

Contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization to the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea

In line with the request from COFI 30th session (paragraph 50) to “examine the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change”, the FAO has undertaken the following activities relating specifically to ocean acidification and its impacts on food and livelihoods security:

- Contributing to IAEA Marine Laboratory led international workshops on Ocean Acidification impacts on fisheries and aquaculture. Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, 11-13 November 2012
- Monitoring Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PacFA) OA-related activities
- OA has been included in FAO's work in understanding ocean acidification, climate variability and change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation priorities within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Recent regional workshops have taken place in Latin America, Benguela Current, Pacific SIDS, Caribbean SIDS, Lake Chad Basin and Vietnam.

The general recommendations stemming from the November, 2012 workshop are:

- _ Mitigate the effects of ocean acidification by reducing emissions of atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.
- _ Support research on economically important species of finfish, shellfish, shrimp and other crustaceans in high CO₂ conditions, especially egg and larval stages and associated food webs, to enable socio-economic assessment of impacts on livelihoods and food security.
- _ Establish ad hoc coastal monitoring networks for standardized measurement of ocean acidification.
- _ Implement best practices and adaptive management of fisheries resources and aquaculture operations by addressing overfishing; discouraging illegal, unregulated, unreported fishing; and encouraging polyculture and selective breeding.
- _ Increase the adaptive capacity of fishing communities through education concerning ocean acidification impacts on marine resources and by training to diversify livelihoods.
- _ Improve multi-stakeholder communication among parties (coastal communities, business owners, researchers, decision-makers, management organizations, and international agencies) and exchange of information for multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary solutions.
- _ Apply lessons learned from the United States northwest coast oyster hatchery experience to the aquaculture industry, and the risk to early life stages of bivalves and other species in open circulating systems.

Please find my presentation at the November, 2012 workshop, dealing specifically with the impacts and adaptation options for FI&AQ to OA, as attached in a PDF format. The presentation also include several questions that merit being understood better as current understanding of impacts is very low.