



REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES (RECOFI)

Fifth Session

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12 – 14 May 2009

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE RECOFI AREA

I. INTRODUCTION

This document contains a report on the Second Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries Working Group on Fisheries Management that was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 27 to 30 October 2008. For the most part the Working Group focussed its attention on matters referred to it from the Commission's Fourth Session in 2007. In accordance with the Commission's wishes, the scope, role and functions of the Working Group have been changed substantively so as to strengthen and revitalize the Working Group and as a means of making it more effective and efficient.

This document addresses the main outcomes of the Session in terms of recommendations by the Working Group for the Commission's consideration. The issue of funding is highlighted as this matter was identified by the Commission at its Fourth Session as a "standing problem". Clearly, the implementation of the Work Plan recommended by the Working Group will depend on adequate funding, which is estimated to be USD 300,000 over the period from 2008 to 2011. The final section of the document provides suggested action by the Commission.

II. SECOND SESSION OF THE RECOFI WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The Second Session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Working Group on Fisheries Management was held at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, Egypt, from 27 to 30 October 2008. It was attended by 11 representatives from seven FAO Members from the Near East Region.

The meeting was an important and transitional one marking the movement of the Working Group from the Working Group on Statistics to the Working Group on Fisheries Management. As agreed at the 2007 Session of the Commission, the Working Group will have an expanded and strengthened role to meet more effectively the fisheries management challenges of the Region.

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Mr Saleh Z. Al-Hinai, Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Muscat, Oman, was nominated as Chairperson of the Working Group and Mr Jassim S. Al-Mohammady, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Doha, Qatar, was nominated as Vice-Chairperson. Both nominations were endorsed unanimously by the Working Group.¹

The Working Group addressed key issue germane to the sound management of fisheries in the Region. These issues included improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among Commission Members; the transition of the Working Group on Statistics to the Working Group on Fisheries Management, including the adoption of terms of reference for the Working Group; identification and establishment of priorities for a future plan of work for the Working Group; terms of reference for fisheries management focal points to support the activities of the Working Group; stock status reporting; demonstration and review of statistical applications; any other matters and date and place of the third session of the Working Group.

III. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE SESSION

The Working Group recommended that:

Improving the utility and diffusion of fisheries statistical data among Commission Members²

- a systematic evaluation be undertaken of all national statistical programmes in RECOFI countries in the near future with the purpose of providing national authorities with realistic recommendations for improving the performance of their fishery statistical programmes and facilitating data harmonization at regional level;
- a simple questionnaire be prepared to describe national fisheries in a standard format and to facilitate transcription of information from countries,³ and
- an expanded regional database be developed.⁴

The transition of the Working Group on Statistics to the Working Group on Fisheries Management, including the adoption of terms of reference for the Working Group

- the terms of reference for the Working Group in Appendix 1 be adopted.

¹ The meeting agreed that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would serve for a period of two years and that for reasons of continuity and effectiveness, the Vice-Chairperson would assume the position of Chairperson upon the retirement of the incumbent. This would mean that at each regular Session of the Working Group only a Vice-Chairperson would be elected.

² The presentation for this agenda item summarized fisheries statistical activities that were undertaken by the RECOFI Secretariat in the first half of 2008 including (i) a comprehensive desk study on fisheries statistical development in the region, (ii) new programmes for the statistical analysis of time series and (iii) proposals for improving the quality and comparability of collected statistics at both national and regional levels.

³ The questionnaire was prepared during the meeting and representatives were requested to complete and submit it before the end of the session. The Working Group considered this as a useful starting point to develop regionally harmonized data and agreed to further elaborate the information intersessionally so that it could be presented at the Workshop to Develop Stock Status Reporting in the RECOFI region in July 2009.

⁴ Representatives were informed that the activity was already part of the envisaged programme of work for the Working Group on Fisheries Management, including indicative costs and tentative implementation dates.

Identification and establishment of priorities for a future plan of work for the Working Group⁵

- the RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management (Work Plan) and the List of Activities for RECOFI the Working Group on Fisheries Management (2008–2011) be adopted. These documents are attached in Appendices 2 and 3, respectively;
- trade was an important issue that should be kept under review, and
- the adoption of a suite of integrated activities, costed at approximately USD 300,000,⁶ be undertaken over the period from 2008 to 2011 to implement the Work Plan.

