



STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING THE REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

The coordination and function of the Network is being enhanced, and initiatives to increase RFBs/RSN visibility and to promote and advocate for fisheries and aquaculture governance through global and regional cooperation are being considered. On 28th February 2017, Dr Piero Mannini and Mr Driss Meski met at the ICCAT Headquarters in Madrid to identify actions which according to the RSN-6 and its *interim* approved rules can be taken during the intersession period. [Read the report here.](#)

Latest news - highlights

UN Ocean Conference to Support Implementation of SDG 14 - Life Below Water



THE
**OCEAN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

While fishery resources have an integral role to play in supporting the achievement of numerous goals of the 2030 Development Agenda, SDG 14, "Life Below Water" is where fishery resource issues live. Some of the key fisheries issues that will feature during the conference include making fisheries sustainable and implementing science-based management plans, combatting IUU fishing, prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies, establishing marine protected areas, providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, and much more. The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Governments of Fiji and Sweden have the co-hosting responsibilities of the Conference.

The Conference strives to bring together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14. All relevant stakeholders are encouraged to participate and contribute so that participants can share national and regional experiences.

The Conference shall be comprised of plenary meetings, partnership dialogues and a special event commemorating World Oceans Day. It will seek to identify

Contents

Latest news - Highlights

UN Ocean Conference to Support Implementation of SDG 14 – Life Below Water
FAO ready to declare 5 June the International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing
FIRMS stocks and fisheries map viewer has been published!

SSF Corner

News from our Members

APFIC - Paving the road for the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission - 76th APFIC Executive Committee
ATLAFCO - Workshop on "Improving quality and sanitary conditions of fish products for better access to regional markets", and more
CTMFM - Annual round of Technical Group meetings conducted to provide scientific basis for the sustainable management, and more
ICCAT - 20th Special Meeting of ICCAT, and more
NAFO - Amendments to the NAFO Convention came into force on 18 May 2017
NAMMCO - 25 years of sustainable management, and more
NPAFC - Internship program
OSPESCA - SICA countries are preparing for the implementation of the Port State Agreement, and more
RECOFI - Fisheries Management Working Group held in Doha in December 2016, and more
SEAFDEC - launched e-ACDS in Brunei Darussalam
SEAFO - New Executive Secretary
SIOFA - Developments in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 by building on existing partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14.

Conference outputs will include:

- The Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise and focused declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14
- The Conference shall produce a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues.
- The Conference shall produce a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference.
- The Conference outputs will contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future.

FAO ready to declare June 5 the International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing

In the lead-up to the Ocean Conference (June 2017, New York), much attention is being paid to Goal 14 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Oceans. Although this goal calls for strong action on numerous fronts, Target 14.4 is particularly ambitious, calling on the international community to "*effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*" by 2020. Reaching this target, however, requires mobilizing enormous effort, not only by engaging policy-makers and practitioners, but also by raising awareness among the general public. Indeed, the pernicious effects of IUU fishing activities are felt in numerous spheres and therefore must be targeted on numerous fronts. For example, the economic and biological impacts of IUU activity are significant; it is estimated that IUU fishing activity removes between 11-26 million tonnes of fish from the sea each year, equivalent to an estimated value of US\$10-23 billion. IUU fishing therefore puts pressure on stocks, drives down prices for legitimate fishers and threatens livelihoods. However, the issue of IUU fishing is also linked with bigger issues, beyond just fisheries and the marine environment; IUU touches on questions of decent work and is often linked to criminal activity, such as drug smuggling, forced labour or human trafficking. To tackle this issue, policies and enforcement must be enhanced and pressure must be applied to throughout the value chain in order to increase accountability.

Recognizing the extensive efforts that are needed to combat IUU fishing activities, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the FAO, at its thirty-ninth session in 2015, proposed launching an initiative within FAO to declare an "International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing" (ID-IUU). GFCM Members, including major fishing market countries such as the EU and Japan, noted that such an initiative would mobilize the necessary support, at the necessary global scale, in order to make an impact. The proposal has since been endorsed, with unanimous support, by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its thirty-second session (July 2016), and by the FAO Council at its one-hundred and fifty-fifth session in December 2016. The proposal will be submitted to the fortieth session of the FAO Conference in July 2017. If adopted as a resolution by the FAO Conference, it is expected that the UN Secretary-General will add this initiative to the official UN calendar of

SSF CORNER

It is estimated that the small-scale fisheries subsector accounts for more than 90% of the full-time or part-time workers directly depended on commercial capture fisheries value chains for their livelihoods. Almost half of these are women. Small-scale fisheries actors therefore are crucial in the sustainable use of the oceans and inland waters for sustainable development.

Regional organizations are playing a key role in this process. Many are supporting their Members to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries.

See what is being done by RFBs on SSF, visit the dedicated corner!

New video on SSF

[Explaining the SSF Guidelines](#)



[The SSF Guidelines also available in](#)
Tamil Bangla Bahasa Burmese
Singhalese Thai Chinese Burmese
Arabic Bengali Teguulu Hindi
Indonesian Tamil Oriya Russian
French Spanish



international days and observances. The UN already showed early support to the initiative last year when welcoming the decision of COFI to endorse the declaration of the ID-IUU in the context of its annual resolution on sustainable fisheries (UNGA Resolution 71/123).

If all goes as planned, the ID-IUU will be inserted in the official UN calendar of international days and observances by the end of 2017 and celebrated for the first time on 5 June 2018. The choice of 5 June for this international day is symbolic, as it is the date in which the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) entered into force. Indeed, it is right to link these two initiatives, as the FAO PSMA is the first international treaty to target IUU fishing and, as such, it represents an important tool in combatting IUU fishing activities.

Widespread support will be needed to ensure this initiative comes to fruition, but even more important will be widespread engagement in celebrating this international day. Following UN practice, it is crucial that all relevant stakeholders get involved in order for this initiative to have broader reach and exposure to the wider public. Efforts have already begun within FAO to build support. Certainly, Regional Fishery Bodies are expected to have a leading role in driving this initiative and ensuring best practices are disseminated. They are therefore invited to step up our efforts and play their part.

FIRMS stocks and fisheries map viewer has been published!

The FIRMS Secretariat is pleased to inform you that the new application FIRMS stocks and fisheries map viewer has been published [here](#).

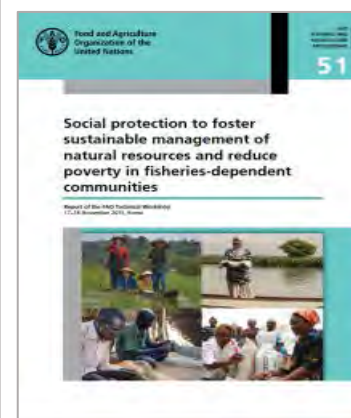
Users can access required information on marine resources and fisheries through a global map, browsing icons by area. Stock status and fishing activities information, as well as links to source fact sheets, are provided in pop-ups. In addition, a free text search tool enables quick access to FIRMS data with export facilities. The viewer can be also embedded in partners' websites with focus on selected areas of competence.



This new web product has been developed in the context of the on-going renewal of the FIRMS website which is expected to better serve users by facilitating the perusal of stocks and fisheries inventories of the FIRMS partners. With regular data updates by FIRMS partners, new information is always available for your next visit!

Publications on SSF

[Social protection in SSF](#)



[Gender in SSF](#)



[Human Rights-based approach in SSF](#)



STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING THE REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

Report of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network - Planning Meeting

Background

Following a consultation between the Chair and the Secretary, it was deemed necessary to organize a meeting to discuss how to improve the coordination and the functioning of the Network. On 28th February 2017, Dr Piero Mannini and Mr Driss Meski met at the ICCAT Headquarters in Madrid to identify actions to be taken during the intersession period.

Main outcome and follow-up

The discussion was structured along a number of items previously identified in the tentative agenda of the meeting.

The revision of the current web pages related to RFBs and RSN hosted by FAO is a priority and highly instrumental to convey essential information to the wider public on the role of RFBs/RFMOs in modern fisheries and aquaculture governance. The revision of the web pages will take into account as much as possible the findings obtained through two on-line surveys addressed to RFB secretariats, COFI Members and key stakeholders. The RSN Chairperson would like to closely follow this activity and a meeting with FIAS (FAO) could be purposely held in the future.

The RSN networking communication and information flow, through its newsletter and dedicated website, is becoming very instrumental and a useful vehicle through which the RSN makes information available to all RFBs, partners, stakeholders and general public. The current four-monthly issue of the newsletter is however demanding, particularly in consideration of the limited resources available. Also, there is a critical need to balance between the communication and visibility needs of RFBs that produce their own newsletter and those that do not have one. This will have to be taken into account for the revised web design as some of the functions of the newsletter could be included in the website structure.

A key role of RSN would be to ensure that timely information on international events and meetings, including those within the UN framework, is circulated appropriately; this is critical among the members and the ultimate scope would be to ensure the effective and appropriate participation of RFBs. The RSN Chair should also be available to guarantee his/her attendance at some important meetings and possibly to participate in side events that could eventually be organized, representing not only ICCAT but particularly RSN.

The meeting considered the RSN role with reference to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets ("Seoul Outcome"). The Seoul Outcome can be regarded as a milestone in the relation between regional fishery bodies/agreements (RFB/As) and regional sea programmes /organizations (RSOs) that could pave the way to enhanced and effective cooperation between regional organizations. Importantly the Seoul Outcome makes clear reference to the respective mandate and complementary role of RFBs and RSOs. FAO has a primary role to play in partnership with UNEP and CBD. RSN can have a key-role to establish good practices and pilot experiences that will be shared with the rest of the world. This could constitute a significant progress for the regional and global governance of oceans, RSN could act as an effective vehicle to convey information and involve the RFBs community in the process and related practices.

Other publications

SEAFDEC - Flowchart of e-ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for ASEAN Member States



RAF - [Étude de cadrage sur le commerce des produits agro-sylvo-pastoraux et halieutiques](#)



[Linking trade and food and nutrition security in Indian Ocean Commission member States](#)



Promotion of cooperation among RFBs is among the scope of RSN. Reference was made to the existing cooperation in cases between some RFBs and it was believed that more possibilities should be explored and encouraged.

One of the main constraints of RSN is the inherent inability, due to lack of funds, to hold intersessional meetings and activities between COFI sessions. The 1st Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and 1st Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (Oslo, Norway, 29 May - 2 June 2017) could constitute a good opportunity to hold an intersessional RSN meeting. Participation of RFMOs is expected at the aforementioned meeting given their relevance and role in this topic; consequently the RSN Chair would like to take the opportunity to hold informal intersessional meetings to review the follow-up to RSN-6 and COFI-32 and, particularly, to coordinate among RFMOs action in support of PSMA implementation at the regional scale. The provisional agenda for the RSN intersession meeting would include, inter alia: Outcomes from the PSMA meeting and considerations on their link with RFMOs mandate and activities; RSN general issues - presentation of work in progress - discussion and recommendations; Regional Seas Conventions and RFBs.

SSF corner

Countries have recognized the relevance of small-scale fisheries and in 2014, after a participatory consultation process, the Members of the FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsed a new internationally negotiated and agreed instrument dedicated specifically to small-scale fisheries that complements the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

These [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (SSF Guidelines) set out principles and guidance for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development. In addition, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG target 14.b - *Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*, provide global momentum for action in support of small-scale fisheries.



© FAO

[Integrating the SSF Guidelines into regional frameworks to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries](#)

Africa

NEPAD-AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa includes among the expected outcomes that the provisions of the SSF Guidelines are widely applied across Member States

CECAF has developed new [Terms of Reference for its Artisanal Fisheries Working Group](#)

Central América

[OSPESCA Política de Integración de la Pesca y la Acuicultura 2005-2015](#) refers to the SSF Guidelines

Central Asia/Caucasus

[CACfish](#) is conducting a survey on small-scale fisheries which among other collects recommendations for practical implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Key role of Regional Fishery Organizations in the SSF implementation

GFCM preparatory work towards the first meeting of the WGSSF and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

The mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, recently endorsed by the GFCM at its fortieth session, sets forth an ambitious target (Target 2) to support livelihoods for coastal communities in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries through sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF). To support implementation of this target, and with a view to also ensure the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the regional level in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the mid-term strategy sets in motion a series of activities to jump start these efforts.

Of strategic importance, the mid-term strategy establishes a permanent GFCM Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational Fisheries (WGSSF), the first meeting of which will be held in September 2017. This working group will serve as a forum to discuss progress made on activities in support of small-scale fisheries, to receive feedback from member countries and other stakeholders, including representative of SSF organizations, and to promote synergies between the GFCM's work on SSF and the work of partner organizations in the region.

Specific activities being launched in the lead-up to the first meeting of the WGSSF include a comprehensive socio-economic survey of all fleet segments (including SSF) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, an assessment of the region's recreational fisheries and efforts to promote the integration of small-scale fishers into decision-making processes through the promotion of SSF organizations. In support of this last activity, a questionnaire has been circulated to all member countries in order to take inventory of existing SSF organizations in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and to identify mechanisms already in place that facilitate participatory processes. An analysis of best practices will then be carried out with a view to developing a roadmap for reinforcing and replicating these practices at the regional level. The WGSSF will therefore serve as a first milestone in the implementation of these activities, providing an opportunity to take stock of what has been done and incorporate feedback into subsequent work.

SEAFDEC-Sweden Project is promoting the development of an ASEAN regional approach to the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for small-scale fisheries

Small-scale fisheries dominates fisheries throughout Southeast Asia providing livelihood and income opportunities for rural and coastal communities. It is natural that the development and adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) has been viewed with great interest among ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries. The starting point for increased attention being given to the SSF Guidelines and efforts needed to support the implementation was the "South East Asia Regional Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation" organized by Indonesia in cooperation with FAO and held in Bali, Indonesia on 24-27 August 2015. The event triggered a sequence of consultations and meetings to further shed light on the SSF Guidelines with FAO, the Sustainable Development Foundation, Too Big To Ignore and SEAFDEC (Program Committee and ASEAN-SEAFDEC fisheries representatives from government and civil societies of the region).

The SEAFDEC Council in April 2016 stated that considerations should be given to the recommendations of the Bali 2015 workshop and that SEAFDEC should continue its work based on the results of the Bali Workshop rather than putting its effort in developing another regional policy framework. The Council also noted that implementation must have a national focus in that although a regional framework could be developed at the regional level, the implementation of regional frameworks could be different from country to country, e.g. focusing on market, small subsidy, etc. This is also reflected in the SSF Guidelines in that it is emphasized that implementation has to build upon and be implemented within the framework of national laws and regulations.

Following their discussions, the Council requested SEAFDEC to develop a "regional approach" for the implementation of SSG Guidelines. In this connection, the Council supported the conduct of a regional consultation in relation to SSF Guidelines implementation in the ASEAN Region. With support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project the "Regional Technical Consultation on Development of Regional Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Southeast Asian Region" was successfully organized in June 2016, in Bangkok. During the Consultation, the participants in

consultation with FAO and others could agree on the formulation of the first framework for a regional approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

In the course of consultations, it has been highlighted that the framework of the SSF Guidelines contains a number of concepts, such as a “human rights-based approach” (HRBA) and “gender-equitable small-scale fisheries” that would benefit from being further explained and defined to demonstrate the ways in which to incorporate and build upon those approaches to successfully implement the SSF Guidelines in the ASEAN region. In this context the timeliness and usefulness of the FAO Workshop on exploring the human rights-based approach in the context of implementation and monitoring of the SSF Guidelines (Oct 2016, FAO, Rome) and the FAO Expert Workshop on gender-equitable small-scale fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines (Nov 2016, FAO, Rome) should be recognized and SEAFDEC, through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project will use the outcome of these events to further advance the regional approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This was also recognized by the FCG/ASSP in November 2016 that took note of the results from the Regional Technical Consultation on Development of Regional Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Southeast Asian Region organized in June 2016, which together with results from subsequent participation of SEAFDEC in the two very relevant (FAO) events would pave the way towards the development of regional approach to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region.

The need to provide further clarification on basic concepts and principles of the SSF Guidelines was emphasized by the SEAFDEC Council in April 2017 in that “while noting that FAO has recently been placing much focus on the inclusion of issues on human rights-based and gender approaches in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the details on human rights-based and gender approaches still remain unclear, thus it is necessary that the region should also focus on the specific issues on human-rights”.

In the steps ahead during 2017 to continue to further develop the regional approach in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project will take note of the concerns raised by the SEAFDEC Council in that the details on human rights-based and gender approaches still remain unclear and those basic elements should be clarified. SEAFDEC will in May 2017 call for a small meeting with FAO, SDF (organizer of Mekong SSF Meeting in 2016), TBTI (if in the region) and fisheries representatives (government and civil society) from selected countries to develop a road map for the development and implementation of the regional approach in support of the SSF Guidelines – this road map would need to clearly identify the way to address, explain and incorporate human rights-based and gender approaches to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to the region. In parallel, include references to the recommendations on the regional approach to the SSF Guidelines, including gender equity and the HRBA with regards to small-scale fisheries at sub-regional and bilateral events with an aim to seek sub-regional and bilateral understanding in support of sustained small-scale fisheries (and related activities).

