

Report of the fifth session of the

**FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)**

Lomé, Togo, 7-11 March 1977



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT
of the
FIFTH SESSION OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)
Lomé, Togo, 7 - 11 March 1977

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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Fifth Session

Lomé, Togo, 7 - 11 March 1977

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

DECISIONS, DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF CECAF	1
INTRODUCTION (paragraphs 1 to 5)	3
I. STATE OF THE STOCKS (paragraphs 6 to 12)	3
II. PRESENT SITUATION OF FISHERY AND BIOLOGICAL DATA (paragraphs 13 to 21)	4
III. NEEDS FOR MANAGEMENT IN THE CECAF AREA	6
(a) Report of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the the Limits of National Jurisdiction (paragraphs 22 to 25)	6
(b) Needs for regional and sub-regional coordination regarding resource management (paragraphs 26 to 30)	7
IV. FISHERY DEVELOPMENT (paragraphs 31 to 59)	8
V. COMPOSITION, STATUS AND FUNCTIONS OF CECAF (paragraphs 60 to 62)	12
VI. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CECAF RULES OF PROCEDURE (paragraphs 63 and 64)	12
VII. COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CINECA) (paragraphs 65 to 69)	13
VIII. OTHER MATTERS (paragraph 70)	13
IX. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (paragraphs 71 and 72)	13
X. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (paragraphs 73 and 74)	14
XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (paragraph 75)	14
 ANNEXES	
A List of participants	15
B Opening address by M. Ansa-Emmim, Chairman of CECAF	21
C Address by the Minister for Rural Development	25
D Address by the Assistant to the Assistant-Director-General (Fisheries Department)	27
E Agenda	31
F List of documents	33
G Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction	35
Introduction (paragraphs 1 to 4)	35
I. State of stocks and needs for management (paragraphs 5 to 8)	35
II. Review of means available and mechanisms in force at national level for controlling the amount and pattern of fishing (paragraphs 9 to 31)	36

ANNEXES

	<u>Page</u>
III. Need for regional and sub-regional coordination in relation to resource management (paragraphs 32 to 39)	40
IV. Date and place of next session (paragraph 40)	42
V. Adoption of the report (paragraph 41)	42
Appendix 1	43
H	
Report of the Second Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development	45
Introduction (paragraphs 1 to 4)	45
I. The state of fisheries: review of existing information required for fishery development planning (paragraphs 5 to 10)	45
II. Current activities and achievements of the CECAF Project (paragraphs 11 to 17)	46
III. Future activities of the CECAF Project (paragraphs 18 to 28)	47
IV. Other matters (paragraphs 29 to 31)	49
V. Joint ventures (paragraph 32)	49
VI. Date and place of next session (paragraph 33)	49
VII. Adoption of the report (paragraph 34)	49
Appendix 1	51

DECISIONS, DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF CECAF

Fishery Statistics

- Training of statisticians in coastal countries (paragraphs 14, 15)
- Assignment of (1) a statistician and an associate expert to the CECAF Project and (2) a statistician to the FAO Regional Office in Accra (paragraphs 14, 16, 18, 56)
- Improvement of national statistical schemes for artisanal fisheries (paragraph 14)
- Improvement of data collection from some long range fleets (Resolution CECAF/V/1, paragraph 20). (Matter referred to the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries.)
- Amendment of the CECAF statistical grid (paragraph 14)
- Regular publication of the CECAF Statistical Bulletin (paragraph 21)

Resource appraisal and management

- Suggestions to be made by working parties on shrimp stock assessment on best ways to regulate exploitation of stocks (paragraph 9)
- Training of stock assessment experts (paragraph 23)
- Strengthening of scientific cooperation among coastal countries and developing collaboration from non-coastal countries (paragraphs 23, 56, 57)
- Organization by FAO of four meetings of coastal states to define management schemes for common stocks (Resolution CECAF/V/2, paragraph 29)
- Compilation of information on national fishery regulations and their enforcement (paragraph 24)

Fishery development

- Request to continue project activities beyond June 1978 (paragraph 39)
- Promotion of development and investments, particularly with regard to artisanal fisheries (paragraphs 45, 54, 59)
- Assistance in developing and coordinating training activities (paragraphs 52, 53, 55)
- Exploration of additional sources of aid for fishery development projects (paragraph 51)
- Development of cooperation with the Economic Community for West Africa (paragraph 47)

Composition, status and functions of CECAF

- No change is required at the present time as regards the name, terms of reference and selection of member countries of CECAF (paragraph 61)
- Extension of southern boundary of CECAF geographical area of competence (paragraph 62). (Matter referred to the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries.)

Amendments to CECAF Rules of Procedure

- Amendments of Rule VII, paragraph 2, and Rule XII, paragraph 1 (paragraph 64)

Officers

- Election of Mauritania as Chairman and of Togo, Liberia and Gabon as Vice-Chairmen (paragraph 72)

Date and place of next session

- Tentatively March 1979 in Morocco (paragraphs 73, 74)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its Fifth Session from 7 to 11 March 1977 in Lomé at the kind invitation of the Togolese Government.
2. The session was attended by the representatives of 21 CECAF Member Nations, two observers from one other FAO Member Nation, the representatives of two agencies of the United Nations and the observers from five intergovernmental organizations. The list of participants is given in Annex A.
3. The Chairman, Mr. H. Ansa-Ewain, made an opening address. Mr. S. Kortho, Minister of Rural Management of the Togolese Government, officially opened the session and addressed participants. Mr. L.I.J. Silva, Assistant to the Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department), addressed the meeting on behalf of the Director-General of FAO and the Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department). The texts of their addresses are reproduced in Annexes B, C and D.
4. The Committee adopted the agenda shown in Annex E. The documents which were before it are listed in Annex F.
5. The Committee appointed a Nominations Committee to facilitate the election of officers. It was composed of representatives from Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Togo.

I. STATE OF THE STOCKS

6. The Secretariat tabled the report of the Third Session of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation (CECAF/V/77/4). This report concluded that the majority of the stocks of the region were heavily fished, even though the levels of exploitation varied. Reference was made to paragraphs 5 to 8 of the report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction (Annex C) which gave a short summary of the present knowledge of the levels of exploitation.
7. As regards the management of the stocks of penaeid shrimps (*Penaeus duorarum*) in the Gulf of Guinea, the Committee discussed at length how best to control their exploitation. It remarked that limiting fishing effort, for instance through a licensing scheme, could help avoid an excessive expansion of fishing capacity and thus prevent over-capitalization. However, it was noted that these measures alone may not prove sufficient for those years during which recruitment and the resultant biomass were abnormally low, because these were likely to vary significantly according to changes in the environment. Among environmental factors which would have an effect on the recruitment particular mention was made of rainfall.
8. It was therefore necessary to monitor the size of both the biomass and the fleet in order to be able to control fishing through such measures as the enforcement of a catch quota when the stocks fall below a certain size.
9. This exchange of views led the Committee to recall the importance of environmental monitoring and in that context special mention was made of long-term trends in the environment and of their effects on productivity and distribution of the stocks. As a result of the discussions the Committee recommended that the working parties which are to meet and update the assessments of shrimp stocks should not lose sight of the relationships between the stocks and the environment. It also recommended that the working parties should deal with the problems of the management of these stocks and make suggestions on the best ways to regulate their exploitation.
10. The Committee recalled that the stocks of penaeid shrimps are exploited in lagoons by artisanal fishermen at a time when the young are migrating, and at sea by trawlers. The

social and economic conditions prevailing in these two fishery segments were very different. In order to best utilize these resources, it was therefore necessary to consider the socio-economic effects of various schemes for the allocation of effort between the lagoon and the sea fisheries.

11. As regards the evolution of the fisheries since 1974, the last year considered in the report of the working party, it was pointed out that the slight fall in the total yield of the region (3.52 million tons in 1975 as compared to 3.77 in 1974) did not indicate that a substantial reduction in the amount of fishing had occurred but that it might confirm the tendency towards a stabilisation of production observed over the last few years. The 1976 statistics were now being analysed and compiled.

12. When considering future activities the Committee noted the series of seven ad hoc working parties (shrimp north, shrimp south, coastal demersal north, coastal pelagic north, pilchard, sardinella south, hake) which were included in the programme of the CECAF Project for 1977 and 1978. The purpose of these working parties was to collect and analyse available data on the main resources in the region. When all these meetings are completed, the Working Party on Resource Evaluation will meet to pool together the various findings, but meanwhile these results will be put at the disposal of the governments and CECAF as soon as the reports on individual stocks are available. The Committee approved this programme.

II. PRESENT SITUATION OF FISHERY AND BIOLOGICAL DATA

13. In introducing this item of the agenda the Chairman referred to documents CECAF/V/77/4, 5, 6, 7 and 20, which described the main difficulties encountered and the progress made since the last session of the Committee in the field of statistics. He also outlined the main conclusions reached by the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

14. In adopting the report of its Sub-Committee (see paragraphs 22 to 25 of this report), the Committee endorsed its main conclusions and recommendations, notably as regards:

- the strengthening, through proper training programmes, of the expertise available in the coastal countries for designing and implementing national schemes (see paragraph 15 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- the assignment of (a) an experienced statistician and an associate expert to the CECAF Project and (b) an experienced statistician to the FAO Regional Office in Accra (see paragraph 14 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- the reporting, by some non-coastal countries and for the period 1964-1976, of comprehensive and detailed statistics broken down according to the requirements of the CECAF statistical system (see paragraphs 13, 17 and 18 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- the improvement of national statistical schemes for artisanal fisheries (see paragraph 13 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- the role that national correspondents to the Working Party on Resource Evaluation should play in coordinating national activities as regards the collecting and reporting of national data required for stock assessment (see paragraph 16 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- the amendment of the geographical grid used by CECAF for collecting and allocating statistics, and the mandate given to the Secretariat to prepare a new draft, which will become necessary because of the need to know the state of exploitation within each sector under national jurisdiction (see paragraph 19 of the report of the Sub-Committee).

The Committee noted that particular difficulties also arose with data collection from vessels operating under flags of convenience and from fish meal fleets.

15. The Committee insisted more specifically on the need for coastal countries to strengthen rapidly their expertise and schemes for data collection and processing as the limited means presently at their disposal restricted their ability to utilize fully the resources over which they had authority.

16. The Committee recognized unanimously that although some countries had recently made some progress, the necessary improvements would not be achieved rapidly enough without outside assistance. It therefore endorsed the express recommendation made by its two Sub-Committees on the urgency to recruit an experienced statistician with whom the associate expert foreseen for the CEECAF Project would work. These experts would be specifically in charge of:

- (a) assisting coastal countries in the improvement of their sampling and data collecting schemes, and
- (b) organizing and conducting training centres and refresher courses for national staff charged with the design and implementation of such schemes.

17. The Polish delegation referred to its offer to the CEECAF Project to contribute to the training of African statisticians. It was agreed that the Project statistician should pursue this matter as soon as he was recruited. The observer from Canada pointed out that his country had agreed to finance a set of species identification sheets for fishery purposes; these sheets would be prepared jointly by FAO and Canada. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT ^{1/} drew the Committee's attention to the training course on sampling and fishery statistics, scheduled in ICCAT's programme and which CEECAF and ICSEAF ^{2/} have decided to join.

