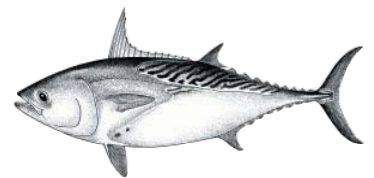
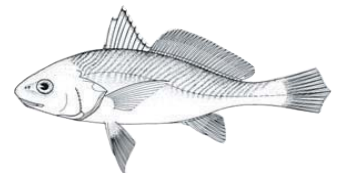


ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Report of the Thirty-first Session



Report of the Thirty-first Session of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION (APFIC)

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 6–8 September 2010

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ABSTRACT

This is the final report of the Thirty-first Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 6 to 8 September 2010. Major topics discussed were: the status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific; overview report of the outcomes of the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting, member country reports on developments and responses to APFIC recommendations; ecosystems approaches to management, regional initiatives in promoting resilient livelihoods; inland fisheries resources enhancement and conservation in Asia, emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture and major issues for APFIC focus of work in biennium 2011–2012.

Distribution:

Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
Other interested nations and international organizations
FAO Fisheries Department
Fishery Officers in FAO Regional Offices

CONTENTS

	PARAGRAPH
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1–7
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	8
REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	9–15
ACTIVITIES OF APFIC SINCE THE THIRTIETH SESSION	16–28
OVERVIEW – STATUS AND POTENTIAL OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION	29–42
REPORT FROM THE THIRD APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING	43–57
MEMBER COUNTRY REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS AND RESPONSES TO APFIC RECOMMENDATIONS	58–61
ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT	62–74
REGIONAL INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS	75–87
INLAND FISHERIES RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN ASIA	88–98
EMERGING ISSUES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE	99–110
MAJOR ISSUES FOR APFIC FOCUS OF WORK IN BIENNIUM 2011–2012	111–117
OTHER MATTERS	118–120
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	121–123
DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION	124–126
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	127–128
APPENDICES	PAGE
A. AGENDA	19
B. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS	20
C. LIST OF DOCUMENTS	27
D. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD APFIC RCFM	28
E. MEMBER COUNTRIES’ RESPONSES IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY APFIC	36
F–G. ADDRESSES BY SPEAKERS	41–42

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) held its thirty-first session from 6 to 8 September 2010, in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The session was attended by 34 participants comprising the representatives of thirteen member countries of the Commission and observers from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME), the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the APFIC Secretariat and an officer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). A list of the delegates and observers is appended as Appendix B.

2. At the official opening of the session, the Chairperson of APFIC, Mr Jeong-il Jeong, Director, Food Industry Policy Division, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MIFAFF), Republic of Korea, welcomed the Director-General, Distant Waters Fisheries Bureau, MIFAFF, APFIC member country delegations and observers.

3. The Chairperson noted that since the thirtieth session of APFIC held in Manado, Indonesia in August 2008, a number of important activities had been accomplished by APFIC. In particular, the conclusion of the very successful Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 1 to 4 September 2010. The forum meeting provided excellent opportunities to exchange views on important issues such as the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, improving fisheries livelihoods, potential impacts of climate change and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. APFIC member countries had also informed the RCFM about their various success stories on these issues. Many of these activities have received technical support from FAO Regional projects and APFIC in particular. The Chairperson expressed his sincere hope that APFIC would continue to assist its member countries in reporting these success stories and support the development of the fisheries sector.

4. The welcome comments was delivered by Mr Simon Funge-Smith, Secretary of APFIC on behalf of Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand. Mr Funge-Smith expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea and to the Director-General of the Distant Water Fisheries Bureau, Dr Cheul-Woo Lee of MIFAFF, Republic of Korea for hosting the Thirty-first session of APFIC and the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. He thanked the host for the excellent hospitality, and requested them to convey to the Government of Republic of Korea, FAO's gratitude for the excellent arrangements made for the two meetings.

5. Mr Funge-Smith described the proposed work programme of the Commission during the thirty-first session, namely to review the work of the Commission over the past two years, consider the recommendations of the Third APFIC RCFM and deliberate, comment on and endorse the major themes and activities of APFIC in the forthcoming biennium of work (2011–2012). He reiterated that APFIC is an Article XIV body of the FAO Constitution which produces recommendations directed at its members. In this respect, he encouraged APFIC members to seek concrete actions to be undertaken in the forthcoming biennium programme of work.

6. The Thirty-first APFIC Session was opened by Dr Cheul-Woo Lee, Director-General of Distant Water Fisheries Bureau, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea by welcoming all the participants to Jeju Island.

7. Dr Cheul-Woo Lee noted that there has been substantial advancement in the fisheries and aquaculture of the member countries since the thirtieth session of APFIC. APFIC convened successful workshops on the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture; and on improving livelihoods of fisheries and aquaculture households in Asia and the Pacific. He appreciated the active participation of the APFIC members to the Third RCFM. He noted that the RCFM participants recognized that close cooperation was needed among the countries of the region. The Director-General expressed his desire that APFIC member countries to reconfirm their commitment to the promotion and development of sustainable fisheries. The full statement is appended as Appendix D.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. APFIC adopted the agenda in Appendix A and agreed on the arrangements for the thirty-first session. The documents considered and reviewed by APFIC are listed in Appendix C.

REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9. The Secretary reported on the activities of the APFIC Executive Committee and the report of its seventy-second meeting (APFIC/10/02, APFIC/10/INF 04, APFIC/10/INF 05) which was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 23 to 25 September 2009. He drew the Commission's attention to the recommendations of the seventy-second meeting, as they related to the improvement of APFIC's effectiveness and programme of work.

10. The Commission recommended that APFIC should seek new partnerships and strengthen the cooperation with other regional bodies as it implements the APFIC session recommendations.

11. The Commission emphasized that climate change impacts adaptation and mitigation related to fisheries and aquaculture is a very important issue in the region. It further noted that the region is generally weak in the capacity and resources and that technical support and assistance is needed.

12. Some members pointed out the challenges the members are facing in complying with the new EU regulations on combating IUU fishing and catch documentation. The Commission recognized the differences among the members in implementing CCRF and encouraged exchange of information among the members.

13. The Chair also noted the consensus among members that improvements in catch documentation and fishery assessment capacity are also important priorities of APFIC in the next biennium, and that these would benefit technical support from the Commission and competent organizations.

14. The Chair summarized that many members had recognized the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts is an important area for priority action. In particular he noted the importance of informing policy makers of the implications of climate change to the

fishery sector and that this would require long term financial commitment. Noting that research on climate change is mainly conducted in developed countries, he stressed the need for regional cooperation to support developing countries to increase their capacity to undertake relevant research on this subject.

15. In adopting the report of the meeting of the Seventy-second APFIC Executive Committee, the Commission agreed with the Executive Committee's recommendation that APFIC's decisions could be more effectively communicated during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sessions by APFIC member countries referring to APFIC's work and decisions during their interventions at the COFI sessions and recommended that these could also be communicated to other important international bodies such as APEC, UNGA, ASEAN Working Group on Fisheries.

ACTIVITIES OF APFIC SINCE THE THIRTIETH SESSION

16. The APFIC Secretary introduced document APFIC/10/03 and document APFIC/10/03 addendum 1, APFIC/10/INF 03, summarizing the main events and activities undertaken by APFIC and the Secretariat since the Thirtieth Session of APFIC, which was held in Manado, North Sulawesi, Republic of Indonesia, from 11 to 13 August 2008.

17. The Commission noted the wide range of activities that had been undertaken in response to the recommendations of the Thirtieth Session and commended the Secretariat on the implementation of the work programme.

18. On the basis of the recommendations from the Thirtieth APFIC Session, the APFIC Secretariat together with its member countries organized and hosted two regional consultative workshops, namely:

- The APFIC consultative regional workshop on "Practical implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in the APFIC region", held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 18–22 May 2009 (Agenda Item 3). This was participated in by 68 participants from 14 member countries and 10 regional organizations.
- The APFIC regional consultative workshop on best practices to improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture households, Manila, Philippines, 13–15 October 2009. This was participated in by 58 participants from 16 member countries and 17 regional organizations.

19. In addition, the APFIC Secretariat in collaboration with FAO Fisheries Department and other Regional Organizations has successfully convened seven other regional workshops during the biennium.

20. The Commission was informed that APFIC had just completed the Third APFIC RCFM in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 1 to 4 September 2010 with the collaboration and assistance from the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Republic of Korea.

21. The APFIC Secretariat is actively working together with nine regional and international organizations and projects. Direct advice has been provided to members, including: technical assistance to two national workshops, technical support to eight Trustfund supported national and regional projects and ten FAO TCP projects.

22. The APFIC Secretariat is currently coordinating or providing technical support to three regional projects: the 5-year, eight country Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME), the six country, four-year Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP) and the FAO regional TCP “Reducing Dependence of Marine Finfish Culture on Low value Fish as Feed” which covers four countries.

23. The Secretariat continues to maintain the APFIC website (<http://www.apfic.org>), which carries all of the information outputs developed from the work programme of APFIC and targets fisheries professionals in the APFIC region. The APFIC Secretariat produced 16 publications during 2009–2010.

Responses by the commission and observers

24. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by APFIC and the APFIC Secretariat during the current biennium (2009–2010).

25. The Commission noted that a major challenge was the lack of a common working definition for small-scale fisheries (SSF) and related aspects of small-scale fisheries (e.g. ports versus landing sites). Furthermore a definition for SSF for the APFIC region would provide a common understanding of the sector for APFIC countries and in turn, assist bodies from outside the region to understand the SSF in the APFIC region. Establishing such a definition will have implications on compliance with a variety of international and regional instruments as well as ramifications for WTO related work. It recommended that this matter be further explored during forthcoming regional consultations relating to small-scale fisheries.

