

Report of the eleventh session of the

---

**COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**

Rome, 19-26 April 1977



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



REPORT  
of the  
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 19-26 April 1977

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, June 1977

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

M-40

ISBN 92-5-100336-X

The copyright in this book is vested in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The book may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method or process, without written permission from the copyright holder. Applications for such permission, with a statement of the purpose and extent of the reproduction desired, should be addressed to the Director, Publications Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

© FAO 1977

PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

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

Distribution

All FAO Member Nations and  
Associate Members  
Participants in the session  
Other interested Nations and  
International Organizations  
FAO Department of Fisheries  
Fishery Officers in FAO Regional Offices

Bibliographic Entry:

Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 19 - 26  
April 1977 (1977)  
FAO Fish.Rep., (196):48 p.  
Report of the eleventh session of the ...  
Conferences-Rome(Italy). International  
organizations. Fisheries. Fishery  
organizations. Marine mammals. Fishery  
development. Fishery products. Trade. Sea  
law.



ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE



ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 61181 FOODAGRI

Telephone: 5797

Ref. FI 5/4.11

MAY. 24 1977

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries which was held in Rome from 19 to 26 April 1977.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Ruivo', written over a horizontal line.

M. Ruivo  
Chairman  
Committee on Fisheries

Mr. G. Bula Hoyos  
Independent Chairman  
Council of FAO





TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Matters Requiring Attention by the Council	ix - x	
Opening of the Session		1 - 4
Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session		5
Election of Officers		6 - 8
Review of the State of World Fisheries		9 - 77
(a) World fisheries development 1962-75: an appraisal of performance compared with the Indicative World Plan projections		9 - 15
(b) The present state of the world fishery resources - Marine mammals		16 - 30 23 - 30
(c) Fish production, utilization and trade		31 - 61
(i) Fishery commodity situation		31 - 33
(ii) Prospects and requirements for the better utilization of fishery resources - Use of the resources of the Southern Oceans		34 - 49 39 - 49
(iii) The role of joint ventures in fishery development		50 - 61
(d) Activities of regional fishery bodies		62 - 71
(i) Statistics in the CECAF area		65 - 66
(ii) Southern boundary of CECAF area		67 - 70
(iii) Proposal to establish a fishery commission for the Near East		71
(e) Cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations System		72 - 77
Developments in the Regime of the Sea and their Implications for Fisheries		78 - 94
(a) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea		79 - 81
(b) The future of the Committee on Fisheries		82 - 86
(c) The future of regional fishery bodies		87 - 94
Major Proposals for Future Activities of the Fisheries Department		95 - 102
Matters Considered by the Council and Conference of FAO		103 - 106
Suggested Major Items for the Agenda of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries		107 - 109
Any Other Matters		110 - 112
Date and Place of the Next Session		113 - 114

## APPENDIXES

A - Agenda	<u>Page</u>	23
B - List of Delegates and Observers		24
C - List of Documents		37
D - Address by Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General, FAO		39
E - Address by H.E. Jorge Castañeda, Head of the Mexican Delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and Member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations		41



MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCILA. MATTERS FOR DECISIONSouthern boundary of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

The Committee considered the report of the Fifth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) (March 1977). CECAF had recommended that the southern boundary of its area of competence should be moved from 6°S (mouth of the Congo (Zaire) River) to include the waters off Angola as there was no scientific justification for the present boundary. The Committee recommended to the Council that the boundary should be moved southwards to include not only the waters off Angola but also the waters off Namibia. The Committee requested the Director-General to solicit the views of Angola and convey them to the Council and to inform the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Organization of African Unity.

(Paras. 67-70)

Proposal to create a fishery commission for the Near East

The Committee agreed with a proposal which had emanated from the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (1976) to establish a fishery commission for the countries serviced by the Near East Regional Office. It requested the Director-General to consult with the countries concerned on the financing of the activities of the Commission and on its coordination with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

(Para. 71)

Request for Arabic interpretation at sessions of the Committee

The Committee took favourable note of a request for Arabic interpretation at future sessions. It noted that the whole question of the use of Arabic would be considered by the Conference in November 1977 after having been examined by the Council in June 1977.

(Para. 110)

B. MATTERS FOR INFORMATIONMajor proposals for future activities of the Fisheries Department

The Committee expressed its support for the proposals before it, with stress to be laid on increasing the proportion of catches directly consumed as food, on the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture, on reducing post harvest losses, on conservation of resources and protection against pollution, on socio-economic and institutional aspects of fisheries and, in particular, on the problems of small-scale fisheries. It also stressed fish utilization to make sure that better use was made of the fish already caught and to develop low cost products.

(Paras. 10 and 95-102)

Programme aspects were also considered under other items of the Agenda.

(See below)

Developments in the regime of the sea and their implications for fisheries

The Committee requested FAO to continue its contributions to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and in particular to prepare a programme for the development of the economic zones of developing countries and an analysis of national legislation and bilateral agreements relating to extended zones of jurisdiction.

(Paras. 79-81)

When the Committee was considering the implications of the changes in the regime of the sea, a majority of delegations stated that they saw no need for changing the status of the Committee at the present time. There was, however, general agreement that a strengthening could already take place by concentrating on a few major tasks. The Secretariat was requested to send out a questionnaire to members of the Committee asking them for their views on the Committee's future.

(Paras. 82-86)

The Committee considered its future vis-a-vis regional fishery bodies, the desirability of decentralizing FAO bodies progressively and strengthening their links with the regional fishery development projects. It also considered the need for better coordination between fishery bodies and organizations concerned with other aspects of ocean affairs.

(Paras. 87-94)

#### Southern Oceans

The Committee was informed of the present state of exploitation and utilization of the living resources of the southern oceans and of FAO's activities to ensure that their future exploitation would contribute to meeting world food needs. It was in general agreed that the Organization had an important role to play in view of its technical responsibilities and its special duty towards the developing world. The planning and execution of any subsequent activities should, in the Committee's view, be undertaken in close cooperation with the coastal states in the area, the appropriate scientific bodies and, as regards the area covered by the Antarctic Treaty, in close cooperative working relations with the parties to the Treaty.

(Paras. 39-49)

#### Joint ventures in fisheries

The Committee acknowledged the generally positive role played by joint ventures in the public and private sectors in the development of the fisheries of the developing countries. In its view, more attention should be given to the formation of joint ventures covering not only direct fishing operations but also such industrial aspects as storage, processing and marketing. The Committee considered in detail FAO's possible role and expressed the view that the Organization might intensify its activities in identifying investment opportunities in developing countries.

(Paras. 50-61)

#### The timing of future sessions of the Committee

The Committee expressed the view that as a result of changes in the regime of the sea it should meet once a year for at least the next few years. It suggested that the next session should be held in the spring of 1978 but that the Director-General should take a decision in consultation with the Chairman in the light of further developments in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

(Para. 113)

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries held its Eleventh Session in Rome from 19 to 26 April 1977. The Session was attended by 72 members of the Committee, by observers from 3 other FAO member nations and the U.S.S.R., by the Permanent Observer for the Holy See, by representatives of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization and the European Economic Community, and by observers from 9 other international organizations. A list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.

2. Dr. R. Perez-Prieto (Peru) who had been elected Chairman of the Committee at the Ninth Session was in the chair at the opening of the session. The Chairman congratulated Mr. H. Watzinger on his appointment as Assistant Director-General of the FAO Fisheries Department - appointment which had been made since the Tenth Session of the Committee.

3. The Committee was welcomed by the Director-General in an address the text of which is reproduced in Appendix D to this report.

4. The Guest Speaker was H.E. Jorge Castañeda, Head of the Mexican delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations. He delivered an address at the invitation of the Director-General of FAO on "Fisheries and the New International Economic Order". The text of this address is reproduced in Appendix E to this report.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

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

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. According to Rule I of its Rules of Procedure the Committee was required to elect a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen at the Eleventh Session. A Nominations Committee was appointed consisting of the representative of Argentina, Australia, Cuba, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, Kenya, Poland, Senegal and the United States of America.

7. On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee Dr. M. Ruivo (Portugal) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B.T. Cunningham (New Zealand) was elected as first Vice-Chairman and Messrs. R.P. Quadri (Argentina), Cheick Moussa Fofana (Guinea), Hong-Jang Joo (Korea, Republic of), and H.W. Włodarczyk (Poland) as other Vice-Chairmen. One delegation expressed the view that in the future the election of officers should reflect a more equitable geographic distribution.

8. A Drafting Committee was appointed consisting of the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Senegal, Spain and the United States of America. Ambassador F. Zegers (Chile) was elected Chairman.

## REVIEW OF THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES

### (a) World fisheries development 1962-1975: an appraisal of performance compared with the Indicative World Plan projections

9. As requested by the Committee at its Ninth Session (October 1974), the Secretariat submitted a document (COFI/77/4) in which it reviewed the main trends in world fisheries over the period 1962-1975 and compared them with projections made as part of FAO's Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development. The Secretariat in particular drew attention to the increase in the production of food fish in developing countries and the contribution which fisheries has been making in these countries to food supply and foreign exchange earnings. It noted also the significant growth in production achieved by centrally planned countries.

10. The Secretariat, however, also drew attention to the fact that the rate of increase in the world catch had been declining since the mid 1960's and in the period 1970-75 had averaged no more than a half of 1 percent per annum. It concluded that the main areas for future action were utilization, to make better use of the fish already caught and to develop low cost products particularly from fish presently of little commercial value; and management, to ensure that the growing number of stocks under heavy fishing pressure continued to provide the basis of economically viable fisheries.

11. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the document and its opinion that FAO is in a unique position to prepare such global analyses. These analyses were valuable not only as a general framework for the discussion of the Committee but also to member governments in determining their policies. It was agreed that documents of this nature should be presented regularly at future sessions of the Committee. Some delegations expressed the view that macro-economic studies on both world and regional levels should be given priority and emphasis within the programme of work of the Fisheries Department.

12. Several delegations indicated that studies would be more useful if more detail was given concerning individual countries. The Secretariat suggested that it would produce regional studies for presentation to sessions of regional fishery bodies.

13. Noting the continuing gap between levels of fish consumption per caput in the developed and those in developing regions of the world, the Committee agreed that the emerging legal regime of the oceans offered an opportunity for reappraisal of fishery development possibilities. Some delegations pointed out that, although oceans are generally heavily fished, there are still possibilities for much greater catches in several areas, for example the Indian Ocean. In realizing these possibilities, FAO has an important role in assessing the potentials of stocks, in facilitating the transfer of technology, in coordinating international and bilateral aid and in promoting better utilization of fish. The need for improved methods of managing stocks which had already been heavily fished was also stressed.

14. The Committee also suggested that future reviews would be enhanced by more detailed consideration of economic and social factors which inhibit development of fisheries in certain areas. Much of the finance for development would need to come from private sources and it was therefore desirable to demonstrate that there would be a satisfactory return on invested capital. With respect to funds from other sources (multilateral and bilateral), it was desirable to present those sources with appropriate arguments in favour of their investment in fisheries development.

15. The Committee agreed that inland fisheries and aquaculture should in future be accorded greater attention. The continuing need for improved statistics was emphasized because the quality of the analyses made by FAO and the decisions taken by governments depend to a considerable extent upon their accuracy and adequacy.

(b) The present state of the world fishery resources

16. The Committee expressed its general appreciation of the information and analyses presented in the documentation provided by the Secretariat. Compilation, review and dissemination of such material were important continuing activities of FAO which was in a unique position to produce comprehensive and impartial reviews of the state of world fishery resources. The Committee also indicated that this type of documentation should in future be presented among the background papers.

17. Inland fishery resources, which were important in many of the less developed countries had been reviewed in detail at the Tenth Session of the Committee; the large number of small, independent and relatively slowly changing fisheries might not call for detailed review annually. The magnitude and state of inland fisheries resources also depended to a large extent on external factors, such as decisions regarding land and water use, and therefore required a treatment rather different from that given to marine resources.

18. During the past four years the total world catch had remained below the peak of just under 71 million tons reached in 1971. This was in part due to a sudden decrease in the catches of anchoveta off Peru and Chile. The total catch of other marine fish had continued to increase until 1975, when there was a small decrease. Catch trends tended to confirm the view that world catches of the more familiar species of fish were approaching the limit of the potential of the natural resources. However, the degree of utilization of the resources was not equal in all regions. There remained some stocks, e.g. in parts of the Indian Ocean, where increased fishing, if carefully and selectively applied, could result in sustained increases in catches.

19. One hundred million tons was estimated as the potential annual harvest from conventional marine resources during the 1973 Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development at Vancouver. No evidence had come to light calling for revision of this estimate. Certain regional estimates, e.g. for the western Indian Ocean, may however have been somewhat too high, and others, e.g. for the northeast Atlantic, too low. The Committee noted however that most of the information discussed at Vancouver and summarized in the FAO publication "The Fish Resources of the Ocean" (1970) had been compiled nearly a decade ago, and agreed that FAO should prepare and publish an up-to-date review.

20. Interactions between different stocks made it difficult to assess the potential yield from an area. Note was taken of interactions between marine mammals and stocks of fish and of other animals (e.g. krill and baleen whales in the Southern Ocean; harp seals, capelin and cod in the northwest Atlantic) and also of interactions between fish stocks. It was not clear to what extent it might be possible to maintain, for example, both the high catches of cod, plaice and other demersal fish which had recently been obtained from the North Sea and high catches of mackerel or herring. Thus, arrangements for regional management of fishing should take into account the interaction of all the resources of each area.

21. It was pointed out that the greatest opportunities for increasing the supply of protein from the sea now lay in the so-called "unconventional" resources. These consisted mostly of animals living beyond the continental shelves; these were generally small and belonged to the lower trophic levels. Examples were: oceanic squid, mesopelagic fishes and krill. The potential of these resources was very large; but realization of this potential would require considerable technological advances in catching, handling and processing, which would be best achieved through effective international coordination and collaboration. FAO could play a role in this matter, especially to the end that developing countries should derive benefit from the exploitation of these resources. The view was expressed that international funds would be better used for the development of fisheries in the coastal zones of the less developed countries. It was agreed however that the potential of conventional resources could be further explored by FAO.

22. The Committee repeated the view it had expressed at previous sessions concerning the importance of adequate basic information, particularly statistics, for the evaluation of resources. It noted the work done by FAO, particularly through the field programme, to improve the prevailing situation which was still not satisfactory. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the Species Identification Sheets which facilitated collection of basic information.

- Marine mammals

23. The Secretariat presented document COFI/77/5, Sup.1 and informed the Committee that the final report of the ACMRR Working Party on Marine Mammals was now available and was being studied by the ACMRR, the FAO Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Working Party had been established in 1973 following discussion of this matter at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries in 1972 (see paragraph 16 of the Report of the Seventh Session). It was able to conduct its work through the assistance of an FAO/UNEP Marine Mammals Project and the financial support of some interested nations and international organizations, as well as with the assistance of many specialists, culminating in a Scientific Consultation convened in Bergen, Norway, in August-September 1976. The proceedings of this Consultation were being prepared for publication by FAO.