18. The Committee also recognized the urgent need to strengthen its capabilities as regards the compilation and dissemination of data of regional interest. Progress in resource evaluation and management in a region depended to a large extent on the permanent presence of an expert to be in charge of the work. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT referred to the Commission's current programme. To carry out this statistical work, the Commission employed staff both at its Headquarters in Madrid and in ports where trans-shipment of tuna was not properly monitored. It was establishing a data bank which, in the future, will be linked by telex to most of its member countries. The Committee, while aware of the present financial constraints, nevertheless urged FAO to study the possibility of recruiting, in addition to the staff assigned to the Project and mentioned in paragraph 16 above, a statistician to be specially in charge of the compiling and tabulating of data of regional interest and who would fill the post of statistician which existed formerly at the FAO Regional Office in Accra.

19. The Spanish delegation stated that in order to assist in the monitoring of trans-shipments taking place in Las Palmas and as a voluntary contribution to the CEECAF Project, Spain intended to assign a technician to this particular task. The technician would work for CEECAF and might be supervised technically by the Project statistician or by the statistician to be assigned to Accra. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT indicated that the technician assigned to Las Palmas by his Commission to sample tuna trans-shipments could collaborate in this effort for the mutual benefit of the two bodies. The Moroccan delegation stated that Morocco would examine the possibility of making a voluntary contribution to strengthen the structures of the Committee. It would, at a later stage, provide information to the Secretariat on the form this contribution could take.

20. With regard to insufficient data supplied by some countries, the Committee considered with particular attention the resolution MR/I/1 adopted by its Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction. In expressing its great concern about the adverse effects such incomplete reporting would have on the management of resources in the region, the Committee endorsed the resolution of the Sub-Committee, which is reproduced below:

^{1/} International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
^{2/} International Commission for the South East Atlantic Fisheries

RESOLUTION CEECAF/V/1

The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic,

considering the difficulties encountered in trying to obtain complete and properly detailed statistics on the operations of some long range fleets and anxious about the delays resulting from these deficiencies in the evaluation and monitoring of stocks in the region,

requests that this important issue be discussed further at the next session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries,

recommends that in case of bilateral agreements between coastal and non-coastal countries the agreements should include provision for regular reporting by the non-coastal to coastal countries of data as specified by the CEECAF statistical system; the statistics thus collected should subsequently be transmitted to CEECAF as part of the Member States' obligations,

urges coastal countries to take appropriate action against the fishing nations which operate in the region if they fail to provide the required statistics.

21. The Committee recommended that regardless of the progress made to provide regional statistical staff, no effort should be spared in updating the CEECAF Statistical Bulletin and getting it published regularly. It also expressed keen interest that data on catch per unit effort and length frequency distributions should be made available with the least possible delay to research workers interested in the stocks of the region.

III. NEEDS FOR MANAGEMENT IN THE CEECAF AREA

(a) Report of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction

22. In the absence of Mr. Bangana who had chaired the session of the Sub-Committee, the Chairman summarized the main conclusions contained in the report of the Sub-Committee (Annex G).

23. He drew particular attention to the following aspects:

- survey cruises provided information which helped in the short-run to obviate some of the deficiencies affecting statistics and improve knowledge of stock distribution; such information was essential for the formulation of schemes for the sharing of stocks among parties concerned (see paragraph 21 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- there was a great shortage of stock assessment experts in the region and the series of intensive courses organized recently or under preparation through contributions from several donor countries helped to fulfil the training needs in this field (see paragraph 22 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- in such a situation, it was essential to make full use of the expertise available. For this purpose it was necessary to strengthen scientific cooperation among coastal countries (see paragraph 23 of the report of the Sub-Committee), and to obtain the collaboration of experts from non-coastal countries who have accumulated data on the resources (see paragraph 24 of the report of the Sub-Committee);
- governments should give fishery research the importance it deserves and commensurate with the benefits they could expect to derive from their fisheries.

24. In line with its Sub-Committee's observations the Committee recognized that the choice and implementation of schemes for resource utilization were the direct responsibility of the

coastal countries. It was as a consequence becoming more important to take into account management requirements, including the need for regional and sub-regional cooperation in the case of multinational stocks when formulating national fishery development and improvement plans. It was therefore essential that proper attention be given to the limited nature of the stocks and that, in doing this, available expertise and documentation be consulted. In this connexion the Project was requested to compile available information on national fishery regulations and their enforcement (see paragraph 30 of the report of the Sub-Committee).

25. The Committee approved the conclusions of its Sub-Committee and adopted its report, subject to some modifications which it found necessary to make to the resolution MR/I/2 on management of multinational stocks (see paragraph 29 of this report).

(b) Needs for regional and sub-regional coordination regarding resource management

26. The Committee stressed the need to foster investigations on the distribution and migration patterns of the main stocks and to provide such information in a form directly usable by those responsible for management. It recognized in fact that this kind of knowledge was now essential as it could provide an acceptable basis for calculation of allocation of stocks extending over several sectors under national jurisdiction. International cooperation and more specifically collaboration among the countries in the region would be needed for these investigations. The cooperation of all interested scientists in the preparation of such reviews would facilitate common understanding on the state of stocks.

27. The Committee therefore expressed satisfaction at the programme undertaken by the CECAP Project, FAO and research institutes in member countries aimed at rapidly refining the assessment of stocks and at mapping their main areas of concentration.

28. The Committee further approved the principles which its Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction worked out to facilitate consultation among concerned countries. Their objective would be the achievement of agreements on patterns for exploiting multinational stocks (see paragraphs 32 and 38 of the report of the Sub-Committee).

29. The Committee discussed at length the effects which the geographical distribution of multinational stocks have on the participation of countries in the various consultations to be convened in the near future. It was decided to delete the stock of pilchard featured in paragraph 36 of the report of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction and to adopt, under the following form, the resolution MR/I/2 submitted by the Sub-Committee.

RESOLUTION CECAP/V/2

The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic,

concerned about the consequences for the stocks and the fisheries they sustain which may result from their high level of exploitation,

calls the attention of coastal countries concerned to the urgent need to adopt measures aiming at adjusting and maintaining the amount of fishing to the desired level,

urges them to take in their national fisheries the necessary steps, especially ensuring that the relevant national fishery plans take full account of the limits of production of the resources,

further urges countries participating in the evaluation of the same stocks to consult among themselves as soon as possible with the view to agreeing on homogeneous schemes for the utilization of such stocks,

requests the Secretariat of CECAP to prepare, in collaboration with the correspondents of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation for the countries concerned:

- (a) a background documentation on the state of the stocks listed below which would be based on reports of the ad hoc working parties to be convened by the CECAF Project;
- (b) a technical review of the various management methods,

requests FAO to organize, within the framework of the CECAF Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction, four meetings for the purpose of allowing coastal countries concerned to define concerted management schemes and to invite countries listed below to send representatives allowed to reach decisions in matters of management:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Stocks</u>	<u>Participating countries</u>
1	22° - 9° N approximately	Round sardinella Horse mackerels Mackerel	Cape Verde Gambia Guinea Guinea Bissau Mauritania Senegal Sierra Leone Spain
2	Gibraltar - 15° N approximately	Hakes Seabreams	Mauritania Morocco Senegal Spain
3	Gibraltar - 13° N approximately	Cephalopods	Mauritania Morocco Senegal Spain
4	Coastal waters of Nigeria and Cameroon	Pink shrimp (<u>Penaeus duorarum</u>)	Cameroon Nigeria

30. The Spanish delegation informed the Committee that its government would be pleased to give financial support for some of these meetings. The details of such support would be discussed with the Secretariat at a later stage.

IV. FISHERY DEVELOPMENT

31. The representative of the Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department) in introducing this item drew attention to the regional approach to fishery development, within which framework the CECAF Project was instituted. The multinational character of highly mobile marine fish stocks was noted as the basic reason for the worldwide series of supra-national fishery development activities supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO, but it was also pointed out that a regional approach was an efficient method of tackling common problems, which could supplement individual national development activities and, more important, could facilitate regional cooperation in both trade and the transfer of technical expertise for the full utilization of the marine resources. It was expected that the Committee in considering the course of future action to be taken would no doubt focus attention on the work programme of the Project and indicate the priorities to be followed as well as the proposal to extend the operations beyond June 1978.

32. The Programme Leader gave a summary account of the development activities of the Project pointing out that the coastal countries already possessed significant fishing fleets which could be expanded in order to land locally a greater proportion of the exploitable resources,

in an effort to meet the still unsaturated demand for fish products in most countries of the region. The Project had an important role in fostering a liaison with the experienced fishing nations and other donor countries to ensure the development and management of these resources.

33. A full account of the Project's activities and achievements was given in document CEEAF/V/77/17 and essential points had been highlighted in paragraph 11 of the report of the Second Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development (Annex H); they cover the standardization and publication of biostatistical data, the research vessel FIOLENT resource survey, the organization of resources working groups and the publication of a regional fisheries bibliography and its first supplement.

34. The Project had completed a full overview of the present situation of fishery development and planning in the region, and this had been supplemented by a number of technical reports on aspects of industrial fisheries. A series of missions had been undertaken to investigate and report, at the particular request of Member Governments, on subjects including brackish water aquaculture, the identification and formulation of certain national fisheries activities, the promotion of investments in fishery development, the study of harbours landing and processing facilities, and the preparation of a large scale artisanal fishery development project. Many of these activities were being funded by the FAO/Norway Cooperative Programme.

35. In the general field of training, consultants had initiated and were now presently engaged in a review of the region's training requirements and facilities, in order to identify where regional cooperation could satisfy requirements, and where external assistance would be essential. Under the programme of Canadian assistance, a series of training courses for intermediate staff and of specialized workshops and seminars for senior personnel had already been initiated. One direct training exercise carried out by the Project was the participation of biologists from coastal countries in the FIOLENT survey.

36. Apart from regular coordination with national fisheries authorities, the Project carried out the important function of informing the world fishing community of activities in the CEEAF region in order to encourage investments and other assistance required in the area.

37. The Programme Leader acknowledged the positive support given to the Project by many countries but made a plea for additional support particularly from non-coastal members, whose technical and financial assistance was still required in order to fulfill the objectives of the Project especially in the training field.

38. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the support received from various international and national donor agencies for project activities. It pointed out that increased assistance was essential for the harmonious development of the region's resources. It was remarked that development of the fisheries provides not only economic benefits but also a livelihood for significant numbers of people. The conservation and efficient management of the resources was therefore extremely important, and FAO's experience and assistance in this field were particularly valuable.

39. The Committee recorded the need for the continuation of project activities, noting also its significance in maintaining international cooperation (see paragraph 19 of the report of the Sub-Committee). UNDP was urged to consider making a significantly greater contribution to these activities.

40. The observer of the European Economic Community (EEC) made a statement explaining that the nine member countries of the Community had adopted a common policy with regard to fishing operations within their 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which came into force on 1 January 1977. Agreements for foreign vessels to fish within the Community's EEZ, and for Community members' vessels to fish other waters such as those of the CEEAF Member States, would be negotiated through the Community's representatives.