26. The Commission recognized the importance of implementing the CCRF in relation to combating IUU fishing and Port State measures. However, the region is still facing considerable challenges in combating IUU fishing and implementing Port State measures. Many members observed that the region continues to face the challenges in complying with new EU regulations on combating IUU fishing and catch documentation. This is principally due to weak monitoring systems and the large percentage of small-scale fishers being involved in capture fisheries and the dependence of coastal populations on capture fisheries as their main livelihood.

27. The Commission emphasized that combating IUU fishing and implementing Port State measures will take many years. Many countries in the region are facing constraints in combating IUU fishing, particularly in terms of capacity and resources. The Commission called for continued assistance from developed countries and international organizations to support their efforts in combating the IUU fishing in the region.

28. The Commission also encouraged the exchange of experiences in combating IUU fishing and implementing Port State measures among the members, and for members to provide better reporting on this matter. One member pointed out the role of subsidies in reducing fishing effort is an important issue and wished to see more exchange among the members over the practices. The Commission emphasized the importance of regional and sub-regional collaboration and requested APFIC to work on such kind of mechanisms and initiatives.

OVERVIEW – STATUS AND POTENTIAL OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

29. The Commission considered the agenda item based on document APFIC/10/04, which is a summary of the draft *Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific 2010* (APFIC/10/INF 06). This document is being finalized and will be published as an APFIC publication following the thirty-first session.

30. The review presented to the Commission covered the broad spectrum of fisheries and aquaculture trends together with the related issues concerning reporting quality, management, sustainability and other related issues.

31. Specifically, for capture fisheries the report covered:

- general trends in marine capture fisheries and in the APFIC region relating to species composition changes, overfishing effects and production trends;
- issues of reporting species composition of catches;
- trends in the marine capture fisheries in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand sub-region;
- trends in the marine capture fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea region;
- interest in the region to develop the potential for offshore fisheries; and
- trends and data issues in inland capture fishery production in the Asian region.

32. The trends reviewed for aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific region covered the following main groups:

- Freshwater carnivorous species
- Marine and brackish water carnivorous species
- Finfish requiring lower feed inputs
- Molluscs
- Aquatic plants

33. The APFIC members were requested to comment on the report, *Status and potential for fisheries and aquaculture 2010* and to reflect on the suggestions and recommendations for improved reporting on the contents of the report.

Responses by the commission and observers

34. The Commission thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive draft report of the *Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in the region 2010*. The Commission acknowledged the challenges in collating the available fisheries information from APFIC members and congratulated the Secretariat on its efforts. However, it also noted that there is a need to improve the existing analyses and estimates of important catch parameters such as total catch and catch per unit effort (CPUE) and obtain better estimates of fishing capacity (starting with vessel numbers), and encouraged members to undertake further work in this area.

35. The Commission noted that catch rates have declined markedly in the last twenty years, and registered its concern that this has happened despite improvements in fishing technology

(which, in other areas, have resulted in catch rates increasing). This has occurred alongside increasing effort and fishing capacity in many parts of the region.

36. The Commission noted that trash fish catches have decreased in recent years. However, some of the decline may be attributed to some of this catch being 'reclassified' as *surimi*, and better on board handling which enables the fish to be used as the food-grade fish. The Commission encouraged member countries to further address the issue of bycatch and non target catch.

37. The Commission acknowledged the marked increased in inland fish production that have in part been achieved using a range of stock enhancement measures. However, there were concerns that the use of such practices are increasing in an uncoordinated manner, and the Commission recommended that stock enhancement practices need to be implemented within management plans, where the extent and effectiveness of such practices can be monitored and controlled.

38. The Commission noted with concern that escapees from aquaculture, deliberate introductions and unregulated movement of stock remain as significant threats to the aquaculture industry and the indigenous biodiversity.

39. The Commission encouraged members to develop alternative aquaculture feeds that contain or utilize less wild fish; and to work with the artisanal fishers to advise them about the financial and ecosystem advantages of reducing the catch of small fish species.

40. The Commission was informed that there remain significant rejections by importing countries of products exported from the region that do not meet the importing-country standards. The Commission requested the Secretariat to undertake a study in order to establish the origin and major causes of rejection (e.g. antibiotic use, process/hygiene, traceability and pond-side issues, etc.), and to report the results of the study at the next Commission session.

41. Some members pointed out that a lack of good data collection and statistics and the limited capacity to conduct effective stock assessment hinders the effective implementation of CCRF and development of effective policies in both marine and inland waters. In this regard, external assistance to the members to improve this situation is in high demand. It further noted that investment by governments in fisheries information collection is declining, possibly due to the perception that the information is not being used for management. This situation needs to be improved and stronger links between fisheries assessment, catch landings statistics and fisheries management needs to be developed.

42. The Commission noted several regional projects and bodies that are currently operating in a range of APFIC areas and undertaking work that is compatible with Commission objectives. The Commission agreed that relevant analyses and information produced by these bodies should be made available in the deliberations of the Commission and could be published by the APFIC Secretariat. The Commission further requested that the Secretariat collaborate to the extent possible with these bodies to obtain such information.

REPORT FROM THE THIRD APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING

43. The Secretary reviewed the report of the Third APFIC RCFM (APFIC/10/05), and detailed the recommendations contained within the report (APFIC/10/INF 07). He thanked the hosts, and FAO regional projects for their generous support to the convening of the third APFIC RCFM which had enabled 92 participants from seventeen countries and 10 regional organizations to participate.

44. The participants to the Third RCFM identified seven key areas for action and the Commission was invited to comment on the RCFM recommendations which appear as Appendix E of this report.

45. The Chair congratulated the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive recommendations following the RCFM.

46. Noting that the recommendations of the RCFM were broadly applicable to both inland and marine fisheries and aquaculture, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the RCFM in full and made the following comments.

Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture

47. The Commission noted the point from the RCFM relating to the review of fisheries and aquaculture, which had been covered in detail during the previous agenda item. The Commission agreed that the APFIC analysis would be enhanced by including analyses of stock status and trends at sub-regional levels.

Fisheries assessments

48. The complexity of multi-species stock assessment and the lack of financial and human resources to undertake them were recognized. The Commission further emphasized the need for lower cost assessment methods that were not heavily reliant on survey cruises. The Secretary recalled the need for developing assessment techniques for data poor, small-scale fisheries based on qualitative data and risk-based approaches. He noted that the tools for this were *under development* by FAO and expected by the end of 2010.

49. The Commission encouraged members to undertake fishery assessments where possible to assist fishery management decision making.

Ecosystem approach

50. It was recognized that training should be provided to fisheries staff to increase their capacity to implement ecosystem based management approaches. In this regard the Commission noted the urgent need for basic ecosystem based management training for a wide range of fisheries professionals within the region. The potential of on-line courses was noted, but there are no programmes currently available.

51. The Commission noted that stakeholders' participation in fisheries management should be improved through the development of management committees and an ecosystem management framework. EAF awareness programmes for fisheries were also noted as an important tool. It was

further noted that environment ministries and GEF focal points need to be more involved in fisheries and aquaculture management initiatives.

Increasing resilience and improving fishery and aquaculture livelihoods

52. The Commission was informed that solutions to improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers are often short term and do not address long term issues, and that livelihoods initiatives are poorly evaluated. As a result lessons learned are often lost. Fisheries agencies need to engage with other agencies to create employment opportunities and state support is required for the further development of community level health, education and child-care infrastructure.

53. The Commission was informed that the issue of poor labour conditions on fishing vessels, aquaculture farms and processing factories in the fish producing countries is currently being examined by some importing countries. This matter covers the employment of children, women, men, and migratory labour, as well as rights related issues concerning access and tenure. APFIC members were urged to look into this matter at national level and consult with relevant national agencies.

Disaster and emergencies

54. The Commission noted that there is a lack of a coordinated approach and support to rehabilitation following disasters and emergencies which impact fisheries and aquaculture. Comprehensive disaster management approaches for the sector should be developed at the national level. Specific training on disaster preparedness should be directed at women and children who are disproportionately affected by disasters.

Climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture

55. In many member countries, fisheries and aquaculture are currently not being included in national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (NAPAs) even though climate change may cause decreases in fish stocks and increased risks to global food security. It is essential that fisheries agencies fully engage with the NAPA process and if this has not been initiated, then some form of preliminary strategy should be developed for the sector.

56. Furthermore, for the few APFIC member countries which have developed climate change plans covering fisheries and aquaculture, the Commission encouraged these countries to make their plans available for information on the APFIC website.

57. The Commission noted that as part of the forthcoming work plan, APFIC would convene a regional workshop to discuss the impacts of climate changes in the region and identify strategies to apply at national level. It is noted with urgency that APFIC member countries to recognize the important role of inland, coastal and marine ecosystems in the global climate system. It was also agreed that APFIC should collaborate with scientific organizations such as the North Pacific Marine Science/International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (PICES/ICES), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the recommendations of this work could be communicated to international fora such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC) as well as Global Partnership for Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PACFA).

MEMBER COUNTRY REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS AND RESPONSES TO APFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

58. The Secretary introduced documents APFIC/10/06 and APFIC/10/INF 08 as part of the regular evaluation of the performance of APFIC. The working paper reviewed the key recommendations of the two previous Sessions of the Commission.

59. The Commissioners were invited to comment on significant national developments which respond to the recommendations of the previous two APFIC sessions and to recommend any substantive actions which could be taken by APFIC member countries to improve implementation of these recommendations. The recommendations covered a number of thematic areas such as:

- improved Management of Fisheries to reduce the production of trash fish/low value fish.
- improved utilization of low value/trash fish for human food.
- improved feeds for aquaculture.
- promotion of Co-management.
- reduction of fishing capacity.
- combating IUU fishing.
- certification of fisheries & aquaculture.
- improved statistics.
- implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture.
- improving livelihoods of fishing and aquaculture communities.

