

**FAO INPUTS IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION A/RES/68/70  
CONCERNING "OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA"  
FOR THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**3 JUNE 2014**

**I - Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments**

**OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 5**

FAO has continued supporting its Members in the review and development of national legislation in the field of food and agriculture, including fisheries. In this context, FAO has facilitated the implementation of obligations deriving from international agreements, including UNCLOS, in national legislation, in as far as they are relevant for fisheries, aquaculture, and food security in general.

**SECTION II - CAPACITY-BUILDING**

**OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 13**

*Development of technical legal skills at national level for the implementation of the UNCLOS*

FAO has continued supporting its Members in developing legal capacities, including in relation to the implementation of UNCLOS and in particular its provisions related to fisheries and conservation and sustainable utilization of marine living resources. FAO has also supported regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), functioning as the intergovernmental mechanisms for cooperation called for in article 63, 64 and 118 of UNCLOS. FAO has continued providing the secretariat function of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats Network, which will hold its fifth meeting on 7 June 2014. FAO also provides legal assistance to the Secretariats of those RFBs that have been established under the FAO Constitution, as well as others.

**OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 25**

***FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement***

FAO has continued to expand its programme to support the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement); enhance fisheries management and governance; promote long-term sustainability; and improve global food security. The programme activities aim to facilitate the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement and its implementation. In addition, they contribute to the development of national capacity to maximize the benefits available through the effective use of the Port State Measures Agreement and promote bilateral, subregional and/or regional coordination.

In September 2013, FAO co-organized a capacity development workshop on port State measures<sup>1</sup> in Nadi, Fiji, for 13 South Pacific States. Furthermore, in consideration of recent specific requests for assistance received from FAO Members, as well as interest expressed by relevant international and regional entities to cooperate in regional capacity-development initiatives, three additional workshops have been scheduled (2014 - 2015) for the Caribbean, South American and West African regions<sup>2</sup>. Coverage of other regions is planned within the framework of RFBs' programme of work or in a subsequent phase. Outcomes of the regional workshops may also be followed up by specific support at the national level, as appropriate, through supplementary tailor-made capacity development programmes, subject to the availability of funds.

FAO has participated in a number of workshops and meetings organised by its Members, IGOs, NGOs and other international entities, where it delivered presentations on the status of the Agreement and the benefits of its global implementation. A presentation on the Agreement was also delivered during a side

<sup>1</sup> With the support of a financial contribution from the Government of the United States of America, in collaboration with the ACP Fish II Programme of the European Union (Member Organization), and in cooperation with the Forum Fisheries Agency.

<sup>2</sup> Co-funded by the Government of Norway and in cooperation with relevant international and regional entities.

event held during the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Informal Consultations of States Parties of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (7-8 April 2014).

### ***System of Environmental and Economic Accounting***

The 2013 United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework as the global standard to monitor sustainable use of natural resources. FAO actively participated in the process of developing SEEA Central Framework to ensure coherence as much as possible in overall concepts utilized in SEEA asset account of aquatic biological resources with those in UNCLOS. FAO is currently in the process of developing an implementation guideline of SEEA in fishery and aquaculture context as well as use-case scenarios of SEEA data to support sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture sectors. It also plans to compile SEEA for fishery and aquaculture using the existing data to obtain globally comparable indicators of sustainability of aquatic biological resource use including marine resource.

### ***Payments for ecosystem services***

There is growing support for using markets to induce people to take account of the environmental costs of their behavior. Once such tool includes market-like “Payments for ecosystem services” (PES). PES schemes have been defined as voluntary and conditional transactions over well-defined ecosystem services between at least one supplier and one user. The basic idea behind these mechanisms is that the beneficiaries of an ecosystem service provision compensate the providers. Ecosystem services included most in market schemes so far include i) carbon sequestration in biomass or soils; ii) provision of habitat for endangered species; iii) protection of landscapes; and iv) various hydrological functions related to the quality, quantity, or timing of freshwater flows from upstream areas to downstream users.

PES have received a lot of academic attention in the recent years and are being adopted with great speed, and often without much critical discussion across the spectrum of conservation policy debate, developing a life of their own independent of its promulgators. In addition, the concept remains loose and many different conservation approaches are published under the ‘PES label’. In addition, with an increasing global interest on placing monetary values on aquatic ecosystem services has come interest in the design of PES and other market based instruments to create economic incentives for conservation.

The FAO will develop a technical report to provide decision-makers and planners within the fisheries and aquaculture sector with an overview of the theory and practice of PES (through fisheries and aquaculture case studies) along with a critical analysis of the appropriateness and feasibility of PES as part of the fisheries and aquaculture management tool box within the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture.

