



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Twenty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 05-08 February 2013

**Second Intersessional Aquaculture Group Meeting – 2012
(Rome, Italy, 14 July 2012)**

Report

1. Opening of the meeting

The second meeting of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics Aquaculture subject Group (CWP-AS) was held on 14 July 2012 in Rome, Italy. The meeting was originally planned to be held on 31 March 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa, in conjunction with the 6th session of COFI Aquaculture Sub-committee, following the Rules of Procedures. However due to difficulty in securing adequate participation, the meeting was rescheduled. Four CWP participating organizations (FAO, ICCAT, SEAFDEC, and SPC) attended the meeting, including three FAO sub-regional offices (the Caribbean, Central Asia and the Pacific Islands) also participated as a part of FAO. The list of participants is in Annex 2.

2. Election of Chairs

The SEAFDEC and FAO are currently taking a role of coordinators of the Aquaculture Group. Since SEAFDEC has only one delegate, the meeting elected Mr Jia of FAO as the Chair of this meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

Draft Agenda was adopted without modification, which is in Annex 1.

4. Review of progress since the CWP/AS-1

- FAO:

Mr Zhou of FAO indicated that in 2012 FAO modified the methodology of production estimate of farmed Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean based on the data obtained annually from ICCAT and additional import data from Japanese authority. The revised methodology was not only applied for 2011 reference year production estimate but also for the historic data for a number of years, resulting in upwards adjustment for most of the producing countries and the removal of production from France. He also reported to the meeting that there had been great effort in FAO as well as in some national reporting offices in recent years to improve the species level details in national aquaculture statistic data. The total number of species items in FAO database increased from 483 for 2008 to 541 for 2010, allowing better reflection of the status of global utilization of aquatic genetic resources for aquaculture production.

A draft proposal to modify the current International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP classification) used as standard reference for global fishery and aquaculture statistics was presented for comments and suggestions. The proposal is for improved species grouping for data analysis to better suit the needs of aquaculture development monitoring, without the sacrifice of its use in capture production statistics.

FAO also provides technical assistances to regions and regional institutes relevant to aquaculture data collection such as Aquaculture Networks, GFCM SIPAM and RECOFI, through providing mechanisms for online publication and establishment of information database and website, including RECOFI-RAIS and ANAF website.

Mr Halwart provided a brief update on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources which is being prepared by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and will contribute to the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Currently guidelines for the preparation of country reports are being drafted by FAO whilst countries are in the process of submitting the names of National Focal Points who will be responsible to coordinate the preparation of national reports. The Commission's discussions on scope and on strengthening capacities and improving information sources have necessitated the revision of an earlier timeline. The revised Multi-year Programme of Work calls for the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources to be presented at its Sixteenth Regular Session in 2017.

Mr Van Anrooy of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean and representing also the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) stressed the importance for Latin American and Caribbean region to work together. In that context, a regional workshop on statistics is planned to be held in Chile in June 2013 with support of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas, where the presentation of CWP is considered to be beneficial.

Mr Haydar Fersoy, of FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Central Asia, underlined the emerging need for Central Asian countries to improve frameworks for collection, process, analysis and dissemination in support of sustainable fisheries management at national and regional levels. He also briefed the Session that issues of fisheries and aquaculture data/information are on high agenda of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), a newly established Article XIV FAO body. In this respect, he stressed the importance of the technical assistance and guidance of FAO for creating enabling frameworks for the CACFish.

Mr Izumi of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands briefed on the activities in the Pacific. As one of the outcomes of the Regional Scoping Workshop - Development of a Pacific Regional Cooperative Programme held in Fiji, 11-14 October 2011, in line with the recommendations of the Informal Pacific Meeting held during the Global Conference on Aquaculture in Phuket, Thailand, in September 2010, a regional workshop, which includes aquaculture statistics, aquatic biosecurity and introduced aquatic species sessions, will be organized in the 1st week of October 2012 in cooperation with SPC to strengthen aquaculture data collections and information systems in the Pacific.

- ICCAT

Ms Pallarés of ICCAT explained that the data provided by ICCAT are global data on farming activities. These data are submitted by the Contracting Parties (CPs) of the farms and can include catches from different CPs. Up to now ICCAT is not able to provide a more detail information on farming. It is possible that in the future ICCAT may obtain more specific information once the eBCD be fully accomplished, but to facilitate this information to CWP, ICCAT would need a formal request from FAO and the approval of the Commission taking into account that BCD data are considered confidential.