Key points from the SSF Guidelines, the “FAO tenure guidelines” and the outcomes and recommendations from the SSF Bali Meeting (2015), the SSF Mekong Meeting (2016) and the SSF SEAFDEC (June 2016) Meeting, including results and recommendations from the FAO Expert Meeting on taking a HRBA to securing small-scale fisheries (Rome Oct 2016 - see below) and the FAO Expert Meeting on the importance of securing “gender equity” as basis to sustain small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication (Rome Nov 2016 – see below) would be review/synthesized to provide a basis for the process to further clarify basic concepts of the SSF Guidelines.

In the second half of 2017 SEAFDEC (SEAFDEC-Sweden Project) with FAO and others partners will prepare for a larger regional stakeholder consultation with the main objective of clarifying basic elements, such as HBRA and gender approaches, in the SSF Guidelines as requested by the SEAFDEC Council and to ensure a larger uptake of the regional approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

ATLAFCO-Workshop on “The contribution of Structured Landing Points to realize the artisanal fisheries full potential”

The workshop was held from 4 to 7 April 2017 in Tangier (Morocco), with the participation of the following delegates of Member States, FAO/GFCM, AU/IBAR, FCWC, COREP; representatives of the civil society (WADAF, CAOPA and RAFEP) as well as the Fisheries Agency of Japan and the Moroccan International Co-operation Agency (AMCI).

The workshop confirmed the importance of the artisanal fisheries in the States of the region socio-economic field, particularly in terms of contribution to GDP, job creation, poverty alleviation and population food security;

recognized the essential role of the landing infrastructures in the working conditions improvement, the fisheries management, the fisheries products valorization, the strengthening of fish trade, the actors professionalization and the formalization of the connected activities; raised the relevance of South-South cooperation in favor of the development of the artisanal fishing; and agreed on the essential role of the fisheries organizations cooperation (AU-IBAR, ATLAFCO, SRFC, FCWC and COREP) in the artisanal fisheries promotion, in Africa.

The workshop recommendations included:

- Develop a regional artisanal fisheries strategy taking into account the principles and recommendations advocated in the relevant international instruments;
- List the landing infrastructures in the artisanal fisheries development national strategies implementation;
- Increase the investments for the infrastructures realization and the new artisanal fisheries;
- Associate all non-State actors concerned, particularly professional organizations and women in the process of landing infrastructures realization (*from the definition of needs to the completion of the project*);
- Promote and facilitate the transfer of the infrastructures landing management to the professional organizations;
- Strengthen the managerial capacity and advocacy of the artisanal fisheries sector women and professional organizations ;
- Give priority to South-South cooperation (bilateral and regional) in the regional management of shared fisheries resources and the ecosystems in the artisanal fisheries in general and in the achievement of the host structures of this segment;
- Promote the exchange of experts, the sharing of information and the transfer of technology and know-how in the design and implementation of the artisanal fisheries products landing infrastructures, to the level of African States;
- Facilitate the mobilization, coordination and the intervention of the artisanal fisheries development partners, including for the landing infrastructures realization;
- Support the Member States in the requests and projects formulation, the search for partners and financing of the artisanal fisheries activities support;
- Identify a mechanism in order to strengthen the cooperation between the different institutions operating for fisheries cooperation in the region, particularly between the AU-IBAR, ATLAFCO, SRFC, FCWC and COREP, including the landing points and the dissemination of the artisanal fisheries good practices.



© ATLAFCO

OSPESCA countries promote the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

The Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) and the Confederation of Artisanal Fisherfolk of Central America (CONFEPESCA), supported by their partners and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), established a strategic synergy to carry out the "Mesoamerican Workshop on the new guidelines for small-scale fisheries", as the first regional event to disseminate the SSF Guidelines in Nicaragua, 14 and 15 June 2016.

The workshop brought together small-scale fisherfolk leaders from OSPESCA's countries and Mexico, where they shared the concepts and scope of the SSF Guidelines, as well as the identification of actions related to the diffusion, planning for the implementation, governance, social development, employment, gender, disaster risks and climate change, among others.

The workshop provided recommendations for the operation of the Intersectoral Working Group established by the SICA/OSPESCA' Committee of Vice Ministers, with the participation of CONFEPESCA, FAO and a representative from the fisheries authorities which are part of the Organization.



© OSPESCA

News from our Members

APFIC

Paving the road for the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission - 76th APFIC Executive Committee



© FAO/W. Miao

One of the longest established regional fishery bodies, the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) convened its Seventy-sixth Executive Committee in Manila, Philippines from 21-23 February 2017. The ExCo was hosted by Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Government of the Philippines, and discussed:

APFIC's extensive inter-sessional activities supporting aquaculture and fisheries with partners.

- Advances in monitoring of trends including:
 - Regional overview of the status and trends of aquaculture and fisheries

-Reporting on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Monitoring of IUU fishing
 -Monitoring the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)

- Supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines
- APFIC – FAO actions to support member countries combat IUU and implement the FAO PSMA
- Fisheries management and promotion of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Building resilience to climate change; and
- FAO Asia and the Pacific's regional initiative for Blue Growth

The Session also discussed and approved APFIC's 2017-2018 work-plan including:

- ❖ The 7th Regional Consultative Forum Meeting “Sustainable development for Blue Growth of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific”, General Santos, Philippines, May 2018
- ❖ The 35th Session of APFIC, General Santos, Philippines, May 2018
- ❖ A Regional Consultation on responsible production and use of feeds and feed ingredients for sustainable growth of aquaculture, Bangkok, March 2017
- ❖ A Regional consultative workshop on climate resilience of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, 2018
- ❖ A Regional consultation on supporting implementation of PSMA in Asia-Pacific, Bangkok 2017
- ❖ A Regional consultation on the role of Information Communications Technology for sustainable SSF, Bangkok, 2018

The Session also underscored the need to highlight APFIC’s work at the up-coming FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) and endorsed a road map to develop a new APFIC strategy for 2018-2023.

