

March 2004



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

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EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Wierzba, Poland, 26 May – 2 June 2004

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS REPORT  
SUB-COMMISSION IV – Social and Economic Issues

**Chairperson:** I.G. Cowx (UK)  
**Vice-Chairperson:** R. Marini (Italy)  
**Rapporteur:** M.J. Collares-Pereira (Portugal)  
**Technical Secretary:** D. Greboval (FAO) until 1 February 2004,  
thereafter R. van Anrooy (FAO)

This Sub-Commission includes two Working Parties. Their intersessional activities are presented in more detail in EIFAC/XXIII/2004/Inf.7. No report was received from the Convener of the *ad hoc* **Working Party on Recreational Fisheries**. Therefore, no progress has been reported regarding the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, although several countries are developing national guidelines. However, a number of activities have been taking place involving EIFAC delegates. The European Anglers Alliance (EAA) had a meeting with the European Parliament on 25 March 2004 to promote the importance of recreational fisheries in Europe and also called for a pan-European study on the economic value of recreational fisheries entitled RECFISH. A review of the economic value of recreational fisheries in Nordic countries was carried out between October 1999 and January 2000. The results of this review have recently been published in *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 11, 1-14.

The *ad hoc* **Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries** produced a questionnaire, which was sent to all EIFAC correspondents, and included questions on the definition of recreational fishers, numbers of inland recreational fishers, on-going research and an assessment of the economic value of inland recreational fisheries. However, the response rate has been rather low so far.

The Chairperson of Sub-Commission IV attended a workshop on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management organised by the World Fish Centre in Penang, Malaysia, in January 2004. What was apparent from the workshop was the lack of involvement of social scientists and economists and their fields of study in the formulation and implementation of catchment management plans and the ecosystem approach. It is recommended that Sub-Commission IV promotes the integration of social and economic arguments into these approaches. Moreover, links should be forged with the European Association of Fisheries Economists (EAFE) to promote collaboration between biologists and socio-economists, particularly in the area of valuation of inland fisheries resources.