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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Decisions taken to March 1967 relating to the  
Resolution on the Development of Natural Resources of the Sea  
adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, 6 December 1966

1. The UN Resolution on resources of the sea is presented to the 17th Annual Meeting of the Commission as ICNAF Comm. Doc. 67/3. The Resolution has now been studied by FAO's Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) and by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) Bureau and Consultative Council.

2. The following recommendations on the UN Resolution on resources of the sea were passed by ACMRR at its Fourth Session, 16-21 January 1967:

5.1 UN Resolution on Resources of the Sea

The Committee had before it a request for advice from the Director-General of FAO. The Director-General referred to the Resolution on the Resources of the sea adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 6 December 1966. FAO (with COFI) and UNESCO (with IOC), together with other agencies such as WMO, were envisaged in the Resolution to cooperate with the Secretary General of the UN in the preparation of a comprehensive survey of activities in marine science and technology undertaken by members of the UN family of organizations, various member states and inter-governmental organizations concerned as well as by universities, scientific and technological institutes and other interested organizations. In the light of this comprehensive survey it was intended to formulate proposals for:

- (a) Ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded program of international cooperation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and in the exploitation and development of marine resources, with due regard to the conservation of fish stocks;
- (b) Initiating and strengthening marine education and training programs, bearing in mind the close interrelationship between marine and other sciences.

In the formulation of those proposals only FAO (with COFI) and UNESCO (with IOC) were expected to cooperate with the UN.

The Director-General desired advice from ACMRR, within its terms of reference, on what the methods, scope and content of this comprehensive survey should be.

The Committee recognized that the action contemplated in the UN Resolution could be valuable in improving international cooperation in regard to the study of the sea and its resources. As regards the marine fishery resources the Committee recalled, however, the recent action of the FAO Conference in strengthening the fishery activities of FAO and its role in international cooperation through the establishment of the Committee on Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries. A promising start had been made in this respect and it was most important that this process of strengthening continue at least at the rate envisaged by the Director-General at the time of the 13th Session of the FAO Conference.

Because of the close inter-relations between the marine fishery resources and their environment, and of the respective roles of FAO and UNESCO in regard to these, the most effective collaboration was desirable between FAO and UNESCO. The Committee itself had an important part to play in ensuring this because of its advisory status vis-a-vis FAO and the IOC.

The aims of the UN Resolution as far as the study of marine fishery resources and their environment was concerned could in the near future best be forwarded by the further improvement of the collaboration between FAO and UNESCO rather than by some entirely new arrangements.

The Committee, moreover, noted the rapid increase in knowledge of the intimate relationships between the dynamics of the atmosphere and the ocean and the growing need for increased cooperation and coordination of planning and work among scientists concerned with both the atmosphere and the ocean. It was indeed essential that marine and atmospheric research should be expanded sharply by the world community so that the problems which were arising so rapidly in the development and management of fisheries could be brought to solution. Again, because of the close inter-relation of marine resources and their environment, the advice desired by the Director-General could best be given by a joint working group of ACMRR and SCOR. The Committee accordingly recommends that the Director-General request the President of ICSU to solicit the cooperation of SCOR with a view to the establishment of such a group. The members of the group should be nominated by the Chairman of ACMRR and the President of SCOR and should be appointed by the Director-General of FAO. The group should be representative of the various disciplines involved and should advise the Director-General on the scientific aspects of what the methods, scope and content of the comprehensive survey called for by the UN Resolution should be, in so far as the study of marine fishery resources was concerned. The group should be free to seek necessary information and advice from other sources, particularly from advisory bodies of other interested agencies. The group should report directly to the Director-General but its advice should also be available to the IOC and the Committee decided to draw the attention of the IOC Bureau and Consultative Council especially to its views on this subject.

Although the Director-General had sought advice from the Committee only with respect to the conduct of the survey of activities, the Committee considered that it should express to him its views on certain wider issues implicit in the UN Resolution, especially with respect to Paragraph 3 of the Resolution.

