



REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

(No. 8) September 2013

NEWS FROM FAO HQ

Focus on Regional Fishery Bodies

You will all be aware that FAO has been bothering you a lot lately, and we just want to thank everyone for the generous giving of your time, and for your patience in dealing with the multitude of emails from us. The good news is:

- we have streamlined and updated all the FAO RFB fact sheets including maps and the RSN website;
- we are in the process of writing a chapter for the 2014 FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture on the diversity of work being undertaken by RFBs (Snapshot of August 2013); and
- we are in the process of writing a 2014 COFI paper on the 11 FAO RFBs: APFIC, CACFish, CECAF, CIFAA, COPESCAALC, EIFAAC, GFCM, IOTC, RECOFI AND WECAFC.
- My next FAO based task will be to rewrite the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture circular on “The Role of Regional Fishery Bodies in the Conservation and Management of Living Aquatic Resources” and I will work on this in early 2014.

I am certain that RFBs will be the stars of the COFI meeting next June. Many thanks to all of you. ☺

Meanwhile, over the next few months, we can liaise on some new inter-agency projects between the UN system and RFBs:

FAO AND INTERPOL collaborating on IUU Fishing

A new initiative to deal with IUU fishing at the international, regional and state levels, has been developed by INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme and this is known as Project Scale.

Project Scale is a pilot project established at the INTERPOL International Fisheries Enforcement Conference in Lyon in February 2013. Project Scale is supported by Member Countries through the Fisheries Crime Working Group, which met for the first time during the International Fisheries Enforcement Conference in February. In the pilot-phase, INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme will hosts a number of regional consultations on fisheries crime. I attended the second regional consultation in July in Cape Town.

The next meeting of the Fisheries Crime Working Group will be this November in Nairobi, which will introduce two sub-working groups on intelligence and capacity building respectively.

Contrary to popular belief, INTERPOL is not comprised of secret agents travelling the world on top secret law enforcement matters. The agency describes itself as a facilitator and their task is to facilitate law enforcement capacity building, intelligence exchange, networking and operations between states and involving trans-boundary crime. Much of IUU fishing is such a crime.

The immediate priorities of Project Scale are:

- To raise awareness of fisheries crime;
- To assess and facilitate the use of INTERPOL's tools and services to assist fisheries authorities combat fisheries crime
- To establish National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs) to facilitate institutional cooperation between national agencies and international partners; and
- To conduct operations to suppress criminal activity.

I attended the Cape Town meeting and spoke on the various RFB measures to tackle IUU fishing. The presentation was well-received and the audience of fishery and judicial ministers, high level fishery officers and police officers / law enforcers, customs officers, NGOs, and academics, all acknowledged the benefits of a regional approach to dealing with such issues. Thanks to IOTC and CCAMLR who supported my presentations with contributions from their own representatives at the meet. Perhaps Interpol should be prioritizing (RESTs): Regional Environmental Security Task Forces? As I always maintain, relationships at the regional level are frequently more dynamic than global attempts to motivate individual States.

Contact INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme at environmentalcrime@interpol.int for further information about INTERPOL Project Scale and the upcoming Fisheries Crime Working Group meeting in Nairobi in November. This is a really important development and I hope to see you all in Nairobi.

FAO AND CITES collaborating on Sharks

In July 2013, FAO was visited by a high level delegation from CITES to discuss collaborative assistance for a sound implementation of the recent CITES regulations for sharks and rays. In March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, the CITES COP16 adopted several proposals for the listing of manta rays and five species of sharks under CITES Appendix II: the oceanic whitetip shark, the scalloped hammerhead shark, the great hammerhead shark, the smooth hammerhead shark, and the porbeagle shark. These sharks are widely hunted for their meat, and most particularly for their fins, so that their abundance levels have become very low – this was corroborated by the 2012 FAO Expert Advisory Panel for CITES. (cont pg.3)



