



Rome, 1 July 2013

Subject: Request for FAO inputs in relation to paragraphs 28 and 176 of resolution concerning A/RES/67/L.21 entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", for the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly

Dear Mr Mathias,

With reference to your letter of 12 December 2012 regarding the above mentioned subject, I am very pleased to attach FAO response.

Please do not hesitate to revert to me if you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,

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**FAO INPUTS IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION A/RES/67/L.21
CONCERNING "OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA"
FOR THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

01 JULY 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Implementation of UNCLOS and legal capacity building

FAO has continued supporting FAO Members in the review and development of national legislation in the field of food and agriculture, including fisheries. In this context, FAO has contributed to the implementation of obligations deriving from international agreements, including UNCLOS, in national legislation, in particular those obligations relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources.

Safety at sea

FAO collaborated with ILO and IMO for a new safety standard for small fishing vessel and the new guidelines to assist the implementation of voluntary instruments on the design, construction and equipment of all fishing vessels of all types and sizes.

Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011, and resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012 and from 4 to 8 February 2013, and agreed on "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance", for endorsement by the 31st Session of COFI.

FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

The FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 approved the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Agreement). 23 FAO Members signed the Agreement. As at 01 July 2013, seven FAO Members (including the European Union) had become Parties to the Agreement. FAO has continued to develop its programme to support the implementation of the Agreement.

Marine pollution and marine debris

FAO continues to provide technical inputs and guidance through IMO on the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and aquaculture including the revision of MARPOL Annex V and its guidelines. FAO continues to strengthen its collaboration with UNEP including the provision of technical advice into the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML).

Invasive species

FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community organized a Regional Workshop on Aquatic Biosecurity and Aquaculture Data and Statistics in the Pacific region in October 2012. FAO hosted the 4th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species from 28 February to 1 March 2013 in Rome. FAO participated in the 10th Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (June 2013). FAO maintains a Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS).

Ecosystem approach

FAO continues to support the practical implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) through normative activities as well as on the ground assistance to member countries. In most EAF activities strong partnerships have been established with relevant regional and national institutions/programmes, including for follow up and implementation of the fisheries management plans.

International Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

FAO hosted a technical consultation to develop *The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines)*. While the Technical Consultation did not complete negotiations on the draft text, several key issues were agreed upon. The Technical Consultation will gather again for a resumed session in early 2014 in order to complete the Guidelines and present them for approval at the 31st session of COFI.

Taxonomic capabilities

FAO, through the FishFinder Programme, contributes to improving the identification of fishery resources by producing guides and catalogues that enhance the taxonomic capabilities of the personnel responsible for data collection in the field. FAO is building a programme on deep sea high seas fisheries that incorporates tools and training for improved capabilities in relation to taxonomic issues in deep sea ecosystems.

Aquatic genetic resources

FAO is preparing the first *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Report*, through a country-driven process, taking care not to duplicate or assume the work of other UN agencies and recognizing in particular the UN General Assembly's central role in addressing issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The first *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* is expected to be completed in 2017.

Precautionary approach and management of risk (emphasis on ABNJ)

FAO has developed a programme on deep seas in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) that focuses both on applying an ecosystems approach to fisheries and protecting marine biodiversity in the deep seas. The continued work on the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas encompasses the above mentioned programme.

Spatial management measures

FAO developed technical guidelines on MPAs and fisheries in 2011 and has conducted regional workshops. These regional meetings will continue in 2014.

Collaborative platforms

FAO plays a leading role in the EU/FP7 funded iMarine initiative which develops a data-infrastructure enabling new forms of scientific data sharing and multidisciplinary collaborative science in support to policy development and implementation, towards goals of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources.

Impact of global climate change and ocean acidification

During the 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York) FAO participated in a panel discussion at a CBD Secretariat-IOC/UNESCO side event entitled "The Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity". The event focused on the preliminary result of preparing a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions where FAO presented key points on known effects of ocean acidification on fisheries and aquaculture and potential impacts and consequences.

UN-Oceans

FAO has been an active participant in UN-Oceans, including the ongoing review process. FAO is the Secretariat of the UN Atlas of the Oceans, a web portal developed under the authority of UN-Oceans and which also hosts the UN-Oceans website. FAO organized a Technical Meeting of the UN Atlas of the Oceans with partners on 19 June 2013 during 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York).

