

Report of the twenty-ninth session of the

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 31 January–4 February 2011



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries held in Rome from 31 January to 4 February 2011.

FAO.

Report of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries. Rome, 31 January–4 February 2011.

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ABSTRACT

The twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 31 January to 4 February 2011. The Committee reviewed issues of an international character and the FAO programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee agreed that additional efforts were required to broaden and intensify the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments. The Committee adopted the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries and recommended that FAO develop an Evaluation Framework to Assess the Conformity of Public and Private Ecolabelling Schemes with the relevant FAO Guidelines. The Committee approved the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification and recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the Guidelines. The Committee agreed that port State measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and recognized the critical role of capacity development. The Committee reiterated its support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels as one of the useful tools to combat IUU. The Committee noted FAO's roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change. The Committee supported FAO's role and effort to improve the integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection and reaffirmed FAO as the primary source of scientific expertise and advice regarding global issues on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee endorsed the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. The Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries in the form of international guidelines. The Committee also agreed to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme. The Committee expressed its support for the Organization-wide reforms, including the new Strategic Framework and agreed with the proposed priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis, while it took note of some conflicting views regarding these priorities.

CONTENTS

	Page
GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE	vii
PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL	ix
	Paragraphs
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1–3
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE	4–5
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION	6
PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGIES, AND OTHER MATTERS	7–12
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 26–30 APRIL 2010	13–16
DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, PHUKET, THAILAND, 27 SEPTEMBER–1 OCTOBER 2010	17–29
PROGRESS MADE WITH REGARD TO MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING, INCLUDING PORT STATE MEASURES, FLAG STATE PERFORMANCE, MARKET-RELATED MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SUPPLY VESSELS	30–38
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE	39–44
FAO’S ROLE FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	45–52

GOOD PRACTICES IN THE GOVERNANCE OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	53–60
FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE	61–67
ANY OTHER MATTERS	68–70
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION	71

APPENDIXES

	Page
A Agenda	13
B List of delegates and observers	14
C List of documents	55
D Opening remarks by Ms Ann Tutwiler, FAO Deputy Director- General (Knowledge)	57

GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Committee:

- i) **Agreed** that additional efforts were required to broaden and deepen the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and its associated instruments (para. 7).
- ii) **Endorsed** the report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010 (para. 13a).
- iii) **Adopted** the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries (para. 13c).
- iv) **Agreed** to continue FAO collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products, and in particular the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies (para. 13d).
- v) **Approved** the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification (para. 21).
- vi) **Adopted** the report of the fifth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (para. 29).
- vii) **Agreed** that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing continued to be a major global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy ecosystems (para. 30).
- viii) **Agreed** that port State measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing (para. 31).
- ix) **Reiterated** its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU fishing (para. 36).
- x) **Agreed** that better coordination between UN organizations and agencies was required and encouraged FAO to improve interagency coordination and look for stronger synergies (para. 41).
- xi) **Requested** FAO to continue efforts to raise the profile of the sector, including in the preparations for the Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (para. 42).
- xii) **Recommended** that FAO continues to play a leading role in promoting and raising awareness about the Code and the benefits and sustainability arising from responsible fisheries and aquaculture (para. 47).
- xiii) **Endorsed** the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards (para. 50).
- xiv) **Agreed** that FAO should continue to give high priority to small-scale fisheries and ensure adequate visibility for them, particularly in relevant international fora which dealt directly or indirectly with these fisheries (para. 54).
- xv) **Approved** the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code (para. 56).

- xvi) **Agreed** that the new instrument should be voluntary in nature, address both inland and marine fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries (para. 56).
- xvii) **Recommended** that all stakeholders should be associated, as appropriate, with its development (para. 56).
- xviii) **Agreed** that the new instrument should take the form of international guidelines, rather than an international plan of action or a new Code article (para. 57).
- xix) **Agreed** on the need to strengthen the conditions of safety at sea in particular with regard to small-scale fisheries (para. 59).
- xx) **Agreed** that FAO, through its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and in particular the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, should play a proactive advocacy role about fisheries and aquaculture issues, within their respective mandates, through regular high-level, direct contacts with Members and stakeholders, especially with regard to promoting the implementation of the Code and its related instruments, and proposing priority areas of work (para 67).

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Committee

- i) **Requested** FAO to prepare a report on the extent of the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and the challenges being faced by Members in implementing the instrument, for presentation to the thirtieth session of COFI (para. 8j).
- ii) **Requested** FAO support in capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach to inland fisheries (para. 9).
- iii) **Requested** FAO to study the possibility of funding under the Regular Programme the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for Assessment of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species (para. 15).
- iv) **Recommended** that more emphasis should be given to FAO's work towards the development of aquaculture in Africa, Latin America, small-island developing States (SIDS) and Central Asia and the Caucasus and Near East (para. 18).
- v) **Recommended** that in the future FAO Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), greater priority be given to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its work on aquaculture (para. 19).
- vi) **Recommended** that the new reporting questionnaire on aquaculture be simplified, finalized and implemented (para. 20).
- vii) **Recommended** that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the FAO aquaculture certification guidelines (para. 23).
- viii) **Strongly recommended** that assistance be provided to address the two fast spreading diseases of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) in freshwater fish in Southern Africa and Infectious Myonecrosis Virus in shrimp in Southeast Asia (para. 24).
- ix) **Requested** FAO to report to the thirtieth session of COFI concerning progress with the implementation of its capacity-development work to support port State measures (para. 32).
- x) **Requested** FAO to form an open-ended working group or similar mechanism to draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group envisioned in Article 21 of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (para. 33).
- xi) **Welcomed** the arrangements made to convene the FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance in May 2011 (para. 34).
- xii) **Reiterated** its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU fishing (para. 36).

xiii) **Recommended** that FAO:

- continue efforts to keep Members informed about the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture, based on the best available scientific information and the needs of vulnerable nations and developing countries;
- provide Members with information on possible fishing industry contributions to climate change and on technologies and ways to reduce the sector's reliance on, and consumption of, fossil fuels, respecting the principles embodied within the UNFCCC;
- continue and strengthen support to Members and especially developing countries, particularly in relation to adaptation, including facilitating access of these countries to UN adaptation funds for fisheries and aquaculture; and
- help to raise the profile and awareness of the role of fisheries and aquaculture regarding food security under climate change, considering that important terrestrial food sources could be seriously affected in many areas (para. 40g).

xiv) **Recommended** that FAO:

- collaborate with relevant international organizations, for example, CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build and share information, create synergies and provide coherent guidance;
- continue its efforts to work with and strengthen RFBs; and
- continue to collaborate with non-governmental organizations (para. 46).

xv) **Recommended** that FAO provide support in capacity building and implementation of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards and ensure that the guidelines do not become barriers to international trade (para. 50).

xvi) **Approved** the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code (para. 56).

xvii) **Agreed** to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme along the thematic areas proposed in document COFI/2011/8 (para. 60).

xviii) **Agreed** with the priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis, as described in document COFI/2011/9 (para. 61).

xix) **Agreed** that activities of a continuing nature linked to FAO's prime responsibilities and core functions should primarily be funded by the Regular Programme funds (para. 62).

xx) **Agreed** to de-emphasize the convening of the Global Conference on Fleet Capacity, without prejudice to the general work on fishing capacity (para. 63).

xxi) **Did not support** the proposed de-emphasis of the issues related to safety at sea for fishing vessels (para. 63).

xxii) **Agreed** to review its practices including its rules of procedure at its thirtieth session in 2012 (para. 66).

xxiii) **Approved** Sri Lanka's proposal to convene an Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting entitled "Aquaculture Development for Food Security and Economic Development" and to request for FAO to be a partner in this activity, along with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) (para. 68).

xxiv) **Agreed** that the thirtieth session of COFI should be held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 9 to 13 July 2012 (para. 71).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its twenty-ninth session in Rome from 31 January to 4 February 2011. The session was attended by 115 Members of the Committee, by observers from two other FAO Member Nations, one Associated Member, the Holy See, by representatives from five specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from 64 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. A list of delegates and observers is attached as Appendix B.

2. Mr Zbigniew Karnicki, Chairperson, twenty-eighth session of COFI opened the session welcoming the record number of participants to COFI. He congratulated the new Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Árni M. Mathiesen upon his appointment and thanked the former Assistant Director-General, Mr Ichiro Nomura, for his good leadership of the Department during 2000–2010.

3. Ms Ann Tutwiler, Deputy Director-General (Knowledge) delivered a statement on behalf of Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO. The text of her statement is attached as Appendix D. Mr Mathiesen proceeded to introduce the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010 (SOFIA) and to present its main findings.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

4. The Committee elected Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi (Iran, Islamic Republic of) as Chairperson and Mr Johán H. Williams (Norway) as First Vice-Chairperson. Canada, Chile, India, Spain and Zimbabwe were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

5. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee: United States of America (Chair), Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Congo (Republic of), Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Russian Federation, Sweden and Syrian Arab Republic.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

6. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable for the session. The Agenda is given in Appendix A to this Report. The list of documents which were placed before the Committee is shown in Appendix C.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION AND STRATEGIES, AND OTHER MATTERS

7. The Committee recognized that progress was being made to implement the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and its associated instruments but agreed that additional efforts were required to broaden and deepen implementation. The Committee expressed disappointment that only 36 percent of FAO Members had responded to the questionnaire. The Committee strongly urged all Members to respond to the questionnaire as a means of demonstrating their commitment to the Code's implementation.

8. In relation to the Code's implementation, the Committee:
 - (a) noted the importance of incorporating the Code's principles into national policy and legislation to promote a solid base for the long-term sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture;
 - (b) stressed the need to involve all stakeholders;
 - (c) underscored the importance of using information collected from the Code's questionnaire to identify implementation challenges, linkages to FAO's technical assistance programme, and to quantify and assess progress and results achieved;
 - (d) encouraged Members to improve and extend the collection and analysis of information to support enhanced conservation and management;
 - (e) urged Members to ensure that the best scientific advice available underpins the elaboration of conservation and management measures;
 - (f) agreed that the use of traditional knowledge could, as appropriate, play an important role in elaborating conservation and management measures in small-scale fisheries;
 - (g) encouraged Members to apply widely the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and aquaculture (EAA) and the precautionary approach;
 - (h) underlined the need for FAO to continue to promote the implementation of the international plans of action (IPOAs). In particular, the Committee recognized the threats posed to sustainable fisheries by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fleet overcapacity;
 - (i) underlined the need to enhance the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries as well as to participate in high seas fisheries including access to such fisheries;
 - (j) FAO was requested to prepare a report on the extent of the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and the challenges being faced by Members in implementing the instrument, for presentation to the Thirtieth Session of COFI;
 - (k) recognized the importance of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), to improve fisheries conservation and management; and
 - (l) noted that some Members and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) were implementing marine protected areas (MPAs) as a tool to support more effective fisheries conservation and management.

9. The Committee acknowledged that not all countries had equivalent capacity to implement the Code. The Committee stressed the need for well-targeted capacity development activities to be continued and strengthened. This should include, *inter alia*, technical assistance to support the implementation of the IPOAs and the EAF and EAA. The Committee reiterated the importance of inland fisheries and the challenges facing them, and requested FAO support in capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach to inland fisheries. The Committee also encouraged initiatives to facilitate technology transfer to developing countries and regional workshops to promote the Code's implementation. The Committee recognized the assistance provided to developing countries by FAO's FishCode Programme.

10. The Committee expressed its concern about the challenges posed by piracy to the responsible management of fisheries in the Indian Ocean. The Committee acknowledged that piracy was creating an additional burden for fishery administrations, making it more difficult to manage fisheries as human and financial resources were diverted to other uses.

11. The Committee welcomed the positive results of the 2010 pilot test of the electronic Code questionnaire and agreed that it should be implemented for the 2012 COFI session. However, the Committee was aware that Members would continue to have the option to complete the questionnaire in paper copy if they preferred.

12. The Committee welcomed the ongoing collaboration between FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in relation to safety at sea. The Committee encouraged the continuation of such collaboration and existing activities.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 26–30 APRIL 2010

13. The Committee agreed to:

- (a) endorse the report of the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010;
- (b) refer the report of the Expert Consultation to Develop an FAO Evaluation Framework to Assess the Conformity of Public and Private Ecolabelling Schemes with the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries, Rome, 24–26 November 2010, to the thirteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade for further guidance and follow-up action, including consideration of the need to convene a Technical Consultation on this matter;
- (c) adopt the Guidelines as contained in Appendix E of the Report of the Expert Consultation on the Development of Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, Rome, 25–27 May 2010;
- (d) continue FAO collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products, and in particular the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies; and
- (e) accept the offer made by India to host the thirteenth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

14. The Committee expressed the view that:

- (a) technical aspects related to trade and management should be considered by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for Assessment of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species in accordance with the existing terms of reference;
- (b) FAO should initiate work to develop international best practices guidelines for traceability of fish and fishery products in order to facilitate coherence of different traceability systems;
- (c) FAO should continue to provide input to improve the classification of fish and fishery products in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) and provide technical assistance to developing countries implementing new Harmonized System codes; and
- (d) FAO should monitor and analyse the impact of international trade in fish and fishery products on food security.

15. The Committee requested FAO to study the possibility of funding under the Regular Programme the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for Assessment of CITES listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species.

16. The Committee thanked the Government of Argentina for hosting the twelfth session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE, PHUKET, THAILAND, 27 SEPTEMBER–1 OCTOBER 2010

17. The Committee recognized the growing importance of aquaculture for food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, employment creation and its overall social and economic benefits to the people worldwide. The Committee emphasized the need for better management of the sector to ensure its sustainable growth.

18. The Committee recommended that more emphasis should be given to FAO's work towards the development of aquaculture in Africa, Latin America, small island developing States (SIDS) and Central Asia and the Caucasus and Near East. The Committee recognized the importance of the regional approach to aquaculture and emphasized that it should be targeted in FAO's future activities.

19. Considering the growing demand for technical assistance by Members for sustainable development and management of aquaculture, the Committee recommended that in the future FAO Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) greater priority be given to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its work on aquaculture.

20. The Committee emphasized the importance of improving the Members responses to FAO reporting on progress in the implementation of the aquaculture provisions of the Code and recommended that the new reporting questionnaire on aquaculture be simplified, finalized and implemented.

21. The Committee approved the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

22. The Committee noted that the implementation of the Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification shall be gradual. The Committee recognized the existing standards and guidelines set by international organizations and instruments such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for aquatic animal health and welfare, CODEX Alimentarius Commission for Food Safety and ILO for socio-economic aspects. However, in the absence of a precise international reference framework for the implementation of some specific minimum criteria contained in the Guidelines, it will be necessary to develop, at a multilateral level and in coordination with the relevant intergovernmental organizations, appropriate standards, in order to ensure that the certification systems do not become unnecessary barriers to trade and remain consistent with the reference international standards, in particular with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO. The Committee also noted the need for the provision of assistance for capacity development in developing countries.

23. The Committee recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the FAO aquaculture certification guidelines

24. The Committee underscored the necessity for improving biosecurity in aquaculture and strongly recommended that assistance be provided to address the two fast spreading diseases of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) in freshwater fish in Southern Africa and Infectious Myonecrosis Virus in shrimp in Southeast Asia. The Committee also stressed the importance of understanding the interactions between wild capture fisheries and aquaculture as well as cooperation with other international organizations involved in biosecurity issues.

25. The Committee stressed the importance of promoting the use of indigenous aquatic species in aquaculture and requested FAO's assistance for this purpose.

26. The Committee appreciated the establishment of regional aquaculture networks in Latin America and Africa and recommended that assistance be provided to improve their contribution to aquaculture development in those regions.

27. The Committee thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the fifth session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

28. The Committee accepted the offer by South Africa to host the Sixth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, in Cape Town, 2–6 April 2012.

29. The Committee adopted the report of the fifth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

PROGRESS MADE WITH REGARD TO MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING, INCLUDING PORT STATE MEASURES, FLAG STATE PERFORMANCE, MARKET-RELATED MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS, REFRIGERATED TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SUPPLY VESSELS

30. The Committee agreed that IUU fishing continued to be a major global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy ecosystems. The Committee noted that developing countries in particular were impacted by IUU fishing. The Committee also noted that many Members were taking action to combat it.

31. The Committee agreed that port State measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing. The Committee noted the adoption of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (the Agreement), noting that many Members had their domestic processes in train for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Agreement.

32. The Committee recognized the critical role of capacity development as a means of assisting developing countries to combat IUU fishing through port State measures. The Committee welcomed FAO's capacity-development initiatives and noted that there was strong support for FAO to commence preparatory work aimed at the future implementation of Article 21 of the Agreement. The Committee requested FAO to report to the thirtieth session

of COFI concerning progress with the implementation of its capacity-development work to support port State measures.

33. The Committee supported the statement concerning the Agreement by the Africa Group that requested the Committee to support the rapid implementation and entry into force of the Agreement. The Committee requested FAO to form an open-ended working group or similar mechanism to draft terms of reference for the ad hoc working group envisioned in Article 21 of the Agreement. This group would also assess capacity needs and explore funding mechanisms.

34. Considering that compliance by flag States with their duties under international law is an essential factor in achieving sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing, the Committee welcomed the arrangements made to convene the FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance in May 2011.

35. With respect to market-related measures to combat IUU fishing the Committee urged Members to ensure that such measures were clear and as simple as possible, did not become unnecessary barriers to trade and were implemented in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner with adequate prior consultation between exporting and importing States. The Committee also encouraged FAO to provide technical assistance to developing countries to support the implementation of market-related measures to combat IUU fishing.

36. The Committee noted the recommendations of the November 2010 Technical Consultation on the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), and reiterated its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU fishing. The Committee also recognized the need for further work to refine some of the terms used in the recommendations for establishing the Global Record.

37. The Committee recognized that the Global Record should be developed as a voluntary initiative under FAO's supervision with a need for flexibility and a phased approach to implementation. The Committee indicated that the development of the Global Record should be done in a cost-effective manner, taking advantage of existing systems and information technology (IT) platforms, where possible. To achieve efficiencies, the Committee proposed that FAO further consults with other organizations, particularly IMO, IHS-Fairplay and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), as appropriate. To support the Global Record as a long-term initiative, the Committee indicated its preference for the use of FAO Regular Programme funds to the extent possible, supplemented as required, by extra-budgetary funding.

38. The Committee recognized that capacity development in the management of fisheries is an essential aspect to the assistance to be provided to developing countries for their participation in the Global Record.

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

39. The Committee recognized the significant activities undertaken by FAO during the intersessional period regarding climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation.

