

FAO contribution to the Secretary-General report on sustainable fisheries – Resolution 66/68

Achieving sustainable fisheries (Part I)

Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of capture fisheries

(operative paragraph 8)

FAO supported the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of capture fisheries through the extra budgetary funded FAO FishCode STF project and TCP funds. Major emphasis was given to improvement of information from the small scale sector and on capacity building. All activities were implemented in collaboration with Regional Fisheries Organisations and presently most of the field activities are concentrated in West and East Africa.

Fishery Resources Monitoring System

(operative paragraph 13)

The Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) is a formal information sharing Partnership Arrangement established in 2004 with FAO and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs). FIRMS operates within the Strategy-STF framework and is expected to provide, through a cooperative process, a long-term response to the challenge of sustained information flows for monitoring trends of the state of world marine fishery resources and their management with up-to-date and authoritative sources.

FIRMS current developments aim at enhancing the quality and coverage of information in sustainable ways, through expansion of its membership, extension of the scope and depth of information to be reported by each partner, and enhancement of efficiency and capacity of the Secretariat and Steering Committee.

The current FIRMS membership amounts to thirteen international partners, representing 18 RFBs. FIRMS registered a very good rate of attendance at its last Steering Committee meeting (December 2011), and the participation of three new Observer organizations (NAMMCO, RECOFI, SPRFMO) provides good prospects for growth of the partnership. During biennium 2010-11, members' information contributions as a whole have increased from 16 to 22%, and the marine resources inventory now counts more than 1000 resources/stocks: the coverage has been extended with inventories in new areas (CECAF, RECOFI, SWIOFC) or with new species (e.g. sharks for ICCAT, deep seas species for ICES, billfish for IATTC, various species for GFCM), and with fisheries management information (NEAFC, NAFO). The web-site has been enriched with dynamic mapping features and with tuna and deep seas thematic pages, which increased usage intensity.

Vulnerable species

(operative paragraph 14)

FAO is developing identification tools for commercially exploited and potentially vulnerable species for use by fishers, scientific observers at-sea and port inspectors, and other practitioners to improve identification and data collection on these species. A current initiative includes species identification guides specifically for potentially vulnerable deep-sea species exploited or impacted by ABNJ fisheries.

IPOA sharks

(operative paragraph 17)

A report on the “Review of the Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks” is completed will be made available to COFI participants in July 2012.

Fisheries by-catch and discards

(operative paragraphs 12, 14; Part VIII)

With \$10.2 million financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), national fisheries administrations, civil society, public and private sector organizations and the FAO Regular program, FAO commenced work to implement the recently endorsed FAO International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards in five Southeast Asian countries. By-catch of sharks, juvenile tuna, seabirds and turtles are addressed as part of a \$178million FAO-GEF global tuna project and an \$80million UNDP-FAO regional tuna project for the Western Central Pacific currently under preparation. Other by-catch work supported by the FAO regular program includes publication of “Best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries in all FAO languages”^[1]. With respect to significant adverse impacts associated with abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears on the environment, The FAO Regular program supported FAOs involvement with IMO MEPC working and correspondence groups established for the revision of MARPOL Annex V and its Guidelines. Recognizing the continuing need to minimize the impacts of fishing on the aquatic and atmospheric environment and the need to adopt ecosystem friendly capture methods, FAO was lead author of a journal paper published in 2012 identifying constraints and opportunities associated with Low impact and fuel efficient fishing^[2].

International Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

(operative paragraphs 19)

The *International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)* seek to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic growth. They support the empowerment of small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, to participate in decision-making, receive and benefit from rights and assume responsibilities for sustainable resource utilization and livelihoods development.

This process needs strong catalysts and follow-up to stimulate lasting and efficient change. The participatory approach of the SSF Guidelines development process has led to broad-based stakeholder engagement and significant buy-in for future implementation. The Guidelines development process is fully supported by fishers and fish workers worldwide who have pledged their engagement and commitment through their civil society organizations. In 2011 and 2012 more than 1100 stakeholders participated and engaged in the guidelines development process and shaped priorities for national policies and measures in support of coastal and inland fishing communities.

^[1] Fishing operations. 2. Best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 1, Suppl. 2. Rome, FAO. 2009. 49p.

