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## **REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES**

**Report of the**

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

**Doha, the State of Qatar, 6–8 December 2016**



REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Report of the

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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM), held in Doha, State of Qatar from 6 to 8 December 2016. The report was prepared by the RECOFI Secretariat. The material contained in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

**FAO/Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. 2017.**

*Report of the tenth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management, Doha, State of Qatar, 6–8 December 2016.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1185. Cairo, FAO.

### ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) which was held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 6 to 8 December 2016. The tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was held in Doha, State of Qatar from 6 to 8 December 2016. The meeting was convened by RECOFI and FAO and attended by 11 participants from five RECOFI member countries (Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) in addition to the FAO Secretariat and one invited expert. Participants provided updates of the current work ongoing at the national level with regards to the RECOFI priority species, and discussed data collection challenges. The WGFM reviewed the progress on the socio-economic work for RECOFI, and agreed that the socio-economic Task Group members must be updated, as well as the information provided in the socio-economic questionnaire. The WGFM took note that the general situation regarding the capacity of RECOFI members to report catch and effort information as defined in the Recommendation had slightly improved and acknowledged the progress that had been made regarding the integration of the current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS. The WGFM took note and considered the content and conclusions of the draft RECOFI review and noted with concern the low level of RECOFI members' attendance at intersessional meetings and workshops. The WGFM acknowledged the benefits of developing FIRMS Marine Resources for the RECOFI region and recommended the initiation of the process focusing on the Spanish mackerel and shrimps as priority species. The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat for pursuing cooperation with ROPME, in particular considering the potential for mutual benefits of this cooperation for both organizations and their members. The WGFM agreed on a programme of work and budget for 2017–2018 to be submitted at the ninth session of RECOFI for consideration.



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## OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was held in Doha, State of Qatar from 6 to 8 December 2016. The meeting was convened by RECOFI and FAO and attended by 11 participants from five RECOFI member countries (Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)) in addition to the FAO Secretariat. Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Kuwait did not attend. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

2. The meeting was opened with a welcome address from by Dr Sheikh Faleh Al Thani, Undersecretary for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries, on Behalf of His Excellency, Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Minister of Municipality and Environment, State of Qatar. His Excellency noted the strong effort of RECOFI members, the RECOFI Secretariat and FAO in prioritizing the studies needed, setting-up regional standards and coordinating data collection and analysis. He emphasized the important role of regional cooperation, and iterated that the role of the RECOFI is critical for the effective implementation of this cooperation. He wished participants a fruitful meeting over the following three days and again welcomed participants to Qatar. This opening statement is attached as Appendix 4.

3. Piero Mannini, Senior Liaison Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, and outgoing Secretary of RECOFI, welcomed participants to the meeting. He informed the WGFM that, after eight years serving as the Secretary of RECOFI, a new Secretary has been appointed, Haydar Fersoy, the recently appointed Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer for the Near East and North Africa region. Mr Mannini noted the important achievements of RECOFI and in particular the WGFM since its establishment, and emphasized the importance of ownership of an RFMO by its member countries, both in terms of financial contribution as well as commitment to the implementation of activities. Finally, he informed the meeting of the work in the past year on efforts to establish cooperation with Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), noting that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

4. Nabil Fita, Director-General of Fisheries Research Center in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia and Chairperson of the WGFM welcomed participants to the meeting and together with the Secretary of RECOFI informed the participants of the administrative arrangements of the meeting. The availability of working documents on the webpage of the meeting was noted, with the exception of RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/6, which was only made available in hard copy.

5. The Agenda, attached as Appendix 1, was adopted. The list of documents for the meeting is attached as Appendix 3.

6. The Chair noted with regret that three member countries were not present, and that efforts to ensure that focal points are updated and active to ensure a good communication flow is critical.

## COUNTRY REPORTS: CURRENT WORK ON RECOFI PRIORITY SPECIES

7. Piero Mannini introduced working document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/2 Country reports: Current work on RECOFI priority species. The Chair invited the participants to inform the meeting of any relevant work being undertaken at the country-level with regards to the priority species. UAE confirmed that the information provided at the ninth meeting of the WGFM was correct and up to date. Oman and Qatar provided updates to the meeting. The completed table with country inputs is attached below in Appendix 5. The meeting agreed to change the template circulated so that the second column title would read "Scope of Research" instead of "Type of Research".

