



Memorandum of Understanding on the  
Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and  
their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

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## FISHERIES-TURTLE INTERACTIONS IN THE IOSEA REGION

1. The IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU contains a number of directives to Signatory States aimed at reducing to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in fishing activities. Signatory States are, in particular, called upon to:

- Determine those populations affected by traditional and direct harvest, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality (Objective 1.1 c);
- Develop and use gear, devices and techniques to minimise incidental capture of marine turtles in fisheries, such as devices that effectively allow the escape of marine turtles, and spatial and seasonal closures (Objective 1.4 a);
- Liaise and coordinate with fisheries industries and fisheries management organisations to develop and implement incidental capture mitigation mechanisms in national waters and on the high seas (Objective 1.4 d);
- Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches (Objective 1.4 f);
- Designate and manage protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones in areas of critical habitat, or take other measures (e.g. modification of fishing gear, restrictions on vessel traffic) to remove threats to such areas (Objective 2.1 d); and
- Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within EEZs and on the high seas (Objective 5.3 j).

2. As reported in Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 7.2 (Review of Implementation Progress), Signatory States have made good progress towards identifying fisheries-related threats at specific sites. About two-thirds have introduced devices that allow the escape of turtles from fishing gear; and most are working with fishing industries and fisheries management organisations to implement mitigation measures (which may include education/training, observer programmes, inspections, spatial/temporal closures etc.). IOSEA co-funding was used to produce an informative booklet to inform fishers how to minimise long-line fishing interactions with turtles and what to do with entangled turtles. In 2004, Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan, a gear technology specialist from Thailand, was appointed to the Advisory Committee to provide much-needed expertise and advice in these areas.

3. The IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU recognises that various other international instruments are relevant to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. Indeed, growing awareness and concern about the incidental mortality of marine turtles (as well as other marine species, such as albatross and sharks) in fishing gear has stimulated debate and calls for action in a range of different fora.

### *Bellagio Blueprint*

4. The “Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles”, which arose from a multi-disciplinary expert workshop held in November 2003, advocated the development and use of new technologies to reduce fishing mortality, as well as research to provide a better understanding of the interactions between marine turtles and fisheries.

### *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)*

5. The IATTC is responsible for the conservation and management of fisheries for tunas and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean. At its 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting (Lima, June 2004), the Commission adopted a resolution (No. C-04-05) on by-catch which, among other things, encouraged, the release of entangled or caught turtles, education/training of fishermen, and provision of data on by-catch. The IATTC further resolved, through its Resolution C-04-07, to adopt a complementary three-year programme to mitigate the impact of tuna fishing on sea turtles. Though focussing on the eastern Pacific Ocean, the approach that is being pursued there could be applied elsewhere.

### *Food and Agriculture Organisation – Committee on Fisheries (COFI)*

6. More recently, the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO’s Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 7-11 March 2005) called for the immediate implementation by FAO Member States and Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) of “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”. These guidelines, reproduced at Annex 1, were drafted at an FAO Technical Consultation meeting held in Bangkok in November 2004, in which the Coordinator participated. The full report of that meeting can be downloaded from the following FTP site:

[ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/COFI\\_26/default.htm](ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/COFI_26/default.htm).

In Rome, member States and RFMOs were invited to report on experiences in implementing the more guidelines six months prior to the next COFI meeting, about two years hence; and FAO was instructed to proceed with the development of formal Technical Guidelines under the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

