

Report of the fourth session of the

**FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)**

Rome, Italy, 8-11 October 1974



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, 1974

REPORT
of the
FOURTH SESSION OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)
Rome, Italy, 8-11 October 1974

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

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

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the Eastern Central Atlantic
Other interested nations and
organizations
FAO Department of Fisheries
Fishery Officers in FAO Regional Offices

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1 The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its Fourth Session from 8 to 11 October 1974 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The session was attended by the representatives of 18 members of the Committee; by observers from one other FAO Member Nation, by a representative of the United Nations, and by observers from two international organizations. A list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.

2 The officers were those elected at the Third Session of the Committee, with Mr. E. Bayagbona (Nigeria) in the chair.

3 The participants were addressed by the Chairman and welcomed on behalf of the Director-General by Mr. F.E. Popper, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries). The texts of their addresses are reproduced as Appendices C and D to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4 The Committee adopted the agenda shown in Appendix A; the documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix E.

STATE OF THE STOCKS

5 The Committee examined the state of the stocks in the light of the findings of its Working Party on Resources Evaluation, presented in the report (document CECAF/74/4). It noted that, although the knowledge on resources potentials has made significant progress, unavailability and inaccuracy of basic statistical and biological data have prevented the assessment of various stocks with the precision required for the provision of specific advice on management actions.

6 The Committee noted that the rate of exploitation of the resources as a whole tended to level off between 1970 and 1972. This trend is more marked for the pelagic resources in the northern sub-tropical area. Although already highly exploited, at least some stocks such as the sardinella and horse mackerel should be large enough to sustain some increase in the catch.

7 The Committee discussed the more alarming state of demersal stocks in the same area. It took note that, in the light of statistics available for recent years and findings of some trawling surveys, the hake stocks are apparently larger—up to about twice—than they have been estimated previously; however, the Mauritanian and Senegalese stocks—the larger ones—seem to be already exploited at an excessive level. Only the European hake is likely to produce higher yield, though relatively small in absolute terms. Recent data reviewed by the Working Party agree with the conclusion already made regarding the state of full exploitation of sea breams.

8 The state of cephalopods gives rise to more concern. Scientists present at the session re-analyzed the state of cephalopod stocks in the Sahara and Cape Verde coastal divisions in the light of the availability of more accurate catch and effort data recently collected for the Spanish fishery. The assessment made is presented as Appendix F to this report. It was felt that this analysis gives a fair picture of the present state of the cephalopod stocks. On the basis of data reviewed it seems that after 1970/71 the production of the various cephalopod stocks decreased in response to intensified fishing and that any increase in fishing effort will be detrimental to the well-being of stocks and fisheries. Since the data available and calculations made could not be discussed by scientists and administrators of all the interested countries, the Committee felt that it could not, at this meeting, make any specific recommendation for the management of such stocks. However, taking into consideration the available evidence, it called the attention of the various countries fishing these stocks, including the coastal countries participating under various arrangements in their utilization, to the desirability to discourage any further increase in fishing for cephalopods in the Sahara and Cape Verde coastal divisions.

9 Because of the uncertainties regarding some essential data, difficulties were met in the analysis of long-term effects on production of sea-bream and cephalopod stocks which can be expected from changes in mesh size in the cephalopod fishery. Although some assessment could be made for cuttlefish and squid, the almost total absence of relevant data on octopus, which makes up about half of cephalopod catches, renders it impossible to draw any definite conclusions (which would be reliable) for the fishery as a whole.

10 When discussing the state of tropical stocks, the Committee noted with satisfaction that exploitation of species such as anchovy, and to a lesser extent mackerel, which were believed to be of commercial importance, has been successfully initiated locally. It also noted that improvements in assessing some stocks should enable certain countries to introduce better management measures.

11 The Committee discussed at length the difficulties encountered by its Working Party as a result of the unsatisfactory inflow of statistics and biological information required. It noted with concern that for some countries essential data such as annual catches are not available or accurate. Recognizing the fact that unavailability or inaccuracy of data does not lessen the need for implementation of management measures, it noted with satisfaction the action already initiated by the CECAF Secretariat, with the assistance of the Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic, to ensure that all data available in the various countries fishing in the CECAF area are promptly collected and compiled. These actions were discussed in detail under agenda item 4. The Committee recommended that all countries concerned give full collaboration to FAO in this task, first in reporting data and, where necessary, in the improvement of the national systems of data collection. The Committee also stressed the urgency for the countries with major interest in the fisheries of corresponding stocks to promptly carry out the essential biological investigations listed, by groups of stocks, in the report of the Working Party. In this respect, some delegates mentioned the usefulness of quantitative acoustic surveys as a way to obtain rapidly information of stock biomass. While recognizing the limitations inherent in the method or resulting from the high degree of mixture of species in the CECAF area, the Committee took note with satisfaction that an acoustic survey is to be carried out in November 1974, jointly by France and the FAO/UNDP Project in Morocco, on the pelagic stocks in the whole northern area.

