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Report on the Sixth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean  
Rome, Italy, September 1960

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Dr. Gaetano Cannone attended the G.F.C.M. Sixth Session as observer for ICNAF.

The Session was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 22-28 September. About fifty delegates and experts from eleven Mediterranean countries, and several observers from international organizations interested, participated.

Close to ninety papers prepared for the Session were distributed at the meetings of five committees. Two films, "Trawl fishing in the Adriatic" and "Fishing for soles with a trawl", were shown by the Italian delegation. These films constituted a useful complement to the documents on trawling presented.

The following summary of these papers by subjects gives an indication of the effort spent on the various problems within the objective of G.F.C.M.

Marine resources	- 25
Production	- 26
Utilization	- 10
Inland waters	- 24
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The opening meeting was chaired by the President, Mr. Rodriguez-Carreno.

On the following days delegates and experts met in committees, and the final meeting of the General Assembly was held on 28 September.

The "Marine Resources Committee" (Chairman, G. Belloc) discussed reports on studies of growth, spawning, eggs, reproduction, zooplankton compared with catch, nutrition, biology, etc. for Sardina pilchardus Walb., reports about tunas and reports on environmental studies. It was approved to give priority to studies on "fishing grounds and reproduction" and "characteristics and importance of fluctuations of the stocks" regarding Clupeidae, Tunas and edible crustaceans; and further to the study of trawling grounds, in particular to experimental research in the zone situated below the 300 meter line, this being considered the most productive.

The "Production Committee" (Chairman, M. Shavit) considered the problems related to fishing gear and methods for improvement of fishery. It was agreed to give priority to: the study of "Fishing boats, gear and methods" and especially to the study of improvement of the efficiency of the Mediterranean trawl net through the use of artificial fiber nets, knotless nets and wide-open type nets; survey of the methods and gear used for the catching of tunas; protection of the hulls of boats; preservation of nets; damage caused by porpoises and similar animals; fishing with lights; echo-sounding; vocational training of fishermen; working conditions and security of fishermen and preparation of charts of fishing grounds.

<sup>1/</sup> A complete set of documents from the meeting was submitted, together with the report and is filed in the Secretariat.

The "Utilization Committee" (Chairman, J. Asciak) discussed reports on wooden fish boxes, some data on semi-preserved, the liquid ensilage of Mediterranean sardines for animal feeding, and technical and sanitary investigation of semi-preserved and fish preserves in general.

The said committee approved to give priority to studies on fish transportation, fish meal, and semi-preserved, and made recommendations regarding the standardization of fish packing and the preservation of tuna fish.

The "Inland Waters Committee" (Chairman, M. Svetina) considered the problems related to fish reproduction in inland waters and means for its increase. It was agreed to give priority to studies and researches on fish culture techniques, general purification measures for residual waters, and protection of the waters against industrial pollution; it was recommended to study the artificial reproduction of Mugil capito.

The "Economics and Statistics Committee" (Chairman, C. Solamito) discussed the fishery of cephalopodes (molluscs), their biological and economic importance, and the sanitary regulations concerning molluscs. It was agreed to give priority to the study of economic aspects of marine fisheries and to the preparation of four catalogues regarding a second edition of names of fishes, names of molluscs, names of crustaceans, and names of freshwater fishes.

In the afternoon of 26 September there were presented the said two interesting films prepared by the Italian delegation.

During the final meeting of the General Assembly were elected for the next two years: Chairman - Mr. Rodriguez-Carreno (confirmed); first Vice-Chairman - Mr. Cusmai (confirmed), and second Vice-Chairman - Mr. Aytekin; all programmes of work of the committees were approved and it was decided to request the Executive Committee of the G.F.C.M. to establish the Seventh Session in the spring of 1963 in Casablanca (Morocco).

Gaetano Cannone.

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