40. The Committee recommended:

- (a) that Members should intensify their efforts to assess environmental and anthropogenic factors affecting aquatic ecosystems including changes in migratory patterns of fish species and other adverse impacts including ocean acidification, and should consider these in management approaches;
- (b) that FAO should continue efforts to keep Members informed about the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture, based on the best available scientific information and the needs of vulnerable nations and developing countries;
- (c) that emphasis should be placed on the ecological and economic resilience of fisheries and aquaculture operations and the communities that depend on them;
- (d) that FAO should provide Members with information on possible fishing industry contributions to climate change and on technologies and ways to reduce the sector's reliance on, and consumption of, fossil fuels, respecting the principles embodied within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- (e) while recognizing the global nature of climate change, it was necessary to downscale the analysis of, and responses to, climate change impacts at the national and regional levels. Regional bodies and organizations should play a leading role in coordinating actions by countries in their region;
- (f) taking note of the urgent need of many Members for technical assistance, that FAO should continue and strengthen support to Members and especially developing countries, particularly in relation to adaptation, including facilitating access of these countries to UN adaptation funds for fisheries and aquaculture; and
- (g) that FAO should help to raise the profile and awareness of the role of fisheries and aquaculture regarding food security under climate change, considering that important terrestrial food sources could be seriously affected in many areas.

41. The Committee agreed that better coordination between UN organizations and agencies is required and encouraged FAO to improve interagency coordination and look for stronger synergies.

42. The Committee agreed that marginalization of fisheries and aquaculture is a major problem and requested FAO to continue efforts to raise the profile of the sector, including in the preparations for the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 17.

43. The Committee highlighted the role of large marine ecosystems as a relevant scale to address climate change and the need to implement concerted and harmonized management approaches by countries with shared ecosystems and stocks.

44. The Committee noted FAO's roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change, encouraged its further development and recommended that appropriate funding be provided. The Committee further noted that such work should be complementary to other core areas of

work such as the implementation of, and compliance with, the Code as well as the implementation of EAF and EAA.

FAO'S ROLE FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

45. The Committee supported FAO's efforts to improve the integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management with environmental protection and conservation of biological diversity.

46. The Committee reaffirmed that FAO is the primary source of scientific expertise and advice regarding global issues on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee recognized that the mandates of several international organizations are relevant to some aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. To increase sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources, the Committee recommended that FAO:

- (a) collaborates with relevant international organizations, for example, CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build and share information, create synergies and provide coherent guidance;
- (b) continues its efforts to work with and strengthen RFBs; and
- (c) continues to collaborate with non-governmental organizations.

47. The Committee recognized the important role that fisheries and aquaculture play in providing food security and economic opportunities and recommended that FAO continues to play a leading role in promoting and raising awareness about the Code and the benefits and sustainability arising from responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

48. The Committee reaffirmed the relevance of the EAF and EAA and endorsed the approach as the appropriate framework to assist with this integration. Furthermore, some specific activities relevant to biodiversity conservation were highlighted, including:

- (a) establishing MPAs, including MPA networks;
- (b) carrying out restocking programmes to support depleted populations of wild stocks;
- (c) identification and protection of fish refugia;
- (d) carrying out impact assessments; and
- (e) continuing action to implement the FAO guidelines on deep sea fisheries.

49. The Committee took note of the needs of developing countries in relation to the necessity to strengthen their technical capacities in order to ensure a better implementation of the working framework deriving from the EAF and EAA.

50. The Committee adopted the Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards¹ and endorsed the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards contained therein. The Committee further recommended that FAO provides support in capacity building

¹ FAO. 2011. Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. Rome, 6–10 December 2010. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report* No. 957. Rome, FAO. 32p.

and implementation of these guidelines and ensure that the guidelines do not become barriers to international trade. The Committee thanked the Government of Norway for its leadership in this process.

51. The Committee noted that Iceland endorsed the Guidelines noting that it was a voluntary instrument, and that their understanding of the term “their objectives” in paragraph 3.1.1 related to the objectives of the competent national fisheries management authority.

52. The Committee noted that some Members reiterated that references in the Guidelines to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) did not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument, and that some Members also reiterated that references in the Guidelines to the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement did not imply that this Agreement may apply to States that had not expressed their consent to be bound by it.

GOOD PRACTICES IN THE GOVERNANCE OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

53. The Committee welcomed the conclusions and recommendations stemming from an extensive process of consultation, including three regional workshops, with the effective participation of stakeholders.

54. The Committee agreed on the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, particularly for developing countries in the context of food security and poverty alleviation. The Committee noted that often this importance was not recognized and due attention was not given to the needs of small-scale fishers and their communities. The Committee further agreed that FAO should continue to give high priority to small-scale fisheries and ensure adequate visibility for them, particularly in relevant international fora which dealt directly or indirectly with these fisheries.

55. The Committee recognized the need to take account of the heterogeneity, diversity and complexity of the small-scale fisheries sector, including its cross-sectoral and gender dimensions, when defining policies and measures. The Committee noted the concern about the need for clarification of the term “small-scale fisheries”.

56. Consistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the regional workshops, the Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code. The Committee agreed that the new instrument should be voluntary in nature, address both inland and marine fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries. The Committee indicated some preliminary issues to be addressed in this instrument, recommending that all stakeholders should be associated, as appropriate, with its development.

57. The Committee agreed that the new instrument should take the form of international guidelines, rather than an international plan of action or a new Code article.

58. The Committee noted the proposal made by some Members to establish a COFI Sub-Committee on Small-scale Fisheries.

59. The Committee agreed on the need to strengthen the conditions of safety at sea in particular with regard to small-scale fisheries.

60. The Committee agreed to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme along the thematic areas proposed.²

FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

61. The Committee expressed its support for the Organization-wide reforms, including the new Strategic Framework, and welcomed the approach taken in the preparation of document COFI/2011/9.

62. The Committee agreed with the priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis, as described in the document. In particular, the Committee agreed that activities of a continuing nature linked to FAO's prime responsibilities and core functions should primarily be funded by the Regular Programme funds.

63. The Committee agreed to de-emphasize the convening of the Global Conference on Fleet Capacity, without prejudice to the general work on fishing capacity. The Committee did not support the proposed de-emphasis of the issues related to safety at sea for fishing vessels.

64. The Committee took note of some conflicting views that were expressed regarding the emphasis or de-emphasis given to specific areas or activities such as deep-sea fisheries.

65. The Committee also took note of the way in which extra-budgetary resources are related to the regular budget and stressed that, as a matter of principle, extra-budgetary funds should be allocated to priority areas as identified in the PWB.

66. The Committee agreed to review its practices including its rules of procedure at its thirtieth session in 2012.

67. The Committee agreed that FAO, through its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and in particular the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, should play a proactive advocacy role about fisheries and aquaculture issues, within their respective mandates, through regular high-level, direct contacts with Members and stakeholders, especially with regard to promoting implementation of the Code and its related instruments, and proposing priority areas of work.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

68. In a statement to the Committee, Sri Lanka advised that it recognized fisheries and aquaculture as a priority sector within the national plan of development under its Presidential Vision. Sri Lanka informed the Committee about its intention to convene an Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting entitled "Aquaculture Development for Food Security and Economic Development", to discuss, decide and develop a mutually-beneficial regional partnership to ensure responsible, sustainable, viable and profitable development of Asian aquaculture. Sri Lanka requested FAO to be a partner in this activity, along with the Network of

² COFI/2011/8.

Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA). Upon request of the Committee, Thailand clarified that there was a similar event scheduled in Thailand in June 2011, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”. The Committee approved Sri Lanka’s proposal.

69. The Committee heard a statement of the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Congo (Republic of) in his current role as Chair of the Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP). The Committee was advised that COREP’s scope of work included assessment of fish resources and knowledge of stock dynamics of commercial resources for the management of the Gulf of Guinea fisheries resources. COREP gave high priority to both fisheries and aquaculture development. The Minister’s statement encouraged Members and FAO to collaborate with, and support activities of, COREP. The Committee noted that Members were invited to participate in the forthcoming COREP Regional Scientific Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture to be held in Central Africa in November 2011.

70. The delegate of the Kyrgyz Republic, also speaking on behalf of Azerbaijan and Turkey, informed the Committee about the importance of recreational fisheries in the Central Asian and Caucasus Region and requested that global attention be given to the collection of data and information to enable proper management of these fisheries. The delegate encouraged FAO to make more effective use of RFMOs concerning the increasing awareness and implementation of the Code and related instruments.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

71. The Committee agreed that the thirtieth session of COFI should be held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 9 to 13 July 2012.

APPENDIX A**Agenda**

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and designation of Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
4. Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, including International Plans of Action and Strategies, and other matters
5. Decisions and recommendations of the twelfth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010
6. Decisions and recommendations of the fifth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Phuket, Thailand, 27 September–1 October 2010
7. Progress made with regard to measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including port State measures, flag State performance, market-related measures and development of a Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels
8. Fisheries and aquaculture in our changing climate: adaptation and mitigation measures in fisheries and aquaculture
9. FAO's role for improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection
10. Good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries: Sharing of experiences and lessons learned in responsible fisheries for social and economic development
11. FAO's Programme of Work in fisheries and aquaculture
12. Any other matters
13. Date and place of the next session
14. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX B**List of delegates and observers****MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE/
MEMBRES DU COMITÉ/
MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ****AFGHANISTAN/
AFGANISTÁN**

Abdul Razak AYAZI
Agriculture Attaché
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 8611009
Fax: +39 06 86322939
E-mail: arayazi@hotmail.com

**ALGERIA/ALGÉRIE/
ARGELIA**

Azeddine RIACHE
Conseiller des affaires
étrangères
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
algérienne démocratique et
populaire
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 44202533
E-mail:
embassy@algerianemnassy

Karima BOUBEKEUR
Secrétaire
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
algérienne démocratique et
populaire
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 44202533
E-mail: embassy@
algerianemnassy.it

Abdel-Nasser ZAIR
Inspecteur général
Ministère algérien de la pêche
et des ressources halieutiques
Alger
Phone: +213 21 433160
Fax: +213 21 433179
E-mail: ig@mpeche.gov.dz

ANGOLA

Maria Esperanca PIRES DOS
SANTOS
Directeur national des pêches
Ministère de l'agriculture,
développement rural et pêche
Luanda
Phone: +244 012243214
E-mail: esperancamaria2000@
yahoo.com.br

Carlos Alberto AMARAL
Conseiller
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 348 8142566
Fax: +39 06 772695241
E-mail:
carlosamaral@tiscalinet.it

Isabel RANGEL
Chercheur
Institut national de recherche
de la pêche
Luanda
Phone: +244 2309732
Fax: +244 2309731
E-mail: bimamanezs@
hotmail.com

ARGENTINA/ARGENTINE

Marcelo SANTOS
Director Nacional de
Coordinación Pesquera
Subsecretaría de Pesca y
Acuicultura
Secretaría de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 43492331
Fax: +54 11 4349267
E-mail: marcsan@
minagri.gob.ar

María del Carmen SQUEFF
Representante Permanente
Alterno ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Encargado de Negocios a.i.
Embajada de la República
Argentina
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 48073300
Fax: +39 06 48906984
E-mail: faoprarg1@interfree.it

Holger MARTINSEN
Dirección General de
Consejería Legal
Ministerio de Relaciones
Exteriores, Comercio
Internacional y Culto
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 48198008
E-mail: hfm@mrecic.gov.ar

Ramiro SANCHEZ
Director Nacional de
Planificación Pesquera
Subsecretaría de Pesca y
Acuicultura
Secretaría de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 43492590
Fax: +54 11 43492654
E-mail: resanc@
minagri.gob.ar

Carlos Federico TAGLE
Dirección de Temas
Económicos Especiales
Ministerio de Relaciones
Exteriores, Comercio
Internacional y Culto
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 48197358
Fax: +54 11 48197324
E-mail: cft@mrecic.gov.ar

Agustín ZIMMERMANN
Secretario
Representante Permanente
Altero ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO

Embajada de la República
Argentina
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 48073300
Fax: +39 06 48906984
E-mail: faoprarg1@interfree.it

Elisa CALVO
Directora de Economía
Pesquera
Subsecretaría de Pesca y
Acuicultura
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 43492476
Fax: +54 11 43932504
E-mail: elical@minagri.gob.ar

Paola GUCIONI
Coordinadora de Captura
Legal
Subsecretaría de Pesca y
Acuicultura
Secretaría de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Buenos Aires
Phone: +54 11 43492330
Fax: +54 11 43492637
E-mail: pgucio@
minagri.gob.ar

ARMENIA/ARMÉNIE

Zohrab MALEK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Armenia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5201924; 1924
Mobile: +39 333 4788305
Fax: +39 06 5201924
E-mail: zohrab.malek@
gmailo.com

AUSTRALIA/AUSTRALIE

Lorraine HITCH
Manager
Domestic Fisheries Policy
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Canberra
Phone: +61 2 6272 5750
E-mail: lorraine.hitch@
daff.gov.au

Travis POWER
Minister-Counsellor
(Agriculture)
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Australian Delegation to
OECD
Embassy of Australia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 85272376
Fax: +39 06 85272346
E-mail: travis.power@
dfat.gov.au

AZERBAIJAN/ AZERBAÏDJAN/ AZERBAIYÁN

Rauf HAJIYEV
Head of Department on
Aquatic Bioresources
Reproduction and Protection
Ministry of Ecology and
Natural Resources
Baku
Phone: +99 412 5666753
Fax: +99 412 5668942
E-mail: raufhajiyev@
hotmail.com

Mehman AKHUNDOV
Director
Azerbaijan Fisheries Research
Institute
Baku
Phone: +99 412 4962280/
4963037
Fax: +99 412 4963037
E-mail: azfiri@azeurotel.com

Fuad FARZALIBAYOV
Second Secretary
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Azerbaijan
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 85305557/
85357989
Fax: +39 06 85831448
E-mail: un.rome.org@
mission.mfa.gov.az;
f_farzalibayov@mfa.gov.az

BANGLADESH

Md. Abdul Latif BISWAS
Minister for Fisheries and
Livestock
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka

Masud Bin MOMEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 3293838
Mobile: +39 338 6316992
Fax: +39 06 8084853
E-mail: mbmomen@
hotmail.com

Rais Hossain SAROWER
First Secretary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
Rome, Italy
Phone: + 39 06 8078541
Fax: +39 06 8084853

Syed Arif AZAD
Deputy Director
Department of Fisheries
Dhaka
Phone: +88 02 9569953
Fax: +88 02 9567217
E-mail: s_arif_azad@
yahoo.com

Hilton Kumer SHAHA
Assistant Private Secretary
Minister for Fisheries and
Livestock
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka

Syed Mahmudul HUQ
Chairman
Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish
Foundation
Dhaka
Phone: +88 02 8859151
Fax: +88 02 8859575
E-mail: tsi@dhaka.net

Muhammad Shamsul KIBRIA
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and
Livestock
Phone: +880 2 7161977
Fax: +880 2 9567217
E-mail: mskibria@hotmail.com

Sultana AFROZ
Counsellor
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
Rome, Italy

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE/ BÉLGICA

Martine VAN DOOREN
Ministre Conseiller
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de Belgique
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 3609511
Fax: +39 06 36095135
E- mail: RomeFAO@
diplobel.fed.be

Marc HEIRMAN
Conseiller
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de Belgique
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 3609511
Fax: +39 06 3226935
E-mail: RomeFAO@
diplobel.fed.be

Barbara ROEGIERS
European Policy Adviser
Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries
Agriculture and Fisheries
Policy Division
Brussels
Phone: +32 2 5527956
Fax: +32 2 5527921
E-mail: barbara.roegiers@
lv.vlaanderen.be

BELIZE/BELICE

Gabino Celso CANTO
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
Belmopan
Phone: +501 8222330
Mobile: +501 6272785
Fax: +501 8222409
E-mail: gabinocanto@
yahoo.com

BRAZIL/BRÉSIL/BRASIL

Ideli SALVATTI
Minister
State of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Brasilia
Phone: +5561 32183802
Fax: +5561 32182877

Antonino MARQUES PORTO
E SANTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 68307576
Fax: +39 06 68398802
E-mail: rebrafao@brafao.it

Antonio Carlos CONQUISTA
Secretary
Infrastructure and Promotion
of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Brasilia
Phone: +5561 32183802
Fax: +5561 32182877

Lúcia Maria MAIERÁ
Head
International Advisory
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Brasilia
Phone: +5561 32183802
Fax: +5561 32182877

Olyntho VIEIRA
Deputy
Permanent Representative of
Brazil to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 68307576
Fax: +39 06 68398802
E-mail: olyntho.vieira@
brafao.it

Claudio Roberto POLES
Counsellor
Alternate Permanent
Representant to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 68307576
Fax: +39 06 68398802

Fábio H. V. HAZIN
Director
Department of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Federal Rural University of
Pernambuco State
Recife
Phone: +81 33206500/6501
Fax: +81 33206500/6501
E-mail: fhvhazin@
terra.com.br

Fernanda GARCIA
SAMPAIO
Advisor
Secretariat of Aquaculture
Planning and Management
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Brasilia
Phone: +5561 20233724
Fax: +5561 20233911
E-mail:
fernanda.sampaio@mpa.gov.br

Mônica BRICK PERES
Environmental Analyst
Chico Mendes Institute for
Biodiversity Conservation
(ICMBio)
Teresópolis
Phone: +55 61 33419054
Fax: +55 61 33419057
E-mail: monicabrickper3es@
gmail.com

Jeferson DA SILVA
Details not provided

BULGARIA/BULGARIE

Ivan KONDOV
Minister Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 3224640
Fax: +39 06 3226122
E-mail: faobulgaria@yahoo.it

Konstantin PETROV
Head of Sector
International Relations
National Agency of Fisheries
and Aquaculture
Sofia
Phone: +359 8 98432976
E-mail: konstantin.petrov@
iara.government.bg

BURKINA FASO

Laurent Dit Diandioua
COULIDIATI
Représentant permanent
adjoind auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade du Burkina Faso
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 3667045058
Fax: +39 0642016701
E-mail: coulidiati_laurent@
yahoo.fr

CAMEROON/CAMEROUN/ CAMERÚN

Ousman BABA MALLOUN
Directeur des pêches et de
l'aquaculture
Ministère de l'élevage, des
pêches et des industries
animales
Yaounde
Phone: +237 22316049
Mobile: +237 99973408/
237 77884563
Fax: +237 22313048
E-mail: bmalloumousman@
yahoo.com;
dirpec2001@yahoo.fr

Jean Jacques Raymond
SANZHIE BOKALLY
Secrétaire exécutif
Caisse de développement de la
pêche maritime/MINEPIA
Douala
Phone: +237 77700483/
33424624
Fax: +237 33424064
E-mail: cdpm74.dla95@
yahoo.fr

CANADA/CANADÁ

Michael PEARSON
Director General
International Affairs
Directorate
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa
Phone: +1 613 9931914
Fax: +1 613 9909574
E-mail: michael.pearson@
dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Marco VALICENTI
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Canadian Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 854442551
Fax: +39 06 854442930
E-mail: marco.valicenti@
international.gc.ca

Angela BEXTEN
Assistant Director
International Fisheries Policy
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa
Phone: +1 613 9933050
Fax: +1 613 9909574
E-mail: angela.bexten@
dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Jennifer BUIE
Manager
Resource Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa
Phone: +1 613 9900096
Fax: +1 613 9907051
E-mail: jennifer.buie@
dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Jake RICE
Advisor
National Senior Ecosystem
Science
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa
Phone: +1 613 9900288
E-mail: jake.rice@dfo-
mpo.gc.ca

Pola YIP
International Fisheries Policy
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa
Phone: +1 613 9983229
Fax: +1 613 9909574
E-mail: pola.yip@dfo-
mpo.gc.ca

