

## **REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES**

**Report of the**

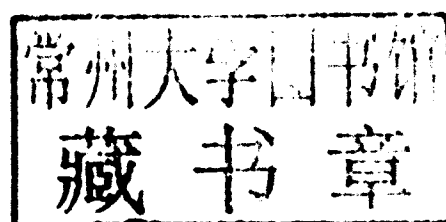
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### **FOURTH MEETING OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3–5 October 2010**



Report of the  
FOURTH MEETING OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT  
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ISBN 978-92-5-106714-7

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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report of the fourth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management that was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from 3 to 5 October 2010.

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Report of the fourth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management. Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3–5 October 2010.

*FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*. No. 953. Cairo, FAO. 2010. 57p.

### ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the fourth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), which was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from 3 to 5 October 2010. The Working Group considered and made decisions on matters concerning the Programme of Work and Budget for the 2011–12 biennium for the WGFM including a review of the regional strategy and priorities for regional fisheries management, the outcome of the Special Meeting on RECOFI Consolidation and Development that took place at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, in May 2010, and stock status reporting in support of long-term sustainable fisheries management in the RECOFI region. Significantly, the WGFM adopted a Recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting in the RECOFI Area. This is the first Recommendation adopted by the WGFM. If accepted by RECOFI, it will become binding on Members of the Commission. The WGFM also considered a proposal by the Sultanate of Oman in relation to a proposal for a feasibility study to review the development of a regional database on violations, establish a list of vessels authorized to fish by RECOFI Members and promote the establishment of a regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance information exchange scheme. Finally, the WGFM reviewed the outcomes of the Tripartite Meeting on Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of RECOFI that was held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, in May 2010, and the FAO/INFOSAMAK Seminar on Fish Trade and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Near East and North Africa that took place in Agadir, Morocco, in June 2010. Other important decisions made by the WGFM included the election of a new Chairperson, the agreement to propose to the Commission that the WGFM meet annually rather than on a biennial basis and that a special meeting of the Working Group be convened immediately prior to the May 2011 session of the Commission.

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## OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The fourth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from 3 to 5 October 2010. The meeting was convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and RECOFI. The meeting was attended by six Members of Commission. A list of delegates is attached as Appendix B.

2. His Excellency Hamed Said Al-Oufi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, welcomed delegates to the Sultanate and the meeting. He pointed out that the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) would provide a unique opportunity for Members to share knowledge and information and to promote stronger regional collaboration in fisheries. He noted the importance of fisheries for food security in the region and expressed his desire that the meeting would produce robust discussion and results. His statement is in Appendix D.

3. Mr Piero Mannini, RECOFI Secretary and Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt, made a statement on behalf of Mr Saad Al-Otaibi, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt. He reiterated that the RECOFI region was rich in marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems supporting valuable fish stocks. However, there had been an apparent decline in production between 2006 and 2008 from approximately 700 000 tonnes to 640 000 tonnes. Mr Al-Otaibi highlighted some of RECOFI's work undertaken over the past two years including the review of fisheries laws in certain RECOFI Members. He added that regional cooperation and regional fishery bodies and arrangements were critical to international fishery governance, underscoring the importance of strengthening regional cooperation among RECOFI Members. He referred also to efforts to strengthen and develop RECOFI. He noted that the agenda for the meeting was an important one, particularly in view of the forthcoming Sixth Session of the Commission in Bahrain in May 2011. Mr Al-Otaibi's statement is in Appendix E.

4. The Chairperson of the WGFM, Mr Saleh Z. Al-Hinai, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, welcomed delegates to the meeting. He referred to the need to work efficiently in the meeting and to produce a sound set of recommendations for the next session of RECOFI. He expressed the desire that Members work constructively to address the issues before the WGFM to find realistic and lasting solutions.