STATE OF FISHERY DATA

12 Mr. M. Ansa-Emmin, in his capacity as FAO consultant, when introducing the paper for this item (CECAF/74/5 and Sup.1), reminded the Committee of the many of its previous recommendations and its subsidiary bodies on the need for adequate and properly presented regional statistics—catch and fishing effort, biological data (length and age composition of catches)—for the proper development and management of the fisheries of the area. Specific reference was made to the difficulties met by the Working Party on Resources Evaluation in carrying out its duties. He referred to the work presently being undertaken by the FAO staff and two consultants (Dr. D. Levi of Italy, and himself) to compile all the material already available in FAO and in national offices. The identification of this material and ensuring its early transmission to FAO has been one of the main tasks of the consultants who have visited or written to most of the countries fishing in the area.

(a) Catch and effort statistics

13 The need is for:

- (i) Annual total catch in the CECAF area by species (or groups of species) and by country broken down further by CECAF statistical division
- (ii) The fishing effort and corresponding catch (i.e. not necessarily total catch and fishing effort) for selected stocks. This involves countries reporting these statistics by species, by division of capture and by vessel class (vessel size, class and method of fishing)

14 All this information will in due course be published in a regional fishery statistical bulletin, similar to those issued by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) and others, and with this in mind the following work is being undertaken:

- (1) The first issue of this bulletin is being prepared and FAO will employ automatic data processing (ADP) techniques in undertaking this task
- (2) A Senior Fishery Statistician will be appointed to the CECAF project and the post of Regional Fishery Statistician for West Africa, now vacant, will be filled as soon as possible. It is hoped that the statisticians will be supported by Associate Experts and the tasks of both teams will be:
 - (i) To assist the CECAF countries in firmly establishing viable fishery statistical systems to satisfy all national and international needs; this includes training of national statistical staff ^{1/}, at different levels, for specific surveys and also the organization of general training courses in fishery statistics on a regional basis, again at more than one level if necessary
 - (ii) To ensure the efficient functioning of the already existing international standardized statistical reporting system (STATLANTP) and the regular production of a regional fishery statistical bulletin that will satisfactorily meet the needs of administrators, scientists, etc. concerned with the CECAF fisheries
 - (iii) To advise on the design of biological sampling surveys

15 Reference was made to CECAF/74/Inf.6 where the availability, in early 1974, of statistics of catch in the CECAF area by species and by country is set out in detail. It was noted that the situation was not wholly satisfactory, especially if quality and completeness of the available statistics were also taken into account. It was also recalled that only a few countries had reported statistics on a division or even a subarea basis. Although the situation with regard to Korean statistics was classified as mediocre, this was of no direct concern to the Committee since the catch of this country for the years under study in the document was primarily, if not all, tuna. It was further understood that, with the growth of its trawling activities, Korea (Republic of) would be able to identify its catch within the CECAF area.

16 On the question of completeness of reported catches, particular attention was drawn to the problem of obtaining details of catches (totals and species breakdown) transhipped, or where charter arrangements or flags of convenience were employed. This problem would be made the subject of a special study within the CECAF project, and a proposal was made by Spain who offered facilities in the Canary Islands for a project officer to monitor the activity of these vessels. The Committee was informed that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was already undertaking this type of monitoring activity with tuna and the possibility of having a joint programme with that organization should be considered.

(b) Biological data

17 The Committee recognized the need for a substantial strengthening of national programmes for biological sampling and, in some cases, for a better identification of priorities in na-

^{1/} The Polish representative repeated the offer made at the Third Session to train five or six statisticians from CECAF countries in Poland. On this occasion he specified that costs within the country would be met by his Government but travel to Poland would have to be funded from another source

tional research programmes. It is essential to monitor, through routine sampling of commercial catches, the size and age compositions of stocks of major importance, as well as to undertake special biological investigations (selectivity, stock identification/distribution studies, etc.) required for stock assessment purposes. Since the goal is to evaluate particular stocks, the proper breaking down of data by major species, CECAF divisions and main fisheries is vital. In this context, it was noted that in view of the rapid changes in stock distribution in some areas, species composition of catches should be routinely recorded in the reduction fisheries. The possibility of embarking scientists or technicians from coastal countries on board foreign vessels in order to facilitate collection of statistical and biological data was also referred to. One delegation mentioned that material ensuring proper and rapid identification of species of commercial interest is of prime importance for data collection. Effort should be directed towards the early preparation and publication by FAO of a set of species identification sheets similar to that already available for the Mediterranean.

18 The Committee also stressed the need for adopting a uniform system for collection and reporting of biological data to facilitate the pooling of national data of regional relevance during the data processing phase at the regional level. Also underlined were the tasks of national correspondents to the Working Party on Resources Evaluation:

- (i) Strengthening national programmes
- (ii) The progressive introduction and firm establishment of the regional statistical and biological systems
- (iii) Ensuring smooth and prompt reporting to the regional statistical service

Some countries have not yet appointed their correspondents and they were requested to do so as soon as possible.

19 Finally, recognizing that the act of fishing carries with it the responsibility for supplying information necessary for the proper development and management of regional resources, there was general acceptance by all participants to make a full contribution towards the prompt supply of all relevant statistics and biological data.