Terms of reference for fisheries management focal points to support the activities of the Working Group

- the terms of reference for focal points in Appendix 4 be adopted, and
- Members nominate national focal points for fisheries management and alternative national focal points by 1 December 2008.⁷

Stock status reporting⁸

- with respect to document RECOFI/IV/2007/5 considered by the Commission at its 2007 Session, Table 1 entitled “Indication of fish stock status” could serve to report the basic information on fish stocks that was available in each country while Table 2 entitled “Detailed stock assessment indicator” would require an amount of data and familiarity with stock assessment models that were seldom available in the region;⁹
- the regional workshop on stock indicators and stock status reporting, scheduled for July 2009, elaborate a simplified format to accommodate, in a standardized manner, the existing information on the identified priority species and their fisheries;¹⁰
- an ecosystem system approach to fisheries management and adaptive management procedures be adopted for the RECOFI area;¹¹
- cooperation within the RECOFI area be improved for the appraisal of the state of fishery resources and the formulation of scientific advice for management, and

⁵ This agenda item focussed on the elaboration of a regional strategy, priorities, activities and projects to develop a programme of work for the Working Group. It was noted that the programme was dynamic in character and that it should be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remained relevant and up-to-date. A draft list of activities for the Working Group was also reviewed.

⁶ Funding options considered included increasing assessed contributions, encouraging extra-budgetary voluntary contributions from Members and attempting to secure contributions from the international donor community. The possibility of obtaining funds from regional banks, the private sector and other sources was noted. The Working Group acknowledged that it would probably be necessary to use a mix of these funding options to secure the required level of funds but stressed that decisions relating to funding rested firmly with the Commission.

⁷ In the event that a Member did not notify the Secretariat of its nominees, the Commission Secretary would select, as an interim measure, the most senior representative from delegations attending the Working Group as the national focal point.

⁸ The presentation included cases of regional collaboration to support cooperative fisheries research and active management in areas with characteristics similar to those of the RECOFI region (i.e. semi-enclosed seas, occurrence of shared stocks and of multi-species and multi-gear fisheries).

⁹ The Working Group was tasked by the Commission at its 2007 Session with reviewing document RECOFI:WGFM2/2008/6.

¹⁰ The draft set of standardized boat-gear classifications reviewed by the Working Group will be used as the basis for the provision of data for stock assessment for the July 2009 workshop.

¹¹ The ecosystem approach would require information relating to social, economic and food security contributions by fisheries, stock status on key species in the context of their contribution to fishing communities and to vulnerable components. Adaptive management would be a feedback system based on predetermined rules in taking specific management actions. The importance in developing those rules before their application with broad acceptance was stressed and the required monitoring indicators were listed.

- stocks of priority species supporting the main reference fisheries in the RECOFI area be given priority consideration.

Any other matters

- countries provide copies of their fisheries legislation in English as soon as possible to the Secretariat so that the desk study on legislation could be completed by January 2009.¹²

Date and place of the third session of the Working Group

- next special Session of the Working Group be held in October 2009 at a location to be determined and the next regular Session in January 2011 and thereafter on a two-year cyclical basis.

IV. FUNDING

1. The Working Group agreed to a forward-looking strategy and priorities for regional fisheries management, including a Work Plan. It covers proposed activities for the period 2008 to 2011. The suite of activities agreed is comprehensive and integrated and addresses fisheries management on a broader level, in accordance with the Commission's wishes. The implementation of the activities will assist countries strengthen regional fisheries management in the RECOFI area. However, the issue of funding must be addressed by the Commission if it desires to proceed with the Work Plan identified by the Working Group. All the activities proposed by the Working Group have been scheduled tentatively and costed but most funding sources remain to be identified.

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission is invited to:

- note the progress made at the Second Session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (formerly the Working Group on Fishery Statistics);
- note, as requested by the Commission at its Fourth Session in 2007, that the Working Group further evaluated document RECOFI/IV/2007/5 relating to stock status reporting and made appropriate recommendations; that the Working Group proposed actions and measures to broaden its scope, role and functions, and that a workshop on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the RECOFI area will be held from 30 March to 2 April 2009;
- endorse, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Working Group, and
- consider the funding implications for the implementation of the recommended Work Plan for the Working Group and decide how funding might be secured.

