

REPORT
of the
THIRD SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-13 October 1972

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1973

PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the Report as approved by the Third Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

Distribution

Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
Other interested nations and
international organizations
FAO Department of Fisheries
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) held its Third Session from 9 to 13 October 1972 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Session was attended by representatives of 20 members of the Commission, by observers from three other nations, and by representatives and observers from five international organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix A to this report.
2. The Session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. J.J. Kambona (Tanzania), and the participants were welcomed in an address by Mr. George Rajapakse, M.P., Minister of Fisheries of Sri Lanka (Appendix B).
3. The first four years of activities of the Commission were reviewed in an address by Mr. F.E. Popper, Assistant Director-General (Fisheries), FAO (Appendix C).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Commission adopted the agenda reproduced in Appendix D. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix E.
5. On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Commission established a Nominations Committee composed of the representatives from France, India, Korea, Tanzania and U.S.A., to facilitate the election of officers to serve during the intersessional period and the Fourth Session of the Commission.

FISHERY STATISTICS

6. The Commission took note of the report of the Second Session (1971) of the IPFC/IOFC Joint Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Fishery Statistics (IOFC/72/4)^{1/}. It congratulated the Working Party on the progress that had been achieved in its important task.
7. The Commission endorsed the proposals made in the Working Party's report concerning amendments to the boundary between the Indian Ocean and adjacent regions (section 2.4 of the report), and the sub-division of the Western Indian Ocean (section 2.6 of the report). It recommended that these boundaries should be used when reporting and compiling fishery statistics on a regional basis. In making this recommendation, the Commission stressed that these divisions were for statistical purposes only and did not imply any precedent as regards boundaries for any other purposes.
8. The Commission noted the proposed list of species and species groups set out in Appendix VIII of the Working Party's report. It was agreed that this was a useful beginning to a valuable and difficult task, and that its present list should be used as a guide in compiling national statistics and that, as far as possible, it should be followed when reporting statistics to international or regional bodies. It was stressed that the nature of the Indian Ocean fisheries, where a very large number of different species were landed at many small and widely scattered points, made it impossible to obtain complete details of the catch at the species level, and that some grouping of species was inevitable.
9. Some proposed amendments to the species list had already been received by FAO since the meeting of the Working Party, and others were suggested during the present session. For example the penaeid shrimps should be removed from group 45.4 and included in group 45.2. It was believed that other modifications would appear desirable as experience was gained, and all countries that had not already done so were urged to send their comments to the Secretary of the Working Party in Rome.

^{1/} FAO Fish.Rep., (120) 1972

10. The Working Party had proposed that the wahoo and king-mackerels (Acanthocybium and Scomberomorus) should be included in Group 37 (Mackerels) rather than, as at present, in Group 36 (Tunas). It was felt that this change should not be made unless adopted by all regional and international bodies compiling or publishing statistical data on this group of fish. FAO was therefore requested to bring this proposal to the attention of all regional and other bodies concerned to determine their views.

11. The Committee took note of the proposals made by the Working Party concerning classification of vessels, gear and fishermen. While these classifications were still subject to modification, it was felt that they were already of value for national and regional statistics. Countries were again urged to send comments on these proposals to the Secretary of the Working Party.

12. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party that the FAO Secretariat prepare a draft regional bulletin of fishery statistics containing detailed catch and effort statistics.

13. The value of Species Identification Sheets for statistics was stressed. It was noted that the production of such sheets had been proposed at earlier sessions of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, but that limited progress had so far been made. The Commission therefore welcomed the action of FAO in appointing an officer in Rome who included among his activities the production of such sheets, and was pleased to note the progress being achieved in the production of such sheets in other areas, some of which would be of interest in the Indian Ocean. The forthcoming FAO/DANIDA^{2/} Seminar on Fish Taxonomy in Southeast Asia would be an excellent opportunity to facilitate this programme, and the Commission expressed the hope that it would be possible during the seminar to produce draft identification sheets for at least the more important species. The possible need eventually to reproduce some of the identification sheets in colour was noted.

14. In view of the importance and complexity of the statistical problems it was agreed that a further meeting of the Working Party would be necessary, and the Commission therefore endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party for a meeting during the coming inter-session period, possibly in the second half of 1973.

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE STOCKS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Shrimp stocks

15. The report of the First Session of the IOFC Special Working Party on Stock Assessment of Shrimp in the Indian Ocean Area (IOFC/72/6) was presented by the Chairman of the Working Party, B.K. Bowen (Australia). The Commission congratulated the Working Party on its work, and believed that the report, together with the paper "Some Introductory Guidelines to Management of Shrimp Fisheries" (IOFC/72/Inf.13) prepared for the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, contained very valuable advice to the Indian Ocean countries in the management of their shrimp fisheries.

