

Report of the second session of the

FAO FISHERY COMMITTEE
FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

Casablanca, Morocco, 13 - 19 May 1971



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, 1971

REPORT
of the
SECOND SESSION OF THE FAO FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)
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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the Report as approved by the Second Session of the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF).

Distribution:

Members of the FAO Fishery Committee
for the Eastern Central Atlantic
and interested organizations
Participants
FAO Department of Fisheries
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

Bibliographic entry:

Second Session of the FAO Fishery
Committee for the Eastern Central
Atlantic (CECAF), Casablanca,
Morocco, 13 - 19 May 1971 (1971)
FAO Fish.Rep., (107):pag.var.
Report of the

Demersal stocks - state of stocks,
management. Pelagic fisheries -
development programme, improvement
of statistical data, dissemination
of information

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

1. The FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its Second Session from 13 to 19 May 1971, at the kind invitation of the Government of Morocco, at the Hotel El Mansour, Casablanca. The Session was attended by the representatives of 18 nations, members of the Committee, and four international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix A to this report.
2. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Bel Khayat, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Merchant Marine. Mr. Roy I. Jackson, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries), addressed the Session and emphasized the role of the Committee in fishery development and management in the area. The texts of the addresses are reproduced in Appendices B and C to this report.
3. In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. I. Malick Dia (Senegal) and the First Vice-Chairman Mr. J.N.N. Adjetey (Ghana) and in accordance with Rule II, paragraph 2, of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Labrousse (France) presided at the beginning of the Session, Dr. Malick Dia arriving subsequently.
4. The Committee considered the provisional agenda and adopted it in the form shown in Appendix D to this report. The documents which were placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix E.

STATE OF STOCKS AND MANAGEMENT

5. At its First Session CECAF had set up a Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks with the following general terms of reference:

To examine the state of the stocks
To assess the effects of possible regulatory measures
To frame recommendations for regulatory measures, and
To advise on the collection of statistical and scientific data

6. The Working Party had held two meetings in FAO Headquarters at Rome in April 1970 and March 1971, under the Chairmanship of Mr. E. Bayagbona (Nigeria). The reports of these meetings were given in documents CECAF/71/4 and CECAF/71/5 respectively. In view of the rapid increase in catches of some pelagic species since the First Session of CECAF, the Working Party had felt it desirable to give the Committee some information on these fisheries, as well as on the demersal stocks which were the main subject of its work.
7. The Committee congratulated the Working Party and the FAO Secretariat on the work that had been achieved, and on the manner in which the results had been set out in the two reports, which were noted with appreciation by the Committee. While it was regretted that copies of the documents had not reached some delegations in time for detailed consideration before the meeting, it was appreciated that this was in part due to delays in the postal system beyond the control of the Secretariat. If the Committee was to have as current a picture as possible of the state of the stocks, the time between the meeting of the Working Party and the Committee itself had to be kept to a minimum.
8. The fisheries in the CECAF area, taken as a whole, were expanding very rapidly, the catches having more than doubled between 1958 and 1963, and again between 1963 and 1969. The expansion in individual fisheries had been even more abrupt, for example the Sardinella catches had probably doubled between 1969 and 1970, and the catches of chub mackerel and horse mackerel had also increased very sharply in 1969 and 1970. These developments had occurred too recently to be reflected significantly in the data available to the Working

Party (mostly referring to the situation in 1968 or 1969), though the Senegalese delegation mentioned that the catches on the local Sardinella fishery had shown a marked decline in the first months of 1971.

9. For other fisheries with a longer period of substantial exploitation, the Working Party could show conclusively that several stocks were being heavily exploited, and would benefit from appropriate management measures. The trawl fisheries on hake and sea breams would benefit from increasing the minimum mesh sizes used to 70-80 mm, and 90-100 mm respectively. A moderate reduction of effort would increase the catch of sea breams, and might also increase the yield of hake, squid and cuttle fish. The Working Party had strongly recommended that CECAF give careful consideration to limiting the amount of fishing on these demersal stocks, including flatfishes and croakers. The Working Party had also expressed concern about the rates of expansion of fishing on certain offshore pelagic stocks. If the fishing had not yet exceeded the optimum level, it was likely to do so in the very near future if the expansion were maintained.

10. During the discussion by the Committee of the reports of the Working Party, one delegation pointed out that for only one species of fish had the optimum fishing rate been precisely determined. Others noted that for several stocks it was clear either that the optimum had already been exceeded (though to an extent that could not at present be calculated exactly) or that it would be exceeded in the near future in the absence of management measures. The Committee believed that though more accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date scientific advice about the state of the stocks was clearly desirable, the pattern of fishing in the region and its rate of change made it imperative to consider action now. The Committee could not afford to wait until further scientific advice was prepared.

11. On the other hand the Committee also emphasized the essential need for continuing to collect and assemble and make available information on the state of stocks.

12. It emphasized that for several countries the most important problem concerned the pelagic stocks. While the activities of its Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks should be continued, these could also include, as a matter of priority, consideration of the pelagic stocks, particularly an analysis of the effect of the recent rapid and substantial increases in the total catches of these species. The Working Party was asked to provide, as soon as possible, estimates of the sustainable yield from the pelagic stocks of primary concern.

13. The Committee noted that certain specific proposals regarding management had been made by the Working Party and believed that they should be put into effect as soon as possible. Several delegations specifically mentioned that they were prepared to follow the proposals regarding mesh regulation in the hake and sea bream fisheries.

14. There was considerable discussion about the possible control on the amount of fishing. One delegate pointed out that for one species for which assessments had been made of the effects of both control of mesh and control of the amount of fishing, the increase in total catch, relative to the present situation, was greater due to suitable mesh regulation than from any reduction of the fishing effort. The Committee, however, agreed with the conclusions of the Working Party that, although mesh regulations could sometimes give considerable benefit to the fisheries, they gave no permanent assurance against the depletion of the stocks by increasing effort. Ultimately some control of the total amount of fishing was essential for the long-term well-being of the fish stocks and the fisheries on them. The Committee believed that urgent and detailed examination should be made of the problems of controlling the amount of fishing in the CECAF area, including the scientific, economic and social aspects. Careful scientific and technical examination should be made where, as not infrequently happened, several species were exploited at the same time, some of which were heavily fished, and others of which were not.

15. Several delegations raised the question of larger vessels fishing for pelagic species for conversion into fish meal. While it was recognized that it was preferable to use fish for meal rather than to fail to harvest them at all, such fishing should not interfere with fisheries for direct human consumption. It was suggested that any fishery for meal should satisfy two conditions—first that the stock is abundant, so that the large catches necessary to support a fish meal industry can be taken without detriment to the future well-being of the stock; secondly that there are not significant fisheries for human consumption on the same stocks which would be seriously harmed by such fish meal fisheries. It was believed that these conditions were fully satisfied by few if any of the stocks in the CECAF area. The present fish meal fisheries carried out by large factory vessels were based on Sardinella and mackerel, which were also fished for human consumption.

STEPS REQUIRED TO PUT MANAGEMENT MEASURES INTO EFFECT

16. The Committee considered the type of management measures required and the most suitable way of formulating and implementing them in the light of the reports of the First and Second Meeting of its Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks as well as of document CECAF/71/7 submitted by the Secretariat.

17. During the general debate on these matters, some delegations indicated that in their view it was necessary to establish, by international convention concluded with the assistance of FAO, a management body similar to the International Commission for the Conservation of Southeast Atlantic Fisheries. One of these delegations mentioned some of the reasons militating in favour of a body set up by treaty. It felt that only such a body would enable the countries concerned that were not Member Nations of FAO to participate fully and on equal footing in the formulation, adoption and implementation of management measures. It had doubts as to the possibility of devising, in the absence of an international convention, a procedure similar to that followed in the case of a number of independent fishery commissions, whereby the recommendations of the Committee would become effective with respect to member countries that do not object to them within a prescribed time-limit. Furthermore, it noted that, depending on the constitutional requirements of the countries concerned, separate legislative action might be necessary with respect to each recommendation formulated by the Committee, while the ratification of a convention would enable the government to implement the recommendations of the body established under the convention without further action from the legislature. Delegations that supported this solution recognized, however, that until the convention came into force, management measures might have to be taken urgently. These could be implemented by the countries concerned on a voluntary basis in the interim period.

18. The other delegations which took part in the debate felt that the Committee constituted the most appropriate forum to discuss and recommend management measures. In their opinion, it would afford coastal countries and other countries developing their fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic the best opportunity to participate without delay in the harvesting of the resources, and to associate themselves effectively with programmes of rational utilization. The Committee agreed that this was indeed essential and decided to recommend to its member countries to strengthen their cooperation, since in the final analysis only a close cooperation and collaboration between developed and developing countries would ensure the optimum exploitation of the resources on a sustained basis and thus serve the long-term interests of all countries concerned. In this respect, the Committee adopted the resolution which is given in Appendix F to this report.

19. There was a general exchange of views on possible types of management measures and on the principles that should guide the Committee when formulating these measures.

20. While agreeing that it would be premature to draw up formal recommendations on the limitation of fishing effort, several delegations referred to the respective advantages and disadvantages of limiting either the number of fishing vessels or the total catch. There appeared to be a preference for the second alternative. Some delegations indicated

that the establishment of a total catch quota would raise the question of the advisability of apportioning this quota among the countries concerned. It was pointed out that the problems attendant upon the apportionment of a total catch were extremely complex, as shown by the experience of a number of independent fishery bodies operating in other parts of the world. Several delegations stressed that any catch limitation and apportionment scheme should take particular account of the special interests of coastal states and of countries developing their fisheries in the area concerned. They also emphasized that any agreement on the allocation of shares should not tend to perpetuate the present inequality among fishing countries but should be subject to periodic reviews.

21. The Committee agreed that the desirability of introducing a limitation of the fishing effort, including consideration of the question of monitoring, collection of catch data and enforcement, required considerable further study.