Responses by the commission and observers

60. In responding to this agenda item member countries reported a wide range of activities that they had undertaken related to the recommendations of previous sessions of APFIC. This indicated that the APFIC recommendations were in line with member countries' policies and that progress is being achieved. The extent or coverage of some of the actions varied between countries and was strongly related to whether the activity was part of the national policy or was directed at the sub-national level. A number of pilot efforts were also reported to the session.

61. The Chair encouraged the members to submit their successful practices on following up the APFIC recommendations to the APFIC Secretariat so that these can be shared with the other members. Summaries of the country statements are provided in Annex F.

ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT

62. The Secretary introduced document APFIC/10/07 summarizing the findings and recommendations of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop on "Practical implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture in the APFIC region", held during 18–22 May 2009 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka and received additional support to participation from the BOBLME and RFLP projects. The summary recommendations of the report of this workshop are provided as APFIC/10/INF 09.

63. The Workshop brought together 68 participants from fourteen APFIC member countries across the Asian region together with representatives of regional fisheries, aquaculture and environmental intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, alongside projects and other arrangements. The workshop enabled participants to familiarize themselves with ecosystem approaches to management and explored how these planning and management frameworks can be applied to the complex issues facing fisheries and aquaculture systems in the South, Southeast and East Asian regions. The Workshop also developed recommendations for action directed at APFIC member countries and the regional partners for individual and/or collective action.

64. Key messages from the workshop included:

- Ecosystem Approach to fisheries (EAF) and Ecosystem approach in aquaculture (EAA) are important tools for fishery and aquaculture management
- Most members are already implementing EAF/EAA type activities to some degree, but often not within this framework
- The tools can assist fisheries to adapt and become more resilient to other pressures such as disasters and climate change
- There is a strong need throughout the region for capacity building in undertaking management through EAF/EAA.

Responses by the commission and observers

65. Some member countries described their current approach to EAF/EAA based management as fragmented. The Commission agreed that the nature and extent of implementation of the EAF/EAA to management is likely to be different for each country. However, it strongly recommended that all countries develop a national EA framework through which EAF/EAA activities can be implemented and reported.

66. The Commission noted that a range of ecosystem management initiatives are currently underway in the APFIC region, and encouraged members to take advantage of the various ecosystem based management tools, products, guidelines and training opportunities expected to be offered the by the projects and bodies involved.

67. The Commission noted that utilizing the coordinating and advisory capabilities of suitable existing regional bodies would be a useful method to implement and enhance the use of Ecosystem Approaches.

68. The BOBP-IGO informed the Commission about its five-year plan in the Bay of Bengal that will focus on improving vessel monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), formulating management plans, safety at sea for artisanal and small-scale fishers' education on CCRF, improving health and hygiene in fisheries, adapting to climate change and livelihoods enhancement for small-scale fisheries in its member countries and Myanmar, to build capacity to move to ecosystem management.

69. The BOBLME Project informed the Commission that the project aims to provide the eight countries of the BOBLME with a working framework for implementing an ecosystem approach to the management of three important regional fisheries resources. In addition, the project would be funding a range of capacity building and training activities in support of implementing ecosystem based approaches.

70. The Commission was informed that a BOBLME Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) shall be formed in 2011 and would provide ecosystem-based advice to each project country. The Commission was further informed that this committee could also provide information on the Bay of Bengal region to APFIC and that the Project Coordinator would take this matter up with the BOBLME Project Steering Committee.

71. The Commission discussed the possibility of engaging with suitable regional bodies to establish regional working parties under Article III of the APFIC Agreement to assist in the implementation of the EAF/EAA in the APFIC region.

72. In response APFIC members were highly supportive of this opportunity, noting that the work of the BOBLME Project would be undertaken at no cost to the Commission.

73. The Commission invited the BOBLME Project to report on the Bay of Bengal at its next session; and in the meantime, it requested to the Secretariat to identify an appropriate mechanism under the APFIC Rules of Procedure to better formalize the relationship between the two bodies

74. The Commission endorsed the action plan and recommendation of the APFIC regional consultative workshop.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

75. The Secretary introduced document APFIC/10/08. This paper summarized the activities of APFIC Secretariat in promoting resilient livelihoods in coastal fisheries. The report covered the findings and recommendations of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop on “Best Practices to Support and Improve the Livelihoods of Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Households, 13–15 October 2009, Manila, Philippines. The workshop was hosted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Philippines and received additional support to participation from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) and the Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP). The summary recommendations of the report of this workshop were provided as APFIC/10/INF 10.

76. The report noted that the increasingly degraded natural resource base and declining incomes of small-scale coastal fishers and aquaculture communities requires improved incomes and livelihood security but they often lack collateral and assets, have limited diversification options, and are considered too poor and difficult to work. They are often marginalized in development. Recommendations of the report covered higher level policy aspects related to the CCRF and national governance, the need for the integration of these issues into ecosystem based management, and specific recommendations relating for livelihood diversification and financial services.

77. The report covered other outcomes of the FAO Fourth Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries ‘Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries’, Bangkok, Thailand 2008, convened with the cooperation of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, SEAFDEC and other partners. One of the outcomes of the recommendations of this work and subsequent discussions at the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), was the request to FAO to design a global programme on small-scale fisheries and look into possible options for the development of an international instrument that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries development, and create a framework for monitoring and reporting.

78. The report also noted the development of a regional programme for supporting fisheries livelihoods (Regional Fisheries Livelihood Programme), funded by the Government of Spain and active in six countries in the region.

79. As part of this process, FAO, with the support of APFIC and the two regional programmes relevant to small-scale fisheries (RFLP, BOBLME) will convene a regional consultative workshop to examine the possible elements for the creation of an international instrument and a global programme on the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries.

Responses by the commission and observers

80. The Commission endorsed the action plan and recommendations of the APFIC Regional Consultative Workshop.

81. The Commission agreed that the Small-Scale Fisheries makes a very important contribution to the economies and food security in the region. The Commission reiterated its request for a clearly defined concept of Small-Scale Fisheries (refer to paragraph 25). The Commission further recommended that this definition should not be limited to the size of the vessel or gear used, but should also be based on other indicators.

82. The Commission recommended that livelihood support should be built into National Strategies, and not to be undertaken in isolation from other sectors. Furthermore, it should be integrated into the national policies and legislation. Several members pointed out the need of policy reform to be able to provide appropriate support to communities.

83. The Commission noted that engaging with supplementary or alternative livelihoods may require the support of sectors/agencies outside the fisheries sector.

84. There were some suggestions on how to assist fishers to leave fishing or supplement fishing activities with other non-fishing activities. It was agreed that livelihood assistance must be undertaken in a way that does not lead to further degradation of the resource.

85. It was not clear what made some livelihoods based initiatives successful, although involving communities is clearly a key element of success. The Commission noted the need for global guidance on how to engage with livelihood diversification.

86. Several members informed the Commission of their successful initiatives in improving fish marketing and hygiene and the SEAFDEC initiative of One Village One Fishery Product, which was considered by the members to be a success story.

87. The Commission recommended the collation of success stories from the various initiatives in the region and share the lessons learned with the members. The Secretary noted that the RFLP could collaborate with APFIC in sharing of knowledge on the improvement of fisheries livelihoods. The Secretary also informed that a special section on best practices will be made available in the APFIC website, and invited countries to share their best practices to be incorporated in the website.

INLAND FISHERIES RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN ASIA

88. The Secretary introduced the working paper on Regional review study and expert workshop on inland fisheries resources enhancement and conservation, based on working paper APFIC/10/09.

89. Noting the expansion of practices of inland fisheries resources enhancement and conservation to support inland fishing livelihoods and as compensation for the declining inland fisheries caused by economic activities and environmental degradation, the seventy-first session of the APFIC Executive Committee requested that APFIC conduct a regional review study. A similar request was made to the 20th Governing Council of Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA).

90. In response to this request, a regional review study on enhancement and conservation of inland fisheries in the member countries was undertaken from late 2009 to early 2010 and an expert workshop was jointly organized by FAO/APFIC and NACA during 8–11 February 2010 in Pattaya, Thailand. The regional review study and expert workshop produced 10 comprehensive country study papers and a regional synthesis report. The summary recommendations from the report are provided as APFIC/10/INF 11.

91. The expert workshop noted the considerable expansion of inland fishery enhancement activities in the region and their important contribution to inland capture fisheries, the livelihoods of the traditional inland fisher folks and their contribution to conservation of aquatic biodiversity. It also identified the major problems in current enhancement and conservation activities and their potential impacts on the biodiversity and ecosystem. Major issues and constraints to effective implementation of the enhancement activities are also identified.

92. The expert workshop further noted the need for more effective cooperation and networking among the members in this area, particularly by jointly developing guidelines of good enhancement practices and normative tools and methodologies for effective monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the enhancement activities covering fisheries, ecological and socio-economic dimensions and sharing of lessons among the members. The Commission was invited to consider some recommendations and mechanisms to achieve these.

Responses by the commission and observers

93. The Commission noted the ongoing importance of inland fisheries to food security, livelihoods and maintaining biodiversity; and expressed its concerns that this sector is under increasing threat from the competition for use of space and resources from other sectors such as aquaculture and farming.

94. The Commission also noted that many countries are implementing a range of activities to enhance their inland fisheries, such as releasing fingerlings and establishing protected areas and refugia.

95. The results of such activities had on balance, been positive in terms of increasing the production from inland fisheries, and improving livelihoods. The Commission encouraged members to undertake their enhancement activities under a management framework so they can

be monitored and reviewed. In particular, the Commission recommended that information on the cost benefits and the environmental impacts of such measures should be collected and reported.

