

(Translation from Russian)

Information relating to implementation of resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on sustainable fisheries for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General

Many recommendations of the General Assembly have been put into effect in the Russian Federation, including at the legislative and regulatory levels.

Thus, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/68 entitled " Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", adopted on 6 December 2011, which is recommendatory in nature, the Russian Federation is systematically implementing the recommendations.

Where the sustainable fisheries of the Russian Federation are concerned, the following activities are regularly carried out:

- Studies to assess the status of aquatic biological resources, including straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation;
- Determining the total allowable catch based on the best available data and applying principles of the precautionary approach and low-impact fishing methods where stocks are inadequate or limited;
- Adjusting the total allowable catch based on continuously updated data on the status of aquatic biological resources;
- Migrating to the system of long-term assignment of fishery quotas to enterprises for periods of 10 years, enabling them to make business plans and to rationalize their resource use;
- Monitoring fisheries and enforcing total allowable catch limits, and also monitoring the biological condition and age-length characteristics of target species to ensure effective control of fishing, including even the imposition of fishing bans and the closure of certain areas;
- Active cooperation within the framework of intergovernmental agreements with coastal States of the Asia-Pacific basin on the exchange of scientific data and data on stocks of transboundary species and highly migratory fish stocks;
- Commission in the exchange of scientific data and the prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of demersal fish in the high seas.

In addition, temporary measures have been agreed and put in place in the Russian Federation to regulate the fishing of demersal species and the conservation of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas of the North Pacific, developed as part of preparations for the new Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean and for the Commission to be set up under the Convention, together with other measures designed to conserve resources and foster sustainable fisheries, including restrictions on fishing in areas where no scientifically sound assessments have been made of the impact of fishing on resources.

To set in place effective measures or to strengthen those already in existence pursuant to the provisions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, the Russian Federation has carried out the following activities:

- Complete abandonment of pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas;
- Active cooperation, in the framework of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), with the coastal States of the North Pacific in preventing the illegal drift-net fishing of Pacific salmon and ensuring the sound use of the stocks of these fish;
- Setting significant limits, in national fishing regulations, on salmon fishing periods and areas, and also on fishing gear and their specifications, which require them to be fitted with additional

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- Determining the total allowable catch for the drift-net fishing of salmon at a sufficiently low level to prevent any impact on fishing by other methods in coastal areas.

With a view to limiting fisheries by-catch and discards, the Russian Federation is carrying out the following activities:

Monitoring the composition of commercial catches in all major fields both within and outside the country's economic zone;

- Liberalizing fishing regulations for the catch of less valuable fish to promote their inclusion in fish processing and production, along with stiffer penalties for the discarding of by-catch;
- Development and mandatory introduction, as spelled out in the fisheries rules, of advanced and selective fishing gear (such as selective shrimp trawls, relective inserts for pollock trawl-nets, etc.) that reduce the by-catch of juveniles and other target species;
- Certification of the major fisheries of common fish species, including pollock fisheries in the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, humpback salmon fisheries in the Sakhalin-Kuril region, and planned halibut longline fisheries, through the Marine Stewardship Council.

It should also be noted that, in paragraph 22 of its 2011 resolution, the General Assembly calls upon States to become parties to the 1995 Agreement on transboundary fish stocks. The Russian Federation ratified the Agreement on 4 August 1997 and its provisions are incorporated in the Federal Fisheries and Aquatic Biological Resources (Conservation) Act, as amended in 2009 and 2010.

The Russian Federation has made extensive efforts to prevent the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of marine living resources, including by signing, on 29 April 2012, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The preparatory process for the ratification of this Agreement is currently under way.

Over the last few years, the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries (Rosrybolovstvo) has been holding productive talks with many countries with a view to

It should be noted that research institutes under the authority of the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries regularly conduct field studies in the Baltic Sea, the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Eastern Pacific, designed to assess the reserves of the waters in question and to determine the total allowable catch of their aquatic biological resources. For this purpose, researchers conduct hydroacoustic surveys of pelagic fish stocks and trawl surveys to compute the numbers of their juveniles.
