


March 2018

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
---	--	--------------------	---	---	---	--

## ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

### Thirty-fifth Session

Cebu, the Philippines, 11–13 May 2018

### Report of the Seventy-sixth Executive Committee Meeting

1. The Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) convened its Seventy-sixth Session at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Manila, Philippines, from 21 to 23 February 2017, hosted by the Government of the Philippines. The full report of the meeting is presented as information paper APFIC/18/INF 04.
2. The Executive Committee reviewed the inter-sessional activities under the biennial APFIC work plan and provided input to the organization of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session and 7<sup>th</sup> RCFM. The Executive Committee also made additional recommendations on the work plan and on administrative and budgetary matters.
3. The Executive Committee agreed that the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Executive Committee would be convened in Thailand in 2019, pending confirmation by the Government of Thailand.
4. Specific recommendations of the Seventy-sixth meeting of the APFIC Executive Committee are summarized below.

#### IMPROVING MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ISSUES

5. The Executive Committee discussed ongoing efforts to improve monitoring of trends and issues in fisheries and aquaculture of the Commission and welcomed the updated regional overview on status and trends of aquaculture and capture fisheries in Asia and the Pacific region.
6. The Committee recommended analysis and distribution of a regional level consolidation of the country-level responses to the 2015 FAO questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code). This was to inform APFIC member countries and their respective FAO country offices about advances in fisheries management in the region and to assist countries in their reporting on progress with the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. The Committee recognized the complexity of estimating and monitoring Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and suggested that APFIC support the development of technical guidelines on methodologies for estimating the effects of IUU fishing for the APFIC region.

8. The need for guidance on the monitoring the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) was noted, including guidance on defining small-scale fisheries within each country, and support to national-level efforts to achieve and report on the Sustainable Development Goal Target 14b, relating specifically to small-scale fisheries, was welcomed.

#### **SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the ongoing and planned inter-sessional activities related to the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines and underscored their importance in relation to value chains in the region. The committee welcomed continued support for the implementation of the voluntary guidelines at the national and regional levels. The Committee requested mechanisms enabling the sharing of experiences of implementing the voluntary guidelines, including a consultative workshop on the use of information and communication technologies in support of the small-scale fisheries sector.

#### **FAO ACTIONS SUPPORTING MEMBER COUNTRIES TO COMBAT IUU AND IMPLEMENT THE FAO PSMA**

10. The Executive Committee agreed that IUU fishing was a significant problem in the APFIC region and for APFIC member countries and that support from APFIC FAO was appropriate. They noted that there were many other partners engaged in this work and coordination would be essential.

11. The Executive Committee supported the proposed FAO regional project as an important part of the efforts to combat IUU. The proposed project outputs included enhanced regional cooperation in support of addressing IUU and PSMA implementation and strengthened national capacity for the implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA)-IUU and PSMA.

12. The Executive Committee noted that work to combat IUU and implement the PSMA would require multidisciplinary and cross-cutting approaches including sectors outside of fisheries. The importance of political leadership and ownership was stressed.

13. The Executive Committee noted the importance of sharing experiences among countries in the region that are at different levels of planning and implementation.

14. The importance of and difficulties in ensuring the engagement of the small-scale fisheries sector was stressed. It was also noted that in many countries, the terms “small-scale” and “large-scale” are defined differently.

15. The Executive Committee noted that national legal frameworks and strong governance were also required for the implementation of the IPOA-IUU and the PSMA. The Executive Committee suggested that wherever possible domestic IUU and inland IUU fishing issues should be considered during discussions on IUU.

#### **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

16. The Executive Committee noted the importance of integrating Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) approaches into forthcoming FAO projects and programmes and recognized the potential for the approach in planning and implementing climate change adaptations for the sector.

17. The Executive committee noted the actions taken by member countries in support of implementing the EAFM approach.

18. The Executive Committee enquired as to the progress of developing the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) and noted the FAO technical guidelines on EAA and the forthcoming publication on EAA indicators. The Executive Committee proposed that EAA training modules be developed to support the implementation of the EAA.

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

19. The Executive Committee commended the Secretariat for its efforts in documenting climate change impacts and vulnerabilities as well as adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation priorities within the sector. The need to ensure representation of the sector in national climate change strategies and implementation plans was underscored and the Executive Committee welcomed the continued support of the FAO in this area.

20. The Executive Committee welcomed the draft FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Change Strategy (2017–2020) and requested a follow-up APFIC/FAO regional consultative workshop entitled “Implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture: challenges for adaptation and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region”. The purposes of this would be twofold: to provide information on national and regional actions as well as technological and methodological advances; and to identify capacity gaps and other constraints of the APFIC member countries in coping effectively with climate change challenges and maintaining the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region

### **INTRODUCTION TO FAO REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR BLUE GROWTH IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

21. The Executive Committee complimented FAO on the wide range of activities implemented under the regional initiative and the achievements to date. The Executive Committee sought clarification on the relationship between the regional initiative and other FAO implementation mechanisms.

22. Responding to the comment from the Executive Committee, the Secretariat explained the background of the regional initiative and further explained its significance in terms of implementing, monitoring and reporting on FAO’s Strategic Framework.

23. The Executive Committee recognized the role of the regional initiative in advocating the value of ocean and inland water resources and its focus on improved efficiency and sustainability in the use of aquatic resources – produce more with less – to contribute to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growth.

24. The Executive Committee also noted and welcomed the expansion of the regional initiative from efficient aquaculture production through innovation to fisheries more broadly and building resilience.

### **APFIC WORKPLAN FOR 2017-2018**

25. The Executive Committee endorsed the APFIC Workplan for 2017-2018 as proposed by the Secretariat and suggested it should be incorporated into the ongoing FAO Country Programme Framework processes in the concerned countries.

### **ROAD MAP TO DEVELOP THE 2018–2023 APFIC STRATEGIC PLAN**

26. The Executive Committee agreed that the current strategic plan (2012–2018), which has provided general guidance for the work of the Commission, is now approaching its end and it is appropriate that a new one be developed for endorsement by APFIC Members at the Thirty-fifth APFIC Session in 2018.

27. The Executive Committee recommended that the Secretariat consult with other regional bodies and entities to ensure synergy and alignment of the strategic plan. The Executive Committee suggested that additional technical areas for APFIC might include certification and trade issues, governance and legal frameworks and collaboration with regional partners.

28. The Executive Committee endorsed the road map and agreed that the Secretariat should recruit a consultant to support the work.

#### **APFIC BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

29. The Secretary reported the financial status of the Commission, the levels of co-finance leveraged for Commission activities in the last biennium and the expected resourcing over the coming biennium.

30. The Executive Committee reviewed the estimated budget for the current activities during the biennium and requested clarification on certain points.

31. The Secretary drew attention to the fact that FAO internal planning processes had changed and that earmarked funds were no longer allocated to the FAO Regional Commissions at the start of the biennia. In addition, the APFIC biennial work plan does not coincide with the FAO Regular Programme financial planning.

#### **PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING AND THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF APFIC**

32. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission in 2018

33. The Executive Committee agreed that these two events would be three days each and run back-to-back over a period of six or seven days at the same venue.

34. The Executive Committee discussed the proposed agenda for the Seventh RCFM and recommended the following amendments: that a “One Health” session should include emerging diseases, that the APFIC Secretariat should provide an overview of current compliance requirements of importing markets to inform the regional supply chain actors that the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture should be included and that the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries implementation experiences should be included.

35. The Executive Committee suggested that member countries’ brief contributions cover efforts to improve management across capture fisheries and aquaculture, but agreed that large parts of the agenda should not be dedicated to country presentations on single themes as this will take up too much time. Members are encouraged to develop posters to share detailed information on activities.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE APFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

36. The Executive Committee was advised on the preparations for the Seventh APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) and arrangements for the Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission in 2018

37. In accordance with the established precedents, the delegate of Thailand, the Vice-Chair country of the Seventy-sixth APFIC Executive Committee proposed tentatively that Thailand host the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee from 19 to 21 February 2019.

38. The Executive Committee welcomed the proposal of Thailand on the venue and date for the Seventy-seventh Session of the APFIC Executive Committee.

**SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

39. The Commission is invited to review the report of the Seventy-fourth meeting of the APFIC Executive Committee for endorsement and to consider the specific recommendations therein.