acknowledged the effort made by the WGFTFB. Although it recognized the expertise as gear specialist of the WGFTFB, the meeting stressed that the considering appropriate code structure and amendment of ISSCFG is a responsibility of the CWP. It was also noted that the criteria required in considering statistical standard classification would differ from the technical view points. The meeting agreed to follow this issue intersessionally with the ad hoc working group in a close communication with the WGFTFB. Terms of reference of the ad hoc group were developed as attached in Appendix 6.

21. It was noted that FAO, ICES and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) actively participate in the WGFTFB, and are also members of CWP. Nevertheless information on this exercise which started in 2005 had not been informed to the CWP until 2009. This suggests inadequate communication within individual organizations and that CWP does not appear to have sufficient influence to be identified as the responsible body for statistical standards. This issue was further discussed under the agenda item on CWP visibility.

7.2 Catch diagram – Definition of bycatch

22. FAO proposed a definition of bycatch based on the CWP catch diagram for the consideration of the Expert Consultation on International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discard, held in Rome, Italy, between 30 November and 3 December 2009, but this proposal was not adopted.

23. The meeting noted that the term of “bycatch” is currently used in many different ways depending on context, e.g. as “catch not retained”, “all catch other than target species”, “unintended catch especially undersized fish”, etc. The compilation of the current utilization of terms was considered to be the useful initial step. There were differences in views whether this should be included into the CWP Handbook, noting that the role of the Handbook is not only to provide the single authorized standards and concepts but also to show a range of them where no agreed standards exist (see Appendix 7 work plan for handbook).

7.3 Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)

24. Eurostat reported about the ongoing “SDMX for Fisheries Statistics Eurostat Project”. The aim of the SDMX is to implement more efficient processes for the exchange of data, by defining standard formats, an IT architecture, and content-oriented guidelines for the national and international exchange of statistical data and metadata. SDMX focuses on aggregate data, especially time series. The benefits of SDMX are automated production and processing of data and metadata files and the consistent use of statistical concepts. The content of the information will be largely the same as it is now. It is the handling of the data that will be significantly improved. More details on SDMX will be finalised at the next workshop (5 March 2010 in Luxembourg) prior to the launching of the project. The implementation will be by gentlemen’s agreement with the twenty-seven European Union (EU) Member States.

25. The meeting noted the effort and asked Eurostat to keep informing on the progress made.

7.4 Global standards on automated data transmission

26. Although the intersessional meetings requested to keep this Agenda item at CWP-23, there is no participant who has specific points to report. Although the vessel transmitted information such as vessel monitoring system (VMS) data is primarily collected for compliance and surveillance purposes, it may also have a high potential to provide useful source of information for scientific and statistical purposes and such utilization has been examined on several occasions. The meeting considered it useful to keep reviewing the new progress in utilization of such data and agreed to retain this Agenda item at the next session. It was noted that the term “VMS” is defined strictly in relation to compliance in certain organizations. In order to avoid unnecessary confusion, it was suggested to utilize the more general term of “vessel transmitted information” in the future.

7.5 International codes for fishing effort

27. This item was included at the request of Mr Hans Lassen of ICES who could not attend the meeting. It was agreed to keep the item for the next session with the further confirmation by ICES.

7.6 Modification of area boundary

28. In regard to the modification of the boundary between Area 57 and 71 that was adopted at the CWP-22 in the condition to fulfil several requirements, SEAFDEC reported that now consensus has been reached but still waiting for the written document to complete a process. It was indicated that the provision of historical data would require more time. SEAFDEC was requested to inform the Secretariat at the formal confirmation of agreement, then the modification would be placed for public release.

29. FAO informed the meeting that the statistical division of Area 47 was revised in a way to minimize the disruption of historical data and at the same time to allow reporting and compilation according to the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) divisions. The SEAFO Scientific Committee endorsed this revision in 2007. The revised divisions are available on the Web site.

7.7 Trade certificate/HS modification

30. FAO referred that in 2007 the World Customs Organization (WCO) completed its regular review process of Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding system, commonly referred to as the Harmonized System (HS) started in 2007. FAO proposed modifications with the intention to improve the quality and precision of fish trade coverage and about 190 amendments and 90 new commodities were implemented. Some of important changes included introduction of shark fins in cured form, separation of caviar, separation of molluscs and distinction of seaweeds for human consumption and other purpose. FAO's proposal to separate capture and aquaculture origin for salmonoids and shrimp was not accepted. The revised structure (HS2012) in comparison with the current one (HS2007) is attached as Appendix 8. The new structure will enter into force on 1 January 2012.