## **SECTION VII - MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY AND FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION**

### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 85**

#### ***Safety at sea in the fisheries sector***

Recently, as part of a global study, FAO sponsored 16 case studies from around the world to review the issue of the relationship between safety at sea and fisheries management practices for fisheries or for a specific fishery in each country. The purpose of a synthesis report of those case studies, which is in the process of being published, is to document (globally) the relationship between safety at sea and fisheries management practices and to provide practical guidelines for fisheries managers on how they can help to make fishing safer.

## **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 86**

### ***Child labour in fisheries and aquaculture***

The FAO ILO Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, which was officially launched during World Day against Child Labour on 12 June 2013 in Rome, is also available in Spanish<sup>3</sup>. FAO continues its support at the country level to address child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, for example in Cambodia and in Tanzania.

## **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 93**

### ***Counter Piracy Measures***

Within its mandate, FAO continues to support member countries and partners in addressing piracy and IUU fishing in the horn of Africa, Western Indian Ocean and West Africa. Piracy affects fishing itself directly through interference with legal fishing operations (for example through the hijacking of vessels for piracy) but also indirectly through interfering with fishing operation and reduction in licensing revenue. Piracy has been a problem in areas where there is weak governance and policing of waters.

FAO continues to support the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, established by the UN Security Council as well as the “Kampala Process”, which promotes an integrated approach to the development of a safe and secure maritime and fisheries sector in Somalia. In addition, FAO has a number of projects in Somalia, i) to improve fisheries management, diversify livelihoods, develop landing facilities, ii) address IUU fishing, and iii) supports the Somali Seafarers initiative to improve dialogues between fishers and international navies (EUNAVFOR and NATO). FAO is implementing a fisher ID card and vessel registration systems for Somalia, coordinates with regional fisheries bodies and projects and provides policy and legal advice to the government of Somalia and Federal member States. FAO is cooperating, within its mandate, with IMO through the Joint Commitments to a strategic partnership which was signed on 15 May 2012 to combat piracy in and off the coast of Somalia,.

With respect to the request from Iran at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Fisheries to establish an Ad hoc Intersessional Working Group, FAO intends to carry out (should funds permit) a joint FAO-IMO technical workshop to address these and related counter piracy measures.

### ***Global Record of Fishing Vessels Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record)***

The Global Record, as a major tool in implementing the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement, will assist Port States in carrying out inspections and follow-up actions of foreign flag vessels, as called for in the Agreement. In 2012, the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) recognized the necessity of global unique vessel identifiers (UVI), as a key component of the Global Record to identify and track vessels and suggested that the UVI be applied as a first step to vessels above 100 GRT (Phase 1). In December 2013, the IMO Assembly agreed to a proposal, co-sponsored by FAO, to include fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage or more in the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme through the adoption of Resolution A.1078 (28). The Scheme is now applicable to both merchant ships and fishing vessels. Consequently, the preconditions of using the IMO Number as the UVI for Phase 1 of the Global Record have now been met. The IMO Number is associated with the vessel for its entire life, even when subject to changes of flag, ownership, name, etc. Several regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have made provisions for the IMO Number to be compulsory for eligible vessels fishing in their convention areas.

### ***Monitoring and compliance - Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries***

At its 30<sup>th</sup> session in July 2012, COFI encouraged Members to respond to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Code and supported web-based reporting for the questionnaire. The Committee also supported gathering more information on regional efforts to implement the Code facilitated by a

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<sup>3</sup> [www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3318s/i3318s.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3318s/i3318s.pdf)

content review of the questionnaires for regional fishery bodies (RFBs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), along with the introduction of web-based reporting for these entities.

In 2013, the COFI Secretariat developed a tailor-made web-based questionnaire (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/code/codequest>) for Members (in 6 official languages), RFBs and NGOs, together with a related database and information system, with inbuilt data management and data processing tools, useful in analytical and monitoring processes. The questionnaire online system is accessible through a dedicated portal on the FAO domain using unique usernames and passwords, and meets the necessary confidentiality, security and usability requirements.

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 146**

##### ***Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance***

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011, and resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012 and from 4 to 8 February 2013. In accordance with the request given by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) the Technical Consultation resumed negotiations on the basis of a draft document with 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. The Technical Consultation came to a close at the second resumed session with agreement being reached on "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance". The Guidelines will be presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 31<sup>st</sup> Session for consideration.

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

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 (Port State Measures Agreement). 23 FAO Members signed the Agreement. As at 18 May 2014, ten FAO Members (including the European Union) had become Parties to the Agreement. The Port State Measures Agreement 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.

### **SECTION IX – MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE RESOURCES**

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 151, 164, AND 165**

##### ***Marine pollution and marine debris***

FAO continues to provide technical inputs and guidance through IMO on the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and aquaculture including the revision of MARPOL Annex V and its guidelines. FAO also continues to strengthen its collaboration with UNEP including the provision of technical advice into the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and agreeing to take the lead role in goal B of GPML to "Reduce levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), and abandoned vessels introduced into the aquatic environment".