22. The Committee came to the conclusion that it could endorse the specific proposals made by its Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks with respect to the regulation of mesh sizes for hakes and sea breams and resolved to recommend them for adoption to the governments of all countries whose vessels participated in the fisheries for these species. It felt, however, that certain technical questions would have to be solved before these proposals could be incorporated in specific draft regulations to be submitted to the countries concerned. These questions included methods of measuring the meshes, the choice of precise mesh size bearing in mind the range proposed by the Working Party, and the amount of incidental catches of hake or sea bream which should be allowed when fishing for other species. The Committee, therefore, decided to establish a Sub-Committee on Implementation of Management Measures which is entrusted with the task of examining these technical questions and to formulate draft regulations on mesh sizes limitation in a form suitable for implementation by governments. It requested FAO to submit the Committee's recommendations and the draft regulations to the governments concerned for adoption as soon as the latter had been formulated by the Sub-Committee. The following countries were designated as members of the Sub-Committee: France, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Spain.

23. The Committee also discussed the advisability of recommending such management measures as closed seasons and closed areas. It agreed to refer the scientific aspects of these measures to the existing Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks or such other subsidiary body as would continue its activities (see paragraph 35 below).

24. With regard to the fisheries on pelagic stock carried out for the purpose of manufacturing fish meal, the Committee concluded that any harm caused by these fisheries to fisheries for human consumption should be prevented. Pending the analysis of the effect of recent increases on the catches of pelagic species to be carried out by the Working Party, the Committee decided to appeal to the countries fishing these species for fish meal to take immediate steps to prevent any further expansion in these fisheries, and also to take measures towards eliminating the use of the resources of the area for fish meal, and instead to promote their use for human consumption. It requested both FAO and the Member Nations of the Committee individually to bring this appeal to the attention of the governments concerned.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN THE CECAF AREA

25. The Committee considered a document (CECAF/71/8) in which possible lines of a development programme in the Eastern Central Atlantic similar to the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission were indicated.

26. The Committee, while recognizing that the details of any international development programme in the Eastern Central Atlantic would differ from those of the Indian Ocean Programme, agreed that the present trends in the fishing activities in the area give rise to considerable concern and increase the need for joint cooperative action by the countries

concerned with fishery development and conservation of the fish stocks. It further agreed that many of the aspects of fishery development, including the surveying of the resources, monitoring of the fisheries, management of heavily exploited stocks as well as training and technological and economic studies, could and should usefully be considered on a regional basis. The Committee was therefore fully agreed to recommend that steps be taken to plan and implement a Regional Programme under its own aegis. It felt that the countries having a share in the fisheries of the CEECAF area had a joint responsibility not only for the conservation and rational utilization of its resources but also for the development of the fisheries and the associated economic activities so as to derive from them the greatest possible benefit particularly for the developing countries. It therefore considered that its task in the field of development was equally as important as that in conservation and resource use and recognized that both developing and developed countries among its members needed to make important contributions to the Development Programme.

27. The Committee was of the opinion that the programme should initially consist of a small-scale planning phase in which the general problems of development susceptible to be dealt with on a regional basis could be identified. This phase might be followed by an operational phase during which the various projects identified during the planning stage could be carried out under suitable multilateral or bilateral funding arrangements. The several important assistance programmes already in existence would be integrated into the general development plan.

28. The Committee requested the Director-General of FAO to arrange, in consultation with its members and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for a request on behalf of the Committee for UNDP assistance in the various stages of the planning phase of the programme to be presented to the Administration of the UNDP in the form of a small-scale planning project. The Committee further requested the Director-General to report to it at its Third Session on progress made in this regard.

29. The project could consist of a central coordinating and planning unit, financed by UNDP and other funds, working in close association with CEECAF. A recently approved FAO Regional Fishery Statistician could be considered as a possible first member of the staff of such a central unit which should be under the direction of a programme leader of the highest competence.

30. Several delegations emphasized the importance of training at all levels in the region and suggested that training should be a basic element in any regional project. In this regard it was suggested that some national educational and training institutions in the area could, with appropriate support, be developed into regional centres of training.

31. Statistics and problems of industrialization, such as processing, were also subjects which should receive, in the opinion of the Committee, high priority in regional planning.

32. Representatives from developed countries, members of CEECAF, indicated that their governments would support the proposed programme and specific various means of cooperation.

33. The Committee pointed to the need for the strengthening of the number of FAO Regional Officers in Africa and was informed that, subject to the approval by the forthcoming session of the FAO Conference, a new post of Fishery Officer will be established in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, in 1972.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTINUING AND IMPROVING SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

34. The meeting emphasized the need for continued and improved scientific advice with respect to the state of the stocks and the effects of fishing, as a basis for consideration of questions of fishery development and management.