- SEAFDEC

Mr Siriraksophon of the SEAFDEC reported that SEAFDEC has created the supporting projects more than a decade to improve statistic data and collection in the Southeast Asian Region through the streamlining statistics required by FAO. Several SEAFDEC activities have been implemented not only organizing the RTC meeting but proving the onsite capacity building on data collection to all SEAFDEC Member countries since 2000s. Recently, the specific improvement of data collection such as some economically pelagic species (e.g. Indo-pacific mackerel, Indian mackerel, round-scads, tunas (e.g. oceanic tuna and neritic tunas) have been implemented by relevant Member Countries. In addition, dealing with the international fisheries related issues such as by-catch particular for sharks, and other selected commercially exploited aquatic species, the SEAFDEC is developing the program to improve the data collection that should be reflected to/included in the national statistics. The SEAFDEC indicated its future intension to place more focus on aquaculture statistics to enable to provide more realistic picture of the region. The SEAFDEC disseminated the regional review of State of Fishery and Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia (SEASOFiA) in 2012 with analysis based on data up to 2010. Electronic copy of the SEASOFiA is able to download from the SEAFDEC website.

Corresponding to the question, the SEAFDEC indicated that while it utilizes the SEAFDEC-FAO shared questionnaires for data commonly collected by both organizations, the scope of their data collection is broader, including employments, seed production and production for ornamental purposes, which are collected by separate questionnaires. The ASEAN, as a whole, has made a good progress in improving data collection and reporting during the last 10 years. Still remaining difficulties include low capacity (e.g. Laos, Cambodia), placing low priority in fishery statistics (e.g. Viet Nam), and incomplete coverage (e.g. Philippines, Thailand). SEAFDEC assured its continued help in resolving communication difficulty between FAO and national authorities.

- SPC

Ms Gomez of the SPC highlighted its current mandate regarding data collection and analysis in the South Pacific Region, for both fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The SPC has developed a comprehensive database for coastal capture fisheries for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs); these National databases are synchronized with an SPC regional database. For the time being, these databases are only focused on capture fisheries, but including post-larvae capture and culture (PCC) commodities for ornamental purposes, e.g. giant clams, lobsters and shrimps.

Regarding general recommendations arising from the CWP/AS 1 meeting, the SPC mentioned that a regional TCP on capacity building on aquaculture statistis was supposed to be formulated and submitted last year. Furthermore, and also as part of the follow-up to the recommendations from the last CWP/AS 1 meeting, the SPC indicated that an FAO/SPC Regional Scoping Workshop focused on the “Development of a Pacific Aquaculture Regional Cooperative Programme” was held in Fiji (11–14 October 2011). The objective of this regional workshop was to engage the governments of PICTs and development partners in the Region in a dialogue to assess the needs and map out a coordinating strategy and actions for all major regional/international agencies working on aquaculture development in the Region. The Regional Workshop identified aquaculture data collection and analysis as a regional priority area and specifically recommended FAO to consider the FAO simplification of the questionnaire templates, the broadening of the scope to include ornamental commodities and other aquaculture

products for non-food uses, and the strengthening of efforts to find resources and other appropriate mechanisms to enhance national and regional capacity for fisheries and aquaculture statistics. Other issues to be addressed in the region that were highlighted at this workshop were: 1) the lack of reporting by some countries, 2) the existence of big fluctuations in some commodities' production (e.g. seaweed), 3) the limitation regarding existing capacities and resources on data collection in the region, 4) the difficulties in monitoring on-farm gate prices, and 5) the difficulties in monitoring aquaculture products with high commercial value. The forthcoming FAO/SPC regional workshop on aquaculture statistics and aquatic bio-security, which is planned to be held Fiji in October 2012, will build on those recommendations.

With regards to the steps towards the *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources* preparation, the SPC stressed the importance of streamlining and harmonizing statistics reporting process in order to mitigate burden of national authorities due to data collection, analysis and reporting duplication. As general statistics reporting, the FAO confirmed its acceptance of data reporting in any format as long as necessary information is covered, and suggested to develop the regional questionnaires taking into account regional needs and current data collection practice, following the case of the SEAFDEC-FAO shared questionnaire.

- CWP Fishery Group

CWP Secretary briefly reported the progress made by the Fishery Group (CWP/FS). The meeting of ad hoc group for developing the draft revision of CWP gear classification was held 19-21 October, 2010 in Rome, Italy, with participation of 5 CWP member organizations (FAO, GFCM, IATTC, ICES, SEAFDEC), and experts from ICES/FAO Working group on Fish Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB). The meeting was chaired by Mr Lassen and agreed the revised proposal of ISSCFG. The report is now available at CWP wiki for CWP member organizations.

The Intersessional CWP/FS meeting was held during 14-16 December 2011 in Rome, Italy, with the participation of 14 experts from 8 CWP member organizations (CCAMLR, Eurostat, FAO, ICCAT, ICES, NAFO, SEAFDEC and SPC). The meeting focused its discussion on the revision of CWP Handbook and agreed general format, contents and timelines that indicated delivery of the final draft among CWP Members in July 2012. However, there has not been substantial progress since the FS meeting and the process to finalize the draft of revised handbook has been substantially delayed.