CAPE VERDE/CAP-VERT/ CABO VERDE

Jose Eduardo BARBOSA
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
du Cap-Vert
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 4744678/
4744596
Fax: +39 06 4744643
E-mail: jeduardo.barbosa@
fastwebnet.it;
zenaidabarbosa@gmail.com

CHILE/CHILI

Pablo GALILEA
Subsecretario de Pesca
Subsecretaría de Pesca
Valparaíso
Phone: +56 32 2502802/
2502801
E-mail: pgalilea@subpesca.cl

Oscar GODOY ARCAYA
Embajador
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Chile
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 844091
Fax: +39 06 8841452
E-mail: embajada@chileit.it

Jorge ULLOA
Diputado
Cámara de Diputados
Valparaíso
E-mail: jua@congreso.cl

Cristián CAMPOS
Diputado
Cámara de Diputados
Valparaíso
E-mail: ccampos@congreso.cl

Felix INOSTROZA
Director Nacional de Pesca
Servicio Nacional de Pesca
Santiago

Guillermo SILVA
Director
Intereses Marítimos y Medio
Ambiente Acuático
Dirección General del
Territorio Marítimo y de
Marina Mercante
Santiago

Alejandro COVARRUBIAS
Jefe de Asuntos
Internacionales
Servicio Nacional de Pesca
Valparaíso
Phone: +56 32 2819301
E-mail:
acovarrubias@sernapesca.cl

Marisol PEREZ
Primer Secretario
Representante Permanente
Alternante ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Chile
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 844091
Fax: +39 06 85304552

María Alicia BALTIERRA
Asesora en Asuntos
Internacionales
Subsecretaría de Pesca
Valparaíso
E-mail:
mbaltierra@subpesca.cl

Jessica FUENTES
Asesora en Acuicultura
Subsecretaría de Pesca
Valparaíso
Phone: +56 32 2502819
E-mail: jfuentes@subpesca.cl

Hector BACIGALUPO
Gerente General
Sociedad Nacional de Pesca
Santiago
Phone: +56 2 2692533
E-mail: hbacigalupo@
somapesca.cl

Carlos VIAL
Vicepresidente
Sociedad Nacional de Pesca
Santiago
Phone: +562 2692533
E-mail: cvial@friosur.cl

CHINA/CHINE

Xiaobing LIU
Director
Division of International
Cooperation
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
Beijing
Phone: +86 1059192928
Fax: +86 59192973
E-mail: xiaobingliu@
hotmail.com

Handi GUO
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of People's Republic
of China
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 59193124
Fax: +39 06 59193130
E-mail: guohandi@agri.gov.cn

Ming ZHANG
First Secretary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of People's Republic
of China
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 59193123
Fax: +39 06 59193130
E-mail: zhangming@
agri.gov.cn

Lejun XU
Deputy Director
General Office
Bureau of Fisheries, MOA
Beijing
Phone: +86 1059192976
Fax: +86 1059192936
E-mail: bofoffice@agri.gov.cn

Yanrong YI
Deputy Director
Law and Policy Division
Bureau of Fisheries, MOA
Beijing
Phone: +86 1059192986
Fax: +86 1059192956
E-mail: fisherieslaw@
agri.gov.cn

COLOMBIA/COLOMBIE

Alejandro LONDOÑO
GARCÍA
Director Ejecutivo
Cámara de la Industria
Pesquera y APROPECA
Bogotá
Phone: +57 1 3440476
E-mail: info@apropesca.com

Beatriz Helena CALVO
VILLEGAS
Consejero
Representante Permanente
Adjunta ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Colombia
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 3612131
Fax: +39 06 3225798
E-mail: beatriz.calvo@
cancilleria.gov.co

Martha Lucia DE LA PAVA
Subgerente Pesca y
Acuicultura
Instituto Colombiano de
Desarrollo Rural INCODER
Bogotá
Phone: +57 1 3834300
E-mail: mdelapava@
incoder.gov.co

Elsy PERUCHO GÓMEZ
Administradora de Empresas
Bogotá
Phone: +091 3830444
E-mail: elsyperu@hotmail.com

CONGO

Hellot Matson MAMPOUYA
Ministre de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Brazzaville
E-mail: hellotmatson@
yahoo.fr

Mamadou KAMARA
DEKAMO
Ambassadeur
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
du Congo
Rome, Italie
Phone: + 39 06 8417422
Fax: +39 06 8417422

Dieudonne KISSIEKIAOUA
Conseiller à la pêche et à
l'aquaculture
Ministère de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Brazzaville

Claver Clotaire OKOUYA
Conseiller à l'agriculture, à la
pêche et à l'élevage
S/C Ambassade du Congo
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 8417422
Fax: +39 06 8417422
E-mail: ccokouya@yahoo.fr

Emile ESSEMA
Secrétaire exécutif
Comité régional des pêches du
Golfe de Guinée (COREP)
Libreville
Phone: +241 07105063
Fax: +39 06 8417422
E-mail: sg_corep@yahoo.fr

Boniface NGOULOU
Conseiller aux finances
Chargé de la coordination des
budgets et des projets
Ministère de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Brazzaville
E-mail: ngboni@yahoo.fr

Marc MANKOUSSOU
Conseiller
Représentant permanent
suppléant auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
du Congo
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 8417422
Fax: +39 06 841722
E-mail: marckoussouk@
yahoo.fr

Alain MAKOSSO
Directeur de la coopération
Ministère de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Brazzaville
Phone: +242 06 6387118
E-mail: makosso_alain@
yahoo.fr

Emilia Rita ADDHAS
GANEZI
Secrétaire particulière
Ministère de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
C/C Ambassade du Congo
Rome, Italie

COOK ISLANDS/ÎLES COOK/ISLAS COOK

Garth BROADHEAD
Advisor
Ministry of Marine Resources
Avarua

Koroa RAUMEA
Director
Inshore Fisheries and
Aquaculture
Ministry of Marine Resources
Rarotonga
Phone: +682 28721
Fax: +682 29721
E-mail: k.raumea@
mmr.gov.ck

Eva-Marie BROICH
Details not provided

COSTA RICA

Xinia CHAVES
Viceministra de Agricultura y
Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura y
Ganadería
San José
Phone: +506 22204346
Fax: +506 22322103

Fernando SÁNCHEZ
Embajador ante la Santa Sede
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Costa Rica ante la Santa Sede
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 80660390
Fax: +39 06 80660390

Antonio PORRAS
Director General Técnico
INFOPESCA
Instituto Costarricense de
Pesca y Acuicultura
San José
Phone: +506 22481196
Fax: +506 26610748
E-mail: porrasantonio1@
yahoo.com

Jorge REVOLLO
Ministro Consejero
Representante Permanente
Alterno ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Costa Rica ante la Santa Sede
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 80660390
Fax: +39 06 80660390
E-mail: misfao@tiscali.it

Greta PREDELLA
Asistente
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Costa Rica ante la Santa Sede
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 80660390
Fax: +39 06 80660390
E-mail: misfao2005@yahoo.it

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Aboubakar BAKAYOKO
Représentant permanent
adjoint auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
de Côte d'Ivoire
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 44231129
Fax: +39 06 44292531

Marie Hortense GUEI-
SEKOUET
Chargé d'études
Rome, Italie
E-mail: mhsekouet@yahoo.fr

CYPRUS/CHYPRE/CHIPRE

Christina PITTA
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 6865758
Fax: +39 06 68803756
E-mail: cpitta1472@
gmail.com

CZECH REPUBLIC/ RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE/ REPÚBLICA CHECA

Jiri MUCHKA
Second Secretary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Czech
Republic
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 360957
Fax: +39 06 3244466
E-mail: rome@embassy.
mzv.cz

Jiri PONDELICEK
Director
Department of the Civil
Service of Forests, Game
Management and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
Prague
Phone: + 420 221 812 062
Fax: + 420 221 812 980
E-mail: jiri.pondelicek@
mze.cz

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA/ RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DÉMOCRATIQUE DE CORÉE/REPÚBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRÁTICA DE COREA

Tae Song HAN
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 54220749
Fax: +39 06 54210090
E-mail: ekodpr@alice.it

Chol Min KIM
Alternate
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 54220749
Fax: +39 06 54210090
E-mail: ekodpr@alice.it

Hyo Sik KIM
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 542220749
Fax: +39 06 54210090
E-mail: ekodpr@alice.it

DENMARK/DANEMARK/ DINAMARCA

Søren SKAFTE
Deputy
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Royal Danish Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 9774831
Fax: +39 06 97748399
E-mail: sorska@um.dk

Egill BOCCANERA
Agricultural Attaché
Royal Danish Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 9774831
Fax: +39 06 97748399
E-mail: egiboc@um.dk

ECUADOR/ÉQUATEUR

Leonardo MARIDUEÑA
ALCÍVAR
Viceministro de Acuicultura y
Pesca
Ministerio de Agricultura,
Ganadería, Acuicultura y
Pesca
Guayaquil
Phone: +593 4 2671995
ext. 3294
Fax: +593 2 681775
E-mail: viceministroap@
magap.gob.ec

Carlos VALLEJO
Embajador
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente ante
la FAO
Embajada de la República del
Ecuador
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 89672820
Fax: +39 06 89672821

Francisco SALGADO
RIVADENEIRA
Alternó
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República del
Ecuador
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 89672820
Fax: +39 06 89672821

Manuel Humberto GÓMEZ
PROAÑO
Oficina de Defensa
Jefe de Coordinación Técnica
y Logística
Embajada del Ecuador
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 8417425
Mobile: +39 389 5345270
E-mail: mhgomezp@
yahoo.com

Luigi Antonio AZUA
Director Coordinador de la
Asociación de Atuneros del
Ecuador
Manta

Abel Paladines BAZURTO
Director
Delipisca
Phone: +593 5 2624440
Fax: +593 5 2624442
E-mail: induatun@aiisat.net

Rafael TRUJILLO
Director Ejecutivo
Cámara Nacional de Pesquería
Phone: +593 4 2306142
Fax: +593 4 2566346
E-mail: rtrujillo57@gmail.com

EGYPT/ÉGYPTE/EGIPTO

Essam OSMAN FAYED
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Arab Republic
of Egypt
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8548956
Mobile: +39 335 7915366
Fax: +39 06 8542603
E-mail: dressam_fayed@
yahoo.com

EL SALVADOR

Juan BARRERA
Asesor
Viceministro de Agricultura y
Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura y
Ganadería
San Salvador
Phone: +503 22101914
Fax: +503 22101750
E-mail: juan.barrera@
mag.gob.sv

Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ
ZEPEDA
Ministra Consejera
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de El Salvador
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 8076605
Fax: +39 06 8079726

Mario GONZALEZ
RECINOS
Director Regional
SICA/OSPESCA
San Salvador

ESTONIA/ESTONIE

Madis REINUP
Head of Fisheries Economy
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Tallin
E-mail: Madis.Reinup@agri.ee

EUROPEAN UNION (MEMBER ORGANIZATION)/UNION EUROPÉENNE (ORGANISATION MEMBRE)/UNIÓN EUROPEA (ORGANIZACIÓN MIEMBRO)

Antonio FERNANDEZ
AGUIRRE
Affaires internationales, droit
de la mer et organisations
régionales de pêche
Direction générale MARE
Bruxelles
Phone: +32 22951611
E-mail: Antonio.Fernandez-
Aguirre@ec.europa.eu

Eduarda DUARTE DE
SOUSA
Policy Officer DG MARE B-1
DG MARE B-1 European
Commission
Bruxelles

Claudia FUMO
Advisor
European Union to the Holy
See
Order of Malta and to the UN
Organisations
Rome, Italy
E-mail: Claudia.Fumo@
eeas.europa.eu

Patrick RABE
Administrator
DG DEVCO European
Commission
Brussels
E-mail: Patrick.Rabe@
ec.europa.eu

Carlos ALDEREGUIA
Executive Secretary
Long Distance Regional
Advisory Council (LDRAC)
Bruxelles

Marilia CRESPO
Administrator
EP Committee on Fisheries
Secretariat
European Parliament
Bruxelles
E-mail: Marilia.Crespo@
europarl.europa.eu

Michael EARLE
Administrator Political Group
European Parliament
Bruxelles
E-mail: Michael.Earle@
europarl.europa.eu

Isabella LOEVIN
Member of the EP
Committee on Fisheries
European Parliament
Bruxelles
E-mail: Isabella.Loevin@
europarl.europa.eu

FIJI/FIDJI

Penina Ravulo
CIRIKIYASAWA
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and
Forestry
Suva

FINLAND/FINLANDE/ FINLANDIA

Markku ARO
Director
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry
Department of Fisheries and
Game
Helsinki
Phone: +358 916053361
Fax: +358 916052640
E-mail: markku.aro@mmm.fi

Riikka LAATU
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Finland
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 852231
Fax: +39 06 8540362
E-mail: riikka.laatu@
formin.fi

FRANCE/FRANCIA

Nicolas GORODETSKA
Bureau des affaires
européennes et
internationales
Direction des pêches
maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, de
l'alimentation, de la pêche, de
la ruralité et de
l'aménagement du territoire
Paris
Phone: +33 1 49558254
Fax: +33 1 49558200
E-mail: nicolas.gorodetska@
agriculture.gouv.fr

Ludovic SCHULTZ
 Chef
 Bureau des affaires
 européennes et
 internationales
 Direction des pêches
 maritimes et de l'aquaculture
 Ministère de l'agriculture, de
 l'alimentation, de la pêche, de
 la ruralité et de
 l'aménagement du territoire
 Paris
 Phone: +33 0607667155
 Fax: +33 1 49558200
 E-mail: ludovic.schultz@
 agriculture.gouv.fr

Marc GHIGLIA
 Directeur de l'union des
 armateurs à la pêche de
 France (UAPF)
 Paris
 Phone: +33 1 42663260
 Fax: +33 1 47429112
 E-mail: uapf@wanadoo.fr

Charlotte GOBIN
 Chargée de mission
 biodiversité marine
 Sous-direction du littoral et
 des milieux marins
 Direction de l'eau et de la
 biodiversité
 Ministère de l'écologie, du
 développement durable, des
 transports et du logement
 Paris
 Phone: +33 1 40818212
 Fax: +33 1 40817187
 E-mail: charlotte.gobin@
 developpement-durable.
 gouv.fr

Jean-Jacques SOULA
 Conseiller agricole
 Représentant permanent
 suppléant auprès de la FAO
 Représentation permanente
 auprès de la FAO
 Rome, Italie
 Phone: +39 06 68425240
 Fax: +39 06 68405215
 E-mail: jean-jacques.soula@
 diplomatie.gouv.fr

Christine TON NU
 Conseiller scientifique
 Représentant permanente
 suppléant auprès de la FAO
 Représentation permanente
 auprès de la FAO
 Rome, Italie
 Phone: +39 06 68405240
 Fax: +39 06 68405215
 E-mail: christine.tonnu@
 diplomatie.gouv.fr

GABON/GABÓN

Guy Anicet RERAMBYATH
 Directeur général des pêches
 et de l'aquaculture
 Ministère de l'agriculture, de
 l'élevage, de la pêche et du
 développement rural
 Libreville
 Phone: +241 748992
 Fax: +241 764602

Louis Stanislas
 CHARICAUTH
 Conseiller
 Représentant permanent
 auprès de la FAO
 Représentation permanente
 auprès de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République
 Gabonaise
 Rome, Italie
 Phone: +39 06 85358970/
 85304534
 Fax: +39 06 8417278
 E-mail: ambassadedugabon1@
 interfree.it

GAMBIA/GAMBIE

Fatimah Fatou SOSSEH
 JALLOW
 Deputy Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Fisheries and
 Water Resources and Natural
 Matters
 Banjul
 Phone: +220 4227627/
 9998442
 E-mail: fsosseh@yahoo.com

Nfamara Jerro DAMPHA
 Director Fisheries Department
 Ministry of Fisheries Water
 Resources and National
 Assembly Matters
 Banjul
 Phone: +220 4201515
 Fax: +220 9924834
 E-mail: d.nfamara@
 yahoo.com

GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE/ ALEMANIA

Hans Heinrich WREDE
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 Permanent Representation to
 FAO
 Embassy of the Federal
 Republic of Germany
 Rome, Italy
 Phone: +39 06 49213280
 Fax: +39 06 49213281

Reinhold HANEL
 Head of Institute of Fisheries
 Ecology
 Johann Heinrich von Thunen-
 Institut (vTI)
 Federal Research Institute for
 Rural Areas, Forestry and
 Fisheries
 Hamburg
 Phone: +49 0 40 38905290
 Fax: +49 0 40 38905290
 E-mail: reinold.hanel@
 vti.bund.de

Heiko LIEDEKER
 Panelist
 Leading Standards
 Bonn
 Phone: +49 173 6688374
 E-mail: hlriedeker@yahoo.com

Leonie RENWRANTZ
 Desk Officer
 Federal Ministry of Food,
 Agriculture and Consumer
 Protection
 Bonn
 Phone: +49 0 228 995294124
 Fax: +49 0 228 995294084
 E-mail: leonie.renwrantz@
 bmelv.bund.de

Bernd WIRTZFELD
Desk Officer
Federal Ministry of Economic
Cooperation and
Development
Bonn
Phone: +49 0 228 995353717
E-mail: bernd.wirtzfeld@
bmz.bund.de

Marc NOLTING
Senior Planning Officer
Fisheries, Aquaculture,
Coastal Zones
Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammennarbeit (GIZ)
Eschborn
Phone: +49 0 6196791450
Fax: +49 0 619679801450
E-mail: marc.nolting@giz.de

GHANA

Kwesi AHWOI
Minister for Food and
Agriculture
Ministry of Food and
Agriculture
Accra
Phone: +233 302663036/
244321003
Fax: +233 302663250
E-mail: kahwoi@hotmail.com

Nii Amasah NAMOALE
Deputy Minister for Food and
Agriculture
Ministry of Food and
Agriculture
Accra
Phone: +233 208120236
Fax: +233 302666559
E-mail: namoale@live.com

Evelyn Anita STOKES-
HAYFORD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Ghana
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3319882852
Fax: +39 06 86325762
E-mail: ambassador@
ghanaembassy.it

Samuel N.K. QUAATEY
Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Food and
Agriculture
Accra
Phone: +233 302675144
Fax: +233 302675146
E-mail: samquaatey@
yahoo.com

Adelaide BOATENG-
SIRIBOE
Minister Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Ghana
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3277307884
Fax: +39 06 86325762
E-mail: fao@ghanaembassy.it

GREECE/GRÈCE/GRECIA

Nike-Ekaterini
KOUTRAKOU
Deputy
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Greece
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 85375525/
85375564
Fax: +39 06 85375503/
8415927
E-mail: gremb.rom@mfa.gr

GUATEMALA

Alfredo de Jesús ORELLANA
MEJÍA
Viceministro
Sanidad Agropecuaria y
Regulaciones MAGA
Ciudad de Guatemala
Phone: +502 24137035
Fax: +502 24137036
E-mail: alfredo.orellana@
maga.gob.gt

Fraterno DIAZ MONGE
Director
MAGA-DIPESCA
Ciudad de Guatemala
Phone: +502 59908448
E-mail: diaz.monge@
hotmail.com

