

Report of the fourteenth session of the

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 26-30 May 1981



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT
of the
FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 26-30 May 1981

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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the fourteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Distribution

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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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3 June 1981

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries which was held in Rome from 26 to 30 May 1981.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Odero'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

N. Odero
Chairman
Committee on Fisheries

Dr. Bukar Shaib
Independent Chairman
Council of FAO

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

A. MATTERS FOR DECISION

None

B. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Development and management of fisheries in economic zones

The Committee considered a document, submitted in response to a request it had made at its previous session, reporting upon the progress achieved and problems encountered in planning and implementing the comprehensive programme, approved by the Committee at its thirteenth session and endorsed by the FAO Conference at its twentieth session, providing assistance to developing coastal States in the management and development of fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones (the EEZ Programme).

The Committee expressed unanimous satisfaction with the progress achieved and considered that the Organization had made a sound and positive start with an integrated range of activities which would be of long-term importance both to member countries and the Organization. In particular, the Committee re-endorsed the policy of implementing the EEZ Programme in as decentralized manner as possible. The Committee stressed the need for continued high attention to assistance in EEZ policies and planning, to resources appraisal, to training and to the special needs of small-scale fisheries. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Organization to marshal the extra-budgetary financial and other forms of assistance required to support the EEZ Programme.

Most delegations reaffirmed their support for the proposal that FAO should organize a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, with both technical and high-level policy phases. There was agreement that the Spring of 1983, with the fifteenth session of the Committee itself serving as the technical forum, seemed the most appropriate time to convene the Conference.

(Paras. 7 - 26)

In the course of a special debate upon the progress made at national and regional levels in achieving the rational use of fishery resources in economic zones, there was a wide exchange of views upon the issues raised by individual experiences of the problems encountered.

(Paras. 27 - 46)

Utilization of fish and its role in human nutrition

Expressing its appreciation that this subject had been placed on the agenda, the Committee emphasized the important present and potential contribution of fish and fishery products to supplies of animal protein for human nutrition, especially in developing countries. The Committee recommended that an increase in the role of fishery products in food aid be considered by the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its next session.

(Paras. 47 - 57)

The work of FAO in fisheries during 1982-83

The Committee supported the overall priorities and general thrust of the programme of work which it felt was adequately balanced to meet the new challenges of fisheries management and development. Several delegations expressed the view that allocations proposed for fisheries from the Regular Programme budget inadequately reflected the greatly increased responsibilities of FAO in fisheries and the support from it required and expected by Member

Nations. Many delegations suggested that the possibility should be considered of timing future sessions of the Committee so that an earlier opportunity could be provided of influencing the preparations for the biennial Programme of Work and Budget; in this connexion, the possibility of reviewing FAO's general calendar for the overall Programme of Work and Budget was mentioned.

At the request of the relevant delegations, it was agreed that FAO should immediately institute the Lake Victoria Sub-Committee of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa, to promote coordination and cooperation in programmes of management and development of the fisheries of the Lake. The need for assisting with joint research and management activities in Lake Tanganyika was also emphasized.

(Paras. 58 - 71)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries held its fourteenth session in Rome from 26 to 30 May 1981. The session was attended by 77 of the 97 members of the Committee, by an observer from one FAO Member Nation, the USSR and the Holy See, by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the European Economic Community, and by observers from 10 other international and intergovernmental organizations. The list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.

2. As the Chairman of the Committee, Dr M. Ruivo (Portugal), had resigned to take up the position of Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Mr N. Odero (Kenya), who had been elected first Vice-Chairman of the Committee at its twelfth session, was in the chair. The members of the Committee were welcomed in an opening address by the Deputy Director-General, Dr Ralph W. Phillips on behalf of the Director-General. The text of his address is reproduced in Appendix D to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

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

4. A Drafting Committee was appointed consisting of representatives of Canada, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of). The Drafting Committee elected as its Chairman Dr D. Sahrhage, Federal Republic of Germany.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. As this was the first and only session being held in the 1980/81 biennium, the Committee was required to elect a Chairman, a First Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen at its fourteenth session. A Nominations Committee was appointed consisting of the representatives of Brazil, Poland, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United States of America and Uruguay. The Nominations Committee elected as its Chairman Mr J. Linka (Poland).

6. On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Mr N. Odero (Kenya) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee; Mr R. Verdugo (Chile) was elected First Vice-Chairman and representatives from Canada, Indonesia, Morocco and Norway as other Vice-Chairmen.

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES IN ECONOMIC ZONES

(a) Progress in the implementation of the EEZ Programme

7. At its thirteenth session the Committee on Fisheries approved proposals for a comprehensive programme of assistance by FAO to developing coastal States in development and management of fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones. The proposals were also endorsed by the FAO Conference at its twentieth session in November 1979.

8. In response to a request by the Committee at its previous session, the Organization submitted to the present session a document (COFI/81/4) reporting upon the progress achieved and problems encountered in planning and implementing the Programme. The document reviewed the assistance provided under the Programme's medium-term action plan, designed to meet the most urgent needs of Member States, and also reviewed progress achieved with basic, long-term studies of principles and methods of managing and developing fisheries within EEZs. It drew attention to a number of difficulties encountered in planning and executing the Programme. It described the considerable progress achieved toward the objective of decentralizing delivery of the Programme through a network of sub-regional technical assistance projects, associated with regional fishery bodies. The document concluded with a review of the extra-budgetary support already provided for the Programme and presented tentative projections of

the further financial and other forms of support that will be required to execute the inter-country activities of the Programme over the period 1982-86.

9. In introducing the document, the Secretariat advised the Committee of the recent endorsement of the EEZ Programme by the Third Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers of Agriculture, Dacca, Bangladesh, February 1981 and by the Third Meeting of Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other interested developing countries (Havana, Cuba, April 1981) and of the approval expressed by the Programme Committee of FAO at its 40th session (27 April - 8 May 1981) of the progress achieved in implementing the EEZ Programme. The Secretariat also noted that, whilst tentative agreement had been reached with UNDP^{1/} and bilateral donors upon the provision of approximately one half of the extra-budgetary financial assistance required to execute the Programme over the next five years, the question of funding remains the most critical element influencing the Organization's ability to respond fully to the needs and requests of member countries in EEZ fisheries management and development.

