



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Twenty-sixth Session

Zagreb, Croatia, 17–20 May 2010

SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT

SUB-COMMISSION III – Protection of the Aquatic Resource

Chairperson: G. Castelnaud (France)
Vice-Chairperson: E. Ciccotti (Italy)
Rapporteur: T. Vehanen (Finland)
Technical Secretary: U. Barg (FAO)

Ad hoc Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture

Convener: R. Rösch

Early 2009 the Convener had reported that no effective progress has been made with the tasks of this Working Party (WP) since the last EIFAC Session. A new job, significant workload and other commitments had prevented so far the Convener from pursuing further activities of the WP, in particular the preparation of a draft position statement by EIFAC on animal welfare issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture.

The Executive Committee at its meeting in May 2009 confirmed EIFAC's continued interest in the issues involved, and reiterated the need for a related EIFAC Position Statement. The meeting therefore requested the Convener to prepare such a short position statement, in close cooperation with WP members, for presentation, discussion and possible adoption at the next Session of EIFAC. To date the Convener did not confirm his availability to undertake the task of drafting such a EIFAC Position Statement, together with his WP members. No further update was received.

Ad hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation

Convener: P. Heinimaa

The work of the WP after the 25th Session has concentrated on following and participating on the discussions and meetings carried out by the EU Parliament and EU Commission. The issues have been the same as recognized by the 25th Session and mentioned also in the WP's new TORs.

The information gathered on interactions between cormorants and fisheries is not yet available as the Intercafe project reports are not yet available, but they should be finished by the summer of 2010 according to the project leader David Carss.

The most up to date European-wide information on the cormorant populations is available from the Wetlands International Cormorant Research Group and the EU Commission will rely on this information also in the future. This information is openly available to certain extent.

A closer co-operation between the countries around the Baltic Sea is being prepared. This area is one of the most important breeding areas for the *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*-group.

Information on the cormorants issues obtained from the EU Commission and the European Anglers Association (EAA) have been distributed to the EIFAC officials and to the WP Web participants. A newsletter-type information leaflet and WP Web-pages are under preparation.

As the EU Commission does not consider a European Cormorant management plan as a useful tool to manage the Cormorant populations, this raises the importance of the work of EIFAC WP and its new TORs. In the TORs one of the goals is to work towards the pan-European cormorant management plan. As the wording "management plan" seems to be critical to many stakeholders, it is suggested that the first point of the TORs should be changed into: "develop a pan-European cormorant action plan". In this action plan the critical measures, methods and areas would be stated and this could be then used to coordinate the regional and country cooperation and activities.

Ad hoc Working Party on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Convener: C. Argillier

The programme is dedicated to the analysis of possible inconsistencies between the national laws and to the Water Framework Directive, regarding ichthyofauna. At the end of 2008, the factors which could influence the composition, abundance at age and the structure of fish communities were listed. The analysis of how these criteria were considered in the national legislation was the second step. Teppo Vehanen (Finland), Eleonora Ciccotti and Piero Franzoi (Italy), Ian Winfield (UK), Christian Skov and Niels Jepsen (Denmark), Christine Argillier (France) were involved in this second step. An informal meeting was organised in UK in April 2009 to develop specific details of the methodology. Thereafter information was collected but became available only for Finland, Italy and France. A summary of this work is now being written up. It appears of course very incomplete but differences and similarities can already be identified between countries and between national and European laws considered. In conducting this exercise, difficulties were met at different levels. The group of experts is very busy and it is difficult for everybody to include this extra work in their own work agenda. Moreover, experts do not have the information in their own Institute and it has been very difficult for them to find the right contacts who could provide update on these legislative aspects.

For the future, it appears very difficult to complete the work with the existing experts while it is necessary to mobilise people outside the scientific community. The WP invites the Commission to consider ways in helping the WP to identify people in the ministries in charge of these legal aspects.