

**THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER
BODIES IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LIVING
AQUATIC RESOURCES**



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**THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY ORGANIZATIONS AND
OTHER BODIES IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES**

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This circular was prepared within the framework of the Regular Programme as part of ongoing activities of the FAO Policy, Economics and Institutions Service (FIPI) aimed at providing information on activities of regional fishery bodies.

Lugten, G.

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ABSTRACT

This circular provides a summary of information on the role of international fishery organizations or arrangements and other bodies (regional fishery bodies and arrangements, or RFB/As) concerning their measures to conserve and manage living aquatic resources. The circular includes regional bodies responsible for marine capture fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture.

This circular had its origin in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 835 Rev. 1 “Summary information on the role of international fishery bodies with regard to the conservation and management of living resources of the high seas”, which was prepared by M.J. Savini in 1991; in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 807 “Activities of regional fishery bodies and other international organizations concerned with fisheries”, which was prepared by S.H. Marashi in 1993 and 1996; and finally in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 985 “Summary information on the role of international fishery organizations or arrangements and other bodies concerned with the conservation and management of living aquatic resources” prepared by J. Swan in 2003. This circular is a revision and updating of the 2003 summary.

This circular updates information as appropriate on the establishment, area of competence, species, membership and main objectives of the organizations. In addition, it contains responses of the organizations to a survey seeking information on: (i) priority issues for the organization; (ii) implementation of post-UNCED fishery instruments; and (iii) activities, plans and priorities in relation to specific issues. This information is described in relation to each relevant body, and general trends relating to priority issues and activities are identified in respect of these responses.

The circular is both an important historical record of recent developments in the regional management of fisheries, plus a reflection of contemporary issues that warrant national, regional and international attention.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme – Inter-Governmental Organization
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CIESM	Mediterranean Science Commission
CIFAA	Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
COPESCAL	Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
CPPS	South Pacific Permanent Commission
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
EAf	ecosystem approach to fisheries
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
EIFAC	European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FIRMS	Fisheries Resources Monitoring System
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
HSVAR	High Seas Fishing Vessel Authorization Record
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IPOA-SEABIRDS	International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries
IPOA-SHARKS	International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks
IPOA-CAPACITY	International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
IPOA-IUU	International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
IWC	International Whaling Commission
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MPA	marine protected area
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NCP	non-contracting party
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

NGO	non-governmental organization
NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
NPOA	National Plan of Action
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development
OSPESCA	Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector
PaCFA	Global Partnership Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
RAFISMER	African Fisheries Research Institutes and Marine Science Network
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
RFA	regional fishery arrangement
RFB	regional fishery body
RFMO	regional fisheries management organization
RMS	revised management scheme
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
RSN	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network
SBT	southern bluefin tuna
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SRFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TAC	total allowable catch
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VME	vulnerable marine ecosystem
VMS	vessel monitoring system
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature