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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session

Killarney, Ireland, 22 – 24 June 2022

EIFAAC draft Recommendations and Resolutions

1. This document contains draft recommendations and resolutions prepared by EIFAAC Projects, Working Groups and members of the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC). The recommendations and resolutions presented below were reviewed and cleared by the TSC and Management Committee (MC) in May/June 2022. The working documents prepared by the MC (EIFAAC/2022/6) and TSC (EIFAAC/2022/7) do not include any discussion on these draft resolutions and recommendations, because these were prepared earlier.
2. It is recognized that for future EIFAAC Commission decision making processes on resolutions and recommendations the reports and/or notes of the MC and TSC meetings where these are discussed should be made available to the Commission. Due to the recent developments on this subject, it was not possible to do so for EIFAAC 31.
3. For the purpose of clarity and in line with best practices, the use of EIFAAC Resolutions and Recommendations is defined below. Both conform to the EIFAAC mission, which is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals.
 - EIFAAC Resolutions encourage all stakeholders in the EIFAAC area to implement or support implementation of sub-regional, regional or international voluntary or binding instruments related to inland fisheries and aquaculture, or address other issues of common interest.
 - EIFAAC Recommendations promote harmonized sub-regional or regional inland fisheries conservation and management measures, inland fisheries and aquaculture development, establish regional measures, and endorse inland fisheries management plans for sub-regional or regional implementation.

All working documents and information papers can be found at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/meetings/41338>

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4. EIFAAC Resolutions and Recommendations are not legally binding, voluntary, regional fisheries and aquaculture instruments.
 5. Draft Resolutions for review and adoption include:
 - **Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/1** “On EIFAAC Resolutions, Recommendations and Advisory Notes”
 - **Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/2** “On the Code of Conduct for Recreational Fisheries and Invasive Alien Species”
 - **Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/3** “On the protection of vulnerable and endangered fish species from unsustainable predation from cormorants”
 - **Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/4** “On small-scale fisheries and aquaculture”.
 - **Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/5** “On the future of European eel management and fisheries”
 6. Draft resolutions 1 to 4, as presented in this working document, were reviewed and cleared efficiently by the TSC and MC for submission to the Commission for endorsement. This was not the case with Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/5 “On the future of European eel management and fisheries”, which triggered substantial discussions in both committees. The MC therefore requested that background and comments on this draft resolution be provided in this working document.
 7. Draft Recommendations for review and adoption include:
 - **Recommendation EIFAAC/31/2022/1** “On the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries”

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION

8. The Commission is invited to discuss the review, clearance and adoption process for EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations and provide clarity to the Membership and Secretariat.
9. The Commission is invited to review the draft Resolutions and Recommendations and adopt them as appropriate.

Draft Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/1

EIFAAC Resolutions, Recommendations and Advisory Notes

The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC):

ACKNOWLEDGING EIFAAC's mission, which is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals.

RECALLING the general objectives and functions of the Commission, as provided in EIFAAC's [Revised Statutes](#).

ADOPTS in conformity with the provisions of Articles 1 and 6 of the Revised Statutes of EIFAAC the **RESOLUTION** that:

1. EIFAAC [shall] advise its Members and FAO on the sustainable utilization, conservation, management protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources, through the adoption of resolutions and recommendations of a non-legally binding nature and through issuance of advisory notes:
 - a) EIFAAC Resolutions [shall] encourage all stakeholders in the EIFAAC area to implement or support implementation of sub-regional, regional or international voluntary or binding instruments related to inland fisheries and aquaculture, or address other issues of common interest.
 - b) EIFAAC Recommendations [shall] promote harmonized sub-regional or regional inland fisheries conservation and management measures, inland fisheries and aquaculture development, establish regional measures, and endorse inland fisheries management plans for sub-regional or regional implementation.
 - c) EIFAAC Advisory Notes [shall] inform and provide guidance to managers, policy- and decision makers and the public on scientific advice generated by EIFAAC projects and its Members.
2. EIFAAC Projects, Working Groups and the EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee [shall] prepare draft Resolutions and Recommendations for clearance by the Management Committee and possible adoption by the Commission.
3. The Commission [shall] aim to adopt its Resolutions and Recommendations by consensus. A Resolution or Recommendation can also be adopted by the Commission through a simple majority of the votes cast by the Members present.
4. Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Commission are considered as self-standing voluntary non-binding instruments, which automatically enter into force 3 months after adoption, unless stated otherwise.
5. If an objection is made to a Resolution or Recommendation, then the objecting EIFAAC Member will be shown as additional text under the title of the applicable Resolution or Recommendation.