96. Environmental impacts are of a different nature on inland fisheries and SEAFDEC underlined the need to mitigate these impacts on small-scale inland fisheries. In particular the massive number of small low-level weirs, embankments and water control structures throughout the region present barriers to fish movement and reduce connectivity in water systems. This matter would benefit from greater attention and would contribute to sustaining the region's inland fisheries production and biodiversity.

97. The Commission noted that SEAFDEC has begun a study on structure of fish passes to mitigate the impacts of small weirs and water control structures on inland fisheries, and the result of this work could be communicated widely in the region.

98. The Commission endorsed working paper APFIC/10/09 and its recommendations.

EMERGING ISSUES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

99. The Secretary introduced document APFIC/10/10 on emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture.

100. The report covered issues relating to: Performance of RFMO's, fishery bodies and arrangements; the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF); Certification and ecolabelling; Aquaculture development; Management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas; Combating IUU fishing; Port State measures; Global record of fishing vessels; Catch documentation and traceability; Climate change and fisheries and aquaculture; Fishery subsidies; Safety at sea; FAO CITES Advisory Panel Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); Assessment of fisheries in data poor situations.

101. The Commission was invited to share common concerns and make particular recommendations on the above mentioned emerging issues.

102. The Commission noted that the Fifth Session of COFI Sub-Committee for Aquaculture will be convened on September 2010, in Phuket, Thailand. The Commission welcomed the technical guidelines for aquaculture certification which will be discussed at the Sub-Committee, noting the active participation of APFIC member countries in their development.

103. While aquaculture certification schemes have been implemented by several member countries, certification schemes for small-scale fisheries remain a challenge. The Commission encouraged members to work together in this area and share their experiences in the development and application of such schemes.

104. The Commission expressed its concern regarding the difficulties in implementing the Port States measures agreement and recommended the convening a capacity building workshop to assist APFIC members. In particular it was noted the need for more assistance on legal implications of the agreement and how to resolve these at national level. Some members informed the Commission that they had already taken step to ratify the agreement on Port States measures.

105. Several members noted that they were coping with the requirements for catch certification, however, this matter is made more difficult when different importing countries have different requirements. The Commission suggested that this may place increased reporting burdens on exporting countries and that some degree of harmonization of the documentation would be desirable.

106. Some member countries informed the Commission that they had developed national plans of action on IUU fishing. The Commission encouraged these members to disseminate their plans and make them available to other APFIC members which they could use as a model. The Secretariat offered to make these NPOAs available on APFIC website. The Commission noted the importance of vessel registers and licensing in controlling fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing.

107. Some members expressed their desire for assistance in developing their deep sea fisheries in particular the production of resource and risk assessments.

108. Several members noted their concerns about the environmental impacts of other sectors on fisheries. The Commission suggested that for the Bay of Bengal area, the BOBLME Regional Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) could include its pollution component in its report to the Thirty-second Session of APFIC.

109. The Commission requested the Secretariat to include a working paper on the next CITES conference of parties, including any recommendations from the FAO expert panel on CITES. The Commission encouraged fisheries agencies of APFIC member countries to engage more fully in the Conference of Parties (COP).

110. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting on fisheries subsidies will be convened at the end of September 2010, in Manila, Philippines. The Commission noted that this work would be of particular importance to the APFIC region and expressed its desire for FAO to work more closely with WTO on fisheries subsidies particularly in relation to developing countries and small-scale fisheries.

MAJOR ISSUES FOR APFIC FOCUS OF WORK IN BIENNIUM 2011–2012

111. The Secretary introduced document APFIC/10/11 and the summary conclusions of the RCFM. The Secretary introduced the detailed framework for the workplan to be carried out by APFIC in the biennium starting in September 2010. This workplan would commence immediately following this Thirty-first session of APFIC and lead up to the Fourth RCFM and the thirty-second session in August 2012.

112. The Secretary noted that the report to the Thirty-first session on status and trends had been modified to include two large ecosystems/sub-regional areas: the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The Commission was informed that this is in line with the APFIC Strategic Plan, endorsed at the Thirtieth Session and that further attention will be paid to these two sub-regions in future reports.

113. The Commission endorsed the two themes for the coming biennium of work for APFIC, namely “Strengthening assessments of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region for the

purpose of policy development and management” and the “Effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture in the region”. These themes are described in APFIC’s Status and potential for fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific 2010 (APFIC/10/INF 06).

114. The Commission endorsed the workplan as outlined in the working paper (APFIC/10/11) and as recommended in the report of the Seventy-second APFIC Executive Committee meeting. Indicating that the following key activities will be undertaken by the Commission and APFIC Secretariat during the coming biennium of work as follows:

September 2010

The report and recommendations of the thirty-first session of APFIC will be communicated to FAO prior to the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries in 2011 and the APFIC Secretariat will report to the Regional Secretariats Network meeting.

May/June 2011

The Secretariat will organize and implement the first regional consultative workshop. On “Strengthening assessments of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region for the purpose of policy development and management”.

August 2011

The seventy-third session of the Executive Committee of APFIC will meet in August 2011 in DaNang, Viet Nam.

October 2011

The Secretariat will organize and implement the second regional consultative workshop on the “Effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture in the region”.

March 2012

APFIC Secretariat with the support of the chair country, regional organization partners and member countries will commence preparations for prepare the fourth RCFM in August/September 2012.

End August/September 2012

The Fourth RCFM will be held at the end of August/September 2012, immediately preceding the thirty-second session of APFIC. These will be convened in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Financial matters relating to the operation of the commission

115. The budget of APFIC is reported in detail in the report of the seventy-second session of the Executive Committee (APFIC/10/INF 05) and notes that APFIC has been well supported in its activities by member countries, bilateral donors and regional organizations as co-financing to the core FAO financial support to the activities of the Commission.

116. The Secretariat noted that future financial support to the Commission by FAO was not guaranteed and that this was part of an ongoing review under the FAO reform process. He noted that additional financial support by member countries to regional workshops would greatly increase the ability for APFIC to cover its operational costs. This could be in the form of members covering costs of participation or ad hoc financial support. He further noted that several Members have done this during the current biennium.

Responses by the commission and observers

117. The Commission endorsed the workplan of APFIC noting that holding the RCFM and session back to back was an efficient way to ensure participation of member countries.

OTHER MATTERS

118. Dr Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary General of SEAFDEC made a statement to the Commission. He thanked the hosts for their hospitality and organization of the Session. He further noted the longstanding and constructive cooperation between APFIC and SEAFDEC.

119. Drawing attention to the many challenges of fishery management, in particular reduction of bycatch, combating IUU fishing and environmental degradation and poor state of the fisheries resources in many parts of the region, he informed the Commission of SEAFDEC's concerns regarding the loss of technical capacity that is emerging in the region as a result of the fishery sector failing to attract new recruits. He concluded that this presents a major requirement for human capacity development in coming years.

120. In conclusion, Dr Chumnarn stated that APFIC and SEAFDEC could work more closely on developing strengthened fishery management mechanisms for the Southeast Asian region. In addition further collaboration on combating IUU fishing, reducing fishing capacity and further attention to inland fisheries resources would be valuable areas for joint work. As part of this effort he drew attention to the forthcoming ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference "Fish for the People 2020" and Ministerial meeting to be convened in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2011 and his statement is appended in Appendix G.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

121. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was unanimously elected chair country of the Commission for the coming biennium.

122. India was elected as vice-chair country of the Commission.

123. Bangladesh and USA were elected to serve as Members of the Executive Committee, in addition to the new chair country, the vice-chair country and the outgoing chair country, Republic of Korea.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

124. Mr Nguyen Viet Manh thanked the Commission for giving the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam this responsibility.

125. The new chair country of APFIC kindly offered to host the thirty-second session of APFIC during end of August 2012 and it was agreed that the Fourth RCFM in conjunction with the thirty-second session will be held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in 2012. The 73rd Executive Committee Meeting will be convened in DaNang Viet Nam.

126. The chairperson of APFIC concluded by expressing his appreciation for the active participation of the delegates and declared the thirty-first session of APFIC closed.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

127. In adopting the session report, the Commission unanimously agreed to record its deep appreciation to the Government of Republic of Korea for the generous hospitality accorded to the Commission.

128. The report of the session was adopted on 8 September 2010.

AGENDA

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Report of the Seventy-second Session of the APFIC Executive Committee
4. Inter-sessional activities of APFIC
5. Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific
6. Summary overview report of the outcomes of the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM)
7. Member country reports on developments and responses to APFIC recommendations
8. Ecosystem approaches to management
9. Regional initiatives promoting resilient livelihoods
10. Inland fisheries resources enhancement and conservation in Asia
11. Emerging issues in fisheries and aquaculture
12. Major issues for APFIC focus of work in biennium 2011–2012
13. Other matters
14. Election of Officers
15. Date and place of the Thirty-second Session
Review the Report of the Session
Adoption of the Report
Closing of the Session

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. Working documents:

APFIC/10/01	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
APFIC/10/02	Recommendations of the APFIC Executive Committee
APFIC/10/03	Inter-sessional Activities of APFIC
APFIC/10/02 Add.1	Detailed list of APFIC Inter-sessional Activities
APFIC/10/04	Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific Region
APFIC/10/05	Report from the Third APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting
APFIC/10/06	Members responses to APFIC recommendations
APFIC/10/07	APFIC regional work on ecosystem approaches to management
APFIC/10/08	APFIC regional work on promoting resilient livelihoods
APFIC/10/09	APFIC regional work on enhancement and conservation of inland fishery resources
APFIC/10/10	Policy, emerging issues and implementation of CCRF
APFIC/10/11	APFIC's work for biennium 2011–2012

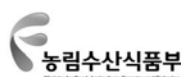
B. Information documents:

APFIC/10/INF 01	Provisional list of documents
APFIC/10/INF 02	Provisional list of participants
APFIC/10/INF 03	Report of the Thirtieth Session of APFIC, Manado, Indonesia, 11–13 August 2008
APFIC/10/INF 04	Report of the Seventy-second Session of the APFIC Executive Committee, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23–25 September 2009
APFIC/10/INF 05	Working paper on APFIC budget & finance presented to the 72 nd Executive Committee
APFIC/10/INF 06	Draft document of the Status and Potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific 2010
APFIC/10/INF 07	Summary recommendations of the 3 rd APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting
APFIC/10/INF 08	Summary of APFIC Sessions recommendations
APFIC/10/INF 09	Action plan and recommendations of the consultative workshop on ecosystems approach to fisheries and aquaculture (Agenda 6) Report of the Regional Consultative Workshop on practical implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture in the APFIC region, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 18–22 May 2009
APFIC/10/INF 10	Action plan and recommendations of the consultative workshop on best practices to support and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture households Report of the Regional Consultative Workshop on best practices to support and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture households, Manila, Philippines, 13–15 October 2009
APFIC/10/INF 11	Status of inland fishery resources enhancements in Asia Report of the FAO/APFIC/NACA Regional expert workshop on inland fishery resources enhancements and conservation in Asia, Pattaya, Thailand, 8–11 February 2010

ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION
3RD REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING

“Balancing the needs of people & ecosystems in fisheries and aquaculture management
in the Asia-Pacific”

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 1–4 September 2010



Summary of conclusions & recommendations of the Third APFIC RCFM

Status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture

- The APFIC review of the state of resources in the region indicates the need for action to address overfishing and overcapacity in many fisheries.
- Fishing down the food chain has occurred in many fisheries with fish stocks, and fishing activities changing in response.
- A significant proportion (31 percent) of catch from the region reported in national statistics is categorized as “not elsewhere included” (nei).
- There are many countries where fisheries stocks have not been assessed for considerable periods of time.
- Aquaculture supplied 57 percent of the world’s aquatic products in 2008 with the majority of production from the Asian region.
- Many countries are prioritizing aquaculture development as a major approach to sustainable supply of aquatic products without increasing fishing effort.
- There is a need to map current and potential sites for aquaculture because land and water resources are finite and will constrain aquaculture production increases unless land and water resources are used more efficiently and equitably.
- Food safety and quality for both international trade and the domestic markets must be addressed to ensure food safety, minimum product quality standards and nutritional food security. Training of farmers in better management practices is a starting point for this.
- Increasing use of low value/trash fish as feeds in aquaculture is a concern. R&D effort is needed to reduce the direct and indirect use of low value/trash fish as feeds and to find substitutes.
- Climate change is likely to impact aquaculture and fisheries operations in certain areas with impact on aquaculture in certain areas likely to be significant. Mitigation and adaptation measures should therefore be considered.
- Low profit margins from aquaculture pose high risks to economic viability.

Actions/recommendations

- *A review of previous management efforts in the last two decades, disaggregated into inland and marine fisheries should be made to identify what has and has not been successful.*
- *Fisheries management should be done on an area basis and reflect the fact that stocks are multi-species.*
- *Improve information on the capture fishery fleet structure, vessel records and registers.*

- *Collect more reliable sex disaggregated data on fishery sector workers.*
- *Improved identification/categorization of NEI capture production would improve analysis of the state of resources.*
- *APFIC should broaden its focus beyond key regions like the Bay of Bengal, the South China Seas and the Gulf of Thailand, and improve liaison with stakeholders in other sub-regions e.g. the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and the Arafura and Timor Sea. These areas are largely bounded by APFIC members and could be encouraged to contribute to joint reporting for these sub-regions.*
- *Provide training for key government staff on stock status and trends analysis.*
- *There is a need to further promote better management practices and access to certification for small-scale farmers.*
- *Improve supply chain mechanisms for aquatic products to ensure better prices to producers.*
- *Efforts should be made to increase the use of low value and trash fish for human consumption.*
- *Where aquaculture is promoted, every effort should be made to avoid increased fishing pressure on wild fish stocks caused by using trash/low value fish and fishmeal as feeds.*

Fisheries assessments including offshore resources in the APFIC region

- Assessments are an essential component of effective fishery governance and management.
- Policies are often founded with limited reference to underlying information on resource status.
- There is currently a lack of stock/fishery assessment capacity which is a constraint.
- Assessments are becoming a pre-requisite for international trade and can inform public opinion on conservation issues related to fisheries as well as be a deterrent to over capitalization of fishing operations.
- In addition to stock assessments that focus on the status of exploited resources, “fishery assessments”, that include ecological, socio-economic, governance components, as well as possible external drivers that may affect the fishery, are also required. This type of assessment is being advocated as part of implementing an ecosystem approaches to fisheries.
- The framework for an integrated assessment of small-scale fisheries, specifically developed for this sub-sector, also provides guidance on how to carry out fishery assessments.
- Traditional knowledge is recognized as very important, and needs to be combined with other sources of information. In high value fisheries, traditional knowledge should be combined with more formal assessments.
- In data-deficient situations, qualitative assessments, assessments based on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and/or on an anecdotal basis can be a good starting point, rather than taking no action on resource status.
- Tools and methodologies for conducting assessments within data-poor and capacity poor contexts are becoming available internationally, but as yet are not utilized in the APFIC region.
- With other organizations, FAO is developing among others a toolbox and indicators for EAF, guidelines on integrated assessments of small-scale fisheries and guidelines for the assessment of data-poor fisheries.
- Assessments should use an ecosystem approach framework.

Actions/recommendations

- *Policies directed at opening up new fisheries should be based on assessments showing that potential for such expansions exist. Where such information does not exist, fishery expansions should be conducted with extreme caution.*
- *There is a need to improve fisheries data collection systems including catch per unit effort (CPUE), and biological data on important species, as well as stock/fisheries assessments to inform both management and conservation approaches.*
- *Resources should be mobilized to improve stock/fishery assessment capacity to support management decision making in the region.*
- *Investment in fisheries research should be increased and policy makers should be sensitized in relation to this need. However, the level of investment needs to be carefully assessed vis-à-vis factors such as the economic value of the fishery and the social context.*
- *Pre-assessment of fisheries is an important first step to identify the extent of management challenges and the needs to address them, before starting on a costly development of fisheries research/management. Each country should try to undertake a pre-fishery assessment process.*
- *Encourage or support area specific studies on:*
 - *The impact of marketing trends on local food security and women's labour in fisheries; and,*
 - *the impact of coastal developments and pollution on the health of coastal populations and coastal ecosystems.*
- *Assessment techniques for data-poor situations are needed, but caution is required that these are not perceived as low cost solutions and used at the expense of more quantitative methods that are desirable and required for high value fisheries.*
- *Collate the range of national assessments throughout the region and make this more generally available at the regional level.*
- *AFPIC should encourage member governments to increase networking between countries so that information regarding fisheries/stock assessments is available to all. This information should be provided on a systematic basis.*

Using the ecosystem approach for the management of fisheries and aquaculture

- The ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture has been demonstrated through a range of management measures and some pilot projects and management efforts. Examples of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture in action include artificial reefs, marine protected areas (MPAs), protection of species, marine refuge areas, seasonal and area closures, habitat restoration, restocking/enhancement, and fishery zoning.
- Furthermore, other initiatives have sought to balance environmental integrity (well-being) with social needs (of fisheries, farmers and other stakeholders) within improved governance frameworks.
- Evaluations of fisheries and aquaculture management initiatives are generally not performed or if undertaken are conducted poorly, which limits sharing of the positive and negative results achieved from such efforts.
- Countries in which clear EAF related policies have been successfully implemented have experienced improved dialogue with fishery sector stakeholders, improved compliance with fisheries management measures and, as a consequence, improvements in the fish stocks.
- An ecosystem approach to management is a strong tool for addressing both upstream and downstream issues in inland fisheries.

- A network for promoting EAF tools and learning (EAFNet) is also under development. PICES/ICES may offer opportunities for exchange and capacity building.

Actions/recommendations

- *Include stronger incorporation of social dimensions in ecosystem based management in the Asian region.*
- *Sub-regional fisheries and ecosystem management initiatives that are being developed in the Bay of Bengal and South China Seas are a potential source of information and analyses that can be used by APFIC in its deliberations. APFIC should consider strengthening its relationships with such bodies.*
- *There is a need to strengthen fishery research institutions to provide the science needed to improve fishery management.*
- *Member countries should seek to collaborate on ecosystem approach activities where there is a common interest.*
- *Form multi-stakeholder networks to share information and address shared concerns. In some cases this will require development assistance.*
- *APFIC should facilitate harmonization of EAF.*
- *Countries should establish clear, national, science-based policies for the use of the EAF framework as the basis of their fishery management.*
- *Promotion of better stakeholder participation and the inclusion of women in fisheries management committees and frameworks will facilitate the implementation of realistic, practical management measures; and accurately identify what information is needed for management purposes.*
- *Member countries to build on the recommendations of the APFIC Colombo workshop*

Increasing resilience and improving fishery and aquaculture livelihoods

- It is often difficult for small-scale fishers to change livelihoods given that they depend on fishing for their daily food requirements and lack the capacity or options to change livelihoods. More government attention is required to address this.
- Although there are many livelihood related initiatives within fisheries and aquaculture projects in the region, they are often poorly integrated.
- Many livelihoods initiatives are formulated based more on central and local government production targets, rather than on sustainable livelihoods analyses.
- Many government policy and legislation revisions are undertaken reactively, have a short-term focus and only temporarily address problems, rather than addressing the key underlying issues. Longer-term visions and planning are required.
- Many short-term solutions such as subsidies for off-shore vessel construction or motorization are likely to subsequently result in overfishing in both offshore and inshore waters.
- Many livelihoods initiatives are poorly evaluated and as a result lessons learned, both positive and negative, are lost.
- Many governments have prioritized aquaculture of high value predatory fish species targeted at export markets. Demand for low value/trash fish as either a direct feed or for indirect use in fishmeal can increase pressure on fish stocks.
- The vulnerability of many fishing communities is exacerbated by a lack of access to infrastructure and financial schemes relating to insurance, pensions, marketing and credit.