5. In his introductory remarks, Mr Mannini highlighted RECOFI activities that had taken place recently, referring in particular to the finalization of two reports and work on the development of a binding Recommendation for Members to consider for onforwarding to the Commission. He reminded the meeting that the joint Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) and WGFM GIS Workshop would be held in Doha, Qatar, from 24 to 28 October 2010. He encouraged Members to participate actively in the workshop, pointing out that it was an important initiative for capture fisheries. In addition, he referred to the questionnaire that had been dispatched to Members following the Rome meeting in relation to the independent technical review of RECOFI. Mr Mannini added that some Members had already completed



and returned the questionnaire to the Secretariat. He urged all Members to do so in order to permit a comprehensive paper to be elaborated for the Sixth Session of the Commission in May 2011.

6. Mr David Doulman, Technical Secretary of the WGFM and Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, FAO, Rome, Italy, in his opening remarks, expressed the view that the WGFM should develop a comprehensive and concrete set of recommendations and projects for consideration by the Commission at its next session. He mentioned in particular the importance of the draft Recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI area, and the draft terms of reference for a feasibility study to review the development of a regional database of violations, a list of vessels authorized to fish by Members and the establishment of a monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) information exchange scheme, submitted to the WGFM by the Sultanate of Oman.

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

7. The Agenda, attached as Appendix A, was adopted. The list of documents for the session is attached as Appendix C.

8. The Chairperson invited the Technical Secretary to outline the timetable for the meetings' work. He reviewed the timetable indicating that there would be flexibility in discussion to ensure that all issues were addressed adequately.

### **UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2011-2012 IN RELATION TO WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT INCLUDING A REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

9. The Technical Secretary introduced document RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/2. It is attached in Appendix F.

10. In his presentation the Technical Secretary recapped on the process undertaken at the second meeting of the WGFM in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2008 to develop the Working Group's strategy, prioritized objectives, regional activities and projects. He recalled that the strategy, a broad and non-specific statement, provided direction and coherency for the WGFM. It reflected the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other outcomes including the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other relevant international instruments. The Technical Secretary noted that the prioritized objectives served to promote the strategy and that the regional activities indicated initiatives to be undertaken to implement the objectives. At the lowest level, the projects were the mechanisms by which the strategy, prioritized objectives and regional activities were implemented. He added that in reality fishery administrations were required usually to balance projects to achieve responsible and sustainable management over a range of objectives.

11. The Technical Secretary reminded the WGFM that RECOFI in May 2009 had reviewed and agreed on the strategy and approved a number of projects for implementation. Subsequently, in Doha, Qatar, in October 2009, at its third meeting, the WGFM reviewed the strategy and projects approved by RECOFI for implementation. He noted that all activities agreed by the Commission for implementation had been undertaken except the project on the

integration of catch and effort data. This project would be initiated in the near future and its results could be communicated to the Sixth Session of the Commission in May 2011.

12. The Technical Secretary noted that RECOFI had postponed a number of WGFM activities principally because of a lack of funds. However, projects that had been postponed could be reconsidered for implementation if that was the desire of the WGFM. He added that the WGFM's workplan over the next biennium should reflect outcomes of the independent technical review, recommendations coming from the study on the integration of catch and effort data, downstream work from the possible Recommendation on minimum data reporting, the proposal for the regional database on violations, list of vessels authorized to fish and the MCS information exchange scheme, and the possibility of increasing the frequency of WGFM meetings from a biennial to an annual basis.

13. In a sequential and holistic manner the WGFM reviewed the strategy, prioritized objectives, regional activities and projects. In doing so, the number of prioritized objectives was reduced from seven to five, with the intention of streamlining the number of projects proposed for implementation. The revised strategy, prioritized objectives, regional activities and projects that will be submitted to the next session of the Commission in May 2011 are in Appendix G.

14. With respect to the frequency of WGFM meetings, it was agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Sixth Session of the Commission that the WGFM should meet on an annual basis, maintaining, if possible, the current October schedule for the meeting. Despite the additional resources required to support an annual meeting, the WGFM noted that an increase in the frequency of meetings would enable the WGFM to review, update and monitor its activities in a more effective manner.