Hugo ALSINA LAGOS
Asesor de Asuntos
Internacionales
MAG - DIPESCA
Ciudad de Guatemala
Phone: +502 42182899
E-mail: hugo@alsina-et-al.org

Alfredo TRINIDAD
VELÁSQUEZ
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Guatemala
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 36381143
Fax: +39 06 3291639

Ileana RIVERA DE
ANGOTTI
Consejero
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Guatemala
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 36381143
Fax: +39 06 3291639

GUINEA/GUINÉE

Abdoulaye TRAORE
Conseiller économique
Représentant Permanent
Suppléant auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Ambassade de la République
de Guinée
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 8078989
Fax: +39 06 8077588
E-mail: ambaguineerome1@
virgilio.it

Amadou Telivel DIALLO
 Chef de Cabinet
 Ministère de la pêche et de
 l'aquaculture
 Conakry
 Phone: +222 60 215296
 E-mail: atelivel@yahoo.fr

HAITI/HAÏTI/HAITÍ

Géri BENOIT
 Représentant permanent
 auprès de la FAO
 Representation permanente
 auprès de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République
 d'Haïti
 Rome, Italie
 Phone: +39 06 44254106/07
 Fax: +39 06 44254208
 E-mail: ambhaiti@haiti2006.
 191.it

Carl Benny RAYMOND
 Conseiller
 Représentant suppléant auprès
 de la FAO
 Représentation permanente
 auprès de la FAO
 Ambassade de la République
 d'Haïti
 Rome, Italy
 Phone: +39 06 44254106/07
 Fax: +39 06 44254208
 E-mail: ambhaiti@haiti2006.
 191.it

HONDURAS

Gabriela PINEDA DE ARIAS
 Directora de Pesca y
 Acuicultura
 Dirección General de Pesca y
 Acuicultura
 Secretaría de Agricultura y
 Ganadería
 Tegucigalpa
 Phone: +504 2393843
 Fax: +504 2391987
 E-mail: digepesca@sag.gob.hn

Mayra REINA DE TITTA
 Ministro Consejero
 Representante Permanente
 Adjunto ante la FAO
 Representación Permanente
 ante la FAO
 Roma, Italia
 Phone: +39 06 3207236
 Fax: +39 06 3207973

Alicia MEDINA
 Oficial Superior de Pesquerías
 Asesor Técnico Honduras
 Programa Arrecife
 Mesoamericano
 WWF-Mexico/MAR
 La Ceiba
 Phone: +504 24406063
 Fax: +504 26682460
 E-mail: amedina@wwfca.org

HUNGARY/HONGRIE/ HUNGRIA

Tamás BARDÓCZ
 Head of Fishery Unit
 Department of Forestry,
 Fishery and Hunting
 Ministry of Rural
 Development
 Budapest
 Phone: +39 06 5190116
 Fax: +39 06 97256859
 E-mail: tamas.bardocz@
 vm.gov.hu

Ágnes DÚS
 Assistant
 Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 Permanent Representation to
 FAO
 Embassy of Hungary
 Rome, Italy
 Phone: +39 06 5190116
 E-mail: agnes.dus@vm.gov.hu

Balázs HAMAR
 Permanent Representative to
 FAO
 Permanent Representation to
 FAO
 Embassy of Hungary
 Rome, Italy
 Phone: +39 06 5190116
 Fax: +39 06 97256859
 E-mail: hufaorep@gmail.com

Kai STOLZENBURG
 Desk Officer
 DG B 3 A Fisheries Council of
 the European Union
 Brussels
 Phone: + 32 22817693
 E-mail: kai.stolzenburg@
 consilium.europa.eu

ICELAND/ISLANDE/ ISLANDIA

Johann GUDMUNDSSON
 Director
 Department of International
 Affairs
 Ministry of Fisheries and
 Agriculture
 Reykjavik
 Phone: +354 5458300
 Fax: +354 5521160
 E-mail: johann.gudmundsson@
 slr.stjr.is

Gudni BRAGASON G.
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Reykjavik
 Phone: +354 8649963
 Fax: +354 5458949
 E-mail: gudni@mfa.is

Hermann Orn INGOLFSSON
 Director-General
 International Development
 Cooperation
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Reykjavik
 Phone: +354 5457421
 Fax: +354 5458949
 E-mail: hermann@mfa.is

Ragheidur Elfa
 THORSTEINSDOTTIR
 Director
 Department of Natural
 Resources and Environmental
 Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Reykjavik
 Phone: +354 5458923

Brynhildur
BENEDIKTSDOTTIR
Advisor
Department of International
Affairs
Ministry of Fisheries and
Agriculture
Reykjavik
Phone: +354 5458300
Fax: +354 5521160
E-mail:
brynhildur.benediktsdottir@
slr.stjr.is

INDIA/INDE

Shobhana Kumar
PATTANAYAK
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
India
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 42013972
Fax: +39 06 48904470
E-mail: agri.wing@
indianembassy.it

Tarun SHRIDHAR
Member Joint Secretary
Fisheries
Department of Animal
Husbandry, Dairying and
Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
Government of India
New Delhi
Phone: +91 1123381994
E-mail: tshridhar@gmail.com

INDONESIA/INDONÉSIE

Achmad POERNOMO
Secretary
Agency for Marine and
Fisheries Research and
Development
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 64711583
Fax: +62 21 64711438

Agus Apun BUDHIMAN
Director
Fisheries Resources
Directorate General Capture
Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3453008
Fax: +62 21 3453008

Hanung CAHYONO
Head
Legal Organization and Public
Relation Division
Directorate General of Marine,
Coastal and Small Islands
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 320357

Endroyono ENDROYONO
Head of Sub-directorate
Fishing Vessel Construction
and Feasibility
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3521781
Fax: +62 21 3521781

Shahandra HANITIYO
Assistant
Deputy Director for United
Nations Cooperation
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 3864293

Saut Parulian
HUTAGALUNG
Director
Foreign Market Development
Directorate General of
Fisheries Product Processing
and Marketing
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3513300
Fax: +62 21 3521977

Ibrahim ISMAIL
Secretary
Directorate General of Capture
Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3521781
Fax: +62 21 3521781

Iskandar ISMANADJI
Director of Production
Directorate General of
Aquaculture
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 78831914
Fax: +62 21 78831914

Nina NIRMALASARI
Head of Directorate Business
Institution
Subdirector General of
Capture Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3521781
Fax: +62 21 3521781

Purwanto PURWANTO
Director
Research Center for Fisheries
Management and
Conservation
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 64711940
Fax: +62 21 6402640

Danny RAHDIANSYAH
Third Secretary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Indonesia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 4200911
Fax: +39 06 4880280

Andi SOESMONO
Deputy Director
Center of Analysis for
International and Institution
Cooperation
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 21 3864293
Fax: +62 21 3864293

Suharta SUHARTA
Head
Monitoring System
Subdirector
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 813 43020087
Fax: +62 21 3523073

Trian YUNANDA
Head
Program Cooperation Sub-
Division Directorate General
of Capture Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 213521781
Fax: +62 213521781

Ansori ZAWAWI
Secretary
Directorate General
Marine And Fisheries
Resources Surveillance
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Jakarta
Phone: +62 213523153
Fax: +62 213520346

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF)/IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE
ISLAMIQUE D')/IRÁN
(REPÚBLICA ISLÁMICA
DEL)**

Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI
MOTLAGH
Head
Iran Fisheries Organization
Ministry of Jihad-e-
Agriculture
Tehran
Phone: +39 06 780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636

Javad SHAKHS
TAVAKOLIAN J.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: missiranfao@
missiranfao.191.it

Mohammad POURKAZEMI
Chairperson of the twenty-
ninth session of the
Committee on Fisheries
Head of International Sturgeon
Research
Institute-Iranian Fisheries
Research Institute
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: pkazemi_m@
yahoo.com

Mehdi SHAKOURI
Deputy (Aquaculture)
Iran Fisheries Organization
Ministry of Jihad-e-
Agriculture
Tehran
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: mehdishakouri@
yahoo.com

Mohammad GHASEMI
Deputy
Fishing and Fishing Harbors
Iran Fisheries Organization
Tehran
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636

Abbas AMINI
Director General
Public and International
Relations
Iran Fisheries Organization
Ministry of Jihad-e-
Agriculture
Tehran
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: abb_amin@
yahoo.com

Ali Asghar MOJAHEDI
Director General
Fishing and Fisheries Affairs
Iran Fisheries Organization
Ministry of Jihad-e-
Agriculture
Teheran
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: a_mojahedi@
hotmail.com

Seyed Morteza Zarei ZAREI
Permanent Representative
Attaché to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Islaman
Republic of Iran
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5780334
Fax: +39 06 5747636
E-mail: missiranfao@
missiranfao.191.it

IRAQ

Hassan JANABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Iraq
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 88920492
Mobile: +39 328 0523635
Fax: +39 06 64420252
E-mail: Janabih@gmail.com

**IRELAND/IRLANDE/
IRLANDA**

Jarlath O'CONNOR
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Ireland
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 6979121
Fax: +39 06 6792354/
69791231
E-mail: jarlath.oconnor@
dfa.ie; mariaterese.gemma@
dfa.ie

ITALY/ITALIE/ITALIA

Claudio MISCIA
Counsellor
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome
Phone: +39 06 59084050
Fax: +39 06 59084176

Alternate(s)

Mauro BERTELLETTI
Coordinator - Ministry of
Agricultural Forestal and
Food Politics
D.G. Fishery and Aquaculture
Rome
Phone: +39 06 59084050
Fax: +39 06 59084176
E-mail: m.bertelletti@
politicheagricole.gov.it

Stefano CATAUDELLA
Professor
Ministry of Agriculture Food
and Forestry
Rome
Phone: +39 06 72595957
E-mail: cataudel@uniroma2.it

Chiara ORTENZI
Ministry of Agriculture Food
and Forestry Policies
Fishery Department
Rome
Phone: +39 06 59084504
Fax: +39 06 59084176
E-mail: c.ortenzi@politiche
agricole.gov.it

Simone SERRA
Ministry of Agriculture Food
and Forestry
Directorate General Fishery
and Aquaculture
Rome
Phone: +39 06 47824042
E-mail: serra.s@unimar.it

Giorgia SPADA

JAPAN/JAPON/JAPÓN

Kenji KAGAWA
Councillor
Fisheries Agency
Tokyo

Toshikazu MIYAMOTO
Global Guardian Trust
Tokyo

Katsumasa MIYAUCHI
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Japan
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 48799415/0/1/2
Fax: +39 06 4885109
E-mail: fao@ro.mofa.go.jp

Joji MORISHITA
Counsellor
Resources Management
Department Fisheries Agency

Akiko ONODERA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Fisheries Division
Economic Affairs Bureau
Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 55018000
ext. 3665
E-mail: akiko.onodera@
mofa.go.jp

Shingo OTA
Senior Fisheries Negotiator
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency
Tokyo

Kazumasa SHIOYA
Minister Councillor
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Japan
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 48799415/0/1/2
Fax: +39 06 4885109

Yoshihiro TAKAGI
Advisor
Overseas Fishery Cooperation
Foundation
Tokyo

Haruo TOMINAGA
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency
Government of Japan
Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 35911086
Fax: +81 3 35020571
E-mail: haruo_tominaga@nm.
maff.go.jp

Nobuyuki YAGI
Graduate School of
Agricultural and Life
Sciences
Tokyo

Makoto YAMAUCHI
Deputy Director
Ecosystem Conservation
Office
Resource and Environment
Research Division Fisheries
Agency
Tokyo

Yoshio KANEKO
Global Guardian Trust
Tokyo
Phone: +81 19 6942741
E-mail: yoshikan@intd.
biglobe.ne.jp

**JORDAN/JORDANIE/
JORDANIA**

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 86205303/04;
+39 3318133145
Fax: +39 068606122
E-mail: ibatileh@gmail.com

KENYA

Godfrey V. MONOR
Director
Ministry of Fisheries
Development
Nairobi
Phone: +254 20 2716103
Fax: +254 20 2730086
E-mail: fisheries@kenya.go.ke;
monorgv@gmail.com

Susan W. IMENDE
Assistant Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries
Development
Nairobi
Phone: +254 20 2716103
Fax: +254 20 2730086
E-mail:
susanimende@yahoo.com

Randolf PAYET
Regional Executive Secretary
South West Indian Ocean
Fisheries Project
Regional Management Unit
Mombasa
Phone: +254 721453545
Fax: +254 412001133
E-mail: rpayet@gmail.com

KUWAIT/KOWEÏT

Khaled A.O. AL RASHED
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Faisal AL-HASAWI
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Manar AL-SABAH
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Norma CALABRESE
Support Staff
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Meriem CHENA
Support Staff
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Said STELI
Support Staff
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5754598
Fax: +39 06 5754590
E-mail: kuwait_FAO@tiscali.it

Dawood AL-ABDULGADER
Details not provided

**KYRGYZSTAN/
KIRGHIZISTAN/
KIRGUISTÁN**

Dogdurbk DOGOCHIEV
Director of Fisheries
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Bishkek
Phone: +996 312 620545
Fax: +996 312 626567
E-mail: gendep@mfa.gov.kg

**LATVIA/LETONIE/
LETONIA**

Normundus RIEKSTINS
Head of Fisheries Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riga
Phone: +371 7027107
Fax: +371 7027512
E-mail: dzidra@zm.gov.lv

**LITHUANIA/LITUANIE/
LITUANIA**

Darius NIENIUS
Director
Ministry of Agriculture of
Lithuania
Fisheries Department
Embassy of the Republic of
Lithuania
Rome, Italy
Phone: +370 52398456/
8559052
Fax: +370 52391212/8559053
E-mail: ievak@ZUM.LT

MADAGASCAR

Georges RAFOMANANA
Secrétaire général
Ministère de la pêche et des
ressources halieutiques
Antananarivo
Phone: +261 320720173
Fax: +261 202249014
E-mail: rafo.geo@blueline.mg

Josiane RATSIMBAZAFY
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Ambassade de la République
de Madagascar
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 6620089
E-mail:
ambamad@hotmail.com

Harimandimby
RASOLONJATOVO
Directeur du Centre de
surveillance des pêches
Ministère de la pêche et de
ressources halieutiques
Antananarivo
Phone: +261 202240065
Fax: +261 202249014
E-mail: rasolo.vevey@
blueline.mg

Monsieur MONJA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent
adjoint auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06 620085
E-mail: ambamad@
hotmail.com

MALAWI

Friday NJAYA
Chief Fisheries Officer-
Planning
Lilongwe
Phone: +265 999278088
Fax: +265 1788511
E-mail: fnjaya@gmail.com

MALAYSIA/MALAISIE/ MALASIA

Head of Delegation
Datuk Hj. Suhaili HJ. LEE
Deputy Director General
Operation
Department of Fisheries
Putrajaya
Phone: +60 3 8870402/4003
Fax: +60 3 88895502
E-mail: suhaili@dof.gov.my

Dato' Ramli NAAM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 068417026/ 5764
Fax: +39 068555040
E-mail: mw.rome@embassy
malaysia.it

Azman MOHD SAAD
Agriculture Attaché
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8417026/1339
Fax: +39 06 8555110
E-mail: aaa.rome@ambasciata
malaysia.it

Shariffah Norhana SYED
MUSTAFA
Minister Counsellor
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8417026/5764
Fax: +39 06 8555040
E-mail: snorhana@kln.gov.my

Azhar MOHD ISA
Assistant Agriculture Attaché
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Malaysia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8415764/1339
Fax: +39 06 8555110
E-mail: aaa.rome@
ambasciatamalaysia.it

MALDIVES/MALDIVAS

Hussain RASHEED HASSAN
Minister for State for Fisheries
and Agriculture
Ministry of Fisheries and
Agriculture
Malé
Phone: +960 3330096
Mobile: +960 7771407
Fax: +960 3326558
E-mail: hussain.hassan@
fishagri.gov.mv

Mohamed SHIHAM ADAM
Director General
Marine Research Centre
Ministry of Fisheries,
Agriculture and Marine
Resources
Malé
Phone: +960 3313681
Fax: +960 3322509
E-mail: msadam@mrc.gov.mv

MALTA/MALTE

Michael MIFSUD
Senior Fisheries Protection
Officer
Fisheries Control Directorate
Ministry of Resources and
Rural Affairs
Valletta
Phone: +356 22031247
Fax: +356 22031209
E-mail: michael.mifsud@
gov.mt

MAURITANIA/ MAURITANIE

Azza Ahmed Cheikkould
JEDOU
Directrice
Aménagement des ressources
et de l'océanographie
(DARO)
Ministère des pêches et de
l'économie maritime
Phone: +222 22421007
E-mail: azzajiddou@yahoo.fr

Mohamed MBareck Ould
SOUEILIM
Directeur
Institut mauritanien de
recherches océanographiques
et des pêches (IMROP)
Phone: +222 22421068
Fax: +222 45745081
E-mail: mbarecks@yahoo.fr

MAURITIUS/MAURICE/ MAURICIO

Daroomalingum MAUREE
Director
Ministry of Fisheries
Port Louis
Phone: +230 2112470
Mobile: +230 2508553
Fax: +230 2081929
E-mail: dmauree@mail.
gov.mu

**MEXICO/MEXIQUE/
MÉXICO**

Miguel Angel CISNEROS
MATA
Investigador Titular del
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
(INAPESCA)
Centro Regional de
Investigaciones Pesqueras de
Guaymas
Sonora
Phone: +52 6222221021/5925
ext.114
Fax: +52 6222221021/5925
ext.114
E-mail: miguel.cisneros@
inapesca.sagarpa.gob.mx

Alejandro QUIROZ
SORIANO
Investigador Asociado
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
(Inapesca)
Distrito Federal
Phone: +52 5538719515/6
Fax: +52 5538719515/6
E-mail:
alequirozs@yahoo.com.mx

**MOROCCO/MAROC/
MARRUECOS**

Lhoussaine KHATOURI
Représentant permanent adjoint
auprès de la FAO
Representation permanente auprès
de la FAO
Ambassade du Royaume du Maroc
Rome, Italie
Phone: +39 06
4402524/3279273347
Fax: +39 06 4402695
E-mail: hkhatouri06@yahoo.fr

Abdelouahed BENABBOU
Directeur de la coopération et des
affaires juridiques
Département de la pêche maritime
Rabat
Phone: +212 537688198
Fax: +212 537688194
E-mail: benabbou@mpm.gov.ma

Abdelmalek FARAJ
Chef du laboratoire approches et
méthodes
Institut national des recherches
halieutiques
Casablanca
Phone: +212 661079909
E-mail: faraj@inrh.org.ma

Youssef OUATI
Chef
Division de la coopération
Département de la pêche maritime
Ministère de l'agriculture et
de la pêche maritime
Rabat
Phone: +212 5 37688162
Fax: +212 5 37688194
E-mail: ouati@mpm.gov.ma

MOZAMBIQUE

Gabriel Serafim MUTHISSE
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Fishery
Maputo
Fax: +258 21 325087
E-mail: agmuthisse@moz.
pesca.gov.mz

