

# ROME DECLARATION ON INLAND FISHERIES AND BASIN WORK

(<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5735e.pdf>)

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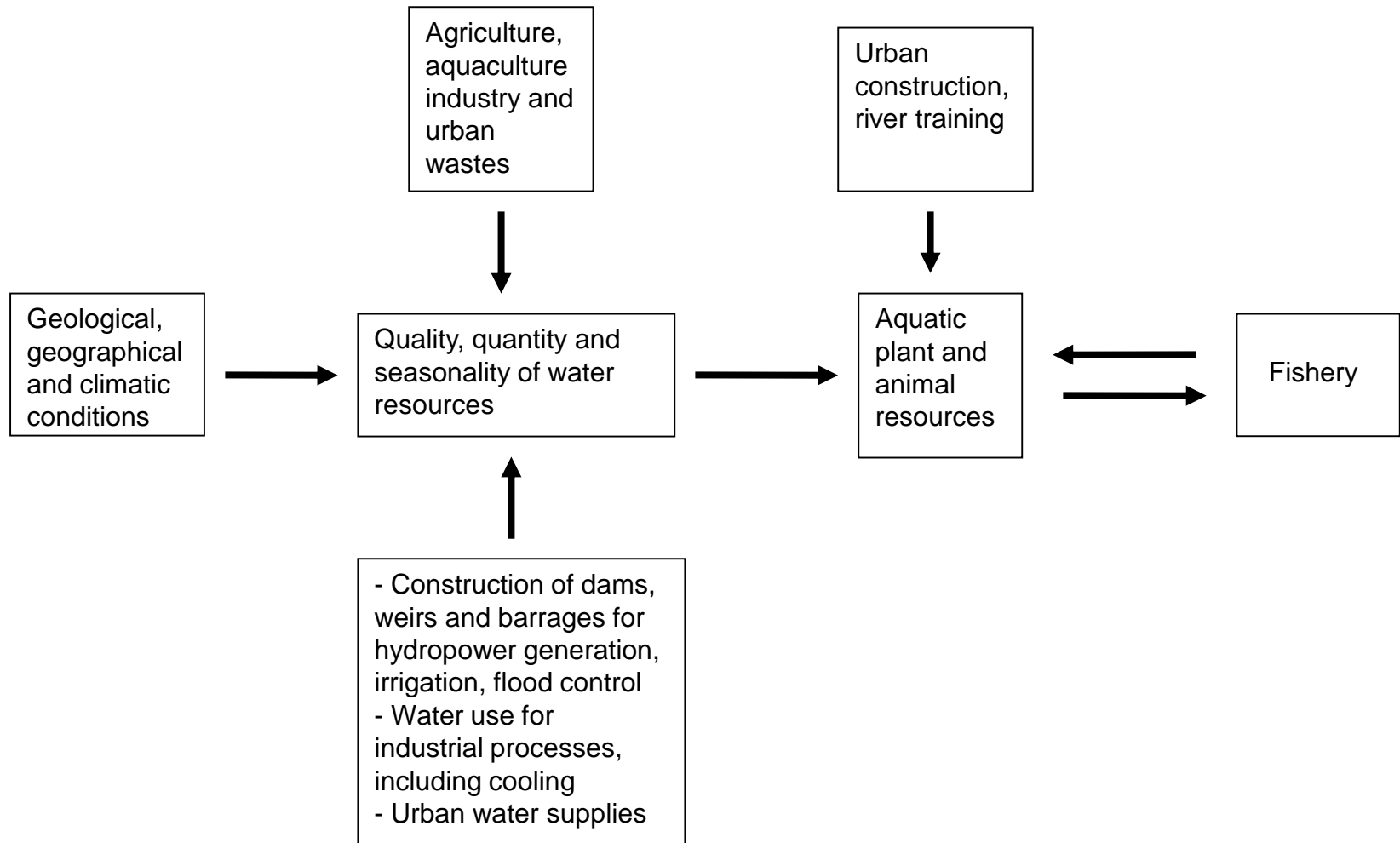
The website of the Fisheries Department is:

<http://www.fao.org/fi/default.asp>

<http://www.fao.org/fi/debut.asp>

<http://www.fao.org/fi/inicio.asp>

# MULTI-USER IMPACTS ON AQUATIC RESOURCES



# **SUSTAINABLE INLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

In the attempt to achieve more sustainable inland capture fisheries management FAO, in collaboration with the Michigan State University, organized the Global Conference on **Freshwater, fish and the future** in January 2015 in Rome.

The Conference discussed

- **cross-sectoral approaches to sustain livelihoods, food security and aquatic ecosystems**

# CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACHES

Aim: to better integrate inland capture fisheries into basin activities

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One of the outputs of this Global Conference was the Rome Declaration

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- lists 10 steps towards more sustainable inland fisheries management
  - three of the 10 steps are dedicated to collaboration with stakeholders outside the fisheries sector

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## **Step 5: Improve communication among freshwater users**

Information on the importance of inland fishery and aquaculture is often not shared with, or accessed by, policy-makers, stakeholders and the general public, thereby making it difficult to generate political will to protect inland fishery resources and the people that depend on them. Moreover, many misconceptions exist on the needs and desires of fishing communities.

Recommended actions:

- The fisheries sector should engage with other users of freshwater resources and participate in national and international fora that address freshwater resource issues, conflicts and synergies.
- The fisheries sector should invite other users of freshwaters to participate in fisheries fora.

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## **Step 6: Improve governance, especially for shared waterbodies**

Many national, international and transboundary inland waterbodies do not have a governance structure that holistically addresses the use and development of the water and its fishery resources. This often results in decisions made in one area adversely affecting aquatic resources, food security, and livelihoods in another.

Recommended action:

Establish governance institutions (e.g. river or lake basin authorities) or expand and strengthen the mandate and capacity of existing institutions to address inland fisheries needs in the decision making processes.

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## **Step 7: Develop collaborative approaches to cross-sectoral integration in development agendas**

Water-resource development and management discussions very often marginalize or overlook inland fisheries. Therefore, trade-offs between economically and socially important water-resource sectors and ecosystem services from inland water systems often ignore inland fisheries and fishers. Development goals based on common needs, e.g. clean water and flood control, can yield mutually beneficial outcomes across water-resource sectors.

Recommended actions:

- Promote cross-sectoral discussions about the trade-offs and synergies of inland water development and management options that consider the inland fishery sector a partner in resource development in an equitable manner.
- Identify and strengthen platforms and legal frameworks for multistakeholder-based decision-making and management.



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- Incorporate inland fish and fisheries into the post-2015 sustainability-development goals on water issues and include all ecosystem services provided by inland aquatic ecosystems.

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We feel that cooperation with other sectors is very important especially under climate change aspects.



**THANK YOU**