METHODOLOGY AND NEW DATA NEEDS

(Agenda item 8)

8.1 Methodological description of national data collection systems

31. This Agenda item has been ongoing over several previous sessions. Although the CWP-22 recommended for the Secretariat to consolidate historical data submitted by countries, this has proven very difficult to effectuate due to poor archiving practices in the past for historical meeting documents other than final reports. Instead, the Secretariat sent the questionnaires to the participating organizations prior to the meeting, asking for the information on a set of data and corresponding questionnaires that each organization collect from its member countries as well as whether organizations monitoring the data collection systems of member countries. Eleven organizations provided responses to the questionnaire despite the short notice. It

was found that the extent of information contained in response on a set of data collected and codes used was more than could be analysed in a short time and the Secretariat suggested to make more thorough analysis to report in other occasions. Regarding the monitoring of national data collection systems, Eurostat conducted a narrative questionnaire, whereas IOTC implemented a quite extensive quantitative questionnaire in 2009; both of them provide a good model when collecting information on data collection systems.

32. It was noted that some organizations misunderstood the questions. This consolidation was a good starting point but far from complete. Efforts should be continued.

8.2 Standard methodologies to collect data on capture-based aquaculture

33. This Agenda item was kept based on the decision at the CWP-22. The Secretariat informed that the draft of aquaculture component of CWP Handbook identified the input of seeds from wild environment as one of minimum reporting requirements for aquaculture, which is considered as one step to improve the monitoring of capture-based aquaculture. It was noted that this is an area of clear interaction between aquaculture and capture fishery sectors.

8.3 Electronic logbook system

34. CCAMLR presented its electronic data forms (eForms) following the request of the Intersessional meeting in 2008. These forms are widely used for the submission of CCAMLR data, including data provided directly from fishing vessels, collected by scientific observers or reported to the Catch Documentation Scheme. Most eForms are in worksheet format and may include pop-up notes, pull down menus, and macros for converting data into a compact text format (for emailing). The eForms are available from the CCAMLR Web site. See for example:

www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/sc/dat/intro.htm	for fishery eForms;
www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/sc/obs/intro.htm	for scientific observer eForms;
www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/sc/cemp/intro.htm	for ecosystem monitoring eForms; and
www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/cds/intro.htm	for catch documentation data eForms.

8.4 Estimation of catch taken by IUU activities

35. Based on the recommendation of the CWP-22, participating organizations have been asked to provide the information on the way to handle catch taken by IUU activities, prior to the meeting. The responses indicated that the amount of catch taken by IUU activities is routinely estimated in some organizations and is not estimated at all or estimated on an occasional basis in other organizations. The most commonly utilized estimation procedure is to multiply the estimated amount of IUU fishing effort (for example, in terms of number of boats, or number of fishing days) with catch rate of similar fishing operations obtained from legal operations. Trade and/or market information as well as port inspection information are also utilized to estimate IUU catch. Organizations which estimated IUU activities incorporated the expected range of IUU catch into their stock assessment and evaluation of management measures, and others examined the impact of IUU activities using sensitivity analyses.

8.5 Data requirement to monitor fisheries in the ecosystem context

36. The Secretariat noted that although there are many activities currently being undertaken to develop standard guidelines to identify indicators and data that is needed to support the implementation of an ecosystem approach of management. At the same time, the term “ecosystem approach” is currently used in at least two different meanings, one is for conservation of the ecosystem itself, including vulnerable marine ecosystems and biodiversity, and another indicating holistic management approach to ensure sustainability of community and supporting environment. It was considered that it is still premature for the CWP to develop standards and that it should keep close attention on development and accumulation of actual experiences.

REVISION OF THE CWP HANDBOOK

(Agenda item 9)

9.1 Aquaculture component

37. Mr Sena de Silva of NACA, Chair of ad hoc Aquaculture Group gave a brief summary of progress during the intersessional period. The preparation of aquaculture component of the CWP Handbook has made significant progress at the Expert Workshop for Drafting the CWP Handbook on Standards of Aquaculture Statistics held in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam, 10–14 November 2009. The draft attempted to cover broad issues including (*inter alia*) capacity building, improvement of statistics collation, use of existing national and regional data to underpin a central database. It is hoped that a Handbook draft will be finalized by mid-2010.

