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## **Fifth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13 – 14 May 2019**

### **Report of the GRWG-DR consultation of the proposed amendments to the ISSCFV**

#### **Executive Summary**

The Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) proposed an amendment of the 1984 The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types (ISSCFV) list which the Secretariat presented to the fourth meeting Global Record Working Group (GRWG4) for review. The GRWG4 agreed on the necessity to broaden discussions for the revision of the ISSCFV list among a range of experts in fields beyond fisheries statistics and noted that specific classification categories for non-fishing vessels would be necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Global Record and other instruments, initiatives and tools to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In follow-up to these recommendations, the Secretariat initiated an online consultation through the Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Requirements (GRWG-DR).

During this consultation, experts were invited to discuss and provide suggestions for further changes to the amendment of the 1984 ISSCFV. Although some proposals were received from experts regarding the “fishing vessel” “super category”, the majority of the suggestions received regarded the “non-fishing” vessels super-category. Suggestions provided by experts during the consultation included, the need to distinguish between artisanal and industrial vessel types, the addition of several vessel types and the need to clearly define different vessel types.

## **Background**

The ISSCFV were developed and later approved by the CWP in 1984. This reference code list, developed for statistical purposes, was considered and approved by the GRWG2 in 2016 and currently in use within the Global Record Information System. By request of its Members, the CWP started a review process of the 1984 ISSCFV.

The CWP proposed an initial amendment of the 1984 list which the Secretariat presented to the GRWG4 for review. The GRWG4 agreed on the necessity to broaden discussions for the revision of the ISSCFV list among a range of experts in fields beyond fisheries statistics and noted that specific classification categories for non-fishing vessels would be necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Global Record and other instruments, initiatives and tools to fight IUU fishing. In follow-up to these recommendations, the Secretariat initiated an online consultation through the Global Record Specialized Core Working Group on Data Requirements (GRCG-DR).

## **Participation**

The GRCG-DR consultation on the proposed amendments to the ISSCFV list was carried out in a two-phase approach. Initially, a total of 116 experts from 62 Member States, plus the European Union, were invited to provide their comments and changes to the list. At a later stage, a further 33 compliance/data analyst experts from 29 Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) were invited to engage in the consultation and provide further inputs.

## **Summary and comments received**

### **1. Fishing Vessels**

In respect of the amendments proposed to the ISSCFV version of 1984, the experts suggested the following changes:

- Seiners nei: to keep SOX code (instead of SPX);
- Pot vessels: to keep WOP code (instead of WP);
- Handliner vessels (LH): should be kept as separate category from Pole and Line vessels;
- Recreational vessels: should be kept as separate category (same in ISSCFG);
- Other fishing vessels: to keep FX code (instead of OV).

New categories proposed:

- Need to differentiate between large vessels (with on-board factories/frozen/RSW decks) vs smaller artisanal type vessels (probably based on GT/LOA).

New subcategories proposed:

- Lift netters: to add a new subcategory entitled “Stick-held dip net”;
- Multipurpose category: to add a new subcategory entitled “Multipurpose non trawlers (jig, Stick-held dip net)”

Other:

- Need to correctly define Fishing vessel;
- American type and European type purse seiners are not self-explanatory terms (same to previous Japanese and American type liners);
- Procedure on how to classify vessels authorized to fish with several gears:
  - o Input classification in accordance with the main gear of the vessel;
  - o Vessels fishing with different gears should be classified as Multipurpose vessels; or
  - o In accordance with the licence

## 2. Non-fishing vessels

Regarding the amendments proposed to the ISSCFV version of 1984, the experts suggested the following changes:

- Inspection vessels: should be kept
  - o Proposed inclusion countered as it would not be relevant for the Global Record
- Research vessels: should be kept but as fishing vessel

New categories proposed:

- Bunkering vessels/tankers
- Support and auxiliary vessels
- Fish carriers/reefers (not containers)
- Towing vessels
- Suppliers/vendor Ships
- Multipurpose non-fishing vessels

Other:

- Given the broad definition of “fishing vessel” in use by many international instruments, for consistency, greater clarity and in order to facilitate the effective implementation of these instruments, some experts suggested to use just a unique super-category named “fishing vessels”.

### Conclusions

The main changes proposed by the GRWG-DR referred to the “non-fishing” vessels super-category.

Within the “fishing vessel” super-category, the expert group expressed the need of maintaining several codes and categories (such as recreational vessels and handliners) modified or simplified on the revised version. Moreover, some of the experts stressed the need of distinguishing between industrial vessels with processing/freezing capacity versus artisanal vessels. For fishing vessels, only two new non previously existing subcategories were proposed (“Stick-held dip net”).

Regarding the “non-fishing vessel” super-category, some experts highlighted the need to consider other non-fishing vessel categories such as bunkering or tanker vessels, reefers, auxiliary ships, towing vessels and suppliers. Furthermore, to simplify vessels used for transport, experts suggested to add a common inclusive category for fish carriers and reefers. The lack of a comprehensive category for vessels conducting transport and supply activities was also noted. In this regard, a multipurpose non-fishing vessel category was suggested.

The GRWG-DR proposed, in the interest of minimising confusion and being consistent with existing international instruments such as the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the need to define what is understood as a “fishing vessel”, was highlighted. In consequence, it was suggested that both super-categories be combined under a single category entitled “fishing vessels”, including vessels conducting fishing and fishing related activities.

Lastly, the group reflected on the lack of a common understanding of the difference between certain vessel categories such as supply, auxiliary or support vessels. As a result, it was clear from the discussions that vessel types, especially those belonging to the “non-fishing” category, needed to be clearly defined.