41. The Community's policy rested firmly on the protection, preservation and restoration of fishery resources. The EEC was willing to participate in international actions in these respects, and offered its assistance in the collection and assessment of data on

fishery resources, for the conservation and management of fish stocks in the Eastern Central Atlantic. This offer was welcomed by the Committee.

42. The observer from Canada stated it was now Canadian policy to give special attention to the intensification of food production particularly in the most severely affected countries, hence some extra CEECAF member governments might now receive direct Canadian bilateral assistance in addition to that aid already channeled through regional organizations such as the CEECAF Project. Canada was considering a further contribution to the Project for the promotion of artisanal fisheries production, and would welcome the Committee's views on the detailed objectives of this activity. The observer from Canada further expressed the continuing interest of his government in assisting the CEECAF countries develop their fisheries. In this context Canada recognized the fundamental importance of a core of experienced personnel in the fishery services of governments and so was financing in 1977/78, for the benefit of CEECAF Member Nations, a series of seven courses, workshops and seminars.

43. The Committee took note of the programme organized by ICSEAF with Angola, Gabon and Zaire regarding the stocks of round sardinella.

44. The delegation of Spain felt that in addition to long-term development objectives in the CEECAF area there was ample opportunity for more immediate practical development projects in certain areas. Spain, with long practical fishing experience in the area, had already assisted in the rapid integration of its skills and capital through joint venture fleets, but warned that adequate market outlets needed to be developed in good time. It was also Spain's belief that a specific portion of the financial resources of international institutions should be devoted to the funding of fishery development projects and this question should be reviewed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its next session. In the context of training, Spain is in a position to provide vessels, specialized training and fellowship facilities to the region.

45. While it was agreed that there was a need for realistic project proposals and development plans it was necessary to take into account the changing jurisdiction over fisheries and the need to give practical support towards increasing self-reliance in the coastal countries. The CEECAF Project should assist in the development of both action and investment proposals. In this same context the delegate of Norway informed the Committee that his Government would consider favourably those requests for assistance in the transfer of technology if this was given high priority by the Committee. The delegate of Cuba offered the assistance of his country through a research vessel to undertake surveys in the area.

46. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) announced that the second session of the IOC Working Committee for TEMA (Training, Education and Mutual Assistance) would be held in New York during July 1977, and strongly urged that CEECAF coastal states should be represented there.

47. The observer from the Economic Community for West Africa (CEAO) expressed the thanks of his organization for having been invited to attend the Session. He explained that the activities of the fisheries sector of CEAO had only started in late 1975 since which time a basic review had been undertaken as a preliminary to the formulation of actions to complement those already initiated under the aegis of the states themselves. CEAO gave major emphasis to the mobilization and training of human resources. In this connexion it intended, despite its modest resources, to assist member countries. It considered that regional cooperation was essential if the limited means available were not to be wasted. The Committee welcomed these remarks and looked forward to further cooperation between CEECAF and CEAO.

48. The Committee noted with special interest the ICCAT observer's description of the combined Joint CEECAF/ICCAT/ICSEAF training exercise in the field of fishery statistics planned for early 1978 and agreed that the CEECAF Project should arrange for staff from coastal countries to participate fully in this activity.

49. At the invitation of the Committee, the UNDP representative made a statement which underlined the extremely important role of the world's oceans in the production of food, and

the vital need for cooperation at all levels in order to conserve and utilize these major resources to their fullest extent. With the expansion of national jurisdictions over the resources in the CEECAF area, there would be potential for increased economic benefit but also increased responsibilities for the wise exploitation and management of these resources. UNDP intended to continue to assist in the full development and management of the world's ocean fisheries, but wished also to encourage national and multinational support in this area. However, as a result of the UNDP financial situation, direct support to the CEECAF Project had had to be reduced somewhat in 1976 and 1977. In 1978 the UNDP financial situation was expected to become more favourable. The UNDP/FAO Review Mission present at the Session would be visiting as many CEECAF coastal countries as possible during April 1977, to meet with government and UNDP representatives in order to assess the past performances of the Project and to identify priorities for the future so that the limited funds available could be allocated as effectively as possible in meeting the needs of the CEECAF member countries.

50. The Committee invited the representatives of several non-coastal countries to indicate their current and future proposals for assistance to the Project. These representatives listed the bilateral aid provided by their governments to various member countries. It was pointed out that no distinction was being made in some cases between assistance furnished under reciprocal agreements concerned with joint ventures or trade, and specific aid programmes channeled through national governments.

51. The Committee wanted greater assistance to be granted to fishery development projects and the Programme Leader and FAO were requested to explore the ways of obtaining this aid.

52. In conclusion, the Committee endorsed the report of its Sub-Committee on Fishery Development and decided that the order of priorities proposed by the coastal countries for regional activities under the CEECAF Project should be as follows:

(i) Training at all levels, and particularly in the following fields:

- (a) collection of statistical data
- (b) training of fishermen
- (c) training of fisheries administrative personnel.

(ii) Evaluation of the fish stocks.

(iii) Management of the resources.

(iv) Development of artisanal fisheries.

53. The Committee noted the difficulties encountered by artisanal fisheries in some countries and requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Project, to make all efforts to promote the development of this activity in the CEECAF region, particularly in those countries where it is lagging. The following problems should be considered:

- training of artisanal fishermen in new fishing techniques
- processing and preservation of fishery products in rural areas
- marketing of the products so that they can compete with those of industrial fisheries.

54. The Committee further requested the CEECAF Project to encourage investments in artisanal fisheries which must receive special consideration in coastal countries.

55. Regarding training the Committee noted that the project itself was unlikely to have the necessary manpower to provide directly the required range of activities. However, it should provide a focal point for the preparation and promotion of the necessary programmes at both the regional and national levels. The first stage would be the completion of the survey of training needs and facilities in the region, followed by the examination of national plans

and the preparation of requests for any assistance needed for other essential activities. The Committee considered that specialists from the region would have a distinct advantage over other candidates in the operation of the training activities. It was noted that it was FAO's policy to promote technical cooperation between developing countries and to make greater use of national institutions to carry out specific tasks wherever the appropriate competence was available in a region.

56. Concerning the evaluation of the fish stocks, as well as the training in statistical data collection, the Committee considered it important that the Project statistician should be recruited as soon as conveniently possible. However, it noted that regarding further acoustic surveys on a regional scale, the Working Party on Resource Evaluation had already recommended at its Third Session the promotion of cooperation on a regional scale through the early dissemination of information on planned programmes and their close coordination.

57. The Committee emphasized the need for the data from such surveys to be made available immediately so that regional staff could assist more in the analysis and interpretation of the results, thus gaining valuable experience for the running of subsequent exercises. The Programme Leader requested that delegates should brief their governments on the advantages of cooperation in stock evaluation cruises since in the past valuable opportunities to collect data had been frustrated by the lack of formal government acceptance of these research activities in their areas of jurisdiction.

58. Aquaculture was not regarded by the Committee as a priority regional activity for the CEEAF Project since the Inter-Regional Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme had taken over the objective of coordinating and stimulating national aquaculture development programmes.

59. The stimulation of investment in the field of fisheries was accepted by the Committee as being very important and the project was instructed to ensure that investments, and cooperation with international and regional funding agencies, be actively promoted and encouraged.

V. COMPOSITION, STATUS AND FUNCTIONS OF CEEAF

60. The Committee noted that the item had been placed on its agenda following a request made by the Committee on Fisheries at its Tenth Session in June 1975. At that time, the Committee on Fisheries had made a number of observations on the composition, status and functions of CEEAF, taking into account written comments submitted by several member countries. Both these observations and these comments were summarized in document CEEAF/V/77/12.

61. CEEAF shared the views of the Committee on Fisheries that no change was warranted at the present time as regards its name, its terms of reference and the criteria laid down by the Council of FAO for the selection of member countries. It was informed that while it could not have an autonomous budget, member countries could contribute on a voluntary basis to funds-in-trust designed to finance specific activities.

62. CEEAF considered, however, that it was desirable to review the southern boundary of its geographic area of competence as defined in paragraph 1 and as referred to in paragraph 2 of its Statutes. It was pointed out that the environment and the nature and distribution of fish populations were very similar in the areas between 10° N and 20° N on the one hand and the Equator and 17° S on the other. From a biological point of view, there was therefore no justification in setting the boundary at the mouth of the Congo River; on the contrary, there were cogent scientific arguments in favour of including the waters off Angola in the CEEAF area. CEEAF decided to request the Director-General to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee on Fisheries at its Eleventh Session in April 1977 so that it might recommend to the Council to amend the CEEAF Statutes accordingly.

VI. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CEEAF RULES OF PROCEDURE

63. The Committee was informed that at its Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions in 1973 and 1975, the Conference of FAO had adopted amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization

with respect to (i) the participation of Non-Member States in FAO bodies and meetings and (ii) the Rules of Procedure of bodies established under Article VI or Article XIV of the Constitution. On that occasion, it had invited the bodies concerned, including the Committee, to bring their Rules of Procedure into line with those amendments.

64. As suggested in document CECAF/V/77/14, the Committee, by a two-thirds majority of its membership, amended its Rules of Procedure as follows:

- (i) by replacing, in paragraph 2 of Rule VII, the reference to "Nations ... Members of the United Nations" by the term "States ... Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency";
- (ii) by deleting, at the end of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of Rule XII, the words "subject to confirmation by the Council of the Organization" and by replacing the comma by a full stop after the words "upon approval by the Director-General".

VII. COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CINECA)

65. The representative of IOC and observer of ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) gave a description of the CINECA programme on the upwelling phenomenon and its effects on living resources of the region. Investigations made had furthered understanding of the environment and the processes of upwelling and their effects on the food chain.

66. Countries and scientists in the region were being kept informed of the findings of CINECA through the CINECA Newsletter published by ICES.

67. The Committee recognized that the work of CINECA was of great interest to the countries of the region and particularly to scientists who were provided with a better understanding of the habitat of the stocks they were studying.

68. In early 1978 a symposium on "Canary current: upwelling and living resources" would be held to provide scientists with an opportunity to compare the findings achieved in their respective disciplines, to integrate them into a composite whole and make the picture available to potential users in the region. It was originally scheduled to take place in early 1977 but would now be organized in early 1978.

69. The delegate of Senegal informed the Committee that his government had already offered to host the Symposium. Upon his return to Dakar, he would contact the competent authorities to ascertain whether the new dates proposed in early 1978 would be convenient. The results of his discussions would be communicated without delay to the institutions which were organizing the symposium. The Committee thanked the delegate of Senegal for his collaboration. The Spanish delegation informed the Committee that Spain would be honoured to host the Symposium should Senegal find it impossible to do so.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

70. The representatives of African countries drew the attention of FAO to the fact that it would be extremely difficult for them to take part in the future in CECAF meetings if the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries was invited.

IX. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

71. According to Rule II-1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee had to elect one Chairman and a maximum of three Vice-Chairmen. The Nominations Committee referred to in paragraph 5 above met on 8 March.

