

Report of the seventeenth session of the

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## COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 18-22 May 1987



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



REPORT  
of the  
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES  
Rome, 18-22 May 1987

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#### ABSTRACT

The Committee on Fisheries at its Seventeenth Session reviewed the world fisheries situation, the progress in the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the five Programmes of Action approved by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It also reviewed actions taken by FAO in the implementation of the World Fisheries Conference's Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development. It agreed on the formats and periodicity of the progress reports on the implementation of the Strategy and the Programmes of Action to be submitted for consideration at its future sessions. It welcomed the information on trends and future prospects in world fisheries and requested that this information be submitted periodically for its review.

The Committee considered the Report of the First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade held in October 1986 and endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendations.

The Committee discussed the activities and functions of FAO regional fishery bodies and agreed that the item should again be placed on the agenda for its Eighteenth Session.

The Committee considered the recommendations of an Expert Consultation on the Technical Specifications for the Marking of Fishing Vessels held in June 1986, and reviewed information received from member countries, regional and international organizations regarding the protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris.

The Committee endorsed the strategies and priorities selected by the Director-General in the preparation of his Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 and supported the Conclusions of the Programme Committee at its Fifty-second Session that the proposals for Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries, responded to the needs of member countries. It unanimously agreed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget provided a satisfactory basis for the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for 1988-89.



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22 May 1987

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which was held in Rome from 18 to 22 May 1987.

Accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Hassen Akrouf  
Chairman  
Committee on Fisheries

His Excellency  
Lassaad Ben Osman  
Independent Chairman  
Council of FAO





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## MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

### A. MATTERS FOR DECISION

None

### B. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

#### World fisheries situation

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the present world fisheries situation and outlook for the future and suggested that such a review should be placed regularly on the agenda of the Committee, preferably at four-yearly intervals. It agreed that the likely gap between demand and supply by the year 2000 dictated the need for major efforts by FAO as well as by Member Governments, particularly in: (1) the improvement of fisheries management; (2) the effective development of aquaculture; and (3) the improved utilization of fish, including the reduction of post-harvest losses. (paras. 14-16)

#### Progress in the implementation of the Strategy for fisheries management and development

The Committee considered the preliminary progress report prepared in response to the request of the World Fisheries Conference as instructive, with valuable information, reflecting many of the trends in fisheries. It noted steps taken by several countries in improving the legal, administrative and institutional frameworks for fisheries management and development and actions taken to review or revise their policies and programmes for the fisheries sector in the light of the recommendations of the Strategy. It agreed that the World Fisheries Conference's Strategy provided a useful tool to both governments and international organizations in their endeavours to improve the contributions of fisheries to national, economic, social and nutritional goals. It recommended that further progress reports be prepared, using the same format, for submission to the Committee on Fisheries at four-yearly intervals. FAO was requested to assist developing countries which might request the Organization's help and advice in preparing their national reports. (paras. 29, 30 and 34)

#### Progress in the implementation of the Programmes of Action

The Committee expressed its general satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the Programmes of Action and recorded its appreciation for the financial support provided by the donors which reached the minimum annual indicative target of US \$ 15 million. It noted, however, the imbalances in the support received for the various Programmes, both at the level of financing and between geographical regions, in particular, the little extra-budgetary support given to Programme of Action V on the promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition. The Committee agreed on the suitability of the format currently used in this reporting. The progress report to be submitted to the Eighteenth Session of the Committee should include more detailed information on the implementation of the Programmes of Action outside the framework of FAO. (paras. 37, 38 and 52)

Progress in the implementation of the Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development

The Committee noted with appreciation that FAO had continued its effort jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Unesco/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other organizations, in promoting action aimed at preventing and fighting pollution affecting fishery resources. It reiterated its request that action also be taken in the protection of inland water fishery resources from pollution.

The Committee commended FAO on the successful implementation of World Food Day 1986 which had as its theme "Fishermen and Fishing Communities". It stressed the importance of implementing integrated development programmes at national level so as to improve the quality of life of rural small-scale fishermen. (paras. 60 and 61)

Report on the First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Rome, 7-10 October 1987

The Committee highlighted the usefulness of its Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in the light of the fruitful work the Sub-Committee had been able to accomplish at its First Session. It endorsed the report of the First Session of this Sub-Committee and the recommendations contained therein, as well as the proposal for a Technical Assistance Programme for Fishery Commodities and Marketing Development. It decided that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would depend on the progress of its work, taking into account the meeting of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. (paras. 68-71, 73 and 76)

Marking and identification of fishing vessels

The Committee supported the concept of a uniform system for the marking of fishing vessels and considered the draft specifications, prepared at an Expert Consultation convened by the Director-General in June 1986, a good basis for implementing such a system. Whilst noting that several delegations stated that their governments would require time to review the proposed marking system, the Committee suggested that the matter be further considered by both the Committee on Fisheries and the FAO Council. (paras. 78 and 82)

Protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris

Several delegations felt that, in the light of other pressing needs for development in fisheries, the above issue should presently have a lower priority in the work of FAO and of the Committee on Fisheries. Other delegations pointed to the need for immediate action in some areas. The Committee felt that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) could monitor entanglement in marine debris. It was noted that future work by FAO in this field would be carried out in cooperation with other bodies such as UNEP and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funds. (paras. 88 and 89)

### Review of the activities of FAO regional fishery bodies

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss the above issue and requested that the item be again placed on the agenda of its Eighteenth Session. To facilitate the preparation of this item, the Committee suggested that different FAO regional fishery bodies undertake, during the inter-sessional period, an in-depth evaluation of their work. (para. 90)

### The work of FAO in fisheries during 1988-89

The Committee endorsed the strategies and priorities selected by the Director-General in the preparation of his Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. It approved the content and framework, as well as the areas of special emphasis of the fisheries proposals. It supported the conclusion made by the Programme Committee, at its Fifty-second Session in May 1987, that the proposals for Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries responded to the needs of member countries and agreed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget provided a satisfactory basis for the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for 1988-89. It was felt that even more attention should be given to aquaculture, the reduction of post-harvest losses and the socio-economic aspects of development and management of small-scale fisheries. (paras. 105-107 and 109)



## OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries held its Seventeenth Session in Rome from 18 to 22 May 1987. The session was attended by 85 members of the Committee, by observers from four other FAO Member Nations, one non-Member Nation of FAO, and the Holy See, by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and the European Economic Community and by observers from 15 other intergovernmental and international organizations. The list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.
2. As the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. William G. Gordon (USA), who had retired from Federal Service, was unable to participate in the session, Mr. Salem Hadj Ali (Tunisia), who had been elected First Vice-Chairman of the Committee at its Sixteenth Session, was in the Chair. After his welcoming remarks, Mr. Hadj Ali invited the session to observe one minute's silence in memory of the late Mr. J.E. Carroz, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Fisheries Department and previously Secretary of the Committee on Fisheries.
3. The session was inaugurated with the address of the Director-General, read by Mr. D. Walton, Deputy Director-General. The text of his statement is reproduced in Appendix D to this report.
4. The Committee heard statements made by Ministers and Vice-Ministers responsible for fisheries from member countries.
5. H.E. Captain Ryszard Pospieszynski, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Maritime Economy, Poland, expressed full support for increased international collaboration in fisheries research and in the control and prevention of aquatic pollution. He mentioned that future expansion of the utilization of non-conventional species would depend on collaborative research in the development of suitable ways and means of using these resources. Poland reiterated its offer to collaborate with other countries and FAO in the development of the capacity of developing countries for the management and development of their fisheries.
6. H.E. Sirajul Hossain Khan, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh, highlighted the conclusions of the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and stressed the need to integrate small-scale fisheries development in the overall rural development. He emphasized the growing importance of inland fisheries to many developing countries, in particular Bangladesh, and outlined his country's policy for fisheries development. He supported FAO's conclusion that fish production could be increased in response to the demand by the year 2000.
7. H.E. Angel Alogo Nchama, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry of Equatorial Guinea, stressed the importance of international cooperation in rural development and drew attention to the need to maximize benefits for coastal States from the fisheries in their exclusive economic zones. He expressed full support for FAO's activities in assisting its member countries in the field of fisheries management and development.
8. H.E. Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary of State for Fisheries of Mexico, emphasized that the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development was a faithful reflection of the political will of the world community represented at the World Fisheries Conference, recalling the commitment of the FAO member

countries to its implementation and stressing the importance of not reopening questions which had already been thoroughly discussed and resolved by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and endorsed by the Strategy itself. He supported the need to eliminate tariff and other trade barriers which hampered the fish trade while concealing interests of access to resources of the exclusive economic zones, as well as the basic principle that each country should directly exploit its resources for its own benefit and that of mankind, thereby generating an increased trade flow.

9. H.E. Javier Labarthe Correa, Minister of Fisheries of Peru, emphasized the importance of fish as food and the need for conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources. He drew attention to the key role played by the private sector in the expansion of fisheries in his country. He urged that the potential use of shoaling pelagic fish for direct human consumption should be explored. In the development of fisheries, developing countries still needed assistance with respect to capital, equipment and technology; however, the negative impact of debt repayment requirements had hampered the economies as well as fisheries development in many developing countries. Finally, he stressed the need for Third World countries to safeguard national economic interests in the exploitation of fishery resources in their respective exclusive economic zones.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

10. The Committee adopted the agenda as shown in Appendix A to this report. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

11. As this was the first and only session being held in the 1986-87 biennium, the Committee was required to elect a Chairman, a First Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Hassen Akrouit (Tunisia) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee; Captain Ryszard Pospieszynski (Poland) was elected First Vice-Chairman, and Belgium, Canada, Malaysia and Senegal as other Vice-Chairmen.

12. A Drafting Committee was appointed consisting of representatives of Chile, Equatorial Guinea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Spain, the United States of America, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. It elected India as its Chairman and the United States of America as Vice-Chairman.

#### **WORLD FISHERIES SITUATION**

13. At previous sessions of the Committee, the opportunity was provided, from time to time, to review the trends and outlook for world fisheries. The last discussion of this item took place at the Eleventh Session of the Committee in 1977. With increased attention being paid to global fisheries and future developments, as a result of the World Fisheries Conference, it was considered timely for the Committee to devote a special agenda item to this subject.

14. The Committee welcomed document COFI/87/2 prepared by the Secretariat and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to review the present fisheries situation and the outlook for the future. It was noted that the document, which might be completed and updated, would be helpful to governments in the preparation and revision of their national plans for fisheries management and development. It was suggested that the review of the world fisheries



situation should be placed regularly on the agenda of the Committee, preferably at four-yearly intervals.

15. The Committee noted the continued growth in the world catch of fish but expressed concern that much of the recent growth had been in the catches of small pelagic species which were generally of lower value and subject to wide natural fluctuations and utilized generally for fish meal. The Committee thought that the future outlook presented in the paper was realistic and that the likely gap between demand and supply dictated the need for major efforts by FAO as well as Member Governments.

16. The Committee agreed that three basic possibilities existed to increase fish supply: (1) the improvement of fisheries management; (2) the effective development of aquaculture; and (3) improved utilization of fish, including the reduction of post-harvest losses.

17. In achieving the task of improved management, one of the most critical needs was improved information. FAO's role in providing such information was recognized as being of crucial importance. The role of FAO's regional and sub-regional fishery bodies was particularly valued in helping governments to improve their information base. Concern was expressed that some governments were not providing statistical data of an acceptable quality with regard to some of their fisheries and it was hoped that this could be overcome.

18. The Committee noted that a study of the Patagonian fishery resources and the off-shore fisheries in the South-West Atlantic, an important part of the FAO statistical Area 41, had recently been published by FAO. Recognizing the importance of the fisheries in statistical Area 41 and that under the present circumstances FAO is uniquely capable of collating and analyzing fisheries data, the Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor the area, within its mandate as a specialized technical agency, and in particular to update the study as appropriate. To this end, the countries fishing in the area were invited to cooperate with the Secretariat, particularly through the provision of all catch and effort data and biological information on the fishery resources.

19. It was generally agreed that there was a strong need for training in the acquisition of information and in the development of management expertise. Some delegations noted that there was considerable disparity among countries in their approaches to fisheries management and FAO was encouraged to examine the conditions that would be conducive to the adoption of better management practices.

20. The Committee noted the rise in the real prices of fish and the pressures that this was likely to place on the fishery resources as fishermen increased their fishing effort. It was suggested that FAO should undertake increased effort to develop price information.

21. Many delegations stressed the importance of ensuring rational exploitation of the resources in their exclusive economic zones for the benefit of their countries. A number of countries expressed concern about the difficulties of monitoring fishing operations and of ensuring that foreign fishing vessels were not violating their zones. Several delegations noted that the costs of controlling fishing in their exclusive economic zones were high and requested assistance in the development of appropriate cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance systems.

22. Although many delegations agreed with the projected increase in production of aquaculture by the year 2000, a number of delegations believed that the projections were under-estimated. It was agreed, however, that more attention should be given to aquaculture in recognition of its potential to increase fish supplies. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a review on aquaculture development for each session of the Committee.

23. The Committee expressed concern regarding the costs of inputs required for aquaculture and it was noted that technical constraints remain, particularly in genetics and feed. Several delegations referred to the important contribution to production from enhancing natural stocks as well as cage culture. Several countries suggested that FAO organize an international conference on aquaculture, possibly in the next biennium. One member suggested that further actions should be considered in the light of the forthcoming thematic evaluation report on aquaculture.

24. It was agreed that significant improvements in the supply of food fish could be achieved from better utilization of existing catches. Shortages in infrastructure required for the preservation and distribution of fish were identified as well as the need for reducing by-catches in shrimp trawls.

