

June 2006



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
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the  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Mondsee, Austria, 14 – 21 June 2006

### 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. 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 and list of participants are included as Annexes 1 and 2.

#### 2. PLACE AND DATE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The Twenty-fourth Session will be held in Mondsee, Austria, from 14 to 21 June 2006. The Austrian authorities had nominated Mr A. Jagsch as Liaison Officer.

**Action: R. Al Khafaji**

The Committee recommended that a list of official observers be established in accordance with FAO procedures and protocol (Annex 3).

**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.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. An Editorial Board consisting of the chairpersons of the Symposium (Mr C. Hough, Ms S. Stead, Mr A. Wolos and Mr M. Cieřła) will advise, which papers could be included in the proceedings of the Symposium. The proceedings will be edited by Mr M. New, 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.

**Action: L. Varadi / U. Barg**

#### **5. FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES**

The reports of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB), held March 2005 and of the June 2004 Technical Consultation addressed International Plan of Action (IPA) on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and Fishing Capacity. 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 Working Party met in Galway (Ireland). 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 have been shown to exceed reasonable limits in many places and management actions are therefore urgently needed.

The ExCom took note that the problem of declining eel stock in Europe still remains and that the EU made a proposal for an eel conservation programme based *inter alia* on the recommendations of this Working Party which are summarized here (see full report for details):

- An international recovery plan for the European eel stock be developed for the whole stock;
- 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;
- The monitoring activities required by the Fisheries Data Collection Programme are implemented for the eel stock and fisheries immediately;
- 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;

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, 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.

In 2004, the EU issued a call for research proposals under the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework, including an item on the restoration of the eel. A consortium lead by the Netherlands, consisting of Working Party members, submitted a proposal to evaluate current eel modelling studies using well-documented case-studies.

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 Working Party for further technical advice in this matter and expressed concern that the complete lifecycle of eel is not taken into consideration by the planned EU fishing regulation. 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 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2004 in Wierzba, Poland, in association with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of EIFAC. 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.

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 (see [http://fame.boku.ac.at/downloads/FAME\\_Leaflet\\_web.pdf](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 is 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.

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**

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> Session. A key output of this study is a framework to update the EIFAC Guidelines on Stocking and Introductions.

The Working Party was represented at the Biological Invasions in Inland Waters workshop in Florence in May 2005 (<http://www.dbag.unifi.it/inwat/>).

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of EIFAC.

There was general consent that a 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. The activity is very important in the context of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Habitats Directive and the database and atlas will be useful in implementing important principles and standards of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Ways are explored in the FAO Fisheries Department on how to make the atlas available on-line.

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 ExCom encouraged Mr. Fricke to continue his work and to present his first results at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of EIFAC.

**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.

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.

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.

**Action: T. Brenner / M.S. Chevanov**

## **7. REPORT OF SUB-COMMISSION II**

Chairperson: L. Varadi

### **7.1 Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health**

Convener: E. Hudson

The 23<sup>rd</sup> 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) 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 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. The ExCom welcomed and supported the efforts made, 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 Products<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

#### **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.

**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. 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 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

#### **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" available at [www.journal.ecohydro.pl](http://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.

**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 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 24<sup>th</sup> Session of EIFAC.

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

### *Position statement*

For the 24<sup>th</sup> 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..

#### *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..

**Action: R. Müller**

### **8.4.2 Influence of Management Practices on the Environment**

Convener: M. Aprahamian

ExCom decided to propose to the 24<sup>th</sup> 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..

**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.

#### *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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> Session.

Little progress has been made on the Code of Practise primarily because of 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. 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. 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session Report) (Annex 6). National Correspondents will be invited to comment on the draft duty sheet before subsequent discussion at the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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](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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, IUCN expressed interest in partnerships with EIFAC. IUCN appears to be actively developing fisheries related programmes and activities. The Chairperson will visit the head office in Gland, Switzerland to discuss potential collaboration between EIFAC and IUCN.

**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-TNET<sup>2</sup>:** 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.

**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**

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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 24<sup>th</sup> Session of EIFAC. This process will be coordinated by the Vice Chairpersons.