^[2] Low impact and fuel efficient fishing-Looking beyond the horizon. Fisheries Research Volumes 2012, 119–120, 135–146

Implementation of the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement (Part II)

Collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas

(operative paragraph 35)

FAO has collected and disseminated the data on vessels that are authorized to operate in the high seas, regardless of the existence of regional and sub-regional management arrangements, on the basis of the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement). Thirty eight countries and one economic entity (European Union) have accepted the Agreement. The FAO designated web site (<http://www.fao.org/figis/vrmf/hsvar/>) currently disseminates information on 6,674 vessels reported from 44 countries. The access to the information is limited to members who have accepted the Compliance Agreement.

FAO is in process of integrating publically-available vessel information and developing a web portal to enable global search of such information; the test portal will be published in July 2012. Simultaneously, FAO has collaborated with five tuna management organizations to assist in enhancing their consolidated list of active vessels (CLAV) following the recommendation of the Third Joint Meeting of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (Kobe III) held in July 2011.

Revision of FAO global fisheries statistics

(operative paragraph 36)

FAO's statistics programme was established to monitor the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and other socio-economic factors, whilst the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement indicates clearly (Annex I of Article 7) that compilation and dissemination of data for stock assessment and management should be done principally through RFMOs that are responsible for the management of the relevant stocks. The FAO has disseminated integrated catch and effort data by gears and location of catch, collected by five tuna management organizations, through the Atlas of Tuna and Billfish Catches, <http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/tunaatlas/>. The FAO has also continued its efforts to develop a tool to allow users to access integrated information from multiple sources; this tool is currently under final review.

Related Fisheries Instruments (Part III)

Effective implementation of the Compliance Agreement

(operative paragraph 37)

The FAO web page which displays the records of fishing vessels reported by each Party in accordance with Article IV of the Compliance Agreement <http://www.fao.org/figis/vrmf/hsvar/> was upgraded in May 2012. The new web page provides access to data, nearly real-time reflection of reported data, as well as functions to allow each member to access and report data directly through the web.

Only a limited number of members have reported the records of vessels and their modifications regularly; this largely undermines the effectiveness of the Agreement. The FAO urges all parties to the Agreement to promptly provide updated information whenever the reported information is modified. The date of last update by each member is listed at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/hsvar/2/en>.

Conforming with the Compliance Agreement

(operative paragraph 38)

Honduras and Sierra Leone have provided to FAO the list of vessels authorized to operate in the high seas even though these countries have not accepted the Compliance Agreement.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

(operative paragraphs 39, 40; Part I)

FAO prepared the eighth report on “Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Related Instruments, Including International Plans of Action and Strategies, and Other Matters” for presentation at the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. It was based on information supplied by Members, regional fishery bodies (RFBs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through self-assessment questionnaires submitted to FAO.

FAO has continued to support the Code’s implementation in a variety of ways, including through regular and field programme activities, and has undertaken activities and proposed mechanisms to improve long-term access to, and sharing of, essential information to support the Code’s implementation. FAO has gone through a process to develop a new supplementary aquaculture questionnaire to improve the implementation of article 9 of the Code of Conduct and the reporting rate pertaining to the aquaculture sector. In 2010 and 2011 Technical Guidelines relating to ecosystem approach to aquaculture, use of wild fishery resources for capture-based aquaculture, use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture, together with marine protected areas and fisheries, were produced.

As requested by the FAO Programme Committee in April 2010, FAO conducted an evaluation in 2011 on FAO’s support¹ to the implementation of the Code of Conduct with particular focus on Human Capacity Development. Specifically, the purpose of the evaluation was to:

- i. provide FAO Member Countries and Secretariat with an evidence-based and evaluative assessment of the support by the FAO Secretariat to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries from January 2004 to December 2011, including all instruments developed under within or related to the Code before January 2004.
- ii. provide accountability about the Secretariat’s performance and comparative advantage in this area of work and formulate recommendations on the future role and strategies of the Secretariat in its work in support of the enhanced implementation of the Code.

The evaluation team was led by an external Team Leader and comprised of external independent consultants. Key findings and conclusions were drawn up on:

- The CCRF and FAO’s role in its implementation
- FAO’s Regular Budget resources and planning in support of the CCRF implementation
- FI’s role and work in
 - the implementation of the International Plans of Action, IUU fishing and Port State Measures
 - Small-scale fisheries
 - Safety at Sea

¹ All activities conducted by FAO Secretariat in the development of Code-relevant instruments and support for their implementation at national and regional level, including the development of regional and national plans of action, legislation embodying the Code principles and approaches and other guidance, as well as execution of the plans and legislation in practice.

- Sustainable aquaculture
 - Inland fisheries
 - Post-harvest, marketing and trade
 - the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture
 - Status and Trends in Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - Fisheries Research
 - Human Capacity Development
 - Human dimensions, gender mainstreaming for equality, social inclusion and poverty alleviation
- FAO's support to the implementation of the CCRF in Sri Lanka
 - The field programme for technical cooperation and development
 - Emergency and rehabilitation initiatives in the fisheries and aquaculture sector
 - Code-related normative products
 - FishCode
 - Partnerships with RFBs, RFMOs and other organizations

On the basis of their findings, the Evaluation team proposed a number of recommendations related to a strategic approach to the implementation of the Code in general and specific Code themes.

Safety at Sea

(operative paragraphs 41)

In 2011, the twenty-ninth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) welcomed the ongoing collaboration between FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in relation to safety at sea and agreed on the need to strengthen the conditions of safety at sea in particular with regard to small-scale fisheries (paragraphs 12 and 59 of the COFI report). It is planned that the English version of the Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, which were developed jointly by IMO, ILO and FAO, will be published in 2012.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Part IV)

IPOA - IUU

(operative paragraph 43)

The 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) provides the framework for countries to take coherent and consistent action to combat IUU fishing. Countries that have developed national plans of action (NPOAs) against IUU fishing, a key component for implementing the IPOA-IUU, have found that NPOAs-IUU have a double purpose: to promote action against IUU fishing and to assess where there are national policy and operational gaps with respect to IUU fishing. The identification of gaps has enabled countries to enhance their actions against IUU fishers with the overall objective of promoting longer-term sustainable fisheries. FAO continues to promote actively the implementation of the IPOA-IUU as the prime means of combating IUU fishing. Implementation encourages national

and regional reviews of actions and measures against IUU fishing to ensure that they are pertinent to the problems and issues they are intended to address.

Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance

(operative paragraph 48)

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012. Within its COFI mandate and the agenda adopted for the Technical Consultation, the meeting agreed to organize its work around the following structure: statement of purpose and principles; scope of application; performance assessment criteria; procedure for carrying out assessments; cooperation between flag States and coastal States; encouraging compliance and deterring non-compliance by flag States; cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries with a view to capacity development, and the role of FAO. Although some bracketed text remained in the Chairperson's draft text at the conclusion of the resumed session, substantial progress was made on key aspects of the draft text. Recognizing the sound progress made in the Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance to develop draft Criteria for Flag State Performance, the Technical Consultation recommended that work proceed as soon as possible to finalize and adopt the Criteria.

FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

(operative paragraph 54)

The FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 approved the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Agreement). It remained open for one year for signature. During that period 23 FAO Members signed the Agreement. In addition, at the 2011 session of COFI, 13 Members indicated that they had their domestic processes in train to ratify, accept or approve the Agreement. It shall enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. As at 1 July 2012 four FAO Members (including the European Union) had become Parties to the Agreement.

Website on Port State Measures

FAO has reviewed and updated the pages related to port State measures on the FAO website. Apart from the general information and database on port State measures, previously available, specific information on the FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement has been added. The latter includes sections on the benefits of ratifying and implementing the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement, FAO's efforts in support of the implementation of the agreement, relevant Port State Measures Agreement publications, as well as access to related Circular State Letters from the Director General of FAO, and quick links to the text and status of the Agreement.

Circular State Letter on the FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement

In June 2012, the Director-General of FAO sent the third Circular State Letter referring to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Agreement). He recalled that the Agreement was opened for signature at FAO from 22 November 2009 to 21 November 2010 and that it was subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatories, and open for accession by any State or regional economic integration organization that did not sign it. The main purpose of the letter was to encourage States to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Agreement, through appropriate instruments to be deposited with the Director-General of FAO, as a means of bringing it into force as soon as possible.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and Compliance and Enforcement (Part V)

Global Record of fishing vessels

(operative paragraph 65)

FAO has moved forward with its work on development of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels. Capacity development to assist countries in readying themselves for entry in to the Record has taken place in Central America with OPESECA through several workshops, most recently in March 2012. Additional workshops are planned for Southeast Asia in 2012 and also with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Africa and Asia Pacific to follow as funds permit. The work done in Central America has helped to create the framework for work to be taken to other regions. The framework will consist of awareness raising, extensive questionnaires to assess the institutional situation, workshops to create a work plan, creation of a gap analysis, assistance in identifying funding sources, customized implementation and significantly, the provision of existing FAO tools to use for strengthening the national fleet registers, including e.g., software, manuals, guidance and forms. A comprehensive document of definitions has been prepared and circulated with collaborators for initial review. Additional agreements on capacity development have been reached with the GFCM. Discussions with the EC have also occurred with possibilities for technical and financial support.

