

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rome, 30 May–1 June 2005

SUMMARY RECORD

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Chairperson of EIFAC, Mr R. Müller, opened the Session of the Executive Committee of EIFAC on 30 May at 09:00 hours. He welcomed the new Secretary of EIFAC Mr D. Bartley and noted with regret the passing of Mr D. Calamari a former EIFAC Officer and well respected scientist of EIFAC. The agenda (Annex 1) was adopted by the Committee and the list of participants was confirmed (Annex 2).

2. PLACE AND DATE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The Twenty-fourth Session will be held in Mondsee, Austria 14–21 June, 2006 Mr A. Jagsch briefed the Committee that the Institut für Gewässerökologie, Fischereibiologie und Seenkunde will be the host and the Schloss Mondsee will be the venue.

The following timetable was proposed:

Tuesday, 13 June	Arrival
Wednesday–Saturday, 14–17 June	Symposium
Sunday, 18 June	Excursion
Monday–Wednesday, 19–21 June	EIFAC Session
Thursday, 22 June	Departure

Dates and proposed timetable were agreed. An excursion was agreed in principle, with details to be further developed by Mr A. Jagsch.

The Austrian authorities had nominated Mr A. Jagsch as Liaison Officer. A Letter of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Government of Austria will be drafted and sent to the appropriate ministry immediately following the Executive Committee meeting.

Action: R. Al Khafaji

The Committee recommended that a list of official observers be established in accordance with FAO procedures and protocol. A preliminary list is attached as Annex 3. Relevant groups within FAO, e.g. AGLW should also be informed of the Session and Symposium. In announcements concerning the Symposium and the EIFAC Session, it should be explicitly stated that these are separate events and invitations to the Symposium does not entitle people to participate in an official capacity at the Session. Unofficial observers may be present at the Session, but would not be able to make interventions.

Action: R. Welcomme / D. Bartley

3. PREPARATION FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

The ExCom discussed the EIFAC Symposium on Hydropower, Flood Control and Water Abstraction, 14–17 June, 2006. The Convener of the Symposium will be Mr R. Welcomme.

Proposals for twelve contributions have been received to date. The ExCom agreed to extend the deadline for abstracts to 15 October, 2005. Contributions should be 20 minutes in length. Written papers will be peer-reviewed and authors will be instructed to have nearly-completed papers ready for submission at the Symposium. A strict deadline of one month following the Symposium will be observed for final submission.

The ExCom decided to produce the proceeding in the form of a book and to explore several different avenues for publication. Key factors to be considered are costs, technical editing, layout and desk-top-publishing and availability of material on the internet. FAO and the EIFAC Technical Paper series, Blackwell and Springer were specifically mentioned as potential publishers. Final decision will be made through email.

Action: D. Bartley / I. Cowx / G. Marmulla

In efforts to “stimulate active interaction between diverse interests represented at the Symposium” as recommended in the [Report of the 23rd Session](#) (pg 39), the ExCom suggested that alternative structures, including evening sessions, special side events, and break out groups, for future symposia and other meetings be considered. It was recommended not to have parallel sessions.

4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2004 SYMPOSIUM ON AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT – PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS

Mr L. Varadi informed the group that the PowerPoint presentations of the Symposium have been put on CD and distributed among participants, however the selection, review, technical editing of the papers have not been completed yet. Twenty seven full papers are available for further selection, among which 16 are closely related to the main theme of the Symposium “Partnership between science and producers associations”. An Editorial Board will advise, which papers could be included in the proceedings of the Symposium. The Editorial Board consists of the chairpersons of the Symposium (Mr C. Hough, Ms S. Stead, Mr A. Wolos and Mr M. Cieřła). It has been decided that the proceedings will be edited by Mr M. New, past president of EAS, who was also involved in the program of the Symposium and Mr L. Varadi, Convener of the Symposium. Mr M. New agreed to act as co-editor, however terms of references of his work need further clarification. The Convener of the Symposium and the Technical Secretary of EIFAC Sub-commission II will finalise the TOR for the editors by the end of June. The editors then will select, review and finalise the papers with the assistance of the Editorial Board. The deadline for the compilation of the proceedings for printing is the end of November.

The papers cover wide range of issues related to interactions between the scientific and production sectors, however the papers are not typical scientific ones, therefore their publication in a special FAO publication is considered as the most appropriate option in order to reach wide circle of relevant stakeholders of European aquaculture development. While no

decisions have been made as to where to publish the proceedings and preference for publishing with FAO was expressed.

Action: L. Varadi / U. Barg

5. FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES

Mr R. Müller reported on the summarized the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) and on the June 2004 Technical Consultation that addressed International Plan of Action (IPA) on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and Fishing Capacity. The latter was attended by Ms E. Ciccotti for EIFAC. The majority of RFB were concerned with fishery management and did not serve in an exclusive advisory capacity as EIFAC does.

5.1 Regional Fishery Body Secretariats discuss important fisheries issues

The Fourth Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) Secretariats took place in Rome on 14 and 15 March 2005. Hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the meeting provided an opportunity for the chief executive officers from 29 regional fishery bodies to consider various matters high on the global fisheries agenda.

The major topics discussed addressed the critical issues of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries in inland and marine waters, and overcapacity of fishing fleets worldwide.

The Meeting agreed that the issues of poverty alleviation, food security, profit motives and lack of political will require committed action. In that context, fostering the ability of RFBs to raise their profiles in terms of education or information dissemination will be important for addressing these issues. Several participants identified a need for RFBs to improve communications with their stakeholders and with the general public. Examples were given of profitable initiatives that some RFBs had taken in this regard, and a number of practical suggestions were made as to how the RFBs profile might be raised. These include information dissemination in an accessible form, consultation, special events, transparency in our operations as far as our mandates allow, and making full use of electronic media.

The Meeting recognized that IUU fishing activities undermine the efforts of RFBs to monitor, assess and manage the world's fisheries resources, since IUU fishing raises the levels of uncertainty to be dealt with. For management purposes, further information and consideration of the costs associated with obtaining quality information will be required. Considerable resources are required to improve global understanding of IUU fishing and to reduce the attached management uncertainties. There is a strong indication that whatever solutions are offered, these need to be realistic, cost effective and long term. It was acknowledged that the problem of IUU fishing is unlikely to disappear in the near future.

With regards to overcapacity, the Meeting noted that clear linkage between fleet overcapacity and IUU fishing. Some participants described their work with respect to overcapacity, and the Meeting expressed concern about the possibility of causing problems by fixing overcapacity in one geographical are, only to transfer the problems elsewhere.

The chief executives will be reporting these conclusions to their respective organizations for appropriate action.

Special attention was drawn to paragraph which 23 and 27 of the report which highlighted the facts that IUU fishing is a significant problem in inland waters, may be significantly different from IUU in marine waters, and that there is an ongoing need to focus on the IUU fishing problems in relation to small-scale, inland and recreational fisheries. Concerning recreational fisheries, it was stated that EIFAC work could have relevance to and benefit other areas of the world.

It was noted that EIFAC has not dealt with the issue of IUU fishing. The ExCom recommended that the issue of IUU fishing be brought up at the next Session of EIFAC.

Action: R. Müller

6. REPORT OF SUB-COMMISSION I

Chairperson: T. Brenner

6.1 Joint *ad-hoc* EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eels

Convener: W. Dekker

From 22-26 November 2004, the Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eels met in Galway (Ireland), at NUIG, with Terms of Reference including to update the information on the status of the stock, derivation of appropriate rebuilding goals, and practical requirements for monitoring of the stock. The WP repeated its concern that the eel stock was outside safe biological limits and that current scientific knowledge was inadequate to derive specific and detailed management targets. Although no conclusive evidence could be compiled, anthropogenic impacts (e.g. habitat destruction, migration barriers, exploitation) have been shown to exceed reasonable limits in many places and management actions are therefore urgently needed.

