



FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

Main outcomes of the February
2005 meeting

What is COFI?

- 🇺🇳 The global intergovernmental body with competence on all fishery matters;
- 🇺🇳 Open to 141 member governments and non-members;

What does it do?

- ✚ Meets every two years to, *inter alia*:
 - ✚ Monitor the world fisheries situation;
 - ✚ Discuss recurrent and emerging international issues and solutions referred to it by its members, or the UNGA and related mechanisms;
 - ✚ Agree on binding and voluntary agreements negotiations;
 - ✚ Examine and evaluate FAO work on fisheries
 - ✚ Agree on FAO program of work and budget
- ✚ Is an opportunity to foster cooperation between regional fisheries bodies;
- ✚ Offers an inter-governmental platform to INGOs, other IGOs and industry representatives to dialogue with governmental authorities in charge of fisheries.

COFI 26

- Met on 7-11 March 2005, in Rome;
- Growing attendance. Attended by 748 registered participants, 137 countries, 7 specialized agencies

Ministerial session: Tsunami

Ministers called *inter alia* for:

- › A responsible and people-centered reconstruction strategy;
- › Donor coordination;
- › Focus on sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection, sectoral efficiency, improved sustainability and governance;
- › Protection of fishing rights, particularly in subsistence fishing;
- › Responsible aquaculture rehabilitation;s

COFI 26 Agenda

1. Progress on implementation of the CCRF
2. Assistance to countries affected by the Tsunami;
3. Report on COFI-Trade, CITES and ecolabelling;
4. Report on COFI-Aquaculture;
5. Enabling small-scale fisheries;
6. Deep sea fisheries issues;
7. Sea turtles conservation and fisheries;
8. Marine Protected Areas;
9. Review of the FAO Programme of Work.

Implementation of the CCRF

COFI called for:

- › A stronger focus on implementation
- › Rigorous implementation of the IPOA-

COFI Sub-Committee on Trade

COFI *inter alia*:

Adopted International Guidelines for ecolabelling for marine capture fisheries;

- › Recommended the preparation of International Guidelines for ecolabelling for inland capture fisheries;
- › Noted the successful first meeting of the FAO *ad hoc* Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of Cites Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (July 2004);
- › Asked for further collaboration with CITES including towards the signature of an MOU;

COFI Sub Committee on aquaculture

COFI, *inter alia*:

Enabling small-scale fisheries

COFI, following the recommendations of the FAO Advisory Committee on Fishery Research (ACFR):

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Deep sea Fisheries

COFI :

- › Noted the challenges posed by the management of deep sea demersal fisheries;
- › Welcomed the DEEPSEA 2003 Conference organized by Australia and New Zealand with the collaboration of FAO;
- › Discussed the deficiencies in the present legal framework calling for improvement;
- › Requested members to submit catch detailed information to FAO;
- › Called on RFMOs meeting immediately after to consider the issue
- › Requested FAO to provide UNGA with information, technical advice and leadership

Sea turtles and fisheries

COFI recommended *inter alia*:


- › To develop technical guidelines on how to reduce turtle mortality;
- › To use gear (such as circle hook) reducing turtle mortality;
- › To coordinate research, promote information exchange;
- › To review progress and report (website);
- › To broaden RFMOs' mandate to reduce fishing impacts;
- › To better link environmental and fisheries agencies;
- › To facilitate regional harmonization of legislation and management;
- › To look for extra-budgetary resources for the above.

Marine Protected Areas

 COFI:

 Positively discussed the issue;

 Recommended the elaboration of technical guidelines on the design, implementation and testing of MPAs;

 Agreed that FAO should assist members in meeting the 2012 WSSD goals in collaboration with other relevant IGOS.

Other matters



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Thanks for *your* attention