10. The Committee, noting with appreciation the comprehensive report provided in document COFI/81/4 and other relevant information papers, expressed unanimous satisfaction with the progress achieved by the Organization in planning and implementing the EEZ Programme, and considered that a sound and positive start had been made with a broad, integrated range of activities which will be of long-term importance both to member countries and the Organization. A number of countries expressed their appreciation for assistance already received through the Programme. Widespread support was also extended for the general framework proposed by the Organization for future activities under the Programme.

11. In reviewing individual aspects of the Programme, the Committee placed particular emphasis upon a number of activities.

12. The Committee re-endorsed the Organization's policy of implementing to the fullest possible extent EEZ Programme activities in a decentralized manner, through the establishment of a worldwide network of sub-regional technical assistance units, reflecting the needs of groups of countries in "natural management areas", and associated with regional fishery bodies. It considered that such technical units, guided by regional fishery bodies or committees of such bodies, were not only effective vehicles for the delivery of international and bilateral assistance but also provided a focus for intercountry collaboration in fisheries development and management. A number of delegations noted that, as recognized in Resolution 4 of the 1979 FAO Conference, this decentralized approach was a means of fostering technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, in the spirit of TCDC^{2/}, and between developing and industrialized countries; such collaboration could promote fisheries development and the transfer of appropriate technology to the benefit of all the parties concerned. The Committee noted, with appreciation, the renewed offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to offer host facilities for the Bay of Bengal Programme.

13. The vital importance of resources assessment was stressed. Knowledge of the location, identity and size of the stocks lying within national jurisdiction was a prerequisite for sound planning, effective development and rational management. The Organization was urged to give continued high attention to resources appraisal, in particular multispecies stocks in tropical waters, and to the concepts, principles and mechanisms required for resources management. In this connexion, particular satisfaction was expressed at such FAO activities as the Atlas of the Living Resources of the Sea, the World Appraisal of Fishery Resources and the Species Catalogues and Species Identification Sheets. The FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics was also mentioned as a very important tool. The Committee noted that assessment involves the careful analysis of data from existing fisheries and from other sources and that the provision of high-level technical assistance was often necessary for this analysis. In this connexion, the possibility was mentioned of FAO's collaboration in a sub-regional scientific seminar to examine information on the changes in the fish stocks of the southeast

^{1/} United Nations Development Programme

^{2/} Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

Pacific. Where no fishery currently exists, surveys by research vessels, including test fishing to establish economic feasibilities, is essential. Several delegations mentioned continuing problems in regard to selection and operation of research vessels and the suggestion was made that the Organization should conduct a consultation on the planning, operation and management of fishery research vessels, with a view to the preparation of a manual on this subject.

14. The Committee noted with satisfaction the assistance already extended by the Organization, in response to member countries' requests, in identifying policies and elaborating plans for the management and development of fisheries in EEZs. It considered that such reviews of country situations, the assessment of development and management issues, evaluation of alternative strategies and the establishment and implementation of plans for the rational management and effective utilization of fish resources in EEZs in the context of overall national objectives should continue to receive high priority in the planning and execution of the EEZ Programme. Some delegations stated that coastal States should pay due attention to optimum utilization of the resources in making policies for the management and development of fisheries in their EEZs, particularly in connexion with foreign fishing operations.

15. It should be emphasized that the specific actions of the Programme should not be planned in isolation, but constitute complementary actions to the programmes and efforts carried out by each country according to its own national interests and priorities. To that end it is necessary to develop and apply appropriate operational mechanisms allowing adequate contacts for coordination between the national fishery authorities of the countries receiving the assistance and the FAO bodies or projects responsible for the planning and execution of the Programme mentioned. At the same time an appropriate procedure for exchange of information is needed which would enable the interested governments to know the possibilities for medium and long-term application of the Programme in their respective countries, and could provide information periodically on the development and progress of specific actions in different regions.

16. The Committee placed considerable importance upon the role of small-scale fisheries and their special needs and new opportunities within the context of the new legal regime and of FAO's EEZ Programme. In this respect, particular attention should be given to the socio-economic aspects of fisheries development and management. The importance of adequate extension services, the provision of appropriate technologies and local infrastructures were also stressed.

17. The Committee agreed that training, at all levels and in all aspects of fisheries, was a fundamental need and should continue to be a key activity within the EEZ Programme. The Organization's plans for integrated training programmes, reflecting the assessed needs of each country and region, were welcomed. A number of delegates noted the unfortunate effect of the loss of trained and experienced personnel, necessitating continued reliance upon expatriate experts, a situation which reinforced the need for intensified training efforts to enhance national capabilities.

18. Several delegations brought the attention of the Committee anew to the situation of geographically or otherwise disadvantaged States who were not in a position to benefit fully or directly from the new legal regime and noted, as reflected in Resolution 4 of the 1979 Conference, that their special needs and interests should be accommodated in FAO's programmes. In this context, the potential value of continued FAO assistance in joint ventures and other bilateral agreements was noted, together with the need of the Organization to continue to complement its work on marine fisheries with intensified efforts to assist the development of inland fisheries and of aquaculture.

19. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the intensified attention being given by the Organization to the key question of the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries in economic zones and upon the introduction of cost-effective enforcement measures. The Organization's initiative at recently organizing an Expert Consultation on monitoring, control and surveillance principles and systems, reported in document COFI/81/4, Add. 1, was welcomed as an excellent contribution toward the gathering and dissemination of much needed information upon this subject.