24. The Secretariat reported that the above studies had revealed that some species and stocks were endangered and that the threats to them came in some cases from excessive capture, deliberate or accidental, and in other cases from man-caused changes in critical habitat, from other uses of the sea and from pollutants. Very little was known about many of the species and stocks, especially about the small cetaceans, while even for those which had been intensively studied over many years, there remained considerable uncertainty in assessment of their sustainable yields and other biological characteristics. The recovery of depleted stocks of the species of whales, the exploitation of which had for some years been prohibited by the International Whaling Commission, was difficult to monitor and might in some cases be slower than had been anticipated.

25. Marine mammals interacted with man in many ways, both to man's detriment and his advantage; their most obvious impacts were as predators on fishes that man was harvesting and interference with fishing operations.

26. It was pointed out that the whales contributed to satisfaction of human nutritional needs and should therefore be conserved and utilized in the most rational manner, not merely protected. With respect to interactions between fish and marine mammals it was indicated that the determination of objectives for management must be based on a concept of optimum utilization of resources as a whole taking into account economic and social factors which varied from country to country and therefore could be agreed upon among the countries concerned.

27. Other delegations agreed that depleted populations, when they had recovered, should be utilized. It was also emphasized that low consumptive uses should also be taken into account in this regard. Marine mammals were valuable to man, and would be more so when protected populations had recovered; their value consisted not only in their being sources of food and other commodities but in their being a source of general interest to mankind both in captivity and in their natural habitat.

28. It was proposed that FAO should encourage membership in IWC by all countries carrying out whaling, and by other countries concerned. It was generally agreed that FAO and ACMRR would be advised to continue their general interest in marine mammals and in research into the ecosystems of which they form part and to cooperate with UNEP, but should avoid duplication of activities with other competent international bodies. A formulation of the overall objectives with respect to marine mammals would be timely and FAO should be involved in this. Reference was made to the new policy of IWC on the management of whales. In this connection the possibility of a more flexible approach to management should be considered.

29. An example was given of the effect of an extension of national jurisdiction and application of national laws in providing protection to a fin whale population greater than that afforded by international agreement. The recent resolution of international and intranational scientific controversy regarding the status of the harp seal was also noted.

30. The Committee requested that the Secretariat continue to keep it informed of developments regarding marine mammals.

(c) Fish production, utilization and trade

(i) Fishery commodity situation

31. The Secretariat presented a review of the state of world fishery markets in 1976 together with an assessment of the outlook for the remainder of 1977 and early 1978 (COFI/77/6). In the review, note was taken of the increase in the world catch in 1976 as well as the continued recovery in world trade and in the greater buoyancy of markets for fishery products. The review indicated that the outlook, which derived largely from economic conditions generally, was good and various factors augured well for continued growth in world trade in fishery commodities.



32. The Committee welcomed the review. It considered that such reviews should continue to be presented when necessary at each COFI session. Besides complementing other papers presented to the Committee the review provided useful guidance to member countries especially developing countries, which were trying to plan their fisheries and expand their export markets. The Committee suggested that the presentation of future reviews should be improved by incorporating information on imports and by adding information on the price of selected fishery commodities.

33. There was some discussion of factors influencing fishery markets, such as the influence of the price of livestock products on the price and consumption of fishery products. The importance of maintaining quality and the general conservatism of fishery industries were also mentioned. It was generally agreed that the review reflected the current situation in world fishery markets. The Secretariat was, however, urged to reconsider the country coverage of the tables on production and trade. Several delegations provided up-dated or new information to assist the Secretariat in this process and to improve the coverage of existing statistics.

(ii) Prospects and requirements for the better utilization of fishery resources

34. Discussion of this item was preceded by a presentation of a series of slides entitled "Long-term Targets for Fisheries Development". The Committee expressed the view that the use by the Fisheries Department of modern methods of visual/auditory presentation is timely and could play a useful role in making better known important fishery subjects.

35. The Committee recognized the urgency of increasing the production and utilization of fish for direct human consumption particularly in developing countries. It was, however, pointed out that all the potential catches from the fishery resources which were still under-exploited or unexploited were of types not easily processed into or for the moment marketable as food. Catching for reduction had therefore frequently been the practicable way of making use of such resources. This use had contributed in some countries to economic development as a factor contributing to the equilibrium of the balance of payments on the one hand and on the other to the availability of food supplies. It would be desirable to use increasing by-catches for direct human consumption. There might be situations in which prohibition of the use of certain species for reduction purposes as animal feed would be advantageous. Nevertheless it must be recognized that a large-scale change from reduction to direct use as food must be speeded up and this would call for much appropriate work in fish technology, market promotion and investment.

36. The Committee noted that meeting the demand projections that had been made for the year 2000 would imply the full exploitation of all known conventional resources by that time and, in addition, obtaining 20 to 30 million tons from improved or extended aquaculture, reduction of wastage and losses possibly to be combined with the exploitation of unconventional resources such as krill, meso-pelagic fish and oceanic squid. Expansion of market demand for new emerging products from underutilized conventional and unconventional resources could facilitate better utilization of these resources. Various resources need to be evaluated with respect to their suitability to yield low-cost products for use particularly in developing countries. The required transfer of appropriate technologies to developing countries should take into account the need for simple, low-cost fish handling, processing and preserving techniques. Various products would have to be tested with respect to marketing characteristics, due account being taken of consumer preferences in developing countries. In this context, the Committee was advised that the investigations into fish powder (fish protein concentrate type B) carried out by FAO in collaboration with the Government of Norway and the World Food Programme demonstrated market and consumer acceptance in countries, and particularly those where fishery products were a regular part of the diet.

37. The Committee agreed that high priority activities for achieving an increased supply of food fish in developing countries were: exploitation of demersal and small pelagic fish; reduction of post-harvest losses and utilization of discards in shrimp trawling; aquaculture development and inland fisheries. It was noted that post-harvest losses were considerable and that their reduction would thus contribute to increasing the level of food supplies. On the other hand, the scattered location and widely varying causes of such losses often made it difficult to obtain tangible results rapidly.

38. The Committee supported strongly a proposal for a "global project to increase fish utilization for human consumption". It took note that because of the financial constraints of UNDP, funding of that project could not be considered for 1977, but that hopefully it might be possible to find funds for it in 1978. The Committee was informed that some bilateral donors had already responded positively to the Department's proposal for investigations of specific problems of expanding fish utilization for human consumption.

- Use of the resources of the Southern Oceans

39. The Committee had before it the restricted paper entitled "Outline Proposals for an Information and Coordination Programme for the Utilization of the Living Resources of the Southern Oceans" (dated April 1977) and the paper COFI/77/5, Sup.2 "Review of the State of Exploitation of the World Fish Resources: Living Resources of the Southern Oceans" which contained information on the resources of the southern oceans and on the present state of their exploitation and utilization and a description of FAO's activities in this field, particularly the current preparatory phase of a possible future FAO programme. These papers were supplemented by a presentation on the part of the Secretariat referring to the outline proposals which had been prepared by FAO, to be used as an aid in carrying out further consultations and holding discussions on a possible future programme regarding the living resources of the southern oceans. These consultations were part of the preparatory phase mentioned above.

40. The Committee was informed of the discussion on this subject at the FAO Conference in November 1975 which had noted the competence of the Antarctic Treaty countries in all matters concerning the ecosystem of Antarctica and had agreed that FAO should keep the Treaty countries informed of its own activities in the area and coordinate such activities with those of the Treaty countries. The Committee was invited to comment on the proposals put before it regarding a proposed programme, its possible financing, and any machinery which might be needed.

41. After a thorough discussion, the Committee was in general agreement that FAO had an important role to play within its competence, with regard to the living resources of the southern oceans. This was considered to be a proper and legitimate FAO activity in view both of its technical responsibilities and its special duty towards the developing world. The Committee noted the estimates that had been made of the potential harvest from the unexploited living marine resources of the southern oceans of possibly tens of millions of tons and endorsed the view that their future exploitation might represent an element in meeting world food needs.

42. Detailed planning of a possible future programme, and final decisions thereon, should be based on the results of the work carried out in the preparatory phase which would continue to the end of 1977. Such planning and subsequent execution should moreover be undertaken in close cooperation with the coastal states in the area, the appropriate scientific bodies and, as regards the area covered by the Antarctic Treaty, in close cooperative working relations with the Parties to the Treaty. Future work and studies should include the collection, compilation and dissemination of information; the assessment of the biological and nutritional potential of the resources; the promotion of necessary scientific and technological investigations and experiments; encouragement of cooperation in the technology of harvesting and processing of these living resources and assessment of their potential for economic development; and also promotion of the development of products suitable for consumption especially to bring benefit to developing countries.

43. The Committee agreed that these future activities should relate to the living resources in the southern oceans south of 45°S latitude and emphasized that in keeping with international practice no activity should take place within the area of jurisdiction of any State without that State's express consent. While the Committee recognized the general rights of all nations to share in the development of the living resources beyond national jurisdiction, it was stated by some delegations that there must be respect for the special interests and rights of certain countries in particular areas. Development activities should always be planned and carried out with due regard to the need for conservation in relation to the ecosystem of Antarctica as a whole and the southern oceans. Some delegations pointed out that the Antarctic Treaty did not affect the rights or the exercise of the rights of any state under international law on the high seas within the Treaty area.

44. As regards guidance for the activities proposed, the Committee considered that it was not necessary to set up any new machinery. Existing machinery, including the Fisheries Department and the Committee itself, should continue to be used for this purpose.

45. The Committee noted the useful collaboration that had already taken place between FAO and the various scientific bodies and groups working on Antarctic problems, in particular with the SCAR<sup>1/</sup> SCOR<sup>2/</sup> BIOMASS<sup>3/</sup> programme to be carried out in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and suggested that ACMRR<sup>4/</sup> should also be involved in this work. This collaboration should ensure that FAO's programme did not duplicate but indeed supported the work of the scientific community.

46. Early in the debate certain delegations expressed serious reservations about some matters contained in the papers and proposals under discussion. The proposals defined the area of activities in the southern oceans as covering the living resources in the waters south of 45°S. These delegations pointed out that this area included substantial areas which were subject to national sovereignty, and that the papers did not recognize this fact. The Antarctic Treaty, the area of competence of which started at 60°S, had been entered into by the signatory powers in order to ensure that the area of Antarctica should be used only for peaceful activities and should be reserved as an area of unique importance for scientific study and research. These delegations said that the papers submitted to the Committee did not adequately recognize these principles, and in encouraging the commercialization of the living resources were in contravention to the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty. These delegations suggested that there was a need for more careful definition of the area of the proposed FAO programme and for observance of the rights of the coastal states which would necessarily apply to the programme's activities. They also suggested the need for a clarification of the terminology applied to the area.

47. Another delegation questioned the role of the Antarctic Treaty in relation to the use of the living resources of that area. This delegation contended that the original signatories to the Treaty wished to maintain the area as a scientific preserve instead of opening it up and accelerating the use of its vast resources for the benefit of the developing countries. Some delegations expressed the view that the opening of the area could make a great contribution to the implementation of the New International Economic Order proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly and this should be taken into account.

48. Several delegations described their research activities in the southern ocean. There was some difference of view as to the speed with which any substantial and economic utilization of the living marine resources could be affected due to the very difficult operating conditions in the area and because of problems in the preservation and processing of the catches.

49. Several delegations suggested that FAO should consider carefully how to distribute its resources as between various parts of its fishery programmes. They felt that in view of the long period that would probably be required to solve the technical problems connected with development of the resources of the southern oceans, high priority should meanwhile be given to programmes of more immediate and obvious benefit to developing countries. In particular, the Committee recognized that developing countries would need a great deal of assistance if they were to take the maximum advantage of the opportunities for full and rational utilization of the living resources within their expanded economic zones and to discharge their responsibilities in that respect.

---

1/ SCAR - Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

2/ SCOR - Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

3/ BIOMASS - Biological Investigation of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks

4/ ACMRR - Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research

(iii) The role of joint ventures in fishery development

50. The Committee on Fisheries at its Tenth Session decided that the role of joint ventures in fishery development was to be a major topic at the Eleventh Session. The item was considered on the basis of document COFI/77/8, The Department of Fisheries Work Programme on Joint Ventures, and document COFI/77/9, The Role of Joint Ventures in Fishery Development.

51. The Committee acknowledged the generally positive role played by joint ventures in the development of the fisheries sector of developing countries. The changes in the legal regime of the sea which were affecting the structure of world fisheries could be expected to lead to a further increase in the interest in this form of international cooperation, among others. An important consequence of recent international development has been the altered negotiating position of the countries concerned. This was an important element to be considered with respect to joint ventures, since satisfactory agreements would not be possible unless the basic needs and objectives of all parties were taken into account. In implementing joint ventures in fisheries, particularly for the transfer of technology, due account should be taken of the principles, criteria and codes being worked out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

52. Joint ventures should not be considered as the only means of establishing new fishery industries or the only channel for the transfer of technology and effective knowledge for fisheries development in developing countries. The cooperative nature of joint venture arrangements in bringing together technology, capital, and in certain cases excess fishing capacity, with under-exploited resources, make joint ventures an alternative tool for accelerated development. If joint ventures were to make a major contribution to development objectives, careful preparatory work was necessary from both sides, clearly specifying all the aims of the joint ventures in the selection of partners; relevant agreements and analysing, as appropriate, the feasibility of each investment project. In general, the prospects for success of a venture increased in proportion to the degree to which the negotiation of the agreement had achieved an equitable balance among the interests of partners.

53. More attention should be given to the formation of joint ventures which, in addition to fishing, covered a range of other fishery operations, including storage, processing, and marketing. These integrated enterprises are essential to the economies of developing countries through the creation of shore facilities and employment in new occupations. Other joint venture trends which should be encouraged were the enterprises in which more than two partners participated, including sometimes partners from both the public and the private sectors.

54. Several delegations stressed the primary role of private industry in developing joint venture operations and felt that more of FAO's effort should be aimed directly at assisting industry. Like private industry's role in joint ventures, the role of governments would need study in the future. Some delegates pointed out the type of measures that could be taken both by the host country government and the investor's government to stimulate the establishment of joint ventures and facilitate their operation. Incentives for foreign investment should be instituted judiciously, after assurance had been obtained that expected short- and long-term benefits would more than compensate for costs to the economy.

55. Joint venture clauses which required particular attention in the negotiation of agreements included:

- terms of the venture
- training provisions
- transfer of technology

The changing fisheries scene and the fact that not all countries had as yet drawn up fishery development plans reflecting the new situation, led some delegations to favour shorter-term agreements. Other delegations saw joint venture arrangements as a more permanent element of the fisheries scene.