8. Constantine Stamatopoulos, International Consultant, Fisheries Statistics, Qatar, delivered a presentation entitled "Approaches in Fishery Information Systems serving Fisheries Management

(SAMAQ)". This included an illustrated description of its National Fisheries Information System (SamaqWeb NFIS). This internet-based system has been operational since 2012 with the objective of responding to a variety of statistical needs and contribute with reliable and timely data to studies relating to fisheries management and stock assessment needs. The presentation showed sample-based data collection schemes achieving desired levels of accuracy for landings and fishing effort as well as ways and means of obtaining data from external applications such as Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). Other parts of the presentation dealt with built-in statistical analyses such as catch per unit effort (CPUE) and effort standardization and multi-variate analysis, while its last part discussed system administration aspects such as monitoring of data collection progress and workload statistics.

9. The meeting discussed the challenges and benefits of various types of reporting and sourcing data, including logbooks, ports and landings and self-reporting. The importance of including boat and gear type was noted. The challenges in working with fishers and skippers to obtain accurate data was highlighted. Additionally, the value of using VMS and Automatic Identification System (AIS) data was acknowledged, provided there was a legal framework and adequate enforcement mechanisms to properly ensure their implementation.

10. Mohamed Abdallah, Associate Professor, Consultant of Fishery Resources, Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Qatar, delivered a presentation entitled: "Country Report on Sustainable Management of Fishery in Qatar: Tools, reference points and Indicators". This presentation addressed some outputs that had been achieved so far by Fisheries Department, in line with the essential tools reference points and indicators used for fish stock assessment and the sustainable management of fisheries.

11. The WGFM acknowledged with appreciation this work being undertaken by Qatar and noted with concern that many stocks were assessed as over-exploited. With regards to the methodology, alternative schemes in collecting effort data were discussed, as well as different techniques that can be used for comparing data and monitoring fish size. The importance of collecting quality and abundant scientific and biological information was emphasized, particularly so that it can be provided to decision-makers, balanced with socio-economic factors, and then appropriate management decisions can be formulated and implemented.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMICS OF RECOFI FISHERIES**

12. Lori Curtis, Fisheries Consultant, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, introduced working document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/3. She reviewed the background of the socio-economic work, including the importance of the establishment of the socio-economic Task Group. She further highlighted that this group could play an important role in furthering RECOFI's socio-economic work with a fairly limited cost to the Commission.

13. The meeting noted with concern that no progress had been made in the inter-sessional period, and that a decision should be taken to avoid this inaction in the upcoming inter-sessional period. The meeting discussed and agreed upon the merit to continue this work, and the important role played by the socio-economic Task Group.

14. The WGFM discussed possible ways forward for this work including how the information which had already been collected could be used. It was agreed that the information collected in the questionnaire provided a good baseline, and accordingly the same questionnaire would be recirculated and completed by RECOFI members with updated data so that some historical data could begin to be compiled. It was agreed that the questionnaire should be translated into Arabic and the bilingual version would be circulated to RECOFI members. The meeting agreed that they would send the updated names of Task Group members to the Secretariat before the ninth session of the Commission, noting that this work would not be completed until this Task Group was updated.

15. The meeting acknowledged the opportunity to include the socio-economic data being collected into the new regional data and information center that was being established. The meeting agreed that

guidelines on the potential use of socio-economic data could be made available to the Task Group; the Secretariat highlighted in particular that the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data<sup>1</sup> could also be shared with the Task Group.

#### **UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOFI RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING**

16. Yann Laurent, Fisheries Information System Expert, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, introduced working document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/4 Update on the implementation of the binding recommendation on minimum data reporting. He informed the meeting that regarding the 2016 round of data submission, only Iraq and Qatar had submitted data. Further, for Iraq this was the first submission using the Excel format and that the first and only year reported was 2014. The WGFM took note that with Iraq's submission, the general situation regarding the capacity of RECOFI members to report catch and effort information as defined in the Recommendation had slightly improved, in that Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia have fully proven their capacity for reporting the catch and effort information as defined in the Recommendation; a summary of the data is provided in Appendix 6. He informed the meeting that Kuwait and UAE have not submitted data under the Recommendation.

17. The meeting discussed the possible causes of the limited progress for the current year on the data submission according to the minimum data requirements. The WGFM emphasized the key role of good communication with and between the focal points when handling calls for minimum data requirements: poor communication or not updating focal points who are no longer in these roles could explain this limited progress. It was agreed that no further needs were identified in data support. It was noted that the standard terminologies and classifications for RECOFI could be more detailed when dealing with stock assessment needs, but more advanced classifications should only be considered once the minimum data requirements are being fulfilled.

18. The meeting considered the proposal to split FAO subarea 51.3 into divisions 51.3.1 and 51.3.2, noting this is for decision by the Commission. The meeting highlighted the need for careful attention as to whether this split could require modification to the convention area in the RECOFI Agreement.