The ExCom meeting took note that the problem of declining eel stock in Europe still remains unsolved but that the EU made a proposal for an eel conservation programme based *inter alia* on the recommendations of this Working Party which were:

- An international recovery plan for the European eel stock be developed for the whole stock on an urgent basis and that exploitation and other anthropogenic impacts on production/escapement of silver eels be reduced to as close to zero as possible, until such a plan is agreed upon and implemented;
- Further development of methodologies to assess stock status, set conservation and management targets, assess compliance with these targets and post-evaluate the effect of appropriate management actions is organised in a work programme in which existing research efforts are integrated and applied to test cases of water bodies for which data are readily available;
- The monitoring activities required by the Fisheries Data Collection Programme are implemented for the eel stock and fisheries immediately, and that the adequacy of the monitoring programmes is reconsidered specifically for eel;
- Under the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, eel specific extensions should be considered/evaluated.
- The desirability of restocking programmes as an additional stock protection measure is given urgent consideration, given the current extremely low recruitment of glass eels over much of their range, and the possibly limited time frame (ca. 5 years) available

for enhancement of future silver eel escapement to levels at which depensation is unlikely to occur. In this consideration, the inability to quantify the risks involved must be borne in mind.

The full report of the 2004 meeting is available at the ICES web site (<http://www.ices.dk/reports/DFC/2005/WGEEL/directory.asp>).

Following an update of the FAO data base on landings statistics in 2003, the 2003 meeting of the Working Party noted, that many problems in the data had been corrected, but also that many inconsistencies remained. In the national reports to the Working Party, special attention has been paid to the revision of landings data. Following the meeting in Galway, a small group has met in FAO headquarters in Rome, to try to integrate the different sources of information. During this meeting it was found, that the complexity and sheer number of problems involved in updating and correcting the landings statistics was such that derivation of a final set of data series was still far outside reach. A table identifying and quantifying the remaining problems was compiled, and appended to the Working Party report. Overall, less than 50 percent of the known catches is currently reported in national data series, and incomplete spatial coverage and inconsistent interpretation of reporting categories occurs. Updating and correcting data series for individual countries is referred back to the Working Group, with the specific recommendation to further this process by requesting individual countries to address the problems listed, in their national reports to the Working Party for the coming meeting.

In fall 2004, the EU has issued a call for research proposals under the 6th Framework, including an item on the restoration of the eel. A consortium lead by the Netherlands, consisting of Working Party members, has submitted a proposal to evaluate current eel modelling studies using well-documented case-studies. This proposal is fully in line with the views expressed in the last Working Party report.

In March 2005, the European Commission has organized a ‘front-loading meeting’ in Brussels, in which Member States were informed about planned restoration actions for the eel. Key elements in this discussion were: emergency measures (full closure of all eel fishing in first 15 days of each month) per 1 January 2006, obligation for national management plans (ensuring an escapement of silver eel of 40 percent in comparison to the unexploited situation with unobstructed and unpolluted waters, adequate monitoring of stock and protection measures) per 1 January 2007, glass eel re-stocking where and when natural stocks are below adequate levels. Following a discussion on glass eel re-stocking during this meeting, the Commission has asked ICES for advice in a so-called fast-track procedure, on the issue whether current glass eel recruitment suffices for re-stocking.

Further efforts of the Working Party will focus on:

1. an update of the stock overview presented in Moriarty & Dekker 1997, aiming at full spatial coverage, and improved temporal coverage;
2. consider the feasibility of the potential inclusion of spawner quality parameters in stock management advice, specifically focusing on the quantification of the impact of the effects of pollution and parasitism;
3. Supporting the compilation of national management plans.

The ExCom meeting recognized the importance of the Joint EIFAC/ICES WP for further technical advice in this matter. It expressed, however, concern that the complete lifecycle of

eel is not taken into consideration by the planned EU fishing regulation. Furthermore, the ExCom meeting recommended that the WP takes note of initiatives by other players, e.g. FEAP, and seeks collaboration.

Action: W. Dekker

6.2 Ad-hoc Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters

Convener: P. Hickley

A meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters was held on 29th of May 2004 in Wierzba, Poland, in association with the 23rd Session of EIFAC. Current membership of the group comprises 32 participants from 15 countries. Revised Terms of Reference were developed for subsequent approval by ExCom and the approved version (Annex 4) will be posted on the EIFAC website.

During the meeting, the WP was updated on the work of Mr Dehus (Germany) on the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) draft standard entitled "Water quality - Guidance on the scope and selection of fish sampling methods". This document (prEN 14962) is now in its final form and has been commented upon by various members of the WP. At a CEN meeting held on 10th of May 2005, it was recognized that there was a need for a draft standard on fish sampling using hydro-acoustics. The WP will assist in convening a workshop to develop such a standard which will be held at the River Laboratory of the Freshwater Biological Association (UK) during October 2005.

Links were maintained with the Fish-based Assessment Method for the Ecological Status of European Rivers project (FAME) by some members of the WP also being FAME partner delegates. The project started in January 2002 and was completed during November 2004. The final leaflet can be downloaded from: http://fame.boku.ac.at/downloads/FAME_Leaflet_web.pdf.

The WP made progress with an Information Note on Electric Fishing Best Practice. Work on this was expedited within the remit of the convener's host country responsibilities and the WP are grateful to Mr Peirson (UK) and Mr Beaumont (UK) for their major contributions. The draft document has been posted on the EIFAC web site: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/FISHERY/body/eifac/WGFishMon/default.asp>. It is hoped that member countries will be able to field trial the draft guidelines and provide feedback.

It has been recognized that there is a need for a short manual on recommended sampling methods for the monitoring of fish populations in fresh waters. The WP has commenced work on such a manual. Although text for some sections is still required, much is completed and it is intended to provide a consultation draft in time for the next Session. Also, to facilitate awareness and exchange of information on fish monitoring, a short bibliography of the most important web sites, standards and national sampling protocols is being produced for posting on the EIFAC web site.

Action: P. Hickley

Courtesy of Mr. Shields (UK), the WP has provided a regularly updated list of fisheries related conferences.

6.3 Ad-hoc Working Party on Introductions and Stocking

Convener: I. Cowx

Review of stocking and introductions in EIFAC countries

During the inter-sessional period a review of stocking and introductions in EIFAC countries was redrafted and will be circulated prior to the 24th Session. The review updated that produced for the European Commission. A key output of this study is a framework to update the EIFAC Guidelines on Stocking and Introductions. This work has been used as a major contribution to the EU Council regulation "Setting rules governing the use of alien species in aquaculture". In this context, aquaculture includes stocking and transfers in all water bodies.

It should be noted the EIFAC work will form the basis of several initiatives including a UK Environment Agency project on guidelines for stocking and introduction of fish and a proposed intervention by FAO to produce guidelines on stock enhancement to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The latter is being drafted and will be tested in Iran in June 2005

The Working Party was represented at the Biological Invasions in Inland Waters workshop in Florence in May 2005. Details of the session can be found on the conference web site (<http://www.dbag.unifi.it/inwat/>). The Convener of the WP presented the work of EIFAC and discussed the proposals to build risk assessment strategies into the Code of Practice.

Action: I. Cowx

6.4 Ad-hoc Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality

Convener: R. Fricke

The ExCom meeting took note that progress has been made with the preparation of a pan-European fish atlas since the 23rd Session of EIFAC.

