

Report of the eighth session of the

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 10-17 April 1973



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, 1973**

REPORT
of the
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
Rome, 10-17 April 1973

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, May 1973

PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

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Participants in the session
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documents.

15 May 1973

Mr. Michel Gépède
Independent Chairman
Council of FAO

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries which was held in Rome from 10 to 17 April 1973.

Yours faithfully,

E.G. Goonewardene
Chairman
Committee on Fisheries

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its Eighth Session from 10 to 17 April 1973 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The Session was attended by representatives of 60 members of the Committee, by observers from 7 other nations, and by representatives and observers from 9 international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix A to this report.
2. The session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. E.G. Goonewardene (Sri Lanka), and the participants were welcomed in an address by Mr. Roy I. Jackson, Deputy Director-General of FAO, the text of which is reproduced in Appendix B to this report.
3. The guest speaker for this session of the Committee, Mr. T. Hisamune, President of the Japan Marine Fishery Resources Research Centre, Tokyo, delivered an address at the invitation of the Director-General. The text of this address is reproduced in Appendix C to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Committee adopted the Agenda given in Appendix D to this report. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix E to this report.
5. A Drafting Committee was appointed, consisting of the representatives of Argentina, Cameroon, Indonesia, Norway and the United States of America (Chairman).

ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development

6. The Committee heard a report on the FAO Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development by Dr. A.W.H. Needler who had served as Chairman of the Conference. Dr. Needler reminded the Committee of the nature of the Conference, which had been attended by over 300 experts, mostly senior administrators, scientists and economists. Dr. Needler indicated his satisfaction with the quality and the usefulness of the discussions. He regarded this alone as full justification for the Conference, although many other results were achieved.
7. The Committee noted a number of important points which had emerged from the Conference:
 - (a) The exploitation of fisheries has proceeded rapidly during the past several decades and many stocks are now fully or overexploited. Many scientists felt, however, that the world catch of traditionally caught marine species could be increased to about 100 million metric tons and a much greater catch could be achieved if unconventional species were harvested, e.g. squids and krill
 - (b) There is already an urgent need for regulation of fisheries, and this need is the rule rather than the exception for exploited stocks. There is also a great need for exploitation at lower trophic levels, and for aquaculture
 - (c) Management theory is sufficiently developed for regulation of stocks, but there is need for better information and data, in particular for the timely application of available knowledge
8. These conclusions were arrived at early in the Conference and further discussions led to the recognition of the following factors:
 - (a) In developing fisheries, careful planning is necessary and must involve not only biological but also economic and social factors, especially in developing countries.

- (b) Special attention must be given to fisheries of developing countries, in particular their small-boat fisheries
- (c) Additional attention must also be given to a more sophisticated level of fishing operations; it was noted that this was not necessarily inconsistent with (b) above
- (d) One important factor in helping developing countries to expand and manage their fisheries is the transfer of scientific skills and technology. This involves training and education, associations between research institutions, joint ventures, and other similar measures
- (e) FAO has an important role in the development and management of world fisheries and faces repeated urgent requests for assistance

9. Dr. Needler then referred to the recommendations made by the Conference and noted that while, in a sense, they summarized its outcome, the full value of the communication which took place was considerably more important.

10. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee unanimously recognized that the Conference had been of great value. It noted that it had observed its mandate, by excluding discussion of political or jurisdictional matters. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the documentation for the Conference which had described well the present fishery situation and the research and institutional needs to solve the problems faced.

11. The Committee unanimously expressed its gratitude to the Government of Canada for its generosity in hosting and financing the meeting, and its praise for Dr. Needler for his skill as Chairman and his leadership.

12. The Committee expressed general agreement with the recommendations of the Conference and noted that these would be helpful in several ways:

- (a) The recommendations revealed a consensus on many important issues, such as has not been obtained before
- (b) The recommendations of the Conference emphasized many points which COFI and other fishery bodies have stressed in the past. The reinforcement of these concepts was particularly valuable because of the number and range of experts present at Vancouver
- (c) The recommendations would help the Committee on Fisheries in indicating orders of priority for FAO programmes

13. The Committee then directed its attention to those recommendations concerned principally with action by FAO and also commented on some others.

14. Recommendation 2 on Fisheries Data was repeatedly stressed and the Committee was in full agreement with emphasis placed on the responsibility of governments to provide adequate statistics. The improvement of fishery data systems and the adoption of common reporting procedures represented an area of activity which required considerable assistance by FAO to developing countries and to regional fishery bodies.

15. The Committee recognized that Recommendation No. 3 contained three major aspects. Firstly, it reflected the consensus of the Conference on the present status of many stocks and the need for early action on the basis of available evidence. Secondly, it drew attention to the responsibility of the governments concerned in adopting and implementing regulatory measures. Thirdly, it called upon FAO to call the attention of Governments to this urgent need and assist those concerned in taking action. In this last connection, the suggestion was made that FAO might develop criteria upon which management measures might be based, particularly as a guide to countries with developing fisheries.

16. The Committee expressed its agreement on the importance of scientific advice for aquaculture, for the protection of the environment and for the rational utilisation of fishery resources as expressed in Recommendation No. 4 on Science and Development.

17. The Committee recognized the importance of Recommendation No. 5 on Long-Distance Fleets, noting that "The Conference recognized that in some instances long-distance fishing limits the opportunities of developing countries near the fishing grounds to undertake the exploitation of the resources. The Conference therefore considered that in these cases the capabilities of the developing countries should be strengthened by, inter alia, appropriate technical and economic assistance."

18. The Committee attached the utmost importance to Recommendation No. 6 on the Enlistment of Industrial Skills in the Development of Fisheries in Developing Countries, as it concerned a sphere of activity involving donors and recipients of technical and financial assistance as well as FAO in its vital role of intermediary. It recognized that the Recommendation embraced a variety of measures: technical assistance, financial aid, joint ventures and commercial collaboration in other forms. The Committee felt that joint ventures represented a transitional stage leading to increased national responsibility for industrial activities, and that while they assumed various aspects, they basically constituted arrangements between the national parties concerned. FAO's role, in this area, could consist mainly in providing information and some analysis of precedents and practices resulting in guidelines adaptable to different situations which could be helpful to interested parties.

19. The Committee agreed that FAO's important role in the promotion of research and training in fishery resource management and development, as outlined in Recommendation No. 7, required very substantial strengthening and had to be considered in relation to the prospects of available resources.

20. The Committee finally noted that aquaculture would be increasingly important in helping meet needs for animal protein. It attached great importance to the holding of the proposed FAO Technical Conference on Aquaculture as urged in Recommendation No. 10.

21. Throughout its consideration of the Conference recommendations, the Committee recognized the necessity of a parallel consideration of the resources available to FAO and of its proposals for its programme of work in the forthcoming biennium. It recalled that the activities of the Department of Fisheries had received a substantial impetus when the FAO Conference, at its Thirteenth Session in 1965, had decided on the creation of the Committee on Fisheries and agreed to double the resources of the Department over a period of six years, in recognition of the greater role that FAO was called upon to play. While the degree of expansion envisaged for the Department of Fisheries had not been realized, fishery problems had grown in intensity and complexity. The recommendations of the Vancouver Conference had to be examined in the same light as other demands on the services of the Department of Fisheries, whether originating from inter-governmental fora or from individual governments. The Committee felt that if all the recommendations of the Vancouver Conference pertaining to FAO were implemented by the Department of Fisheries in addition to ongoing work, then additional monies would be required from funds other than the Regular Budget of the Organization and agreed to examine this aspect again when considering item 5 of its agenda. The Committee noted that account should be taken of the fact that developing countries would have difficulty in increasing their contributions to FAO. While bearing in mind these financial constraints, the Committee requested the Director-General to review the extent to which the relevant recommendations of the Conference are, or could be, emphasized in the current programmes of the Organization.

Support to regional fishery bodies

22. The Committee reviewed document COFI/73/6 on support to FAO regional fishery bodies, which concentrated in particular on the supply of statistical and biological data and stock assessment. It also referred to the Progress Report of the ACMRR Working Party on Scientific Advice to Fishery Management and Development Bodies (COFI/73/Inf.11).

23. The Committee agreed that the collection and processing of statistical data for the assessment of fish stocks was largely a national responsibility, and that their compilation and analysis should be accomplished, with full participation of national scientists, through the regional body concerned. A high priority should continue to be given to these activities. The Committee also noted that technical assistance was often needed, particularly by developing countries to identify and secure the most appropriate data required. The Committee agreed that this assistance might be provided through the regional bodies or directly by FAO.

24. The Committee noted that the ACMRR Working Party on Scientific Advice to Fishery Management and Development Bodies had identified the tasks of high priority, including technical assistance, that needed to be carried out by the regional fishery bodies within the framework of FAO. It had pointed out that possible benefits from improved management far exceeded the cost of supplying information needed for resource evaluation and advice. The cost of supporting the seven existing FAO regional bodies adequately was estimated at around U.S.\$ 1 million annually. The Committee noted that the Regular Budget of the Department of Fisheries annually has been only \$3 million and recognized that this source of funds was unlikely to be sufficient to provide for their activities. It further noted that this was only one, though always a very important, aspect of the work of the FAO regional fishery bodies; these bodies were also responsible for various other activities.

25. The Committee attached high priority to the training and education of experts from developing countries and to the desirability of exploring ways and means to associate scientists and technicians of developing countries with the work of the Secretariat of the regional fishery bodies.