25. Special attention was given to the importance of small shoaling pelagic species as a potential source of fish for direct human consumption to meet demand projections to the year 2000. In this connection, the need for more applied technology to improve traditional products from these species and to determine alternative product approaches, including analogous products with wide usage potential, was underlined. The Committee also noted that acceptance of these species often required changes in eating habits and improvements in physical facilities for distribution, storage and transportation. The Committee therefore urged that more attention be given to investment in this area. It pointed out that the uncertainty associated with the variability in pelagic species could be reduced by directing more research on these species.

26. While supporting the recommendations on the strengthening of their fisheries sector several developing countries pointed out that severe economic difficulties prevented major investments in their national development plans. It was mentioned that depressing international prices for commodities, losses of markets to subsidized products and the heavy burden of their external debt were the main obstacles to their development.

#### **FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1984 FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

##### **(a) Progress in the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development**

27. The World Fisheries Conference endorsed a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and invited States and international organizations to take into account the principles and guidelines contained in the Strategy when planning the management and development of fisheries. In Resolution No. 3 adopted by the Conference, the Director-General was requested to provide the Committee on Fisheries and the Organization's governing bodies with periodic reports on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy; States, international and regional organizations were encouraged to collaborate with FAO in preparing such reports.

28. The Committee reviewed a preliminary progress report prepared by the Director-General in response to this request. The report (document COFI/87/3) was based on national reports provided by governments, contributions from international and other organizations, special studies undertaken by FAO and relevant statements made at regional and international meetings held since the World Fisheries Conference.

29. The Committee welcomed the report which it regarded as most instructive and valuable information prepared in a frank and analytical manner, reflecting and complementing many of the trends in fisheries described in document COFI/87/2. It noted the encouraging progress made by many countries in undertaking steps to promote effectively the management and development of their fisheries, although it was observed that because of varying conditions and capacities some countries had found it more difficult than others to implement relevant guidelines and principles of the Strategy especially those with regard to management and surveillance systems.

30. Delegations referred to the steps taken by their governments to improve the legal, administrative and institutional frameworks for fisheries management and development after the World Fisheries Conference and described the actions taken to review or revise their policies and programmes for the fisheries sector in the light of the recommendations of the Strategy. Reference was particularly made to the increased awareness created among decision-makers of the importance and potentials of the fisheries sector as a result of the World Fisheries Conference.

31. The Committee noted that the review by FAO re-affirmed the critical importance of training, transfer of technology and financial resources so as to improve the self-reliance of developing countries in planning and executing fisheries development and management programmes. It also welcomed the emphasis placed in the report upon the vital need for better and more comprehensive data, both biological and socio-economic. In this regard, it underlined the key role of FAO in providing training and advice and in the gathering, analysis and dissemination of statistics and other types of information.

32. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the great importance which continues to be attached by both developed and developing countries to technical and economic collaboration between all countries and organizations concerned with fisheries and to the value in this respect of the network of FAO regional fishery bodies and other mechanisms established to promote and facilitate cooperation in research, development and management. The need for further efforts to increase the flow of financial support to the fishery sectors of developing countries was also underlined.

33. On the evidence of the national reports and other materials provided for the preparation of this first progress report, the Committee agreed that the Strategy endorsed by the World Fisheries Conference was clearly providing a useful tool to both governments and international organizations as they sought individually and jointly to improve the contribution from fisheries to national social, economic and nutritional goals. It recommended that further assessments of progress being achieved with implementing the Strategy should be regularly prepared by the Organization. The timing of such future reports would necessarily have to reflect a compromise between a desire for frequent and current information and the relatively slow rate at which important changes in fisheries emerge, and also avoid placing unreasonable burdens on the governments and organizations which would be requested to provide the materials upon which the reports would be based.

34. The Committee recommended that further progress reports should be prepared at four-yearly intervals, i.e. for presentation to every alternate session of the Committee. It was considered that such future evaluations of the usefulness and relevance of the Strategy might be made jointly with overviews of the overall state and prospects of the world's fisheries, similar to that presented in document COFI/87/2. This would permit the Committee to deal regularly with two important issues in a logical and effective manner. The Committee further agreed that countries should again be encouraged to provide national reports, based on simple but flexible standard formats and supplemented by other information they considered to be valuable and relevant for use in the preparation of future evaluations. It counselled that care should be taken, when seeking the collaboration of States and organizations, to avoid duplication of requests for fisheries data made by the Organization. FAO was also urged to make every effort to assist developing countries which might request the Organization's help and advice in preparing their national reports.

**(b) Progress in the implementation of the Programmes of Action**

35. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document COFI/87/4. The Secretariat reported on progress achieved since the adoption of the Programmes of Action at the World Fisheries Conference. The sub-regional, regional and inter-regional activities implemented under the five Programmes of Action were categorized into two main groups, namely: projects executed directly by FAO and projects undertaken in support of the Programmes of Action outside the framework of FAO.

36. It was noted that although the FAO-executed projects were mostly financed by cash contributions from donors, some activities received significant in-kind support from donors and also increasing cash contributions from the participating countries themselves which were not included in the statistical summaries of document COFI/87/4.

37. The Committee expressed its general satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the Programmes of Action and recorded its appreciation for the financial support provided by the donors which reached the minimum annual indicative target of US\$ 15 million. Many delegations noted that there were imbalances in the support received for the various Programmes of Action. These imbalances were both at the level for financing the Programme of Action and between geographical regions. In particular, it was noted that Programme of Action V "The Promotion of the Role of Fisheries in Alleviating Under-nutrition" had, surprisingly, received little support, and several delegations stressed the necessity of additional donor support. To assist with mobilizing support for this Programme, the delegation of the Netherlands announced its intention of holding a working group in collaboration with FAO on the role of fish in nutrition. Also the Norwegian delegation stressed the importance of this Programme and advised that nutritional aspects were included in the projects conducted under its bilateral fisheries programmes. The completion of the draft manual on nutritional elements to be included in project design after suitable field testing would help to promote the inclusion of nutritional considerations in fishery development projects.

38. Geographical imbalances in support of the Programmes of Action mainly affected Latin America and the Caribbean (except for some activities under Programme of Action III). Delegations appealed to donors to fill those gaps. In addition, lack of support for Programme of Action I in the Mediterranean and inland waters of Asia, Africa and Latin America was noted.

39. The Committee welcomed the strong support received for Programme of Action III on Aquaculture Development and emphasized the considerable growth potential of this sector. However, several delegations stressed the need to review the approach used for the development of this sector on the basis of the forthcoming report of the FAO/Norway/UNDP Thematic Evaluation on Aquaculture. It was further pointed out that many of the problems related to aquaculture differed between regions and that a regional approach should be considered.

40. The Committee was satisfied with the accomplishments of the Regional Project for the Development of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (MEDRAP). It also expressed the hope that the problems of financing would not hinder the continuity of this project.

41. Several delegations noted with satisfaction the important role being played in the promotion of fish trade by the FAO Regional Fish Marketing Information Networks as part of Programme of Action IV and were pleased to be informed that the Regional Asian Fish Marketing Project INFOFISH had now become an autonomous inter-governmental body.