¹² It was noted that the outcome of this study would be presented at the workshop on IUU fishing scheduled to be held in March/April 2009.

APPENDIX 1**Terms of reference for the Working Group on Fisheries Management¹**

The Working Group on Fisheries Management shall, taking into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments, as appropriate:

1. Exercise the role and functions conferred on the Working Group by RECOFI including the consideration of biological, statistical, social, economic, policy, legal and institutional aspects of fisheries conservation and management with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of resources in the region, and
2. Provide technical and scientific advice to RECOFI. Specifically, the Working Group on Fisheries Management shall:
 - Review the state of fisheries, including the state of resources, making recommendations for appropriate research and development activities in support of better management and sustainable fisheries, as well as the rebuilding of stocks;
 - Review on a regular basis national statistical systems and outturns, as appropriate, to enhance and harmonize fisheries data on a regional basis;
 - Formulate recommendations for the implementation of conservation and management measures that will be applied in conformity with the precautionary approach to fisheries, taking account of the best scientific evidence available and the need to promote the development and proper utilization of fisheries resources;
 - Assess the need for harmonized conservation and management measures and formulate recommendations as appropriate, including to:
 - regulate fishing methods and fishing gear;
 - prescribe minimum sizes for particular species;
 - establish open and closed fishing seasons and areas;
 - implement marine protected areas;
 - regulate bycatch and discards;
 - prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - manage fishing capacity; and
 - regulate the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among Members.
 - Identify major fishery-related issues and emerging trends for fisheries management practice, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for follow-up action;
 - Identify and apply, as appropriate, a set of regionally-agreed indicators for sustainable fisheries development;

¹ The terms of reference incorporate relevant aspects of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related documents and other international instruments as well as the fisheries management provision of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Commission for Fisheries. They are forward looking in character, adaptable and able to deal with emerging issues in fisheries. They are intended to be a “living document” that can be reviewed and amended by the Working Group to take account of changing fisheries conditions.

- Promote closer regional cooperation and collaboration in fisheries conservation and management, including through coordinated and harmonized policies and programmes relating to fisheries legislation, acceptance and implementation of international fisheries instruments, adoption of fisheries and management measures and monitoring, control and surveillance including vessels monitoring systems;
- Monitor and report on adverse impacts induced by human-made activities on fisheries and their long-term sustainable management and utilization, as appropriate, and make recommendations concerning remedial measures and action;
- Encourage human capacity building and institutional strengthening and enhance extension services in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management and utilization, including making recommendations for appropriate regional programmes;
- Assemble, publish and disseminate information concerning the state of the region's fisheries;
- Promote collaboration with other regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the sustainable fisheries management and utilization in the region; and
- Undertake other activities relating to fisheries management considered important and appropriate by the Working Group or as directed by RECOFI.

3. The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time to time and make recommendations for their amendment, as appropriate, to RECOFI.

RECOFI Regional Strategy and Priorities for Regional Fisheries Management, including a workplan

STRATEGY: Promotion of sound and effective regional fisheries governance by:

- ensuring that fisheries are exploited and utilized in a responsible and long-term sustainable manner,
- ensuring that fisheries generate maximum social and economic benefits for RECOFI countries, and
- ensuring that ecosystem considerations are incorporated into conservation and management decisions.

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
1. To implement effective fisheries management through regional cooperation and harmonization, including shared stocks and fisheries of common interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness building about the need for effective fisheries management (e.g. publications, media, etc) ▪ Development and implementation of fisheries management plans for major fisheries ▪ Assessment and implementation of conservation measures (e.g. closed areas, seasons, restrictions on species and sizes) ▪ Assessment and implementation of fishing capacity reduction programmes ▪ Implementation of the precautionary approach to fisheries when conditions are uncertain ▪ Implementation on monitoring, control and surveillance, including vessel monitoring systems ▪ Implementation of measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including port States measures and flag State performance criteria ▪ Regional discussions concerning harmonization and cooperation to strengthen management, including the identification of areas for harmonization ▪ Establishment of a regional scientific network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional training workshop on fishery resources appraisal (2010/11 at a location to be determined) ▪ Pilot joint assessment of shared stocks (2011 at a location to be determined) 	<p style="text-align: center;">40 000 (Source: TBI¹)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 000 (Source: TBI)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved output of fisheries statistics ▪ Better trained personnel ▪ Increased capacity to manage fisheries ▪ Procedures for cooperative scientific work for key stocks

