



منظمة الأغذية
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Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Seventeenth Session

Dakar, Senegal, 24 – 27 May 2004

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Sixteenth Session (Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 22-24 October 2002), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) made a number of recommendations to the Secretariat and Members. This paper summarizes actions taken by the Secretariat to address the recommendations directed to the Secretariat. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Sixteenth Session are given in brackets.

II. STRENGTHENING MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) IN THE REGION

Agreed that Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) is an important tool in fisheries management and needs to be strengthened wherever possible (Paragraph 34).

2. FAO continued to assist the countries in the Northwest Africa sub-region through the LUXDEV funded project (GCP/INT/722/LUX), which ended in December 2003. This project complemented national efforts of member countries of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) in MCS (fishing control and surveillance) and offered advice on fisheries management through the SRFC Permanent Secretariat in Dakar, Senegal. Delegates from Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone were recently reminded of the role of MCS in fisheries management in an FAO organized workshop on regulation of fishing access and the sustainability of fisheries in West Africa held in Mbour, Senegal in October 2003. FAO participated in a sub-regional workshop on MCS organized by the Economic Commission for Livestock and Natural Resources (CEBEVIRHA) of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) for member countries in Central Africa. The workshop reflects the urgency of sensitising the countries on MCS.

III. UPGRADING THE COMMITTEE TO A COMMISSION LEVEL

Review by the Scientific Sub-Committee of available data on resources in the high seas and an elaboration of legal and institutional proposals for that area, as might be required (Paragraph 40)

3. The Sub-Committee reviewed the status of high seas stocks. Taking into account the available data on those resources, it considered three options for legal and institutional arrangements for the monitoring and management of high seas fishery resources in the CECAF Region. The options were the immediate establishment of a commission for the management of high seas resources other than tuna; the monitoring of high seas resources within the framework of CECAF; and the adoption of an agreement alongside CECAF to provide a stronger legal basis for reporting of catches and the taking of possible management measures in the future.

4. The Sub-Committee noted that the main high seas fishery resources currently under exploitation in the region were tuna and tuna-like species, and that the management of these resources was within the mandate of ICCAT. In view of this situation, the Sub-committee considered that there was no reason to consider the immediate establishment of a separate commission for the management of high seas resources other than tuna in the region. The Subcommittee agreed that the state of high seas fishery stocks other than tuna, as well as any fisheries on those resources should be monitored within the framework of CECAF.

As soon as the information requested in Paragraph 40 was available, the Director-General should convene a legal and technical consultation on the matter before the Seventeenth Session of CECAF (Paragraph 41).

5. Given that the main fisheries on the high seas in the CECAF region are for tuna and tuna-like species, the Sub-Committee considered that it was essential that cooperation between CECAF and ICCAT, as the body responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species, be strengthened. It was, therefore, concluded that there was no need for a legal and technical consultation on the high seas resources.

IV. REVIEW OF CECAF TERMS OF REFERENCE

After agreeing on the continuation and strengthening of the present arrangements of CECAF, the Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and endorsed it for further procedural processing by the Secretariat (Paragraph 42).

6. The 124th Session of the FAO Council, in June 2003, was informed that following the adoption by the Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session, in November 1997 of Resolution 13/97 entitled "Review of FAO Statutory Bodies", CECAF initiated a process of review of its mandate, functions and structure and to that effect had requested the Director-General to convene a Technical Consultation to review the matter. The Technical Consultation (Lagos, 27-30 November 2001) had noted that further changes had taken place that should be reflected in the Terms of Reference of the Committee. In particular, the Technical Consultation was of the view that CECAF should be entrusted with wider scientific and technical functions, but these should concentrate on a few key priority areas with a regional or sub-regional focus and that they should be duly reflected in the revised Terms of Reference. At its Sixteenth Session (Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 22-24 October 2002), CECAF endorsed the revised Terms of Reference and recommended that they be submitted to the Council for approval.

7. The Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) as given in the Appendix and authorized the Director-General

to promulgate the revised Terms of Reference. The Director-General approved the revised Terms of Reference of CECAF on 15 September 2003.

V. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) encouraged the Committee to support its Secretariat in submitting a project proposal on its future activities (Paragraph 50).

8. The Secretariat formulated a project on assistance in the management and development of the fisheries of the Eastern Central Atlantic area and submitted it to the Third Session of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee. The Subcommittee endorsed the Project proposal, which will be submitted to SIDA for funding.

VI. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

9. The Committee is requested to note the progress reported and make recommendations as appropriate.

10. The Committee may also wish to discuss actions taken at the national level on those recommendations addressed to Member Governments.

APPENDIX**REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE
FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC**

The purpose of the Committee shall be to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the area defined under paragraph I above, by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations.

To this end, it shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. to keep under review the state of these resources and of the industries based on them;
- b. to promote, encourage and coordinate research in the area related to the living resources thereof and to draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organize such research as may appear necessary;
- c. to promote the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information;
- d. to establish the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources, to formulate such measures through subsidiary bodies, as required, to make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures and to provide advice for the adoption of regulatory measures by Member Governments, sub regional or regional organizations, as appropriate;
- e. to provide advice on monitoring, control and surveillance, especially as regards issues of a sub-regional and regional nature;
- f. to encourage, recommend and coordinate training in the priority areas of the Committee;
- g. to promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear and techniques;
- h. to promote liaison among and with competent institutions within the sea area served by the Committee and to propose and keep under review working arrangements with other international organizations which have related objectives within that area, insofar as the Constitution, the General Rules, regulations and facilities of the Organization permit; and
- i. to carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Committee to achieve its purpose, as defined above.