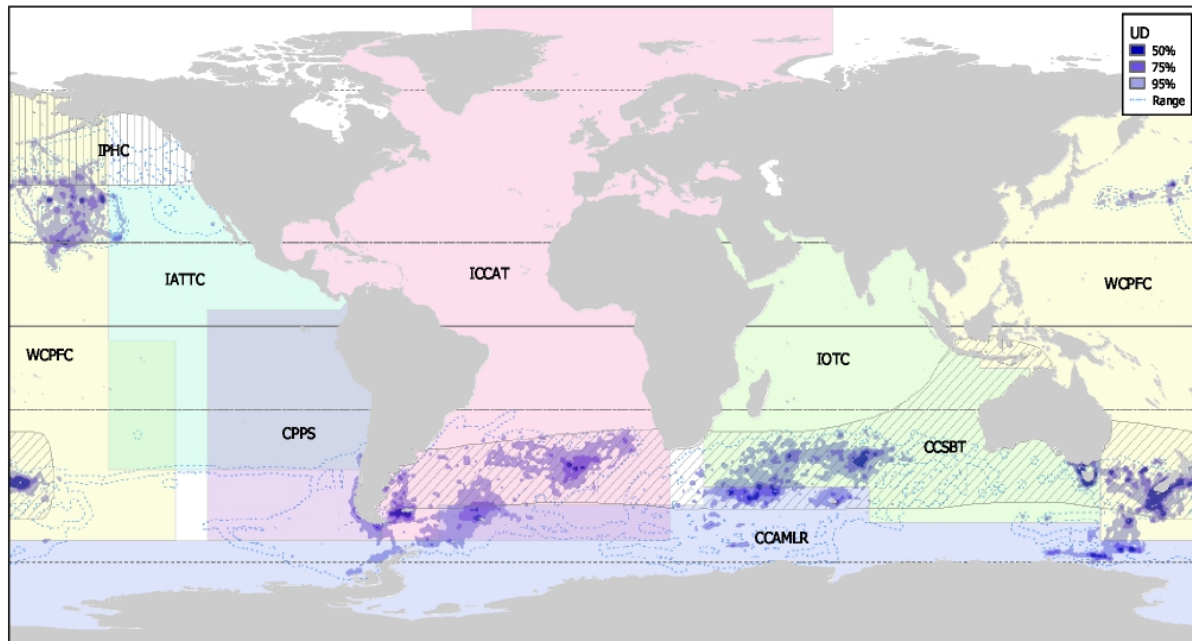
7. The detailed FAO Guidelines complement and, in some areas, supplement the general IOSEA provisions, and introduce a level of specificity that will be very helpful in monitoring their implementation. It remains to be seen however whether the FAO, which does not have a history of involvement in marine turtle conservation, and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which already has a full agenda of other fisheries-related concerns, will be in a position to allocate sufficient resources and time to overseeing their implementation. By comparison, the attention given to monitoring progress in relation to analogous International Plans of Action (IPOA) for seabirds and sharks has not been exemplary. By its own admission, the FAO Regular Programme funds only a "watching brief" on their implementation, through a process by which member States report briefly on progress to COFI, with little or no discussion in that forum.

### *RFMO performance*

8. Formally released to coincide with the March 2005 COFI meeting, a new publication prepared by BirdLife International (hereafter referred to as BirdLife) offers insights into the performance of RFMOs in relation to bycatch mitigation. Titled “Regional Fisheries Management Organisations: their duties and performance in reducing bycatch of albatrosses and other species”, this very thorough 103-page report is available for downloading from the BirdLife International website:

[http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/seabirds/rfmo\\_report.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/seabirds/rfmo_report.pdf)

The publication assesses the performance of 14 RFMOs in minimising bycatch (with particular emphasis on albatross bycatch) within their fisheries. The following map, courtesy of BirdLife, shows the areas managed by all but one of the RMFOs surveyed.



9. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) are the two bodies with broad fisheries management mandates in the Indian Ocean, while the jurisdiction of the newly created Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) covers the waters of the rest of IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU area. It is worth summarising BirdLife’s conclusions with regard to each of these RFMOs, beginning with the IOTC -- which is arguably the most pertinent body in the Indian Ocean in terms of responsibility for managing marine turtle-fisheries interactions.

#### *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*

10. The IOTC came into force in 1996, and has 23 members and two cooperating non-members -- Indonesia and South Africa. IOTC is responsible for the management of tuna and billfish stocks; however, in view of growing concerns over by-catch, an expert consultation advised in 1998 that IOTC should reinterpret its mandate to include the collection of data on non-target, associated and dependent species. BirdLife reports that longlining in the IOTC area has been widespread since the 1970s, and purse-seining began in the 1980s. The Indian Ocean now accounts for 20% of the world tuna production, more than 3/4 of which is harvested from the Western Indian Ocean.

11. Among the six RFMOs reviewed the most comprehensively, the IOTC scores the most poorly in BirdLife’s assessment. Among the report’s key findings:

- “IOTC scored the most poorly of the active RFMOs in terms of management measures for target fish stocks. No catch quotas have been established, despite stocks being over-exploited.... IOTC has not established requirements for observer programmes or established observer data standards”. Few members supply observer data.
- “IOTC has the lowest score in terms of data collection and management of both target and non-target species”. ...Many States do not submit the required catch and effort data, and most do not

submit the data on time. "IOTC's performance is hampered by poor supply of catch/effort data, though IOTC is working to address this through its OFCF project."