26. The Committee considered various possible ways of meeting the financial requirements for the activities of the FAO regional bodies in the field of stock assessment; these included their conversion into convention-based bodies, the rearrangement of priorities within the programme of work of the Department of Fisheries, including the greater share of developed countries in supporting the activities of those FAO regional bodies in which they constitute the predominant membership, increased financing by UNDP or other funding institutions, contributions by developed countries, voluntary regional funds for individual bodies, or a global voluntary fund to be allocated among the various regional bodies as required. A levy on fish catches was also mentioned.

27. The Committee noted that the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC) at its Fifteenth Session (October 1972) recommended that its Member Nations consider the possibility of the establishment of a regional voluntary fund by way of contributions from developed Member Nations and others for the purpose of undertaking appropriate projects under the auspices of IPFC within the region. It supported this initiative and suggested that the establishment of such fund by other FAO regional bodies might be pursued.

Proposal for the establishment of an International Fishery Body for the Western Central Atlantic

28. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations concerned with Fisheries, Mr. N. Odera (Kenya), reported on the discussions that the Sub-Committee had held at its Third Session (Vancouver, Canada, 26-27 February 1973) on the possible establishment of a fishery body in the Western Central Atlantic, its possible scope and objectives and the form such a body could take (document COFI/73/4, paragraphs 16-22). He indicated that there had been general agreement in the Sub-Committee that such a body would be useful to enable coastal states and other countries with an interest in the fisheries in the region to discuss matters of mutual concern as discussed under its proposed terms of reference. Most delegates had also agreed that any body that might be set up should be a subsidiary body of FAO, established under Article VI-1 of the FAO Constitution, which would be open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization. In view of the differences of opinion on certain matters, the Sub-Committee had recommended that the Committee on Fisheries should set up, at its Eighth Session, an Ad hoc Working Party to consider these matters in more detail and to report to the Committee

before the end of the Session. It had also requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper setting out the possible terms of reference for the proposed body, including alternatives (see document COFI/73/4, Sup.1).

29. Following the Sub-Committee's recommendation, the Committee on Fisheries decided to set up an Ad hoc Working Party to study the terms of reference of the proposed body, as well as the geographic area it should cover. It further decided that the following countries could take part in the deliberations of the Ad hoc Working Party: (a) coastal countries in the Western Central Atlantic area; (b) countries with fishing interests in the area; and (c) countries that were members of the Sub-Committee. The Chairman of the Ad hoc Working Party, Mr. N. Odero (Kenya), reported on the meeting held on 12 April 1973 (document COFI/73/4, Sup.2). The following countries had been represented: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, France, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America. The Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) had also attended the meeting. The Chairman indicated that the representative of Mexico had made reference to the abstention of his Government with regard to the proposal for the establishment of an international fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic.

30. The Ad hoc Working Party concurred with the view of the Sub-Committee regarding the usefulness of the proposed body and its establishment as a subsidiary body of FAO, under Article VI-1 of the Constitution, which would be open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization.

31. With respect to the geographic area to be covered by the proposed fishery body, the Ad hoc Working Party recommended to the Committee that such area should include the whole Western Central Atlantic as defined by FAO for the purpose of fishery statistics. This matter was further considered by the Committee (see paragraph 33). It considered that this was desirable in order to encompass all stocks not yet covered by international fishery bodies responsible for adjacent areas.

32. As regards the functions of the proposed body, the Ad hoc Working Party recommended the following terms of reference to the Committee for approval:

"The Commission shall, within the geographical area defined in paragraph ... and with respect to fisheries of all species, especially shrimps:

1. Promote and assist the collection of national statistics and biological data relating to fisheries in general, and the shrimp fisheries in particular; and provide for the compilation and dissemination of these data on a regional basis
2. Facilitate the coordination of national research programmes and promote, where appropriate, the standardization of research methods
3. Promote the interchange of information relating to the fisheries of the region
4. Promote and coordinate, on a national and regional basis, studies of the effect of the environment and of pollution on fisheries, and implementation of appropriate methods of control and improvement
5. Promote and assist the development of aquaculture and stock improvement
6. Encourage education and training through the establishment or improvement of national and regional institutions and by the organization of training centres and seminars
7. Assist member governments in establishing rational policies for the development and utilization of the resources consistent with national objectives and the conservation and improvement of the resources

8. Promote and coordinate international aid to help achieve the objectives referred to in the preceding paragraphs."

33. When the Committee considered the report of the Ad hoc Working Party, several delegations indicated that the proposed body could not be effective unless it received general support among the countries directly concerned. They pointed out in this connection that the delegation of one coastal country in the Western Central Atlantic area had made reference to its Government's abstention and that a number of other coastal countries were not represented. Several delegations pointed out, however, that this area of the Atlantic was not served by a fishery body similar to those existing in other areas of the Atlantic Ocean and therefore the Western Central Atlantic merited a body.

34. The Committee stressed that the proposed body would not be concerned with management and regulation, but would be designed to promote research and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information and would provide machinery for consultations among interested countries.

35. After a thorough debate, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Council should authorize the Director-General to consult with all the countries eligible to become members of the body and in the light of these consultations to proceed to establish the proposed body along the lines suggested by the Ad hoc Working Party. It was also recommended that in defining the southern boundary of its geographic area, care should be taken to avoid any undesirable over-lapping of geographic coverage with CARPAS.

Other problems of management and development

36. The Committee considered the review of recent developments in matters of fishery management, and of problems of general interest, as presented in document COFI/73/7, as well as the more detailed survey of the current status of some fish stocks given in COFI/73/Inf.5. It agreed that such reviews were most useful, and should be presented to the Committee each year.

37. Both types of review were generally welcomed—the detailed review (which should be expanded to cover all major fish stocks) such as that in COFI/73/Inf.5, which should be based on the results of FAO's World Appraisal of Fishery Resources, as well as updated statistics, and also the shorter commentary on significant developments similar to that in COFI/73/7.

38. The progress of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) in the Northwest Atlantic was welcomed by the Committee as an example of what can be achieved by a Commission that has the necessary powers. It was hoped that other Commissions could be established to cover all important fishing areas of the world and they would gain similar powers, and make similar progress. In this way, once appropriate management measures were in force in all areas the problems of diversion from one area to another could be eliminated if adequate coordination among these bodies had been achieved.

Report of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Education and Training

39. The Committee received with appreciation and approved the Report of the Third Session of its Sub-Committee on Fishery Education and Training presented by its Chairman, Admiral N. Zechman (Indonesia).

40. It agreed that further expert consultations on fishery education and training should be organized by FAO in order to discuss specific problems, such as fishery manpower planning, manuals and other teaching aids.

41. The Committee also agreed that its Sub-Committee on Fishery Education and Training should be continued and be convened whenever COFI so required.

42. The importance of the training of instructors for developing countries was emphasized and special reference was made to the training needs existing in the fields of aquaculture, marine engineering, navigation and fishing methods, naval architecture and boat building, processing and marketing. The needs for training in the field of management and planning were also stressed and in this connection the Course on the Management of Fishermen's Cooperatives recently organized by FAO in India, with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), was quoted as an excellent example. The importance of promoting regional training institutions as well as certain types of international training institutions was underlined.

43. The Committee recognized that while FAO had devoted substantial efforts to fisheries education and training, the tasks remaining to be accomplished were considerable. Developing countries were still in need of assistance, particularly for manuals and curricula. The need to strengthen the fellowship programme was also noted.

44. The Committee noted the recommendations of the Expert Consultation that FAO should prepare an annotated bibliography of available training manuals and a catalogue of fishery training films and other audio-visual aids and should make available to developing countries information about the different approaches to fishery training programmes that had been adopted successfully by various countries.

COOPERATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN RELATION TO FISHERIES

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

45. The Committee was informed of major recommendations adopted by the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972) particularly those relating to the protection of living aquatic resources, and endorsed, with minor modifications, by the UN General Assembly, and of the actions taken or envisaged by FAO for the implementation of these recommendations.

46. The Committee noted that the activities of the UN organizations involved would be coordinated by an Environmental Coordination Board. The Committee expressed the hope that favourable consideration for financing by the UN Environment Fund would be given to projects concerned with living aquatic resources and fisheries which were being developed by FAO and other agencies concerned. Some delegations insisted upon the need for supplementary funds to assist with the implementation of environmental programmes. The Committee recognized the desirability of members making their national delegations to the Environmental Council session in June 1973 aware of these proposals.

47. The Committee reiterated its earlier view that the protection of the living aquatic resources from pollution was a major problem of common concern not only to developed but also to developing nations who were becoming increasingly affected by the negative effects on their fisheries and products, and it felt that the deterioration of the aquatic environment could in the long run become a major threat to aquatic resources. The Committee also reconfirmed FAO's role in training, information dissemination and in coordination of the fishery aspects of all international programmes and activities relating to the environment. The Committee referred, in this connection, to the FAO Technical Conference on Marine Pollution and its Effects on Living Resources and Fishing (1970) which had provided a most useful basis for the relevant discussions at the Conference on the Human Environment, and for defining an effective programme of work for the Department of Fisheries in this important area.

48. The Committee pointed out that it was now urgent to implement relevant environmental action programmes and measures to establish or strengthen activities and institutions at all levels—national, regional and global. It commended the Department of Fisheries for the timely actions taken in this regard, encouraged FAO to take further initiatives on matters falling within the Organization's terms of reference and within the general guidelines established by the Committee.