15. In relation to discussion concerning the outcomes from the study on the integration of catch and effort data, the Technical Secretary and the WGFM were of the opinion that its recommendations should be considered by the WGFM prior to their submission to the Commission. Two options were considered to review the report: (i) electronic consultations, and (ii) a one day meeting of the WGFM immediately prior to the Sixth Session of the Commission in May 2011. The Technical Secretary indicated that in his view a short special meeting would be preferable as it enabled face-to-face consultation and the more rapid resolution of differences among delegations. After some discussion, the WGFM agreed to convene a special meeting of one day immediately prior to the next session of the Commission to consider the outcomes of the study on the integration of catch and effort data and any other matters that should be addressed prior to the Commission's session. The Technical Secretary indicated that it would be feasible to organize such a special meeting and to produce a report of the proceedings. The WGFM requested the Secretariat to make arrangements for the special meeting.

#### **OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON RECOFI CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ROME, ITALY, 11-12 MAY 2010) AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

16. The Secretary of RECOFI introduced document RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/3. It is attached as Appendix H.

17. The Secretary explained that the Special Meeting on RECOFI Consolidation and Development was convened at the request of the Fifth Session of the Commission. The meeting was convened at FAO's headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 12 May 2010. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to consider ways and means to enhance RECOFI's role as a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO). The basis of the meeting's work was a comprehensive technical paper prepared by an independent consultant.

18. The Secretary informed the WGFM that the Special Meeting agreed to make three broad recommendations in relation to the Commission's future technical, institutional and financial needs. These recommendations were:

- **Technical:** It was agreed that Members would review the meeting document "Preliminary findings on the operations of the Regional Commission for Fisheries" in their countries and provide written comments on each of the eight points raised in the document to the Secretariat before 30 September 2010. The Secretariat would collate and analyse the responses to develop a paper and recommendations for consideration and decision at the 2011 session of the Commission.
- **Institutional:** The meeting noted that RECOFI operated with a part-time Secretariat. This situation limited the scope and depth of the Commission's work. Members should consider whether the services provided by FAO at the current level were sufficient and adequate to meet the fisheries needs and challenges of the region. If this was not the case a decision concerning a permanent Secretariat would have to be faced as an option. Decisions relating to the Commission's structure and other institutional considerations were needed.
- **Financial:** Based on the information contained in the meeting document "Financial and activity scenarios: present situation and future options", the meeting recognized that RECOFI's financial needs, including the level of Members' contributions, depended on the work programme agreed by the Commission. It was recognized also that the current contribution level (USD 5 000 per year) was quite inadequate, particularly when the amount of arrears were taken into account. After having assessed and agreed the Commission's technical and institutional requirements to address fisheries and aquaculture issues in the region, RECOFI should determine how the work programme would be funded. The Commission's core functions and activities should be covered at least by Member contributions while other activities of a project nature could be funded by extra-budgetary funding.

19. While recognizing the challenges that the technical review posed for RECOFI Members, the Secretary advised the WGFM that the Secretariat would prepare an inclusive and consolidated paper for consideration by the May 2011 session of the Commission. It was hoped that a decision would be made that would put RECOFI and its work programme on a more solid footing. This paper would reflect fully the outcomes of the technical review and the responses by Members to the questionnaire that had been dispatched by the Secretariat in August 2010.

20. In discussion following the presentation, the WGFM agreed that the consolidation and strengthening of the Commission was of extreme importance, particularly in relation to ensuring that it had adequate financial resources to undertake its programme of work. Delegates recognized that should the current level of Members' contributions remain unchanged, this would have a significant impact on RECOFI's future work.

21. With respect to the outcome of the technical performance review and the survey questionnaire that had been dispatched by the Secretariat in August 2010, the WGFM requested the Secretariat to communicate to Members the options to be considered for strengthening the Commission well in advance of the Commission's May 2011 session. Some delegates indicated that it could be instructive to learn from the experience of other, longer-established RFMOs, as to how they had taken steps to strengthen their roles and performance.

#### **STOCK STATUS REPORTING IN SUPPORT OF LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE RECOFI REGION INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE SIXTH SESSION OF RECOFI**

22. Ms Sachiko Tsuji, Senior Fishery Statistician, FAO, Rome, Italy, introduced document RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/4. It is attached as Appendix I.