The Committee recognized that the proposals requested in Paragraph 3 of the Resolution were likely to have important influence on institutional arrangements for international activities in marine sciences and technology in the future, and on the arrangements under which the problems of national resources use are examined and negotiated internationally. It noted however, that whilst the Resolution provided on the one hand for the assembly of information on the status of knowledge of the seas and on activities to increase this knowledge, and on the other hand for the formulation of proposals for arrangements with respect to international cooperation, it did not provide for the assembly of information on the institutional forms and procedures under which international action with respect to the seas has been proceeding on an extensive scale for many years. The Committee pointed out that the experience in this field, beginning with ICES in 1898, was extensive. It further pointed out that it had itself just completed the first stage of a study of these matters with respect to FAO's own regional fishery bodies and had identified certain matters requiring further study. It considered that it was proper for it to draw the attention of the Director-General to this matter and to suggest to him that he request the working group proposed above to make some study of the following matters, and to collaborate with the Secretary-General's group of experts in its examination of these matters, namely,

- 1) Identification of problems in marine science and technology and related fields that require some form of international cooperation for their effective investigation and for the effective application of their results;
- 2) Examination of the form of cooperation required and of their impact on the scientists and institutions concerned;
- 3) Examination of the manner in which existing international organizations deal with the problems and the forms of cooperation referred to above.

Furthermore the Committee referred to the technical and organizational changes taking place in world fisheries which are of unprecedented speed and

magnitude. These changes are modifying not only the patterns of exploitation of marine resources but also the patterns of international relations in respect of both scientific and commercial interest and which are of considerable political significance. In consequence of these changes new ideas are emerging with regard to the theory and practice of fisheries management, at both national and international level. The Committee considered that to ignore either the industrial changes or the new ideas in the formulation of the proposals set out in Paragraph 3 could lead to the formulated proposals being quite inadequate for the situation that will exist when action is to be taken on them. Although the intention might be to deal with this aspect in another stage, the Committee considered action in this respect should be initiated without delay and noted that for this purpose there was available to it a draft of a chapter of FAO's SOFA, dealing with the Management of Fisheries Resources, which by its clear and imaginative treatment of the subject, provided an excellent starting point for further study of this subject. The Committee therefore proposes to undertake a study of the matters set out in the SOFA chapter and to consider and advise on how the forms of international cooperation might need to be adjusted so as effectively to meet the need of these matters.

The Committee noted that the comprehensive survey of activities as well as the proposals to be formulated in the light of it were to be prepared with the assistance of a small group of experts to be selected as far as possible from the specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations concerned. The Committee felt that the nomination of experts from among the advisors of the agencies and organizations should not be excluded. It also considered it essential that the close cooperation of appropriate staff members be secured and that the relevant work of FAO, for instance the Indicative World Plan and the Analytical Compendium of International fishery bodies and of other international organizations concerned with fisheries which was being prepared under the auspices of COFI, be fully taken into account.

3. The following recommendations on the UN Resolution were passed by the IOC Bureau at their Seventh Meeting, 30 January-2 February 1967:

21. The Bureau, having studied the Resolution of the United Nations on the Resources of the Sea and being cognizant of the statutory right of the Commission to address its recommendations directly to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies listed in Article 2 of the IOC Statutes, decides to express its view that the group of experts which the above Resolution requests be created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations be preferably composed of experts appointed by the following UN Specialized Agencies and the principal intergovernmental organizations concerned: UN, UNESCO, IOC, FAO, COFI, WMO, WHO, IAEA, IMCO, and also by the following organizations: SCOR and ACMRR. In principle, each organization listed above should designate one expert, it being understood that the Secretary-General of the United Nations may suggest additional organizations to appoint experts, or may select additional individual experts of his choice. The Bureau decides that this opinion be submitted to the Secretary-General of the UN and to the meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Science and its Applications, 2-4 March 1967, London. The IOC representative should be a member of the Bureau.

22. The Bureau resolves to establish an IOC working group on the inter-governmental aspects of the implementation of the UN Resolution on Resources of the Sea, composed of the Member States of the Commission represented on the Bureau and the Consultative Council, to advise the IOC

- a) on any implications of the above UN Resolution which may require intergovernmental action or be of governmental concern;
- b) and, through the IOC, the Director General of UNESCO, on further development of the IOC activities and the moral and financial support necessary to ensure this development.

The Bureau decides that this group meet prior to the Vth Session of the IOC and report its recommendations to that Session.

23. The Bureau, having studied the ACMRR Recommendations contained in Section 5.1 of its Report, resolved to ask its advisory bodies SCOR and ACMRR to advise the IOC on the scientific aspects of the implementation of the UN Resolution on Resources of the Sea.