**Action: P. Hickley / K. Pinter**

<sup>2</sup> AQUA-TT, see : <http://www.aquatt.ie/> or [http://www.piscestt.com/pisces/aquatt\\_en.asp](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](http://www.piscestt.com/pisces/educational/intro_en.asp)

### **13. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

#### **13.1 Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session<sup>3</sup>**

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

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

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”.

**Action: P. Hickley**

#### **13.3 EIFAC brochure**

It was decided that the current EIFAC brochure be updated, circulated to ExCom members for comments, finalized and prepared in PDF file format. The updated brochure will be produced before the 24<sup>th</sup> 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. FIRI is presently supporting the preparation of country based studies, 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. The findings of the Global Review will be presented to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture which will be held in September 2006 in India.

#### **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-commissions. 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session](#)

**13.7 Species Synopsis *Alosa alosa***

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 5<sup>th</sup> International Rhine Symposium in November 2005 in Bonn. The results of this meeting will be communicated to the convener of the EIFAC symposium in 2006.

**Action: T. Brenner**

## AGENDA

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1. Opening of the Session (R. Müller)</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• List of Participants</li> </ul>   | EIFAC/ExCom/2005/1<br>EIFAC/ExCom/2005/Inf. 2 |
| <b>2. Place and Date of 24th Session (R. Müller/A. Jagsch)</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetable for Session / Symposium 2006<br/>(G. Marmulla/ R. Welcomme)</li> <li>• Compilation of list of observers to be invited</li> </ul>  | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/2                            |
| <b>3. Preparation of the 2006 Symposium (R. Welcomme/<br/>G. Marmulla)</b>   | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/3                            |
| <b>4. Proceedings of the 2004 Symposium on Aquaculture<br/>(L. Váradi/U. Barg)</b>   | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/4                            |
| <b>5. Fourth Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies<br/>(R. Müller)</b>  | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/5                            |
| <b>6. Report on Sub-Commission I (T. Brenner)</b>  | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/6                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eel</li> <li>• Fish monitoring in fresh waters</li> <li>• Introductions and stocking</li> <li>• Mapping of fish distribution and aquatic habitat quality<br/>Management of Sturgeon</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>7. Report on Sub-Commission II (L. Varadi)</b>  | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/7                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between fish transfer and fish health</li> <li>• Water resources management in aquaculture</li> <li>• Organic fish farming</li> <li>• Market perspectives of European freshwater aquaculture</li> <li>• Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern<br/>Europe (NACEE)</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>8. Report on Sub-Commission III (L. Raat)</b>   | EIFAC/ExCom 2005/8                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of physical modification of the aquatic habitat on<br/>fish populations</li> <li>• Methodologies for rehabilitation of lakes and reservoirs</li> <li>• Prevention and control of bird predation (liaison group)</li> <li>• Influence of management practices on the environment<br/>(liaison group)</li> <li>• Handling of fishes in fisheries and aquaculture, including<br/>Liaison with Council of Europe</li> <li>• EU Water Framework Directive (liaison group)</li> <li>• Ecological and human health effects from endocrine<br/>disrupting substances</li> <li>• Fish migration</li> </ul> |   |

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

Only e-mail addresses are given here. Details can be found in EIFAC/XXIV/2006/Inf.2 and EIFAC/XXIV/2006/Inf.8 and from the EIFAC Secretariat.

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**ANNEX 3****LIST OF OBSERVERS TO BE INVITED TO THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF EIFAC**

Details of Annex 3 not included here. List of observers available in EIFAC/XXIV/2006/Inf.2

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**ANNEX 4****EIFAC WORKING PARTY ON FISH MONITORING IN FRESH WATERS**

Details of Annex 4 not included here. Approved terms of reference to be placed on EIFAC website <http://www.fao.org/fi/BODY/eifac/WGFishMon/default.asp>.

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**ANNEX 5****AQUATIC RESOURCE UTILIZATION BY AQUACULTURE  
HEADLINES FOR WORKING PARTY**

**Proposed by Mr Marc Verdegem**

Details of Annex 5 not included here; draft proposal available on original report and from Convenor.

## ANNEX 6

**DRAFT DUTY SHEET FOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS OF EIFAC**

Extract from 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Procedure<sup>4</sup>, 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.
- 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.).

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