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منظمة الأغذية
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de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
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y la
Alimentación

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Tenerife, Spain, October 22-24 2002

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

I. Introduction

1. At the Fifteenth Session (Abuja, Nigeria, 1 – 3 November 2000), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) made some recommendations to the Members and the Secretariat. The actions taken by the Secretariat are presented in this paper for the Committee to review. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Fifteenth Session report are given in brackets.

II. Actions on Recommendations of the Fourteenth Session.

Ensure that results from the R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen surveys are sent directly to the competent national fisheries authorities responsible for managing the fisheries resources and not through participating scientists (Paragraph 18).

2. The survey of the demersal and pelagic resources of the Western Gulf of Guinea by the R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen took place around Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin from the 16 July to the 12 August 2002. A meeting was convened in Tema, Ghana on the 12 August 2002 to review and discuss the preliminary results of the survey.

3. In an improvement on the previous surveys, this meeting was also a post-survey meeting with the national Directors of Fisheries who are representatives of the competent administrations responsible for managing the fisheries resources. The Directors of Fisheries of the four participating countries were invited. However, the one of Cote d'Ivoire could not attend. In addition to receiving the data, the Directors commended and supported the work being done by the Nansen Programme in the sub-region. They also appreciated having access to the results immediately after the survey.

III. Recommendations of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee and its future work

Endeavour, within its limited resources, to technically assist the three working groups established by the Committee on small Pelagics, demersal species and artisanal fisheries (Paragraph 22 – 23).

4. FAO provided technical support for the work of the three working groups, which had meetings in April, July and September 2002 respectively.

5. The Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagics off Northwest Africa was held in Banjul, The Gambia from 5 to 12 April 2002 to assess pelagic resources and to analyse fisheries management and exploitation options that would ensure optimal and sustainable use of the pelagic resources in the area. The work of this Working Group was conducted with assistance from the Nansen Programme (GCP/INT/730/NOR), the Netherlands Government through the Netherlands Institute of Fisheries Research (RIVO) and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) of Norway. (See Document CECAF/XVI/2002/Inf. 5).

6. The Spanish Government funded the first meeting of the Demersal Species Working Group held at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain from 17 to 20 September 2002. The general objective of the Working

Group was to contribute to the improvement of the assessment of the demersal resources of West Africa and to analyse fisheries resources management options. (See Document CECAF/XVI/2002/Inf. 6).

7. The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (GCP/INT/735/UK) funded by the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Development (DFID) financed the consultative meeting and the first meeting of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in July 2002. At that meeting, the group reviewed the status of artisanal fisheries in the region and identified the constraints that work against the efficient evolution of the sector. (See Document CECAF/XVI/2002/Inf. 7)

IV. Possibilities for Upgrading the Committee to a Commission Level

The Director-General of FAO to convene, as soon as possible, a legal and technical consultation for the establishment of the future regional fishery commission (Paragraph 34).

8. A Technical Consultation on the future of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) was held in the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) at the kind invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 27 to 30 November 2001. Delegates from Benin, Cameroon, Congo Democratic Republic, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, and the European Union attended the Consultation. (See Document CECAF/XVI/2002/Inf. 8).

The Director-General to request Members of CECAF to re-examine their situation and decide either to participate more effectively in the work of the Committee or else to formally withdraw (Paragraph 35).

9. On 24 April 2002, the Director-General sent a State Circular Letter to all Members of CECAF inviting them to indicate by 30 June 2002 their willingness to be considered Members of the Committee. As of 10 October 2002, replies had been received from the following 12 Members (Benin, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, European Union, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and the United States of America).