



APFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY AND IUU FISHING IN THE ASIAN REGION

Phuket, Thailand, 13-15 June 2007

PROSPECTUS

Background

The 29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) recommended that, as one of its two major work themes in 2007-08, APFIC should focus on improving the management of fishing capacity in the APFIC region, including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In response to this, APFIC will convene a Regional Consultative Workshop for its Members aimed at promoting increased awareness, understanding and action on one of the most fundamental tenets of fishing – *ensuring that fishing efforts are commensurate with the productive capacity of the fishery resource and their sustainable utilization* (FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Article 7).

At the global level, the call for States to heed this tenet and reduce fishing capacity is very loud and clear. Many reports have argued that the global fishing capacity is far in excess of that needed for the sustainable use of the World's fishery resources. For example, the global society insisted on the setting of stringent targets at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) to (i) to maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield: for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015; (ii) to monitor and regulate fishing capacity in line with fishing opportunities and (iii) to progressively eliminate subsidies contributing to IUU fishing and overcapacity. FAO has developed two important International Plans of Action (IPOAs) for (i) Managing Fishing Capacity and (ii) Preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing that highlight actions that can be taken to help meet the targets.

Response to this global call has, with few exceptions, been much weaker at the national level. Several recent reviews [^{1,2}] have shown that many Asian countries rank rather poorly in their efforts to manage fishing capacity and control IUU fishing. For a variety of reasons, States can not control either their own fishing vessels or those of neighbouring and distant water countries. Many constraints that impede any progress in this endeavour have been identified, including lack of political will, lack of resources and lack of human capacity. The dominance of the small-scale sector and the huge numbers of vessels in Asian fisheries add to the challenges of addressing these issues. There are also other constraints that are often less well articulated, including legal and administration systems in many countries that contain perverse incentives (e.g. naval or other security forces having the ability to grant fishery access) that precludes implementing some of the often cited solutions, such as strengthening MCS etc.

¹ Lindebo, E (2005) FAO international plan of action for the management of fishing capacity: Review of progress in Asean countries

² Pitcher, T. J., Kalikoski, D. and Pramod, G. (in press) Evaluation of compliance with the UN Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

At the local level, fishers and fishing communities are becoming more aware of the need to better manage fisheries as a result of increased government interest and focused Development Assistance projects. Most fishers will argue that resources are declining, but many are unwilling or unable to stop fishing, unless alternatives are provided. Through the increasing use of co-management at the local level, however, more responsible fishing is occurring in some areas, particularly in controlling destructive fishing gears and reducing conflicts. With the allocation of community property rights, this could expand to include capacity reduction, at the local level, as fishers increasingly realise that increased catches and profits can be attained if there are less fishers and fishing boats. The experience so far, however, has been that although there has been some success at the local level, "outsiders" often foil good planning and intentions. All subsectors, both large-scale and small-scale must be addressed simultaneously - it is pointless improving management at the community level if large-scale fishing is not controlled and IUU fishing (particularly larger vessels entering restricted areas) continues unabated.

It is not difficult to show the huge economic benefits that will accrue if a relatively small investment is made to turn Asian fisheries from activities focused on producing more fish, into one focused on maximising wealth from sustainable production. However, for the small-scale sector, this change in philosophy will have huge social impacts in terms of removing the right for all, especially the poor, to catch fish. Because of the enormous social and political implications "open-access" and lack of control has remained the predominant policy in many countries of the region³.

Concerted action, therefore, is urgently needed at a range of spatial scales (ranging from local to regional) to ensure that capture fisheries in the APFIC region increase the contribution they make to sustainable development and to prevent further poverty and suffering, especially in fishing communities that are dependent on fish as their main livelihood activity. Some countries in the region are planning capacity reductions through schemes such as buy-backs and others have calculated the costs of IUU to their economies and are increasing the pressure on IUU activities. Despite these isolated examples, in general, APFIC member countries, individually, do not have the resources or capacity to address the issues. It is now hoped that a collective commitment can be made and more regionally-focussed initiatives to assist countries improving their management be agreed and implemented.

First and foremost, it is crucial that the region as a whole acknowledges that overcapacity in many fisheries exists and that effective controls to regulate fishing activities are required. A first step towards this acknowledgment was made at the 29th session of APFIC where the region agreed to reduce trawling and push net effort and capacity to reduce the catch of low value/trash fish. This now needs to be strengthened to include all fisheries where there is clear over-exploitation.⁴

Goal and objectives of the Workshop

This workshop will endeavour to build a commitment to reducing fishing capacity across all over-fished fisheries and examine ways in which this could be achieved. In so doing, it will:

1. Examine the need to reduce fishing capacity in both large-scale and small-scale fisheries (including costs and benefits of managing fisheries)

³ Macfadyen, G 2006. Fisheries policy content and direction in Asian APFIC member countries. RAP Publication 2006/13.

⁴ not necessarily based on scientific resource assessments which takes years to produce results and may still be questionable – but using evidence though other indicators such as fishers' feedback and economic analysis of the fishing activities.

2. Assess current status in capacity reduction and control of IUU fishing and actions being taken
3. Review the menu of tools that can be used to manage fishing capacity, including IUU
4. Develop an action plan to address the issues

It is hoped that the workshop will agree on strategies to address the identified issues and design an "APFIC Member's Plan of Action" to implement the strategies, at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Mechanism of the workshop

The workshop will be based around technical presentations relating to the four themes outlined in the objectives above.

The workshop will also be informed from Country posters and papers describing current status and actions to improve the management of fishing capacity and IUU.