19. The WGFM acknowledged the interest to use iMarine<sup>2</sup> as a potential supporting infrastructure for RAIS and deferred this matter to Kuwait for further consideration and decision.

#### **INTEGRATION OF CURRENT RECOFI REGIONAL DATA SET INTO RAIS: UPDATE**

20. Piero Mannini introduced document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/5 Integration of current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS: Update, which included the status of the action plan agreed at the ninth meeting of the WGFM, and progress made since. The meeting was informed that a concept note was prepared by the RECOFI Secretariat and sent to Kuwait in February 2016; it was confirmed by Kuwait that the activity and its components as outlined would be integrated into the Kuwait/FAO cooperation framework. The concept note was presented, including the objective, as outlined in the document, for the establishment of a regional database and information center to strengthen the Commission and support fishery management and aquaculture development in the region. The anticipated outcomes were also presented: that data compilation and management capacity would be integrated within a new regional information system along with a workplan and timeframe to secure the timely dissemination of data collected under the two binding

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<sup>1</sup> FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data. Prepared at the FAO/DANIDA Expert Consultation. Bangkok, Thailand, 18-30 May 1998. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382. Rome, FAO. 1999. 113p. Available in English: [www.fao.org/3/a-x2465e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-x2465e.pdf) and Arabic: [www.fao.org/3/a-x2465a.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-x2465a.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.i-marine.eu/](http://www.i-marine.eu/)

RECOFI recommendations related to minimum data collection for capture fisheries and aquaculture data and information.

21. The WGFM acknowledged with appreciation the current progress including the generous role that Kuwait was undertaking, particularly given that extra-budgetary funds were critical for RECOFI to implement activities to achieve its mandate. The WGFM also noted that, as agreed in the previous agenda item on socio-economic work in the RECOFI region, the socio-economic work should be included in this information system to be developed by Kuwait.

### **RECOFI REVIEW**

22. Lori Curtis introduced the document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/6 entitled “RECOFI Review” informing the meeting that this review was undertaken as an initiative of the Secretariat in accordance with the Chairperson in order to address the recurring concern being noted at Commission sessions that RECOFI requires additional support. She presented the activities of RECOFI over the last 10 years, particularly focusing on those relevant to the WGFM. She informed the meeting that, despite some activities of the WGFM in the period between 2007 and 2012, in the last two biennia the WGFM had not implemented any inter-sessional activities aside from the annual meetings of the WGFM. She also presented a brief of the financial reports of RECOFI for the review period (2005-2015), informing the meeting of the current status of arrears of some RECOFI members, and also the reliance on FAO Regular Programme Funds for the functioning of the Commission. Finally, ways forward for RECOFI were proposed for the consideration of the WGFM.

23. The WGFM took note and considered the content and conclusions of the draft RECOFI review. Additionally, the meeting recognized that there was an urgent need to settle arrears as soon as possible. The WGFM acknowledged that, given RECOFI’s reliance on funds carried forward from previous years as well as FAO Regular Programme funds, if RECOFI chose to maintain its current budget with a reduced FAO support, in the near future the activities RECOFI would have to be reduced. The meeting also noted with concern the low level of RECOFI members’ attendance at inter-sessional meetings and workshops, particularly when considering the support being provided by FAO.

24. The WGFM suggested that this review be finalized and circulated to the respective Ministers of the RECOFI member countries for their consideration of both the value and benefit of RECOFI, as well as the challenges faced.

### **REGIONAL JOINT ASSESSMENT OF KINGFISH STOCK**

25. Piero Mannini provided an update on the joint appraisal of the kingfish stock in the RECOFI area and the preparatory work for the assessment workshop. The meeting agreed that this remained a priority activity, despite the fact that it had not been possible to implement in the previous four years, and that for the last two years it had been the only activity to be implemented by the WGFM. It was also noted that the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) was also implementing work on this. The meeting agreed that Oman, as the host country, should provide the Secretariat with final dates to hold the workshop, possibly in 2017 or early 2018.

### **UPDATE OF RECOFI FISHERIES INVENTORIES IN FIRMS**

26. Yann Laurent introduced RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/7: Update of RECOFI fisheries inventories in FIRMS. He provided an overview of the current status of available RECOFI fisheries status reports and the number of records in the marine resources and fisheries inventories in FIRMS. He recalled the nature of FIRMS fact sheets being stocks and fisheries harmonized description following a template developed on standardized concepts, definitions and classifications, providing complementary information to fisheries statistics. The meeting was provided with some examples of RECOFI fact sheets. He informed the WGFM that it is a good time for a new round of updates for the RECOFI area particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 14.4.1: “proportion of fish stocks within biologically

sustainable levels”. Current published inventory should be reviewed; the WGFM acknowledged the need to review the FIRMS fisheries national focal points list, which had been set up at the RECOFI–FIRMS Workshop on Resources and Fisheries Inventories. Cairo, Egypt, 12–14 July 2011 and recommended that the RECOFI Secretariat liaise with the FIRMS Secretariat to address this matter.