The Executive Committee participants from Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam and FAO enjoyed the warm welcome (Mabuhay!) and sharing of Filipino culture by the host country. Salamat to BFAR!

Read more information at the APFIC [website](#)

ATLAFCO

Improving quality and sanitary conditions of fish products for better access to regional markets

A workshop for the benefit of the members of the Network of African Women operating in fisheries (RAFEP) was held in Agadir on 17-18 February 2017, in collaboration with the Women Fisheries Forum (WFF) and had as objective contributing to the technical knowledge of artisanal processing of fishery products improvement by theoretical presentations and practical sessions.



© ATLAFCO

Workshop on “Aquaculture in ATLAFCO Zone: a potential in search of valorization”



© ATLAFCO

The workshop was held from 13 to 15 April 2017 in M'diq (Morocco) with the participation of the Member States, FAO, AU/IBAR, FCWC, COREP and SRFC. Presentations and discussions enabled the meeting to become aware of the Guidelines proposed to international levels, continental and regional level for a responsible and sustainable aquaculture

development; its role and its importance in the economic development but also in the food and nutritional security; risks associated with unsupervised aquaculture; different types and levels of aquaculture development in Member States; constraints and hurdles preventing the development of this sector in the region; need for strong synergy

between the private sector and the administrations responsible for managing the aquaculture sector and for small and medium-sized enterprises in aquaculture to benefit from assistance and public coaching.

The workshop recommended:

➤At the national level

- A governmental action promoting the development of this sector by establishing a coherent, clear, concerted and shared policy, fixed objectives and specific means to achieve it ;
- The inclusion of the sectoral policy in the framework of global approaches to sustainable and responsible development and the blue growth initiative ;
- The setup of a coherent and relevant legal and regulatory framework, protective and incentive for the sector investments ;
- The establishment of an appropriate financial support in the form of, inter alia, investment aid, tax exemption and subsidized insurance schemes ;
- The formulation of a commercial strategy based on the development of value chains and aimed at promoting the sector and its products, with priority targeting the local and sub-regional market in order to stabilize a minimum demand ;
- The implementation of a comprehensive set of standards and controls to ensure health quality and marketing standards of aquaculture products ;

➤At the regional level

- The application of the aquaculture development continental strategy, through actions at the regional level, facilitating the pooling of resources such as research centers, food production, capacity building, among others;
- Amplification of South-South strategic cooperation dedicated to the aquaculture development, through the exchange of experts, information sharing, transfer of technology and know-how, and technical and commercial exchanges, at the African states level ;
- Encouragement of synergies and complementarities among the different institutions involved in fisheries cooperation at the sub-regional, regional or continental levels, particularly between AU-IBAR, ATLAFCO, SRFC, FCWC and COREP.

3rd Coordination meeting between the institutions and regional fisheries organizations operating in ATLAFCO area



© ATLAFCO

In application of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 22 February 2015, the 3rd Meeting of coordination between the institutions and regional fisheries organizations operating in ATLAFCO area was held on 18 February 2017, in Agadir (Morocco) in the margins of the 4th edition of the salon Halieutis. The main objectives of this meeting were: (i) the assessment of the status of cooperation between partnering institutions, (ii) the exchange of information on the priorities displayed at international, regional and sub-

regional, (iii) and the adoption of a join program which reflects the priorities identified at the regional level.

Institutions represented at the meeting included the Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the Committee for Fisheries for the Central West of the Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Intergovernmental Organization for Information and Cooperation for Fishery Products Marketing in Africa (INFOPÊCHE), the Network on Fishing Policies in Africa (REPAO), the West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (WADAF), the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resource (AU-IBAR), the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) chairing the Bureau of the African Platform of regional institutions of fisheries, aquaculture and management of aquatic systems.

The meeting recommended

1. Strengthen regional integration through strategic cooperation, synergies and complementarities in programs at sub-regional and regional levels
2. Strengthen the roles of RFOs, key players in fisheries policies at the level of the Regional Economic Organizations
3. Strengthen regional coordination and collaboration capacities

For more information visit the ATLAFCO [website](#)

CTMFM

Annual round of Technical Group meetings conducted to provide scientific basis for the sustainable management

The CTMFM has completed its annual round of Technical Group meetings conducted to provide scientific basis for the sustainable management of the main fishery resources of the Argentine- Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone. Management measures established by the CTMFM include TAC's and seasonal closures to protect the spawning or nursery grounds of hake, whitemouth croaker, sharks, rays, among others. Resolutions are available [here](#)

The CTMFM website is being restructured to include fact sheets of the most important fishery resources of the Common Fishing Zone that will include the results of the annual assessments and related management measures.

Coming soon:

The CTMFM convenes interested marine scientists, technicians, students, managers and stakeholders, for the 18th CTMFM Scientific Symposium to be held in Tigre (Argentina) on November 21-23, 2017.

The 18th Symposium will open with a special Theme Session in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Commission. The programme for the 2nd and 3rd day is expected to include presentations in relation to the fishery resources and marine environment of the region, as well as relevant methodological issues. A poster session will be held on Tuesday 21.