In April 2014, FAO, UNEP and IMO participated in the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth held in The Hague, The Netherlands. This summit brought together global leaders, ocean practitioners, business leaders, scientists, civil society and international organizations and tasked them with identifying priority actions critical to preserving the earth's natural resources and food security. The Summit agreed that marine plastics pose serious threats to marine based activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, mining, power stations, desalination plants, harbours and rescue services and that the absence or lack of data to verify and quantify the potential effects of plastics (especially microplastics) in the ocean environment including effects on biodiversity and commercial food fish was a major concern and constraint to understanding the full significance of plastics in the oceans. In the report of the chair of the summit, it was agreed that in order to minimize the impacts of plastics in ABNJ as well as in EEZs,

UNEP, FAO and IMO should collaborate on a programme to: (1) establish a robust baseline on the magnitude and impacts associated with plastics and microplastics in the ocean and food chains, (2) raise awareness and educate on the state and impact of plastics on the ocean and the food supply chain, and (3) target actions to remove abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gears and rehabilitate fishing grounds.

In this regard, FAO, IMO and UNEP have planned collaborative activities to commence in 2014-2015 to mitigate the impacts of ocean based sources of marine pollution. Initial activities include *inter alia*: i) studies of “Methods to Estimate the Efficiency and Duration of Ghost Fishing, Estimates of Derelict Gear, estimates of Megafauna Ghost Fishing Mortality, and Regional Fisheries Management Organization Management Measures”, ii) review and analysis of national and regional legal and policy frameworks for selected countries / regions where recovery and clean-up missions have been successful, and iii) a desk review/study of technologies and methodologies used to remove ALDFG from the marine environment. UNEP, FAO and IMO are also collaborating on a co-authored OP-ED article on plastics in the aquatic environment.

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 154, 157 AND 163**

#### ***Climate change – impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and Ocean acidification***

##### ***Greenhouse gas emissions***

In line with the suggestions from the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session, FAO should provide Members with information on possible fishing industry contributions to climate change, and on ways to reduce the sector’s reliance on, and consumption of, fossil fuels, respecting the principles embodied within UNFCCC. FI conducted two related expert workshops. The first workshop’s (23 to 25 January 2012) aim was to develop and progress agreed methods framework to assess Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and the implications of different methods in the quantification of GHG from different seafood production systems.<sup>4</sup> The second workshop (4 to 5 March 2013) discussed the potential for reducing GHG emissions through changes in technology and practices and the impacts such changes may have on the system. Follow-up activities in supporting GHG mitigation efforts with capture fisheries and aquaculture are underway. A fuel saving manual for small scale fishing vessels has been published in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.<sup>5</sup> A pilot project to monitor fuel consumption patterns in selected fishing fleets in Thailand is currently in progress and case studies on reducing GHG emissions in aquaculture include improving food conversion ratios in tilapia, carp, catfish and salmon systems.

##### ***Climate change and fisheries and aquaculture***

In line with the FAO Adapt Programme<sup>6</sup>, FAO is giving priority to identifying and reducing the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture systems through improving the resilience and adaptability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to climate variability and change and ocean acidification. These activities will support calls from recent sessions of regional bodies to 1) support policy, legal and implementation frameworks at local, national and regional levels to mainstream climate change into fisheries and aquaculture; 2) reinforce capacity of regional and national agencies and institutions to address climate change issues; 3) plan for adaptation and mitigation within Members’ fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and 4) integrate fisheries and aquaculture into national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and enabling financial mechanisms, such as through the National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPA) and the supporting adaptation funds.

Therefore, the FAO and partners have been working to identify climate change implications, vulnerabilities and context-specific adaptation strategies to improve the resilience of vulnerable aquatic ecosystems and their dependent communities, and that provide shoreline and riverine protection, food and nutrition security, maintenance of water quality, income and livelihoods services. Examples of related

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<sup>4</sup> FAO. 2012. Report of the Expert Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Strategies and Methods in Seafood. Rome, 23–25 January 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. (also available at 1011www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3062e/i3062e.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Gulbrandsen, O. 2012. Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual. Rome, FAO. 57 pp. see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2316e/i2316e00.pdf>

activities include 13 workshops<sup>7</sup> around the globe, bringing together climate change experts with fisheries and aquaculture experts to review current scientific knowledge and define priorities activities to guide actions and investments in the near future. FAO has initiated and is continuing NAPA and UNFCCC National Communication fisheries and aquaculture implementation assistance in 11 countries/regions<sup>8</sup>. FAO continues to support the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group through its regional technical workshops and the UNFCCC National Adaptation Program (NAP)<sup>9</sup> initiation support through the development of NAP Guidelines for the Agriculture Sectors as well as through the GEF Global NAP Support Programme.