Simeao LOPES
Director-General
National Fisheries Administration
Pedroso
Phone: +258 21358000
Fax: +258 21 320335
E-mail: slopes41@hotmail.com

Laurinda Fernando Saide
BANZE
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Mozambique
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 37514675
Fax: +39 06 37514699
E-mail: lauribanze@gmail.com

Paula C. SANTANA AFONSO
Deputy Director
Fisheries Research Institute
Maputo
Phone: +258 823091540
Fax: +258 21492112
E-mail: psafonso@hotmail.com

Carla Elisa Luis MUCAVI
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Mozambique
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 37514675
Fax: +39 06 37514699
E-mail:
sec@ambasciatamozambico.it

NAMIBIA/NAMIBIE

Ulitala HIVELUAH
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine
Resources
Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 2053007
Fax: +264 61244566
E-mail: uhiveluah@mfmr.gov.na

Anna Ndinela ERASTUS
Director
Policy, Planning and Economics
Windhoek

Moses MAURIHUNGIRIRE
Director
Resource Management
Windhoek
Phone: +264 811293145
Fax: +264 61220558
E-mail: mmaurihungirire@
gmail.com

Peter AMUTENYA
Director
Fisheries Operation
Windhoek
Phone: +264 612053116
Fax: +264 61240412
E-mail: pamuntenya@mfmr.gov.na

Hashali HAMUKUAYA
Details not provided

NAURU

Charleston Dedenu Deiye
DEIYE
Chief Executive Officer
Fisheries and Marine
Resources Authority
Yaren
Phone: +674 5573055
E-mail: cdeiye@gmail.com

Monte DEPAUNE
Support Services Manager
Fisheries and Marine
Resources Authority
Yaren
Phone: +674 5573136
E-mail: monte.depaune@
naurugov.nr

**NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS/
PAÍSES BAJOS**

Reinder SCHAAP
Counsellor
Fisheries and Marine
Biodiversity
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Agriculture and Innovation
The Hague
Phone: +31 703784187
E-mail: r.h.schaap@minlnv.nl

**NEW ZEALAND/
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE/
NUEVA ZELANDIA**

Jane WILLING
Manager International
Ministry of Fisheries
Phone: +644 8194651
Fax: +644 8194644
E-mail: j.willing@fish.govt.nz

Anna FALLOON
International Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries
Wellington
Phone: +644 4702600
E-mail:
Anna.Falloon@fish.govt.nz

Alastair MACFARLANE
General Manager
Trade and Information
New Zealand Seafood Industry
Council
Phone: +64 21 687537
E-mail: alastair.macfarlane@
seafood.co.nz

Catherine MCGREGOR
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of New Zealand
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8537501
Fax: +39 06 4402984
E-mail: cathie.mcgregor@
mfat.govt.nz

NICARAGUA

Danilo ROSALES
PICHARDO
Vice Presidente Ejecutivo
Instituto Nicaraguense de
Pesca y Acuicultura (Inpesca)
Phone: +505 22442460
Fax: +505 22442552
E-mail: drosales@inpesca.
gob.ni

Julio Cesar GUEVARA
QUINTANA
Coordinador de Asuntos de
Pesca
INATUN
Managua
E-mail: juliocgq@gmail.com

Monica ROBELO RAFFONE
M.
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
República de Nicaragua
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 32110020
Fax: +39 063203041
E-mail: embanicfao@
cancilleria.gob.ni

Junior ESCOBAR FONSECA
Agregado Técnico para
Asuntos de Cooperación
Embajada de la República de
Nicaragua
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 32110020
E-mail: jescobar@cancilleria.
gob.ni

NIGER/NÍGER

Hassane HAROUNA MAIGA
Conseiller
Représentant permanent
auprès de la FAO
Représentation permanente
auprès de la FAO
Rome, Italie

NIGERIA/NIGÉRIA

Yaya OLANIRAN Y.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy Nigeria
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 6896672
Fax: +39 06 6877840
E-mail: nigeriapermrep@E-
mail.com

Abiodun WALI
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Nigeria
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 6896672
Fax: +39 06 6877840
E-mail: nigeriapermrep@E-
mail.com

**NORWAY/NORVÈGE/
NORUEGA**

Johan H. WILLIAMS
Director General
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585

Yngve TORGERSEN
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585
E-mail: Yngve.Torgersen@
fk.d.dep.no

Anne MAGNUSSON
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585
E-mail: Anne.Magnusson@
fkd.dep.no

Tore Jan RIISE
Special Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585
E-mail: Tore-jan.Riise@
fkd.dep.no

Silje REM
Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585
E-mail: silje.rem@fkd.dep.no

Einar TALLAKSEN
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 243000/1
Fax: +47 22 249580/1
E-mail: einar.tallaksen@
mfa.no

Brit FISKNES
Senior Advisor
NORAD
Oslo
E-mail: Brit.Fisknes@norad.no

Asmund BJORDAL
Research Director
Fisheries and Coastal Affairs
Institute of Marine Research
Bergen
E-mail: aasmund.bjordal@
imr.no

Alf Hakon HOEL
Director
Institute of Marine Research
Bergen
E-mail: alf.haakon.hoel@
imr.no

Aksel EIKEMO
Director
Directorate of Fisheries
Bergen
Phone: +47 91143577
E-mail: aksel.eikemo@
fiskeridir.no

Terje LOBACH
Director
Directorate of Fisheries
Bergen
E-mail: terje.lobach@
fiskeridir.no

Anne B OSLAND
Senior Advisor
Directorate of Fisheries
Bergen
E-mail: anne.osland@
fiskeridir.no

Kirsten BJORU K.R.
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Kingdom of
Norway to FAO
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 5717031
Fax: +39 06 57170326
E-mail: kibj@mfa.no

Dag Erling STAI
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22 249090
Fax: +47 22 249585
E-mail: dag-erling.stai@
fkd.dep.no

Hans Kristian AMUNDSEN
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22249090

Per Kristian ENGE
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs
Oslo
Phone: +47 22249090

OMAN/OMÁN

Ibrahim AL-BUSAIDE
Director General of Fisheries
Development
Muscat
Phone: +968 24688256
Fax: +968 24693246
E-mail: ibrahim.busaidi@
mof.gov.om

Khalfan AL-RASHDI
Head of Hatcheries
Technology
Phone: +968 24688137
E-mail: khalfanrashdi@
gmail.com

Rashid AL GHAFRI
Director of Fisheries Affairs
Albatinah Region
AL.Bidaia
Phone: +968 99745905
Fax: +968 26846705
E-mail: alghafri_03@
hotmail.com

Mahmoud RASMI
Coordinator
UN Agencies in Rome
Embassy of the Sultanate of
Oman
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 36300545
Fax: +39 06 3296802

PANAMA/PANAMÁ

Don Guido Juvenal
MARTINELLI DELLA
TOGNA
Embajador
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República de
Panamá
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 44265429
E-mail:
missionepermanentefao@
embajadadepanama.it

Alexis RODRIGUEZ
Jefe del Departamento de
Control y Cumplimiento
Autoridad Maritima
Panama City
Phone: +507 5015081
E-mail: alrodriguez@
amp.gob.pa

PERU/PÉROU/PERÚ

Manuel ALVAREZ
Representante Permanente
Alternante ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 80691510
E-mail: malvarez@vra.gub.pe

PHILIPPINES/FILIPINAS

Noel DE LUNA
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Philippines
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 39746717
Fax: +39 06 39889925
E-mail: philrepfao@libero.it

Esteban PAGARAN
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Philippines
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 39746717
Fax: +39 06 39740872
E-mail: philrepfao@libero.it

POLAND/POLOGNE/ POLONIA

Leszek DYBIEC
Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Warsaw
E-mail: leszek.dybiec@
minrol.gov.pl

Zbigniew KARNICKI
Chief Advisor on Common
Fisheries Policy
of European Union
Sea Fisheries Institute
Gdynia
Phone: +48 0 587356219
Fax: +48 0 587356110
E-mail: zkarnicki@mir.
gdynia.pl

Wojciech OSTROWSKI
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Poland
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3384855278
E-mail: faopoland@alice.it

Lidia KACALSKA-
BIENKOWSKA
Head
Unit Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Warsaw
E-mail: l.kacalska@minrol.
gov.pl

Magdalena KROPIWNICKA
Technical Adviser
to POLBIOS
(EU Presidency 2011)
Warsaw
E-mail:
magdalena@foodandclimate.
org

PORTUGAL

Emilia BATISTA
Direzione Generale Pesca
Ministry of Agriculture
Lisbona
Phone: +351 213035850
Fax: +351 213035922
E-mail: ebatista@
dgpa.min-agricultura.pt

Egidio BARBEITO J. E.
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Portuguese
Republic
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 84480219
Fax: +39 06 8417404
E-mail: eb@embportroma.it

QATAR

Akeel HATOOR
Alternate
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Embassy of the State of Qatar
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 44249450
Fax: +39 06 44245273
E-mail: info@qatarembassy.it

REPUBLIC OF KOREA/ RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE/ REPÚBLICA DE COREA

Jang-woo SEO
Director
Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Seoul
Phone: +82 2 5002408
Fax: +82 2 5039174
E-mail: seojw33169@yahoo.
co.kr

Ki-hwan KIM
Deputy Director
Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Seoul
Phone: +82 2 5002412
Fax: +82 2 5039174
E-mail: volunteer33@korea.kr

Hyo-jung JUNG
Assistant Director
Ministry of Food, Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Seoul
Phone: +82 2 5002413
Fax: 82 2 5039174
E-mail: idletomato@korea.kr

Yong-min SHIN
Advisor
Pukyong National University
Busan
Phone: +82 516295310
Fax: +82 516295315
E-mail: sym@korea.com

Min-gyu PARK
Professor of Law
Inha University
Incheon
Phone: +82 10 20352339
E-mail: trade@inha.ac.kr

**ROMANIA/ROUMANIE/
RUMANIA**

Marian Sorinel MANAILA
President
National Agency for Fisheries
and Aquaculture
Bucharest

Carmen CONSTANTIN
Counsellor
European Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Bucharest
Phone: +40 21 3072300
Fax: +40 21 3134766

Alina Stefana CATANA
Deputy
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Romania
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8073082
Fax: +39 06 8084995

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION/
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE/
FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA**

Alexander FOMIN
Deputy Head
Federal Agency for Fisheries
Moscow
Phone: +7 4959870521
Fax: +7 4956281904
E-mail: fomin@fishcom.ru

Kamil BEKYASHEV
Senior Specialist Researcher
Russian Federal Research
Institute of Fisheries and
Oceanography (VNIRO)
Moscow
Phone: +7 4992649387
Fax: +7 4992649187
E-mail: profbek@mail.ru

Evgeny KATS
Head
Legal Department of the
Federal Agency for Fisheries
Moscow
Phone: +7 4959870542
Fax: +7 4956281904
E-mail: kats@fishcom.ru

Alexander OKHANOV
Alternate
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Russian
Federation
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8557749
Fax: +39 06 8557749
E-mail: rusfishfao@mail.ru

Olga SEDYKH
Deputy
Head of the International Law
Division and Cooperation
Department
Federal Agency for Fisheries
Moscow
Phone: +7 4956213180
Fax: +7 4956289891
E-mail: so@fishcom.ru

**SAN MARINO/SAINT-
MARIN**

Marina EMILIANI
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
San Marino
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8072511/5131
Fax: +39 06 8070072
E-mail: m.emiliani@ambrsm.it

**SAUDI ARABIA/ARABIE
SAOUDITE/ARABIA
SAUDITA**

Anwar Essa AL SUNAIHER
Director General
Aquaculture Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh
Phone: +966 1 4031635
Fax: +966 1 4031635
E-mail: sunaiher@yahoo.com

Abdelaziz bin Abdallah AL
YAHYA
Director General
Fisheries Management
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh
E-mail: aayahya@gmail.com

Mohamad Saad HAZZAA
Department Aquaculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Jeddah
Phone: +966 2342082
Fax: +966 2342082
E-mail:
hazzaamohamad@yahoo.com

Waleed Bin Khaled A.
KRIMLY
Director
Fisheries Development
Division
Marine Fisheries Management
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh
E-mail: waleed56@gmail.com

SENEGAL/SÉNÉGAL

Ciré Amadou KANE
Secrétaire Permanent
CSRP
Dakar
Phone: +221 33 8640475
Fax: +221 33 8640477
E-mail: csrp@gmail.com

Ousmane NDIAYE
Directeur des pêches
maritimes
Dakar

SEYCHELLES

Peter SINON
Minister
Ministry of Investment,
Natural Resources and
Industry
Mahé
Phone: +248 676299
Fax: +248 225994
E-mail: peter.sinon@gov.sc

Roy CLARISSE
Deputy Managing Director
Seychelles Fishing Authority
Mahé
Phone: +248 670300
Mobile: +248 511725
Fax: +248 224508
E-mail: royc@sfa.sc

Finley RACOMBO
Acting CEO of Seychelles
Fishing Authority
Mahé
E-mail: fracomnbo@sfa.sc

Jan ROBINSON
Manager
Fisheries Research
Seychelles Fishing Authority
Fishing Port
Mahé
Phone: +248 670338
E-mail: jrobinson@sfa.sc

**SLOVAKIA/SLOVAQUIE/
ESLOVAQUIA**

Jan SUKOVSKY
Chief State Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development of the
Slovak Republic
Department of Animal
Production (Aquaculture and
Marine Fisheries)
Bratislava
Phone: +42 12 59266553
E-mail: jan.sukovsky@
land.gov.sk

Denisa MEDVEDOVA
Counsellor
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Slovak
Republic
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 36715206
E-mail: denisa.medvedova@
mzv.sk

**SLOVENIA/SLOVÉNIE/
ESLOVENIA**

Rok TOMSIC
Counsellor (Economic Affairs)
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 80914310
Fax: +39 06 8081741
E-mail: rok.tomsic@gov.si

SOMALIA/SOMALIE

Mohamed MOALLIN
HASSAN
Minister for Fisheries, Marine
Resources and Environment
Mogadishu
E-mail: samodoon@
gmail.com

Abukar AWES
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Somalia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 063220651
Fax: +39 06 3200898

Musse CABDULLAHI
Advisor of the Minister
Rome, Italy
E-mail: mcabdullahi@
hotmail.com

Hussein NURHASSAN
Ambassador Extraordinary to
Quirinale
Embassy of the Republic of
Somalia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 063220651
Fax: +39 06 3200898
E-mail: Somalrep@gmail.com

**SOUTH AFRICA/AFRIQUE
DU SUD/SUDÁFRICA**

Mqondisi NGADELA
Director Compliance
Department of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Cape Town
Phone: +27 21 4023070/
486 5139821
E-mail: mqondisin@daff.gov.za

Beleman SEMOLI
Director
Department of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Cape Town
Phone: +27 21 4023534
Fax: +27 21 4023690
E-mail: belemanes@daff.gov.za

Saasa PHEEHA
Director
Offshore and Highseas
Fisheries Management
Phone: +27 21 4023563
Fax: +27 21 4023618
E-mail: Saasap@daff.gov.za

SPAIN/ESPAGNE/ESPAÑA

Alberto LOPEZ GARCIA
ASENJO A.
Embajador
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de España
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 6878762
Fax: +39 06 6873076
E-mail: repfao@tiscali.it

Carmen ASECIO
CASTILLEJO
Subdirectora General Adjunta
de Acuerdos y ORP
Secretaría General del Mar
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
y Medio Rural y Marino
Madrid
Phone: +34 91 3476175
Fax: +34 91 3476042
E-mail: casencio@mapya.es

Elias GUIA
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de España
Roma, Italia
Phone: +39 06 6869539
Fax: +39 06 6873076
E-mail: eliasguia@tiscali.it

Aurora DE BLAS
CARBONERO
Subdirectora General de
Economía Pesquera
Secretaría General del Mar
Ministerio del Medio Ambiente
y Medio Rural y Marino
Madrid
Phone: +34 91 3473681
Fax: +34 91 3478445
E-mail: comerpm@mapa.es

MERCEDES ALONSO
FRAYLE
Subdirectora General de las
Organizaciones y Acuerdos
Internacionales
Secretaría General del Mar
Madrid
Phone: +91 3476040
Fax: +91 3476042
E-mail: malonsof@marm.es

SRI LANKA

Rajitha SENARATNE
Minister for Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Development
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Development
Colombo
Phone: +94 112 446188
Fax: +94 112 446187
E-mail: drrajsenaratne@
hotmail.com

Kondaramage UJITH
ANURADHA
Managing Director
Cey-Nor Foundation Ltd
Colombo
Phone: +94 112 439021
Fax: +94 112 445582
E-mail: ceynornet@sltnet.lk

Jayantha CHANDRASOMA
Chairman
National Aquaculture
Development Authority of
Sri Lanka
Pelawatte, Battaramulla
Phone: +94 11 2786497
Fax: +94 11 2786497
E-mail: chairman@naqda.
gov.lk

Damitha DE ZOYSA
Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Development
Colombo
Phone: +94 112 327060
Fax: +94 112 541184
E-mail: secretary@fisheries.
gov.lk

Gothami INDIKADAHENA
Deputy
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8554560
Fax: +39 06 84241670
E-mail:
gothamiindikadahena@
yahoo.com

Sujatha SENARATNE
Deputy Director
National Hospital
Colombo
E-mail: secretary@fisheries.
gov.lk

Hemantha
WARNAKULASURIYA H.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Sri Lanka
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 884080/
8554560
Fax: +39 06 84241670
E-mail: slembassy@tiscali.it

SUDAN/SOUDAN/SUDÁN

Mohamed ELFAKI ELNOR
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 33222138
Fax: +39 06 3340841

SWEDEN/SUÈDE/SUECIA

Cecilia NORDIN VAN
GANSBERGHE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Sweden
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 441941
Fax: +39 06 44194762

Gunilla GREIG
Advisor
International Development
Cooperation Unit
Swedish Board of Fisheries
Göteborg

Staffan LARSSON
Advisor
Swedish Board of Fisheries
Göteborg

Reine JOHANSSON
Advisor
Federation of Swedish
Fishermen
Göteborg

Anna LARSSON
Alternate
Ministry of Rural Affairs
Stockholm

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC/
RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE
SYRIENNE/REPÚBLICA
ÁRABE SIRIA**

Ammar AWAD
First Secretary
MFA
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 67498039
Fax: +39 06 6794989
E-mail:
info@ambasciatadisiria.it

**THAILAND/THAÏLANDE/
TAILANDIA**

Somying PIUMSOMBUN
Director General
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and
Cooperatives
Bangkok
Phone: +662 5620523
Fax: +662 5620493
E-mail: somyingp@
fisheries.go.th

Joompol SANGUANSIN
Director
Marine Fisheries Research and
Development Bureau
Department of Fisheries Kaset
Klang
Bangkok
Phone: +662 5620542
Fax: +662 5620542
E-mail: joompols@
fisheries.go.th

Waraporn PROMPOJ
Director
Fisheries Foreign Affairs
Division
Department of Fisheries
Bangkok
Phone: +662 579 8215
Fax: +662 562 0529
E-mail: wprompoj@
yahoo.com

Malinee SMITHRITHEE
Fisheries Biologist
Professional Level Coastal
Fisheries
Research and Development
Bureau
Department of Fisheries
Bangkok
Phone: +662 562 0523
Fax: +662 562 0493
E-mail: malinee_pom@
hotmail.com