- "Member States have not yet agreed on any fish stock or by-catch mitigation measures." In 2002 the IOTC did resolve to establish a Working Group on Bycatch, but the group "has not yet met and at the 2004 meeting of the Scientific Committee it was decided that in 2005-6 it would take the form of an email group, rather than having actual meetings."
- "To date, IOTC has not established any research on the impact of bycatch on non-target species, nor established any requirements for mitigation measures to reduce bycatch. .... IOTC has developed forms for recording discards, but species codes do not include codes for rays, turtles, dolphins or seabirds.... IOTC has not yet established minimum sampling requirements, despite the fact that IOTC passed a Resolution to do so in 2001."
- In response to a reported marked increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Indian Ocean in the 1980s, "IOTC has established some measures to combat IUU fishing, but these are not yet comprehensive.... IOTC does not require port inspection of vessels of member States, has no scheme for at-sea inspection, and VMS is only in a pilot stage, with plans to cover only 10% of vessels."
- "A review by the FAO concluded that IOTC members lacked the political will to achieve effective management regulations."

12. The BirdLife report recommends that the IOTC expand its mandate to include non-target, associated and dependent species; commit itself to reducing bycatch; establish a regional observer programme (including requirements, standards and provision for centralized data collection); organise a meeting of its bycatch working group; and generate the political will and commitment among members to undertake effective management measures.

#### *Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna*

13. The CCSBT came into force in 1994 and now has five members and one co-operating non-member. It covers an area that overlaps with a substantial part of the IOTC. CCSBT is responsible for managing stocks of Southern bluefin tuna. Although the species was once found in all oceans, especially between 30 - 50°, stocks are reported to have declined by 90-97% from their level in 1960. In recent years over 70% of the catch has been from the Indian Ocean. The issue of seabird by-catch is particularly relevant to this instrument.

14. The CCSBT fares only marginally better than the IOTC in BirdLife's performance assessment, which cites its poor record of managing the single target fish stock within its mandate. Among the key findings:

- "The supply of catch and effort data has improved ... however, some weaknesses in data collection and stock assessment remain. CCSBT has not been able to reach agreement on the geographical resolution at which catch and effort data should be submitted." The CCSBT is planning to put catch and effort data online, however only catch data are currently available.
- "CCSBT has one of the lowest scores in terms of the measures it has undertaken to combat IUU fishing. CCSBT does not have a VMS scheme, nor a port or at-sea inspection scheme", however it does maintain a list of authorised vessels.
- "CCSBT's convention includes a commitment to collecting data on non-target, associated and dependent species ... and the Terms of Reference for its Working Group on Ecologically Related Species include the provision of research and advice on gear to minimise the impact of the fishery on non-target species." However, "while CCSBT scores quite well in some aspects of the

commitment it has made to reducing bycatch, it scores poorly in terms of bycatch data collection and mitigation measures undertaken.”

- “While CCSBT has established the requirement [in 1995] for streamer lines on vessels, to reduce seabird bycatch... it has not taken on a central role of monitoring the effectiveness of, or compliance with, this requirement, and has not established any [further] seabird mitigation measures.” Moreover, “CCSBT has not established any bycatch mitigation measures for any other species.”
- “CCSBT has recently established requirements for observer programmes, but the agreed target of 10% observer coverage is substantially weaker than the 20-30% coverage originally proposed.” Moreover, “States are not currently required to submit their observer data to CCSBT, though they do supply annual National Reports.”
- “Although collection of data on non-target species is within CCSBT's mandate, CCSBT and its Working Group on Ecologically Related Species [which meets only once every two years] have so far largely failed to meet this responsibility. ... Observer standards request States to collect data on non-target species, but such data are voluntary and given low priority.”
- “Within CCSBT, Japan, Australia and New Zealand have undertaken extensive research on measures to reduce seabird bycatch, and this research is coordinated by CCSBT's Working Group on Ecologically Related Species. However, CCSBT has conducted little research on mitigation of bycatch of other species.”
- “Reports from the Bycatch Working Group meeting in 2001 suggest a lack of consensus between members about how strong the role of CCSBT should be in reducing bycatch of species such as turtles and sharks, relative to national measures.”