56. One delegation expressed its views on the possibility of creating fisheries joint ventures on an international legal basis in the same way that similar enterprises had been set up in other activities in the world economy. Such enterprises would be set up under bilateral treaties and their operation would be regulated not by national law but by regulations laid down in those treaties and in statutes that would be part of the treaties. The same delegation also expressed the view that such a solution could have advantages, as for example the free and unrestricted movement of fishing vessels and exemption from customs duties in participating countries. It drew attention to the large amount of work that FAO could carry out in this report with a view to standardizing in all countries the formulas and procedures for setting up such joint ventures, giving them an international character. Another delegation, however, pointed out that, when such enterprises operated in waters under national jurisdiction they must be subject to national law and adapt themselves to the conditions laid down by the recipient country. Considering that the differences in aims and needs between recipient countries and the numerous possible types of joint venture agreements, it would for the moment be difficult - and several delegations pointed to this fact - to devise uniform rules valid world-wide.

57. The Committee generally recognized the importance of FAO's contribution in this field, particularly in view of the relevant provisions, specially those on transfer of technology being considered by the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. There was some difference of opinion on the range of activities FAO should undertake, with some delegations expressing the view that the Organization should limit itself to assembly, analysis, and dissemination of information and the provision of general guidelines, while others were in favour of a more active role, including provision of technical, legal, and economic advice on, and assistance in, negotiations.

58. In commenting on FAO activities specifically mentioned in COFI/77/8, the Committee considered that the joint venture guidelines currently under preparation would meet an important and urgent need for reference material. On a longer-term basis, the organization of contract negotiation training activities might fill the need for staff adequately trained to take part in discussions with prospective partners from other countries. To accomplish its purposes, the training programme would have to be practically oriented, with emphasis on economic and technical matters in addition to legal aspects. It was further emphasized that participants in management training should include middle-level staff.

59. The Committee was of the opinion that developing countries might want to take advantage of FAO's ability to provide a preliminary technical and economic assessment of joint venture proposals submitted to them by prospective partners.

60. The Committee's comments on the proposal for a World Conference on Fishery Joint Ventures - made by some member governments to FAO and referred to in paragraph 25 of COFI/77/8 - ranged from wholehearted approval to outright opposition. One delegation, supported by others, proposed that if it was agreed to hold such a conference, it should take place in a developing coastal country. In contrast, an alternative proposal to organize seminars, consultations, or workshops focussed on specific practical considerations rather than on well known generalities was generally endorsed. The above activities should be carried out in connection with further work being done in this field and the work of regional bodies.

61. Some members suggested a number of additional activities which FAO might undertake to assist in the joint ventures field. These included:

- Assistance to developing countries in drafting legislation relating to fishery joint ventures
- Publication of information on prices to ensure transfer pricing on a fair basis
- Examination of ways and means to shorten the time-consuming and costly joint venture negotiation process
- Establishment of a register of international joint venture agreements.

In the Committee's view FAO might intensify its activities in identifying investment opportunities in developing countries which might lead to the organization of mutually advantageous joint venture operations, as well as in searching for financial support, such as long-term loans, to remove an obstacle to setting up healthy enterprises. It was also felt that information should be assembled and analysed both on international joint venture agreements and on legislation and other measures adopted by host and investor country governments affecting the formation and operation of joint ventures. The Committee suggested that further work of FAO in respect of fishery joint ventures be reported to the Committee at its next session.

(d) Activities of regional fishery bodies

62. Under this item of the agenda the Chairman proposed and the Committee agreed to review the usefulness of the new presentation of material in the relevant documents (COFI/77/10 and its supplement) and to consider specific proposals concerning the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and for the establishment of a fishery commission for the Near East. The Committee agreed to the establishment of such a Commission and to discuss the future role of the regional fishery bodies in relation to the changes in the regime of the seas under item 5 of the agenda.

63. The Committee commended the Secretariat on its new presentation which was of great value because it contained information which only FAO was in a position to present in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The Committee requested that the document should be presented in the same manner on a regular basis in the future. While the document itself should contain information on recent activities, annexes should indicate the membership, functions and geographical area of competence of each body. This would enable the Committee to consider in the future the activities of the regional fishery bodies on the basis of up-to-date and complete information.

64. One delegation mentioned the necessity to include the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific as a regional body related to the fishery activities of the southeastern Pacific. Another delegation referred to the effective work carried out by the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission and its various working parties not only for inland fisheries in Europe but also for its work on related aspects of interest to developing countries such as water quality criteria for fish, aquaculture and pollution in inland waters.

(i) Statistics in the CECAF area

65. The Committee noted that in Resolution CECAF/V/1 which was adopted at the Fifth Session held in Lomé, Togo, in March 1977, CECAF had considered the difficulties encountered in obtaining complete and properly detailed statistics on the operations of some long range fleets and recommended that bilateral agreements between coastal states and countries outside the region should include provision for regular reporting by the latter to coastal states of data as specified in the CECAF statistical system; CECAF had further urged coastal states to take appropriate action against the fishing nations which were operating in the region if they failed to provide the required statistics.

66. The Committee on Fisheries, conscious of the importance of statistics for the better management of resources, endorsed the measures recommended by CECAF. It requested all interested countries to implement this resolution. It was suggested that in the future an item on the Committee's agenda could be devoted to a critical review of statistics at both national and regional levels.

(ii) Southern boundary of CEEAF area

67. The Committee was informed that at its Fifth Session CEEAF had considered that it was desirable to review the southern boundary of its geographic area of competence as defined in paragraph 1 and as referred to in paragraph 2 of its Statutes. At present, this boundary followed parallel 6° South which crossed the African coast at the mouth of the Congo (Zaire) River. It had been pointed out at the Session of CEEAF that the environment and the nature and distribution of fish populations were very similar in the areas between 10°N and 20°N on the one hand and between the Equator and 17°S on the other. From a biological point of view, there was no justification for setting the boundary at the mouth of the Congo (Zaire) River; on the contrary, there were cogent scientific arguments in favour of including the waters off Angola in the CEEAF area. CEEAF had further decided to request the Director-General of FAO to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee on Fisheries at its present session so that it might recommend to the FAO Council to amend the CEEAF Statutes accordingly.

68. The Committee considered this matter on the basis of the views expressed by the coastal countries in the CEEAF area that were present at the Eleventh Session of the Committee. It agreed to recommend to the Council of FAO that the southern boundary of the CEEAF area should be moved southward to include not only the waters off Angola as proposed by CEEAF but also the waters off Namibia. It was considered that such an extension would safeguard the interest of the people of Namibia. The Committee also agreed with the proposal that the UN Council for Namibia and the Organization of African Unity should be informed of its recommendation.

69. The Committee requested the Director-General to solicit the views of the Government of Angola on this matter so that they could be conveyed to the Council. It noted that Angola had applied for membership of FAO and it would therefore be possible for Angola to be selected as a member of CEEAF after its admission to the Organization.

70. It was noted that there should be sufficient consultation between members of CEEAF and of the International Commission for the South East Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF), if there was a need to work out the means for avoiding duplication in formulating management measures in areas off the coasts of states that belonged to both bodies.

(iii) Proposal to establish a fishery commission for the Near East

71. The Committee agreed, at the initiative of the countries concerned, on the proposal which had emanated from the Regional Conference for the Near East in 1974 and 1976 for the establishment of a fishery commission for the region. The commission would be open to FAO member countries which were serviced by the Regional Office for the Near East; it should deal with both marine and inland fisheries; and its functions should be based on the specific suggestions made by the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference in 1976. The Committee requested the Director General to consult the countries concerned and to solicit their views on

- (1) the way of financing the activities of the commission
- (2) the ways of coordinating the work of the proposed new commission and the activities of GFCM<sup>1/</sup> and IOFC<sup>2/</sup>

(e) Cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system

72. The Committee was informed of the extensive and complex nature of FAO's relations with other organizations and bodies in the United Nations system, as indicated by the accounts of some specific activities contained in document COFI/77/11. The Committee was informed that FAO was closely involved with and was contributing to international programmes concerned with ocean affairs. Since such FAO contributions made substantial demands on staff time, the Committee was requested to offer its views on the relative importance and priority of such activities within FAO's overall programme in fisheries.

1/ GFCM - General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean

2/ IOFC - Indian Ocean Fishery Commission

73. Delegations expressed understanding of the need for balance in the structure of FAO's overall programme; however, the Committee agreed that such factors as the emergence of extended jurisdictional limits and the trends towards regionalization were introducing, and would continue to introduce, complex problems associated with the management, development and institutional aspects of fisheries which must be discussed in various international fora. For these reasons FAO must continue to be fully informed of and to anticipate in international programmes concerned with ocean affairs in which the development and welfare of fisheries were vital considerations.

74. Some delegations observed that there appeared to be some duplication of activities between different organizations. There should be a clearer definition of tasks of each organization and a more precise identification of the objectives of each of them. In this connection several delegations asked that FAO provide the Committee with more detailed information on the activities of those bodies with which it had working relations, particularly where such activities had a bearing on fisheries matters. Such information could be usefully reviewed at the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. It was also suggested that the Committee would usefully be provided with reports of the achievements of cooperative activities with other organizations.

75. Other delegations pointed out that, with the intensive and multiple use of the oceans and the existing complex programmes of organizations of the United Nations system in international marine affairs, effective coordination of such activities, especially those that applied to fisheries, was essential. Bearing in mind that IOC and the organizations participating in ICSPRO were the UN bodies directly involved in the scientific aspects of ocean affairs, fuller use should be made of ICSPRO as a coordinating mechanism. It was also observed that with the increasing activity of bodies concerned with marine research, and with pollution problems at the regional level, there was growing need for the regional coordination of fisheries and related marine environmental activities.

76. The Committee was informed of activities of the IOC and of its collaboration with the organizations participating in ICSPRO. The Committee noted the view of the IOC Secretary that his organization had not fully utilized the potential of ACMRR as an advisory body to the Commission; it also noted his plans to rectify this in the future. The Committee agreed that it was essential that the FAO and IOC programmes be developed in harmony, especially as these relate to research on marine living resources, and that the special advisory role of ACMRR to both organizations in this regard should be recognized.

77. With regard to specific activities arising out of FAO's relations with other organizations, the Committee made the following observations:

- The Committee noted with satisfaction the close collaboration between FAO and IOC and emphasized the importance of strengthening such collaboration, especially at this time between IOCARIBE and WECAFC in the Caribbean region.
- The Committee welcomed the statement by the representative of WMO outlining the programme of that Organization. Marine meteorological and related oceanographic services were important for safe and economic fishing operations and hence corresponding extension of these support services should be ensured for the development of fisheries. The Committee recommended that WMO should be invited to pay particular attention to services especially in developing countries and with respect to waters off their coasts, and that the needs of the fishermen operating in near coastal waters should be given particular attention.
- The Committee welcomed effective working relationship that had been established with UNEP and noted with satisfaction that FAO was now executing eight marine projects funded by this programme.



- The Committee commended the useful work being carried out by FAO in collaboration with WHO in developing Codes of Practice for fish and fishery products. It expressed the hope that these Codes would be widely used in training and technical assistance programmes. It further noted a continuing need for collaboration with UNIDO in fish utilization and for greater participation by FAO in the activities of IMCO.
- The Committee noted that the terms of reference of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Science and its Applications had been broadened to cover all 'ocean affairs'. It requested that in future more detailed information on the activities of the Sub-Committee be provided in order to make a better assessment of its coordination functions. FAO's active participation in the activities of the ACC Sub-Committee was considered most desirable, particularly with a view to monitoring the prospective activities of all bodies in the UN system which might impinge on fisheries matters. The change in terms of reference made clearer the distinction between the role of the Sub-Committee, which involved wide participation, and that of ICSPRO, which was concerned with the activities of a smaller number of bodies in the more restricted field of marine science.

#### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGIME OF THE SEA AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES

78. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to discuss this item under the three following sub-items:

- (a) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
- (b) The future of the Committee on Fisheries
- (c) The future of regional fishery bodies

#### (a) United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

79. The Committee considered this item on the basis of documents COFI/77/12 and COFI/77/Inf.6. It commended the Secretariat on the usefulness and objectivity of the information supplied on the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference on the Law of the Sea that had been held in New York from 15 March to 7 May and from 2 August to 17 September 1976. The suggestion was made that the Secretariat should issue in one document all the accounts that had been submitted so far to the Committee on the sessions of the Sea-Bed Committee and of the Conference itself.

80. The Committee reiterated the appreciation it had expressed at previous sessions for the quality and objectivity of technical contributions provided by FAO to the work of the Conference. It requested the Secretariat to prepare an annotated compendium of legislative and regulatory measures enacted by coastal states to implement exclusive economic zones or fishery conservation zones, as well as an analysis of bilateral agreements concluded by coastal states as a result of the new regime of the oceans.

81. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a study of the provisions of the Revised Single Negotiating Text which relate to the work of FAO and that this work should include a technical and practical definition of the 'regions' referred to in the Revised Single Negotiating Text. In this respect, account should also be taken of the geographical area of competence of regional fishery bodies. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a programme for the development of the economic zones of the developing countries and to submit it to a future session of the Committee.

#### (b) The future of the Committee on Fisheries

82. This matter was discussed on the basis of documents COFI/77/13 and 14. The Committee took special note of the discussions of its Sub-Committee which had met at Lisbon in March 1976. It discussed in particular whether the Committee should remain as presently established under Article V of the FAO constitution as a permanent committee of the Council or whether it should be set up by an international convention concluded under Article XIV.

A majority of delegations who took the floor saw no need for changing the status of the Committee at the present time. They concluded that this was a matter which needed reflection and that it was still too early in the developments resulting from the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea for governments to make a final assessment of the Committee's role in the future. In the circumstances it was wiser to maintain an arrangement which had worked well in the past and could still be improved without major changes to the constitutional characteristics of the Committee.

83. A smaller number of delegations advocated the conversion of the Committee into an Article XIV body. These delegations believed that the Committee's present status limited its functions and that it was also hampered by financial and administrative limitations. In the opinion of these delegations, the negotiation of a Convention under Article XIV would provide an opportunity to define the objectives of the Committee, taking into account the present needs of the world community, and especially those resulting from the new ocean regime. In particular, it did not have a status similar to that of other international bodies outside FAO dealing with marine affairs. One delegation expressed the view that the Committee on Fisheries should have the same relation to FAO as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission had to Unesco. This would enable the Committee to bring about efficient cooperation in fisheries as part of food production activities and to interact with other similar bodies involved in ocean affairs on a worldwide basis and would give it the appropriate degree of autonomy to fulfill its tasks. Reference was also made to the time required to effect structural changes within the United Nations system and to the need to take account of the work being carried out by the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

84. Delegations agreed that a strengthening of the Committee on Fisheries could take place by concentrating on a few major tasks, as for example:

- The Committee should ensure that proper weight is given to fisheries in food policy formulation.
- The Committee should work toward the general objectives of the new international economic order to the end that fishery resources were used for the benefit of mankind.
- The Committee should take an active part in the food production process with respect to conflicting uses of the sea and participate in the formulation of an overall policy for ocean management.
- The Committee should contribute to the activities of all bodies dealing with the management of living resources of the high seas.
- The Committee should give priority attention to the development of the exclusive economic zones of the developing coastal countries and to other relevant provisions of the Revised Single Negotiating Text.