42. Many delegations stressed the importance of the training elements in the Programmes of Action as a means of technology transfer and of achieving self-reliance of developing countries in the management and development of their own fisheries sectors. In this respect Portugal offered collaboration in the training of Portuguese-speaking trainees from Africa.

43. The Committee emphasized that, although the initial period of five years for the implementation of the Programmes of Action would terminate in 1989, there was a need to continue the Programmes beyond that date. It suggested that the FAO regional fishery bodies should be able to make useful proposals as to future priorities and adjustments of the Programmes for their respective regions.

44. Several delegations mentioned the importance of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) in the implementation of the Programmes of Action as a cornerstone for the regional transfer of technology and attainment of self-reliance.

45. Many delegations emphasized the need for coordination and exchange of information on donor inputs to avoid duplication and make the most cost-effective use of the available resources. In this connection, the Committee was informed by the representative from the World Bank that a donors' consultation had been held in Paris in October 1986, attended by 29 donor agencies, under the auspices of the World Bank, EEC, UNDP and the African Development Bank, with FAO participation. As a result of this consultation, an information exchange system had been initiated by FAO. Regional fisheries development donors' consultations were also being prepared. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that a programme for international cooperative research was under formulation.

46. The representative of the European Economic Community (EEC) described the fishery programme being carried out within the framework of the Lome III Convention and other agreements. She also informed the Committee that a regional project for Africa and the Sahel was being reviewed for approval, in support of Programme of Action V.

47. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advised that his organization would continue its close cooperation with FAO in the fisheries sector. It was noted that approximately 40 percent of the funding on an annual basis for the Programmes of Action was provided by UNDP. The increasing support given by the participating countries themselves to such projects as the Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Indo-Pacific Tuna Project was commended. The interest of UNDP in co-funding projects with other donors was emphasized.

48. The representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat mentioned her Organization's special interest in the Programmes of Action and elaborated upon the implementation of various activities which were in line with these Programmes.

49. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) referred to their cooperation with FAO in the implementation of Programmes of Action I, II and III, and stressed the importance of oceanographic research in relation to fluctuations in the abundance of pelagic fish stocks. Mention was also made of IOC collaboration with FAO in the preparation of a manual on the use of research vessels and in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS).

50. The representative of the Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries (OLDEPESCA) provided information on the policies, programmes and projects of his Organization. Mention was made of the close collaboration between OLDEPESCA and FAO on such projects as INFOPESCA, the Working Group on Resources Evaluation in Central America and the survey programme off Central America of the research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.

51. The delegate of Peru, on behalf of the members of the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS), advised that the Commission wished to improve working relations with FAO, and, in particular, referred to a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project for reformulating a pilot project for non-traditional food products from fish for institutional consumption, a proposal for a regional CPPS/FAO project to assist in the management and development of fisheries in the South East Pacific, a working group for the research on artisanal fisheries and fish resources in the South East Pacific and the organization of other international technical meetings on various fisheries subjects.

52. The Committee agreed on the general suitability of the format of the report presented by the Secretariat as document COFI/87/4. However, some delegates expressed the wish for more detailed information on implementation of the Programmes of Action outside the FAO framework and requested that such information be provided as an appendix to the next COFI document on this subject, or as an information paper. One delegate suggested that information on donors' development assistance at the country level should also be appended.

**(c) Progress in the implementation of the Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development**

53. This item was discussed on the basis of document COFI/87/5. The Committee noted that, in addition to the three recommendations concerning the implementation of the Strategy and Programmes of Action, the World Fisheries Conference had adopted six additional Resolutions on the following topics: (i) the Promotion of Fish in the Campaign against Malnutrition (Resolution No. 4); (ii) the Financing of Investment Projects in the Field of Fisheries (Resolution No. 5); (iii) Protection of Fishery Resources of Developing

Countries from Pollution (Resolution No. 6); (iv) the Role of the Fisherman (Resolution No. 7); (v) Development of Special Fisheries Programmes for Land-locked Countries (Resolution No. 8); and (vi) the Promotion of Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) (Resolution No. 9).

54. The Committee also noted that, after its Sixteenth Session, follow-up activities to the World Fisheries Conference had been reviewed on two major occasions. The first one, the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries convened by the Government of Spain from 15 to 18 September 1985, had supported strongly the need to develop further bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in the fisheries sector, particularly ECDC and TCDC, the provision of profitable outlets for the fishery products of developing countries and the role of fish in alleviating world hunger.

55. The second occasion had been the review of the follow-up activities of the World Fisheries Conference by the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome from 9 to 28 November 1985. The FAO Conference had welcomed, in particular, the Director-General's decision to select "Fishermen and Fishing Communities" as a theme for World Food Day 1986 and the opportunity thus offered to emphasize the role of women in the fisheries sector.

56. Concerning Resolution No. 4, the Promotion of Fish in the Campaign against Malnutrition, the Committee welcomed the measures being taken by the World Food Programme (WFP) and member countries to increase the quantities of fisheries products in their emergency and food work programmes and by FAO to reduce post-harvest losses.

57. The Committee expressed concern over the fact that Programme of Action V, the Promotion of the Role of Fisheries in Alleviating Under-nutrition, had not received the level of financing it deserved, thus delaying very much the full implementation of this resolution. The Committee called the attention of donor countries and non-governmental organizations to this fact and urged them to give higher priority to financing fishery projects aimed at alleviating hunger and malnutrition in the world.

58. There was general appreciation by the Committee of the efforts made by the Director-General to bring Resolution No. 5 on investment in fisheries to the attention of the major financing institutions immediately after the World Fisheries Conference and the steps he had taken to strengthen Regular Programme activities in this field. The Committee agreed with the emphasis put on training in project identification, preparation and evaluation, as recommended at its Sixteenth Session in 1985.

59. The Committee reiterated the views it had expressed at its Sixteenth Session concerning the promotion of consultations on aid coordination between the financing institutions and between these and developing countries. In this connection it commended the organization of a donors' consultation on fisheries development assistance in Paris, France, in 1986, on the initiative of the World Bank and the European Economic Community (EEC). The representative of the World Bank explained the results of the consultation and follow-up actions being undertaken in close collaboration with FAO, EEC, UNDP and the African Development Bank (ADB).

60. The Committee noted that FAO had continued its efforts, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Unesco/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Health Organization (WHO),

International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other international organizations, to promote actions aimed at preventing and fighting pollution affecting fishery resources. The Committee commended FAO on the successful establishment of networks of laboratories in the Mediterranean and the West and Central African Region for monitoring contamination of fish and for research on pollution affecting marine organisms and ecosystems. It was stressed that FAO/UNEP cooperation in such programmes should be intensified and that the time had now come to develop strategies to limit coastal pollution and control its sources. In view of the growing problems of pollution in inland waters and the great importance of inland fisheries to many countries, especially in Africa, the Committee reiterated its request that action be taken to protect inland water fishery resources from pollution. Specific reference was made to the vulnerable environments of some African lakes, e.g., Lake Tanganyika. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP).