16. Most shrimp fisheries in the Indian Ocean, with the exception of some developing fisheries for deepwater shrimp, lie within limits of national jurisdiction, and their study and management are basically national problems. Therefore the development of national expertise in stock assessment and related matters is very important, and the Commission recommended that FAO, in cooperation with bilateral and other funding agencies, should seek means for the holding of training centres in shrimp biology (including such matters as taxonomy), with special reference to stock assessment.

^{2/} Danish International Development Agency

17. It is unlikely that many of the Indian Ocean countries would, in the near future, be able to develop sufficient national expertise to prepare comprehensive advice on the complex biological, economic and social aspects of management. Some international assistance, in addition to the training courses mentioned above, would be necessary. The Working Party had recommended that a shrimp biologist stock assessment expert should be appointed but it was felt that economic expertise was also necessary.

18. Two separate stages are generally involved in preparing advice on management: the biological studies on the state of stocks, and of the effect of possible management measures; and the political and administrative steps of choosing the measure that should be implemented, taking into account economic and social factors. It is probably desirable that these stages in preparation of management advice be kept quite separate in national administrations. However because of the interactions between the stages, there would be considerable advantages in having the international advice on both stages provided by the same person; that is, the expert concerned should be experienced both in stock assessment techniques, indicating their implications in terms of actual management measures, and in economic and related matters. With this interpretation the Commission endorsed in general terms the Working Party's recommendation, and specifically recommended that FAO be requested to consider possible arrangements for the appointment of a suitable expert to advise on shrimp management problems. In this respect it welcomed the statement by the Leader of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme that arrangements had been made for the services of a qualified expert to be made available to the Programme for a period of two months each year to advise on management problems in general, which would include shrimp problems as a major element.

19. It was envisaged that the main task of such an expert would be to visit countries for periods of some weeks, to sit down with the local experts to review jointly the biological studies (including the collection of basic data), the assessment of the stock and the economic and other implications of possible management measures, indicating the consequences of failure to implement any measures.

20. If the services of such an expert were made available, there would be less need for a further meeting of the Working Party. A further meeting might be desirable when a substantial volume of additional material becomes available, possibly in two to three years' time. The Commission therefore recommended that provision be made for such meeting in the 1974/75 biennium, and that the need be kept under review by the Secretariat. The desirability of enlarging the terms of reference of the group to include economic factors was also mentioned.

21. In relation to the Working Party's recommendation that countries be encouraged to collect standard statistical and biological data, it was noted that FAO had prepared draft forms for collecting and reporting such data in relation to the shrimp fisheries in the Caribbean. The Commission recommended that FAO circulate these forms, for review and possible adoption, to members of the Working Party and to all countries with interest in the shrimp fisheries of the Indian Ocean.

(b) Tuna stocks

22. The report of the Second Joint Meeting of the IPFC and IOFC Committees on Tuna Management (IOFC/72/7) was presented by the Chairman, Mr. C.G. Setter (Australia), and the report of the IOFC/IPFC Ad hoc Working Party of Scientists on Stock Assessment of Tuna (IOFC/IPFC:TM/72/4) by the Secretariat. The scientific report showed that although there were considerable opportunities for expansion of the surface fisheries, particularly of skipjack, an increase in the longline fishing effort would not result in any significant increase in sustained catches.

3/ Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna
Indian Ocean Fishery Commission Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna

23. The Commission welcomed the detailed proposals for further scientific studies set out in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the joint Committees' ^{4/} report as follows:

" It was essential, if the Working Party was to be effective, that certain preliminary studies should be made and circulated in advance of any meeting. The following topics were identified as being particularly necessary:

- (a) Reviews, for each of the major species caught in the longline fishery, of the present status of the stocks. Each review should include the basic data of catches, fishing effort, and size or age composition on which the assessments are based
- (b) A review of the present knowledge of the skipjack stocks and the fisheries on them, setting out the major problems likely to be faced in the near future, and possible methods of solving them
- (c) A review of the interactions between surface and longline fisheries on the same species, of the methods of assessment and stock evaluation to be used, and of the problems of management likely to be encountered in each situation
- (d) A review of statistics of the tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific, setting out where these fall short of the optimum; the impact these failings in the statistics have on the stock assessments, and on the advice on the state of the stocks; methods of improving the statistics; and the costs involved in achieving such improvements, as well as developing the methodology for estimating catches and effort in widely scattered areas.