Sairak CHAILANGGAR
Counsellor (Agriculture)
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Office of Agricultural Affairs
Royal Thai Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: + 39 06 30363687
Fax: +39 06 30312700

Tritaporn KHOMAPAT
Minister (Agriculture)
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Office of Agricultural Affairs
Royal Thai Embassy
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 30363687
Fax: +39 06 30312700
E-mail: thagri.rome@
gmail.com

Piyawat NAIGOWIT
Second Secretary and
Alternate
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Rome, Italy
E-mail: dome117@
hotmail.com

TONGA

Lord VAEA
Minister for Agriculture, Food,
Forests and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Food,
Forests and Fisheries
Nuku'alofa
Phone: +676 27400
Fax: +676 27401
E-mail: minister@mafff.gov.to
albertvaea@hotmail.com

Sione VAILALA MATOTO
CEO for Agriculture and
Food, Forests and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Food,
Forests and Fisheries
Nuku'alofa
Phone: +676 24644
Fax: +676 23888
E-mail: vailala@kalianet.to

**TURKEY/TURQUIE/
TURQUÍA**

Durali KOCAK
Deputy Director General
Protection and control
Ankara
Phone: +90 312 4186318
Fax: +90 312 4186318
E-mail: duralik@kkgm.gov.tr

Hasan KILIC
Specialist
Ankara
Phone: +90 312 4174176/5051
Fax: +90 312 4186318
E-mail: hasank@kkgm.gov.tr

Fazil DUSUNCELI
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Turkey
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3200341015
Fax: +39 06 4941526
E-mail: turkishagri.rome@
yahoo.com

UGANDA/UGANDA

Robert SABIITI
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Embassy of Uganda
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3351582795
Fax: +39 06 3213688
E-mail: rsabiiti@yahoo.com;
ugandaembassyrome@
hotmail.com

UKRAINE/UCRANIA

Victor DRONYK
Head
State Agency for Fisheries
Phone: +38 044 4866243
Fax: +38 044 4820148
E-mail: d-v-s-69@yandex.ru

Alternate(s)
Andriy CHUKLIN
Head
Department of Aquaculture
State Agency for Fisheries
Phone: +38 044 4846332
Fax: +38 044 4846350
E-mail: chuklin_a@ukr.net

Yana SKIBINETSKA
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of Ukraine
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 8413345
Fax: +39 06 8547539
E-mail: emb_it@mfa.gov.ua

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES/ ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS/ EMIRATOS ÁRABES UNIDOS

Saif Mohammed AL SHARA
Assistant Undersecretary
Water Resources and Nature
Protection Affairs (MOEW)
Abu Dhabi
Phone: +971 42148444
Fax: +971 42655822
E-mail: smalshara@
moew.gov.ae

Ebrahim Abdulla JAMALI
Director of Marine
Environment Research
Centre (MOEW)
Ministry of Environmental
Water
Abu Dhabi
Phone: +971 67655881
Fax: +971 67655581
E-mail: ealjamli@
moew.gov.ae

UNITED KINGDOM/ ROYAUME-UNI/REINO UNIDO

Richard PARSONS
Head
International Sustainable
Marine and Fisheries Team
Department for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs
London
Phone: +44 207 2383129
E-mail: richard.parsons@
defra.gsi.gov.uk

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA/RÉPUBLIQUE- UNIE DE TANZANIE/ REPÚBLICA UNIDA DE TANZANÍA

Wilfred NGIRWA
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the United
Republic of Tanzania
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3391912594
E-mail: wilfredngirwa@
yahoo.co.uk

Fatma SOBO
Assistant Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Livestock
Development and Fisheries
Dar-es-Salaam
Phone: +255 784285748
Fax: +255 2860471
E-mail: fsoboster@gmail.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE/ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

David A. BALTON
Ambassador for Oceans and
Fisheries
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Fisheries
Department of State
Washington DC
Phone: +1 202 6472396
Fax: +1 202 6470217
E-mail: baltonda@state.gov

William GIBBONS-FLY
Director
Office of Marine Conservation
Bureau of Oceans
Environment and Science
Washington DC
Phone: +1 202 6472335
Fax: +1 202 7367350
E-mail: gibbons-flywh@
state.gov

Gerald LEAPE
Senior Officer
International Marine Policy
Pew Environment Group
Washington DC
Phone: +1 202 8871346
Mobile: +1 202 4313938
Fax: +1 202 5522299
E-mail: gleape@pewtrusts.org

Rebecca LENT
Director
Office of International Affairs
National Marine Fisheries
Service
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD
Phone: +1 301 7139090
Fax: +1 301 7132313
E-mail: rebecca.lent@
noaa.gov

Cheri McCARTY
International Policy Advisor
Office of International Affairs
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA)
Silver Spring, MD
Phone: +1 301 7139090
Mobile: +1 240 4293825
Fax: +1 301 7139106
E-mail: cheri.mccarty@noaa.gov

Jean-Pierre PLÉ
Deputy Director
NOAA Fisheries
Office of International Affairs
US Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD
Phone: +1 301 7139090
ext. 116
Mobile: +1 202 8216138
Fax: +1 202 7139013
E-mail: Jean-Pierre.Ple@noaa.gov

Greg SCHNEIDER
Senior International Trade
Specialist
Office of International Affairs
NOAA Fisheries
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD
Phone: +1 301 7139090
Fax: +1 301 7132313
E-mail: Greg.Schneider@noaa.gov

Dean SWANSON
Chief
International Fisheries Affairs
Division
Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Silver Spring, MD
Phone: +1 301 7132276
Fax: +1 301 7132313
E-mail: Dean.Swanson@noaa.gov

Stetson TINKHAM
Director
International Affairs
National Fisheries Institute
McLean, VA
Phone: +1 703 7528892
Fax: +1 703 7527583
E-mail: stinkham@nfi.org

Deirdre M. WARNER-
KRAMER
Senior Foreign Affairs Officer
Office of Marine Conservation
(OES/OMC)
Department of State
Washington DC
Phone: +1 202 6472883
Fax: +1 202 7367350
E-mail: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

URUGUAY

Daniel GILARDONI
Director General
Dirección Nacional de
Recursos Acuáticos
Ministerio de Ganadería,
Agricultura y Pesca
Montevideo
Phone: +39 06 4821776
Fax: +39 06 4823695
E-mail: dgilardoni@dinara.gob.uy

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)/ VENEZUELA (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU)/ VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)

Gladys URBANEJA DURAN
G.F.
Embajadora
Representante Permanente
ante la FAO
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la República
Bolivariana de Venezuela
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 3241676
Fax: +39 06 80690022
E-mail: embavenefao@iol.it

Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO
M.E.
Segundo Secretario
Representación Permanente
ante la FAO
Embajada de la Republica
Bolivariana de Venezuela
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 3241676
Fax: +39 06 806 90022
E-mail: embavenefao@iol.it

VIET NAM

Pham Anh TUAN
Deputy Director General
General Fisheries
Administration
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Hanoi
Phone: +84 437245114
E-mail: tuanpa.khin@mard.gov.vn

Pham Thi Tuyet HOA
Deputy Director-General
International Cooperation
Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Hanoi
E-mail: tuyethoa.htqt@mard.gov.vn

Nguyen Thi Thu HUONG
Expert
Legal Legislation Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Hanoi
E-mail: thuhuong2hna@yahoo.com.vn

Nguyen Thi Trang NHUNG
General Fisheries Deputy
Director
Science and Technology
Department Administration
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Hanoi
Phone: +84 4 37245374
Fax: +84 4 37245374
E-mail: tranghhung73@yahoo.com

Nguyen chi THANH
Cousellor
Deputy Permanent
Representative to FAO
Embassy of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam
Rome, Italy
E-mail: thanh8vn@yahoo.com

YEMEN/YÉMEN

Abdulraoof Mohamed
BINBREK
Assistant Deputy Minister for
Quality
Ministry of Fish Wealth
Sanaa
Phone: +96 773 3218521
E-mail: binbrek@yemen.
net.ye

Nabil Ali ABDULKADER
Counselor
Responsible for Cultural
Affairs and Communication
c/o Embassy of the Republic
of Yemen
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 44231679
Fax: +39 06 44234763
E-mail: segreteria@
yemenembassy.it

ZAMBIA/ZAMBIE

Bradford MACHILA
Minister
Ministry of Livestock and
Fisheries Development
Lusaka
Phone: +26 0211250274
E-mail: zamrome@rdn.it

Samuel MAPALA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Zambia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 36002590
Fax: +39 06 97613035
E-mail: zamrome@rdn.it

Patrick NGALANDE
Acting Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Livestock and
Fisheries
Lusaka
Phone: +39 06 36002590
Fax: +39 06 97613035
E-mail: zamrome@rdn.it

John MWANGO
Chief
Aquaculture Research Officer
Ministry of Livestock and
Fisheries
Lusaka
Phone: +39 06 36002590
Fax: +39 06 97613035
E-mail: zamrome@rdn.it

Trevor SICHOMBO
First Secretary
Permanent Representative to
FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Zambia
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 36002590
Fax: +39 06 97613035
E-mail: zamrome@rdn.it

ZIMBABWE

Tendai NHEKEDZA
Counselor
Alternate Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent Representation to
FAO
Embassy of the Republic of
Zimbabwe
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 68308282
Fax: +39 06 6830832
E-mail: tnhekedza@yahoo.
co.uk

ASSOCIATE MEMBER **MEMBRE ASSOCIÉ** **MIEMBRO ASOCIADO**

FAROE ISLANDS/ÎLES FÉROÉ (LES)/ISLAS FERÖE

Elin MORTENSEN
Advisor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Faroe Islands
Tórshavn
Phone: +298 306142
E-mail: elinm@mfa.fo

Jens Helgi TOFTUM
Advisor
Ministry of Fisheries,
Faroe Islands
Tórshavn
Phone: +298 553240
E-mail: jens.helgi.toftum@
fisk.fo

**OBSERVERS FROM
FAO MEMBER
NATIONS/
OBSERVATEURS
D'ÉTATS MEMBRES DE
LA FAO/
OBSERVADORES DE
LOS ESTADOS
MIEMBROS DE LA FAO**

**EQUATORIAL
GUINEA/GUINÉE
ÉQUATORIALE/
GUINEA ECUATORIAL**

Crisantos OBAMA
Permanent
Representative to FAO
Permanent
Representation to FAO
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3312491870
E-mail: obamarefao@
gmail.com

**HOLY SEE/SAINT-
SIÈGE/SANTA SEDE**

S.E. Mons. Luigi
TRAVAGLINO
Observateur permanent
auprès de la FAO
Bureau de l'Observateur
permanent du Saint-
Siège auprès de la FAO
Cité du Vatican
Phone: +39 06 69887234
Fax: +39 06 69887195
E-mail: osserfao@
mhsfao.va

Vincenzo BUONOMO
Adviser
Observateur permanent
du Saint-Siège auprès
de la FAO
Bureau de l'Observateur
permanent du Saint-
Siège auprès de la FAO
Cité du Vatican
Phone: +39 06 69887234
Fax: +39 06 69887195
E-mail: osserfao@
mhsfao.va

Lelio BERNARDI
Adviser
Observateur permanent
de la FAO
Bureau de l'Observateur
permanent du Saint-
Siège auprès de la FAO
Cité du Vatican
Phone: +39 06 69887234
Fax: +39 06 69887195
E-mail: osserfao@
mhsfao.va

Achille SCHETTINI
Adviser
Observateur permanent
auprès de la FAO
Bureau de l'Observateur
permanent du Saint-
Siège auprès de la FAO
Cité du Vatican
Phone: +39 06 69887234
Fax: +39 06 69887195
E-mail: osserfao@
mhsfao.va

José Cleberson DE
FREITAS SILVA
Adviser
Observateur permanent
auprès de la FAO
Bureau de l'Observateur
permanent du Saint-
Siège auprès de la FAO
Cité du Vatican
Phone: +39 06 69887234
Fax: +39 06 69887195
E-mail: osserfao@
mhsfao.va

**REPRESENTATIVES OF
UNITED NATIONS AND
SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES/
REPRÉSENTANTS DES
NATIONS UNIES ET DES
INSTITUTIONS
SPÉCIALISÉES/
REPRESENTANTES DE
NACIONES UNIDAS Y
ORGANISMOS
ESPECIALIZADOS**

**UNITED NATIONS/
ORGANISATION DES
NATIONS UNIES/
ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS**

Michael SHEWCHUK
Legal Officer
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
New York, United States of
America
Phone: +1 917 3672255
Fax: +1 212 9635847
E-mail: shewchuk@un.org

**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME/
PROGRAMME DES
NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT/
PROGRAMA DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA EL MEDIO
AMBIENTE**

Jihyun LEE
Environmental Affairs
Officer for Marine and
Coastal Biodiversity
Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological
Diversity
United Nations
Environment Programme
Montreal, Canada
Phone: +1 514 2882220
Fax: +1 514 2886588
E-mail: jihyun.lee@cbd.int

Takehiro NAKAMURA
Coordinator
Marine Ecosystems Unit
Marine and Coastal
Ecosystem Branch
Division of Environmental
Policy Implementation
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 7623886
Mob. +254 727531240
Fax: +254 20 7624249
E-mail:
takehiro.nakamura@
unep.org

Louisa WOOD
Head
Marine Assessment and
Decision Support
Cambridge, United
Kingdom
Phone: +44 7872 542106
E-mail: louisa.wood@
unep-wcmc.org

**WORLD BANK GROUP/
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE
MONDIALE/GRUPO DEL
BANCO MUNDIAL**

James L. ANDERSON
Lead of Fisheries Specialist
Washington DC, United
States of America
Phone: +1 202 4733470
Fax: +1 202 4776391
E-mail: janderson8@
worldbank.org

Michael ARBUCKLE
Senior Fisheries Specialist
Washington DC, United
States of America
Phone: +1 202 4737672
Fax: +1 202 4776391
E-mail: marbuckle@
worldbank.org

Tim BOSTOCK
Senior Fisheries Specialist
International Development
Washington DC, United
States of America
E-mail: tim.bostock@
talktalk.net

Randall BRUMMETT
Senior Fisheries Specialist
Washington DC, United
States of America
Phone: +1 202 4732853
Fax: +1 202 4776391
E-mail: rbrummett@
worldbank.org

Jingjie CHU
Young Professional
Washington DC, United
States of America
Phone: +1 202 4733965
Fax: +1 202 4776391
E-mail:
jchu1@worldbank.org

Kieran KELLEHER
Senior Fisheries Specialist
Washington DC, United
States of America
Phone: +1 202 4739180
Fax: +1 202 4776391
E-mail:
kkelleher@worldbank.org

**WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION/
ORGANISATION
MONDIALE DE LA
SANTÉ/ORGANIZACIÓN
MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD**

Allyn Lise TAYLOR
Geneva, Switzerland

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION/
ORGANISATION
MONDIALE DU
COMMERCE/
ORGANIZACIÓN
MUNDIAL DEL
COMERCIO**

Wilf SWARZ
Research Officer
Center William Rappard
Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: +44 22 7395992
E-mail: williamswarz@
wto.org

**OBSERVERS FROM
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS/
OBSERVATEURS
D'ORGANISATIONS
INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES/OBSERVADORES
DE LAS
ORGANIZACIONES
INTERGUBERNAMENTALES**

**AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK/BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT/BANCO
AFRICANO DE DESARROLLO**

Felix MARTTIN
Senior Fisheries Officer
Tunis, Tunisia
Phone: +216 71102004
Fax: +216 71332210

**AFRICAN UNION/UNION
AFICAINE/UNIÓN
AFRICANA**

Nancy GITONGA
RAC Coordinator
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 3674000
Fax: +254 20 3674341
E-mail: nancy.gitonga@
au_ibar.org

Simplice NOUALA FONKOU
Chief
Animal Production Officer
Nairobi, Kenya

**AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF
ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

Warren PAPWORTH
Executive Secretary
Tasmania, Australia
Phone: +61 439 323505
Fax: +61 3 62335497
E-mail: warren.papworth@
acap.org

**ASIA PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION/COMMISSION
DES PÊCHES POUR L'ASIE ET
LE PACIFIQUE/COMISIÓN DE
PESCA PARA ASIA-PACÍFICO**

Simon FUNGE SMITH
APFIC Secretary
Senior Fishery Officer
Regional Office for Asia
and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
Phone: +66 (0)2 697 4149

**BAY OF BENGAL
PROGRAMME**

Yugraj YADAVA
Director
Tamil Nadu, India
Phone: +91 44 24936188
Fax: +91 44 24936102
E-mail:
Yugraj.Yadava@bobbigo.org

**CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY/
COMMUNAUTÉ DES
CARAÏBES/COMUNIDAD DEL
CARIBE**

Stan CROTHERS
Consultant
The World Bank
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 64 43843844
E-mail: crothers@xtra.go.nz

**CENTRAL AMERICAN
ORGANIZATION OF THE
FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE SECTOR/
ORGANISATION DU SECTEUR
DES PÊCHES ET DE
L'AQUACULTURE DE
L'ISTHME CENTRAMÉRICAIN/
ORGANIZACIÓN DEL SECTOR
PESQUERO Y ACUÍCOLA DEL
ISTMO CENTROAMERICANO**

Mario GONZALEZ RECINOS
Director Regional de Pesca y
Acuicultura (SICA/OSPESCA)
San Salvador, El Salvador
Phone: +503 22488840
Fax: +503 22488899
E-mail: mgonzalez@sica.int

**CENTRE FOR MARKETING
INFORMATION AND
ADVISORY SERVICES FOR
FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE
ARAB REGION/CENTRE POUR
LES SERVICES
D'INFORMATION ET DE
CONSULTATION SUR LA
COMMERCIALISATION DES
PRODUITS DE LA PÊCHE
POUR LA RÉGION ARABE**

Abdellatif BELKOUCH
Managing Director
Casablanca, Morocco
Phone: +212 552 540856/
440386
Fax: +212 522 540855
E-mail: abdellatif.belkouch@
infosamak.org

**CENTRE FOR MARKETING
INFORMATION AND
ADVISORY SERVICES FOR
FISHERY PRODUCTS IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN/CENTRE POUR
LES SERVICES
D'INFORMATION ET DE
CONSULTATION SUR LA
COMMERCIALISATION DES
PRODUITS DE LA PÊCHE EN
AMÉRIQUE ET DANS LES
CARAÏBES/CENTRO PARA
LOS SERVICIOS DE
INFORMACION Y
ASESORAMIENTO SOBRE LA
COMERCIALIZACION DE LOS
PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS EN
AMERICA LATINA Y EL
CARIBE**

Graciela PEREIRA
Director Assistant
Montevideo, Uruguay
Phone: +598 29028701
Fax: +598 29030501
E-mail: Graciela.Pereira@
infopesca.org

Roland WIEFELS
Director
Montevideo, Uruguay
Phone: +598 29028701
Fax: +598 29030501
E-mail: Roland.Wiefelf@
infopesca.org

**COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING
RESOURCES/COMMISSION
POUR LA CONSERVATION
DE LA FAUNE ET DE LA
FLORE MARINES DE
L'ANTARCTIQUE/COMISIÓN
PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE
LOS RECURSOS MARINOS
VIVOS DEL ANTÁRTICO**

Andrew WRIGHT
Executive Secretary
Tasmania, Australia
Phone: +61 3 62101111
Fax: +61 3 62248144
E-mail: andrew_wright@
ccamlr.org

**COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA/
COMMISSION POUR LA
CONSERVATION DU THON
ROUGE DU SUD/COMISIÓN
PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN
DEL ATÚN DEL SUR**

Robert KENNEDY
Executive Secretary
Deakin West, Australia
Phone: +61 2 62828396
Fax: +61 2 62828407
E-mail: rkennedy@ccsbt.org

Ted Tien-Hsiang TSAI
Advisor
Deakin West, Australia
Phone: +61 2 62828396
Fax: +61 2 62828407
E-mail: ted@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**COMMISSION RÉGIONALE
DES PÊCHES DU GOLFE DE
GUINÉE**

Emile ESSEMA
Secrétaire exécutif
Phone: +241 07062364
E-mail: essemile@yahoo.fr

**COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
DU BÉTAIL, DE LA VIANDE
ET DES RESSOURCES
HALIEUTIQUES EN CEMAC
(CEBEVIRHA)**

Gabriel N'GOMA
Conseiller technique en pêche
N'Djamena, Tchad
Phone: ngoma_gabriel@lutmail.fr

Manuel N'cogo OBONO
Directeur de la pêche et
l'aquaculture
N'Djamena, Tchad

**COMMITTEE FOR INLAND
FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA**

John Frederic MOEHL
Secretary
Senior Aquaculture Expert
Office of the Regional
Representative
Regional Office for Africa (RAF)
Accra, Ghana
Phone: +233 24 4331746

**COMMON FUND FOR
COMMODITIES/FONDS
COMMUN POUR LES
PRODUITS DE BASE/FONDO
COMÚN PARA LOS
PRODUCTOS BÁSICOS**

Nianjun SHEN
Associate Project Manager
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 205754952
Fax: +31 206760231
E-mail: apo@common-fund.org

**CONFÉRENCE
MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA
COOPÉRATION
HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES
ÉTATS AFRICAINS
RIVERAINS DE L'OCÉAN
ATLANTIQUE**

Hachim EL AYOUBI
Secrétaire exécutif
Rabat, Morocco
Phone: +212 537 688328/30
Fax: +212 537 68 83 29
E-mail: secretariat@comhafat.org

Masaki OIKAWA
Fisheries Expert Executive
Secretariat
Rabat, Morocco
Phone: +212 537 688331
Fax: +212 537 688329
E-mail: oikawamasakichofu@
yahoo.co.jp

**CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA/
CONVENTION SUR LE
COMMERCE
INTERNATIONAL DES
ESPÈCES DE FAUNE ET DE
FLORE SAUVAGES
MENACÉES D'EXTINCTION/
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL
COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL
DE ESPECIES AMENAZADAS
DE FAUNA Y FLORA
SILVESTRES**

David H. W. MORGAN
Chief, Scientific
Services Team
CITES Secretariat
Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9178123
Fax: +41 22 7973417
E-mail: david.morgan@cites.org

John Erik SCANLON
Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9178119
Fax: +41 22 7973417

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES/
COMMUNAUTÉ
ÉCONOMIQUE DES ÉTATS
D'AFRIQUE CENTRALE/
COMUNIDAD ECONÓMICA
DEL ÁFRICA CENTRAL**

Georges MBA-ASSEKO
Fishery Officer
Libreville, Gabon
Phone: +241 06 611140/
07 020129
Fax: +241 444732
E-mail: gmbasseko@yahoo.com

EUROFISH

Aina AFANASJEVA
Director
International Organization for the
Development of Fisheries in
Central and Eastern Europe
Copenhagen, Denmark
Phone: + 45 33377768
Fax: + 45 33377756
E-mail: aina.afanasjeva@
eurofish.dk

**FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR
THE WEST CENTRAL GULF
OF GUINEA**

Philippe CACAUD
MCS Adviser
Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 479299350
E-mail: pcacaud@aol.com

Ndaje Seraphin DEDI
Secretary General
Accra, Ghana
Phone: +233 207586321
E-mail: sdedi.nadje@yahoo.fr

**FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR
THE EASTERN CENTRAL
ATLANTIC/COMITÉ DES
PÊCHES POUR
L'ATLANTIQUE CENTRE-
EST/COMITÉ DE PESCA PARA
EL ATLÁNTICO CENTRO-
ORIENTAL**

Alhaji M. JALLOW
Secretary
Senior Fishery Officer
Office of the Regional
Representative
Regional Office for Africa (RAF)
Accra, Ghana
Phone: +233 (0)21 675000
Fax: +233 (0)21 7010944

**GENERAL FISHERIES
COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN/
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE
DES PÊCHES POUR LA
MÉDITERRANÉE/COMISION
GENERAL DE PESCA DEL
MEDITERRANEO**

Abdellah SROUR
Acting Deputy Executive
Secretary
FAO Headquarters
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 57055730
E-mail: abdellah.sroure@fao.org

**INDIAN OCEAN TUNA
COMMISSION/COMMISSION
DES THONS DE L'OCEAN
INDIEN/COMISIÓN DEL ATÚN
PARA EL OCÉANO INDICO**

Alejandro ANGANUZZI
Executive Secretary
Victoria, Seychelles
Phone: +248 225494
Fax: +248 224364
E-mail: aai@iotc.org

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL
TUNA COMMISSION/
COMMISSION
INTERAMÉRICAINNE DU THON
TROPICAL/COMISIÓN
INTERAMERICANA DEL
ATÚN TROPICAL**

Guillermo COMPEAN
Director of Investigation
La Jolla, United States of America
Phone: +1 858 5467100
Fax: +1 858 5467133
E-mail: gcompean@iattc.org

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION FOR
MARKETING INFORMATION
AND COOPERATION
SERVICES FOR FISHERY
PRODUCTS IN AFRICA/
ORGANISATION
INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
D'INFORMATION ET DE
COOPÉRATION POUR LA
COMMERCIALISATION DES
PRODUITS DE LA PÊCHE EN
AFRIQUE/ORGANIZACIÓN
INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE
INFORMACIÓN Y
COOPERACIÓN PARA LA
COMERCIALIZACIÓN DE LOS
PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS EN
ÁFRICA**

Satish HANOOMANJEE
Team Leader
Windhoek, Namibia
Phone: +294 61279434
Fax: +264 61 279430
E-mail: s.hanoomanjee@
infosia.org.na

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION FOR
MARKETING INFORMATION
AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY
SERVICES FOR FISHERY
PRODUCTS IN THE ASIA AND
PACIFIC REGION/
ORGANISATION
INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
DE RENSEIGNEMENTS ET DE
CONSEILS TECHNIQUES
POUR LA
COMMERCIALISATION DES
PRODUITS DE LA PÊCHE EN
ASIE ET DANS LE
PACIFIQUE/ORGANIZACIÓN
INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE
INFORMACIÓN Y
ASESORAMIENTO TÉCNICO
PARA LA
COMERCIALIZACIÓN DE
PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS EN
LA REGIÓN DE ASIA Y EL
PACÍFICO**

Muhammad AYUB
Director
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phone: +603 20783466
Fax: +603 20786804
E-mail: info@infofish.org

**INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS/
COMMISSION
INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES
THONIDÉS DE
L'ATLANTIQUE/COMISIÓN
INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN
DEL ATLÁNTICO**

Driss MESKI
Executive Secretary
Madrid, Spain
Phone: +34 914165600
Fax: +34 914152612
E-mail: driss.meski@iccat.int

**LAKE TANGANYIKA
AUTHORITY/AUTORITÉ DU
LAC TANGANYIKA**

Kaitira Ibrahim KATONDA
Directeur des pêches
Bujumbura, Burundi
Phone: +257 22273585
Fax: +257 79138000
E-mail: Kaitira.Katonda@Ita-
alt.org

**LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES
ORGANIZATION/
ORGANISATION DES PÊCHES
DU LAC VICTORIA/
ORGANIZACIÓN PESQUERA
PARA EL LAGO VICTORIA**

Dick NEYKO
Executive Secretary
Jinja, Uganda

**NETWORK OF
AQUACULTURE CENTRES IN
ASIA AND PACIFIC/RÉSEAU
DE CENTRES
D'AQUACULTURE POUR LA
RÉGION ASIE ET PACIFIQUE/
RED DE CENTROS DE
ACUICULTURA DE ASIA Y EL
PACÍFICO**

Sena DE SILVA
Director General
Bangkok, Thailand
Phone: +66 2 5611728
Fax: +66 2 5611727
E-mail: senadesilva@enaca.org

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

Sloans CHIMATIRO
Senior Fisheries Advisor
Midrand, South Africa
Phone: +27 11 2563600
Fax: + 27 11 2063762
E-mail: sloansc@nepad.org

Steve CUNNINGHAM
Montpelier, France
E-mail: cunningham_sw@
yahoo.com

Sarah LAWAN
Special Liaison Officer
New York, United States of
America
Phone: +1 3475307926
E-mail: sarah.lawn@gmail.com

Estelle VAN DER MERWE
Advisor
Cape Town, South Africa
Phone: +27 217851010
E-mail: estellevdm@mweb.co.za

Antonia HJORT
NFDS African office
Gaborone, Botswana
Phone: +267 3926298
Fax: +267 3926290
E-mail: ahjort@nfd.info

Sandy DAVIES
NFDS African Office
Gaborone, Botswana
Phone: +267 3926298
Fax: +267 3926290
E-mail: sdavies@nfd.info

Per Erik BERGH
NFDS African office
Gaborone, Botswana
Phone: +267 3926298
Fax: +267 3926290
E-mail: pebergh@nfd.info

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS/CONSEIL NORDIQUE DES MINISTRES/ CONSEJO NÓRDICO DE MINISTROS

Asmundur GUDJONSSON
Senior Adviser
Copenhagen, Denmark
Phone: +45 33960255
E-mail: ag@norden.org

Helge PAULSEN
Project coordinator
Senior Advisory Scientist
DTU-Aqua
Hirtshals, Denmark
Phone: +45 40561138
Fax: +45 33963211
E-mail: HEP@aqua.dtu.dk

NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION/ COMMISSION DES PÊCHES DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD-EST/COMISIÓN DE PESQUERÍAS DEL ATLÁNTICO NORDESTE

Kjartan HOYDAL
Secretary
London, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 2076310016
Fax: +44 2076369225
E-mail: Kjartan@neafc.org

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION/ ORGANISATION DES PÊCHES DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD-OUEST/ORGANIZACION DE PESQUERÍAS DEL ATLÁNTICO NOROESTE

Vladimir SHIBANOV
Executive Secretary
Nova Scotia, Canada
Phone: +1 902 4686582
Fax: +1 902 4685538
E-mail: v.shibanov@nafo.int

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT/ ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES/ ORGANIZACIÓN PARA LA COOPERACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICOS

Carl-Christian SCHMIDT
Head of the Fisheries Policies
Division
Trade and Agriculture Directorate
Paris-Cédex, France
Phone: +33 145 249560
E-mail: carl-christian.schmidt@
oecd.org

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY/ ORGANISME DES PÊCHES DU FORUM DU PACIFIQUE/ ORGANISMO DE PESCA DEL FORO PARA EL PACIFICO

Tanielu SU'A
Director General
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Phone: +677 21124
Fax: +677 23995
E-mail: dab.sua@ffa.int

Pio E. MANOA
Legal Officer
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Phone: +677 21124
Fax: + 677 23995
E-mail: pio.manoa@ffa.int

SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION/ ORGANISATION DES PÊCHES DE L'ATLANTIQUE DU SUD-EST/ORGANIZACIÓN DE LA PESCA DEL ATLÁNTICO SORIENTAL

Ben VAN ZYL
Executive Secretary
Walvis Bay, Namibia
Phone: + 264 64 220387
E-mail: bvanzyl@seafo.org

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN
FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
CENTER/CENTRE DE
DÉVELOPPEMENT DES
PÊCHES DE L'ASIE DU SUD-
EST/CENTRO DE
DESARROLLO DE LA PESCA
EN ASIA SUDORIENTAL**

Chumnarn PONGSRI
Secretary General
SEAFDEC Secretariat
Bangkok, Thailand
Phone: +66 2 9406326
Fax: +66 2 9406336
E-mail: sg@seafdec.org

Somboon SIRIRAKSOPHON
Policy and Program Coordinator
SEAFDEC Secretariat
Bangkok, Thailand
Phone: +66 2 9406326
Fax: +66 2 9406336
E-mail: somboon@seafdec.org

Joebert D. TOLEDO
Chief of SEAFDEC Aquaculture
Department
The Philippines
Phone: +63 335119174
Fax: +63 29277825
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph

**SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN
FISHERIES COMMISSION/
COMMISSION DES PÊCHES
POUR LE SUD-OUEST DE
L'OCÉAN INDIEN/
COMISIÓN DE PESCA PARA
EL OCÉANO ÍNDICO
SUDOCCIDENTAL**

Aubrey HARRIS
Secretary
Senior Fisheries Officer
Multi Disciplinary Team, SFSMD
Subregional Office for Southern
Africa, SFS
Eastlea Harare, Zimbabwe

**SUBREGIONAL FISHERIES
COMMISSION/SOUS-
COMMISSION RÉGIONALE
DES PÊCHES/COMISIÓN
SUBREGIONAL DE PESCA**

Ciré Amadou KANE
Secrétaire permanent
Dakar, Sénégal
Phone: +221 33 8640475
Fax: +221 33 8640477
E-mail: csrp@gmail.com

**WESTERN AND CENTRAL
PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION/COMMISSION
DES PÊCHES POUR LE
PACIFIQUE CENTRAL ET
OCCIDENTAL/COMISIÓN DE
PESCA PARA EL PACÍFICO
OCCIDENTAL Y CENTRAL**

Peter FLEWWELLING
Compliance Manager
Bridgetown, Barbados
Phone: +691 3201992
Fax: +691 3201108
E-mail: peter.flewwelling@
wcpfc.int

**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR
ANIMAL HEALTH/
ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ ANIMALE/
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL
DE SANIDAD ANIMAL**

Gillian MYLREA
Deputy Head
Trade Department
Paris, France
Phone: +33 144151888
Fax: +33 142670987
E-mail: g.mylrea@oie.int

**OBSERVERS FROM
INTERNATIONAL NON-
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS/
OBSERVATEURS DES
ORGANISATIONS NON-
GOUVERNEMENTALES
INTERNATIONALES/
OBSERVADORES DE LAS
ORGANIZACIONES
INTERNACIONALES NO
GUBERNAMENTALES**

**BIRDLIFE
INTERNATIONAL/BIRDLIFE
INTERNACIONAL**

Cleo SMALL
Senior Policy Officer
Birdlife Global Seabird
Programme
Sandy, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1767 693586
Fax: +44 1767 692365
E-mail: cleo.small@rspb.org.uk

**COALITION FOR FAIR
FISHERIES AGREEMENTS/
COALITION POUR DES
ACCORDS DE PÊCHE
ÉQUITABLES/COALICIÓN
POR ACUERDOS DE PESCA
EQUITATIVOS**

Hélène BOURS
Secretariat IUU expert
Rixensart, Belgium
E-mail: bours.helen@scarlet.be

Rashidi CHAMPUNGA
Advisor
President KIMWAM
Mtwara, Tanzania
E-mail: raschamp@yahoo.co.uk

Simao DA SILVA
President of ROPA
Guiné-Bissau
Phone: +245 6672111
E-mail: quitapesca@yahoo.com.br

Issiaga DAFPE
President of UNPAG
Guinea
Phone: +224 64424863
E-mail: unpaguinee@yahoo.fr

Epiphane EDJOSSAN
Secrétaire général
CERAD International
Lomé, Togo
E-mail: Cerad@ceradenter.org

Kajsa GARPE
Programme Officer
Marine Ecosystems and
Fisheries International
Department
Swedish Society for Nature
Conservation (SSNC)
Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46 8 7026527
Fax: +46 8 7020855
E-mail: kajsa.garpe@
naturskyddsforeningen.se

Béatrice GOREZ
CFFA Coordinator
Brussels, Belgium

Gaoussou GUEYE
Vice Président CONIPAS
Dakar, Sénégal
Phone: +32 02 6525201
Fax: +32 02 6540407
E-mail: gaoussoug@gmail.com

Vassen KAUPPAYMUTHOO
Director
Mauritian NGO
Supporting Local Artisanal
Fishing Communities Kalipso
Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius
Phone: +230 4653889
Fax: +230 4664094
E-mail: kaupcons@intnet.mu

Juan Manuel LOPEZ ALVAREZ
Presidente Grupo de Trabajo
Pesca Tradicional del Consejo
Consultivo
(CCR-Sur) Europa
España
Phone: +34 981 941775
E-mail: xoanlopez@
confrariasgalicia.org

Sid'Ahmed Sidi MOHAMED
ABEID
President
Mauritanian Artisanal Fishing
Organisation FNP
Mauritania
Phone: +222 36360087
Fax: +222 45745430
E-mail: abeid1@hotmail.fr

Dawda Foday SAINÉ
President of NAAFO
Banjul, Gambia
Phone: +220 7453623
E-mail: dawda_saine@yahoo.com

Yann YVERGNIAUX
Assistant
CFFA
Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 499 296534
E-mail: yann.yvergniaux@
gmail.com

CLUSTER OF FISHING COMPANIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES/EMPRESAS PESQUERAS EN PAÍSES TERCEROS (CLUSTER)

José Ramón FONTÁN
Presidente
Madrid, España
Phone: +34 91 3096557
Fax: +34 91 3095324
E-mail: belen.rodriquez@
clusterdepesca.com

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

Scott EDWARDS
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5723305
Fax: +1 202 2346049
E-mail: tgrasso@edf.org

Lawrence EPSTEIN
Project Manager
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5712390148
E-mail: lepstein@edf.org

Thomas GRASSO
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 572 3305
Fax: +1 240 606 4625
E-mail: tgrasso@edf

Whitney TOME
Special Projects Manager
Oceans Program
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5723305
Fax: +1 202 2346049
E-mail: wtome@edf.org

Cyril Antonius VON GAGERN
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5723305
Fax: +1 240 6064625
E-mail: wtome@edf.org

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ACTION IN THE THIRD WORLD/ ENVIRONNEMENT ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DU TIERS- MONDE/MEDIO AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO DEL TERCER MUNDO

Papa Gora NDIAYE
Secrétaire exécutif
Dakar, Sénégal
Phone: +221 33 825 2787
Mob. +221 77 644 34 73
Fax: +221 33 825 2799
E-mail: gora.ndiaye@
endadiapol.org;
gndiaye@gmail.com

EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT/BUREAU EUROPÉEN POUR LA CONSERVATION ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Arianna BROGGIATO
Fisheries Policy Officer
Secretariat of the Intergroup on
Climate Change and
Biodiversity of the European
Parliament
Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 485735945
Fax: +32 2 2303070/8272
E-mail: Arianna.Broggiato@
ebcd.org

