

**Annexe 5: REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY N°3  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FISHERIES**

Participants of the Working Party have recognized the following:

1. There is a need to identify the appropriate data in order to:
  - evaluate the existing or likely impacts of fisheries on habitat and non commercial species; and
  - assess possibilities for mitigating these impacts.
2. For these objectives, there is a need for the collection and analysis of scientific information, geographically referenced and dealing with:
  - catches of non-target species; and
  - gears selectivity.
3. The above information should be used to evaluate mortality of non-target species and develop efficient methods in order to:
  - increase the gear selectivity;
  - reduce mortality of non-target species; and
  - reduce damage to habitats.
4. For all of the above, a global strategy should be adopted. This implies assessment of the impact of all types of fishing gear operating in different geographical areas, without singling out any particular, modern or traditional type of gear.
5. Points 1 to 4 should be dealt with by existing institutions.
6. Management of fishing activities should aim at sustainable exploitation of resources, in an environmental protection context, without neglecting socio-economic considerations. This implies adopting integrated coastal resource management strategies.
7. The implementation of environmental protection measures should take into account the local, regional and national development objectives.
8. Appropriate consideration should be given to the education of fisherman not only on general environmental aspects but also on protection and management issues.
9. The group acknowledged that the importance of the impact of the environmental factors on fisheries, as well as on fishing grounds, should be taken in account. However this theme was not discussed during the meeting.