" It was suggested that task (a) should be done by Dr. A. Suda, Japan, in collaboration with Dr. D.H. Bae, Republic of Korea; task (b) by FAO (International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, and relevant Regular Programme staff), in collaboration with the staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Center Laboratory, Honolulu, U.S.A.; task (c) by the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla Laboratory, and task (d) by FAO."

24. The Australian delegation noted that his country would be prepared to contribute the activity (c) to the study of the interaction between surface and longline fisheries as concerns the southern bluefin tuna. The Commission considered that until activity (d), determining the detailed statistical needs, was completed, no other action should be taken by the Commission on the proposals of the ad hoc Working Party concerning statistics, although it was recognized that much more statistical activity would almost certainly be required both nationally and regionally.

25. The observer from the U.S.S.R. reported on its interest in the activities of the IOFC in the study and rational utilization of fish resources of the Indian Ocean. Although present catches of tuna by the U.S.S.R. are small, statistical information is being collected, and made available to FAO. The Commission welcomed this cooperation, and hoped that the U.S.S.R. would take an active part in the work of IOFC and its subsidiary bodies.

26. The Commission also noted the continuing contribution, particularly in the fields of statistics and stock assessment, of the Secretariat of FAO to its work and the close collaboration between FAO and other bodies concerned with tuna, especially the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. It hoped that this collaboration would continue and be strengthened.

27. The Commission welcomed the steps being taken on a voluntary and experimental basis by Japanese fishermen to conserve the stocks of southern bluefin tuna through a system of closed areas. Although the joint meeting of the Committees had not found it appropriate, since the regulations were still subject to modification, to endorse formally these measures, this did not imply any doubts of their value. The Commission also welcomed the statement

by the Japanese delegation that a detailed review of the effectiveness of the regulations would be made, and reported to the Commission.

28. There was some discussion of the appropriate role of the IOFC in the implementation of management measures. It was agreed that the following extract (paragraphs 29-32 below) from the report of the Second Session of the Commission^{5/} still represents the views of the delegations:

29. "The Commission shared the Committee's view that development and management should be considered as complementary aspects of the single aim of rational utilization of the fishery resources of the Indian Ocean. It also endorsed the Committee's suggested guidelines on the objectives of management, to the effect that

- (a) The stocks must be maintained at a level which can provide a high sustained yield
- (b) Action to conserve one stock should not interfere with the development of fisheries on other stocks which are still under-exploited
- (c) Management measures should be so framed that, whilst conserving the resources, they would afford the opportunity to countries not yet significantly participating in Indian Ocean tuna fisheries to build up their fishery industry within a reasonable period to associate themselves effectively with programmes of rational utilization on a basis of equality

30. "The Commission noted that divergent views had been expressed in the Committee regarding the machinery available or required to formulate and give effect to management measures. It was unanimous in stressing that one of the prerequisites to rational and effective management was the active participation, in any management scheme, of all countries fishing substantially for tuna in the Indian Ocean.

31. "A delegation reiterated and amplified the views it had put forward to the Committee on the need for the establishment, by international convention concluded with the assistance of FAO, of a body similar to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. In its view, which found some support, only such a body would enable the countries concerned that are not Member Nations of FAO to participate fully and on an equal footing in the formulation, adoption and implementation of management measures. Furthermore, in view of the migration of stocks and of the mobility of tuna fishing fleets, a body of this type would be in a position to ensure effective collaboration and coordination with existing commissions responsible for the management of tunas in other oceans.

32. "Other delegations shared the views, also expressed in the Committee, that the Commission itself, which had been specifically entrusted with the task of examining management problems, was the most appropriate forum to discuss and recommend management measures, even though this would be a new departure for a subsidiary body of FAO. In their opinion, more developing countries would take part in the work of the Commission than in that of an independent body. They also pointed out that the setting up of a new body by international convention would require considerable time."

33. One delegation felt that interim and temporary measures could be discussed and recommended by existing bodies and that FAO should be requested to take steps to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries that might adopt a convention providing for the establishment of an independent tuna management body. The delegation considered, however, that the problem of implementation of management measures was not an urgent one at present.

34. The Commission recognized that, in view of the findings of the IOFC/IPFC Ad Hoc Working Party of Scientists on Stock Assessment of Tuna and in view of the possible developments in tuna fisheries in the next few years, the problem of management measures would have to be seriously taken up in the near future with regard to some species.

^{5/} FAO Fish.Rep., (95) 1970, paragraphs 8-11

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:^{6/}
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

35. The Commission had before it the report of the Third Session of its Executive Committee for the Implementation of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 7 and 9 October 1972.

36. The Report was introduced to the Commission by the Technical Secretary of the Committee. His introduction was complemented by explanatory statements made on the major matters considered in the report by members of the Commission, Indian Ocean Programme staff members, consultants, and by the Secretariat. Reference was made to documents IOFC/72/Inf.8-18.