MEASURES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE CECAF AREA

20 The Committee noted that the activities of its Working Party on Resources Evaluation had shown that several stocks in the CECAF area had been heavily exploited, and that it would be necessary to consider appropriate management measures to ensure the future prosperity of the fisheries on these stocks. Specific concern was expressed over the stocks of sea-breams and cephalopods in the northern part of the region. It also took note of the general procedures required for determining and implementing management action as set out in CECAF/74/6.

21 It was agreed that four stages were involved:

- (i) The preparation of scientific advice on the status of the stocks
- (ii) The analysis of the effects of different management actions
- (iii) The choice of management action
- (iv) The implementation of these actions

Of these (i), and probably also (ii), could properly be handled by the Working Party on Resources Evaluation, (iii) by one or other of the sub-committees, while (iv) was a matter for national action.

22 There was some discussion on the frequency of meetings of these bodies. While it was important that this subject should be kept under regular review, meetings should not be held unless there were substantive matters to discuss. Although it would be, in principle, desirable for the Working Party on Resources Evaluation to meet annually, these meetings should not be held until sufficient new data have been compiled. It was also felt that attendance at this and other subsidiary bodies of CEECAF would be facilitated if they were held at the same time as the main sessions of the Committee.

23 The Committee stressed that the essential basis for all this work was the routine statistical and related data, and the highest priority should be given to improving the data supply. In addition, other methods of assessing stocks, such as the use of commercial or research vessels for surveying, should be utilized. At the same time it was stressed that since management action was simpler, more effective and less painful if introduced early, inadequacies in the data should not be used as an excuse for postponing consideration of action.

24 The Committee noted that while the only measure so far recommended had been a minimum mesh size for hake and sea-bream, other measures should be considered. The Working Party on Resources Evaluation should examine the effects of similar regulations on croaker stocks, for possible adoption by national governments in respect of the various local fisheries. Doubts were expressed on the usefulness of mesh regulations for cephalopods because of the wide range of the selectivity curve, and it was believed that other measures, possibly including the closure of spawning grounds, would be more effective. It is likely that sufficient information could be made available, particularly from the activities of Japanese scientists, to make assessment of the effects of specific closures, and this assessment should receive early attention from the Working Party.

PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

25 The Chairman reviewed the aims of CEECAF and stressed the importance of the proposed project for development of fisheries in the area. After some introductory observations by the Project Manager, an account was given of progress during the preparatory phase of the project and the future trends of its activities. These related to the finalization of the Project Document, its submission to UNDP and the importance of donor contributions to the Programme. The Programme Leader for the main phase of the project was introduced to the Committee who welcomed his appointment and wished him success in his assignment. The Committee was advised that during the preparatory phase reports on joint ventures, statistics and biological data, and research in the CEECAF area were being prepared.

26 A summary was then made of the types of activities expected to be financed by external donors:

- (1) Bioacoustic surveys for the evaluation of fish stock abundance of less-known areas, such as from Nigeria/Cameroon to Angola and from Gambia to Liberia
- (2) Pilot projects planned as demonstrations of commercial feasibility of fish culture in brackish coastal lagoons
- (3) Promotion of artisanal fisheries through developing and introducing new types of efficient inshore motorized fishing boats; through improving fishing gears, fishing techniques, fish processing, distribution and commercial operations
- (4) Demonstration of major fishing methods by chartered small fleets of modern fishing vessels

- (5) Improvement of management capabilities in selected fishery industries by short-term exchange of managers of different categories between the coastal countries of the CEEAF area and donor countries
- (6) Specialized fishery training in the form of refresher courses, seminars and workshops for intermediate and senior levels, coordinated on a regional or sub-regional basis and embracing such fields as resource evaluation, fishery management and development planning, fish technology and marketing

27 A number of countries reiterated their willingness to provide assistance in the implementation of the Project. Specific examples of the types of assistance envisaged were given by delegates from Canada, Cuba, France, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Norway, Poland, Spain and the U.S.A., and the Committee was informed of possible U.S.S.R. assistance.

28 Arising from discussions on endorsement of the Project Document, some delegates drew attention to the importance of having counterparts collaborating with the project as an obligation of recipient countries. They were informed that, in fact, counterpart training had been included in the proposals for external funding.

29 The representative of Senegal confirmed the willingness of his country to have the project based in Dakar.

30 The Committee endorsed the report of the First Session of its Sub-Committee on Fishery Development, held in Dakar in March 1974, and agreed to the amendments to the Draft Project Document (reference Appendix G of CEEAF/74/7).

FISHERY JOINT VENTURES

31 The Committee agreed that document CEEAF/74/9 presented an adequate summary of international joint ventures in fisheries in the CEEAF area and that the guidelines material in the second part was of practical value for the negotiation of new agreements. One delegation requested the Secretariat to correct minor inaccuracies in references to joint ventures policies of its country.