A promotional campaign to raise awareness about the need for a unique vessel identification number (UVI) and its benefits and process involved will open in July 2012.

Implementation of phase 1 of the Global Record through capacity building and pilot project activity is expected for two regional areas over the course of the five-year GEF-Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Project.

A number of stakeholders have approached FAO and are interested in cooperative activities with the GR programme. These stakeholders range from private sector initiatives, to NGOs and International Organizations.

MCS Network

(operative paragraph 71)

FAO has supported the International MCS Network by co-sponsoring its Third Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop held in Maputo, Mozambique in March 2011. Nearly 200 participants attended the workshop which had a focus on the special needs and challenges of developing countries in MCS. FAO also provided support by serving as the Network's Interim Chair during a period of reinvigoration (mid 2011 until March 2012) when all of the Network's seminal documents were re-written, a new website was launched and a new Executive Director for the Secretariat and Secretariat staff were hired. Currently FAO is continuing to provide support by serving as Vice-Chair and assisting with launching a number of new innovative ideas, including the first Stop IUU Fishing Award, encouraging innovations in MCS.

Fishing Overcapacity (Part VI)

Progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

(operative paragraph 74)

Progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) varies widely among countries. The European Union, together with Iceland and Norway, have succeeded in effectively reducing its fleet capacity in terms of number of vessels, tonnage and power. In some countries, including Republic of Korea and Japan, while the number of vessels has decreased, combined power has increased, reflecting the conflict in capacity reduction between the industrial sector and the small scale sector. When deciding on such policies many nations are faced with difficult dilemmas, as not only fishery resources but also social and economic issues are at stake. Data from some countries indicate a continuous expansion of fleets, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka; some of these cases may be a result of improved monitoring and registration of the national fleet. China's 2003 – 2010 marine fishing vessel reduction plan proved to be successful up to 2008, but thereafter, both the number of vessels and total combined power started to increase again.

Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem (Part X)

Aquaculture

(operative paragraph 120)

Contribution to monitoring and assessment of aquaculture sector performance at global, regional and national levels

A user-friendly tool was developed to facilitate data compilation and analysis, and generate and disseminate quantitative information needed to monitor and assess the aquaculture sector performance at national, regional and global levels, including its socioeconomic and environment impacts. The tool allows the user to also understand, monitor and improve the status and trend of the sector development.

Medium and long-term fish demand and supply were estimated at national, regional and global levels. Results indicated that, driven by rapid population and economic growth, primarily in developing countries, future fish demand will increasingly put pressure on global fisheries resources. They also showed that aquaculture production would need to grow faster than its current trend if this pressure is to be alleviated.

Information and knowledge sharing

The role of FAO as a knowledge organization is to establish appropriate mechanisms that will stimulate Member Countries to share and disseminate data related to aquaculture activities in order to facilitate cooperation on planning for sustainable aquaculture development at national, regional and global levels. For this purpose, FAO has continuously supported the establishment of regional aquaculture networks (e.g. Network of Aquaculture Centres in Eastern Europe or NACEE; GFCM Sub-Committee on Aquaculture for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; Aquaculture Network for Africa or ANAF; RECOFI-Working Group on Aquaculture in the Gulf Region) along with technical assistance for the development of associated information systems (e.g. SIPAM Web site; NACEE Web site; Regional Aquaculture Information System or RAIS; ANAF Web site).

FAO aims at further consolidating partnership with all existing regional aquaculture networks in order to facilitate the flow of aquaculture information at national and regional levels for the mutual benefit of the Organization itself and its Members countries.

