



## TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI)

### Report of the twenty-second session of the Committee on Fisheries

Rome. 17-20 March 1997

### Interview with Mr. M. Hayashi

Assistant Director General - Fisheries Department

### Fisheries Committee (COFI) reviews SOFIA report

### Fisheries Committee (COFI) ends the 22nd session

### Press Releases

The provisional [agenda](#) and [list of documents](#) for the Twenty-second session cover, inter alia:

**Major Issues in World Fisheries.** These include overfishing, by-catch and discarding, pollution/modification of the aquatic ecosystem, subsidies, biodiversity, and compliance with international conservation and management measures for fishing vessels licensed to fish on the high seas.

**Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.** Members of the Committee and donor agencies, NGOs, etc. will be invited to provide additional information on their present and planned support to the fisheries sector in the context of the Code. Draft Guidelines for the implementation of the various components of the Code will be made available at COFI. It is expected that the Committee will provide guidance regarding future reporting and the development of guidelines.

**Strengthening FAO regional fishery bodies.** There are [ten FAO regional fishery bodies](#), most of which were created in the 1960s and 70s. The newest body is the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which held its First Session in December 1996 in Rome. Concerns relate to their operational mechanisms and capacity to address emerging fisheries issues. The Committee is expected to advise on how best to rationalize and strengthen these bodies and improve collaboration between FAO and non-FAO bodies.

**Issues related to fish trade.** The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade has become the rallying force for the improvement of fish quality and fish trade, especially in the

developing countries, and for debating the central issues relating to trade and the environment. The Committee will review the recommendations made at the Sub-Committee's 1996 Session.

**Future work of the Fisheries Programme.** The Committee will review the objectives and priorities for the medium-term plan 1998-2003 and the proposed programme of work and budget for the 1998/99 biennium in the context of the evolving prospects and outlook for world fishery resources and production, Member Nations' objectives, the various instruments adopted under the UN and FAO auspices, and FAO's Strategic Plan and follow-up to the World Food Summit.

### **Agenda and Timetable**

### **List of documents**

#### **The Rome Consensus on World Fisheries**

Adopted by the FAO Ministerial Conference on Fisheries - Rome, 14-15 March 1995

### **PhotoFile**

### **FactFile**

#### **"Aquaculture offers cause for hope" fact sheet**