

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
COMITÉ DES PÊCHES
COMITÉ DE PESCA

Report of the twelfth session of the

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010

Rapport de la douzième session du

SOUS-COMITÉ DU COMMERCE DU POISSON

Buenos Aires, Argentine, 26-30 avril 2010

Informe de la duodécima reunión del

SUBCOMITÉ DE COMERCIO PESQUERO

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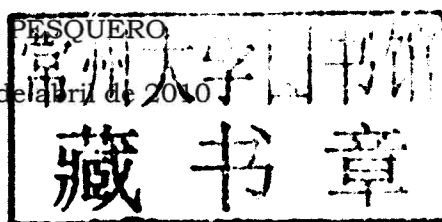
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ISBN 978-92-5-006611-0

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report approved by the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries.

PRÉPARATION DE CE DOCUMENT

Le présent document est le rapport final approuvé par le Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson du Comité des pêches à sa douzième session.

PREPARACIÓN DEL PRESENTE INFORME

Este es el informe final aprobado por la duodécima reunión del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero del Comité de Pesca.

FAO Committee on Fisheries/Comité des pêches/Comité de Pesca.

Report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. Buenos Aires, Argentina

26–30 April 2010.

Rapport de la douzième session du Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson. Buenos Aires, Argentine, 26-30 avril 2010.

Informe de la duodécima reunión del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26-30 de abril de 2010.

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report/FAO Rapport sur les pêches et l'aquaculture/FAO Informe de Pesca y Acuicultura. No. 939. Rome/Roma, FAO. 2010. 68p.

ABSTRACT

The Committee on Fisheries established the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products. The twelfth session of the Sub-Committee was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 26 to 30 April 2010.

The Sub-Committee took note of recent developments concerning international trade in fishery products. It also considered specific issues related to international trade and sustainable fisheries development, including:

- fisheries classification in the World Customs Organization;
- safety and quality of fishery products;
- integration of traceability requirements;
- FAO activities related to ecolabels;
- fish trade and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
- fish trade and food security.

In its capacity as the International Commodity Body for Fishery Products, the Sub-Committee endorsed four project proposals for funding by the Common Fund for Commodities.

RÉSUMÉ

Le Comité des pêches a constitué le Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson pour servir de cadre multilatéral à des consultations sur les échanges internationaux de produits de la pêche. La douzième session de ce Sous-Comité s'est tenue à Buenos Aires (Argentine) du 26 au 30 avril 2010.

Le Sous-Comité a pris note des évolutions récentes du commerce international des produits de la pêche. Il s'est également penché sur des aspects spécifiques des échanges internationaux et du développement durable des pêches, notamment:

- la classification des pêches de l'Organisation mondiale des douanes;
- la sécurité sanitaire et la qualité des produits de la pêche;
- l'intégration des dispositions relatives à la traçabilité;
- les activités de la FAO en matière d'écoétiquetage;
- le commerce du poisson et la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction; et
- le commerce du poisson et la sécurité alimentaire.

En sa qualité d'organisme international compétent pour ce qui concerne les produits de la pêche, le Sous-Comité a approuvé quatre propositions de projets en vue de leur financement par le Fonds commun pour les produits de base.

RESUMEN

El Comité de Pesca estableció el Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero como marco multilateral para las consultas sobre el comercio internacional de productos pesqueros. El Subcomité celebró su duodécima reunión en Buenos Aires (Argentina) del 26 al 30 de abril de 2010.

El Subcomité tomó nota de las últimas novedades relacionadas con el comercio internacional de productos pesqueros. Examinó asimismo ciertas cuestiones específicas vinculadas con dicho comercio y con el fomento de la pesca sostenible, a saber:

- la clasificación de la pesca en la Organización Mundial de Aduanas;
- la inocuidad y calidad de los productos pesqueros;
- la integración de los requisitos de rastreabilidad;
- las actividades de la FAO relacionadas con el ecoetiquetado;
- el comercio pesquero y la Convención sobre el comercio internacional de especies amenazadas de fauna y flora silvestres;
- el comercio pesquero y la seguridad alimentaria.