The Convener of the Working Party, Mr. R. Fricke, has travelled to Rome in April 2005 to meet with the EIFAC Secretary *ad interim* and staff of the FAO Fisheries Department to discuss the way forward. There was general consent that the database and catalogue will be an important instrument for the documentation of the distribution of inland water fishes in European countries and an excellent opportunity for harmonizing taxonomic treatment, distribution of information, and methodologies within EIFAC member countries, using modern, internationally accepted standards. The database and the atlas will be useful in implementing important principles and standards of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and developing common standards for fish mapping in EIFAC member countries. The activity is also very important in the context of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Habitats Directive. Ways are explored in the FAO Fisheries Department on how to make the atlas available on-line.

The main objective of this activity is to develop a database on European inland water fish distribution, and to make this database available to the public as both an electronic version on the web and as a printed version. Clients/client groups for this product will include scientists working on European fishes, commercial and individual fishers, conservation officers, NGOs, etc.

When developing the database, it should be kept in mind that harmonization with various obligations deriving from the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, the EU Water Framework Directive and IUCN standards will be necessary; a link to the international fish information system FishBase should be provided.

The following database elements are required:

1. A database of European inland fish species including scientific name, family name, common synonyms, a short taxonomic characterisation, comments on habitat characterisation, the generalized former and distribution of the species, threats and conservation, and an illustration (preferably in colour).
2. A database including geographical information on a specimen/lot level for European inland water fish, including scientific name, museum acronym and catalogue number (if deposited in a collection), country, detailed locality information, geographical coordinates, depth (if adequate), habitat data, reference to identifying scientist, and date of collection (from – to).
3. Additional information on the ecological quality of European inland waters (including habitat structure) should be obtained and collected, possibly in a third database element.

The geographical area to be covered by the database/atlas includes EIFAC member countries and some of their neighbours, including all of Europe, Russia east to the Ural and the Caspian Sea, the Caucasian republics, Turkey, Mediterranean drainages of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. The seaward boundary of the inland area should be defined; a salinity of 3 ppt is suggested to define the boundary.

The defined requirements are:

1. Database: A relational database should be established as outlined above. It is intended to use Microsoft Access as a start. A draft version of the database structure has been prepared by R. Fricke.
2. Data entry: The necessary data associated to the different database components should be collected and managed in the database. The relevant data are to be acquired from scientists and existing databases in the EIFAC member states. They will be processed by the Convener.
3. Map presentation: A GIS map system should be developed and applied to make the data available through the internet and in a printed version. For each species, Mr. Fricke will prepare an overview map of the whole area, separate country maps, and separate maps of major European drainage systems. FAO will make available the appropriate maps.
4. Preparation of the printed version, which should include 1 page per species. As for the time being approximately 650 species are included in the checklist of fishes in the area, and additional pages are needed for introduction, methodology and references, a total of 730 pages is estimated for the atlas. The biggest problem being funding and staff time for editing, it is still to be decided on where and how to publish the printed version.

In the meeting with Mr R. Fricke, it was agreed that he would try to put together as soon as possible a complete data set for one country, e.g. UK or Germany, and generate maps to be used as an example for the final product to be achieved under this activity.

The ExCom encouraged Mr. Fricke to continue his work and to present his first results at the 24th Session of EIFAC. Some doubt was voiced about the usefulness of a printed version of the output of the WP but it was decided to address this again at a later stage, mentioning that partners, such as e.g. IUCN, might be interested in funding a printed version.

Action: R. Fricke / T. Brenner

6.5 Ad-hoc EIFAC/GFCM Working Group Management of Sturgeon

Convener: M. Chebanov

Following the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Working Party on Management of Sturgeon (WP), the information resulting from the questionnaire prepared by the Convener in 2004 has been analyzed, supplemented and summarized in a first instance report on sturgeon status in different basins and rivers within the EIFAC/GFCM WP regions (Mr T. Brenner offered to contact the Convener to obtain this report). In this course the linkage with the BSSMAG (Black Sea Sturgeon Management Group) and the WSCS (World Sturgeon Conservation Society) has been very productive. This work should be continued.

During the intersessional period, members of the WP were actively involved in the work of several sturgeon-related international meetings and workshops:

- in the framework of the Symposium on Sturgeon population rehabilitation and management (134th Annual Meeting of American Fisheries Society (AFS), Madison, USA, Aug, 2004) were presented:
- The Azov Sea sturgeon recovery program (Chebanov M.S.)
- The status of sturgeon rehabilitation program in Italy (Bronzi P.E. *et al.*)
- Sturgeon rehabilitation in the North and Baltic Seas (Gessner J. *et al.*)
- also in conjunction with the 134th AFS Annual Meeting, a Workshop on sturgeon staging and early sexing was organized by M.S. Chebanov
- during the 19th International Congress of Zoology (Beijing, China–August, 2004) a Symposium on Man-made Aquatic Habitats Alterations and their Effects on Sturgeon Populations was organized and conducted with participation of WP members; there was a paper presented on:
- Brood stock management to secure reproduction for stock enhancement, aquaculture and ex situ conservation (Williot P. *et al.*)

Invited members of the WP (M.S. Chebanov) along with Mr I.G. Cowx (Convener of the EIFAC WP on Introduction and Stocking) and other experts were active in preparing the Workshop on Stocking for Rehabilitation of Fisheries in the Caspian Sea (Iran, 7-10 June 2005), supported by the FAO Fisheries Department (prospectus by Mr D. Bartley and Mr H. Abdolhay). The workshop will address some innovative methods of staging and early sexing in sturgeons. It should be noted that the Caspian Sea basin is in the list of the WP regions of responsibility (TOR).

The Convener, in collaboration with other Russian members of the WP, has compiled a “Sturgeon Breeding and Rearing Handbook”. It has been published early this year (in Russian). The translation into English is in progress.

A project initiated by Mr P.S. Economidis concerning sturgeons in the river Evros (Greece) may lead to active cooperation of the WP members from four Black Sea littoral countries: Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Russia.

Action: T. Brenner / M.S. Chebanov

7. REPORT OF SUB-COMMISSION II

Chairperson: L. Varadi

Mr L. Varadi introduced meeting document EIFAC/ExCom/2005/7 on the Report of Sub-Commission II–Aquaculture. He noted the changed composition of the EIFAC officers in this Sub-Commission.

7.1 Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health

Convener: E. Hudson

The 23rd EIFAC Session in Wierzba in 2004 had recommended that the Working Party focus its activities with a view to producing best practice guidance and possibly work on fish disease transmission effects to wild populations resulting from culture-based fisheries or other practices, and on changes in fish health legislation in Europe. The ExCom noted the new Terms of Reference for this WP. The new convener of the Working Party is Mr Eric Hudson of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS, UK) is convening an inaugural meeting of this Working Party in conjunction with the Conference to be held at Hull Fisheries Institute, UK in July 2005 covering the assessment of the ecological status of rivers, lakes and transitional waters. Invitations to the Working Party meeting, a draft programme and an agenda for the meeting are being circulated. It is expected that the Convener will extend invitations for the WP meeting in Hull to FEAP, EAFP, Fish Disease Commission of OIE and the European Commission, as appropriate. Reference was made also to the ongoing EU funded DIPNET programme in which Mr E. Hudson is also participating. The meeting recommended as follow-up action that Mr E. Hudson be contacted regarding the expected participation to the WP's meeting in Hull.

Action: L. Varadi / E. Hudson / U. Barg

7.2 Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture

Convener: M. Verdegem

Mr M.Verdegem in his progress report contributed a draft outline as a basis of the planned future study on aquatic resource utilization in aquaculture (Annex 5). Currently, resource materials for the WP are being compiled by Mr M. Verdegem in collaboration with Mr L.Varadi. A paper “Water use in aquaculture” is being developed by Mr Verdegem and similar works have also been carried out in HAKI which can also be used during the future work of the Working Party. An ongoing FEAP survey, conducted in the context of the PROFET workshops, also will generate documentation and data on water use costs in aquaculture throughout a number of participating countries. The ExCom welcomed and supported the efforts made sofar, and is looking forward to the organization of an expert workshop and its outcomes in the near future.