Use of fish resources as feed for aquaculture

FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines, No. 5, Suppl. 5. Use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture has been published in 2011. The objectives of the guidelines are to contribute towards the development of aquaculture and the sustainable utilization of feed-fish stocks. Since its publication, it has have been widely distributed to the member countries and to different stakeholders. To reach to the wider audience, Chinese translation of these guidelines have been published in 2012 and an Arabic translation is planned in early 2013. FAO in collaboration with NACA, has implemented a regional TCP in four countries of Asia (i.e., China, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam) with an objective to make a comparative assessment on the use of low-value fish and pellets as feed for marine cage culture and to identify suitable policy and technical guidelines to assist this sector and to reduce the dependence of wild fish as feed. Further, to support the implementation of the guidelines, FAO has published related technical papers and extension materials (including posters) and organized expert/stakeholders workshops in this thematic area.

Promotion of regional cooperation with emphasis for the least aquaculture developed countries and the SIDS:

In Central Asian and the Caucasian countries

To promote regional cooperation in Central Asian and the Caucasian countries, FAO has organized a Scoping Workshop on Regional Cooperation Programme for Responsible Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Central Asian and Caucasian countries in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China, 4-8 June 2012. Participated by government representatives from Central Asian, Caucasian and selected Asian countries, Turkey and China and representatives from development partners and donors, the workshop has prepared a regional fisheries and aquaculture development strategy for central Asia and the Caucasian region. It is expected that the strategy will promote cooperation among the countries in the region and will serve as a package for seeking support from donors and development partners towards responsible and sustainable aquaculture and fisheries for Central Asian, Caucasian and other Asian countries.

In the Pacific

FAO engaged the governments of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories and other development partners active in the region in a dialogue which assessed the regional needs and mapped out a coordinating strategy and actions on aquaculture development for governments, major regional/international agencies and other relevant stakeholders. This dialogue developed a Pacific Aquaculture Regional Cooperative Programme with an agreed vision and 6 priority programme areas: biosecurity, capacity building, feasibility assessment, statistics and data, markets and trade and technology transfer and improvement. A sub-regional cooperation arrangement, Micronesian Association for Sustainable Aquaculture (or MASA) was initiated and may serve as a sub-regional cooperation arrangement that can be used in promoting aquaculture and implementing the cooperative programme.

As requested during the 5th and 6th Sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, FAO/FI is collaborating with SPC on the issue of aquatic biosecurity to support sustainable aquaculture development in the Pacific Countries and Territories region. This encompasses activities on (i) aquatic animal health and (ii) introductions and management of introduced species. A joint FAO/SPC Workshop with PICTs members on aquatic biosecurity and data and statistics is planned for October 2012 in Nadi, Fiji. The workshop will also provide a forum for selected PICTs under the umbrella of

the newly formed aquaculture association MASA to advance the aquaculture development programme in the region.

In the Caribbean

In view of the declining outputs from capture fisheries in the Caribbean Region and the growing demand of seafood that currently exceeds supply, the FAO has supported a regional initiative to discuss the limitation of technical expertise, infrastructure, capital investment and human resources, within any one country of the region, as major stumbling blocks to the development of the aquaculture sector. The Caribbean experts participating in this dialogue agreed that the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the provision of seed material and technical advice would assist the development of the industry.

Support to sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture

The depletion of sea cucumber resources with its impacts to the marine ecosystems and coastal communities globally has led FAO to respond to the urgent need for improved management. A number of projects have been initiated around the world supporting the development of improved management plans for sea cucumber fisheries through a multifaceted programme. Outputs from the programme have included technical manuals on the ecosystem approach to managing sea cucumber fisheries that provides a “roadmap” for developing and implementing better management of sea cucumber fisheries; a major review on the status of sea cucumber fisheries and aquaculture; and a series of regional technical and capacity-building workshops for fishery managers.

Aquatic animal health

FAO provides technical assistance in biosecurity governance at various levels, e.g. in national aquatic animal health (AAH) strategy development and implementation including compliance with international standards on AAH, emergency response to transboundary aquatic animal disease outbreaks and capacity development in areas, e.g. disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and contingency plan, disease outbreak investigation, farm-level biosecurity and application of risk analysis to aquaculture so that threats from new and expanding species and from different risk sectors can be assessed, managed and communicated in a timely manner. Technical guidelines in support of the FAO CCRF, disease diagnostic guides, extension materials, workshop reports and proceedings, biosecurity factsheets, AAH information systems, etc. are generated from both normative and field programmes and provide further guidance to members.