#### *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission*

15. The WCPFC covers the Western and Central Pacific, and is responsible for managing migratory fish stocks, including tunas, billfish, cetaceans and sharks. It currently has 18 members. The Commission only came into force in June 2004, and therefore has not yet established measures for managing fish stocks for reducing by-catch. BirdLife's preliminary assessment is thus based largely on the Convention's stated commitments and plans for executing its provisions. Among the key findings of the BirdLife report:

- “WCPFC's convention incorporates many of the new principles of the new fisheries instruments, including a commitment to minimising the impact of fisheries on non-target, associated and dependent species.”
- “WCPFC already scores fairly well in terms of its plans for data collection and stock assessment. ... The WCPFC convention includes extensive commitments to minimising bycatch of fish and non-fish species, and to adopting measures to minimise waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear and pollution. ... The Commission will collect data on bycatch, and will develop monitoring and research programmes to assess the impact of fishing on non-target species.”
- “WCPFC has resolved to establish an Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, which will meet every year... It has already commissioned reports on the impact of FAD fishing on juvenile fish, and on bycatch and ecosystem issues in the Western and Central Pacific.”
- “The convention includes a commitment to implementing a regional observer programme (though percentage coverage has not yet been agreed upon), and commitments to assisting developing States with their collection of catch and effort data. Establishment of an effective programme will

be a considerable undertaking however, since current coverage of observer programmes within the West and Central Pacific is low.”

- “The WCPFC also plans a mandatory and centralised VMS scheme for all vessels fishing on the high seas, and data will be sent directly to the Commission.” ... Similarly, “the WCPFC convention and the preparatory meetings have outlined extensive plans for measures to combat IUU fishing, although schemes are not yet active.”

16. In short, the WCPFC draws largely on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and, though it will not be possible to fully assess its performance until it is fully active, this fact alone holds out the promise that the WCPFC will fulfil a number of key management objectives.

#### *Potential IOSEA contributions*

17. Having outlined the salient features of the three most relevant RFMOs covering the area of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, and recalling the IOSEA commitment to “establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within EEZs and on the high seas”, it is appropriate to consider what additional contribution IOSEA might make in the area of marine-turtle fisheries interactions. Three suggestions are presented here, which take into account the relatively modest resources and capacity that the IOSEA MoU has to offer.

18. First, the Secretariat should intensify interactions with counterparts in each of the Commissions, with a view to identifying areas where closer cooperation and information exchange would be beneficial. A short- to medium-term objective would be to seek to raise the profile of marine turtle by-catch on the agendas of the respective Commissions and the bodies they have established to deal with the problem of fisheries bycatch.

19. Second, the IOSEA MoU could make a useful contribution towards monitoring implementation of the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations. As noted above, FAO calls upon its member States to report on experiences in implementing the guidelines sixth months prior to the next COFI meeting (in other words, by around October 2006). The IOSEA Secretariat could develop, by early 2006, a reporting framework for the FAO guidelines, analogous to what has been done for the IOSEA CMP, and introduce it on a trial basis for IOSEA Signatory States to use for their reporting to FAO. There is every reason to believe that this could serve as a model for other regional marine turtle agreements as well.

20. Third, the IOSEA MoU Secretariat, by virtue of its links to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, could explore other approaches for examining the broader problem of fisheries interactions with marine turtles. This might include, for example, commissioning a more detailed assessment of the performance of RFMOs specifically in relation to turtle by-catch (building on the extensive work already done by BirdLife International); and reviewing, facilitating where necessary, and reporting to Signatory States on ongoing studies that seek to correlate fishing capacity/effort to marine turtle distribution.

#### *Action requested / Expected outcome*

Signatory States are invited to review and comment on the three proposals mentioned above, introduce any additional suggestions to advance the important work of mitigating fisheries interactions with marine turtles, and consider what additional resources may be required/provided.

## **Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations**

### **Preamble**

The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries calls for sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and requires that fishing be conducted with due regard for the environment. Some sea turtle stocks are seriously impacted by fishing and require urgent attention. Because of the critical status of these stocks a broad suite of measures is recommended that includes reduction of fishery-related mortality in addition to other conservation measures.