35. In view of the discussions reported in the sections on the state of the stocks and management, and on the steps required to put management measures into effect, (paragraphs 5 to 15 and 16 to 24) the Committee decided to modify the terms of reference of the Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks as follows:

- (a) To examine, and to advise on, the state of the stocks of all species in the CEEAF area and especially the effects of fishing on them
- (b) To assess, and to advise on, the immediate and long-term effects on the stocks, and on the catches from them, of possible regulatory measures, with special reference to the use of minimum mesh sizes, to closed areas and seasons, and to the possible control of the total fishing effort for the more heavily fished stocks
- (c) To advise and make recommendations on the collection of the statistical and scientific data necessary for stock assessment for both the local and long-range fisheries in the area

36. In view of the changes in terms of reference of the Working Party, the Committee decided to rename it "Working Party on Resources Evaluation".

37. In the discussions on the future work of the Working Party on Resources Evaluation, it was stressed that the Working Party should carry out its task in close cooperation with the developing research in the area under the Cooperative Investigation of the Northern part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA) and with other relevant international programmes in the area. It was also emphasized that it was essential for the Working Party to have available all existing data, in as much detail as possible, in particular on catches and effort, and all member countries were invited to make every effort to provide such data. In view of the very rapid changes which are taking place in the fisheries in the CEEAF area, the Committee emphasized the extreme importance of holding meetings of the Working Party at intervals of about one year.

38. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks, that CEEAF or FAO should request all countries with important fisheries in the area, whether or not they are members of CEEAF or FAO, to nominate correspondents to act as focal points for the activities of the Working Party and urged governments to make these nominations without delay. The participation of individual experts from those countries in the scientific work of the Working Party should be encouraged.

39. The Committee discussed in some detail the membership of the Working Party. There was general agreement that the membership should preferably not be limited to a small number of selected scientists, but should include scientists from all interested countries. In this case, however, the expenses for attendance of sessions of the Working Party would fall on the nations concerned, and some African members expressed their concern that this might hamper participation of their countries in these meetings. The hope was expressed that ways could be found to finance the participation of scientists from countries which without such assistance would not be able to take part in the meetings of the Working Party.

40. Mention was made of the need for general discussions on the results of scientific fishery research in the CEEAF area. It was suggested that such discussions might be held at an open meeting of the Working Party. Such meetings might be held in conjunction with CEEAF sessions in order to facilitate participation of more national scientists. At such meetings all relevant research results could be presented and discussed.

STATISTICS

41. The Committee re-emphasized the importance of reliable, detailed and up-to-date statistics to its work in relation to management and development. It noted that, while the statistical data available to the CECAF Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks had been sufficient for that group to reach significant conclusions about the state of some stocks, these data were still very far from being complete. High priority should therefore be given to improving these statistics.
42. Regarding the compilation of regional statistics, the Committee noted the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in documents CECAF/71/Inf. 1 and 2, regarding the definition of major statistical areas and classification of fish species. It agreed that, as proposed by the Working Party, the boundaries between major areas at 10°N and 20°N should be moved south to 9°N and 19°N respectively. The Committee also noted with appreciation that, following discussions in the Working Party, FAO had prepared standard forms for reporting regional statistics, and that these had been recently circulated to countries with requests for the 1970 statistics.
43. It was emphasized that standard criteria should be used for reporting statistics, and some of these had been set out in documents submitted to the Committee (CECAF/71/Inf. 3 and 4).
44. Good regional statistics are impossible without adequate national statistics. The Committee therefore welcomed the establishment of a post of Regional Fishery Statistician for a period of one year. However several delegations wondered whether sufficient progress could be achieved in assisting countries in the region with their programmes within one year. The Committee therefore strongly recommended that the post of Regional Fishery Statistician should be continued beyond one year, for as long as the need remained.
45. Adequate training of national personnel concerned with the collection and compilation of statistics is a very important step towards better statistics in the region. The Regional Fishery Statistician could assist in this, but another important and useful source of assistance would be the proposed regional training centre on fishery statistics which, the Committee hoped, will be held under the support of bi-lateral arrangements.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

46. The Committee, in considering Agenda Item 8, Dissemination of Information, discussed the draft CECAF Information Bulletin which had been presented at its First Session in March 1969. In this regard the Committee was informed of a request made at the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa (Algiers, 17 September - 3 October 1970) for a bilingual fishery periodical for the CECAF area which could be in the form of a newsletter or otherwise. The purpose of this publication series would be to keep the CECAF member countries advised on significant fishery developments and forthcoming events of relevance in the CECAF and other areas.
47. The documentation available from the UNDP/FAO projects in the CECAF area and the economic and statistical data to be available should facilitate the establishment of an effective topical publication.
48. Recognizing the utility of a bilingual publication, the Committee endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a CECAF Information Bulletin. It however urged that the Bulletin include economic, industrial and administrative information as well as results of scientific research.
49. The Committee agreed that the cooperation of all members of CECAF in providing a continuous supply of topical information was essential to keep interest in the publication

alive. It urged all member countries to supply the Secretariat with advance intelligence of events and current developments for publication in the proposed Bulletin.

COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CINECA)

50. The Committee was informed by the Convenor of the Coordinating Group for the Planning and Execution of CINECA (Cooperative Investigations of the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic), of the results of its Second Session held in Casablanca from 10 to 12 May 1971. A Summary Report of that Session (CECAF/71/12) was also made available to the Committee.

51. The Committee expressed its interest in the investigations on the processes induced by the upwelling on the various levels of the food chain. These investigations, some of which have already been carried out, should contribute to the knowledge of the fishery resources in the northwestern part of the CECAF area and their relationship to the environment, both biotic and abiotic.

52. The Committee stressed the importance of the two multi-ship cruises planned for 1973. These surveys should determine, through echo-sounding surveys and exploratory fishing, the distribution of fish concentrations in relation to environmental conditions.

53. Taking into account the urgent need for improved data required for the development and management of the fishery resources in the CINECA area, the Committee endorsed the planned activities, in particular those concerned with the evaluation of the fishery resources.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

54. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the information provided in document CECAF/71/13 on the action taken by the UN General Assembly with respect to the convening of a new Conference on the Law of the Sea. It also welcomed the summary and presentation of the references that had been made to fisheries and conservation of the living resources of the sea during the general debate of the enlarged Sea-Bed Committee at its First Session (Geneva, 1 - 26 March 1971) and requested FAO to keep its Member Nations regularly posted on the views expressed and on the action taken by that Committee with respect to fisheries.

55. The Committee was pleased to note that FAO and its Committee on Fisheries had been invited by the Sea-Bed Committee to contribute to preparations for the new Conference on the Law of the Sea by providing working papers and related charts and maps on the classification and state of fishery resources, the state of their exploitation and utilization, and prospects for their development. The Committee pointed out that it was the proper role of FAO, its Department of Fisheries and its subsidiary bodies concerned with fisheries, to submit accurate and impartial information of a technical nature in the light of which national governments could consider the legal, economic and political aspects of the problems involved.

56. The Committee shared the views expressed by the Committee on Fisheries at its Sixth Session in April 1971 regarding the usefulness of seconding a staff member of FAO to the Secretariat of the Sea-bed Committee and the desirability for all Member Nations of FAO who are members of the Sea-Bed Committee, to include fishery experts in their delegations at the next session of that Committee (Geneva, 19 July - 26 August 1971).

ANY OTHER MATTERS

57. The Committee was informed that, in response to the request of the Sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, FAO was convening from 20 to 26 May, immediately following the Second

Session of CECAF, a Consultation on the Conservation of Fishery Resources and the Control of Fishing in Africa, to which all African countries were invited. The provisional agenda included discussion on the status and utilization of resources, the effectiveness of management machinery and the fishery development perspectives for African countries. The Committee noted that these subjects would be discussed on a continent-wide basis so as to review the technical aspects of management problems. Such an assessment will provide the African Region with a useful preparatory opportunity for the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

58. The Committee was informed that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had been invited to participate in the Consultation as an observer and that FAO would be willing to participate, in a similar capacity, at any meeting that may be convened on this topic by OAU.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

59. The Committee appointed a Nominations Committee comprising the following Member Nations:

France
Ghana
Ivory Coast
Korea, Republic of
Poland
Senegal
Sierra Leone

The following officers were elected to serve until the end of its Third Session:

Chairman	D. Layachi (Morocco)
First Vice-Chairman	Nigeria
Second Vice-Chairman	Spain
Third Vice-Chairman	Ivory Coast

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

60. The Committee agreed that its Third Session should be convened during the latter part of 1972. Spain was suggested as a possible venue for the Third Session of the Committee. The delegate of Spain agreed to consult with his Government and to keep the Chairman and the Secretariat informed.

* * * * *

Appendix A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Appendix B

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MR. BEL KHAYAT,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,
INDUSTRY, MINES AND THE MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. Chairman, the Assistant Directors-General of FAO, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Moroccan Government, I wish to extend a welcome to all who have come to take part in this Second Session of the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, as well as to observers and the international bodies represented here.

Morocco greatly appreciates the honour paid to it by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in accepting its invitation to hold the meetings of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic in Casablanca. The number, size and quality of the various delegations present are clear proof of the interest attached by states, whatever their level of economic development, to the organization and exploitation of the food resources which can be won from the sea.

It has become a commonplace to say that these resources are "wild". Making use of them through sea fishing has therefore been a random business which makes comparison with another activity difficult. To draw a parallel between fishing and agriculture, it can be said that in fishing one neither sows nor cultivates but only reaps. However, the modern world has now given fishermen such advanced and powerful technical means that they are in a position to live on capital and, in fact, are in danger of doing so. This risk is all the greater because the sea's resources do not usually recognize political frontiers. Fishermen carry out much of their activity in regions where national writs no longer run, which accounts for their temptation to take as much as they can in a spirit of competition and rivalry. FAO, therefore, out of its whole immense field of interest and because of its international nature, may possibly find one of its most fruitful fields of action and one of its greatest justifications in the organization of fisheries.