Corresponding to question on possibility to collect statistics of wild seeds by capture statistics, it was explained that the current CWP FS Handbook does not request collecting statistics according to their destination. However, it was noted that in the sensitive case, such as glass eels, some organizations including European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFFAC) and ICES collect catch information. The previous discussion within CWP generally agreed that the wild seeds would be better monitored as an input by aquaculture sector.

5. Finalization of draft for the aquaculture component of the CWP Handbook

The meeting reconfirmed the importance of the Handbook on aquaculture statistics and in general agreed that the current draft covered the necessary information in establishing data collection to monitor aquaculture sector in adequate quality. However, it considered the need of further modifications and clarifications before sending out to countries for their review and feedbacks. Especially, it was noted the need to simplify the introduction and definition of terms. There is some duplication in defining terms that caused confusions. The Handbook should focus on those terms that are relevant to statistics and eliminate others. The meeting also noted the difficulty in defining, collecting and collating farm-gate prices and corresponding statistics due to high complexity of commodities, processing and difference in prices and requested to provide clear guidance.

The meeting affirmed that the broad consultation with countries would be essential. It was considered that this consultation process would require at least two to three months or could be

longer if only English version available. The need to develop versions in several key languages was stressed and it was agreed for all members to seek for possibilities to translate the final draft, including FAO sub-regional TCPs as well as collaboration with regional organizations (e.g. OSPESCA).

FAOSEC expressed its willingness to support the translation of the handbook into Russian through FAOSEC financial resources. FAOSLC informed the willingness of the WECAFC secretariat to assist in the consultation process with the countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

In parallel to finalizing the Handbook, the meeting identified the need to prepare a set of new standard questionnaires as well as user friendly practical guideline to implement the new data requirements introduced in the Handbook. This was considered as the first priority for the next term.

In order to complete the whole process prior to the next session of CWP that is planned in February 2013, the following schedule was agreed:

- CWP Members will provide further comments and proposed modifications before the end of July, 2012.
- Secretariat in collaboration with FAO will revise the draft taking into account the comments and suggestions provided by the CWP Members and distribute the revised draft before the end of August, 2012.
- CWP/AS will review and clear the revised draft within two weeks after the delivery through e-mail communications.
- Secretariat and CWP Members will distribute the cleared draft to countries (e.g. national focal points of FAO statistics, focal points of CWP/AS) in the mid September 2012 as the latest.
- Countries should provide their comments and feedbacks within three months, no later than mid December 2012. Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and communicating with other CWP/AS members will integrate the received feedbacks into the final draft promptly.
- CWP/AS will clear the final draft for submission to CWP-24 (February 2013).

6. Strategy-STA

Mr Jiansan Jia reported that the Strategy-STA still could not secure fund to support its capacity building activities, regardless the continuous efforts by CWP Members and other collaborative organizations. Regional TCP for capacity building in the Pacific Islands countries was rejected by FAO RAP and the renewed proposal is in preparation. Further supports from CWP/AS members were stressed. The importance to develop a forum among the organizations who were working on aquaculture statistics was noted. In this context, the meeting agreed for each Member to extend the official invitation to other Members for the future meeting.

As reported by FAO and SPC, the regional workshop on aquaculture statistics would be held in conjunction with the aquatic biosecurity meeting in Fiji in October 2012 as a part of Strategy-STA activities. FAO-SRC indicated that the RAA with membership of 11 Spanish speaking States plans to hold the meeting on statistics in 2013.

7. Information relevant to aquaculture statistics

FAO briefly listed the recent developments that might have relevance with aquaculture statistics, which included:

- Global Strategy of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics (http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/estatistica/indicadores/prpa/segundo_texto.pdf) that was adopted at United Nations Statistical Commissions (UNSC) in 2010 promotes integration of agriculture

(including fishery and aquaculture) statistics into national statistics collection. As the first step to implement this Strategy in the context of fishery and aquaculture, FAO is promoting i) disaggregation of 'fishery and aquaculture' from 'agriculture' in the population census question on engagement, ii) active utilization of aquaculture satellite module in agriculture census, and iii) enhanced use and links of administrative information (e.g. licenses), GPS and satellite imagery.

- System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central framework

(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/White_cover.pdf) was adopted at UNSC in 2012, which defined how to measure and monitor sustainability of various natural resources including fish resources (including farming fish) and water resources. This can provide a comparable macro indicator on sustainability of resource use and aquaculture sector itself and FAO plans to conduct case study to examine its feasibility and utility for fishery and aquaculture sector management depending on availability of resources.

- The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature of World Custom Organization (WCO) is commonly used in classifying commodities at customs. FAO succeeded to integrate substantial improvement of commodities details of fish and fishery products into HS2012 that has come into force starting from 01 January 2012. FAO is now actively participating to the negotiation on HS 2017 with specific focus on improving separability of non-food fish and fishery products.