Actions/recommendations

- Reinforce legal rights and increase access for fishers and farmers to open water and common property resources.
- The contribution of women to the functioning and development of fishing communities should be better recognized and the full potential contribution of women should be exploited.
- APFIC member countries should develop national livelihood strengthening and diversification strategies, based on livelihoods analyses conducted using a sustainable livelihood approaches (SLA) framework.
- SLA and comprehensive livelihood analyses linked to resource assessments should be the starting point before promoting alternative livelihoods.
- Livelihoods initiatives in fisheries and aquaculture should not be conducted in isolation, but should be integrated into broader livelihood programmes.
- Integrated approaches, involving a broad stakeholder base, that address improved management of resources at local levels should be undertaken in order to deliver increased livelihoods benefits (e.g. reducing conflicts while increasing income).
- Livelihoods initiatives should be assessed against a sustainable livelihoods framework in order to gather and disseminate both positive and negative lessons learned.
- Fisheries agencies should ‘think outside the box’ and work across agencies to develop sustainable livelihoods which are independent of fishery resources.
- Train and support communities to develop recycling technologies, and to undertake regeneration and conservation of coastal ecosystems and habitats.
- Create employment avenues by state support for the further development of community level health, education, and child-care infrastructure.
- Added focus should be given to the culture of small indigenous fish species which can contribute to both the livelihoods and nutritional security of particularly of women and children.
- Where closed seasons prevent poor fishers from fishing, ‘safety net’ and alternative livelihood programmes should be supported.
- All APFIC member governments, partner and regional organizations are requested to share their livelihood development experiences as widely as possible so that lessons learned can be captured; beginning with sharing with FAO and the Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP) so that they can be disseminated throughout the region.
- Access to financial schemes relating to insurance, pensions, marketing and credit should be widened in order to reduce vulnerability.
- The participation of women in fisheries-related decision making processes as well as fish workers movements/community organizations should be facilitated and encouraged. In addition, consideration should be made concerning valorizing women’s contribution to fisheries-related activities.
- Consider provision of vocational training in alternative livelihoods for youth.
- Develop new feeds and feed formulas to reduce reliance on low value/trash fish as feeds and to address the issue of energy transfer during increased aquaculture production.

Disaster and emergencies

- Numerous emergencies and disasters in the region have negatively impacted both coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- Recovery after disasters is quicker in communities with previously established social organizations (e.g. fisher associations, and cooperative groups) than those without.
- There is a lack of coordinated approaches to rehabilitation and a serious lack of support to the rehabilitation process.
- Often aquaculture and fisheries are overlooked during rehabilitation of agricultural crops and livestock and other rural productions systems.

Actions/recommendations:

- *Noting the increasing frequency of natural disasters in part as a result of climate change, a comprehensive regional disaster management approach should be developed.*
- *Noting the disproportionate impact that natural disasters have on women and children, support specific training on disaster preparedness for women and children.*

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) – instrument, rights

- No definitive definition of SSF has been agreed because of the diversity of fishing fleets worldwide. A functional definition may be more appropriate than seeking to define SSFs based on physical “size”. The definition should recognize the rights of women, indigenous communities and traditional peoples.
- SSFs perform different roles to larger-scale fisheries, providing food security and livelihoods for large numbers of often vulnerable people. However, there may be pressure for SSFs to withdraw in order to focus resources on more efficient vessels with greater economic leverage.
- It should be recognized that the SSF sector is constantly evolving with a changing age distribution and labour force and is not a static entity. The economics of fishing are not static and fisheries and aquaculture management must adapt to this.
- The formulation of a legal instrument for SSF will be discussed at a workshop in Bangkok 6–8 October 2010. The SSF instrument will play a valuable role in formalizing support and recognition to the SSF sector.

Actions/recommendations

- *Gender should be included as an integral part of the SSF instrument*
- *The SSF instrument should also consider the likely implications of climate change.*

Climate change

- Climate stress is already taking place and changes must be addressed. Climate change will cause significant disruption to the fisheries sector and the risks need to be understood. The impacts of climate change in the APFIC region are likely to be higher than global trends: the number of people affected will be disproportionately high; populations are more vulnerable; there is a lower capacity to respond; and sudden onset disasters (e.g. flooding) direct attention away from slower processes associated with climate change.
- Impacts of climate change will include changing distribution of stocks, declining catch values and profits, and higher operating cost for aquaculture. There will also be impacts on infrastructure.

Aquaculture may be able to adapt more flexibly than fisheries to climate change, as long as it can cope with higher feeding requirements and costs incurred for disease and stock loss prevention.

- Climate change will compound the pressure on resources which already exist from over exploitation, habitat degradation and pollution. In turn this will compound pressure on fishing communities/industry. In the APFIC region with its major river systems, the threats to freshwater flows in shared rivers may be of more immediate consequence than impacts on marine ecosystems.
- SSFs are likely to be heavily impacted in terms of safety at sea and disaster risk management, although the flexibility of the SSF sector may help it to adapt better to climate change.
- Adaptation and mitigation planning is currently not being undertaken in the fishery and aquaculture sector and it is vital that fisheries/aquaculture form an integral part of national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans (NAPAs).

Actions/recommendations

- *Prioritize a regional assessment of the likely effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.*
- *It is essential that fisheries agencies fully engage with the development of climate change NAPA. It appears that there is currently limited integration of the fishery sector into the NAPA process.*
- *Where NAPAs are not being developed fisheries institutions should develop plans of action to address climate change.*
- *Countries, locations and sectors most at risk from climate change need priority support.*
- *There remains a strong need for communication of climate change effects and their implications for fisheries and aquaculture in a form that is understandable to policy makers.*
- *Prioritize addressing key gaps in natural and social science knowledge as well as policy gaps associated with fisheries adaptation. New arrangements will need to be developed for international fisheries management especially on migration or latitudinal shift in the distribution of fish stocks.*
- *Stakeholder involvement is critical when developing and implementing adaptation strategies.*
- *Development assistance will play an important role in assisting developing countries in their adaptation and mitigation efforts.*
- *Work on downscaling to improve the appreciation of the impacts of climate change at the local and regional level to ensure further buy-in.*
- *Develop micro-level risk profiling and strategies.*
- *More collaboration between international organizations such as PICES/ICES, OECD and APFIC should be encouraged to share climate change related scientific development and policy information.*

Meeting regulations and requirements for combating IUU fishing

- Although member countries want to comply with IUU fishing, many countries will find it challenging to implement the regulations within the time frames set and require support.
- Countries and regional organizations are increasingly taking actions to address IUU recommendations and regulations. This includes both international agreements such as port state measures and other regional initiatives like the regional plan of action (RPOA).
- Many of the APFIC countries including Thailand and Viet Nam, supported by regional organizations are taking actions to adapt standards and capacities to comply with regulations like

the European Union (EU) regulation 1005/2008. Specific regulations have been issued and action taken on fleet registry and identification and certification of market related actors, as well as catch certifications schemes which allow exports of fish products to the EU.

Actions/recommendations

- *Provide intensive in-depth training at different levels for producers, traders officials and administrators, on issues relating to the above regulations and future regulations.*
- *Training should be provided for government staff to increase their capacity to deal with environmental and trade regulation.*
- *The effects of the above regulations on small-scale fishers should be communicated by APFIC to member countries.*
- *As recommended at the last APFIC session, member countries should continue to support and strengthen the implementation of the RPOA for combating IUU fishing, which nine member countries have signed up to.*
- *Related to the above issues, international and regional organizations including APFIC, FAO, SEAFDEC and the BOBP-IGO can play a key role in providing training and capacity development.*

MEMBER COUNTRIES' RESPONSES IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY APFIC

1. **Malaysia** has undertaken various actions to improve the management of fisheries (formulation of an NPOA on turtles, sharks, invasive alien species, establishment of 73 fishery resource management groups to co-manage local resources, establishment of conservation area to conserve riverine resources and the translation of the CCRF into Bahasa Malaysia), reduction of fishing capacity and the combating of IUU fishing through measures such as the implementation of the exit plan under the 9th Malaysia Plan (2006–2010) and the 10th Malaysia Plan (2011–2015) to remove trawlers from the 5 to 12 nautical mile zone to reduce fishing pressure on resources). A draft of the NPOA on IUU fishing is being finalized. Certification of fisheries and aquaculture through a farm accreditation scheme and the establishment of the code of conduct in support of Best Aquaculture Practices (i.e. minimizing use of trash/low value fish) have also been introduced.
2. **The Republic of Korea** has made further efforts to reduce fishing capacity through the vessel buyback programme (15 399 vessels and 750 long distance vessels so far). It has also strengthened the current total allowable catch (TAC) system, promoted a stock enhancement programme based on the newly enacted Fisheries Resources Management Act (2009), and facilitated alternative income activities in connection with community-based management. In addition, Korea has been promoting alternative feeds as well as environment-friendly aquaculture. Furthermore, considerable actions have been taken to combat IUU fishing both within the EEZ and on the high seas.
3. **Viet Nam** has established zoning regulations in coastal provinces in order to give more provinces ownership and rights vis-à-vis fisheries management activities in coastal areas. With support from FAO, Viet Nam is formulating an NPOA on fishing capacity management. Viet Nam would like to receive technical assistance from FAO and other international donors to help the country with a bottom-up approach to formulating this NPOA and putting it into effect. The Government of Viet Nam approved the master plan for an MPA network in early 2010.
4. **The Philippines** have adopted the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM). Regular projects as well as foreign-funded projects now adopt the EAFM, which integrates the biological, socio-economic, institutional and legal aspects of management. This also means the active participation of the major stakeholders in the EAFM process. Training modules on EAFM have been developed in collaboration with other government agencies, NGOs and foreign funding agencies. An NPOA for sharks has been developed but requires more effort for its implementation. Assistance is being provided to people's organizations in livelihood development. The government has established "techno-demonstration farms". It has facilitated linkages with financing institutions also. Mature technologies are disseminated to fisher cooperators. Small infrastructure such as mobile ice plants are also provided to fisher groups. With regard to IUU fishing, an NPOA has been formulated. Consultation and coordination with commercial fishers on NPOA implementation has been carried out. Combating IUU fishing is also included in the Coral Triangle Initiative's RPOA and NPOA. A vessel monitoring system (VMS) and an observer programme are ongoing. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) vessel has undertaken activities that address MCS requirements. There is continuous support to encourage the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics to undertake accurate fisheries data collection. With regard to aquaculture, although there is no certification scheme for aquaculture, a Fisheries Administrative Order on good aquaculture practice is in place. Mariculture areas/zones have been established to culture high value species. The mariculture zones also enable small-scale fishers to participate in the "cage for rent" scheme. Hatcheries and nurseries have also been established to provide quality fish for culture. The Philippines is also an active participant in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). The CTI has goals that address the following: seascapes and MPAS; ecosystem-based fisheries

management; climate change adaptation; and threatened species. The goals can be dealt with in a similar manner. The Philippines is one of the three countries (Indonesia and Malaysia are the other two) that are part of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME). The SSME addresses fisheries, MPAs and threatened species.

5. **In Bangladesh**, fisheries plays a very vital role in the national economy and in food security. There are interventions in inland aquaculture like the use of modern technology disseminated by DoF. DoF along with other development partners/NGOs have taken initiatives to maximize fish production from rice fields and to extend the coverage area. Different types of water-bodies have been improved through different development projects and included in the aquaculture systems. In inland capture fisheries the priority is to improve biological management that will restrict the decline of resources and production. Several programmes have been implemented to increase the productivity of inland open waters in the past few years. These programmes include: Community-based aquaculture; fingerling stocking in open water-bodies; establishment of fish sanctuaries, protection and conservation programme for jatka/hilsa. Actions have been carried out to improve the management of marine fisheries resources also. With the collaboration of BOB-IGO, BOBLME initiatives are being taken to manage the resources better and ensure people's wellbeing. In addition, FAO's CCRF, the EU's regulation to combat IUU fishing and other relevant international/regional conventions have been ratified and are being complied with. To ensure livelihood security for millions of poor fishers living along the coast the assistance of donors and the international community in support of local resources management is needed. To meet the export demand for shrimp, the area under shrimp farms has been increased remarkably during the last few years. However, different programmes and development projects are also operating for the production and promotion of shrimp aquaculture in the coastal area of Bangladesh. This success is mainly the result of the improved export of quality shrimp/fish products associated with the introduction of the HACCP procedure. A traceability regulation is being implemented in the country according to the requirements of the European Union (EU), USA and other countries. But recently the EU and USFDA requirements for safe fisheries products have become more stringent and could create a serious trade barrier for countries such as Bangladesh. Technical assistance to enhance capacity in management and at the operations level is crucial.

6. **The Australian Government** has implemented a AU\$220 million "Securing Our Fishing Future" package which provides funding and direction for major fisheries reform. The package aims to deliver profitable and sustainable fisheries for Australia's future. This included a robust programme of fisheries research, assessment, management and compliance. The package provided for improved fisheries management by reducing effort through business exit assistance, and implementing individually transferable quotas, harvest strategies for target stocks, an ecological risk assessment and a management framework. The package was implemented in partnership with stakeholders. There are significant differences between fisheries and thus the development of innovative and precautionary approaches particular to each fishery have been a key requirement. In general, the new approaches are based on sound scientific monitoring. However, precautionary catches under strict conditions are permitted in situations of limited data. More than 550 fishing concessions were bought out as part of the business exit assistance strategy. This was approximately one third of the concessions managed by the Australian Government which was available to the package. Harvest strategies and ecological risk management plans have been implemented in all major fisheries. Catch levels and harvesting techniques are aligned with these guiding policies. There have been marked improvements in the net economic returns for most fisheries. The Australian Government is closely monitoring the condition of its fisheries.

7. **The Department of Fisheries (DOF) in Thailand** has established the Marine Fisheries Master Plan which has been endorsed by the Thai parliament. This master plan concerns many strategic actions including the improved management of fisheries, improved utilization of low value fish etc. Regarding the implementation of this plan, Thailand is trying to implement a fisheries zoning system and the reduction of fishing capacity as well as development of the vessel monitoring system for tracking of Thai fishing boats

using the vessel positioning system (VPS) through the mobile phone system instead of a satellite system. A national plan of action to prevent IUU fishing is being developed. To implement the ecosystem approach in aquaculture (EAA), DOF Thailand has initiated a demonstration integrated coastal zone management for sustainable aquaculture project. The EAA concept is taught to stakeholders who apply it in various aquaculture grounds. A marine ranching programme has been implemented also in several semi-enclosed brackish water lakes and bays of Thailand. An improved feeding technique in shrimp farming using an automatic feeding machine for the whole sector was initiated in order to increase feeding efficiency which directly reduced the use of trash fish for the production of shrimp pellets as well as the pressure on marine resources. Recently, the formulation of a master plan for aquaculture development was initiated.

8. **The United States** is circulating a new NOAA aquaculture policy to be released in 2010. The purpose of this policy is to enable the development of sustainable marine aquaculture within the context of NOAA's multiple stewardship missions and broader social and economic goals. The United States released the new National Ocean Policy in July of 2010. The policy creates a National Ocean Council as the lead body for coordinating the inter-agency implementation of US Ocean Policy. This Council is chaired by White House level staff. NOAA's role will be to help guide Council deliberations through the provision of scientific advice and the output will support NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources. This policy starts the USA efforts to formalize coastal marine spatial planning. NOAA Fisheries introduces a new, regional, co-management mechanism in New England (Atlantic Coast). "Sectors" are the newest (starting 2010) form of cooperative management adopted by the New England Fishery Management Council (Councils are the management body that writes management plans, members are local fishermen, state scientists, and academics; not NOAA staff). Sectors were envisioned as a way to provide flexibility to the industry, encourage stewardship of the resource, and reduce the need for Council and NMFS involvement. Sectors are thought to operate more efficiently within stock rebuilding plans by operating under set quotas for some species, rather than input controls (e.g. limits on fishing time and species possession limits) based on a target catch level. A sector's annual quotas are based on the combined histories of its membership and each year individuals are not issued individual quotas by NMFS. Accordingly, neither ownership nor entitlement is created. Initial results show that fishermen are earning more money per fish and fishing more sustainably through smarter use of their "at sea" time. (Point of Contact, Michael Abbey, NOAA Fisheries).

9. **Nepal** has recently adopted the principle of co-management, which includes the involvement of stakeholders in the planning and implementation of fisheries and aquaculture management. The Government of Nepal has provided a supply of fish seed, has been monitoring biological, limnological and water quality and has been providing training. Several communities throughout the country that live around the river basins practice riverine capture fishing. Such communities regularly catch native fish for their livelihood. The government has given subsidies, equipment and carried out an awareness raising programme. It also has given support to small hatcheries and nurseries to breed, rear fingerling and restock the different riverine capture fisheries. The Government of Nepal has a common national agriculture development policy that is mainly focused on gradual conversion of subsistence level farming to commercialization and agricultural production systems. The fisheries and aquaculture subsector and the agriculture subsector are guided by the policy. The policy is designed to reduce or minimize poverty in the country through group organization, establishing cooperatives in the local communities for integrated aquaculture, intensive aquaculture and also to organize groups of local fishers for livelihood improvement through adopting an environment friendly approach, biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and community river, lakes and reservoir management. Recently the government has implemented "Mission Fish" and "One Village One Product" programmes to increase production and help realize import substitution and poverty alleviation.

10. **In India**, IUU fishing in offshore fisheries is being addressed by the Indian coastguard. There is little or no IUU fishing reported by foreign vessels. Inshore IUU fishing (destructive gears etc.) is addressed by better co-management that includes measures like a fish breeding season ban and the installation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS). Future actions include drafting of a comprehensive central legislation for regulation and management of fishing in India's EEZ. The proposed legislation has the objective of regulating fishing and fishing activities, promoting conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources and the regulation of all vessels engaged in direct or indirect exploitation of fisheries resources. Other measures include expanding sustainable methods of inshore fishing, promotion of tuna fishing and implementing better co-management. For the sustainable development of inland fisheries and aquaculture the activities are based on the recognition of the economic, social, nutritional, environmental and aesthetic importance of inland fisheries and aquaculture. The Government of India has brought out guidelines for the state governments for framing a bill on inland fisheries and aquaculture for their respective states. Through these guidelines on inland fisheries and aquaculture the government intends to ensure sustainable gainful employment in the rural sector, improve seed certification and the assessment of fishery resources. For effective ecosystem management, a database on 2 182 fishes found in Indian waters has been developed, which includes 327 fresh water species listed in IUCN's "threatened" category and 192 endemic fishes. A macro-level fish occurrence map of India has been prepared and DNA barcodes of 100 Indian marine fish species has been developed. With regard to the human dimension of fisheries and aquaculture, the Government of India has created a welfare scheme for fishermen that provides financial support during the fishing ban season, insurance cover, financial support for training of farmers and assists in the construction of ponds, etc.

11. **Indonesia** has addressed many issues related to the small-scale fisheries situation in Indonesia. Along with past experience to improve the livelihood of small-scale fishers, a series of programmes was implemented to develop and empower the various fisher groups for business (locally known as *Kelompok Usaha Bersama* (KUB)) supported by management and technical assistance, business diversification assistance, the promotion of business partnerships, capital assistance in the form of land ownership certification for fishers, strengthening of a credit scheme applicable to small-scale fisheries, and providing alternative financial support. By the end of 2009, approximately 4 370 KUBs were formed, 1 500 land ownership certificates were distributed and 35 percent of these were used as credit collateral, eight pawnshops were operated in eight different fishing ports to provide alternative financial support and these have channeled about US\$3.8 million. A huge challenge in the future is the empowerment of the small-scale KUBs as most (95 percent) were not financially feasible and bankable. To complement the programmes mentioned above, the government also introduced fisher insurance and fisher identity cards. Fisher identity cards were introduced in early 2009 with only 2 500 fishers participating. In 2011, the fisher identity cards are to be targeted to cover 1.3 million fishers. Through these interventions, fishers' incomes were recorded to increase to approximately US\$185 for fishing vessel owners, whereas fishing vessel crew members earned approximately US\$63 per month. Through the Indonesia National Law No. 31/2004 that partially revised the Indonesia National Law No. 45/2009 on fisheries, the development of fisheries management entered a phase incorporating the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Alongside, there was growing awareness of the importance of interactions between fishery resources and the environment; proven limited performance of current management approaches as witnessed by the critical state of some of Indonesia's fisheries in pursuing resource sustainability; recognition of the cross sector objectives and values of fishery resources and marine ecosystems within the context of the national fisheries mission and vision (pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-job) for sustainable fisheries development. Issuance of the Ministerial Decree on Indonesia's fisheries management areas is a milestone in implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries. The division of the whole of Indonesia's fisheries into eleven fishery management areas was developed on the basis of a common approach to resources and the biophysical environment. To maintain the integrity, it is institutionalized by the Coordinating Forum for Fisheries Management. In 2009, it developed a regional management plan for WPP-711 and WPP-718. The second milestone was made by issuance of Government Regulation No. 60/2007 on fish resources conservation that provides a solid base for establishment of marine protected areas.

12. In **Myanmar**, improved management of fisheries has included the introduction of a closed season and closed areas to protect broodstock and juveniles. Apart from the fisheries laws, fisheries directives have given notification of closed seasons for the fishing of brood carps, berried freshwater prawns, lobsters, mud crab and gravid tiger shrimp as well as notification of prohibited fishing sites. To reduce fishing capacity, all fishing activities have to be licensed by the Department of Fisheries. Over the five years since 2004/2005, licenses have been issued for about 30 000 small-scale fishing boats. Also, only about 2 000 licenses were issued for offshore fishing vessels. To control fishing gears, fishing with huge conical set nets at river mouths has been time limited. The purpose of this is to prevent small fish from being captured in the spawning and nursing season. Also, fishing by smaller mesh nets has been prohibited and fishers have been educated to use larger mesh in mud crab traps. With respect to fisheries co-management, inland fisheries have been operating by leasing fishing sites and/or allocating fishing sites by licenses to operate particular types of fishing methods and gear. According to the “laws relating to the inland fisheries”, the lease holders or license holders have responsibility to maintain the environment of fishing sites and undertake the replenishment of fish fingerlings in the natural water. Furthermore, co-management with community based fisheries resources users has been introduced in Bogalay Township in Ayeyarwaddy Division by an Italian government funded FAO project since early 2010. This is a demonstration project. To provide alternative income generating activities and improve the utilization of low value/trash fish, a “One Village One Fisheries Product (OVOFP) initiative with SEAFDEC in two selected areas was implemented. The effective uses of low value/trash fish and value adding of traditional preservation methods have been provided to reach good manufacturing practices (GMP) standard. Currently 555 small and medium-scaled preservation units have been established all over the country. Aquaculture is recognized as the only substitute for capture fisheries. However, the requirement for and uses of fishmeal in aquaculture feed is a huge challenge in expanding aquaculture. As such, Myanmar is undertaking a search for a proper and effective substitute. Most recently Myanmar has acted as lead country in a project to initiate the formulation of fish feed with lower fishmeal composition. Naturally fish raising in paddy fields enables the provision of fish protein for the rural peoples. Even though there are no confirmed statistics of such fish supply to fish food security, it can be assumed that it involves a huge volume. However, in order to increase the amount of natural fish, the Department of Fisheries has established the “more fish from the paddy fields” programme. Through this programme, DoF has subsidized fish fingerling in the paddy fields in cooperation with the agriculture sector. Also, the annual release of fish fingerlings into the reservoirs and dams has been undertaken by the Department of Fisheries. With respect to expanding aquaculture, and given the introduction of shrimp ponds in the coastal zone, DoF has regulated that the pond sites should be set up 200 metres inside mangrove areas which will act as a buffer zone. Capacity building on fisheries statistics and improvement of fisheries indicators is to be harmonized within ASEAN nations with the assistance of SEAFDEC.

13. The **BOBP-IGO** has developed a five-year strategic action plan comprising: Programmes on improving monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fishery resources in the member countries; safety at sea for artisanal and small-scale fishers; taking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to the grassroots level; improving health and hygiene in fisheries; adapting to climate change and livelihoods enhancement for small-scale and artisanal fishers. These programmes are expected to contribute to the movement of the member countries towards ecosystem based fisheries management in the long run, while addressing the specific short run issues of poor enforcement of legal measures and data paucity in the region, standardization of fisheries products, adapting to changing climate at macro and micro-levels and improving livelihoods of fishers by better safety measures in fishing operations and provision of additional livelihood avenues. BOBP-IGO is translating the CCRF and its Technical Guidelines into the vernacular spoken in the BOBP-IGO member countries and is disseminating the same among the fisheries officials and other stakeholders at the grassroots level. They have also instituted a training programme for junior and middle-level officials from the developing countries to improve their understanding of the Code.

Opening Speech

by

**Dr Cheul-Woo Lee, Director General of Distant Water Fisheries Bureau
Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea**

Mr Simon Funge-Smith, Secretary of Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission,
Chairman Il-Jeong Jeong,
Vice-Chairman Nguyen Viet Manh of the Session,
And distinguished delegates from the APFIC member countries,

I am Cheul-Woo Lee, the head of Distant-water Fisheries Bureau of the Korean Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. First, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all of you here in Jeju to join the 31st APFIC session.

I also appreciate your active participation and contribution to the success of the third Regional Consultative Forum, which took place amid typhoon Kompasu.

I hope this session will also bear a fruitful conclusion. Distinguished participants,

As discussed in the Forum, there have been substantial progresses in the fisheries and aquaculture management of the Members since the APFIC recommendations were drawn at the 30th APFIC session, which took place in Indonesia in 2008.

Also, there have been productive workshops regarding ‘the application of ecosystem-based approach’, ‘improving livelihoods and increasing resilience in fishing and aquaculture communities’. And during the third Regional Consultative Forum, the participants had a wonderful opportunity to share their experiences. However, the participants also shared the recognition that close cooperation among all the members are needed more than ever as we still have a long way to go and many challenges are ahead of us.

Given all this background, I’m convinced that the 31st APFIC session will serve as a good opportunity for the participants to reaffirm their commitment to sustainable fisheries and to strengthen the role of the APFIC.

And I hope timely and appropriate biennial tasks will be selected and adopted during the session, thereby drawing continuous interest and participation among the members.

I heard many of the delegates had a chance to take a look around the island last week. I hope the beautiful landscape of the island and the fisheries sites you visited made a great impression on you that will last for a long time.

Again, I welcome all of you to the thirty first session of APFIC.

I will see you again at the Welcome Dinner tonight.

Thank you.

Statement
by
Dr Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

During the past two years, SEAFDEC as a collaborating partner, has actively participated in workshops and consultative meetings organized by FAO/APFIC. Through those meetings, approaches to address the issue of managing fishing capacity and IUU fishing, port state measures, securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, assessment and management of the offshore resources, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture, among others, were developed. As a matter of fact, the recently concluded Regional Consultative Forum Meeting held prior to this APFIC session, has proved that our efforts are getting the much needed results and thus, the partnership between SEAFDEC and APFIC should be continued and even enhanced in the future.

In our view, the future cooperation between SEAFDEC and APFIC could focus on the key main issue “in the context of better management of fishing capacity” that needs to be seriously taken into consideration. This is due to the fact that overcapacity contributes to a large extent, to the continued practice of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Another challenge could be in the context of promoting port state measures and securing sustainable small-scale fisheries which should be continued. We would also wish that our collaborative efforts could also be extended to the sustainable management of the regions’ inland fisheries. As a cross-cutting issue, SEAFDEC and FAO/APFIC as well as other concerned organizations and institutions could strengthen our cooperation in the area of human resource development in order to rejuvenate our pool of expertise in fisheries-related fields in the Southeast Asian region. If we continue to lose our experts, our national policies would be futile as these could not be backed by scientific findings.

These areas are among the priorities of SEAFDEC and it is therefore our wish to sustain our partnership with the APFIC. From such partnership, we would be able to address the aforementioned issues and concerns in order that development planning and management of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region could be more effective.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to announce that ASEAN and SEAFDEC in collaboration with the FAO and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, are now in the last stage preparations for the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020-Fish for the People”, which will be held from 13 to 17 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The new decade Resolution and Plan of Action developed through a series of technical consultations with the SEAFDEC Member Countries would be concluded and adopted during the Conference. In this connection, we are extending our invitation to all of you to attend the Conference. Further information could be obtained from SEAFDEC website at www.seafdec.org or through the Conference website at www.ffp2020.org.

Last but not least, please allow me to express the hope that this APFIC meeting would be successful. Let me also reiterate that SEAFDEC is looking forward to having a continued and much closer partnership and collaboration with APFIC in the future.

Thank you and good day!

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