32 Another delegation pointed out that there was a need to consider new forms of international collaboration in the development of high-seas fishery resources in addition to arrangements which had been employed to date, and which had been described in the document. Among such ventures might be companies that were "international" not only in the economic sense but also from a legal standpoint such as, for example, Air-Afrique. The delegation proposed the establishment of a CEEAF sub-committee of experts in corporation law and economics to study suitable structures for international cooperation in the rational exploitation of fishery resources for submission of relevant recommendations, through the Committee, to the member governments concerned. In commenting on this proposal, differences in fishery development status and sectoral objectives among the countries in the region were mentioned as possible obstacles to the formation of international enterprises. One delegation was emphatic that its country would not sanction new structures that would not be subject to national control.

33 One delegation suggested that member countries prepare detailed statements on their philosophy in regard to foreign cooperation in fishery development, including also comments on their experience in negotiating and executing joint venture agreements, and on laws relevant to joint ventures, for submission to the next session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development. The Secretariat indicated that compliance with this proposal would be of help in preparing a comprehensive guidelines monograph by making up, to some extent, for the Secretariat's inability to date to obtain access to primary source material, such as texts of joint venture contracts.

34 Discussing lessons from past experience, some delegations stressed the importance of a clear understanding with joint venture partners on the objectives of cooperation. Where management and/or marketing contracts were to be concluded, it was necessary to give particular attention to the negotiation of fees, which were to be based, as far as possible, on performance rather than on a flat amount basis. Although majority control of joint venture equity by local interests might be desirable or mandatory under the law, expatriate management was not to be restricted in its freedom to "hire and fire" to ensure efficient operation of joint ventures. In the measure available, qualified local staff ought to be hired, not only to meet employment objectives but also to economize on labour costs. On the procurement of equipment, partners had to agree on what was most suitable for local operations to forestall, for example, "dumping" of equipment that had become unserviceable overseas.

35 It was generally agreed that the inclusion of training provisions in fishery joint venture contracts was essential since for many countries in the region scarcity of skills was much more of a handicap than lack of access to capital. Safeguards had to be provided to ensure that training obligations assumed under joint venture provisions were carried out to the letter.

36 One delegation underscored, among beneficial results that might be expected from the formation of international joint ventures, the stimulus provided for domestic investment as well as increased interest on the part of qualified personnel in shifting from other branches of industry to fisheries, as economic opportunities in the sector became more attractive. The same delegation indicated that the existing uncertainty with respect to the regime that might eventually emerge from the deliberations of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had affected the joint venture negotiation momentum.

37 In response to one delegation's question, the Secretariat elaborated on action FAO was in a position to take to promote international collaboration in fishery development. Specific reference was made to the recent restructuring of the Department of Fisheries and to new responsibilities of the Department's Fishery Industries Division. These consisted, inter alia, in providing direct assistance, in response to requests from developing countries, in the negotiation of international joint ventures, in bringing investment opportunities to the attention of foreign enterprises interested in collaboration in fishery projects, and in preparing a guidelines text on fishery joint ventures.

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

38 The Committee was informed of the recent developments of this programme. Reference was made to the report of the Third Session of the Coordinating Group for the Planning and Execution of CINECA (Paris, February 1974). On the basis of information and data collected, particularly on the dynamic processes of upwelling and their effects on the food web, the programme is to be considered as very successful. It is now progressively entering into the phase of data processing and interpretation, and a symposium is scheduled for 1977 for the purpose of discussing, integrating and communicating the various observations made by the programme. Some views were exchanged about its immediate and long-term values for the fishery research investigations in the CECAF area. Although less work than originally planned has been conducted on the fish resources, it was recognized that the better description achieved of their physical and biological framework will be most useful for fishery research. Also, the acoustic surveys initiated by the programme have produced information of direct relevance for stock assessment. The Committee stressed the need for close collaboration between foreign and local teams of scientists in the conception, execution and interpretation of research programmes to be undertaken in the CECAF area.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

39 The CECAF Sub-Committee on Fishery Development had agreed that the date and place of its Second Session should be decided during the Fourth Session of its parent body. The

Committee decided that the timing of the Sub-Committee's next session was contingent on the progress made by the main phase of the Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic; the matter was therefore left in abeyance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

40 According to Rule II (1) of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee is required to elect a Chairman and a maximum of three Vice-Chairmen. A Nominations Committee was appointed, consisting of the representatives of Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Morocco, Norway and Senegal.

41 On the recommendations of this Committee, Mr. M. Ansa-Emmin, the representative of Ghana, was unanimously elected as Chairman of CECAP and the representatives of Morocco, Italy and Cuba as first, second and third Vice-Chairmen.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

42 The Committee noted the suggestion made by the Secretariat that its Fifth Session should be held in July 1976, but agreed to leave it to the Director-General to decide on the precise timing and venue, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

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AGENDA

- 1 Opening of the session
- 2 Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
- 3 State of the stocks
 - (a) demersal stocks
 - (b) pelagic stocks
- 4 State of fishery data
 - (a) catch and effort statistics
 - (b) biological data
- 5 Measures for the management and rational utilization of the fishery resources in the CECAF area
- 6 Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic
- 7 Fishery joint ventures
- 8 Cooperative investigations of the northern part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA)
- 9 Any other matters
- 10 Election of officers
- 11 Date and place of next session
- 12 Adoption of the report