27. The WGFM acknowledged the benefits of developing FIRMS Marine Resources of regional relevance for the RECOFI region and recommended the initiation of the process focusing on the Spanish mackerel and shrimps as priority species. The WGFM acknowledged the need for a regional focal point for FIRMS resources and recommended the development of a Terms of Reference for the regional focal points, which would be proposed for consideration to the WGFM, along with the request for regional focal point nominations. The WGFM agreed that the RECOFI Secretariat would liaise with FIRMS to have the FIRMS template circulated to the national focal points for data submission.

28. In terms of data ownership and acknowledgements, Mr. Laurent recalled that, included in the FIRMS partnership arrangement, the full control RECOFI has on the information submitted and disseminated is reaffirmed.

### **RECOFI/ROPME COOPERATION**

29. Piero Mannini introduced the working document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/8: RECOFI/ROPME cooperation, which provided an update on the progress to establish an effective cooperation framework between the relevant regional fishery management organization (RECOFI) and regional sea organization (ROPME) in the Gulf and Sea of Oman region. He referred to the seventh session of RECOFI (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 14–16 May 2013) in which the Commission emphasized the value of effective and viable regional cooperation which should be fostered by RECOFI in cooperation with other interested entities, such as ROPME.

30. He reminded the meeting that the mandate area and constituencies of ROPME and RECOFI were identical and, while keeping in mind the respective mandates of the two organizations, informed the WGFM that there could be areas for cooperation to the benefit of both regional organizations and their members. He presented the outcomes of past meetings between the Secretariats of ROPME and RECOFI, and that with the support of concerned national officers and experts, the Secretariats would work together to lay the ground for fruitful collaboration and synergies. Mr Mannini informed the meeting that the Chairperson and the Secretary of RECOFI represented the Commission at the regional workshop entitled “Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area” held from 4 to 7 April 2016 in Dubai, UAE, where one of the 12 recommendations was as follows: “*Considering the identical geographical coverage and membership of ROPME and RECOFI, it would be highly desirable and advisable to establish an effective and viable cooperation framework. In this regard, ROPME and RECOFI should discuss areas for cooperation through a joint meeting*”.

31. Further, at the “Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26 to 28 September 2016, which was attended by the Secretary of RECOFI<sup>3</sup>, in the so-called *Seoul Outcome*<sup>4</sup> it was reported that, “*Participants also noted that there are many ongoing initiatives to enhance cooperation between regional seas conventions and action plans and regional fishery bodies, including in the North-East Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Western Indian Ocean, West and Central Africa, and the ROPME/RECOFI region, as presented during the meeting. ...*”

32. The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat for pursuing cooperation with ROPME, in particular considering the potential for mutual benefits of this cooperation for both organizations and their members. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was

<sup>3</sup> The Chairperson was invited but was not able to attend.

<sup>4</sup> [www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soiom-2016-01/official/soiom-2016-01-outcome-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soiom-2016-01/official/soiom-2016-01-outcome-en.pdf)

considered a good mechanism for formalizing the cooperation between RECOFI and ROPME in identifying common areas of interest, technical contents and modus operandi, provided that mandates and responsibilities would be clearly reflected in the content of the MoU.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

33. Haydar Fersoy informed the meeting of a letter received in November 2016 from the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), offering support to RECOFI and bilateral support to RECOFI member countries.

34. The meeting took note of this communication and acknowledged with appreciation this offer but decided that at this stage, given current priorities and available resources, collaboration with Cefas would not be pursued.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

35. The meeting was unable to confirm a location for the eleventh meeting of the WGFM, and the premises of the FAO Regional Office of the Near East and North Africa was proposed, to be confirmed by the Commission at its ninth session in May 2017. Additionally, a proposal for a 2017-2018 programme of work and budget was agreed for consideration by the Commission at the ninth session of RECOFI and is attached in Appendix 7. In addition to the regional joint assessment of the kingfish stock, which was proposed as the number one priority activity, the WGFM proposed to also hold a workshop on the development of a monitoring programme for socio-economic parameters for use in fisheries management as a follow-up to the outcome of the socioeconomic workshop held in Bahrain in 2012.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

36. The report of the meeting was adopted on 8 December 2016 at 12:15 hours. The WGFM thanked the State of Qatar for kindly hosting this meeting.

