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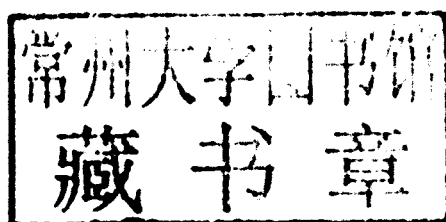
**TECHNICAL CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL
GUIDELINES ON BYCATCH MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF
DISCARDS**

Rome, 6–10 December 2010



Report of the
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON BYCATCH
MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISCARDS

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards adopted on 10 December 2010 in Rome.

FAO.

Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. Rome, 6–10 December 2010.

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ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards held in Rome, Italy, 6–10 December 2010. The Consultation was convened by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations upon the recommendation of the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. The Technical Consultation finalized the draft text on International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards on 10 December 2010. The Consultation was funded by the Government of Norway and the FAO Regular Programme.

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OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

1. On the recommendation of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its Twenty-eighth Session, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr Jacques Diouf, convened a Technical Consultation to develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. The Technical Consultation was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 6–10 December 2010 and was funded by the Government of Norway and the FAO Regular Programme.
2. The Consultation was attended by 35 FAO Members, one FAO Associate Member, one representative from the United Nations, and observers from four intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The list of delegates and observers is in Appendix B. The documents that were placed before the Consultation are listed in Appendix C.
3. The meeting was called to order by the Secretary of the Consultation, Mr Francis Chopin.
4. Mr Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, in his opening statement on behalf of the Director-General referred to the grave concern associated with the pressing needs for fish as a source of food and livelihood, the impacts of climate change and the current status of the world's fisheries resources. He noted that bycatch and discards present not just one but many dilemmas for fisheries and those dependent on the resource as a source of food, income and livelihood. In this regard, Mr Mathiesen noted that until and unless we are able to manage all significant sources of fishing induced mortality, we will not be in a position to ensure that fisheries are exploited in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner and consistent with an ecosystem approach to fisheries. Mr Mathiesen noted that concerns for bycatch and discards have been raised on repeated occasions at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). As recently as 2009, the UNGA¹ urged States and others to reduce or eliminate bycatch, catch by lost or abandoned gear, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Code). Mr Mathiesen noted that this Technical Consultation was an important milestone towards more effective management of fisheries, the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries and maintenance of biodiversity. In this regard, he encouraged the Consultation to consider also the most effective means through which the Guidelines could be implemented. His statement is attached as Appendix D.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

5. Mr Zbigniew Karnicki (Poland) was elected Chairperson of the Consultation. In assuming the Chair, he expressed his thanks to the Consultation for its confidence in electing him to the position. The Consultation agreed with the Chairperson's proposal that all discussions would be held in Plenary, although informal open-ended working groups could be established, as required, to address specific issues.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATION

6. The Consultation adopted the Agenda as given in Appendix A. The Chairperson then outlined the timetable of work for the Consultation, noting that a degree of flexibility would be required to make best use of the resources available to the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR

7. Mr Ramiro Sanchez (Argentina), Mr Poul Degnbol (Denmark), Mr Vishnu Bhat (India) and Mr Purnomo A. Chandra (Indonesia) were elected First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Third Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, respectively.

¹ UNGA A/RES/64/72 para 80.

DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON BYCATCH MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISCARDS

8. Delegations were invited to make initial statements on the documents presented to the Technical Consultation. Many Members expressed the view that the re-structured text from the Expert Consultation, held in Rome, Italy, from 30 November to 3 December 2009, and elaboration of relevant parts of the Code, provided a good starting point for the Consultation's work and expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for their efforts.

9. In support of this approach, the Chair agreed to use the Secretariat Working Paper Annex as the basis for the Consultation's work.

10. The International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards adopted by the Technical Consultation are shown in Appendix E.

FOLLOW-UP

11. The Technical Secretary informed participants that procedures following the conclusion of the Technical Consultation were that the Guidelines, as adopted by the Technical Consultation, would be contained in this report and submitted to COFI for endorsement.

OTHER MATTERS

12. At the invitation of the Chair, Members proposed several actions to implement the Guidelines, noting the importance of incorporating the Guidelines in national legislation as well as programmes to facilitate their uptake. It was suggested that FAO contribute to implementing bycatch management and discard reduction measures in the Guidelines through creating and maintaining a roster of experts in the subject matter. In addition, FAO was requested to provide case studies on best practices, including on risk assessments and the implementation and monitoring of measures in both data-poor and data-rich fisheries.

13. Mr Derek Staples (Chair of the Expert Consultation to Develop Draft International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards), drew Members' attention to recommendations contained in the report TC-BM/2010/Inf.4. Consequently, Members recommended that priority actions for FAO should include an update of global estimates of bycatch and discards, the preparation and distribution of best practices related to bycatch management and reduction of discards, and national and regional projects to trial the Guidelines, especially the steps required for bycatch management planning.

14. Members agreed on the importance of tracking progress on the implementation of the Guidelines through the FAO biennial questionnaire.

15. The FAO Secretariat noted and appreciated the proposed actions to be referred to COFI for consideration and drew the attention of the Consultation to the importance of sufficient extra-budgetary support if they are to be fully and effectively implemented.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

16. The report of the Technical Consultation, which included the agreed text of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, was adopted on 10 December 2010.

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Technical Consultation
4. Election of Vice-Chairpersons and designation of Rapporteur
5. Development and review of the draft International Guidelines on bycatch management and reduction of discards
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the report

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