¹ TBI= to be identified

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
	for cooperative fisheries appraisals				
2. To facilitate human resource development and institutional strengthening to ensure the capacity to implement management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops, country attachments and other training opportunities to enhance human resource development ▪ Promotion of national and regional library and information resources to support fisheries management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop on IUU fishing including port State measures (already considered by the Commission) (March or April 2009 at a location to be determined) 	33 000 (Source: RECOFI)	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased understanding of the adverse impacts of IUU fishing on fisheries management ▪ Better trained personnel to address IUU fishing
3. To promote good science to underpin decisions for fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of applied research (related to biodiversity and conservation and management measures) ▪ Collection and analysis of fisheries-dependent and independent data in support of fisheries appraisal and fisheries management ▪ Stock assessment to evaluate the status of stocks and development of management measures ▪ Harmonization of data collection and sets for regional analysis and management of shared stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project for the review of national fisheries programmes (already considered by the Commission) (2009 throughout region) ▪ Project for the integration of annual catch and fishing effort data (already considered by the Commission) (2009/10 throughout region) ▪ Workshop to develop stock status reporting in the RECOFI region (considered by the Commission and referred back to the Working Group) (July 2009 at a location to be determined) ▪ Workshop on GIS (2010 at a location to be determined) 	<p>40 000 (Source: TBI)</p> <p>30 000 (Source: TBI)</p> <p>30 000 (Source: RECOFI)</p> <p>30 000 (Source: TBI)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical reports to be submitted to the responsible national authority indicating major findings on data completeness and quality recommending short and medium-term actions for improving the performance of national statistical programmes ▪ A prototype regional database containing basic functionalities for data storage, integration and retrieval accompanied by an operations guide on other related documentation ▪ Establish a knowledge-base for key stocks in the region in support of fisheries management ▪ Agreed format for stock status reporting and integrated data ▪ Increased knowledge of GIS ▪ Steps to be taken to implement progressively GIS in support of fisheries management

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop to improve the utilization of fishery dependent data (2010 at a location to be determined) 	30 000 (Source: TBI)	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines and approaches in basic analyses of fisheries data supported by standard methodologies
4. To promote legal discussion and review and revise fisheries legislation to reflect policy and international commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review, revision and harmonization of fisheries legislation ▪ Acceptance and implementation of international instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desk study to review fisheries legislation in RECOFI Members (2008/09) 	2 000 (Source: RECOFI)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved knowledge of gaps in national fisheries legislation ▪ Enhanced basis to promote and implement regional harmonization in legislation
5. To encourage the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bycatch management and discards reduction (related to gear and food security issues) ▪ Implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries including the protection of biodiversity ▪ Promotion of gear types to mitigate bycatch and ecosystem impacts ▪ Facilitation of practices to promote safety at sea ▪ Promote improved post-harvest fish handling 				
6. To reflect cultural and social values and economic consideration in fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognition of the cultural role played by fisheries especially in inshore areas and more isolated communities ▪ Promotion of fisheries activities to continue to support food security and nutrition ▪ Collection and analysis of economic data and related information (e.g. employment, trade, value, cost of operations, losses due to poor handling, etc) ▪ Promotion of responsible and sustainable fisheries development and value added activities (e.g. processing) ▪ Implementation of measures to maintain the contribution of fisheries to livelihoods especially where alternative employment opportunities are limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshop on fishery economic performance, dynamics and trends (2010 at a location to be determined) 	30 000 (Source: TBI)	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understanding of the economic dimensions of the fishing industry in the region with a view to the development of economic indicators