61. The role of the fisherman was underlined by the World Food Day celebration in 1986 which had as its theme "Fishermen and Fishing Communities". The Committee commended the Secretariat on the successful implementation of that event and noted that many countries had arranged special activities on that occasion resulting in increasing community awareness of fisheries issues. Attention was focused on the contribution of small-scale fishermen to food production, nutrition, and social and economic development, and, in particular, on the role of women in aquaculture, fish processing and marketing. The Committee stressed the importance of implementing integrated development programmes at national level, so as to improve the quality of life of rural small-scale fishermen.

62. The Committee noted with satisfaction the follow-up action undertaken by FAO in response to Resolution No. 8, Development of Special Fisheries Programmes for Land-locked Countries. It recognized that this support was both direct through increased emphasis in the Organization's Regular Programme and indirect through the mobilization of financial assistance to help countries to plan, develop and manage their inland fisheries and aquaculture.

63. The Committee appreciated that the land-locked countries of the Sahel and East-Central Africa had benefited from increased Regular Programme assistance through the activities of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) and the Fishery Development Officer outposted to the Eastern Central African region. The countries of Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, in particular, emphasized the usefulness of regional contacts in promoting technical assistance and investment projects.

64. The Committee recognized that the FAO Regular Programme and the five Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference contained strong elements of support for ECDC and TCDC (Resolution No. 9) as these Programmes related to activities at the regional, sub-regional and inter-regional levels.

65. The role of FAO regional fishery bodies in promoting ECDC and TCDC was considered crucial to increase regional understanding and the need to support their activities was strongly supported. It was noted, however, that shortage of funds did in some cases limit their activities by reducing the number of training courses, workshops, seminars, cooperative networks and technical meetings.



**REPORT ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE, ROME,  
7-10 OCTOBER 1986**

66. In introducing the relevant document, COFI/87/6, Mr Fernando Castro y Castro (Mexico), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, presented the results of the Sub-Committee's First Session held in Rome from 7 to 10 October 1986 and pointed out that the documentation provided evidence that the Sub-Committee indeed constituted an appropriate framework for consultations on fish trade matters as envisaged by the World Fisheries Conference. The First Session had shown that there was no duplication with the work of other organizations and that controversial issues of international trade in fish and fishery products could be discussed with active and constructive participation leading to useful results for all countries.

67. At the time of the First Session of the Sub-Committee the available information had suggested that there was a long-term trend of developing countries achieving increased participation in international fish trade, albeit at a relatively slow pace. According to current information it appeared that this trend had been interrupted in 1986 and the share of developing countries in international fish trade was lower than in 1985. Further, the net foreign exchange gains of developing countries from international fish trade and the difficult economic situation, taking into account the potential benefits which such trade held for the developing countries, meant that the existence of the Sub-Committee, was now even more important than before. With regard to future work of the Sub-Committee the Chairman mentioned the following activities:

- promotion of new value-added products;
- cooperation in the areas of quality control, standards and training;
- study of the effects of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and
- studies on counter and barter trade arrangements.

68. The comments of the Committee highlighted the usefulness of the Sub-Committee in the light of the fruitful work it had been able to accomplish at its First Session. It was indicated that the relevance of the background documents had made an important contribution. The Committee commended the Chairman, Members and Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on the results of their efforts and endorsed the Report of the First Session and the recommendations contained therein.

69. The Committee made reference to the growing future importance of the Sub-Committee which had to be seen in the context of expanding international fish trade, the interest of both developing and developed countries in trade and the needs and opportunities for assisting the work of other fora. Activities related to product quality, market transparency and functioning, promotion of trade between developing countries, product and production standards, counter trade and identification of trade impediments were specifically mentioned as priority areas for the Sub-Committee's future work. However, care should be taken to avoid the duplication of work with other agencies. FAO's competence and responsibility for formulating proposals for improving the participation of developing countries in international fish trade was stressed.

70. In line with the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, FAO was requested to undertake the following activities (the number of the pertinent paragraph of the Report of the Sub-Committee are indicated in brackets):

- To provide data on national import promotion activities of major importing countries (para. 16).
- To re-orientate the activities of INFOPESCA and to coordinate its integration into OLDEPESCA (para. 18).
- To periodically up-date the summary review provided to the Sub-Committee of activities of international organizations other than FAO in matters related to international fish trade (para. 22).
- To study the feasibility of collecting information on national health and sanitation standards for imported and exported products, including product specifications, and their publication with the Register of Import Regulations for Fish and Fishery Products (paras. 25 and 36).
- To prepare specific studies with regard to product and market opportunities for fishery products from developing countries to pave the way for investment (paras. 40 and 41).
- To strengthen further the regional fish marketing information and technical advisory services (para. 43).
- To collect and disseminate information by regional marketing services on counter trade and possibilities for such arrangements (para. 46).
- To make further efforts to increase the quantities of fish used in food aid (para. 47).

71. In addition, the Committee suggested that FAO undertake the following:

- To prepare a study on the fish trade between developing countries and possibilities for its developments.
- To provide statistics of fish catches by countries and fishing areas.

72. Some delegates indicated a particular priority for some of these activities, including those supporting the development of fish export industries, the strengthening of the technical advisory function of the regional fish marketing services in order to facilitate and accelerate transfer of technology, and the removal of trade impediments which prevented the expansion of the markets of exporting countries and thus the further development of their fisheries. Although the work should concentrate on commercial constraints, as expressed by some delegations, FAO should also stimulate other agencies for the development of international fish marketing. The Committee appreciated that FAO could help in identifying barriers which hampered fish trade and thus provide support and guidance for discussions which took place in other fora.

73. The Committee endorsed the proposal for a Technical Assistance Programme for Fishery Commodities and Marketing Development, designed to assist developing countries to overcome commercial impediments to international fish trade as described in the annex of document COFI/87/6. It noted that the core units for implementing activities under this programme would be the regional fish marketing information and technical advisory services through which countries would make proposals for specific action. The regional services would elaborate TCDC and ECDC projects on post-harvest and marketing technology aimed at augmenting production and export of fish. The

capabilities of other international organizations and financing agencies, regional fishery and trade organizations, regional development banks and agencies, national institutions and regional networks of TCDC and ECDC would be mustered in support of this programme as well as those of the industry and trade associations. The Committee noted that its Sub-Committee on Fish Trade would regularly review the delivery of the Programme.

74. In considering the financial resources for the Programme, the view was expressed that it should be feasible to arrange this under existing bilateral and multilateral financial frameworks. The Committee was informed that when the proposed Programme was adequately elaborated, suitable donors would be approached.

75. The Committee noted that the activities of FAO in support of the Sub-Committee continued to be in close collaboration with other international organizations such as the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). It re-confirmed the view that the work of FAO was complementary to these organizations rather than overlapping and that the Sub-Committee was not intended to duplicate the functions of other organizations.