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

**Tuesday, 6 December 2016**

**Morning: 09:00**

### Registration

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

The WGFM Chairperson will call the meeting to order and invite the representative of the hosting country to address the meeting. The Chairperson will ask the Secretary of the Commission (and acting Technical Secretary of the WGFM) to provide an outline of the issues that will be of major concern during the meeting.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the meeting

The meeting will review the provisional Agenda (RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/1) and proceed to its adoption. The Secretary will inform the meeting of the arrangements for the meeting and propose a timetable for the presentation and discussion of the adopted agenda.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/1*

#### 3. Country reports: Current work on RECOFI priority species

National experts will be invited to report using the template (RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/2) provided by the Secretariat on past, current and future work involving RECOFI priority species, at the national and regional level.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/2*

**Tuesday, 6 December 2016**

**Afternoon: 13:30**

#### 4. Socio-economics of RECOFI fisheries

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/3, which discusses proposed ways forward for the Task Group and ways forward for the socio-economic work of the WGFM.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/3*

#### 5. Update on the implementation of the RECOFI recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting

The Secretariat will report the latest status of information received from member countries in accordance with the RECOFI Recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/4*

#### 6. Integration of current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS: Update

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/5, which includes the status of the action plan agreed at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGFM and next steps.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/5*

**Wednesday, 7 December 2016**

**Morning: 09:00**

#### 7. RECOFI Review

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/6, which describes the activities and performance of RECOFI over the last 5 years, the challenges faced and a proposal for the way forward. The WGFM will be invited to comment on the recommendations of the review.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/6*

**8. Regional joint assessment of kingfish stock of Kingfish stock**

The Secretariat will provide an update of the work on the assessment of the Kingfish stock, the workshop. The WGFM will be invited to advise on how to proceed with this work.

**Wednesday, 7 December 2016**

**Afternoon: 13:30**

**9. Update of RECOFI fisheries inventories in FIRMS**

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/7, which will include an update of RECOFI fisheries inventories in FIRMS and RECOFI Stocks status reporting in FIRMS.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/7*

**10. RECOFI/ROPME cooperation**

The Secretariat will introduce document RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/8, which will summarize the work in the past year on efforts to establish cooperation with ROPME, and the outcomes of these efforts.

*Reference doc: RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/8*

**11. Any other matters**

**12. Date and place of the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Management**

**Thursday, 8 December 2016**

**Afternoon: 13:30**

**13. Adoption of the report**



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**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

RECOFI/WGFM10/2015/1	Annotated agenda
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/2	Country reports: Current work on RECOFI priority species
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/3	Socio-economics of RECOFI fisheries
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/4	Update on the implementation of the RECOFI recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/5	Integration of current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS: Update
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/6	RECOFI Review
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/7	Update of RECOFI fisheries inventories in FIRMS
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/8	RECOFI/ROPME cooperation
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/Inf.1	List of documents
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/Inf.2	List of participants
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/Inf.3	Report of the ninth meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management, Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, 26–28 November 2015
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/Inf.4	Report of the seventh meeting of the RECOFI Working Group on Aquaculture, Doha, State of Qatar, 26–28 April 2016
RECOFI/WGFM10/2016/Inf.5	Report of the eighth session of RECOFI Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 12–14 May 2015

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR SHEIKH FALEH AL THANY, UNDERSECRETARY FOR  
AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES, ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY,  
MOHAMMED BIN ABDULLAH AL RUMAIHI, MINISTER OF MUNICIPALITY AND  
ENVIRONMENT, STATE OF QATAR**

Dear Secretary of the RECOFI, Dear Dr Mannini and FAO experts, Dear Representatives of RECOFI member states, Ladies and gentlemen,

Peace be upon you all,

I'm honored on my own behalf, and on behalf of His Excellency, the Minister of Municipality and Environment in Qatar, to welcome you all, and express our pleasure to host this scientific forum, which gathers international and regional experts with specialists in the field of marine fisheries from the RECOFI member states.

All nine WGFM meetings that have been held in the past have been viewed as extremely important events with great impact on national and regional studies dealing with the management of the region's fisheries resources. This tenth meeting is not an exception. Much is expected from you during the three days of your consultations and this is reflected in the agenda. Most of the agenda items relate to the reporting of achievements during the inter-sessional period as well as specific work plans for new and challenging tasks. All these clearly show that regional cooperation is gaining momentum and that the role of the RECOFI WGFM is progressively becoming decisive for fisheries management in our region.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, we deal with renewable aquatic organisms the continuing existence of which is a composite function of natural phenomena such birth and death, predation, and ecosystem-related impacts. And there are also of man-made interventions which, simplistically speaking, basically concern over-fishing and environmental degradation.

