



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session

Killarney, Ireland, 22 – 24 June 2022

Main decisions and recommendations of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and Fisheries Bodies

Executive Summary

This document provides contains highlights of the topics discussed at regional and international fora of FAO relevant for the EIFAAC Membership.

- 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), Poland, 10 - 13 May 2022;
- 34th Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI), 1 - 5 February 2021 (convened virtually);
- 44th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), 2 - 6 November 2021 (convened virtually).

The document also contains summary information on the UN Development Agenda (SDG targets), FAO Strategic Framework (Blue Transformation Initiative; Four Betters) and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).

33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

1. The 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) was held in Łódź, Poland, from 10 to 13 May 2022. The Regional Conference was conducted in a hybrid modality and attended by 261 participants, including nine ministers, eight deputy ministers and state secretaries, and representatives from 52 Members. One observer from among the Member Nations, six United Nations organizations, 16 intergovernmental organizations, two international non-governmental organizations and six representatives of civil society organizations were in attendance, along with eight representatives from the private sector and five representatives from the research and academia sector.

2. On the agenda item on “**Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters**” the ERC discussed the **Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine**, and issued a decision. The decision requested FAO to:
 - a) safeguard all the rights of Ukraine as a Member Nation of the FAO, including those deriving from legal instruments adopted pursuant to Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, within Ukraine’s internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone adjacent thereto;
 - b) submit for the next session of the FAO Council a report containing an overview of the work of the FAO and FAO-related bodies, including Article XIV bodies and other Regional Commissions, in and with Ukraine and countries most affected in the region;
 - c) assess the damage to Ukrainian agriculture and agriculture and food sector in Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, as well as the reconstruction and rehabilitation costs of Ukrainian agriculture due to loss and damage resulting from the Russian aggression;
 - d) prepare and implement, at the request of and in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine, short-term, medium-term and long-term assistance plans to address the food security concerns in the country and rehabilitate its food production potential;
 - e) in addition, develop immediate, medium-term, and longer-term plans to address the food security impacts of Russian aggression against Ukraine, including emergency response, recovery assistance and resilience building in food systems, for countries most affected in the region, particularly in the Black sea region, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans;
 - f) contribute to strengthening global market transparency and coordination among Members, through initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System;
 - g) report regularly to Members, including through FAO Governing bodies, on actions taken with respect to the above;
3. The ERC also discussed: **The road to transformative agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia – Regional actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31; Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, a practical approach for transforming agrifood systems for healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia.**
4. Under **Programme and Budget Matters**, the following subjects were discussed:
 - A. Regional results, priorities, the four betters and the Sustainable Development Goals
 - B. Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy
 - C. Update on the development of the New FAO Strategy on Climate Change.
 - D. Synthesis of FAO Evaluations 2020-2021 in Europe and Central Asia Region
5. In relation to the FAO Strategy on Climate change the ERC (amongst others):
 - (d) recognized that fishery policy should be an important element in the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and that more attention should be given to the impacts of overfishing and promoting sustainable fishing practices; and
 - (e) recalled the need to strengthen coordination with relevant mechanisms such as UN Declaration of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas (UNDROP, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (VGSSF), in line with national contexts and capacities.

6. Under the agenda item of “**Other Matters**” the Report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) (available as EIFAAC/2022/Inf.6) was discussed. The discussion took place through a written correspondence procedure only. The ERC 33 report notes that:
 - a. The Regional Conference reviewed the Report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC).
 - b. The Regional Conference:
 - Called upon Members to nominate and support their official focal points to EIFAAC, as the only pan-European commission on inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to encourage other countries and non-governmental organizations in the region to participate in EIFAAC sessions as observers.
 - Encouraged Members to join EIFAAC projects of regional interest.
7. In the written correspondence procedure on the Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 7th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission ([CACFish](#)), the ERC promoted the celebration of International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022 and proposed regional and national artisanal fisheries and aquaculture (AFA)-oriented policies and strategies to optimize the role of AFA.
8. More information on ERC 33, including the meeting documents, can be found [here](#).