76. The Committee agreed that, in order to have productive discussions, the timing of the next session of the Sub-Committee would depend on the progress made in the work of the Sub-Committee, taking into account the meeting of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

#### **MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISHING VESSELS**

77. The subject of marking and identification of fishing vessels had been before the Committee since its Fifteenth Session and had also been considered at the World Fisheries Conference, which had recommended a standardized system. At its Sixteenth Session, the Committee had requested that technical specifications be prepared for the present session with a view to their possible adoption as a standard system. An Expert Consultation, convened by the Director-General in June 1986, had elaborated draft standard specifications which were contained in Part II of document COFI/87/Inf.12 and submitted to the Committee for consideration and possible endorsement.

78. The Committee commended the Secretariat and the experts who had participated in the Consultation for the preparation of the draft standard specifications. Noting that presently some forty different marking systems were in use, the Committee supported the concept of a uniform system for the marking of fishing vessels and considered the draft specifications a good basis for implementing such a system. A number of delegations reported that their Governments had already adopted the system recommended by the Consultation, and others said that their systems were essentially similar. The former delegations had found the standard specifications useful and effective in the surveillance of their exclusive economic zones and also in facilitating search and rescue operations.

79. Some delegations expressed reservations as to applying the marking system to a large number of small artisanal fishing vessels. It was explained that the system was primarily intended for vessels operating, or likely to operate, in waters other than those of the flag States and the cost of the system proposed would be minimal to governments and fishing vessel owners and mainly consist of maintaining a register.

80. The Committee was advised that the draft had been elaborated in close consultation with other international organizations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The recent meeting of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (54th Session, London, April 1987) had confirmed that the FAO proposals did not overlap with or contradict the IMO proposal on ship identification numbers which had been developed to serve a different purpose and explicitly excluded fishing vessels.

81. As regards a standardized system for the marking of fishing gear, the Committee felt that the complexities of this issue were large and that it would be difficult to discuss the matter at this stage without further studies.

82. Certain delegations supported the proposal that the FAO Council be requested to invite Member Governments and other international organizations concerned with fisheries management to implement the system as far as practical. Several other delegations stated that their governments would require time to review the proposed marking system. The Committee suggested that the matter be further considered by both the Committee on Fisheries and the FAO Council.

83. It was noted that the system would be without prejudice to international conventions and to national or bilateral practices or requirements.

#### **PROTECTION OF LIVING RESOURCES FROM ENTANGLEMENT IN FISHING NETS AND DEBRIS**

84. In discussing the questions raised in document COFI/87/8 the Committee pointed to the difference between entanglement in marine debris and the incidental capture of living resources other than those targeted by the fishery. It was felt that these two issues could be usefully separated.

85. As regards entanglement in marine debris, the Committee felt that this could best be pursued on a global basis, with one or more international bodies collecting data on the extent and the nature of the phenomenon. The application of the provisions of anti-dumping legislation, e.g. the London Dumping Convention, the Barcelona Convention and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) were of paramount importance in this context and the Committee felt that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) could take a leading role in monitoring of entanglement in marine debris.

86. As regards incidental capture, the Committee noted that regional fishery commissions and other bodies with related responsibilities could be the appropriate fora to recommend follow-up actions, such as monitoring incidental catches of marine mammals, turtles, birds and other organisms. The Committee agreed that this issue could become an element within the framework of fisheries resources management, and recognized the efforts made by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). A few delegations also pointed out that such marine catches were used in their countries.

87. The Committee was of the opinion that it was the responsibility of national administrations to supply data and information and to introduce and enforce adequate measures to avoid both entanglement and incidental catches. In this context, the importance of education of fishermen and seafarers in general, as well as the exchange of pertinent information, were emphasized by several delegations.

88. Several delegations felt that in the light of other pressing needs for the development of fisheries, these matters should presently have a lower priority in the work of FAO and the Committee on Fisheries. Other delegations pointed to the need for immediate actions in some areas.

89. It was noted that future work in this field by the Secretariat would be carried out in cooperation with other bodies, such as UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funds.

#### **REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF FAO REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES**

90. The Committee expressed its satisfaction that this topic had been placed on the agenda, particularly as it had not been discussed at recent sessions. Although the Committee considered that document COFI/87/9 was very comprehensive, it requested that this item be placed again on the Agenda of its Eighteenth Session, and that the next report should also include a detailed and functional analysis of the scope, objectives and achievements of the various bodies. To assist in preparing this, it was suggested that the different FAO regional fishery bodies and/or their subsidiaries carry out an in-depth evaluation of their own activities during the intersessional period.

91. The Committee unanimously recognized the key role of the FAO regional fishery bodies as fora to exchange information and experience and to recommend measures for the development and management of fisheries and to facilitate the harmonization of policies. It recommended that administrative and technical support to these bodies be given the highest priority in FAO's programmes.

92. To ensure the efficient functioning of the regional fishery bodies it was recognized that it was desirable for all member countries to participate in their sessions.

93. The European Economic Community (EEC) expressed its interest in the work of the FAO regional fishery bodies and the wish to collaborate more directly in the activities of some of them. Attention was drawn to the special circumstances involved in such participation by EEC and reference was made to the effective implementation of stock management measures and to bilateral fisheries agreements between EEC and the developing countries in order to provide a sustained financial contribution. It was recognized that this problem was beyond the competence of the Committee. It was felt, however, that solutions to this problem should, for the time being, be sought on a case-by-case basis.

94. With the expansion of world fisheries and the consequent need for improved management, some bodies were being required to exercise an increasing role in this regard.

95. The Committee recognized that the increasing number of meetings together with the world economic situation were placing financial strains both on the member countries and on FAO. FAO was urged to seek international and bilateral funding to increase participation of member countries in the work of the regional bodies. It was noted that in some cases attendance at meetings of the bodies could be facilitated through the organization of a symposium or seminar in conjunction with the session.

96. Another important mechanism for support to regional bodies had been through the establishment of regional projects to supplement their work. The

Committee noted that the extra-budgetary support for these activities was decreasing. This mechanism had been particularly successful in the region of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), where there was a need to continue the existing project after its expiry date at the end of 1987. The Committee also expressed its great appreciation for the work of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the hope that a supporting project could be funded in the Mediterranean.

97. The Committee was informed of the close collaboration that existed with non-FAO regional bodies such as the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the International Commission for the South-east Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). It was noted that the scope and activities of FAO regional fishery bodies did not overlap with these and other international and bilateral organizations involved with fisheries but were complementary. For this reason the Committee requested that efforts be made to increase the involvement of such organizations in the work of FAO regional fishery bodies. Furthermore, some delegations pointed out that the number of international organizations dealing with fisheries had considerably increased over the last decade while budgetary resources were insufficient thus detracting from chances of reaching fisheries management agreements.

#### THE WORK OF FAO IN FISHERIES DURING 1988-89

98. The Committee reviewed document COFI/87/10 which provided an extract from the Director-General's Proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89, to be submitted to the Ninety-first Session of the Council in June 1987. The Committee also had before it an extract from the Report of the Fifty-second Session of the Programme Committee (document COFI/87/Inf.13).