85. The Committee requested the Secretariat to examine the report of the Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries in the light of the discussions at the present session, and formulate a set of questions which would identify the options open to the Committee. A document incorporating these questions should be circulated to Members of the Committee in time for their consideration before its next session. A session of the Committee should be held in 1978, having re-assessment of its future as a major item on its agenda.

86. The Committee discussed a proposal that the Chairman and other officers should act as a steering committee not only during sessions but also in the interim between sessions but it was pointed out by the Secretary that this would require a change in the Rules of Procedure and a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications before this could be formally implemented. It was then suggested that as a practical and immediate arrangement the Chairman and other officers might maintain close liaison with the Secretariat on an informal basis.

(c) The future of regional fishery bodies

87. This subject was discussed on the basis of information given in document COFI/77/10 and COFI/77/10, Sup.1, and on the observations of the Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries, reported in paragraphs 44 to 61 of document COFI/77/14. The Secretariat introduced the subject with reference to a series of questions raised by these documents, consideration of which might guide the Committee in its present works. These questions concerned the desirability, purposes and methodology of any critical review of performance of existing regional fisheries bodies in which COFI might engage; the identification of gaps in species coverage; the geographic or functional scope of these bodies; the development of views in Member Countries since the Sub-Committee meeting in Lisbon in March 1976 in the light of changes in states' practice and the progress of the Conference on the Law of the Sea over that period; and, with reference specifically to the bodies established under the FAO constitution, the possible need for an evolution of those bodies towards greater autonomy, and consideration of the relation between them and the regional FAO projects funded from UNDP and other sources.

88. The Committee agreed that the importance of regional bodies would not diminish as a consequence of changes in the law of the sea, although the functions of many of them would eventually become substantially modified. These bodies varied greatly among themselves in their functions, in their manner of working and in their problems, and no common pattern of change could yet be discerned. One delegation expressed concern that in the transition to new functions and forms there should be no hiatus in management arrangements. Such discontinuities could be damaging. Some delegations considered that no general review by the Committee on Fisheries of the performance of non-FAO regional fishery bodies was called for at this time. Other delegations felt that the Committee should continue to be active in this matter in response to requests from these bodies themselves. It was suggested that the bodies themselves and their Members might be invited to prepare and make available to COFI accounts of their own problems and the steps being taken to resolve them. With respect to the FAO bodies, although the initiative to respond to the new situation also rested primarily with the bodies themselves, the existence of a common FAO Secretariat and of certain common problems arising from the nature of their membership, meant that COFI had a significant coordinating role to play. Some delegations also suggested that the ACMRR should be used to make technical studies of specific problems which were being raised more or less simultaneously in working groups of several of the FAO bodies.

89. Several delegations emphasized the need for the servicing of the FAO bodies to be progressively decentralized. The Members should themselves be encouraged to provide additional support to these bodies, although some administrative difficulties in this respect were foreseen by some governments; this complex question was being studied in certain cases.

90. The consequences of the creation of regional bodies concerned generally with marine science and with sea pollution were discussed. It was agreed that close coordination was called for in the work of the regional fishery bodies with these new bodies, as well as with some which, as in the Mediterranean, had existed for some years; one delegation suggested that where possible integration should be achieved by broadening the functions of existing bodies rather than by the creation of additional bodies. It was agreed that ICSPRO had a useful role to play in ensuring coherent development. FAO should also take the initiative on this matter and report as far as possible to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries on the results.

91. Some delegations suggested that whereas bodies concerned with research and the evaluation of scientific results might cover large sea areas, bodies having fisheries development and management functions might best evolve on a sub-regional basis. In any case it was important that there should be no overlap in functions of different bodies.

92. The Committee emphasized the need for a close relationship to be established in each area between the regional fishery body and fishery development projects in the area. A suggestion was made that the staff of development projects might in certain cases be merged with the secretariat of the intergovernmental body to achieve more effectively related institutional and industrial developments; it was agreed that this interesting idea should be explored by the Secretariat.

93. Several delegations observed that some regional bodies, particularly the FAO bodies, were concerned with the transfer of technology as well as with prevention of overfishing and related questions; with respect to this function COFI had an important catalytic role to play, including assistance in planning any structural changes that may be called for. These delegations felt that the future of FAO's role in fishery matters depended on the success with which it adapted to change, and critical studies were needed to determine how the activities of FAO in general and of COFI in particular might be strengthened; appropriate and coordinated regional activities might be the key to such strengthening.

94. Finally, it was agreed that the Secretariat should prepare and submit regularly to COFI expanded descriptions and analyses regarding the situation of the regional fishery bodies; especially, but not only, those under FAO and those concerned with resources beyond the limits of national jurisdictions. In addition, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit to its next session a paper containing details of the funding of the FAO bodies including support from other sources such as the regional projects; the paper should also indicate the level of funding needed for them to become fully effective.

#### MAJOR PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

95. The document COFI/77/15 was introduced by the Secretariat and attention was drawn to the main purpose of the Committee on Fisheries in relation to FAO's work, in providing advice and guidance to the Department. It was pointed out that the rate of growth of fish production from known and familiar resources had declined in recent years. More attention, therefore, would have to be directed to neglected or underexploited resources, on securing the best possible catch through appropriate management, and to exploitation of unconventional resources. The stress would be on increasing the proportion of catches directly consumed as food, on the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture, on reducing post-harvest losses, on conservation of resources and protection against pollution, on socio-economic and institutional aspects of fisheries and, in particular, on the problems of small-scale fisheries. The document first delineated the strategy of the Organization and then proceeded to outline the programme of work in terms of information services; technical services of exploitation and utilization, comprising resource studies, investment and development, technology and utilization; and policy and planning, including international coordination; and finally the Field Programme.

96. While indicating support for the general trends of the programme, several delegations expressed concern that the paper was generally lacking in detail sufficient for the Committee to perform effectively its advisory role. These delegations felt that the presentation of the Field Programme was inadequate and regretted that the past practice of considering field programmes in each programme area had not been followed. Other delegations agreed that the paper described well the overall tasks to be undertaken by the Department but they wished to have more information on proposed activities, including explanations in terms of changes in the structure and in the distribution of financial resources within the Department. A remark was made that the preparation of a paper giving such information was not practicable in view of the guidelines set by the FAO Council for the overall format of programme documents.

97. The Committee approved the major trends, such as decentralization of activities, training and the strengthening of the developmental aspects of the work of the Department. The intention to concentrate data information and statistical activities in one unit was welcomed as well as the proposal structurally to combine responsibilities for inland water fisheries and for aquaculture.

98. It was pointed out that the proposed budget was inadequate particularly in view of the responsibilities that would devolve on the developing countries with the establishment of exclusive economic zones. Budgetary provision would also be needed for annual meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and for associated preparatory work. The socio-economic aspects of fishery development were stressed and the strengthening of regional bodies was considered to be a priority. It was generally agreed that training and education needed emphasis. An evaluation of the results obtained so far on these matters would be useful to provide guidance for future orientation.

99. Delegates requested information on the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO and its relation with the activities of the Department. The Secretariat responded by informing the Committee of the origins and purposes of the programme and the procedures and the manner of its functioning. Its main purpose was to give FAO the ability to intervene in field activities in order to catalyze further development and to give limited financial assistance in urgent situations. The emphasis was on food production in the least developed countries and assistance was given at the request of Member Governments although activities of a regional nature were not necessarily excluded. In the 1976-77 biennium a total of 65 projects amounting to US\$ 5.2 million had been approved, of which six were for fisheries, estimated to cost US\$ 400 000. Nine other fishery projects were under consideration. It would appear that the share of fisheries in this programme would amount to 10-15 percent of the total.

100. The proposal to develop cooperation between institutes in the developed and developing countries and between developing countries was welcomed. In this connexion, the proposal to establish a regional aquaculture research and training centre in Latin America as part of a global network of regional centres, was strongly supported. FAO's constitutional role in providing information of a global nature to both, developed and developing countries was noted while some concern was expressed about the reduction of resources for work on fisheries planning and policy. Particular reference was made to the success of the regional and interregional programmes. Attention was drawn to the need to strengthen the activities of the Department in inland fisheries and aquaculture, which were considered to have great potential. The Department was requested to examine the possibility of subregional programmes to help developing countries make better use of the resources which would come under their jurisdiction in the exclusive economic zones. Suggestions were also made for more effective liaison with investment agencies and for strengthening the legal unit in order to enable it to provide assistance in the drafting of fisheries legislation, fishery agreements, instruments for joint venture, etc.- activities the importance of which would increase with the changes in the ocean regime. It was also noted that questions concerning aquatic environment would benefit from structural integration. The work of the Department in preparing training manuals and guidelines was greatly appreciated and it was suggested that more funds should be allocated for publications. While assisting in the transfer of technology was considered an important activity, it was pointed out that there was need to take great care in the selection of appropriate technology.

101. The UNDP Representative described involvement of UNDP in fishery development programmes and referred to the liquidity crisis which had affected the availability of funds for UNDP projects as a whole. The crisis had now been overcome by austerity measures and generous contributions from several governments; however, there had been a US\$ 30 million reduction in the 1977 programme. Nevertheless, it was noted that about 80 percent of the FAO fisheries field programme was still funded by UNDP. Some of the losses to the fisheries programme had been made up by extra contributions by donor governments through such regional and interregional programmes as CECAF, the Indian Ocean Programme and the South China Sea Programme. The strategy of UNDP was based on the development of a series of interregional and regional programmes which would provide overall support to national activities. In the 1977-81 cycle it would continue to pursue this strategy with emphasis on interregional and global programmes including aquaculture.

102. In answer to a question put by one delegation, the Secretariat explained that the discrepancy between the figures provided under each subprogramme and the total budget was accounted for by the fact that the provision for programme management, amounting to

US\$ 2 061 000, had not been shown as a separate item. The total net increase envisaged for the next biennium was about 2.5 percent, which corresponded to the rate of increase for the Organization as a whole. Separate adjustments would be made for cost increases. The Department had to work within these limitations and shifts in allocations had been made particularly to ensure an effective field programme. Resources would also be used more efficiently by unifying activities. Savings arising from proposed staff reductions would be allocated for consultancies in particularly important areas. The detailed programme of work and budget was being prepared and would be available later in the year.

#### MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE OF FAO

103. The Committee was given an account, in document COFI/77/16, of the matters of concern or interest to it that had been considered by the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions of the FAO Conference and that were not covered under other items of the agenda.

104. As requested by the Conference, the Committee agreed unanimously to amend its Rules of Procedure so as to bring them into line with the relevant provisions of the FAO Basic Texts that had been amended by the Conference.

105. The Committee also considered it advisable to take advantage of this revision of its Rules of Procedure to effect some editorial changes in the text of the Rules as suggested by the Secretariat in document COFI/77/16.

106. The amended text of the Rules of Procedure is reproduced below with the deletions in square brackets and the additions underlined:

#### RULE I

##### Officers

1. At the first session / after the election of its members by the Council, pursuant to Rule XXX.1 of the General Rules of the Organization / in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of its Members, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairman and new Vice-Chairmen and who will act as a Steering Committee during sessions.

2. The Chairman, or in his absence the first Vice-Chairman, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairman and the first Vice-Chairman not being able to preside at a meeting, the Committee shall appoint one of the other Vice-Chairmen or, failing these, / another / a representative of one of its Members to take the chair.

3. The Director-General of the Organization shall appoint a secretary who shall perform such duties as the work of the Committee may require and prepare the records of the proceedings of the Committee.

#### RULE II

##### Sessions

1. The Committee shall hold sessions as provided in Rule XXX.4 and 5 of the General Rules of the Organization.

2. Any number of separate meetings may be held during each session of the Committee.

3. The sessions of the Committee shall in the years immediately following a regular session of the Conference be held at the seat of the Organization; in other years they may be held in another place in pursuance of a decision taken by the Committee in consultation with the Director-General.

4. Notice of the date and place of each session shall normally be communicated at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, and to such nonmember States / nations / and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.
5. Each Member / Nation / of the Committee may appoint alternates and advisers to its representative on the Committee.
6. Presence of representatives of / Members representing / a majority of the Members / Nations / of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for any formal action by the Committee.

### RULE III

#### Attendance

1. Participation of international organizations in an observer capacity in the work of the Committee shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization, 1/ as well as by the General Rules of the Organization on relations with international organizations.
2. Attendance by nonmember States / nations / of the Organization at sessions of the Committee shall be governed by the principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference.
3. (a) Meetings of the Committee shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides to meet in private for discussion of any items on its agenda.  
  
(b) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (c) below, any Member Nation not represented on the Committee, any Associate Member or any nonmember State / nation / invited to attend in an observer capacity a session of the Committee may submit memoranda and participate without vote in any discussion at a public or private meeting of the Committee.  
  
(c) In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may decide to restrict attendance at private meetings to the representative or observer of each Member Nation of the Organization.

### RULE IV

#### Agenda and documents

1. The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, shall prepare a provisional agenda and shall normally circulate it at least two months in advance of the session to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to all nonmember States / nations / and international organizations invited to attend the session.
2. All Member Nations of the Organization and Associate Members acting within the limits of their status may request the Director-General normally not less than 30 days

---

1/ It is understood that in this context the terms "Constitution" and "the General Rules of the Organization" are to be taken to include all general rules and policy statements formally adopted by the Conference and intended to supplement the Constitution and the Rules, such as the "Statement of principles relating to the granting of observer status to nations," /, the "Principles and procedures which should govern conventions and agreements concluded under Articles XIV and XV of the Constitution and Commissions and Committees established under Article VI of the Constitution" / and the general rules regarding relationships between the Organization and governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

before the proposed date of the session to insert an item on the provisional agenda. The Director-General shall thereupon circulate the proposed item to all Members of the Committee, together with any necessary papers.

3. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. The Committee in session may by general consent amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item, provided that no matter referred to it by the Council or on the request of the Conference be omitted from the agenda.