Action: L. Varadi / M. Verdegem / U. Barg

7.3 Organic Fish Farming

Convener: V. Hilge

The ExCom noted the contributions made by Messrs V. Hilge and M. Halwart as well as Mr L. Varadi to the recent international conference on the Production and Marketing of

Organic Aquaculture Products¹, as well as Mr Varadi's contribution on Organic Carp Farming at the recent Conference of the World Aquaculture Society.

The meeting discussed the growing need for harmonization of standards which are being developed for organic fish culture, and noted that there is scope for such harmonization of organic fish farming standards at least with pond based freshwater fish farming systems. The annual conference BIOFACH in Nürnberg, Germany was considered a useful regular forum for discussion of organic fish farming standards. Possible next steps by the Working Party and his Convener might include the initiation of collaborative efforts with interested institutions and organization such as HAKI, the Research Institute of Organic Aquaculture (Switzerland), FEAP, and IFOAM - BIOFACH organizers. Reference was also made to the European Fish Fund which apparently could provide good funding opportunities in support of joint projects.

Action: L. Varadi / V. Hilge / U. Barg

7.4 Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture

Convener: L. Varadi

Marketing of freshwater products continues to be a critical issue in European aquaculture, especially in view of the enlargement of the EU. It was decided that FAO/EIFAC and the European Commission will jointly undertake efforts to organize in 2005 a Workshop on Freshwater Aquaculture Marketing. The envisaged workshop will focus primarily on rules and regulations and quality and safety aspects as they relate to national and Community legislation for freshwater aquaculture in EU 25 plus the next accession countries. The workshop is scheduled to be organized in Brussels in November 2005. Mr A.Lem (FAO/FIUI) is just finalising the TOR for the author of the report on markets for freshwater fish in Europe which should be ready in August/September and which will be discussed at the Workshop. The European Commission will cover the travel cost of some 40 workshop participants.

Action: L. Varadi / A. Lem / U. Barg

7.5 Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE)

EIFAC Sub-Commission II has been actively involved in the establishment of a Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE). The main objective of NACEE is to assist the integration of institutions in Central and Eastern European countries into the European Research Area. The operation of the Network is also expected to contribute to the better involvement of Central and Eastern European scientists and professionals in EIFAC activities. Currently the Network has 26 member institutions from 13 countries.

The First Meeting of Directors of NACEE took place in Szarvas, Hungary from 21 to 24 November 2004. The organization of the Meeting was technically, financially and logistically supported by FAO-FIRI and FAO-SEUR. The participants signed a Founding Document, formalizing the establishment of the Network. NACEE members were informed on FAO/FIRI's initiative on National Aquaculture Sector Overviews and forthcoming regional and global reviews of aquaculture development trends and were invited to contribute. It was agreed that the Second Meeting of Directors of NACEE should be organized in conjunction with the FAO/NACEE Expert Workshop for the Regional Review of Aquaculture

¹ Subasinghe, Singh and Lem, (Eds) .2005. Proceedings of Aquaculture and Sea Farming 2004, Global Technical and Trade Conference, 15-17 June 2004, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (ISBN 983-9816-31-4).

Development Trends in Central and Eastern Europe, and that both meetings would be held from 5 to 9 September 2005 in Astrakhan, Russian Federation.

The ExCom noted that the report of the Szarvas meeting was published in English and Russian as:

FAO/Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE), 2005. Report of the First Meeting of Directors of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE). Szarvas, Hungary, 21-24 November 2004. *FAO Fisheries Report* No. 774. Rome, FAO. 2005. 195p

A summary report of that meeting is published in FAO Aquaculture Newsletter 32, pages 12-14.

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5878e/Y5878e05.pdf>

The initial English version of the NACEE homepage is ready. Most probably it will be accessible from HAKI webpage, but currently it can be accessed on <http://w3.haki.hu/nacee/index.php>

Action: L. Varadi / Lengyel / U. Barg

8. REPORT ON SUB-COMMISSION III

Chairperson: A. Raat

The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr A. Raat (The Netherlands), presented the activities and achievements of the Sub-Commission since the 23rd Session of EIFAC in Wierzba (June 2004). This Sub-Commission includes three *ad hoc* Working Parties and four Liaison Groups.

8.1 Ad hoc Working Party on the Effects of Physical Modification of the Aquatic Habitat on Fish Populations

Convener: M. Zalewski

The major activities have been developed in cooperation with the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO. In 2004, appeared the publication of the proceedings of the UNESCO IHP/ EIFAC Conference in Mondsee, 26-28 November 2003, "Ecohydrology and Physical habitat Modifications in lakes", as volume 4 (4) of the Journal *Ecohydrology and Hydrobiology* (editors M. Zalewski, J. Wanzenböck & P. Hickley). The issue can be downloaded www.journal.ecohydro.pl.

In 2005, the convener of the Working Party is planning a joint session with UNESCO IHP during the European Congress of Limnology in Cracov, Poland, and during the November meeting of ecohydrology UNESCO IHP in Vienna, Austria. The chairperson of the Sub-Commission shall ask the convener to announce the meeting as soon as possible.

Action: A. Raat

8.2 *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Methodologies for Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs

Convener: H. Lehtonen

A draft of this document shall be circulated amongst the editors. The text is considered to be in an advanced state. The figures will need to be redrawn. The EIFAC secretariat will look for FAO technical support for graphic design. There is a request for photographs that will be considered by the ExCom members and communicated to Ian Cowx who is the chief editor of the document.

Blackwell Publishing is willing to publish the document in the same format as the Rehabilitation of River for Fish Handbook. The EIFAC secretariat will look for additional funding. The publication is scheduled for the end of 2005.

Action: I. Cowx / H. Lehtonen / R. Müller / D. Bartley

8.3 *Ad hoc* Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture

Convener: A.J.P. Raat

Document Handling of fishes

The draft version of the document will be finalized by the convener of the Working Party before the end of July 2005. The document will be distributed for peer review, with the assistance of Messrs Cowx and Hickley. The document on Fish handling will be published in 2005 as an EIFAC Occasional Paper.

Action: A. Raat / I. Cowx / U. Barg

Future of the Working Party

The Convener of the Working Party announced his resignation from Dutch Fisheries Service in 2005, which means his resignation from the Working Party. ExCom considered the need to continue the activities of the Working Party in view of the discussion on the welfare aspects of handling of fishes in many EIFAC member states. Efforts will be taken by the Chairperson to identify a new convener before the 24th Session of EIFAC.

Action: R. Müller / G. Castelnaud / U. Barg

Position statement

For the 24th Session of EIFAC a discussion paper on the position of EIFAC on the issue of handling of fishes will be compiled. ExCom realized that this paper must consider the consequences for the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Action: A. Raat

8.4 LIAISON GROUPS

In general, the ExCom decided to discuss the status and output from liaison groups during the 24th Session of EIFAC.

8.4.1 Prevention and Control of Bird Predation

Convener: E. Staub

Intercafe

The INTERCAFE network includes: (i) researchers dealing with cormorant ecology and assessments of breeding/wintering status and distribution and of lethal actions taken against

cormorants, (ii) researchers dealing with biological, social and cultural aspects of cormorant-fisheries conflict management (including legal, policy and economic issues) at a variety of spatial scales, (iii) policy makers (from local to international levels), (iv) local and regional end-users in charge of the implementation of conflict resolution strategies.

Website

The official Internet website of the Wetlands International Cormorant Research Group, “Cormorants – To promote the knowledge of the ecology and life history of cormorants” (<http://web.tiscali.it/sv2001/>), provides information and links to reports relevant to the prevention and control of bird predation.. The website gives a link to the online version of the final reports of the EU funded REDCAFE project.

