



**TRADE AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE
FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

**TAD/FI/M(2007)1
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 99TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES

18-20 April 2007

Held at OECD Headquarters, Tour Europe, 33 Place des Corolles, La Défense 2, Paris, France.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 99TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES

Item 1. Election of Officers

The following Delegates were elected to the Bureau for 2007:

Chair:	Greg Schneider (US)
Vice Chairs:	Jan Frederik Danielsen (NOR)
	Harry Kaasinen (FIN)
	Jane Willing (NZ)
	Nobuyuki Yagi (JPN)

Delegates were advised that, under revised rules of the Organisation, elections of Bureau members are to be held at the end of the last meeting of the year prior to which the Bureau members will hold office. As a result, elections for the 2008 Bureau will be held before the end of the 100th Session of the Committee in October 2007. Nominations for the Chair and Bureau will be sought prior to the 100th Session.

Item 2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda for the 99th Session

The Draft Agenda was adopted.

Item 3. Statement by the Director of Trade and Agriculture

The Director for the Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD), Stefan Tangermann, informed the Committee about implications flowing from the recent merger between the Trade Directorate and Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. Mr Tangermann noted that the merger had resulted in a more streamlined senior management and central management structure in TAD. This has resulted in budget savings that enabled the analytical work of the Directorate to continue unimpeded. Mr Tangermann informed Delegates that one of the management changes had resulted in the Fisheries Policies Division taking over responsibility for the Cooperative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management. This change has provided additional resources for the work of the Fisheries Policies Division.

Delegates reiterated their concern that, despite numerous representations in a wide range of OECD forums, "Fisheries" has been dropped from the title of the Directorate as it is not otherwise obvious that fisheries is located in the new Directorate. This was viewed as being particularly important in ensuring the visibility of the Committee and its work in the broader OECD and external contexts. The Secretariat undertook to seek ways to ensure that the visibility of the Committee and its work was maintained or increased through the OECD website and other public communications, as appropriate. The Secretariat will also examine possibilities for separately identifying the fisheries work programme within the biennial Programme of Work and Budget.

Item 4. Committee Mandate – Update from the Working Group on Mandate Renewal

The Chair of the Mandate Renewal Working Group, Lori Ridgeway, introduced the draft mandate that had been developed by her in co-operation with the Working Group following the 98th Session of the Committee [TAD/FI(2007)2]. Delegates welcomed the draft mandate and thanked the Working Group for the effort put into the document. A number of areas for improvement were noted by Delegates, including:

- The need to reduce the length of the document, in particular by consolidating and focusing the preamble;
- Work towards a briefer vision statement that was more high level and aspirational;
- Recognition of the important role of economic efficiency in the mandate of the Committee;
- Including broad performance indicators in the monitoring section; and
- Re-examine the section on the Communication Strategy with a view to making it more concise.

Delegates were requested to provide written comments, including drafting suggestions, to the Secretariat by 30 May. The Working Group will develop a revised mandate for presentation to the 100th Session with the intention of adopting a new mandate well ahead of the In-depth Review.

Item 5. In-depth Review of the Committee for Fisheries

The Secretariat introduced document [TAD/FI(2007)3] which provided an overview of the process for the In-depth Review of the Committee, which will begin in November 2007. Delegates were reminded of the importance of positive engagement in the Review process. The Secretariat clarified a number of points regarding the Review:

- The terms of reference for the Review will be developed by the Evaluation Steering Group and discussed by the Bureau of the Committee;
- The Committee's contribution to horizontal activities such as policy coherence and environmentally harmful subsidies will be included in the Review; and

The Committee expressed the wish to be evaluated primarily against the new mandate. Delegations were encouraged to report to the Committee on how they have used the work of the Committee in domestic policy development. This will help inform the evaluation process.

Item 6. Response to Questionnaire on Functioning of the Committee for Fisheries

The Secretariat introduced document [TAD/FI(2007)4] which collated the results of a questionnaire on the functioning of the Committee. Some Delegates noted that the questionnaire had been sent to their Permanent Delegations and had not been forwarded on to capitals. This underscored the importance of strengthening liaison between capitals and Permanent Delegations, particularly in the light of the forthcoming In-depth Review of the Committee.