* * * * *

Appendix B

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

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OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. E.O. BAYAGBONA,
CHAIRMAN, CECAF

I welcome you to this beautiful city of Rome, the venue of our meeting this year. Rome has many advantages as a meeting place: such as pleasant weather, adequate hotel accommodation, easy flight connections, maximum FAO Secretariat support at minimum costs, to mention a few. These, notwithstanding it is a matter of principle that regional meetings of this nature are held within the region concerned. We may therefore regard the holding of this meeting here in Rome as a special case dictated, to a large extent, by the little funds available to the FAO this year for servicing such meetings and to the crowded schedule of meetings this year, including the long meetings of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in which many of us are participating. It is relevant to note, in this connection, that the present CECAF meeting will immediately be followed by the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries where the report of our work will be discussed, and which will be serviced by virtually the same FAO staff as are looking after our meeting—an arrangement which places heavy strains on our FAO staff and on our ability to attend both meetings, and which would have been impossible were we to have met outside Rome.

This Committee has, in its present form, been in existence now for five-and-a-half years. In that period it has slowly but steadily been meeting with the obligations expected of it, having regard to available funds and manpower. Recent developments in the world political scene make it likely that our membership will soon grow and that we can expect closer collaboration with a country which we had hitherto found ourselves unwilling to associate with.

A most useful aspect of our meeting is the opportunity it gives us to compare experiences and views on basic fishery development problems and these problems tend to be quite similar within a region such as ours. So discussions amongst us, formally during meetings and informally in private during our stay here, can be very useful. The role of observers amongst us is also very important because they form a vital link between us and the international cooperation and aid that we need to implement some of our projects.

A lot has been done by the FAO to satisfy most of the demands we have made on them; we shall be discussing reports of such doings in the course of this meeting. We are likely to find in many of these reports that major difficulties are in the ability of us member countries to respond speedily and satisfactorily to requests for data. We do not want FAO to feel frustrated by this—i.e. our wanting something done and yet not cooperating sufficiently with FAO experts to ensure that the job is well done. The solution to this type of problem will be slow. It is one thing for top officials like us to say that such and such data will be collected. Whether and to what extent it is actually done depends on junior personnel in remote stations whose sense of responsibility and devotion to duty may not always be up to scratch.

Our agenda for this meeting is dominated by reports of the work of our sub-committees. Whatever their shortcomings, these reports are the only sources of concrete information available to us when we plan big marine fisheries projects in our countries or when we wish to draw up management regulations. Let us all pledge to continue to support the work of these subsidiary bodies. The sub-committee which examined the CECAF project did its best to make the project action orientated. This meeting may wish to consider ways of making it even more practical in its impact—many of us are tired of coming here to make and to listen to beautiful speeches while nothing ever gets going on the ground. In my country chilled package shrimps are now hawked in the streets to motorists during traffic jams (which is nearly all the time in our capital) so our people are now willing to concede

that fisheries workers exist. In the same way if this project can make visible impact on our countries' fisheries work, CEECAF and indeed FAO and international cooperation would gain in credibility and prestige among our people.

I am happy to note that, following the examination of the first draft of the report on joint ventures by one of our sub-committees, what appears to me to be a very worthwhile and satisfactory report is now before us for consideration. It should generate some interesting discussions.

In bringing my brief remarks to a close, I would like to stress that in this meeting our major emphasis should be on what we can do for ourselves rather than what FAO can do for us. Once we have this initiative it will be easy for the FAO to organize its involvement such that its good offices can be used to enhance and assist our efforts.

I wish you a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Rome.

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ADDRESS BY MR. F.E. POPPER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL (FISHERIES)

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome, on behalf of the Director-General, this Fourth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic to FAO. This is the first time that your Committee is meeting here and we are very happy to have you with us. Your meeting here in Rome will give an opportunity to many members of my Department to get to know, or renew acquaintance with, you and they will gladly be available for any information or other help they can give you individually or as a group.

I believe this session will mark the beginning of a new phase in the work of your Committee because from now on you can count on the support of the Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic.

As many of you know, last March your Sub-Committee on Fishery Development met in Dakar and approved the draft project document for the main phase of this Project. The document is reproduced in the report of the Sub-Committee which is available to you. It will be submitted for approval by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its session in January 1975.

At first sight the project may not look very large in terms of immediate financial provisions, but it must be remembered that it is conceived as providing a broad basis on which many activities of the Committee can be developed and implemented as proposed in the Project work programme. The full implementation of those activities is envisaged through the mobilization and coordination of other external sources of funding in addition to the funds provided by UNDP.

We are engaged in discussions with several potential donors in this context and are confident that additional funds will be available soon. In fact, the Norwegian Agency for International Development already announced at the Sub-Committee meeting in Dakar its intention to provide substantial funds for some of the fishery development activities of the Project. Further information about expected financial and other contributions will be given to the Committee when the relevant item (number 6) comes up for discussion.