Yeosu declaration

The FAO Director-General participated in a high-level panel forum at the International Expo 2012 in Yeosu, South Korea, to mark the Yeosu Declaration. The Declaration, highlighting the Expo theme of “Living Oceans and Coasts” aims to promote international cooperation and knowledge-sharing in order to improve stewardship of the marine environment.

Oceans Compact

The Oceans Compact is an initiative of the UN Secretary General to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to prioritize and deliver on its ocean-related mandates in a more coherent, coordinated and effective manner. FAO has been involved, along with other agencies, as part of a ‘core group’ to provide relevant inputs into the development of the Oceans Compact, including the submission of nominations for an Oceans Compact Advisory Group.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

01 JULY 2013

I - Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 5

The Development Law Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization has continued supporting FAO Members in the review and development of national legislation in the field of food and agriculture, including fisheries. In this context, FAO has facilitated the implementation of obligations deriving from international agreements, including UNCLOS, in national legislation, in as far as they are relevant for fisheries, aquaculture, and food security in general. Review of fisheries legislation was carried out in a number of countries, including: Albania, Belize, Djibouti, Lebanon, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Suriname.

II - CAPACITY-BUILDING

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 13

Development of technical legal skills at national level for the implementation of the UNCLOS

The Development Law Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization has continued supporting FAO Members in developing legal capacities, including in relation to the implementation of UNCLOS and in particular its provisions related to fisheries and conservation and sustainable utilization of marine living resources. Legal Capacity building activities were carried out in a number of countries, including: Albania, Belize, Djibouti, Lebanon, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Suriname.. FAO has also supported regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), functioning as the intergovernmental mechanisms for cooperation called for in article 63, 64 and 118 of UNCLOS. FAO has continued providing the secretariat function of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats Network, which met during its fourth meeting on 13 July 2012. FAO also provides legal assistance to the Secretariats of those RFBs that have been established under the FAO Constitution, as well as others. In this context, FAO participated in the performance review of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 24

FAO 2009 Port State Measures Agreement

FAO has continued to develop its programme to support the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement); enhance fisheries management and governance; promote long-term sustainability; and improve global food security. The programme activities aim to facilitate the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement and its implementation. In addition, they contribute to the development of national capacity to maximize the benefits available through the effective use of the Port State Measures Agreement and promote bilateral, subregional and/or regional coordination.

At its 30th Session, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in July 2012, COFI appreciated FAO's efforts in initiating a global series of regional capacity-development workshops to prepare for the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement. COFI encouraged FAO to convene additional regional workshops which aim to: (a) sensitize developing countries about the purpose and importance of the Port State Measures Agreement, and to encourage them to become parties to it and (b) to explain to fisheries professionals from developing countries how the Port State Measures Agreement operates, and what national measures must be taken in order to meet implementation requirements. In response to COFI's request, FAO contributed to a regional workshop for 19 African States on IUU fishing which focused in particular on the development of port State controls. Furthermore, FAO is co-organizing a capacity

development workshop on port State measures for 18 south Pacific States in the third quarter of 2013. Plans are in place to hold workshops in other regions subject to the availability of funds.

System of Environmental and Economic Accounting

The 2013 United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework as the global standard to monitor sustainable use of natural resources. FAO actively participated in the process of developing SEEA Central Framework to ensure coherence as much as possible in overall concepts utilized in SEEA asset account of aquatic biological resources with those in UNCLOS. FAO is currently in a process of developing an implementation guideline of SEEA in fishery and aquaculture context as well as use-case scenarios of SEEA data to support sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture sectors. It also plans to compile SEEA for fishery and aquaculture using the existing data to obtain globally comparable indicators of sustainability of aquatic biological resource use including marine resource.

IX - MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY AND FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 84

Safety at sea

In 2012, the thirtieth session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) welcomed the FAO/ILO/IMO collaboration relating to safety-at-sea in the fisheries sector, noting that it should be continued. The Committee also expressed satisfaction that a new safety standard for small fishing vessel had been completed and was being published and that new FAO/ILO/IMO guidelines to assist competent authorities in the implementation of voluntary instruments on the design, construction and equipment of all fishing vessels of all types and sizes (Implementation Guidelines) had been completed. The three organizations have signed a co-publishing agreement and it is envisaged that the Implementation Guidelines would be published in the near future.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 136

Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011, and resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012 and from 4 to 8 February 2013. In accordance with the request given by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) the Technical Consultation resumed negotiations on the basis of a draft document with the following structure: statement of purpose and principles; scope of application; performance assessment criteria; procedure for carrying out assessments; cooperation between flag States and coastal States; encouraging compliance and deterring non-compliance by flag States; cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries with a view to capacity development, and the role of FAO. The Technical Consultation came to a close at the second resumed session with agreement being reached on "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance". The Guidelines will be presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 31st Session for consideration.

FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

The FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 approved the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures Agreement). 23 FAO Members signed the Agreement. As at 01 July 2013, seven FAO Members (including the European Union) had become Parties to the Agreement. In addition, at the thirtieth session (2012) of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), 26 Members indicated their ongoing national processes to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Port State Measures Agreement. The Port State Measures Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit with the Director-General of FAO of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.

SECTION X – MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE RESOURCES

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 142 AND 153

Marine pollution and marine debris

FAO continues to provide technical inputs and guidance through IMO on the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and aquaculture including the revision of MARPOL Annex V and its guidelines. FAO continues to strengthen its collaboration with UNEP including the provision of technical advice into the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and agreeing to take the lead role in goal B of GPML to “Reduce levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, ALDFG, and abandoned vessels introduced into the aquatic environment”.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 147 AND 148

Invasive species

The importance of aquatic biosecurity including invasive species was confirmed during the 29th session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome 2011). At the 6th Session of COFI’s Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (South Africa, 2012) the urgency to address issues of species introductions specifically in the Pacific region was highlighted. Consequently, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FAO/FI) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community organized a Regional Workshop on Aquatic Biosecurity and Aquaculture Data and Statistics in the Pacific region from 1-6 October 2012 in Nadi, Fiji, with one of the objectives being to promote the responsible use and control of introduced aquatic species in aquaculture and fisheries in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

FAO hosted the 4th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species from 28 February to 1 March 2013 in Rome, Italy, which has core members from the secretariats of CABI, CBD, CITES, FAO, ICAO, IMO, IPPC, IUCN, OIE, and WTO. The Liaison Group works by exchanging information on relevant policies and activities to ensure that they are complementary so as to optimize efficiency, build synergies and avoid unnecessary duplications. FAO/FI participated in the 10th Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (June 2013).

The (FAO/FI) maintains a Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) <http://www.fao.org/fishery/introsp/search/en>. The database includes records of aquatic species introduced or transferred from one country to another.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 172 AND 173

Ecosystem approach

Consistent with recurring recommendations by the FAO Committee on Fisheries, and in line with the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, FAO’s Fisheries Department continues to support the practical implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) through normative activities as well as on the ground assistance to member countries. Some of the activities carried out more recently include:

- Management plans consistent with the principles of EAF (including the precautionary approach) finalized for fisheries in several African coastal countries.
- Pilot case studies on developing EAF management plans for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries carried out in six South American countries as part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project.
- Two workshops held to develop regional and national management plans for the shared small pelagic resources off North West Africa, as part of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem project (CCLME).
- Training organized on EAFM by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project.
- Collaborations with Universities in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean developed to plan for integration of EAF courses in university curricula.

- A management plan for fisheries and aquaculture activities in the Estero Real (Nicaragua) completed, consistent with the principles of EAF and EAA (Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture).
- A workshop organized for countries in Central America on EAF/EAA, in collaboration with OSPESCA (Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano) on EAF/EAA related to shrimp and groundfish resources.
- A training course organized for selected Mediterranean countries in the context of the Mediterranean LME project “Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea”.
- A study on the institutional implications of applying EAF in Southern Africa has been completed in collaboration with the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and will be discussed with BCC countries in July 2013.
- A toolbox for the practical implementation of the EAF published and also available on the web (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/eaf-net/topic/166272/en>).
- Through the operations of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, and as part the Norway funded EAF Nansen Project, important data and information are being collected on marine resources and the marine environment in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In most EAF activities strong partnerships have been established with relevant regional and national institutions/programmes, including for follow up and implementation of the fisheries management plans.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 176

International Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

The *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines)* seek to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic growth. They support the empowerment of small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, to participate in decision-making, receive and benefit from rights and assume responsibilities for sustainable resource utilization and livelihoods development.

Acting on to the recommendations of the 29th and 30th sessions of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, FAO hosted a technical consultation to develop the SSF Guidelines, from May 20-24. The meeting was attended by 66 member states, 36 Civil Society Representatives, numerous international organizations, and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Olivier de Schutter. The occasion marked a significant step towards the recognition of the contributions of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation and exemplified the efforts to undertake a global exercise to collaboratively improve the sustainability of the sector.