6. EIFAAC Projects, Working Groups and the Technical and Scientific Committee [may] prepare Advisory Notes for review and clearance by the Management Committee. EIFAAC Advisory Notes do not require adoption by the Commission and may be issued any time after clearance by the Management Committee.
7. EIFAAC Members, its Technical and Scientific Committee, Projects and Working Groups, preparing proposals for Resolutions or Recommendations for consideration and possible adoption by the Commission [shall] support consistency in the format of these through application of the guidelines on drafting EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations reproduced in the Annex.
8. EIFAAC Resolutions, Recommendations and Advisory Notes shall be circulated by the Secretariat to the EIFAAC Operational Focal Points and made available on the EIFAAC website.

Guidelines for drafting EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations

- Proposals for new EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations should be drafted in English. If translations in French (the 2nd official language of EIFAAC) or other languages are made, the translated versions should be carefully checked.
- The voluntary character of provisions that are relevant for the whole EIFAAC membership should be expressed in English by “shall”, while provisions that are relevant for some of the members only should be expressed in English by “may” followed by the verb.
- EIFAAC, at the time of the adoption of a resolution or recommendation that has a voluntary effect under the EIFAAC Statutes, should use the following formula: “EIFAAC (...) Adopts, in conformity with the provision of Articles [insert relevant article] of the Revised EIFAAC Statutes, the resolution [or recommendation] that:”
- All EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations should have an external structure based on a number, a title, a preamble and an operative part, followed, if appropriate, by annexes.
- If appropriate, EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations should include “final provisions” where the relationship with other EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations is indicated, in particular whether previous resolutions and recommendations or some of their provisions are terminated.
- Definitions in EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations should be given only where a word or an expression is used in a technical meaning or in a meaning that is different from the ordinary one. Definitions that are already defined by FAO should be defined in the same way in EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations.
- Acronyms should be put in brackets immediately after the expression that is abbreviated, where in the text it is used for the first time.
- The provisions in EIFAAC resolutions and recommendations should be called “paragraphs”; if appropriate, they should be grouped in parts and sections.
- Each sentence in a provision should enunciate a limited number of rights or obligations – preferably one – pertaining to the subjects to which the decision is addressed; exceptions should be clearly distinguished from rules.

Draft Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/2

On the Code of Conduct for Recreational Fisheries and Invasive Alien Species

The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC):

RECOGNIZING that aquatic invasive alien species (IAS) as one of the most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem service changes alongside overexploitation, pollution, habitat destruction and climate change.

ACKNOWLEDGING EIFAAC's mission, which is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals.

RECALLING the adoption of the [EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries](#) by the 25th session of EIFAC in Antalya, Turkey, in 2008, which contains a range of good practices on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of non-native species.

FURTHER RECALLING the Recommendation No. 170 (2014) of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats under the Council of Europe, adopted on 5 December 2014, on the [European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species](#).

ACKNOWLEDGING [Regulation \(EU\) no 1143/2014](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. *Official Journal of the European Union L317: 35-55.*

NOTING the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1141](#) of 13 July 2016 adopting a list of invasive alien species of Union concern pursuant to regulation (EU) no 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. *Official Journal of the European Union 59: 4–9.*

ALSO NOTING the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1263](#) of 12 July 2017 updating the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, established by implementing regulation (EU) 2016/1141 pursuant to regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. *Official Journal of the European Union L182: 37–39.*

FURTHER NOTING the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1262](#) of 25 July 2019 amending implementing regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern. *Official Journal of the European Union L199: 1–4.*

WELCOMING the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and in particular its aim to minimize, and where possible eliminate, the introduction and establishment of alien species in the EU environment.