99. The Committee's attention was drawn to the new format of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which provided more information on the strategies and priorities of the Organization and the programme changes reflected in the budget proposals. In presenting the summary budget proposals, it was pointed out that as compared with a 0.5 percent increase for the Organization as a whole, the programme increase proposed for the Major Programme Fisheries was 1.9 percent.

100. Some members stated that their comments could only be preliminary as there had not been sufficient time for the documents to be studied by their authorities.

101. The Committee noted that the proposals for Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries were clearly based on the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the Programmes of Action approved by the World Fisheries Conference.

102. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the improvements in the presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which provided a clearer indication of resource allocations and of the strategy and priority changes proposed. A more complete picture would be available in the Director-General's full Programme of Work and Budget, to be presented to the FAO Conference in November 1987. This would also provide more comprehensive information on the distribution of resources to the geographic regions.

103. As regards Programme 2.2.1: Fisheries Information, the Committee supported proposals for the core activities and priorities and suggested that

FAO should emphasize activities in which the Organization had a comparative advantage in capabilities with respect to other agencies. The Committee supported proposed activities related to the collection and dissemination of global fishery statistics, the provision of assistance to developing countries in the establishment of statistical systems and fishery data centres, the efforts to improve the quality of FAO's fishery statistics databases in conjunction with member countries and regional bodies, and the participation of the Fisheries Department in the development of the Organization's Geographic Information System (GIS).

104. The Committee stressed the importance of the work carried out under Sub-Programme 2.2.2.1: Marine Resources and Environment, especially in relation to Programme of Action I. Appreciation was expressed for the useful work carried out by the three outposted officers. Several delegations emphasized that due attention should also be given to the environmental aspects of marine and inland fisheries as well as aquaculture.

105. The proposed increase in resources for aquaculture under Sub-Programme 2.2.2.2: Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture was welcomed. Considering the importance of this area as a focus for future growth in fish production, several delegations noted that aquaculture would need even more attention. The importance of inland fisheries was also highlighted. The Committee expressed satisfaction for the emphasis given to resource planning for aquaculture and inland fisheries.

106. The strengthening of activities related to small-scale fisheries and training under Sub-Programme 2.2.2.3: Fish Production was noted, in particular, the attention being paid to the role of women and youth in fisheries. The Committee supported the proposed increase under Sub-Programme 2.2.2.4: Fish Utilization and Marketing in order to strengthen the activities of the Fish Marketing Information Services. Due attention should also be given under this Sub-Programme to the reduction of post-harvest losses and to enhancing the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

107. The Committee noted that under Sub-Programme 2.2.3.1: Fisheries Policy and Planning no net programme changes had been proposed. It welcomed the high priority to be given to training on the planning of fisheries development, management and investment. Particular reference was made to the need for continued assistance to member countries in their efforts to design and implement effective systems for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing efforts in their respective fishing zones by both domestic and foreign vessels. In addition to such advice and training in planning, the Committee called for emphasis to be placed on the socio-economic aspects of development and management of small-scale fisheries and the maintenance and updating of the Fishery Country Profile series.

108. The Committee also recommended that continued attention be accorded to analytical work on the present and prospective fish supply and demand situation with particular reference to the impact of prices. With regard to Sub-Programme 2.2.3.2: International Coordination and Liaison, the Committee expressed its satisfaction that an increase was proposed in the resources to be devoted to strengthening support for the activities of FAO regional bodies and their technical working parties.

109. The Committee supported the conclusion of the Programme Committee at its Fifty-second Session that the proposals for Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries responded to the needs of member countries and agreed that the Summary

Programme of Work and Budget provided a satisfactory basis for the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for 1988-89.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

110. The Committee was informed of progress in the preparation of guidelines and specifications for the removal of abandoned offshore structures which were being prepared by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the safety of navigation. These guidelines and specifications would be further reviewed by IMO, which would then decide on the bodies and organizations to which the draft text should be referred before its Maritime Safety Committee took further action.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

111. It was agreed that the Committee should meet in Rome in April 1989. The exact date would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

112. This report was adopted on 22 May 1987.



## APPENDIX A

### Agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Election of Officers
4. World fisheries situation
5. Follow-up to the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
  - (a) Progress in the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development
  - (b) Progress in the implementation of the Programmes of Action
  - (c) Progress in the implementation of the Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development
6. Report on the First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, Rome, 7-10 October 1986
7. Marking and identification of fishing vessels
8. Protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris
9. Review of the activities of FAO regional fishery bodies
10. The work of FAO in fisheries during 1988-89
11. Any other matters
12. Date and place of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee
13. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

ALGERIA

GHEMARI, Amar  
Directeur du Développement  
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Ministère de l'Agriculture  
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HAMMAZ, Djamel Eddine  
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## APPENDIX C

### List of Documents

COFI/87/1	Annotated provisional agenda and timetable
2	World fisheries situation and outlook
3	Progress in the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development
4	Progress in the implementation of the Programmes of Action
5	Progress in the implementation of the Resolutions concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development
6	Sub-Committee on Fish Trade: Report on First Session, Rome, 7-10 October 1986
7	Marking and identification of fishing vessels
8	Protection of living resources from entanglement in fishing nets and debris
8, Add.	Position paper (submitted by the UNEP Representative)
9	Review of FAO regional fishery bodies
10	The work of FAO in fisheries during 1988-89
11 11, Corr.1	International standards for the removal of disused offshore structures
COFI/87/Inf.1	List of documents
2	List of delegates and observers
3	Opening statement by the Director-General
4	Review of the state of world fishery resources
5 5, Suppl. 5, Corr.1 5, Corr.2	Fishery commodity situation and outlook 1985-86
6	Aquaculture development

- 7           Activities of international organizations concerned  
            with fisheries
- 8           Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on  
            Fisheries, Rome, 22-26 April 1985
- 9           Report of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries  
            Management and Development, Rome, 27 June-6 July 1984
- 10          Report of the First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee  
            on Fish Trade, Rome, 7-10 October 1986
- 11          Report of the Expert Consultation on Fishing  
            Vessel Markings, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada,  
            11-15 March 1985
- 12          Report of the Expert Consultation on the Technical  
            Specifications for the Marking of Fishing Vessels,  
            Rome, 16-20 June 1986
- 13          The work of FAO in fisheries during 1988-89 - Summary  
            Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89, Major Programme  
            2.2: Fisheries (Extract from report of the  
            Fifty-second Session of the Programme Committee)

## APPENDIX D

### Opening Statement by the Director-General

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Every Session of the Committee on Fisheries is an important occasion. I attach, however, particular weight to this present meeting.

In the first place, you will have the opportunity of reviewing detailed reports on the progress made so far with the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the Programmes of Action approved by the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference.

Secondly, the Committee will be invited to discuss my initial proposals for the work of the Organization in fisheries over the next biennium. In view of the financial constraints besetting the Organization, your comments on the selection of priorities and on further improving the efficiency of our programmes will be of special importance.