For its part, Morocco considers that a sound use of the wealth and resources of the sea is highly desirable in the general interest, and also in its own particular interest. Bordered as it is by nearly 2 000 km of coastline, most of it lying on the Atlantic side, Morocco is a maritime nation. It cannot ignore the relatively large resources represented, for example, by the 250 000 tons landed by its own national fleet alone out of the 3 million tons for African fisheries as a whole and 60 million tons for the total world catch. This is an asset which must not be neglected or wasted.

Such wealth must be exploited as long as world hunger remains a burning problem. The greatest possible quantity of these food materials must be put at the disposal of the peoples. At the same time it is a duty to conserve them for the future. Unlike the wealth locked up in the earth, which becomes exhausted sooner or later regardless of the rate at which it is exploited, the biological wealth represented by fish is continuously and smoothly maintained and renewed, thanks to the never-failing reproductive function peculiar to organic matter. Yet if this function is to ensure the continued maintenance of marine populations, mankind, which for most species has become the main predator, must be able to preserve a minimum capital in order to make sure of a worth-while income in the form of valuable animal protein. Oceanographers and biologists must carry out a detailed study of the causes and mechanisms of the immense natural phenomenon whereby living organic matter is produced in the sea through solar energy and with inert matter as the starting point.

Mankind has discovered and exploited this wealth for decades. Moroccan ports alone have witnessed the landing of increasingly large quantities of fish, rising, for sardines alone, from 3 000 tons in 1926 to 70 000 tons in 1951, to reach the record figure of 250 000 tons in 1967; average annual production is 170 000 tons, which represents 5 000 million fish. Other fishing fleets are also exploiting this wealth. When all this occurs in a population of living creatures distributed over an area limited to about 30 000 km² we may well wonder what the future holds. Optimists will say that all that is needed for increased production is a greater fishing effort, regardless of its form. Pessimists, however, will fear that the maximum level of exploitation which can be tolerated by the species has already been reached, if not exceeded, and that an intensified fishing effort will inflict more serious damage on the reproductive potential of the population as a whole. As always, the truth probably lies somewhere between these two extremes and we shall leave it to the specialists to decide exactly where. However, it is significant that the agenda includes the concept of management after the state of stocks. Sound exploitation and use are only possible with management of resources.

Once the necessity for such management is accepted, the true task begins, and involves in fact all future exploitation of marine wealth. It is probably not too late to undertake this task but we must brook no further delay. The multi-national nature of resources which has already been stressed makes FAO particularly suitable for initiating and coordinating efforts and for distilling the results through the medium of its regional committees. The activity of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean is a good example of what can be achieved in this direction.

The value of the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic is all the plainer because its field of action covers zones in which very substantial living resources are exploited not only by fleets belonging to riparian countries but also by the large nations for which fishing has become a world-wide activity. The sardine concentrations off the Moroccan coasts give way towards the south to schools of sardinella. The bluefin tuna probably has a spawning ground between Spain, Morocco, the Canaries and Madeira; the albacore or tropical tuna can be caught almost as far as the Canaries; the bottoms to the south of Cape Juby have been among the richest fishing grounds and fleets of trawlers of many nationalities frequently operate in their vicinity.

At a time when the traditional fishing grounds of the cold seas in the northern part of the globe are exploited to the utmost and maintain their yield only at the cost of continually increasing effort, it was inevitable that the world economy would turn to more distant and less exploited regions. Enormous new wealth has been discovered in this way; the tropical tuna seems to be a good example. Yet it now seems that, as regards living marine resources, the era of great discoveries is over. We are entering the era of organization and such organization can only be put into sound effect on at least a regional, and therefore nearly always multi-national, scale.

It thus seems clear that the first objective which FAO (or CEEAF) has set itself and which is the first item on the agenda of this session, namely "State of Stocks and Management", is really the key problem, the solution to which will determine the trend of sea fishing in the coming years and decades. The recommendations which will be made and the decisions which may be taken will have implications for the future that cannot be underestimated. There can therefore be no doubt that the discussions about to open will be conducted by all participants with the greatest competence and in a full knowledge of the importance of the topics dealt with and of the moral responsibility they entail. Participants must direct their intelligence solely at reaching the best possible understanding of complex problems by pooling their personal experience and knowledge.

Mr. Chairman, the Assistant Directors-General of FAO, Delegates, I wish you great success with your work and a pleasant stay in Morocco, and I hope that, despite your heavy agenda, you will have an opportunity to appreciate the charms and achievements of our country.

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Appendix C

ADDRESS BY MR. ROY I. JACKSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FISHERIES)

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of addressing, on behalf of the Director-General, this Second Session of the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. May I also tell you how much we appreciate the generous hospitality of the Government of Morocco which is acting as host for a series of important fisheries meetings, of which this is one.

At its First Session this Committee set itself a number of tasks for the inter-session period, concerning problems of development and management of fisheries in the area of the Committee. I am glad to say that despite the difficulties presented by these problems, particularly those concerned with management of resources, a substantial amount of work has been completed.