38. The meeting welcomed the progress made and looked forward to having this component presented to the next session.

9.2 Other component

39. The Secretariat reported the current situation of preparation of revised text for the CWP Handbook other than the aquaculture component. Mr David Cross, FAO consultant, delivered his first draft of the revised Handbook in December 2008, which can be made available to participating organizations on request. Although this covers most of minor and/or simple updates of codes and area definitions, majority of areas that will require substantial extensions and/or rewriting are still kept unchanged. Due to the increased workload of regular programmes, the Secretariat is finding it increasingly difficult to secure adequate time to fulfil this task and requested further assistance and active participation of member organizations to the process.

40. A brief review of the existing text indicated that there are three types of sections: (I) those requiring only minor or simple updates; (II) those with some text available but requiring substantial expansion and/or rewriting; and (III) no text exists. FAO indicated its willingness to take responsibility for reviewing and revising all sections under category-I. Among those in the categories-II and III, IATTC agreed to lead the preparation on catch and effort related component that includes catch and landings, logbooks, and other data required for stock monitoring. ICES/FAO agreed to coordinate on the sections related to vessels/gear that include the section of fishery fleet, fishing gear classification and fishing efforts. Similarly, Eurostat at the request of the meeting agreed to coordinate on the section for the social and economic component, including that on fishers, currencies and funds and economic statistics, and CCAMLR together with NAFO agreed to coordinate the preparation on a new section on ecosystem monitoring and fisheries impact on the ecosystem. The meeting agreed to collaborate with the designated coordinators of those components aiming to finalize the updated draft at the next session. It was also agreed that the progress would be reviewed at the intersessional fishery group meeting (see Appendix 7 for the grouping of sections and corresponding coordinating organizations).

INTEGRATING THE REGIONAL DATABASES

(Agenda item 10)

10.1 Data collection after termination of MOU between SEAFDEC and FAO on tuna fishery statistics

41. Regarding data collation on tuna statistics in Southeast Asian Region (FAO Statistical area 71) after termination of MoU between SEAFDEC and FAO since 2005, the meeting noted that there was no progress made in terms of transferring the data collection responsibility to the relevant tuna management bodies e.g. WCPFC. On the other hand, SEAFDEC informed on the ongoing initiative to support Viet Nam in development of tuna statistics and information collection scheme. This initiative may facilitate fulfilling certain gaps in the collection of tuna statistics in the South China Sea Area which is currently not covered by any regional fishery management organization (RFMO).

10.2 Efforts to remove data discrepancies

42. FAO reported on the long-standing efforts to remove data discrepancies among organizations, including collaboration with NAFO to identify the cause of discrepancy in 2008, development of shared format of questionnaires with SEAFDEC with the intention to ensure single reporting from one source, and the real-time data sharing experiment between Eurostat and FAO. It was noted that the current efforts by CWP members were now more focused on identifying the factor causing discrepancies and improving future data collection.

10.3 Integrated Catch Information System (ICIS)

43. Mr Marc Taconet, Senior Information Officer of FAO, presented a summary of developments for the ICIS. This initiative was introduced at the last intersessional meeting and an update is hereby provided. ICIS is a response to the increasing demand for global catch data with finer geographical resolution. It is an application which strives to marshal statistical data on capture, from source to publication in a standardized and homogeneous manner across data sources. It has now two main components:

- A. CDIS as a stand-alone PC based application that through prototyping helps designing harmonization and re-allocation of capture data.
- B. ICIS Virtual Research Environments (VRE) in the D4 Science infrastructure. The D4Science project was introduced at the intersessional meeting and its e-infrastructure has been in production since June 2008. Since then, four VREs have been created that serve the needs of different scenarios.

The infrastructure has been populated with widely different resources, quite heterogeneous, ranging from multidisciplinary fisheries data sources, such as Fishery Country Profiles, National Aquaculture Legislation Overviews, Capture Time series graphs, species distribution maps, which are very different from Earth Observation products. Among these VREs, the ICIS will integrate regional and global capture and distribution information of aquatic species, from a number of RFBs and international organizations such as FAO and the WorldFish Center into a common system. To ensure broad interoperability the system will make use of existing international standards including those agreed at CWP and the open geospatial consortium's ISO 9115. At the present time ICIS can load and curate data, and these can be transformed in TimeSeries objects. The ICIS scenario will be further developed during the second phase of D4Science which started in October 2009.