34th Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI)

9. The Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held from 1 to 5 February 2021.

The Committee:

 - a) commended FAO for the 2020 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) publication. Requested FAO to consider, in future SOFIA reports, methodological improvements to better reflect the regional status of fish stocks recognizing efforts to rebuild stocks, and increasing the number of stocks with assessments, while ensuring the integrity of the time series. Recommended a robust and participatory peer review process, and to share the report with Members well in advance of publishing;
 - b) endorsed the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to renew its commitment to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, recognize the transformations in the sector since the endorsement of the Code, and refocus priorities to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the sector;
 - c) called on FAO and COFI Members, consistent with the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, to bring fisheries and aquaculture fully into the discussions during the preparation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit;
 - d) endorsed the reports of the 10th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the 17th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade;
 - e) recommended further development of the Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (GISAP);
 - f) supported the need for an FAO Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for 2021–2025, based on robust scientific evidence and risk analysis, including training and the capacity building needs of Members;

- g) welcomed the publication of the report on The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and recommended the further development of a draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- h) welcomed the holding of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 in Shanghai, China (22–27 September 2021);
- i) welcomed the further development of the voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture in 2021 as a tool towards further development of national policies for the aquaculture sector and requested FAO to consider guidance for concrete actions for the sector – according to national contexts, capacities and priorities – on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- j) requested FAO to continue providing technical support in the framework of negotiations on fisheries subsidies carried out in the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- k) requested FAO to continue supporting Members in the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- l) expressed strong support for FAO's scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, reiterating the need for appropriate funding;
- m) called for FAO to continue cooperating with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- n) emphasizing the importance of accurate data to support decision-making, and the relevant function of FAO in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics, requested that FAO continue to assist Members in strengthening statistical capacity and delivery of data, especially in data-poor situations, as well as in integrating innovative technologies;
- o) welcomed the Draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition and appreciated its comprehensive consultative development process;
- p) requested FAO's support in capacity development, and stressed the need to strengthen gender equality, and gender and youth empowerment issues within the strategy;
- q) noted the importance of sustainable and inclusive ocean economies, the further implementation of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requested additional information on the proposal for a voluntary Blue Ports Network for the development of coastal areas in collaboration with Members and relevant organizations;
- r) requested increased work in relation to support for small-scale and artisanal fisheries and to intensify support to Members;
- s) expressed its commitment to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022 and recommended promoting the importance of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in relevant events;
- t) welcomed the progress that Members have made in fulfilling their flag, port, coastal and market state responsibilities, as well as the increase in the number of Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (PSMA), but stressed that further efforts are needed to address the challenges faced in combatting IUU fishing;
- u) recognized the role that the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Supply Vessels plays in the implementation of the PSMA and other international instruments and initiatives, and called for the further development of the Global Record;
- v) called upon FAO to proceed with developing draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment, and to convene an expert consultation to review the draft;
- w) commended FAO for the work in developing the FAO Technical Guidelines on Methodologies and Indicators for the Estimation of the Magnitude and Impact of IUU

- fishing, and called for FAO to keep progressing on the development of these technical guidelines;
- x) commended FAO on its work on achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through collaborative approaches with relevant global and regional organizations, bodies and initiatives and requested FAO to continue strengthening such work;
 - y) requested FAO, within its mandate, to continue providing technical advice and relevant information, including on the objectives and implementation of existing fisheries instruments, in the process of deliberation on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ);
 - z) underscored the central role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Advisory Bodies (RFABs), within their sphere of competence, in the implementation of international fisheries instruments, such as those aimed at combatting IUU fishing;
 - aa) emphasized the importance of safety at sea and working conditions in the fisheries sector and welcomed the close cooperation between FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including through the Joint Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters, and requested FAO to further strengthen international cooperation on occupational health and safety issues in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and to promote decent work for fishers and fish workers;
 - bb) requested FAO to enhance technical guidance on mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation in fisheries management and aquaculture development;
 - cc) welcomed the Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (2021–2023);
 - dd) noted the relevance of other effective area based conservation measures (OECMs) to achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global biodiversity targets, and requested that FAO produce and disseminate practical guidelines to support Members in their identification and implementation;
 - ee) requested that FAO continue to work with CITES and related fora, to help ensure that decisions made in these fora and their implementation are based on the best scientific information available and relevant technical information;
 - ff) noted the important role that RFABs, RFMOs and other regional initiatives play in mainstreaming biodiversity in the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources, and requested FAO to strengthen its support to them in this arena;
 - gg) agreed to continue a transparent and inclusive consultation process on the proposal of the establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management, under the leadership of the Chairperson of COFI, and looked forward to a proposal being submitted at COFI 35;
 - hh) welcomed the development of a new FAO Strategic Framework (2022–31), and called upon FAO to fully include fisheries and aquaculture under the four new Aspirations of Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment and Better Life;
 - ii) ii) endorsed the identified fisheries and aquaculture priority areas of work for the biennium 2020–2021;
 - jj) recommended that the relevant FAO Governing Bodies duly consider integrating actions identified in the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture;
 - kk) reaffirmed the importance of FAO's role in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics on fisheries and aquaculture, including gender disaggregated data when possible, and requested FAO to inform Members on additional needs to improve data collection systems, in particular for small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture;
 - ll) urged FAO, in collaboration with its partners to promote the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in relevant events and initiatives;