While the Technical Consultation did not complete negotiations on the draft text, several key issues were agreed upon. Among other results, the meeting gave prominence to social issues in an international fisheries instrument. In addition, member states, international organizations and civil society organizations all sought to establish small-scale fisheries policy as a key element in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and promoted a holistic, and integrated approach to the subsector. The Technical Consultation will gather again for a resumed session in early 2014 in order to complete the Guidelines and present them for approval at the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries. The SSF Guidelines have been developed through a widespread comprehensive and participatory process that saw the participation of more than 4000 stakeholders and a fruitful collaboration with the Civil Society and other developmental partners. The FAO calls upon its Members to continue their active participation and support of the SSF Guideline development process and their subsequent implementation.

XI - MARINE BIODIVERSITY

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 188

Taxonomic capabilities

FAO, through the FishFinder Programme, contributes to improving the identification of fishery resources by producing guides and catalogues that enhance the taxonomic capabilities of the personnel responsible for data collection in the field. In forty years FAO FishFinder has produced over 200 identification guides for commercially-exploited aquatic species and has compiled a unique and important archive of more than 40 000 scientific illustrations as well as distribution maps, taxonomic descriptions, biological and fisheries information on over 8 000 species. The tools developed by FAO FishFinder are essential for the implementation of sound sampling and reporting schemes for fisheries and biodiversity assessments and for fishery catch statistics.

FAO is building a programme on deep sea high seas fisheries that incorporates tools and training for improved capabilities in relation to taxonomic issues in deep sea ecosystems.

Aquatic genetic resources

FAO is preparing the first *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* Report, through a country-driven process, taking care not to duplicate or assume the work of other UN agencies and recognizing in particular the UN General Assembly's central role in addressing issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The scope of the first Report will be farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction. Countries are also invited to provide a species list of nationally important Aquatic Genetic Resources of capture fisheries within national jurisdiction.

FAO distributed a Circular State Letter inviting Member Countries to nominate National Focal Points responsible for the preparation of Country reports on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO prepared Draft Guidelines for the preparation of Country reports for *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which provide guidance to help countries complete their Country Reports.

The work towards the preparation of the Report should link to and build on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The first *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* is expected to be completed in 2017.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 189, 190, 197 AND 206

Precautionary approach and management of risk (emphasis on ABNJ)

FAO has developed a programme on deep seas in areas beyond national jurisdiction that focuses both on applying an ecosystems approach to fisheries and protecting marine biodiversity in the deep seas and includes the full range of stakeholders and partners from the fisheries management community, the biodiversity conservation community, the fishing industry and RFMOs as well as relevant regional bodies such as regional seas programmes. The continued work on the implementation of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas encompasses the above mentioned programme as well as ongoing work focusing on sustainable use of these resources, prevention of significant adverse impacts and conservation of marine biodiversity in the deep seas. Particular work has been done on gathering best practices and assisting with capacity development and knowledge sharing in different regions on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the use of the criteria for identification and appropriate management actions. Regional VME workshops have taken place in the western Indian Ocean and South East Atlantic Ocean areas. These workshops were also designed to be back to back with the Convention on Biological Diversity's EBSA workshops so as to facilitate scientific collaboration between the two groups. This programme will also include capacity development and improved knowledge on the use and application of impact and risk assessments in these areas.

Through the compilation of existing information and development of best practices more information on deep sea ecosystems will be available as well as improved understanding of how to mitigate adverse impacts from fishing operations.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 192 AND 193

Spatial management measures

FAO developed technical guidelines on marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries¹ in 2011 and has conducted regional workshops in the western Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Canary Current region to bring the fisheries and biodiversity communities together to discuss common issues in relation to spatial management measures. These regional meetings will continue in 2014.

XII – MARINE SCIENCE

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 206

Collaborative platforms

FAO plays a leading role in the EU/FP7 funded iMarine initiative which develops a data-infrastructure enabling new forms of scientific data sharing and multidisciplinary collaborative science in support to policy development and implementation, towards goals of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources. By interconnecting all concerned actors operating in different domains (in particular fisheries, biodiversity, environment) around common data, information and multidisciplinary knowledge, this initiative is expected to foster the emergence of global partnerships and related community of practices, in support of big societal challenges facing responsible fisheries such as the ecosystem approach, or climate change. The sustainability of the iMarine initiative is expected to primarily rely on a public partnership between IT specialized institutions and global, regional, and national marine knowledge institutions such as FAO, IOC, EC, ICES, WFC, IRD, VLIZ.