4. Documents not already circulated shall be dispatched with the provisional agenda, or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### RULE V

##### Voting

1. Each Member of the Committee shall have one vote.

2. The decisions of the Committee shall be ascertained by the Chairman, who shall resort upon the request of one or more Members to a vote, in which case the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization shall apply mutatis mutandis.

#### RULE VI

##### Records and reports

1. At each session, the Committee shall approve a report to the Council embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views. Any recommendations adopted by the Committee which affect the programme or finances of the Organization shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council.

2. Reports of sessions shall be circulated to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and to nonmember States / Nations invited to attend the session, as well as to interested international organizations entitled to be represented at the session.

3. The comments of the Committee on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies and, if one or more Members / Nations of the Committee so request, the views of those Members / Nations shall be incorporated into the Committee's report. If any Member / Nations shall be incorporated into the Committee's report. If any Member / Nation so requests, this part of the Committee's report shall be circulated as soon as possible by the Director-General to the States / Nations or international organizations which normally receive the reports of the subsidiary body in question. The Committee may also request the Director-General, in transmitting the report and records of its proceedings to Members / Nations to call particular attention to its views and comments on the report of any of its subsidiary bodies.

4. The Committee shall determine the procedures in regard to press communiqués concerning its activities.

#### RULE VII

##### Subsidiary bodies

1. In accordance with the provisions of Rule XXX.10 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee may, when necessary, establish subcommittees, subsidiary working parties or study groups, subject to the necessary funds being available in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization, and may include in the



membership of such subcommittees, subsidiary working parties or study groups Member Nations that are not Members of the Committee and Associate Members. The membership of such subcommittees, subsidiary working parties and study groups established by the Committee may include States / nations which, while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connexion with the establishment of subsidiary bodies, the Committee shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

3. The Committee shall determine the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies, who shall report to the Committee. The reports of the subsidiary bodies shall be made available for information to all members of the subsidiary bodies concerned, all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization, non-member States / nations invited to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and to interested international organizations entitled to attend such sessions.

#### RULE VIII

##### Suspension of rules

The Committee may decide to suspend any of the foregoing Rules of Procedure, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given and that the action contemplated is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. <sup>1/</sup> Such notice may be waived if no Member objects.

#### RULE IX

##### Amendment of rules

The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend its Rules of Procedure, provided that such amendment is consistent with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. No proposal for the amendment of these Rules shall be included in the agenda of any session of the Committee unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Director-General to Members of the Committee at least 30 days before the opening of the session.

#### SUGGESTED MAJOR ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

107. The Committee noted the topics that had been suggested in document COFI/77/17 as possible major items on the agenda of its Twelfth Session.

108. The Committee had already decided to have shorter agendas in the future and in previous discussions had drawn attention to subjects which it deemed important for consideration at its Twelfth Session. These included: assistance to coastal states in using the resources within the area of extended jurisdiction; adjustments required in the characteristics and activities of the regional fishery bodies; and lastly the effects of the new regime of the sea on the Committee itself and on the Fisheries Department. The Committee came to the conclusion that it did not need to choose extra major items for the agenda of its Twelfth Session.

109. It was pointed out that in any case a certain degree of flexibility was needed in the light of further developments in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

---

<sup>1/</sup> See footnote to Rule III, paragraph 1

ANY OTHER MATTERS

110. The Arab speaking countries present at the session requested that there should be Arabic interpretation at future sessions of the Committee. The Committee took favourable note of this request taking into account the fact that Arabic interpretation for meetings in general would be considered by the Conference of FAO at its Nineteenth Session in 1977.

111. The Committee agreed that in future the Chairman and the other officers should be elected at the end of the first session in each biennium, due regard being had for an equitable breakdown between the regions.

112. The Committee discussed membership of the Drafting Committee and expressed the view that the number should be limited to a maximum of two per language; this would make six with the present languages and eight if Arabic was added, having due regard for balanced breakdown between regions. The matter needed further consideration and should be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

113. The Committee expressed the view that as a result of changes in the regime of the sea it should meet once a year for at least the next few years. It suggested that the next session should be held in the spring of 1978 but that the Director-General should take a decision in consultation with the Chairman in the light of further developments in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

114. The Committee noted that the next session would be held in Rome in accordance with provisions of Rule II-3 of its Rules of Procedure.

\* \* \* \* \*

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Election of officers
4. Review of the state of world fisheries
  - (a) World fisheries development 1962-1975: An appraisal of performance compared with the Indicative World Plan projections
  - (b) The present state of the world fishery resources
  - (c) Fish production, utilization and trade
    - (i) Fishery commodity situation
    - (ii) Prospects and requirements for the better utilization of fishery resources
    - (iii) The role of joint ventures in fishery development
  - (d) Activities of regional fishery bodies
  - (e) Cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system
5. Developments in the regime of the sea and their implications for fisheries
6. Major proposals for future activities of the Department of Fisheries
7. Matters considered by the Council and Conference of FAO.
8. Suggested major items for the agenda of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries
9. Any other matters
10. Date and place of the next session
11. Adoption of the report

\* \* \* \* \*

Appendix B

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Algeria

Argentina

QUADRI, R.P.  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto  
Arenales 761  
Buenos Aires

Australia

PURNELL-WEBB, E.A.  
Assistant Secretary  
Operations Branch  
Fisheries Division  
Department of Primary Industry  
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

SAULT, J.  
Embassy of Australia  
Via Alessandria 215  
00198 Rome

Bahrain

FAKHRO, K.  
Superintendent of Fisheries  
Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture  
P.O. Box 251  
Manama

Bangladesh

LATIF, A.  
Director of Fisheries  
81, Kakrail Road  
Dacca

Belgium

REGNIER, A.  
Représentant permanent adjoint  
Représentation permanente de la Belgique  
auprès de la FAO  
Via dei Monti Parioli 12  
00197 Rome

Brazil

ROSA, H.  
Senior Adviser for International Fishery Affairs  
Superintendency for Fisheries Development  
(SUDEPE)  
Avenida W-3 Norte  
Quadra 506 Bloco C  
70000 Brasilia, D.F.

Bulgaria

Cameroon

Canada

LUCAS, K.C.  
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister  
Fisheries and Marine Service  
Department of the Environment  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

NEEDLER, Dr. A.W.  
Senior Adviser  
Fisheries and Marine Service  
Department of the Environment  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

VERNON, G.C.  
Acting Director-General  
International Directorate  
Fisheries and Marine Service  
Department of the Environment  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

HART, R.  
Senior Adviser, International Development  
Fisheries and Marine Service  
Department of Fisheries and Environment  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

HINDS, L.  
Special Adviser  
Fisheries Section  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Ottawa, Ontario

CURRIE, J.  
First Secretary  
Canadian Embassy  
Via G.B. de Rossi 27  
00161 Rome

Cape Verde

BETTENCOURT SANTOS, H.  
Directeur national des pêches  
Ministère de l'économie  
B.P. 30  
Praia

RODRIGUES, E.  
Conseiller juridique  
Ministère de l'économie  
B.P. 30  
Praia

Central African Empire

MENGUI, A.D.  
Chargé d'affaires  
Ambassade de l'Empire Centrafricain  
Via G. Pisanelli 4  
00196 Rome

Chile

LUCO ECHEVARRIA, L.O.  
Embajador de Chile ante la FAO  
Representación Permanente de Chile  
ante la FAO  
Via Panisperna 207  
00184 Roma

ZEGERS, F.  
Embajador Alterno de Chile ante los  
Organismos Internacionales de  
Naciones Unidas  
56, Moilebeau  
Genève

FILIPPI, A.  
Presidente y Director Ejecutivo  
Instituto de Fomento Pesquero  
José Domingo Cañas 2277  
Santiago

CAEZAS, R.  
Jefe, División de Planificación y  
Desarrollo  
Instituto de Fomento Pesquero  
José Domingo Cañas 2277  
Santiago

ATRIA, M.  
Primer Secretario  
Representación Permanente de Chile ante la FAO  
Via Panisperna 207  
00184 Roma

Colombia

SAENZ, E.  
Consejero  
Embajada de la República de Colombia  
Via Giuseppe Pisanelli 4  
00196 Roma

Congo

GAMO-KUBA, G.  
Conseiller pour les affaires économiques  
Ambassade de la République populaire  
du Congo  
Via Savoia 80A  
00198 Rome

Costa Rica

DI MOTTOLA, Excmo. Sr. D. Carlos  
Embajador de Costa Rica ante la FAO  
Representación Permanente de Costa Rica  
ante la FAO  
Lungotevere Flaminio 24  
00196 Roma

Cuba

MOENA M., A.  
Director de Ciencia y Técnica  
Ministerio de Industria Pesquera  
Ensenada de Pote y Atares  
La Habana

DIAZ BUSTABAD, E.  
Representante Permanente Alterno  
Representación Permanente de Cuba ante  
la FAO  
Via Gramsci 14  
00197 Roma

Cyprus

Czechoslovakia

STAMPACH, His Excellency Svatopluk  
Minister Plenipotentiary to FAO  
Embassy of the Czechoslovak Socialist  
Republic  
Via dei Colli della Farnesina 144  
00194 Rome

Denmark

LØKKEGAARD, K.  
Head of Division  
Ministry of Fisheries  
16 Borgergade  
Copenhagen

CHRISTENSEN, G.  
Development Aid Officer  
DANINA  
Copenhagen

Ecuador

ESPINOSA, F.  
Encargado de Negocios del Ecuador  
Embajada de la República del Ecuador  
Via Guido d'Arezzo 14  
00198 Roma

Egypt

REDA, Dr. F.  
Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Via Salaria 265  
00199 Rome

El Salvador

GARCIA, J.M.D.  
Representante Alterno de El Salvador  
ante la FAO  
Embajada de la República de El Salvador  
Piazzale delle Belle Arti 1  
00196 Roma

Finland

NISKANEN, P.  
Inspector of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Hallituskatu 3A  
SF-00170 Helsinki 17

AIRAKSINEN, K.  
Inspector of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Hallituskatu 3A  
SF-00170 Helsinki 17

SJÖBLOM, Prof. V.  
Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute  
P.O. Box 193  
00131 Helsinki 13

France

LAEROUSSE, B.  
Sous-directeur  
Direction des pêches maritimes  
Secrétariat général de la marine marchande  
3, place de Fontenoy  
75007 Paris

LETACONNOUX, R.J.M.  
Directeur adjoint  
Institut scientifique et technique des  
pêches maritimes  
B.P. 1049  
44037 Nantes Cedex

Germany (Federal Republic of)

MÖCKLINGHOFF, G.  
Ministerialdirigent  
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture  
and Forestry  
5300 Bonn

SAHRHAGE, Dr. D.  
Lt. Direktor und Professor  
Bundesforschungsanstalt für Fischerei  
Palmaille 9  
2000 Hamburg 50

Ghana

MENDS, H.  
Permanent Representative of Ghana to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Ghana  
Via Ostriana 4  
00199 Rome

DANSO, Miss S.  
Alternate Permanent Representative of  
Ghana to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Ghana  
Via Ostriana 4  
00199 Rome

Greece

PAPAGEORGIU, Son Excellence Michel-Akis  
Envoyé extraordinaire et Ministre pléni-  
potentiaire auprès de la FAO  
Représentation permanente de la République  
hellénique auprès de la FAO  
Viale Liegi 33  
00198 Rome

Guinea

CAMARA, J.S.  
Ministre conseiller  
Ambassade de la République de Guinée  
Via L. Luciani 41  
00197 Rome

FOFANA, C.M.  
Chargé des organismes internationaux  
Ambassade de la République de Guinée  
Via L. Luciani 41  
00197 Rome

Guinea-Bissau

TURPIN, J.  
Secrétaire d'Etat des pêches  
Comissariado Principal  
Secretaria de Estado das Pescas  
Praça dos Heróis  
Bissau

ALMEIDA, P.  
Comissariado Principal  
Secretaria de Estado das Pescas  
Praça dos Heróis  
Bissau

Hungary

DOERAI, Dr. L.  
Deputy Head of Department  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Kossuth Lajos tér 11  
Budapest

THURANSZKY, Z.  
Senior Official  
Fishery Research Institute  
Szarvas

HIDVEGI, G.  
Permanent Representative of Hungary to FAO  
Embassy of the Hungarian People's Republic  
Via Giulia 1  
00186 Rome

India

GEORGE, Prof. P.C.  
Joint Commissioner (Fisheries)  
Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Krishi Bhavan  
New Delhi

SARHEN, J.S.  
Agricultural Attaché  
Embassy of the Republic of India  
Via XX Settembre 5  
00187 Rome

Indonesia

SARDJONO, I.  
Director-General of Fisheries  
Department of Agriculture  
Jalan Salemba Raya 16  
Jakarta 1

ATMOWASONO, H.  
Director of Planning  
Directorate-General of Fisheries  
Department of Agriculture  
Jalan Salemba Raya 16  
Jakarta 1

Iraq

ALMALAIKA, I.S.  
State Fisheries Company  
Baghdad

Ireland

POWER, J.  
Principal Officer  
Department of Fisheries  
24, Upper Merrion Street  
Dublin 2

Israel

DOUEK, Dr. E.  
Permanent Representative of Israel to FAO  
Embassy of Israel  
Via Michele Mercati 12  
00197 Rome

Italy

OLIVA, Dr. A.  
Directeur de section  
Direction générale des pêches maritimes  
Ministère de la marine marchande  
Viale Asia  
00144 Rome

CAPODILUPO, Dr. E.  
Direction générale des pêches maritimes  
Ministère de la marine marchande  
Viale Asia  
00144 Rome

Ivory Coast

JONAS, Y.A.  
Attaché  
Ambassade de Côte-d'Ivoire  
Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 4-6  
00161 Rome

Japan

TANABE, R.  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Japan  
Via Quintino Sella 60  
00187 Rome

MORIA, S.  
International Affairs Division  
Fisheries Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
2-1 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Kenya

ODERO, N.  
Director of Fisheries  
Fisheries Department  
P.O. Box 40241  
Nairobi

Korea (Republic of)

JOO HONG JANG  
Deputy Director-General  
Office of Fisheries  
Dae-Woo Building 19th  
Yang-Dong Jung-ku  
Seoul

LEE CHANG KI  
Fisheries Attaché  
Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
Via Barnaba Oriani 30  
00197 Rome

Lebanon

Liberia

FREEMAN, A.K.  
Director  
Fisheries Division  
(Bureau of Fisheries)  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Monrovia

Libya

EL-SENOUSI, A.  
Ministry of Food and Marine Wealth  
Malek Seoud Street  
El Bahr  
Tripoli

EL-KOUR, A.  
Ministry of Food and Marine Wealth  
Eldahmany  
Tripoli

Madagascar

RALIBERA, R.  
Représentant permanent adjoint de  
Madagascar auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade de Madagascar  
Via R. Zandonai 84/A  
00194 Rome