72. On its recommendation the following officers were unanimously elected:

Chairman:	Mauritania
First Vice-Chairman:	Togo
Second Vice-Chairman:	Liberia
Third Vice-Chairman:	Gabon

X. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

73. The representatives of coastal countries expressed the wish that the Sixth Session of CEECAF should be held in Morocco. The Committee received this offer with satisfaction; it hoped that the Moroccan Government would officially confirm this proposal and that it would, in accordance with Rule IV-2 of the CEECAF Rules of Procedure, be accepted by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the Chairman and the competent authorities of the host country.

74. The Committee noted the suggestion from the Secretariat to hold the Sixth Session in March 1979 but it agreed to leave it to the Director-General to decide on the precise timing in consultation with the Chairman.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

75. The Report of the Fifth Session of CEECAF was adopted on 11 March 1977.

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Opening Address

by

M. Ansa-Emmin
Chairman of CECAF

Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you to Lomé, the venue of the fifth session of our committee meeting.

I wish to express on behalf of this Committee and on my own behalf my thanks to the Togolese Government for hosting this meeting and those of the sub-committees and placing at our disposal these excellent facilities. We had to postpone the meeting scheduled for October 1976 because of the problem of finding a suitable venue. As some of you are aware, it is upon the remark made by my predecessor in his opening address that this session is being held in the CECAF region. It is indeed a good idea to talk about fisheries when we are very close to the sea in the area of activity. I hope some of you will find time to visit the fishing port and markets of Lomé to see the efforts being made by the Togolese authorities to further develop fisheries of this country. We can then better discuss our common problems. It is hoped however that despite the current FAO financial problems, future meetings will be held in the region. This move will make coastal countries be involved in the activities of this committee.

Distinguished delegates, we have met here to discuss common fisheries problems of our region. The meeting will give members the opportunity to discuss both formally and informally problems associated with our fisheries. The agenda before us which we shall soon adopt contains many topics which we must seriously consider, if fisheries in this region will be rationally exploited. Some stocks of the region have already shown signs of overfishing. Other stocks have collapsed. Distinguished delegates, I hope we shall not sit tight until something drastic happens to the fishery before we start acting.

I must say that our knowledge of the fishery resources of the region is still far from complete despite the efforts put in by FAO and national Governments. Distinguished delegates, I am quite sure that you are aware that this state of affairs hampers realistic development of our fisheries. The basic data at the disposal of FAO and for that matter the CECAF Working Party on Resource Evaluation are still scanty. At the last meeting of the Working Party, it was realized that some major fishing countries are still unable to report total catches separately for each of the 22 groups selected by CECAF. Several countries do not supply the location of fishing activities of their fleet. Subsequently, total catches, if at all reported, cannot be allocated to the statistical divisions of CECAF. There are other problems such as poor quality of effort, data and length frequency distribution. These can be dealt with in greater detail when we discuss the present situation of fishery data.

Distinguished delegates, although we shall have time to discuss this unhealthy situation, I want to emphasize the seriousness of the problem. This problem is a serious draw-back on the work of the Working Party. Much as I do not want to prejudice licensing procedures in your various countries, I would like to suggest that whenever there is an agreement between a coastal country, and a non-coastal country having fishing interest in the region, supply of complete fishery data should be a condition. Such data can be submitted to CECAF as part of the routine duties of member countries.

Distinguished delegates, the question of good fishery data has been discussed at previous meetings of the Committee. There has been some progress in certain member countries. Our biggest headache is with the major fishing countries which are not members of the

Committee. These countries fish thousands of tons of our resources and never report properly, even where the catches are made. As already suggested we can tackle this through our bilateral agreements. Let us resolve at this meeting to take a bold step so that a much more complete picture of the state of our fisheries is attained. I am therefore appealing to you, distinguished delegates, to inform your various governments about the seriousness of the problem.

My predecessor, in his closing remarks during the fourth session said, and I quote, "major emphasis should be on what we can do for ourselves rather than what FAO, UNDP and other donor countries can do for us". I consider this statement to be very important. This should be our guiding principle. There are several things we can do to further develop fisheries of the region. We must try and mobilize our own resources to back up what FAO can offer. There is some know-how in the region and it is up to us to tap and make use of this effectively. We were informed during the meeting of the sub-committee on fishery development that the United States of America has extended her seas to 200 miles. Vessels belonging to all foreign countries fishing in this zone will be withdrawn.

We are also aware of what is happening in the North Atlantic especially off the coast of Iceland. Do we as coastal countries have to sit down and be on-lookers or do we have to take some action and protect our fisheries resources. The target for all these vessels that will be withdrawn from the shores of the United States of America and the North Atlantic will be the Eastern Central Atlantic, especially the northern sub-tropical zone.

This implies increased fishing effort in the region if there is no mechanism for controlling such effort. I wish therefore to appeal to the coastal countries to take a serious view of this situation. With the current developments in the law of the sea, the coastal countries will have more control over the resources off their coasts.

Distinguished delegates, we can face this problem if we coastal countries can cooperate among ourselves.

Distinguished delegates, permit me to touch on the question of regional cooperation. The gains we shall derive if we cooperate meaningfully among ourselves are more than the losses. There are several areas where we can meaningfully cooperate. We can, for example, actively cooperate in the area of resource management. This will bring scientists of the region together to review the state of our stocks and make recommendations to our governments. More cooperative investigations can be organized with the help of external donors to solve specific problems.

Distinguished delegates, an area where we can also cooperate is in exploitation and marketing of fisheries resources of the region. I would like to see the machinery set up to ease negotiations for fishing rights within the region. Countries with the know-how should assist those without the requisite expertise for the rational exploitation and marketing of the fish within the region. I am convinced that if we resolve to make it possible for such cooperation, we can better regulate and utilize the fisheries resources of our region. Joint ventures should be seriously considered to make such cooperation possible. This is especially relevant because of the current extension of limits of territorial seas and the developments in the law of the sea. We have had lots of discussions in the past about cooperation. In the face of the situation in which we find ourselves, let us resolve at this meeting to take concrete steps for action. The underlying theme of this meeting should be cooperation among ourselves so that we can have maximum benefit of the fisheries resources of the region. I am aware of a few successful cooperative efforts within the region. Let us report more of such cooperative ventures at the next session of CEECAF.

The project for the development of fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic is now operational and I am informed that despite the UNDP financial crisis the project is working toward achieving its objectives. It is my hope that by the completion of this project a definite impact would be made in our fisheries development programmes. The programme leader has given the report on the activities of this project during the meeting of the sub-committee

on fisheries development. I am informed that FAO in conjunction with the project staff has been able to produce the first statistical bulletin for the region. I must congratulate FAO and the project for this document. The continued production of this document will depend on us all.

I am confident that cooperation amongst ourselves would be improved by the end of this session so that our problems can easily be solved by FAO and other agencies.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in Loué and successful deliberations.

Address by the Minister for Rural Development

Your Excellencies, Members of the Political Bureau, Ministers and Colleagues, Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, the Chairman, the Delegate of the Assistant Director-General, Honorable Delegates, and Militant Men and Women of the Togo People's Assembly:

When in 1976 Togo was requested to host the Fifth Session of the Fishery Committee for the East Central Atlantic, we did not hesitate a single instant to consent to having this important meeting held in our capital. This shows the great interest that Togo attaches to the topic of natural resources and particularly to regional or international agencies responsible for the development policies for such potential.

That is why this morning in opening this international meeting I should like, on behalf of the entire People of Togo, its National Union Party, the Assembly of the People of Togo and in the name of our Beloved Leader, his Excellency, Army General Gnassingbé Eyadema, to welcome you to Togo, and especially to this Assembly House of the People of Togo, the sanctuary of Peace and the Dialogue.

Speaking of natural resources, particularly those from which raw materials are obtained (mines, energy sources, etc.), we have fallen into the habit of calling them non-renewable natural resources because the phenomenon of sedimentation resulting in the formation of various rocks or substances is assessed in terms of millenia. That is why Man has quickly come to realize the need for keeping control over these resources by managing them on a sound, sustained-yield basis.

Aside from the so-called non-renewable natural resources we had, whether erroneously or rightly, become convinced that certain resources such as water and fisheries stocks, etc., were inexhaustible because their very short production or reproduction cycle enables them to supply the food needs of our peoples. If for centuries this assumption proved correct, today we are obliged to acknowledge what is self-evident and observe that the equilibrium between Man's requirements and what nature can provide has now been definitively broken.

Precisely in the field with which we are concerned today we know the reasons for this, namely, on the one hand the population explosion, the better diet of the people entailing a higher demand for proteins and, on the other hand, the depletion of the stocks of fisheries resources, increased water pollution, the changes in the biological environment, the use of constantly more efficient fishing gear, etc.

In face of all these problems, what is to be done? Solutions by individual nations cannot prove satisfactory, as the seas cannot be fenced off and even less can the fisheries resources which are a highly mobile potential resource common to all mankind, but quite indifferent to any artificial barriers such as national frontiers.

In this context Togo greatly appreciates the goodwill that led to the establishment of this committee, composed of the many nations that fish the biological resources of this part of the Atlantic Ocean. This committee now provides us with an opportunity for deciding on concerted action and maintaining a dialogue in which each country, large or small, rich or poor, can express its views and have them heard. As far as we the people of Togo are concerned we place our faith in such international dialogue and concerted action because Togo of the New March is built on two foundation principles dear to our National Helmsman, the Builder of New Togo, His Excellency, Army General Gnassingbé Eyadema. This miracle having come about in our country, we believe that it is possible for it to occur on the international level provided our partners agree to open the dialogue. That is why we are prepared to throw our fullest support behind this committee which constitutes a forum for an exchange of experience, for the explanation of our requirements and for bringing our viewpoints into accord as regards our common fundamental problems, namely the management of fisheries for the benefit of all mankind.

Furthermore the agenda proposed to us, as well as the personal competence of all the delegates who have come here, are an impressive testimony to the enthusiasm and vitality of this committee.

As you all know this committee has always been concerned with the problems of the intensive fishing of certain stocks of this region and with the need for a more rational and sounder management of these resources. The sub-committee on resource management that met last week in this same hall conducted very useful discussions, the very profitable results of which will, in my opinion, be reaped both by countries whose fishing fleets are working these waters and the coastal states that are endeavouring to participate to a greater extent in this fishing effort.

Speaking of fisheries development in the CEECAF zone, I should like to refer, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the UNDP-assisted regional fisheries development project being executed by FAO in collaboration with coastal countries that are members of CEECAF.

Despite its recent start I trust that this project will accelerate the development of our fisheries and stimulate greater international cooperation thanks to permanent assistance from UNDP, FAO and several multi- and bilateral agencies.

The fact that your conference is being held right after the meeting of the OAS Council of Ministers shows the desire of the Government of Togo, presided over by the Army General Gnassingbé Eyadema, to promote significant international relations.

Over and beyond such international relations we aim first and foremost at ensuring the economic and social welfare of our peoples. That is why Togo has never been absent from any meeting in Africa or anywhere else in the world where major decisions are taken regarding political and economic guidelines.