Future of the liaison group

ExCom considered the importance of information on the effects of bird predation on fisheries and aquaculture of great relevance to EIFAC. The ExCom agreed that the Chairperson contact the Convener of the liaison group in order to explore scope for future activities of the liaison group. This will revise the activities of the liaison group.

Action: R. Müller

8.4.2 Influence of Management Practices on the Environment

Convener: M. Aprahamian

ExCom decided to propose to the 24th Session of EIFAC to discontinue the activities of this liaison group.

8.4.3 Liaison with Council of Europe

Liaison: R. R Rösch

Within the Council of Europe, the “Standing Committee of the European convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes” produced a final draft of the “Recommendation concerning farmed fish”. This document is intended to be adopted at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in late autumn this year. The document contains general ideas about the welfare of farmed fish, but does not contain species specific data. Therefore it is intended to add annexes to the general document containing species specific information for the most important aquaculture species. However, a time table for this does not yet exist.

Action: R. Rösch

8.4.4 Liaison Group on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Liaison Group: I. Cowx / A. Raat

FAME project

The FAME project has now come to a successful end the methodologies have been well received by the European Commission. It is likely the FAME tools will become the standard for the assessment of Fish according to the WFD. To mark the end of the FAME project and disseminate the information more widely, an international symposium on *Assessing the ecological status of rivers, lakes and transitional waters* will be held from 11-15 July 2005, University of Hull International Fisheries Institute, Hull, UK (www/hull.ac.uk/hifi/).

Future of the liaison group

ExCom felt the need for EIFAC to be kept informed of developments relevant to fisheries associated with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. A proposal will be submitted to the 24th Session to discontinue the present liaison group and to include information of the Water Framework Directive through a new information structure proposed for EIFAC.

Action: I. Cowx

8.4.5 Ecological and Human Health Effects from Endocrine Disrupting Substances

ExCom considered this topic of interest to EIFAC, but decided to propose to the 24th Session to abolish this group and include population level impacts of endocrine disruptors under “Emerging Issues” (Item 12).

8.5 Other matters

The chairperson of the Sub-Commission announced his retirement from Dutch fisheries services in December 2005; that means he must resign his office as chairperson of the Sub-Commission, before the 24th session of EIFAC in Austria. The vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will be asked to compile and present the report of the Sub-Commission to the 24th Session of EIFAC.

Action: G.Castelnaud / R.Müeller / D.Bartley / U.Barg

The ExCom thanked Mr L. Raat for his work and dedication to EIFAC and to Sub-Commission III.

9. REPORT ON SUB-COMMISSION IV

Chairperson: I. Cowx

The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr I. Cowx (UK), presented the activities and achievements of the Sub-Commission since the 23rd Session of EIFAC in Wierzba (June 2004).

9.1 Ad hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries

Convener: B. Breton

Progress within this Working Party has been limited to organizational procedures, with little action towards the proposed refocus for this Working Party developed in the 23rd Session of EIFAC. At that time the Working Party decided to concentrate on ‘Formulation of a Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries’ an exercise that was to be run in collaboration with the European Anglers Alliance (EAA). The following steps were proposed:

- Details of experts at national level were requested during the 23rd Session;
- A questionnaire relating to the general principles for a Code will be circulated in September 2004;
- The information from the questionnaire will be consolidated by early 2005 and discussed at the General Assembly of the EAA in March 2005.

- A meeting of the Working Party will be run back-to-back with the EAA General Assembly and with potential collaboration from IUCN to finalise the Code. The final documentation will be made available to the 24th Session.

Unfortunately little progress has been made on the Code of Practice. The little work that has been done is reviewing of codes for Eastern European countries, but the information is fragmented. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will develop the theme in an oral presentation at the 4th World Recreational Fisheries Congress in Trondheim (Norway) in June 2005, and use the opportunity to promote the proposed Code. The presentation will attempt to recruit contributors to the generic code proposed for EIFAC and show the way forward to resolving issues between fisheries and other aquatic resource users.

One of the reasons of the weak progress is lack of funding. Currently, the Chairperson of EIFAC is seeking funding for the Code of Practice through the FAO FishCode project. A draft project proposal was presented to Fishcode programme, which received a positive response. FishCode will help seek funding, but suggested the scope is expanded to beyond the EIFAC region and possibly to include marine recreational fisheries. To this effect the code needs to move towards a framework for technical guidelines for angling and recreational fisheries. It is expected that the EAA will work with EIFAC on this Code of Practice, and the Chairperson of the sub-commission will discuss the issue with the President of EAA. Mr R Arlinghaus has been proposed to assist in the drafting of the Code, and it is recommended he takes on board this activity, but seeks help from other experts in Europe, especially those working on socioeconomic aspects.

Concern was expressed about the lack of output from this WP. The ExCom requested that the chairperson of the Sub-Commission take steps to resolve the issue.

Action: I. Cowx

9.2 *Ad hoc* Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland-Fisheries

Convener: M. Sipponen

The Convener of this Working Party, Mr Matti Sipponen (Finland), has made considerable progress. He has prepared a draft report which will be circulated in the near future. The report analyses results from a questionnaire circulated to national experts and EIFAC correspondents. The questions included: definition of recreational fishers, numbers of recreational fishers, on-going research and an assessment of the economic value of inland recreational fisheries. The study showed the high economic and social value of recreational fisheries. It also provided a bibliography of references relating to the valuation of inland fisheries in Europe. Suggestions for improving the report have been provided to the author and it is anticipated these will be incorporated and a draft be circulated to EIFAC correspondents for checking of accuracy. Through circulation of the draft report the WP tries to encourage those countries that have not contributed to participate in the output. A copy of the report will be posted on the EIFAC website. The remainder of the inter-sessional period will be used to improve the methodology and finalise the outputs. Efforts will also be made to address the socio-economic importance of the commercial fisheries sector, but aquaculture will only be included at a later stage. The final report will be presented at the 24th Session.

Action: M. Sipponen

10. ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF EIFAC

10.1 National Correspondents

A draft duty sheet on the function and duties of EIFAC National Correspondents was discussed (see para 74 of 23rd Session Report). It should help to improve the functioning of EIFAC by getting better representation at the Sessions, and to enhance the flow of information between Member States and EIFAC. The draft duty sheet is attached as Annex 6. National Correspondents will be invited to comment on the draft duty sheet before subsequent discussion at the 24th Session in 2006.

Action: R. Müller

10.2 National Reports

The need and use of National summary reports was discussed. Recognizing that National Reports had been produced in the past, it was found useful that the Vice Chairpersons of EIFAC be asked to prepare a discussion document, providing an annotated outline including descriptions of purpose, benefits and potential content and list of arguments on this issue to be presented to the next Session. The Vice Chairpersons should also compile a list of web addresses where information on inland fisheries and aquaculture of Member States can be found.

Action: K. Pinter / P. Hickley

10.3 New Members

The ExCom recognized that a number of European countries are not yet member of EIFAC. The ExCom recommended that the Secretariat invite these countries to consider their membership in EIFAC.

Action: D. Bartley / U. Barg

11. COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

The Chairperson of EIFAC introduced the item with a list of key partners with which EIFAC should collaborate. The ExCom noted that in collaborative work of EIFAC and the ExCom the Rules and Procedures of EIFAC should be consulted and followed (http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/eifac/eifac20/98_3e.asp).

European Commission (EC): In response to the recommendation in paragraph 75 of the report of the 23rd Session, means to improve collaboration with the EC were discussed. As stated in that report, EIFAC should enjoy the same advisory relationship on inland fisheries with regard to the EU as ICES does on marine matters. The EC may not place high priority on inland fisheries because it apparently perceives it to be of national importance. However, special note was made of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitat Directive which both deal with transboundary issues.