Malawi

MATHOTHO, A.J.  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 593  
Lilongwe

Malaysia



Malta

Mauritania

Morocco

M'CHACHTI, M.  
Directeur général adjoint  
Office national des pêches  
13/15, rue Chevalier Bayard  
Casablanca

POINSARD, F.  
Biologiste Conseiller de la FAO attaché à  
l'Office national des pêches  
13/15, rue Chevalier Bayard  
Casablanca

Netherlands

STOFFELS, A.  
Cabinet Adviser in charge of international  
matters  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
1e van den Boschstraat 4  
The Hague

FRELING, A.C.  
Fisheries Department  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
1e van den Boschstraat 4  
The Hague

DE BAKKER, G.  
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands  
to FAO  
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands to FAO  
Via Australia 2  
00144 Rome

DE JONG, K.A.  
Alternate Permanent Representative of the  
Netherlands to FAO  
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands to FAO  
Via Australia 2  
00144 Rome

New Zealand

CUNNINGHAM, B.T.  
Director  
Fisheries Management Division  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 2298  
Wellington

PEARCE, Miss A.J.  
Permanent Representative of New Zealand  
to FAO  
Embassy of New Zealand  
Via Zara 28  
00198 Rome

LEAR, M.R.  
Alternate Permanent Representative of  
New Zealand to FAO  
Embassy of New Zealand  
Via Zara 28  
00198 Rome

Nicaragua

MATAMOROS HUECK, Dr. B.E.  
Consejero de Embajada  
Via Vincenzo Tiberio 64  
00191 Rome

Nigeria

DADA, B.F.  
Director  
Federal Department of Fisheries  
Victoria Island  
P.M.B. 12529  
Lagos

Norway

SAETHERSDAL, G.  
Director  
Institute of Marine Research  
P.O. Box 1870-72  
5011 Bergen-Nordnes

HAUGE, M.  
Ministry of Fisheries  
International Division  
Drammensveien 20  
Oslo 2

MIETLE, P.L.  
Directorate of Fisheries  
Box 185-186  
5001 Bergen

MORK ULNES, D.  
Permanent Representative of Norway to FAO  
The Royal Norwegian Embassy  
Via delle Terme Deciane 10  
00153 Rome

Oman

AL-SHANFARI, A.S.S.  
Director-General of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,  
Petroleum and Minerals  
P.O. Box 551  
Muscat

SAAD, A.G.Y.  
Adviser  
Directorate-General of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,  
Petroleum and Minerals  
P.O. Box 551  
Muscat

Pakistan

MASUD, P.  
Agricultural Counsellor  
Embassy of Pakistan  
Lungotevere delle Armi 22  
00195 Rome

Peru

PEREZ-PRIETO, Dr. R.  
Director General  
Oficina de Cooperación Técnica y Económica  
Ministerio de Pesquería  
Avenida Javier Prado s/n  
San Luis, Lima

GARRION, S.  
Ministerio de Pesquería  
San Borja  
Lima

Philippines

CARANDANG, H.M.  
Agricultural Attaché and Alternate  
Permanent Representative of the  
Philippines to FAO  
Embassy of the Philippines  
Via San Valentino 12-14  
00197 Rome

Poland

WŁODARCZYK, H.  
Director  
Maritime Department  
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Shipping  
ul. Wiejska 10  
00-950 Warsaw 1

DUDKIEWICZ, A.J.  
Chief Expert for International Cooperation  
in Fisheries  
Maritime Department  
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Shipping  
ul. Wiejska 10  
00-950 Warsaw 1

ELWERTOWSKI, Dr. J.  
Sea Fisheries Institute  
Al. Zjednoczenia 1  
Gdynia

MUSZALSKI, C.  
Counsellor of Embassy  
Deputy Permanent Representative of  
Poland to FAO  
Embassy of the Polish People's Republic  
Via P.P. Rubens 20  
00197 Rome

Portugal

RUIVO, Dr. M.  
Director-General attached to the Cabinet  
of the Minister of Agriculture and  
Fisheries  
Secretariat of State for Fisheries  
Praça Duque da Terceira 24-2/DRT  
Lisboa 2

GONÇALVES, Dr. Maria Eduarda  
Office for International Liaison and  
Cooperation  
Secretariat of State for Fisheries  
Praça Duque da Terceira 24-3  
Lisboa 2

DE SANTA CLARA, G.  
Permanent Representative of Portugal to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Portugal  
Via Salaria 298/A  
00199 Rome

Qatar

Romania

CONSTANTIN, D.  
Directeur  
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'industrie  
alimentaire  
Via Republica 24  
Bucharest

CELAN, P.  
Conseiller  
Représentant suppléant de la République  
socialiste de Roumanie auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade de la République socialiste  
de Roumanie  
Via N. Tartaglia 36  
00197 Rome

Saudi Arabia

MANII, S.  
Ministry of Agriculture and Water  
Jeddah

Senegal

MADEMBA-SY, Son Excellence M. Samba  
Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipoten-  
tiaire du Sénégal auprès de la FAO  
Représentation permanente du Sénégal  
auprès de la FAO  
Viale Pasteur 66  
00144 Rome

BA, M.  
Directeur général des pêches et de  
l'océanographie  
Ministère du développement rural  
B.P. 289  
Dakar

BABACAR, N.  
Conseiller d'Ambassade  
Représentation permanente du Sénégal  
auprès de la FAO  
Viale Pasteur 66  
00144 Rome

Sierra Leone

THOMAS, C.J.  
First Secretary  
Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone  
Via Paolo Frisi 44  
00197 Rome

Spain

MESEGUER SANCHEZ, J.L.  
Consejero Legal  
Dirección General de Pesca Marítima  
Ruiz de Alarcón 1  
Madrid 14

Sri Lanka

GOONEWARDENE, E.G.  
Secretary  
Ministry of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 1707  
Galle Face  
Colombo 3

Sudan

KHALIL, A.A.  
Permanent Representative of Sudan to FAO  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of  
the Sudan  
Via dei Caudini 2  
00185 Rome

Sweden

SORENSEN, I.  
Fiskeristyrelsen  
Fack  
S-40310 Goteborg

LINDQUIST, Dr. A.  
Director  
Institute of Marine Research  
Fishery Board of Sweden  
S-453 00 Lysekil

AUGUSTINSON, L.  
Deputy Head  
Agriculture Division  
SIDA  
Fack  
10525 Stockholm

Thailand

SITHIMUNGKA, A.  
Director  
Freshwater Fisheries Division  
Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Rajadamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 2

BHUKASWAN, T.  
Senior Fishery Biologist  
Freshwater Fisheries Division  
Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Rajadamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 2

Togo

DJELEMA, K.T.  
Directeur du service des pêches  
Direction du service des pêches  
B.P. 1095  
Lomé

Trinidad and Tobago

Tunisia

BEN OTHMAN, S.  
Chef de laboratoire  
Institut national scientifique et  
technique d'océanographie et de pêche  
Salammô

Turkey

OZEL, E.  
Deputy Director-General for Marine Products  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock  
Ankara

BIRSEL, I.  
Permanent Representative of Turkey to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey  
Via Palestro 28  
00185 Rome

UMAN, R.  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey  
Via Palestro 28  
00185 Rome

Uganda

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

HALL, Dr. D.N.F.  
Principal Fisheries Adviser  
Ministry of Overseas Development  
Eland House  
Stag Place  
London SW1

LANDYMORE, A.A.W.  
Permanent Representative of the United  
Kingdom to FAO  
British Embassy  
Via XX Settembre 80/A  
00187 Rome

HEAP, Dr. J.  
Polar Regions Section  
Latin America Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1

SCOULAR, J.M.  
Secretary  
National FAO Committee Secretariat  
Ministry of Overseas Development  
Eland House  
Stag Place  
London SW1

United States of America

STORER, J.A.  
Director  
Office for International Marine Policy  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Department of Commerce  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

ROEDEL, P.  
Fisheries Advisor  
Office of Agriculture  
Bureau of Technical Assistance  
Agency for International Development  
Washington D.C.

FOX, Mrs. P.I.  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Office of International Fisheries  
International Negotiations Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20235

SCULLY, R.T.  
Office of Oceans Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

BROOKER, J.  
Fishery Products and Inspection Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Washington, D.C. 20235

Uruguay

GALBIATI, M.  
Embajador del Uruguay en Italia y  
Representante Permanente del Uruguay  
ante la FAO  
Embajada de la República del Uruguay  
Via Ticino 7  
00198 Roma

AMATO, Dr. R.G.  
Delegado Permanente Alterno  
Embajada de la República del Uruguay  
Via Ticino 7  
00198 Roma

Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of)

GHADDAF, A.A.  
Assistant Director  
Fishery Research Centre  
Public Corporation for Fish Wealth  
Steamer Point  
Twahi  
Aden

Yugoslavia

VUJICIC, D.  
Counsellor of Embassy  
Embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic  
of Yugoslavia  
Via dei Monti Parioli 20  
00197 Rome

Zaire

KASELA bin KEMBOLO  
Directeur général des pêches  
Office national des pêches  
B.P. 8087  
Kinshasa 1

MAPELA, N.M.  
Représentant permanent adjoint du Zaire  
auprès de la FAO  
Ambassade de la République du Zaire  
Via Mecenate 24-30  
00184 Rome

Zambia

PHIRI, B.E.  
Alternate Permanent Representative of  
Zambia to FAO  
Embassy of Zambia  
Via E.Q. Visconti 8  
00193 Rome

OBSERVERS FROM MEMBER NATIONS  
NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Burma

THAN HTUN AUNG  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
of Burma to FAO  
Embassy of Burma  
Via V. Bellini 20  
00198 Rome

Gabon

BIGNUMBA, J.J.  
Directeur des pêches  
B.P. 1128  
Libreville

Mexico

OROZCO GUZMAN, Dr. I.  
Representante Permanente Alterno de  
México ante la FAO  
Delegación Permanente de México ante la FAO  
Viale Pasteur 65-8  
00144 Roma

Panama

IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA, Dra. M.  
Representante Permanente Alterna de  
Panamá ante la FAO  
Representación Permanente de Panamá  
ante la FAO  
Via Isonzo 29  
00198 Roma

OBSERVER FROM NON-MEMBER STATES

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

ILJIN, J.  
First Secretary  
Embassy of the U.S.S.R.  
Via Gaeta 5  
00185 Rome

HOLY SEE

FERRARI-TONIOLO, Son Excellence  
Révéréndissime Monseigneur A.  
Observateur permanent du Saint-Siège  
auprès de la FAO  
Palazzo S. Calisto  
00120 Cité du Vatican

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS  
AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations

GAMINOS, Dr. H.  
Deputy Director  
Law of the Sea Studies  
United Nations Conference on the Law  
of the Sea  
UN  
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

RIPLEY, Dr. W.E.  
Fisheries Adviser  
Division for Global and Interregional  
Projects  
UNDP  
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

United Nations Development Programme

RIPLEY, Dr. W.E.  
(see UN)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

SCOTT, D.P.D.  
Secretary  
IOC  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris, France

GRIFFITHS, R.C.  
Assistant Secretary  
IOC  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris, France

World Meteorological Organization

VARADHA RAJAN, G.  
Technical Officer  
Marine Meteorological Branch  
World Weather Watch Department  
WMO  
Geneva, Switzerland

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

BALDAZZI, M.  
Administrateur  
Direction général de l'agriculture  
"Produits de la pêche"  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
Bruxelles 1040, Belgique

NOE, R.  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
Bruxelles 1040, Belgique

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Council of Europe

STEGEN, J.  
Secretary  
Committee on Agriculture of the Parliamentary  
Assembly of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries  
Council of Europe  
F-67006  
Strasbourg, France

International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission

KOWALEWSKI, Dr. B.J.  
Secretary  
IBSFC  
ul. Frascati 2  
OO-483 Warszawa, Poland

International Commission for the  
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

RODRIGUEZ-MARTIN, Dr. O.  
Executive Secretary  
ICCAT  
General Mola, 17  
Madrid-1, Spain

International Commission for the Scientific  
Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea

LETACONNOUX, R.J.M.  
(see France)

International Commission for the  
Southeast Atlantic Fisheries

LAGARDE, R.A.  
Executive Secretary  
ICSEAF  
Paseo de la Habana, 65  
Madrid, Spain

International Council for the  
Exploration of the Sea

SAETHERSDAL, G.  
Chairman, ICES Consultative Committee  
(see Norway)

Organization for Economic  
Cooperation and Development

ADAM, P.  
Head, Fisheries Division  
OECD  
2, rue André-Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Confederation  
of Free Trade Unions

LAMAGNI, U.  
ICFTU  
Via Po 21  
00198 Rome

World Confederation of Labour

BARONE, Mrs. A.  
Via G.B. Martini 2  
00198 Rome

GUEST SPEAKER

His Excellency Jorge Castañeda  
Head of the Mexican delegation to the  
Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and  
Member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairman	M. Ruivo (Portugal)
First Vice-Chairman	B.T. Cunningham (New Zealand)
Vice-Chairman	R.P. Quadri (Argentina) Cheik Moussa Fofana (Guinea) Hong-Jang Joo (Korea, Republic of) H.W. Wlodarczyk (Poland)

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Argentina  
Brazil  
Chile  
France  
Indonesia  
Iraq  
Nigeria  
Oman  
Poland  
Senegal  
Spain  
United States of America

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Assistant Director-General (Fisheries)	H. Watzinger
Director, Fishery Resources and Environment Division	H. Kasahara
Director, Fishery Industries Division	A. Labon
Director, Operations Service	N. Kojima

SECRETARIAT

Secretary	J.E. Carroz
Assistant Secretary	J.D.M. Henderson

\* \* \* \* \*



LIST OF DOCUMENTS

COFI/77/1	Provisional agenda
2, Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
3	Provisional timetable
4	World fisheries development 1962-1975: an appraisal of performance compared with the Indicative World Plan projections
5	Review of the state of exploitation of the world fish resources
5, Sup.1	Review of the state of exploitation of the world fish resources: marine mammals
5, Sup.2	Review of the state of exploitation of the world fish resources: living resources of the southern ocean
5, Sup.3	Review of the state of exploitation of the world fish resources: revisions and up-dating
6	Fishery commodity situation
7	Prospects and requirements for the better utilization of fishery resources
8	The Department of Fisheries work programme on joint ventures
9	The role of joint ventures in fishery development
10, Sup.1	Progress and problems of regional fishery bodies
11	Cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system
12	United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
13	Status, functions and structure of the Committee on Fisheries (based on proposals made by the Fourth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries, Lisbon, 8-12 March 1976)
14	Report of the Fourth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on the Development of Cooperation with International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries (Lisbon, 8-12 March 1976)
15	Major proposals for future activities of the Department of Fisheries
16	Matters considered by the Council and Conference of FAO
17	Suggested major items for the agenda of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Fisheries

- COFI/77/Inf.1      List of documents
- 2      Information for participants
  - 3      Report of the Thirteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
  - 4      Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC)
  - 5      Report of the Fifth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
  - 6      Annotated directory of intergovernmental organizations concerned with ocean affairs
  - 7      Report of the FAO/NORAD round table discussion on expanding the utilization of marine fishery resources for human consumption
  - 7, Corr.
  - 8      Fisheries and the New International Economic Order by His Excellency Jorge Castañeda
  - 9, Rev.1      List of delegates and observers
  - 10      Graphs showing total catch of all species in the years 1971-75 divided by FAO statistical areas
  - 11      Problems of managing and sharing the fishery resources under the new ocean regime
  - 12      Fourth International Congress of the World Wildlife Fund

\* \* \* \* \*

ADDRESS BY MR. EDOUARD SAOUNA,  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, FAO

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

No one can hold himself aloof from the problems of today, ignorant of their implications, indifferent to their urgencies. The hungry and the oppressed have waited too long already. Even today millions are starving and many more are chafing under the yoke that holds them, hungry and unemployed, at the margin of a society which claims to offer heaven on earth. We are well aware that this cannot go on. For this reason the nations have agreed to work for a New International Economic Order. The main features of that order have been sketched out. The detail has now to be drawn for each sector separately.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction for me to note the strong representation of Member Governments at this Eleventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries; for I see in it a confirmation of our view of the importance of the role that fisheries can play in the world; a declaration by Member Governments of their readiness to collaborate in confronting the many serious problems of this sector, and a recognition of the efficacy of this FAO body as a forum in which to discuss and deal with these problems.

