



Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

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CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR

RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations



**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES:
THE REQUIREMENT FOR STRUCTURAL
CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT IN THE
FISHERIES SECTOR**



BACKGROUND

**FAO - FISHERY MANDATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS
DECLINING WORLD FISHERIES - OVERFISHING
IMPLICATIONS FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY**

THE 1992 STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- MILESTONE IN FISHERIES ANALYSIS
- GLOBAL CHANGES SINCE EXTENDED JURISDICTION
- RESULTS OF FAO ANALYSIS - IMPROVEMENT IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED
- ANALYSIS SHOWED 69 PERCENT OF FISH STOCKS ARE FULLY EXPLOITED OR OVER-EXPLOITED IN THE 1990s.



BACKGROUND

VARIOUS CONFERENCES IN THE EARLY 1990s LED TO INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES WITH SIMILAR GOALS. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WE NEED TO ACT NOW TO GUARANTEE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERIES RESOURCES

- **UN FISH STOCKS CONFERENCE (1993-1995)**
- **COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT (1992-1993)**
- **CODE OF CONDUCT (1993-1995)**

REINFORCING THESE INITIATIVES WAS THE 1995 ROME CONSENSUS ON WORLD FISHERIES.



ELABORATION

**CONCEPT OF RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES:
FIRST MOOTED BY THE 1991 SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI) IN THE CONTEXT OF
LARGE-SCALE PELAGIC DRIFTNET FISHING:
I.E., 1991 CONCEPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FAO COUNCIL ENDORSED THE REQUEST MADE IN THE
1992 DECLARATION OF CANCÚN FOR FAO TO ELABORATE
THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**SCOPE AND THE PROCESS OF ELABORATION WAS A
MAJOR ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT 1995 SESSION OF COFI
(in particular the need for Technical Guidelines to support the
Code's implementation)**



ELABORATION

PROCESS OF ELABORATION ACHIEVED THROUGH A TOTAL OF FIVE OPEN-ENDED TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS –MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

FAO CONFERENCE (170 members) ADOPTED THE CODE IN OCTOBER 1995

1997 SESSION OF COFI NOTED NEED TO SECURE FUNDING TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION



PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

**ACTION TOWARDS CHANGE IN FISHERIES SECTOR
I.E. RATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

**POLICY DECISIONS BY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE IN
CONSULTATION WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

**BASED ON MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENTS
(UNCLOS, UNCED, CBD)**



THE CODE SETS OUT THE PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR FOR RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIVING AQUATIC RESOURCES, WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THE ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY.



STRUCTURE

**CODE IS A VOLUNTARY INSTRUMENT:
I.E. DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FORMALLY ACCEPTED**

THE CODE OF CONDUCT ADDRESSES:

- CAPTURE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- FISHING OPERATIONS
- AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
- INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES INTO COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT
- PROCESSING AND TRADE IN FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS
- FISHERIES RESEARCH



IMPLEMENTATION

FAO - RESPONSIBILITY TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION

I.E. TO WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION RESTS
PRIMARILY WITH GOVERNMENTS - INVOLVES
DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE POLICY DECISIONS**



Implementation of the Code

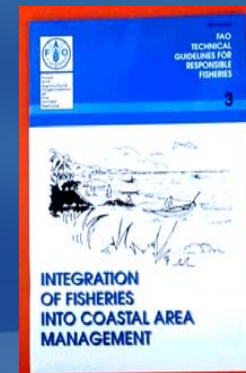
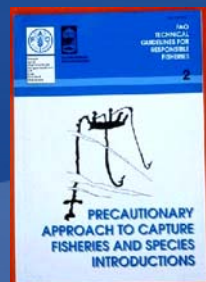
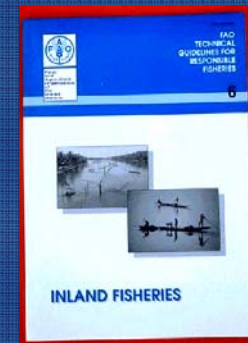
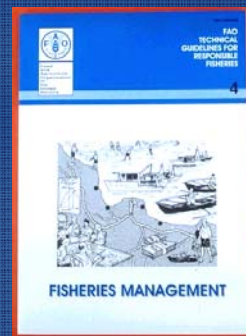
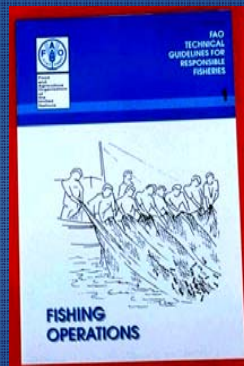
- **FAO Technical Co-operation Programme assistance, provision of information, and other means**

- **Technical Guidelines**
 - **No. 1 Fishing operations**
 - **No. 1.1 Vessel monitoring systems**
 - **No. 2 Precautionary approach to capture fisheries and species introductions**
 - **No. 3 Integration of fisheries into coastal area management**
 - **No. 4 Fisheries management**
 - **No. 4.1 Conservation and management of sharks**
 - **No. 5 Aquaculture development**
 - **No. 5.1 Good aquaculture feed manufacturing practice**
 - **No. 5.2 Health management for responsible movement of live aquatic animals**
 - **No. 6 Inland fisheries**
 - **No. 7 Responsible fish utilization**
 - **No. 8 Indicators for sustainable development of marine capture fisheries**

- **Other technical guidelines are under preparation**



Many Technical Guidelines are available



Recreational fisheries

The Code states in its introduction that:

- “Fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations and should therefore be conducted in a responsible manner”.
- **The Code however does not address specific recreational fisheries issues.**
- FAO and some of its member governments now recognize the need to work on recreational fisheries issues; until recently The Organization left most of the activities related to Recreational Fisheries to its Regional Fisheries Bodies (e.g. EIFAC and GFCM).



FAO was not active in recreational fisheries because of various reasons; Among others:

1. It was not brought up by COFI members at the biennial sessions,
2. Recreational fisheries is generally seen as an activity that falls, within national responsibilities and has few international aspects,
3. FAO did not receive specific requests from its member governments to provide technical assistance or advice on recreational fisheries issues,
4. The importance of Recreational fisheries in terms of employment, income generation, its impact on fish stocks and food security, was not well understood until recently, and
5. Recreational fisheries is a subject that was considered (in the past) only relevant to OECD countries; and as such it was not seen as a priority for interventions by FAO.



Concluding Remarks

- Interest inside FAO and among its member governments in recreational fisheries issues is growing.
- The EIFAC workshop on the Development of a Global Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries can be a turning point; particularly if the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries will be endorsed by EIFAC in May 2008.



Thank you for your attention

More information on:

- The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- Publications related to the Code and other fisheries and aquaculture subjects
- The Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
- Regional Fisheries Bodies

Can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/fi/>

For information on the

European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission
(EIFAC), please have a look at the website:

<http://www.fao.org/fi/eifac.htm>