RFBs have long been divided on the subject of shark conservation and management. The difficulty is that most RFBs operate by consensus, and complete agreement by all parties on regulatory measures to protect sharks is not easy to find. A CITES Appendix II listing recognizes that a species is not endangered, but unless international trade in the species is regulated, they might become endangered. Accordingly, as the five shark species now are listed under Appendix II, all future trade in these sharks will need to be accompanied by a CITES permit (a so-called non-detriment finding, NDF) confirming that the sharks were harvested sustainably and legally and that the trade is reported to the CITES secretariat. Both CITES and FAO will seek the views and cooperation of RFBs to help with implementation issues of the recent CITES listings.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

NASCO's Thirtieth Annual Meeting was held during 4-7 June in Drogheda, Ireland. The main focus of the meeting was on developing an approach to take forward the findings of NASCO's 2012 External Performance Review and on the evaluation of the second cycle of Implementation Plans. Multi-annual regulatory measures had been agreed in 2012 for both the West Greenland (2012-2014) and Faroes (2013-2015) salmon fisheries but there were extensive discussions concerning the 2012 internal-use fishery at Greenland following a change in the management regime.

In response to a comprehensive review of the strengths and weaknesses of the first reporting cycle, the Council of NASCO had agreed that Implementation Plans would be the key documents in the second cycle and that there should be greater emphasis on the actions to be taken over a five-year period; clearly identifiable measurable outcomes and timescales; and appropriate monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken. The Parties/jurisdictions had developed new Implementation Plans (2013-2018) and these had been evaluated by a Review Group comprising representatives of NASCO's Parties and its accredited NGOs. The results of the evaluations were presented at the Annual Meeting and the Parties/jurisdictions have until 1 September to submit final plans. Further information is available at www.nasco.int/implementation_plans.html.

Following its 2012 External Performance Review, the Council had considered its priority objectives and agreed that, in relation to protection and restoration of salmon habitat and aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics, the on-going actions in the Parties/jurisdictions' new Implementation Plans (2013-2018) will be the most productive way forward, with progress assessed annually through evaluation of Annual Progress Reports. For the management of salmon fisheries, it was agreed that additional action was necessary and appropriate for strengthening efforts. A detailed 'Action Plan for Talking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and Review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO' was adopted (see www.nasco.int) and will guide the work of the Organization in the coming years. NASCO will hold a theme-based Special Session during its 2014 Annual Meeting on the topic of management of single and mixed-stock fisheries with particular focus on fisheries on stocks below their conservation limits and including how socio-economic issues are taken into account in management decisions.

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board had developed and implemented, through a public/private partnership, a major programme of research on salmon at sea, the 'SALSEA programme' (see www.salmonatsea.com). This programme is completed although data analysis is ongoing. The Board is now developing a 'roadmap' outlining a large-scale international collaborative telemetry project to provide information on migration paths and quantitative estimates of marine mortality of salmon.

The Council approved the appointment of Dr Peter Hutchinson as its new Secretary with effect from 1 July 2013.

The wonderful salmon photo is the work of Gilbert van Ryckevorsel, and comes to us courtesy of NASCO.



NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION:

The IWC has been working with the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) to offer training in whale disentanglement in South America. Entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris is a serious animal welfare issue. The risk involved in disentangling a whale is often underestimated and this global programme aims to create a network of trained entanglement responders. (cont. pg5)



Rescuers from the South African Whale Disentanglement Network cut through the ropes entangling a humpback whale, Photograph by Chad Chapman, South African Whale Disentanglement Network

Also in the last few weeks, almost 200 cetacean scientists from around the world met at the annual IWC Scientific Committee meeting in Jeju, Republic of Korea. Over 100 sessions were held and more than 200 scientific papers were discussed. The findings and recommendations of the Scientific Committee are incorporated into a single extensive report with a number of technical annexes. The reports of the Scientific Committee provide the scientific basis for IWC policymaking. All are published and publicly available and since 1998 have been included as a supplement to the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

NEWS FROM THE MIXED TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR THE MARITIME FRONT

As a result of a tight Working Group meeting schedule approved for the first semester in 2013, the CTMFM was in a position to assess the status of the most relevant fish resources in the Argentine-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone and establish the necessary management measures in order to achieve the Commission's objectives. Working Groups are composed of a variable number of experts from both countries addressing the terms of reference assigned by the Sub-Commissions of Living Resources and Environmental Matters, two ancillary bodies of the Commission. The following table lists the WG meetings held in 2013 and the management measures adopted.

