

EIFAAC International Symposium and 29th Session in Stare Jablonki, Poland, 6-8 September 2017

A Symposium on 'Adaptation of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture To Climate Change', chaired by Prof. Piotr Parasiewicz, was organized in conjunction with the 29th Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) in Stare Jablonki, Poland, from 3 to 8 September 2017, chaired by Mr Cathal Gallagher (Ireland). The Symposium was convened by the Stanislaw Sakowicz Inland Fisheries Institute in Poland and was attended by 64 participants from 20 countries.

Symposium conclusions and recommendations

The Symposium recognized the importance of biological, environmental, social and economic aspects of climate change impact on inland fisheries and aquaculture. The impact on inland fisheries and aquaculture is expected to be substantial and the need for action is immediate. Symposium participants prepared the following conclusions and recommendations to EIFAAC:



Fig 1. The participant countries of the 29th EIFAAC session



Fig 2. 29th session of EIFAAC chaired by Mr Cathal Gallagher (Ireland)

- Climate change is affecting fish, inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- Focused actions of adaptation to climate change have to begin immediately. They need to:
 - be embedded in other environmental improvement activities
 - be included into resource management policies
 - be embedded in evidence-based adaptive and predictive management framework including economic and social aspects
 - include cooperation and communication strategy
- Resource long-term assessment, adaptation and mitigation measures

29th EIFAAC Session

The session was attended by the representatives from Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland (Fig. 1).

The 29th EIFAAC Session that followed offered very valuable discussions and conclusions, despite the fact that quite a number of country members did not send their representatives. The Commission reviewed and revised the high level EIFAAC goals which resulted in the development of three new EIFAAC goals (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/eifaac/en>).

The EIFAAC Chair invited the Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee, Mr Teppo Vehanen, to present a summary of the activities and achievements of EIFAAC projects since the last session. Mr Vehanen informed the Session about the procedures of submitting new proposals for EIFAAC projects and the process of reporting on already existing ones. Currently there are eight ongoing projects, three of which are new ones. Three projects have been closed during the last period, one due to inactivity and two were finalized successfully. A new project proposal was also received - *Workshop on Citizen Science in Fisheries* - and accepted with comments. He also reminded EIFAAC members of the need of election of new members for the Technical and Scientific Committee.

The Commission agreed on the continuation of the ongoing EIFAAC projects. In addition, the following new topics were proposed by the session for consideration for inclusion in the EIFAAC work plan for the intersessional period:

- Social and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture
- Citizens to support fisheries science

The Chair invited the observer organization - the World Aquaculture Society (WAS), represented by Mr Laszlo Varadi. On behalf of WAS, Mr Varadi spoke on possible interactions between the two organizations, particularly in the area of inland aquaculture in the Central and Eastern

European region, where he also mentioned the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) as a potential partner. The Chair pointed out that the presence of WAS at the 29th session of EIFAAC was an evidence of willingness to cooperate and is in line with EIFAAC objectives to engage other organizations.

The following are the key recommendations as a result of 29th EIFAAC Session:

Recommendation: EIFAAC requests that the EU considers, as a member of EIFAAC, the dissemination of EIFAAC information and advice through its Common Fisheries Policy Data Collection Framework (DCF) national correspondents and aquaculture contact points. This action would be to the benefit of EIFAAC and the sector.

Recommendation: EIFAAC recommends that Members should coordinate to support an EIFAAC project to identify definitions and indicators on the social and economic valuation of inland fisheries and aquaculture for the region

Recommendation: EIFAAC acknowledges that Climate Change is affecting fish, inland fisheries and aquaculture. Focused adaptation to Climate Change needs to begin immediately and there needs to be consideration of impacts of Climate Change on the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector:

- embedded in other environmental activities;
- included into resource management policies;
- embedded in evidence based adaptive and predictive management framework including economic and social aspect;
- established cooperation and communication strategy.

Resources are required to support long-term assessment, impact and mitigation measures.

EIFAAC election

Although there was no quorum present in the session, the Commission decided to proceed with the election of the EIFAAC MC and TSC (see <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/eifaac/en>). At this session, the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC) was expanded into 11 members:

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of MC

- Chair - Petri Heinimaa (FINLAND) (Fig. 3)
- 1st Vice Chair - Reinhold Hanel (GERMANY)
- 2nd Vice Chair - Igor Wawrzyniak (POLAND)

Election of the member of the MC

- Bela Urbanyi (HUNGARY)
- Gudni Magnus Eiriksson (ICELAND)
- Cathal Gallagher (IRELAND) (Fig. 2)

Election of the Chair of the TSC

- Teppo Vehanen (FINLAND)



Fig 3. New EIFAAC chair - Petri Heinimaa (FINLAND)

Date and place of the next EIFAAC session

Ms Ulrike Weniger, Saxon State Ministry for Environment and Agriculture, Germany announced that the German government is pleased to host the 30th Session of EIFAAC in September 2019 in Dresden. The topics of the Symposium will be: certification, food security and traceability for inland fisheries and aquaculture.

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Election of members of the TSC

- Marina Piria (CROATIA)
- Piotr Parasiewicz (POLAND)
- Colin Bean (UNITED KINGDOM)
- Christian Skov (DENMARK)
- Robert Arlinghaus (GERMANY)
- Fiona Kelly (IRELAND)

Alternates:

- Andreas Melcher (AUSTRIA)
- Jan Kubecka (CZECH REPUBLIC)
- Russell Poole (IRELAND)
- Andrzej Kapusta (POLAND)