

FAO INPUTS IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION A/RES/73/124  
CONCERNING "OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA"  
FOR THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 JUNE 2019

SECTION I - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND RELATED AGREEMENTS AND  
INSTRUMENTS

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4 –

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to provide legislative assistance to Member States including, in the development of fisheries and aquaculture legislation, as well as related legislation. In the provision of legislative advice and assistance, congruity of national legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the

Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA), the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement), and the FAO 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) are examples of treaties applied. Instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and its supplementary instruments, the Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance (VGFSP),

when incorporated in binding measures adopted by RFMOs or national legislation.

RFMOs are established and recognized within the framework of the Convention. In accordance with their functions and management competence, RFMOs elaborate upon provisions of the Convention, including but not limited to provisions relating to straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks, discrete high seas fish stocks, anadromous fish stocks, and catadromous fish stocks. Specific binding decisions of RFMOs build upon the provisions of the Convention and are to be implemented by States Parties or cooperating non-parties within national legislative frameworks. In the provision of legislative assistance, FAO also ensures that obligations and requirements of relevant RFMOs are incorporated in national legislation, in particular the obligations and requirements of RFMOs established within the framework of FAO.

Since 2018, FAO has provided legal assistance for implementation of the Convention and international fisheries instruments to a number of Member States, including: Bahamas, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu.

SECTION II - CAPACITY-BUILDING

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 32



The 33<sup>rd</sup>



it draws on experiences from dozens of learning exchanges over the past decade to provide actionable, accessible advice and best practices.

The Swahili language version of the SSF Guidelines were voluntarily prepared by partners in East Africa and have been finalized; bring **the** number of language versions of the SSF Guidelines available to 21. The Croatian version of the SSF Guidelines is being finalized.

recommended that meetings should be more frequent and that the ILO formally joins the JWG. The fourth JWG meeting on IUU fishing is planned to be held in 2019.

COFI has repeatedly highlighted the importance of safety at sea in the fisheries sector. COFI 33 reiterated the importance of safety at sea and working conditions in the fisheries sector and welcomed the close cooperation between FAO, the ILO and the IMO.

In 2018, FAO published a global review of safety at sea in the fisheries sector.<sup>1</sup> The document focuses in particular on the small-scale fisheries sector in developing countries. Among other safety issues, it considers





OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 176 & 182 –

On 22 November 2009 the FAO Conference approved the PSMA. The objective of the PSMA is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures, and thereby to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems. Pursuant to Article 29, the PSMA entered into force on 5 June 2016. As at June 14, 2019, there

password restricted at this initial stage. O r1tm59 July 2

FAO contributed to a second preparatory meeting convened in May 2019 aimed towards the delivery of voluntary commitments

implementation of the VGMFG and encouraged the involvement of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and relevant RFMOs and other relevant international bodies.

COFI further encouraged FAO to conduct further work on quantifying the impacts of ALDFG and developing and documenting good practices for addressing ALDFG, including the recovery and recycling of gear, the













and local communities to identify OECMs and to apply the scientific and technical advice and guidance;

Parties to facilitate mainstreaming of protected areas and OECMs into key sectors, such as, , agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, energy, tourism and transportation.

OECMs represent a new opportunity for States to recognize tools that can support biodiversity conservation through a wider range of spatial management measures than ever before. Various international efforts have been pursued to define, operationalize, and provide guidance on OECMs across multiple sectors, but none yet specific to a sector. Area-based fisheries management measures (ABFMs) that likely meet the OECM criteria are widely used in fisheries management plans and processes, making this sector well poised to become a leader in identifying OECMs and show and strengthen the contribution of good fisheries management to the reduction of the collateral impact on biodiversity.

Since COFI 33, FAO has continued to work to support the achievement of Target 11 in particular. Following the CBD COP 14, FAO and CBD, in close collaboration with the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG),

FishSource) and, in the near future, from SDG Indicator 14.4.1<sup>13</sup> country reports, the prospective number of inventoried stocks is to double, and that of fisheries to be multiplied by five. Actors involved in seafood traceability and certification also expressed keen interest in using the FIRMS/GRSF standard-based unique identifiers of stocks and fisheries, which they intend to use in traceability schemes as connectors to the best scientific evidence on stock or fishery status.