37. The Commission took note of the feasibility studies before it (IOFC/72/Inf.10, 12) and in particular noted that such studies are intended to call attention to development and investment opportunities in sufficient detail that Governments and the private sector can make use of the basic study and need supply only the added detail required by the context of their own specific operational needs.

38. In considering the document IOFC/72/Inf.14, containing summaries of activities in 23 UNDP/FAO fishery projects in the Indian Ocean Region in operation or recently completed, the Commission endorsed the views of the Committee and further emphasized the importance of complementing the summaries with an analysis of successful and unsuccessful projects. Such an analysis would be a very useful tool for the formulation and conduct of future multilateral and bilateral projects.

39. The Commission endorsed the conclusions of the Committee regarding the proposed special approach to problems of shrimp management in the Indian Ocean, noting the rapid development of shrimp fisheries, the tendency toward over-capitalization, and the need for management such that capitalization is controlled so as to increase gradually consistent with the potential of the resource (IOFC/72/Inf.13).

40. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the "Cooperative Fishery Survey Project in the Gulf lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula and in the Gulf of Oman" had been adopted by the countries concerned at a meeting held in Doha in July 1972 (IOFC/72/Inf.16). The Commission considered the request, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee, made by that meeting for the establishment of a subsidiary body of the Commission to deal with problems of fishery development and management in the Gulfs. The Commission, after having heard a statement by the Secretary, with respect to the availability of the necessary funds in the budget of the Organization, decided to establish a "Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs (Gulf of Oman and the Gulf lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula)" and adopted the following resolution:

THE COMMISSION

Noting the request made by the meeting on the Cooperative Fishery Survey Project in the Gulf of Oman and in the Gulf lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula (Doha, 16-18 July 1972) for the establishment of a subsidiary body to deal with problems of fishery management in these gulfs

Hereby establishes a Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs (Gulf of Oman and the Gulf lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula), hereinafter referred to as the Committee

Terms of reference

The activities of the Committee shall in particular include the following:

- (a) To keep under review and to advise the Commission, and through it the Governments concerned, on fishery development and management in the gulfs and in particular:

^{6/} Referred to in the following paragraphs as Indian Ocean Programme (IOP)

- (1) to identify opportunities for fishery development in the gulfs and to specify the steps required to implement such development
 - (2) to identify fishery management needs (including identifying needs for data collection and analysis) in the two gulfs and to specify the steps required to implement such management
- (b) To consult with nations which are not members of the Commission, as required, subject to the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts of FAO
 - (c) To report to the Commission, at each Session, its activities during the preceding intersessional period
 - (d) To hold meetings as necessary to carry out its responsibilities, but preferably in association with the Commission's sessions

Membership

The membership of the Committee shall consist of all member nations of the Commission coastal to or fishing in the gulfs.

Secretariat

The Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Commission and the Technical Secretary shall be the Technical Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Commission.

THE COMMISSION

Invites the Committee to establish a Coordinating Sub-Committee hereinafter referred to as the Sub-Committee, with the following characteristics:

Terms of reference

The Sub-Committee shall act as the steering group for the Gulf Project and shall in particular:

- (a) Plan, review progress, and consider special problems which may arise in connection with the Project
- (b) Consult with other nations as required, subject to the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts of FAO
- (c) Report to the Committee, at each session, its activities during the preceding intersessional period
- (d) Hold meetings as required

Membership

The membership of the Sub-Committee shall consist of all the Gulf countries participating in the Gulf Project, with the Project Manager attending meetings, ex officio.

Secretariat

Secretariat services shall be provided by the office of the Project Manager.

41. The Commission heard and approved the "Plans for a pelagic fish assessment survey, northwestern Arabian Sea". This survey is intended to provide information to governments and the private sector on the kinds, distribution and abundance of pelagic fishes in the

coastal areas from Mogadiscio, Somalia, to Cape Comorin, India, extending as far offshore as necessary to encompass the distribution of the fish. During the course of the discussion it was decided that the survey area should be extended to include the west coast of Sri Lanka. It was also decided to indicate the area to be surveyed as the "North Arabian Sea" and to rename the project "Plans for a pelagic fish assessment survey, North Arabian Sea". Species identification will be accomplished primarily by sampling with purse seine or midwater trawl, and distribution and abundance will be determined by using acoustic (sonar) techniques. The survey will encompass at least the two monsoon seasons in two successive years in order to be able to provide some information on within- and between-year variations. The rapid dissemination of results will be stressed. The survey will require two ships for two years or a total of four ship-years. FAO will provide one ship (the ship to be donated to FAO by Norway) for two years, so that an additional two ship-years remain to be provided. Following the Session, the Programme Leader will be sending specific requests for participation to a number of interested countries, including Japan, Korea, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., as well as UNDP/FAO projects in the area, as for example the "Pelagic fishery investigation on the southwest coast of India". The ship to be contributed by FAO has not yet been constructed but is expected to be available by about mid-1974.