En su calidad de organismo internacional de productos básicos encargado de los productos pesqueros, el Subcomité refrendó cuatro propuestas de proyectos para su financiación por el Fondo Común para los Productos Básicos.

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

REPORT ON TRADE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN FAO

The Sub-Committee commended FAO for the broad range of trade-related activities carried out by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. (Para. 10)

Delegates congratulated FAO for its role in obtaining improved fisheries classifications in the World Customs Organization. Delegates encouraged FAO to continue this work and underscored the need to include additional species such as sharks and rays in the classification. (Para. 10)

Members underlined the importance of FAO's work in capacity-building for developing countries, in particular in relation to market access and value-addition for small-scale producers in developing countries. (Para. 11)

The Sub-Committee highlighted how scientifically-based, non-discriminatory and transparent standards are beneficial to international trade and that developing countries should be supported in overcoming problems related to the implementation of such standards. (Para. 11)

Members welcomed FAO's work on fish prices, underlining the value of demand, supply and price studies for fisheries policy makers. (Para. 12)

Delegates noted the growing role of certification and related traceability schemes and the potential additional burden and cost this could place, in particular, on developing country producers, especially the small-scale sector. (Para. 14)

The Sub-Committee encouraged FAO to continue the integration of FAO's fisheries related work with that of other FAO technical departments and with other international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank. The Sub-Committee further encouraged FAO to engage actively in important global issues, such as climate change and food security. (Para. 15)

Members encouraged further integration and cooperation between the Secretariats of the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and on Aquaculture. (Para. 16)

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FISH TRADE

Members highlighted the importance of fish consumption and its many nutritional and health related benefits referring to a number of national policies and initiatives in this respect. (Para. 18)

Members underlined the growing role of aquaculture in production, trade and consumption and the need to adequately reflect this in future work, including the interactions between farmed and wild products in international trade and marketing. (Para. 19)

The Sub-Committee stressed the need to create a conducive environment for a more equitable participation of developing countries in world trade. It supported FAO's role in providing technical capacity-building on trade and marketing related issues, including market access and on increasing the benefits and values deriving from a country's fisheries resources. (Para. 19)

Members expressed support for measures which lead to the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. (Para. 19)

The Sub-Committee welcomed FAO's work on fish price indices and the need to continue and expand this work with regular information provided to Members. (Para. 20)

The Sub-committee underlined the importance of the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies in the WTO. (Para. 22)

The Sub-Committee welcomed FAO's continued work on certification and traceability. (Para. 23)

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECOLABELS

The Sub-Committee agreed that the FAO Secretariat should develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private ecolabelling schemes with the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries. (Para. 24)

The Sub-Committee agreed that as a first step in this process the Secretariat should convene an Expert Consultation to initiate work on the evaluation framework, noting the need for extra-budgetary resources for the Expert Consultation and related activities. A number of Members indicated a willingness to explore the possibility of financial support. (Para. 25)

The Sub-Committee agreed that the outcome of the scheduled 25-27 May 2010 Expert Consultation on the draft Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries should be forwarded to COFI for its consideration. (Para. 28)

REVIEW OF MARKET ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

The Sub-Committee expressed its support to the work of FAO in support of the Codex Alimentarius standard setting activities for fish and seafood safety, quality and traceability and for the technical advice, training and capacity building in developing countries to enable these countries to meet international market requirements by implementing good practices in fisheries and aquaculture to ensure the safety and quality of fish products. (Para. 30)

The Sub-Committee reiterated the importance of Codex Alimentarius work to promote harmonization and the use of the best available scientific information for standard setting and certification. (Para. 33)

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR INTEGRATED TRACEABILITY

The Sub-Committee agreed that traceability initiatives were useful tools to verify the integrity of the supply chain and noted that in the fisheries sector they are mainly used to help meet both food safety and sustainability objectives. Members agreed on the benefits of integrating traceability requirements but also recognized that the traceability requirements for food safety were somewhat different from those linked to sustainability. (Para. 36)

The Sub-Committee agreed that FAO should have an ongoing role in providing technical assistance to countries implementing traceability systems or seeking to integrate their traceability systems. The FAO should also monitor technical developments and assess their applicability in traceability systems. (Para. 40)