The Committee welcomed the overall positive results from the survey and noted a number of areas in which further improvements in Committee and Secretariat operations could be beneficial, including improved intra-Secretariat communication and the need for a disclaimer on workshop and consultant papers. The need for increased participation from a wider range of Delegates was highlighted and it was

reiterated that the Fisheries Committee is primarily a forum for policy dialogue, the effectiveness of which relies heavily on a diverse range of policy experiences being openly presented and discussed.

Item 7. Follow-up to the Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges of Fisheries Globalisation

The Chair of the OECD-FAO Workshop on the Opportunities and Challenges of Fisheries Globalisation, Lori Ridgeway (CDN), provided an overview of the workshop. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the Workshop and thanked the OECD and FAO Fisheries Secretariats for organising the Workshop.

A synthesis from the Workshop will be prepared for inclusion in the proceedings from the Workshop, which will be published later in 2007.

Item 8. Fisheries Globalisation

i) Fisheries Globalisation: Mid-term Review

The Committee welcomed the document which provided a review of the work undertaken on the Globalisation study to date. In discussing the document, delegates took the opportunity to present ideas for the overall direction of the globalisation study. On the basis of the important lessons and outcomes from the globalisation workshop that would enrich the study and provide focus, it was decided that the next paper should be organised using the value chain approach. In addition, the paper should include a section on cross-cutting policy implementation gaps which may have implications throughout the value chain. That paper should highlight and discuss the policy implementation gaps in policy areas relevant to the particular value chain element and discuss what possible government action might be taken. One delegation proposed a case study for the study; the case study would offer insights into the role of private companies and NGOs in filling policy implementation gaps in fisheries.

ii) Globalisation Study Part 1: Trends and Drivers of Globalisation in the Fishing Industry

Many Delegates informed that they would offer suggestions for changes to Part 1 of the study in writing to the Secretariat; such changes will have to be with the Secretariat before end June 2007.

iii) Globalisation Study Part 2: Policy Dimensions

The paper for this item was withdrawn.

iv) Trade in Services - Revision

The Committee welcomed the first draft of the paper AGR/FI(2006)15/REV underlining that further information was still to be received. The analysis presented is therefore preliminary. The focus and scope of the project was discussed. It was found to be a timely information base for the on-going work on globalisation. A proposal by the EC [TAD/FI/RD(2007)6] to deepen the information and analysis on fisheries-specific restrictions to port access and port services was introduced. Delegates agreed that additional information from Members would be requested (using the five questions of the questionnaire) on port access, landing and transshipments of catches, first sale services (auction), ice supplying, repairing (boat and equipment), provisioning, fuelling and watering. The Secretariat would send an email requesting this additional information to be with the Secretariat before the end of June. Delegates were also urged to review their initial submissions with a view to complement these in light of the information submitted from the majority of member countries, especially in cases where there are restrictions.

The EU also expressed interest in pursuing further analysis of the issue of port access and port services in the next programme of Work and Budget.

v) ***A Quantitative Analysis on Traded Commodities to Understand the Mechanism of Over-Exploitation under the Globalised Economy: A Case Study on Octopus Species in Morocco***

The Japanese Delegation presented the case study and undertook to provide a written document to the Committee as soon as possible.

Item 9. Fisheries Policy Reform

i) ***Fisheries Policy Reform: Mid-term Review***

The Secretariat introduced document [TAD/FI(2007)8] which provided an update on progress of the project on fisheries policy reform. The Secretariat noted the work on international governance reform will concentrate on the issue of allocation and distribution of resources, drawing on lessons from the use of other natural resources such as water. Some Delegations requested further information on the scope of this particular part of the overall project. The Secretariat will circulate an outline of the proposed paper. The Committee also noted that the work on subsidy reform should be postponed till the next Programme of Work and Budget due to delays in completion of the Doha Round.

ii) ***Political Economy of Decommissioning Schemes***

The Secretariat introduced document [AGR/FI(2006)18/REV]. The key revisions in the paper encompassed an extended discussion of the economic aspects of decommissioning schemes, the inclusion of five case studies, and the development of a set of best practice guidelines for the design and implementation of decommissioning schemes. Delegates commended the quality of the work, provided comments on the report, and expressed support for the concept of best practice guidelines. A revised report and revised guidelines will be presented to the 100th Session of the Committee. The deadline for written comments to be provided to the Secretariat is 30 May.

Chinese Taipei and the United States presented case studies of some of their decommissioning schemes.