42. There was some discussion of the distribution of the activities of the Programme in 1972. One delegation suggested that the activities should not be concentrated in any particular area, while another pointed out that the original intent of the Commission was to concentrate initial efforts in the northwest section of the Indian Ocean. It was pointed out that the Programme was developing both country projects and regional projects, but that it was inevitable by the very nature of events and resources that some countries or areas might receive attention sooner than others.

43. Reference was made to the activities of the East African Community in the fisheries field which could be of interest to the Programme. The areas of cooperative research to be undertaken in the future as sources of support are secured were heard with interest by the Commission as follows: (i) assessment of shallow-water prawn stocks, (ii) assessment of deep-water prawn stocks, (iii) pilot project of mother ship and handline dory system on offshore banks; (iv) pilot project on industrial exploitation of inshore pelagic stocks, (v) parallel biological investigations, and (vi) acoustic survey of pelagic resources plus relevant oceanographic studies.

44. The Commission heard a detailed presentation of a proposal for "A fishery product identification - processing - marketing vessel(s) for the Indian Ocean countries". The rationale for this proposal related to the fact that, in spite of the need for more information about the nature and magnitude of the resource base in some areas, the factors inhibiting fishery development in many areas of the Indian Ocean relate more to what happens—or what does not happen—to the fish after they are caught than they do to the lack of resource information. The proposal describes a vessel which could move from country to country according to a carefully worked-out predetermined schedule and work programme giving due note to priority areas, in order to (1) identify the factors inhibiting development in the post-harvest treatment of fish, (2) initiate action leading to the elimination of these factors, and (3) provide training to fishermen, traders, and government personnel as required by the particular situation in, for example, fish handling, processing, packaging, marketing and distribution. The need for the development of expert products was also pointed out.

45. The proposal was discussed at length and it was apparent that it would be very useful if there were specific examples of how such a ship would actually operate. The Programme agreed to provide such examples. The proposal was overwhelmingly supported by the delegates. In fact, the need for more than one such ship was suggested, in view of the number of countries and number of problems involved. It was agreed that the next step is to arrange for support for the Preparatory Working Group suggested in the proposal. Although there are a number of potential sources of support for such a ship, this particular proposal had actually been prepared for consideration by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The delegation of Sweden pointed out that the proposal differs from that which was

originally discussed by SIDA and FAO but indicated their belief that it may however be a good idea, that their interest continues (with no financial commitment at this stage), and that they will welcome the additional information to be provided by the Programme before the end of 1972, after which a decision will be taken by SIDA regarding support. The delegation also pointed out that Swedish aid is not tied, as assumed in the proposal.

46. The Commission, in approving the report of its Executive Committee, expressed its appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of the Programme. The imaginative approaches and quality of the studies being undertaken by the Programme, as well as the documentation made available to the Commission, were highly praised. In this regard special reference was made to the newly initiated joint venture study, the results of which were considered of probable worldwide value.

47. The interest of the UNDP in the Programme was reiterated by its representative, who expressed satisfaction on its development and commented especially on the rate of progress during 1972.

48. The Commission heard from the observer from the United Arab Emirates a brief review of the fisheries of the Emirates and a description of the plans for further development of those fisheries.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

(a) Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council

49. The Commission reviewed its relationship with the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and agreed that the close cooperation established between the two bodies through the work of the IPFC/IOFC Joint Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Fishery Statistics, the IPFC/IOFC Ad hoc Working Party of Scientists on Stock Assessment of Tuna, and the joint meetings of the Committee on the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna and the Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna has been very satisfactory.

50. The Commission noted that a Symposium on Economic and Social Aspects of National Fisheries Planning and Development will be held in conjunction with the Sixteenth Session of the IPFC (1974).

51. The subject of the symposium is of great interest to all countries of the Indian Ocean in their planning for the development of their fisheries. Bearing in mind the difficulties often encountered in the development of the fisheries of the Indian Ocean, it is vital to ensure the proper identification of the critical actions that require to be taken. It was noted that as regards international assistance this identification process was being carried out by the Indian Ocean Programme. The Commission therefore expressed the desire that IOFC and IOP should be associated with the symposium and recommended that their desire should be brought to the attention of IPFC.

52. The Commission heard from the observer of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) a description of the present and future activities of the Centre, in particular in the Andaman Sea area. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of SEAFDEC to closely cooperate in its activities.