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CITES

Members commended FAO for its work addressing diverse matters in the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and agreed that the cooperation should continue in the future. The Sub-Committee highlighted the key role of FAO in the management of commercially-exploited aquatic species. (Para. 41)

The Sub-Committee highlighted the important role of RFMOs in the management of fisheries under their mandates. (Para. 41)

The Sub-Committee recognized the role of CITES as a global instrument for the regulation of international trade of species listed in its appendices. (Para. 41)

The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation for the excellent work done by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel (the Panel) in relation to the biological assessment of CITES listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species, noting remarked that the review and conclusions of the Panel had provided valuable input in the decision-making process of CITES Parties. (Para. 42)

The Sub-Committee supported that the FAO Secretariat give active input to the inter-sessional process set up by CITES for the purpose of clarifying the interpretation of the Appendix II listing criteria, as applied to commercially exploited aquatic species, stressing that a harmonized interpretation of these criteria is of key importance for the ongoing work of the FAO Expert Advisory Panel. (Para. 44)

The Sub-Committee requested that FAO compile current regulations and activities by States and RFMOs related to the conservation of sharks independently of whether they have been formalized in a NPOA. (Para. 47)

The Secretariat was requested to continue providing assistance to developing countries in implementing CITES regulations and improving the conservation of species listed by CITES. (Para. 47)

FISH TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY

The Sub-Committee underlined the importance of enhancing food security and the role of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in contributing towards that goal through fish consumption, employment and trade. (Para. 49)

The Sub-Committee noted the relevance for policymakers of the value-chain study outlined in the report and underlined the utility of value chain approaches within food security analysis, particularly the need to ensure full participation of women in the various parts of the value-chain. (Para. 50)

The Sub-Committee noted that sustainable management, including reduction of IUU fishing, responsible aquaculture practices and responsible trade, are prerequisites for long-term food security. Some Members also noted the importance of reforming fisheries subsidies disciplines for long-term food security. (Para. 51)

The Sub-committee noted the crucial role of aquaculture in future food security and the need to implement policies that promote sustainable aquaculture development on a global basis, including in regions where aquaculture production is today limited. (Para. 52)

The Sub-Committee stressed that in order to achieve national food security, institutional capacity building is often necessary, in addition to assistance of a more technical nature. (Para. 54)

MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 11 OF THE CCRF

The Sub-Committee agreed that the trade-specific questionnaire should be biennial and alternate with the questionnaire monitoring overall implementation of the Code. (Para. 56)

The Sub-Committee noted that the questionnaire should be used to both monitor implementation of the Code and to identify areas where assistance was required to implement the Code's provisions. (Para. 57)

COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE AS INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY BODY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

The Sub-Committee endorsed the four project proposals submitted for funding by the Common Fund for Commodities. Members highlighted the importance of women in the value chain, and appreciated the fast track project which is expected to improve the income of women involved in fisheries and aquaculture. (Para. 61)

ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Sub-Committee expressed its gratitude to Mr. Nomura for his able leadership of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and his dedication and support to COFI and its two Sub-Committees. (Para. 64)

DATE AND PLACE OF THIRTEENTH SESSION

The date and venue of the Thirteenth Session would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson and in light of the international calendar of meetings. (Para. 65)

OPENING OF SESSION

1. The twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI:FT) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 26 to 30 April 2010 at the kind invitation of the government of the Republic of Argentina. The Sub-Committee expressed its gratitude for the generous hospitality of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Cult and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina and for the splendid venue provided. The session was attended by 38 Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and by Observers from nine intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The list of Members and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.
2. Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, delivered the opening address (Appendix D).
3. The Sub-Committee expressed its sincere gratitude to the President of Argentina, H.E. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner for addressing the meeting.
4. The welcoming address on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries was delivered by Mr Norberto Yauhar, Under-Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Appendix E).