49. Many delegations stressed again the need for close collaboration and coordination of FAO programmes with those of other organizations concerned, and in particular with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on scientific programmes and services and with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization in the field of pollution control. The Committee was informed of the plans for the implementation of the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME), which are being developed with the guidance of the scientific advisory bodies to IOC (including ACMRR), and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP). These activities are expected to receive high priority for financing by the UN Environment Fund.

50. The Committee emphasized that many environmental problems might best be tackled on a regional basis and noted with appreciation the on-going and planned activities under the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC), the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC) and other FAO fishery bodies. It hoped that the UN Economic Regional Commissions in their environmental activities would, as regards fishery aspects, rely as far as possible on existing fishery bodies.

51. The Committee noted that in the Regular Programme of FAO certain programme elements were expected to provide the necessary basis for the back-stopping of activities to be financed from extra-budgetary funds, i.e. the UN Environment Fund and other sources. The Committee stressed the need for such extra-budgetary funds essential for the implementation of programmes, aimed at improving the capacities for environmental monitoring of developing countries, and establishing services of common interest to all member governments. It accorded high priority to the allocation of such funds in support of the Fishery Data Centre, in order to bring it to an adequately operational level, to be able to assist with further development of the FAO World Appraisal of Fishery Resources, as a major component of the "Earth Watch" System, recommended by the UN Conference on the Human Environment. Appropriate linkage and cooperation should be maintained by the FAO Fishery Data Centre with other related centres in the world and institutions involved in stock evaluation work.

52. Several delegations pointed out the need for more activities in the field of research and monitoring of aquatic pollution in inland waters and referred to the specific conditions in such areas which were to some extent different from the requirements in marine waters. Special reference was made to the need to harmonize multiple uses of the water resources.

53. The Committee reiterated its earlier recommendation that FAO should continue and expand its efforts to strengthen the national capabilities, particularly in developing countries, to deal efficiently with problems of aquatic pollution in relation to living resources and fisheries. This should be done by further technical assistance in this field, often in connection with ongoing or planned fishery research and development projects, and by the organization of further training courses like the ones held by FAO in collaboration with SIDA which were highly appreciated. Reference was also made to the establishment, with SIDA's assistance, of regional laboratories for Aquatic Pollution in Relation to Living Resources.

54. The Committee was informed that the ACMRR Working Party on Marine Mammals, established as a follow-up of COFI's recommendation at its Seventh Session, had a preparatory meeting to plan its work. Taking into account the complexity of the subject, the Committee was assured by the Secretariat that all efforts were being made to ensure that the greatest objectivity will be maintained in the requested study so that the Working Party, as all other expert groups under ACMRR, will be disbanded after completing its mandate.

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

55. The Committee on Fisheries was informed that in response to further requests made by the Sea-Bed Committee acting as preparatory committee for the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, FAO had submitted to its Fourth Session (Geneva, 17 July to 18 August 1972) and to its Fifth Session (New York, 5 March to 6 April 1973) the following documents in draft form: Fishing methods likely to have adverse effects on the conservation of fishery resources (COFI/73/Inf.2); Sedentary, migratory and intermingling species: their habitat and

distribution (COFI/73/Inf.3); The economic and social effects of the fishing industry - a comparative study (COFI/73/Inf.4); Review of the status of some heavily exploited fish stocks (COFI/73/Inf.5); and Fishery country profiles (COFI/73/Inf.8). These documents were now before the Committee on Fisheries for review and comment. The Committee congratulated the Department of Fisheries on the usefulness and objectivity of these documents although some delegations made comments on the contents of certain references made to their countries, with a view to corrections being made. It reiterated its view that this contribution to the work of the Sea-Bed Committee was in conformity with UN General Assembly Resolution 2750C (XXV), which provided that the Sea-Bed Committee could call upon FAO and its Committee on Fisheries to seek their cooperation from the technical and scientific points of view.

56. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Sea-Bed Committee had expressed its gratitude for the assistance provided by FAO and that it had in fact requested the Organization to prepare further documents, viz., a paper on the habitat and distribution of tunas in the Eastern Pacific and an up-dated version of its paper on the limits and status of the territorial sea, exclusive fishing zones, fishery conservation zones and the continental shelf. These documents would be submitted to the July-August 1973 session of the Sea-Bed Committee.

57. The Committee on Fisheries also expressed its appreciation for the synopses of the views and proposals on fisheries submitted at the Sea-Bed Committee in the course of the March 1972 and July-August 1972 sessions (COFI/73/10, Sup.1 and Sup.2). It considered that these synopses were particularly useful for delegates who had not attended the sessions and it expressed the hope that similar synopses would be prepared with respect to subsequent sessions of the Sea-Bed Committee.

58. Some delegations reiterated certain views on legal matters which their representatives on the Sea-Bed Committee had put forward (COFI/73/10, Sup.1). The Committee, however, considered that these views went beyond the task of the Committee and were therefore not suitable for consideration by it.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

59. The Committee was informed of the further progress made in the inter-agency arrangements in the field of marine science, particularly the use of and support to IOC by the organizations participating in the Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Related to Oceanography (ICSPRO). It noted with satisfaction that the close collaboration between FAO and IOC had been further developed.

60. The Committee took note of a statement by the Secretary of the IOC, who welcomed the close and constructive collaboration of FAO with the Commission, developed over many years, and expressed appreciation for the support given particularly by FAO.

61. The Committee noted Recommendation No. 1 of the IOC Ad hoc Working Group on Rationalizing the Structure of the IOC, which aimed to formalize the relationship of ICSPRO agencies with IOC, and felt that they were, in principle, a suitable basis for improving the effectiveness of the Commission in its role as an inter-organizational body with coordinating functions in the field of marine science programmes and related services. It noted also that certain other recommendations of the Ad hoc Working Group provide means of developing the proposals contained in recommendation 87(c) of the UN Conference on the Human Environment.

62. The Committee was informed of the recent progress made in the various International Cooperative Investigations, carried out under the auspices of IOC, relating to living resources and fisheries. The role of regional bodies was emphasized, for example, the work of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for the Cooperative investigations in the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (GINECA), the GFCM for the Cooperative Investigations of the Mediterranean (CIM) and the IPFC for the Cooperative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK). In connection with the Cooperative Investigations of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CICAR), the Committee noted that consideration is being given to the possible continuation of scientific cooperation between

the countries concerned. It felt that the international fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic, the establishment of which it was considering, would provide a mechanism for extending such studies but that this would require further consultations between the interested parties.

63. The Committee noted the further progress made in the planning and implementation of the Integrated Global Ocean Station System (IGOSS), the functions and objectives of which had been discussed during earlier sessions, and recognized the usefulness of such a world-wide system to fisheries. The representatives of IOC and WMO provided additional information on the organizational arrangements for this system. The Committee stressed the need for FAO to ensure that fisheries aspects were duly taken into account in the definition of requirements, planning and implementation of IGOSS.

64. Several delegations expressed their appreciation of the actions taken by the Department of Fisheries in the past to ensure the recognition of fisheries interests in IGOSS. The Committee felt, however, that further consultations between FAO, IOC and WMO were required for more formal participation by FAO in the establishment of this system, for instance by participation in the IPLAN. There was general agreement that the participation of fishery experts in the Joint IOC/WMO Group of Experts on IGOSS Technical Systems Design and Development and Service Requirements (ITECH) should be arranged immediately, and the representatives of IOC and WMO welcomed such a step.

65. The Committee agreed that, in order to ensure a proper coverage of fishery aspects in IOC work, it was desirable that member governments take steps to improve fishery representation in IOC and its subsidiary groups concerned with problems of major importance to fisheries, particularly the joint IOC/WMO Planning Group for IGOSS.

Relations with other United Nations Agencies

66. The Committee considered document COFI/73/12 and further supplementary information on the status of FAO's collaboration with UNIDO, IMCO and WHO.

(a) UNIDO

67. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Director-General of FAO, in close cooperation with the Executive Director of UNIDO, had completed a review of the FAO/UNIDO agreement of July 1968 and had elaborated broad principles which would facilitate its implementation. Relative responsibilities in the fisheries equipment sector had been further clarified.

68. The Committee was informed that the text of these broad principles with regard to fisheries equipment would be examined at the next meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Committee to be held in Vienna, 16-17 April 1973; it was hoped that at that meeting, a further clarification of that matter would be achieved.

69. The Committee noted the report and stressed its wish to be kept fully informed of the results of the Inter-Secretariat consultations. It recommended continued efforts to define, precisely, the respective function of each organization, noting that failure to do so would be particularly prejudicial to the interests of developing countries.

(b) IMCO

70. The Committee was informed that the Department of Fisheries would continue to be closely associated with the future activities of the IMCO Sub-Committee on Safety of Fishing Vessels and noted that FAO's contribution was particularly relevant to a possible extension of the Safety Code to apply to vessels of less than 24 metres, which was of interest to the needs of the industries in the developing countries.

71. The Committee was informed that a final draft for part B of the Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels would be made available to it at its next session, after review and approval by the joint FAO/ILO/IMCO meeting of consultants and further approval by the Maritime Sub-Committee.