2012-2014 publications include:

- Report of the FAO/PaCFA Expert Workshop on Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Available Methodologies and their Relevance for the Sector, Windhoek, Namibia, 8–10 April 2013. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1047. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3357e/i3357e.pdf>
- Priority adaptations to climate change for Pacific fisheries and aquaculture - reducing risks and capitalizing on opportunities. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 28. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3159e/i3159e.pdf>
- Social-ecological vulnerability of coral reef fisheries to climatic shocks. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular C1082. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/ap972e/ap972e.pdf>
- Vulnerability assessment methodologies: an annotated bibliography for climate change and the fisheries and aquaculture sector. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular 1083. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3315e/i3315e.pdf>
- Climate change implications for fisheries of the Benguela current region - Making the best of change. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 27. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3053e/i3053e.pdf>
- Climate change implications for fishing communities in the Lake Chad Basin - What have we learned and what can we do better? FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 25. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3037e/i3037e.pdf>
- Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>
- Building resilience for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3084e/i3084e.pdf>
- Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf>
- Cambio climático, pesca y acuicultura en América Latina - potenciales impactos y desafíos para la adaptación. FAO Actas de Pesca y Acuicultura No 29. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3356s/i3356s.pdf>
- Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Western and Central Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.
- Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Southern and Eastern Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.

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<sup>7</sup> For proceedings of a Near East/North Africa workshop, see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2146e/i2146e.pdf>. For the Asia/Pacific workshop see <http://www.apfic.org/uploads/2011-17.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> For a review of the sector in NAPA, see FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1064 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2173e/i2173e.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/national\\_adaptation\\_plans/items/6057.php](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/national_adaptation_plans/items/6057.php)

- Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings.  
[http://www.crfm.net/~uwohxjxf/images/CCA\\_and\\_DRM\\_Regional\\_Workshop\\_Report\\_final\\_4.doc](http://www.crfm.net/~uwohxjxf/images/CCA_and_DRM_Regional_Workshop_Report_final_4.doc)  
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#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 159**

##### ***Invasive species***

FAO continues to support the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species in association with the Convention on Biological Diversity et al. FAO also continues to support the Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) and is producing Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: “Responsible Use and Control of Introduced Species in Fisheries and Aquaculture”. However, work on the guidelines has stalled due to lack of resources.

In light of the fact that alien species and genetically altered species used in aquaculture share many common elements in regards to ‘invasiveness’, FAO is examining them together in a risk/benefit assessment. Thus, the recently recommended COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies may address alien species and related technologies for development, use and control.

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 184**

##### ***Ecosystem approach***

Consistent with recurring recommendations by the FAO Committee on Fisheries, and in line with the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, FAO continues to support the practical implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) through normative activities as well as on the ground assistance to member countries. Some of the activities carried out more recently include:

- A toolbox for the practical implementation of the EAF published and also available on the web (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/eaf-net/topic/166272/en>).
- Good progress made on a publication on ecological, social and economic indicators for EAF.
- Management plans consistent with the principles of EAF (including the precautionary approach) finalized for fisheries in several African coastal countries. Support provided for practical implementation of these plans. Collaborations on various aspects of EAF in 32 African countries through the EAF Nansen project.
- Pilot case studies on developing EAF management plans for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries carried out in six South American countries as part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project.
- Two workshops held to develop regional and national management plans for the shared small pelagic resources off North West Africa, as part of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem project (CCLME).
- Ecosystem approach to fishery Management Training Course developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) and the Coral Triangle Support Program (CTSP).
- Training of trainers in the Asia-Pacific is proceeding with Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia undertaking national training courses using the course already developed;
- The Southeast Asian Fishery Development Centre is hosting and at the same time undertaking training of trainers. Other countries and organizations are scheduled to follow, particularly in south Asia.
- Collaborations with Universities in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean developed to plan for integration of EAF courses in university curricula.
- A management plan for fisheries and aquaculture activities in the Estero Real (Nicaragua) completed and implemented, consistent with the principles of EAF and EAA (Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture).
- A training course organized for selected Mediterranean countries in the context of the Mediterranean LME project “Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea”.

- Through the operations of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, and as part of the Norway funded EAF Nansen Project, important data and information are being collected on marine resources and the marine environment in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Plans for a new programme to be funded by Norway entailing building a new research vessel (Dr. Fridtjof Nansen) and a research and management programme addressing sustainability of fisheries, impacts of climate change on fishery resources and ecosystems and impacts of pollution and other human activities on fishery resources and ecosystems. This programme will build on the results and efforts obtained through the EAF Nansen project.

In most EAF activities strong partnerships have been established with relevant regional and national institutions/programmes, including for follow up and implementation of the fisheries management plans.

## **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 188**

### ***Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication***

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines) 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 developments.