(b) International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries

53. The Commission was informed of the discussions that were held at the First Session (Rome, April 1972) of the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) regarding the question of its relations with FAO. It agreed that in the interests of the conservation and rational management of the fishery resources of the Southeast Atlantic, and in view of the fact that ICSEAF and the IOFC serve adjacent areas, it would be not only desirable but necessary to establish close technical and scientific cooperation between FAO and ICSEAF, particularly in the field of statistics and stock assessment.

54. The observer for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) stated that the relations between FAO and its subsidiary bodies, including the IOFC on the one hand and ICSEAF on the other, would be similar to those established between FAO and ICCAT, since both ICSEAF and ICCAT were bodies independent of FAO that had been set up under international conventions concluded under the auspices of FAO. He stressed the excellent cooperation between ICCAT and FAO, mainly through the exchange of documents and reciprocal representation at meetings, and he expressed the hope that it would be strengthened as far as the Indian Ocean resources were concerned.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

55. The Commission noted with interest the information provided by the Secretariat on a Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development being organized by FAO at the invitation of the Government of Canada. The Conference, subject to the approval of the Fifty-Ninth Session of the FAO Council (November 1972), will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from 13 to 23 February 1973.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

56. According to Rule II-1 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission is required to elect, at the end of every Session, a Chairman and a maximum of six Vice-Chairmen who shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

57. On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the representative of Australia, Mr. C.G. Setter, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission and the representatives of Kenya (Mr. N. Odero), India, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Qatar and the United States of America as Vice-Chairmen.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

58. The Commission considered the date of its next Session and agreed that it should be held sometime during the first half of 1975, the precise date to be decided by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman. The Commission received with appreciation an offer from the delegation of Australia to explore the possibility of hosting its Fourth Session in Perth. In the event that this would not be feasible, the delegation of Tanzania offered to explore the possibility of hosting that Session in Dar-es-Salaam.

* * * * *

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Appendix B

ADDRESS BY MR. GEORGE RAJAPAKSE, M.P.,
MINISTER OF FISHERIES OF SRI LANKA

Mr. Chairman, Assistant Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, the distinguished delegates, officials and others to the Third Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission.

This is, I believe, the first occasion that a session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission is being held outside the Headquarters of FAO in Rome. I am thankful to the Director-General of FAO and to the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission for having responded to the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka and arranged for the holding of the session in Colombo.

The fishery resources of the Indian Ocean remain largely underexploited. The countries of the region are alive to the potential for development in the field of fisheries. Such development would not only contribute to the much-needed protein requirements of the people in the region but also to general economic development. Many of the nations in the region have taken positive steps to develop their fisheries.

Barely two decades ago, Sri Lanka's fishing industry began to emerge from a state of arrested development. Techniques and methods of the 19th century had remained unchanged. There was a wide gap between what our people knew and the possibilities that were afforded by modern science and technology. The past two decades have seen a reversal of this position. Mechanisation, synthetic fibre fishing nets and cold storage have increased the production of fish and helped to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people engaged in the industry. However we are not too happy with our own pace of progress since we are well aware of the contribution that the fishing industry can make to the general economic development of this country. Government therefore set up a separate Ministry of Fisheries two years ago to cater to the needs of this developing industry.

Only a few years have elapsed since FAO, recognising the increased importance of fisheries in the field of food production, raised the status of its fisheries sector from a division to that of a department. One of the first steps taken by FAO's Department of Fisheries since its creation was the establishment of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission under Article VI of the FAO Constitution.

It is heartening to note that the Commission did not lose time in focussing attention on the need for a comprehensive survey of the Indian Ocean, around which are located many of the world's developing nations. At its very first session the Commission conceived the idea of organising the International Indian Ocean Survey and Development Programme and took positive steps towards it. The results of this survey and development programme will provide the developing nations bordering the Indian Ocean with the guidelines for formulating their own fishery development policies and programmes.

Fish production must contribute substantially towards meeting the extra demands made by this rapidly increasing population. Will the Indian Ocean be able to sustain the increased demands that will be made on its fishery resources? This is a question you must bear in mind. I am confident the Commission will take adequate steps to ensure that the Indian Ocean is exploited in such a manner as to provide an increased yield while at the same time advocating management measures for the rational exploitation of these resources.

I am aware that, in addition to your Executive Committee devoting much time to discussions on the Indian Ocean Programme, you delegates, representing the member nations, will discuss the programme at length during the current session. I am sure the outcome of the discussions will be most fruitful.