Because of the concern regarding the status of sea turtles and the possible negative effects of fishing on these populations, the twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (2003) raised the question of sea turtle conservation and interaction with fishing operations and requested that a Technical Consultation be held on the subject matter to consider, *inter alia*, the preparation of guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations. These guidelines respond to the request of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and have been developed on the basis of the report of the Expert Consultation, held in Rome in March 2004.

These guidelines are intended to serve as input to the preparation of FAO Technical Guidelines as well as to offer guidance to the preparation of national or multilateral fisheries management activities and other measures allowing for the conservation and management of sea turtles. These guidelines are voluntary in nature and non-binding. They apply to those marine areas and fisheries where interactions between fishing operations and sea turtles occur or are suspected to occur. They are global in scope but in their implementation national, subregional and regional diversity, including cultural and socio-economic differences, should be taken into account.

These guidelines are directed towards members and non-members of FAO, fishing entities, subregional, regional and global organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental concerned with fisheries management and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems.

All activities associated with these guidelines should be undertaken with the participation and, where possible, cooperation and engagement of fishing industries, fishing communities and other affected stakeholders.

Implementation of the guidelines should be consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as with the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem with regard to ecosystem considerations and based on the use of best available science.

### **1. Fishing operations**

#### **A. Appropriate handling and release.**

In order to reduce injury and improve chances of survival:

- (i) Requirements for appropriate handling, including resuscitation or prompt release of all bycaught or incidentally caught (hooked or entangled) sea turtles.
  
- (ii) Retention and use of necessary equipment for appropriate release of bycaught or incidentally caught sea turtles.

## B. Coastal trawl

- (i) In coastal shrimp trawl fisheries, promote the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness in reducing sea turtle bycatch or incidental catch and mortality.
- (ii) In other coastal trawl fisheries, collect data to identify sea turtle interactions and conduct where needed research on possible measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch or incidental catch and mortality.
- (iii) Implementation of successful methodologies developed as a result of B(ii).

## C. Purse seine

- (i) Avoid encirclement of sea turtles to the extent practical.
- (ii) If encircled or entangled, take all possible measures to safely release sea turtles.
- (iii) For fish aggregating devices (FADs) that may entangle sea turtles, take necessary measures to monitor FADs and release entangled sea turtles, and recover these FADs when not in use.
- (iv) Conduct research and development of modified FADs to reduce and eliminate entanglement.
- (v) Implementation of successful methodologies developed as a result of C(iv).

## D. Longline

- (i) Development and implementation of appropriate combinations of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices in order to minimize bycatch or incidental catch and mortality of sea turtles.

Recent research has shown positive results for:

- Use of large circle hooks with no greater than a 10 degree offset, combined with whole fish bait. These measures have shown to be effective in reducing sea turtle interactions and mortality;
  - Arrangement of gear configuration and setting so that hooks remain active only at depths beyond the range of sea turtle interaction; and
  - Retrieval of longline gear earlier in the day and reducing soak time of hooks.
- (ii) Research should include consideration of the impact of various mitigation measures on sea turtles, target species and other bycaught or incidentally caught species, such as sharks and seabirds.
  - (iii) Retention and use of necessary equipment for appropriate release of bycaught and incidentally caught sea turtles, including de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets.

## E. Other fisheries

- (i) Assessment and monitoring of sea turtle bycatch or incidental catch and mortality in relevant fishing operations.
- (ii) Research and development of necessary measures for reducing bycatch or incidental catch or to control mortality in other fisheries with a priority on reducing bycatch or incidental catch in gillnet fisheries.
- (iii) In other setnet fisheries, collect data to identify sea turtle interactions and conduct when needed research on possible measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch or incidental catch and mortality.

- (iv) Implementation of successful methodologies developed as a result of E (ii) and (iii).

#### F. Other measures as appropriate for all fishing practices

- (i) Spatial and temporal control of fishing, especially in locations and during periods of high concentration of sea turtles.
- (ii) Effort management control especially if this is required for the conservation and management of target species or group of target species.
- (iii) Development and implementation, to the extent possible, of net retention and recycling schemes to minimize the disposal of fishing gear and marine debris at sea, and to facilitate its retrieval where possible.