FRIENDS OF THE SEA

Paolo BRAY
Director
Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 3485650306/+39
025821511
Fax: +39 02 58215400
E-mail: paolobray@
friendsofthesea.org

GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

Sebastian LOSADA
Oceans Policy Adviser
Coruña, Spain
Phone: +34 626998254
E-mail: sebastian.losada@
greenpeace.org

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF FISHERIES ASSOCIATIONS/COALITION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS HALIEUTIQUES/COALICIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES PESQUERAS

John CONNELLY
McLean, VA, United States of
America
Phone: +1 703 7528892
Fax: +1 703 7527583

Javier GARAT
McLean, VA, United States of
America
Phone: +1 703 7528892
Fax: +1 703 752 7583

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS/ COLLECTIF INTERNATIONAL D'APPUI AUX TRAVAILLEURS DE LA PÊCHE/COLECTIVO INTERNACIONAL DE APOYO AL PESCADOR ARTESANAL

René Pierre CHEVER
Membre ICSF
Lovetudy, France
Phone: +33 0298874636
E-mail: rene-pierre.chever@
wanadoo.fr

Pierre GILLET
Membre ICSF
Jambes, Belgium
Phone: +32 0476329081
Fax: +32 25137343
E-mail: pierregillet@gmail.com

John KURIEN
Member ICSF
India
Phone: +91 471 2446989
E-mail: kurien.john@gmail.com

Sebastian MATHEW
Programme Adviser
Chennai, India
Phone: +91 44 28275303
Fax: +91 44 28254457
E-mail: icsf@icsf.net

Brian O'RIORDAN
Secretary
ICSF Brussels Office
Rixensart, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 6525201
Fax: +32 2 6540407
E-mail: briano@scarlet.be

Mama Yawa SANDOUNO
Présidente ADEPEG-CPA
Membre ICSF
Guinée
Phone: +224 60342192
E-mail: keriwel@yahoo.fr;
smamayawa@yahoo.fr

Rene SCHARER
Details not provided

Chandrika SHARMA
Executive Secretary
Chennai, India
Phone: +91 44 28275303
Fax: +91 44 28254457
E-mail: icsf@icsf.net

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SPORT FISHING

Paola ALTOBELLI
CIPS General Secretariat
Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 36858109
E-mail: segreteriainternazionale@
fipsas.it

INTERNATIONAL FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL ORGANIZATION/ ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FARINE ET DE L'HUILE DE POISSON/ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LA HARINA Y ACEITE DE PESCADO

Enrico BACHIS
Business and Information
Manager
Hertfordshire, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1727 842844

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN NOISE COALITION/ COALITION INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE BRUIT DANS LES OCEANS/COALICIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE RUIDO INTRAOCÉANICO

Sigrid LUEBER
President
Waedenswil, Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 7806688
+41 79 4752687
Fax: +41 44 7806808
E-mail: slueber@oceanicare.org

Ingrid OVERGARD
Alternate
CA, United States of America
Phone: + 1 415 7936248
E-mail: ingrid@grebedigital.com

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY/ COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE PLANIFICATION POUR LA SOUVERAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE/COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE PLANIFICACIÓN PARA LA SOBERANÍA ALIMENTARIA

Luca BIANCHI
Details not provided

Zoila BUSTAMANTE
Phone: +32 2 2339315
Brussels, Belgium
E-mail: Zbustamante@
bono.parch

Alessandro FOSSI
Biologiste des pêches
Consultant and formateur
Sète, France
Phone: +33 4 67 537370
Mob.: +33 6 78 382767
E-mail: alexosfossi@gmail.com

Beatriz GASCO
Details not provided

Francisco LOPEZ
GUENDOLAY
Details not provided

Lucia MARINO
Details not provided

Antonio ONORATI
Details not provided

**INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD
SUSTAINABILITY
ASSOCIATION**

Susan JACKSON
President
United States of America
Phone: +1 703 226 8101
Fax: +1 703 226 8100
E-mail: sjackson@is-
foundation.org

**INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT WORKERS'
FEDERATION/FÉDÉRATION
INTERNATIONALE DES
OUVRIERS DU TRANSPORT/
FEDERACIÓN
INTERNACIONAL DE LOS
TRABAJADORES DEL
TRANSPORTE**

Andy HICKMAN
Campaigner
Environmental Justice
Foundation
London, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 2393310
E-mail: andy.hickman@
ejfoundation.org

Rossen KARAVATCHEV
Senior Section Assistant
ITF Seafarers, Fisheries and
Inland Navigation Section
London, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 4032733
Fax: +44 207 3577871
E-mail: seafarers@itf.org.uk

Juliette WILLIAMS
Executive Director
Environmental Justice
Foundation
London, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 2393310
Fax: +44 207 7136501
E-mail: juliette.williams@
ejfoundation.org

**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF
NATURE/UNION
INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DE LA
NATURE/UNIÓN
INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DE LA
NATURALEZA**

Patricio BERNAL
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9990242
Fax: 41 22 9990029

Harlan COHEN
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5182079

Serge M. GARCIA
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9990242
Fax: +41 22 9990029

Aurélien SPADONE
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9990242
Fax: +41 22 9990029

Despina SYMONS
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +44 229990217
Fax: +44 229990025

Edward VANDEN BERGHE
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +44 229990217
Fax: +44 229990025

**MARINE STEWARDSHIP
COUNCIL**

Kees LANKESTER
Member of Board of Trustees
London, United Kingdom
Phone: + 44 207 8113300
E-mail: Scomber@xs4all.nl

**ORGANIZATION FOR
PROMOTION OF
RESPONSIBLE TUNA
FISHERIES/ORGANIZACIÓN
PARA LA PESCA
RESPONSABLE DEL ATÚN**

Jun AKAMINE
Advisor
Tokyo, Japan
Phone: +81 3 35686388
Fax: +81 3 35686389
E-mail: oprt@oprt.or.jp

Eiko OZAKI
Advisor
Tokyo, Japan
Phone: +81 3 35686388
Fax: +81 3 35686389
E-mail: oprt@oprt.or.jp

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Susan LIEBERMAN
Director, International Policy
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: + 1 202 5406528
Fax: +1 202 5522299
E-mail: slieberman@
PewTrusts.org

Maximiliano BELLO
Senior Advisor
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 56 975164960
E-mail: mbello-
consultant@pewtrust.com

Kathryn SCHLEIT
Pew Leadership Fellow
Washington DC, United States of
America
Phone: +1 202 5406451
Fax: +1 202 5522299
E-mail: Kschleit@pewtrusts.org

Kristin VON KISTOWSKI
Senior Advisor
Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 1719508463
Fax: +49 3044051051
E-mail: Kristin@Kistowski.de

SLOW FOOD

Silvestro GRECO
President
Consiglio Scientifico
Italy
Phone: +39 3346479939
E-mail: silvestrogreco@gmail.com

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

Lisa BORGES
European Fisheries Manager
Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 476 474451
E-mail: lisa.borges@sustainablefish.org

TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL/TRAFFIC INTERNACIONAL

Stephanie VON MEIBOM
European Programme
Coordinator
c/o WWF Germany
Frankfurt, Germany
Phone: +49 6915347705
Fax: +49 6979144231
E-mail: stephanie.vonmeibom@traffic.org

WORLD CONSERVATION TRUST

Jaques BERNEY
Executive Vice President
Lausanne, Switzerland
Fax: +41 216165000
E-mail: iwmccch@bluewin.ch

Marco PANI
Vice-President for European
Affairs
Rome, Italy
E-mail: pani.marco@gmail.com

WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISH WORKERS/FORUM MONDIAL DES AQUACULTEURS ET PÊCHEURS/FORO MUNDIAL DE PESCADORES Y TRABAJADORES DEL SECTOR PESQUERO

Gavino ACEVEDO
Phone: +507 9544460
Fax: +507 64138212
E-mail: gguino_antonio@hotmail.com

Ujjaini HALIM
Phone: +507 9544460
Fax: +507 64138212

Margaret NAKATO
Details not provided

WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES/FORUM MONDIAL DES POPULATIONS DE PÊCHEURS/FORO MUNDIAL DE COMUNIDADES DE PESCADORES

Naseegh JAFFER
Details not provided

Andrew JOHNSTON
Details not provided

Natalia LAIÑO LAJO
Galicia, España
Phone: +34 986240625
Fax: +34 619315519
E-mail: info@agamar.es;
natalia.laino@gmail.com

Sherry PICTOU

Jorge VARELA
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Phone: +504 22380415
Fax: +504 22380415
E-mail: jvarelamarguez@yahoo.com

Herman WIJETHUNGE
General Secretary
Negombo, Sri Lanka
Phone: +94 31 2239750
Fax: +94 31 4870658
E-mail: hermankumona@gmail.com

WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

Rebecca REGNERY
Deputy Director
Wildlife Humane Society
International
Washington DC, United States of
America
E-mail: rregnery@hsi.org

Naomi Susie WATTS
Shark Consultant
Humane Society International
Washington DC, United States of
America

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE/FONDS MONDIAL POUR LA NATURE/FONDO MUNDIAL PARA LA NATURALEZA

Robin DAVIES
Deputy Leader
Smart Fishing Initiative
Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 3649010
Fax: +41 22 3648836
E-mail: rdavies@wwfint.org

Lauren SPURRIER
Managing Director Latin America
Washington DC, United States of
America

FAO REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL OFFICES/ BUREAUX RÉGIONAUX ET SOUS-RÉGIONAUX/ OFICINAS REGIONALES Y SUBREGIONALES

Thomas MOTH POULSEN
Fishery and Aquaculture
Officer, SEUM
Subregional Office for Central
and Eastern Europe, SEU
Budapest, Hungary
E-mail: Thomas.MothPoulsen@fao.org

Cherif TOUEILIB
 Fishery Officer
 Subregional Office for North
 Africa, SNE
 Tunis, Tunisie
 E-mail: Cherif.Touelib@
 fao.org

Alejandro FLORES
 Regional Office for Latin
 America and Caribbean,
 RLC
 Santiago, Chile
 E-mail: Flores.Alejandro@
 fao.org

Masanami IZUMI
 Fishery Officer
 Subregional Office for the
 Pacific Islands, SAP
 Apia, Samoa
 E-mail: Izumi.Masanami@
 fao.org
 Raymon Edward VAN
 ANROOY
 Fishery and Aquaculture
 Officer
 Subregional Office for
 Central Asia, SEC
 Ankara, Turkey
 E-mail:
 Raymon.VanAnrooy@
 fao.org

Eva KOVACS
 Subregional Office for
 Central and Eastern Europe,
 SEU
 Budapest, Hungary
 E-mail: Eva.Kovacs@
 fao.org

Don GRIFFITHS
 Regional Office for Asia and
 the Pacific, RAP
 Bangkok, Thailand
 E-mail: Don.Griffiths@fao.org

José PARAJUA
 Regional Office for Asia and
 the Pacific, RAP
 Bangkok, Thailand
 E-mail: Jose.Parajua@fao.org

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Chairperson:	Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi (Iran [Islamic Republic of])
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Johán H. Williams (Norway)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Canada, Chile, India, Spain and Zimbabwe

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Committee elected Ms Deirdre M. Warner-Kramer (United States of America) as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, with the following membership: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Congo (Republic of), Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Russian Federation, Sweden and Syrian Arab Republic.

FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Director-General:	Árni M. Mathiesen
Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division:	Jean-François Pulvenis de Séligny
Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division:	Kevern Cochrane

SECRETARIAT

Secretary:	H. Watanabe
Secretary, Drafting Committee:	D.J. Doulman
Liaison and Meetings Officer:	R. Al-Khafaji

APPENDIX C**List of documents**

COFI/2011/1	Agenda and Timetable
COFI/2011/2	Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, including International Plans of Action and Strategies, and other matters
COFI/2011/2.Supp.1	Results of the Informal 2010 Pilot Test of the Electronic Questionnaire for the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
COFI/2011/3	Decisions and recommendations of the twelfth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010
COFI/2011/4	Decisions and recommendations of the fifth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Phuket, Thailand, 27 September–1 October 2010
COFI/2011/5	Progress made with regard to measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including port State measures, flag State performance, market State measures and development of a Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels
COFI/2011/6	Fisheries and aquaculture in our changing climate: adaptation and mitigation measures in fisheries and aquaculture
COFI/2011/7	FAO's role for improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection
COFI/2011/8	Good practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries: Sharing of experiences and lessons learned in responsible fisheries for social and economic development
COFI/2011/9	Priorities and results under the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2012–13
COFI/2011/Inf.1/Rev.1	List of documents
COFI/2011/Inf.2	List of participants
COFI/2011/Inf.3	Statement by the Director-General
COFI/2011/Inf.4/Rev.1	Annotations/Guide notes on agenda items

COFI/2011/Inf.5	Report of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 2–6 March 2009
COFI/2011/Inf.6	Achievements of Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes 2008–2009
COFI/2011/Inf.7	Follow-up to the Recommendations of the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 2–6 March 2009
COFI/2011/Inf.8	Report of the twelfth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26–30 April 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.9	Report of the fifth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Phuket, Thailand, 27 September–1 October 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.10	Report of the Technical Consultation on the Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, Rome, Italy, 15–19 February 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.11	Report of the Technical Consultation to Identify a Structure and Strategy for the Development and Implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, Rome, Italy, 8–12 November 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.12	Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, Rome, Italy, 6–10 December 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.13	Report of the Expert Consultation on the Development of FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 25–27 May 2010
COFI/2011/Inf.14	Safety at Sea in the Fisheries Sector
COFI/2011/Inf.15	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States

APPENDIX D

**Opening remarks by Ms Ann Tutwiler
FAO Deputy Director-General (Knowledge)**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to welcome you to the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Fisheries and aquaculture play a vital role in the global, national and rural economy, in particular as regards their contribution to food security and nutritional quality, as well as employment and livelihoods. The FAO Committee on Fisheries is one of the governing bodies of the Organization but it is also a unique forum where any fisheries and aquaculture related matters may be discussed, at the highest level, by representatives of countries and of the respective fisheries authorities from all over the world. In addition, other intergovernmental organizations and international NGOs can also participate in this forum, which significantly broadens the participation in the debate and ensures that it is representative of all stakeholders.

As a governing body, your guidance is sought as to what must be done to achieve FAO's strategic objective of ensuring the "sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources". In particular, your discussion on the FAO Programme of Work, including priorities in fisheries and aquaculture, will significantly contribute to the definition of the Strategic Framework of the Organization, its Medium-Term Plan and its Programme on Work and Budget for the next biennium 2012–13.

The Committee has a full and demanding agenda. Without taking too much of your time, I would like to briefly refer to some of the issues that you will be discussing this week.

- Fifteen years have elapsed since the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. However, its overall and effective implementation is still a challenge. The Committee is invited to provide guidance on how to continue to broaden and strengthen the implementation of the Code and related instruments.
- The Committee is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, the former of which also refers to the Report of the Expert Consultation on the Development of FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, held in May 2010, and the latter of which also includes the Report of the Technical Consultation on the Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification. The outcome of the Global Conference on Aquaculture, held in Phuket, Thailand, in September 2010, is also reported for information.
- Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a high priority. The Committee is invited to note progress with regard to measures against IUU fishing and provide guidance on the next steps to be taken, in particular the establishment of a comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated

Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels in consideration of the report of the relevant Technical Consultation held in November 2010.

- The twenty-eighth session of COFI, held in March 2009, reiterated the importance of climate change and its increasing impacts on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee is now invited to consider the roadmap and activities proposed within the FAO/FI Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change and make recommendations on the FAO/Fisheries future programme of work priorities in addressing the climate change issue in the context of fisheries and aquaculture.
- The question of the relationship between sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and the conservation of biodiversity and environmental protection is particularly important. The Committee is invited to consider and provide guidance on FAO's role for improved integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. The Report of the Technical Consultation to Develop International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, held in December 2010 is also presented.
- Because of their importance in relation to food security and livelihoods, small-scale fisheries continue to be a recurrent item on the agenda of COFI. The Committee is invited to review the outcomes of the regional workshops and of other FAO activities in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries and offer its guidance on the actions that should be taken at national and international levels to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and enhance their contribution to attaining the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- The Committee is invited to review the priorities and results under the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2012–13 in light of the ongoing reform of the Organization.
- On the basis of the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE), the new schedule of FAO Governing Bodies was approved by the FAO Conference in November 2009. The 140th session of Council, held in November–December 2010, noted the draft calendar of FAO Governing Bodies for 2012 including the 30th session of COFI from 9 to 13 July 2012. The Committee is invited to endorse the proposed date and place of the next session, while considering the background as well as decisions already made at the level of the whole Organization.

Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years important progress has been made in Fisheries and aquaculture. In 2008, nearly 81 percent of the world fish production of 142 million tonnes was directly consumed as human food. Global fish consumption increased from an average of 10 kg per capita per year in 1965 to 17 kg in 2008, comprising 15.6 percent of the global population's animal protein consumption. Aquaculture remains the fastest-growing animal-food-producing sector and its rate of growth outpaced human population growth. Aquaculture was responsible for nearly 46 percent of the world's fish production for human consumption in 2008. FAO also estimated that there were 45 million part-time and full-time and about 6 million

occasional fishers and fish farmers employed in the sector. Fish farmers comprised almost 11 million of this total¹. A recent study indicated that an additional 85 million people are employed in the post-harvest sector² where women play a vital role. Of particular interest is the estimate that 37 percent of total fish production entered into international trade either as food or feed products in 2008 and that the value of the fishery trade reached over USD100 billion in exports. Approximately 50 percent of this amount originated from developing countries. Fishery net exports of developing countries³ are higher than those of several other important agricultural commodities such as rice, meat, sugar, coffee and tobacco.

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Even though we have enjoyed some success there is still work to be done.

You have a very busy and active programme ahead of you over the next five days.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and encourage you to actively participate in the various side events that have been organized as well as to visit the exhibitions in the Atrium.

Thank you for your kind attention.

¹ FAO. 2010. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010*. Rome, FAO. 197 pp.

² World Bank, FAO and WorldFish Center. 2010. *The Hidden Harvests the global contribution of capture fisheries*. World Bank Agriculture and Rural Development Department Sustainable Development Network. Conference edition. 102p.

³ The total value of fish exports less the total value of fish imports.

The twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, from 31 January to 4 February 2011. The Committee reviewed issues of an international character and the FAO programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee agreed that additional efforts were required to broaden and intensify the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments. The Committee adopted the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries and recommended that FAO develop an Evaluation Framework to Assess the Conformity of Public and Private Ecolabelling Schemes with the relevant FAO Guidelines. The Committee approved the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification and recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the Guidelines. The Committee agreed that port State measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing and recognized the critical role of capacity development. The Committee reiterated its support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels as one of the useful tools to combat IUU. The Committee noted FAO's roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change. The Committee supported FAO's role and effort to improve the integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection and reaffirmed FAO as the primary source of scientific expertise and advice regarding global issues on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee endorsed the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. The Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries in the form of international guidelines. The Committee also agreed to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme. The Committee expressed its support for the Organization-wide reforms, including the new Strategic Framework and agreed with the proposed priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis, while it took note of some conflicting views regarding these priorities.

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