I note that two other matters that are on your agenda are the shrimp and tuna stocks. Earlier your working parties of experts have been deliberating on these matters. The Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna has been meeting last week. These deliberations will no doubt be of benefit to member governments in formulating their development programme.

I also note that the agenda includes an item—cooperation with other bodies, namely, the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries. Sri Lanka has been a member of the IPFC since its inception and cooperated with member countries in formulating and suggesting development plans for the Indo-Pacific Region. There are several fields of overlap between the IOFC and the IPFC and it is fitting that members of the two organizations work jointly in fields such as statistics and tuna management, to mention only two.

It is also fitting that you cooperate with other commissions and bodies such as the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries in common fields or where you can benefit from each other's deliberations and findings.

Your Commission has brought together the countries bordering the Indian Ocean that are interested in developing the fisheries of that ocean. Amongst its members are also some of the developed countries that are not located in the Indian Ocean but are actively participating in its fisheries or are interested in developing the fisheries of this ocean. The successful completion of the International Indian Ocean Survey and Development Programme will be a great step forward in international cooperation, bringing together several nations with the common goal of contributing to the expansion of the fisheries in the Indian Ocean with a view to economic development. I cannot help but add that the countries around this ocean constitute almost one-third of the world's population and that all of them will benefit by the activities of this Commission.'

I wish you all success in your deliberations and have great pleasure in declaring this Third Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission open.

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Appendix C

ADDRESS BY MR. F.E. POPPER
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 Third Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission. May I also tell you how much we appreciate the generous hospitality of the Government of Sri Lanka, the host for this meeting and those of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

I have been associated with the work of your Commission since its inception, and hope to continue this close association also in my new capacity. It may be appropriate to start my address by reviewing with you the work you have so far accomplished, and first to quote your terms of reference as they are set out in the Statutes of the Commission:

- "(a) to promote, assist and co-ordinate national programmes over the entire field of fishery development and conservation
- "(b) to promote research and development activities in the area (the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas) through international sources, and in particular international aid programmes
- "(c) to examine management problems with particular reference, because of the need to take urgent action, to those relating to the management of offshore resources"

These terms of reference are well reflected in the priorities established by the Commission at its First Session in 1968. It was then agreed that immediate attention should be given to three matters: (1) developing means of implementing, both for the immediate future and at longer range, international programmes of fishery development in the Indian Ocean; (2) management of heavily exploited stocks; and (3) improvement of fishery statistics. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the Commission on the selection of these priorities. They complement each other and are essential parts of a programme well aimed at the rational utilization of the fishery resources of the Indian Ocean.

Let me now turn briefly to the progress achieved by the Commission during the first four years of its activities in implementing these priorities.

A significant amount of work has been accomplished in building up the means of implementing international fishery development programmes in the Indian Ocean. The International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, with the continuous support of the UNDP, is proceeding I hope to your satisfaction. The progress of the Programme is being reported on at this session and in addition various studies and proposals arising from the Programme are before you. I will therefore restrict my remarks about the Programme to four. First, I am very pleased with the quality of the staff members added this year, for one of whom, by the way, we are indebted to our Host Country. Second, there are being produced a series of economic feasibility studies which we believe will stimulate investment in Indian Ocean fisheries. Third, I am very pleased to see coming into being a Gulf Project. This has been under consideration since 1966 and it now appears that such a project will soon be in operation. Fourth, there are also being produced a series of proposals for bilateral projects and I particularly call your attention to the proposal for a "Fishery product identification - processing - marketing vessel for the Indian Ocean Countries", which I believe to be a very innovative and at the same time a very realistic proposal for the solution of a basic and major problem of fishery development in the Indian Ocean.

Regarding the problems of management of heavily exploited stocks, special attention has been given to the tuna and shrimp stocks. As you know, the problems of management of tuna resources have just been considered by the Committee on the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna jointly with the IPFC Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna and their report will be considered under the appropriate item of your agenda.

I would like, particularly, to refer to the basic document considered by these committees which was the report of the IPFC/IOFC Ad hoc Working Party of Scientists on Stock Assessment of Tuna. The Working Party, in considering its future activities, concluded that to be effective they would need to be supplemented by active field work in data collection and by technical assistance to some member nations of the Commission to be carried out by at least one professional officer. The Working Party strongly recommended that the Commission and the IPFC examine, as a matter of urgency, ways in which the necessary support could be provided.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to elaborate now on this matter but I hope that serious consideration will be given to it at the appropriate time during this session. However, I would like to reiterate the interest of FAO in the problems of tuna management in the Indian Ocean and to offer the continuous support of the Organization to the work of the Commission in this very important field. I must point out, however, that the financial resources of FAO are limited and to advance further the work of the Commission in this field, the support of its members is essential.