Acting on to the recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> sessions of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, FAO hosted a technical consultation to develop the SSF Guidelines, from May 20-24 in 2013 and from 3-9 February in 2014. A total of 87 COFI members, 11 inter-governmental organizations, 4 international non-governmental organizations and 59 representatives from civil society organizations attended the meetings. The resumed session in February confirmed the importance of empowering the small-scale fisheries sector to act as responsible steward of aquatic resources and to allow for a dynamic development of the sector. To achieve this, the meeting acknowledged the need for an inclusive and integrated approach which allows for the active participation of all stakeholders. While the Technical Consultation did not fully complete negotiations, a Chairperson's text of the SSF Guidelines ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/ssf/SSF\\_guidelines/TC/2014/2e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/ssf/SSF_guidelines/TC/2014/2e.pdf)) will be presented to the 31<sup>st</sup> session of COFI in June 2014 for finalization.

During its 30<sup>th</sup> session, COFI had also noted the need to develop implementation strategies for the future SSF Guidelines at various levels including related policy reforms. It was also recalled that the 29<sup>th</sup> session of COFI had agreed to the establishment and implementation of a Global Assistance Programme that would support this process. In accordance with the Committee's recommendations, FAO started a process of considering implementation issues more explicitly, including through several specific activities like the Workshop on Strengthening Organizations and Collective Action in Fisheries: a way forward in implementing the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, held in March 2013 and an e-consultation on Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication held on 11 November – 2 December 2013 to collect and share views, experiences and contributions on how the SSF Guidelines can be implemented effectively once finalized and adopted. A proposed outline for such a Global Assistance Program to support the future implementation of the SSF Guidelines - subject to their finalization – will be presented to COFI at its 31<sup>st</sup> session in June ([www.fao.org/cofi/23150-0e78a70aab4c667a91d6ddf2eacad8405.pdf](http://www.fao.org/cofi/23150-0e78a70aab4c667a91d6ddf2eacad8405.pdf)). The FAO calls upon its Members to continue their active participation and support of the SSF Guideline development process and their subsequent implementation.

## **SECTION X – MARINE BIODIVERSITY**

### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 194**

#### ***Areas beyond national jurisdiction program***

Seeking to generate a catalytic change, in November 2011, the Council of GEF approved the “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program” (ABNJ Program) – also known as “Common Oceans”<sup>10</sup>. The program, led by FAO working in close collaboration with two other GEF agencies, namely, UNEP and the World Bank, as well as several other partners, aims at promoting efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ to achieve the global targets agreed in international fora.

The five-year Program, whose implementation started in 2014, is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative working with a wide range of partners. It is made up of four Projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services.

#### ***Deep-sea Fisheries and Areas beyond national jurisdiction***

The FAO programme on deep-sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction focuses both on applying an ecosystems approach to fisheries and protecting marine biodiversity in the deep seas and has been ongoing since the adoption of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (Deep Sea Guidelines) in 2008. The full ranges of stakeholders and partners have been involved from the fisheries management community, as well as the biodiversity conservation community, the fishing industry and RFMOs and others. The continued work on the implementation of the Deep Sea Guidelines encompasses the above mentioned programme as well as ongoing work focusing on sustainable use of these resources, prevention of significant adverse impacts and conservation of marine biodiversity in the deep seas. Particular work has been done on gathering best practices and assisting with capacity development and knowledge sharing in different regions on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the use of the criteria for identification and appropriate management actions. Regional VME workshops have taken place in the western Indian Ocean (Flic and Flac, Mauritius, 2012), South East Atlantic Ocean (Swampkopmund, Namibia, 2013) and the North Pacific Ocean (Tokyo, Japan, 2014) areas. A database on vulnerable marine ecosystems is now under development and will be published in the fall of 2014. This will provide easily accessible information on VMEs in each region. The Deep Seas programme will also include capacity development and improved knowledge on the use and application of impact and risk assessments in these areas.

### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 204**

#### ***Taxonomic capabilities***

Through the “FishFinder Programme” FAO produces user friendly species identification guides and catalogues for aquatic resources. In forty years FAO FishFinder has produced over 200 identification guides for commercial aquatic species and has compiled a unique and important archive of more than 40 000 scientific illustrations as well as distribution maps, taxonomic descriptions, biological and fisheries information for over 8 000 species.

The tools developed by FAO FishFinder are essential for the implementation of sound sampling and reporting schemes for fisheries and biodiversity assessments and for fishery catch statistics. The Programme prioritizes the production of species identification tools for non-experts in developing countries and has recently developed a number of new products, such as pocket guides, on-board identification sheets and a soon-to-be published shark fin guide based on automatic image recognition. The FishFinder Programme is interested in exploring novel species identification techniques as reflected in a recent review of twelve different methods used in fish identification (Fischer 2013).

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.commonoceans.org/>

At the basis of FAO FishFinder products are the global catalogues for selected species groups, e.g. for invertebrates like shrimps, cephalopods and sea cucumbers and for vertebrates like sharks and rays, many commercially important bony fish groups, mammals and sea turtles.

FAO FishFinder pocket guides make use of local knowledge and are a user-friendly tool for fishery officers and other non-experts to reliably identify aquatic species in the field. They are small, sturdy and water-proof and contain a selection of the most common commercially important marine or inland-water species in one country. Currently, pocket guides are available for Kenya, Tanzania and Liberia, and very soon also for Pakistan. Several new pocket guides are at a planning stage.