Item 10. Review of Fisheries

The Secretariat advised Delegates that the revised guidelines for the Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries: Country Statistics has been issued [TAD/FI(2007)9] and statistical submissions were due by 31 July 2007.

Item 11. Reports and Information

i) ***Report on Other OECD Activities Related to Fisheries***

The Committee took note of and discussed the report by the Secretariat [TAD/FI/RD(2007)1].

Representatives of the Environment Directorate presented the draft fisheries chapter for the OECD Environmental Outlook [TAD/FI/RD(2007)5]. Delegates welcomed the chance to comment on the report. Delegates provided extensive comments, focussing in particular on issues of tone, the need to further develop policy approaches for managing environmental pressures that affect fisheries and aquaculture, concerns over the reference to the article by Worm et al (2006), and concerns about the modelling approach and results.

A representative from the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club informed the Committee about work underway examining the issue of policy coherence for development in the fishing sector in West Africa.

ii) *Report on Activities of the Fisheries Secretariat*

The Committee took note of and discussed the report by the Secretariat [TAD/FI/RD(2007)2]

iii) *Reports from Member Countries on Activities of Relevance to the COFI*

Canada informed the Committee that the IUU Experts Group from Chatham House had released the "Guidelines for Best Practice of RFMOs" for public comment (www.closingthenet.info). The closing date for comments was 30 April 2007.

Canada also called Delegates' attention to the forthcoming Conference of Parties of CITES in the Netherlands from 3-15 June 2007 in which decisions will be made on the listing of a number commercial species. A Ministerial meeting on the role of CITES in commercial fisheries will also be held in conjunction with the Conference of Parties, and fisheries departments of OECD Member countries were encouraged to become involved in the process.

Canada also informed Delegates that the Canadian Government had announced the adoption of a formal framework, "Oceans to Plate" as a paradigm to ensure a coherent approach across the value chain to achieve maximum value for fisheries products.

The US informed the Committee that the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorisation Act had been signed into law in January 2007, noted the importance attached to international issues in the legislation, and encouraged OECD member countries to comment on the forthcoming proposed draft legislation implementing this law.

Australia informed Delegates that Australia will be hosting the next meeting of the APEC Fisheries Working Group on the Gold Coast from 23-27 April 2007. This meeting will include a joint meeting with the APEC Marine Resources Conservation Working Group.

Sweden informed the Committee that the Swedish government had requested a proposal for the establishment of transferable rights for the pelagic fishery.

Korea noted that it is currently bidding for Expo 2012, the theme of which is "Living Oceans and the Coasts: their Implication and Significance to Humankind".

iv) *Reports from Observers*

The Committee received reports from the FAO, World Bank and the International Transport Workers' Federation.

Item 12. Other Business

The Secretariat informed Delegates that two staff members, Mr Doan Jeong and Mr Thomas Binet, will be leaving the OECD and thanked them for their efforts.

The Secretariat also informed the Committee that it is planning an event to celebrate the 100th Session of the Committee in October 2007 and is seeking financial assistance to host a cocktail for the event.

Item 13. Adoption of the Summary Record

The Summary record was adopted.

Dates of the next meetings

29-31 October 2007 **100th Session** at Salle des Nations, La Defense

28-30 April 2008 **101st Session** at OECD Headquarters

20-22 October 2008 **102nd Session** at OECD Headquarters

Table 1. Forward Planning for 100th and 101st Sessions*Responsibilities: CR = Consultant report; S= Secretariat; MCs = Member countries*

	Inter-sessional	100th Session (October 2007)	Inter-sessional	101st session (April 2008)
Committee Mandate	Revision of Draft Mandate (Working Group)	Revised Mandate for the Committee for Fisheries (MCs)		
Reforming Fisheries Policies		Revised paper on political economy of decommissioning schemes (S) Case studies on domestic policy reform (S) Draft paper on international governance reform (S)		Revised paper on international governance reform (S) Case studies on domestic policy reform (S) Draft synthesis report on best practice principles of fisheries policy reform (S)
Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges of Fisheries Globalisation	Publication of workshop proceedings (S)			
Globalisation		Draft paper on issues and policy challenges of globalization (S) Revised paper on trade in services (S)		
OECD Review of Fisheries (Country Statistics)	Provide country statistics by 31 July (MCs)		Publication of Country Statistics (S)	

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