

A Regional Consultation on Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries

A Regional Consultation will be held in Chennai in July, 2008 to review the progress of work under the FAO Global Project on “Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries”. The Regional Consultation will report on the progress of project activities in south Asia, share information on global initiatives, discuss the status of safety at sea in BOBP-IGO member-countries and present draft technical safety guidelines for fishing vessels under 24 m in length.

A Bi-national (India and Sri Lanka) Workshop on Safety at Sea will be organized for India and Sri Lanka along with the Regional Consultation in Chennai, India. Participants will include fisheries officials, boatbuilders, representatives of national agencies concerned with fisheries training and education and with fishing vessel regulations, plus representatives from the FAO, the IMO, NIOSH (the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA) and the BOBP-IGO.

The idea of the IMO Project is to introduce sound construction guidelines for small fishing vessels in India and Sri Lanka, following the December 2004 tsunami which sparked a boom in construction of fishing vessels – many of which were of low standard and built hurriedly in makeshift boatyards by people with little experience in FRP boat construction. The workshop is being organised by the BOBP-IGO in association with FAO and IMO.



APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (6-9 August 2008)

The Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) will organize the second Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) from 6 to 10 August 2008 in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. The RCFM will provide a forum to synthesize, analyze and agree on actions needed to “Adapt to emerging challenges – promoting effective arrangements for managing fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific Region”. More specifically, the RCFM will review policy recommendations and action plans to address two key issues identified by APFIC: (a) certification of fisheries and aquaculture, and (b) fisheries overcapacity and IUU fishing. The RCFM will also explore two new key areas for future work – the ecosystem approach to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and market linkages, trade and finance – reducing vulnerability and strengthening livelihoods.

Thirtieth Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (11-13 August, 2009)

The Thirtieth Session of APFIC will be held in Manado, Indonesia from 11-13 August 2008. The session is being convened under the provision of Article XIV of the FAO constitution and will discuss a range of topics such as (i) status and potential of fisheries and aquaculture in Asia-Pacific; (ii) APFIC’s strategy and promotion of regional initiatives for more

effective fisheries management; (iii) regional themes such as certification in fisheries and aquaculture, capacity management, combating IUU fishing, emerging issues in fisheries, and implementation of the CCRF.

National Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

A National Workshop on MCS will be held in Chennai on 1-2 December, 2008. The workshop will be organized jointly by the Government of India and the BOBP-IGO. It is a sequel to a Regional Workshop on MCS held in Chittagong, Bangladesh, in January 2008, which recommended that member-countries formulate action plans for successful implementation of MCS and for strengthening national agencies responsible for MCS. Accordingly, the workshop will review and analyse marine fisheries management programmes in India as well as procedures for licensing and registration of fishing vessels. It will assess the capacity for MCS, identify institutional requirements and prepare a plan of action.

Expert Consultation on “Best Practices for Safety at Sea in Fisheries”

An Expert Consultation will be held at the FAO headquarters in Rome from 10 to 13 December, 2008. It is being organized by the FAO in co-operation with the BOBP-IGO. Participants will be fishers, experts on fishing vessel safety, and resource persons from member-countries of the FAO. The consultation is expected to produce a draft outline for guidelines on best practices for safety at sea in fisheries, plus recommendations on the special needs of developing countries. The guidelines have to be approved by the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its next meeting in early 2009. The draft outline will also identify the next steps after the Consultation.