Aquaculture Certification Guidelines

FAO Aquaculture Certification Guidelines has been approved by COFI-29 and the FAO/FI is currently assisting the members, on request, for implementing the guidelines at national levels. Responding to a request by COFI/AQ and COFI, FAO/FI is currently developing a framework for assessing conformity of private and public aquaculture certification schemes against FAO Guidelines. This work is supported by the European Commission and an Expert Workshop to discuss the issue is being planned to be held in November 2012.

Deep-sea fisheries

(operative paragraph 135)

The FAO is continuing and expanding its program in support of the implementation of the Deep-sea High Seas Guidelines. Continuing activities include: the development of deep-sea species identification guides; guidance for impact assessments, encounter protocols and better collaboration among scientists/managers/and industry; assistance with stock assessments including for Alfonsino; an updated worldwide review of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas; and the development of a database on vulnerable marine ecosystems. A full scale programme under the GEF for deep-sea

fisheries in the high seas has now been approved and will be developed over the course of the next year.

FAO has developed Technical Guidelines on marine protected areas and fisheries (available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e00.htm>) as well as reviews at the national level of management regimes for spatial management measures in the marine realm.

VME database

(operative paragraph 135)

The development of the Global VME database has been initiated in 2011 through the support of extra-budgetary funding (France, Norway, and Japan). A first VMEs Requirements gathering workshop was organized in Rome in December 2011. This workshop has produced a road map to support the development of the database, including the development of the web-based system, commitments for provision of information by some RFMOs, and the development of a VME network of contributors. In June 2012, a web-based Discussion Group (Dgroup) was launched with moderate capacity, and mock-ups of the proposed VME website elaborated and shared for feedback through the Dgroup. This material will be presented to the Indian Ocean VME regional workshop (Mauritius, July 2012), where the VME network is expected to grow. The first release to the public of the VME database is planned for the end 2012. The extent of future developments will keep relying upon the availability of extra-budgetary funding.

Capacity building (Part XI)

FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement

FAO has initiated a global series of regional workshops focusing on the implementation of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement in developing countries. Specifically the workshops aim to:

- provide essential information about the Agreement focusing on the role, responsibilities and obligations of the port State
- heighten awareness about the benefits of implementing the Agreement
- facilitate knowledge building and skills development for managers and inspectors in relation to the Agreement, in preparation of the coming into force of the Agreement
- review stakeholders' perspective on port State measures and good governance issues
- promote the strengthening and harmonization of port State measures at regional level
- highlight the importance of developing concerted actions between port States and flag States in implementing port State measures effectively
- encourage the reinforcement of the implementation of existing Regional Plans of Action to combat IUU fishing and the development of new ones
- facilitate exchange of national experiences in combating IUU fishing, including through participation in group problem solving exercises and other participatory activities dealing with real world situations
- highlight the role of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMOs) in the implementation of the Agreement
- draw up related national and regional action plans and recommendations in general, legal and policy, institutional and capacity development and operations terms
- identify opportunities for regional cooperation to implement port State measures

FAO organized the first in this series of workshops² in Bangkok, Thailand (23 to 27 April 2012) in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC). This workshop was funded through the FAO regular programme and extra-budgetary resources, namely contributions from the Government of the Republic of Korea (Trust Fund GCP/INT/136/ROK), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

To support FAO's capacity-development efforts in port State measures, FAO published A guide to the background and implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (D. Douman and J. Swan, 2012)³.

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

FAO organized a Regional Policy and Planning Workshop (Bridgetown, Barbados, 6–9 December 2011) on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Caribbean with a focus on improving fisheries management and utilization in the Wider Caribbean Region. The workshop discussed the constraints encountered when applying the Code in the Caribbean region and identified solutions that would enable stakeholders to further mainstream their policies, strategies and management plans with the Code. Particular attention was given to increasing awareness and capacity in the region on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the International Plan of Action for the conservation and management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) and the ongoing work on the Voluntary Guidelines on securing sustainable Small-scale fisheries.

Data collection

(operative paragraph 146)

FAO supported the development of a regional training course on fisheries data collection at the Legon University, Accra, Ghana. Over 80 national staff from the region were trained and a similar training course for French speaking countries will be established in 2012.

² FAO/APFIC Workshop on implementing the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2774e/i2774e00.pdf>

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2590e/i2590e00.pdf>