

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Extracts from
the Report of the First Session
of the
COFI Subcommittee on the Development of Cooperation
with International Organizations concerned with Fisheries
Rome, 25-28 January 1967

(ICNAF Observer: Dr J.L. McHugh, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Washington)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sub-Committee on the Development of Co-operation with International Organizations concerned with Fisheries held its First Session from 25 to 28 January 1967 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The Session was attended by the representatives of nine of the 12 member countries¹, 14 observer countries and five international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix A to this report.
2. The Session was opened by Mr Roy I. Jackson, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries).
3. The Sub-committee elected Mr J. Labarthe-Correa (Peru) as Chairman, Mr D. Olafsson (Iceland) as first Vice-Chairman and Dr G. Meseck (Federal Republic of Germany) as Second Vice-Chairman.
4. The agenda reproduced in Appendix B to this Report was adopted by the Sub-Committee.

ANALYTICAL COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY BODIES AND OF OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES

5. The Sub-Committee took note of the work already carried out by the Secretariat toward the preparation of an analytical compendium of international fishery bodies and of other international organizations concerned with fisheries. When examining the plan to be followed for completing the compendium, it felt that the three main purposes to be served by this work should be kept in mind. These were to promote co-operation among the international bodies and organizations concerned and between them and FAO, to identify gaps which may exist in geographical species, scientific, administrative and other fields, and to avoid any unnecessary overlapping of functions and duplication of efforts. The Sub-Committee also considered that it should be remembered that the Committee on Fisheries, from which it itself emanated, was intended to so conduct its work as to supplement rather than supplant other organizations already functioning effectively in the field of fisheries.
6. The Sub-Committee agreed that the compendium should cover intergovernmental sea fishery bodies, inland fishery bodies, multi-purpose lake and river basin agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the terms of reference of which included activities pertaining to particular aspects of fisheries, and also non-governmental organizations and institutions, the role of which was often extremely important in promoting or co-ordinating fishery research. It was noted that international agreements concerning fisheries but not setting up statutory bodies could also usefully be examined.
7. With regard to the subject matters to be covered in the sections of the compendium concerning intergovernmental sea and inland fishery bodies, the Sub-Committee requested that Document COFI: C/1/67/INF 2 be broadened so as to include methods of financing, economic aspects of fisheries, distribution of stocks, scientific research, plans for future investigations, records and publications, as well as reference to the adoption and implementation of regulatory measures taken by such bodies.

¹ Brazil, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Iceland, India, Japan, (over)
Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, USA

8. The Sub-Committee considered that the compendium should be divided into two parts, the first dealing with the more permanent features of the bodies and organizations concerned, namely establishment, structure, functions and powers, financing, etc., and the second providing information on the state of exploitation of the resources concerned, current and planned research work, development activities, technological and economic data, including, as the case may be, a reference to the adoption and implementation of regulatory measures. This latter part would have to be kept up-to-date and might entail, perhaps, separate annual publications. The Sub-Committee stressed that the value of the compendium would be enhanced if it were supplemented by tables and indexes offering a clear guide to the relevant information on such matters as geographical areas covered, species, or research activities.
9. The Sub-Committee fully realized the difficulties inherent in obtaining all required information. The Secretariat should approach fishery bodies and other organizations concerned with a view to eliciting their collaboration. The Sub-Committee suggested to the Committee on Fisheries that it take the necessary action so that the FAO Conference at its next session adopt a resolution inviting Member Nations which are also members of the relevant bodies and organizations to assist the Secretariat in obtaining this information. It agreed that the work should proceed in stages and be subject to periodical review.

CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION AMONG INTERNATIONAL FISHERY BODIES AND WITH FAO

29. The Sub-Committee considered a preliminary document prepared by the Secretariat on co-operation among intergovernmental sea fishery bodies and heard a detailed statement of the representative of ICES on the collaboration of the Council with other fishery bodies and with FAO.
30. The Sub-Committee considered that, as regards effective co-operation and co-ordination, a distinction could be made between short-term and long-term objectives. As short term objectives, it recommended that efforts should be made by each body and organization concerned to improve the flow of information, to ensure reciprocal representation at important meetings of other organizations and, where needed, to establish joint machinery with a view to avoiding duplication of work. In this context it was emphasized that contacts between secretariats were of particular assistance. Long-term objectives would include the devising of appropriate procedures intended to facilitate to the fullest extent possible such co-operation and co-ordination. The importance of the role which the Committee on Fisheries and, indeed, the Sub-Committee itself, could play in this regard was underlined. It was urged that every effort be made toward the participation of Executive Secretaries of principal fishery bodies in meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and further meetings of the Sub-Committee. It was also noted that informal contacts and arrangements were sometimes very useful.
31. The achievement of these long-term objectives would depend on much further study being undertaken. In any event the differences between the various bodies concerned were so great that it would not be expected that generally applicable patterns of co-ordination and co-operation could easily be evolved.
32. The Sub-Committee pointed out that it would be necessary to take account of all efforts presently being made including those of non-governmental institutions and drew particular attention to the compendium on marine science projects to be prepared according to a recommendation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and to the work that might be undertaken as a follow up of the UN Resolution on Resources of the Sea.