Significant progress has also been made in assessing the shrimp stocks in the Indian Ocean area by the Working Party set up by the Commission for this purpose. As a result of its studies the Working Party has pointed out that shrimp fisheries in various countries are developing rapidly and that some have reached a level of intensive exploitation before it was possible to obtain reliable data for evaluating the stocks and for establishing management schemes by the established methods. The Working Party has stressed the need for developing simple criteria which can serve as guidelines for shrimp fishery development until more detailed data can be obtained. These criteria are being formulated from a world-wide comparative study being carried out by FAO within the framework of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Development Programme and I would like to draw your attention to a paper before you on this subject.

Lastly I refer to the IPFC/IOFC Joint Working Party on Statistics which is continuing to develop its activities to improve national and regional statistics. Its report containing recommendations to this end will be considered during this session.

This brief review of the activities of the Commission during its first four years of existence clearly shows that a substantial amount of basic work has been accomplished. It also indicates, however, that a great deal of effort is still required from the Commission and its members to reach conclusive and effective results. Cooperative action to assess and develop the fishery resources of the area needs to be carried out with all possible vigour so that the ultimate goal—the rational development and management of the Indian Ocean fishery resources with particular reference to the needs of the Indian Ocean countries—may be achieved, progressively and quickly.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out some of the facets of the programme of the Commission to which I feel special attention should be given in planning future inter-sessional activities.

As far as the management of resources is concerned the most urgent problems are those of collecting the data needed for the proper assessment of tuna stocks and the management of shrimp resources.

Regarding the activities of the Indian Ocean Programme those that should be implemented immediately are the Plan for the Acoustic Survey of the Northwestern Arabian Sea, the Gulf Project and the identification - processing - marketing vessel already referred to.

Judging from the work so far accomplished I am confident that the Commission will achieve conclusive results in these and other aspects of its work in the near future. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that FAO will continue to support the work of the Commission with all its available means.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Fishery statistics
4. Review of the state of the stocks and management recommendations
 - (a) Shrimp stocks
 - (b) Tuna stocks
5. International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme: Report of the Executive Committee
6. Cooperation with other bodies:
 - (a) Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council
 - (b) International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
7. Any other matters
 - (a) Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development
8. Election of officers
9. Date and place of next session
10. Adoption of the report

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Appendix E

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

IOFC/72/1	Provisional agenda
2	Annotated provisional agenda
3	Provisional timetable
4	Report of the Second Session of the IPFC/IOFC Joint Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Fishery Statistics, Bangkok, 13-17 December 1971
5	Fishery statistics in the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) region
6	Report of the First Session of the IOFC Special Working Party on Stock Assessment of Shrimps in the Indian Ocean Area, Bahrain, 27 November-4 December 1971
7	Report of the Joint Meeting of the IPFC Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna, Second Session, and the IOFC Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna, Third Session, Colombo, 5-6 October 1972
8	Report of the Third Session of the IOFC Executive Committee for the Implementation of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, Colombo, 7-9 October 1972
9	The South China Sea Fisheries Development and Coordinating Programme (Phase I): Draft project document
10	International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
11	Technical Conference on Fishery Management and Development
IOFC/72/Inf.1, Rev.1	List of documents
2	Information for participants
3, Rev.2	List of participants
4	Report of the Joint Meeting of the IPFC Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna, First Session, and the IOFC Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna, Second (Special) Session, Rome, 22-23 April 1971
5	Report of the First Session of the IOFC Executive Committee for the Implementation of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, Rome, 26-29 April 1971
6	Report of the Second Session of the IOFC Executive Committee for the Implementation of the International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, Rome, 7-10 September 1971

- IOFC/72/Inf.7 Report of the Second Session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission,
Rome, 26-29 October 1970
- 8 Progress Report of the Programme Leader, International Indian Ocean
Fishery Survey and Development Programme
- 9 Fishery economics
- 10 Economic feasibility study of a trawl fishery in the gulf lying
between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula
- 11 Progress report: joint venture study, Indian Ocean Programme
- 12 Marketing of Red Sea demersal fish
- 13 Some introductory guidelines to management of shrimp fisheries
- 14 UNDP/FAO fishery projects in the Indian Ocean
- 15 Plan of the acoustic survey of the pelagic fishery resources of
the northwestern Arabian Sea
- 16 Cooperative fishery survey and development project in the gulf
lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula and in the Gulf of
Oman
- 17 Fishery resources, bi- and multilateral fishery projects and
Indian Ocean Programme activities
- 18 Proposal for a fishery product identification: processing-marketing
vessel(s) for the Indian Ocean Programme
- 19 Indian Ocean fishery statistics, 1970

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