FIRMS is now equipped to act as the digital companion of SOFIA's stocks status, by providing the evidence-base and transparency tool to assess global or regional statements on status of stocks. As a digital resource disseminating unique identifiers of stocks and fisheries, another unique prospect will be for FIRMS to draw the connection between stock status, catch data, and trade information. FIRMS, together with FAO's Global Capture Production database, should constitute major pillars to support SDG 14.4.1

GRSF and the FIRMS Tuna Atlas are planned to be publicly released on the occasion of the FAO Fishery Symposium in 2019.

On-going efforts also aim at responding to RFBs' regional needs, in particular in developing regions (e.g. CECAF, RECOFI, SEAFDEC, SWIOFC, WECAFC, BOBLME). Towards this goal, FIRMS is currently involved in the following projects with capacity building components:

- Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through FIRMS to support priority



awareness of this pressure rises, it becomes increasingly evident that sustainability can only be achieved through cooperation.

RFBs and RFMOs, are gaining importance in the international fora for discussion of issues related to fisheries management and sharing of living marine resources. RFBs have been intensifying their work to ensure that all possible mechanisms for cooperation are used in the development and management of fisheries and aquaculture.

FAO has been supporting this evolution by reinforcing the work of individual RFBs through the Organization's technical work on fisheries and aquaculture, and promoting and supporting linkages, exchange and mutual support among RFBs through the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN). RSN is hosted and supported by FAO and comprises 58 RFBs (including 25 RFMOs). Its purpose is to strengthen information sharing; offer a framework for discussion among RFB secretariats on emerging issues related to fisheries management, research and aquaculture development in their regions and, in the case of RFMOs, regulatory areas; enhance regional cooperation and provide communication services and visibility to the RFBs' work<sup>15</sup>. This is contributing to rapid development in the capacity of RFBs to support the planning and management of fisheries and aquaculture.

In the context of regional cooperation, there have been a number of developments.

FAO and UNEP have facilitated discussions between RFBs and the corresponding Regional Seas organizations to strengthen collaboration on issues of common interest, taking into account the different mandates and roles of these bodies. The two organizations also cooperate with CBD, within the framework of its Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), to enhance cross sectoral collaboration among RFBs and Regional Seas organizations in addressing issues such as the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and VMEs.

In the Mediterranean area, the GFCM and the UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP MAP) are collaborating and already achieved results, including the integration of environmental concerns in the context of social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture; the harmonization of existing criteria for identifying Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance and Fisheries Restricted Areas, in particular those located partially or wholly in areas beyond national jurisdiction; a stronger coordination in the implementation of the SDG strategies of the two organizations.

FAO and UNEP are also supporting cooperation agreements in other areas of the world in the Gulf and Sea of

development, management and governance and, in some cases, monitoring and evaluating of country compliance to the CCRF aquaculture related provisions<sup>16</sup>. The work of RFBs in the sector is being increasingly considered by the FAO Regional Conferences to define regional priorities and recommendations.

RFBs are present in all regions, their membership being very diverse in terms of distribution of income groups of countries. In view to achieve equitable development, FAO promotes cooperation among Members, especially by supporting those RFBs in challenging areas, for reasons linked to food security, socio-economic development, resource management and sustainability.

## SECTION XV – COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Like the Green Economy principles that preceded it, FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) emphasizes the three pillars of sustainable development in order to make fisheries and aquaculture development, within the context of the broader blue economy (tourism, shipping, etc.), achieve maximum socioeconomic benefits while minimizing environmental degradation. The BGI harnesses the power of aquatic resources and ecosystems to improve food security or decent work while preserving life below water and on land, thereby serving as a framework for implementing a number of SDGs.

BGI interventions span three overarching platforms: Blue Production—which is focused on implementing ecosystem-based approaches to responsible fisheries and aquaculture management; Blue Trade—geared at supporting the economic development of countries, with an emphasis on markets and access to trade; and Blue Communities—which aims to strengthen fishing communities by promoting social development by way of decent work and food security.

Across these platforms, the BGI seeks to achieve its objectives through the development of enabling conditions, including: (1) law and policy; (2) public-private institutions; (3) knowledge and capacity development; and (4) innovation. Law and policy is the cornerstone of any blue growth reform and should be constructed so as to prevent the overexploitation of the environment, the mistreatment of people, and corruption of institutions. Public-private institutions are important for coordinated management across ministries and sectors because blue economy reforms are holistic in nature, and the importance of initial public-private investment in blue economy reforms which are costly. Knowledge and capacity development

