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Food  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

**Antalya, Turkey, 21–28 May 2008**

### SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT

### SUB-COMMISSION III – Protection of the Aquatic Resource

**Chairperson:** G. Castelnaud (France)

**Vice-Chairperson:** E. Ciccotti (Italy)

**Rapporteur:** C. Popa (Romania)

**Technical Secretary:** U. Barg (FAO)

This Sub-Commission includes four ad hoc Working Parties. Activities and achievements of the Sub-Commission during the intersessional period are summarized as follows:

#### **Ad Hoc Working Party on the Methodologies for Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs**

Convener: H. Lehtonen

A final draft of the manual on Rehabilitation of Lakes and Reservoirs for Fish by H. Lehtonen, I.G. Cowx and R. Müller, is available and has been circulated to experts for feedback. The text still requires some figures and photos. Mr Jagsch offered to provide photographs as appropriate. Blackwell Publishing is willing to publish the document. It is recommended this WP be discontinued as confirmed by the Meeting of the EIFAC Executive Committee in 2007.

#### **Ad Hoc Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Convener: R. Rösch

The Convener Mr Rösch, has gathered a core group of seven persons in order to produce a draft EIFAC position statement, as requested by the Twenty-fourth Session of the Commission. The WP delivered at the end of February the second draft<sup>1</sup> for the EIFAC position statement on "welfare of fishes in freshwater aquaculture". The Convener emphasizes that a position statement should be short and precise, not going into detail, but only summarizing the relevant fields. The WP is inviting suggestions from EIFAC on the presentation and contents of such a position statement, based on which the document could be further developed. If agreeable, the WP would also begin with drafting a similar statement for inland capture fisheries. This field is even more "delicate", but it is necessary to cover it.

<sup>1</sup> The initial draft of the statement is provided in Annex I of the Full Progress Report of Sub-Commission III

## **Ad Hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation**

Convener: P. Heinimaa

The ad hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation held a Workshop on an European Cormorant Management Plan in Bonn, Germany, from 20 to 21 November 2007. The workshop was attended by 29 persons from 13 EIFAC member states. The workshop report (EIFAC/XXV/2008/Inf.13) will be published online on the EIFAC home page, together with materials presented during the workshop.

The workshop recognized that there are rising problems for fisheries and aquaculture due to the impact of a growing number of cormorants. Isolated actions to reduce the population size have failed. Therefore the initiative to start to work on a pan-European management plan is urgent.

The main conclusions of the workshop are:

- *The enormously increased impact of cormorant predation on fish species conservation and the losses caused to aquaculture pond owners, professional fishermen and anglers has reached unacceptable levels.*
- *There is a need to reduce the reproductive success of the Great Cormorant population in order to achieve a reduced population size and distribution, which is still compatible with a favourable conservation status, but also compatible with acceptable impacts on fish species conservation and on losses in enterprises living from fish.*
- *The coordination of fish and bird interests makes it necessary to explore the possibility of establishing an achievable and acceptable size and distribution for the total European breeding population.*
- *There is a need to explore the consequences of moving the cormorant to the status of Annex II, 2 of the EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (non-protected species).*
- *there is a need for urgent and coordinated action to manage the European cormorant population in order to reduce its impact on fish species conservation and to mitigate the losses caused to aquaculture pond owners, professional fishermen and anglers.*
- *EIFAC should take the initiative to promote the preparation and effective implementation of an European Cormorant Management Plan (ECMP) using all information from previous projects such as FRAP, INTERCAFE and others.*
- *the ECMP should include elements that can be extrapolated from the local to a pan-European level. A mechanism is needed for continued monitoring, evaluation and iterative adoption of the ECMP.*

The workshop recommendations were stated as follows:

1. *Coordinate the isolated national efforts by promoting the preparation and the implementation of an effective European Cormorant Management Plan (ECMP), involving all relevant stakeholders.*
2. *Establish a central mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating actions on cormorants.*
3. *Reduce the reproductive success of the Great Cormorant population to achieve a reduced population size and distribution, still compatible with a favourable conservation status for the cormorants.*
4. *Explore the consequences of moving the cormorant to the status of Annex II, 2 of the EU Birds Directive (not protected species).*

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### **Ad Hoc Working Party on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

Convener: C. Argillier

The Twenty-fourth Session of EIFAC had decided to create a new ad hoc Working Party in charge of the questions associated with the implementation of the WFD, as recommended by the 2006 Mondsee Symposium. The new Convenor, Christine Argillier (France) had agreed to prepare draft Terms of Reference for this Working Party and to identify possible experts to join it.

A set of draft Terms of Reference for this WP were developed in discussion with the officers of this Sub-commission, and are proposed as follows:

- Identification of the European fisheries legislation applied to the freshwater ecosystems (stocking, catches limitation...); consequences on the observed communities in terms of presence/absence of species and age structure of the dominant species populations at the European level.
- Compatibilities between WFD and fisheries legislation in the different European countries.
- Analyses of fish management practices (habitat modification, fish manipulations ...) as a function of water body types and the natural environment, in the member states involved in the implementation of the WFD; consequences on the fish community characteristics.
- Analyses of fishery activities as a potential indicator of the water body status and/or of the human pressure intensity. How to improve water body status by reducing or modifying fisheries?

Mrs Christine Argillier is negotiating funds with the French Ministry of Ecology to assist the activities of this WP and is planning to organise a first meeting in 2008, in order to identify the members according to the TORs and to plan the future activities.