All these aspects are important. I have expressed elsewhere my view that agriculture will hold the key to the New International Economic Order, and that the achievement of that order will depend on the ability of developing countries to sustain a high growth rate in food and agriculture. Part of that growth must and will be accomplished through the development of fisheries.

But, although the potential is considerable its realization will not be easy, for fisheries is an especially uncertain sector, subject very much to the whims of nature and in which, so often, the actions of one country affect the fortunes of another.

Cooperation between countries is an essential element of any world system and its further development is a most important feature of the general strategy by which the New International Economic Order will be brought into existence. This is especially so in fisheries in which interaction is an essential characteristic of everyday affairs. In the past international efforts in this sector have been directed largely at abatement of the effects of competition and conflict; now they must have more positive effect; there are many ways in which countries can assist one another to acquire new technologies, to build competence for research and management, and thus to reinforce individual and collective self-reliance. Your coming together here is evidence of your willingness to promote those exchanges.

In order to contribute more practically and more effectively to these cooperative efforts in fisheries FAO will shape its work to meet the realities of the current situation. Accordingly, it will give special attention to the problems of training personnel; it will give more attention to ways of attracting more funds to investment in fisheries; and, so as to place itself closer to the working face of these problems, it will decentralize its own operations as far as may be practicable.

These are the main features of the Organization's policy. Its fishery strategy translates this policy into action to favour the development of national industries and institutions, to contribute to developing the highly specialized skills and managerial competence necessary for these industries, and to promote inter-country collaboration; for these purposes it will seek to mobilize contributions to regional and global fishery programmes, and will rationalize its continuing services to Member Governments.

This is a complex plan. It has been designed to meet a complex situation, of many elements varying greatly in magnitude and of problems varying in urgency. In this situation the need for a body such as COFT to advise on priorities and to propose courses of action, seems to me obvious. Your presence here reassures me of your concurrence in my view.

Since your last session, there is a new Assistant Director-General in charge of the Fisheries Department. I realize that Mr. Herman Watzinger has been well known to all of you for many years, and hardly needs an introduction. However, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for his dedication to the Organization, his unswerving commitment to the cause of fisheries development and his ready collaboration. With his long background in fisheries, I know that he understands the problems of the fisheries sector and sympathizes with the aspirations of all our Member Governments, whatever their policies and objectives for this sector.

I am also happy to introduce Mr. A. Labon, the new Director of the Fishery Industries Division. Mr. Labon has long been concerned with the fishery sector in Poland. He is widely versed in fishery industries and has been hastening their development during his last six years in FAO. He, too, is well known to most of you. We will soon see how employment in our field projects has prepared him for his new responsibility which is to help developing countries develop their fishery industries.

The logic and philosophy of our joint plan focus on the role of fisheries in a New International Economic Order which is the theme of the address given by Ambassador Castañeda. I regret that my programme allowed me no time to hear the delivery of that address, but I am eagerly looking forward to reading it.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JORGE CASTAÑEDA,  
HEAD OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND MEMBER OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Fisheries and the New International Economic Order

It would be difficult to find a more honoured and appropriate forum than FAO to discuss the anticipated impact of the new Law of the Sea on the New International Economic Order. The equitably shared use of the seas and their resources is one of the subjects that, by its very nature, lends itself to the realization of the New International Economic Order in substantive form and makes it operative.

A clamouring for new, responsible, economic solidarity among all nations has been heard for some time now, both inside the United Nations system and its affiliated agencies and outside. It has been reiterated many times that it is absolutely essential to improve the situation of the developing countries which have been so adversely affected by the traditional structure of world trade and by the vitiated international division of labour, primarily by the establishment of a universal, normative order that consecrates and implements such active and responsible solidarity among all nations. The essential concept underlying this new economic order is that of economic duties or obligations. It is believed that something similar to what has occurred since the end of the last century in the internal structure of various states must now happen on the international plane. Accordingly warning has been given that mere equality in the eyes of the law, mere formal equality among citizens within national societies, actually disguises tremendous real inequity and inequality. This has been pointed out for over three-quarters of a century in calling for the promulgation of special legislation - right-to-work laws - and for the creation of institutions, such as social security agencies, to protect and safeguard the interests of the most underprivileged social classes. Similarly nowadays the international community finds itself obliged to establish and implement a series of norms that establish economic duties and obligations of the most powerful and affluent countries in order to provide protection and assistance to those that are not only the poorest but also the least able to negotiate and defend themselves in international economic relations.

It is not a matter of consecrating the giving of charity as an international principle, nor of invoking and demanding the good will of the most affluent countries. It is a matter of embodying in law the principle that prosperity is indivisible, the principle of active solidarity among all peoples. There is no question either of altering or redressing the unequal distribution of natural resources among nations, nor of changing geography; the aim is rather to prevent having the poorest countries become poorer and poorer. In postulating a New International Economic Order, the intent is to put an end to the traditional, inequitable dealings based on imbalanced power relationships. In short, the aim is to consecrate as a juridical principle the obligation of international cooperation in favour of the developing countries.

The General Assembly of the United Nations and numerous other forums have over two decades framed a great many postulates, goals and objectives and even on some occasions principles and legal norms tending toward international recognition of this principle. Perhaps the keystone of this New International Economic Order, which it will obviously take a long time to consolidate, will be the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1974.

Proper regulation of the utilization of the seas and their resources by all nations will contribute - more than anything - to the more equitable treatment of the less developing countries. The reason for this, quite apart from the economic potential involved in these resources, is that the seas and their subsoils, with the enormous resources they contain, would be utilised on behalf of all mankind. Without going into an academic discussion as to

whether the resources of the seas and their subsoils are res nullius or res communis, it suffices to assert that they should be used for the good of all. Here the unsolvable problem of attempting a redistribution of resources according to a certain political philosophy by which we have lived for over half of a millenium, namely, that they come under the sovereignty of individual nations, is left in abeyance. Since no states claim either sovereignty over or the right of appropriation of a tremendous portion of the seas and their resources, they belong to humanity as a whole. Consequently they can be utilized in such a way as to redress to some extent the inequalities of terrestrial geography; they permit at least ideally a more just distribution of resources that belong to everyone, thus helping the attainment of the goal which we all set ourselves, namely: to close the abyss which actually separates peoples who in the eyes of the law are equal.

How and to what extent will the new Law of the Sea that was framed seven years ago contribute to the attainment of this ideal? It is very difficult to draw any conclusions on this. In fact there are conflicting opinions on this matter. According to some, what has been done thus far tends to worsen the prevailing situation because, it is said, the exclusive economic zones which are the most conspicuous outcome of the new Law of the Sea really benefit the industrialized countries, the rich nations, again. Others are of the opinion that the proposed regime for the seabed does not offer promising prospects either. It may even lead to greater concentration of extremely valuable mineral resources in the hands of a few countries that have the financial and technological capacity for extracting them. Still it appears paradoxical, if these opinions are correct, that it was precisely the developing countries which urged and backed the establishment of exclusive economic zones and of a regime to govern the seabed.

In order to arrive at some objective conclusion it is necessary to review what has actually happened in these two fundamental areas: we must consider first, what the probable results of the establishment of exclusive economic zones will be, and secondly what a regime for management of the seabed can do to foster a more equitable distribution of its mineral resources. Unfortunately given the time limits, I shall only be able to examine the first question, and superficially at that.

Before doing so, however, I should like to make one observation on the traditional, historical processes by which great changes have been wrought in international institutions and juridical principles. No such changes, or virtually none, have occurred in history as the result of an overall, global plan devised by some man of genius that was accepted by the community of nations because of its intrinsic excellence at any given time or by an isolated act. New political and economic ideas and philosophies that have had the greatest influence on the destiny of mankind have always been the outcome of a process of adjustment and conciliation of the interests of various states, usually over a long period of time and after many partially frustrated attempts. These processes take place in successive stages, the results of which are always partial, imperfect. However, when these processes are viewed from a historical perspective it is seen that each of these stages represents a step forward. In the final analysis this means that the true authors of international law, of the normative order by which we are governed, are always states and not individuals. We must also remember that, despite the fact that certain principles of enormous importance are historically associated with the names of specific individuals - just as the principle of the freedom of the seas is associated with the name of Grocio and that of closed seas with the name of Selden - that the ideas of these thinkers are in the final analysis nothing but the reflection of the interests of their own countries.

In recalling these obvious facts, we do not wish to give a false impression, however. By natural inclination and as a citizen of a developing country, I have faith in the power of ideas. I almost consider having such faith to be my duty. For weak countries the best defence - not to say the only defence - is the invocation of the law.

In the framing of the new international Law of the Sea, as in all orders, there has been much disoussion of the fertile interaction between idealistic philosophies of individuals and the interests of states. Let us merely recall the enormous impulse given by the celebrated speech of Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta in 1967 to future development of the Law governing the sea. I merely want to say that we must not make the mistake of assuming that

some kind of global, systematic scheme or master plan, which is theoretically valid and intrinsically excellent, will preside over and inspire the discussions at international conferences for regulating the use of the sea. Above all we must not be disappointed if in the long slow process ahead of us we do not see accomplished what we envisaged as an ideal conception of things. The philosophy of "all or none" is unrealistic, nor does it have good historical precedents, and furthermore it is ineffectual. States are not always consistent, only rarely are they altruistic, but whether we wish it or not, they are the only authors of international law and there are no substitutes for them. I believe that this cautious and realistic approach is the one that should inspire us in judging the new Law of the Sea and in evaluating its impact upon the New International Economic Order.

Let us recall how the idea of exclusive economic zones arose. The aim of the developing countries which initially postulated it was to alter to some extent the prevailing system of international distribution of wealth. Their efforts to retain for the coastal states the resources close to their shores were nothing in fact but another aspect of the great, painful struggle being conducted on all fronts to secure, and on some occasions to demand, their permanent sovereignty over these natural resources.

Clearly the basic principle underlying the traditional regime governing the seas, that is, the freedom of the seas, was not invented three centuries ago by the maritime and fisheries powers with the deliberate purpose of exploiting the small or poor countries, and certainly could not have been aimed at many states that only acceded to independence since then. One thing is certain, namely, that the most backward countries, which today aspire to full utilization of the resources of the seas washing their own shores for their own benefit, are hampered in doing so by the existence of obstacles and situations governed by the principle of the freedom of the seas as understood conventionally, that is to say, as the liberty to work these resources unrestrictedly and even to exploit them with no responsibility toward anyone, since they were considered as open and available to whoever grabbed them there first. The right to fish actually benefited the major powers to the detriment of the smaller ones. For that reason, in face of the continual rise in the consumption of fisheries products and considering that these resources are not inexhaustible, it has become essential to substitute for this traditional concept to some extent that of a responsible attitude toward the freedom of the seas, that is the right of access to their wealth should mean that they must be used in moderation since this wealth does not belong only to countries that are sufficiently powerful to exclude others from access thereto but to all.

In face of this new situation that has shaped up in the past three decades, what has been the answer of the various nations to this problem?

The first and most obvious answer was the assumption of the right to extend the zones that come under the jurisdiction and control of the coastal countries. Since the 1940s certain Latin American countries have felt that the fisheries resources close to their shores should be reserved to the riparian states just as mineral resources on their continental shelves are. Live resources depend physically and biologically very intimately upon the coastal environment. Furthermore these countries took the position that there is an element of justice in considering these resources as part of the resources of countries lying along the oceans.

Initially certain countries undertook to extend their territorial waters, that is to say the sea waters over which they exercise full sovereignty, to 200 nautical miles offshore. In time, other states with the same objective came to consider this as only a half-way solution, the effect of which might be to interfere or limit the traditional freedom of navigation, overflight and other rights, without there being any real necessity for recognizing this legal capacity, since it is enough to recognize the rights of sovereignty, not over the seas themselves but over all the resources found within that area. This was the origin of the thesis of the patrimony of the seas, the name of which was quickly changed to "exclusive economic zone".

Certainly in theory there might have been another solution, an answer more in conformity with an ideal plan, a better one from a rational standpoint, namely: the establishment of a world administration to govern the use of the seas and their resources beyond territorial waters on a universal basis through a complex set of institutions and machinery. However realistically and sincerely we must ask ourselves whether the international community is ready today to

establish any such system. Certainly I believe the major obstacles to this do not necessarily come from the developing countries. The great fisheries powers are also not prepared to abandon the old principle of the right to fish and substitute for it some other one that would necessarily imply recognition that these resources do not belong to the first one who seized them but rather belong to all men and that therefore some form of license, permit or authorization must be required, under an international system, to secure sound, intelligent use of the seas and fishing for benefit of all mankind. I believe that this constitutes the principal obstacle. The best proof of this is that, as refers to seabed minerals, despite the fact that no one has as yet exploited them commercially and that their exploitation is not as urgent as is that of the living resources, and even though the United Nations has declared them the common patrimony of humanity, the great powers still prefer a system that allows free access to these mineral resources, accepting at the most a system of licensing rather than true international administration.

Developing countries regard these obstacles to the establishment of a rational and just international system for mining of these resources with great concern. For this reason it is difficult for them to hope that there will be instituted a similar system to govern the live resources of the seas which takes their interests into account. Hence their understandable preference to themselves control their offshore resources. The international political reality, the egotistical interests, oppose what would appear to be the ideal plan and the most rational method. Regrettable as this is, it is stark reality.