While the FAO FishFinder pocket guides facilitate the collection of fishery information by non-experts, the field guides are perfect instruments for biologists, well-trained fishery officers and resource users. They are much more comprehensive with regard to the number of species included and are essential for scientific studies of aquatic ecosystems, either for fisheries or ecological research. Therefore a FAO FishFinder field guide can play an important role in increasing a country's scientific capabilities and knowledge regarding its aquatic resources. The most recent FishFinder field guides are for Kenya (Anam and Mostarda 2012) and Pakistan (Psomadakis et al., in prep.).

FAO FishFinder collaborates with other FAO programmes and projects, e.g. those related to IPOA-Sharks, CITES, Guidelines for Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas and various inland fisheries projects. This is reflected in the recent production of identification tools for sharks (e.g. Ebert and Stehmann 2013), sea cucumbers (Purcell et al. 2012), shark fins (Marshall et al., in prep.) and deep-sea species (Ebert and Mostarda 2013, Ebert 2013; a deep-sea sponges and corals guide is being planned).

In addition to producing species identification tools, the FishFinder collaboration with the FAO Deep-Sea programme supports the taxonomic training of scientists, on-board observers, fishers and fishery officers through regional workshops (most recently in Mauritius in 2013 and 2014).

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- Purcell, S.W., Samyn, Y. & Conand, C. 2012. Commercially important sea cucumbers of the world. FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes. No. 6. Rome, FAO. 150 pp. 30 colour plates.

#### ***Aquatic genetic resources***

FAO is preparing the first State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Report, through a country-driven process, taking care not to duplicate or assume the work of other UN agencies and recognizing in particular the UN General Assembly's central role in addressing issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The scope of the first Report will be farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction. Countries are also invited to provide a species list of nationally important Aquatic Genetic Resources of capture fisheries within national jurisdiction.

FAO distributed a Circular State Letter inviting Member Countries to nominate National Focal Points responsible for the preparation of Country reports on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO prepared Draft Guidelines for the preparation of Country reports for The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which provide guidance to help countries complete their Country Reports.

The work towards the preparation of the Report should link to and build on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The first State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Report is expected to be completed in 2017.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries' Sub-Committee (COFI) on Aquaculture has endorsed the creation of an Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies. Draft Terms of Reference for the advisory group have been established and will be submitted to the 31<sup>st</sup> session of COFI for adoption.

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 208 AND 209**

##### ***Spatial management measures***

FAO developed technical guidelines on marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries<sup>11</sup> in 2011 and has conducted regional workshops in the western Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Canary Current region to bring the fisheries and biodiversity communities together to discuss common issues in relation to spatial management measures. FAO is leading sessions on protected areas and food security including specific sessions focusing on fisheries and protected areas during the 2014 World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia, from 12 to 19 November 2014.

### **SECTION XI – MARINE SCIENCE**

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 222**

##### ***Collaborative platforms***

FAO plays a leading role in the EU/FP7 funded iMarine initiative which develops a data-infrastructure enabling new forms of scientific data sharing and multidisciplinary collaborative science in support to policy development and implementation, towards goals of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources. By interconnecting all concerned actors operating in different domains (in particular fisheries, biodiversity, environment) around common data and information and multidisciplinary knowledge, this initiative is expected to foster the emergence of global partnerships and related community of practices, in support of big societal challenges facing responsible fisheries such as the ecosystem approach, or climate change. A Blue Paper on a Public Partnership business model is under elaboration to address the sustainability of the iMarine initiative and is expected to primarily rely on a public partnership between IT specialized institutions and global, regional, and national marine knowledge institutions such as FAO, IOC, EC, ICES, and other Regional Fishery Bodies, WFC, IRD, VLIZ.

#### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 231 AND 232**

##### ***Natural disaster***

Amongst its five new priorities, FAO's strategic objective on disaster risk reduction and crisis management is to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. Fisheries and fishing dependent communities are at high risks of extreme events such as flooding and cyclones, while inland fisheries and aquaculture can be significantly affected by droughts and floods. With climate change, both the severity and the frequency of these hazards are likely to increase. Disease in wild fish populations and in farmed fish species are increasing. The sector is also at risk from other disasters of human origin such as oil spills and conflicts.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e00.htm>

In line with FAO's commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the UNFCCC processes related to adaptation in which disaster risk reduction is considered as complementary action and essential for climate change adaptation, and FAO's support to the development of the post-2015 framework of disaster risk reduction, and collaboration with OIE on animal health, FAO is supporting regional organisations and member countries in strengthening institutions, communities, ecosystems and livelihoods systems around four main axes. These include: i) strengthening policies and programming to prevent and reduce risks and mobilize investments for medium to long term rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction programmes; ii) strengthening information systems, risk assessments and early warnings for safer communities and economies; iii) building capacity and improved access to risk reducing technologies for those most vulnerable to risk; and iv) improving emergency preparedness measures and providing sound response and sustainable recovery.