#### The present world fisheries situation

As a background and overall framework for your discussions, the Committee has been provided with an overview of the present state of the world's fisheries and of the prospects for the sector to the end of the present century. I would like to comment upon a number of issues which arise from this analysis.

It is encouraging to note the consistent growth which has been recorded in recent years in the total world catch of fish. There is every indication that the total production of fish may have approached 90 million tons in 1986, representing the ninth successive year of growth in terms of physical output.

We must, however, temper our optimism by observing that a great part of the recent increase in production has arisen from catches of shoaling pelagic species, which are well known for their fluctuations in abundance and are in large measure used for conversion to fishmeal rather than for direct human consumption. Nevertheless, supplies of food fish have continued to rise consistently.

The rapid expansion of international trade in fish and fishery products - and the increasingly large share of this trade being gained by developing countries - are other very positive and welcome trends.

At the same time, because of the many specialized markets and wide range of fish products and the great differences in endowments of fish resources from one country to another, the benefits arising from these gains have not been equally shared. Moreover, as demand continues to grow, a notable feature of the past decade has been the significant upward trend in fish prices in real terms.

#### Future prospects and issues

As we look to the future, the perspectives I outlined at the Committee's Fifteenth Session in 1983 remain valid. Under the pressures of increasing populations and rising incomes, the demand for food fish by the year 2000 is

likely to be some 20 million tons greater than at present. On the other hand, many traditionally accepted food fish species are reaching or have already exceeded their sustainable yields.

In fact, such generalized projections do not properly reflect the great complexity and diversity of the fisheries sector. The world fisheries scene is now characterized by strong demand for expensive products of preferred and often fully exploited species, while difficulties remain in marketing abundant, low price fish.

This situation raises important issues of policies and practices for all concerned with fisheries. To meet these challenges we must make simultaneous advances on a number of fronts.

A major priority must be to improve the overall economic performance of the fisheries sector by better management of the resources. Proper management is the essential basis for the sound and sustained development of the fisheries.

Moreover, whilst also seeking means of exploiting neglected species and bringing them economically to market, we must make more effective use of existing catches by an all-out attack on wastage and post-harvest losses.

We must continue to devote attention to the further development of aquaculture. There has perhaps been a tendency to over-exaggerated expectations from this sector, but there are undoubtedly prospects for a notable growth in its contribution to food fish supplies and in its role in overall rural development. What is now needed is improved institutional support for aquaculture, the better supply of inputs and the provision of the necessary extension services and training.

In fish trade, although tariffs no longer seem to be a major obstacle to its expansion and equity, continued efforts are needed to reduce other barriers and to promote quality standards.

Above all, the key to progress is the further promotion of the capabilities of developing countries to tackle these problems themselves. Greater self-reliance, through training and the transfer of technology, is clearly the major issue facing world fisheries.

To this end, sustained support is required on the part of donor agencies and development organizations for the systematic improvement of the technical, institutional and financial self-reliance of developing countries. Direct inter-country collaboration, in the spirit of ECDC and TCDC, has also much to contribute in this respect.

I would like to emphasize that we in FAO have made and will continue to make the fullest possible contribution, within the limits of our resources, through advice and assistance of many kinds and in many fields.

#### The follow-up to the 1984 World Fisheries Conference

Mr Chairman, I would now like to turn to the progress achieved in direct follow-up to the recommendations of the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference. The steps being taken or proposed to increase further the contribution of the fisheries sector to national, economic, social and nutritional goals are reviewed in the progress reports we have prepared for your Committee concerning the implementation of the Strategy and the five associated Programmes of Action approved by the Conference.

I would like to thank those governments and organizations which responded to our request for collaboration in preparing these reports. It is clear from the replies received that the guidelines and principles contained in the Strategy are proving to be of considerable relevance and value to many countries, both developing and developed. I am also pleased to be able to report that very positive, if uneven, progress has been made with the Programmes of Action, and I would like to thank once more those countries and organizations which are collaborating with FAO in their implementation, either with direct financial support or through other forms of cooperation.

Other important actions have been taken in follow-up to the World Fisheries Conference. The new COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade made an encouraging start to its work last October. You will have an opportunity to review its report during this Session and also to consider the results of the work you requested on the marking and identification of fishing vessels.

In response to the call made by the World Fisheries Conference for greater support for artisanal fisheries, World Food Day in 1986 focused upon this vital sector. These celebrations undoubtedly produced a heightened awareness of the substantial contribution made by fishermen and fishing communities to food production and social development.

The needs and aspirations of small-scale fisheries demand our continued attention. Whilst their economic and social progress depends in part on general development, special programmes are required to promote and protect these often isolated and unprivileged communities.

I have already referred to the importance which should be attached to international collaboration in fisheries. Such cooperation takes place in an ever-changing environment and the mechanisms already established to promote such collaboration merit frequent review. Your consideration, under item 9 of your agenda, of the activities of FAO's regional fishery bodies and of possible means of strengthening and rationalizing these bodies is therefore particularly timely.

In this regard, I would offer a suggestion concerning participation at the sessions of these bodies and, above all, at the meetings of their technical committees and working parties. The success of these bodies rests, of course, on the advice and knowledge of well-experienced and mature representatives but, I would suggest, they should also provide an excellent opportunity for the younger manager and specialist to grow professionally, to contribute with their energies and enthusiasm and to benefit from working with others in areas of mutual interest.

#### The work of FAO in fisheries in 1988/89

Mr Chairman, my proposals for the work of the Organization in fisheries in 1988/89 are set out in document COFI/87/10. You are all aware of the cash-flow problems that have assailed the Organization for more than a year. I have taken steps to minimize their impact on our priority programmes but these problems have made the drawing up of proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the new biennium an unusually difficult task.

I am determined that the technical work of the Organization shall not suffer unduly and have therefore felt able to propose, notwithstanding the overall constraints, a modest increase in the resources to be allocated to the Fisheries Department. Under these circumstances, the advice and suggestions of the Committee on our priorities and objectives in this field will assume

even greater value than normal. While the heart of the Department's work lies, of course, in its direct support of the fisheries sector, I would also wish to emphasize the importance I attach to its contribution toward broader initiatives of the Organization, in particular world food security, the Programme of Action for Africa, and the study of Latin American development perspectives.

#### The late Jean Carroz

Before I close these remarks, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of the late Jean Carroz who so efficiently served this Committee and the Organization as a whole for many years before his untimely death in harness some six months after your last session. He was a man of great dedication, profound responsibility and highest professional standards. His contribution to FAO and to world fisheries will long be remembered.

#### Concluding remarks

Mr Chairman, for many years now we have all been greatly occupied with the coming and consolidation of the revised legal regime of the oceans. Now, the creation of exclusive economic zones are part of history. It is ten years or more since many countries extended their national jurisdictions over the resources off their shores. It is five years since the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted.

We must now concern ourselves with the practical realities of the current situation. We must devote our attention and energies not so much to reviewing past progress, but rather to dealing with the issues and needs of the present and the challenges before us.

Mr Chairman, it remains only for me to wish you and your Committee a most successful and productive Session.