RECOFI's primary point of interest is of course fishing and its direct impact on the fish stocks in the region. The very existence of RECOFI is based on the realization that effective fisheries management, at both national and regional levels, is a prerequisite for the sustainability of fisheries, given that continued over-exploitation of fish stocks would lead, within a predictable time, to situations of depleted stocks, certain types of which may recover very slowly or never.

Today the demand for fish has increased multifold, due to the drastic (and in places dramatic) increase of the population and the introduction of modern transportation systems. The increased demand for fish has resulted in the introduction of larger, more powerful and more performing fishing vessels that make use of more effective fishing gear combined with fish detection instruments. In short there is now a high fishing pressure on almost all available fish stocks and this phenomenon constitutes not just a potential but in fact a real threat to most fish stocks worldwide.

On the other hand modern science and technology have advanced significantly over the past twenty years and continue to provide fisheries managers and administrators with practically all needed methodological and operation tools and instruments, the commonest of which are fisheries statistics and information, GIS, VMS, stock assessment and socio-economic models. Each of the mentioned applications is not an end in itself but it constitutes a working component of a complex process whose primary objective is to provide fisheries managers and administrators with unambiguous, timely and accurate technical statements that would facilitate decision making.

In this respect one can clearly recognize the very significant progress in fisheries management applications that has been made in the RECOFI member countries during the last five years, as well as the collective effort of RECOFI members, the RECOFI Secretariat and FAO in prioritizing the studies needed, setting-up regional standards and coordinating data collection and analysis.

Dear participants, Ladies and gentlemen, Item 3, 5 and 8 of the agenda constitute splendid examples of regional cooperation and illustrate the much positive and promising aspect of what RECOFI can achieve when it is given appropriate guidance, innovative ideas and robust and realistic instruments and tools. At this point I should indeed appreciate it that the meeting kindly concurred with the idea of briefly discussing a short presentation by Qatar with the view of strengthening and enlarging regional cooperation and increasing the timeliness and quality of the datasets and documents needed for regional studies. Qatar has invested a good extent of human resources and funds for its fisheries information system (in full operation since 2012) and we are confident that a good number of its functions and services would also be adaptable in other RECOFI countries as application components of common interest.

Dear participants, Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate your participation in the current event, and we are confident in your abilities to achieve its desired objectives.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Qatar, and a fruitful discussion supported by the God willing.

## APPENDIX 5

## CURRENT WORK ON RECOFI PRIORITY SPECIES

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Green Tiger Prawn</b> <i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>	Oman	Biology and Fisheries Management	Marine Science and Fisheries Center (MSFC)	Trawlers Fisheries	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling	Biomass estimate Size composition Age and growth Exploitation Rate = 0.71 Bycatch analysis Gear selectivity Long term Monitoring program
<b>Blue swimming crabs</b> <i>Portunus pelagicus</i>	Oman	Biology and Fishnig gear	MSFC	Commercial Catch Sampling	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling	Age and growth Size composition Maturity analysis
<b>Pharaoh cuttlefish</b> <i>Sepia pharaonis</i>	Oman	Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Commercial Catch Sampling Trawling Survey	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling. Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturation Age and growth Recruitments Exploitation Rate = 0.61 MSY Target Reference point
<b>Stolephorus anchovies</b> <i>Stolephorus spp.</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution	MSFC	Acoustic survey Mid-water trawling;	Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution
<b>Indian oil sardine</b> <i>Sardinella longiceps</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Acoustic survey Mid-water trawling Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturity Age and growth Recruitments Exploitation Rate = 0.47 Biomass (commercial catch =330,390 t entire coast of Oman) MSY

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Bludger</b> <i>Carangoide gymnostethus</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution	MSFC	Trawling Survey	Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturation Age and growth
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: October, March, March, April & May; Lc50: 32.49 cm (Combined sexes);
<b>Golden trevally</b> <i>Gnathanodon speciosus</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution	MSFC	Trawling Survey	Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturation Age and growth
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: May; Lc50: 36.10 cm (Combined sexes); Maximally exploited as $E_{Max} = 0.465$ & $E_{current} = 0.45$
<b>Indian mackerel</b> <i>Rastrelliger Kanagurta</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Acoustic survey Mid-water trawling Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturity Age and growth Recruitments Exploitaion Rate = 0.45 Biomass (commercial catch = 1,062 t entire coast of Oman) MSY