WG	Venue	Date	No. Partic	ToR	Management measures established by the CTMFM
Hake assessment	CTMFM - Montevideo	4-7 March	12	Apply different assessment models	Hake TAC for 2013 http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-12-2013.pdf
Hake management	CTMFM - Montevideo	7-8 March	7	Based on these results jointly recommend Allowable Biological Catches (ABCs), Biological Reference Points (BRPs) and time intervals to achieve objectives.	
Coastal resources assessment	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Buenos Aires	8-10 April	8	Estimate joint standardized abundance indices for white croaker and weakfish	White croaker TAC for 2013 http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/con-1.13-CTP-corvina.pdf
Coastal resources assessment	MFA, Buenos Aires	7-10 May	9	Apply different assessment models for white croaker and jointly recommend ABCs and BRPs	
Coastal resources assessment	MFA, Buenos Aires	28-31 May	9	Apply different assessment models for weakfish and jointly recommend ABCs and BRPs	Weakfish TAC for 2013 http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/con-2.13-CTP-pescadilla.pdf
Hake assessment	MFA, Buenos Aires	17-18 June	7	Review methods applied to establish seasonal closed fishing areas. Discuss criteria to be applied in the absence of <i>ad hoc</i> surveys.	Winter closed fishing area to protect hake nursery and reproductive grounds http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-5.13-merluza-veda-invierno.pdf http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-06-2013.pdf
Coastal resources assessment	MFA, Buenos Aires	25-26 June	7	To formulate recommendations on the conservation and management of several coastal resources.	<i>Sparus pagrus</i> and <i>Percophis brasiliensis</i> TACs for 2013 http://ctmfm.org/?p=4308

Cartilaginous fish	MFA, Buenos Aires	27-28 June	8	To jointly recommend on the conservation and management of several shark and ray resources.	<p>TAC 2013 and other management measures for coastal rays http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-7-2013.pdf</p> <p>Maximum allowable shark and ray landings per trip http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-9-2013.pdf</p> <p>TAC 2013 and other management measures for angel shark http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-10-2013.pdf</p> <p>TAC 2013 and other management measures for smooth hound shark http://ctmfm.org/wp-content/uploads/res-11-2013.pdf</p>
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A four day workshop is planned for October, to review joint surveys, identify further research studies and discuss data collection improvements. Over 30 participants from both countries are expected.



The Coastal Resources Working Group discussing the results of White croaker joint assessment

A RECIPE FROM THE FAR EAST:

Finally, if the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission can have a recipe page in their newsletter, I am sure we can too. So please send me your fish recipes. Drew has promised a recipe for the December newsletter. Meanwhile, Simon Funge Smith couldn't wait to share this with you:

Tom Yum Gung (clear style) Keeow Funge-Smith's (the hand behind the APFIC secretary) recipe For one medium bowl (two persons)



Ingredients

- Galangal - one inch root, sliced into rings (you could use fresh ginger but it is not quite right)
- Lemon grass – one stalk, flatten and cut into one inch sticks
- Kaffir Lime leaves – 6 leaves, tear the leaves
- Celery (small leafy type) - one small head
- Coriander (cut off roots) - one bunch
- Burnt chilli oil paste ("nam prik pow") - one teaspoon
- Birds eye chilli ("prik kee noo") – one or two chillis
- Lime – juice of 1-2 limes squeezed
- Salt - one teaspoon (to taste)
- Oyster or straw Mushrooms - about eight (or more if no shrimp)
- Small shrimp - peeled, tail on, about 10
- Tomato – one medium tomato

Method

- Put water into a saucepan (about 600 ml)
- Add Galangal , Lemon grass , Kaffir lime leaves, Burnt chilli oil paste, salt, tomato, mushroom into saucepan with water
- Bring to the boil.
- Once it is boiling put in shrimp, coriander, celery
- Bring back to the boil
- As soon as shrimp are cooked turn off heat.
- Add lemon juice (the secret is not to boil the lemon juice so only put it in right at the end, once the saucepan is off the heat)
- Serve immediately

Variations: use chunks of a firm fish instead of shrimp; or mixed seafood, squid, shrimp, green mussels are also good.