The ExCom decided to define terms of reference for a mission to the EC to begin dialogue on enhanced collaboration. A letter to specific contacts will be drafted that will include specific issues of relevance to both EIFAC and EC, for example the expansion of the EU into Eastern Europe where inland fisheries and aquaculture are extremely important, and activities that EIFAC could undertake for the EC such as the critical review of documents and directives on

inland fisheries and aquaculture. The ExCom was informed that FAO has good contacts with DG Fisheries and DG Environment in regards to aquaculture, and that individuals within EIFAC have good contacts with various DG's. Ways should be explored as to how FAO's Liaison Office in Brussels can facilitate this interaction.

Action: R. Müller / D. Bartley

European Anglers Alliance (EAA): ExCom will contact EAA on its potential inputs to the drafting process of the EIFAC Code of Conduct for Responsible Recreational Fisheries.

Action: I. Cowx

IUCN: In the report of the 23rd Session, IUCN expressed interest in partnerships with EIFAC. IUCN appears to be actively developing fisheries related programmes and activities. IUCN runs the River Basin Initiative, has established a MOU with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers and would be a relevant partner for many EIFAC activities. It should be formally invited to the Symposium and 24th Session of EIFAC and may be asked to convene a special side-event. The Chairperson will visit the head office in Gland, Switzerland to discuss potential collaboration between EIFAC and IUCN.

Additionally, EIFAC was contacted by the IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe in Warsaw concerning a project in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine. Mr Barg responded but the details of this project and means of collaboration need further elaboration and a letter will be sent to IUCN in Warsaw requesting more information.

Action: R. Müller

Ramsar: Ramsar has reviewed the role of fisheries at its sites and proposes strengthening its fisheries activities through a resolution to be presented at its next session. The ExCom invited Mr. R. Welcomme to compile a list of issues for dialogue with partners dealing with conservation issues, e.g. Ramsar, IUCN, Wetlands International, and the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to prepare a discussion document for use by the Chairperson on his visit to Gland.

Action: R. Welcomme

AQUA-TT/AQUA-TNET²: : The chair referred to an invitation by Patrick Sorgeloos to participate in an advisory capacity in activities of this group of aquaculture and training networks. It is unclear what the function of EIFAC would be and what the status of the activities are at present. The Chair agreed to contact Dr Sorgeloos and Dr Volke Hilge for more information and to inform the next 24th Session.

Action: R. Müller

International Network of Basin Organizations: Mr Marmulla inquired on this group as it appears to help implement the Water Framework and Habitat Directives of the EC. Mr Marmulla will contact them to understand better how fish and fisheries are dealt with, to discover if they have information on other active basin commissions or organizations and to determine if there is scope for collaboration.

Action: G. Marmulla

² AQUA-TT, see : <http://www.aquatt.ie/> or http://www.piscestt.com/pisces/aquatt_en.asp
AQUA-TNET, see : <http://www.piscestt.com/pisces/> ;
http://www.piscestt.com/pisces/educational/intro_en.asp

12. EMERGING ISSUES

The ExCom identified the following emerging issues:

- Land use and management, including agriculture practices.
- Problems of undertaking integrated water-basin management.
- Climate change.
- Crayfish – a proposal to re-establish work on topic was received. EIFAC is well placed to discuss and advise on the various aspects of crayfish and impacts of alien crayfish. The ExCom decided to invite Mr M. Pursiainen to draw up terms of reference for a possible new working party.

Action: I. Cowx

- IUU Fishing – the ExCom decided to keep a watching brief on this issue and to bring it up at the 24th Session of EIFAC.
- Fish conservation – general issues of conservation in order to raise awareness. The ExCom recommended that a “influencing paper” be drafted to help raise awareness.

Action: I. Cowx

- Baseline information – It was noted that the Water Framework Directive and impacts of climate change both require good baseline measures in order to evaluate impacts. This information is generally lacking for inland fisheries, and EIFAC has a role to play, through various mechanisms, in stressing their importance. The Chairperson agreed to bring the issue up with IUCN and the EC in his correspondences.

Action: R. Müller

The ExCom recommended that National Correspondents be contacted and asked to identify emerging issues with a view to enable the Vice Chairpersons to produce general overview papers at the 24th Session of EIFAC. This process will be coordinated by the Vice Chairpersons.

Action: P. Hickley / K. Pinter

13. ANY OTHER MATTERS

13.1 Report of the 23rd Session³

The ExCom expressed its pleasure on the production of the Report of the 23rd Session in English and French.

The ExCom meeting was informed that, in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 89 of the Report of the 23rd Session, the secretariat has received clearance of the report from the members of EIFAC that were not present at the last session. Consequently, the report was finalized and published.

13.2 International Meeting on Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs

³ FAO Report of the twenty-third session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission. Wierzba, Poland, 26 May – 2 June 2004. FAO Fisheries Report, No. 771. Rome, FAO. 43 p. [Report of the 23rd Session](#)

The Chairperson received a request for EIFAC to co-sponsor the upcoming “International Meeting on Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs” in 2007 in the Czech Republic. It was agreed that rather than have EIFAC be a co-sponsor, this meeting should be held “in collaboration with EIFAC”. Drs I. Cowx and P. Hickley have contacts with the organizers and will maintain liaison with EIFAC and FAO. Robin Welcomme has agreed to help edit proceedings.

Action: P. Hickley

13.3 EIFAC brochure

The ExCom discussed the need for an updated brochure on EIFAC. The updated brochure would be used for increasing visibility and awareness on EIFAC and its activities. It was decided that the current brochure be updated, circulated to ExCom members for comments, finalized and prepared in PDF file format. The updated brochure will be produced before the 24th session and be placed on the EIFAC website. EIFAC members will be invited to print and disseminate the brochure.

Action: R. Van Anrooy

13.4 Reviews of regional aquaculture development trends in Europe

Mr Barg informed the meeting of the ongoing efforts by FAO/FIRI of producing a global review of aquaculture development trends. The COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in its 2003 Session in Trondheim recommended that FAO prepare a vision paper on global aquaculture. Based on this recommendation FIRI is presently supporting the preparation of country based studies, so-called National Aquaculture Sector Overviews (NASOs) and Prospective Analysis of Future Aquaculture Development (PAFADs) in Africa, Asia, including Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Near East and North Africa region. These NASO-PAFAD studies will be synthesized into Regional Reviews of Aquaculture Development Trends for presentation and discussion at regional review meetings to be held in late 2005. Aquaculture development trends in Northern America and Western Europe will be reviewed by selected experts. A Global Review Meeting will be held, probably in Rome, in February 2006, with a view to discuss and synthesize these Regional Reviews into a Global Review document. The findings of the Global Review will be presented to the 3rd Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture which will be held in September 2006 in India.

As regards the Central and Eastern European Review, FIRI is collaborating with NACEE, and in particular with HAKI experts, Messrs Varadi and Lengyel, who are ensuring the preparation of the NASO-PAFAD studies in 19 countries as well as the Regional Review for Central and Eastern Europe. The Regional Review meeting for this region will be held 5-7 September 2005 in Astrakhan, Russian Federation. The review for the Western European region is being undertaken by FIRI in consultation with experts of the European Aquaculture Society and the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, and their CONSENSUS project which *i.a.* will be reviewing aquaculture farming systems in Europe. FIRI will work with Mr Michael New, a senior aquaculture expert, who will participate in CONSENSUS project workshops scheduled for November 2005, and compile and synthesize information on aquaculture in Western Europe with a view to prepare the regional review for this region.