23. Ms Tsuji explained that monitoring stock status and impacts of fisheries on the ecosystem was fundamental to the RECOFI mandate. She added that RECOFI had made substantial and steady progress in this regard, especially following the establishment of the WGFM at its fourth session in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 7 to 9 May 2007.

24. Ms Tsuji reminded delegates that the second meeting of the WGFM (Cairo, Egypt, 27–30 October 2008) reviewed briefly the major fisheries in the RECOFI region and recommended moving towards an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) with adaptive management procedures. Subsequently the Fifth Session of RECOFI (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12–14 May 2009) adopted this recommendation and decided to convene a workshop specifically focusing on a review of data and statistics available in the region and stock status reporting.

25. The Workshop on "Stock Indicators and Stock Status Reporting" (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26–29 July 2009) was called upon to review data and stock status information available in the region. The Workshop faced difficulty in assembling data and developing a draft protocol on the minimum set of data required in addressing three major common concerns identified. These concerns were: (i) ecosystem wide impacts of shrimp trawls, (ii) exploitation levels of finfish resources, and (iii) stock status especially for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel. The third meeting of the WGFM (Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009) reviewed and adopted this protocol for minimum data reporting and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft resolution for discussion at the fourth meeting of the WGFM (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3–5 October 2010).

26. The WGFM reviewed the proposed "Draft Recommendation RECOFI/6/2011/1 on Minimum Data Reporting in the RECOFI Area" (RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/4, Appendix 1) with special attention being paid to considerations that would enable all Members to implement the recommended actions. The agreed draft Recommendation is reproduced below. It will be submitted to the Sixth Session of RECOFI in May 2011 for consideration.



27. During discussion, the WGFM noted the urgent need for RECOFI to establish a regional database to maintain information required to support directly fisheries management in the region as a public asset of the Commission. Moreover, the WGFM reconfirmed the need for further preparatory works identified and agreed at the third meeting of WGFM. This included (i) a review of national fisheries monitoring programmes in order to identify the areas of improvement in addressing minimum data requirements, (ii) establishment of common formats for reporting and sharing information, and (iii) a workshop to ensure the smooth implementation of minimum data reporting experimenting with actual data exchanges and examinations.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION RECOFI/6/2011/1  
ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING IN THE RECOFI AREA**

The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI),

*RECALLING* that the purpose of RECOFI is, *inter alia*, to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture;

*RECALLING* that the third meeting of RECOFI's Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) (Doha, Qatar, 20-22 October 2009) agreed that a recommendation on minimum data reporting in the RECOFI Area should be drafted for review by the fourth meeting of the WGFM (Muscat, Oman, 3-5 October 2010) for submission to the Sixth Session of RECOFI (Manama, Bahrain, 10-12 May 2011);

*REAFFIRMING* the strong desire of RECOFI Members to promote closer international cooperation and harmonization in fisheries of mutual interest;

*AWARE* that minimum data reporting requirements for the RECOFI Area are fundamental to promoting long-term sustainable fisheries, especially for species of common interest in the region (see Appendix 1);

*ADOPTS* in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of RECOFI Agreement that:

1. (a) Each Member shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure the collection and submission of information required under the paragraph 2, 3 and 4 of this recommendation.
- (b) Nothing in this recommendation shall constrain a Member pursuing data collection and sharing them with the Commission for the purpose of improving management of fisheries and fishery resources in the RECOFI area beyond the requirements of this recommendation.
2. (a) Each Member operating with shrimp trawl fishery shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to that fishery:
  - (i) opening and closing dates of the fishery;
  - (ii) number of vessels engaged in the fishery according to its own vessel type/ size categories (e.g. steel-hulled/speed boats/dhows);

- (iii) annual average tow duration, annual average number of tows per day, and total number of days at sea, according to vessel type/size categories;
- (iv) live-weight equivalent of annual catch of shrimp, swimming crab, cuttlefish, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, emperors, groupers, sharks, rays, and other finfishes, taken by the fishery;
- (v) annual amount of discards, and
- (vi) species composition of by-catch and discards, if available.