XV – OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 261

Impact of global climate change and ocean acidification

Greenhouse gas emissions

In line with the suggestions from the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 29th Session, FAO should provide Members with information on possible fishing industry contributions to climate change, and on ways to reduce the sector's reliance on, and consumption of, fossil fuels, respecting the principles embodied within UNFCCC. FAO conducted two related expert workshops. The first workshop's (23 to 25 January 2012) aim was to develop and progress an agreed methods framework to assess Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and the implications of different methods in the quantification of GHG from different seafood production systems.² The second workshop (4 to 5 March 2013) discussed the potential for reducing GHG emissions through changes in technology and practices and the impacts such changes may have on the system. Follow-up activities in supporting GHG mitigation efforts with capture fisheries and aquaculture are underway and include the 2012 publication of a fuel savings manual for small scale fishing vessels.³

Climate change and fisheries and aquaculture

In line with the FAO Adapt Programme, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's Climate Change Strategy and the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA) Strategic Framework⁴, the Department is giving priority to identifying and reducing the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture systems through improving the resilience and adaptability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to shocks, climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters. These activities will support calls from recent sessions of regional bodies to 1) support policy, legal and implementation frameworks at local,

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e00.htm>

² FAO. 2012. Report of the Expert Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Strategies and Methods in Seafood. Rome, 23–25 January 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. (also available at [1011www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3062e/i3062e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3062e/i3062e.pdf)).

³ Gulbrandsen, O. 2012. Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual. Rome, FAO. 57 pp. see

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/am434e/am434e.pdf>

national and regional levels to mainstream climate change into fisheries and aquaculture; 2) reinforce capacity of regional and national agencies and institutions to address climate change issues; 3) plan for adaptation and mitigation within Members' fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and 4) integrate fisheries and aquaculture into national climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and enabling financial mechanisms, such as through the National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPA) and the supporting adaptation funds.

Therefore, the FAO and partners have been working to identify climate change implications, vulnerabilities and context-specific adaptation and disaster risk management strategies to improve the resilience of vulnerable aquatic ecosystems and their dependent communities, and that provide shoreline and riverine protection, food and nutrition security, maintenance of water quality, income and livelihoods services. Examples of related activities include 13 workshops⁵ around the globe, bringing together climate change experts with fisheries and aquaculture experts to review current scientific knowledge and define priorities activities to guide actions and investments in the near future. FAO has initiated NAPA and UNFCCC National Communication fisheries and aquaculture implementation assistance in 10 countries/regions⁶. Further, in its efforts to support regional bodies and their work on climate change, the FAO provided related technical inputs into the 1st First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in September, 2010 and the 16th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) in November, 2010 as well as supporting a series of stakeholder meetings to develop the NEPAD-FAO Fisheries Programme for Africa targeting the need to develop and integrate disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) plans into fisheries and aquaculture strategies – and vice versa - at community, national and regional levels as one of the Programme's three main components. Similar efforts to support FAO Regional Conferences around the globe have been made.

In collaboration with NEPAD, a special session on climate change implications for African fisheries and Aquaculture was organized during the UNFCCC COP 17 Oceans Day in Durban, South Africa; during which the Durban Declaration on Climate Change and African Fisheries was presented. The FAO continues to support the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group and the development of National Adaptation Plans.

Recent meetings include:

April 2013 - FAO/NEPAD workshop on climate change, disasters and crises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern and Eastern Africa

April 2013 - FAO/PaCFA Expert Workshop on Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Available Methodologies and their Relevance for the Sector

April 2013 - FAO/BCC Regional Workshop on Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Benguela Current region

December 2012 - FAO/CRFM/CDEMA/CCCC Regional Workshop on Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region

November 2012 - FAO/NEPAD workshop on climate change, disasters and crises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in West and Central Africa

October 2012 – 2nd Meeting of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem Climate Change Working Group

2012-2013 publications include:

Priority adaptations to climate change for Pacific fisheries and aquaculture - reducing risks and capitalizing on opportunities. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 28.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3159e/i3159e.pdf>

⁵ For proceedings of a Near East/North Africa workshop, see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2146e/i2146e.pdf>. For the Asia/Pacific workshop see <http://www.apfic.org/uploads/2011-17.pdf>

⁶ For a review of the sector in NAPA, see FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1064 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2173e/i2173e.pdf>

Social-ecological vulnerability of coral reef fisheries to climatic shocks. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular C1082. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/ap972e/ap972e.pdf>

