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para la  
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Agricultura

## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES (RECOFI)

### Eighth Session

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 12–14 May 2015

### Draft recommendation on minimum reporting on aquaculture data and information

#### Executive Summary

The Commission acknowledged the importance of the timely collection, submission and sharing of accurate aquaculture statistics and other relevant aquaculture information. In view of the above the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) reviewed a draft recommendation on reporting on minimum aquaculture data and information for the RECOFI countries. The draft recommendation is presented noting that its draft text and structure is based on a similar recommendation adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on reporting of aquaculture data and information. If the recommendation is approved and adopted, it is further suggested that the aquaculture data and information collected could be submitted by the individual RECOFI members through specifically designed and dedicated templates accessible from the RAIS website.

#### The Commission is invited to:

- Endorse the importance of timely collecting and sharing updated and relevant aquaculture data and information of regional interest that enables constructive dialogues towards the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry.
- Review and discuss the draft RECOFI recommendation on minimum reporting on aquaculture data and information based on comments and inquiries, if any, received during national consultations.
- Adopt the recommendation or post-pone its adoption following further review and national consultation.

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1. Accurate and timely availability of data and information from the aquaculture industry which include production statistics, production areas and facilities, trade data on imports and exports, feed production quantities and imports, if any, etc., are important for both the private and public sectors in regulating, supporting and managing the sector. Such information enables private operators to regulate their production strategies, expand and diversify, as necessary, so to ensure competitiveness in their operations, while it allows relevant national authorities to ensure that the industry is properly regulated by enacting adequate rules and regulations as well as providing the incentives for the sector to grow sustainably.

2. At its sixth meeting (Muscat, Oman, 21–23 October 2014), the WGA accentuated the importance of the timely collection, submission and sharing of accurate aquaculture statistics and other relevant aquaculture information. It further noted that this matter had been repeatedly raised by the WGA and endorsed by the Commission. In the individual RECOFI member country actions with regards to the collection of accurate aquaculture data are ongoing. At the same time the WGA noted that the RECOFI aquaculture statistics officially submitted to FAO and globally made available through the FAO FishStat, did not adequately correspond to real national aquaculture production data.

3. In view of the general difficulties with the collection, distribution and sharing of aquaculture data and information, the WGA reviewed a draft recommendation prepared on reporting on minimum aquaculture data and information. This was also in response to the adoption by the Commission of the binding Recommendation on Minimum Data Reporting (RECOFI/6/2011/1) on capture fisheries, which had entered into effect on 1 January 2012. This recommendation was discussed and drafted by the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) at its fourth meeting (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3–5 October 2010).

4. The full draft text of the proposed recommendation on reporting RECOFI aquaculture data and information presented to the WGA appears in Appendix 1. The text and structure of the drafted recommendation is based on a similar recommendation adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on reporting of aquaculture data and information (Recommendation: GFCM/35/2011/6).

5. The WGA preliminarily reviewed the draft recommendation, but concurred that additional time would be required by the individual RECOFI member countries to evaluate the drafted text before the recommendation could be endorsed by the Commission. The WGA agreed at its sixth meeting (Muscat, Oman, 21–23 October 2014) to revise the recommendation and suggested that any amendments and approval could be discussed by the Commission at its eighth session in May 2015. It was agreed that each member would submit its comments to the relevant national authorities well in advance so that the delegates attending the eighth RECOFI session would be in a position to discuss, adopt or reject the proposed recommendation.

6. Furthermore, the WGA proposed that, in the event that the recommendation is adopted by the Commission, the collected aquaculture data and information could be submitted by the individual members through specifically designed and dedicated templates accessible from the RAIS website.

7. The RAIS would also be the tool through which the data and information submitted would be processed and made accessible to the public in an appropriate format. The WGA hence recognized that reengineering of selected RAIS web pages would be necessary along with the development of specific data and information reporting templates. The need to agree on standard terminology definitions was also noted.

8. The Commission is invited to review and discuss the importance of the draft recommendation on minimum reporting on aquaculture data and information, suggest changes if necessary, and eventually adopt it or post-pone its adoption following further review and national consultation.

## Appendix 1

**RECOFI draft recommendation**  
**on**  
**minimum reporting on aquaculture data and information**

The Regional Fisheries Commission (RECOFI),

*RECALLING* the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls for sustainable development and responsible aquaculture practices;

*RECALLING* the RECOFI's role in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in the marine areas defined in Article IV of the RECOFI Agreement;

*RECALLING* the Article III(g) of the RECOFI Agreement in which Contracting Parties agree to promote programmes for aquaculture enhancement and to regularly collect and disseminate information on aquaculture production and other data relevant to the function of the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) and as defined in the endorsed Terms of Reference of the WGA;

*CONSIDERING* the development of the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) to promote aquaculture in the Region as endorsed by RECOFI at its third Session;

*RECOGNIZING* the need of the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) to have access to reliable data to undertake its work effectively;

*RECALLING* that standards in aquaculture data collection and statistics should be established in line with guidelines set by the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics;

*NOTING* that the Regional Aquaculture Information System has been established as the aquaculture data collection scheme through which RECOFI member countries can regularly submit national data on aquaculture;

*NOTING* that RECOFI endorsed that the responsibilities of the RAIS national coordinators be formally endowed with a national institution;

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1(b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of the RECOFI Agreement, the following:

1. Contracting Parties shall submit the data for all the parameters listed below on an annual basis to the RECOFI Secretariat through the RAIS website:

**PRODUCTION STATISTICS**

- CWP<sup>1</sup> Statistical Areas
- Culture environment (brackish, marine and freshwater)
- Cultured species (scientific and common name; including capture-based species)
- System of culture (extensive, semi-intensive, intensive)
- Type of culture (cages, ponds, raceways, hatchery)
- Type of product (eggs, fingerlings, market size)
- Capture-based aquaculture input (eggs, wild fingerlings, wild fish)

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<sup>1</sup> See *The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics: Its Origin, Role and Structure*. FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 193. December 1995.

- Production quantity (tonnes/units)
- Production value (currency)

#### **PRODUCTION CENTRES**

- Unit (segment) of production (hatcheries, ongrowing farms)
- Number of production centres per unit (segment)
- Cultured species per unit (segment)
- Total volume (m<sup>3</sup>) of facilities of production centres per segment
- Destination of product per segment (consumption, ongrowing, restocking, ornamental)

#### **MARKET**

- Feed, fishmeal and fish oil:
    - Domestic production (tonnes)
    - Feed prices for major farmed species (per tonne)
    - Domestic prices (per tonne)
  - Trade and consumption:
    - Import and export of aquatic products (weight and value)
    - Import and export of major farmed species (weight and value)
    - Main export destination for farmed species
    - National per capita consumption of aquatic products
2. The deadline for submissions is xx (day) xxxxx (month), with the reference year for the data submitted being the preceding year.
  3. Members shall nominate a national focal point responsible for the submission of aquaculture data.