MINDFUL of the outcomes from the Inland Fisheries Ireland/EIFAAC 1st Conference on “Freshwater Invasives – Networking for Strategy” ([FINS](#)), held in Galway, Ireland, on 9–11 April 2013, and 2nd Conference on “Freshwater Invasives – Networking for Strategy” ([FINS II](#)) held in Zagreb, Croatia on 11-14 July 2016.

TAKING IN CONSIDERATION the scientific findings of the EIFAAC Project on “[Aquatic Invasive Species in Europe](#)”.

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of Articles 6 (a) and 6 (c) of the Revised Statutes of EIFAAC the RESOLUTION that:

1. EIFAAC Members in collaboration with recreational fisheries associations and commercial fisheries organizations, [shall] encourage their data collection efforts on aquatic invasive alien species.
2. EIFAAC Members [shall] support establishment of National Monitoring Systems for Invasive Alien Species, in line with Regulation (EU) no. 1143/2014, with an emphasis on digital data collection systems that involve citizen science and apply data-poor assessment methodologies.
3. EIFAAC Members in collaboration recreational fisheries associations and commercial fisheries organizations, [shall] support an actions to reduce invasive alien fish populations, with a focus on those invasive alien fish species that are a threat to [European Red List species](#).
4. EIFAAC in collaboration with government agencies [shall] encourage implementation of Regulation (EU) no 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and Council by non-EU EIFAAC Member States.
5. EIFAAC in collaboration with government agencies [shall] monitor the application and implementation of the European Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and Invasive Alien Species every two years through an online survey.

Draft Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/3

***On the protection of vulnerable and endangered fish species from
unsustainable predation from cormorants***

The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC):

RECOGNIZING that predation from cormorants has become one of the most important direct drivers of negative population trends for European freshwater fish species alongside pollution, habitat loss, introduction of alien invasive species and their parasites, other predators, overfishing, dam construction, and climate change.

ACKNOWLEDGING EIFAAC's mission, which is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals.

ACKNOWLEDGING that EU [Council Directive 79/409/EEC](#) of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), has led to a large increase in the population of cormorants in Europe, and that this conservation success has led to increasing conflicts between fishing and aquaculture interests and cormorant protection advocates.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the EU guidance document [Great cormorant: Applying derogations under Article 9 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC](#), and the options provided to EU Member States to derogate from the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Birds Directive, where there is no other satisfactory solution.

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING EU [Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora](#) (Habitat Directive), and that despite the protection under this directive populations of several fish species are decreasing rapidly.

NOTING WITH CONCERN the drastic decline of unique populations of grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) due to excessive cormorant predation, and significant negative impact of cormorant predation on populations of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), barbel (*Barbus barbus*), nase (*Chondrostoma nasus*), vimba bream (*Vimba vimba*) and even the critically endangered North Sea houting (*Coregonus oxyrinchus*).

WELCOMING the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and in particular its aim to protect biodiversity and to restore freshwater ecosystems.

ACKNOWLEDGING the Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (ETS No. 104) ([Bern Convention](#)) of 1979, which aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats, with special attention to endangered and vulnerable species.

NOTING the efforts by various EIFAAC Members to keep the cormorant population increase under control, and the ongoing cooperation between Members in the Nordic Cormorant Group, which is an important platform to share knowledge and experiences with the management of cormorants.

TAKING IN CONSIDERATION the scientific findings of the EIFAAC Project on “*Developing Advice on Sustainable Management Actions on Cormorant Populations*”.

RECALLING the EIFAAC Advisory Note (1/2022) on the *Impact of cormorant predation on fish and fisheries in Europe*.

