



<b>COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS</b>
<b>Twenty-fourth Session</b>
<b>Rome, Italy, 05-08 February 2013</b>
<b>First Intersessional Aquaculture Group Meeting – 2010 (Pukhet, Thailand, 02 October 2010)</b>
<b>Report</b>

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The first meeting of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics Aquaculture subject Group (CWP-AS) was held on 2 October 2010 in Phuket, Thailand with the participation of four CWP participating organizations (FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC, and SPC) and additional 9 experts nominated by FAO. The list of participants is in Attachment 2. The meeting was co-hosted by FAO and SEAFDEC.

### 2. Election of Chairs

The meeting elected SEAFDEC as the Group coordinator and FAO as vice coordinator, with the agreement that the position of coordinators would stay in the elected organizations, not attribute to individual persons. In the case of absence of designated persons in future meetings, alternative persons from the same organization will take the role of coordinators. For this specific meeting, Ms Pouchamarn Wongsanga of SEAFDEC and Mr Jiansan Jia of FAO took the task of Group coordinator and vice coordinator, respectively.

### 3. Adoption of agenda

Draft Agenda was adopted without modification, which is in Attachment 1. There is no other business to discuss.

### 4. Establishment of CWP-AS and Review of its Terms of Reference

The meeting was informed that the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of CWP (CWP-23) decided to establish two subject groups, one for aquaculture and one for fishery, to enhance effectiveness of the CWP to address issues specific to capture fisheries and to aquaculture. Both Groups are under the governance of the CWP that shall review the operational status of each group at its session. Operational Guideline of the Groups agreed by the CWP-23 is in Appendix 1.

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The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Group that was developed at the CWP ad-hoc Aquaculture Meeting held in Puerto Varas, Chile, in October, with special attention to a consistency with the Operational Guideline of subject groups.

The importance to refer to the utilization of data and information was noted and it was agreed to modify the objective in consistent way of the CWP Statutes. It was also agreed to add a bullet points on providing advices on utilization of data and statistics in aquaculture policy and management development. Amendments were made on the organizations referred to reflect further progress in establishment of aquaculture networks and strengthening incorporation in data and information areas, which includes Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGFRA) into paragraph 5 and NACEE to the second bullet point of paragraph 6, respectively, and change of organization name from ANA to RAA in the paragraph 6. It was noted that the CWP terminology indicating Member, i.e. “participating organization“, often causes confusion with those organizations participating to the Group activities and the Group agreed to insert a clarification note.

It was noted that implementation of standards developed under CWP framework would require substantial efforts in capacity building and financial resources to support them. Recognizing that such implementation is in principle a responsibility of organizations participating to the CWP framework, the Group discussed whether coordination for resource raising should be included in focused area of activities of paragraph 2. While organizations can take full advantage of CWP-AS meetings in developing coordination toward fund raising efforts, it is still unclear what the CWP-AS can actually do as a group. Therefore, the Group decided not to include this in paragraph 2 and agreed to continue the discussion.

It was noted the need to strengthen a communication with countries in delivering outcomes as well as in obtaining feedbacks, taking into account that the majority of aquaculture activities occur within national jurisdictions. At the same time, the Group noted the benefits of regional organizations being leaders in global harmonization and coordination of aquaculture data and statistics, while recognizing that the governance of regional coordination mechanisms in aquaculture is not as strong as the case of capture fisheries. There were also concerns to expand number of participants too largely. As a conclusion, the Group decided not to modify the “Composition” of the Group at this moment but would consider mechanisms to enhance national involvement, in addition to invitation of a limited number of national experts to the CWP-AS meetings.

Need to determine the minimum quorum to have meetings was noted. However, due to ambiguity in composition and operational situation in the future meetings, the Group decided to defer the decision on this point.

The final agreed Terms of Reference of Aquaculture Group is in Attachment 3.

## **5. CWP Handbook**

The Secretariat reported the progress and current status of preparation of Aquaculture component of the CWP handbook. The Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trend of Aquaculture (Strategy-STA) endorsed by the 3rd session of the COFI-AQ (New Delhi, India, 2006) stressed the importance to develop standard concepts, terminology and methodology for aquaculture data collection and the two CWP ad-hoc Aquaculture Group Meetings of 2008 in Puerto Varas and of 2009 in Rom identified the revision of aquaculture component of CWP Handbook as the highest priority.