As you may remember, at the First Session of this Committee there was a full discussion of the problems of the heavy exploitation of some demersal stocks of fish in the CEECAF area. It was recognized that the fishing by vessels from outside that area had been increasing rapidly both in magnitude and extent and there was therefore a need for some limitation of fishing effort and other measures for several important stocks. This action was considered a matter of urgency because of the ability of the long-range fishing fleets from the industrialized countries to develop their operations at a fast pace and in a very efficient manner.

The Committee recognized however that any action to control the fast growing fishing effort should be based on scientific evidence. It was for the purpose of providing such evidence that the Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks was established.

The Working Party has met twice during the past two years and staff members of the Department of Fisheries worked closely with its members during and between those meetings.

The Working Party has identified the need for management measures for certain stocks and has examined the kinds of measures required and their effects. It found it difficult however to frame recommendations for regulatory measures in a form that could be adopted by the Committee at this Session and subsequently be implemented by the Governments concerned. This was because the Working Party consists of specialists appointed as individuals in their personal capacity with no authority to act on matters of policy.

To overcome this hindrance, we have suggested in one of your documents (CEECAF/71/2) that the Committee should appoint at the beginning of this session a Sub-Committee of government representatives to draw up the necessary recommendations. I hope that that suggestion will meet with your approval because it would allow the Committee to take positive and quick action on the recommendations of the Working Party.

In this connection I would like to say a few words on the role of this Committee in the management of fishery resources. As is the case for practically all intergovernmental fishery commissions, the authority of FAO subsidiary bodies, and therefore of this Committee, is limited to making recommendations. So far this procedure has proved to be satisfactory in practice. The Committee could decide on management measures and incorporate

pertinent recommendations in the report of this session. This would allow the Director-General to call without delay the attention of the governments concerned to matters requiring urgent attention.

If it is felt that any joint action regarding management should have some degree of binding force on governments, it would be possible to devise a procedure by which individual members of the Committee would notify FAO, within a given time limit, of their acceptance of the management measures embodied in the Committee's recommendations. Other members would in turn be notified by FAO, that is to say by the Secretariat of CECAF. The recommendations would become effective if a substantial proportion of the countries concerned were to signify their acceptance within the prescribed period. A somewhat similar procedure has been followed with some success by intergovernmental fishery bodies established outside the framework of FAO. Any recommendations regarding mesh sizes, for example, would be relatively simple to implement. More problems are likely to arise, however, if the recommendations are for the establishment of a global catch quota. In this case, it would be essential to devise a system whereby catch data from fishing vessels would be monitored and reported rapidly to a designated authority, so that it could determine when to curtail fishing. If an overall catch quota were to be recommended by you with respect to any species, you would also have to agree on the machinery for the monitoring of data and determination of the necessary closing date of the fishery. These and other problems of management are to be considered under item 4 of your agenda.

I have talked about the ways you can tackle the problems of management of the stocks in some detail because, as many of you recognized at the last FAO Regional Conference for Africa held at Algiers last year, the intensive exploitation of fishery resources along the coast of West Africa constitutes, if uncontrolled, a serious threat to fishery development in this area. The Conference requested the assistance of FAO in convening a meeting of African Governments to coordinate their views and to study the best means for the conservation of resources and the control of fishing operations in all seas around Africa. FAO is convening a Consultation for this purpose immediately after this session. One of the topics to be considered at the Consultation is the effectiveness of existing management machinery.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that, while it ultimately falls upon the countries fishing in the area to ensure the rational exploitation of the stocks, it is the responsibility of this Committee to formulate effective management measures which can be recommended for speedy adoption and implementation by the governments concerned.

These measures should however be so framed that, while aiming at conserving the resources, they would still afford the opportunity to countries not yet significantly participating in the fisheries of the Eastern Central Atlantic to develop their fisheries and effectively participate in programmes of rational utilization on a basis of equality.

Speaking of the development of fisheries in the CECAF area, I would like to refer to the UNDP-assisted national pelagic fish survey projects being undertaken by FAO in collaboration with the Governments of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo and to the Regional Fisheries Survey which has been conducting the evaluation of fishery resources in most of the waters in the area of CECAF.

This Committee, at its First Session, felt that it would be desirable for FAO to review from time to time the activities of these projects and adjust them as necessary, in order to ensure the optimum development of fisheries in accordance with national development plans.

I am pleased to inform you that a planning and programming meeting has been arranged to assess the contributions made by these projects to fishery development and to consider their future direction. This meeting will also be held here in Casablanca during the last days of May as it would be a logical continuation of this session and the Consultation which follows it.

Mr. Chairman, I will not mention all the items of interest on your agenda for this session but, before completing my remarks, I would like to refer briefly to another matter which is of great importance to all of you. As most of you undoubtedly know, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided last year to convene a new Conference on the Law of the Sea, tentatively in 1973. FAO and its Committee on Fisheries were invited by the General Assembly to cooperate fully with its enlarged Sea-Bed Committee, which was designated to act as preparatory committee for the Conference, specially by preparing such scientific and technical documentation as the Committee may request. You will have the opportunity of considering this matter during this session, but I wish to inform you that FAO is already actively preparing to support the work of the Sea-Bed Committee.

