

Report of the Evaluation Team Concerned with Solving Island Fisheries Problems

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The main points discussed by the evaluation team logically fall under 4 headings:

1) The problem of information exchange, particularly with respect to the diverse skills available within the membership of GCFI, was one of the themes of the session yesterday. One of the ideas suggested was that GCFI should produce a newsletter along the lines of that published by ICLARM. Reluctantly we were obliged to conclude that this would be an excessive burden on the Executive Director even though it would be an excellent initiative.

2) Another idea was to make the wide skills occurring within the membership more widely known: both those of the fishermen and processors and the scientists and teachers. We might compile a list of members, (with brief vitae) who would contribute some time to assist the fishermen's groups and organizations of the smaller island nations. If participants at the meeting and the Board of Directors of GCFI agree, such a limited list would be compiled during this meeting for inclusion in the meeting report.

What is clear is that GCFI excels in planning and holding of meetings and workshops, and that this is a proven and effective mechanism for stimulating governments into action, although like all short term activities it suffers from the lack of follow-up characteristic of other short term aid initiatives. The following suggestions were therefore presented with respect to the next meeting proposed for November 1982 in Bahamas, noting gratefully that the government of the Bahamas has offered to host the meeting, and, in addition, to provide access to one or more fishing or training vessels for demonstration fishing purposes.

3) The suggestion is made that during the next meeting, 2-3 days be devoted to a special topic discussed intensively yesterday, namely a seminar on the theme: "Effective Management Is a Precondition to Development." We suggest selected fishermen and government officers be invited to attend this workshop, to ensure that the lessons learned there begin to be assimilated by administrators and at the grass roots level. It is proposed that a planning session meet here to discuss the problem of selecting participants and lecturers to attend the workshop.

In conjunction with this seminar, we propose a demonstration fishing project, using the boats offered by the government of the Bahamas, to show techniques such as bottom longlining, gill netting, etc., that are successfully used in parts of the region but are effectively unknown in others. Instructors,

for example, longlining experts from Bermuda should also be invited. The combination of sessions on "gear and methods of fishing" and on discussion of management measures is hoped to emphasize the linkage between practical and so-called "theoretical" management measures.

Attendees at the seminar should be encouraged to bring specific questions, examples or short case studies showing how they solved practical fishing problems, or at the government level, how they tackled problems of encouraging and sustaining development and how they are tackling fisheries management problems.

Follow up to the workshop: First, it is desirable that the fishermen chosen be those capable of working to apply their newly learned skills and transmit them to others. A diploma may perhaps be issued to attendees by GCFI. However, it is important that 2-4 months later experts passing through the region check with attendees to see if practical problems have arisen that can be solved by further advice. Experts on various topics listed earlier should make themselves responsible for such follow-up, to the extent that their other activities permit. It is suggested that some financial support for follow-up activities could be obtained from CDB or other funding agencies. It is suggested that when the steering committee for the workshop is set up, letters could be sent to CDB describing the scope of the project. Mel Goodwin has also volunteered to approach private funding foundations for additional support.

4) The first item proposed by the group is that the Board of Directors consider approaching ICCAT with the idea that in 1983 they hold their annual meeting in a common venue with GCFI, to facilitate the attendance of representatives of small island states who would find it costly to attend the European workshop, and who have a vital interest in tuna fisheries of the region.