

FAO AND ECOLABELS

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FAO

ISSUE TO BE COVERED

- Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries
- Evaluation framework for the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries

FAO GUIDELINES

- Marine Capture Fisheries Ecolabelling Guidelines (adopted 2005, revised 2009)
- Inland Capture Fisheries Ecolabelling Guidelines (adopted 2011)
- Aquaculture Certification Guidelines (adopted 2011)
- Evaluation framework for the Marine Capture Ecolabelling Guidelines (draft)

Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries

- Ecolabelling discussed in the FAO since 1997.
- The Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries were **adopted** in 2005.
- Revised Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries were **adopted** in 2009 (elaborate on minimum substantive criteria)

The Marine Capture Guidelines

- The guidelines include 6 main sections:
 - Scope
 - Principles
 - General considerations
 - Terms and definitions
 - Minimum substantive requirements and criteria for ecolabels
 - Procedural and institutional aspects

Minimum substantive requirements and criteria for ecolabels

- This section includes 3 components:
 - management systems;
 - stock under consideration; and
 - ecosystem approaches

PROCEDURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

- Guidelines for the setting of standards of sustainable fisheries
- Guidelines for accreditation
- Guidelines for certification

GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION

- Conformity assessment of whether a fishery conforms with the standard and related certification criteria; and
- Chain of custody assessment of whether adequate measures are in place to identify fish from a certified fishery at subsequent stages of fish processing, distribution and marketing

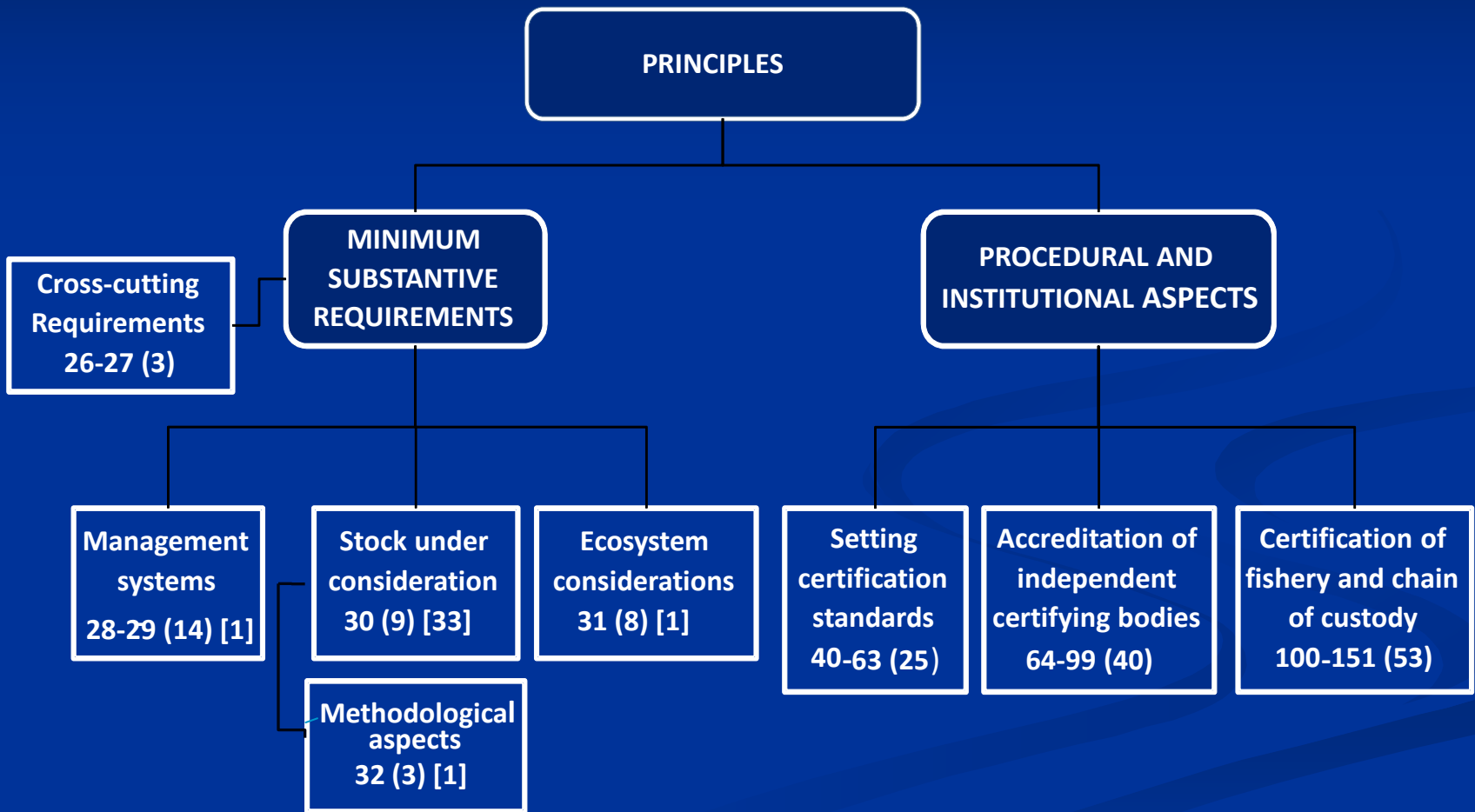
Evaluation framework for the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries

- FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade agreed that FAO should develop an evaluation framework to assess conformity of private and public ecolabelling schemes with the FAO Guidelines
- FAO will not undertake assessments itself
- FAO Expert Consultation held in November 2010

- The evaluation framework I will describe was developed during on Expert Consultation convened in Rome in 2010.
- The evaluation framework is still a draft

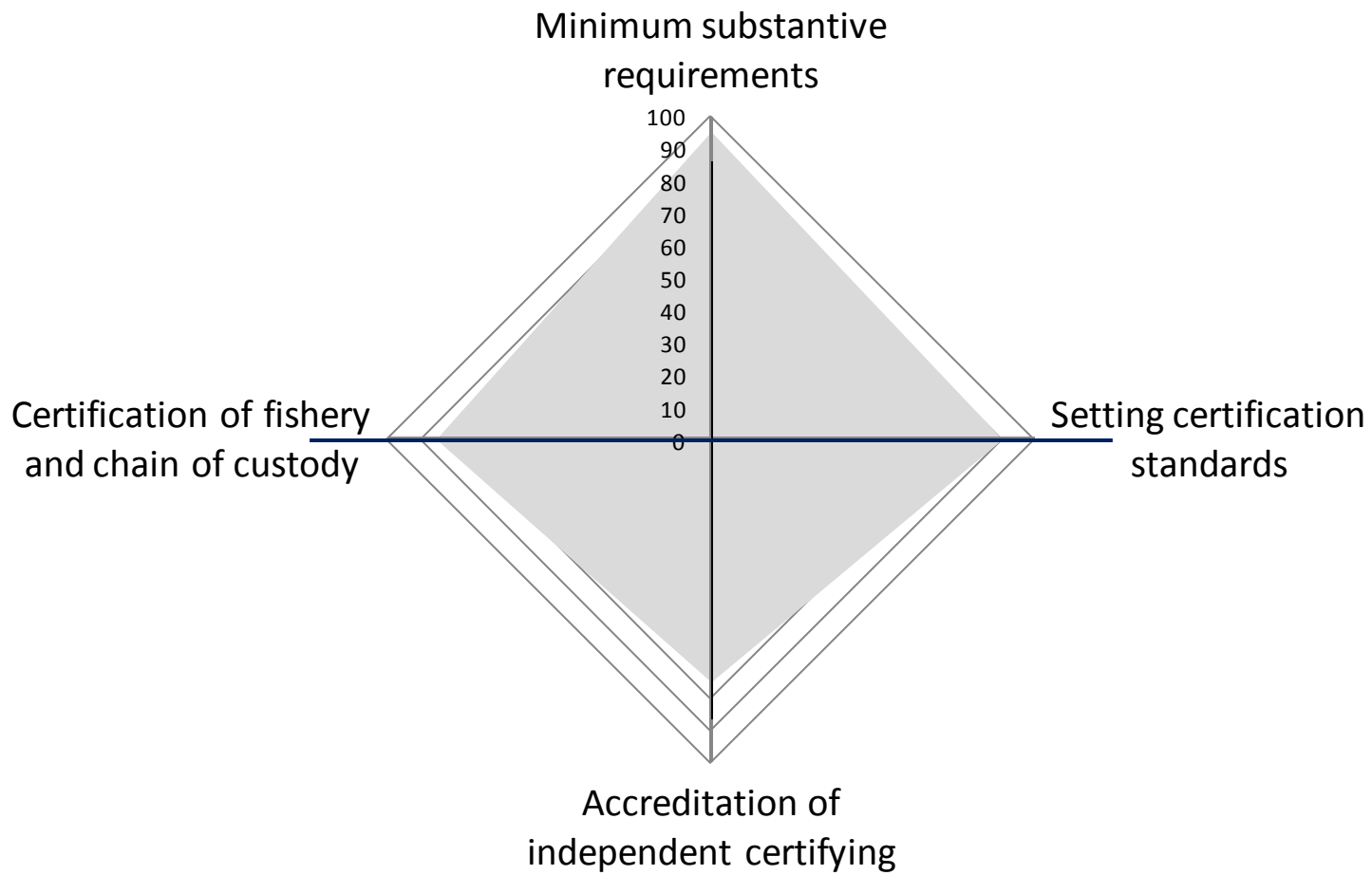
APPROACH

- The EC developed benchmark indicators covering all paragraphs in the Minimum Substantive Requirements and the Procedural and Institutional Aspects.



- The approach used in developing the Evaluation Framework has been to identify indicators that will permit an assessment of conformity with the FAO Guidelines to be made. In the section dealing with Minimum Substantive Requirements and Criteria for Ecolabels one or more indicators are identified for each paragraph in the Guidelines.

- 30a.2 If fishing mortality (or its proxy) is above the associated limit reference point, actions should be taken to decrease the fishing mortality (or its proxy) below that limit reference point.
- Comment: This language relates to the requirement for restoration of the stocks above. If management measures are in place and are working, then all should be well. If not, the certificate may need to be suspended or revoked.
- Indicator: If fishing mortality (or its proxy) is above the associated limit reference point, the standard requires actions to be taken to decrease the fishing mortality (or its proxy) below that limit reference point.



- The assessment process, at present, enables an evaluation to be made as to whether the scheme being assessed is in conformity with the indicators identified in the Evaluation Framework (Appendix D) only on a pass/fail basis. Complete conformance is determined only where all indicators have been included in a scheme being assessed.

- The meeting discussed the benefits of more flexible approaches (e.g. a traffic light approach) to assess the extent of conformity.
- This would require weighting indicators in order to identify those that are critical to ensure conformance with the principles.
- The performance assessment could lead to determinations of partial but acceptable conformance with the Guidelines.

The Evaluation Framework may be used to assess conformity with FAO Guidelines through a variety of means:

- It could be used as a self-assessment tool by the ecolabelling scheme holder;
- It could also be used by third parties with an interest in assessing the conformity of ecolabelling schemes with the Guidelines. These would include governments, consumers, retailers, processors and harvesters that are seeking to make their own assessments against the agreed criteria.

NEXT STEPS

- Inconclusive discussion by the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in February 2012.
- COFI will revisit the evaluation framework when it meets in July 2012.
- COFI will decide on how to proceed with this work.

**Thank you for your
attention!**