Vulnerability assessment methodologies: an annotated bibliography for climate change and the fisheries and aquaculture sector. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular 1083. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3315e/i3315e.pdf>

Climate change implications for fisheries of the Benguela current region - Making the best of change. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 27. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3053e/i3053e.pdf>

Climate change implications for fishing communities in the Lake Chad Basin - What have we learned and what can we do better? FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings 25. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3037e/i3037e.pdf>

Fuel savings for small fishing vessels - a manual.FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2461e/i2461e.pdf>

Building resilience for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3084e/i3084e.pdf>

Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf>

Cambio climático, pesca y acuicultura en América Latina - potenciales impactos y desafíos para la adaptación. FAO Actas de Pesca y Acuicultura No 29.

Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Western and Central Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.

Gap analysis of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture priorities and initiatives in Southern and Eastern Africa in respect to climate change and disasters.

Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings.

Possible options and approaches to promote international cooperation and coordination

FAO is chairing the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA), a voluntary global level initiative among more than 20 international organizations and sector bodies with a common concern for climate change interactions with global waters and living resources and their social and economic consequences. PaCFA members share a commitment to raising awareness of the vital importance of these issues, developing effective tools and management approaches to address them, and building international development support to implement change and bring about lasting positive outcomes. 2012-2013 activities under PaCFA include co-organizations of workshops and symposia, joint report writing, joint project development, supporting and UNFCCC processes.

Ocean acidification

In line with the request from the FAO Committee on Fisheries, at its 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.

During the 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York) FAO participated in a panel discussion at a CBD Secretariat-IOC/UNESCO side event entitled "The Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity". The event focused on the preliminary result of preparing a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions where FAO presented key points on known effects of ocean acidification on fisheries and aquaculture and potential impacts and consequences.

XVI – COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 265 AND 267

UN-Oceans

FAO has been an active participant in UN-Oceans, including the ongoing review process. As per the invitation of the General Assembly in paragraph 239 of Resolution 66/231 on oceans and the law of the sea, in 2012, an independent review of UN-Oceans was conducted by the UN's Joint Inspection Unit to which FAO contributed. The report, which was transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary General on 28 September 2012, contained a number of conclusions and recommendations. In parallel, as per paragraph 239 of GA resolution 66/231, UN-Oceans was asked to prepare new draft terms of reference for consideration by the General Assembly at its 67th session. These draft terms of reference were prepared by UN-Oceans during the second and third quarters of 2012 and shared with Member States in September 2012. In Paragraph 267 of Resolution 67/78 on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly decided "that the draft terms of reference for its work submitted by UN-Oceans to the General Assembly [would] be considered by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session with a view to reviewing the mandate of UN-Oceans and approving the terms of reference, taking into account the need to strengthen the central role of the Division and the need to enhance transparency and reporting of the activities of UN-Oceans to Member States". The resolution also requested the Secretary-General, "to that end, to bring the comments submitted by Member States to the attention of UN-Oceans." It further requested UN-Oceans "to draft revised draft terms of reference for its work for consideration and approval by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session." In this context, UN-Oceans has held discussion sessions with Member States to share views on a number of aspects, including UN-Oceans' mandate, structure and modalities of work. FAO has participated in this process as well as attended the 11th meeting

of the UN-Oceans on 17 June 2013 during 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York).

FAO is the Secretariat of the UN Atlas of the Oceans, a web portal developed under the authority of UN-Oceans and which also hosts the UN-Oceans website. FAO organized a Technical Meeting of the UN Atlas of the Oceans with partners on 19 June 2013 during 14th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (17-20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York).

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 265 AND 266

Yeosu declaration

The FAO Director-General participated in a high-level panel forum at the International Expo 2012 in Yeosu, South Korea, to mark the Yeosu Declaration. The Declaration, highlighting the Expo theme of "Living Oceans and Coasts" aims to promote international cooperation and knowledge-sharing in order to improve stewardship of the marine environment. The FAO ADG Fisheries and Aquaculture was a member of the Declaration drafting and review committee.

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 266

Oceans Compact

The Oceans Compact is an initiative of the UN Secretary General to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to prioritize and deliver on its ocean-related mandates in a more coherent, coordinated and effective manner. It is coordinated by the UNEP Executive Director and Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). FAO has been involved, along with other agencies, as part of a 'core group' to provide relevant inputs into the development of the Oceans Compact, including the submission of nominations for an Oceans Compact Advisory Group.