The workshop will use a process of working groups to elaborate responses to a number of key questions:

1. What action needs to be taken at the national, sub-regional and regional level to better manage fishing capacity?
2. What are the major steps that can be taken nationally, sub-regionally and regionally to combat IUU fishing?
3. What information could be shared among APFIC Members to facilitate better management of fishing capacity and IUU fishing?

Venue & timing

- The proposed venue for the workshop will be in Phuket, Thailand.
- Date: 13- 15 June 2007.

Partners and participants

The workshop will be a collaborative effort between a number of Regional Organizations and countries:

1) Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) - will take the lead in organizational arrangements and ensure the participation of senior fisheries officials its member countries in Asia and the Pacific

2) WorldFish Centre (WorldFish) – will report on the current status of fishing capacity across the region, based on their joint study with FAO on estimating the "Big Numbers" in the region. They will also provide evidence of overcapacity based on socio-economic analyses.

5) Southeast Asian Fishery Development Centre (SEAFDEC) - will be a key partner in implementing any agreed strategies for SE Asian countries. They can also provide the important feedback from fishers.

6) Bay of Bengal Program Intergovernmental Organization (BOBPIGO) – will provide valuable input on fishers' perceptions, especially from South Asia.

7) International Collective of Small Fish Workers (ICSF) – as the representative of small-scale fish workers, ICSF will highlight many of the social issues surrounding

managing fishing capacity, especially for the small scale fisheries that predominate in the region.

7) Australia Regional Plan of Action to promote responsible fishing (Including combating IUU fishing). This initiative of Australia and Indonesia will provide overarching regional plan to promote more responsible fishing in SE Asia, particularly with respect to IUU.

8) SCS-GEF fisheries working group

APFIC participants

Participants will be nominated through the APFIC focal point in each member country.

A total of around ~40 participants are expected.

Outputs

Widespread dissemination of the results is intended to improve awareness of these issues:

- 1) Printed report (synthesis of the presentations and conclusions of the meeting)
- 2) Background papers of the meeting available on the APFIC website and published in hard copy
- 3) Some peer reviewed papers subsequently published in special publication of AFS with WAS Asian Chapter? To be decided.
- 4) Post-meeting statement/announcement
- 5) Electronic distribution
- 6) Report lodged on 3-4 websites
- 7) Web based links to e-resources (background papers)
- 8) Specific theme at the 2008 APFIC consultative forum meeting (Indonesia 2008)

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY AND IUU IN ASIA

Phuket, Thailand, 13-15 June 2007
Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Time	Activity
Day 1 – 13 June 2007	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome remarks – DG Fisheries, Thailand APFIC Chair - Dr Widi Pratikto APFIC/FAO – Dr Simon Funge-Smith
09.30 – 09.35	Election of chair Simon Funge-Smith
09:35 – 09:45	Group photo
09.45 – 10.30	Coffee/Tea
10.30 – 10.40	Introduction to the Consultation – Objectives and outputs Simon Funge-Smith
10:40 – 11.10	Overview of fishing capacity & IUU fishing in Asia Gary Morgan (consultant) & Simon Funge-Smith
THEME I – Need for Capacity reduction & control of IUU fishing	
11.10 – 11.30	Evidence from science (both large scale & small-scale fisheries) WorldFish Centre
11.30 – 11.50	Evidence from fishers. SEAFDEC & BOBPIGO
11:50 – 12:10	Socio-economic indicators SIFFS Vivek
12:10 - 12:30	Cost/benefits of management FAO FIEP (Rolf Willmann)
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14:00 – 14.20	Social implications of capacity reduction ICSF
THEME II – Current status in capacity reduction & control of IUU fishing	
14:20-15:30	Country statements on need for capacity reduction & stopping IUU fishing and actions taken APFIC countries
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee/Tea
16.00 – 17.15	Country statements (continued)
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up day 1 – plenary discussion
17.30 – 18.00	Meeting of "Friends of the Chair"
18:30 – 20:30	Poster session and reception

Day 2 – 14 June 2007

THEME III – Capacity reduction tools & actions

0900- 10.00	Partner Programs on capacity reduction & IUU Department of agriculture, Forestry and fisheries-Australia, BOBPIGO, GEF/UNEP South China Sea Project, SEAFDEC, WorldFish Centre
10.00 – 10.20	What is “optimal” capacity – regional targets? Derek Staples (Consultant)
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee/Tea
11.20 – 11.40	Global setting –IPOAs and the benefits/costs of managing capacity and IUU FAO FIEP Dominique Greboval
11.40- 12.00	Capacity management: actual tools – what works and what doesn't FAO FIEP Rebecca Metzner
12:00 – 12:20	Combating IUU - what works and what doesn't FAO FIEL David Doulman

THEME IV – Local, country & regional actions

12:20 – 12:30	Short introduction to the working groups Simon Funge-Smith
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	<p>Working group 1 Capacity reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future actions at local, country & regional levels <p>Working Group 2 – IUU fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future actions at local, country & regional levels <p>Working group 3 Information needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information needs (focus on sub-regional alliances)
	Coffee/Tea available to working groups
17.00 – 17.30	Plenary session - Preliminary findings /presentations of the three working groups
17.30 – 18.00	<i>Meeting of “ Friends of the Chair”</i>

Time	Activity
Day 3 – 15 June 2007	
THEME IV (continued)	
09.00 – 09.20	Finalized presentation of combined working group outputs
09.20 – 10:00	Discussion
10:00 – 10.30	Coffee/Tea
10.30 – 12:30	FREE
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Workshop recommendations & actions
Workshop close	