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REFERENCE: LOS/FISHERIES/STATES/2012

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in general and stocks of commercial fish in particular. The Kingdom complies with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and works to promote sustainable fisheries. It has taken measures to suspend the fishing season for shrimp, one of the most important commercial varieties of fi

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took part, along with other GCC Member States, in a three-year survey on straddling bottom fish stocks, the final report of which is scheduled for release.

There have also been efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in compliance with the 2001 International Plan of Action of the FAO. The Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the need for international, regional, subregional and national cooperation to combat unsustainable practices that will inevitably have an impact on existing and future fish stocks.

With regard to monitoring, supervision, compliance and implementation, there are programmes and plans that continue to uncover illegal activities. These include a monitoring team that operates in cooperation with other surveillance agencies in the Kingdom, notably the Border Patrol and Coast Guard. The effort continues to be in

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need of more human and financial resources to properly carry out its role of

maximizing benefits from straddling fisheries. We would also like to focus on efforts

by the Kingdom of Bahrain to reduce overfishing. A number of recommendations

have been put forward to reduce the number of fishing licences and the amount of

illegal and unreported fishing, along with a number of other potential solutions to

overfishing the results of which will soon be available for consideration and

appropriate action by the authorities.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is extremely concerned about pelagic drift-net fishing. It has banned drift nets—known locally as “hayali” nets—whose use has been restricted to one particular area at a certain time of year due to pressure from local fishermen. The Kingdom also values efforts to limit by-catch and discards,

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which in Bahrain get caught in bottom shrimping trawl nets. Ma

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protected areas, which have a

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sector become involved in fish farming, and a project to create artificial coral reefs to

limit loss of fisheries due to urban development going on in the Kingdom of Bahrain.