The CWP held the Expert Workshop in Halong Bay, Vietnam, 10-13 November 2009, to develop a final draft of aquaculture handbook based on a preliminary draft developed by NACA and FAO. The draft tried to cover a broad range of information that are currently required or would become needed in near future for management of aquaculture sector. The Workshop succeeded to finalize the draft except few points. Since unresolved issues were all related difference in views among experts from FAO, FAO was tasked to finalize those issues for final review of the Workshop participants.

FAO reported with apology that due to conflicts with many other commitments, it still has not completed this task and clearly indicated its intention to deliver the final draft before the end of November to the Secretariat.

Accordingly, the following work plan was agreed:

- Finalize the draft and pass to the Secretariat before the end of November (FAO).
- Secretariat will circulate the final draft to all CWP members, those who participated in drafting process, and national focal points for FAO Aquaculture Statistics promptly after the receipt of the final draft of Handbook, and ask for feedback before the 15 January 2011. All feedbacks obtained will be incorporated and the composite file will be made available at the time of COFI for further discussion and decision.
- FAO will report on the CWP Handbook to COFI and CGRFA in appropriate way.

The Secretariat pointed out that some of those components utilized in common between aquaculture and capture productions were not included yet in the Aquaculture component of Handbook in order to secure a consistency between them. All CWP-AS members were asked their active participation in the process of review and update of such components in the overall CWP Handbook.

## **6. Implementation of Strategy-STA**

SPC proposed that there be a Pacific regional TCP on capacity-building in aqua statistics, in which it prepares a briefing paper on this meeting for Heads of Fisheries 2011 as a joint FAO/SPC paper involving FAO sub-regional office, it circulates as an appendix a draft TCP concept note, it invites SPC Fisheries Directors to support, and to nominate one country (e.g. PNG) to make a country request to FAO on behalf of the PICTs for the TCP. The CWP meeting thought this would be a good way to proceed.

FAO indicated to finalize the project proposal of for inter-regional Trust Fund project of implementation of Strategy-STA with the emphasis on capacity building in developing countries. At the same time, FAO expressed its intention to explore opportunities for statistics capacity building or incorporating statistics capacity building component into national, regional, and inter-regional TCPs and other project development.

The meeting welcomed the initiative of FAO and encouraged for all CWP AS members to explore opportunity for national, regional and inter-regional capacity building initiatives. It was noted that such activities should be coordinated and communicated each other as well as through the Secretariat, especially in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to make them complimentary each other.

The meeting considered it necessary to hold Regional workshops similar to that held in Ha Long Bay in order to identify capacity building needs at regional level, especially in Africa, Pacific, Central Asia and Caucasus Regions. FAO was asked to develop such meetings in collaboration with relevant regional organizations and mechanisms. At the same time, the meeting advised to the Secretariat to ask for comments on needs of national capacity buildings, identified gaps in its data collection system in the view of implementation of new concepts within the handbook and potential interests of supporting such activities, when distributing the final draft of CWP Handbook of aquaculture for national feedbacks.

## **7. Other issues and actions**

The meeting identified the followings as additional issues that needed to be addressed:

- Developing a communication and formal collaboration with the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) would be beneficially in enhancing the role and visibility of CWP. It was agreed that Mr. Munkejord would initiate informal contact with ISO to seek for the way forward in collaboration with the Secretariat.

- FAO indicated its intention to revise its AQ Questionnaire in accordance with the revised aquaculture CWP Handbook and asked for collaboration and support of the AS members.
- The meeting noted that there is no practical guideline on how to collect data on farm-gate price and other social and economic information and considered it necessary to initiate discussion including experts of social and economic aspects of the sector.
- Some noted the problem in monitoring of aquaculture products with high commercial value only for a specific part of body, e.g. pearls and caviar, when following the FAO standards of data collection of production in live-weight equivalent. Recognizing the current FAO standards were established to monitor contribution to food security by the aquaculture sector, further expansion and modification of monitoring procedure would be needed in the future.

As a whole, the meeting noted the benefit in collaboration at regional level as well as inter-regional coordination and agreed the need to establish Regional Working mechanisms or regional meetings, similar to those established in Asia. As an initial step, CWP AS members were encouraged to utilize capacity and capability available within the region as much as possible whenever planning and implementing the statistical activities.