More specifically, FAO provides technical support and capacity building in developing and implementing resilience programmes before, during and after a disaster. In the Caribbean, at the request of the Caribbean Regional Fishery Mechanism (CRFM), FAO has provided (2013-2014) support to assist countries in the region with the development of a Regional Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture. FAO also provides technical support to response to emergencies such as after cyclone Haiyan in the Philippines (2013-2014 ongoing) and to food insecurity situations in South Sudan and CAR (ongoing). The types of interventions cut across all technical areas of the work of the Organization and comprise for instance i) introducing more responsible and safe fishing practices and technologies, ii) strengthening fisheries management taking into account disaster risks and climate change, iii) community based planning and access to microfinance and social protection schemes, iv) diversifying and strengthening livelihoods through improved post-harvest, value-adding and alternative livelihood options, and v) building capacity in disaster preparedness and response.

FAO's work on resilience to disasters supports the recommendations from the recent international events such as the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, held in The Hague, from 22 to 25 April 2014, and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Addis Ababa, from 1 to 2 May 2014.

In 2013-15, FAO will continue supporting the delivery of resilience programmes in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in several countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific and to support capacity development in response to fisheries and aquaculture emergencies in line with the recently developed guidance (FAO, 2014).

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## **SECTION XIII – REGIONAL COOPERATION**

### ***Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden***

On 24 to 25 June 2002, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) held a regional meeting in Jeddah to discuss the possibility of establishing a fishery management arrangement for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The representatives of PERSGA Member countries attending that meeting unanimously agreed to set up a regional mechanism for the management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden fisheries, whose membership would embrace the Red Sea Littoral Arab and Africa States. At the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI, held from 2 to 6 March 2009, “Some members called for the establishment of a regional fishery body to bring together the coastal States of the Red Sea. The body would promote cooperation and management for sustainable fisheries similar to other regions”.

In 2009 FAO established a Task Force to work on this matter and the Regional Office for Near East and North Africa took lead and a partnership was established with PERSGA to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Intergovernmental Meeting to Initiate the Establishment of a Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Fishery Management Arrangement (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 28 – 30 November 2011). The meeting reached consensus on the need to establish a regional fisheries mechanism. It was also agreed that the fisheries mechanism should have a management mandate capable of adopting measures for the sustainable management of marine fisheries and the development of aquaculture on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa held in Rome from 24 to 28 February 2014, specific reference to this RFMO was made. In 2014 Egypt officially requested FAO to continue supporting the process and to convene the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting in 2014 in Egypt.

## **SECTION XV – COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

### **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 275**

#### ***Blue Growth – a framework for the future***

Building on the challenges identified in the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want* and the post-2015 development agenda, FAO is promoting “Blue Growth” as a coherent approach for the sustainable, integrated and socio-economically sensitive management of oceans and wetlands. For FAO, this means focusing on four components: capture fisheries, aquaculture, ecosystem services, and trade and social protection of coastal communities. Investing in Blue Growth – the sustainable management and use of aquatic resources and the adoption of ecosystem approaches – can help to reduce stressors and restore the functions and structure of aquatic ecosystems. The initiative is of particular significance to small island developing States and to coastal areas and wetlands around the globe. It offers an integrated approach in response to the increasing need for cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders and at all levels for more sustainable fisheries management and more effective conservation. It is an approach that could reap an estimated potential economic gain of US\$50 billion per year for fisheries alone. In addition, Blue Growth can further the capacity development efforts needed to strengthen the policy environment, institutional arrangements and the collaborative processes that empower fishing and fish farming communities, civil society organizations and public entities.

Grounded in the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its associated guidelines, Blue Growth provides a global framework to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Building on recent international and national initiatives, FAO will assist its Members and regional institutions in developing, fostering and implementing the blue economy agenda to help turn commitment into action. Blue Growth builds on the three pillars underpinning sustainable development by addressing the environmental, social and economic issues and challenges facing the sustainable and responsible management of aquatic resources. This translates into recognizing and addressing the rights of those dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods – some 12 percent of the world’s population. Their rights relate to tenure, income, market access, and decent living and working conditions. By dynamically supporting an integrated approach, Blue Growth can foster and sustain the valuable

contribution of oceans, seas and coasts to food security, nutrition and decent employment for future generations.

