



**PIANC**  
The World Association for  
Waterborne Transport Infrastructure

**MARCOM WG 224**

# **PLANNING OF FISHING PORTS**

**(Updating PIANC WG18, 1998)**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **1. Background**

In 1990's, the changes in the fishing industry, such as the declared 200 mile EEZ and overfishing, made it essential to plan effective fishing ports coordinated with organizations/associations who represent the fishing industry. Meanwhile, in 1998, PIANC PTCII Working Group 18 (WG18) published a supplement to Bulletin No. 97, "Planning of Fishing Ports", providing information and recommendations on good practices that must be considered when constructing a new fishing port or expanding an existing port. At that time the report was the only one equivalent to a technical standard on fishing port planning and it has remained unchanged. The report has been used by a wide range of parties including governments, town councils, port authorities, fishermen's associations, fishing industries, design consultants, universities and research organizations in various countries.

About two decades have passed since WG18 published the report. In the meantime, circumstances in the fishing and fishing ports have significantly changed as follows:

- World trade and consumption of fish and fish products have dramatically increased and production of world fisheries and aquaculture has also increased.
- Individual quota (IQ) systems and individual transferrable quota (ITQ) systems, which are more effective methods for fish resource management, have been implemented in countries throughout the world.
- The agreement on Port State Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has been enacted.
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as quality control, have spread widely reflecting people's growing concern.
- Natural disasters caused by high waves, tsunamis, earthquakes, etc. have become more frequent and greater in scale.

- Information and communications technology (ICT) - internet, smartphones and tablets - and Internet of Things (IoT) have ~~has~~ been leveraged to operate and manage fishing ports, and especially fish markets.
- The average fishing boat size has increased and the boats are more advanced and need updated infrastructure facilities.

Under these circumstances it is proposed to update the WG18 report.

## 2. Objectives

The objective of the proposed Working Group (WG) is to review recently-published technical information and lessons from recent efforts related to the development and management/operation of fishing ports, and then incorporate useful information to the existing PIANC report where appropriate. The needs of users—fishermen, buyers and distributors, etc.—will also be reviewed and incorporated.

## 3. Earlier Reports to be Reviewed

Planning of Fishing Ports, PIANC Report of WG18, Supplement to Bulletin No. 97, 1998

Fishing harbour planning, construction and management; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2010

Other reports suggested by the members of the WG will also be reviewed.

## 4. Scope

The steps to realize the aforementioned objectives are as follows:

- (1) Collect and clarify the changes in circumstances and related information which must be considered, including:
  - The recent enhancement of fish resource management and growing concern for quality and sustainability, which are significant considerations for fishing port planning
  - The infrastructure facilities needed for a modern fleet
  - Role and functions of fishing ports in promoting sustainable fish farming
  - The heavy financial burden of increased infrastructure and its maintenance on management and owners
  - Natural disasters causing frequent, large-scale damage to fishing ports
  - The necessity of ensuring the freshness of fish and fish products from the sea to the table in accordance with growing demand throughout the world
  - The increased effectiveness of ICT and IoT devices, which can be leveraged in fishing port operation, auctioning or marketing
- (2) Review the WG18 report and identify the topics and their contents which must be updated, including:

Existing topics:

- Development of Fishing Port and Resource Planning Policies

- Planning Principles to Ensure Efficient Investment in Ports and in Port Related Infrastructure
- Technology Development for Off-loading, Handling, and Marketing of Fish
- General Guidelines for Auction Halls

Newly proposed topics:

- Disaster-Resilient Ports
- ICT, IoT Utilization in Fishing Port Operation  
(replacing “Computerization in Fishing Port Operation”)
- Maintenance of Fishing Port and Port Facilities

(3) Consider and incorporate the useful information and recommendations into the report

The report will be written in clear terms for a variety of technical and non-technical readers involved in fishing port planning.

## **5. Intended Product**

The intended product will be an updated version of the PIANC WG18 report, which will provide information and recommendations to be taken into consideration when constructing a new fishing port or expanding/rehabilitating an existing port. The report is to be suitable for use by a wide range of parties including governments, town councils, port authorities, fishermen's associations, fishing industries, consultants, universities and research organizations. The new report will be produced within two years of the formation of the WG.

## **6. Working Group Membership**

To facilitate discussion and deliberations and maximize the usefulness of the updated report, members of the Working Group should include representatives/engineers of port authorities/port management bodies, planners/designers of consultancies and governments, researchers of universities and other research organizations, and particularly those with experience of modern fishing ports.

## **7. Relevance to Countries in Transition**

The updated report will also be useful for countries in transition by providing practical guidance on constructing a new fishing port and expanding or rehabilitating an existing port.

## **8. Climate Change Considerations**

Although the activity of the working group will not be directly related to climate change issues, references to the use of renewable energy will be included in the report, contributing to the promotion of sustainable practices.

## **9. Relevance to 17 Sustainable Development Goals of U.N.**

The contents of the report will be related to the 9<sup>th</sup> goal, “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” and the 14<sup>th</sup> goal, “Life below Water.” The report will expand knowledge

to plan resilient and sustainable fishing ports, well-coordinated with fish resources management.