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Snubnose emperor</b> <i>Lethrinus borbonicus</i>	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	
<b>Pink ear emperor</b> <i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spatial distribution	MSFC	Trawling Survey	Quarterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spatial distribution Maturation
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: February, March, April, May and June with the peak during May; Lc <sub>50</sub> : 26.42 cm (Combined sexes); Under exploited as E10= 0.758 & Ecurrent= 0.45; Trend of fish abundance increasing
<b>Spangled emperor</b> <i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spatial distribution Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Trawling Survey Commercial catch sampling	Quarterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spatial distribution Maturity Age and growth Recruitments MSY
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: January, February, March, April and May with the peak during February; Lc <sub>50</sub> : 32.64 cm (Combined sexes); Over-exploited Fish abundance is decreasing
<b>Coral hind</b> <i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>						



Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Orange-spotted grouper</b> <i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology	MSFC	Trawling Survey Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Reproductive characteristics A per Recruit assessment
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: March, April, May and June with the peak during April; Lc50: 47.73 cm (Females) & 50.12 cm(Males); Over-exploited. Stock biomass smaller than that required to achieve MSY.
<b>White-spotted spinefoot</b> <i>Siganus canaliculatus</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Trawling Survey Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturity Age and growth Recruitments MSY
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates.	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: March, April with the peak during April; Lc50: 19.04 cm (Combined sexes); Sustainably exploited as $E_{max} = 0.75$ ; $E_{10} = 0.65$ & $E_{current} = 0.68$
<b>Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel</b> <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology and stock assessment	SQU (Sultan Qaboos University) MSFC	Trawling Survey Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Genetic analysis Maturity Age and growth Recruitments MSY Long term Monitoring program

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures. Spawning Stock Biomass evaluation	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates. Modified Beverton & Holt Model	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Over-exploited as $E_{max} = 0.49$ & $E_{current} = 0.57$ Current relative spawning stock biomass equals 13.8% compared to the corresponding virgin un-exploited stock. Management measures being applied regionally.
<b>Longtail tuna</b> <i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	Oman	Biology, population dynamic and stock assessment	MSFC	Commercial catch sampling	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Genetic analysis Maturity Age and growth Recruitments Exploitation Rate = 0.57 MSY
<b>Kawakawa</b> <i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	Oman	Biology, population dynamic and stock assessment	MSFC	Commercial catch sampling	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling	Genetic analysis Maturity Age and growth Recruitments Exploitation Rate = 0.42 MSY
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. Spawning Stock Biomass evaluation	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates. Modified Beverton & Holt Model	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Lc50: 50.15 cm (Combined sexes)
<b>Requiem sharks nei</b> Carcharhinidae	Qatar	Statistical data on CPUE of <i>Carcharhinus dussumieri</i> , being recorded.	Fisheries Department	Statistical Data on Catch, effort & CPUE	Statistical data recording & reporting	Statistical reports developed regularly.

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Silver pomfret</b> <i>Pampus argenteus</i>						
<b>Hilsa shad</b> <i>Tenulosa ilisha</i>						
<b>King soldier bream</b> <i>Argyrops spinifer</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution Biology and stock assessment	MSFC	Trawling Survey Commercial catch sampling	Quaterly survey at sea Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling.	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturity Age and growth Exploitaion Rate = 0.69 Recruitments MSY Long term Monitoring progaram
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates. Modified Bevertone & Holt Model	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: November, December, January, February and March with the peak during December; Lc50: 24.61 cm (Combined sexes); Under exploited as $E_{Max}= 0.602$ ; $E_{10}= 0.509$ & $E_{current}= 0.369$
<b>Painted sweetlips</b> <i>Diagramma pictum</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distribution	MSFC	Trawling Survey	Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturation
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated by comparing the current situation with that required to achieve the MSY. 7 Years projection period used to develop management measures. Spawning Stock Biomass evaluation	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Lengthe Freuency Distribution Analysis. Relative Y/R and Relative B/R detection. Production model using ASPIC: A Stock Production Model including Covariates. Modified Bevertone & Holt Model	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner. Statistical Data recording	Spawning season: February, March, April and May with the peak during April; Lc50: 34.32 cm (Combined sexes); Over-exploited as $E_{max}= 0.636$ & $E_{current}= 0.72$ Stock biomass smaller than that required to achieve MSY.