(c) WHO

72. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had requested that FAO broaden the scope of the Code of Practice for Fresh Fish, the Code of Practice for Frozen Fish and a draft of a combined Code of Practice for Canned Fishery Products to include hygienic requirements. FAO had also been requested to accelerate this work in view of the pressing needs for such Codes, inter alia for the promotion of international food standards and the implementation of national fish inspection and quality control programmes.

73. The Committee was also informed of the continuing collaboration of FAO and WHO with respect to the food hygiene aspects of food standards for fish and shellfish consumption. It noted that it was intended to convene a joint FAO/WHO Meeting on this subject in Geneva in the autumn of 1973.

THE WORK OF FAO IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES DURING 1974-75 (REGULAR AND FIELD ACTIVITIES)

74. The Committee considered the preliminary proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Department of Fisheries in 1974-75 and the trends in the fishery field programmes as outlined in documents COFI/73/13 and Sup.1 and 2, COFI/73/14, COFI/73/15 and COFI/73/Inf.9. The Committee was advised that further information was contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1974/75 (CL/60/2). It noted that it was simultaneously examining proposals for activities to be undertaken under the Regular Budget, as well as those being undertaken with extra-budgetary funds. It agreed that while there are significant differences in the programming of these activities, there was an advantage in considering them together, as they represented the overall effort of FAO to assist member nations in the fisheries sector. More detailed information was however requested concerning the extra-budgetary activities and their relationship to the Regular Programme. It furthermore noted the concept of the single programme under the Regular Budget, whether the activities were undertaken from Headquarters or from the regional offices.

75. The Committee commended the Department of Fisheries on the format and analytical content of the documentation submitted to it. It represented a significant improvement over that submitted at previous sessions and the Committee expressed its hope that any further changes in documentation maintain, as far as possible, comparability in future years. The Committee requested that when pertinent documentation was being prepared for the governing bodies, it should be made available to the Committee in as good a time as possible.

76. The Committee recognized that its earlier discussions concerning other items of the agenda had clear programme implications, such as its examination of the recommendations of the Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development, and of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, or its consideration of support for regional fishery bodies.

77. The Committee noted with concern the financial limitations affecting the Regular Budget of FAO. In view of its hopes that the resources accorded to the Department of Fisheries would be augmented to enable it to serve the greater and more complex demands of world fisheries, the prospects for a decline in the level of the Regular Budget were particularly disappointing. Although every effort to obtain supplementary funding was desirable, the Committee recognized that there was little prospect, in the immediate future, of substantially increasing the Regular Budget. It was imperative, therefore, to maintain the technical competence of the Department of Fisheries so as to achieve maximum results and to make optimum use of available extra-budgetary resources. The Committee recalled its earlier discussion of this matter under the item of its agenda dealing with the Vancouver Conference and again emphasized that every effort should be made to find ways of supplementing the funds available to the Department.

78. The Committee considered the proposed allocation of the Regular Budget among the ten substantive sub-programmes of the Department of Fisheries and the activities involved. It noted that although a genuine effort had been made to meet priority needs some delegations felt further shifts should be made. It accorded high priority to work on fishery education under sub-programme 2.1.2.9, noting that this work was basic to meeting the needs of developing countries. The Committee expressed its wish to be informed at its future sessions of the results achieved. A number of delegations expressed their concern about the reduced funding proposed for this sub-programme but the Committee noted that the work on education and training was also undertaken under other sub-programmes and was supported by field activities, funded with extra-budgetary resources.

79. The Committee attached great importance to the work on aquaculture development under sub-programme 2.2.2.4 and related sub-programme 2.4.1.4 bearing in mind the potential growth of fish production through this means. The opportunities for its practice in conjunction with agriculture and in inland waters were also stressed. In the case of the land-locked countries, it represented the only avenue for a significant increase in fish production. The Committee recalled the recommendation of the Vancouver Conference on this subject (see paragraph 20) and urged that every effort be made, if necessary with the aid of extra-budgetary funds, to hold the proposed FAO Technical Conference on Aquaculture in the forthcoming biennium.

80. The Committee attached high priority to all work aimed at fishery management, whether in the field of statistics, stock assessment or collaboration with intergovernmental fishery bodies, as outlined under sub-programmes 2.6.1.4, 2.3.3.1 and 2.5.2.2. Here again, it noted with concern the forced reduction in resources available for these sub-programmes. It felt that FAO regional fishery bodies had an important role in assisting member governments in fishery management and development and, in this connection, recalled its discussion on support to regional fishery bodies and its discussion on the implementation of recommendations of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, particularly as noted in paragraph 51.

81. The Committee welcomed the high priority allocated to activities concerned with increasing fish production and the allied activities of processing, marketing and distribution and stressed the need for more intensive work in these fields under sub-programmes 2.3.3.2 and 2.3.3.3.

82. The Committee generally approved the proposals for the restructuring of the Department of Fisheries as from 1974. It noted that its earlier hopes for a Department with four substantive Divisions had to be surrendered in favour of two substantive Divisions, in view of the financial stringency. Some delegations expressed concern at the disappearance of a separate Division dealing with fishery economics. The Committee was assured, however, that this did not imply a neglect of that field but, on the contrary, would enable closer attention to be given to micro-economic (price/cost) aspects in the two technical Divisions with an efficient handling of macro-economic (aggregative) and planning aspects in the Policy and Planning Service.

83. Some delegations expressed doubts about the implications for the grading structure in the Department. The Committee was assured, however, that the proposals took into account the needs for obtaining the highest quality of services for the Department and that these aspects had to be considered in the light of practices and policies in the Organization as a whole.

84. The Committee emphasized the importance of the closest collaboration between the Fishery Statistics Unit and the Fishery Data Centre. It took note that this would be ensured, even if, for a number of considerations, it was not desirable to merge the two organizational units at the present time.

85. In reviewing the trends in the Field Programme, the Committee noted with concern the declining trend for fishery projects under the UNDP country programmes approved in 1972, and the difficulties of ensuring adequate provision to meet the needs of the fishery sector

under the country programme system. It recognized that many projects involved objectives which could not normally be achieved with the level of funds and duration of activities as provided for under many country programmes and that the absence of funds to meet contingency requirements was a major disadvantage. It commended the Department for its efforts to mobilize extra-budgetary funds for field activities, particularly under the government cooperative programmes.

86. The Committee heard a statement by the representative of the UNDP which assured the Committee of the deep interest of the UNDP in supporting fishery projects and its satisfaction with the success achieved in certain completed projects. The statement was reproduced as document COFI/73/Inf.15.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

87. At its Seventh Session (Rome, 6-13 April 1972), the Committee on Fisheries considered a recommendation of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of FAO (Rome, 6-25 November 1972) that the Committee review its ability to discharge all the responsibilities it was likely to be called upon to discharge, including those that might arise from the United Nations Conferences on the Human Environment and on the Law of the Sea. After a thorough debate on the question of its functions and composition, the Committee requested its Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations concerned with Fisheries "to review the present status of the Committee on Fisheries and, if necessary, to recommend measures to improve the Committee's ability to discharge all its present and anticipated responsibilities and, in particular, to examine, among other alternatives, the desirability or otherwise of reconstituting the Committee on Fisheries under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution".

88. When considering the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries at its Fifty-Ninth Session (Rome, 20 November-1 December 1972), the Council of FAO "felt that as the Committee on Fisheries had only recently been opened to membership by all interested member nations of FAO, for a trial period of four years, no changes in its basic structure and status should be made before the end of this period". This information was brought to the notice of the Sub-Committee, which discussed the matter referred to it by the Committee on Fisheries at its Third Session, held in Vancouver, Canada, on 26 and 27 February 1973.

89. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Mr. N. Odera (Kenya), introduced to the Committee on Fisheries the report of the Sub-Committee on this matter (document COFI/73/4, paragraphs 5-15).

90. The Committee on Fisheries endorsed the general conclusion of its Sub-Committee that, in view of the action by the Council referred to in paragraph 88 above, no changes should be made at this time either in the basic structure and status of the Committee or in Rule XXX-6 defining its functions. It also concurred with the general view expressed in the Sub-Committee that when the four-year trial period of open membership in the Committee is over, and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is known, the structure, status and functions of the Committee might again be reviewed.

MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL OF FAO

91. The Committee took note of the views expressed and the action taken by the Council regarding fishery matters at its Fifty-Ninth Session (November-December 1972).

92. The Committee was also informed of the consultations undertaken by the Chairman with some of its members, regarding possible improvements in its methods of work involving preparation of documents, reporting on action pursuant to the Committee's recommendations, introduction of agenda items, etc. The Committee was assured that the Secretariat would ensure that as many of the improvements as possible were implemented.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF MAJOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NINTH SESSION OF COFI

93. The Committee, recalling its decision taken at its Seventh Session to hold, at the end of each session, a preliminary discussion on the list of major items that might be placed on the agenda of the next session, considered the following items suggested by the Secretariat or arising from the discussions at the present session:

International cooperation in fishery industry development

Coordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance to fishery development programmes

Artisanal fisheries

Fishery problems of landlocked countries

94. The item Coordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance to fishery development Programmes was considered of great interest and its inclusion in the agenda of the Ninth Session of COFI was recommended by various delegations. Artisanal fisheries, International cooperation in fishery industry development, and Fishery problems of landlocked countries were also found by the Committee to be of major significance and should form a part of the agenda of future sessions of COFI.