20. In this connexion, reference was made to a proposal by a number of delegations at the Committee's 13th Session that a "register of complaints and reports of infringements" should be established at the Organization's headquarters as a means of publicizing the problem of unauthorized fishing. The Committee had then requested the Secretariat to study the matter. During the present session, conflicting and opposing views were expressed on this suggestion in the course of the debate. Some delegates believed strongly that such a register would be a means of assisting countries in controlling fishing activities within their EEZs; others believed equally strongly that such a register was impractical, raised considerable jurisdictional questions and problems of evidence and was not a matter which lay within the proper competence or role of FAO. Some countries mentioned that the question could be more adequately discussed at the Law of the Sea Conference. Several delegates concurred with the view indicated in paragraph 37 of document COFI/81/4, that FAO could serve the interests of its Member Nations more positively by devoting its limited resources to providing the best possible advice on cost-effective systems for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance. Some delegations thought that the question required much further consideration. Meanwhile, the issue might be debated, as suggested by some countries, at the regional level, should the countries concerned so wish.

21. Most delegations expressed their approval for the proposal, first raised at the Committee's last session, and subsequently endorsed by the Conference of FAO at its twentieth session, that FAO should organize a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, which it considered could be an important means not only of sharing knowledge and experience but also of promoting the better understanding of the need for policy decisions on fisheries. A number of delegations, whilst expressing their support in principle for the organization of the Conference in two phases, advised that further detailed consideration of the scope and objectives of the Conference, particularly its second phase, would be necessary if attendance by high level decision makers was to be encouraged. In this respect, the Organization should seek suggestions and advice from Member Nations regarding not only the issues which might be discussed, but also whether there should be a time gap between the two phases of this Conference. There was agreement that the Spring of 1983, with the 15th Session of the Committee itself serving as the technical phase, seemed the most appropriate time to convene the Conference.

22. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Organization to marshal the extra-budgetary financial and other forms of assistance required to support the EEZ Programme. Whilst noting that the need for further such support coincides with a generally unfavourable economic climate, it called upon international and bilateral donor agencies to reinforce their assistance for fisheries development and management.

23. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reaffirmed his agency's determination to continue to stress support to the fisheries sector. He observed that, whilst the UNDP tentatively hoped to provide some US\$ 50 million for inter-regional and regional projects for fisheries development and management over the new 1982-86 cycle, there was now a need for increased collateral support from governments and bilateral and other development assistance agencies to reinforce this basic core funding by UNDP.

24. A number of delegations reaffirmed the willingness of their governments to provide support to the EEZ Programme in kind, as well as financially, or drew attention to their countries' existing support, or preparedness to support, the fisheries of developing countries through bilateral arrangements. The Committee was advised of the status of discussions with a number of countries, including Canada, Italy, Poland, Spain and the USA regarding offers of varied types of assistance-in-kind for the EEZ Programme. Attention was drawn to the fact that the administrative modalities for the acceptance of such offers, being outside the purview of the Department of Fisheries, were being pursued by the competent units of the Organization.

25. The observer from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission emphasized the need for a solid, scientific basis for fisheries development and management and to the importance of assisting developing countries to train qualified personnel and to upgrade generally national scientific and research capacities, matters in which his Commission should continue to collaborate actively with FAO.

25. The observer from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission emphasized the need for a solid, scientific basis for fisheries development and management and to the importance of assisting developing countries to train qualified personnel and to upgrade generally national scientific and research capacities, matters in which his Commission should continue to collaborate actively with FAO.

26. The Representative from the Secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea stated that FAO's Programme dealt with one of the most fundamental aspects of the new legal regime of the sea. He commended the inter-disciplinary approach of the Programme as a real practical means of efficiently promoting fisheries development within the broader framework of the overall ocean policies of developing coastal States. He considered that the Programme was contributing to the understanding of, and the opportunities created by, the new legal regime of the sea. He informed the Committee that FAO's EEZ Programme was a most valuable and practical initiative in the present evolution of the law of the sea as an instrument for economic and social development.

(b) Progress made at national and regional levels in achieving rational use of fishery resources in economic zones

27. Although the process of adjustment to the new regime of the sea is still in its early stages, many countries have already acquired valuable experience in their attempts to increase the benefit they can obtain from the fishery resources in their EEZs. The purpose of item 4(b) on the agenda was to stimulate exchange of information on the approaches countries have taken and the problems they have encountered in the development and management of their zones. Despite the wide disparities in the situation in different regions and different countries, there are sufficient similarities in problems to make a sharing of experiences useful to the participants, as well as helpful to FAO in the further development of its EEZ Programme.

28. As a basis for this exchange of information, a document (COPI/81/5) was submitted to this session discussing several important issues in achieving rational use of living resources in economic zones. Delegates were invited to report on their experiences with regard to these issues and, in some cases, were invited to present papers on specific problems related to these issues. Many delegates participated in the discussions and some presented papers that were made available for distribution. The material presented in the discussion and documents dealt, generally, with six major areas of concern: (1) national objectives, strategies and policies, including problems of allocation between different users; (2) the acquisition of information on stocks, fishery industries, markets and trade; (3) development opportunities and problems; (4) the management and regulation of the fisheries, including shared stocks; (5) monitoring, control and surveillance, and (6) legal and institutional matters.

(i) Objectives, strategies and policies

29. It was generally accepted that the maintenance of satisfactory yields from fishery resources was fundamental to the achievement of national objectives. Particular stress was placed by many delegations on the importance of their fisheries as sources of employment opportunities. It was recognized that fisheries are frequently depressed sectors of national economies and that development of the resources offered opportunities for increasing fishermen's earnings. Another important priority was the provision of low cost food for domestic consumption. Mention was also made of the use of fisheries as a means for earning foreign exchange through exports. In the case of a few developed countries, special emphasis was placed upon economic profitability of fisheries and the opportunities for increasing net economic returns by exercising their exclusive rights over the resources.

30. The objective of protecting and developing artisanal or inshore fisheries was stressed by both developed and developing countries. This has led to allocation decisions such as regulations that limit industrial and semi-industrial fisheries to offshore areas; to the provision of exclusive rights to inshore fishermen; and to the use of subsidies for the protection of small-scale operations. Nevertheless it is important for many countries to develop open sea fisheries so as to obtain massive catches to meet food requirements.