(b) If any by-catch reduction device (BRD) is used or other mitigation measure taken, each Member should advise the Commission of details of such BRD/mitigation measure used and submit the catch and effort for those vessels with mitigation measures separated from those vessels operating normally.

3. Each Member shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to gillnets, wire-traps, and hooks-and-line fisheries, respectively:

(a) annual effort in individual fisheries, in terms of "number of days at sea", and if this is not possible, alternative effort with its brief description, and

(b) live-weight equivalents of annual total catch, and of annual catches of narrow-barred Spanish mackerels, emperors, groupers, sharks and rays taken by individual gears with species identification of emperors and groupers to the extent possible, and amount of discards if available.

4. (a) Each Member shall make available to the Commission the following information with respect to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel *Scomberomorus commerson* taken in any fishery in the country:

(i) catch in live-weight equivalent on a monthly basis to the extent possible, if not on an annual basis;

(ii) fork length composition of catch on a monthly basis to the extent possible, if not on an annual basis, either based on fishery monitoring or obtained from other sources, and

(iii) for operations targeting narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (e.g. kingfish fixed net, gillnet and hooks and line), monthly catch with fork length composition and effort by gear type, together with clear description of kinds of effort used, to the extent possible.

(b) Each Member shall make available to the Commission any results obtained through surveys and research works relevant to narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, including fishery-dependent and fishery-independent stock indicators, biological parameters (e.g. growth rate, length frequency data obtained by projects, age-length relationship, reproductive information, natural mortality) and ecological information (e.g. distribution, feeding habitat, habitat preferences).

5. Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the Commission the following additional information:

(a) shrimp species composition within the shrimp trawl catch, and

(b) species composition of discards.



6. Each Member shall submit to the Commission the information required under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this recommendation, and any modification to information reported previously, before the end of August of the following year. Each Member shall cooperate in exchanging historical information relevant to those described in this recommendation.
7. Each Member shall cooperate in sharing survey plans and protocols prior to their implementation, as well as results of such surveys upon their conclusion, to the relevant Members through the Commission.
8. The Commission shall collate, maintain and promptly disseminate to Members the information provided under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this recommendation. The Commission may, subject to the request from a Member who provided information, impose restrictions on access to the information by the public.
9. The Commission shall monitor and evaluate regularly the status of implementation of this recommendation.

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## APPENDIX 1

### List of key species supporting main reference fisheries in the RECOFI Area

FAO name	ASFIS code	Common name	Scientific name
Penaeid shrimps nei	PEZ	Shrimps	Penaeidae
Blue swimming crabs	SCD	Blue swimming crab	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>
Pharaoh cuttlefish	IAH	Cuttlefish	<i>Sepia pharaonis</i>
Stolephorus anchovies	STO	Anchovies	<i>Stolephorus</i> spp.
Indian oil sardine	IOS	Indian oil sardine	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>
Bludger	NGY	Jacks	<i>Carangoide gymnostethus</i>
Golden trevally	GLT	Golden trevally	<i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>
Indian mackerel	RAG	Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger Kanagurta</i>
Snubnose emperor	LBW	Orange finned emperor	<i>Lethrinus borbonicus</i>
Pink ear emperor	LTS	Redspot emperor	<i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>
Spangled emperor	LHN	Spangled emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>
Coral hind	CFI	Coral grouper/Bluespotted grouper	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
Orange-spotted grouper	ENI	Orange-spotted grouper	<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>
White-spotted spinefoot	SCN	Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus canaliculatus</i>
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	COM	King mackerel/Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>
Longtail tuna	LOT	Longtail tuna	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>
Requiem sharks nei	RSK	Sharks	Carcharhinidae

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL DATABASE ON VIOLATIONS, ESTABLISH A LIST OF VESSELS AUTHORIZED TO FISH BY MEMBERS AND PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) NETWORK**

28. Mr Abdullah Hilal Al-Balushi, Head, Section of Fishery Resources Development, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, introduced document RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/5 on behalf of the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman. It is attached as Appendix J.