Species	Country	Type of Research	Implementing institution	Methodology	Activities	Results
<b>Smalltooth emperor</b> <i>Lethrinus microdon</i>	Oman	Biomass estimate Stock spacial distrbution	MSFC	Trawling Survey	Quaterly survey at sea	Biomass estimate Stock Spacial distribution Maturation Age and growth
	Qatar	Reproductive Biology; Current status of fish stock evaluated against the exploitation rate.	Fisheries Department	Commercial catch sampling; Length Frequency Distribution Analysis	Monthly commercial catch sampling. Length frequency recording in a daily manner.	Spawning season: April, May, June, July, August, September and October with the peak during Jun; Lc50: 29.20 cm (Combined sexes); Sustainably exploited as Emax= 0.833; E10= 0.717 & Ecurrent=0.720
<b>Indian white prawn</b> <i>Penaeus indicus</i>	Oman	Biology and Fisheries Managment	Marine Science and Fisheries Center (MSFC)	Trawlers Fisheries	Monthly Commercial Catch Sampling	Biomass estimate Size composition Age and growth Exploitaion Rate = 0.68 Bycatch analysis Gear selectivity Long term Monitoring progaram

## APPENDIX 6

## SUMMARY OF DATA SUBMITTED UNDER THE RECOMMENDATION

Updated from RECOFI-IX with taking into account Iraq's submission

	Bahrain	Iraq	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia
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## Coverage in catch amount [Min Data reporting]/[Catch DB]

Total catch	100%	38%	54%	99%	132%	92%
Shrimp	100%	100%	89%	97%	n.a.	85%
Kingfishes	100%	-	93%	105%	126%	67%
Groupers	100%	-	82%	84%	121%	119%
Emperors	100%	-	76%	327%	366%	122%

## Catch composition reported by fleet segments

Steel boat		90%	0.05%			
Dhow	35%	10%	41%	10%	82%	65%
Speedboat	62%		34%	83%	18%	35%

## Catch composition reported by gears

Shrimp trawl	29%	17%	6%	0%		27%
Gillnet	14%	83%	62%	46%	22%	22%
Wire trap	40%		3%	6%	59%	36%
Hook-and-Line	4%		4%	24%		15%
Others	13%			23%	19%	

## Species breakdown: Number of species reported (catch report at species level)

Groupers	2 (19%)*	0%	0%	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	10 (86%)
Emperors	4(100%)	0%	0%	4 (32%)	3 (100 %)	4 (78%)

Kingfishes, Groupers, and Emperors were defined as *Scomberomorus* spp., *Epinephelus* spp., and *Lethrinus* spp., respectively.

\* Bahrain informed that 98% of catch reported under *Epinephelus* spp. is Orange-spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*).

## PROPOSED WGFM PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2017–2018

Working Group	Activity	Tentative Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)	Priority
<b>Technical Activities/Workshops</b>						
WGFM	Regional joint assessment of kingfish stock	2017/2018	Oman	3-4	30 000	1 <sup>st</sup>
WGFM	Development of a monitoring programme for socio-economic parameters for use in fisheries management (follow-up to the outcome of the socioeconomic workshop held in Bahrain in 2012)	TBD	TBD	3-4	20 000	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Annual meetings of the WGFM</b>						
WGFM	11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGFM	Nov/Dec 2017	RNE TBC		15 000	Annual meeting
WGFM	12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGFM	Nov/Dec 2018	TBD		15 000	Annual meeting

This document contains the report of the tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) which was held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 6 to 8 December 2016. The tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was held in Doha, State of Qatar from 6 to 8 December 2016. The meeting was convened by RECOFI and FAO and attended by 11 participants from five RECOFI member countries (Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) in addition to the FAO Secretariat and one invited expert. Participants provided updates of the current work ongoing at the national level with regards to the RECOFI priority species, and discussed data collection challenges. The WGFM reviewed the progress on the socio-economic work for RECOFI, and agreed that the socio-economic Task Group members must be updated, as well as the information provided in the socio-economic questionnaire. The WGFM took note that the general situation regarding the capacity of RECOFI members to report catch and effort information as defined in the Recommendation had slightly improved and acknowledged the progress that had been made regarding the integration of the current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS. The WGFM took note and considered the content and conclusions of the draft RECOFI review and noted with concern the low level of RECOFI members attendance at intersessional meetings and workshops. The WGFM acknowledged the benefits of developing FIRMS Marine Resources for the RECOFI region and recommended the initiation of the process focusing on the Spanish mackerel and shrimps as priority species. The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat for pursuing cooperation with ROPME, in particular considering the potential for mutual benefits of this cooperation for both organizations and their members. The WGFM agreed on a programme of work and budget for 2017–2018 to be submitted at the ninth session of RECOFI for consideration.

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