

Proposal for a workshop at the International Symposium on
“Climate Change Effects on Fish and Fisheries: Forecasting impacts, Assessing Ecosystem Responses, and Evaluating Management Strategies”
 April 2010, Sendai, Japan

1. Title
Reducing global and national vulnerability to climate change in the fisheries sectors: Policy perspectives post Copenhagen
2. Convenors
Cassandra De Young (Food and Agriculture Organization) and Eddie Allison (WorldFish Center, Malaysia), on behalf of the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA)
3. Description and Objectives
<p>The challenges of climate change are a top priority for world leaders. About 520 million people - 8% of the world's population- depend on fisheries and aquaculture as a source of protein, income, or family stability, many of them from vulnerable communities in tropical and low-lying areas and Small Island Developing States. The countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts on their fisheries are among the world's poorest, whose inhabitants are twice as dependent upon fish for food as those of other nations, with 27% of dietary protein derived from fish compared with 13% elsewhere (Allison et al. 2009).</p> <p>The Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA) was created in 2009 to encourage states to include aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture issues when formulating action to combat climate change, particularly in the build up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP15 meeting in Copenhagen, December 2009. PaCFA recognizes that many governmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations have become actively engaged in the search for improved knowledge of the likely impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture (Cochrane et al. 2009) and providing assistance to countries and communities to develop policies and strategies for adaptation and development of resilience to likely changes. However, these actions tend to take place in isolation from each other with a minimum of communication, sharing of experiences and cooperation. The role of PaCFA is to increase the effectiveness of these actions through increased collaboration, complementing mandates and capabilities of each organization and maximising the effectiveness of joint efforts.</p> <p>The objectives of this workshop would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To present the goals and strategy of PaCFA 2. To inform participants about the COP15 decisions regarding adaptation and mitigation actions relevant to the reduction of vulnerability to climate change impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems – including built-in mechanisms to do so within the UNFCCC. 3. The way forward – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To consider the responses of individual agencies and institutions to COP-15 and any adaptation and mitigation efforts in response to climate changes. b. To discuss how the PaCFA can assist national and multinational agencies reduce the vulnerability of countries and regions to climate change impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems, with particular emphasis on LDC and small island states c. To identify the critical gaps in the science underpinning climate impacts on fish production systems and marine and coastal ecosystems and on potential adaptation

<p>responses and mitigation options</p> <p>d. To develop a strategy to ensure that the next IPCC report will take full account of emerging ocean and fishery science related to climate change.</p> <p>The workshop would invite presentations from PaCFA participating organizations (1/2 day), and would then discuss and develop a Plan of Action in pursue of the objectives listed above (1/2 day).</p> <p>*Current membership of PaCFA: BCC, CBD, EBCD, FAO, GLOBEC, ICES, ICFA, ISDR, NACA, NACEE, OECD, OSPESCA, PICES, SEAFO, SPC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, World Bank, WorldFish Center.</p>
<p>4. Anticipated Outcomes/Products</p>
<p>In addition to the Plan of Action, the workshop may develop a paper for inclusion in the Symposium Proceedings summarizing the current state of policy decisions regarding adaptation and mitigation actions relevant to the reduction of vulnerability to impacts of climate change on fisheries and marine ecosystems, and an analysis of the quality of the science base (including social sciences) that underpins these decisions. A policy note on next steps and needs to develop the objectives of PaCFA will be considered.</p>
<p>5. References</p>
<p>Allison, E.H., A.L. Perry, M.-C. Badjeck, W.N. Adger, K. Brown, D. Conway, A.S. Halls, G.M. Pilling, J.D. Reynolds, N.L. Andrew, N.K. Dulvy. 2009. Vulnerability of national economies to the impacts of climate change on fisheries. <i>Fish and Fisheries</i> 10: 73-196.</p> <p>Cochrane, K., C. De Young, D. Soto, T. Bahri. 2009. Climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture: overview of current scientific knowledge. <i>FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 530</i>.</p> <p>PaCFA. 2009. Fisheries and Aquaculture in our Changing Climate. Joint Policy Brief of the Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/climate_change/policy_brief.pdf</p>