This is one vital aspect of the policy enunciated by the Guide of our Revolution, who believes that the prime purpose that we must pursue is to serve the interests of our people. In the field of fisheries we are also seeking the well-being of our people by trying to guarantee their future sources of protein foods, protein being an indispensable nutrient in the daily diet. I think that starting out with such a noble purpose we have serious chances of succeeding and arriving at satisfactory conclusions.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Honourable Delegates:

In conclusion may I wish you the fullest success in your work, which we expect will do much for the future of our East Central Atlantic fisheries zone. I know that you have a very long and important agenda before you and that it will probably take you marathon sessions to complete, but it is my pleasure to invite you during your leisure hours, particularly in the evening, to mix with the people of our capital so that you may appreciate with us the peacefulness and harmony that reigns in New Togo, the achievement of Army General Gnassingbé Eyadema, the Founding President of our avant garde Party.

Long live CEECAF!

Long live regional and international cooperation!

Address by the Assistant to the
Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department)

Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The Director-General of FAO and the Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries Department would like me to convey to you, Sir, and the Government of Togo their greetings and good wishes, and to thank you for extending this invitation to hold the Fifth Session of the Committee in Lomé. Your presence here, Sir, is an indication of the interest of your Government in fisheries development and in regional cooperation in West Africa.

Gentlemen, we are observing today events in world fisheries which will mark this period as one of quite dramatic changes in fisheries in almost every sense.

For thousands of years, fisheries were essentially a local, subsistence or artisanal activity. Industrialization on any significant scale began only around the middle of the last century; and this was mainly in the north Atlantic right up to the end of the second world war; there were exceptions of course, notably the Japanese fisheries, but the fisheries of a large part of the world remained unaffected by the industrial revolution until after the second world war; it is noteworthy that a very large part of the increase in fish production since 1950 has been obtained from the development of fisheries of Third World countries and in the five years 1970-75 the rate of increase of fish production in the developing countries has exceeded that of the developed countries.

Industrialization and modernization of fisheries in the Third World have taken place mostly since 1945, and events have been complicated by the emergence of the new regime of the seas. As a result, the governments of developing countries are facing a situation of extraordinary complexity and considerable urgency, without having had time to prepare for it.

They must promote, direct and control the technical changes in their fisheries required by their need for food and by their obligation to provide employment for their people; they must consider and be ready to take action with regard to institutional features of fisheries and to the relations this industry has with other industries and with the community generally; they must deal with the impact of population growth, urbanization and industrialization - through pollution and in other ways - on habitat generally and on fishery resources in particular; they must cope with the greatly increased complexity of international trade; they must confront the juridic and other consequences of the new regime of the seas, and they must provide administrative machinery to give effect to their decisions on these matters. In effect, they must create and develop institutions to accomplish those tasks that actually they must now undertake.

In FAO's view, the regional bodies, such as CEECAF, have a very special role to play in this situation. The exchanges of information and the consultations in the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the various collaborative activities agreed upon there, can help to secure a more efficient allocation of R and D resources to critical problems and thus permit economies while accelerating the achievement of selected objectives. These benefits would have been available whether or not the law of the seas had been reviewed; but the services and facilities that the regional bodies can provide to governments are important now, with the new law of the seas, and have significance within the ambit of activities directed to a New International Economic Order.

With extended jurisdiction, the coastal state has a broader and more strongly secured economic base of natural resources upon which to plan fishery industrial development. Therefore, it has incentive to strengthen its fishery institutions and better means to do so.

In exercising its rights and discharging its responsibilities, each coastal state needs much competence in fisheries research and monitoring, in the planning and promotion of development, and in the formulation and enforcement of regulations. But, many coastal states lack these competences, and few would claim they had them well enough developed.

As fishing experience accumulates, fish-finding and catching become more efficient and the need for management becomes more urgent. In all cases of shared resources these tasks must be undertaken jointly. Moreover, since, in any ecosystem, the exploitation of one species has effects on other species of the system, the sharing of an ecosystem by two or more coastal states implies a need, at least for consultations for the control of exploitation.

The new international view of obligations regarding protection and use of resources makes it advisable that exploitation plans should be harmonized in an international forum, for the purpose of securing rationality in the utilization, not only of each living aquatic resource, but also of other resources concerned in the conduct of fishing, avoiding among other ill-effects that of overcapitalization.

International consultative machinery, such as is available through CEECAF, is of strategic significance in this situation. The mutual support and cooperation in the conduct of research that can be arranged through the Committee can help to overcome the disabilities under which many countries labour at present. The consultations with regard to development and management can be of similar effect. With such facilities at their disposal governments can have more confidence in confronting situations for which their individual institutions have as yet to build up competence. At the same time, work in the Committee and its subsidiary bodies will give experience which, as it grows, will promote further development of national institutions.

What has been said earlier leads us to consider some of the characteristics of the CEECAF fishery situation and to offer some suggestions on the role which this Committee might play in dealing with some of the problems of the area. The present situation can be characterized as follows:

- (a) Marine fishery resources in the region are generally exploited at or very near to the level of what may be expected to be the average effective yield;
- (b) Non-coastal countries continue to have a high share in this exploitation taking approximately between one half and two thirds of the 3.5 million tons;
- (c) Many bilateral agreements have been entered into and joint ventures have been established between coastal and non-coastal countries; these are activities chiefly in the industrial sector while technical cooperation in small-scale fisheries development is, with few exceptions, markedly absent;
- (d) Bilateral agreements between coastal countries are few and the exceptions are notably between those countries to the north that have resources, those to the south that have large markets;
- (e) Although inter-regional trade in fishery products has increased in recent years, most of the imports are still supplied by non-coastal countries, mainly those operating in the area; exports from the region are chiefly of high-value products;
- (f) It is not always easy to identify government priorities in fisheries development;
- (g) The raw data on fishery resources, catch rates and markets are remarkably sketchy considering the speed with which development has been taking place.

Although on paper the Organization's Regular Programme activities in this region may appear to be limited, there is probably no other region or regional body which is receiving as much attention as is given to this area and this Committee. Nevertheless, there is much

more to be done. What exactly needs to be done would depend on the deliberations of this Committee, which must indicate the further contributions the Organization could make so as to work more fully with the governments of the region toward achievement of their objectives in fisheries development.

Before considering some matters that might be discussed by the Committee, brief mention must be made of the considerable number of other organizations which are working in some relation with fishery problems in this area. Among the United Nations bodies IOC and UNEP have been active in the environmental field. Of other fishery bodies mention must be made of ICCAT and of ICSEAF (International Commission for Southeast Atlantic Fisheries). Other regional bodies such as the Economic Community for West Africa, the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Commission for Africa, and various groups of countries have also concerned themselves with fisheries. In any revision of the relations between FAO and this Committee, it will be necessary to take the activities of these other bodies fully into account.

Having in mind the characteristics of the CEECAF situation as indicated earlier, it would appear to FAO that this Committee could play an extremely useful role with respect to the following matters. In fact the Agenda for this Session also shows the importance they have.

- (a) Resource monitoring: For this work the Committee must promote improvement of the arrangements for collection of raw data on stocks, catch and effort and for the systematic analysis of such data;
- (b) Resource management: In those cases where stocks are shared between two or more countries, the Committee can provide arrangements for technical examination of exploitation and of the nature of the suitable regimes that might be adopted by the participating countries;
- (c) Fisheries development: The CEECAF role in general planning and coordination is one of providing information and a forum to discuss general policies; but in respect of small-scale fisheries development it could take a more active part in studying the technical and other constraints on development and the socio-economic consequences of change in these fisheries. This is an area where intercountry transfer of technology and TCDC can be very effective and could be accomplished through the good offices of this Committee. Full use, we expect, will be made of the inter-regional CEECAF projects;
- (d) CEECAF can play a very important role with regard to transfer of technology and it is clear that some countries of the region already possess experience and expertise which, if made available to other countries of the region, could be of considerable benefit to them;
- (e) CEECAF can promote the better use of training institutes and especially intercountry collaboration with respect to training.

Each of these matters is the subject of one or more documents before the meeting and they form parts of a single pattern. The Sub-Committees have already stressed the urgency of the first two, which are crucial for good development planning. The Director-General trusts that these deliberations will result in an integrated set of proposals which will lead to improvements in the CEECAF fisheries.

Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, before I conclude, I would wish to deliver a personal message from Mr. H. Watzinger, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, who as you are aware was unable to attend this meeting, because of very important matters that have to be attended to in relation to the future of the Fisheries Department. He greatly regrets his inability to attend; I shall read his message now.

"You are aware, I believe, that I have recently taken office as Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department) in FAO and it is in this capacity that I send you greetings. From your own experience you will understand that I am engaged in a varied set of activities in which I am simultaneously making myself acquainted with a wide range of problems whilst having to make decisions on both particular matters of administration and general matters of policy. You will, therefore, forgive me, I hope, that I am not with you in person during this session of CEECAF. You might have thought, as I did myself, that I should take the opportunity of this meeting to give some account of my ideas on how FAO's Fisheries Department can work with Member Governments. Unfortunately, the urgency of some major problems has denied me this opportunity; but I have been less disturbed about this than I might have been because I expect to see many of you at the meeting of FAO's Committee on Fisheries which will be held in Rome from 19 to 26 April. That meeting will give me opportunity to renew acquaintance with those of you whom I have already met, and to make the acquaintance of others. The next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries will be interesting and stimulating: I hope that those countries of this region that are members of the Committee on Fisheries will make a strong effort to be well represented at that meeting, and that the representatives will come ready to take an active part in the Committee's work. I look forward enthusiastically to the discussions that will take place and, in the meantime, I wish you well in your work in the current session of CEECAF."

ANNEX E

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. State of the stocks
 - 3.1 Demersal and pelagic stocks
 - 3.2 Action planned for stock evaluation during the next inter-sessional period
4. Present situation of fishery and biological data
5. Needs for resource management in the CEECAF area
 - 5.1 Report of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction
 - 5.2 Needs for regional and sub-regional coordination regarding resource management
6. Fishery development
 - 6.1 Report of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development
 - 6.2 Future action
7. Composition, status and functions of CEECAF
8. Amendments to CEECAF Rules of Procedure
9. Cooperative Investigations of the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA)
10. Any other matters
11. Election of officers
12. Date and place of next session
13. Adoption of the report

LIST OF DOCUMENTS 1/

CECAF/V/77/1	Provisional agenda
CECAF/V/77/2	Annotated provisional agenda
CECAF/V/77/3	Provisional timetable
CECAF/V/77/4*	Report of the Third Session of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation
CECAF/V/77/5*	Fishery statistics and biological data; present situation and desirable improvements
CECAF/V/77/6*	CECAF Statistical Bulletin; nominal catches 1964-74
CECAF/V/77/7*	Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic; biostatistical data
CECAF/V/77/8*	Resource management issues in the CEECAF area
CECAF/V/77/9	Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction
CECAF/V/77/10*	A programme for intensifying transfer and development of fishing technology in the CEECAF region
CECAF/V/77/11	Report of the Second Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development
CECAF/V/77/12	Review of the composition, status and functions of CEECAF
CECAF/V/77/13	CEECAF - Statutes and Rules of Procedure
CECAF/V/77/14	Proposed amendments to CEECAF Rules of Procedure
CECAF/V/77/15	Planned activities for Cooperative Investigations in the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA)
CECAF/V/77/16*	An overview of the state of fishery development and planning in the CEECAF region
CECAF/V/77/17*	Interim report of the implementation phase of the project for the development of fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic
CECAF/V/77/18*	Industrial marine fisheries in the CEECAF area. Part I: Morocco to Liberia
CECAF/V/77/19*	Training needs in the CEECAF region
CECAF/V/77/20*	Fisheries statistics and fisheries research in some coastal countries of the CEECAF region
CECAF/V/77/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
CECAF/V/77/Inf.2	Information for participants
CECAF/V/77/Inf.3	Provisional list of participants
SUB-COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION	
CECAF/MR/I/77/1	Provisional agenda
CECAF/MR/I/77/2	Annotated provisional agenda
SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERY DEVELOPMENT	
CECAF/FD/II/77/1	Provisional agenda
CECAF/FD/II/77/2	Annotated provisional agenda

1/ Documents marked with an asterisk were also submitted, as appropriate, to the First Session of the CEECAF Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction (2 and 5 March 1977) and to the Second Session of the CEECAF Sub-Committee on Fishery Development (3-5 March 1977).