(ii) Knowledge of the fishery

31. The Committee stressed that the collection of adequate information was a necessity for the coherent development and management of national fisheries. The need for data is particularly critical for assessing and monitoring the resource base. Several delegations reported on their progress in improving data requisition and analysis. Many countries had intensified the collection of data on the operations of commercial fisheries and had also increased their resources survey programmes.

32. Several delegations reported on the difficulties they were facing in acquiring and maintaining the means (e.g., research vessels) necessary to obtain the data on their fish stocks and in developing the high level skills they needed for the analysis of such information.

33. However, it was noted that, although the existence of comprehensive information systems enabled governments to formulate and implement refined management schemes and development plans, substantial progress could be achieved without sophisticated means. Japan, for example, took successful management action, largely on an empirical basis, as early as the 17th century. Countries can refine progressively their information systems, as well as their management approaches, as they acquire experience and expertise from their successive attempts to upgrade their fisheries.

34. Information on the economic and social aspects of fisheries is also needed to assess development opportunities, constraints and options and the adequacy of management strategies in relation to goals. Delegations noted the need to determine the specifications of fishing equipment (e.g., boats) and methods which would optimize the benefits (yields, employment, etc.) from the limited inputs (e.g., fuel energy, investments, skilled manpower, etc.).

(iii) Development

35. With the increased opportunities for development has come an increased need for planning. This need was recognized by most delegations. Although some countries are just initiating the planning process, others have moved quite far and were able to share their experiences.

36. Some of the delegates stressed the importance of examining the resource base as an essential element in the preparation of a plan, pointing out the need to avoid development investments that would deplete the resources or reduce economic viability of the industries. It was also suggested that development plans should take into account the needs of the labour force; the kinds of vessels required; the availability of ports, roads, and processing facilities; and the market opportunities. Since some of these factors may operate as constraints to development, careful planning was necessary to ensure that the maximum net benefits are received from the extended zones.

37. Development opportunities exist in small-scale fisheries, inland fisheries and in aquaculture. Several delegations referred to programmes designed to assist the small-scale fisheries. These included subsidies for motorization, for the use of modernized vessels, for fish feeds and fish seeds and for training of fishermen. Problems of rising fuel costs were mentioned by most delegations and means were being sought to reduce fuel consumption. These included the development of lower horsepower engines, as well as subsidies to help maintain the viability of sail-powered vessels. Reference was also made to the greater employment per unit of capital investment in small-scale fisheries than in industrial fisheries.

38. Opportunities for the development of the larger-scale offshore fisheries also exist for several of the developing countries. In this regard, the use of joint ventures and chartered vessels was discussed by several delegations. Some pointed to the difficulties involved in ensuring that the vessels are appropriate in size, fuel use and other characteristics; that there is adequate infrastructure to service and maintain the vessels; and that processing and marketing facilities are satisfactory. The delegations placed emphasis on the need for developing skilled manpower to use and maintain fishing vessels. A need for developing

national training facilities and programmes appeared to be particularly important. Specific needs of individual countries in training, collection of fishing data, commercial operations, marketing, development of infrastructural facilities, etc., could also be met by joint ventures and charter arrangements.

39. It was noted that for certain countries there were considerable increases in catches (not exports) according to preliminary 1980 estimates. However, the figure for total catch and exports by the group of developing countries declined over 1979. The question was raised as to the reasons for the lack of progress and it was suggested that FAO should undertake critical analyses of the constraints to development. Such studies should be presented to the Committee for discussion.

40. Reference was also made to the need for information on trade (markets, supplies, demands, import conditions such as tariffs, quality control specifications, etc.) and FAO and cooperating donors were commended for the development of required marketing information networks in several developing regions. The worldwide Register of Import Regulations for Fish and Fishery Products, which will be updated regularly, was considered to be a very helpful instrument.

(iv) Management

41. Several delegations reported on the progress achieved and the difficulties met in exercising the authority that their governments recently acquired over the fisheries in their exclusive economic zones. Fisheries cannot produce the expected benefits unless governments intervene to control catches, fishing activities or fishing capacities. This task is complex and difficult and requires continuous adjustments.

42. The need to control fishing raises the problem of resource allocation, both within and among countries. Several delegations described the approaches adopted in this respect in their country or region. It was mentioned that the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea (Informal Text) before the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea provides little guidance with respect to criteria for allocation. In some cases countries had reached satisfactory agreements taking into account available data on stock distribution - including their population components - and historical performances of national fisheries. However, progress in developing procedures and practices adapted to the new regime has been slow. Moreover, serious difficulties were experienced in the enforcement of management agreements. Deliberate attempts to bypass the system, e.g., through illegal fishing with respect to areas, seasons, species or gear (undersized meshes) or by under-reporting catches - were common. Several delegations were of the view that for fisheries on shared stocks, mechanisms and procedures to develop management strategies, to formulate management advice and to decide and implement regulatory measures were not yet satisfactory.

43. In some areas the same stocks occur both within the 200-mile zone of national jurisdiction and in the adjacent high seas. The Committee noted the serious concern expressed by some delegations over the problems raised by the unregulated exploitation of those stocks in the adjacent high seas, and the need that countries fishing those stocks cooperate in their management and rational exploitation. These delegations also recommended that this item be included in the agenda of the 1983 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Other delegations pointed out that the appropriate forum in which to discuss the legal aspects of this question was the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

(v) Monitoring, control and surveillance

44. There was a general consensus that monitoring, control and surveillance is a critical element in protecting coastal State interests in their EEZs. It was clear, however, that there is a wide diversity in the approaches, degree of sophistication, and the coverage of the systems currently in use, being developed or proposed. This is due to differences in national capabilities, as well as in the importance of the resources, size of area, and likelihood of violations.

(vi) Legal and institutional

45. The importance of having adequate legal and institutional arrangements, both domestically and internationally, was stressed by many delegations. For domestic fisheries, some delegations referred to the creation of national fishery institutes and national fishery banks to aid in the planning and development of the resources in their EEZs. Others mentioned the value of fishery cooperatives and a few referred to committees made up of fishermen, scientists, industrialists and administrators. Such committees may be used as means for the allocation of resources and the resolution of gear conflicts.

46. Institutional arrangements between and among countries are also clearly important, particularly where stocks are shared. The extension of national jurisdiction has led to significant changes in the role of regional fishery bodies. A few bodies have been replaced by new ones, more suited to the new regime. However, in several cases, as pointed out by the delegates, regional bodies have gained in importance as a result of the increased need for cooperation. Many delegations particularly noted and supported the important role of FAO's regional fishery bodies and their supporting units. Appreciation was also expressed for the activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific.

UTILIZATION OF FISH AND ITS ROLE IN HUMAN NUTRITION

47. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document COFI/81/6 and COFI/81/Inf. 5 and 8 which were introduced by the Secretariat. It was noted with appreciation that this item had been placed on the agenda and the Committee expressed the wish that it would also feature on the programme of future sessions.

48. The Committee emphasized the important role fish and fishery products are playing in the animal protein supplies for human nutrition, particularly in developing countries. The nutritional value of fishery products was underlined by many speakers and examples quoted where fish provided more than 50 percent of total animal protein intake of the people in a country.

49. The uneven availability and distribution of fish supplies was noted, both at international level and within countries. Recognizing the limitations of marine fishery resources in many areas, the Committee pointed out the considerable potentials existing in some inland fisheries and in aquaculture. In view of the possibility of integrating aquaculture into rural development, many countries are giving priority to aquaculture development. FAO should therefore strengthen its technical assistance in this field.

50. The Committee agreed that significant improvement in supplies could be achieved, if the present large post-harvest losses could be reduced. FAO should increase its efforts to find low-cost methods of making use of fish presently discarded at sea, although it was realized that there was often a gap between successful product development/market testing and the adoption of the process by the industry.

51. The emphasis in FAO's programme on improving traditional methods of fish processing was generally endorsed by the Committee. A number of delegations also mentioned the fairly large potentials of small, mostly pelagic fish and fresh water molluscs, which are often not readily accepted by consumers. The Committee noted FAO's activities in improving the handling and processing of small pelagic fish, funded by Denmark and Norway.

52. The Committee noted the successful cooperative programme on fish technology FAO was undertaking in the IPFC region, with similar programmes being initiated in Africa and Latin America. The Committee also indicated that lower priority should be given to unconventional species.

53. Major constraints to an expanded consumption of fish were identified as: lack of infrastructure facilities (such as roads, refrigerated storage and transport, freezing and other processing plants); ineffective distribution systems and operations; relatively high prices;

ignorance of nutritional value of fish by consumers; and low product quality and lack of effective quality control and fish inspection systems. With few exceptions where governments had initiated fish promotion campaigns and consumer education programmes, lack of consumer demand for and appreciation of fish were not seen as a general obstacle to increased fish consumption. In some countries, there were however preferences for certain species or for either fresh water or marine fish. The Committee also noted the statement made by some delegations that inland fisheries would have lesser problems of accessibility, acceptability, transportation, fuel cost and refrigeration and should therefore receive as much attention for their development.

54. The Committee was informed about a new joint programme by the Nordic countries to assist in expanding the use of fish as food in developing countries. The programme consists of a research and development component and training activities oriented to the transfer of improved fish handling and processing technology. The programme would concentrate on small-scale operations, but would not exclude industrial fish processing. It would be executed bilaterally through the national aid agencies of Nordic countries or multilaterally in collaboration with FAO.

55. The Committee agreed that there was a need to investigate more closely consumer requirements for fishery products in developing countries. While this should be done through national institutions, FAO might well develop guidelines, in order that the results are internationally comparable, and highlight geographic location of demand and preferences for certain types of products.

56. The Committee was in favour of assessing fishery projects as to their nutritional impact, not only during project execution, but also at the design and planning stage. Existing guidelines for agricultural projects should be adapted to take into account the particular circumstances in fisheries development. It would also be important to first assess the nutritional status of the target population. FAO should also pay due attention in its project design and implementation to the role of women, who not only are users of fish, but are often also heavily involved in fish processing and distribution, or even fishing.

57. The Committee underlined the important role fishery products could play in food aid programmes and expressed disappointment about the relatively small quantities hitherto included. It pointed out that there are a number of suitable products in dried and canned form available for aid purposes. While recognizing the fact that the main contribution to food aid will continue to come from other food items, the share of fishery products could be significantly increased and such programmes could support fish product development in developing countries. Some delegates underlined the importance of conversion of fish into palatable nutritional concentrates to send to developing countries as food aid. There was scope for three-party transactions with fishery products in aid programmes, it being understood that the consumer requirements in the aid recipient countries would be well known. It was recommended that an increase in the role of fishery products in food aid be considered by the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its next session.

THE WORK OF FAO IN FISHERIES DURING 1982-83

58. In introducing document COPI/81/7, which provided a résumé of the Fisheries Department's Programme of Work for the 1982-83 biennium and a review of the areas identified for priority attention, the Secretariat noted that some major aspects of the Programme had already been discussed at length under other agenda items dealing with the EEZ Programme and utilization of fish, and thus did not require any extensive elaboration. Attention was also drawn to document COPI/81/Inf.8 which described the work of the Department in inland fisheries and aquaculture.

59. The Secretariat stated that four major factors were influencing the priorities of FAO's Programme in fisheries:

(a) the new regime of the sea, now a reality as far as fisheries are concerned, with about 100 coastal States having extended their jurisdiction over waters in which 99 percent of the world marine fish catch was now taken;

(b) the steadily increasing world demand for fish, coupled with the recent slow-down in the rate of growth of fish production, particularly during the past few years, and the rising production costs, especially the fuel component;

(c) the increasing need for international cooperation to manage and develop fisheries. Many fish stocks and fisheries were shared between countries, thus requiring the strengthening of intercountry collaboration and of financial and institutional arrangements for the effective management and development of the world's fishery resources;

(d) the increasing demand of developing countries for assistance from FAO to help them take advantage of opportunities and cope with the responsibilities by the new regime of the sea, in particular to plan and implement their fisheries development and management programmes with a view to reaping maximum sustained benefits from these renewable resources, especially in their respective EEZs.