95. The Committee also agreed that a report on the implementation of recommendations approved or endorsed by the present and previous sessions, should be presented to the Ninth Session. This report could become a regular feature of every session.

96. In this connection it was agreed by the Committee that a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Vancouver Conference should be presented to the Ninth Session of COFI.

97. Reference was made to the action-oriented programmes of the IPFC and other regional fishery bodies established within the framework of FAO and it was suggested that the Committee should be kept informed of the development of those programmes.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Draft relationship agreement between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and FAO

98. The Committee on Fisheries was informed that a draft relationship agreement between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and FAO had been prepared by the Chairman of ICCAT and the Secretariat of FAO. It noted that the draft agreement (document COFI/73/18, Annex 1) would be submitted to the June 1973 session of the Council for consideration and approval, subject to confirmation by the Conference, in accordance with Article XIII-1 of the Constitution and Rule XXIV-4 (c) of the General Rules of the Organization. The draft agreement would also be submitted for approval to the next session of ICCAT, scheduled to be held in November-December 1973. The Committee heard with interest statements by the Chairman and by the Executive Secretary of ICCAT and it took note with satisfaction of the information provided on the establishment of close cooperation between FAO and ICCAT.

99. The Committee noted with interest the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Utilization of Shipping and the comments of the Programme Committee (COFI/73/Inf.14).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

100. The Committee noted that the Second Session of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea would be convened during April/May 1974. It stressed the usefulness of meeting only

after that session and strongly recommended that contrary to its normal practice, following the Council's wishes, of holding its sessions prior to those of the Programme and Finance Committees, its Ninth Session should be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, as soon as practicable following that Conference. The precise timing was left to the Director-General to decide, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries.

TRIBUTE TO DR. A.W.H. NEEDLER

101. The Committee was informed that this was the last session at which Dr. A.W.H. Needler would be present as a member of the delegation of his country. It recalled the crucial personal role Dr. Needler had played in the creation of the Committee, in launching it effectively as its first Chairman, and the untiring devotion with which he had assisted in the strengthening of the Committee's work and influence. It unanimously recorded its tribute to Dr. Needler for his outstanding contribution to the Committee and to international fisheries in general.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

102. The following matters specifically require the attention of the Council:

(a) Matters of substance on which Council attention is required

- (i) To authorize the Director-General to consult with all the countries eligible to become members of a proposed fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic and in the light of these consultations to proceed to establish the body (paragraph 35)
- (ii) To consider the views of the Committee that no changes should be made at this time either in the basic structure and status of the Committee or in Rule XXX-6 defining its functions (paragraph 90)
- (iii) To consider and approve, subject to confirmation by the Conference, the draft relationship agreement between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and FAO (paragraph 98 and GL/60/20)

(b) Subjects upon which some discussion in the Council might provide useful guidance for further consideration by the Committee

- (i) Recommendations of the Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development (paragraphs 14 to 21)
- (ii) Support to regional fishery bodies (paragraphs 22 to 27)
- (iii) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (paragraphs 45 to 49)
- (iv) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (paragraphs 55 to 58)
- (v) Regular and field activities (paragraphs 74 to 86)

Appendix A

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* * * * *

Appendix B

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT THE OPENING SESSION

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Director-General who is absent from Rome, it is my privilege to welcome you to the Eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. Of all the duties I am called upon to assume whenever the Director-General is absent, I can assure you there is none which gives me greater personal pleasure.

An old friend of mine, and of many of you, the late Wib Chapman, had a theory that people whose livelihood depended on, or was connected with, the sea were linked by a strong bond of unity, no matter the distance or the vocation that separated them. He called them "the sea people". I am deeply conscious of this bond as, I am sure, many of you are. Even though I cannot allow myself to be partial to the interests of the Department of Fisheries vis-à-vis those of other parts of FAO, there is no reason why my long-standing and deep interest in the subject of fisheries should be stifled.

Once again you face a full agenda. Your task is all the more substantial considering the developments that have occurred since your last session.

The first substantive item on your provisional agenda--Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development--has been well prepared by the Technical Conference on that theme which was held in Vancouver from 13 to 23 February and which many of you attended. When the Council authorized the Director-General, at its Fifty-Ninth Session in November 1972, to convene this Technical Conference, it agreed that "such a Conference would be timely and could make a substantial contribution to the spreading of knowledge and experience in fishery management and development which would benefit especially the developing countries, and which would assist all countries in making optimum use of the valuable living resources of the oceans and inland waters".

The results of the Conference show that the Council was fully justified in its expectations. There appears to be nearly unanimous agreement that the Conference accomplished its objectives to a satisfactory degree. Over 300 experts took part in the sessions, from 52 Member Nations of FAO, plus the Soviet Union, and from 18 international organizations. In addition to numerous highly qualified and experienced experts in the field, those taking part included many persons who could benefit from the proceedings of the Conference by reason of their present or prospective positions as decision makers at various levels of government and in intergovernmental fishery management bodies. The participation of both categories of persons was greatly increased by the generosity of several governments--Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America--in supporting the attendance of participants from developing countries.

I shall not attempt to summarize the substance of the discussions that took place or even the conclusions reached and recommendations adopted. You will deal with all these matters shortly and will have the very able guidance of Dr. Needler who was the Chairman of the Conference. I would like, however, to make a couple of general remarks: one is that this Conference showed again that in spite of the interrelation of management and development problems with legal and political questions, it is possible in FAO to hold comprehensive and useful technical discussions of these problems without trespassing on the field of the competent legal and political bodies. The other point I wanted to make is that because of its nature and composition the Conference was necessarily a deliberative one and that it will eventually be up to you as the substantive intergovernmental fisheries body to examine its conclusions and recommendations with a view to action by governments and other intergovernmental bodies. You will, I believe,

wish to take a little time over this. For one thing, the complete report of the Conference is not yet out and in any case there has not been time yet to fully consider the outcome of the Conference which ended only six weeks ago. But you will look at the recommendations and among them I would like to draw your attention to number 7--promotion of research and training in fishery resource management and development--because it deals with an important part of the follow-up of work of the Conference and makes a specific request to the Director-General on which he would value your advice.

The other matters, which feature under this substantive item of your agenda, include the status of FAO support to regional fishery bodies and an appraisal of some present problems of fishery management and development. When considering possible action by FAO, and in particular by its staff, I must request you to bear in mind the financial context in which the programme of work and budget proposals are being formulated. This is dealt with under another item of your agenda and I shall comment on it later.

You will next look at cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries. An important event in this field since your last session was the UN Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm in June 1972. This Conference represents a significant step in the efforts of the international community to reconcile the objectives of development and the long-term requirements for the conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment. The Conference recognized the important and positive role that agriculture, forestry and fisheries had played, and should continue to play, in the maintenance of the quality of the human environment. About one third of the operative recommendations of the Stockholm Conference are directly addressed to FAO, or directly involve FAO together with other UN organizations. A substantial number of these relate to the fisheries sector. You will note from the papers before you that actions recommended to FAO in the field of fisheries are not new, but would involve increasing support to on-going or planned activities of the Department of Fisheries. The finance will have to come primarily from extra-budgetary sources, and it is hoped that the UN Environment Fund will help to some extent.

Of future events, one of the most important ones facing the international fishery community is the forthcoming UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. At its Twenty-Seventh Session, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which provides for further meetings of the Sea-Bed Committee, for the first session of the Conference--an organizational one--in New York at the end of this year, and for the second session, dealing with substantive matters, at Santiago, Chile, in April/May 1974. FAO is of course among the specialized agencies specifically invited to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparations for the Conference and to send observers to the Conference. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to a letter from the Chairman of the Sea-Bed Committee to the Director-General, dated 6 April 1972, in which he conveyed the appreciation of the Sea-Bed Committee for the assistance given by FAO. The Director-General has been largely guided in this work by the advice of the Committee on Fisheries and hopes to benefit by your further consideration of it.

I will turn now, Mr. Chairman, to another important mandate of your Committee, that of reviewing the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries and their implementation. Under item 5 of your provisional agenda, you will consider the preliminary proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Department of Fisheries in 1974-75.

I wish to convey to you the Director-General's thinking in formulating the framework for the Organization's proposals as a whole. This has been governed by the financial situation and the ever-present need to concentrate on high-priority activities.

The financial situation was already a cause of concern at the time of the last Conference in 1971. Since then it has deteriorated rapidly, due to the devaluation of the dollar--in which our contributions are calculated--relative to the lira and some other currencies in which most of our expenditures are made. This has been accompanied by a sharper increase in the rate of cost inflation than had been foreseen. The unbudgeted costs on the Regular Programme for the present biennium are estimated to total about \$7 million.

The serious financial situation obliged the Director-General to take a series of major economy measures. A first group of cuts was made regarding certain matters of equipment and services. A further cut of 10 percent was made in all Regular Programme allotments, except for a few special cases, and of course excluding direct financial provision for field activities which is funded from other sources. A cut of this magnitude, in a budget of which nearly 80 percent consists of staff costs, can only be achieved by a reduction of like proportions in the number of staff posts. An organization-wide machinery has been set up to achieve this. We expect that about 130 professional posts will not be included in the establishment at the beginning of 1974.

The savings exercise was paralleled by an intensive re-examination of priorities, sub-programme by sub-programme. The choice of high priorities was dictated by relevance, impact and economy, the elimination of certain lower priority activities had to reflect these factors and be consistent with the need to reduce staff. Special consideration was given to the implications of global and regional development trends in the medium-term. Somewhat less emphasis was given to national priorities, not because they are unimportant, but because they may more readily find support from extra-budgetary funds or may be dealt with by the use of consultants and other flexible measures.