- mm) urged FAO to promote good experiences and practices, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
 - nn) expressed its support for the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, and requested FAO to ensure that the activities of the International Platform include issues related to digital technology applications on fisheries and aquaculture, and further requested FAO to develop a solid funding concept for the International Platform based on voluntary contributions, and continue developing and refining its terms of reference for further review by the Programme Committee and the FAO Council;
 - oo) approved the progress report of the MYPOW 2018–2021 and draft MYPOW 2020-2023 with several recommendations, and underlined the importance of the timely preparation of the documents;
 - pp) elected the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 35th Session of COFI; and
 - qq) agreed that the 35th Session of COFI would be held in Rome from 5 to 9 September 2022.
10. The full report of the 34th session of COFI can be found [here](#). The COFI session meeting documents are available [here](#).
11. The 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture can be found [here](#). This high level declaration aims to acknowledge the achievements of the fisheries and aquaculture in the past 25 years, and to gather collective momentum in tackling the challenges and opportunities to secure the long-term sustainability of the sector. We need to take action to ensure that our aquatic food systems are resilient and meet growing demand for nutritious, safe and affordable food while maintaining sustainable ecosystems, economies and societies that leave no one behind.

44th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

12. The forty-fourth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the eleventh session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) were attended by delegates of 22 contracting parties, four cooperating non-contracting parties and three non-contracting parties. Representatives from ten intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the GFCM Secretariat as well as invited experts were also in attendance. During the session, the Commission reviewed progress in activities implemented during the 2019–2021 intersession and adopted 35 decisions, including 21 binding recommendations and 14 resolutions.
13. In relation to the management of fisheries, the Commission adopted multiannual management plans for i) small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea, ii) demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily, iii) giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp in the Levant Sea, the Ionian Sea and the Strait of Sicily and iv) blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea, as well as management measures for sprat and piked dogfish in the Black Sea and for dolphinfish fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, it adopted measures to protect juveniles of priority species as well as a minimum conservation reference size for priority stocks in the Mediterranean Sea and a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea. The Commission also decided to establish fisheries restricted areas in the Bari Canyon and the Gulf of Lion and to grant permanent protection for the Jabuka/Pomo Pit. To reinforce the conservation of vulnerable species, the Commission adopted four recommendations to mitigate fisheries impacts on sea turtles,

cetaceans, seabirds and elasmobranchs and agreed to launch a data call to populate its database on sensitive benthic habitats and species.

14. With a view to strengthening compliance and preventing illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, the Commission also adopted a recommendation on vessel sightings and established a catch certificate scheme for turbot in the Black Sea, a GFCM record of authorized vessels over 15 metres as well as a mechanism to update the list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In addition, it adopted resolutions to reinforce vessel monitoring system, electronic logbook and reporting and to prevent abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.
15. In relation to aquaculture, the Commission adopted a resolution on the reporting of information on non-indigenous species. In addition, to guide its future work, the Commission adopted the GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
16. The Commission then reviewed the role of the Subregional Committees of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) and the new structure of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ). In relation to the mandate of the GFCM Executive Secretary, the Commission praised the work of the outgoing Executive Secretary and discussed issues regarding the selection of the next Executive Secretary. Finally, it adopted its programme of work for the next intersession and approved its autonomous budget for 2022, amounting to USD 2 462 221, as well as strategic actions to be funded through extrabudgetary resources. It also endorsed the Bureaus of the Compliance Committee and the CAF, and renewed the mandate of the Bureaus of the GFCM, SAC, CAQ and Working Group on the Black Sea.
17. For more information on the 44th session and other GFCM activities, please visit the website [here](#).







UN Development Agenda (SDG targets) and the FAO Strategic Framework

18. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (made available as EIFAAC/2022/Inf.4) articulates FAO's vision of a sustainable and food secure world for all, in the context of the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](#).
19. A world facing escalating threats demands that we act without delay to safeguard life, transform our agri-food systems to future-proof our planet and lock in sustainable outcomes. The 2030 Agenda is there to guide us.
20. The development of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 took place during a period of unprecedented challenges driven by the COVID-19 pandemic - a global crisis, which highlighted the critical mandate of FAO to ensure functioning and sustainable agri-food systems that allow for sufficient production and consumption of food. With the arrival of the FAO Director-General QU Dongyu, it has also been a period of increased efficiency, a blossoming digital FAO, as well as breaking down silos, removing administrative layers and innovating work processes. A new FAO is emerging, seeking ways to achieve more tangible results and better delivery with an innovative business model.

21. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.
22. FAO is uniquely placed to directly contribute to the achievement of a number of SDGs organized around FAO's four aspirations ([better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life](#)).
23. Twenty Programme Priority Areas guide the programmes that FAO will implement under the four betters in order to fill critical gaps and contribute to the achievement of the selected SDG targets. Programme Priority Areas are formulated as inter-disciplinary, issue-based technical themes, representing FAO's strategic contribution to specific SDG targets and indicators.
24. FAO also applies four cross-cutting/cross-sectional "accelerators": technology, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions) in all its programmatic interventions to accelerate progress and maximize efforts in meeting the SDGs and to realize its aspirations - the four betters.

Blue Transformation

25. One of the FAO Programme Priority Areas is on Blue Transformation. Blue Transformation is a targeted effort by which agencies, countries and dependent communities, use existing and emerging knowledge, tools and practices to secure and sustainably maximize the contribution of aquatic (both marine and inland) food systems to food security, nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all. It builds on existing successes while providing a framework to overcome sustainability challenges.
26. Blue Transformation acknowledges that aquatic food systems significantly influence human, animal and ecosystem health, including biodiversity, land and water use, climate, as well as other aquatic and land-based economic sectors. As such, their transformation requires a holistic and adaptive ecosystem approach, aimed at securing socially, environmentally and economically sustainable value chains that help secure livelihoods, foster an equitable distribution of benefits and support adequate use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.
27. FAO's Blue Transformation Strategy 2022-2030 provides a roadmap for FAO's work on aquatic food systems. The objectives and targets of the Blue Transformation strategy are the following:

 AQUACULTURE Objective: Sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion satisfies global demand for aquatic food and distributes benefits equitably	 FISHERIES Objective: Effective management of all fisheries delivers healthy stocks and secures equitable livelihoods	 VALUE CHAINS Objective: Upgraded value chains ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems
<p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective global and regional cooperation, planning, and governance enhance aquaculture development and management Innovative technology and management support the expansion of sustainable and resilient aquaculture systems Equitable access to resources and services delivers new and secures existing aquaculture-based livelihoods Aquaculture operations minimize environmental impact and use resources efficiently Regular monitoring and reporting of the growth and the ecological, social and economic impacts of aquaculture development 	<p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective policies, governance structures and institutions support fisheries Equitable access to resource and services enhances the livelihoods of fishers and fish workers Effective fisheries management systems address ecological, social and economic objectives, while considering tradeoffs Fishing fleets are efficient, safe, innovative and profitable 	<p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient value chains that increase profitability and reduce food loss Transparent, inclusive and gender-equitable value chains support sustainable livelihoods Fisheries and aquaculture products access international markets more effectively Increased sustainable consumption of sustainable aquatic food, particularly in areas with low food and nutrition security Increased access to healthy, safe and high quality aquatic food 

28. The Blue Transformation Strategy will be discussed at the Thirty-fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, 5-9 September 2022, Rome, Italy, and rolled-out globally afterwards.

International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)

29. The United Nations General Assembly decided in 2017 to declare 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022).
30. The global food system faces many complex challenges, including hunger, malnutrition and diet-related diseases, an ever-growing global population that needs sufficient and healthy food, the need to reduce food loss and waste, the depletion of natural resources and effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants are fundamental, essential and indispensable foods eaten by people around the world as part of healthy diets, cultural heritage and culinary traditions.
31. Small-scale artisanal fishers and fish farmers produce a large portion of this food, and as such, IYAFA 2022 is an opportunity to highlight the importance of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture for our food systems, livelihoods, culture and the environment. Small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers hold enormous potential to promote transformative changes in how, by whom and for whom fish and fishery products are produced, processed and distributed – with positive ripple effects felt throughout the global food system.
32. The IYAFA 2022 vision statement is “A world in which small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fishworkers of both genders are fully recognized and empowered to continue their contributions to poverty alleviation, human well-being and resilient and sustainable food systems through the responsible use of fisheries and aquaculture resources and socio-economic development”.

33. IYAFA 2022 has a [Global Action Plan](#), which calls upon all stakeholders to work together to raise awareness on the role of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, strengthen science-policy interaction, empower stakeholders to take action, and to build new and strengthen existing partnerships. [IYAFA 2022](#) can also act as a springboard towards implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related documents, like the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([SSF Guidelines](#)), and take concrete actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as we enter the last decade of action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It also falls within the [UN Decade of Family Farming](#), the two observances will reinforce one another in providing greater visibility to small-scale artisanal fishers, fishfarmers and fish workers.