60. The Committee was informed that in response to these external factors, the following areas of activities had been identified for special attention:

(a) further advice to member countries on the management and utilization of living resources in EEZs;

(b) further steps to decentralize the delivery of technical assistance, through regional, subregional and inter-regional mechanisms associated with regional fishery bodies;

(c) promotion of technology transfer and of development for the benefit of small-scale artisanal fisheries;

(d) work to increase the better use of the catch of fish;

(e) investigations to assist in the reduction of aggregate costs, especially fuel costs, in fisheries;

(f) comprehensive help to increase the effectiveness of fisheries management;

(g) the continued close coordination of Regular Programme and Field Programme activities.

61. FAO's intention to continue giving close attention to the development and research leading to the rational exploitation of inland fisheries and aquaculture was welcomed and satisfaction expressed at the extent of extra-budgetary support for these sectors. The Committee also noted that two other key activities, not separately listed above, were implicit in almost every element of the Organization's work, i.e., the enhancement of national capabilities and self-reliance through training and the collection and improvement of fisheries information, statistics and data.

62. Many delegations, whilst expressing general satisfaction at the information provided in document COFI/81/7 and with the broad orientation of the priorities identified and the programmes proposed, requested that future presentations should contain more detailed information at the sub-programme level, for example, on time-frames envisaged for the completion of various activities and some form of organization chart to indicate operational responsibilities for specific areas of work. It was also suggested that, in planning future sessions of the Committee, the possibility of timing such sessions so that the Committee could have an early opportunity of influencing the preparation of biennial programmes of Work and Budget should be noted. The possibilities of reviewing FAO's calendar for the preparation of the overall Programme of Work and Budget were mentioned. In response to the wish, expressed by a number of delegations, that the Committee should also be provided with information

evaluating the results and progress achieved with the Organization's overall work in fisheries, the Committee's attention was drawn to the report which will be presented to the next Session of the Conference, reviewing both Regular and Field Programme activities of the Organization over 1979-81; the report would include, inter alia, a special evaluation of FAO's work in support of small-scale fisheries. It was also suggested by some delegations that the FAO paper should have sharper focus on specific problems and their diagnosis, as also on specific issues and options.

63. The Committee supported the overall priorities and general thrust of the Programme of Work which it felt was adequately balanced to meet the new challenges of fisheries management and development. Without prejudice to the position of Member Nations regarding budgetary considerations which were not under discussion by the Committee, a number of delegations expressed their concern that the Regular Programme allocations envisaged for fisheries in 1982-83 were, in relative terms, rather less than had been the case in the past. Several delegations expressed the view that the allocations proposed for fisheries inadequately reflected the greatly increased responsibilities of FAO in fisheries and the support from it required and expected by Member Nations.

64. In its review of the work proposed at the sub-programme level, the Committee reaffirmed the importance that should continue to be accorded to Sub-Programme 2.2.1.2, the collection and reporting of basic fishery data and statistics and supported the attention being given to compatible data collection and analysis at the sectoral and regional levels. Emphasis was also given to the value of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System.

65. In relation to the four sub-programmes of Programme 2.2.2, Fisheries Exploitation and Utilization, the Committee emphasized the importance of this work, particularly its direct relationship with the technical assistance and field programme activities of the Organization. Some delegations stressed the importance of maintaining and improving the technical expertise and scientific competence of the Headquarter staff in resources assessment and fisheries technology. It was stated that the activities of the technical divisions were essential to the work of the Department and that all efforts should be made for proper financing to ensure the effective execution of their work. In supporting the general thrust and priorities within Programme 2.2.2, the Committee especially welcomed the attention being accorded to the promotion of energy conservation in fisheries and to the steps being taken and proposed to increase the use of fish resources for direct human consumption. The Committee also laid particular stress upon the need for intensified efforts to foster the integrated development of small-scale rural fisheries; in this connexion, several delegates referred to the important role of women in many aspects of fisheries. Warm support was extended to the actions taken and planned to expand the Organization's regional fish market information services.

66. Strong approval was expressed for the work being undertaken in policy and planning aspects of fisheries, both at the national and international level (Sub-Programme 2.2.3.1). The analysis and diagnosis of existing situations and the formulation of appropriate policies and action programmes were essential prerequisites for the development and management of the living resources of EEZs; the basic studies of these issues and the assistance being provided to Member Nations in these aspects should continue to receive the highest priority. The special attention being given under Sub-Programme 2.2.3.1 to coordinating the planning, execution and monitoring of the EEZ Programme, to the elaboration of integrated training programmes for fisheries and to the assessment of the economic and social consequences of allocation and management schemes was supported. The Committee also fully approved the work already undertaken and planned on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance principles and methods.

67. Whilst some delegations referred to the relatively high allocation of funds to Sub-Programme 2.2.3.2, International Coordination and Liaison, the Committee noted the rapidly rising external costs of organising and servicing the activities of regional fishery commissions and their subsidiary bodies and expressed its strong support for the role of such bodies which were not only vital fora for the exchange of views and experience regarding fishery management and development and the promotion of TCDC, but were also the main channels

for the delivery of the EEZ Programme and FAO's technical assistance programmes. The Committee also stressed the growing importance of FAO's liaison and cooperation with the increasing number of international organizations involved in marine affairs and regarded the Organization's work in this respect as a significant contribution to the avoidance of duplication of effort and to ensure effective coordination of international activities to promote fisheries development and management. Some delegations requested that consideration be given to the presentation at a future session of the Committee of a survey of the status of such relationships between FAO and other international organizations concerned with marine affairs. Reference was also made to the possibility of preparing a study or document with more detailed information on the status and outlook for cooperation among developing countries in the fishery sector so that a further debate could be held at the Committee and also at the 1983 Conference.

68. Several delegations emphasized the need for further close coordination and collaboration between FAO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), specifically in the fields of information services, training and scientific, particularly oceanographic, studies. In connexion with this discussion the Committee was informed that the membership of the Advisory Committee of Experts on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) is being broadened and its activities will be continued with its next meeting in autumn 1981.