13.5 Enhancing Communication among EIFAC officers

It was proposed to improve communication among all EIFAC officers, in particular the information exchange among the Commission's Chair, the two Vice-Chairpersons, the Rapporteur as well as the Chairs, the Vice-Chairpersons, and the rapporteurs of the four Sub-Commission. The Secretariat agreed to establish an e-mail list server containing all e-mail addresses of all above EIFAC officers, for their use, in order to facilitate their regular and more frequent communications.

Action: Secretariat

13.6 World Fishery Congress

Mr R. Welcomme informed the ExCom that the UK will seek to host the meeting of the World Fishery Congress in 2012. The ExCom noted with pleasure this intention and concurred.

13.7 Species Synopsis *Alosa alosa*

Mr G. Marmulla inquired on the status of this synopsis that is to be published by FIRM. Mr P. Hickley and Mr I. Cowx will contact the author and propose deadlines for review and publication.

Action: I. Cowx / P. Hickley

13.8 Fish Migration

The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) is organizing the 5th International Rhine Symposium in November 2005 in Bonn. This event will concentrate on the restoration of river continuity for the fish fauna. The results of this meeting will be communicated to the convener of the EIFAC symposium in 2006.

Action: T. Brenner

Annex 1

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Session (R. Müller)**
 - Agenda EIFAC/ExCom/2005/1
 - List of Participants EIFAC/ExCom/2005/Inf. 2
- 2. Place and Date of 24th Session (R. Müller/A. Jagsch)**
 - Timetable for Session / Symposium 2006 (G. Marmulla/ R. Welcomme) EIFAC/ExCom 2005/2
 - Compilation of list of observers to be invited
- 3. Preparation of the 2006 Symposium (R. Welcomme/ G. Marmulla)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/3
- 4. Proceedings of the 2004 Symposium on Aquaculture (L. Váradi/U. Barg)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/4
- 5. Fourth Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies (R. Müller)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/5
- 6. Report on Sub-Commission I (T. Brenner)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/6
 - Eel
 - Fish monitoring in fresh waters
 - Introductions and stocking
 - Mapping of fish distribution and aquatic habitat quality
 - Management of Sturgeon
- 7. Report on Sub-Commission II (L. Varadi)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/7
 - Relationship between fish transfer and fish health
 - Water resources management in aquaculture
 - Organic fish farming
 - Market perspectives of European freshwater aquaculture
 - Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE)
- 8. Report on Sub-Commission III (L. Raat)** EIFAC/ExCom 2005/8
 - Effects of physical modification of the aquatic habitat on fish populations
 - Methodologies for rehabilitation of lakes and reservoirs
 - Prevention and control of bird predation (liaison group)
 - Influence of management practices on the environment (liaison group)
 - Handling of fishes in fisheries and aquaculture, including Liaison with Council of Europe
 - EU Water Framework Directive (liaison group)

- Ecological and human health effects from endocrine disrupting substances
- Fish migration

9. Report on Sub-Commission IV (I. Cowx)

EIFAC/ExCom 2005/9

- Recreational fisheries
- Socio-economic aspects of inland fisheries

10. Assessment of the Role and Functioning of EIFAC (R. Müller)

- National summary reports
- New / potential Members

11. Collaboration with partners

- EC
- EAA
- IUCN
- AQUA-TT/AQUA-TNET
- International Network of Basin Organizations

12. Emerging issues

13. Any other matters

EIFAC/ExCom 2005/10

- Report of the 23rd Session
- International meeting on “Fish stock assessment methods for lakes and reservoirs” (R. Müller)
- Regional aquaculture trends reviews (western Europe/Central and eastern Europe) (U. Barg)

14. Closing of the Session

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Tomás Brenner
Chair, Sub-Commission I
Ministerium für Umwelt und Forsten
Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 7
D-55116 Mainz
Germany
Fax: (+49-6131) 165 441
E-mail: tomas.brenner@wvv.rlp.de

Ian Cowx
Chair, Sub-Commission IV
University of Hull
International Fisheries Institute
Hull HU6 7RX
United Kingdom
Tel: (+44-1482) 466427
Fax: (+44-1482) 470129
E-mail: i.g.cowx@hull.ac.uk

Phil Hickley
Vice-Chairperson
National Coarse Fish Centre
The Environment Agency
Hoo Farm Industrial Estate
Worcester Road
Kidderminster DY11 7RA
United Kingdom
Fax: (+44-1562) 69477
E-mail: phil.hickley@environment-agency.gov.uk

Albert Jagsch
Liaison Officer 24th Session
Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft
Institut für Gewässerökologie,
Fischereibiologie und Seenkunde
Scharfling 18
A-5310 Mondsee
Austria
Tel: (+43 6232) 384712
Fax: (+43 6232) 3848 33
E-mail: albert.jagsch@baw.at

Rudolf Müller
Chairperson
EAWAG, Fisheries Section
CH-6047 Kastanienbaum
Switzerland
Tel: (+41 41) 34 92 130
Fax: (+41 41) 3492162
E-mail: rudolf.mueller@eawag.ch

Károly Pintér
Vice-Chairperson
Ministry of Agriculture and Regional
Development
Kossuth L. tér 11
H-1055 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: (+36-1) 3014180
Fax: (+36-1) 3014781
E-mail: karoly.pinter@fvm.hu

Lex Raat
Chair, Sub-Commission III
Organization for the Improvement of
Inland Fisheries (OVB)
Buxtehudeaan 1
P.O. Box 433
NL-3430 AK Nieuwegein
The Netherlands
Fax: (+31-30) 6058446
E-mail: raat@ovb.nl

László Váradi
Chair, Sub-Commission II
Fisheries Research Institute (HAKI)
P.O.Box 47
H-5541 Szarvas
Hungary
Fax: (+36-66) 312142
E-mail: varadil@haki.hu

Robin Welcomme
Convener, Symposium 2006
Long Barn
Stoke by Clare
Sudbury
CO10 8HJ
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 1787 27 8017
E-mail: atss28@dsl.pipex.com

SECRETARIAT

Devin Bartley
EIFAC Secretary
Senior Fishery Resources Officer
Inland Water Resources and
Aquaculture Service
Fishery Resources Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39) 0657054376
Fax: (+39) 0657053020

Uwe Barg
Technical Secretary for
Sub-Commissions II and III
Fishery Resources Officer
Inland Water Resources and
Aquaculture Service
Fishery Resources Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39-06)57053454
Fax: (+39-06)57053020
E-mail: Uwe.Barg@fao.org

Gerd Marmulla
Technical Secretary for
Sub-Commission I
Fishery Resources Officer
Inland Water Resources and
Aquaculture Service
Fishery Resources Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39-06) 57052944
Fax: (+39-06)57053020
E-mail: Gerd.Marmulla@fao.org

Raymon van Anrooy
Technical Secretary for Sub-Commission
IV
Fishery Planning Officer
Development Planning Service
Fishery Policy and Planning Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39-06) 57053031
Fax: (+39-06) 57056500
E-mail: Raymon.VanAnrooy@fao.org

Ndiaga Gueye
Chief
International Institutions and
Liaison Service
Fishery Policy and Planning Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39-06) 57052847
Fax: (+39-06) 57056500
E-mail: Ndiaga.Gueye@fao.org

Rashad Al Khafaji
Meeting Officer
International Institutions and
Liaison Service
Fishery Policy and Planning Division
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome, Italy
Tel.: (+39) 0657055105
Fax: (+39) 0657056500
E-mail: Rashad.Alkhafaji@fao.org

Annex 3

LIST OF OBSERVERS TO BE INVITED TO THE 24TH SESSION OF EIFAC

In accordance with FAO/EIFAC Rules of Procedures, the following groups will be invited to participate in the Symposium and 24th Session of EIFAC.