### **2. Research, monitoring and sharing of information**

#### A. Collection of information and data, and research

- (i) Collection of data and information on sea turtle interactions in all fisheries, directly or through relevant RFBs, regional sea turtle arrangements or other mechanisms.
- (ii) Development of observer programmes in the fisheries that may have impacts on sea turtles where such programs are economically and practically feasible. In some cases financial and technical support might be required.
- (iii) Joint research with other states and/or the FAO and relevant RFBs.
- (iv) Research on survival possibilities of released sea turtles and on areas and periods with high incidental catches.
- (v) Research on socio-economic impacts of sea turtle conservation and management measures on fishers and fisheries industries and ways to improve communication.
- (vi) Use of traditional knowledge of fishing communities about sea turtle conservation and management.

#### B. Information exchange

- (i) Sharing and dissemination of data and research results, directly or through relevant RFBs, regional sea turtle arrangements or other mechanisms.
- (ii) Cooperation to standardize data collection and research methodology, such as fishing gear and effort terminology, database development, estimation of sea turtle interaction rates, and time and area classification.

#### C. Review of the effectiveness of measures

- (i) Continuous assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken in accordance with these guidelines.
- (ii) Review of the implementation and improvement of measures stipulated above.

### **3. Ensuring policy consistency**

A. Maintaining consistency in management and conservation policy at national level, among relevant government agencies, including through inter-agency consultations, as well as at regional level.

B. Maintaining consistency and seeking harmonization of sea turtle management and conservation-related legislation at national, sub-regional and regional level.

#### **4. Education and training**

- A. Preparation and distribution of information materials such as brochures, manuals, pamphlets and laminated instruction cards.
- B. Organization of seminars for fishers and fisheries industries on:
  - Nature of the sea turtle-fishery interaction problem
  - Need to take mitigation measures
  - Sea turtles species identification
  - Appropriate handling and treatment of bycaught or incidentally caught sea turtles
  - Equipment to facilitate rapid and safe release
  - Impacts of their operations on sea turtles
  - Degree to which the measures that are requested or required to adopt will contribute to the conservation, management and recovery of sea turtle population.
  - Impacts of mitigation measures on profitability and success of fishing operations - Appropriate disposal of used fishing gear
- C. Promotion of awareness of the general public of sea turtle conservation and management issues, by government as well as other organizations

#### **5. Capacity building**

- A. Financial and technical support for implementation of these guidelines in developing countries.
- B. Cooperation in research activities such as on status of sea turtle incidental catch in coastal and high seas fisheries and research at foraging, mating and nesting areas.
- C. Establishment of a voluntary support fund.
- D. Facilitation of technology transfer.

#### **6. Socio-economic and cultural considerations**

- A. Taking into account :
  - (i) socio-economic aspects in implementing sea turtle conservation and management measures.
  - (ii) cultural aspects of sea turtles interactions in fisheries as well as integration of cultural norms in sea turtle conservation and management efforts.
  - (iii) sea turtle conservation and management benefits to fishing and coastal communities, with particular reference to small-scale and artisanal fisheries.
- B. Promotion of the active participation and, where possible, cooperation and engagement of fishing industries, fishing communities and other affected stakeholders.
- C. Giving sufficient importance to participatory research and building upon indigenous and traditional knowledge of fisherfolk.

#### **7. Reporting**

Reporting on the progress of implementation of these guidelines as part of Members' biennial reporting to FAO on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and, as appropriate, and, voluntarily, to other relevant bodies such as regional sea turtle conservation and management arrangements.

## **8. Consideration of other aspects of sea turtle conservation and management**

Fishers, research institutions, management authorities and other interested parties dealing with fisheries conservation and management should collaborate with relevant conservation and management bodies, at national, sub-regional and regional level, in the following subject matters:

A. Collection and sharing of information on sea turtles relative to:

- (i) Biology and ecology (population dynamics, stock identification, behaviour, diet selection, habitats, breeding, nesting, foraging, migration patterns/areas, nursery grounds, etc).
- (ii) Sources of mortality other than fisheries.
- (iii) Status of sea turtle populations, including human-related threats.

B. Improvement and development of conservation and management measures applied throughout the sea turtle life cycle (habitat/ nesting beach protection, enhancement of sea turtle populations).

C. Promotion, as appropriate, of participation in regional sea turtle conservation and management arrangements with a view to cooperate on sea turtle conservation and management.