

## Report of the Evaluation Team on Alternative Artisanal Fishery Resources

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### HABITAT PAPERS

*Casitas.*—Standardization of a gear type across the entire Caribbean is not possible nor desirable. *Casitas* should be evaluated, by area, on an individual basis and care should be taken when introducing them into new areas. This method holds promise to increase the amount of habitat suitable for spiny lobster and possibly even increase production if natural mortality can be reduced in the nursery areas.

*FAD's.*—Emphasis should be placed on the more simple and inexpensive types suitable for use in the Caribbean area. Given the inherent problems of ownership and initial costs, the use of FAD's would be most effective with popular support of the community and fishermen, and government or cooperative funding. Once again, this method requires experimentation and evaluation for specific areas.

*Alternative Artisanal Resources.*—The successful development of a new resource is greatly facilitated by involving commercial fishermen familiar with the area, and not always scientists, in the initial stages of exploratory fishing. Once a resource is identified, the single most difficult problem to solve is marketing. Without a market and the associated availability of gear and necessary infrastructure, successful development will not occur. In addition, as a resource is exploited, information on the biology, habitat requirements, catch, catch-per-unit effort and yield estimates becomes, important.

Potential alternative resources include the following: (1) cero mackerel, (2) sardine-like fishes, both for human consumption and as a live-bait and processed bait fishery, (3) longline complex, including swordfish, sharks, billfish, tunas, others, (4) in the future, perhaps squid and octopus resources could be developed over the entire Caribbean.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The planned workshop at the upcoming GCFI meeting in the Bahamas gives us a unique opportunity to suggest topics for inclusion in the two-pronged approach of a gear-methods session and a management session.

*Gear Session.*—Gear demonstrated should be of an appropriate technological level, to be applicable across most of the Caribbean. Also, the gear should involve as little initial start-up capital as possible. Suggestions for

demonstration at the workshop include: (1) longline gear; (2) deep set, modified, traps suitable for fishing the slope areas which have historically received less effort than the bank areas; (3) deep set lines that can also fish the shelf areas (this technique can increase the efficiency of the typical snapper-reel type boats) and (4) gill nets, especially their use in conjunction with lights as is done in the Jamaican herring fishery.

*Management Session.*—Management must proceed hand in hand with development. This becomes even more important given the fact that, for the most part in the Caribbean, the resource will be limited. The workshop should discuss the very basic principles of fisheries management and impress upon the fishermen the benefits to be derived from effective management.

Management information, as well as the practical experience gained from the workshop, will only be put to use through some type of informational transfer and follow-up. We urge GCFI to give thought to a follow-up technique to ensure the success of the workshop through the exchange of information and the encouragement of technological transfer.