69. The Committee again affirmed its strong support for the close integration and collaboration existing between FAO's Regular and Field Programmes and endorsed the strategy being pursued by the Organization of decentralizing, as far as possible, the provision of assistance to the fishery sector, using extra-budgetary funds. In this connexion, several delegates referred to the continued need to provide such technical support for the Mediterranean as a whole, and welcomed the steps being taken by FAO to attract extra-budgetary funding for a project proposal it had already prepared to this end. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the continued vitality of the Organization's field programme in fisheries, and noted that early in 1981 a total of 209 fisheries projects were being executed, representing international funding of approximately US\$ 143 million.

70. FAO agreed with the request of the delegations of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to implement immediately the recommendation of the Committee for the Inland Fisheries of Africa at its meeting held in Malawi, December 1980, to institute the Lake Victoria Sub-Committee to promote coordination and cooperation in programmes of management and development of the fisheries in that lake, and to seek extra-budgetary funds for a programme of technical assistance in support of the Sub-Committee's work. Several delegations also emphasized the need for assisting with joint research and management activities in Lake Tanganyika during the 1982-83 biennium.

71. The Committee took note of information presented by the Secretariat concerning the Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals COFI/81/7 Add.1. It welcomed the continued involvement of FAO in this matter in which it had performed, and in which it should continue to perform, an important and effective role in ensuring rational utilization of these important resources, providing for both the conservation of endangered or depleted stocks, and the controlled harvesting of other stocks based on scientific evidence. Attention was also drawn to the interaction between marine mammals and other species which may be the subject of commercial fisheries. The Committee noted with appreciation the statements by IUCN^{1/} and IWC^{2/} that they intended to collaborate with FAO and other organizations on the implementation of the plan. While the Committee was not able to examine the complex plan in detail, and many delegations reserved their position indicating that they would forward comments subsequently, it did agree to request the Secretariat to undertake any necessary consultation with UNEP and other relevant organisations for the further elaboration and implementation of the Plan, using the resources available in the approved Programme of Work and Budget, as well as existing mechanisms and institutions. The Committee requested to be kept informed of further progress in this matter at its next session.

1/ International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

2/ International Whaling Commission

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Southern boundary of CEECAF

72. In introducing document COFI/81/8, the Secretariat mentioned that at the Seventh Session (Lagos, Nigeria, 10-14 April 1981), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CEECAF) had considered that, in order to facilitate the participation of Angola and Namibia in its activities, it would be advisable to delete from the CEECAF Statutes the southern boundary of its geographic area of competence. CEECAF had decided by consensus to request the Director-General of FAO to bring this question to the attention of the Committee on Fisheries so that it could recommend to the Council that the Statutes of CEECAF be amended accordingly.

73. The delegations of the African coastal countries (members of CEECAF) who took part in the debate were in favour of the course of action recommended by CEECAF.

74. Several other delegations considered that, in the absence of any formal communication from the two FAO Member Nations concerned, it would not be appropriate to amend the Statutes of CEECAF. They also pointed out that it was necessary to take account of the biological factors characterizing the stocks of this area, and that more study was needed so that an informed opinion could be expressed. The same delegations felt that, in order to avoid duplication, any change made in the southern boundary of the CEECAF zone should be preceded by consultations with the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) whose northern boundary coincides at present with the southern boundary of the CEECAF zone.

75. There was general agreement that the question should be reviewed in the event that Angola or Namibia should express an interest in becoming members of CEECAF.

Fishery Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries

76. The Delegation of Cuba informed the Committee that the Third Meeting of Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Countries on Fisheries had been held at a time when the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was facing a serious crisis that threatened what had already been achieved after seven years of hard struggle by the developing countries.

77. The Ministers and heads of the fishery sector of 46 countries of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Havana had affirmed the vital interest of the non-aligned countries and other developing countries in the immediate establishment of the new Law of the Sea, which would guarantee their peoples the possibility of exploiting the riches of the sea, particularly in order to increase their ability to feed themselves.

78. To these vital interests of the developing countries in the fisheries sector were added those connected with the exploitation of the huge mineral resources accumulated on the sea beds outside national jurisdiction.

79. The Ministerial meeting for cooperation in the sphere of fisheries of the Non-Aligned Countries called on all the developing countries to increase their solidarity in defence of the Convention that the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is striving to finalize.

80. The Cuban delegation requested that the Committee exhort the international community to make every effort to ensure that the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea conclude its work as soon as possible and recognize the concepts established with the concurrence of almost all the States that have participated in the work of this Conference.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

81. Reference was made in this respect to the general agreement that the first phase of the proposed FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development should coincide

with the next session of the Committee (see paragraph 21 above). It was therefore agreed that the Committee should meet in Rome in the spring of 1983, the exact date to be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

82. This report was adopted on 30 May 1981.

Appendix A

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Election of officers
4. Development and management of fisheries in economic zones
 - (a) Progress in the implementation of the EEZ Programme
 - (b) Progress made at national and regional levels in achieving rational use of fishery resources in economic zones
5. Utilization of fish and its role in nutrition
6. The work of FAO in fisheries during 1982-83
7. Any other matters
8. Date and place of the fifteenth session
9. Adoption of the report

Appendix B

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Appendix D

ADDRESS BY DR RALPH W. PHILLIPS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr Chairman, Members of the Committee, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am indeed pleased to welcome all of you, on behalf of the Director-General, to this fourteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

This Committee was established by the FAO Conference at its thirteenth session in 1965, as a Committee of the Council. However, the Committee held its first session in June 1966 so - if we regard that first session as the time of the Committee's birth - you are on this occasion celebrating your fifteenth birthday. Congratulations!

The interest in and support of member countries for the work of the Committee are clearly reflected in the number of countries now included in its membership; eighty-four as of 18 May 1981.

You have three major substantive items on your provisional agenda, items 4, 5 and 6, and my comments will be directed primarily to those three topics.

Turning first to item 4, development and management of fisheries in economic zones, you are all well aware that far-reaching changes have taken place, and are still taking place, in world fisheries as a consequence of the new legal regime of the oceans. This subject has been considered in earlier sessions of your Committee, and in many other international meetings. Many hundreds of thousands of words must have been spoken or written regarding it, and I propose to add only a few words to that collection.