Mr. Chairman, your Committee has the mandate of giving advice to promote, coordinate and assist national and regional programmes of research and development, leading to the rational utilization of the marine fishery resources of the area. I believe that it is set on the true course for the fulfilment of this mandate. FAO will help in every way it can. However, the achievements of this Committee will ultimately depend on the support given by its Member Nations. I wish you every success for a fruitful session.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. State of stocks and management
 - (a) demersal stocks
 - (b) pelagic stocks
4. Steps required to put management measures into effect
5. Proposals for international development on fisheries in the CECAF area
6. Arrangements for continuing and improving scientific advice
7. Fishery statistics
8. Dissemination of information
9. Cooperative Investigations of the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA)
10. Preparations for the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea
11. Any other matters
12. Adoption of the report and recommendations
13. Election of officers
- 14.. Date and place of next session

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Appendix E

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- CECAF/71/1 Provisional agenda
- 2 Annotated provisional agenda
- 3 Provisional timetable
- 4 Report of the First Session of the CECAF Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks, Rome, 20-24 April 1970
- 5 Report of the Second Session of the CECAF Working Party on Regulatory Measures for Demersal Stocks, Rome, 22-26 March 1971
- 5 Sup.1 Summary catch statistics for the CECAF area
- 6 Not issued
- 7 Steps required to put management measures into effect
- 8 Proposals for international development of fisheries in the CECAF area
- 9 Arrangements for promoting scientific research and its application to management and development
- 10 Statistical requirements of CECAF
- 11 CINECA newsletter No. 1: Report of the First Session of the Coordinating Group for the Planning and Execution of CINECA
- 12 Summary Report of the Coordinating Group of CINECA
- 13 Preparations for the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea
-
- CECAF/71/Inf. 1 CECAF Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes, FAO Fish.Circ. No. 237
- 2 Fishery Statistical Notes: Eastern Central Atlantic Statistical Area (FAO Fishing Area 34)
- 3 Notes for the completion of form STATLANT 34A "Eastern Central Atlantic area: Catch summary"
- 4 Notes for the completion of form STATLANT 34B "Eastern Central Atlantic area: Catch/effort"
- 5 Not issued
- 6 Report of the First Session of the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), Accra, Ghana, 24-28 March 1969

CECAF/71/Inf. 7, Rev. 1	List of participants
8	Not issued
9	List of documents
10	CECAF Information Bulletin (draft)
11	CINECA newsletter No. 2
12	Address of welcome by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Mines and the Merchant Marine
13	Address by Mr. Roy I. Jackson, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries)

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Appendix F

RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION AMONG THE STATES INTERESTED IN
THE FISHERIES OF THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

The FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF),

Recognizing that the participation of coastal States of the CECAF area in the fisheries of this region is very limited and this creates an imbalance between the various countries fishing in this sector

Recognizing the need for African coastal States in the CECAF area to develop their fisheries so that these activities can perform their proper role in their economy and satisfy the protein needs of their population

Recognizing that, to develop their fisheries, these countries require technical, economic and financial assistance

Recognizing further that the effective participation of the coastal States of the CECAF area in the harvesting of the fishery resources of this region will foster a climate of cooperation leading to a rational management of the resources

Considering that this cooperation should operate in all sectors of the fishery, particularly in the fields of:

research
training
promotion of the fisheries in the coastal States

Considering that the existing national programmes of development, the projects being carried out with the assistance of the UNDP and executed by FAO, and the regional programme of development which the Committee has initiated under its own aegis, need to be supplemented and supported by the industrialized countries

Recommends to the industrialized States, members of CECAF, to contribute on a bilateral basis to the efforts made by the coastal States to organize scientific research by furnishing equipment and experts, and to support the research programmes, especially those directed to a better knowledge of the stocks

Invites the industrialized States, members of CECAF, which fish in the region to increase their efforts to assist in the training of scientists and technicians responsible in the developing countries for the promotion of fishing

In this regard the Committee suggests that in bilateral assistance particular emphasis should be given to providing fellowships for nationals of the coastal States, especially in the following fields:

scientists at a high level
master fishermen/specialists for fishing harbours
engineers

Desires that a better cooperation should take place—on the one hand between coastal States of the region themselves to establish a better coordination of their national programmes of fishery development and the strengthening of their exchange of fishery products—on the

other hand between coastal and industrial States to encourage investments by the latter in the fishery development of the coastal States

Resolves to fulfil its coordinating functions with regard to all the development efforts being made in its area

Requests the Director-General of FAO to follow the measures taken by all Member Nations of CEEAF to encourage the cooperation between the different countries

Requests the Director-General of FAO and the Member Nations of CEEAF to bring the text of this resolution to the attention of States which are not members of CEEAF but fish in that area and to invite them to add to their efforts towards achieving the States' objectives.

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