The preliminary proposals for the programme of work of the Department of Fisheries in 1974-75 reflect the considerations I have just outlined.

The Director-General had indicated to the Council, at its last session, that, as a first estimate, the biennial budget level for the Organization may be around \$99 million. A more definite indication and its implication for the Department of Fisheries has involved extensive consultations embracing Headquarters and the Regional Offices, in line with the Council's endorsement of the concept of a single programme for the whole organization. The results of these consultations, in the form of summary proposals, have been submitted to the sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees which are still in progress. I believe, however, that the Committee will find sufficient material for its consideration of this matter, in document COFI/73/13.

The Committee is also invited to comment on the trends in the field programmes. The insufficiency of UNDF resources to meet identified needs is a feature which affects all the sectors in which FAO is engaged. The mobilization of additional extra-budgetary funds from other resources is imperative. This calls for policy guidance from this Committee, and a sustained and joint effort by the countries in need of this assistance as well as by FAO.

At its recent sessions, the Committee has been aware of the interrelationship between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. Some concern was evident at your last session particularly, on the need to assess the extent to which field activities rely on the resources of the Regular Budget. I regret to inform you that there is every likelihood of our having to face a greater burden in the foreseeable future. Owing to a combination of various circumstances, the Director-General is compelled to take steps to cut the expenditure of agency overhead funds. These circumstances include both matters like inflation and currency devaluations—which have affected the Regular Programme as well—and matters more directly related to extra-budgetary resources—such as the level of reimbursement to FAO for the technical and administrative support it provides. An initial cut of about 10 percent is envisaged. In practice this will mean that the Department of Fisheries, like other departments, will have to reduce its expenditures funded from the agency overhead. This will particularly affect posts in the Operations Service. Every effort will of course be made to maintain standards of service, but some sacrifices will be inevitable partly in the implementation of field activities and partly by shifting the burden on to activities in the Regular Programme.

While, in many respects, we are faced with problems, I do not wish to end on a despondent note. Adversity, in the hands of the determined, can be treated as a challenge. And there are many challenges in the world of fisheries which all of us, together, are determined to accept—the challenges to increase fish production, to assist developing fisheries, to sustain the

fisheries by wisdom in their utilization and by international cooperation, and to ensure that fish improves the health and wealth of nations.

In all these matters the role of your Committee is crucial--both in offering advice to us and in stimulating action by governments. It is therefore with a special emphasis that I wish you success in your work on this occasion.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

* * * * *

Appendix C

OPENING ADDRESS BY Mr. T. HISAMUNE

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish first to express my deep appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and through you to FAO for the generous invitation extended to me to address this distinguished assembly. I regard this invitation as a high honour.

While I was listening to that pleasant introduction I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, and I am still wondering, why I was invited.

Is it because I have come to Rome, the seat of international activities in fisheries and agriculture, for the first time in my life although I have been active in these two fields for a long time?

Is it in order to place a dunce in the corner?

Surely not. Is it to arraign a suspected heretic? Again surely not, for FAO is known, I understand, for its forbearance and open-mindedness.

The reason, then: is perhaps that I am president of a research centre with a fine and doubtless interesting name. I am not a scientist, however, I am only an administrator with a degree in law. If you ask me to speak of science or technology my speech will only last three minutes. Could the reason be that I come from Asia, one of the most distant parts of the world, a place of mysterious enigmas? Yes, it must be that I am expected to lift the veil from some of these enigmas. All very well. However, I must start with the topic which I have been given.

Mr. Chairman, have you by any chance heard my monologue? Please pretend you haven't.

The subject proposed for my address is the exploitation of new resources and the development of new products. It is again no doubt due to your kindness, for which I thank you, that I have been allotted this subject which would seem to be the easiest for me, belonging as I do to a centre for research on resources.

Our centre, however, is a recently created organization and unfortunately we do not yet possess any results about which I can make a concrete report to an assembly of distinguished authorities like this.

In fact, this topic was covered in detail by the Technical Conference held in Vancouver last February, whose report will be discussed by our meeting. It would therefore be better to await the reports of the experts, including those of the Japanese research workers who are working in close collaboration with our centre.

If we can contribute information of any sort, it will largely consist of showing you some of the difficulties we encountered in getting our centre going and of indicating the purpose and characteristics of our organization, which was set up according to a new concept.

The aim of our centre is to exploit new fishing grounds, both those frequented by the usual species and those of non-conventional species. In all these cases the following two difficulties are inevitably found:

- (1) Is it possible to have an economically significant fishing result if fishing operations are carried out with the use of the vessels currently in service on a ground where the existence of specific resources is already known from basic research or investigation?
- (2) Are the results of such fishing compatible with the market from the point of view of quantity, quality, consumability, etc.?

It is the job of our centre to answer these questions, that is, to assess the economic worth of new resources and to judge their profitability - what we call "the study of commercial feasibility". The type of work involved tends to be mainly evaluation, a stage preceding exploitation.

The risks involved in this type of work are rather surprising and could never be incurred by private enterprises. That is why our organization was founded and why it operates in collaboration with the Government and private industry.

What really struck us when we started this type of work was the lack of efficiently usable data. This lack was really much greater than we had expected. The study of commercial feasibility covers specific species and specific fishing grounds which have almost never been exploited. We therefore have to reconstitute factors which can be used in one way or another for evaluation, by assembling the results of various basic investigations and researches covering the areas concerned in all fields, including biology, oceanography, meteorology, etc. However, as you know, such information cannot be come by as easily as a fish can be bought from the fish merchant. We are thus compelled to conduct preparatory investigations as an element in the feasibility study. Most of our efforts have to be devoted to this preliminary stage. What I have just said refers to conventional species. Just imagine then what will happen in the case of non-conventional species. It is truly an adventure in which we shall have to act somewhat as explorers.

There are many basic researches and fundamental biological and oceanographical studies on fisheries conducted according to specific objectives. Unfortunately, the results obtained cannot be converted directly as such into fishery development. For such basic data to be useful for the industrial development of fisheries, other exploratory or experimental fishing must be performed. It would be more useful if the needs of the fishing industry could be identified and allowed for at the stage when basic researches and fundamental studies are planned. If this could be done more systematically, such research could contribute greatly to fishery development in terms both of quantity and quality by laying the foundations for a sound exploitation of resources.

All this requires very close collaboration between the research worker, the administrator and fishermen at national and international level.

Mr. Chairman, as I have already said, I am not a scientist. I am not qualified to go any deeper into this subject. I hope, therefore, that you will bear with me if I stray a little from the path.

To tell the truth, after receiving my invitation from FAO, I was in something of a quandary for several months about what I should say on this occasion.

In this spring of 1973 we have realized the need to tackle the problems around us, the most serious that have ever been encountered in our history. Here the guidance of the Committee on Fisheries could be of enormous effect. How then could I contribute something, however small, to the work of the conference? That was what worried me.

My personal interests lay more in the direction of measures to encourage coastal and inland water fishing. The latter may differ slightly from coastal fishing as far as technique is concerned but they are both fundamentally the same and, from this point of view, the measures which I am speaking about will be applicable to these two types of fishing. The

problems have already been thoroughly discussed and a long list of the most detailed measures concerning what would be needed for their development from the administrative, scientific and educational points of view, etc., has been presented rather along the lines of a photographic negative. But if the present situation is examined, all is found to be far from satisfactory. Policies and measures have been presented, but activities have not yet begun to be adequate. I find that this is the case in most countries in the world, especially the developing countries, with a few fortunate exceptions. Without exaggeration it can be said that we just do not know which way to turn to deal with all these intricate problems; too often they are left as intentions.

In this connection, FAO has always called attention to the gap between population and food, and in particular to the heavy shortage of protein. Some far-sighted people have recently raised the question -- rather surprising at first sight -- of the limitations of growth, and a movement to draw attention to an urgent crisis has been born and has grown up among people other than experts in food problems. As regards this last point, there are, as you know, dissenting voices concerning the treatment of coefficients or about methods of presentation etc., but no-one can deny the importance of this point of view and the fact that we have little time left in which to solve the problem.

Here, as part of a new way of seeing things, stress must be placed once again on the importance of making the best use of the coastal or inland water fishing grounds of every country. Particular priority must be given to developing small artisanal fishing or fishing by family businesses.

As I have mentioned, an estimate of the stock of fishery resources was submitted to the Technical Conference but in that case it was the total volume of all the world's seas. What is important is to know in each country: Who are the fishermen who fish? Who are the people who consume? What are the relations between the two population groups? It is also necessary to discover whether this food really feeds the people of the country who at present suffer from lack of protein, what percentage of the population is employed in these various activities, what their income is and whether their industry can contribute to the take-off of the national economy. This is the very problem which assails the leaders of developing countries. Where should one start? In what order? How long is needed? What will it cost? What about its effectiveness? If the know-how to solve those questions is available, there is undoubtedly every incentive to tackle the task straight away.

It has been suggested to me that Japan is achieving successes in the development of new resources and products, but I have to admit that our activities have not yet reached that point. We certainly intend to bend every effort to make a proper contribution in that field. However, if we have anything to contribute in the present and not in the future it is our experience and know-how regarding the development of coastal fishing, which can usefully serve as a groundwork for solving certain urgent problems.