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of Articles 6 (a) and 6 (c) of the Revised Statutes of EIFAAC the RESOLUTION that:

1. EIFAAC Members in collaboration with recreational fisheries associations and commercial fisheries organizations, [shall] increase their data collection efforts and report local impacts of cormorant predation to the EIFAAC Project on “Developing Advice on Sustainable Management Actions on Cormorant Populations”.
2. EIFAAC Members [shall] support initiatives to monitor the effects of various management measures in order to find solutions in protecting fish species, fisheries and aquaculture against cormorants.
3. EIFAAC in collaboration with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders [shall] prepare a European-wide cormorant management plan to harmonize measures and regulations aiming to reduce the population of cormorants in Europe to a sustainable and manageable level for adoption by EIFAAC 32 in 2024.
4. EIFAAC Members are encouraged to develop national management plans that reduce cormorant predation on fish species that are protected by the Habitat Directive, Bern Convention and/or [European Red List species](#).
5. EIFAAC, in collaboration with government agencies, [shall] mobilize resources for more research on cormorant impact on fish, fisheries and aquaculture, where such is needed for management purposes.

Draft Resolution EIFAAC/31/2022/4

On Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture

The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC):

RECOGNIZING that small-scale fisheries and aquaculture play an important role in the provision of food security and healthy nutrition of the European population, rural employment and livelihoods and in the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries and aquaculture resources throughout Europe.

RECALLING the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture ([IYafa 2022](#)).

HIGHLIGHTING the IYafa 2022 vision statement, which 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”.

RECALLING ALSO the global adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([SSF Guidelines](#)), by FAO in 2014, and the continuing efforts by stakeholders to implement these guidelines, as well as the United Nations [Decade of Family Farming](#) (2019-2028).

CONCERNED about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on the economic viability of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture businesses in Europe, as the costs of essential inputs (e.g. fish feed, fuel) increased, value chains (e.g. logistics, storage, transport) are disrupted, and food price inflation affects consumers’ fish purchase decisions.

WELCOMING the crisis measures adopted under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund ([EMFAF](#)) and national level policies in EIFAAC Member States that may provide financial support to fisheries and aquaculture businesses for the additional costs and economic losses stemming from the crisis.

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of Articles 6 (a), 6 (b) and 6 (h) of the Revised Statutes of EIFAAC the RESOLUTION that:

1. EIFAAC in collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders [shall] promote IYafa 2022 celebrations and other activities at national level in EIFAAC Member States.
2. EIFAAC Members, in collaboration with other stakeholders active in inland fisheries and aquaculture, [shall] continue to encourage implementation of the SSF Guidelines throughout Europe.
3. EIFAAC Members [shall] strive to support small-scale inland fisheries and aquaculture businesses with EMFAF and national level crisis measures and funds, to facilitate business continuity and post-crisis rapid recovery of the sector.

Draft Recommendation EIFAAC/31/2022/1

On the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries

The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC):

RECOGNIZING that recreational fisheries provide a vital source of recreation, employment, food and social and economic well-being for people throughout Europe, both for present and future generations.

ACKNOWLEDGING EIFAAC's mission, which is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals.

RECALLING the adoption of the [EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries](#) by the 25th session of EIFAC in Antalya, Turkey, in 2008, and the subsequent publication, translation and dissemination throughout Europe.

RECOGNIZING that the [EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries](#) aims to establish best practice principles among nations for responsible management and fishing practices, taking into account all relevant biological, technological, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects. Whilst acknowledging that the Code has to fit alongside national legislation and regional best practice guidelines, the Code provides the minimum standards for environmentally friendly, ethically appropriate and socially acceptable recreational fishing.

MINDFUL of the 2012 [FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 13. Recreational Fisheries](#) and the developments presented and discussed at the World Recreational Fisheries Conferences.

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of Article 6 (a) of the Revised Statutes of EIFAAC the **RECOMMENDATION** that:

1. EIFAAC reiterates its commitment to the objectives of the 2008 EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries and that the EIFAAC Members [shall] continue the effective implementation of this voluntary, non-binding fisheries instrument throughout Europe.
2. EIFAAC in collaboration with government agencies and recreational fisheries associations [shall] monitor the application and implementation of the Code and its effects on recreational fisheries among its member countries every two years through an online survey.
3. EIFAAC in collaboration with government agencies and recreational fisheries associations [shall] increase efforts in data collection and assessment of recreational fisheries and fish stocks used by recreational fishing, increasing its effort in digital data collection systems and data-poor assessment methodologies.