#### **8. Closing of the meeting**

The coordinator concluded the meeting with an agreement to finalize the report through correspondence.

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**Attachment 1 Agenda****1. Opening and Welcome, logistic arrangements**

*CWP Secretariats to open the meeting, and local host, SEAFDEC, will provide information on meeting logistics and other administrative arrangements.*

**2. Selection of Chair****3. Adoption of the Agenda****4. Establishment of CWP-Aquaculture Group – Background information and Review of Terms of Reference**

*CWP Secretariats to explain the Terms of Reference and operational rules of Aquaculture Group of CWP, as agreed by CWP-23 with further background information. The meeting to review its Terms of Reference developed at the ad-hoc Aquaculture meeting held in October 2008, in the view of Operational Guideline developed by the CWP-23 and revise if necessary.*

**5. Progress in Strategy STA:****5.1. Progress in revising aquaculture component of CWP Handbook**

*CWP Secretariat to report the progress made to develop a draft to revised aquaculture component of the existing CWP-Handbook on fishery statistic. The meeting should provide feedback and agree how to proceed.*

**5.2. Strategy-STA**

*FAO/NACA to report the outcome from the Regional Workshop to identify capacity building need held in Halong Bay, Viet Nam during 16-18 November, 2009. The meeting will discuss for the next step.*

**6. Development of Work plan**

*The Meeting to discuss and agree on work plan.*

**7. Other business****8. Report adoption****9. Close of the meeting**

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**Attachment 3                      Terms of reference, composition, operational aspects of CWP  
Aquaculture Group**

**The Terms of Reference:**

1. The CWP Aquaculture Group should have the following objectives:
  - keep under continuous review the requirements for information and data on aquaculture statistics for the purposes of research, policy-making and management, taking inter account *inter alias* their purpose, usefulness, cost, burden in collection and collation, timeliness, quality, confidentiality needs and regional differences;
  - develop standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of aquaculture data, information and statistics; and
  - make recommendations for coordination and harmonization of activities in collecting, analyzing and disseminating aquaculture statistical data and information.
  
2. In particular the CWP Aquaculture Group shall:
  - identify and discuss major issues and requirements on aquaculture information, data and statistics;
  - determine those issues and needs of importance requiring action to improve information, data and statistics for increasing the sustainable contribution of aquaculture to food security, economic development and poverty alleviation;
  - recommend actions to coordinate and harmonize aquaculture information and statistical data collection, collation and dissemination procedures;
  - advise on mechanisms to prepare, facilitate and implement action towards meeting the growing demand for timely and reliable information, data and statistics on aquaculture;
  - advise on the strengthening of international collaboration to assist countries in improving and harmonizing aquaculture information, data and statistics collection, collation and dissemination procedures;
  - advise on the preparation of technical reviews on information, data and statistics on aquaculture of international significance; and
  - advise on the use of statistics for policy formulation and management.
  
3. The CWP Aquaculture Group should have a primary focus on aquaculture for food production. It shall also provide appropriate guidance for data collection on aquaculture production for non-food use, including species destined for ornamental purposes, alginate, live baits, pharmaceutical and other types of processing for non-food use.
  
4. The CWP Aquaculture Group should endeavour to assist in improving information on aquaculture's contribution to stock enhancement, conservation and aquatic biodiversity.
  
5. The CWP Aquaculture Group should maintain close contacts with other organizations with relevance to and interest in aquaculture and related activities (e.g. WTO, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, FAO-ES, CITES, OIE, ISO/TC 234,

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APEC, OLDEPESCA, CGRFA etc.) in order to ensure consistencies with existing systems and procedures and avoid duplication.