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Lomé, Togo, 2 and 5 March 1977

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its first session in Lomé on 2 and 5 March 1977 at the kind invitation of the Government of Togo in conjunction with the Fifth Session of CECAF.

2. The Sub-Committee is open only to those Member Nations of CECAF which are coastal countries in the CECAF region. Representatives of nine Member Nations and one observer from an inter-governmental organization attended the Session. The list of participants is given in Annex A to the report of the Fifth Session of CECAF.

3. Mr. Y. Bangana, head of the Togolese delegation, was elected Chairman of the Session.

4. The Sub-Committee adopted the agenda given in Appendix 1. The documents which were before the Sub-Committee are listed in Annex F to the report of the Fifth Session of CECAF.

I. STATE OF STOCKS AND NEEDS FOR MANAGEMENT

5. The Secretariat presented the report of the Third Session of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation (CECAF/V/77/4) which reviewed the state of the stocks. Available evidence indicated that most of the stocks of the region, particularly those which are most abundant and economically important are now being heavily, and in some cases, even excessively exploited.

6. In the northern sector, the stocks of hakes, seabreams and cephalopods appear to be exploited beyond the level of maximum average production, while coastal pelagic stocks, e.g. the northern stocks of sardine, sardinellas, horse mackerels and mackerel, although heavily fished, are probably less intensively exploited as yet. The state of the former stocks clearly calls for management measures to control the amount of fishing. For the latter further expansion of fishing should be done with caution, for instance in stages adjusted to the improvement of the understanding of their actual level of exploitation. Off Morocco, trumpet fish and the most southern stocks of sardine offer good prospects for development, provided that certain difficulties in handling and processing the trumpet fish could be overcome.

7. In the Gulf of Guinea, most inshore demersal stocks including those of pink shrimp (Penaeus duorarum) are considered to be fully exploited, and fishing on these stocks will have to be limited. In the northern part, off Guinea Bissau, Guinea and northern Sierra Leone, some demersal and coastal pelagic stocks are as yet probably less intensively fished. The causes of the collapse of the round sardinella fishery off Ghana and Ivory Coast, which

have been reviewed at a special meeting held in Abidjan in July 1976, are not clearly understood. This collapse illustrates the high natural variability of clupeids and other coastal pelagic species. The effects on the recovery of the stocks, to be expected from a substantial reduction in the amount of fishing depend on the respective — and still unknown — influence of the natural and controllable factors on the variations in stocks abundance.

8. The stock of sardinella in the Gabon/Congo/Angola sector does not yet show signs of over-fishing and some expansion of present catches is likely. However, because of the lack of proper data, the maximum potential yield for this stock remains to be estimated.

II. REVIEW OF MEANS AVAILABLE AND MECHANISMS IN FORCE AT NATIONAL LEVEL FOR CONTROLLING THE AMOUNT AND PATTERN OF FISHING

9. The Sub-Committee recognized that with the present evolution in the ocean regime the authority of coastal countries over the utilization of the resources lying off their shores is now commonly accepted. This greater authority should facilitate decision-making and hence the management of resources in the region. This evolution, however, does not change the nature of the difficulties inherent in the use of fish resources. In fact because of their greater responsibilities in this field it becomes even more urgent to strengthen the expertise and institutions of coastal countries as they are essential for properly monitoring and orienting the exploitation of the resources.

10. With a view to identifying and selecting the actions to be undertaken in this respect, the Sub-Committee reviewed present conditions and identified the major obstacles facing each step in the management process, namely the collection of statistics, the assessment and monitoring of stocks and fisheries, the formulation of plans for the development and improvement of fisheries and their implementation.

(a) Data collection

11. The Sub-Committee noted that the success of any plan for the utilization of stocks depended first on the ability to collect minimum information on the stocks and the fisheries. Without such information it would be impossible to forecast what the production would be, and to define precisely how such production could be obtained or to check whether the plans could be implemented in conformity with the forecasts. This would mean that the countries should make efforts to improve their expertise and necessary infrastructure commensurate with the benefits they hope to derive from their fisheries. It was also noted that owing to their increased responsibilities, coastal countries are now directly concerned with the collection of statistics relating to the whole of fishing activities carried out in their respective areas of jurisdiction, whether the fishing operations are conducted by their own fishermen or by their foreign partners.

12. The Sub-Committee recognized that substantial progress had been made over the last few years in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics needed for stock evaluation. The publication of the first CEECAF Statistical Bulletin illustrated this progress. The Sub-Committee expressed its satisfaction to all those through whose effort this result had been achieved. Most of the countries fishing in the region were now able to submit their annual catches properly broken down according to the list of species and the geographical divisions recommended by CEECAF. An increasing number of these countries also sent their data on catches per effort properly broken down according to the same strata.

13. There were unfortunately still certain deficiencies in some sectors. The situation raised special concern in the case of two kinds of fisheries, namely, the long distance and the artisanal fisheries, especially in areas where the latter are particularly active. The difficulties encountered in the first case mainly resulted from the great mobility of the fishing vessels which may for that reason partially avoid providing information to the statistical schemes set up by their flag countries as well as to those of the coastal countries especially if they did not land their catches locally. With regard to the artisanal fisheries, the great dispersion of boats and the diversity in fishing methods accounted for the difficulties in collecting the proper information.

14. In both cases, the improvement of statistics raised difficulties which were first of a theoretical nature, related to the designing of more efficient schemes for data collection and sampling and second, operational, when implementation of such schemes is concerned. In this connexion, the Sub-Committee heard with satisfaction that an associate expert would soon be assigned to the CECAF Project. It recommended unanimously that the fishery statistician who was originally foreseen in the staff of the CECAF Project be recruited within the shortest possible time. The associate expert and the project statistician were in fact very much needed in the region to help countries draw up better programmes for data collection and to contribute towards the training of their statistical staff. It also expressed concern about the possibility to fill again the post of the statistician formerly based at the FAO Regional Office in Accra. On this subject, the Secretariat pointed out that the financial position would make it unlikely that financing of the two posts of experienced statisticians would be possible, but agreed to make efforts to find funds.

15. The Sub-Committee was informed of the various programmes already carried out, or in the course of preparation by FAO (Regional Office, Headquarters, CECAF Project), in some cases with the help of other fishery bodies like the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) for the training of experts to be in charge of the designing of statistical schemes and for data collectors. It recognized that to enable a proper planning of their training activities, coastal countries should inform the CECAF Project and the FAO Regional Office of their interest and needs.

16. The Sub-Committee also noted that improvement of national statistical schemes sometimes raised serious problems of organization and coordination between the various institutions responsible for the collection and processing of the data in individual countries. It recalled the role of harmonization which the national correspondents of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation had to play in their respective countries. It recommended that a copy of any technical correspondence addressed to countries by the CECAF Secretariat should be sent to them, so that they could ensure that the national data sent to regional data offices were complete and in the detail required by the CECAF statistical system. 1/

17. The Sub-Committee gave special consideration to the reporting of the statistics of fishing operations of non-coastal countries vessels to the coastal countries concerned and to the FAO and CECAF offices responsible for the compilation and dissemination of regional data. It expressed its concern regarding the very poor participation of certain countries, in the provision of data and in resource evaluation work. This participation was not commensurate with the role these countries play in the region's fisheries. The situation was very detrimental to the evaluation and management of resources and was the underlying cause of the major shortcomings in the assessments. Adding to the concern expressed on this subject by the Working Party on Resource Evaluation the Sub-Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION MR/I/1

The CECAF Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

considering the difficulties encountered in trying to obtain complete and properly detailed statistics on the operations of some long range fleets and anxious about the delays caused by those deficiencies in the evaluation and monitoring of stocks in the region,

requests that this important issue be discussed further at the next session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries,

recommends that in case of bilateral agreements between coastal and non-coastal countries

1/ This system is described in a document entitled "Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries: Biostatistical Data" by M. Ansa-Emmim and D. Levi, CECAF/ECAF Series/75/2, 1975.

the agreements should include provision for regular reporting by the non-coastal countries to coastal countries of data as recommended by the CEECAF statistical system; the statistics thus collected should subsequently be transmitted to CEECAF as part of the Member States' obligations,

urges coastal countries to take appropriate action against the fishing nations which operate in the region if they fail to provide the required fishery statistics.

18. In pursuance of this principle, the Sub-Committee suggested that coastal countries should request officially catch statistics and catch per effort data from countries whose vessels have been particularly active off their shores and for which incomplete information had been provided. The requested data should be submitted with the details required by the CEECAF statistical system and should cover the period 1964-74, as in the CEECAF Statistical Bulletin, and the years following. A list of missing or insufficient statistics could be made, by statistical divisions, from the data contained in the Bulletin. The Sub-Committee further requested that the Committee on Fisheries take a special decision on the serious problem of incomplete transmission of statistics from some countries at its next session.

19. The Sub-Committee also noted that the geographical grid of statistical divisions used at present for collecting and allocating statistics needed to be modified so as to take into account the need for coastal countries to know the amount and the nature of catches harvested within each sector under national jurisdiction. It recommended to the Secretariat that a study of this question should be undertaken and a project for a new grid prepared which would take into account schemes already adopted by other Atlantic fishery bodies, so as to ensure that grids to be adopted by all these bodies are compatible. This amendment should be ready for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation.

(b) Resource evaluation

20. As a whole the potential and the present state of the major resources of the region are relatively well known, even though for some of them the precision was limited. The Sub-Committee discussed ways and means to improve the assessments and to monitor properly the state of exploitation of the stocks.

21. It was noted that surveys, either by trawling or by other fishing methods or by acoustic techniques were at the moment of considerable interest to the region for two reasons. First, the methodology involved (survey planning and data interpretation) was relatively simple; although the equipment and the expertise needed in quantitative acoustic surveys were somewhat sophisticated and expensive, these could be easily hired for the duration of the cruises, as has already been done in cruises executed with the assistance of the FAO acoustic expert. Secondly, in addition to the periodic measurements of total abundance which they provide, these investigations also gave information on the distribution of the stocks over the various sectors of national jurisdiction. Such information could be used as a basis for calculating how the potentials of multinational stocks should be shared between neighbouring countries. The Sub-Committee expressed the wish that these aspects should be taken into consideration when regional training programmes were formulated.