ICCAT

20th Special Meeting of ICCAT

The 20th Special Meeting of the Commission was held in Vilamoura, Portugal, between 14 and 21 November 2016. During the meeting significant progress was made, including the approval of 24 new management and conservation measures regarding tuna and tuna-like species, available [here](#).

The Commission was provided with the report of the Second Performance Evaluation of ICCAT. The independent panel congratulated ICCAT for making significant progress since the first review, particularly as it had adopted appropriate measures to strengthen and improve management of the species under its competency. The Report is available [here](#)

The Commission also agreed on the Terms of Reference for staffing the new Executive Secretary of ICCAT. The vacancy announcement has been circulated and the deadline for applications was 1st April 2017 and the final selection of the new Executive Secretary will be completed at the forthcoming ICCAT Commission meeting in November 2017.

[Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management \(Rome, 12-14 December 2016\) and The Regional Seabird Bycatch Pre-Assessment Workshop \(South Africa, 23 February – 1 March 2017\)](#)

These two meetings were supported by the Common Oceans ABNJ Project implemented by FAO and funded by the GEF. Both meetings were well attended and addressed crucial issues of importance to Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management as well as by-catch quantification, mitigation and evaluation.

[Kobe MSE Working Group Kick off Meeting](#)

Within the framework of the Kobe process, the Joint Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Technical Working Group was created during the Third Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in 2011 to support the implementation of the Precautionary Approach for tuna fisheries management. The ICCAT secretariat was selected by the Kobe Steering Committee to coordinate this working group. The group has previously reviewed the Kobe Advice Framework and how the adoption of MSE would change the way that risk and uncertainty is communicated.

The group met in Madrid Nov 1-3 - 2016. The objectives of the meeting were to: (i) Review current MSE practice, successes, failures and potential areas for collaboration, (ii) Discuss progress on MSE and (iii) Identify future actions focusing on areas for collaboration. The workshop was organised around five themes: namely 1) The MSE process and stakeholder dialogue, 2) Conditioning operating models, 3) Albacore case study currently underway across tRFMO's, 4) Computational aspects and 5) Dissemination of results. Read the report [here](#).

[Tuna Compliance Network Workshop](#)

A Tuna Compliance Network Workshop (27-31 March 2017) was organised by the IMCS network with the assistance of the FAO through the ABNJ. The first part of the Workshop was held in Vigo; the ICCAT Secretariat hosted the second half of the workshop. Officers responsible for compliance from the Secretariats of the five tuna RFMO met in Vigo, Spain to exchange information, experience and expertise among worldwide professionals on compliance, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and related issues in tuna fisheries.

The core members of the network (tRFMO officers responsible for compliance at the five Secretariats) also met at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid, Spain, to define the operation of the network and to discuss experiences in data management and related issues. The ICCAT Secretariat participated in both sections of the workshop giving presentations on an overview of ICCAT compliance procedures, VMS management and the electronic Catch Documentation Scheme.

[1st joint tuna RFMO FAD Working Group meeting](#)

FAD management is an issue of common interest to tuna fisheries and is becoming increasingly important for the tropical tuna fisheries in general. As a response, some tuna RFMOs have created specific FAD Working Groups, which are promoting to address issues related to tuna FAD fishing. During 2016, within the framework of the Kobe process, the tuna-RFMO Secretariats held discussions regarding the possibility of holding a joint tuna RFMO meeting on FAD fishing issues as recommended by the Kobe Steering Committee. An agreement was achieved between ICCAT, IOTC and IATTC and the 1st joint tuna RFMO FAD Working Group meeting was held in Madrid, Spain, 19 - 21 April 2017. The meeting was an opportunity to conduct a cross-cutting exercise between all stakeholders, covered a wide range of topics related to tuna FAD fisheries and promoted discussions regarding tuna FAD fisheries management among the three t-RFMOs. An agreement was reached on key areas for future action for the joint t-RFMO FAD WG. The Chair's meeting report will be available [here](#).

[Large Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme](#)

In 2016 ICCAT officially began tagging tunas under its recently launched Atlantic Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). Work began around the Azores Islands in late June 2016, with tagging taking place in the Mauritania-Senegal region between early July 2016 and late August 2016. Tagging activities have subsequently spread to all corners of the Atlantic Ocean with South America, the Caribbean, North America, and Southern Africa added to the initial region off the West Coast of Africa. To date more than 40 000 tropical tunas have been tagged with over 5000 recoveries.

Lastly, to date, ICCAT has held four meetings of the various working groups of its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). It is planned to have an additional eight SCRS meetings throughout the course of the year (including species group, sub-committee and SCRS plenary meetings). 2017 is indeed a very busy year for the ICCAT secretariat!

Additional information is available [here](#).

NAFO

Amendments to the NAFO Convention to come into force on 18 May 2017

Significant amendments to the Convention establishing the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), that were agreed in 2007, will finally come into force on 18 May 2017.

These amendments are intended to modernize NAFO, in particular by incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. This approach includes safeguarding the marine environment, conserving marine biodiversity and minimizing the risk of long term adverse effects of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem. The amendments will also streamline NAFO's decision-making process, strengthen the obligations of Contracting Parties, Flag States and Port States, and institute a formal dispute settlement mechanism.

In practice, many of the obligations arising from these 2007 amendments have already been applied provisionally, allowing NAFO, for instance, to put in measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems. The full implications of the coming-into-force of these amendments will be discussed at NAFO's next Annual Meeting scheduled 18 – 22 September 2017 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

For more information, visit the [website](#)

For those interested in attending the NAFO Annual Meeting, 18- 22 September 2017, in Montreal, Quebec, the contact email is: info@nafo.int

NAMMCO

25 years of sustainable management

The Council meeting of NAMMCO in Nuuk, Greenland 5 - 6 April 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of the organisation. The Parties agreed on a common Declaration ([Nuuk Declaration](#)) reaffirming their will in ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of marine mammals and therefore their commitment to enhance their cooperation regarding marine mammal research, conservation, and management and the improvement of hunting methods.