44. A D4Science World Users Meeting was organized in Rome in November 2009 in order to showcase progress and share experience with other user communities and their e-infrastructure with emphasis on how to exploit possible synergies. The meeting was the opportunity for FAO, ICES, NAFO, NEAFC, SEAFDEC, and CECAF to exchange on their respective needs for data sharing and collaborative data processing, further elaborate requirements for the harmonisation of fishery statistics, and consider how VMS data could be handled. NAFO, ICES and Eurostat are already involved and other interested CWP members are welcome to participate.

10.4 Towards a globally consolidated vessel list

45. With regard to the potential establishment of a global list of IUU vessels, the CWP-22 recommended for RFBs to facilitate the establishment of links to each others' IUU lists as well as for CWP to review the criteria used for defining IUU vessels. The Secretariat presented a brief analysis on the criteria based on the responses from participating organizations which showed a certain level of commonality but also differences among organizations. The meeting agreed that consideration of criteria for identifying IUU fishing vessels fell outside the mandate of the CWP.

10.5 Progress in development of unique vessel identifier for small vessels and vessel owners

46. WCPFC through correspondence and CCSBT referred on the progress among the tuna organizations. The second meeting of the five tuna RFMO's (Kobe2) agreed among its immediate action items:

"The tuna RFMO Secretariats continue their collaboration to advance implementation of a combined vessel register that incorporates a unique vessel identifier (UVI). The Secretariats will advance this through

meetings of their members and on-going collaboration with the competent organizations concerned, such as Lloyds Register-Fairplay (LR-F), as appropriate, to include all of the tuna fishing vessels and to avoid unnecessary duplication.”

LR-F has identified twenty-three (23) requisite fields for the generation of a UVI for tuna fishing vessels. CCSBT, at the fourth meeting of the Compliance Committee, noted that the development of a UVI would require substantial additional information to be collected and that this would be of most value if all tuna RFMO's collected the necessary information. It was agreed that discussions should continue with other tuna RFMO's to work towards establishing a UVI for the global tuna fleet. WCPFC, at the fifth regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee, also noted that additional information would be required and encouraged Commission Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating Territories (CCMs) to cooperate with the Secretariat on a pilot programme basis as they are able to do so, in provision of the additional required fields.

47. Acknowledging the importance of UVI to combat against IUU and welcoming the progress made, some noted that the issue has little relevance to data collection for statistics.

PRESENTATION OF NEW VERSION OF THE FISHSTAT (Agenda item 11)

48. Mr Francesco Calderini of FAO presented a demonstration of the new version of FishStat, which is a standalone software application broadly used by FAO and CWP member agencies to disseminate fishery statistics. The new version, FISHSTAT J (www.fao.org/fishery/fishstatj) is still under development and a beta release, covering all the dissemination features of the previous FISHSTAT, is currently available for validation and feedback by CWP members willing to join a collaborative beta testing and feedback collection process. References to the testing scope, environment, download locations, etc. can be found at www.fao.org/fishery/fishstatj/testing. Requests for participating to the beta testing process should be submitted to francesco.calderini@fao.org. The final product, including the datasets management features, is envisaged for public release in 2011.

49. The meeting noted the new version as comprehensive and user-friendly. Several organizations expressed interest in testing the trial FISHSTAT J.

REPORTS FROM EXPERT CONSULTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS (Agenda item 12)

50. SEAFDEC reported on two relevant issues that were discussed at the Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information (19–21 January 2010, Bangkok, Thailand). The first one is an initiative in developing the harmonized fishing vessel records and inventory for better understanding on the size and structure of fishing vessels to ensure effective fisheries management and combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. The draft fishing vessel record and inventory forms (survey form for large scale and coastal fisheries) were prepared and distributed, the results of which would be finalized with the countries. Another issue is future collaboration with BOBLME (Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem) Project based on SEAFDEC activities on fishery statistics and information including the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia that could complement those of the BOBLME Project, and harmonization of data collection for transboundary species, i.e. Indian mackerel, sharks, and hilsa.