It is good to see that, under item 4, you will be examining the positive actions taken by FAO in practical and immediate response to this new situation through the Director-General's special Programme of EEZ assistance. This Programme was prepared and implemented following a request by your Committee, and we have moved from words to action. I believe that both COFI and FAO are justified in feeling more than a little pride in what has been achieved thus far.

Document COFI/81/4 provides a comprehensive report on the assistance already given and planned in executing the Programme, which was approved by your Committee in October 1979. I will not review those activities, but I do believe that the document presents a report of solid progress achieved, of requests for assistance promptly and efficiently met, and of sound plans and proposals prepared for the future. We look forward with keen interest to your observations on the actions already taken by the Organization, to your comments upon the experience gained and the problems encountered and, above all, to your expert guidance regarding future activities under the EEZ Programme. Before leaving this subject, I should like to comment on three aspects of it.

We attach considerable importance to the delivery of EEZ assistance in as decentralized, on-the-spot, manner as possible. This reflects the wishes and needs of many groups of countries for direct and particularized help in coping with common problems, with shared stocks of fish, and in promoting inter-country collaboration in dealing with these questions. Since the last session of the Committee, positive steps have been taken toward the adjustment and extension of the Organization's network of sub-regional technical assistance units and of associated regional fishery bodies.

The Director-General pointed out in his address to the last session of COFI that to provide the kind of assistance requested and required under the EEZ Programme will cost a lot of money. The immediate response to calls for extra-budgetary support for the Programme

has been encouraging, but the question of funding still remains the most critical element affecting the Organization's long-term capacity to provide the assistance needed, and expected, by our member countries. In the existing climate of economies in financial support for international development aid and intensified competition for these funds, we shall need to continually strive to increase the awareness and understanding of the potential benefits from, and needs of, fisheries on the parts of national and international leaders.

Under item 4 you will also have the opportunity of discussing together the major issues involved in achieving the rational use of EEZ fisheries. This sharing of your own experiences in planning and implementing extended jurisdiction, should make a valuable contribution to the broader understanding of the problems being faced by countries in better using their fishery resources and to the identification of means of solving these problems.

Before turning to agenda items 5 and 6, I should like to comment on the proposed 1983 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, since this relates to item 4 as well as item 6. Your debate should provide an excellent start in the preparations for this proposed World Conference. The proposal to convene it was supported at your last session and by the 1979 session of the FAO Conference. You will have already noted that it is envisaged that COFI itself, being the major international forum for the regular examination of the state of world fisheries and their future prospects, should have a major role in this World Conference by serving as its technical phase, to be immediately followed by high-level policy discussions which should lead to agreement on collaborative action by governments, and by FAO and other international organizations, toward the common goal of obtaining the fullest benefits from the world's fisheries.

The World Conference would, moreover, represent another very timely initiative by COFI. The institutional and organizational implications of the new legal regime and, in particular, of the anticipated Convention on the Law of the Sea are already being debated both within and without the UN system. I believe you will all agree that the international leadership FAO has already established in these matters, with the guidance and encouragement of the Committee on Fisheries, should and must be maintained.

I shall now turn to item 5, utilization of fish and its role in nutrition. This item should remind us, if indeed such a reminder is necessary, that all our efforts to assist member countries to develop and manage their fisheries, both marine and inland, are but part of our wider struggles to combat world hunger. Even today, well over 400 million people are seriously undernourished. By the end of this century, we can expect to have an additional 1.7 thousand million mouths to feed in the world. The world's fisheries cannot themselves win this war against hunger, but they can certainly make an extremely valuable contribution. Your intention to debate how better to use the world's resources of fish and how to improve their role in human nutrition is an expression of your continuing concern for this central issue, and your comments and recommendations will be received with great interest.

Turning now to item 6, the work of FAO in fisheries during 1982-83, let me recall first that the document before you, COFI/81/7, relates to the fisheries sector of the "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83". A definitive examination of that summary programme took place in the Programme and Finance Committees in late April/early May, and it will be considered further by the FAO Council in late June/early July. Following the Council discussion, the full Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium will be prepared, and submitted to the FAO Conference in November, for final consideration and approval. In those circumstances, your Committee will be focusing on the general lines of work and the broader aspects of fisheries development, rather than on a comprehensive review of the various specific activities and provisional budgetary estimates noted in the document before you.

In this context, I should like to underline the importance attached by the Director-General to the Organization's work in fisheries and to the leading role of FAO in spearheading the international community's efforts to promote and manage the world's fisheries. These concerns with further strengthening FAO's work in fisheries, through the Regular

Programme, are reflected in COFI/81/7. I shall comment very briefly on only two aspects of that document.

We are placing continuing emphasis upon the development of inland fishery resources and aquaculture. This is so because not all countries are in a position to benefit from the new marine fisheries opportunities. Moreover, inland fisheries and aquaculture can have a special impact in rural development schemes and upon the food supplies of particularly disadvantaged communities.

We are also proposing to give special attention to reducing the energy and other costs of fishing. In this connection, I would note that while certain savings could undoubtedly come from modifying harvesting and processing methods, the most significant and immediate method of reducing energy and other costs is through the elimination of excessive fishing and processing capacities; in other words, through fisheries management in a very real and practical sense.

Let me add one final point related to the Programme of Work and Budget. In our overall fisheries activities, the regular budget is but the tip of the iceberg. The extra-budgetary funds, primarily for the field programme, remain the major source of means of action. But there is of course a close link between the regular and the field programmes. The achievement of our objectives in fisheries, and the fulfilment of our member countries' expectations, depend upon the close integration of the Fisheries Department's regular programme and field programme activities as well as upon adequate financial and other support from international and national development organisations and agencies. In the planning and carrying out of all these activities, we continue to look to the Committee on Fisheries for its experienced advice and counsel.

As I conclude, Mr Chairman, may I wish you and the members of the Committee a highly productive and useful meeting. I trust that all of you have a most enjoyable stay in Rome.

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