The importance of NAMMCO as a management organisation for marine mammals in the North Atlantic is confirmed by the progress accomplished during these years. The sustainable and responsible use of marine mammals has benefitted from better knowledge on marine mammal populations and their sustainable management, sound management advice that has contributed to increases in marine mammal population sizes, significant improvements in hunting methods, and the establishment of an effective observation scheme for hunting activities in member countries.



© NAMMCO

The Nuuk meeting furthermore adopted a Communication and Outreach Strategy and a 2-year communication plan, agreed to undertake a Performance Review of the organisation, launched a new [website](#), containing information on the conservation and management status of all marine mammal population, as well as matters related to marine mammals in a broader sense, agreed to advance the work on by-catch, entanglement and live strandings by establishing a Working Group dealing with these issues; and in view of the climate and environment

changes taking place, tasked the Scientific Committee to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals.

In 2017 NAMMCO will address specialist topics such as:

- 1) stock assessments of fin, humpback and common minke whales as well as narwhals and belugas
- 2) a global circumpolar review of the conservation status of beluga and narwhal stocks
- 3) a review of by-catch of marine mammals by NAMMCO countries, and
- 4) a workshop in cooperation with scientists having conducted surveys in waters adjacent to the NAMMCO survey areas in 2015-16 to gain a wider perspective on the cetaceans in the whole North Atlantic.

For more detailed information visit nammco.no!

NPAFC

Introducing the NPAFC Internship program for Early-Career Professionals

No university prepares students for employment in regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) secretariat. Ideally, candidates seeking such a job should know the basics of secretariat functioning based on international specifics of RFMO. It is of primary importance to learn and promote in the future the spirit of international cooperation, teamwork, and mutual understanding among international secretariat staff representing several member countries. Among other goals, internship programs at the RFMO secretariats are aimed at filling this gap in the traditional university education.

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) launched the internship program in 2011. In 2014, the structure of the internship program was finalised and made an annual commitment. During this time, five

NPAFC member countries' citizens completed their internship in the Commission's Headquarters in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The main objectives of the internship program are to help early-career scientists and managers gain experience and knowledge in operations of the NPAFC, and to provide an opportunity to test their interest in international governmental organizations, management, fisheries, biology, ecology, and fisheries enforcement. Meanwhile, the NPAFC Secretariat benefit from the professionals' increased experience and knowledge.

The NPAFC internship program includes a wide variety of tasks which combine both individual and team work for the benefit of the Commission. Every intern chooses, develops, and completes an individual project in the communication, administrative, or scientific fields, in consultation with his/her supervisors from the Secretariat.

Results of individual project implementation are regularly published as featured articles in the NPAFC Newsletter: "North Pacific Salmon Catches and Hatchery Releases, 1993 to 2009" by Yuka Ogata (No. 30, p. 6–9); "Redefining Subsistence Fisheries in a Changing World: Indigenous Fisheries Issues in the Russian Far East" by Yulia Simakova (No. 37, p. 20–24); "Biological Monitoring of a Key Salmon Population: Namdae River Chum Salmon" by Minhong Kang with co-authors (No. 39, p. 15–20); "Resident Orca Population Recovery: Is the Key Tied to Restoring Chinook Salmon Abundance?" by Madeline Young (No. 41, p. 10–17); "Biological Monitoring of Key Salmonid Populations: Steelhead Trout in British Columbia" by William Stanbury (No. 41, p. 18–28).

Working in the team on the signature NPAFC project gives the interns the experience of being part of something great. This is particularly true for the interns who participated in the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) project



© NPAFC. 2016 NPAFC interns: Madeline Young (left) and Bill Stanbury (right) at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

implementation. The 2016 internship program included multitask support for the IYS project: preparing a promotional poster for the sister organization's annual meeting; attending IYS-related meetings and conference calls; serving as a rapporteur at the IYS North Pacific Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting that was held in Richmond, B.C., Canada in February–March 2017. Editing of the NPAFC Technical Report No. 10 involves all available NPAFC materials on IYS scoping and planning since the initiation was originally proposed to the NPAFC in 2012. Up until the mentioned NPSC meeting, the creation of the NPAFC Technical Report No. 10 was an especially cognitive and challenging task. However, it was very well done and is now published electronically for public viewing on the [NPAFC website](#).

At the end of the internship program, each intern presents his/her work and overall learning experience to supervisors and the Secretariat staff in the form of a summary report. These presentations and reports are delivered to the Secretariat like a golden portfolio full of young colleagues' ideas and achievements. They also contain lasting memories to be cherished. The 2016 NPAFC inters contributed to this portfolio to a greater extent by creating the [Commission's page in Wikipedia](#).

Currently, the NPAFC is considering eighteen applications received from Canada, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States. Among these eighteen applicants, the NPAFC Secretariat is to select two successful candidates for the NPAFC 2017 Internship Program. Recently increasing the number of interns from one to two (with one of them focussing on the IYS-related matters) increased efficiency in our practices.

Working together in the Secretariat, interns have an opportunity to communicate, learn from one another, and support each other. In 2017, one of the previous interns continues to work on the NPAFC signature project, and the other intern plans to return to a position in a sister RFMO. The NPAFC internship program proves its ability to prepare the early-career professionals for their future successful work in an international, non-governmental or governmental organization with ties to fisheries management and environmental conservation.

To learn more, visit [this section at Commission's website](#)

OSPESCA

SICA countries are preparing for the implementation of the Port State Agreement

The Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), with the cooperation of The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), has carried out the project "Identification of Capacity Needs regarding the Implementation of the FAO Agreement on Measures of Port State to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing", known as "PESCAPUERTOS", which objective is to identify the gaps at regional level to implement the Port State Agreement.