It occurred to me to speak on this occasion about our experience. This is not because the development of our coastal fishing has been successful. Far from it. Our experience has been one of failure after failure. There have certainly been successes but not always those we expected. Moreover, the results we have achieved to date are far from satisfactory and we shall have to change them drastically, especially when they are applied to future activities. Nevertheless, we consider that to those embarking on this enterprise a history of failures can be of greater use than one of successes.

We have, indeed, run the whole gamut of failure. Were we able to start again from scratch, we could achieve success in a much shorter time, at lower cost, avoiding many conflicts and with much greater skill. Of this we are certain. I strongly hope that all my listeners realize this fact and that those who are starting out to tackle these problems are well endowed with courage.

We are sorry that these examples have so far not been of assistance to others because of stumbling-blocks due to language and to our own lack of effort. I would be extremely happy if a knowledge of our experience could prove of inspiration to those who are only in the early stages and if it gave them courage at a time when they are perhaps overwhelmed by anxieties of every sort.

I shall now explain in concrete fashion the experiences we have had in Japan. Don't be alarmed - I shall not bore you by speaking at length about our highly complicated fishing system as I have had not a few unpleasant experiences in this respect. I seldom find anyone patient enough to follow my explanation of this system to the end. Even when I explain it in Japanese for the Japanese I know no-one who can stand even half an hour without dozing off.

I shall therefore first attempt to show you a concrete image of Japan, a small island country lying a long way away in the Far East. This image will help you to feel at home and to understand my explanation better without dropping asleep - I hope.

Japan is a long country. If moved along the same parallels towards Rome it would stretch from Venice to the western Sahara. A better comparison might be to say that the Japanese islands represent the distance between Copenhagen and the Straits of Gibraltar. Its area is half that of Chile - also a very elongated country - and two thirds of France. Into these small islands is compressed a population of over 100 million. Its area of tillable land from which to feed that population amounts to 5 680 000 ha, i.e. 15% of its total area, only twice as large as Sicily and 20% less than Normandy. The land cultivated by a farm therefore occupies an average of only a little more than 1 ha. You will see then that we are fated to rely willy-nilly on the sea, in other words on fishing.

Now that I have drawn you this picture of our country, what image do you have in your mind of "fishing in Japan", the subject we are dealing with? If you only have some kind of illusion or legend in regard to Japanese fisheries, I should like to take this opportunity to put you right.

First, there are some non-Japanese who consider that fishing is highly industrialized in Japan. You may well share this false picture as the vessels observed are generally distant-water vessels or large trawlers. If you believe that vessels with modern equipment play the dominant role and that the fishing industry is largely in the hands of up-to-date enterprises, you are wrong.

Fisheries in our country are divided into three categories:

- (1) Coastal fishing by vessels of under 10 tons
- (2) Small and medium offshore fishing by vessels of over 10 tons
- (3) Deep-sea or distant-water fishing by large vessels like trawlers or by the fleet in accordance with the mother-vessel system

Of these three categories coastal fishing is even today the most important, accounting for 96% of fishery enterprises, 26% of the quantities fished and 41% of the fished value. If to this are added "small and medium fishing", the total quantity involved in the two categories comes to 99.9% of the number of enterprises, 65% of the quantities fished and 83% of the value. These overwhelming figures are certainly far beyond what you expected. I can give you yet another example concerning fishing vessels: unmotorized boats, which are rapidly disappearing, still account for a quarter of the total number. Furthermore, 94% of motor vessels are of under 10 tons. These two categories have an important connection with coastal fishing which accounts for 70% of the total fishing population. Coastal fishing is carried on by family enterprises or artisanal fishermen and the income per fishing family exceeds that of a farmer's family by 10% and that of an urban worker's family by 12%.

So much for figures, which are enough to give us a headache. Let us relax a bit. Picture if you will Mount Fujiyama with which you are familiar from Japanese stamps... The shining snow which persists at the top until the end of spring: that is distant-water fishing. The gentle slope which traces a beautiful line from the top: that is offshore fishing. The vast lower slopes acting as a support: coastal fishing. As Mount Fujiyama is the symbol of Japan so is it also the appropriate image of the world of fishing in our country.

When I reeled off those figures just now I only gave a percentage, not the actual number. This is because there is reason to fear that an actual number may put off those who are contemplating measures to develop coastal fishing. You really must not take fright at these gigantic numbers and give up your resolve. What matters is not numbers as such or the results we have obtained, but the method that produces those results.

Did I hear someone say under his breath that Japan did not start from zero? If I did, let me say that there is a long-standing belief that fisheries have been developed for a long time in Japan because the Japanese like to make a habit of eating fish. This belief is fairly widespread. I will not deny that it is true in a way. But to be fair you should consider the following fact which is usually overlooked.

Before the second world war the country folk who composed the greater part of our population lived in a state of grinding poverty under the then prevailing land tenure system and were content to live on a small quantity of dried and highly salted fish. Fresh fish was only eaten on special occasions like feast days. It was not until the coming of agrarian reform just after the second world war that demand for fish and processed products started to increase rapidly as the rural population, freed from the yoke of the old regime, managed to equal much of its production and income.

The new product called "fish sausage" was sold in the form of small rolls in rural and urban areas. The secret of its success was the ease with which it could be preserved, taken away and eaten, without prior cooking, in the open fields and also its taste, which resembles meat but meat of a much lower cost. This phenomenon, which I sometimes recall, symbolized the period when our fishery activities were starting to be re-established in the right way: in general, the period when our national economy took off.

This same phenomenon played a part in the appearance of a large quantity of new products in the years of technical innovation and economic development that followed the period just mentioned. Since then these new products have taken root in rural life side by side with traditional food items.

Today, in the Tokyo fish market which is now a tourist attraction and on the food shelves of department stores, you will find an enormous quantity and a wide variety of fish and its products which you will find extraordinarily impressive. Yet these results have only acquired their full momentum over the past 15 years.

Countries which wish to embark on this road can derive great profit from these results.

What I have tried to stress in telling you all this is that tastes and customs, however deep-rooted they may be, can still be changed by social or economic factors. This is very important.

It is now time I told you something about the history of our failures but this would require a long time because it would need to be interlarded with many excuses. I shall therefore give you a summary of the essentials.

- (1) Nearly a hundred years ago when our existence as a modern country started, fishing activities were already fairly widespread even though very primitive. The people had, as it were, to go to the sea to live and this was the origin of our fishermen and fishing. However, it was not till early this century, when fishing vessels started to be motorized, that fishing problems took on a modern look.

- (2) At the opening of the new era Japan took all its knowledge from Europe and we did our very best to catch up by imitating those developed countries. In the case of fisheries, however, we had nothing to imitate and we were compelled to invent for ourselves. Research workers and administrators accompanied fishermen to the sea to study the lessons which the sea could teach. Their masters were, of course, the fishermen themselves. Fishermen are the best "observers" and are thoroughly acquainted with the sea. In addition, they respect the order of nature and think up excellent arrangements which harm no one and are acceptable to all parties, which is not always the case with clumsy authoritarian administrators.
- (3) From the collaboration of these three parties an original system was born at the beginning of the century after some 30 years of trial and error. This system enshrined in legislative form the methods of using the sea as they existed in practice in fishermen's daily lives. This original system, however, was to collapse quite unexpectedly in a short time because of the radical innovation of engines for fishing vessels. Distant-water fishing has followed development processes that differ from that of coastal fishing. The examples of other countries - and there were foreign models to be copied - were introduced at the time of the introduction of engines and developed under government protection.
- (4) The distances covered and the capacity of nets increased rapidly after the introduction of engines. The result was conflicts between the different economic layers, large enterprises and small fishermen. This also gave rise to disputes between villages concerning the right to exclusive use of the coastal waters of the village both for fish and for shellfish and algae. The whole thing had become chaotic. The confusion continued until the outbreak of the second world war.
- (5) Why was this disorder not cleared up? What were the administrators up to?
 - (a) Generally speaking, once the institutions and systems had been set up, both administrators and research workers stayed in their offices a long way from the sea and thereafter had scarcely any direct contact with fishermen. In this way they lost opportunities for discussions with them.
 - (b) Once established, the system itself becomes rigid and difficult to apply with the flexibility essential for adjustments in fishery activities.
 - (c) Administrators, especially local officials, engaged in empire building at the expense of fishermen. The fishermen, thus neglected, were therefore perpetually at loggerheads with one another with no referee to arbitrate between them.
- (6) Fishermen's organizations were set up by regions in village units. However, after the class distinctions due to engine introduction, the large fishermen and merchants managed to get fishermen under their control. Accordingly, fishing rights and authorizations tended to be monopolized. This tendency prevented a rational use of the sea and had disastrous results on the fishermen's economy.

This sums up the various situations prevailing for a period of 70 years before the war.

- (7) The second world war completely destroyed the country and put it back where it had started. We lost everything but we still had our experience. The "reform of fisheries" was the outcome of a bold revival of our common experience.

The main points of that reform were the following:

- (a) To put the sea back under the responsibility of the fishermen. The means of using the sea for fishing are entrusted to committees organized by fishermen.

- (b) To democratize fishermen's organizations (cooperatives) and get rid of monopolies.
- (c) To make better use of compensation for former fishing rights as a financial basis for starting new activities.

