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*(Translation from Russian)*

**Information relating to implementation of resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on sustainable fisheries for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General**

Many recommendations of the General Assembly have been put into effect in the Russian Federation, including at the legislative and regulatory levels.

Thus, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/68 entitled " Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", adopted on 6 December 2011, which is recommendatory in nature, the Russian Federation is systematically putting into effect a number of measures to implement the recommendations.

Where the sustainable fisheries of the Russian Federation are concerned, the following activities are regularly carried out:

- Studies to assess the status of aquatic biological resources, including straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation;
- Determining the total allowable catch based on the best available data and applying principles of the precautionary approach and low-impact fishing methods where stocks are inadequate or limited;
- Adjusting the total allowable catch based on continuously updated data on the status of aquatic biological resources;
- Migrating to the system of long-term assignment of fishery quotas to enterprises for periods of 10 years, enabling them to make business plans and to rationalize their resource use;
- Monitoring fisheries and enforcing total allowable catch limits, and also monitoring the biological condition and age-length characteristics of target species to ensure effective control of fishing, including even the imposition of fishing bans and the closure of certain areas;
- Active cooperation within the framework of intergovernmental agreements with coastal States of the Asia-Pacific basin on the exchange of scientific data and data on stocks of transboundary species and highly migratory fish stocks;
- Active cooperation with the coastal States of the North Pacific in the nascent North Pacific Fisheries Commission in the exchange of scientific data and the prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of demersal fish in the high seas.

In addition, temporary measures have been agreed and put in place in the Russian Federation to regulate the fishing of demersal species and the conservation of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas of the North Pacific, developed as part of preparations for the new Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean and for the Commission to be set up under the Convention, together with other measures designed to conserve resources and foster sustainable fisheries, including restrictions on fishing in areas where no scientifically sound assessments have been made of the impact of fishing on resources.

To set in place effective measures or to strengthen those already in existence pursuant to the provisions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, the Russian Federation has carried out the following activities:

- Complete abandonment of pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas;
- Active cooperation, in the framework of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), with the coastal States of the North Pacific in preventing the illegal drift-net fishing of Pacific salmon and ensuring the sound use of the stocks of these fish;
- Setting significant limits, in national fishing regulations, on salmon fishing periods and areas, and also on fishing gear and their specifications, which require them to be fitted with additional monitoring and detection devices, to ensure the appropriate distribution of fishing loads;

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- Determining the total allowable catch for the drift-net fishing of salmon at a sufficiently low level to prevent any impact on fishing by other methods in coastal areas.

With a view to limiting fisheries by-catch and discards, the Russian Federation is carrying out the following activities:

Monitoring the composition of commercial catches in all major fields both within and outside the country's economic zone;

- Liberalizing fishing regulations for the catch of less valuable fish to promote their inclusion in fish processing and production, along with stiffer penalties for the discarding of by-catch;
- Development and mandatory introduction, as spelled out in the fisheries rules, of advanced and selective fishing gear (such as selective shrimp trawls, relective inserts for pollock trawl-nets, etc.) that reduce the by-catch of juveniles and other target species;
- Certification of the major fisheries of common fish species, including pollock fisheries in the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, humpback salmon fisheries in the Sakhalin-Kuril region, and planned halibut longline fisheries, through the Marine Stewardship Council.

It should also be noted that, in paragraph 22 of its 2011 resolution, the General Assembly calls upon States to become parties to the 1995 Agreement on transboundary fish stocks. The Russian Federation ratified the Agreement on 4 August 1997 and its provisions are incorporated in the Federal Fisheries and Aquatic Biological Resources (Conservation) Act, as amended in 2009 and 2010.

The Russian Federation has made extensive efforts to prevent the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources, including by signing, on 29 April 2012, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The preparatory process for the ratification of this Agreement is currently under way.

Over the last few years, the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries (Rosrybolovstvo) has been holding productive talks with many countries with a view to concluding bilateral agreements on cooperation in combating the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources.

Thus, on 22 December 2009, an agreement was signed with the Republic of Korea on cooperation in preventing the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources.

Pursuant to article 3 of that agreement, the parties shall work together in the following areas: exchanging information relating to the import of living marine resources originating from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea; berthing of fishing vessels of the parties carrying living marine resources of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Korea and vice versa for trade purposes; exchanging information on the names of fishing vessels; exchanging information on breaches of domestic laws of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea by vessels of either party conducting fishing activities in areas under the jurisdiction of the other party.

The competent authorities of the parties shall regularly exchange lists of fishing vessels.

At the same time, the Russian Federation has signed a memorandum of understanding drawn up between the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on preventing the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources (27 September 2010), a memorandum of understanding between the Federal Agency for Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on preventing the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources (27 April 2012) and an agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on cooperation in preventing the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources (concluded in Moscow on 30 January 2012).

In 2011 the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries held talks with the competent authorities of Cambodia and Sierra Leone on suspending the registration of Russian vessels in open registries. The consent of the two countries was obtained.

Pursuant to the recommendations in paragraph 43 of the General Assembly resolution, the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries has drafted a national plan setting out appropriate and specific measures to prevent the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources. This plan will be reviewed in March 2012 at a meeting of the government commission.

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It should be noted that research institutes under the authority of the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries regularly conduct field studies in the Baltic Sea, the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Eastern Pacific, designed to assess the reserves of the waters in question and to determine the total allowable catch of their aquatic biological resources. For this purpose, researchers conduct hydroacoustic surveys of pelagic fish stocks and trawl surveys to compute the numbers of their juveniles.

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