Mr. Chairman, while the Project itself will be discussed under this item, its activities will be relevant to most of your agenda. Let me particularly refer to item 5—Measures for the management and rational utilization of the fishery resources in the CEEAF area. This, I believe, is a specially important and urgent task for your Committee. The primary interest of the coastal member countries of the Committee is quite naturally in developing their own fisheries and in increasing their participation in the utilization of the fish resources of the region. It is however important to remember that these aspirations can be realized satisfactorily only if steps are taken in time to discourage excessive exploitation of heavily fished stocks while facilitating the development of the fisheries of others. The relevant working paper before you (CEEAF/74/6) indicates some of the action that might, and I think should, be taken by your Committee.

One essential step in ensuring good management is the provision of adequate statistical and related data on which the necessary scientific advice can be based. While some progress has recently been made in this, very much more needs doing, both by countries—in the collection of data at individual landing places and fishing ports—and by FAO—in the compilation of comprehensive regional tabulations. This is important enough to be dealt with as a separate item in your agenda (number 3).

Returning to the general topic of management, I should perhaps apologize for unnecessarily belabouring this point since your Committee has, from its inception, paid considerable attention to management questions and is indeed the pioneer among FAO fishery bodies in developing machinery for this purpose. I hope that as a result of your discussions this machinery will be put to work with even greater effectiveness than in the past.

Mr. Chairman, I shall not delay you by commenting at this time on the other items on your agenda since they are in any case quite closely related to those about which I have spoken. It only remains for me to wish you success in your deliberations and to assure you of my own and my colleagues' deep interest in the achievement of your objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- CECAF/74/1 Provisional agenda
- 2 Annotated provisional agenda
- 3 Provisional timetable
- 4 Report of the Second Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) Working Party on Resources Evaluation
- 4, Sup.1 Effects of the unreported Spanish catches on the appraisal of potential yield of cephalopods
- 5 Fishery statistics and biological data in the area of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
- 5, Sup.1 Availability of fishery statistics and biological data - preliminary report
- 6 Management and rational utilization of the fishery resources of the area of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
- 7 Report of the First Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) Sub-Committee on Fishery Development
- 8 Project for the Development of Fisheries in the Eastern Central Atlantic - summary report
- 9 Joint ventures in fishery development in the CECAF area.
- 10 Report of the Third Session of the Coordinating Group for the Planning and Execution of the Cooperative Investigations of the Northern Part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA)
- CECAF/74/Inf.1 List of documents
- 2 Information for participants
- 3, Rev.1 List of participants
- 4 Report of the Third Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
- 5 Report of the FAO Regional Fishery Statistician
- 6 Eastern Central Atlantic (area 34 - CECAF): availability of catch statistics
- 7 Eastern Central Atlantic (area 34 - CECAF): nominal catch by species and by countries, 1965-72
- 8 Eastern Central Atlantic (area 34 - CECAF): classification of aquatic animals and plants for statistical purposes

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THE STATE OF CEPHALOPOD STOCKS IN THE SAHARA
AND CAPE VERDE COASTAL DIVISIONS

Table 1
Total cephalopods: catch and catch/effort statistics

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Catches (1 000 tons)										
Japan	(43.0)	72.0	55.6	95.2	97.7	85.4	69.6	59.1	49.8	48.2
Spain	20.2	47.7	40.8	54.2	65.0	53.6	45.0	93.6	83.2	118.9*
Korea (Republic of)										
U.S.S.R.						1.6	1.4	2.8	5.2	5.1
Italy										
Greece										
Others		3.2	3.4	3.8	3.1	2.3	2.6	1.8	1.0	
Total catch	63.2	122.9	99.8	154.2	165.8	142.9	118.6	157.3	144.3	167.1
Catch per unit effort										
Japan (kg/h)	595	488	365	344	332	197	186	191	165	161
Spain (kg/GRT)				195.3	246.4	111.3	118.6	136.9	100.8	
Total effort										
Fishing hours (Japan)	106.2	257.1	273.4	448.3	499.4	725.4	637.6	823.6	874.5	1 037.9
Average of 2 years		182	265	361	474	612	682	731	849	956

() Includes others

* Likely underestimated

Table 2

Octopuses: catch and catch/effort statistics

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Catch										
Japan	(10.4)	33.4	22.6	54.8	65.0	52.2	50.9	38.1	31.0	28.1
Spain	8.5	35.7	29.3	41.1	49.3	37.8	30.1	67.3	60.3	66.5*
Korea (Republic of)									1.6	
U.S.S.R.										
Italy										
Greece										
Others			0.7	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	
Total catch	18.9	69.1	52.6	96.8	114.7	90.0	81.4	106.0	93.4	94.6
Catch per unit effort										
Japan (kg/h)	161	119	160	130	189	89	101	81	59	61
Spain (kg/GRT)				182.1	172.4	73.3	96.7	105.9	76.3	
Total effort										
Fishing hours	117.4	580.7	328.8	744.6	606.9	1 011.2	805.9	1 308.6	1 583.1	1 550.8
Average of 2 years		349	455	537	676	809	909	1 057	1 446	1 567