## **OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 278**

### ***UN-Oceans***

FAO has been an active participant in UN-Oceans since it was established. In 2011, the General Assembly, in paragraph 239 of resolution 66/231 on oceans and the law of the sea, invited the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit to review UN-Oceans and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly for its consideration, and requested UN-Oceans to submit to the Assembly draft terms of reference for its work, to be considered by the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with a view to reviewing the mandate of UN-Oceans and enhancing transparency and reporting of its activities to Member States. The Joint Inspection Unit undertook a review of UN-Oceans in 2012 and transmitted its report to the General Assembly on 28 September 2012. At its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 267 of resolution 67/78 on oceans and the law of the sea, noted the review of UN-Oceans by the Joint Inspection Unit, decided that the draft terms of reference for its work submitted by UN-Oceans would be considered by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session with a view to reviewing the mandate of UN-Oceans and approving the terms of reference, taking into account the need to strengthen the central role of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS) and the need to enhance transparency and reporting of the activities of UN-Oceans to Member States, and requested UN-Oceans to draft revised draft terms of reference for its work for consideration and approval by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. In 2013, the General Assembly, in paragraph 279 of resolution 68/70, recognized the work undertaken so far by UN-Oceans, approved the revised terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans, with a revised mandate, as annexed to the resolution, and decided to review these terms of reference at its seventy-second session in light of the work of UN-Oceans.

In support of the post-2015 process, as co-lead for the Technical Support Team to Oceans Focus Area 13 (formerly 16), FAO has been coordinating inputs through the UN-Oceans to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

FAO is the Secretariat of the UN Atlas of the Oceans, a web portal developed under the authority of UN-Oceans which allows UN-Oceans members to provide relevant information on their respective activities with regards to the sustainable development of the oceans. FAO also hosts and manages the UN-Oceans website in consultation with UN-DOALOS.

### ***Thessaloniki Declaration***

The International High level Conference on the Management of Fishing Capacity “Global Fishing Capacity-Less is more” was held from 13 to 14 March 2014 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Conference was organized by the European Commission with inputs from FAO, under the auspices of the Greek presidency of the EU. The meeting resulted in a joint declaration signed by six major fishing nations, namely, Columbia, EU, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Unites States of America, committing themselves to cooperate i) to stress the importance of international cooperation to manage fishing capacity at the regional and global scale in an effective way; ii) support effective tools and measures in regional and international organizations which will help address fishing overcapacity, and iii) encourage States, entities and RFMOs to implement the IPOA .

### ***Global Conference on the Governance of Tenure in Fisheries (UserRights 2015)***

Since late 2013, FAO and its partners among which are Governments, NGOs, and civil society, have been working on the organization of Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: A global conference on rights-based approaches for fisheries. The conference, which will take place in March 2015 in Siam Reap, Cambodia, will review experiences with rights approaches for managing fisheries in different settings.

This will be achieved by: a) Analyzing how different types of user rights systems - closed access, closed/designated areas, group quotas or shares, individual non-transferable and individual transferable quotas - influence on or become the drivers behind change in all three pillars of sustainable development - social, economic and biological - and analyze how different user rights choices generate

different consequences; b) Discussing how to address the concerns about, and barriers to, fair and equitable application of user rights in capture fisheries; and, c) Providing practical guidance for implementing in the fisheries sector the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

The outcome of the Conference will be a general broader understanding of the concept of “Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries” that will advance and improve the basis for generating practical, constructive guidance for fisheries stakeholders, fishermen, communities and managers to use in daily management of fisheries and that will guide policy makers on the design and application - or non-application - of rights-based systems. FAO will act as the core secretariat for the Conference.

### ***The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth***

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, held in The Hague, from 22 to 25 April 2014, was organised by the FAO, the World Bank, the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and the governments of Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway and the United States of America. The Summit brought together a diverse range of ocean stakeholders to identify solutions and success stories that reconcile competing interests and show how governance, partnerships and financing can help scale up activities that result in shared prosperity today and for future generations.

The Summit, attended by more than 600 participants, from governments, private sector, academia, NGOs, noticed that the world is waking up to the challenges that face the oceans. At the Summit there was a willingness to move ahead from recognizing the challenges to formulating concrete actions and developing and/or joining partnerships. These partnerships showed how combined action for more healthy and productive oceans can drive sustainable growth and shared prosperity, while preserving our natural resources for future generations. In this regard participants highlighted the need for specific attention to embed Oceans in the climate change and other relevant agenda's, and working towards a Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans, as part of the Post-2015 Development Framework.

Participants called for championing new, concrete and innovative actions and partnerships specifically in the field of Blue Growth and Food Security. It was noted that an inclusive voluntary Global Alliance/Network for Action on Blue Growth and Food Security could bring forward and accelerate concrete actions and partnerships identified by the Summit, strengthening ongoing partnerships and initiatives. Other participants urged strengthening of existing partnerships in the area of oceans, such as the Global Partnership for Oceans.

The outcomes encouraged and strengthened collaborative and innovative approaches. There was a call to continue this dialogue for action, and as a driver launch an effective advocacy and public awareness campaign for Food Security and Blue Growth, with special attention to young people.

As part of the partnerships and actions launched during the Summit, FAO will support countries to implement Blue Growth Initiatives, including strengthening the RFMO's and implementing the small-scale fisheries guidelines, as well as through ecosystem approaches, to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.