PRIORITIZED OBJECTIVES	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	REGIONAL PROJECTS, TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATES AND LOCATION	INDICATIVE COST AND FUNDING SOURCE (USD)	PROJECT RANKING	MAJOR PROJECT OUTPUTS
7. To coordinate and promote information exchange relating to fish trade in the RECOFI region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote better cooperation in regional fish trade ▪ Establish regional standards for fish exports and imports 				

APPENDIX 3

**List of activities for the RECOFI Working Group on Fisheries Management
(2008- 2011)¹**

ACTIVITY	INDICATIVE DATES	LOCATION	OUTPUTS
Second session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management	27–30 October 2008	Cairo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI
Review of fisheries legislation in RECOFI Members	November 2008/January 2009	Desk study to be undertaken at FAO Headquarters, Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report with a focus on gaps and shortcomings in fisheries legislation and measures to be taken to strengthen and harmonize it
Workshop on IUU Fishing including port State measures	To be determined: possibly in March or April 2009	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Workshop: enhanced understanding of matter relating to IUU fishing and measures to combat it ▪ Paper for the third session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
Review of national fisheries programmes	Dates to be confirmed: possibly March 2009	Consultancy with country visits to RECOFI Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the review with recommendations for follow-up activity
Fifth session of RECOFI	May 2009	United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the session including guidance and direction for the Working Group on Fisheries Management
Workshop to develop stock status reporting in the RECOFI region	July 2009	To be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Workshop ▪ Harmonized national approaches to stock status reporting for regional compilation of data
Third session of Working Group on Fisheries Management	October 2009	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI (reporting on both the third and fourth session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management)
Review for the integration of annual catch and fishing effort data	To be confirmed: possibly March 2010	Consultancy with country visits to RECOFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the review with recommendations for follow-up activities ▪ A prototype regional

¹ Subject to ongoing review, updating and change as circumstances require.

ACTIVITY	INDICATIVE DATES	LOCATION	OUTPUTS
		Members	database containing basic functionalities for data storage, integration and retrieval accompanied by an operations guide on other related documentation
Workshop to improve the utilization of fishery dependent data	To be confirmed: 2010	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines and approaches in basic analyses of fisheries data supported by standard methodologies
Workshop on GIS	To be confirmed: 2010	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased knowledge of GIS ▪ Steps to be taken to implement progressively GIS in support of fisheries management
Workshop on fishery economic performance, dynamics and trade	To be confirmed: 2010	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understanding of the economic dimensions of the fishing industry in the region with a view to the development of economic indicators
Regional training workshop on fisheries resources appraisal	To be confirmed: 2010 or 2011	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved output of fisheries statistics ▪ Better trained personnel ▪ Increased capacity to manage fisheries ▪ Report of the Workshop
Fourth session of Working Group on Fisheries Management	January 2011	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the Working Group ▪ A paper for RECOFI (reporting on the third and fourth session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management)
Pilot joint assessment of shared stocks	To be confirmed: 2011	Location to be determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedure for cooperative scientific work for key stocks ▪ Report of the activity
Sixth session of RECOFI	May 2011	State of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report of the session including guidance and direction for the Working Group on Fisheries Management

APPENDIX 4**Terms of Reference for the National Focal Points on Fisheries Management**

The national focal points on fisheries management will:

- promote the activities of the Working Group, especially in the intersessional periods;
- disseminate information concerning fisheries management nationally;
- facilitate the exchange of information relating to conservation and management in the region;
- promote and enhance regional cooperation among Members and the harmonization of conservation and management measures;
- bring national conservation and management issues to the attention of the Working Group;
- advise on, and assist in the formulation of, *inter alia*, work programmes, projects and other activities;
- act to support the implementation of activities consistent with the above responsibilities, and
- liaise with the National Focal Point to transmit information to the Secretary to promote and facilitate the good governance of the Working Group.

Furthermore, the focal points on fisheries management will ensure that the RECOFI National Focal Points are briefed fully on the activities of the Working Group on Fisheries Management and, as appropriate, provide advice on the Commission's programme of work and budget and other activities, including on their relevance to national policy.

To ensure that the national focal points on fisheries management are in a position to undertake these responsibilities, they should be experienced fisheries managers with ready and regular access to RECOFI National Focal Points and other national policy makers.

The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time- to-time and make recommendations for their amendment.