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND RAPPORTEUR

5. Mr Ramiro Sánchez (Argentina) was elected Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. Ms Astrid Holtan (Norway) was elected First Vice-Chairperson and India and Spain were elected as the other Vice-Chairpersons.
6. The Sub-Committee elected Mr Rüdiger Keunecke as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, Nigeria, Norway and United States of America as members of the Drafting Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The Sub-Committee noted the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights presented by the European Union and its Member States.
8. The Agenda shown in Appendix A was adopted by the Sub-Committee. The documents which were before the Sub-Committee are listed in Appendix C.

REPORT ON TRADE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN FAO

9. The Secretariat introduced the agenda item on the basis of document COFI:FT/XII/2010/2. This item was included in the COFI:FT agenda for the first time at its previous session and was again welcomed by the Sub-Committee.
10. The Sub-Committee commended FAO for the broad range of trade-related activities carried out by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. In particular delegates congratulated FAO for its role in obtaining improved fisheries classifications in the World Customs Organization, highlighting the need for accurate and detailed trade statistics for a wide range of purposes, including that of fisheries management. Delegates encouraged FAO to continue this work and underscored the need to include additional species such as sharks and rays in the classification.
11. Members underlined the importance of FAO's work in capacity-building for developing countries, in particular in relation to market access and value-addition for small-scale producers in developing countries. Many delegates encouraged FAO to give a higher priority to the small-scale sector in its work programme, including trade related issues. The Sub-Committee highlighted how

scientifically-based, non-discriminatory and transparent standards are beneficial to international trade and that developing countries should be supported in overcoming problems related to the implementation of such standards. In this respect, many delegates expressed concern that unilateral measures may become a barrier to international trade. Several delegates referred to the important contribution in regional capacity building carried out by the FISH INFONetwork and encouraged FAO to continue its support and coordination of the Network.

12. Members welcomed FAO's work on fish prices, underlining the value of demand, supply and price studies for fisheries policy makers.

13. The Sub-Committee underlined the importance of the legally-binding Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing which was adopted at the 2009 FAO Conference, and its potential role in contributing to more sustainable fisheries and trade.

14. Delegates noted the growing role of certification and related traceability schemes and the potential additional burden and cost this could place, in particular, on developing country producers, especially the small-scale sector. Several delegates welcomed the progress of the recent Technical Consultation in the development of FAO guidelines for aquaculture certification.

15. The Sub-Committee encouraged FAO to continue the integration of FAO's fisheries related work with that of other FAO technical departments, with other international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank. The Sub-Committee further encouraged FAO to engage actively in important global issues, such as climate change and food security. Members underlined FAO's important role in providing specialized technical expertise to the WTO, in particular for the fisheries subsidies negotiations, bearing in mind the distinct and different mandates and roles of the two organizations. Many delegates also encouraged FAO member countries to provide more expertise from their national fisheries administrations in the WTO negotiations and for FAO to facilitate this process through the organization of specialized workshops.

16. Members encouraged further integration and cooperation between the Secretariats of the Sub-Committees on Fish Trade and on Aquaculture, highlighting the need for a greater focus on the role of aquaculture in international markets and trade.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FISH TRADE

17. The Sub-Committee commended the Secretariat for the comprehensive description and analysis provided in document COFI:FT/XII/2010/3 and noted the continued usefulness of the value-chain approach in analyzing the state of international trade. Delegates highlighted the dynamic, mobile and global nature of the fisheries sector and the increased relevance of non-governmental stakeholders in the value-chain, especially at the post-harvest level.

18. Members highlighted the importance of fish consumption and its many nutritional and health related benefits referring to a number of national policies and initiatives in this respect. Many delegates praised the FAO and the FISH INFONetwork studies of domestic and regional markets, in particular of metropolitan markets in developing countries and encouraged further such studies. Such markets represent a growing share of international trade and present important opportunities for regional fish producers. Many Members highlighted the potential role of small-scale fisheries in contributing towards increased domestic and regional food security.

19. Members underlined the growing role of aquaculture in production, trade and consumption and the need to adequately reflect this in future work, including the interactions between farmed and wild products in international trade and marketing. Some delegates noted that the distinction between farmed and wild production is getting blurred. The crucial role of developing countries in production and trade of fish and fishery products was highlighted. The Sub-Committee stressed the need to create