In this connection, as I have just pointed out, we should not forget agrarian reform, which laid the necessary groundwork for starting and developing modern fisheries.

- (8) As I have explained, Japan has, starting from a destroyed countryside, succeeded more quickly than might have been expected, and by following the currents of the technical innovation that was then all the rage our country achieved an extraordinary economic development. But because of this mechanism, which is unique in Japan, we have fallen into excesses which are now causing us to seek, at present gropingly, ways of extricating ourselves from the distortions caused by overdevelopment.

I have now listed the main points of our post-war experience and in so doing feel I have somewhat protracted this address. I shall end with a Chinese proverb: "A thousand speeches are not worth even one glance".

Mr. Chairman, I yet have something which is not worth "a glance"... or rather which I do not wish to expose to your glance. But I cannot get away from this question of pollution.

Whenever my ideas touch on one of these discouraging issues, I have to admit to a strong feeling of guilt and embarrassment. Lack of foresight and the negligence of our administration have led to the present disastrous situations, and in some cases these failings exert a malign influence even away from our coasts, a fact which I strongly deplore. Furthermore, the worst-off victims have been the sea, the fisheries and the fishermen for which we should have been responsible. These victims, the fishermen, have however, risen up against these desperate situations and exerted a decisive influence. In doing so they are supported by the majority of the people and by the simultaneously awakened world-wide interest in problems of the environment. This movement is going from strength to strength with the help it is receiving and is now capable of changing the attitude of government and private enterprises.

Nevertheless, even with all these invaluable efforts we are surrounded at this moment by an enormous and irresistible force that has come to threaten the whole world of fisheries. It seems to be a more or less world-wide phenomenon. That force is the force of users other than fishermen and it first saw the light of day under the name of "exploitation of the oceans".

I have to say that I am never opposed to the exploitation of the oceans as such, provided it is done rationally. But I feel that current movements towards exploitation - selfish and arbitrary movements arising from power politics in each sector - should not be left free to do as they wish.

On this point I wish to remind you very strongly of the urgency of the crisis and of the points raised so forcefully and with such concern by the late Dr. Chapman at the Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries six years ago. As he said, "We fishery people" must take steps to deal with these problems resolutely and in perfect unity. Using the necessary skill, we must therefore, first of all and as soon as possible, find a solution to the problems and conflicts which exist within the fisheries industry and which could harm that unity.

Here I fear that our fishery interests and activities concentrate too much on problems of species, especially those that are of special interest to the developed countries from

the point of view either of administration or of science and at both national and international level. This phenomenon, if it exists, appears to reflect the history of fishery development and not the specific intent of the developed countries. And yet, given the objective requirements of the current situations, we should devote more effort, either relatively or even absolutely, to activities, for example, to the development of coastal fishing which I have just mentioned.

Against the present background I wish to urge that we should pool our efforts in order to tackle these problems of coastal fishing and at the same time resist the threatening force I have mentioned, encouraging other users of the sea to exploit the oceans in a truly rational way and calling on our sense of initiative and responsibility. To tackle these two new duties we must mobilize all our energies and supply our research and administration activities with the requisite support.

There is one question which I am always asking myself and on which I should like to have your opinion: "Is it really impossible for administrators to take a decision on the problems besetting the developed countries without requiring research workers to display a 'scientific accuracy' which seems to be beyond their reach?" That is my question, which I address more to myself even than to you.

National interest is very important, but have we not distorted this idea and allowed it to fade in the past through hesitation and reluctance? Have we not, therefore, restricted activities of international interest? Is it not because of this vicious circle that we find ourselves deadlocked and forced to make fruitless efforts within increasingly complex machinery? Is it not time to end this tendency? Are not we the ones who should do so?

We have no more time to waste, for we are confronting problems of "global interest" or "human interest" that demand a radical change in our attitude. The question of the hour is the crisis of humanity in relation to problems of population, food, industrialization, resources and pollution. Since the possibility of solving these problems depends to a large extent on the oceans, we must make an end of petty domestic problems - which should not be so difficult - and on our own authority and responsibility discharge this new mission which concerns us "fishery people", who were the first to tackle the problems of resources and who have already attained many valuable results.

At the dawn of the 1980s what projects shall we have in view and to what should we devote all our energy? Action, however modest and simple, must now be prepared and directed with determination and assurance at the first rays of that dawn.

Mr. Chairman, a poor golfer has at last come to the tee ground of the 18th hole. The subject of my address has swerved from its path like a misdirected golf ball, and the score standing to my credit is miserable. But at least at this last hole I am going to place the ball right on the fairway with a hit which is both not too strong and fairly accurate.

The fairway at which I must aim is "new resources and new products". Since last year our centre has started activities covering the study of "krill" (Euphausia superba) of the Antarctic Ocean. These activities are only experimental at the moment. It goes without saying that we have absolutely no intention of using these invaluable and irreplaceable resources for the benefit of us Japanese alone. We shall adopt a prudent attitude towards these studies, paying heed to what Dr. Lucas brought to our attention at the First Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

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Use of these resources could not be worth while from the profitability viewpoint and would not suit commercial activities. Accordingly, such use should be guided and effected with a view to international collaboration or international assistance, with government support, leading to a solution of the problem of protein shortage in the developing countries. I deeply hope that collaboration to that end will be achieved at international level by all parties that share the same aim, both research workers and administrators, and whether the subject is fishing means, manufacturing processes, forms of product, etc.

I feel rather presumptuous and embarrassed in making a premature request to you without being able to supply you with any data at this stage. I should be very happy if FAO were to take the necessary initiatives for a suitable period.

Mr. Chairman, I admit that most of the views and suggestions I have voiced today must first be made known to the appropriate authorities in my country. However, despite the possible embarrassment to you, I have taken the liberty of choosing this international conference as the first occasion for publishing my ideas, hoping thus to obtain the consent of the appropriate authorities in my own country more quickly.

Mr. Chairman, I find it difficult to express my deep gratitude for your kindness in affording me this opportunity to address you, and I thank you, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, for having listened with such generosity, sympathy and attentiveness to my modest address.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development
 - (a) Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development
 - (b) Support to regional fishery bodies
 - (c) Proposal for the establishment of an International Fishery Body for the Western Central Atlantic
 - (d) Other problems of management and development
 - (e) Report of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Education and Training
4. Cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries
 - (a) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
 - (b) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
 - (c) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
 - (d) Relations with other United Nations Agencies
5. The work of FAO in the field of fisheries during 1974-75 (regular and field activities)
6. Functions of the Committee on Fisheries
 - Report of the Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations concerned with Fisheries
7. Matters considered by the Council of FAO
8. Preliminary review of major items for consideration at the Ninth Session of COFI
9. Any other matters
 - Draft relationship agreement between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and FAO
10. Date and place of next session
11. Adoption of report

Appendix E

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

COFI/73/1	Provisional agenda
2	Annotated provisional agenda
3	Provisional timetable
4	Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on the Development of Co-operation with International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries
4, Sup.1	Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development (c) Proposal for the establishment of an international fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic
4, Sup.2	Report of the <u>Ad hoc</u> Working Party set up by the Committee on Fisheries on 10 April 1973
5	Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development (a) Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development
6	Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development (b) Support to regional fishery bodies
7	Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development (d) Other problems of management and development Fishery management
8	Aspects of International Fishery Management and Development (e) Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fishery Education and Training
9	Cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries (a) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
9, Sup.1	Topics other than marine pollution
10	Cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries (b) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
10, Sup.1	Third Session of the Enlarged Sea-Bed Committee acting as Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the Law of the Sea (New York, 20 February-30 March 1972)
10, Sup.2	Fourth Session of the Enlarged Sea-Bed Committee acting as Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the Law of the Sea (Geneva, 17 July-18 August 1972)
11	Cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries (c) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO)

COFI/73/11, Sup.1 11, Sup.2	(c) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
12	Cooperation in the United Nations system in relation to fisheries (d) Relations with other United Nations agencies
12, Sup.1	Thirteenth Session of the IMCO Sub-Committee on Safety of Fishing Vessels (February 1973)
13 13, Sup.1 13, Sup.2	Programme of work of FAO in the field of fisheries during 1974-75
14	Fishery field programmes
15	Needs and priorities in research for development purposes
16	Matters considered by the Fifty-Ninth Session of the FAO Council
17	Suggested items for consideration of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries
18	Draft relationship agreement between FAO and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
COFI/73/Inf.1, Rev.1	List of documents
2	Fishing methods likely to have adverse effects on the conservation of fishery resources
3	Sedentary, migratory and intermingling species: their habitat and distribution
4	The economic and social effects of the fishing industry
5	Review of the status of some heavily exploited fish stocks
6	Proposal for the establishment of an international fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic
7	Information for participants
8	Fishery country profiles
9	Department of Fisheries field projects, 1973
10, Rev.1	List of participants
11	Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) Working Party on Scientific Advice to Fishery Management and Development Bodies - Progress Report
12, Rev.1	Report of the Thirteenth Session of the IMCO Sub-Committee on Safety of Fishing Vessels to the Maritime Safety Committee

- COFI/73/Inf.13 Opening address by Mr. T. Hisamune, President, Japan Marine
Fishery Resource Research Centre, Tokyo, Japan
- 14 UN Joint Inspection Unit Report on the Utilization of Shipping
(FAO)
- 15 Remarks by Wm. Ellis Ripley, United Nations Development Pro-
gramme, New York

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