States:

Russian Federation

UN Organizations:

United Nations

European Environment Agency

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Labour Organization

World Health Organization

Institutions:

World Conservation Organization- IUCN

Ramsar Convention

Wetlands International

Convention on Biological Diversity

Federation of European Aquaculture Producers - FEAP

European Anglers Alliance – EAA

American Fisheries Society

World Sturgeon Conservation Society

European Association of Fish Pathologists

International Association of Astracologists

European Ichthyological Society

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe – NACEE

International Association of Astacologists

European Association of Fishery Economists - EAFE

European Aquaculture Society (EAS), AQUA-TT, also WAS

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization - NASCO

Other observers:

Council of Europe

European Anglers Alliance

European Ichthyological Union

Federation of European Aquaculture Producers

International Cooperative Alliance

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

International Office of Epizootics

International Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

World Wide Fund for Nature

Annex 4

EIFAC WORKING PARTY ON FISH MONITORING IN FRESH WATERS

Terms of Reference

Membership

Convener – Phil Hickley

Members – Membership is open to anyone willing to serve. (List of current members is posted on the EIFAC web site.)

Purpose

To promote consistency of purpose and use of best practice in the monitoring of fish populations in fresh waters by facilitating:

- A. Provision of a scientific and technical advisory resource;
- B. Development of guidance on available and preferred methods of sampling.

Specific objectives

1. To gather information on the scientific work programmes of member countries relevant to fish monitoring;
2. To build understanding and fill knowledge gaps that currently compromise effective fish monitoring;
3. To encourage international consistency in the collection, analysis and reporting of information about fish communities and fisheries;
4. To produce best practice guidance and technical notes on fish monitoring;
5. To act as a forum for debate relating to fish monitoring methods and strategy;
6. To develop robust links across member countries for the dissemination of information;
7. To organise workshops on specific fish monitoring topics;
8. To advise on the development and content of European Standards on fish monitoring methodology, especially for the Water Framework Directive;
9. To identify and evaluate future scientific and technical fish monitoring issues of importance to the management of fish populations.

Outcomes

- a) Database of key information on fish monitoring;
- b) Network of user groups within member countries;
- c) Communication of methodology and best practice;
- d) Consistency of sampling and reporting across member countries;
- e) Awareness of fish monitoring emerging issues.

Annex 5

AQUATIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION BY AQUACULTURE HEADLINES FOR WORKING PARTY

Proposed by Mr Marc Verdegem

The primary concern of the Working Party is to analyze the present and future water use by European aquaculture and to interpret this information in the context of the total present and future water use in Europe.

European aquaculture is mainly carried out in marine and brackish waters. In these environments, the focus is not so much on total water use but on short and long term environmental impacts. This topic, although important, will not be taken up by the Working Party. Nevertheless, marine and brackish water cultures still use considerable amounts of fresh water (fry and fingerling production, processing, production and processing of feed ingredients), which will also be reviewed by the Working Party.

The goal is to summarize findings of the Working Party in a book of interest to EIFAC member countries as well as other countries worldwide.

The following topics should be taken up by the Working Party:

1. WATER USE IN AQUACULTURE

1.1 Types of water use in aquaculture

Water uses in aquaculture include on-farm water use (evaporation + seepage + drainage), water treatment/purification systems, fish processing and fish food production (ingredient production, processing). Water is also used for construction of facilities, energy use, etc. The question is if the latter types of water use should also be considered. The goal of this section is to review and to define the water use along the whole aquaculture value chain, and to define which types of water use will be considered in the rest of the study.

1.2 Water use of different aquaculture production systems in Europe

For one culture species, different production systems can be used. Water use for each commonly used production system will be calculated. Based on the water use by culture species/system, water use can also be calculated at country level.

1.3 Trends in water use in aquaculture

Based on predicted growth in aquaculture production (maximum and minimum scenario), predicted water uses in aquaculture will be calculated (by species and country).

1.4 Promising technologies to reduce water use in aquaculture

Promising technologies along the aquaculture value chain that can lead to considerable reductions in water use will be identified and discussed.

1.5 Comparison of water use with other types of agricultural production, preferentially animal production

When data are available, a comparison can be made to other types of agricultural activity.

- 2. COSTS OF WATER USE IN AQUACULTURE**
 - 2.1 Costs of direct water use in aquaculture**

Costs of on-farm water use by culture species/system. Cost of water in different European countries will be compared.
 - 2.2 Costs of indirect water use in aquaculture**

Focuses on water use for water purification (drainage water, seepage water), water use for input generation (feed for instance, fertilizers) and water use for processing and distribution.. Often different price tariffs are used for water for agricultural, industrial and human use.
 - 2.3 Economics of shared water use in integrated systems**

Use of ponds as nature reserves, recreation, flood control and water storage. Effect of joint use on total cost.
 - 2.4 Trends in water prices till 2020 and 2040**
- 3. SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO IDENTIFYING AREA WITH FUTURE LOW OR HIGH WATER PRICES IN EUROPE**
 - 3.1 Aquaculture options**
 - 3.2 Acceptable forms of water use in aquaculture**
- 4. TOTAL COST OF WATER USE SHOULD BE LESS THAN A GIVEN TARGET PERCENTAGE OF VALUE OF THE PRODUCT PRODUCED. A COMPARISON IS MADE BETWEEN CULTURE SPECIES/SYSTEM COMBINATIONS AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES**
 - 4.1 Strategies for conversion from existing systems to sustainable water use systems**
 - 4.2 Needed research and proposed research priorities**
 - 4.3 Needed training and proposed training programs**

Annex 6

DRAFT DUTY SHEET FOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS OF EIFAC

Extract from 23rd Session Session report, Wierzba, 2004.

74. *The National Correspondents have to play a more active role in promoting national and international collaboration among fisheries scientists, managers and administrators. National Correspondents should maintain a national database of fisheries institutions and fisheries scientists, thus enabling the flow of information to and from these partners. This concerns particularly the announcement of EIFAC symposia and sessions. National Correspondents and their ministries should be briefed on their function by the Chairperson, based on a duty sheet that will be prepared by the Executive Committee, assisted by the Secretariat.*

Based on EIFAC's Rules of Procedure⁴, in particular Rule I (Membership) Item 2, the following functions and duties are proposed.

Functions and duties of EIFAC National Correspondents

- Correspondents should be appointed by their Government. National Correspondents should be recognized formally by the administrative and institutional framework of their governments as official focal points of EIFAC. Outgoing National Correspondents brief the incoming National Correspondent on the ongoing activities of EIFAC and on the duties of a National Correspondent.
- Correspondents participate regularly in the Sessions of EIFAC. They make sure that their country is represented at the Session by a National Delegation, led either by themselves or by a substitute. The head of the National Delegation is authorised to speak on behalf of his/her Government at the Session.
- Develop and maintain a national network of fisheries and aquaculture institutions, scientists and practitioners to facilitate communication and the flow of information to and from EIFAC. Use electronic mail. Develop a National EIFAC website, as appropriate, to provide information links and resources on EIFAC and on inland fisheries and aquaculture matters of interest to their own country. Use the network frequently for information exchange.
- Promote national and international collaboration among fisheries and aquaculture scientists, managers and administrators by providing the necessary contacts, either directly or with the help of the EIFAC Bureau.
- Make use of the advice and information provided by EIFAC (reports, publications from symposia and by working parties). Inform national partners regularly of new inland fisheries and aquaculture publications by EIFAC.

⁴ See EIFAC rules of procedures (since 1998) at: <http://www.fao.org/fi/body/eifac/rules.asp>

- Periodically brief the superior office (e.g. Ministry) on the work and achievements of EIFAC.
- Notify EIFAC of problems and issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture that have been detected or that are or seem to be emerging. Inform EIFAC of relevant new publications and projects from their country.
- Encourage participation by experts from member countries in at least one of the activities of EIFAC (working parties, liaison groups, workshops, expert consultations, etc.).