22. The Sub-Committee recognized that one of the major shortcomings in the region was the lack of stock assessment experts. Training in this field was therefore essential. The Sub-Committee expressed its satisfaction at the efforts made towards meeting this need through training centres sponsored by the Canadian, French and Norwegian Governments.

23. The Sub-Committee stressed the importance of making full use of all the expertise available in the region. It took note of the syntheses now under preparation which reviewed the state of the resources in various sectors of CEECAF. Some syntheses were prepared through the collaboration of scientists from different laboratories and countries. An example of the value of pooling expertise and knowledge available in various countries was demonstrated by the programme of the ad hoc working parties organized by the CEECAF Project. The Fisheries Research

Unit of Ghana and the "Centre de recherches océanographiques" of Ivory Coast showed the way in this field when they organized a joint meeting to study the causes of the collapse of the stock of Ghana-Ivory Coast sardinella.

24. It was also pointed out that this collaboration which helped to avoid duplication of effort, reduced the isolation of experts and favoured the exchange of knowledge and experience, should not be restricted to the countries of the region alone: several non-coastal countries had accumulated data and this knowledge of the resources had to be fully utilized. It was therefore desirable that these countries be associated with the research work being undertaken on the assessment of stocks in the region.

25. The Sub-Committee also recognized that governments, having many other priorities, did not always give to fishery research the attention it deserves — commensurate with the importance of the potential benefit which they could derive from their fisheries. Adequate incentives should be provided to attract and keep research workers who have been trained at high cost. The Sub-Committee noted that it was essential to keep as close as possible relations between research on the one hand and administration and industry on the other. These relations were essential for a common understanding of priorities in the whole of the fishery sector.

(c) Choice and implementation of management schemes

26. The Sub-Committee recalled that the changes in the law of the sea had cast the responsibility on coastal states with regard to the choice and implementation of management schemes. In connexion with stocks entirely within national jurisdiction this was the sole responsibility of the country concerned. In the case of multinational stocks extending over several areas, the countries concerned would have to agree on a common scheme and harmonize their regulations to ensure rational exploitation. Consultation between neighbouring countries and harmonization at the regional level were therefore indispensable. These aspects were specifically analysed in item six of the Agenda (Need for regional and sub-regional coordination in relation to resource management).

27. Another result of this trend was that management would have to be properly considered at the national level when formulating fishery development programmes. Moreover as many resources were now exploited near to their average maximum production, development planning and management should be considered simultaneously.

28. The Sub-Committee emphasized the need to take full account of existing information on the state of resources when national plans for fisheries were being drawn up irrespective of whether these plans were to be executed with national means or with outside support. Some participants mentioned the difficulties that certain countries which do not have the necessary expertise were facing in this respect. The Sub-Committee stressed the importance of training in this field and further indicated that these countries could use temporary consultants familiar with the resources of the region or with management matters. Governments may need scientific advice on:

- the state of various types of resources available in a given sector
- the effects that could be expected from the implementation of various management alternatives seen in the light of national fishery objectives.

In either case the CEECAF Project could provide the services of experts or assist in the recruitment of temporary consultants. The Sub-Committee also stressed that the final decision on the choice of management schemes always rested with the countries having jurisdiction over the resources.

29. The respective advantages and disadvantages of the various fishery regulations were also discussed: regulations on gear and on their characteristics (e.g. mesh size), reduction of fishing through catch quota or effort limitation. In tropical trawl fisheries, regulation

of mesh size was made difficult by the great number of species fished together and problems of enforcement. It was expected that the mesh size best suited to the inshore demersal stocks in the Gulf of Guinea would be determined from the results of joint investigations being conducted in Congo, Ghana and Ivory Coast.

30. The Sub-Committee noted the usefulness of harmonizing regulatory measures on mesh size and gear applied by neighbouring countries to the same kinds of stocks. In this respect, it requested the CEECAF Project to collect information on the main regulations (prohibited gear, closed seasons and areas, etc.) in force in the legislation of coastal states, on the mesh size currently used in the trawl fisheries (according to the stocks fished) as well as comments on the extent to which the regulations were being enforced.

31. The Sub-Committee finally stressed that for all heavily fished stocks the adoption of measures aimed at controlling the amount of fishing was a matter of urgency. This could be achieved either through quotas, preferably with individual country allocations or through a limitation on the number of boats. National catch quotas could be properly enforced only if catches made by the various fleets, national and foreign, were adequately monitored. This raised again the problem of collection of statistics and the absolute necessity for coastal countries to develop rapidly the systems and expertise required for that purpose. Should some scheme of effort limitation be adopted, it was noted that the accurate monitoring of the fishing time was not an absolute necessity provided that the average efficiency of the various kinds of licensed boats was known. This also implied that the countries were able to assess this efficiency. For that purpose they should have adequate expertise and should regularly record catch and effort data from which changes in vessel efficiency could be detected.

III. NEED FOR REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION IN RELATION TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

32. The Sub-Committee specifically considered the case of the stocks which migrated or were distributed over more than one sector under national jurisdiction and whose assessment required regional and sub-regional cooperation.

33. Such collaboration was first required for the compilation of data and arrangements were needed for centralizing regional data. At the same time common standards and rules should be adopted so that national data referring to the same fisheries could be later pooled.

34. The Sub-Committee also emphasized that all countries which exploited the same stocks should participate in their assessments in proportion to their participation in the fishery and in accordance with their economic and manpower resources. This obviously applied to coastal countries of the region. It also applied to the non-coastal countries which participated or had been involved in the exploitation of the region's resources and had through their own investigations accumulated data and knowledge on the stocks. To be comprehensive the assessments should in fact be based on all existing information and make full use of the wide available expertise.

35. In addition it was noted that participation in stock assessment and investigations should be as wide as possible, for progress in science and technology depends largely on opportunities offered to experts to exchange their views and experience. This applied to multinational as well as to national stocks.

36. The Sub-Committee gave special consideration to the arrangements which were needed for the management of multinational stocks. It considered that owing to their economic value and their high level of exploitation and the specific issues raised by their management, the following stocks should be considered in priority:

Northern sector: hakes
seabreams
cephalopods
pilchard
round sardinella
horse mackerels
mackerel

Gulf of Guinea: pink shrimp (Penaeus duorarum)

37. For this purpose the Sub-Committee recommended that the ad hoc working parties scheduled in the programme of the CECAF Project should concentrate particularly on these stocks and ensure that their reports convey full information on the following aspects:

- maximum potential yield
- present state of exploitation
- effects on the stocks to be expected from various management alternatives
- geographical distribution of stock density (with maps showing the changes and, if possible, seasonal variations in stock availability)
- annual catches by countries.

38. Finally the Sub-Committee, aware of the urgent need to adopt for these stocks adequate management measures, adopted the following resolution.

RESOLUTION MR/I/2

The CECAF Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction, concerned about the consequences for the stocks and the fisheries they sustain which may result from their high level of exploitation,

calls the attention of coastal countries concerned to the urgent need to adopt measures aiming at adjusting and maintaining the amount of fishing to the desired level,

urges them to take in their national fisheries the necessary steps, especially ensuring that the relevant national fishery plans take full account of the limits of production of the resources,

further urges countries participating in the exploitation of the same stocks to consult among themselves as soon as possible with the view to agreeing on homogeneous schemes for the utilization of such stocks,

requests the Secretariat of CECAF to prepare, in collaboration with the correspondents of the Working Party on Resource Evaluation for the countries concerned:

- (a) background documentation on the state of the stocks listed below which would be based on reports of the ad hoc working parties to be convened by the CECAF Project;
- (b) a technical review of the various management approaches,

requests FAO to organize, within the framework of the CECAF Sub-Committee on Management of Resources within the Limits of National Jurisdiction, four meetings for the purpose of allowing coastal countries concerned to define concerted management schemes and to invite countries listed below to send representatives allowed to reach decisions in matters of management:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Stocks</u>	<u>Participating countries</u>
1	22° - 9° N approximately	Round sardinella Horse mackerels Mackerel	Cape Verde Gambia Guinea Guinea Bissau Mauritania Senegal Sierra Leone Spain
2	Gibraltar - 15° N approximately	Hakes Seabreams	Mauritania Morocco Senegal Spain

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Stocks</u>	<u>Participating countries</u>
3	Gibraltar - Senegal River	Sardine Cephalopods	Mauritania Morocco Spain 1/
4	Coastal waters of Cameroon and Nigeria	Pink shrimp (<u>Penaeus duorarum</u>)	Cameroon Nigeria

1/ Depending on scientific evidence showing the extension of continental stocks of sardine in the Canary Islands area

39. The Secretariat stated that no provision had been made in the 1978-79 biennial budget to cover the cost of these four meetings but every effort would be made to have them organized.

IV. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

40. The next session of the Sub-Committee will take place in conjunction with the Sixth Session of CEECAF.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

41. The report was adopted on 5 March 1977.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Election of officers for the session
4. State of stocks and needs for management
5. Review of means available and mechanisms in force at national level for controlling the amount and pattern of fishing
6. Need for regional and sub-regional coordination in relation to resource management
7. Any other matters
8. Date and place of next session
9. Adoption of the report

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERY DEVELOPMENT

Lomé, Togo, 3 - 5 March 1977

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sub-Committee on Fishery Development of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its Second Session in Lomé, from 3 to 5 March 1977, at the kind invitation of the Government of Togo in conjunction with the Fifth Session of CECAF.

2. The Session was attended by representatives from 15 Member Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, by one observer from a non-Member Nation and by observers from four inter-governmental organizations. The list of participants is given in Annex A to the report of the Fifth Session of CECAF.

3. Mr. A.K. Freeman, head of the Liberian delegation, and Mr. J.J. Bignumba, head of the Gabonese delegation were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the session, respectively.

4. The Sub-Committee adopted the agenda given in Appendix 1. The documents which were before the Sub-Committee are listed in Annex F to the report of the Fifth Session of CECAF.

I. THE STATE OF FISHERIES: REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR FISHERY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

5. A summary of some of the important features of the state of fisheries in the region was presented, touching on fish populations, catch, fishing limits, joint ventures, trade, aid and demand. It was emphasized that effective planning could only be achieved if the development strategies supported by governmental programmes and projects received also support from people outside the government such as producers, consumers, traders and investors.

6. The state of the stocks and the need for management were explained, and it was noted that most of the region's stocks, above all the most abundant ones and those which were economically the most interesting were now being heavily exploited, and in some cases excessively so. Nevertheless, attention was drawn to some isolated stocks, such as trumpet fish off Morocco, which could withstand still higher exploitation rates. It was observed that in view of the high level of exploitation of the resources the coastal countries, when drawing up their investment and development plans, should ensure that the state of the stocks was continuously considered and reviewed.