() Includes others

* Likely underestimated

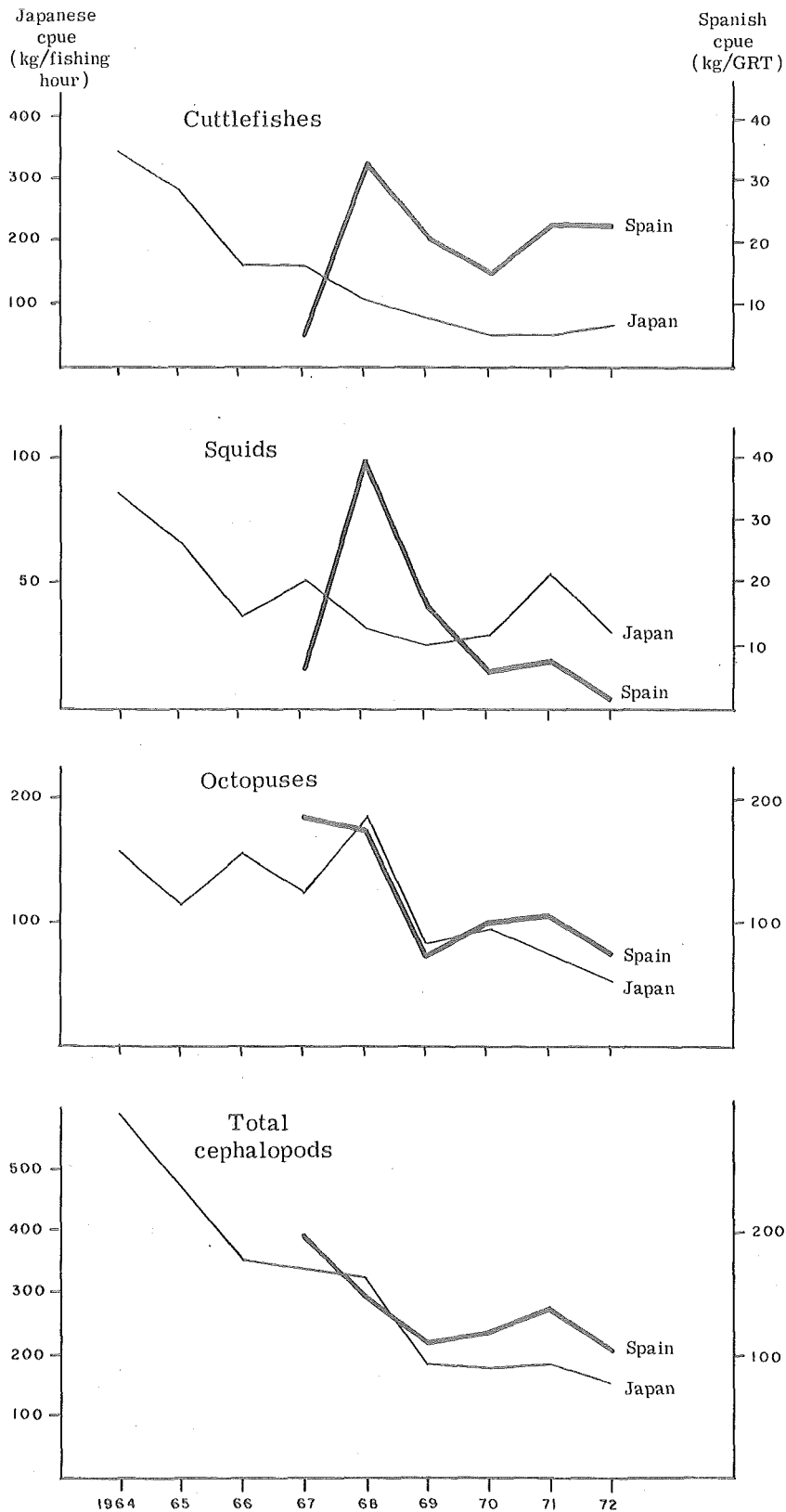


Fig. 1 - CECAF cephalopod fishery: catch per unit of effort of Japanese vessels (kg/fishing hours) and Spanish vessels fishing for the factory ship GALICIA (kg/GRT)

Table 3

Cuttlefishes: catch and catch/effort statistics

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Catches (1 000 tons)										
Japan	(19.2)	29.0	27.0	32.5	26.7	25.4	13.7	15.9	14.6	15.9
Spain	6.6	8.2	7.3	7.6	9.5	8.9	7.2	13.7	17.5	34.6*
Korea (Republic of)										
U.S.S.R.										
Italy										
Greece										
Others		2.9	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.2	0.5	
Total catch	25.8	40.1	36.7	44.7	38.6	36.4	22.9	30.8	32.6	50.5
Catch per unit effort										
Japan (kg/h)	348	291	167	162	110	82	55	56	76	66
Spain (kg/GRT)				6.6	33.0	21.4	15.5	23.0	23.0	
Total effort										
Fishing hours (Japan)	74.1	137.8	219.8	275.9	350.9	443.9	416.4	550.0	428.9	765.2
Average of 2 years		106	179	248	313	397	430	483	489	597