Perhaps the establishment of such a system can only be hoped for when pressure of public opinion becomes stronger and conflicts of interests in the use of the resources of the sea have become aggravated. Meanwhile we must anticipate the future and struggle to advance toward this goal, however partial and gradual advance may be. There are, even now, some possibilities, which we shall discuss later on, of integrating to a partial extent the administration of the seas and their resources through certain institutional measures.

Now we must consider a different point: how the establishment of exclusive economic zones has helped, or could help, in the attainment of a more equitable distribution of ichthyological resources. It is said that the exclusive economic zones have primarily benefited the major powers with long coastlines. Here I believe we are under a wrong impression. We get a deformed picture of reality from seeing these economic zones in graphic illustration on maps marked with striking colours; this picture does not correspond to political and economic reality. There is a tendency to look at the problem as though there had once existed open, free zones which the developing countries enjoyed the use of and which they are now egotistically closing off in order to establish these exclusive economic zones.

In reality these exclusive economic zones are for the benefit of a great majority of the developing countries. Previously all the free seas were theoretically open to all countries, including the economic zones that have now been established by the major powers. As a matter of fact these areas never represented any benefit whatsoever for the developing countries which were incapable of utilizing them for lack of capital, fishing fleets and technology that would enable them to fish far off their own shores or in the economic zones ruled by the major countries. The creation of these zones by the advanced countries was almost a matter of indifference to most developing countries. For them the free seas were an illusion! They had nothing but a legal right thereto, a formal entitlement (I beg your pardon for this pleonasm).

In exchange for this theoretical right, of no real significance whatsoever, however, they had to pay a price, according to the principle of the untrammelled right to fish the seas. The developing countries had to tolerate having the major powers fish freely in the waters close to their shores. This was indeed a reality; this actually took place! The major powers did indeed fish in these zones on a large scale thus blocking, hampering, or sometimes rendering impossible, the development of the national fisheries industries of the most backward countries. Apart from this there was the fact that this fishing by the major powers, and sometimes their overfishing, put some of these resources in danger of extinction. The net result was an unjust international division of labour. Some countries had industrial-scale fisheries; others, small-scale fisheries. I remember very vividly that in 1968 or perhaps 1969 when the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union held



broad consultations with many countries on the possibility of convening a new conference on the seas to revise the system that had been instituted from the 1958 conventions; in their initial proposals they suggested that preferential entitlement to using the resources of the sea up to 200 miles offshore be granted to seaboard countries, which would be allowed to fish with vessels of up to 300 tons, the rest of the seas being left free for fishing by any country without payment of any fees or duties. Acceptance of this plan would have meant condemning the coastal countries to development of purely small-scale fisheries for all eternity!

Since then, I believe, enormous advances have been made. Under the clauses of the Law of the Sea in the Revised Single Text drafted at the United Nations Conference, developing countries did indeed gain the real possibility of developing their own fishing industries and of participating to a greater extent than previously in the working of these resources.

A revealing illustration of this, which indicates what benefits accrued to developing countries from the establishment of exclusive economic zones, is that of my own country. On the basis of the implicit agreement resulting from the debates and conclusions reached at the United Nations Conference, which conclusions were incorporated in the Revised Single Text, Mexico considered that it would not be acting in violation of international law if it unilaterally established an exclusive economic zone of 200 miles off its coasts; this it did at the end of 1975. Since then numerous countries have unilaterally established similar zones. On the basis of the law on its exclusive economic zone proclaimed by Mexico, there were negotiations with Cuba and the U.S.A.; the countries which had always traditionally done shrimping in the Gulf of Mexico - now Mexico's exclusive economic zone. An appreciable portion of the shrimp catch was hauled in by these two countries. The efficiency of these foreign fleets would have impeded any expansion of Mexico's shrimp fisheries. In the treaties signed it was agreed that the shrimping by these two foreign countries would be reduced the first year to 40 percent of the catch of the year before - 1975 - and that their catch would gradually be reduced until it came to a full stop by the end of 1979. In other words, we were prepared to permit fishing of the surplus by these countries only temporarily. In addition to fostering the development of the coastal country's fleet, these agreements signified economic benefits for my country, since it gained over one million dollars from each of these two countries the first year in the form of fishing licence fees.

This example also throws into the limelight another fact especially pertinent for this meeting. In addition to the benefits to the coastal state, the establishment of its economic zone meant more scientific and sound utilization of the products of the sea. Furthermore shrimping by the country closest to the resource meant savings on fuel, time and fishing effort. Obviously similar results will not always be obtainable. Yet to the extent that such cases are multiplied, the exploitation of the living resources of the sea will become more scientific and efficient and a more equitable international division of labour will come into being.

In order for it to contribute to the establishment of a more just international economic order the regime for exclusive economic zones must have three features, namely:

- (1) it must not result in a decline of world food production;
- (2) it should preserve an equilibrium between the rights of coastal countries and other countries, especially by not infringing on other liberties; and
- (3) it should not exclude any group of countries, even landlocked ones, from the possibility of also having access to the resources of the seas.

As is known, the system of exclusive economic zones recognizes the claims to sovereignty over live resources of coastal countries while at the same time consecrating the principle of optimum utilization of resources. It was obvious that coastal countries could not prevent fishing by other countries if they themselves were unable to work them to the fullest extent. In times of food crises, and even in other times, it would go against the interests of all humanity to have ichthyological resources go to waste for lack of working them. Consequently the Revised Single Text establishes and consecrates the so-called principle of optimum utilization of resources. Countries other than coastal states would be entitled to do fishing of surplus stocks, over and beyond what the coastal states are able to fish. Still, a coastal

state which exercises its sovereign rights over all, and not just a part, of the resources can obtain some economic benefit from having these resources worked by third parties.

The system envisaged in the Single Text is a balanced one as regards the rights of the coastal states and other states. While recognizing the sovereign rights of the coastal states to both renewable and nonrenewable resources out to a distance of 200 (nautical) miles, the principle that all other states of the international community are entitled to freedom of navigation, overflight and laying of submarine cables and pipes is recognized. The system thus established includes, in favour of the coastal state, certain rights previously included in freedom of the high seas, such as the right to reserve the use of natural resources to its own nationals, the right to exercise some jurisdiction in the matter of prevention of contamination or pollution of the seas, and the conduct of scientific research. Within these same zones there coexist the rights of other countries to navigation of the seas, overflight, etc. This is especially true of any zone coming under a special international regime.

For many years the United Nations Conference and the Preparatory Committee discussed the question of the legal status of the exclusive economic zones. Some countries maintained — and continue to maintain — that they should be considered a sort of territorial sea with clearly recognized exceptions in favour of third countries as regards the traditional freedom of navigation, overflight, etc. Other countries on the contrary advocated — and still advocate — that they be considered high seas in which, as an exception, certain rights or jurisdiction are recognized to coastal states in regard to fisheries and partially for scientific research and in the matter of prevention of contamination. This issue has not yet been resolved in one way or the other. Insistence upon either one or the other thesis would have absolutely blocked the reaching of any agreement on this subject and might possibly have been an obstacle to the reaching of an overall agreement at the conference. Finally, for many years now, and largely thanks to the insistence of my own country, the inevitable conclusion was drawn that exclusive economic zones were neither high seas on which exceptions were to be made on behalf of coastal countries nor territorial waters with exceptions in favour of other countries. They were zones governed by specific international statutes of their own. In the final analysis, it will be incumbent upon those who interpret these statutes in the future to voice an opinion as to whether these zones resemble one more than another. It is my opinion that rights pertaining to these new zones, created to meet new interests and needs, cannot be assimilated to either one of these two traditional categories of rights in the law of the sea. In order to avoid disputes and conflicts in the future, it appears desirable to have stated clearly in certain articles governing the powers of the respective states in these zones, that is in Articles 45 et. seq., that these economic zones are neither high seas nor territorial waters but rather zones coming under a specific legal regime of international law.

The matter of the legal status of these areas involves the problem of the so-called "residual rights". Logically in the future new, unknown and unforeseen uses of the seas may come into being. So, too, it is natural to suppose that there may arise conflicts between the rights of coastal states and of other states to the utilization of the seas and their resources in these exclusive economic zones as both are entitled to use these zones. If they were to be basically described as either the high seas or territorial waters this description might impede the settlement of these conflicts. Since there could be no agreement it is indispensable that certain guidelines or directives be laid down for the settlement of all foreseeable conflicts or controversies. This was the reason for the important Article 47 of the Single Text, that is the portion of the premise referring to a zone sui generis. Therein it is established — and this proposal was certainly much discussed — that in case no rights or jurisdiction were clearly attributed by the convention itself to either the coastal state or other states in case of disputes or conflicts arising due to the rights granted either to the coastal states or the others, such conflicts were to be settled on an equitable basis, due weight being attributed to the respective interests and rights involved. There could be no single formula for settling all such disputes. There is no general rule in the convention by which, in principle, either the coastal state's rights or those of third party states would prevail. In all equity, whatever right seems to be more weighty in each concrete case would prevail, due attention being paid to the interests of the entire international community and of other interested states.

Finally the regime governing these economic zones also envisaged the possible utilization of their resources by all countries. In the Single Text recognition is given to the right of both landlocked countries and geographically less favoured countries to considerable participation, on equitable bases, in the utilization of the live resources of neighbouring states or of a region in their economic zone. Such rights do not cover the minerals in the seabed, which are usually located on the continental shelf. True the scope of the rights of landlocked countries or countries less favoured geographically is a pending matter that it is difficult to settle, yet there is concurrence as to the need to recognize such rights in an equitable manner.

The better and more equitable utilization of the seas will not be achieved merely through the issuance of prohibitions or permissions. International cooperation in this respect is of the utmost importance. The utilization of the resources of exclusive economic zones should take place under a new type of fruitful agreements for cooperation that take into account especially the situation of developing countries. These agreements should, for instance, cover the employment and technical training of national fishermen, the transfer of technology in regard to fishing gear and methods, and the industrial processing of fisheries products in national plans. Here FAO's role is a crucial one.

I have thus described how the international community has gone about solving these problems. It must be recognized, obviously, that the solution is far from perfect. However, for developing countries, for whom it is of prime importance that a new international economic order be established, this solution, however partial and imperfect, represents an enormous step forward. What is most noteworthy is the very fact that it has been possible to gain universal — or virtually universal — recognition of the new institution of exclusive economic zones. Let us remember that barely five or six years ago there was obstinate, strong opposition among the maritime fisheries powers to the acceptance of this idea. This represented a radical departure from principles that had prevailed for several centuries. The convention which was the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea will certainly not satisfy everyone. However it is an important step bringing clear results as far as improvement of the situation of the developing countries is concerned. It is a great satisfaction for me to recall Mexico's leadership in gaining acceptance for this idea. I would merely like to mention the fact that the first formal initiative of presenting the idea of exclusive economic zones to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference was taken jointly by Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Despite all this we cannot rest on our laurels, on our achievements thus far. We must recognize the shortcomings and the imperfections. We must not lose the target from sight nor abandon the ultimate goal of establishing in the future a regime or system instituting a more scientific, integrated and global utilization of the seas and their resources. As has already been said, the old principle of the freedom of the seas, in so far as it pertains to the right to fish, was based on the idea that the living resources of the sea belong to no one. At present, and even more so in the future, we simply cannot admit having food reserves essential for humanity considered, and exploited, as though they belonged to no one. This represents barely an elementary and primary, normative order which can only be explained in a situation of great abundance and little demand, such as was the case in the past with reference to products of the sea. The regulation of their utilization is essential. The famous biologist, Thomas Huxley, once said that the best way of conserving the resources of the sea was by exploiting them. This is not so certain nowadays. The premises upon which Grocio founded the principle of freedom of the seas — that the sea is practically limitless and that it is impossible to grasp its size or to embrace it, as with the air — no longer hold. In our times the resources of the sea, whether renewable or non-renewable, the seas, the seabed and the subsoil must all be considered as res communes, as belonging to all nations, to all people, rather than to no one.

Humanity's attitude toward the seas will have to change. The world's population explosion and the consequent increase in demand for foods obtained from the seas, the growing industrialization of all continents, the concentration of people along the seacoast, the constantly greater extraction of hydrocarbons from the continental shelves, the growth of navigation and the

constantly greater use of larger and larger oil tankers, of ships carrying liquid gas and of vessels with nuclear propulsion as well as the ever greater use of chemical substances most of which end up in the seas, are just so many reasons that it is essential to regulate the use of the seas on a world-wide scale and to manage and administer internationally. New and bigger conflicts arise daily between the different competitive uses of the oceans, which certainly no one country can solve by itself.

Furthermore there is a constant interaction in the multiple uses of the seas. The exploitation of seabed resources may affect the use of the waters above, and vice versa; economic activities in international zones and in coastal zones interact reciprocally. The sea as a whole and the atmosphere above it form a single ecological system. All these interactions require a global, integrated vision and international management of the seas.

In this respect, as I have said, FAO must play a vital key role. It can be expected that in the future new regional organizations will be established for the regulation of fisheries in the various parts of the world. In addition it is logical to assume that the many organizations that already exist will adopt new rules and regulations and standards for more effective regulation of fisheries, possibly assuming regulatory functions which in the past were reserved to states. The impact of fishing under present conditions is of world-wide scope, as what happens in one region affects what is happening in others. In fact right now we are about to convene an international conference for the more effective and modern regulation of the fishing of highly migratory species in the eastern Pacific by means of a new regime based on the existence of exclusive economic zones all along the west coast of both American continents, taking into account the highly migratory nature of these species -- especially tuna. In reference to this system we have pointed out that what is decided here will certainly have a definite effect upon fisheries in other far away regions where tuna and other migratory species are also fished. So the work of all these regional organizations must be coordinated. The only intelligent and feasible way of doing so is by integrating this network of organizations under one head organization, which is universal in scope and functions, namely, FAO.

But this is not the only problem. To an ever greater extent the various competitive uses of the seas will have to be organized in a rational manner. It is not possible to regulate one economic activity without considering the others. Henceforth it will be essential for these activities to be coordinated through appropriate institutional rules and regulations, that is to say, by what has been called an "integrative machinery" embracing all organizations having to do with the management and utilization of the seas and their resources. For instance, in addition to FAO, I refer to the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), Unesco's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and to the United Nations itself as well as to other agencies. This may be the most important immediate step to be taken toward this ultimate objective which, as we have said, is to institute an international worldwide administration of the sea and its resources.

Obviously we face enormous difficulties. But we must have faith in the value in the efficacy of ideas and trust in the future.

My sincerest wishes for the success of your deliberations! Thank you for your patience in listening to this long speech.

\* \* \* \* \*