51. NACA noted that the first regional workshop under the Strategy-STA framework was held in Ha Long City, Viet Nam, during 16 and 18 November 2009, in order to identify the capacity building need in the Asia for the implementation of Strategy-STA. The meeting was co-hosted by FAO, NACA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam with the support of the Japanese Trust Fund. The meeting recommended to: (i) develop and/or utilize an existing regional Web site that may deposit and share information relating to aquaculture data collection, training manuals, experiences,

standards, information collected by countries but not disseminated through FAO; and (ii) develop a simple manual for aquaculture data collection. The meeting also agreed to encourage national effort to: (i) improve interregional and regional collaboration in relation to skill development in data collection and reporting; (ii) review and enhance capacity and skills at all levels and on a regular basis; and (iii) conduct regular consultation between data collectors, enumerators, statisticians, and users within the country as well as among countries.

IMPROVEMENTS IN VISIBILITY OF THE CWP

(Agenda item 13)

52. FAO reported that the reference to the CWP was incorporated in the UN Statistics Web site. Also, FAO made efforts to promote CWP as the responsible body in fishery and aquaculture statistics standards at relevant fora. All members were encouraged to continue enhancing the visibility of the CWP, *inter alia* to make a link to the CWP Web page, and some members affirmed that this has been done. Such linkages have been shown to greatly increase the number of hits that might be given to the CWP Web site and generally enhanced the visibility of the CWP. It was noted that the current CWP Web site was not well designed for a general target audience. Improvement of outreach strategy should be further considered.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CWP-24 SESSION, GROUP MEETINGS AND OTHER INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

(Agenda item 14)

53. The meeting reviewed its activities planned for the forthcoming intersessional period and agreed to devote the intersessional meeting of the Fishery Group to a progress review of the CWP Handbook update. IATTC offered to host the Fishery Group meeting. It was suggested that the meeting be held around July 2011, and in conjunction with the FIRMS Steering Committee meeting. The Aquaculture Group meeting is expected to be held in June 2010 in conjunction with COFI-SC/AQ in Bangkok. It was noted that the next session should occur no later than February in 2013 and SPC and SEAFDEC had expressed their interest to host the session. The initial list of items to be included in the CWP-24 agenda is provided in Appendix 9.

ANY OTHER MATTER

(Agenda item 15)

Collaboration with other sectors

54. FAO noted the increasing need to collaborate with partners in competence with information and statistics in other sectors including agriculture and natural resource management. The global strategy for improving agriculture statistics currently in development under UN Statistics Division contains aquaculture and fishery within its scope. FAO will keep CWP informed on its progress. Other collaborations include development of land-cover/land-use codes, where all water body is treated as one, and FAO capacity building project “CountrySTAT” which implements standardized dissemination platform for developing countries, though the consideration given to fishery and aquaculture sector has yet stayed marginal.

ICES/FAO Symposium on Fishery Dependent Information

55. ICES informed that Symposium on Fishery Dependent Information will be held in Galway, Ireland from 23 – 26 August 2010; www.marine.ie/fisherydependentdata/. Those interested to attend should urgently contact Mr Richard Grainger (Richard.Grainger@fao.org), one of the board members, with title and short summary urgently.

ASEAN – SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries

56. SEAFDEC informed on the upcoming ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 or “Fish for the People 2020” tentatively schedule from 13–17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference will be co-organized by ASEAN and SEAFDEC, in collaboration with FAO, and hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. The Conference is expected to further address the priority issues that are envisaged to impede the sustainable contribution from fisheries to food security of the region, and come up with the policy framework and guiding principles in achieving the sustainable fisheries for food security for the coming decades. It is expected that the participants to the Conference would be fisheries policy-makers and representatives of agencies responsible for fisheries of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC countries as well as from other regions; representatives from national/regional/international organizations working on the fisheries and food security aspects; and representatives from the private sector and relevant fisheries stakeholders. For further information, please visit www.ffp2020.org, or contact secretariat@ffp2020.org.

ADOPTION OF REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING (Agenda items 16 and 17)

57. The report was adopted on Friday 26 February 2010. The Chairperson thanked the CWP members and the CWP Secretariat for their participation at the meeting and contributions during the intersessional period. The meeting was closed.

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