© OSPESCA

Results of the project provide a clear picture about the regional situation and provide an appropriate basis to take concrete actions aimed to advance in the implementation of the measures stated in the agreement, avoiding the need to undertake new diagnoses.

Likewise, were recommended lines of action for the harmonization of standards to implement the PSMA Agreement in OSPESCA's governance model, strengthening institutional capacity through training of inspectors, increasing inter-agency regional cooperation, particularly on fisheries and maritime affairs, the implementation of a publicity campaign, and searching funds for the development of the identified actions.

Central American Regional Public Good: Cookies made from fish meal

The competent Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), also members of OSPESCA, have defined the recipes and procedures to elaborate sweet and salted cookies made with flour based on fisheries or aquaculture products.

Sweet and salty cookies, made with fishmeal (with a value greater than 65% protein), originated in low commercial value species of shrimp bycatch, are an important nutritious food that contains the daily protein required by children from three (3) years old. Declaring the recipes and their elaboration process as a Regional Public Property, the region has acquired an important tool to address food and nutritional security in SICA countries.

The cookies produced under the project "Development of Fishery Products to Contribute to Food and Nutrition Security", carried out thanks to the collaboration of the Regional Program for Food and Nutrition Security for Central America, Phase II (PRESANCA II), the participation of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) and the support of the European Union.



© OSPESCA

RECOFI

The RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management held in Doha in December 2016



© FAORNE

The tenth meeting of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) was held in Doha, State of Qatar from 6 to 8 December 2016.

The meeting was convened by RECOFI and FAO and attended by 11 delegates from five RECOFI member countries (Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) in addition to the FAO Secretariat and one invited expert. Participants provided updates of the current work ongoing at the national level with regards to the RECOFI priority species, and discussed data collection challenges. The WGFM reviewed the progress on the socio-economic work for RECOFI, and agreed that the socio-economic

Task Group members must be updated, as well as the information provided in the socio-economic questionnaire.

The WGFM took note that the general situation regarding the capacity of RECOFI members to report catch and effort information as defined in the Recommendation had slightly improved and acknowledged the progress that had been made regarding the integration of the current RECOFI regional data set into RAIS. The WGFM took note and considered the content and conclusions of the draft RECOFI review and noted with concern the low level of RECOFI Members attendance at intersessional meetings and workshops.

The WGFMM acknowledged the benefits of developing FIRMS Marine Resources for the RECOFI region and recommended the initiation of the process focusing on the Spanish mackerel and shrimps as priority species. The WGFMM agreed on a programme of work and budget for 2017-2018 to be submitted at the ninth session of RECOFI for consideration. The Report is available [here](#).

Also the 9th Session of the RECOFI has been held in Kuwait, Kuwait from 9 to 11 May 2017. Additional information can be found [here](#).

SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC launched e-ACDS in Brunei Darussalam

Improving the traceability of marine capture fisheries is one of the big challenges faced by countries in the Southeast Asian region as a result of more stringent requirements for effective fisheries management framework as well as for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance at national level. The development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is a regional effort of SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) toward improving traceability of marine capture fisheries and preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain.



© SEAFDEC. Flowchart of e-ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for ASEAN Member States.

To proceed with the task of ensuring the applicability of ACDS in the region, the SEAFDEC Council in 2016 agreed to pilot test the ACDS in Brunei Darussalam. Thus, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) of Thailand has been making progress in developing the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme or eACDS. Supported by the Governments of Sweden and Japan, the eACDS was designed to function as a web-based application or mobile android application on devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or computers. Although the system is mostly electronic-based, it also includes paper-type catch declaration to be applicable onboard fishing vessels in several AMSs, where electronic communications may not be available.

In developing the system, lessons learnt from similar initiatives of other agencies were mobilized, *e.g.* that of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) in monitoring and controlling fishing vessels, and in validating vessels before these depart for fishing by port authorities, as well as the several key data element modules including international standard list of species used by SwAM. Alignments were subsequently made taking into consideration the various trade requirements including the Final Rule for a U.S. Seafood Traceability Program.

On 3 April 2017, the eACDS was first launched for pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, *Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin*, during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

Results of the pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam could serve as basis for expanding the application of eACDS in other AMSs in 2018. It should be noted that the eACDS aims not only to enhance the effective fisheries management framework, but also to facilitate intra-regional and international trade, support efforts to combat IUU fishing and collect fisheries statistics at reasonable costs.

SEAFO

New Executive Secretary appointed

Dr Lizette Voges was appointed as new Executive Secretary of SEAFO from 1st February 2017, replacing Dr Ben van Zyl. She has a career history in fisheries research, fisheries observer agency and many more. Her profile is available [here](#), her email contact is: lvoges@seafo.org.

SIOFA

Developments in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) was signed in Rome the 7th July 2006 and entered into force in June 2012. Since that date 3 Meeting of the Parties and 2 Scientific Committee meetings have been achieved. To date 8 countries have ratified SIOFA and a further 5 countries are signatories.

In 2016 this new RFMO adopted 7 Conservation and Management Measures and recruited an Executive Secretary. The host country of SIOFA is France providing a home for the Secretariat in la Reunion.

The Secretariat hosted its first meeting in March of this year which was the second Scientific Meeting.

Next SIOFA meetings are the First Compliance Committee meeting 23-25 June, and the Meeting of the Parties takes place 26-30 June, both in Mauritius.



© SIOFA

The [SIOFA website](#) was recently launched.

CONTACT

For more information visit:

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rsn/en>

or contact us at:

piero.mannini@fao.org

eliana.haberkon@fao.org

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.