() Includes others

* Likely underestimated

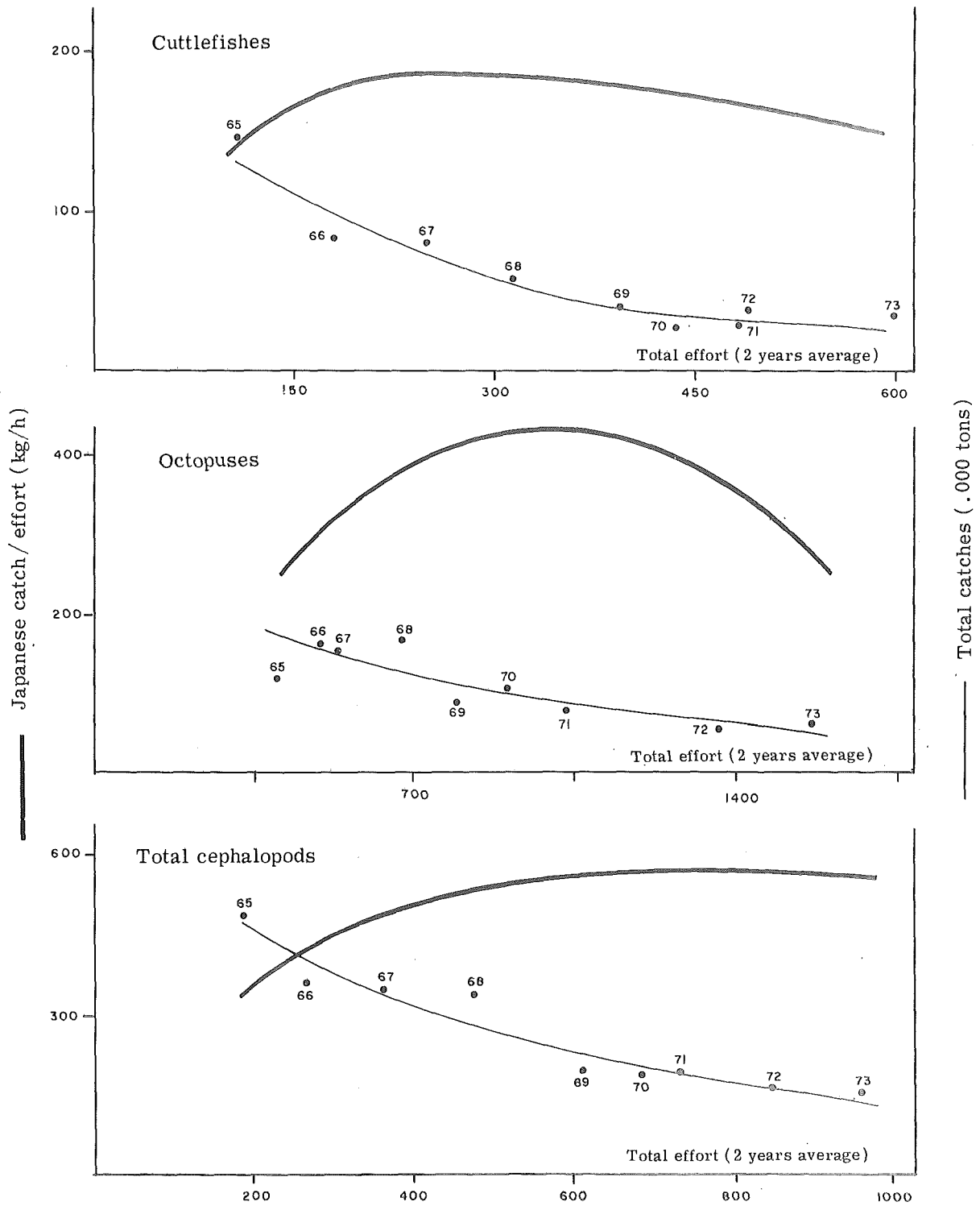


Fig. 2 - Cephalopod fishery in the Sahara and Cape Verde Divisions: catch per unit of effort (Japanese fleet) and total catches against total effort

Table 4

Squids: catch and catch/effort statistics

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Catch										
Japan	(13.4)	9.6	6.0	7.9	6.0	7.8	5.0	5.1	4.2	4.2
Spain	5.1	3.8	4.2	5.5	6.2	6.9	7.7	12.6	5.4	17.8*
Korea (Republic of)									3.6	
U.S.S.R.						1.6	1.4	2.8	5.1	
Italy										
Greece										
Others		0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2			
Total catch	18.5	13.7	10.5	13.7	12.5	16.5	14.3	20.5	18.3	22.0
Catch per unit effort										
Japan (kg/h)	86	68	38	52	33	26	30	54	30	34
Spain (kg/GRT)				6.6	41.0	16.6	6.4	8.0	1.5	
Total effort										
Fishing hours	215.1	201.5	276.3	263.5	378.8	634.6	476.7	379.6	610.0	647.1
Average of 2 years		208	239	270	321	507	556	428	495	629

() Includes others

* Likely underestimated