- Central Product Classification (CPC) of UN (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/cpc-2.asp>) is a global list of commodities linking to the categories of activities as well as with HS but has been rarely utilized in fish and fishery products. Since FAO decided to utilize CPC as its base, FAO negotiated to make it possible to distinguish fishery and aquaculture origins, which was in principle accepted by expert group and integrated to the proposal to be submitted to the next UNSC.

- FAO renovated its dissemination system of statistics, FishStatJ

(<http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/fishstatj/en>). Correspondingly, starting from 2012, FAO will stop maintenance service on FishStat+, while the updated data files were disseminated on 2010 statistics.

- FAO shifted its dissemination of statistics from hard copy print to electronic format. CD-ROM containing all statistics tables and summary booklet will be revised corresponding to the update of any sub-set of statistics, generally in February to March for production statistics and May for trade and commodities. CD-ROM can be accessed at FAO web site:

ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/CDrom/CD_yearbook_2010/index.htm.

During the discussion, it was noted that non-food use of fish and fishery product has been increased and expanded in recent years stressed. Now it was not only for ornamental purposes but traded vigorously for pharmacy use, re-stocking, and source of bio-fuel. The importance for the Handbook to cover these areas was stressed. The meeting noted the need to further revise the Aquaculture satellite module in Agriculture Census Guidebook, in accordance with the new Aquaculture Handbook and requested FAO to coordinate with Divisions who are responsible for Agriculture Census.

8. Development of work plan

The meeting agreed the priority areas of work in the next term as follows:

- Finalization of Handbook with adequate language coverage;
- Implementation of Strategy-STA, in both meetings and securing funds;
- Working toward revising aquaculture component in Agriculture Census Guidebook;
- Preparation of revised standard questionnaires in line with the new Handbook, targeting testing in selected countries in 2013 and global implementation in 2014;
- Enhancing regional consultation among Members as well as with partners in a Region;

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- Submitting the proposal of ISSCAAP revision for consideration of CWP-24; and
 - Inputs to the Aquaculture Year in order to make data/information as one of key component.

9. Other business

The Secretariat raised the difficulty in securing adequate attendance at the CWP/AS meeting and questioned about the most suitable opportunity to hold the meeting. The meeting reaffirmed its preference to hold the CWP/AS in conjunction with COFI Sub-Committee of Aquaculture, at least for substantive technical discussion. The Secretariat informed that the next CWP/AS should be held in conjunction with CWP-24 according to the rule that established the specialized groups.

The meeting recognized that the language would be a problem for some of organizations such as RAA to participate, while it was noted that the CWP Rules of Procedures indicated English as its working language.

The need to expand CWP/AS memberships were noted and the meeting requested the Secretariat to re-send the invitation to those organizations originally identified as possible participants, including RAA and ANAF.

10. Close of the meeting

With the agreement that the Report will be adopted through communication, the meeting was formally closed.

Annex 1 Agenda

1. Opening and welcome, logistic arrangements

The CWP Secretary shall open the meeting and will provide information on meeting logistics and other administrative arrangements.

2. Selection of Chair

3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Review of progress since the CWP/AS-1

The Secretary and participating organizations briefly report major activities and changes occurred since the CWP/AS-1.

4.1. Review of progress in recommendations of the CWP/AS

4.2. Review of activities by CWP participating organizations

4.2.1. FAO

4.2.2. ICCAT

4.2.3. SEAFDEC

4.2.4. SPC

4.3. Review of progress in the CWP/FS

5. Finalization of draft for the aquaculture component of the CWP Handbook

The CWP Secretary shall table the draft of the aquaculture component of the existing CWP-Handbook on fishery statistics for finalization and adoption by the CWP/AS. The meeting should decide a process of receiving public comments and incorporating them into the final.

6. Strategy-STA

Relevant organizations to report the progress in developing regional coordination of aquaculture activities including preparation of the Regional Workshop to identify capacity building need. The meeting will review the progress and agree on the area of collaboration and work plans to be incorporated into the discussion under Agenda 8.

6.1. Asia (*SEAFDEC to lead*)

6.2. Pacific (*SPC to lead*)

6.3. Others regions

7. Information relevant to aquaculture statistics

The CWP Secretary will report the recent progress at global statistics forums including the United Nations Statistics Committee. The participating organizations are invited to share the information of any developments relevant to aquaculture statistics. This agenda is information only.

7.1. Global Strategy of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics (*FAO*)

7.2. System of Environmental and Economic Account (*FAO*)

7.3. Revision of CPC and HS (*FAO*)

7.4. FAO information dissemination systems (*FAO*)

7.5. Others (*Any relevant organizations*)

8. Development of work plan

The Meeting should discuss and agree on a work plan.

9. Other business

10. Report adoption

11. Close of the meeting

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