24. The Bureau suggests that the IOC Working Group established as proposed in Recommendation 22 above study the following aspects of further development of the IOC:

- a) Relationship and cooperation of the IOC with other international bodies and the Specialized UN Agencies;
- b) Role of the IOC in providing environmental information for various applied activities in the field of marine science;
- c) Broad legal framework of oceanographic research on the high seas;
- d) Role of the IOC Bureau and the Consultative Council in the financial aspects of the IOC activities;
- e) Role of the IOC Bureau and the Consultative Council as regards personnel in the IOC Secretariat;
- f) Juridical aspects of the IOC activities;
- g) IOC policy with respect to mineral resources.

The Bureau suggests that the Member States of the Commission be given a possibility to examine this provisional list of subjects for the Working Group's attention and propose other subjects as they deem necessary.

4. Members of the ICNAF Environmental Subcommittee will be asked to consider this Resolution and the decisions so far of ACMRR and IOC under Item 6(d) of the agenda for the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

Commissioners will also be asked to consider this Resolution and the decisions of ACMRR and IOC under Item 13(b) of the agenda for Plenary Sessions of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Commission because of the wide importance of the Resolution and more particularly as decisions made in regard to paragraph 3(a)<sup>1</sup> of the Resolution may affect the Commission. The paragraph could be interpreted as calling for an appraisal of present international machinery for fisheries regulation.

<sup>1</sup>Paragraph 3(a) requests the Secretary-General in cooperation with UNESCO (IOC) and FAO (COFI) to formulate proposals for

"...Ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international cooperation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and the exploitation and development of marine resources, with due regard to the conservation of fish stocks:..."

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Actions taken by the SCOR Executive Committee  
Jerusalem, 6-8 February 1967

WG 26. Implementation of UN Resolution on Resources of the Sea (with ACMRR): On 6 December 1966, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution on the Resources of the Sea (see Annex IV). This resolution called for a comprehensive survey of activities in marine science and technology carried out by various organizations, member states, universities, scientific and technological institutes, etc. In addition it called for the formulation of proposals covering the most effective arrangements for expanded international cooperative activities directed toward better understanding of the marine environment through science and in the exploitation and development of marine resources, together with strengthening marine education and training programs.

During the Fourth Session of FAO's Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (Rome, 16-21 January 1967), it was recommended that a joint ACMRR-SCOR working group be established to advise the Director-General of FAO on the scientific aspects of what the methods, scope and content of the comprehensive survey should be, insofar as the study of marine fishery resources was concerned (see Annex V). The ACMRR further proposed that this joint working group undertake an examination of broader aspects of the UN Resolution by examination of three specific points (see later).

From an administrative point of view, the ACMRR suggested that the members of the joint group should be nominated by the Chairman of ACMRR and the President of SCOR, should be appointed by the Director-General of FAO, should report directly to the Director-General but also make its advice available to IOC.

Further consideration was given to the resolution by the IOC Bureau and Consultative Council (Monaco, 30 January-2 February 1967), which, inter alia, decided to establish an IOC Working Group on the intergovernmental aspects of implementation of the resolution. In addition, it was decided to ask SCOR and ACMRR to advise the IOC on the scientific aspects of implementation of the resolution.

In discussion of these proposals, the SCOR Executive agreed to the establishment of the joint ACMRR/SCOR Working Group, but felt it should be organized in the usual way, ACMRR members being appointed by FAO and SCOR members being appointed by SCOR. It was recognized that a preliminary report should be available for consideration by the IOC Working Group (scheduled to meet on 18-21 September 1967); this would require meeting perhaps in July, although a second meeting in early 1968 might also be necessary. It was decided to designate approximately six members, the same number being nominated by ACMRR. The following terms of reference were proposed:

- 1) To consider the request to ICSU of the Director-General of FAO, to cooperate with ACMRR in advising him on the scientific aspects of what the methods, scope and content of the comprehensive survey called for by the UN resolution should be, insofar as the study of marine fishery resources is concerned.
- 2) To consider the request of the IOC Bureau to advise the IOC on the scientific aspects of the implementation of the UN resolution.
- 3) To consider the following specific points:

(over)

- a. Identification of problems in marine science and technology that require some form of international cooperation for their effective investigation and for the effective application of their results;
- b. Examination of the forms of cooperation required and of their impact on the scientists and institutions concerned;
- c. Examination of the manner in which existing international organizations deal with the problems and the forms of cooperation referred to above.

The Joint ACMRR/SCOR Working Group should examine these matters from the point of view of the scientists and laboratories concerned. It is assumed that intergovernmental bodies, such as the recently created IOC Working Group on intergovernmental aspects, will examine these problems from the governmental point of view.