7. The report on aquaculture pointed out the high potential for fish and crustacea farming in the region, notably in the brackish water lagoons that are found along most of the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea. It was emphasized that the strategy to develop aquaculture should take full account of the need to increase employment opportunities and realise the foreign exchange earning potential of this activity. Attention was drawn to the important conferences on aquaculture which were held in Accra, Ghana, in 1975 and in Kyoto, Japan, in 1976 and the important implications of conclusions reached at these meetings. It was noted that there was a preliminary proposal to establish a regional centre for applied research development

in aquaculture in Nigeria and the Sub-Committee welcomed this move. The Sub-Committee expressed the wish that instruction should be given in French as well as in English so that French speaking countries could make the fullest use of the centre.

8. The discussion of programmes for intensifying the transfer and development of fishing technology in the CEECAF area focussed on the need to stimulate this activity, which was defined as the research and development discipline concerned with fishing gear and methods. A short-term action programme was proposed for the region, including a consultancy in fishing technology for 3 man-months, the establishment of a regional fishing technology service, a training course in fishing and the preparation of a fishing technology manual to serve as a guideline for planning and operation of national fishing technology services. Attention was drawn to the possibility of obtaining funds from bilateral sources and trust funds for furthering these activities.

9. The Sub-Committee expressed its strong support for training programmes. Several additional addresses were provided for inclusion in the list of fisheries research institutes and training centres annexed to document CEECAF/V/77/19. Rough estimates were given of the number of fisheries personnel for whom institutional training should be provided, of artisanal fishermen for whom extension services might be required, and of extension workers who would have to be trained. The Sub-Committee recommended that the ongoing survey of needs and resources should be accelerated so that complete and accurate information could be provided for planning training programmes as quickly as possible. It also recommended that joint efforts with other international organizations be undertaken with a view to strengthening the educational resources of the region. The important role that women played, particularly in the processing and marketing of fish in almost all countries of the region was recognized and considerable attention was given to the need to involve these women in training and extension programmes. It was also agreed that the training needs for artisanal fishery development were distinct from those required for industrial fishery development and that different approaches would have to be developed.

10. Attention of the Sub-Committee was drawn to the reports "Industrial Marine Fisheries in the CEECAF Area. Part I: Morocco to Liberia" and "An Overview of the State of Fishery Development and Planning in the CEECAF Region" which dealt with the broader aspects of development, including resources, fishing operations, trade and markets, institutions, socio-economic analysis as well as development plans and prospects in the region. The objectives of any national fishery plan generally involved, to a greater or lesser degree depending on the country concerned (i) fish resources management, (ii) provision of sufficient fish supplies to meet demand, and (iii) balanced development of the fishery sector to meet socio-economic needs. Those important investments either in progress, committed or possible in the region were briefly explained and it was generally agreed that the development strategies of principal concern to fishery sectors were, in varying orders of priority according to countries, the need to expand locally-based fishing fleets with vessels of up to 40 metres length, the increase of small-scale fishing activities and the need to improve processing facilities, including freezing and cold storage, usually linked to the promotion of export markets.

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CEECAF PROJECT

11. The Programme Leader presented the document CEECAF/V/77/17 which contained a description of activities carried out in the first two years of the operational phase of the project from January 1975 to the end of 1976.

- In the field of fishery statistics and biological data reference was made to the regional Statistical Bulletin, consultant reports on biostatistics, the frame survey in three CEECAF countries and the initiation of work on preparation of species identification sheets for fishery purposes.
- Concerning resource monitoring and fishery management attention was drawn to the one year stock assessment cruise conducted with the chartered Soviet vessel FIGLENT in the waters from Cameroon to Angola, and the organization of ad hoc working parties on various resources.

- In aquaculture the Project had prepared plans for the study of the economic feasibility of lagoon aquaculture and had sent consultant missions to Benin and Nigeria.
- Regarding fishery investment and development a report on the marine fishing industry in the sector from Morocco to Liberia had been prepared and assistance to four NORAD missions to identify projects for further consideration by Norway was given.
- In the field of fishery technology a consultant mission to Ivory Coast and Senegal will be mounted to assess the present situation with regard to available technical capacities and the establishment of a cooperative programme for applied research in fish processing technology.
- With regard to training, missions had visited Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal to investigate various training requirements and preparations were being made to hold a workshop on fishery development planning and management. National fishery personnel participated in training at sea on board the vessel FIOLENT. Arrangements had also been made to hold a Training course on legal and institutional aspect of fishery resource management and developemnt in September 1977.

12. The Sub-Committee was informed of other activities being implemented by FAO in the CEECAF region with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme or other sources. It was remarked that most of these activities were carried out in the northern sector and a request was made that the countries in the southern part should receive more attention. The delegation of Gabon specifically requested that the CEECAF Project prepare feasibility studies for the construction of a chain of cold stores.

13. The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation of the many activities undertaken during the first two years of the programme despite budgetary limitations.

14. The Sub-Committee was informed that a consultant had been engaged to summarize the stock assessment data collected during the FIOLENT survey and that the first report would be distributed shortly.

15. An associate expert to assist with the statistical programme would be recruited shortly as an interim measure pending recruitment of the project statistician scheduled for the beginning of 1978.

16. Efforts to obtain financial assistance from developed member countries of CEECAF had been partially successful. Norway had pledged one million dollars to the Project for identification of project proposals in the region which it might later fund on a bilateral basis. Canada had agreed to finance a whole series of regional seminars, workshops and training courses to be held during 1977 and 1978 at a cost of approximately one-million dollars. Commitments of support had also been made by Poland to train statisticians and by Spain for assistance in the gathering of statistical data.

17. The importance of training at all levels was stressed and the need to interest universities in the region in providing training for high-level fisheries personnel was emphasized. The Sub-Committee was informed that a consultant had already been recruited to assess the opportunities available in the universities for such training courses.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CEECAF PROJECT

18. The Programme Leader gave a brief account of the scheduled workplan for the CEECAF Project during the remaining 15 months of operation (see document CEECAF/V/77/17, part 6) and invited the views of the delegates on this programme and future requirements, remarking that a certain prolongation would be essential in order to complete certain outstanding activities especially those operated through the support of trust fund donors.

19. The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation of the major efforts and outputs of the project staff, endorsed the scheduled work programme and considered that it was essential

that the project should be prolonged so as to enable it to provide the specialist services required by the Member Governments both in the immediate future and also in the longer term. When requested for an indication of UNDP's view on the continuation of the project beyond its scheduled termination at the end of June 1978, the UNDP Representative explained that it was not possible to commit the approval of the Administrator of UNDP, but the Sub-Committee's strong arguments would be transmitted to him for due consideration. It was emphasized that this inter-regional fisheries project would be competing with priority activities in other disciplines, and delegations were urged to transmit their indications of priority requirements to UNDP through their national representatives. A fuller statement on UNDP's policy in support of inter-regional and regional projects would be given during the forthcoming Fifth Session of CEECAF. In addition, the UNDP/FAO mission reviewing the CEECAF Project would be visiting coastal Member States during April-May to ascertain the views of individual governments on the project and the supplementation of national fisheries development programmes by inter-regional activities.

20. The Sub-Committee remarked on the lack of staff from the region attached to the project although the project document allowed for the secondment of national experts to the project. It was however noted that a consultant from the region had been recruited for a specific part of the work programme.

21. On the question of training, although the short-term activities presently covering training courses, workshops and seminars were considered to be very valuable, there was a request that longer term training facilities should be provided. A CEECAF Workshop on the assessment of training needs and planning to meet these needs has been proposed. Donor assistance is requested to make its implementation possible. In the context of training in production orientated aspects of fishing technology and the improvement of techniques applicable to the African region, the delegate of Norway noted the importance given to this subject and stated he would draw his Government's attention to the need for support in this field.

22. The delegation of Spain brought to the attention of the meeting the facilities Spain had for training and expressed its willingness to assist in this field. This offer was welcomed and the suggestion was also made that this training should preferably be of a long-term nature.

23. In the same context, the delegate of Korea listed the facilities available at Korean technical training centres (tuna longlining, skipjack fishing, coastal fishing and radio telecommunications) and university courses on fisheries subjects. He welcomed applications from interested CEECAF Member States.

24. Reference was also made to the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) which was undertaking an assessment of the needs for training on marine sciences (including fisheries). Few delegations had attended the IOC regional meeting on Training, Education and Mutual Assistance (TEMA) held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May 1975. FAO and the CEECAF Project were requested to cooperate with IOC and Unesco on this matter.

25. The Sub-Committee strongly recommended the recruitment of a project statistician in addition to the Regional Fishery Statistician in order to reinforce the collection of essential basic data. It noted the need for the preparation of fishing maps giving the temporal and spatial distribution of the various fish stocks so that the results could be immediately available to governments and industry.

26. The Sub-Committee recorded a need for resources surveys in some specific areas and the delegate of Norway indicated the possibility of the FAO/Norway Cooperative Programme making available the R.V. F. NANSEN for this purpose.

27. The organization of a working party on cephalopods, which is another resource of considerable importance in need of conservation and protection, was recommended by the Sub-Committee. The delegate of Spain offered his country's support for the preparation and hosting of such a working party if so required.

28. The Programme Leader indicated the need for closer collaboration between the Project and Member Governments, which it was suggested could be facilitated through regular ad hoc

meetings of fishery representatives during which requests for assistance and support could be mutually discussed. At the same time, the Sub-Committee received the suggestion that the establishment of an advisory group for liaison and direction might be considered along the same lines as operated in the Indian Ocean Programme.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

29. The opportunity taken by the CECAF Project to participate in a small way in the First African Fisheries Exhibition at Dakar was appreciated by many visitors and the Sub-Committee wished that the project should play an even greater role in providing specialized background information for the whole region on the next occasion.

30. The Sub-Committee noted that with the introduction of a 200 mile fishing zone around the United States of America in March 1977 there was likely to be sudden increased interest in the resources of the CECAF region by the displaced fleets. There was therefore a need to monitor the fishing effort.

31. The observer from the Economic Community for West Africa requested the Sub-Committee to provide for exchange of information with his organization and suggested that the project would be a suitable centre for this coordination and consultation.

V. JOINT VENTURES

32. The Sub-Committee heard the delegate of Japan emphasize the importance of joint venture enterprises for the efficient transfer of technology and the basic need for the balanced distribution of responsibilities and benefits which required adherence to agreed plans and well coordinated targets.

VI. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

33. The Sub-Committee expressed the view that if the CECAF Project was to terminate in June 1978 the Third Session of the Sub-Committee should take place before this date. If, on the contrary and as was hoped by the Sub-Committee the Project was to be extended, the session should be organized in conjunction with the Sixth Session of CECAF.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

34. The report was adopted on 5 March 1977.

Appendix 1

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Election of officers for the session
4. The state of fisheries; review of existing information required for fishery development planning
 - 4.1 Resource status and management: summary report
 - 4.2 Aquaculture
 - 4.3 Transfer and development of fisheries technology
 - 4.4 Fisheries education and training
 - 4.5 Present and future opportunities for development and investments
5. Current activities and achievements in relation to:
 - 5.1 Fisheries and biological data
 - 5.2 Monitoring of the resources and fishery management
 - 5.3 Aquaculture
 - 5.4 Fishery investments and development
 - 5.5 Transfer of technology
 - 5.6 Training and education
6. Future orientations of the CECAF Project
7. Any other matters
8. Date and place of next session
9. Adoption of the report

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