**The composition:**

6. The CWP Aquaculture Group shall be composed of experts nominated by those organizations who have a competence in aquaculture statistics. The following organizations will be included in the Group initially:
  - the current participating organizations of the CWP (i.e. CWP members) having relevance and/or interest in aquaculture statistics (e.g. Eurostat, FAO, GFCM, ICCAT, ICES, OECD, NACA, SEAFDEC, SPC);
  - other regional organizations relevant to aquaculture statistics (e.g. ANAF, APEC, ASEAN, Globefish and FIN Members, NACEE, NEPAD, OSPESCA, RAA); and
  - international non-Governmental organizations and regional associations of aquaculture producers and service providers (e.g. FEAP, CAPA).
7. Depending on the topics covered, relevant countries, agencies, stakeholders and interested groups could be invited through nomination by participating organizations.
8. Mechanisms to communicate with and obtain feedbacks from national agencies relevant to aquaculture statistics should be established.
9. Participating organizations may invite other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations having relevance in aquaculture statistics to be participating organizations. Participating organizations may withdraw from the Aquaculture Group.
10. Although a participating organization of the Aquaculture Group will not necessarily be a participating organization of CWP, the participating organizations to the CWP Aquaculture Group under category 2 above are encouraged to apply for participation to CWP.

**Operational aspects:**

11. The CWP Aquaculture Group would hold its meetings in conjunction with COFI-SCA, on biennial basis. When discussing issues relevant to both aquaculture and capture fisheries, the CWP Aquaculture Group should extend the invitation to participating organizations of CWP.
12. [Participation of minimum three CWP participating organizations should constitute a quorum at any regular meeting.]
13. The CWP Aquaculture Group could establish ad-hoc sub-groups, as appropriate, to discuss specific issues, with participation of experts nominated by participating organizations. Outcomes from ad-hoc sub-groups should be reported to and endorsed by the CWP Aquaculture Group regular meetings.

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14. Chair of the CWP Aquaculture Group should report the outcomes of its regular meetings to CWP sessions and should regularly inform the COFI-SCA.
  15. English would be used for meeting, report writing and dissemination of outcomes.

**Appendix 1                      Operational Guidelines Corresponding to the Establishment of Two Subject Groups** (Appendix 5 of the Report of CWP-23)

The 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the CWP established the Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group in accordance with the CWP Rules of Procedure. These groups were created to enhance the effectiveness of the CWP to address issues specific to capture fisheries and to aquaculture.

OBJECTIVES: Each group should:

1. identify and discuss major issues and requirements on information, data and statistics;
2. determine those issues and needs of importance requiring actions to improve information, data and statistics for policy making in achieving sustainability and enhancing the contribution of individual sector to food security, economic development and poverty alleviation;
3. recommend actions to coordinate and harmonize information and statistical data collection, collation and dissemination;
4. advise on mechanisms to prepare, facilitate and implement actions towards meeting the growing demand for timely and reliable information, data and statistics;
5. advise on the strengthening of collaboration to assist national, regional and global institutes in improving and harmonizing information, data and statistics collection, collation and dissemination; and
6. advise on the preparation of technical reviews on information, data and statistics on issues of international significance and concerns.

STRUCTURE AND TERMS:

The Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group are established under the governance of the Working Party. The Working Party shall review the operational status of each group at each session.

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS:

1. The Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group shall meet in conjunction with the session of the CWP.
2. Each group shall elect a coordinator from the participating organizations in the group.
3. The coordinators should attend the session of the CWP, but should they not be able to attend the session, he or she should nominate an alternate from among the participating organizations in the group.
4. The coordinator shall arrange intersessional activities of the group, including meetings, workshops, collaborations with relevant partners and stakeholders, preparation of working papers, communication by correspondence, and web-conference, under general guidance of the CWP session.
5. The coordinator may simultaneously hold a position of Chair or Vice-Chair of the session of the CWP.
6. The Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group shall report to each CWP session on its own activities, achievements, and recommendations including *inter alia* the proposal of terms of

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reference and work plans for a subsequent intersessional period, if necessary.

7. The Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group may request decisions of the Working Party by correspondence when considered that a delay in decision until the proceeding session would have a significant negative impact on their work.

#### COMPOSITION:

1. Participation in the Fishery and Aquaculture Groups shall be open to all CWP participating organizations. Each participating organization shall notify to the CWP Secretary of its intention to participate in a group, including its nomination of expert(s).
2. Each of the above groups may identify organizations which have a competence in statistics of relevant to their work and may extend invitations to nominate experts to participate the Group.

#### OTHER MATTERS:

Operational procedures on voting, expenses, and working languages should follow the principles of the CWP Rules of Procedure. When a question arises concerning a procedure or course of action, a request for guidance or clarification should be delivered to the CWP Secretary, which if necessary will seek guidance from the participating organizations.