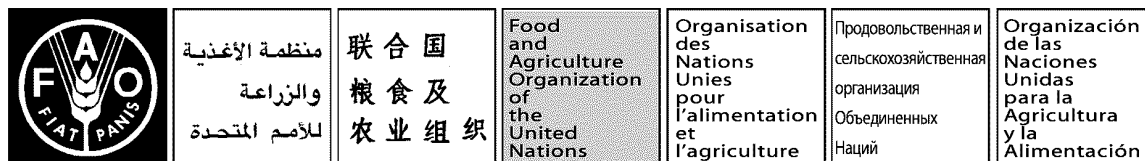


September 2008



REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

**Second Session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management
(formerly Working Group on Fishery Statistics)**

Cairo, Egypt, 27-30 October 2008

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
FOCAL POINTS TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the important role played by RECOFI focal points, to invite the Working Group on Fisheries Management to approve terms of reference for the focal points on fisheries management and to invite and encourage Members to nominate focal points and alternative focal points at the second session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management, and if not, by 1 December 2008.

ROLE OF FOCAL POINTS

2. RECOFI Members have nominated already National Focal Points (NFPs) and national focal points for aquaculture. They facilitate the work of the Commission, especially in inter-sessional periods. The National Focal Points carry out advisory and liaison functions with respect to the Commission's programme of work and its relevance to national fisheries policy. In addition, the NFPs maintain contact with the Commission's Secretariat, focusing on a range of activities fundamental to the Commission's smooth and sound operation. The national focal points for aquaculture perform similar functions to their NFP counterparts although with a tighter and more direct focus on aquaculture and related issues.

3. To ensure the effective operation of the Working Group on Fisheries Management RECOFI Members are invited to nominate national focal points on fisheries management.

NOMINATION OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

4. Taking account of the responsibilities identified for the focal points on fisheries management, RECOFI Members are invited to nominate a focal point and an alternate focal point. For fast and effective communication with the Secretariat and with focal points in other countries, it is essential that the nominees have access to electronic communication.

5. Members are invited to advise the names and full contact details (address, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses) of their nominees to the Secretary of RECOFI (piero.mannini@fao.org) with a copy to the Technical Secretary of the Working Group on Fisheries Management (david.doulman@fao.org) by the date of the second session of the Working Group on Fisheries Management and in any event not later than 1 December 2008.

6. Action to finalize the national focal points on fisheries management will be taken in advance of the fifth session of RECOFI in 2009 so as to ensure that the momentum on refocusing and revitalizing the Working Group is not lost and that planning for activities in 2009 can proceed without interruption. However, the Commission's fifth session will be informed of the action taken to appoint the focal points.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

7. Draft terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management have been prepared and are in Appendix 1. The Working Group is reminded that fisheries conditions change, often in a relatively short period of time, and it is for this reason that the terms of reference for the focal points should be revised from time-to-time to ensure that they remain relevant and current.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUP

8. The Working Group is invited to consider the draft terms of reference for the national focal points on fisheries management and to comment on them, as appropriate. Moreover, Members are invited to nominate national focal points and alternative national focal points at the second session of the Working Group, and if not by that date, by 1 December 2008.

Regional Commission for Fisheries

Draft Terms of Reference for the National Focal Points on Fisheries Management

The national focal points on fisheries management will:

- promote the activities of the Working Group, especially in the inter-sessional periods;
- disseminate information concerning fisheries management nationally and in the region;
- facilitate the exchange of information relating to conservation and management;
- promote and enhance regional cooperation among Members and the harmonization of conservation and management measures;
- bring national conservation and management issues to the attention of the Working Group;
- advise on, and assist in the formulation of, *inter alia*, work programmes, projects and other activities;
- act to support the implementation of activities consistent with the above responsibilities, and
- liaise with the Technical Secretary, as required, to promote and facilitate the good governance of the Working Group.

Furthermore, the focal points on fisheries management will ensure that the RECOFI National Focal Points are briefed fully on the activities of the Working Group on Fisheries Management and, as appropriate, provide advice on the Commission's programme of work and budget and other activities, including on their relevance to national policy.

To ensure that the national focal points on fisheries management are in a position to undertake these responsibilities, they should be experienced fisheries managers with ready and regular access to RECOFI National Focal Points and other national policy makers.

The Working Group on Fisheries Management may review these terms of reference from time- to-time and make recommendations for their amendment.