29. Mr Al-Balushi explained that the purpose of the initiative was to contribute to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. He noted that there was poor regional information available on vessel identification, ownership and control for MCS purposes and information that was available was not easily accessible by RECOFI Members. It was therefore proposed that a regional database be established to provide information to Members in a timely manner to support their efforts against IUU fishing and as a means of enhancing resource management.

30. The Sultanate of Oman proposed that a feasibility study be undertaken to assess whether a regional database of fishing violations, a list of vessels authorized to fish, and a MCS information exchange scheme should be established. It was stressed that the feasibility study would not create commitments for any Members. In addition, Mr Al-Balushi explained that the results of the feasibility study would be considered at a subsequent meeting of the WGFM before any further action was taken.

31. There was protracted discussion on the proposal and issues were raised in relation to the need to involve other national agencies responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) such as the coastguard if a project moved beyond the feasibility stage. In discussion, the similarities and differences among Members in terms of the characteristics of their fishery sectors were noted. Some Members explained that they had comprehensive vessel authorization and monitoring schemes already in place. The WGFM agreed that the feasibility study should be listed in the projects for implementation by RECOFI. However the title of the feasibility study was amended by the WGFM to "Feasibility study to review the development of regional databases for violations, establish a list of vessels authorized to fish by Members and the establishment of a MCS information exchange scheme".

**REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COOPERATION IN THE NORTHERN AREA OF RECOFI (ROME, ITALY, 13 MAY 2010) AND FAO/INFOSAMAK SEMINAR ON "FISH TRADE AND ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: IMPLICATION OF CERTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SCHEME FOR THE REGION" (AGADIR, MOROCCO, 22–24 JUNE 2010)**

32. The Secretary of RECOFI introduced document RECOFI:WGFM4/2010/6. It is attached as Appendix K.



### **Tripartite Meeting on Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of RECOFI**

33. The Secretary informed the WGFM that at the third meeting of the WGFM (Doha, Qatar, 20–22 October 2009), the Secretariat convened a second meeting to advance the FAO/RECOFI Initiative to Promote Fisheries Management Cooperation in the Northern Area of RECOFI. At this meeting, the implementation of a survey questionnaire was agreed to support certain issues central to the Initiative with quantitative information and to create a solid base for discussion and analysis. The completed questionnaires were shared among the Parties to the Initiative. These developments represented a positive step forward and, as a consequence, the FAO/RECOFI Secretariat convened a third meeting (FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, 13 May 2010) to take the Initiative further.

34. The Rome meeting confirmed the countries' commitment and availability to support the Initiative and agreed to proceed towards a higher-level meeting as a means of formalizing and substantiating the Initiative. Moreover, it was agreed that the higher-level meeting would be preceded by a technical meeting with the following agenda:

- 1) Presentation and discussion of the survey questionnaire results;
- 2) Definition of the area concerned by the Initiative, and
- 3) Review and discussion of the focus topics identified as central elements of the Initiative including:
  - a) fisheries management in the northern area of RECOFI including the review of effectiveness of current conservation and management measures to preserve the resources and aquaculture;
  - b) sub regional trade (dynamics, constraints and opportunities);
  - c) promotion of sustainable inland, brackish and marine waters aquaculture, including stock enhancement, and
  - d) establishment of scientific cooperation and implementation of joint activities.
- 4) Identification of the main technical components of a project proposal to implement the Initiative.

35. The outline of the project proposal referred to in point 4 above will be presented for consideration at the higher-level meeting. The Delegation of Kuwait offered to host the technical preparatory meeting prior to the higher-level meeting. The preparatory meeting is proposed for 1 and 2 November 2010. The delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) confirmed its offer to host the higher-level meeting in due course.

36. The WGFM took note of these developments and commended the Secretariat for its efforts to promote the subregional Initiative. The WGFM also expressed its satisfaction with the excellent progress achieved.

### **FAO/INFOSAMAK Seminar on “Fish Trade and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Near East and North Africa: Implication of Certification and Traceability Scheme for the Region”**

37. The Secretary informed the WGFM that the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, in partnership with the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory