The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI): challenges and opportunities for regional fisheries management and aquaculture development

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Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Towards the Development of an Ecosystem Based Management Strategy in the ROPME Sea Area
Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016
i. Brief introduction to Regional Fishery Management Organizations and their role;

and

ii. The case of Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI).
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
According to International Law:

State’s **freedom** to sail fishing vessels flying their flag on the high seas is **limited** to some conditions:

**flag States** have **primary responsibility** for controlling the fishing activities of their vessels both within their EEZs and on the high seas.

**flag and coastal States** have the **obligation and duty to cooperate** so as to ensure fisheries sustainability and stocks conservation.

The main mechanism for organizing this cooperative management is through international bodies such as RFMOs.

UNCLOS invites States to **create** such organizations where they do not exist.
Art. 7.1.3 For transboundary fish stocks, straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and high seas fish stocks, where these are exploited by two or more States, the States concerned, including the relevant coastal States in the case of straddling and highly migratory stocks, should cooperate to ensure effective conservation and management of the resources. This should be achieved, where appropriate, through the establishment of a bilateral, subregional or regional fisheries organisation or arrangement.
The case of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI)
On 31 December 2008 all Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Acceptance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Bahrain</td>
<td>17 October 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>6 December 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Iraq</td>
<td>20 August 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Kuwait</td>
<td>19 May 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanate of Oman</td>
<td>19 December 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Qatar</td>
<td>12 July 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3 November 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>26 February 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year of establishment: 1999
Geographical coverage: ROPME Sea Area
Secretariat: FAO part-time secretariat
Meetings organized during 2008-2015: Twelve
Workshops organized during 2008-2015: Ten
Publications 2008-2015: Twenty eight
(FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report series
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular series)
Binding recommendations in 2009-2015: Two
Members contribution (annual): 40,000 USD

RECOFI is established under the framework of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution - http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/recofi
RECOFI and ROPME SYNERGIES

Same convention area and member countries
Functioning of RECOFI Secretariat

Senior Statistician (FIPS)

Secretary of RECOFI RNE (currently FPI)

Technical Secretary of WGA (FIRA)

Technical Secretary of WGFM (FPI)

Admin. Assistant (RNE)

Information Officer (FIRA)

Liaison Officer (FPI)

Secretarial Support (FPI)

Database maintenance (FIPS)
**Fishery Management**

Regionally concerted list of priority species whose stocks support fisheries of common interest in the RECOFI region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAO name</th>
<th>ASFIS code</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Tiger Prawn</td>
<td>TIP</td>
<td>Green Tiger Prawn</td>
<td><em>Penaeus semisulcatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue swimming crabs</td>
<td>SCD</td>
<td>Blue swimming crab</td>
<td><em>Portunus pelagicus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharaoh cuttlefish</td>
<td>IAH</td>
<td>Cuttlefish</td>
<td><em>Sepia pharaonis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolephorus anchovies</td>
<td>STO</td>
<td>Anchovies</td>
<td><em>Stolephorus spp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian oil sardine</td>
<td>IOS</td>
<td>Indian oil sardine</td>
<td><em>Sardinella longiceps</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bludger</td>
<td>NGY</td>
<td>Jacks</td>
<td><em>Carangoide gymnostethus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden trevally</td>
<td>GLT</td>
<td>Golden trevally</td>
<td><em>Gnathanodon speciosus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian mackerel</td>
<td>RAG</td>
<td>Indian mackerel</td>
<td><em>Rastrelliger Kanagurita</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snubnose emperor</td>
<td>LBW</td>
<td>Orange finned emperor</td>
<td><em>Lethrinus borbonicus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink ear emperor</td>
<td>LTS</td>
<td>Redspot emperor</td>
<td><em>Lethrinus lentjan</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spangled emperor</td>
<td>LHN</td>
<td>Spangled emperor</td>
<td><em>Lethrinus nebulosus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral hind</td>
<td>CFI</td>
<td>Coral grouper/Bluespotted grouper</td>
<td><em>Cephalopholis miniata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange-spotted grouper</td>
<td>ENI</td>
<td>Orange-spotted grouper</td>
<td><em>Epinephelus coioides</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-spotted spinefoot</td>
<td>SCN</td>
<td>Rabbitfish</td>
<td><em>Siganus canaliculatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel</td>
<td>COM</td>
<td>King mackerel/Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel</td>
<td><em>Scomberomorus commerson</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longtail tuna</td>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>Longtail tuna</td>
<td><em>Thunnus tonggol</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawakawa</td>
<td>KAW</td>
<td>Kawakawa</td>
<td><em>Euthynnus affinis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiem sharks nei</td>
<td>RSK</td>
<td>Sharks</td>
<td><em>Carcharhinidae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver pomfret</td>
<td>SIP</td>
<td>Silver pomfret</td>
<td><em>Pampus argenteus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilsa shad</td>
<td>HIL</td>
<td>Indian shad</td>
<td><em>Tenualosa ilisha</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King soldier bream</td>
<td>KBR</td>
<td>King soldier bream</td>
<td><em>Argyrops spinifer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted sweetlips</td>
<td>DGP</td>
<td>Painted sweetlips</td>
<td><em>Diagramma pictum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smalltooth emperor</td>
<td>LEN</td>
<td>Smalltooth emperor</td>
<td><em>Lethrinus microdon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian white prawn</td>
<td>PNI</td>
<td>Indian white prawn</td>
<td><em>Penaeus indicus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

### WORKSHOP ON FISHERY STOCK INDICATORS AND STOCK STATUS

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26–29 July 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample size (No. Responses)</th>
<th>Shrimp trawl</th>
<th>Finfish trawl</th>
<th>Beach seine</th>
<th>Gillnets</th>
<th>Drift nets</th>
<th>Fixed net</th>
<th>Spanish mackerel fixed net</th>
<th>Wire traps</th>
<th>Crab traps</th>
<th>Barrier s</th>
<th>Hook and Line</th>
<th>Longline</th>
<th>Average score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct employment</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect employment</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local food supply</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to national food supply</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to export</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply to local industry</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to national food supply</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal operations</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil consumption</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Score: 2.41**  **Rank: 1**

![Graph showing percentages for different fishing methods and fish types](image)

- **Shrimp trawl**
- **Jellyfish Laddle**
- **Gillnet**
- **Longline**
- **Barrier trap**
- **Hook and Line**
- **Wiretrap for crabs**
- **Wiretraps**

- **Anchovies**
- **Emperors**
- **Longtail tuna**
- **Indian oil sardine**
- **Carangids**
- **Groupers**
- **Rabbitfish**
- **Spanish mackerel**
- **Other finfish**
- **Spanish mackerel**
Focus on Fisheries Legislation

FAO/RECOFI Regional Workshop on Social and Economic Aspects of Fisheries in the RECOFI Region

22-24 April 2012
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Establishment of the Regional Task Group
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Report of the
REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 6-10 April 2008

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Report of the
REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE MARINE CAGE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 25-26 January 2009

REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES

Report of the
FAO TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SPATIAL PLANNING FOR MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Doha, the State of Qatar, 24-28 October 2010
The Information System online

http://www.raisaquaculture.net
NOTABLE ONGOING RECOFI WORK

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TASK GROUP

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING FOR CAPTURE FISHERIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM DATA REPORTING FOR AQUACULTURE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC TASK GROUP

WGFM held workshop on socio-economic aspects of fisheries in RECOFI region

- Socio-economic Task group established
- Priority gaps identified
- Preliminary survey questionnaire designed
- Task Group requested to continue collecting information
SOCIO-ECONOMIC TASK GROUP

Price information

Some example results

Challenges for fisheries sector

Fishers attitudes to mgmt. measures
Minimum data reporting on capture fisheries

- Number of vessels engaged in the fishery and length of tow
- Live-weight equivalent of annual catch of certain species
- Amount of discards
- Specific data on Spanish Mackerel
- Catch and effort data

Data reported under this Recommendation
The catch and effort data submitted under the Recommendation currently covers 64% of whole catch taken under the RECOFI area. The apparent coverage for key species groups for monitoring, is below (for 2013).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Whole RECOFI Area</th>
<th>I-RSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Catch</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfishes</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groupers</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emperors</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the way forward...
Welcomed the opportunity to strengthen cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

and other regional partners such as the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)

emphasizing the value of effective and viable regional cooperation which should be fostered by RECOFI
Some perspectives and challenges

- Establishment of effective regional scientific and institutional cooperation;
- Impact of regional geo-political sensitivities;
- Weak government support to fisheries sector;
- Critical role of national focal points;
- Institutional capacity strengthening is a slow process;
- Lack of consensus and sharing of the common goal towards coherent regional fishery management approach and strategy;
- New key partnership to be established (i.e. ROPME)
The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI): challenges and opportunity for regional fisheries management and aquaculture development

Thanks for your attention

piero.mannini@fao.org

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